

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1516

Chapter 1516 Stay Away From Her

“Nothing!” Arielle tried to act nonchalant. A corner of Vinson’s lips quirked when he saw how the woman pretended to be calm. “Really? Then why are you blushing?”

Arielle snorted. “Because the weather is hot!” She then shoved him away. “Just don’t come near me, okay?” Her heart started thumping every time the man inched closer.

Arielle’s rosy cheeks made her look even more alluring, especially when the room was aglow with the yellowish lighting. Mesmerized by her beauty, Vinson stood stoic and remained silent. As Arielle looked in his direction, she realized he was staring at her. His intense gaze caused her face to turn even more brick-red.

“Why are you staring at me like this? It’s not like you’ve not seen me before.” Arielle cleared her throat.

Vinson came to his senses and chuckled softly. “I can see you every day but still go gaga over you.” Crawling into the bed, he pinned the woman beneath him and kissed her lips gently.

Meanwhile, at the Nighy residence, Melissa leaned on Matthew’s chest and asked about his conversation with Arielle in the study.

Matthew’s expression turned grim when he recalled the things Arielle had said. Even Melissa could feel the intimidating aura he exuded.

She cautiously pulled herself from his chest and observed him from a distance. “What’s wrong?”

“Nothing!” Matthew took a deep breath. He did not want to discuss politics with his wife, but he did remind her, “From now on, we should stay away from Dr. Moore.”

We should stay away from her since we have different interests in mind!

Melissa did not understand why Matthew made that remark, but his demand had put her in a tough spot.

After all, Lisa was very fond of Arielle and could not stop praising the doctor. Before she went to bed, she even told Melissa to invite Arielle over because she liked having her around. Above all, they still needed Arielle to look after Lisa since the latter had yet to recover completely.

Moreover, she had agreed to Lisa's request earlier because she, too, was grateful to Arielle. Yet, two hours later, her husband warned her to stay away from Arielle. What if his mother wants me to invite Arielle over again? What should I do?

Matthew gave her an icy gaze and wondered why she kept mum. "What's wrong?"

Melissa looked him in the eye and explained, "Mom is still sick, so we need to rely on Dr. Moore's medical expertise. Besides, she seems to like Dr. Moore very much. Before she went to bed, she even told me to invite Arielle over again."

Matthew held his breath upon hearing that.

But...

He then let out a sigh, and his gaze darkened. Has Dr. Moore planned this all along?

"But why would you want me to stay away from Dr. Moore? What's wrong with her?"
Melissa could not help but ask.

She thought Arielle was a down-to-earth lady and a capable doctor. To her, Arielle might come across as faintly aloof, but Melissa could tell that she was not someone arrogant. Though the fact that Nico had fallen for Arielle's bodyguard did put Melissa off a little, she still had a pretty good impression of her.

Matthew felt a jolt of frustration upon hearing that. He rolled to the other side of the bed and raised his voice, "Forget it!"

His reaction upset Melissa, but she decided to remain silent and turned off the lights. As she lay down in bed, tears started welling up in her eyes.

In the meantime, something was happening in the tiny house where Cindy was locked in.

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Chapter 1517 Karma Bites

"Tell the queen mother to send me to Manchernius in exchange for a secret," Cindy said under her breath in the dark while suppressing her fear and anxiety. Worried that the man would not relay the message on her behalf because he did not believe her, she quickly added, "If she refuses to listen, she will regret it forever."

The man was a representative sent by the queen mother to get rid of Cindy. He was also the same person who picked Cindy up in Chanaea. Upon hearing her words, he mulled it over for about two minutes before quietly taking her away.

When Arielle and the others got up the following morning, they heard a wave of relentless knocks on the door. Putting the towel in her hand down, Arielle strode toward the door and answered it. A fretting housekeeper showed up and reported, "Ms. Moore, that woman is gone."

Gone?

Arielle frowned. "When did she go missing?"

The housekeeper shook her head. "I'm not sure. I went to bring her breakfast, only to realize that her bedroom door was open, and the chain that bound her was broken."

"Okay, I know what to do. Carry on with your work." Seeing that the housekeeper did not intend to leave, Arielle urged again, "Don't worry. We will find her sooner or later."

The housekeeper felt uneasy, thinking that she would surely get into trouble for losing Cindy during her watch. Unexpectedly, Arielle did not reprimand her. Instead, she comforted the housekeeper. With that, the latter grew fonder of Arielle.

"Thank you, Ms. Moore. I'll get back to work now." After being assured by Arielle, a great sense of relief and gratitude flooded the housekeeper, and she went downstairs afterward.

As soon as Arielle shut the door, her expression instantly darkened.

There are so many bodyguards in Paelsford Manor. Yet, a mere woman like Cindy managed to escape under everyone's noses? Who is the capable person who got her out of here discreetly?

"Any prime suspect?" Vinson walked out of a dark corner and asked Arielle upon hearing her conversation with the housekeeper.

Arielle knitted her brows and shook her head. Initially, she wanted to ignore Cindy for a period of time before interrogating her. Never in a million years would she have thought that Cindy would go missing even before she had a chance to find out who brought her here.

She had no idea if the other party had any ulterior motive, either.

They had been probing into this matter for quite some time, trying to see who was looking for Cindy, but to no avail. Alas, they even lost her. What a bummer!

"Do you plan to go look for her?" Vinson pursued.

Arielle thought about it for a while and shook her head. "Forget it. I'm not going to search high and low for her anymore. After all, my reason for keeping her was to find

out who brought her here. Since she's been taken away, I'll just let it be. I doubt the person who kidnapped her is a kind soul. If that's the case, she will reap what she sows."

Now that Arielle had decided not to continue searching for Cindy, they had no reason to stay in Turlen. I think it's time we head back and settle the rest of the matters. Then, we shall just wait and see.

She shared her thoughts with Vinson, who agreed almost immediately. He also told Arielle that he planned to bring Harvey along because Harrison had been so worried about him.

"Sure, let me go to the palace and ask Father for a visa."

Meanwhile, at the palace.

A horror-stricken Cindy was staring at an unknown woman.

"You're the one who drugged me, right?" she asked in a quavering voice while her eyes were still fixated on the elegantly dressed woman.

The woman took a glance at her nonchalantly. Then, she asked in a stern voice, "What secret do you want to tell me?"

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Chapter 1518 Fearful

It was Cindy's first time being so frightened of a woman, to the extent that her entire body was trembling uncontrollably.

She looked at the woman before her and tried to get a grip. "I'll tell you what it is, as long as you promise to send me to Manchernius safely and grant me a lucrative sum."

Far from being angered by Cindy's threat, the woman merely laughed at her brazen act.

She looked straight into Cindy's eyes and kept chuckling. The more she laughed, the more fearful Cindy got.

"You've got some guts, haven't you? To threaten me and even attempt to negotiate with me?" After a hearty guffaw, the woman cast a disdainful look at Cindy. "Do you know that you're the first person who's bold enough to say that to my face?"

She gave Cindy the heebie-jeebies, almost making her heart leap out of her chest. Cindy opened her mouth, but no words came out.

At that moment, instant regrets washed all over her. I should have told Arielle what I know and then gotten her to send me back home. I don't mind even if I have to go behind bars. Unfortunately, I had other motives back then...

Left with no choice, she steeled herself and responded, "This secret is extremely important to you. If I die, you won't know anything. In fact, you won't be able to imagine what might happen next."

Upon hearing her words, the woman narrowed her eyes and threw a sharp gaze at Cindy. "Say it," she bellowed.

"Are you agreeable to the conditions I've laid out for you?" Cindy asked cautiously.

The woman nodded grimly, and Cindy breathed a sigh of relief. Thank goodness she said yes! Suddenly, the incident where she was drugged dawned on her. Filled with curiosity, Cindy questioned, "I hope you aren't scheming to drug me again right after I let the cat out of the bag." Then, Cindy gave the woman a dubious look. "Let me remind you that it's the end of you if I die. Your secret will be exposed, and people will come after you."

"I'll send you to h*ll right away should you delay any further!" Her fierce rebuke scared the living daylights out of Cindy.

"I shall believe you just once." Cindy looked at her and added, "Your subordinate kidnapped me from Arielle, right? Although I don't know how she got here, I can certainly tell you that Arielle is the child that my sister bore. She's the Princess of Turlen."

"What are you talking about?" Disbelief was written all over the woman's face. How is that possible?

"Indeed, Arielle is that child that my sister bore. She's the Princess of Turlen," repeated Cindy.

Wasn't the child dead back then? How could this have happened?

She gazed at Cindy and threatened her with an icy cold voice, "If you ever lie to me, I'll make sure you die a horrible death!"

Cindy trembled and stammered in trepidation, "M-My life is in your hands. I'd never have the guts to do so."

"Take her away and keep a watchful eye on her," instructed the woman in a low voice.

Immediately, someone came forward and took Cindy away.

“Arielle... Arielle...” the woman muttered Arielle’s name umpteen times as a glint of malice flashed across her eyes.

What princess? She isn’t fit to be the Princess of Turlen, for she’s merely an offspring of a woman from Chanaea. She doesn’t deserve the grand title of a princess. The Princess of Turlen must be like Aaron, the epitome of distinguished elegance and nobleness; a pure Turlenian by blood. Who does Arielle think she is?

“Somebody come at once!” she shouted, and a subordinate came over. Right away, she gave the latter a few instructions with a vicious look in her eyes.

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Chapter 1519 Going Back Home

Since the decision had been made, Arielle intended to fly back home as soon as possible after delaying the plan for approximately a month. Upon finishing her meal, she made her way to the palace with Vinson. She wanted her father to grant her several visas in order to bring a couple more individuals from Chanaea. Without a visa, traveling would be inconvenient for them.

Lately, Dylan had been busy with some national affairs and had very little time to visit Arielle. When he heard from Sybil that she came, he stopped working at once, left his study, and greeted Arielle with a bright grin.

“What have you been up to recently that you had no time for your father?” Ever since Arielle acknowledged and accepted him as her biological father, he became more casual and less cautious around her.

Arielle was delighted to see that change in him though she did not comment about it. She welcomed their newfound method of interaction as father and daughter as it made her feel more comfortable. Conversely, she would not have liked it if he continued to be courteous and faintly aloof just because he felt sorry for being absent for over two decades of her life.

“I’m sorry. I should have visited you more often.” Though Arielle answered in an indifferent tone, she could not contain the smile in her eyes.

“It’s quite troublesome for me to make a trip, so please come see me every now and then.”

Dylan did not make an obvious request for her to come more frequently, knowing that she might be busy with her life too.

As much as Arielle wanted to say yes, she paused for a moment and changed her reply. “Dad, I’m here to inform you that I plan to go back to Chanaea these two days.”

All of a sudden, Dylan's smile stiffened, but he pretended as though nothing had happened. "This is nothing new, isn't it? We've talked about it for quite some time now. Go ahead. You can always return after a while."

His words carried an intense reluctance to let her go.

After all, the father and daughter duo had only reconciled not too long ago, so he did not want to see her leave so soon.

What can I say or do as a father? My child is all grown up now, and she has a life of her own. How can I be a stumbling block to her?

Seeing that his heart grew heavy, Arielle felt rather sorry for him. Nevertheless, she could not stay any longer because she had something urgent to deal with. Anyway, it's not like I'm not coming back anymore. I'm only leaving for a short while.

She uttered, "Dad, can you give me a few more visas? Otherwise, it'll be so hard to get into the country when I come back."

Immediately, Dylan approved the documents and passed them to Sybil. The latter then brought the visas to the noble who was in charge of foreign affairs to get a stamp.

Since Arielle was leaving soon, Dylan decided to take a break from work and spend some time with her.

"Dad, you don't need to keep me company if you're busy. It's okay." Arielle was cool about it because she knew that it was just a temporary farewell, and they would surely meet again.

"It's all right. There's nothing much for me to do as a king anyway. It's not like you don't know that," Dylan insisted with a smile.

With that, Arielle let him be.

She had always been interested in the history of Turlen. Since Dylan wanted to spend time with her, she thought of getting him to share with her great tales from Turlenian history. In the end, Arielle did nothing the entire day besides eating, going to the bathroom, and listening attentively to Dylan telling her stories from the past. He even engaged her with multiple reference books and historical records.

During their journey home, Arielle told Vinson, "I never imagined Turlen as a magical country in the past because it has barred all types of diplomatic relations with other nations. As a result, its medical field is extremely outdated. Anyhow, Dad is in charge now. With him around, I'm sure Turlen will only get better by the day."

Vinson nodded in agreement. Right when he was about to say something, he noticed something unusual, and his facial expression changed drastically.

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Chapter 1520 Determined To Stay Alive

“Sit tight, Sannie!” After advising her abruptly, Vinson sped off at full speed and made a sharp turning. Meanwhile, a bullet scraped past the car window.

Arielle kept her guard up instantly. Who’s attacking us?

At that moment, the assassin lay in ambush along the highway. He narrowed his eyes and waited patiently for his prey.

When Arielle’s car passed him by, the assassin aimed his weapons at her and pulled the trigger without any hesitation.

Sensing the danger around her, Arielle quickly lowered her head. Fortunately, she managed to dodge another bullet. It penetrated the side window and shot a hole through the windscreen. The ruthlessness in Vinson’s eyes deepened. He glared at the road ahead, not wanting to make the slightest mistake.

Arielle curled her body up and reached for her phone to make a call.

Meanwhile, Dylan was in his bedroom when the name appearing on the phone screen put a wide smile on his face. He picked it up at once and was shocked by an anxious voice. “Dad, we’re being targeted by an assassin...”

Arielle explained her situation to Dylan as fast as she could. Upon hearing that there were many armed killers attacking them, his face drained of all colors. “Got it. I’ll send someone to your rescue now,” he said solemnly.

After hanging up, Dylan assigned two troupes of soldiers to protect Arielle and Vinson. Subsequently, he also contacted his former subordinates to provide assistance to Arielle.

Feeling unsettled and worried, Dylan called Aaron.

“Ensure their safety at all costs,” he commanded gravely.

When Aaron heard about the attack, he was quite flustered. However, when he realized how concerned his father was about Vinson, he was displeased. Vinson is just a bodyguard. So what if he’s shot by the assassin for protecting Arielle? That’s his duty. Why must I guarantee his safety too?

“Dad, I can only watch out for Arielle and make sure that she’s safe and sound. As for that bodyguard... His life and death are none of my business,” Aaron stated firmly.

“Aaron!” Dylan called out.

Throughout their days in Turlen, Dylan could tell that Arielle and Vinson shared a very strong bond despite them trying very hard to hide it.

If anything untoward happens to Vinson, wouldn’t my daughter become a widow at such a young age? This won’t do. Vinson must be kept alive by all means!

“This is an order, Aaron. You must obey me and do as I say.” Dylan left no room for negotiation.

Upon hanging up the phone, Aaron undid his necktie and cursed out loud, “D*mn it!”

In the blink of an eye, Aaron had made all necessary arrangements for his people to rescue Arielle. Overwhelmed with worries, he then dashed to the garage and drove a car out.

Within moments, Arielle’s car had been riddled with bullet holes. The outcome would have been totally different had luck not been on their side. They would probably have been shot umpteen times. At that critical juncture, both of them had no time to think about anything else apart from how to secure their own lives.

“Southeast direction. Dodge!” Arielle reminded Vinson when she saw a gun aiming at them from afar. She had to be alert enough to notice what the bandits were up to and get ahead of them. Following her cue, Vinson steered the wheel in the opposite direction.

The assassin saw that they went a different way and accelerated his car to trail behind Arielle and Vinson. He grimaced at the leftover bullets, knowing that he could not afford to make any more mistakes.

Soon, the assassin managed to catch up with Vinson’s car side by side. The former aimed his weapon and fired several times at the front passenger seat.

“Sannie!” Vinson’s eyes reddened as he cried out for Arielle.

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Chapter 1521 A Misunderstanding

Shortly after, Dylan’s men arrived and intimidated the assassin. As the latter was scurrying away, he bumped into Aaron, who rushed to the scene. Unfortunately, Aaron

did not know that the man he ran into was the killer and missed the golden opportunity to get rid of him. In the end, the assassin escaped unscathed.

“Mission accomplished.” Upon leaving the crime scene for a distance, he dialed a number and hung up seconds later. In no time, a message popped up on his phone screen stating that a large sum had been credited into his account. With that, the assassin chucked his phone aside and sped off.

“Sannie...” Cold sweat broke out from Vinson’s palms as he gazed at the pool of blood on the passenger seat and said in a trembling voice, “Don’t be afraid. I’m taking you to the hospital now...”

“Don’t worry.” Seeing that Vinson’s eyes glistened with tears, Arielle stroked his face and comforted him, “I’m all right.”

He grabbed her hands and tried his best to stay composed. “Say no more... Reserve your energy.”

“Mr. Knightley, please come into our car. It can reach the hospital faster,” a man of Dylan’s age approached Vinson and suggested.

Vinson knew that the man was sent by his father-in-law. Hence, he nodded in agreement before he carried Arielle and placed her in the backseat. At that moment, Aaron caught a glimpse of the scene when he got out of his car.

He hurried over and was shocked to see the crimson stain covering Arielle. At that instant, he felt like his heart was torn apart. He widened his eyes in disbelief and glared at Vinson angrily. “Did you even protect her?”

When Arielle saw how distressed Aaron was, she stammered with difficulty, “Don’t... get mad... at... him. He’s...” He’s your brother-in-law. However, she could not bring herself to finish the sentence.

How can she still cover up for him at this time? Aaron dropped the topic despite feeling displeased and downright furious.

“Prince Aaron, we’ve got to hurry to the hospital.” In other words, the middle-aged man was urging him not to waste any more time.

Aaron hurriedly retreated, and the car zoomed past him. Thereafter, he went to get his car and followed behind them.

Arielle had already gone into a coma when the people from the army were rushing her to the military hospital. Upon arrival, she was wheeled into the operation theater at once.

When Dylan got the news, he hesitated for a while before instructing his chauffeur to drive him to the hospital.

The moment he got to the military hospital, he saw Vinson sitting alone, devastated. His body was drenched in blood.

“Father, why are you here?” Aaron walked up to him and asked.

Without warning, Dylan slapped his son hard on the face.

“Didn’t I ask you to protect her? Why did she get injured? If anything bad happens to her, I’ll cut off all ties with you,” he spat the words out through his gritted teeth as he glowered at Aaron.

Aaron gaped in tremendous shock.

He could not believe a single word his father had just spoken to him, and neither could he accept the latter’s radical reaction.

No matter how fond he is of Arielle, it’s still absurd for him to break his relationship with me, his son, because of her!

“Father, she’s just a doctor. Is this outrageous response necessary?” Disappointed, Aaron looked at his father with a pair of reddened eyes.

Why does he value Arielle so much? Does he have feelings for her?

As Dylan stared at the frustrated Aaron whose eyes had reddened, he fell silent.

What can I say?

“Father, you have fallen for Arielle, haven’t you?” Aaron blurted. He could not stand the long silence anymore.

“What nonsense!” Dylan was fuming when he heard the speculation his son uttered. However, Aaron pressed on, “Then, what is it? Why must you sever relations with me because of one woman?”

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Chapter 1522 Brother And Sister

While Aaron aggressively demanded an answer, Dylan shut his eyes, unsure how he should respond to his son’s relentless bombardment of difficult questions.

“Say it! Why—”

“That’s because she’s your stepsister! Your sister from another mother!”

Aaron’s unfinished question died on his lips when he heard the answer.

Stunned, he stared blankly at his father. “What... What did you say?”

He was completely baffled. This is preposterous. How is that possible?

“Aaron, Arielle is your sister from a different mother. She’s the child born to me by my beloved woman,” Dylan explained again with a frown, but his eyes never left Aaron’s.

Actually, he had long wanted to tell Aaron about it but was deterred by the fact that his son might not be able to accept it. Hence, he was hoping to delay it until his relationship with Arielle improved. It had never once crossed his mind that the secret would come to light under such circumstances.

“No way! This is impossible!” Aaron paled at his words. He felt his world turned upside down as though he had fallen into a dark abyss, and his life was coming to an end soon. Utter despair and dejection washed over him, making his head throb continuously.

An instant heartache overcame Aaron.

The reality that was just relayed to him was far worse than discovering his own father developing feelings for Arielle.

How could Arielle be my sister? How ridiculous!

“This is true,” Dylan emphasized it once more, knowing that Aaron did not believe him the first time.

“They are all lies! I don’t believe you. Don’t you try to fool me!” Aaron responded dismissively before he went berserk and ran away.

Watching his back as he left, Dylan could not comprehend Aaron’s huge reaction. Isn’t it a wonderful thing to have an elder sister? There’s an additional person to love him henceforth. Why can’t he accept the fact that he has a sister?

Aaron felt so hopeless at that moment, like a stranded beast having no way to escape the grim truth of life. It had never once occurred to him that the only woman whom he wanted to pursue so badly was his stepsister. This is a joke. Why did this have to happen to me?

He sat in his car and buried his face in his palms, crying profusely. Tears kept streaming down from his eyes before they seeped between his fingers and flowed down to the floor.

“No way. This can’t be so. You’re definitely not my sister...” he bellowed as he drove out of the hospital at full speed.

He kept accelerating as if that was the only way to relieve his dissatisfaction, fury, and heart-wrenching despair that surged from the bottom of his heart.

Meanwhile, Dylan withdrew his gaze and walked toward Vinson, only to realize that Vinson’s arm was wounded. He tapped the latter’s shoulder and said in a low voice, “You’ve been shot on your arm. Let the doctor perform surgery and take the bullet out for you.”

After all, there were other operating theaters and emergency rooms available at the military hospital.

Upon hearing Dylan’s words of concern, Vinson teared up again. “I’m sorry, Dad, for not taking good care of Sannie.”

Although Dylan was mad at him for failing his husband duties, he could not reproach Vinson when he saw the gunshot wounds on the latter’s arm.

Instead, he said, “You’ve done very well.”

Judging from their injuries, Dylan could roughly imagine how dangerous the situation was at that time. Vinson had to drive and protect Arielle while dodging the bullets for her. Dylan could not complain, considering that Vinson had reduced the possible damage to its minimum.

Then, he beckoned a doctor to take Vinson to the operating theater. However, the latter was adamant that he was not going to move an inch until Arielle’s surgery was completed successfully.

Dylan had no choice but to let him be.

He gazed at the door, fretting and wondering how Arielle’s condition was.

Suddenly, the piercing ringing of his phone broke the silence. Dylan scanned the screen and answered the call. “What? What... did you just say?” He staggered a few steps back.

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"Your Majesty, we've just received a call from the traffic police reporting that Prince Aaron lost control of his car while speeding and fell off a cliff. We're unsure if he survived," Sybil said in between sobs over the phone.

"Send more people to search for him. I don't care if he's alive or dead; I want him back," instructed Dylan as he tried to hold himself together.

The torrent of grief overwhelmed him, laying him to waste. He had never expected that something so tragic would happen.

Fallen off a cliff? Is there even hope for him to come out alive? Had I known that he would not be able to accept Arielle as his stepsister, I would have sealed my lips forever and brought the secret with me to my grave.

"Dad, what's going on?" Vinson overheard his conversation and approached him at once.

Dylan's face looked so weary that it seemed like he had aged several years in an instant. With a heavy heart, he uttered, "Aaron fell off a cliff. We're not sure whether he's alive or dead..."

Vinson was dumbfounded as he did not know that the hurtful truth would impact Aaron so severely.

"Please stay here for Sannie. I'll go help look for him," Vinson said without a second thought.

Regardless of all the unhappy incidents that had happened between them, Aaron remained his brother-in-law, the biological brother of Arielle. As his closest kin, Vinson could not sit and wait, doing nothing.

However, Dylan stretched out his arm and blocked him. How can I let him go on a search for Aaron when Arielle is still battling her fate in the operating theater? Moreover, he still carries a bullet in his arm!

"No need." Dylan waved dismissively. "I've sent my people to do so. You should stay here and watch over Sannie."

Since Vinson was not able to persuade Dylan, he suggested Dylan go home instead and leave Arielle to him. He did that so that Dylan could wait for news about Aaron in the comfort of his own home. Additionally, he also promised to update Dylan by phone as soon as Arielle's surgery ended.

Dylan was in a tight spot, worrying about both his son and daughter.

"Dad, I'll be here for Sannie."

Hearing that, Dylan acquiesced to Vinson's decision, for he was extremely distressed about what had befallen Aaron.

Meanwhile, the queen mother and Celeste, the Queen of Turlen, received the sad news about Aaron.

Celeste fainted upon hearing that Aaron was possibly dead. Seeing that, Miranda quickly pinched her philtrum. Shortly after, Celeste returned to consciousness.

"Miranda, did I hear it wrongly? Aaron is fine, right?"

"Your Majesty..." Miranda was unable to continue, choking on her tears.

"How could it be? How could this happen to him?" Celeste wept.

At that moment, all of the past memories flooded her mind. Celeste was very regretful of the way she had treated Aaron over the years.

I shouldn't have channeled my hatred and anger toward Dylan to Aaron. My son was still so young, and he was such a well-mannered and thoughtful boy, but I... Celeste broke down in tears when she recalled the past.

Miranda consoled her, "Your Majesty, it's all in the past now. I'm sure His Royal Highness didn't take it to heart. You've got to be strong, Your Majesty. There's still hope that His Royal Highness is alive. What we ought to do now is to be hopeful and send more help to search for him."

"Is that so?" Celeste's mind was blank.

"Yes!" Miranda affirmed confidently, "I strongly believe that His Royal Highness is somewhere waiting for us to rescue him. Please stay strong, Your Majesty."

Celeste wiped the tears off her face. "Yes, you're right. My son is surely waiting for me to save him. I must go and save him."

Subsequently, she whipped out her phone and made a call.

Right then, the queen mother was rather disturbed. Arielle was sent for treatment at the military hospital? The doctors there are a league above those in other hospitals. At this rate, the chances of her recovering are quite high. Why didn't the person inform me about this?

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Though the queen mother was upset that the person did not update her about Arielle being sent to the military hospital, she did not call him up to ask for an explanation. At that time, what mattered to her the most was Aaron's safety. Upon investigating, she found out that Aaron was met with a mishap after speeding off from the military hospital.

Why was he driving so fast?

Suddenly, she recalled Dylan making a trip to the hospital too. Then, a thought flashed across her mind. Did a fight break out between the father and son duo because of Arielle? And Dylan won?

The queen mother became furious at her own assumption.

This is unacceptable! The father fell for his own daughter, whereas the younger brother developed feelings for his sister!

She was dying to expose Arielle as Dylan's daughter, but she could not afford the possible consequences.

After all, Maureen's death was... Hmm. It seems to me that there's only one way to end this mess completely, which is to... She narrowed her eyes as malicious intent brewed in her head.

Meanwhile, at the palace, Dylan hit the ceiling whenever he thought of Arielle's assassination attempt. Enraged by it, he called his subordinates to probe into the matter.

This isn't the first time she's been attacked. Who on earth wants her dead? Her identity here in Turlen is a doctor, who educates and shares her medical knowledge with others. I doubt she has stepped on anybody's toes. Why is someone targeting her? Could it be that they don't want her to teach in Turlen? But why wouldn't they want her to do that here? Her presence here in this country is a blessing to the medical industry. She's helping to improve the local medical standards. Why would people want to get rid of her?

A confused look crept up on Dylan's face.

Back at the military hospital, Arielle was finally out of the operating theater and sent into the ICU ward. Vinson's expression clouded over while he was in deep thought. They are placing her in the ICU ward. Does it mean that she's not out of the woods yet? Is she so severely injured that she's still battling immediate danger?

"Doctor, may I know where Dr. Moore's wounds are?" Vinson consulted Arielle's attending doctor. He realized that he was worried about her injury all this while without knowing exactly where she was shot.

The doctor got all worked up when he found out that the patient he was attending to was the famous Dr. Moore, who came to Turlen to teach medicine. Instantly, his expression turned serious.

Judging from how disheveled Vinson looked after staying up the entire night, the doctor assumed that he was someone close to Arielle. “The patient was shot twice; one bullet hit her lungs, whereas the other one scraped past her heart. Thankfully, it didn’t go through her heart. Although we’ve retrieved the bullets, she still needs to be observed further at the ICU.”

Vinson was in a turmoil of emotions when he heard Arielle’s condition being explained to him, and his heart ached with unbearable guilt and deep remorse.

Why didn’t I take good care of her? She was shot right next to me. How can I ever forgive myself for letting her go through such a life-threatening episode?

Seeing how devastated he was, the doctor tapped his shoulder and offered a word of comfort, “Don’t worry too much. I’m sure Dr. Moore will recover in no time.”

Arielle was a more competent doctor compared to him, and he had been dreaming of exhausting all of his contacts to get a chance to attend Arielle’s lecture. Unfortunately, he missed the opportunity due to a patient’s appointment. Finally, they met despite it happening under a less-than-ideal circumstance.

After saying so, the doctor furrowed his brows as the gunshot wound on Vinson’s arm caught his attention.

He asked in puzzlement, “You were shot too? Why didn’t you admit yourself for surgery to get the bullet out since you’ve been here at the hospital the entire time?” Feeling rather upset, he continued, “If you don’t know how to appreciate your own body, can you imagine how infuriated Dr. Moore will get when she wakes up to see you in such a bad shape?”

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1525

Chapter 1525 Must Not Stay Alive

Vinson, who initially refused to get his wounds treated, changed his mind upon hearing the doctor’s words. Immediately, he proactively requested surgery to retrieve the bullet.

Before getting himself admitted, he called Dylan and asked him to send more people to guard Arielle. Otherwise, he would not be able to rest easy.

After getting the updates about Arielle being transferred to the ICU ward, and Vinson undergoing surgery, Dylan immediately gave an order to his men at the military base.

An army soon arrived at the hospital to protect Arielle. Seeing so, Vinson heaved a sigh of relief and followed the doctor into the operating room.

The doctor examined him carefully and discovered that the bullet had gone straight into his bone. He sucked in a sharp breath, extremely impressed by Vinson's level of tolerance. How did he manage to keep a poker face and endure the pain like nothing had happened for so long?

Upon injecting the anesthesia in one smooth motion, the doctor proceeded to perform the surgery.

The process was not as long as the one Arielle went through. It was completed in just two hours.

Thereafter, Vinson rejected the idea of resting in the ward assigned by the doctor. He insisted that the nurse prepare a bed for him outside of the ICU, for he wanted to be nearer to Arielle.

He was resolute and unswerving, leaving the nurse with no choice but to do as he had requested. With that, the nurse set up a folded bed outside of the ICU ward and also gave him a new set of pillow and blanket.

As Vinson lay down with his eyes wide open, he kept thinking about Arielle and could not fall asleep at all.

Two days later, Arielle got transferred from the ICU ward to a regular room. In view of her positive recovery, Vinson's anxious heart was finally at ease. He quickly called and shared the great news with Dylan, who had been checking in on Arielle multiple times a day.

Dylan was instantly relieved when he heard the news.

He had been mentally exhausted in the recent two days.

With his daughter staying in the intensive care unit and his son yet to be found, Dylan's hair had turned gray at a rate that was visible to the naked eye.

"Sannie is still in a coma. You must take good care of yourself so that you're able to care for her needs better," advised Dylan.

He was well aware of how much the couple loved each other. Hence, he was worried that Vinson would focus too much on Arielle and neglect his own well-being.

Vinson knew his good intentions, so he acknowledged Dylan's advice with a laconic reply.

Right when he was about to hang up, he recalled something. “Dad, have you been investigating Arielle’s assassination attempt?”

After Dylan recalled all of the information he had gotten in the past few days, his gaze dimmed. “Nothing much was found. Many of my men are looking into it but to no avail. It seems like all the evidence has been wiped clean, making it ultra difficult to find any clue.”

Vinson fell silent as a vicious glint flashed across his eyes. If I knew who did it, I’d make the person pay for it a hundredfold.

“Aaron is still missing. I’ll visit Sannie when she’s awake.” Dylan’s voice sounded distinctively different as if he had aged a decade.

Vinson’s heart sank at his words. It’s been two days since the accident. Yet, Aaron’s body is still nowhere to be seen. Is there still hope for him?

“Leave Sannie to me. Aaron is the priority now.” After a brief pause, Vinson added, “Please take good care of yourself. You don’t want Sannie to worry about you when she wakes up.”

Meanwhile, at the palace, the queen mother made a phone call when she found out that Arielle had been transferred to the regular ward.

“After all these years, this is the first time I’m looking for you. I only have one request, and all you need to do is to help me accomplish just one thing.” A layer of gentleness laced the queen mother’s voice. After hearing the other party speak over the phone, the queen mother’s expression changed. She uttered, “Arielle shall not live to see another day.”