

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1681

After Arielle and the others went back, she began calling him. Upon realizing that she really could not contact him, she paled.

Promptly, she called Sonia and asked for Lawrence's number.

When Sonia found out that Arielle had something serious to talk about, she quickly told Arielle that Lawrence was right beside her and to not hang up. Then, she handed her phone to her father, telling him that Arielle was looking for him.

"Princess, what's the matter?"

Although Dylan did not reveal Arielle's identity to the public before his death, Sybil had admitted that she was Dylan's daughter. Therefore, she would be the princess of Turlen.

"Can you contact Aaron? Her Majesty has retracted the order for the police and the army to look for the kid, so we're on our way back," Arielle told him.

"Contact His Majesty?" Once he reeled in from the shock of her statement, he said, "I'll call him right away."

As he spoke, he fished out his phone and made the call. However, no one picked up the call.

He tried several more times, but the results were all the same. It was then he realized something was amiss.

"Princess, you're right. The king cannot be contacted," Lawrence commented with a frown. "Could it be that Her Majesty has locked him up again?"

Nancy was the only one in Turlen who would lock someone up without any legit reason.

Arielle scowled. "It must be her then..."

The more she thought about it, the stranger the incident seemed to be, it was a very peculiar move to withdraw the police force and the army troops.

Shouldn't they be in a hurry to find the kid? it has only been hours since they went to the mountains, but she has already told them to withdraw. This doesn't make sense!

"General Lawrence, do you think that Her Majesty has something to do with the disappearance of that child?" Arielle asked in a low voice.

The moment she said that, Lawrence's hand shook.

The princess is really daring to think of that!

What is the reason for Her Majesty to take that child away? She doesn't need money. It can't be that she's looking to train someone to serve her, right?

That doesn't make sense. After all, everyone, from the noble to the impoverished citizens, would be more than willing to let their child train under Her Majesty.

Arielle was grim. She knew that what Lawrence said made sense, but a voice in her head was telling her that Nancy definitely had something to do with the child missing.

Otherwise, why would she have ordered them to withdraw from the mountains so quickly?

It simply did not seem right. The leader of a country would be eager to catch the culprit after something like that happened. Instead, she had been more eager to withdraw the forces from the mountains.

Furthermore, Aaron was unreachable. Arielle could guess that Nancy must have locked him up.

What is she trying to do?

"General Lawrence, please see if you can come into contact with Aaron. I'm a little worried about him," Arielle creased her forehead, wishing that she could enter the palace any time she wanted.

Lawrence dared not swear that he would do that, but he still agreed to her request by saying that he would give it a try.

He also told her that, if he managed to contact Aaron, he would tell Arielle about it.

After ending the call, Lawrence left Sonia's place. He had gone to Sonia's place because he wanted to discuss with Harvey about finding the child. Nevertheless, now that Arielle wanted to contact Aaron, he was going to prioritize that.

As for the child, Lawrence could only leave everything to fate.

After washing up, Arielle found herself unable to sleep. She kept thinking about Lawrence's analyses and her speculations.

All of a sudden, she recalled that it had been a while since she listened to Nancy's surveillance recording. Hence, she switched on her phone. The longer she listened to the recording, the more obvious her grimace became.

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1682

Right then, the voices of Nancy and Monisha sounded out in the room.

“Monisha, get someone to seize Arielle. I want to make her life a living hell!” Nancy gritted out, the resentment in her voice audible.

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

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

Arielle frowned.

What did I do to make Nancy despise me so much?

Before she could wrap her mind around it, Monisha spoke again.

“Your Majesty, they’ve failed again. This time, they want smaller subjects.”

“Hurry up and send someone to get a few more before sending them over. Tell them to go slow on the subjects.”

Smaller subjects? What smaller subjects? Could it be that it’s...

Arielle’s expression darkened, and a cold look crept into her eyes. If her speculations were right, Nancy was downright ruthless. Moreover, Arielle had to find that child. She was afraid that, if she were too late, the child would be...

The moment she thought about that child’s possible end, her heart sank.

No... No, no, no! I can’t waste any more time!

With that thought in mind, Arielle called Lawrence and told him her speculations.

“Princess, are you sure Her Majesty is doing experiments on humans?” Lawrence could barely squeeze out the last two words.

“General Lawrence, I’m sure!” Although Arielle was panicking, she still did everything rationally. “General Lawrence, do you have any men with you? If you do, please send them to look for the kid.”

At that, she paused for a moment before whispering, “If things drag on longer, I’m scared that he might...”

Even though Arielle did not finish her sentence, Lawrence got her hint. His heart sank as well.

“I understand. I’ll contact some people to work on this.”

After ending the call, Lawrence began making calls to his friends to borrow men from them. When they found out that he was going to look for the eight-month-old boy, they made calls to their friends as well. In the end, they all went to the address that Lawrence sent them.

Arielle continued to listen to the recording.

It was then she heard Nancy asking someone to wipe out the surveillance footage. Then, she heard Nancy hastily instruct Monisha to tell the culprits to move the moment she heard that Aaron’s men had gone to the mountains.

In the end, she heard Nancy berating Aaron before locking him up in the palace and confiscating his phone and laptop.

Arielle scowled. She instantly called Lawrence and told him that the people had changed locations. She asked him to station his men at the exits and check those places for suspicious people.

Upon hearing that, Lawrence, who was about to reach his original destination, quickly changed his plan. Like Arielle asked, he stationed his men at checkpoints to seize those culprits.

However, Arielle did not have much hope. She felt that she had gotten the news too late and did not know if she would still be able to intercept those people even if Lawrence stationed his men at the exits now.

If she could not do that, then what they were doing now would alert Nancy and her people to Arielle’s knowledge.

Arielle narrowed her eyes, thinking.

No... I have to make preparations earlier.

In the meantime, Nancy was taken aback when she found out that Lawrence was stationing his men at the checkpoints.

She drew her brows together and wondered.

Could it be that I have a mole by my side?

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1683

At that, she whipped her head to the side to look at Monisha.

Monisha is the only one I've assigned this to, so it shouldn't be an issue from my side. But if it's from Torsten's side, they would have been caught a long time ago. Then, what's going on?

Suddenly, Nancy's eyes grew wide in realization.

Arielle... It must be Arielle!

Arielle was the one who sent me the photos, so she must have been spying on me. How else did she find out about this so quickly?

With that thought in mind, she wrote a note to Monisha and told the latter to throw her phone and her laptop at the uninhabited room at the side. After that, she instructed Monisha to purchase a new phone with a new number under Monisha's name.

However, she did not ask Monisha to get her another laptop, for a laptop needed an internet connection, she was afraid that Arielle would be able to spy on her after connecting to the internet.

After Monisha placed Nancy's phone and laptop in the next room, she hurried to Nancy's side and whispered, "Your Majesty, what's wrong?"

Nancy narrowed her eyes and replied, "That d*mn girl, Arielle, is spying on me through my phone and laptop!"

When Nancy thought about how Arielle must have overheard her conversation with Monisha, her heart sank.

Doesn't that mean she has found much information to blackmail me by now?

This d*mn girl. I really have to kill her. Who cares about her identity?

"Monisha, I'm sure she has plenty of materials to blackmail me now. No, I mustn't let her go so easily. She has to die!" Nancy told Monisha in a very cold tone.

Like Nancy, Monisha never expected Arielle to spy on Nancy, let alone have blackmail-worthy information in her hands.

"I understand. I'll get someone to work on this."

Once Monisha was gone, Nancy's expression darkened, and she turned to stare out of the window. There was a pressure on her chest that she was certain would be gone only after Arielle was dead.

Time ticked away, and Arielle's heart was in her throat. It was almost twelve, but she was still hearing no news.

Could it be that they've gotten away?

When Vinson noticed how anxious she was, he hugged her and said, "Calm down, Sannie. They'll surely tell you right away if there's news."

He felt a little useless being there at that moment. It was because he was not Turlenian, so he could not even establish a network of his own there. He could not do anything for those matters other than accompany her to confront them.

"I know," Arielle leaned into Vinson's arms.

She whispered, "I've already done what I should do, and even if bad news return, I've still done my best already."

Arielle was no longer worried about Aaron after finding out that he was in no danger. In contrast, she was worried about the boy, and she wondered how he was now.

"What do we do? Can we put on a disguise and get through them?" Norma asked Torsten in a worried tone.

Everyone else had gone past the checkpoints. Norma and Torsten were the only two left at the rest area, and they did not know if they could get out successfully.

"We can give it a try. Remember the words I've taught you," Torsten somberly said to Norma, who nodded.

Torsten then drove forward. When he reached the checkpoint, he took in a deep breath.

"Is this your child?" came Lawrence's voice from outside the car.

Norma's heart skipped a beat.

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1684

"Y-Yes..." Norma was nervous, but still, she tried to keep it together. "He's our grandson. His parents miss him, so we're taking him home to see his parents."

Lawrence felt that he could not let any car with children leave so easily, so he asked, "What work do you do? What work do his parents do?"

"I'm Professor Hoffmeister of Turlen School of Medicine. This is my pass. You can take a look at it," Torsten then took out his pass to hand it to Lawrence.

Lawrence glanced at the pass and verified it before he said apologetically, "I'm sorry. There is a missing child, so we have to question everyone who has a child with them."

With that, he quickly gestured to his men to let Torsten's car pass.

After all, that man was Turlen School of Medicine's old professor. Although they were not as advanced in the medical field as the other countries, that man had done a lot for the medical school.

"Losing a kid is no small deal. You really have to put your all into finding the kid. After all, all children are their parents' precious. I can imagine how devastated the parents are after losing the child."

Torsten squeezed out with difficulty as if he could empathize with him. That made Lawrence impressed.

"Yes. We'll find the kid as soon as possible!" As he said that, he took several steps back and let Torsten's car go by.

Norma's heartbeat finally slowed down when they left the area.

"Old man, you're not at all nervous," Norma said to Torsten, still holding onto the boy.

Torsten gave her a smug grin. If he had been nervous, they would not have gone through the checkpoint.

"The kid's quite a good boy. He sleeps quietly after drinking his fill," Norma commented as she pinched the boy's cheek.

If not for them wanting to do experiments on live subjects, she would have raised the boy as her own. Even though he was only several months old, she could already see how obedient he was. She liked him, but sadly, she could not keep him.

Torsten gave the boy a side-eye.

This is a precious that I've got to keep well. Still, just this one isn't enough. I need a few more. If I fail, I need at least two more backups.

Time went by in the blink of an eye. Lawrence and the others did not sleep a wink, but their efforts were for naught. There were no signs of the kidnapers. That made them wonder if they had been looking in the wrong direction.

Lawrence then called Arielle and told her about his worries.

Arielle grimaced, for she did not know what was going on either.

Are we really going to check every single household? If we do that, won't we make those people anxious?

They might put the boy in danger.

Arielle was stumped for she did not know what was her best course of action.

"General Lawrence, did you not encounter anyone with a kid at all?"

"That's right."

Just as those words were out of Lawrence's mouth, he recalled the professor and his wife carrying a child.

Hence, he told her, "Wait, no. There was a couple with a kid, but that kid was their grandchild."

Hearing that, Arielle was alert. "How do you know that the kid is their grandchild? Who are they? Where are they heading to? Did you ask them all that?"

Lawrence was taken aback by Arielle's questions.

There's no way someone would lie about their grandkid, right? Moreover, he's a professor! He can't lie to me, right?

With those thoughts in mind, he said, "I've verified his identity. He's a retired professor at Turlen School of Medicine. The kid they were carrying was his grandkid, and the couple was sending the kid to visit his parents."

Sirens rang out in Arielle's head when she heard that.

Instantly, she asked, "Lawrence, do you still remember which direction they went in?"

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1685

"W-What's the matter?" Lawrence was stunned by Arielle's anxious voice.

Could it be that...

A thought popped into his mind, and he instantly regretted it.

"Princess, it'll be a little tough to look for them now," Lawrence said in a low voice. "It has been a few hours since they've left the checkpoint, so he must have gone far by now."

Arielle inhaled sharply.

What should I do to rescue that boy?

“I understand. Withdraw your men.” Arielle massaged the spot between her brows. “Contact the local police of all the other areas and tell them to set up checkpoints for each road. We’ll upload the kid’s photo to the internet later. Download it so that you can use it for verification.”

At that, Arielle paused for a moment before grimly saying, “You have to verify every single person with a kid thoroughly, you can’t let them go so quickly.”

“All right. I’ll work on it right away!”

Meanwhile, the netizens were all talking about the case.

It’s been over twenty hours. Can the kid still be found? I’m so worried about the kid. I hope he’ll be rescued as soon as possible! saw lots of police and army troops yesterday.

I guess that they’re all there to look for the kid. There’s still no news about the kid.

I’m really worried about his safety! pray for the kid to be alive and to be saved soon.

As Arielle read the concerns of the people online, she sent a message to Sonia and asked her to get some photos of the boy from Bella.

Once Sonia sent her the photo, Arielle uploaded it to the internet. Soon, the front page of websites and phone applications was filled with photos and information about the boy.

At the same time, she wrote a letter to seek the help of the netizens. That letter was soon trending, and many liked and commented on it.

The bad people will surely be caught!

I have no idea how his parents watched him. How are they going to find an eight-month old child now?

Won’t the massive search operation make the kidnappers anxious?

Will they hurt the kid?

But how long will it take for them to find the kid if they don’t find him this way?

The netizens had many things to say, but Arielle too, did not know how she could search for the kid without putting him in any harm.

All of a sudden, her phone rang. When Arielle lifted it, she realized it was from Sonia. She answered it.

“Sonia,” came Arielle’s tired voice.

“Ari, Bella’s family saw the photo and the letter online. They’re asking if we can take them down. They’ve seen the netizens’ comments, and they’re scared that the boy will be in danger if we do a large-scale search.”

Arielle narrowed her eyes.

Truth be told, she had kinds of worries as well, but every single plan she came up with had its own risks and challenges.

“Sonia, ask them again if they really want to take this down. If they do, I won’t have the energy to intervene in the matter anymore. You know my situation, and I have many other important things to do,” Arielle muttered.

Arielle was not actually planning to do that. After all, Nancy was involved in the case, and she was not going to give up so easily. However, she was not pleased with the parents’ attitude, for she was working so hard to help find their child.

Selfishly speaking, that matter had nothing to do with her at all, and she could close an eye to it.

Looking into Nancy from a different direction would still allow her to find something to blackmail the woman with.

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1686

Sonia was stunned, not expecting Arielle to say that.

“Ari, are you angry?” Sonia asked hesitantly.

I like having Arielle as a friend, and I don’t want this to ruin things between us.

A hint of a smile appeared on Arielle’s lips when she heard the hesitation in Sonia’s voice. “Why would I be angry? Of course, I’m not! It’s just that I think no matter how you go about this matter, there’ll still be potential dangers.”

If we’re too late, they will have already conducted experiments with the boy. However, it might prompt the other party to resort to desperate measures if we raise such a commotion while searching for the boy. In truth, there are dangers to both methods.

I'm only human, not a god. We no way of predicting what the other party is thinking about or will do.

Sonia was also well aware that it was a tricky situation. Hence, she said, "I understand. I'll tell them what you said."

Later, Sonia explained everything to Bella and told the latter to relay it to her elder sister.

Worried that the child would be in danger, Bella's sister said to let the police help with the search.

On the surface, it appeared as though Arielle did not involve herself in the matter.

Nonetheless, she continued following the updates on the matter in private, even making an anonymous post online to remind everyone to keep a close eye on their children.

In truth, it would not have mattered if she had not posted that. Parents were alarmed after what happened to the boy and were very vigilant. There was no way they would let anyone with malicious intentions get their hands on their children.

Just then, Vinson came over and informed her that the people she brought in had almost finished learning Turlenese. Hence, she could start getting them to build a relationship network to help with the search.

When he mentioned that, she suddenly remembered the doctors she had recruited. Having a flash of inspiration, she contacted the unmarried young man immediately.

He's the youngest among the doctors, his family is poor, and his parents are ill. The reason he's here is to earn money to pay for his parents' treatment back home.

"Vinson, those who took the boy want to conduct experiments on him. Hence, they must require doctors. I'll go onto the dark web later and check whether they're hiring doctors. If they are, I'm planning to send in my resume along with that of the youngest doctor among the bunch to apply for the job," Arielle told him after getting in touch with the doctor in question.

When he heard that, he immediately became worried.

Only a ruthless person would conduct experiments on a child, so he was not agreeable to her putting herself in danger.

"It'll be fine. Don't forget that I've memorized the Mill family's medical manuscripts," she reassured him.

With that in hand, why should I fear those people? I could probably wipe them out in seconds. However, that's only for emergencies. The priority is to find evidence of their crime and send them to prison.

Vinson was still concerned despite her reassurances, but he knew he had no way of deterring her.

Hugging her, he said, "You must be careful!"

Arielle looked at him somewhat helplessly.

We haven't even applied for the job yet, but he's already acting like this. If we get the job, he'll probably worry himself sick! Nonetheless, it still makes me happy to know he's concerned about me.

The feeling of being cared for and missed by someone warmed the cockles of her heart.

She placed her arms around his neck and said, "If I do get the job, I promise I'll come back safely, even if it's for your sake."

Meanwhile, someone commanded, "Linda, keep a close eye on them and report to me no matter what happens!"

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1687

After thinking it over for a few days, Linda reported the situation at Arielle's and Vinson's to Duke.

She had not intended to do so initially. After all, Duke had abandoned her. However, she had been by his side for five years, and in the end, she could not help but tell him everything.

In truth, she harbored hopes that he would ask her to return. She had been with him for five years, and during that period, she had been the only one by his side. However, the call ended up dealing her a more terrible blow than she had ever imagined.

After he spoke, she heard the sound of lustful cries and panting on the other end of the line before she could respond.

"Got it!" she cried out.

There was a pang of pain in the depths of her heart as she ended the call. Then, she slid down into a crouching position and hugged her knees.

At that moment, Mark opened the door and came in carrying a big bag of snacks. When he saw her crouched on the floor, he hurried forward immediately.

Anxious yet afraid she would find him annoying, he asked cautiously, “W-What’s wrong? Are you feeling unwell?”

She slowly raised her head when she heard his voice, and his heart ached when he saw her tear-stained face.

Reaching out a hand, he clumsily tucked her hair behind her ears, then gently wiped away her tears. “Linda, no matter what happens, I’m here for you.”

After uttering those words uncertainly, he thought she would be disgusted by them. But to his surprise, she threw herself into his arms. He could not help feeling somewhat nervous, not knowing whether to hug her or not.

“Do you love me?” Linda asked as she wrapped her arms around his neck.

Mark nodded. He had fallen head over heels in love with her the moment he laid eyes on her that day.

When Linda saw him nod, she tightened her arms around his neck and raised her lips to his. That action caused him to lose all control.

Heaven knows how often I’ve thought about this feeling since that time in the car.

Mark picked her up in his arms in one swift motion. They kissed as they undressed, then he placed her on the bed and pinned her down with his body.

Looking into her eyes, he murmured, “It’s not too late to change your mind.”

He did not want her to regret it afterward.

Linda did not say anything. Instead, she placed her hands behind his head and pressed her lips against his.

That meant she would not regret it!

Having gotten her answer, Mark lowered his head and kissed her hungrily...

After indulging in their carnal desires to their hearts’ content,

Mark gazed at the woman next to him and asked in a low voice, “Linda, will you be my girlfriend?”

He did not mind that she used to be with Duke. All he cared about was whether she would end up as his woman.

She remained silent. Getting up, she lit a cigarette and stood by the window, gazing out at the moon.

His heart sank a little when he saw that. Picking up a bathrobe, he got up and went over to Linda. Then, he draped the bathrobe over her and hugged her from behind.

“I’ll treat you well,” he murmured softly.

Linda turned to look at him. “Mark, you should find someone who can make you happy...”

“Linda, I only want you!” he cut in before she could finish her sentence.

If it’s not with her, I don’t plan to date anyone.

“Are you serious? You don’t mind that I was with Duke for five years?”

Seeing him nod, she stubbed out her cigarette and looked at him. “All right. From now on, you’re my boyfriend.”

Over at a base somewhere, Torsten gazed down at the child with a slight frown.

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1688

“Normal! How did this child get a fever while under your care?” Torsten questioned in a displeased tone while turning around with furrowed brows.

Hearing that the child was unwell, Norma immediately put her phone down and reached for his forehead.

He does have a fever, a pretty high one at that.

Yet, she glanced at the boy. “Is he intellectually challenged? Why is he still sitting here and playing when he’s got such a high fever? He never even cried,” she commented with a frown.

The professor’s face clouded over as he heard that.

Intellectually challenged? The kid’s just fine! I ran tests on him myself He’s healthy and will be the perfect experimental subject, but I’m going to get skewed results if I conduct the experiments on him now.

“He’s perfectly normal,” Torsten huffed. “Quick, go get some medication that will lower his fever.”

The child's fever was so high that there were no other suitable methods to reduce his body temperature. Moreover, since they didn't have any medication for children here, they would have to buy some at a pharmacy.

Norma looked visibly upset.

How dare he talk to me like that?

Am I not a professor too?

Despite her indignation, the woman did as told. Nothing else could be done, given that they were the only ones here.

After returning from the pharmacy and giving the boy his medication, she turned to Torsten and suggested, "There's only the two of us here. We can't manage everything on our own. How about we hire a few more doctors?"

"Hire more doctors?" The man frowned. "That won't do. What if..."

"But we're going to need more subjects. How will we cope when we bring in more kids?" Norma emphasized.

Sure, I can conduct the experiments, but looking after children?

No way. Besides, not every kid is as quiet and obedient as this one here. We don't just need more doctors. We need young doctors who have the energy to deal with children. An old lady like me just isn't fit for the job.

Yet, the professor remained firm on his decision.

These experiments are supposed to be top-secret. What if someone we hire ends up exposing our plans?

If that happens, not even Turlen's lawyers will be able to save us.

"We can't hire more help, Norma," he reiterated. "We're screwed if word about what we're doing gets out. Don't forget that people are still out there looking for this kid..."

"We can just hire those who are willing to take part in these experiments. I'm sure those who'd do it are just as interested. If they try anything funny, we'll make them our next test subjects."

With that, Torsten had nothing to say in objection.

"Do what you want," he snapped before leaving to continue working on his experiments.

Seeing that, Norma gleefully took out her laptop, opened the dark web, and began posting some job openings.

Back in her apartment, Arielle had been keeping a close eye on all the job postings available on the dark web. After coming across the latest one, she spent some time looking into it before confirming her target.

Then, she submitted her own specially-made resume and got William Heaton, a young doctor she had recruited, to do the same. After William was done, the two of them began awaiting a response. However, Arielle soon grew anxious after not receiving any feedback in the following two days.

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1689

Did we not get the job? Are they that stringent?

Just as the woman contemplated what else she could do, her phone rang briefly. She then hastily checked the e-mail she had just received.

“Vinson! I got the job!” Arielle squealed with delight.

Thinking he hadn’t heard her, she dashed into the kitchen where he was. “I got the job, Vinson! Now I can save that kid!”

While she was thrilled, the man remained silent as he made dinner.

Although he had decided to give Arielle his support, he couldn’t help but worry about her safety, especially since he couldn’t be with her.

Noticing Vinson’s dismay, the woman wrapped her arms around his waist from behind and pressed her face against his back.

“Don’t worry about me, Vinson. Think of this as a way to build good karma for our future child.”

Vinson turned off the stove, removed Arielle’s hands on his waist, and turned around to look at her. “I don’t need you to build karma for anyone. No one matters to me more than you do.”

He didn’t care if it was their child or someone else’s, no one was more important to him than Arielle. In fact, he would willingly take her place in anything she wanted to do.

Hearing that, Arielle threw herself into his arms. This man always caught her by surprise with his sudden proclamations of love.

"I know you're worried about me, but I'll take good care of myself."

She didn't know what else to say to him.

I have to go no matter what since I'll be killing two birds with one stone. I can save the children and gather more evidence to bring the queen mother down.

"Remember to contact me every day." Aware that he could do nothing to change her mind, Vinson pulled her closer. "Tell me what's going on no matter what it is. I can help you whenever you need me."

It was about time he made use of the people he had brought over

As Arielle prepared to leave, she grew anxious at the thought of Aaron still being imprisoned and gave Lawrence a call.

"Princess!"

"You don't have to look for the kids, General Lawrence. I'll be handling that. What matters right now is Aaron. The queen mother's holding him captive inside the palace. Could you find a way to get her to release him?"

"I'll figure something out."

After hanging up, Lawrence walked around his study in circles while deep in thought. Then, someone crossed his mind.

Matthew's going to be King Aaron's father-in-law. It's perfectly reasonable to get him to talk to the queen mother.

At the thought of that, he quickly dialed Matthew's number and explained the situation.

The latter was shocked to learn that Nancy had imprisoned Aaron, and he narrowed his eyes.

What on earth is she up to?

Is she doing this because she still wants to be the queen?

Matthew spoke to his wife briefly before heading for the palace.

Nancy was elated to see him and sent all her servants away.

"Matthew! What are you doing here? Have you had lunch?" she exclaimed while reaching for his hand, only for him to avoid her.

He couldn't do anything to hurt his wife again.

"Did you imprison the king, Your Majesty?" the man asked after stepping back and maintaining a one-meter distance from her.

Nancy stared at him with a grim expression.

I made sure everyone kept this a secret. How did he find out?

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1690

"Nico and His Majesty have been engaged for a while now, so I thought of letting them go on a trip together to spend more time with each other, but Nico told me she couldn't reach him. That's how I came to this assumption," Matthew explained candidly, aware that the woman was wary of him from how she looked at him.

Upon hearing that, Nancy kept her doubts away. Still, this was but a small matter not even worth mentioning.

While gazing at Matthew, she recalled how he had refused to be near her again, and that made her feel especially discontented.

Seeing how well he treated Melissa filled her with jealousy.

I'm supposed to be the one he loves, not some other woman!

"We'll talk about their trip another time," the woman stated coldly, refusing to let Aaron out.

Matthew fell silent as he remembered Lawrence's words.

"You'll lose the public's support if you keep him locked up like that. He's our king."

Nancy's eyes lit up as she heard his response.

"Are you worried about me, Matthew?" she asked, walking toward him.

Not waiting for a reply, she leaped into the man's arms. "I knew it. You still care about me."

There was no way a man who only had eyes for her all these years would simply fall out of love like that.

It's all Arielle's fault. Those photos she released made him jealous, but I'm in the wrong too. He wouldn't have been upset with me if I'd given him just a bit of what he wanted.

A familiar scent wafted into Matthew's nostrils. The woman still smelled the same after all these years, although he was no longer as easily roused as he used to be.

"Don't do this, Your Majesty," he warned while pushing her away gently. "It'd be trouble if anyone were to see us."

She might not care, but the man didn't want his wife at home to be heartbroken anymore.

Whatever had happened previously was the first time, and the last. He couldn't cross the line again.

"I've sent every single one of them away. Nobody will see us."

Nancy assumed that he had pushed her aside just because he didn't want to get caught, so she threw herself into his arms again.

"Why do you keep pushing me away these days, Matthew?" she asked, grabbing onto the hands that tried to shove her and placing one of them over her heart. "It hurts over here. It hurts so much because of you."

Tears trickled down her face onto Matthew's chest.

"Your Majesty..."

"Call me Nancy, Matthew. I like it when you call me that," the woman muttered, kissing him on the neck.

The man immediately tensed up before pushing her and stepping back again.

"Do you really have to push me away like this, Matthew?" Nancy gazed at him with her eyes full of tears, looking fragile yet headstrong at the same time, just like how she was in her younger days.

"It's best if we stay away from each other, Your Majesty," Matthew asserted despite feeling his heart soften.

I only came here to tell her to release the king, not to do this!

How could he not feel anything toward her when seeing her like this?

She was the woman he had loved for decades, after all.

"Do you enjoy seeing me upset? I love you, Matthew. I've fallen for you," Nancy declared, turning away from him in despair.

Matthew was instantly heartbroken to see that, and he walked up to pull her into a soft embrace. "Nancy..."