

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1671

Chapter 1671

Arielle was peeved when she realized who it was.

Why is it her again?

“Dr. Moore, aren’t you married to Mr. Knightley? Who is this man?” Nico demanded as she glared at Arielle.

After Nancy’s secretary released the announcement, she knew that the woman who married Knightley was Arielle in disguise.

Never in her wildest dreams did she expect that Arielle would show up with another man today. This man was better and more charming than Knightley. She would’ve fallen for this man if she wasn’t in love with Knightley.

“My husband, of course,” came Arielle’s answer.

Feeling outrageous, Nico snapped, “Dr. Moore, how could you be this shameless? You’re married to Mr. Knightley but got involved with another man. You’re really...”

“Who gave you the right to talk to my wife like that?” Vinson growled as he directed a hostile glare at Nico.

Nico was shocked when she heard his voice.

This voice... This voice belongs to...

“You’re Mr. Knightley!” Her surprise quickly turned to disappointment.

They are both Chanaeans. Are they married for real?

Is there no more hope for me? Do I really have to marry Aaron?

“Nico, you’re Aaron’s fiancée, so please mind your attitude and stay away from my husband.” Having said that, Arielle left with Vinson.

Nico hated being addressed as Aaron’s fiancée, but she couldn’t get rid of it.

She stood rooted to the spot and balled up her fists as she stared at their retreating figures. A while later, she scowled and strode away.

Time flew by quickly, and it was soon the day of Aaron and Nico's engagement.

Aaron was the king, and Nico was the daughter of a general. Their lavish engagement party created an uproar all over the country. Many guests were invited to the party, and countless luxury cars could be seen entering the hotel.

Arielle arrived at the hotel to attend Aaron's engagement party with Vinson as she had been sent an invitation card.

She wasn't optimistic about their relationship, for Nico was obviously in love with Vinson.

She had texted Aaron and asked him if he loved Nico a while ago. If he didn't like her, she would try her best to stop them from getting engaged. However, he had told her to stay out of his business.

As he had his plan, Arielle couldn't well butt into his business.

This time, she wanted to see Aaron getting engaged on behalf of her father. No matter what he would do, she wanted to witness it on behalf of their father. However, her confusion heightened when she saw Aaron scowling through the whole process.

Why did he agree to this when he didn't want to get engaged to Nico? Did the queen mother threaten him?

Arielle's expression darkened.

If the queen mother did threaten him, I will do whatever I can to call off their engagement. I only have one little brother, and I want him to be happy.

At the engagement party, Nico narrowed her eyes when she spotted Arielle and Vinson showing up together.

"Aaron, I need to touch up my makeup. I'll be right back," she said.

Without waiting for a reply, she spun on her heels and left.

"What are you doing?"

The sudden voice caused Nico's hands to tremble, and some of the white powder fell onto the table.

Turning over her shoulder, she relaxed when she spotted Aaron standing behind her.

"Why are you here?"

“Who is this drink for?” Aaron pinned her with a withering stare.

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Nico glanced at him and replied nonchalantly, “It’s not for you!”

Aaron scowled. “Nico, if you dare to lay a hand on her and her husband, I’ll make sure you pay for your actions!”

Nico’s expression changed.

She never mind if he didn’t want her to harm Arielle. He loved Arielle, so she could understand his feelings. However, there was no reason for him to ask her not to harm Knightley.

“Aaron, don’t you want Arielle for yourself?” Nico met his gaze.

“Don’t you love her? Why don’t we work together to...”

“Nico, that’s all in the past. Don’t forget that it’s our engagement party today. If you act recklessly today, I won’t be able to protect you, let alone your father,” Aaron warned.

Nico scowled indignantly. “Aaron, what do you mean by that?”

“I can’t say no to our marriage. Do you think you can handle the consequences of messing things up?”

Nico’s heart sank. She didn’t mind being punished, but she couldn’t risk affecting her father. As Aaron watched, she poured the spiked drink into the dustbin and marched toward the hall.

Only then did Aaron feel more at ease.

He was afraid he couldn’t convince Nico to change her mind or that she would try to harm Arielle and Vinson behind his back.

No matter who she tries to hurt, Arielle will be the one suffering in the end. I can’t let Arielle get hurt. I need to protect her on behalf of Father.

Back in the hall, Nico spotted Arielle holding Vinson’s arms as everyone praised them for being a match made in heaven. Frustrated, she put on a sullen look.

Melissa, who had been watching her the entire time, felt her head throb at how unhappy her daughter looked.

She gave her a little tug and whispered in her ear, "Nico, smile... If the queen and the queen mother saw you, they might think you're upset at the royal family."

Smile? How can I smile when Arielle and Mr. Knightley look so happy?

Nico had wanted to drug Knightley so she could end up in bed with him. That way, she wouldn't have to marry Aaron. Alas, Aaron had caught her in the act. His warning had made her back off.

"All right," she grumbled.

Despite her anguish, Nico knew her family had to come first.

"Mother, you should keep Father company. Aaron and I shall toast the guests," Nico said and forced a smile.

Seeing that, Melissa finally left her alone. She had come over to remind Nico, as she was afraid Nico didn't want to get engaged to Aaron and would end up causing a stir.

The engagement party ended at ten at night. Instead of heading back to Paelsford Manor, Aaron went to the apartment near the campus. He had been busy and hadn't seen Alicia for the past few days.

He got engaged to Nico today. Afraid that Alicia would be upset, he decided to stop by and pay her a visit.

Opening the door, he noticed a layer of dust inside the bedroom. It had been vacant for some time. His face changed abruptly as he whipped out his phone to call Alicia. However, a robotic sound told him that the number he dialed wasn't in service.

How could her number not be in service?

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He immediately dialed Clement's number but got the same notification. Realizing something had gone horribly wrong, he strode toward the bedroom.

He opened the bedroom door and flung the doors to the closet open. Alicia's clothes were gone, but the check he had left behind that day was still in its original spot. He gripped the check so hard that his veins bulged.

Taking a deep breath, he fished out his phone and made a call. "Find out where Alicia is now."

He then hung up and sat on the edge of the bed with his brows furrowed.

Aaron had no idea he would come home one day to see all traces of Alicia wiped out of the apartment. He thought she would always be there whenever he returned.

His subordinate was quick. Less than twenty minutes later, Alicia's information was sent to him.

Alicia majored in economics. She had a grandfather, father, stepmother, and two half-siblings. Last Wednesday, she took a two-year leave of absence from the university.

Aaron's expression was as dark as thunder. He didn't expect to hear that at all. At once, he ordered his subordinate to find out where Alicia had gone to.

After hanging up, he stared out the window blankly. He had no idea Alicia would leave him without even leaving any letter behind.

"Alicia, have you ever loved me?" Aaron mumbled as he shut his eyes.

Images of Alicia smiling adorably, acting sensibly, crying sadly, and being like a virtuous wife popped up in his mind.

How did I lose her? Why does my heart hurt?

He got up, walked to the window, and stood there silently. Then, pulling out his lighter, he lit a cigarette and stared at the city lights, his heart cold.

Alicia was staring at the stars in the sky outside her wooden shed on an island. "Aaron, do you know I've left the apartment? Do you know I've canceled my phone number? And that I've asked for a two-year leave of absence from university? You're getting engaged today. I wish you all happiness!"

The thought of a woman eating with him, sleeping with him on the same bed, and giving birth to his child went through Alicia's heart like an iron shard.

I wish I could ignore everything else and stay with him, but I can't be this selfish. Aaron has just acceded to the throne. He needs support and help from the rich and powerful.

The future queen's father is a powerful general. I can't get in Aaron's way. I need to stay away from him and watch him be happy.

She touched her belly and whispered, "Aaron, I'll give birth to our child and bring him up..."

But this poor child is going to be fatherless...

Aaron had no idea of her plan, let alone know that she was pregnant with his child. If he had known, he would've protected her and agreed to let her give birth to the child.

In fact, he wished to have a blissful family with his own children. Right now, he was infuriated by Alicia's disappearance.

"You can't find her? Not even from any transportation information?" Aaron's expression turned grim. "You must find her no matter what!"

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Two days later, Monisha came to Nancy with a smile on her lips.

"Your Majesty, the surveillance footage has been recovered."

"Really?" Nancy had lost all hope, so she brightened up at the news.

"When was it recovered? Did you see who the culprit was?"

"Just a while ago. I came here straight away to report the good news to you and didn't get to see it yet," Monisha replied.

Nancy immediately urged, "Come, let's go together."

She couldn't wait to find out who was bold enough to rob her right before the palace gates and even hack into the internet to delete the surveillance footage of the incident. Together with Monisha and the servant, Nancy went to the control room to check the surveillance footage.

There, Monisha introduced Linda to Nancy.

Even the Duke had to show Nancy respect, let alone Linda.

"Your Majesty," Linda greeted Nancy with a bow.

"Mm..." Nancy gazed at her regally. "I heard that the surveillance footage has been restored."

"Yes, it has been restored," Linda confirmed coolly.

She had assumed that restoring the surveillance footage wouldn't take long. To her surprise, she had to work for several days to fix it. Most importantly, the people inside the footage were the same people the Duke wanted to kill.

She would've reported the matter to the Duke if she wasn't in the palace.

“Show them to me!” Nancy ordered.

Linda clicked on the computer, and the surveillance footage showing various angles appeared on the screen.

“Do you know who they are?” Linda asked as she zoomed in.

Nancy inched nearer and frowned when she realized who it was.

So Arielle and Vinson were the ones who took the flash drive away from Monisha. They must be the ones who wiped out the surveillance footage, too!

She recalled how she had failed to restore the surveillance footage even after spending tons of money hiring the best hackers and frowned in displeasure.

How are they so capable?

Does that mean they were the ones who sent the photos to my computer? Were they also the ones who make the images viral online previously?

Nancy’s scowl deepened, and the surrounding temperature dropped.

“D*mn it!” Nancy slammed the table with her fist when she recalled how humiliated she was when the photos were leaked.

Monisha had no idea Nancy would blow her top in front of someone else.

“Your Majesty,” she reminded urgently.

“Thanks for this,” Nancy thanked Linda gratefully.

If not for Linda, it would have taken ages for her to find out the culprit behind this.

Linda shook her head calmly. It was her job, so she didn’t deserve Nancy’s gratitude.

“If that’s all, I shall take my leave now.” She didn’t get to rest well for the past few days as she had been busy restoring the surveillance footage.

Nancy nodded and ordered Monisha to arrange for the chauffeur to give Linda a ride home.

Monisha ensured Linda got into the car before returning to the control room. Nancy was gone, so she hurried back to Nancy’s place.

“D*mn it! I will never let them off the hook!” Nancy huffed when she was back in her room.

Arielle was a Chanaean diplomat under their protection, but she refused to let Arielle off the hook.

I must arrest and torture her so that she knows the consequences of angering me.

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When Monisha returned, Nancy shot her an icy glare.

“Monisha, get someone to seize Arielle. I want to make her life a living hell!”

I can’t believe a young girl fooled me easily! I’ve never been this aggrieved!

The more Nancy thought about it, the angrier she got. She wanted nothing more than to kill Arielle right then and there.

“Your Majesty, please calm down,” Monisha said hastily. “It won’t be appropriate for you to lay a finger on her with her current identity.”

Nancy knew she was right, but she couldn’t take it anymore.

Arielle humiliated me. It’s all her fault. I want her dead!

“I can’t take this in silence!” Nancy snapped irritably. “Then get someone to teach her a lesson. I won’t be able to sleep until she has been taught a lesson!”

Monisha knew Nancy had relented, so she didn’t have another choice other than to nod in agreement.

Back in her room, she made the call.

A while later, she came out and told Nancy that her order had been relayed. It would take a few days to carry out her mandate.

They needed time to find out Arielle’s address and usual routes.

Nancy wanted to teach Arielle a lesson immediately, but she knew it was impossible. Thus, she tamped down her frustration.

I’ll be patient for a few more days if Arielle gets what she deserves.

“Your Majesty, they’ve failed again. This time, they want smaller subjects,” Monisha whispered in Nancy’s ear.

Nancy’s expression changed slightly.

I've given them so many subjects to experiment on. Why did they fail yet again?

"Hurry up and send someone to get a few more before sending them over. Tell them to use the subjects slowly," Nancy commanded sternly.

Monisha nodded and returned to her room to carry out Nancy's order.

Three days later, news of the kidnapping of an eight-month old baby boy caused an uproar online. The netizens in Turlen were shocked to learn about that and flooded the internet with comments.

Oh, dear. What is going on? This is the first news I've read today.

I hope the baby will be safe!

Poor baby. Please be safe! I'm scared.

My baby is around his age, too. Who kidnapped this little boy?

Hopefully, he'll be home safe and sound soon. Please let him be safe.

His parents must be anxious! The kidnapper who kidnapped him must be arrested and sent to jail!

That's too light a punishment. He must be sentenced to death immediately!

In the palace, Monisha reported the news to Nancy when she read it online.

"Ask someone to put a lid on the news," Nancy ordered icily.

She feared the dire consequences that would ensue should that incident blow out of proportion.

"Your Majesty, they said one subject isn't enough. They want five more," Monisha said, looking troubled.

Nancy snarled, "Tell them to wait!"

"They want the subjects in two days," Monisha added.

They are forcing me into a corner! How can I find five more subjects in two days?

Everyone is talking about the kidnapping. How can I do this right now?

Narrowing her eyes, she summoned Monisha and whispered something in her ear.
Comprehension dawned on Monisha as she flashed a smile and exited the room.

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“Ari, have you seen the news on the internet?” Sonia called and choked up as she spoke.

Sensing something was wrong after hearing Sonia’s voice, Arielle hurriedly asked, “I just saw it. What happened?”

“That child is from Bella’s family. I attended the boy’s baby shower previously. Unexpectedly, he was kidnapped.”

Sonia was about to give birth to her child, so she especially shared that sentiment at that moment.

She felt agonized to the extent of having the urge to cry at the thought of her child being kidnapped by a criminal and going missing with an unknown fate.

Bella? Isn’t she Sonia ‘s follower, who tagged along with Sonia and attended my class previously?

“Don’t cry. Leave that matter to me. I’ll carry out an investigation.”

Sonia was stunned briefly after listening to Arielle’s words.

“Carry out an investigation? How will you investigate that matter?”

Sonia contacted Arielle because she needed to talk to someone to vent the discomfort she felt. However, when Arielle mentioned she would look for the little boy, Sonia was a little surprised.

How is she going to do that?

After all, Arielle was just a doctor not a police.

“Ari, you are a doctor, not the police. How helpful can you be in searching for someone?” Sonia sniffled. “Harvey and my father are already pursuing that matter. I hope we can find the kid.”

Only very few people knew of Arielle’s identity as a hacker. Even Harvey did not know about her capabilities.

“Okay. I got it,” Arielle replied while taking out her laptop and beginning her search.

On the other end of the line, Sonia heard the sound of Arielle typing on the keyboard. She immediately realized the latter was busy, so she quickly found an excuse to hang up the phone.

After ending the call, Arielle launched the web browser to search for news about the missing boy. However, not a piece of information was available.

She frowned.

What's going on? Why has this piece of news disappeared?

Amidst her contemplation, Arielle's phone rang again. Noticing Sonia contacting her again, she picked up the call.

"Ari, did you see it? The news has vanished from the internet. I reconfirmed this issue with Bella through the phone earlier, and she told me the boy is still missing. However, all the videos on the internet are gone," Sonia uttered anxiously.

"Sonia, I'm aware of this problem now. Don't worry. I'll look into this."

With that, she hung up the call and refocused her attention on the laptop screen. Her fingers flew across the keyboard, typing rapidly to try to dig out any useful information available.

"Hello? Hello? Hello?"

Sonia was dumbfounded as she stared at her phone after the call was cut off, but she hastily paid attention to the disappeared news again.

Sonia dialed her father's number to inquire about that matter. However, Lawrence had been occupied with his search for clues, so he was ignorant of that matter.

"Sonia, I'm hanging up now. I have some matters to attend to."

Lawrence ended the call after saying that. Then, he contacted someone else and was informed that Nancy suppressed the spread of the news over the internet.

"Why did she do that? We can only locate the boy more quickly and efficiently if this issue garners public attention. Without any news circulating, how are we going to find him?" Lawrence sounded a little displeased.

The golden time to find the boy is very limited. Yet, she's subduing the dissemination of necessary information. Can she handle the consequences of doing so?

After Aaron knew of that matter, he immediately asked his men to continue spreading the news.

Upon learning his action, Nancy smashed her phone on the ground angrily. "How dare he defy me!"

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"Your Majesty, what should we do?" Monisha was a little worried.

There was always strength in numbers. The combined influence of netizens was unimaginable. Sometimes, help from netizens was essential to resolve a crime.

Nancy uttered coldly, "Have you deleted all the footage from the surveillance cameras along the way?"

Monisha nodded. "Ms. Linda deserves the credit this time. If it wasn't for her, the footage could have become evidence to locate the boy."

"Give this card to her and tell her this is the reward!" Nancy took out a card from within a drawer and handed it to Monisha as she spoke.

Ever since she became a consort inside the palace, Nancy acquired the skill to let others do her bidding by using the power of money.

Monisha received the ATM card and placed it in her pocket, planning to send the card to Linda later.

"Aaron is becoming more rebellious. Does he think he can do as he pleases and go against me now that he is the king?" Nancy said grimly.

If she knew Aaron would behave in such an unruly manner, Nancy might not have harmed Dylan.

"Your Majesty, His Majesty is still young. He will acknowledge your prowess in ruling after some time." Monisha flashed a grin at Nancy.

"His Majesty was personally brought up by Your Majesty, so there's no way he would defy you. His Majesty is probably misguided by some bad people at the moment, causing him to act in this disobedient manner."

Nancy narrowed her eyes while listening to Monisha's words. She wondered if things were true as the latter described.

Is there really someone whispering ill advice in Aaron's ear?

Nancy's face darkened. Regardless of the culprit, she would make sure they suffered a fate worse than death for their attempt to mislead Aaron if she discovered who they were.

“That’s enough. You may leave and attend to your duties now.”

Sonia had been paying attention to the reports on the internet. She became excited when information about the little boy was circulating on the web again. His news had swiftly become a sensation.

One of the netizens commented: Oh my. What happened just now? Why were all the news articles gone without a trace?

Another wrote: That’s right. I was about to post a comment but realized every related article had disappeared.

Someone typed: Luckily, the articles are back. Otherwise, we will never know What happens to the child afterward.

Another netizen mentioned: Hopefully, the officials can keep us updated on this matter, so we can know when the little boy is found.

Noticing the majority of netizens taking that little boy’s kidnap seriously, Sonia could finally relax. They would only be able to locate the missing child quicker with more people being aware of the news.

With that thought in her mind, she hurriedly dialed Bella’s number.

“Sonia…”

Sonia felt unsettled when she heard Bella’s quivering voice.

“Bella, don’t worry. My father and the others have already begun their investigation. I believe we will locate that child very soon.”

Despite how upset Sonia was, she knew Bella and her sister were feeling more wretched.

“Thank you, Sonia,” Bella expressed her heartfelt gratitude.

Ever since that incident occurred, Bella’s family members had not taken any action, rendering her crestfallen.

Arielle had been checking every surveillance footage inside the condominium to figure out where the little boy had disappeared and gone.

She stared at the computer screen for nearly an hour, but her effort had been unfruitful. Therefore, she could not help feeling a little perturbed. After all, the missing boy was too young. If anything terrible befell the child, his parents would never be able to come to terms with such an outcome.

Baby, you must hang in there until I locate your whereabouts...

Arielle continued boring her eyes into the screen while praying inwardly. Suddenly, she fixated her gaze on one particular spot.

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There was a man who had covered himself up well and was carrying a child at the intersection ahead. He was in a black sweater with a mask and a cap, but his child was swaddled in thick clothes without a hat.

How can a parent stand to let their kid's head freeze while they wear thick clothes themselves?

This doesn't seem like his kid at all. Could it be that the kid in his arms is that kid?

With that thought in mind, Arielle fixed her gaze on him.

Her fingers danced across the keyboard rapidly as the arrow moved along with that man.

All of a sudden, the arrow stopped, and the man vanished from her surveillance.

Arielle shot up to her feet.

Vinson entered the room to see Arielle standing up, so he asked in concern, "What's wrong?"

Arielle swiftly told him about the matter.

"That guy disappeared from the surveillance cameras. I have to go to that spot to check the surroundings." With that said, Arielle shoved her phone into her bag and turned to leave.

She wanted to find that child as soon as possible.

She did not know if that man was a human trafficker or something else. Things would be easier if he was just a human trafficker, for the most he would do was sell the child.

She did not know if that man was a human trafficker or something else.

Things would be easier if he was just a human trafficker, for the most he would do was sell the child. However, if he were involved in the illegal trade of selling organs on the black market, things would be dangerous. Even a god would have trouble saving the child if the child's organs were harvested.

"I'll come with you," Vinson said. Arielle nodded and called along Lorraine before heading to her destination.

The trio soon arrived at the man's last seen location on the surveillance camera. The moment they reached, Arielle saw several fork roads.

Arielle stood in the middle of the road in the wind and tucked her ruffled hair away from her face. With a frown, she studied the fork roads.

"Vinson, say, which direction do you think he'll head to?"

Vinson looked at the fork roads with an equally solemn expression. All the roads either led to mountain ranges or villages, no matter which path he took, it would be no easy feat to find him.

"If there's only the three of us, we won't be able to find him," Vinson said, his brows drawn together. "We'll have to inform Aaron about this so that he can send the police and the army troops to search this entire place."

Arielle found reason in Vinson's words, so she took out her phone to call Aaron.

"Did something happen?"

Despite his steady voice, Aaron sounded cold, which was a stark contrast to the tone he used to have when he spoke to her. However, Arielle did not mind that, for she too, did not want to accept that he was her brother in the past. Therefore, it was nothing unusual for him to act in that way since he did not want to accept the fact that she was his sister.

"I've found clues about the person who took the child away. In the footage where he last appeared..." Arielle told him everything about the situation, including how she fixed the surveillance footage and tracked down the man.

"Now we're at the fork roads that either lead to mountain ranges or villages. Vinson and I don't have enough connections to scour for him, so will you send the police and the army to come and search for the man?"

Aaron looked more alert after hearing Arielle's words.

"I got it. I'll send men to work on it right now," he told her.

Then, he called the cops and told them to head to Arielle's side. After a moment of contemplation, he called Carlos and instructed the latter to find the man regardless of everything.

Carlos was initially one of Dylan's men. After Dylan's death, Nancy tried to get him to join her side. However, he rejected her. His loyalty was pledged to the king, so he would only obey the new king's orders.

Although Nancy was furious about that, there was nothing she could do.

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After Carlos received the order, he led the army troops to the location Aaron told him about. In the meantime, Celeste, the queen, was astounded when she heard Aaron's plan.

"How did he find out so quickly that person was there?" Nancy's expression turned gloomy.

As she looked at Monisha, she uttered, "Hurry and call them. Tell them to move right away. Even I won't be able to save them if they were found."

At that, Monisha hastily went to call the men and told them that the police and the army were on their way to find them. She told them to retreat quickly.

In a cave within the deeper parts of the mountains was a man around his fifties in a white lab coat. He was looking at the baby with a sly glint in his eyes.

This is such a fantastic lab rat. The body is healthy, and all the vital signs are perfect. How shall I start my experiment?

The man continued to stare at the baby in front of him with a burning gaze, excited.

All of a sudden, an urgent voice pulled him out of his thoughts.

"What's going on?"

He is so noisy, and he has disrupted my thoughts.

"Professor Hoffmeister, our higher-ups have informed us to leave this place immediately. The police and the army are on their way to us. If we don't leave now, we won't make it in time," the skinny man urgently said to the man in the lab coat.

"She said that even she won't be able to protect us if we get caught, so let's leave now."

However, the man in the lab coat seemed unfazed by his words.

The place they were at was a perilous spot with trees everywhere. Furthermore, they were in the innermost part of the mountains, and no one had ever seen them. Even if the police and the army came, he was not afraid, for he was sure that they would never be able to find them.

“Must you start shouting just for something trivial like this? Do you think that they’ll be able to find us here?” Torsten Hoffmeister, the man who was referred to as Professor Hoffmeister, questioned as he looked at the skinny man.

“Tell them to hide their tracks well and do their jobs as usual. There’s no need to panic.”

Even though the skinny man was still a little worried, he saw reason in Torsten’s words. Hence, his spirits lifted, and he went to convey his message to the other doctors and assistants.

“Hasse, where did you get this kid from? The kid has attracted the police and the army to us!” cried out a woman who was around the same age as Torsten as she looked at the man opposite her.

Hasse never thought that a random child he took would lure the police and the army to them. If he knew that, he would not have taken the child. After all, it would be bad if he were to bring trouble to the research team.

Nevertheless, nothing he said would change the situation.

“Ms. Norma, I’m really sorry. This is all my fault,” Hasse sincerely apologized to Norma Ulrich.

“Norma, Hasse didn’t mean it. He didn’t even know about this, so don’t chide him so much.”

Aaron’s men soon reached the fork roads and most split up to head down the different paths.

At the same time, Arielle, Vinson, and Lorraine followed the police into the deeper parts of the mountains. They scavenged through the place until the sun went down, but their efforts were for naught.

When Nancy found out that the people never left their spot, her heart leaped into her throat. Then, when she found out that Aaron’s men’s search yielded no results, she deliberately lose her temper with him.

“Why did you search the place without finding out which direction he actually went in?! Did you want others to laugh at you after spending so much time and effort on this?! Hurry up and order your men to return!” Nancy berated the moment she saw Aaron.

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Aaron stared at Nancy glumly.

“Grandma, although you have the power to rule the country, don’t forget that I’m the true ruler of this place.” Then, as he gazed right into his grandmother’s shocked eyes, he uttered, “I’m not going to tell the men to come back.”

With that, he left.

He had faith in Arielle’s words and he believed that those people were hidden there. As long as time was on his side, he was going to find them.

“Y-You...” Nancy was livid. She could barely stammer out a word as she held her chest and heaved.

When Monisha noticed that, she quickly ran her hand down Nancy’s back to calm her down.

After Nancy recovered a little, she immediately sent her men to lock Aaron up in the palace before confiscating his phone and computer. Then, she ordered the police and the army to retreat without delay.

Deep in the mountains, Vinson and Arielle were still walking down the path with the aid of the dim moonlight. Just as they were about to move further into the mountains, they saw Carlos coming toward them.

“Her Majesty has ordered us to leave this place right away.”

Arielle drew her brows together.

Why is she ordering us to leave before we find the kid?

“I’m sure that the kid is in this place. If we leave now...”

Before Arielle could finish her sentence, Carlos cut her off, “That is what I think as well, but we can’t go against Her Majesty’s orders.” Then, a pause later, he added, “I don’t know what happened in the palace, but we’re unable to contact His Majesty right now.”

Arielle never expected anything to happen to Aaron. When she thought about Dylan, she panicked. As she turned to look at the mountains, she gritted out, “Let’s retreat then.”

All of them had to obey Nancy's command. Even if Arielle and Vinson were to stay, they would not be able to find the child.

The place was huge and it was nighttime, therefore, the three of them would not have the capability to find the child at all. Thus, they slowly left the mountains.

Nancy had been keeping a close eye on the case, so when she heard that they had retreated, she let out a sigh of relief. After that, she hastily told Monisha to tell the group of people to leave the mountains as quickly as possible.

A lucky escape like that might not happen twice. However, Torsten did not heed Monisha's words at all.

"Tell her that nothing happened here and have them be at ease. Their constant calls are disrupting my train of thoughts," Torsten hissed, annoyed.

The skinny man conveyed Torsten's message with difficulty to Monisha, and she conveyed it to Nancy, who became enraged.

She knew that Torsten was obsessed with those kinds of research, but they were not under normal circumstances right now. She could not understand why Torsten simply would not leave first.

I won't be able to save them if the cops get to them. How can he not realize which action is more important?

"They have to leave!"

The skinny man conveyed the message to Torsten again.

When Torsten found out that he had no choice, rage welled up in his chest. He could almost find the answer, but he was forced to stop at the most crucial moment.

"Tell her we're leaving now!"

After ending the call, Torsten told the group to retreat.

They had been living there for over a decade, so they were familiar with all the paths in the forest.

After packing up their things, Torsten left the place with his experiment subject in his arms.

To ensure that the child would not cry and attract attention, they covered the child's mouth. Afraid that the child would starve, they stopped midway to buy milk powder for him.

Torsten watched the boy down the milk and whispered, "My good boy, I'm going to let you live for a few days longer."