

100 Days 571

Chapter 571 Hanabi and Speed

Stephen had been worrying about Jane. Cherry told him that she had gone missing. Why would she suddenly disappear? Did she recall something? Did bad memories return? What if she tried to commit suicide again?

Stephen started to become paranoid. He kept on driving, searching every corner of the city just to find Jane.

"Where are you, Jane?" Stephen mumbled.

He was distracted that he failed to notice the woman crossing the streets. Fortunately, Stephen still managed to step on the brake. However, his car lightly hit the woman.

Thud!

Stephen hastily got out of his car to check on her. The lady fell to the ground after being hit by his car. He ran into her and kneeled at her side. 'Miss, are you okay?'

He was surprised because the woman didn't even react to that impact. She just lay on the ground, expressionlessly. She gazed at him lifting her eyebrow. Without saying a word, the woman stood up as if nothing happened. She brushed the dirt off her clothes.

"Be careful when driving, she coldly said before turning around to leave."

But Stephen wouldn't allow her to leave just yet. He needed to take responsibility for this accident. With large strides, Stephen chased after her and when he reached her, he instantly grabbed her elbow.

"Miss, you can't leave. We should go to the hospital and have you examined: Stephen suggested in his gentle voice.

"No. I'm fine. I'm in a hurry. So let go," the lady replied to him nonchalantly. She was acting indifferently toward him. "Don't worry. I won't sue you," she added, snatching her hand away from him.

But the doctor was very persistent, especially when it came to his patients. Stephen held her hand again, gently pulling her toward his car. "I'll bring you to the hospital."

The woman's expression turned sour. She was annoyed because of this stubborn man. She said she was in a hurry and that she was okay. But this guy insisted on bringing her to the hospital.

"I'm warning you. I said LET GO" she sternly said with a threatening voice.

But Stephen wasn't afraid of her. "You have to come, otherwise I'll sue you. You scratched my car," he said with a straight face. He was just kidding.

Lady: "...."

'Is he serious?! What a shameless guy. I was the one who got hit. She eyed him with disbelief. She had the urge to beat this guy. However, she couldn't punch his gorgeous face. 'Damn! I should behave. Mr. Kazuki reminded me not to create some trouble here.' she thought to herself.

Thinking about Kazuki's reminders, she just obediently followed Stephen.

"By the way, what's your name?" Stephen simply asked her. He could sense that the woman he was holding was already annoyed with him. He could see in her expression.

"I'm Hanabi," she coldly responded.

Stephen just smiled faintly and said, "You have a nice name. By the way, I'm Stephen."

Hanabi didn't respond anymore. When they reached his car, Stephen opened the car door for her, letting her settle down in the front passenger seat. She stepped inside the car with no resistance anymore. She just silently observed Stephen.

'He looks harmless, she thought to herself. She just picked up her phone and messaged Kazuki.

[Sir, I've arrived. But I need to go to the hospital. Some punk hit me with his car and not allowing me to leave. But I'm not hurt.] Hanabi informed Kazuki of her whereabouts.

Her flight got delayed and she left her luggage at her hotel. She decided to stroll around the city first before meeting Kazuki. Who would have thought that someone would hit her while crossing the streets?

Beep!

Mr. Kazuki responded quickly. [We have an emergency! You need to find our master's daughter. Lady Jane had gone missing!]

Hanabi's eyes widened in shock after reading Kazuki's last message. "STOP THE CAR!!!" She screamed, making Stephen hit the brake.

Screech!

'What's wrong?' Stephen asked her in confusion. Hanabi's mood changed quickly.

"I need to get out!" Hanabi said before opening the car door and jumping off in a swift move. Stephen was not able to react as he watched her running away from him.

He could only shake his head and murmured, "What a weird woman? Is she immune to pain?"

Stephen started the car. Since his patient ran away, he could only continue his search, hoping that he could find Jane as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Kazuki contacted his son, Tatsumi. Finally, he was able to reach his son as Tatsumi's phone rang. He couldn't contact him for the past few days because he was out of reach.

"Dad! I'm busy. Why do you keep calling me?" Tatsumi scowled at his father right away. He was currently fighting several members of the King Stallion Mafia. They were hunting and chasing after him. The group was headed by a woman whose alias was Speed.

"Busy?! Where the hell are you?! You should go back here. Your future wife went missing!" Kazuki wanted to scold his ungrateful son.

'Huh? My wife? What happened to my Lady?" Tatsumi asked him exasperatedly. He was also shocked to hear the news from his father.

"Yes. Your future wife disappeared and we are searching for her. If you don't want to lose her, come back here and help us find her!" Kazuki raised his voice, screaming at his son. He could hear the loud noise on the phone so he didn't know what his son was currently doing.

"What are you doing?! It's so noisy!" Kazuki complained.

Bang! Bang!

Soon, he heard the sound of gunshots! Kazuki's eyes went round. TATSUMI! Where the hell are you? Why am I hearing so many gunshots?! Did you make trouble again?" Kazuki's blood started to boil in rage. He didn't know if he should get mad or get worried about his son.

"Dad. Calm down. I'm going back. But I have to deal with these flies first. Don't get mad at me. I'm doing this mission for my lady. She gave me a task' Tatsumi tried to explain so that his father would stop scolding him. Besides, he was in the middle of a fight. His father was distracting him.

"Mission? What kind of mission?" Kazuki asked him curiously.

"It's confidential, Dad. it is only between my lady and me. Don't ask me further. But one thing I can guarantee you. Once I accomplish this mission, I will propose to her. She cant say no to me." Tatsumi said proudly. He even let out a soft chuckle.

Kazuki didn't completely believe him. He thought his son was spouting some nonsense. "Finding our young mistress is our top priority. Abort that mission! Return here! We must find Jane as soon as possible!"

"I got it, Dad! I'm heading to the airport now! I'll escape here safely." Tatsumi hung up the phone. He focused his attention on fighting the members of the King Stallion Mafia. His goal was to find a safe route for escape. He was surrounded by hundreds of men.

Tatsumi started exchanging fires with his opponents. Though he was outnumbered, Tatsumi had this confidence that he won't lose. He couldn't let them capture him, especially now that he had something more important to do- Finding Jane.

Meanwhile, Speed was watching Tatsumi from the distance. She had to admit that this one guy was giving her underlings a hard time. It wasn't easy to capture him alive. If this was only an assassination mission, she already finished it early. However, capturing this man alive was not an easy job!

Speed moved and found a good spot where she could target Tatsumi. She was now carrying her sniper's rifle. It was a long-range rifle with high accuracy when firing at her target.

"I can't aim at his head nor his chest. I should shoot him in the leg so that he can no longer run away from us," Speed mumbled to herself as she positioned herself.

Tatsumi was busy firing at her subordinates. After a few seconds, Speed finally got a clear shot.

Bang!

The first shot had missed since Tatsumi used a man as his shield. Speed frowned because she didn't know if it was just a coincidence or if Tatsumi knew that she was targeting him from afar.

"This guy! His survival instinct is so strong!" Speed shook her head. She started to find another clear shot. She was observing and following Tatsumi's every move.

"Where are you going to hide, Buddy?" Speed continued her monologue.

She noticed that Tatsumi stopped firing at her underlings. "Haha! He ran out of ammunition!"

Using her communication device, she talked to her men and ordered them, "Go and chase after him now! He can't fire at you. He ran out of ammunition!"

"Copy!"

Speed directed them about Tatsumi's current position. Several men were approaching his hiding spot.

"You can't escape from us." Speed said confidently.

Tatsumi was put in a tight spot. Every corner was filled with enemies. But to her surprise, she didn't see any hint of fear or worry on his face. He remained calm. Tatsumi was even smiling as if he was enjoying this.

"This is one tough guy! I commend him for being composed despite his difficult situation!" Speed couldn't help but admire Tatsumi.

Tatsumi was back to fighting those men using his fists and dagger. As he was immersed in beating those men who rushed in his direction, Tatsumi failed to dodge Speed's shot.

Bang!

Tatsumi was hit in his right leg.

"Argh!" He groaned and gazed up, turning in the direction where the gunshot came from. "Damn! There's a sniper!"

Chapter 572 The Only Person Who Can Cure Her

Day Sixty-Four...

~*~*~*~*~

[At Syphiruz Medical Facility...]

Nathan stayed in Jane's ward, watching over her. He was sitting on a chair with complicated emotions on his face. He wasn't used to seeing Jane lying in her sick bed.

He thought she was completely healed. She was energetic and her strength returned. Who would have thought she would suddenly collapse one day? This was so unpredictable.

Nathan covered his face using his hands. Then he moved them up, tugging his hair. He couldn't understand his mood today. He was so grumpy and annoyed. He didn't know where he should take his anger.

He turned in Jane's direction, having conflicting thoughts. "You should wake up, Jane," Nathan mumbled, clenching his fists. He sounded like begging her.

Bam!

Nathan was talking to unconscious Jane when suddenly the door of the private ward slid open. He turned around only to see his son, Ethan, walking alongside his robotic friends.

Nathan frowned in puzzlement. "What is he doing here?" He glanced at Ethan and his robotic friends.

"Dad!" Ethan ran in his direction. He immediately extended his right hand in front of his father. "Give me Miss Jane's phone."

The crease of Nathan's forehead deepened further when he heard that. "Why? How do you know I have her phone?"

Little Ethan rolled his eyes skyward. "Don't ask me, Dad. Just give me her phone. Otherwise, you will make Gramps and others search for Miss Jane everywhere."

Nathan couldn't understand his son. But he handed Jane's phone over to Ethan. He wondered what his son was planning to do. And how did he know that Jane was there? Was he aware of her current condition? Who told him?

Nathan just watched his son as he switched on Jane's phone. He turned it off when Vincent kept calling her. Jane's phone kept on beeping after it was turned on. She received several messages from her father, Kazuki, Stephen, Cherry, and Abigail.

Ethan unlocked Jane's phone. He knew her password! Nathan was surprised since his son was navigating her phone as if it was his own phone.

It did not take long before Ethan dialed Mr. Hiroshi's number. While it was ringing, Ethan gazed at Powy and said, "Give me the voice-changing device, Powy. Are you done copying her voice?"

"Yes, young master!" Powy responded. He opened his steel stomach and picked up a small device. It looked like a tiny microphone. It was a new creation of Ethan.

"What are you up to?" Nathan asked his son curiously.

"Just watch and learn, Dad!" Ethan replied, ignoring his father's query.

When Mr. Hiroshi answered the phone, Ethan signaled his Dad to keep quiet. Nathan just obediently followed his son, still wondering what the little kid was planning to do.

"Jane! Where are you, my daughter? We have been looking for you. Are you alright?" Mr. Hiroshi's worried voice resounded from the other line.

Nathan's eyes widened in shock. He didn't expect that his son would call Mr. Hiroshi using Jane's phone. Was he going to reveal to them that Jane was in the medical facility?

Nathan moved forward, trying to snatch the phone away from Ethan. He thought his son would reveal his secret to Mr. Hiroshi. He didn't inform Mr. Hiroshi that he knew where Jane was. He gave his son a warning look. But Ethan just ignored him.

Before Nathan could steal the phone from his son, Little Ethan already spoke up. Nathan stopped because what he heard was Jane's voice, not Ethan's voice.

"Pa, I'm sorry for making you worried. I'm just fine. My phone had run out of battery. I just charged my phone," Ethan said as an alibi.

Nathan calmed down as he finally understood Ethan's plan. His son was currently pretending to be Jane using this voice-changing device. Surprisingly, the device copied Jane's exact voice.

"Where are you?" Mr. Hiroshi asked her again.

"Pa, I will be having a business trip abroad. I will be away for one week. I might not be able to contact you and others. Please send my regards to my sister and friends. Don't worry about me." Ethan had come up with another alibi just to cover up for Jane's absence.

Bam-Bam already reassured him that Jane would definitely wake up after seven days so he had nothing to worry about. But Ethan had no plan of telling this to his father because he and Bam-Bam had agreed to assess and test Nathan's feelings toward Jane.

How would Nathan react if Jane continued to sleep for the next six days?

"What business trip is that? Can you tell me your exact location so that I will be more at ease? You should have brought some bodyguards." Mr. Hiroshi couldn't help but worry about her safety.

"Pa, it is a business meeting with an investor in Country R. I'm planning to build my own company. By the way, I have my bodyguards with me. I am secure here. My trip is urgent so I was not able to say goodbye to you properly."

Mr. Hiroshi could only sigh in defeat. "Fine. Just give me an update from time to time. Take care of yourself, my dear daughter. I can't afford to lose you."

"I know, Pa. Thanks. I'm boarding the plane now. I have to end this call. I love you. See you around." Ethan wanted to end the conversation so that Mr. Hiroshi wouldn't ask further questions.

"Okay. But before you end this call, I just want to inform you that Dave is now awake."

"Thanks, Pa." Ethan simply said before ending the call.

Ethan was done with his conversation but Nathan was still observing him in disbelief. His son just fixed his problem today. Because he pretended to be Jane, reassuring Mr. Hiroshi that she was fine, Mr. Hiroshi would stop his men from looking for Jane. Nathan had nothing to worry about anymore aside from waiting for Jane to wake up.

"Why did you say one week? What if Jane doesn't wake—" Nathan cut his sentence because he realized that Ethan wasn't aware of Jane's current condition. He shouldn't make this young boy worry about her.

"Dad, just do your best to take good care of Miss Jane. Make sure she will wake up in one week. If she does not return then Gramps will worry about her." Ethan reminded him. "Once he finds out that you lied to him, Mr. Hiroshi won't forgive you. He won't allow you to see Miss Jane ever again." the little boy added, threatening his father.

Nathan furrowed his eyebrows. He was displeased to hear Ethan's last remarks. "No one can stop me from seeing her. But I do have a question for you. Do you know that she is in a coma? How did you know that she's here?"

As Nathan questioned his son, Bam-Bam showed up again, whispering to Ethan. "Ethan, can you act as if you are worried about Jane? You don't look worried at all because you know that she will wake up after seven days. You must make your father believe that my master is super ill so that he will worry about her. Don't act so calmly. Just think of it that Miss Jane is about to die soon."

When Bam-Bam said his last remarks, Ethan shook his head frantically and his eyes became misty. "No way! Miss Jane won't die. She has to survive! Dad!" Ethan moved closer to Nathan, tugging the hem of his clothes. "Don't let her die! Don't let her die!" the young boy burst out into tears.

Nathan felt guilty for not filtering his words. He thought he was the one who triggered Ethan's emotion when he told her that Jane was in a coma state. "Shhh! Don't cry. She won't die. She is a strong woman."

But Ethan continued to cry as he began punching his dad's legs. "I won't forgive you if she dies. You are the only one who can save her!"

Bam-Bam blinked his eyes in amusement as he watched the father and son duo. He didn't know if Ethan was just acting or if this was "Of course, I won't let her die." Nathan promptly responded, trying to console and appease his son. "Stop crying already. I'm doing my his true feelings. 'If he is just acting, then this child deserves a best actor award,' Bam-Bam thought to himself.

"Of course, I won't let her die." Nathan promptly responded, trying to console and appease his son. "Stop crying already. I'm doing my best to cure her. Just trust me, okay?"

Ethan stopped punching his Dad. He wiped his tears and gazed up, looking straight into his father's eyes. "Dad, do you really want to cure her?"

"Of course, I do," Nathan replied without hesitation.

Ethan nodded his head and blurted out, "Then you only need to do one thing." the young boy paused for a moment. He shifted his gaze to Jane and brought it back to his father. "You have to love her with all your heart. Acknowledge your feelings for her."

Nathan: "..."

Nathan was rendered speechless when he heard Ethan's last words. Was he serious? Where did he get that idea?

Chapter 573 The Reason She Failed Her Mission

"You have to love her with all your heart. Acknowledge your feelings for her."

Nathan didn't know how he would react to Ethan's words. Who gave him this idea? This is absurd. Before, he likes Abigail so much. But now, he is shipping me with Jane.'

When he recovered from his trance, Nathan questioned his son. "Why are you telling me this? I don't have feelings for her.'

Ethan was displeased when he heard Nathan's last remarks. Even Barn-Barn was disappointed. 'How long are you going to deny it, Dad?' The young boy was losing his patience. His Dad was so dumb. He couldn't recognize his one true love.

"Are you going to wait until she's gone?! Won't you be sad if Miss Jane dies?" Ethan burst out. He could no longer tolerate Nathan's foolishness. He kept on denying his feelings for Jane.

"She. Wont. Die!" Nathan spat back at his son with his stern cold voice. He hated it when Ethan kept telling him that Jane was going to die. won't let her die! His words were filled with conviction.

Ethan was annoyed by his father's confusing actions. "Fine! i won't bug you on this anymore. If you don't like her and you don't have feelings for her then just let her go. Send her to Uncle Stephen. At least, Uncle Stephen is different. He is treating her well. And he is willing to do anything for her. At least, he loves her sincerely."

Nathan crumpled his face when he heard that. He was about to argue with his son but Ethan stormed out of the room, leaving Nathan. Barn-Barn followed Ethan from behind. He scowled at Nathan before flying away.

Nathan was left alone inside Jane's ward. He clenched his fists, just." watching Ethan's back. He wasn't mad at his son but at himself.

Meanwhile, Ethan kept walking away until he found an isolated place. He wanted to be alone, away from his foolish and annoying father. He sat on the ground and hugged himself, trying to hold his tears.

Bam-Bam joined him. Why are you sad?"

Ethan gazed up and said, "Because I'm losing hope. I feel sorry for my Mom. What if Dad won't acknowledge his feelings, will she die? For real? Can't you save her? I want to save her. I don't want her to die"

The young boy began to express his thoughts and feelings with Ram-Ram. "Bam-Bam, I wonder if it's okay for Morn to love someone else as long as she can survive. Is it okay that she falls to someone else who already has feelings for her so that she can survive?"

"I can accept it even if she can't be together with my dumb father, as long as she stays alive. Can you help her?" Ethan begged Barn-Bam. He felt so helpless and desperate at this moment.

"I have Uncle Stephen... and that guy whose name is Tatsumi!"

Bam-Bam heaved a deep sigh. "I'm sorry, Ethan. It can't be done. It must be true love. And the guy whom my master loves is your father! The magical creature flew towards Ethan and stroked his hair using his paw. He wanted to comfort the little child.

"True Love? Can't I just become my Morn's True Love? I love her so much. And I know she loves me back. Can't you consider that as true lover Ethan insisted on, trying to convince Barn-Barn to let Jane live.

On the other hand, Barn-Barn couldn't refute that. Jane's and Ethan's love for each other was genuine and unconditional. It was a real love... truer than other kinds of love.

'But this doesn't change the fact that Jane's mission focuses on gaining Nathan's love and affection; Bam-Bam thought to himself. He didn't voice it out loud because he didn't want to disappoint the kid further.

"Ethan, I'm sorry. I don't want to give you false hope. But I have to admit that you and Jane have strong connections. You both love each other unconditionally. Just keep loving her and show her how much you care for her. Don't give up. She still has thirty days left! Bam-Bam could only encourage Ethan.

"Hmm! if she dies, I die!" Ethan mumbled, wiping his tears.

"Don't say that. My master won't be happy once you get you hurt because of her. Do you want her to blame herself?' Barn-Barn lectured Ethan.

"Then you have to help me. Don't let her die. You have powers!" Ethan grabbed Bam-Bam and shook his body until the magical creature got dizzy.

"Eh? Ethan... let me go. Don't shake me like that. I'm dizzy. My world is spinning: Bam-Barn complained to Ethan. The young boy was shaking his body forcefully.

A few seconds later, Ethan released Bam-Bam. You are a stubborn little creature. You refuse to help my Mom and me. Just get lost. You TRAITOR! thump!" Ethan was now upset with Bam-Bam No matter how much he pleads, Bam-Bam won't listen to him.

Bam-Bam heaved a sigh of defeat before disappearing from his sight. He had his own principle he didn't want to break. As a soul keeper, he has to fulfill his duty and promises. The deal between Jane and him couldn't be broken. Jane had to finish her mission.

Ethan continued sulking around the corner. After a while, he stood up. His feet brought him back to Jane's ward. Nathan was not around when he returned. The young boy approached Jane. He climbed on the bed and planted a soft kiss on Jane's right cheek.

He stayed there, just sitting on the edge of her sick bed. Little Ethan started caressing Jane's cheeks and stroked her hair. "Mom, you have to live. Okay? Don't leave me behind. I can't lose you."

Sadness could be seen in Ethan's eyes as he stared at her. He lay down beside her and hugged her tightly. "I love you, Mom"

Ethan buried his face into her side as he tightened his embrace.

[In Jane's subconscious...]

She might be sleeping by now. But Jane's mind started to recall some of her memories. And the flashbacks started to appear in her mind. She was back to the time when she first encountered Vincent, the leader of the King Stallion Mafia. It was the continuation of her memory during her first hypnosis session with Stephen.

{ FLASHBACK }

Jane went to that Masquerade Ball to assassinate the King. She thought everything would go smoothly, especially when she managed to approach him.

Come with me," he said, grabbing her hand.

With the goal to have private time alone with him, Jane obediently followed him. The King pulled her as they passed through the dancing crowd. She didn't know why this man took notice of her easily. Was he interested in her?

Vincent brought her to the garden maze. It was a perfect place for assassination. No one was around as the guests were enjoying the banquet inside the hall. Jane and Vincent were alone in that hedge maze.

"I would like to congratulate you for catching my attention. How bold are you to intentionally bump me, my dear lady." Vincent let out a soft chuckle.

Jane smiled at him sweetly, playing along with him. "Of course. I have been eyeing you from the start. You are my target. You are the only gentleman who captured my interest among the crowd. I bet you are powerful and influential."

Jane tried to flirt with him, distracting him using her charm. As they spoke, Jane discreetly took the poison needle that she kept inside her masquerade lace gloves. If Vincent lowered his guard against her, she could easily kill him using her poison needle.

But Jane was also cautious because she heard that the leader of the King Stallion Mafia was very sharp and cunning. He was a dangerous person who couldn't easily be killed by anyone.

Jane placed her hand behind her as she hid the needle from his sight. Vincent was still holding her other hand. Then they heard the loud music coming from the mansion.

"May I have this dance?" Vincent invited her, looking at her intently. His lips curled up into a playful smile. Jane's eyebrow twitched. She contemplated whether to accept his invitation or not. 'Should I strike already? I shouldn't be wasting my time here:

When Vincent saw the hesitation in her eyes, he spoke again to convince her. "You will be my first and my last dance tonight. Can you please say yes, my Lady? Don't reject me He asked her in a pleading tone. But he maintained his cheeky smile on his face.

"Fine. Your last dance," Jane eventually agreed. 'You will die in my hands anyway; she added to her thoughts.

Jane temporarily hid the poison needle before accepting Vincent's hand. She placed her hands on his shoulders while Vincent held her waist. They started to move and sway their body, dancing to the slow beat of the music.

Vincent pulled her body closer to him and whispered, "Tell me your name, my lady."

"No. gentleman's first. Tell me yours," Jane refused him.

Vincent let out another soft chuckle. Leaning closer to her ear, Vincent whispered his name. Sizzling August."

Jane's eyes widened and her body stiffened the moment she heard that name. 'Sizzling August? Is he the Sizzling August I've been looking for?'

Meanwhile, Vincent smirked when he noticed the changes in Jane's expression. He could tell that he succeeded in luring her. I know it. You will react when you hear this name... Shining Star

At that certain moment, Jane was bound to fail her mission. She miscalculated something. This man knew that she was coming. And he was aware of her weakness.

Chapter 574 Traitor!!!

[Back to Country R...]

Tatsumi's right leg was hit. He started to bleed. Despite his injury, he continued fighting his enemies. The adrenaline rush was boosting his strength and his will to escape. He could endure the pain. The gunshot wound was nothing compared to the hellish training he underwent when he was just a kid.

Tatsumi ripped his shirt and tied his leg to stop his bleeding. He couldn't stay there and fight them forever. It was just a waste of time. He had to run and escape.

'My lady is waiting for me. I can't die here. I can't let them capture me and imprison me. I have to find my future wife!' This thought motivated him further.

Meanwhile, Speed could only watch him in awe. Tatsumi surpassed all her expectations. She was certain she hit his bone. He should be screaming in pain now. However, Tatsumi continued to move as if he wasn't injured at all.

"Fuck! He is incapable of feeling any pain!" Speed cursed inwardly. She tried to get another clear shot but she failed. Tatsumi already knew her position. He was running in a direction where Speed won't be able to get a clear shot.

Tatsumi was trained for survival. He didn't deserve to marry the daughter of the godfather if he could easily be defeated by just one gunshot.

He managed to steal a car from the members of the King Stallion Mafia. He drove away from the scene and the members were still chasing after him.

Tatsumi headed to the airport. A private plane of the Sawada Clan had been waiting for him. Speed was on his tail. She couldn't let this guy escape, otherwise, Phoenix would blame her for her incapability.

She was always competing against Phoenix, proving to him that she was better than him. She hated the fact Phoenix was chosen as the King's right-hand man. She wanted to get that position!

However, she couldn't accept the humiliation once her target escaped. She needed to catch him no matter what!

Other men couldn't match her driving skills. She caught up with him as he entered the airport. Tatsumi used the alternate route so that he could avoid the crowd.

He thought no one was following him already. He got out of the car. And the flight attendant and pilot of the private plane stepped forward to welcome him.

"Sir! You are injured!" The flight attendant panicked upon seeing Tatsumi's bleeding leg.

He just motioned the pilot to assist him. He could no longer walk straight. He needed someone to support him. The attendant and the co-pilot guided him inside the private plane.

Everyone was busy tending to Tatsumi's wound. They failed to notice that one flight attendant was knocked down by someone. Speed grabbed the unconscious woman and brought her to a corner, away from the eyes of bystanders.

She removed and stole the flight attendant's uniform and put them on. She made sure to wear her disguise before entering the private plane. No one noticed her presence.

Others were busy applying first aid to his injured leg. "Sir Christopher! You have to go to the hospital!"

"No. I can't. My future wife is waiting for me. Let's fly back to Country M!" Tatsumi ordered them.

They couldn't disobey his order so the co-pilot returned to his position. The pilot was already preparing the plane for their flight.

Speed squinted her eyes when she heard Tatsumi's last remarks.

'Ahuh! He abandoned our duel because he was going to see his fiancé! How could he? I am disappointed!'

Speed disguised herself as a flight attendant. She would follow him anywhere. She planned on bringing him back to Country R. But for now, she had to lie low so that no one would notice her presence. She had to distance herself from other flight attendants to keep her identity a secret.

After ten minutes, the private plane started to take off. Tatsumi lay down and took a nap. He got exhausted after fighting several members of the King Stallion Mafia.

He also injected him with some pain reliever. Fortunately, they managed to stop his bleeding. The flight attendant who took care of Tatsumi's gunshot wound suggested that once they touched down in Country M, Tatsumi should be rushed to the hospital first to have surgery.

Speed patiently waited for the right time to strike. She planned on kidnapping him after his surgery. Flying to Country M was not part of her plan, but the situation made her do so.

'Gosh! Phoenix and our King are in Country M. Should I greet them or hide from them?' Speed wasn't certain if Phoenix and Vincent would be happy to see her.

She guessed not. She was supposed to manage the King Stallion's operation while Phoenix was not around. However, she left her post just to follow and catch Tatsumi.

[Country M: Syphiruz Headquarters...]

Joker was distracted after Vincent's phone call. He was indebted to that man so he couldn't say no to his request. He was obligated to do what he asked him to.

Joker proceeded to the underground prison cells. As he traversed through the hallway, he could already hear Marco's painful scream. He was being tortured by members of the Syphiruz.

"Stop," Joker said in his authoritative voice.

Joker was a high-ranking official of the organization. The torturers had to obey him. He motioned them to leave so they did, leaving Joker and Marco alone in that prison cell.

Joker watched Marco from top to bottom. He was barely alive. He was beaten up badly. Different parts of his body were covered with bruises and cuts. He also had some broken bones.

Joker slowly approached Marco and whispered, "I got an order from King. If you want to live, pull yourself together. I will get you out here."

With his remaining strength, Marco gazed at him and smirked. "Vero-nica... bring her with us." Marco would never leave that headquarters without Veronica.

Joker scoffed at him. "You are making my job harder. Tsk!"

Joker had no choice but to sneak out two people, helping them to escape. He proceeded to Veronica's room, sending away her guards.

Joker unlocked the door, letting Veronica out.

"Joker?" Veronica was surprised when he released her. She thought he was loyal to Nathan. But he was clearly disobeying Nathan's command after releasing Veronica.

"Doc, you have to leave and bring Marco with you." Joker handed his car key over to Veronica.

"What the hell are you doing?" Chantha shouted when she witnessed Joker and Veronica. Veronica was supposed to be locked inside that room. But Joker released her and even gave her his car key.

Without further ado, Chantha charged in Joker's direction. She wanted to punch his face. But Joker moved swiftly, blocking her fist using his palm.

Joker's expression turned serious. He had to deal with Chantha, or else, Marco and Veronica won't be able to escape.

"Traitor! How much did she offer you? You Moron!" Chantha snarled at him through her gritted teeth.

"I'm sorry, Chantha," Joker mumbled before shoving her body into the wall.

Thud!

"Argh!" Chantha winced in pain as her back hit the wall so hard. A sharp object accidentally stabbed her back... the lower part of her waist.

Before she could make another move, Joker hit her neck, knocking her down.

Chapter 575 She's Important To Him

Joker glanced at Chantha for several seconds. He was having second thoughts. 'Did I overdo it?' He was clueless that Chantha was stabbed by a sharp object at her back. She was bleeding.

"Let's go now!" Veronica called Joker's attention.

Joker made the necessary preparations. He knew every nook and cranny of the Syphiruz Mafia Headquarters because he was one of them. He could easily avoid getting caught by his fellow members.

He also temporarily disabled the security cameras that were located at the spots where he would pass through together with Veronica and Marco. Joker had to leave the place before Violet and Spider learned about his betrayal. Once Chantha woke up, he would be included in the wanted list of the organization.

'Damn it! Everyone will hate me for doing this. I need to leave the country as soon as possible. I just sever my ties with the Syphiruz Mafia.' Joker felt a little bit sad. Syphiruz Mafia had been part of his life. He treated them as his family. But who would have thought he would be able to betray them? It was his choice.

Joker, Marco, and Veronica escaped successfully. He used the backdoor. And members of the Syphiruz Mafia were not suspicious of Joker at all.

Meanwhile, Axel was walking in the hallway when he noticed the commotion. He heard someone calling Chantha's name. The source of the noises came from the room where Veronica was previously locked up.

Axel's face became pale when he saw Chantha lying unconscious on the floor. He also saw her blood. She was wounded. In just a blink of an eye, Axel approached her, pushing away the other guy who was tapping Chantha's shoulder.

"Make a way!" Axel screamed with urgency as he carried her body in his arms. He immediately dashed out, bringing her to his car. Some members followed them.

"Drive for me!" Axel threw his car key to one guy before putting Chantha in the back passenger seat. He also joined her as he tried to stop her bleeding.

"Go to the medical facility! Drive faster!" Axel commanded the guy. The medical facility was near the headquarters so it would be convenient to bring Chantha there, instead of the hospital.

His subordinate obeyed him. He was also worried since one of their branch leaders was attacked inside their headquarters. Two of their prisoners escaped.

"Who did this to her?" Axel asked. He sounded so furious. He was already cursing the person who attacked Chantha. His heart was filled with rage. Seeing Chantha in that state made him lose control. He wanted to kill whoever did this to her.

"We haven't confirmed it yet, sir. But... it looks like someone disabled our security cameras. We don't know who attacked Miss Chantha. But one of our fellow members told us that Branch Leader, Joker, was the last person they'd seen in the underground basement before our prisoners escaped."

Axel's expression darkened further when he heard that. He had a bad feeling about this. 'Don't tell me Joker betrayed us. But why? I swear I'll beat him up if he was the one who hurt Chantha.'

Axel immediately picked up his phone and made an emergency group call among the branch leaders. Only Spider and Violet joined the call. Joker's status was away.

"Axel? Is there something wrong?" Violet asked him instantly. The emergency call was activated so Violet knew that something urgent happened. But she didn't know how bad or serious the matter was.

"Tell us the situation. Does Supreme Leader want to summon us?" Spider also spoke up from the other line. He was currently doing his mission. He was in Country R, digging for more information regarding Monica.

"Chantha was attacked. We are rushing to the medical facility now."

"WHAT!? My Twin Sister is hurt! Who did this?" Violet's worried voice resounded.

"Joker is the number one suspect. He might be the one who helped Veronica and Marco escape." Axel informed them.

There was a moment of silence when they heard that.

"Are you sure about that?" Spider couldn't believe it. Joker was like a brother to him. They were buddies! How could Joker betray them? Why?

"Let's not jump to a conclusion first. We need to find Joker and let him explain his side." Spider added, refusing to believe that Joker would betray them.

"I'll kill him myself. How dare he touch my sister!" Violet didn't hide her anger and disappointment. "I'm on my way to the facility now. Please take good care of my sister, Axel!"

"I'll dispatch our members to search and capture Joker. He has some explaining things to do," Axel informed his comrades.

"No! Don't give this task to anyone. You know Joker. He can't easily be captured. Even if you send ten or twenty men, Joker can kill them easily if he wants to. If he truly betrays us, I don't think he will let Chantha live. He should have killed her already to cover up for his crime. But he didn't do it. I guessed he just knocked her down. Joker might have some reasons for doing this."

"I don't care about his reason. The fact he hurts Chantha is enough to punish him. Don't defend him, Spider!" Axel was displeased and furious. Violet and Spider were surprised because, among them, Axel was the most cool-headed person. But at this moment, he was acting differently.

Spider just kept his mouth shut. He didn't want to argue with Axel.

"Let's discuss this personally. I'll inform our Supreme Leader about this." Violet tried her best to keep calm.

When the three hung up, Axel focused his attention back on Chantha. His eyes softened as he watched her. His heart was thumping so hard. He was anxious and scared about Chantha's safety. He just hoped her injury wasn't serious.

Axel held her close to his body as if she was a fragile thing he needed to protect. "You have to be okay. I am not used to seeing you in this state." He caressed her cheek. At that certain moment, Axel knew that Chantha occupied a special place in his heart. She was important to him. And he cared about her so much.

Chapter 576 The King Is Not In The Mood

Joker brought Marco and Veronica to a secret hideout, provided by Vincent. Veronica started treating Marco's wound. She pitied him because he suffered a lot from the torture. But Veronica was clueless that Marco also received an order from Vincent and Helena to eliminate Abigail that day.

Marco didn't confess nor mention the couple. He made them believe that Veronica was the real mastermind. But in reality, Marco was just following Vincent's order.

Joker decided to call Vincent, informing him that he was done with his task. "This is the last time I'll comply with your request. I'm free from you now. I returned the favor."

"You became an enemy of the Syphiruz Mafia. Why don't you officially join our organization?" Vincent tried to recruit him.

"No, thanks," Joker promptly responded. Betraying Syphiruz was enough. He couldn't join another organization because this would add to his guilt.

Vincent just let out a soft chuckle. "Your former comrade will hunt you down. Are you not afraid?" He kept taunting him.

"I'll manage myself. It's my problem. Not yours. I just called you to inform you that I'm done with your task. Don't contact me anymore." Joker was firm with his decision.

Joker reminisced about the moment he encountered the leader of King Stallion Mafia. Joker fell in love during his mission in Country R. He was only twenty years old at that time. Though he hadn't seen his face, Vincent was the one who helped him save his woman.

Her life was put in danger because of Joker's mission. She was kidnapped by a notorious gang in Country R and Joker was cornered. That was the time Vincent came into the picture. He helped Joker survive and rescued his woman.

But the rescue mission didn't go as they planned. The woman got hurt but she survived. She found out that Joker was a member of a mafia group. Joker chose to stay away from her for her own safety. Vincent was the one who helped the woman live comfortably in Country R. That was Joker's request. He was still in love with her. But unfortunately, the woman had already married someone.

Vincent just let Joker do what he wanted. Besides, he was done using this man. He was even thinking if he should eliminate him. But thinking about the Syphiruz Mafia, he didn't feel the need to kill Joker. The Syphiruz Mafia would be the one to destroy him.

Vincent was good at manipulating people. He could turn a friend into a foe. He always used someone's weakness to take advantage of them. He could play them on his palm, making them do what he wanted.

When Joker hung up the phone, he immediately left the hideout. The chase would begin now. He could tell that Syphiruz Mafia would launch a manhunt against him. He knew he did something wrong but he didn't have the courage to surrender.

Meanwhile, Veronica was done tending to Marco's wound. Marco smiled at her because Veronica was surprisingly gentle toward him. She was taking care of him.

"Don't look at me like that. You are smiling like a fool," Veronica complained.

But Marco burst into a husky laugh. "I'm just grateful because you are safe."

Veronica was taken aback when she heard that. Marco almost died from the severe torture, but here he was, still thinking about her safety.

"I've decided. I will be joining hands with the King Stallion. I will destroy Syphiruz. I already gave up Nathan. He can never be mine..." Veronica looked down when she said those words. She felt a pang of pain deep inside her heart.

Marco, on the other hand, rejoiced because of Veronica's decision. She was finally letting go of Nathan. Unable to contain his happiness, he lifted her chin and sealed her lips with a deep passionate kiss. Veronica didn't resist. She even responded to him, matching the intensity of his kiss.

[At Vincent's Villa...]

Helena's mood finally improved. She was back to her cheerful self. She even played with Mia while Vincent was talking to someone over the phone. She had no idea what was going on. When Vincent approached them, he motioned for her to follow him. He needed to talk to her.

"Mia, your Uncle is calling me. Can we continue our game later?" Helena asked Mia. She forced a smile. But little did Mia know, Helena was just pretending to be kind in front of her.

"Okay, Auntie. I'll wait for you and Uncle. Let's do swimming!" Mia said excitedly.

Helena just nodded her head, maintaining her fake smile. Soon, Helena followed Vincent to his room. She was having some naughty thoughts when they entered the room. However, Vincent seemed like he was not in the mood.

"What's wrong? You look serious," Helena asked him.

Vincent was unaware that he looked like that. In fact, he had been in this bad mood since he couldn't trace Jane at all. She was not even answering his call and now her phone was switched off.

"Nothing. There is something I want to tell you. Nathan captured Marco and Veronica." Vincent informed her. I think you should take a look at

Helena just raised her eyebrow when Veronica's name was mentioned. "So?"

παΠdαsNovel.com "I helped them escape. They are staying in one of my hideouts here." Vincent was staring at Helena intently, assessing her reaction.

"Hmm, are you expecting me to give you a reward for saving that woman?" Helena sneered at him as she moved closer to him. Helena placed her hand against his chest."

But Vincent caught her hand. "No. I'm just telling you what happened today. Anyway, I'll be going out. Can you look after Mia on my behalf?"

"Where are you going?" Helena pouted her lips in disappointment. "Don't leave me alone here. I will be bored. I'm tired of playing with her," she complained.

Vincent was not in the mood to appease her. "Mia is my niece. She's important to me. Can you treat her well as if she is your own?"

Helena was stunned because Vincent talked to her like that. He was acting so cold and distant. She could tell that Vincent was not in a great mood. She wondered what triggered him today.

'Did I do something that offended him?' Helena mused to herself.

"Alright. I'm sorry. I will take good care of her. But please come home early. Okay?" Helena didn't want to anger Vincent. She knew the consequences if Vincent was mad.

"Thank you. I'm leaving now. You can visit Veronica if you want to." Vincent mumbled before giving her his credit card. He gave her money to spend while taking care of Mia.

He planned on tracing Jane, finding her current whereabouts. What if Helena did something to her already? He gave her authority to mobilize some of his men. This was also one of the reasons he was not in the mood.

"Okay. I'll visit her and be a 'good sister'," Helena said sarcastically.

Vincent just frowned at her last remarks. "Be careful. You can't trust her. She is obsessed and madly in love with Nathan." Vincent reminded her.

Helena just giggled and said, "I know. My— I mean Monica's crazy sister."

He stared at her for a moment. 'But I know the craziest one...'

It did not take long before Vincent stepped forward to leave. But Helena stopped him again.

"Are you just leaving without saying goodbye? Kiss me," Helena demanded. She wanted to make sure that she was not the reason why Vincent appeared to be grumpy today.

Vincent concealed his emotions as he grabbed her by the waist. He pulled her head and kissed her hungrily. He was rough as he claimed her lips in a savage conquest. When he drew back, Helena was already catching his breath.

"I'll be back," he plainly said before turning around to leave.

Upon leaving his villa, the first thing he did was check on Jane in the private villa bought by Nathan. That was the only place he knew.

Twenty-five minutes later

Vincent arrived at the villa. But there was no sign of Jane. The house was empty.

'Where did she go? How can she disappear right after attacking Helena?' Vincent couldn't figure out where Jane was hiding.

'There is only one way to find out. Nathan. I have to tail Nathan. She might be working under the Syphiruz Mafia now. And she might be staying in one of their headquarters.' Vincent started to speculate.

Vincent tried contacting Joker again. He would like to ask him whether he saw Phantomflake in the headquarters. However, Joker already blocked his number.

Vincent's expression darkened further because he could no longer contact Joker. "Well. I have no choice left. Black Rose is the closest person to Phantomflake. I should find her."

Vincent changed his tactic. Now, he was going after Black Rose. He was very determined to know what happened to Jane. He had a bad feeling about her sudden disappearance.

Vincent made a blunder today. He had forgotten that Nathan installed security devices in the vicinity of the villa. He was captured by one of the cameras. Nathan would eventually find out that Vincent dropped by his villa.

Chapter 577 Bad News Day Sixty-Five...

[At Jane's secret hideout...]

Cherry continued tracking Jane's location when she received a message from Stephen. He informed her that Jane sent him a message. They had to postpone the hypnosis session since Jane went abroad. However, she didn't disclose her location.

"Sigh! I'm glad my big sister is safe. But wait... Don't tell me... she went to Country R to conduct a personal investigation about the King Stallion Mafia?" Cherry gasped at that thought.

"Going there alone is very risky! She should have asked me to accompany her." Cherry pouted her lips.

She leaned on her chair and stretched her arms. She had been facing her computer for twelve hours now. She didn't stop searching for Jane.

She was about to close her tabs when suddenly her eyes caught a glimpse of Jane. After hacking the satellite, Cherry started checking the CCTV cameras in the vicinity of the hospital where they last saw Jane.

"Wait! This is my sis!" Her eyes widened in shock. She saw Jane in a stretcher bed, being transferred to an ambulance.

What surprised her more was Nathan's presence. He was following Jane until she got carried inside the ambulance. She moved her somewhere.

"Is she sick again?" Cherry's expression became sullen. Worries and concerns were evident to her face.

Without a second thought, Cherry dialed Stephen's number. It rang for a few seconds before Stephen answered her call.

"Hello, Che?"

"Doc Stephen! I found my sister. I learned about her whereabouts. She is with Mr. Sparks. I guess she's sick again. I saw her being moved in an ambulance. I'm still tracking where the ambulance was." Cherry spoke spontaneously, sharing information with Stephen.

"I think it was a lie when they said my sister went abroad!" she added. There was a hint of accusation in her voice.

On the other hand, Stephen's mood changed instantly when he heard that. He became upset since Nathan didn't say a thing.

"I think I know where she is right now," Stephen mumbled in a serious tone.

"I'm coming with you, Doc! Let's meet!" Cherry stood up, grabbing her motorcycle key.

"Okay. I'll wait for you here in my clinic." Stephen also abandoned his paperworks as he got ready to leave. He was worried about Jane's health. Did she get sick again? But why did Nathan hide this from them?

Stephen clenched his fists. He couldn't believe that Nathan would do this. Everyone had been searching for Jane. It turned out she was with him.

"I need to get his explanation." Stephen mumbled to himself. He immediately closed his clinic. Fortunately, he didn't have patients today. For Stephen, Jane was his top priority.

As he waited for Cherry to arrive, Aiden showed up.

"Bro! What's up?" Aiden greeted him cheerfully. He even waved his hand. But he stopped when he noticed Stephen's cold expression. He wasn't in the mood.

"Hey. What's wrong?" Aiden asked him worriedly.

"It's Nathan. He is hiding Jane from us" Stephen replied, not hiding his negative emotions.

Aiden was rendered speechless. He didn't know what to say. He could feel that Stephen was upset.

"Ahem, Aiden cleared his throat. Then he approached Stephen, holding his shoulder. "Lets hear Nathan's explanation first. Don't get mad. He is our friend."

Stephen's eyebrows were drawn together. He was having conflicting thoughts. "I know. He is our best friend... but... I can't stop worrying about Jane"

"I understand, Bro. You are very close to her." Aiden smiled awkwardly. He was a little bit afraid of Jane. He was amused because Stephen really cared so much about

"You have fallen deeply," Aiden murmured, smiling foolishly.

It did not take long when a big bike parked in front of them. Aiden's attention was caught by the woman who was riding the big bike.

Though she was wearing a helmet, Aiden recognized her right away. It was Cherry!

Aiden's heart pounded as if someone was drumming inside his chest. He couldn't take his eyes off her.

'Damn. I missed her!' Aiden thought to himself.

He was reminded of Nathan's advice. His best friend told him not to waste his time playing with other women. If he truly liked Cherry, then he should prove that he deserved her. He should change for the better so that someday, Cherry would be able to accept his feelings and even fall in love with him. 2

'Nathan was right. I shouldn't give up easily. I should keep trying. I can't let her go.

Aiden was still trying to assess his feelings when Cherry walked toward the two men. She paused for a moment when her eyes met Aiden's. She was the first one who looked away.

She felt guilty for rejecting this man. She didn't expect that she would feel embarrassed for seeing him again. In the end, she just shifted her gaze back to Stephen.

"Doc Steph... Let's go. I need to see my sister asap!"

Aiden crumpled his face while pouting his lips. He was jealous of Jane once again. He envied her because Cherry was very concerned about her.

'Phantomflake is so lucky. I hope Cherry will also get worried about me. I wonder if this day will ever come: Aiden was having wishful thinking. He was distracted.

"Okay. Let's leave" Stephen turned to Aiden. "I didn't bring my car. Can you drive me to Nathan's medical facility?"

Aiden bobbed his head frantically. "You don't need to ask. I am more than willing to send you there and accompany you," he replied but his gaze was focused on Cherry.

Stephen entered Aiden's car while Cherry chose to bring her big bike. The motorcycle was Phantomflake's favorite ride.

They started their journey, going to Syphiruz Mafia's headquarters. But unknown to them, someone was tailing them.

Vincent failed to locate Black Rose yesterday. As of today, Phoenix arrived at Country M. Vincent dispatched him again to search for Jane by following Black Rose. He didn't see Jane's hideout. But Phoenix managed to locate Black Rose when she went to Stephen's office.

Phoenix followed the three until he discovered the medical facility of the Syphiruz Mafia. He immediately reported this to Vincent.

Ring

Ring

"What did you find?" Vincent's voice echoed from the other line.

"I haven't seen Phantomflake. But I tailed Black Rose. She is with Nathan's best friends, Aiden and Stephen. I can't go further. The vicinity has tight security. But this place seems like a medical facility owned by the Syphiruz," Phoenix informed Vincent.

Vincent was silent for a few moments. He was thinking about Jane. Did something bad happen to her?

"Retreat for now Don't let them see your presence." Vincent gave his order.

"Got it, my King," Phoenix responded.

He rubbed his temples. He planted some spies. But this time they didn't have access to the medical facility. Then a certain someone popped up in his mind- Veronica. She was a doctor and she might have worked inside the facility.

'I have to ask Veronica's help. She might know the in and out of the facility.'

"Go back to one of my hideouts. You have to meet Veronica. Ask her about the security system of the Medical Facility. We are going to sneak in. If Phantomflake is there, you have to take her away."
Vincent's order was firm. 2

"I'm leaving now. I'll proceed to your hideout, my King. Give me the exact address:" Phoenix asked Vincent politely. The two ended the call and Vincent sent him the address.

Meanwhile, inside the Medical Facility, Nathan was still waiting for the analysis of Jane's examination result He had no idea that Stephen, Cherry, and Aiden were on the way to confront him.

Little Ethan, on the other hand, was watching over Jane. He stayed in her ward. He was doing his studies inside as he didn't want to get separated from her.

It did not take long before the doctor entered Nathan's office, holding the analysis of the result. The doctor looked a little bit tense when he faced Nathan. He didn't know how he would bring up the news about Jane's health.

"Did you find anything? When is she going to wake up?" Nathan asked the doctor in his authoritative voice.

"Sir. We don't know when she is going to regain consciousness. But rest assured that we will closely monitor her! the doctor promptly said, afraid to get scolded again by Nathan.

"How is her CT scan result?" Nathan asked him again curiously.

The doctor bit his lower lip as he handed the result over to Nathan. His hand was trembling when he passed the document to Nathan.

Nathan accepted it, his eyes scanning the content. But for his convenience, the doctor spoke up after finding his courage.

"Sir, I'm sorry to tell you but... we found a tumor in her brain... and by the look of it..." the doctor paused for a moment, heaving a deep sigh. "It's malignant. This might be the cause of why she collapsed..."

"Sir... after running some tests... It looks like her days are numbered."

Nathan froze the moment he heard that. What? What did he just say?'

His brain couldn't process the doctor's words. Or perhaps, he just refused to believe it.

[She has a brain tumor...]

[malignant...]

[Her days are numbered...]

Those words resounded in his ears and kept repeating in his mind.

'No. This can't be! His mind screamed but he tried to hide his negative feelings.

"How long?" These were the only words he could utter at this moment.

"One month..." the doctor

Thud!

Nathan dropped the documents in his hands.

Chapter 578 Analysing His Feelings

Nathan was still in a trance when the door of his office was pushed open. Stephen barged in. "What happened to Jane?" he questioned Nathan.

Stephen's voice snapped him out of his stupor. He glanced at the doctor meaningfully, motioning him to pick up the document and leave. Sensing the heavy tension surrounding the two men, the doctor immediately grabbed the document on the floor and stepped out of Nathan's office.

"You may sit first," Nathan simply said, maintaining his composure. He was contemplating whether to tell Stephen about Jane's illness or just hide it from him. But one thing was for sure, he didn't want Ethan to know about this.

"Nate, just answer me. I'm worried about her. What is her condition?" Stephen asked him again in his desperate tone.

Nathan heaved a deep sigh. He was still shaken by Jane's illness. He didn't want to believe the result. He would like to get a second opinion from other doctors.

"She collapsed two days ago. And she hadn't regained consciousness yet. I transferred her so that I could monitor her condition. The doctor said she went back into a coma," Nathan explained.

"Do you plan to hide this from everyone, including me? But why?" Stephen was upset.

"Because I know Jane wouldn't want to worry everyone," Nathan responded. "So many things happened lately. Mr. Hiroshi was attacked. Dave was in critical condition. I can't put more stress and emotional burden on Abigail and her family," he justified his action.

"Let my father examine her," Stephen suggested.

Nathan didn't mention Jane's brain tumor. "Okay. I agree." He didn't refuse Stephen's suggestion because he also needed to get another opinion from other doctors.

It did not take long when a small figure joined them. "Uncle Stephen, please don't tell anyone about Miss Jane's condition," Ethan made a request. Among them, he was the only one who knew that Jane would wake up after seven days. He didn't want to make a fuss about this.

Cherry was standing behind Ethan. The two met inside Jane's ward a while ago.

"But her family should know," Stephen contradicted Ethan's words.

"Please, Uncle. Listen to me. If you are in Miss Jane's shoes, I know you will understand her. She doesn't want her family to worry about her. Just treat her for now. If she becomes better, we can inform Gramps and Miss Abi." Ethan also glanced at Cherry, asking for her support.

Cherry couldn't say no to this charming little boy. Besides, he had a point. She knew Jane. Ethan's words were true. Her sister Jane didn't want to burden her family.

There was a moment of silence. They were waiting for Stephen's decision. After a while, Stephen heaved a sigh of defeat. "Alright. We will keep this from them in the meantime."

"Thanks, Uncle." Ethan ran in his direction. Upon reaching his spot, the little boy hugged his legs. Stephen could only stroke his hair.

"You can bring her to your father's hospital and examine her. But you have to bring her back here afterward." Nathan gave Stephen his permission to take Jane.

Meanwhile, Ethan misunderstood his father's intent. He thought his father listened to him when he told her that it was best for Jane to let Stephen take care of her if Nathan didn't care about her at all.

Ethan felt utterly disappointed, thinking that his father was giving Jane away. "Uncle! I'm coming with you. Let's bring Miss Jane to Grand Uncle's hospital." He glared at his father after saying those words.

Nathan, on the other hand, just ignored Ethan's deathly glare. He just stood up and left his office. He didn't feel well. He needed to catch some fresh air.

But instead of going out, he just found himself standing outside Jane's ward. He stood there, hesitant to enter her room. He wanted to see her but he couldn't understand why he didn't have the courage to turn the knob and slid the door open.

When he heard the footsteps coming, Nathan decided to vacate his spot and hide. He just watched Stephen, Cherry, and Ethan enter the ward.

'Jane is very important to them. I wonder how they will react once they learn about her illness...' Nathan subconsciously clenched his fists before he turned around to leave.

Outside, he bumped into Aiden who was patiently waiting for Stephen and Cherry. Aiden could sense that Cherry felt uncomfortable with his presence so he chose to stay outside.

"Are you free?" Nathan greeted Aiden first, asking him if he was available.

Aiden didn't expect Nathan to approach him first. There was something strange about Nathan today. Did he feel lonely? Aiden seemed to recognize his expression. Nathan looked like this when Monica died.

"Nate, what's wrong?" Aiden asked him worriedly. He was low-spirited today. "Did you fight with Stephen again because of Phantomflake?"

Nathan shook his head. "If you are free, do you wanna come with me and grab some drinks?"

Though he swore to himself not to get drunk again after what happened between Jane and him Nathan felt the need to drink some beer or any alcoholic drinks today.

Aiden looked at Nathan skeptically. But in the end, he just bobbed his head and followed Nathan. He left his car keys inside the car so that Stephen could use it. He joined Nathan in his car.

Aiden didn't know where Nathan planned to go. He just quietly sat there as Nathan focused on driving. He wanted to ask Nathan but knowing him, Aiden tried his best to shut his mouth.

Half an hour later, Nathan and Aiden found themselves sitting in a bar. He rented the whole place so that no customer would disrupt them. Nathan needed a quiet place where he could drink all he wanted.

Aiden could only watch him in amusement. It was only past noon. This was not the right time to drink and get drunk. What had gotten into Nathan?

"Nate, tell me. What's troubling you?" Aiden could no longer hold his curiosity. He wanted to know why Nathan was behaving like this. He was not in his usual self.

The two already settled down in their respective chairs. Aiden poured him a drink. It was an imported whisky.

Nathan chugs the whisky in one gulp. Aiden's eyes widened in disbelief.

"Nate, slow down. It's whisky, not water." Aiden reminded him, patting his back.

"C'mon. Tell me what's going on." Aiden urged him to speak up.

Nathan tightened his grip on his glass and took another deep sigh. "I can't describe what I'm really feeling today." He smiled bitterly.

Aiden wasn't used to seeing Nathan like this. Surprisingly, Nathan was opening up with him.

"Is it about Abigail?"

Nathan chuckled but there was no hint of humor in his eyes. He shook his head and poured another whiskey into his glass.

"If not her, then what's troubling you? Just tell me. I'm willing to listen." Aiden put on a serious face.

"What would you feel if your mortal enemy is going to die soon due to illness?" Instead of answering Aiden, Nathan threw him a hypothetical question.

"Eh? Of course, I would rejoice. But I will pity him somehow." Aiden promptly responded.

Nathan fell silent. He couldn't feel any joy at all when he heard the doctor's words a while ago.

"How about... if the person who is going to die is your former friend? What would you feel?" Nathan asked Aiden again.

Aiden frowned when he heard that. "Former friend?"

"Yes. A former friend... because you are no longer friends with that person."

Aiden rubbed his chin before answering him. "I will feel a little bit sad. He was once my friend. Though we are no longer friends, I don't wish him to die."

Nathan analyzed his feelings again. Sadness was not the emotion he felt a while ago. It was something more beyond sadness. He couldn't name it. But one thing was for sure, even he, himself, didn't wish her to die. Before, he always thought of the best way to kill Jane, also known as Phantomflake. But now, he realized that he no longer wanted to kill her.

He didn't want to admit it but something crushed his heart when he heard from the doctor that Jane had a brain tumor and she didn't have much time left to live.

He couldn't accept it and he refused to believe it.

"What would you do if you know that someone you care about is going to die soon?" Nathan continued asking Aiden these hypothetical questions.

Aiden was still clueless as to why Nathan kept asking him such questions.

"Gosh. If that would happen, then I would spend more time with that person, letting him know how much I care about him. Wait, Nate! Don't tell me..." Aiden gasped and turned to look at him. He grabbed Nathan's shoulders and continued his sentence, "Are you sick? Are you going to die?"

Nathan had the urge to facepalm when Aiden assumed that he was sick and was going to die. If this was Stephen, he already figured out that Nathan was talking about a person related to him.

'Sigh. It's a good thing the person sitting beside me is the most clueless person that I know.' Nathan shook his head helplessly.

"I'm not," Nathan said, removing Aiden's hands that were holding his shoulders.

"Don't lie to me. You don't look well!" Aiden responded exasperatedly. "Tell me the truth, Nate? What is your illness? Stage four cancer?"

Nathan just squinted his eyes on Aiden. "Shut up! Just drink!"

Chapter 579 Fighting Over A Woman

Day Sixty-Five...

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Nathan stopped asking Aiden. The two just continued drinking. Nathan was just killing his time, trying to figure out what he should do next. As of this moment, Stephen, Cherry, and Ethan were transporting Jane to the hospital owned by Stephen's family.

"Nate, how long are you going to stay here?" Aiden asked him. He wondered if Nathan was planning to get drunk today.

When he heard Aiden's question, Nathan finished his remaining whiskey and stood up.

"Hey? Where are you going?" Aiden asked him in confusion.

"I have to deal with my subordinate who just betrayed me. I shouldn't be wasting my time here," Nathan said meaningfully. He almost forgot about Joker's issue.

Fortunately, Chantha wasn't badly hurt. She was still confined in the medical facility. Violet was taking care of her while Axel was tracking Joker down. Nathan had been distracted by Jane's health.

Since he had nothing to do and wanted to forget Jane's condition, it was the best time for him to make a move. So many people have been betraying him lately. Were they not afraid of him anymore? He had been trying to behave for the past few years. Did they want to see the devil in him once again?

"Okay. So we are leaving now?" Aiden also stood up.

"You can stay if you want to stay," Nathan plainly said.

"Nate, wait! Can I join you? I would like to see how you deal with them as a mafia leader." Aiden's eyes sparkled with excitement. He was curious about how Nathan managed his organization. Was it similar to the movies he had watched before?

"This world is not for you, Aiden. There are things I don't want you to see. Especially my devil side," Nathan responded meaningfully.

"Oh C'mon, Nate! I'm your best friend. I won't judge you. Just let me watch on the sideline. Who knows you might need my help in the future. I'm so willing to help you. You can start teaching how the underground world operates."

Aiden wanted to explore the world of the mafia and syndicates. He wanted to understand Black Rose and the world she lived in. This was one way he could get to know Cherry better.

"Okay, Come with me. But don't blame me. I've warned you."

Aiden bobbed his head frantically. He was excited to see what Nathan would do. It seemed like Nathan was going to catch his subordinate who betrayed them. He cheerfully followed Nathan as they left the bar, heading to the parking lot.

"How is Chantha?" Aiden heard about what happened to Chantha.

"She's fine. I ordered her to stay in the medical facility, otherwise, she would leave and find Joker." Nathan started the engine and drove away from the bar.

"Where are we going?" Aiden asked him again.

"In my headquarters." Nathan picked up his signature mask. Every time he would go to the headquarters, Nathan would wear his mask to keep his real identity hidden. Only a few members of the Sphiruz Mafia knew that he was Nathan Sparks, the CEO of SYP Twilight Corp.

Nathan drove so fast that he reached their destination in just fifteen minutes. Axel was on the field, searching every corner of Towerville City. He already dispatched some members to the airport and seaport. He assumed that Joker would try to leave the country either by air or by sea.

Nathan headed to the IT room where the surveillance system and computers were located. Aiden was amazed to see the technology inside the room. There were lots of monitors, computers, and screens. There were also staff working inside. They stopped for a moment just to greet Nathan, their Supreme Leader.

"Have you found him?" Nathan asked his staff who were reviewing all the CCTV cameras in Towerville City.

"Negative, Supreme Leader. He might be wearing a disguise. Our face recognition can't find him," One man spoke up, answering Nathan's query.

"He also switched off his mobile phones. He is using cash so we can't track his debit and credit cards. I think he is well-prepared. He knew that we are after him," he added.

Aiden glanced at Nathan worriedly. "What are you going to do now? Will you let a traitor escape?"

"Of course not," Nathan said with conviction. He grabbed a chair and worked on one of the computers inside. He started to run a program, and many encryptions appeared on the screen. Aiden couldn't decipher the meaning of those codes. He just watched Nathan as he continued typing on the keyboard.

It did not take long before a red dot appeared on the screen along with the city map. It was the exact location of Joker.

"OMG. Is that him? He is moving toward the east port." Aiden reacted upon seeing the tracking map on Nathan's computer screen.

"Yes. That's him." Nathan replied, picking up his phone. He sent this location to Axel.

"How did you do that? How were you able to find him? He is not even using his phone nor his cards." Aiden asked Nathan exhilarated.

Even the other staff looked at Nathan, anticipating his reply. They had been checking the CCTV cameras since yesterday. They didn't even sleep. Despite their efforts, they still failed to find Joker's location.

Nathan's lips curled up in a satisfied smirk. "I planted a chip inside his body. I activated it to track his location. All my branch leaders have this chip, but they are not aware of this."

Aiden was taken aback for a moment, including the staff who were listening to their Supreme Leader.

"Eh? Why did you do that? Are you always suspicious of them? Did you plant this tracking device inside their bodies so that you will know their location just in case they betray you?" Aiden asked Nathan expectantly.

Nathan arched his eyebrow when he heard Aiden's remarks. He sounded like Nathan didn't trust his comrades and subordinates.

"I planted those chips inside their bodies for emergency purposes. Most of my male branch leaders are doing fieldwork all over the world. They often do dangerous operations and missions. If an emergency happens and we lose contact with them, I have ways to track their locations so that we can rescue them." Nathan explained to Aiden.

"Oh! Now I get it. Can you plant one inside my body so that if I will be in danger, you can find me easily!" Aiden suggested while putting on a silly smile.

Every Staff: "..."

Nathan didn't know whether to laugh or scold Aiden for his request.

"Oh, Nate, can you invent another specialized chip? Add some features like paralyzing the person for certain hours so that he won't be able to move. Or make it a bomb so if someone tries to betray you,

you can just detonate the bomb, and BAM! The traitor will be gone forever!" Aiden suggested in his cheerful voice.

"I will call this Anti-Traitor Chips! You can plant this to all your members and staff here!"

Every Staff: "..."

When Aiden said his last remarks, several eyes looked daggers at him. The staff wished to cut Aiden's tongue the moment he suggested that to their Supreme Leader. Their murderous gazes seemed to tell Aiden: "Do you want to have the chip in your body instead? Why don't you try it first?"

Realizing that he shouldn't have said it, Aiden just smiled sheepishly and scratched the back of his head while looking at the staff apologetically. "Ahem. Don't take it seriously. I'm just kidding!"

Aiden immediately hid behind Nathan. He could no longer stand being the target of hate by the people inside that room. Nathan could only shake his head helplessly. He thought Aiden's blabbering mouth would always put him in trouble.

"So what's your next steps now, Nate?" Aiden changed the topic right away.

"I'm going to wait. Axel will do the rest." Nathan was confident that Axel would be able to catch Joker.

"Eh? Axel is your assistant while Joker is your branch leader. Do you think Axel can defeat Joker? Can he fight?" Aiden was used to seeing Axel serving Nathan in his office. He hadn't seen him fighting someone or using any gun. From Aiden's point of view, Axel was no match for a branch leader like Joker.

Nathan gave him a meaningful smile and shrugged his shoulders. "Just wait and see. Wanna bet?"

Aiden blinked his eyes several times. Nathan appeared to be confident with Axel's ability. "Uhm... Well, I don't want to make a bet because I wish that Axel can handle Joker. I hope he will be safe."

"Don't underestimate Axel. In SYP Twilight Corp, he is my assistant. But in Syphiruz Mafia, Axel is my right-hand man. This only means he is second in command. And he is worthy of that position."

Aiden crumpled his face when he heard that. He suddenly felt jealous of Axel. "Do you rely on Axel, more than Stephen and I?"

Nathan just smiled faintly and said, "You and Stephen are my best buddies. My brothers..."

Aiden swooned when he heard that. He had a broad smile on his face while eyeing Nathan foolishly. "Oh Gosh! I love you, Bro! You're the best. So please, don't argue and fight with Stephen again. Okay? Don't fight over a woman."

Nathan frowned at Aiden's last remarks. "We didn't fight over a woman."

Aiden burst out laughing and started to tease Nathan. "Haha! You have forgotten already? You and Stephen always fight when it comes to Jane! Stephen is clearly in love with Jane, so Nate... can you please treat her well a little bit? She's the woman whom your best friend's like!"

Chapter 580 Redemption

Day Sixty-Five...

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Axel was on his way to catch Joker. He wouldn't let him escape this time. He had some score to settle with him. How could he hurt Chantha? Axel was glad since Nathan finally made a move. He was the one who tracked Joker's current location.

Through the GPS signal, he could see that he was near Joker. They were heading to the east port. Joker chose to leave the country by sea. He anticipated that the security and surveillance airport was tighter than the seaport.

Joker was wearing a disguise. But little did he know, no matter what disguise he would use, Axel could still pinpoint him through the chip. Joker would use a ship that smuggled weapons as his transport going to Country J.

He arrived at the port, looking for the truck where he would hide himself. Joker was walking around, cautious about his surroundings. When he thought that no one was following him and there was no presence of Syphiruz Mafia, Joker heaved a sigh of relief.

Joker talked to his dealer and paid him cash. The dealer guided him to his truck. He let Joker in and locked the container truck. Joker had complicated emotions when he settled down inside. He won't be back for good.

Until now, he was still questioning his decision. Betraying the Syphiruz Mafia felt so wrong. Joker was lost in his own thoughts when suddenly the back door was pulled open. Joker was stunned the moment he saw Axel.

Before he could react, Axel pointed a gun at him, his eyes looking daggers at Joker. "Don't move, or else I shoot." He warned him.

Joker could only raise his hands. 'How did he find me?' He couldn't believe it. He thought his escape plan was guaranteed.

"Surrender now," Axel's cold voice echoed inside the truck. At that certain moment, Joker knew that he was doomed.

'Should I fight back? Or should I surrender?' Joker contemplated for a moment. He had a gun hiding from behind. He wondered how fast Axel was when pulling the trigger. Should he risk his life just to find out?

"Don't do something reckless. I won't spare you. You hurt our comrade and betrayed our leader. You deserve severe punishment."

"Is Chantha alright?" Joker asked him worriedly.

But Axel didn't buy it. His concern was no longer believable. Surprisingly, Joker decided to surrender. He willingly walked toward Axel as he dropped all his weapons.

When he jumped off the truck, Axel punched him right on his cheek.

Thud!

Not yet satisfied, Axel threw two more punches— one on his stomach and one on his right jaw. Joker groaned in pain but he didn't fight back. He could feel Axel's anger.

"So you truly care about her," Joker mumbled, his eyes lit up. He wiped the blood on the corners of his lips using the back of his palm.

"Shut up! Just come with me!" Axel dragged him to the car.

Their comrades felt relieved since Joker didn't fight back. They were expecting them to have a showdown and see Axel's wrath. But it didn't happen. If Joker decided to retaliate, Axel won't hesitate to shoot him. Axel handcuffed Joker inside the car. The two of them sat down in the back passenger seat.

"Tell me. Is she hurt badly? I just knocked her down," Joker justified his action.

Axel's expression darkened further. "You traitor! Her back hit a sharp object when you shoved her to the wall." He clenched his fist. He had the urge to punch Joker again.

"What? I-I didn't know that." Joker gazed down, feeling the guilt inside his heart. "How is she?"

But Axel didn't respond anymore. He didn't want to talk to him. After half an hour, they arrived at Syphiruz Mafia's headquarters. Joker was a little bit anxious. What kind of punishment awaits him?

As Axel opened the door, Axel forcefully dragged Joker out of the car. Several pairs of indifferent eyes were looking at Joker sharply. Everyone in the headquarters already knew his betrayal. He let their prisoners escape and he hurt Chantha, one of their branch leaders.

'Am I going to die today?' Joker thought to himself. He was brought to their interrogation room.

Axel made him sit on the steel chair as he motioned for others to leave. The two of them were left in the interrogation room.

"Are you the one who will conduct the interrogation?" Joker asked Axel.

Before Axel could respond, Nathan entered the room with a blank expression on his face. "No. I will be the one to interrogate you."

Axel and Joker shifted their gazes in Nathan's direction. Joker bit his lower lip as he realized the crime he committed. Their Supreme Leader wouldn't show mercy.

"You have to bear the consequences of your action. You betrayed me and your comrades. This crime is punishable by death. You know that." Nathan spoke about their rules.

Joker couldn't look straight into Nathan's eyes. He just bowed his head and apologized. "I'm sorry, Supreme Leader. But I am also a man of my word. I just did what I needed to do to return the favor I owe to someone."

"I know you won't forgive me for my betrayal. I will accept any punishment from you." Joker accepted his fate.

Axel and Nathan looked at him with conflicting thoughts. "Tell us why you did it. Who gave you the order to save Marco and Veronica?"

"Several years ago, I was on a mission in Country R. I fell in love with a woman. But that woman's life was put in danger because of me. That's when the King Stallion Mafia intervened. He helped me and my woman. That's why I survived. He also took care of her after I left Country R."

"I promised him that I would do something for him in return. A few days ago, he contacted me, asking me to rescue one of his men. That is Marco." Joker decided to reveal everything he knew. This was the least he could do to erase the guilt in his heart for betraying his comrades.

Nathan and Axel exchanged glances with one another. "So Marco is a member of the King Stallion Mafia."

Nathan's expression turned dark at the mention of King Stallion Mafia. Jane was looking for their leader.

"Do you know him? The leader of King Stallion?" Nathan asked him with so much intrigue. He felt the need to find the King since Jane was so desperate to see him.

Joker shook his head. "I only talked to him on the phone. But I haven't met him yet in person. Just like you, Supreme Leader, he is very mysterious. He won't show his real face in public."

Nathan and Axel fell silent. They didn't have much information about the King Stallion and its operation.

"Is Veronica related to King Stallion as well?" Nathan asked him.

"I don't think so, Supreme Leader. He just asked me to get Marco out. Marco is the one who requested me to bring Veronica with us. I have the address of his hideout where I brought Marco and Veronica."

"Supreme Leader, don't believe him. This might be a trap. He is a traitor!" Axel reminded Nathan.

Nathan glanced at Joker for a long moment, not saying a word. "Do you want to redeem yourself?"

Both Joker and Axel were surprised when they heard that. It was so unusual for Nathan to give a traitor a second chance. Axel wanted to object but Nathan motioned for him to leave.

"Supreme Leader! You must not listen to him. A traitor will always be a traitor."

Nathan smirked at Axel meaningfully and said, "I know. That's why I'm giving him this last chance to prove himself."

Both Axel and Joker were looking at him in confusion. "Axel, I know you hate Joker for hurting Chantha. I agree he deserves severe punishment. If you don't trust him, then trust me."

Axel could only sigh in defeat.

"I'll do anything for you, Supreme Leader. Please give me this second chance!" Joker butted in. He would grab this opportunity to right how wrong. Yes! He wanted to redeem himself. And he was glad because Nathan, the Supreme Leader, was giving him this rare chance.

"If you want to get more intel about the King Stallion Mafia, I can do that for you, Supreme Leader. He was asking me to join his organization but I refused. But I can take my words back. I will be your spy."

Nathan's lips curled up in a satisfied smile. This was what he was thinking— Using Joker to get more information about King Stallion Mafia and its leader.

"Good. Then I'll give you this mission. If you fail, you will pay with your life. The moment you think of betraying me again, I will kill not only you but the most important person in your life. You know that I'm capable of doing that." Nathan threatened him.

"Yes, Supreme Leader. I understand. I won't betray you again."