

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1526

Chapter 1526 Unimaginable

Not many knew about the assassination attempt on Arielle, for the king had made sure the news did not spread. Despite that, Xavier managed to find out about that incident from Lana. When he caught wind of it, he immediately called Harvey. When he realized that Harvey did not know what happened either, they both called Vinson to question him.

“Why didn’t you tell me that there was an assassination attempt on Arielle?” Harvey angrily asked. Even though they’re married, I’m still their best friend, right? How could they keep this from me? Do they still think of me as their friend?

Vinson massaged his temples when he heard Harvey’s questions. He had been too preoccupied with his worries about Arielle that he had forgotten to inform Harvey about the matter.

“I was too worried about Sannie, and that’s why I forgot to tell you about it. Sannie’s been shot twice, and she was transferred to the ICU after her surgery. She was only transferred out to a normal ward today.”

Harvey fell silent for a while after hearing his explanation. Then, he asked, “What about you? Are you hurt?”

Vinson hummed softly in response to his friend’s concern. “I was shot once, but the bullet didn’t pierce my bone. It was stuck in it. I’ve already undergone surgery to remove it, so don’t worry.”

“Do you need me to do anything for you?”

The power they had was elsewhere. Even if Vinson needed their help, they would not be able to do much for him. Upon thinking about Arielle’s constant close calls, Vinson clenched his fists.

“For now, no.” Vinson turned quiet for a beat after that. Then he continued, “The king is already looking into her assassination attempt, but the traces of the assassin have been thoroughly removed. We can’t even begin finding who the one behind this is.”

A wave of helplessness washed over Harvey. The power they had was useless where Arielle was at. Even if he wanted to help them out, there was nothing he could do.

“Vin, this isn’t the first time Arielle has gone through this. We can’t pin all our hopes on the king because even he himself is...” Harvey trailed off. “We have to find a way to extend our power to this place. That’s the only way we can stop feeling helpless when we encounter issues like these.”

Vinson nodded in agreement. Harvey was on the same page as him, for he once had the same idea as well. Initially, he planned to bring men over after returning to Chanaea with Arielle. However, he never expected to encounter assassins and have Arielle hurt again.

"I'll get you some visas in a few days. Bring a few people over. Smuggle them if you can and try to bring as many as possible," Vinson told him in a low voice. He could sense that there would be no peace in the coming days.

"Of course."

After ending the call, Harvey took out his necklace and glanced at it. The girl in the picture looked as sweet as ever. He wanted to look for the girl and take care of her, but no matter how hard he searched for her, his efforts were futile. Hence, over time, those thoughts of finding her faded.

It was up to fate whether or not he was going to cross paths with her again.

Meanwhile, the queen cried day and night in the palace. Two days before, she had asked her elder brother, Einbert, to search for Aaron. However, there was nothing but the wrecked car and the shocking bloodstains under the cliff.

Below the cliff was a raging river, and her brother had found a shoe on the riverbank. After checking things through, they confirmed that the shoe indeed belonged to Aaron. At that, the queen's heart sank into the abyss. What were the chances of her son still living?

She dared not imagine the answer.

For the past two nights, she had not had any shut-eye. Even a brief moment of closing her eyes would result in dreams of Aaron shouting for help, bloodied and miserable.

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Chapter 1527 Missing Arielle Much

Einbert told her that he had found out from his investigation that Aaron was only caught up in the accident after speeding off from the military hospital.

The queen shed even more tears when she thought of her brother's words. Her eyes dimmed as she wondered what had happened in the military hospital.

Why did Aaron go to the military hospital? What happened there? Why did he speed off from that place? The questions kept swirling in her mind, begging for her attention at all times.

Finally, unable to come up with an answer to those questions, the queen went to the queen mother. Even though she had not heeded to worldly matters for the past few days, Miranda had been paying attention to the moves of various people, and she knew that the queen mother was looking for Aaron as well.

Hence, she went to the queen mother in hopes of gaining new insight. After all, the queen mother was the one managing the country.

Before they arrived at their destination, someone informed the queen mother about the queen's arrival. The queen mother then asked Monisha to lead the queen in. The moment the queen appeared, Monisha hurried over to greet her.

"Is Mother busy?" the queen asked Monisha. As the latter looked at the queen's red-rimmed eyes, she replied, "She's not. She knew that you were coming, and she has been waiting for you."

The queen nodded and headed inward.

"Mother," the queen greeted upon seeing the queen mother.

Immediately, tears sprang to her eyes again.

"Don't cry!" The queen mother held her hand and guided her to the couch by the side. As she looked at the younger woman with her profound and bright eyes, she comforted her, "Aaron will be fine. He'll come back safe and sound."

"Mother, I heard from Einbert that this only happened after Aaron sped off from the military hospital. Do you know why he went to the military hospital?"

Dylan had deliberately kept the news of Arielle's injury a secret. Naturally, the queen did not know about it. After a long look at the woman, the queen mother sighed.

"There was an assassination attempt on Arielle, so she was hurt and was sent to the military hospital. Aaron probably went there to visit her."

"What? He went to meet Arielle again?" A wave of dizziness hit the queen in her fury. "Why did he speed off from there then?"

The queen mother figured out that the queen would find out about the matter even if she was not the one to break the news, so she revealed, "Dylan was there too."

At that very moment, the queen wished she could just pass out there and then.

She did not even need to think to decipher what had happened back then.

They must have fallen in love with the Chanaean woman, Arielle. Without a doubt, Aaron lost to his father. Unable to accept the blow to his ego, he then sped off from the hospital.

The queen gritted her teeth in rage. Ever since those few people failed their mission, she had not dared to make another move against Arielle for fear of exposing herself.

Yet, the halt in her plan ended up with her son going missing, and she truly regretted her hesitation. I should have continued to go after her. I should have killed her when she was still recovering back then. This wouldn't have happened then.

"Mother, I want Arielle dead!" the queen gritted out through clenched teeth. No matter what, she was not going to let Arielle off anymore.

"Just do it. Regardless of what happens, you have my support," the queen mother told her with determination, not at all surprised by the queen's decision.

No woman would be able to tolerate something like that. That was why the queen mother was going to let the queen do anything she pleased.

The queen then rose to her feet and bowed to the queen mother in gratitude before leaving.

"Arielle, you were the one who forced me to do this!" the queen whispered under her breath as she looked intently into a distance.

Meanwhile, the military hospital was in chaos.

Half an hour later, the doctor came out and said to the anxious Vinson in a grim tone, "Sorry for your loss."

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Chapter 1528 Death

News of Arielle's death traveled fast. The students in the school were in disbelief when they heard it. How can this be? Wasn't she about to go back to Chanaea? Why did she suddenly pass away?

"Sonia, do you know why Ms. Moore passed away?" Bella asked. Sonia was still in shock over Arielle's death as she wondered, How can this be true? She even asked me to meet her a month later. We were about to see each other again, so how she could just... No, this can't be right. How can Arielle be dead?

Immediately, Sonia called her father. "Father, have you heard the news about Dr. Moore's demise?" Sonia quietly asked as she bit her lip. At the same time, she prayed

that Arielle would be fine. Unfortunately, the answer from her father was a disappointing one.

“Sonia,” Lawrence started in a low tone. “Dr. Moore has indeed passed away. I just came back from the hospital.”

Upon hearing her father’s words, Sonia’s eyes reddened, and tears rolled down her cheeks.

“Bella, Ms. Moore is...” Sonia trailed off.

Bella knew that Sonia and Arielle had been in frequent contact ever since Arielle performed surgery on Sonia’s grandfather. She knew that the two women were on very good terms, but she never felt jealous about their friendship, for Sonia had never distanced herself from Bella even after getting close to Arielle.

After ruminating about the matter, Bella hugged her gently to give her a silent consolation.

In Bella’s arms, Sonia began bawling.

It was Bella’s first time seeing Sonia lose control of her emotions. Her heart ached, but she did not know how to console her friend other than softly pat her back.

“W-What did you say?” Dylan stammered out as he looked at Sybil. “S-Say it again. Say it one more time.”

Sybil stared at Dylan with reddened eyes, not knowing how else to break the news to the king.

“Your Majesty, I’ve just received a call from Mr. Nightshire about the Princess. She...” Sybil choked out. “The Princess suddenly lost her heartbeat... The doctor tried resuscitating her for over half an hour, but... but they couldn’t save her...”

The moment those words left Sybil’s mouth, Dylan slumped onto the couch.

“No, that can’t be!” Dylan bellowed as pangs of pain wrenched his heart. “Send me to the hospital. I have to see her with my own two eyes.”

How could my daughter leave me behind like this? I refuse to believe that my dear daughter is gone just like that.

Naturally, he had to see his daughter one last time no matter how heartbreaking it was for him.

Hence, Sybil quickly asked his men to prepare the car and brought Dylan to the military hospital. Once they arrived, everyone—other than those still busy with their tasks—appeared when they heard that the king had come.

“Your Majesty!”

They all bowed to Dylan, and Dylan gave a wave to dismiss them as he only wanted to see his precious daughter.

Arielle was no civilian, so her body was kept in the ward she had been in previously.

The doctor led Dylan to Arielle’s ward. When Dylan saw Vinson looking at him with bloodshot eyes, the last trace of hope in Dylan’s heart dissipated.

He shakily walked over to Arielle’s bed and looked at his daughter, who was covered with a white sheet. Then, he reached out to pull it away. He wanted to see his daughter one more time—one last time.

However, his hands kept trembling, and he did not manage to pull the sheet away even after a few tries.

At that, Vinson reached out to tug the sheet a little lower. In the next second, Arielle’s face appeared.

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Chapter 1529 A Slap

When Dylan saw Arielle’s face, he could not hold himself back anymore. All of a sudden, he staggered backward, but Vinson managed to catch him in time. After Dylan regained his balance, he turned to Vinson and slapped him.

“W-Why... Why didn’t you take care of... take care of her?” Dylan roared in sorrow as he clutched his chest and glared at Vinson.

He had trusted Vinson so much and had believed that the latter would protect Arielle with his life, but in the end, what happened? Why didn’t he protect her? Oh, my dear daughter...

At that thought, Dylan’s tears kept streaming down his face. He was utterly devastated by the loss of his daughter.

Meanwhile, Vinson could only watch him sob in silence. He did not know what he could do to lessen the pain the old king was feeling.

“Please don’t cry. She’ll definitely be upset if she sees you in this state.” Vinson’s cheek had turned red right after the slap, but he said no words of complaint about it. He knew that Dylan only did that because he loved Arielle wholeheartedly. If Arielle had meant nothing to him, he would not have cared whether she lived or died.

However, Dylan did not respond to him. He turned away to fix his gaze on Arielle instead. The longer he looked at her, the thinner the air around him seemed.

It had taken eons before they finally found each other, but it seemed like just the blink of an eye before they were separated by the line between life and death.

“What happened to her? Why did she suddenly—” Dylan choked out but could not even finish his sentence in the throes of his sorrow.

Sybil quietly wiped away his tears as he watched the scene. He, too, could not believe that the princess was gone just like that. The king had not even gotten the chance to announce her existence to the people before they lost her.

Sybil could only imagine how anguished the king must be.

Vinson’s eyes dimmed when he heard the king asking about the details of Arielle’s death. In a barely audible voice, he began, “The doctor said that it was due to complications of her gunshot wound.”

Dylan turned even more resentful upon hearing that.

I have to find out who the ones behind this are to avenge Arielle. I can’t let her just die in vain like this.

In the meantime, the queen mother and the queen, who were both in the palace, received news about Arielle’s death.

The queen mother was in the study when the news traveled into her ears. Immediately, she put down the document she was reading and furrowed her brows.

The queen had just left the palace. Even if the queen wanted to end Arielle’s life, she would still need time to make arrangements. Yet, Arielle had suddenly passed away. Moreover, the queen mother had yet to make any move.

Her expression darkened while she was in deep thought. The queen mother still remained wary and suspicious of the news. After all, she was a woman who had gone through ups and downs in life.

“Send someone to look into this and find out if she’s really dead,” the queen mother told Monisha, who instantly began working on it.

After Monisha exited the room, the queen mother turned to look into the distance. Everything would be fine if Arielle is really dead, but if the news is fake, I'm going to make sure it becomes true.

Matthew, who had gone to the ward with Dylan, narrowed his eyes when he saw the scene.

Why is His Majesty so upset about Arielle's death? Who is she to him?

When he thought about how Arielle had held the king's arm and entered the venue during the king's birthday celebration, he furrowed his brows.

Could it be that those rumors were true? Is he that upset about Arielle's death because he has fallen for her? No, that's not right. Arielle's a capable girl. Even if the king were to fall in love with her, she would not reciprocate his feelings. But if she wasn't in love with him, why would she say those things to persuade me previously?

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Chapter 1530 She Is Dead

Harvey, too, was in absolute disbelief after hearing about the news of Arielle's death.

He had only called Vinson not too long ago and found out that Arielle had been transferred from the ICU into a normal ward. Hence, he could not wrap his mind around why she suddenly died.

He took out his phone and dialed Vinson's number. However, Vinson was occupied at that moment. Since he did not have the time to pick up calls, Vinson switched off his phone. As a result, Harvey failed to reach him, and his expression grew solemn,

Not only is Vinson not picking up the call, but he has even switched off his phone. Could it be that the news about Arielle is true? Has she really left us?

The possibility of that made tears well up in Harvey's eyes.

His love for Arielle was genuine. Although she ended up with his good friend, which broke his heart and made him go through a period of depression, he still went to her after hearing that she had been brought to Turlen.

Harvey simply could not accept the fact that Arielle was dead.

Nevertheless, there was nothing he could do but wait since Vinson did not answer his call.

Nico's first reaction to her rival's death was not joy but regret. After all, Arielle was an excellent doctor. Although Nico liked Arielle's bodyguard and wanted him for herself, she never wished for Arielle to die.

Therefore, she, like the others, was baffled by the news of Arielle's death. In an instant, she called her friends who were studying medicine under Arielle to authenticate the news. Subsequently, she found out that it was true—Arielle was dead.

As she sat on the chair in a daze, Nico found feelings of melancholy seeping into her chest.

"Nico, why are you sitting here?" Melissa asked her when she saw her daughter daydreaming. As she saw the tears in Nico's eyes, she worriedly asked, "What's the matter? Why are you crying?"

Melissa's heart was breaking while she looked at her daughter in concern. Her daughter was a carefree and suave young woman; she had never acted this way before. Therefore, Melissa was shocked to find her daughter in a moment of fragility.

On the other hand, Nico only realized that she was crying for her love rival after hearing her mother's words.

Although she did not intend to cry, she simply could not hold her tears back. Indeed, she was in low spirits because of Arielle.

"Mother, Dr. Moore's dead," Nico told Melissa as she sniffled.

"What?" Melissa widened her eyes in shock. "Who did you hear that from? This is no trivial matter, so don't joke around like that!"

Despite her words, Melissa knew that her daughter was probably speaking the truth, for the latter had always been a straightforward and honest person.

"Everyone knows about it now. I've asked my friends from medical school, and they've confirmed the news with the elders in their families," Nico told her in a sad tone.

Melissa felt that Arielle's death was a pity.

She truly liked the young woman, for she was wise and sophisticated beyond her age. Moreover, Arielle was experienced in the medical field. As such, Melissa could not believe that Arielle had passed on at such a young age.

Unlike Melissa, Sonia's mother was delighted when she heard that Arielle had died. After all, Arielle was the only one in Aaron's heart, and Sonia stood no chance with him.

She had told Sonia to snatch Aaron from Arielle, but Sonia had insisted on a fair competition with Arielle.

A fair competition with Arielle means giving up all her chances with Aaron! Now that Arielle's dead, Aaron will surely be with Sonia. Even though he's now missing, I'm sure he'll come back in one piece.

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1531

Chapter 1531 Sorry For Your Loss

Dylan stayed in the hospital until the sun went down. It was only then that Vinson managed to convince him to head home.

Arielle's identity had not been announced to the public, so it was inappropriate for the king to stay by her side for too long.

Initially, Dylan wanted to announce Arielle's identity to the public since she was dead, but Vinson stopped him from doing so. They had not found the culprit behind Arielle's murder, so even if Dylan wanted to reveal Arielle's identity, he should wait until everything was settled.

Dylan found his words logical, so he patted Vinson's shoulders and told him that he would definitely find the mastermind to avenge Arielle.

Hearing his words, Vinson remained silent. He barely has any power, so who knows when he'll be able to find the culprit?

After Dylan declared that he was heading home, Matthew and the group of high-ranking officials escorted him back. Once the others were gone, Vinson became the only one left staying by Arielle's side.

Vinson rubbed the bridge of his nose as he stared at Arielle's body for a while. Then, he took out his phone and sent Harvey a text message. Forty minutes later, a black van stopped at the back entrance of the military hospital. After observing his surroundings, a man brought out the stretcher covered by a piece of white sheet and brought it into the van. Then, the van disappeared into the night.

The next day, Dylan came to the hospital again. Matthew and the others tried to tag along, but Dylan sent them away. Since the king was there to visit his daughter, he could not openly show his emotions if those men were to come with him.

"How are we going to go about Sannie's funeral?" Dylan asked Vinson after chasing his subordinates away.

Although he was Arielle's father, Vinson was her husband, so the latter would be the one to deal with everything after her death.

Staring at the body on the bed, Vinson suggested, "Let's wait another two days before cremating her. We'll be scattering her ashes into the sea." A pause later, he continued, "We'll skip the ceremonies."

Dylan widened his eyes when he heard that Vinson was going to scatter her ashes into the sea.

How can he do that? She's my daughter, and more importantly, she's the Princess. How can he scatter her ashes into the sea? No, I have to find a good place to keep her ashes.

"We can't scatter her ashes into the sea," Dylan grimly said to Vinson. "I'll find a good place to bury it."

Vinson froze upon hearing that.

He then parted his lips to say something, but a thought crossed his mind, and he closed his mouth.

Forget it. I'll do as he says for now.

Besides Dylan, Sonia and Bella came over as well. Both were dressed in appropriate black clothes. The nurse then led the two women to Arielle's ward.

The moment Bella's eyes landed on the white sheet, they reddened. She then spun around to wipe her tears away. Aware that Vinson was Arielle's husband, Bella walked over to him and said, "I'm sorry for your loss."

Vinson took a glance at her as she was the only one aside from the doctor to say those words to him. After all, to the others, he was only Arielle's bodyguard.

However, the moment she said that, he understood that the young woman in front of him knew who he was. He nodded and replied, "Thank you."

The two of them had specially taken time out to see Arielle, and they would need to head to class later, so they did not stay for long.

Vinson remained in the ward for the entire day. Once the sun set, he stepped out of the ward. Not long after he left, the lights in the building went out. A figure then took the opportunity to slip into Arielle's ward.

In the dark, a smile grew on Vinson's lips. Finally, they're here.

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Chapter 1532 Who Sent You Here

Right then, Vinson's eyes narrowed as he made his move and went after the mysterious figure like a ghost.

When the mysterious figure was about to leave the ward, a towering man blocked his way. That man was none other than Vinson.

With a glacial look on his face, Vinson slowly posed his question, "Speak. Who sent you here?"

The mysterious figure never expected that someone would intercept him. At that moment, he realized that he had stepped right into a trap.

Steeling himself, the mysterious figure began launching attacks at Vinson in hopes of fleeing from the ward.

Nevertheless, Vinson was not someone to mess with. With a swift kick, he then felled the figure. Before the other man could recompose himself, Vinson gave the mysterious person a few more vicious kicks. Unable to defend himself, the other man soon admitted defeat.

"Spit it out. Who sent you here?" Vinson tied the man up and even shoved a piece of rag into his mouth.

Right then, the lights in the hospital building flickered back to life.

The tied-up man glared at Vinson with resentment when he heard Vinson's interrogating question.

I've been training since young. How could this man defeat me before I could even make a move? This is impossible!

Vinson looked at him coldly and threatened, "Are you not going to say anything? In that case, be ready to face hell."

Vinson had never failed to get the answers he wanted through interrogation.

However, the other man did not know about that. He continued to glare at Vinson as he dismissed Vinson's words. Men like him were used to difficult times. To them, interrogations were merely child's play.

However, he was breaking down half an hour later.

The man sobbed as he looked at Vinson in fear.

Vinson curled his lips and asked, "Are you willing to spill the beans yet?"

The man nodded fervently as he simply could not tolerate it any longer. Vinson's interrogation was inhumane, and he would rather have Vinson end his life right away.

"Speak. Who is it?" Vinson fixed his bloodthirsty gaze on him. "If I find out that you're lying to me, I'll make sure you'll be in a living hell from now on."

The man, who was initially thinking of fooling Vinson, immediately dismissed his plan.

He then nodded in acknowledgment.

"If you dare try to end your life, I'll whip your body and hang it out in the open for three days straight. Then, I'll feed your body to the dogs and make sure that you won't be in one piece even after death," Vinson nonchalantly said to the other man.

The fear in the other man's eyes intensified.

According to the beliefs in his country, if the body of the dead was treated in that way, not only would they go to hell after death, but they would also have no chance to enter the cycle of reincarnation.

By then, the man no longer dared to bear any thoughts of lying to Vinson as he quickly nodded.

Vinson then took out the rag from his mouth to let him speak. "The queen mother sent me here."

"Why did she send you here?" Vinson questioned.

"She sent me here to find out whether or not the woman in the ward is really dead. If she's dead, I will just let her be. But if she's not, I'll have to make sure she dies."

Right as those words came out of his mouth, the look in Vinson's eyes turned even more menacing. He could not believe that the one who was targeting Arielle was Arielle's own grandmother.

Why does she want Arielle dead?

"Do you know why she has given you that order?"

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Chapter 1533 Found The Mastermind

The other man shook his head fervently. The only thing he knew was that he had to complete his task.

Vinson was aware that he would not be able to get any other information from him, so he shoved the rag back into his mouth. Then, he called Harvey and asked him to take the man away.

After all, that man was a witness, so they had to keep a close eye on him.

“Mm!” When the other man realized that Vinson had stuffed his mouth again, he anxiously shook his head and groaned.

Vinson merely shot him a cold look. “If you don’t cooperate with us, you’ll be begging for death.”

After all, Vinson was no virtuous man, and he had no mercy on someone who tried to kill Arielle.

Frightened out of his wits, the tied-up man widened his eyes and fell silent immediately.

Soon, Harvey came in a car and avoided the crowd before he took the tied-up man away through the back entrance.

Just then, Vinson made a call and spoke into the phone in a gentle voice, “How are you feeling? Are you feeling better yet?”

Lying on the bed, the woman who was on the other end of the line smiled at the man’s words. “I’m the one who made the prescription, so of course my injuries would heal fast.”

Hearing that, Vinson let out a sigh of relief. He had been staying in the hospital, not daring to leave the place for the past two days. When he heard that her injuries were healing quickly, a wave of relief crashed into him as his heart finally lowered back into his chest.

“I want to see you,” Vinson softly said to her.

Ever since she woke up, Arielle had decided to take the initiative and look for the mastermind behind the incident. After a discussion, both Vinson and Arielle began making preparations for their plan.

The one they felt most grateful for was the doctor who had operated on Arielle. After Arielle woke up, he went to visit her, and it was then that they realized he was a fan of Arielle. His enthusiasm made an idea pop into Arielle's head.

After sharing a look with Vinson, Arielle asked the doctor to cooperate with them on their plan. Even though the doctor admired Arielle greatly, her request stumped him.

Nevertheless, Arielle tried her best to convince him, and eventually, she succeeded.

After agreeing to their request, the doctor even said that they should put on their best show. He then took the corpse of a woman who had just passed away in the hospital and replaced Arielle with it on the bed.

His idea was a pleasant surprise for Arielle and Vinson.

Arielle then asked the doctor to prepare some medicine and tools so that she could make a mask of her face to put on that dead woman. After that, the doctor sneakily transferred her to his dorm. It was only the night before then did Harvey take her away to Xavier's rental house so that he could take care of her.

"You'll expose the plan if you visit me. Just wait a few more days. Come and visit me once we find out who the one targeting me is," Arielle said after a moment of rumination.

Arielle was beyond frustrated at that point. They had been trying to kill her many times, so she had to find out the mastermind behind the assassination attempts.

Truth be told, she had her own suspicions about the identity of the mastermind. After all, it was because of her identity that she could not officially reunite with Aaron as family.

Upon hearing that, Vinson recalled that he had something to tell her.

"Sannie, I've found out who the culprit is," he then said.

Arielle's eyes darkened instantly. "Who is it?"

"The queen mother," Vinson told her.

Arielle had never thought that her own grandmother would be the one trying to kill her.

Never in her wildest dreams had she ever expected that.

But why does she want me dead? Could it be that she found out about me garnering support from General Matthew? Is that why she's doing this to me?

Arielle could not think of any other reasons the queen mother would want her dead.

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Chapter 1534 Will He Wake

“I understand,” Arielle answered. “I’ll make her pay the price for this.”

“What are you planning to do?” Vinson asked.

Arielle narrowed her eyes and declared, “I’ll find the evidence and punish her for her acts.”

She was not going to let the queen mother off.

Regardless of who she was, as long as she had committed a crime, Arielle was going to make her bear the consequences.

“Okay,” Vinson replied. After a pause, he continued, “What do we do with the body? Dad said he wants to find a good place to bury her.”

Arielle was touched when she found out what Dylan was planning for her funeral.

“He must be upset, isn’t he?” Arielle muttered.

She had not dared to let her father in on the plan, fearing that he would not put on a good enough show and hence ruin the plan.

When Vinson thought about the way Dylan reacted, he affirmed, “Yes, he was very upset. It was as though he aged a few years in seconds.”

Arielle grew silent for a moment.

For the time being, she could not reveal the fact that she was still alive. If she did, her prior efforts would go to waste.

“Try to talk to him more often. Tell him that he still has Aaron and get him to focus on finding Aaron instead.” Arielle had already found out about Aaron falling off the cliff. All she hoped at that moment was for her father to prioritize the search for Aaron. That way, Dylan would not be too upset about her death.

“Okay. It isn’t convenient for me to investigate the queen mother...” Right as Vinson said those words, Arielle replied, “Leave it to me.”

With their newfound clues, it was much easier for her to investigate the matter.

Once the call ended, Arielle opened the laptop that Harvey had bought for her and began looking into the queen mother's background information.

The next day, in a wooden house on a small island...

"Grandpa, say, will he wake up?" An eighteen-year-old girl was curiously asking her grandfather as she looked at the man on the bed.

"It'll depend on his fate," said the old man who looked like he was in his sixties.

The old man had done his best by treating the young man's wounds and feeding him medicine. It was up to fate whether or not he was going to make it.

"I wonder what happened to him. Why does he have so many wounds?" the girl said, feeling sorry for the injured man.

"Why would you care about that? Head back if you have nothing to do. Why are you still sticking around at an old man's place." Although the old man was saying harsh words to drive his granddaughter away, he was frankly reluctant to watch her leave.

"Grandpa, come back with me," the girl quickly persuaded as she grabbed his arm. "I won't be at ease if you're here alone."

The girl was only able to come to the old man's place for a visit during her holidays, so she wanted him to leave with her. It was fine even if he did not like the other house as she could rent a place near her school. That way, she would be able to keep him company whenever she was done with classes or when she had off days.

"What's there to worry about? Your grandma and I have stayed here all our lives. We're used to it."

As he spoke, he turned and left the room. Then, he placed the herbs in his hands on the wooden board at the side before spreading them out for drying.

"But you're on your own now," the girl pointed out as she stepped out of the room and stood by his side. As she helped spread out the herbs, she mumbled, "If Grandma's still alive, I wouldn't say anything about this. At the very least, you'll have each other, but you're all alone now. How can I possibly not worry?"

Before the old man could say anything to that, loud coughing sounds could be heard from behind them. Both the old man and the girl's eyes widened in surprise at once.

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After exchanging glances, the girl and the old man hurried into the wooden house. They were greeted by the sight of the previously unconscious man coughing non-stop. She then quickly placed her hand on his neck before brushing it in a downward motion to help him breathe better. It was only when he stopped coughing did she stop the soothing action.

Right then, the man on the bed slowly opened his eyes. In his blurry sight, he could vaguely make out the girl in front of him.

Immediately, he frowned. Who is she? Why is she so close to me?

“You’re awake. Are you hungry? Are you thirsty? Do you feel unwell anywhere?” the girl urgently asked.

Her voice was as clear as a bird’s chirp, and when it traveled into his ears, he could not help but change his impression of her for the better.

After forcing his eyes open, he finally got a good look at the girl’s appearance.

The girl in front of him looked like she was around eighteen or nineteen. Her eyes were big, and she had brown wavy hair. If not for the cheap-looking clothes she was wearing, she would have looked like a princess.

“Water...” The man only managed to squeeze out one word before his throat felt as if it had been set on fire. Despite himself, he furrowed his brows.

Once the girl heard his words, she quickly walked over to the wooden table and filled a glass of water for him.

When she realized that he could not drink from the glass because he was lying down, she put the glass on the side stool and helped him up. As the man had just woken up and was still feeling weak, the girl bit down on her lip and let the man lie on her as support while she sat on the bed. Then, she took the glass and held it to his lips.

The two were so physically close that the man could smell the girl’s pleasant scent.

In the next second, he stared at the glass and froze. It was the first time someone had treated him like that.

“Aren’t you thirsty? Hurry up and drink this,” the girl urged in a soft voice.

Returning to his senses, the man finished the water.

“Do you want more?” the girl asked when she realized he had downed the glass in no time.

However, the man shook his head. The girl then put the glass away and helped him back down on the bed.

Right then, the old man came in from outside. When he saw that the injured man was awake, he sighed in relief inwardly.

He's lucky.

On the other hand, when the injured man saw the old man, feelings of confusion rose in his chest. Only then did he begin studying his surroundings. Upon noticing that he was in a small wooden house, he widened his eyes in astonishment.

Why am I here?

"Where am I?" he asked, perplexed.

"We're on an island," the girl explained before the old man could speak. She then asked the man curiously, "Who are you? Why did you end up injured in the waters?"

Looking at the girl's inquisitive gaze, he merely shook his head. His car had collided with something before he fell off the cliff, so he had passed out in his car.

By the time he regained his consciousness, he was already in the wooden house.

"How long have I been here?" he asked.

"Four or five days," the girl replied as she tilted her head to the side.

Four or five days?

The man's eyes widened in shock.

"That long? Has anyone been looking for me?"

The girl shook her head. "I don't know. There are few people who can come to this place."

Instantly, the man fell silent. He wondered how Arielle's condition was after so many days.

The very thought of Arielle was like a rock that crushed his chest. He could barely breathe under its weight.

Meanwhile, the queen mother, who was at the palace, was downright livid and threw the documents in her hands onto the ground.

“What did you say? How did they crack the message? Why didn't anyone intercept it?”