

## A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1731

When Harvey heard that his wife was going to give birth anytime soon, he tried hard to suppress his anxiety and consoled her instead. "Hang in there, Darling. Don't be scared. I'll drive you to the hospital now."

If one were to listen carefully, they would be able to notice a quaver in his voice.

"I know... I-I'm not scared..." Sonia was sweating profusely when she said that.

Meanwhile, Lorraine whipped out her phone to call Arielle and informed her that they would not be able to go to her place because of the emergency.

Arielle was so happy for Sonia that she could greet her baby soon after nine months of pregnancy.

"Ask Harvey which hospital is he headed to and then send me the location. I'll be right there after making arrangements for the children," said Arielle.

Lorraine had the speaker turned on. Hence, Harvey heard exactly what Arielle said, and he responded immediately with the name of the hospital. It was located quite a distance away, but it was the best hospital.

Upon hanging up the phone, Arielle called up the doctor she had hired to request more hands to help babysit the children. She offered a lucrative package at five hundred a day, which fetched her many good responses.

Soon, she managed to shortlist and hire three individuals for the job. Two of them were responsible for babysitting the children, whereas the third one was in charge of preparing daily meals. After assigning the tasks accordingly, Arielle and Vinson left for the hospital.

Meanwhile, Harvey had just completed the admission procedures for Sonia. Lawrence and Kelly rushed to the hospital as soon as Lorraine informed them about the news.

"Keep walking during active labor, Sonia. It helps to speed up the delivery," Kelly held Sonia as they walked around the ward for a few rounds.

However, Sonia could not bear the pain and refused to move a muscle.

With an arm on her waist, she furrowed her brows and grumbled, "I can't take this anymore."

As much as Kelly felt sorry for Sonia, she had to stay rational and encourage Sonia to do what was beneficial.

“Come on, Sonia, you can do it. If you stop taking walks now, the intensity during labor will increase even more. Let’s walk a bit more so that you will have a smooth delivery that is less painful,” Kelly tried her best to convince Sonia, but the latter turned a deaf ear.

“I’m telling you that I’m in great pain. Why are you forcing me to walk? I knew it. You don’t love me at all...”

Instantly, Sonia bawled her eyes out. Harvey, who was watching her, felt so helpless.

“Mom, just let her be if she doesn’t want to walk anymore. Alternatively, we can opt for a cesarean,” uttered Harvey while gently wiping the tears off Sonia’s face.

Sonia became upset. She rejected the idea, for it would leave a scar on her belly.

“No, I don’t want a cesarean. I want a natural birth!” Sonia told Harvey.

Subsequently, she dug her fingers into Harvey’s arm and endured the pain. “I’ll just keep walking...”

Arielle, who was standing at the door, witnessed the scene and flashed a faint smile. As a doctor, she had heard that the benefits of talking walks during pregnancy were plentiful.

Two hours later, Sonia was sent into the labor room, leaving the rest waiting outside. Harvey paced back and forth anxiously. When he heard Sonia’s screams, he wished that he could give birth on her behalf.

Another two hours had passed, and the doors to the labor room finally opened. A nurse came out with a baby cot, announcing, “Congratulations, it’s a boy!”

“Nurse, where’s my wife? How is she?”

Harvey could not care less about the baby. All he could think of was Sonia.

“She’s doing well. She will be out after two hours of observation.”

Harvey was relieved upon hearing that. Then, he gazed at the baby in the cot, and his heart softened at that instant.

This is my own flesh and blood, my son...

Kelly, on the other hand, was worried that it would be bad for the baby if he stayed in the corridor for too long. Thus, she pushed the cot to the ward, leaving the Nightshire couple and Harvey outside of the labor room.

Right when Sonia was about to exit the labor room, a voice could be heard shouting frantically, "Oh no!"

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Knowing that Sonia was the only patient inside, Harvey became worried. Suddenly, he saw another group of doctors rushing into the room.

"May I know what happened to the lady? I'm Dr. Moore, a doctor invited by His Majesty to give lectures in your country. I can lend a hand if there's an emergency," Arielle stopped one of the nurses and made her intention clear.

The nurse's eyes glittered with hope when she heard that.

"She's bleeding extensively. Let me lead you to the changing room to get ready," the nurse replied as she ushered Arielle to get changed.

Two minutes later, they returned.

"Ari, I beg you to save her, please..." Harvey pleaded with a pair of red-rimmed eyes.

"Don't worry!"

After leaving him with that assurance, Arielle entered the labor room, only to realize that Sonia's situation was rather critical. She had fallen unconscious because of losing too much blood, and her blood system did not seem to function well.

"Help me perform an arterial blood gas test. Her pulse is exceptionally weak. What's her blood count now? And the lactic acid?"

"Her blood count is seven point four, whereas the lactic acid value has hit four!"

Arielle knew that Sonia's situation was extremely critical.

She walked toward her and looked her in the eyes. "I'm here. Don't be afraid. Don't worry too much."

Sonia responded to her comforting words with a nod.

"I'm feeling a bit dizzy..." Sonia said in a feeble voice.

She was so weak at that time.

Arielle held her hands tightly and whispered in her ears, "It's normal to feel dizzy because you lost some blood. Don't overthink things. Everything will be just fine."

The medical knowledge of the healthcare providers in Turlen was quite poor. They did not handle Sonia's case well. In fact, all of their actions were guided by Arielle step-by-step.

Finally, they managed to stabilize Sonia's pulse and blood pressure.

Five hours later, Arielle exited the labor room.

Harvey darted over as soon as he saw the sight of her.

"Sonia... How is she?" he asked in a hoarse voice.

He was terribly afraid to hear any bad news. Arielle knew how worried he was. Hence, she updated him right away.

"She's okay now. Afterward, she will be transferred to the ICU for another two to three days of further observation until her vital signs become completely normal. By then, she can return to the regular ward."

Harvey could not help but feel perturbed by the fact that Sonia had to stay in the ICU.

Arielle assured him that it was the regular procedure and that Sonia would recover in no time.

Half an hour later, the nurse sent Sonia to the ICU. Harvey only got to see her during the short journey when they pushed her out of the labor room until she arrived at the ward. Seeing the exhausted and asleep Sonia, Harvey wished he could bear the pain for her in any way possible.

"Go and accompany your son in the ward. Sonia doesn't need you here," urged Arielle.

While Harvey was fretting outside the labor room, Kelly and Lawrence were waiting for Sonia's return to the ward.

After two to three hours, their patience ran out, and they became anxious. They called Harvey, only to learn that Sonia was in a medical emergency, suffering from significant blood loss.

At that moment, Kelly's legs turned to jelly. She wanted to dash toward the labor room, but Lawrence stopped her.

He thought that it was better for Kelly to remain in the ward and take care of their grandson as there was nothing she could do in the labor room.

With Sonia in the ICU for further observation, Harvey felt he ought to break the news to her parents and ease their concerns.

He agreed with Arielle and decided not to hang around the ICU. Subsequently, he met up with his in-laws and updated them about Sonia's condition. Her parents were relieved when they heard that Sonia could be discharged from the ICU once she recovered in several days.

Arielle then got herself changed. When she got out of the labor room, Vinson walked arm in arm with her to visit Harvey's newborn.

Suddenly, Vinson made a statement. "Sannie, I think it's best we don't have any children..."

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Arielle came to an abrupt halt when she heard that. She then gave Vinson a sidelong glance.

"Can I take it that you were quite shocked by what happened today?" Without awaiting an answer, she went on to remark cheerfully, "Actually, Sonia's experience isn't ubiquitous across every pregnancy. There are some..."

"I can't allow anything bad to happen to you, Sannie," Before Arielle could finish, Vinson suddenly pulled her into his arms and held her fast. "I have you, and that's enough for me."

Given a choice between her and a child, he would choose her without question every single time. He did not wish for anything untoward to befall her, nor would he venture to risk the prospect of that happening.

Arielle had not expected the events of the day to bring out such a visceral reaction from Vinson, especially not to the extent that he would not even want to have children anymore.

That did not sit right with her, for she still wanted to experience parenthood even if he did not share in her enthusiasm for it. She decided against forcing the issue when she saw how traumatized he was, and it also occurred to her that it might be more prudent to counsel him at a later time.

The thought of that prompted her to pat Vinson reassuringly on the back. "I know that."

As they were inside the hospital, they only hugged briefly before separating.

Vinson held her hand while they entered the ward. When the couple stepped inside, they spotted Harvey with his head bowed. He was peering at the infant inside the crib.

A usually stoic man, his eyes, at that moment in time, evoked an indescribable tenderness. That was probably the sensitive side that belied his hard-man persona.

“I have myself a son now, Vinson...” When he saw the husband and wife pair make their way in, Harvey lifted his head to regard Vinson with sheer exhilaration.

The Jupiters’ lineage would be set to continue now that he had gotten himself a son. Reminded of the photo that had just been sent to Harrison, the bratty Jared immediately took one on his end and sent it back the other way. Inside that photo, Harrison was shown wiping his own eyes.

That informed Harvey that his own grandfather was so overwhelmed that he was shedding tears of joy.

“Congratulations on becoming a father,” said Vinson, patting Harvey on the shoulder.

Being the first among the four to get hitched, he was initially convinced that he could very well be the first to have a child of his own as well. Hence, it came to him as a bit of a surprise that Harvey managed to get in ahead of him when it came to embracing fatherhood.

After what transpired on the day, however, he had dismissed all notions of having Arielle conceive.

He no longer had the desire to conceive a child and especially not through a process that would subject his own wife to undue risk. He simply could not bear living in a world without her in it.

“Thank you for today, Princess. If not for you, Sonia would have...”

“Yeah. It was fortunate that you were around, Arielle. Without you, I dread to imagine...”

Soon after Harvey arrived in the ward, he related what had happened prior to Sonia’s parents. When they learned that Arielle had gone in to save her, they were both filled with a profound sense of gratitude. That was why the two of them were taking turns to thank Arielle when they saw the latter.

“This isn’t necessary. Sonia is my friend. I just did what I could for her,” Smiling subtly as soon as she was done talking, Arielle then went on to check on the baby inside the crib next to her.

The sight of the tiny infant inside the crib melted her heart. Though the child was still very young, she could already tell that he was an amalgamation of Harvey and Sonia’s best qualities.

She found the little round mound who puckered his lips every once in a while to be exceedingly lovable. Thus, she could not resist extending her index finger to tease his cheeks.

Basking under the warm glow of the light, the genial woman with her head lowered impressed herself as being particularly kindly, and the motherly vibe she exuded instantly made Vinson's heart sink.

She likes children so much. Would I be robbing her of her right to become a mother by not wanting us to conceive?

No... Whatever the case, I will not allow myself to waver!

As much as he did not want to expose her to danger, watching her play with the baby and seeing how much she loved children only served to compound his own apprehension.

The thought of that caused him to nod discreetly. He felt he had just come up with the perfect alternative which would enable Arielle to experience motherhood while also avoiding the agony of child-bearing.

## **A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1734**

A series of heart-rending shrieks were heard coming from an apartment at an unspecified location.

"Hang in there, Your Majesty. They should be returning with the medication in a bit.."

Though she had suffered burns of her own, Monisha endured her own physical pain to offer Nancy comfort.

Being the first time Nancy had ever been that aggrieved, her hatred for Aaron had thus reached boiling point. She would not have been made to suffer so much if not for him.

What made it worse was that he had actually instructed the hospital to turn away bum victims, and clinics to decline selling medication for the treatment of burns. To her, he was obviously trying to push her to the brink.

Outside, in the living room, Linda looked toward the Duke and shook her head. "We can't purchase any medication for treating burns anywhere."

The Duke's dour mood was palpable on his face.

It is truly unexpected that this king would be so devious as to use such means to force the queen mother to reveal herself.

Scoffing, he then knocked on Nancy's door. "That grandson of yours seems to have inherited your ruthlessness. I think you may have to endure it, as it looks likely that we won't be able to acquire treatment options no matter where we look."

Nancy's fingers tightened against themselves when she heard his words from where she was inside the room.

"Do you still have my phone?" she asked through gritted teeth.

The Duke motioned to Linda with his eyes, and the latter picked up Nancy's phone. Opening the door, she passed that along to Nancy before she backed out and closed off access to the latter's room behind herself.

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Over at the Nighy residence, Matthew had been seated inside his study ever since he learned that Nancy had been burned to death. He was unable to wrap his head around how the woman he had made love to just a few days ago could have abruptly met such a fiery end.

How did the prison catch fire?

There hasn't been an instance of such a disaster in decades, so how could one have suddenly gone off less than two days into Nancy's incarceration?

He had his doubts about how the whole affair came about, with Arron, in particular, being his prime suspect.

Can he really not tolerate Nancy's existence?

He was already planning to approach her in a couple of days with the aim of convincing her to relinquish the power she wielded in view of enjoying her own retirement.

So what's the rush? At the end of the day, she's still his own grandmother. Isn't there any room at all left in his heart for her?

Melissa felt terrible seeing how her husband had shut himself away inside his study after learning of Nancy's passing,

She had been in the belief that she had managed to touch his heart and move him, only to realize that she had moved only herself, for he had only demonstrated himself to be that much more attached to the other woman.

Silently, Melissa stood before the door to the study while a tear rolled off the corner of her closed eyes.

"From this day on, I am no longer in love with you, Matthew..."

Melissa turned around and headed downstairs. This time, she had well and truly given up on him.

Less than a few minutes after her departure, Matthew's phone started ringing. That ruckus did enough to bring him back to his senses. When he picked up the phone to have a closer look at the display, what he saw made him shoot up to his feet.

Isn't she dead? How is she still able to call me?

Bereft of the courage to answer, he clutched the phone in his hands until the caller hung up.

Just as he was contemplating, whoever was in possession of Nancy's phone called in again. He lowered his head and still dared not answer it when he saw that it was made from that same number.

It was a replay of the same scenario over and over between him and the caller until a text message came in coming up to the fifth or sixth time he failed to pick up. What he saw of its contents immediately caused his eyes to widen in astonishment.

Scarcely believing what he was seeing, he rubbed his own eyes before he read on. A thorough examination of the contents of the message then left him inexplicably overwhelmed.

Suddenly, the phone went off again, and this time, he picked it up and responded without hesitation.

"Why didn't you answer any of my calls, Matthew?" Nancy was a little miffed at failing to reach him repeatedly.

It was only upon hearing Nancy's own voice that Matthew was duly convinced that she indeed still lived.

Before he could seek an explanation for how that came to be, he heard Nancy say, "Matthew, I need your help with something..."

## **A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1735**

For reasons unknown, Matthew reflexively wanted to turn Nancy down when he heard that she wanted a favor from him, but ultimately, he held himself back from uttering whatever he was on the cusp of saying.

"What is it?"

Matthew's response was rather muted. He might be inclined to help if it was a modest request but reckoned that he might not be able to handle anything beyond that.

"I've been badly burned in the fire. That little bastard Aaron has stationed men at all the hospitals and clinics demanding to screen every person coming in to purchase medication for burns or receive treatment for it. So I..."

Matthew caught the gist of what she was trying to convey even before she was done talking.

Aaron's maneuvers are intended to flush out her whereabouts. It would seem that that fire was set by her rescuers, who did not expect things to get so out of hand that Nancy herself had gotten hurt in the process.

"Got it. I'll try to get you those meds."

After he hung up, Matthew then wracked his brains trying to figure out how he might be able to get his hands on what she needed.

Must I burn myself in order to get that medication to send to her?

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Two days later, Sonia was discharged from the ICU. She immediately burst into tears the second she caught sight of Harvey.

While she was bleeding out and close to death, the one person she could not bear to leave behind was neither her aged parents nor her newborn child, but that man whom she had dated for barely a few months prior.

"Why are you crying? Are you hurting somewhere?" Upon seeing her sniveling, Harvey used his fingers to brush away her tears before kissing her gently on her face.

"Where is the baby? How is he doing?" Sonia asked softly.

"He's doing great. Eating well and sleeping soundly too."

Harvey regarded her with affection in his eyes. "Thank you, Darling, for everything you had to go through to bear me a child."

Following that, he placed a bouquet of fresh roses in her hands. Those roses she was presented with, coupled with hearing Harvey's words, left Sonia profoundly moved.

What is he even saying? That I bore him a child?

It's not as though the baby belongs to him and only him. I'm the baby's mother too...

Nevertheless, his words made her feel all warm and fuzzy inside.

“Have you sent a photo of the baby to Grandpa yet?” a frail Sonia asked. “I’m sure that he would be delighted to know that the baby was born.”

The thought of Harrison back home in Chanaea put a smile on Sonia’s face.

“Yeah, I did that yesterday. Grandpa was very concerned and was extremely upset to learn that you had bled a lot. He insisted that you video call him after you have been discharged.”

His lips reflexively lifted up when he was reminded that Harrison had Sonia in his thoughts.

Harvey wished to be able to take Sonia and his baby home after the dust had settled and hoped that Aaron would be able to quickly implement some change in legislation so that he could be lawfully married to Sonia and also host a grand wedding for her.

Owing to legal restrictions, he and Sonia were yet to be able to collect their marriage certificate and remained in a state of cohabitation. Despite the numerous applications they had submitted, Kelly’s attempts to help them in this regard had been repeatedly thwarted by Lawrence.

While they chatted, he wheeled Sonia into the hospital confinement center. That was an arrangement that had been made prior to Sonia giving birth.

The moment they passed through the door, they could straightaway spot Kelly, who was in the midst of feeding bottled milk to the baby.

“How are you holding up? Do you feel unwell in any way?” asked Kelly promptly when she saw Harvey pushing Sonia in.

Had the baby in her arms not needed her attention, she would have gone to pick Sonia up alongside Harvey.

Sonia shook her head. “I’m fine, actually. Just feeling a little weak, that’s all.”

“How can you not be after losing so much blood?” Kelly was looking quite distressed. “Over the next couple of months, you should try to ignore everything else and focus on nursing your own body back to health first.”

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It was not known how Matthew did it, but he managed to secure the medication for treating burns, which he subsequently dropped off at the location Nancy designated.

While Nancy looked at the medicine that had been delivered, her eyes narrowed, for another idea sparked within her.

## A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1736

One month passed in the blink of an eye. Over that stretch, Aaron had not been able to find any traces of Nancy no matter what he tried.

Although he could not locate her, he had been largely successful at reclaiming the power that Nancy once wielded.

His intention in tracking her down was solely for the purpose of seeing her brought to justice in the letter of the law.

In that month's time, Aaron had sent out the word everywhere to have the family of the three children found. His concerted efforts had ultimately proven fruitful in the end, and he only just had someone send over to take those three children off Arielle's hands.

"I did find it quite tiring when the three of them were around, Vinson, but right now, I really could not bear to have them returned to their family so suddenly," Arielle leaned against Vinson, appearing to be quite despondent.

Vinson held her. She was by no means the only one who felt the emptiness that accompanied this sense of loss.

Though Arielle had requested help from that handful of relatives in the care of those children, she could only ask them to do so over a few days, as the latter, after all, also had families of their own to contend with.

The rest of the time was split between the trio of Arielle, Lorraine, and himself, who had taken turns to look after those three wee ones.

As such, that unexpectedly swift separation would certainly require some adjustments to be made on their own part.

"We could ask Aaron for their address if you really miss them. We could visit them when we are able to," said Vinson as he caught her hand and brought it closer to his own lips for a kiss.

"I think we should let it go. We'll be headed back after things are settled here. So should we ever grow too attached to them..."

Even though Arielle had yet to finish, Vinson could understand what she meant.

Unwilling to see her sad, Vinson gave it some thought before he said, "Let's adopt a kid from the orphanage after we are home."

Arielle looked up at him in surprise.

He really doesn't want me to conceive!

Having spent considerable time with those three children, she was under the impression that he had already grown fond of them and moved on from not wanting her to become pregnant. Unexpectedly, he still remained steadfast toward that line of thinking.

"Let's talk, Vinson." Removing herself from his embrace, Arielle sat up straight to regard him in earnest.

Regarding her in confusion, Vinson wondered what she wanted to say.

Seems kind of serious?

"What would you like to talk about?" Vinson looked at her warmly with unreserved affection.

"I don't want to adopt any children, Vinson, and only wish for us to have one of our own."

When she noticed the shift in his expression, Arielle reached out to hold his hands reassuringly.

"I know that you're worried that whatever happened to Sonia could happen to me as well, but it's different for everyone. You can't let your undue worries and suppositions deny me the right to be a mother and your own right to become a father."

"Sannie... I..."

"It's going to be fine. Even if there should be complications, don't you have faith in the ability of the medical expertise we have back home to deal with them?"

The earnest look on Arielle's face made it hard for Vinson to reply in the negative. He could only pull her in and hold her tightly.

"Give me some time to think this over..."

Seeing his stance soften put a smile on Arielle's face. She was determined to make him see things her way.

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Time flew by and another two weeks went by without news of Nancy.

Aaron was rapidly losing patience in the palace. He was almost too eager to recapture her and to make her face the full brunt of the law in order to avenge his father and to deliver justice for those innocents whose deaths she had caused.

“She’s done a pretty good job of hiding herself so far,” Arielle narrowed her eyes, and her lips curled up into a frosty smirk.

“I’d really like to see how long she can last. Perhaps a month or two is tolerable, but I don’t think she can take any more of it if this situation persists indefinitely.”

In response, Vinson’s lips curled up as well.

He pulled her into his arms and whispered into her ears, “Don’t just keep fussing over her, Sannie. Why don’t you think about me more often instead?”

“Think about you? Why?” Arielle was baffled.

## **A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1737**

Vinson held her hand and kept mum. Right away, Arielle knew what was going on, so she blushed and pulled her hand back. While blushing uncontrollably, she kept staring at Vinson.

This man is so naughty!

Vinson pulled Arielle in and whispered in her ear, “Can you feel my passion, Sannie? I’ve missed you so badly.”

As he spoke, she could feel a tingling sensation when his breath brushed against her earlobe.

“Vin...” The moment Arielle tried to talk, Vinson was already on top of her and was kissing her passionately.

Meanwhile, the situation was rather grim for the Duke.

“What did you say? Someone took the batch of goods away? Who did it?” the Duke asked coldly.

“We haven’t figured that out yet,” Mark lowered his head.

He didn’t expect someone to snatch the goods away as well. The Duke’s expression turned gloomy when he heard that.

“Investigate the matter immediately! I want to know what happened in a week’s time.”

Mark knew it was his fault someone had taken the goods away, so he immediately turned around and left after receiving the Duke’s order.

Before he left, he gazed deeply at Linda. In response, Linda flashed him a subtle smile. He only left after seeing that smile of hers.

“Your Grace, I need to get something for Her Majesty,” With that, Linda was about to leave.

Mark must be waiting for me outside. Ever since His Grace came, we haven't been together much.

Unfortunately for her, the Duke called out to her before she could leave. Linda halted in her tracks and turned around to cast the Duke a confused gaze.

“Come here! Do you want me to repeat myself?” the Duke uttered, raising his brows.

Seeing that, Linda quickly walked up to him.

Suddenly, the Duke came around from the desk and bent her over the desk. He took off her skirt and started taking off his pants.

Linda was stunned by his actions, and she only regained her senses when he had already penetrated her.

“Y-Your Grace...” Linda didn't expect him to force himself on her. “Please... Don't do this... I-I'm now Mark's girlfriend...”

Upon hearing that, the Duke paused and asked, “Have you had sex with him?”

Linda nodded. She thought the Duke would let her go after being told that she had already had sex with Mark. However, the Duke couldn't be bothered.

“Y-Your Grace...” She wanted him to stop, but she ended up moaning every time she opened her mouth.

Mark waited for her outside for half an hour. When he didn't see her coming out, he thought the Duke was talking to her about something important. Therefore, he just drove away.

The Duke kept Linda occupied until eight that night.

After getting out of there, Linda went back to the hotel and showered. When Mark got back, she was already in bed.

Since it had been a long time since they had sex, Mark went to shower after along day at work. After he showered, he got into bed and cuddled with Linda. Before she knew it, he was already kissing her. However, the pain had Linda letting out a wail.

Worried, Mark asked, "What's wrong?"

Linda noticed how concerned Mark looked, and she had no idea how to tell him about the sexual encounters she had had with the Duke.

"I..."

## **A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1738**

She thought the Duke had given up on her and dumped her. That was why she got into a relationship with Mark.

Ever since coming here, I noticed everything that Mark has done for me. That's why I agreed to be his girlfriend.

However, she didn't expect the Duke to have sex with her again after he got there.

I'm sorry, Mark...

"Mark, I..." She couldn't bring herself to say it.

"If you don't feel like having sex tonight, it's okay. I can wait."

With that, Mark pulled her into his arms. He was truly in love with Linda, and he didn't mind the fact that she was once his boss' woman.

While in his arms, Linda felt extremely conflicted. She gently wrapped her arms around his waist and pressed her face against his body. Despite her usual calmness, she started crying.

Since then, she had given up on the Duke. She enjoyed Mark's kindness to her every day and the little surprises he brought her. In fact, Mark had unknowingly occupied her heart.

I've betrayed Mark today and had sex with His Grace. Although I didn't initiate it, there were so many reasons I couldn't say no to him. I don't deserve Mark's love!

"Linda, why are you crying?" Upon feeling the tears on Linda's cheeks, Mark grew worried instantly.

He let go of her and switched on the bedside lamp. "What happened? Don't be scared, okay? I'll be here no matter what."

Linda got up and said, "I'm sorry, Mark. Let's break up!"

Mark clenched his fists, and he was overwhelmed with sadness.

After a long while, he asked in a hoarse voice, "Is it because he's here? Is that why you don't want me anymore?"

In actuality, he had been bracing himself ever since the Duke got there. However, he didn't know it would happen so quickly. He still couldn't bear to let Linda go.

"Linda, please don't dump me..." Mark was a man who would rather bleed than cry.

That night, however, he teared up.

"Mark, I'm not worth it," Linda said. "Find yourself a good woman after this, okay?"

"I don't want anyone else but you," Mark replied and kissed her on her lips.

All he wanted to do was to tell her that she was the only woman in his heart, and he was eager to get intimate.

"Mmm..." Gradually, Linda was immersed in his passionate kiss.

She wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed him back. Mark was thrilled by her reaction.

She actually doesn't want me to leave, does she?

"Ouch!" The pain Linda felt brought her back to her senses.

Mark switched on the room lights and wanted to spread her legs to see what was wrong.

"M-Mark..." She tried her best to close her legs, but Mark had already seen it.

He quietly helped her get dressed and got dressed before lying down next to her to hug her. Linda felt terrible when Mark kept mum.

"Mark, let's just break up!" she repeated.

She wasn't sure if the Duke would ever have sex with her again, but she knew she couldn't face Mark anymore.

His intentions toward me are pure...

"Go to sleep, okay? Don't overthink it," Mark kissed her forehead.

At the same time, his eyes were filled with raging emotions.

I would definitely not do that...

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The next day, Mark was sent on a mission. The mission was supposed to last for five days, but he completed it in three days' time. He just couldn't wait to get home.

"Mark, let's break up, okay? I'm not worthy of your love..." Linda was saddened when she saw the scars on Mark's body.

I'm just His Grace's toy. I'm not worthy of anyone's love.

"Linda, I'm never leaving you."

The mission he had completed was extremely dangerous, and he almost died while carrying out the mission.

His Grace must've known about my relationship with Linda, and the mission was my punishment.

Still, he was unfazed.

I'm going to complete whatever mission he gives me and come back alive to see the woman I love the most.

"Linda, I love you. No matter what happens, I'm still going to love you. You're the apple of my eye."

Linda was touched by Mark's words. Right then, she wanted to have sex with him because she thought that was the only way she could repay his love for her. She wrapped her arms around his neck, stood on tiptoes, and kissed him.

That time around, they had a wild night together, and they only fell asleep in each other's arms at dawn.

When Linda woke up, she was alone in the room. After stretching her body, she went to take a shower in the bathroom.

Shortly after she went to the bathroom, two men arrived outside her room.

"Your Grace, this is her room."

The Duke acknowledged it and said, "Wait for me downstairs."

With that, he was about to knock on the door. However, he realized that the room was unlocked, so he just walked in. After getting into the room, he heard the sound of rushing water coming from the bathroom, and he went inside.

Linda was showering, so she didn't hear his footsteps approaching. When she heard the door open, she thought Mark had returned.

With a smile, she turned around. Her expression changed immediately when she saw the Duke.

That was the first time the Duke had seen Linda's naked body, and he was having an erection. His eyes were filled with rage when he saw the bite marks on her body.

This b\*tch! How dare she let Mark touch her?

Infuriated, the Duke walked toward her and held her chin forcefully. "You've got balls, Linda."

He was holding her so tight that Linda felt the pain in her chin right away.

Nonetheless, she said, "Ever since the night you chased me away, I've been sleeping with him. Since you don't want me around, why don't you just let us be?"

Upon hearing her courageous words, the Duke gave a chuckle from the overwhelming fury.

So she has been sleeping with Mark since that day...

"Very well, Linda. Even if I don't want you, I'm still not letting any man near you," he fumed.

He then let go of her chin, grabbed her hair, and pressed her down toward the ground. "Please me."

Linda refused to do as he said.

I've already said my piece, and I don't want to have anything to do with him anymore. I want to be with Mark. Why must he force me?

"Did you see the scars and injuries on Mark's body? If you don't want him to die, do as I say!" the Duke ordered.

She's my toy. Even if I don't want her, no one's allowed to have her!

The Duke was willing to forgive Mark the previous time. However, his eyes were filled with malignancy that day.

That guy is worthless to me.

Linda didn't know the man she had loved for the past five years was so despicable.

How could he threaten me with Mark's life?

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Meanwhile, in the Nighy residence, Matthew's expression changed dramatically when he received a call from Nancy once again.

## **A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1740**

In the bathroom, while kneeling in front of the Duke, Linda slowly reached out to unbuckle his belt.

"You know what to do. Just do it like how you did it all this while," the Duke ordered.

Although Linda was unwilling to please him, she couldn't bear to put Mark's life at risk.

I'm sorry, Mark...

Linda grabbed the Duke's thighs and froze.

Seeing that she had stopped doing what she was supposed to do, the Duke asked, "Do you want Mark to die?"

Left without a choice, Linda pleased him.

Mark had just bought dinner for Linda. He was walking into the room with a smile on his face. When he heard the sound of moving water in the bathroom, he tiptoed toward the bathroom, thinking about scaring her. However, when he arrived at the entrance of the bathroom, he saw Linda kneeling on the floor.

His glistening eyes widened with fury, and he clenched his fists. At that moment, he wanted to take the Duke down with him.

Perhaps it was his intense gaze because Linda noticed his presence. She froze on the spot the moment she saw him.

The Duke was enjoying the moment with his eyes closed. After sensing that Linda had stopped, he opened his eyes and saw her staring at the entrance. He turned to look in the same direction and saw Mark staring at the two of them.

"Buzz off!" the Duke bellowed.

Instead of leaving, Mark dropped to his knees and begged, "Your Grace, please give Linda to me. In return, I'm willing to serve you till I die."

The Duke was infuriated.

Since he doesn't want to leave. I shall just let him watch the woman he likes pleasuring another man.

With that in mind, he barked at Linda, "Remember what I said."

Linda knew what he was talking about. However, she didn't want Mark to see her in that state. "Mark, leave. Even if His Grace is willing to let you have me, I won't leave with you. Who do you think you are? Do you think I would ever fall for you?"

Mark was utterly heartbroken when he heard those harsh words. Still, he stayed on his knees.

Linda had no choice but to stand up and slammed the door shut.

Since he's not willing to leave, I'll just let him listen from the outside. Once he has thought things through, he'll leave on his own.

The Duke was furious at her action, and he immediately pulled her in. She tried her best not to let out a moan, but the more she did that, the rougher the Duke got.

Mark was clenching his fists as he listened to Linda's moans. He was dying to rush in and kill the Duke. Yet, he didn't dare to do so because his younger siblings were at the Duke's mercy. If he failed to kill the Duke then and there, he wouldn't be able to bear the consequences.

Meanwhile, the Duke wasn't keen on letting Mark listen to the sound of them having sex. He whipped out his phone and made a call. Within minutes, some men came and brought Mark away.

After a while, the Duke put on his pants and glanced at the worn-out woman on the floor. "Treat this as a lesson. If something similar happens again in the future, you know what I can do."

With that, he left. Linda, on the other hand, just knelt there and stared blankly into thin air.

I shouldn't have gotten close to Mark!

When the Duke arrived downstairs, he told his men to let go of Mark.

While staring at Mark with his emotionless eyes, the Duke said, "You're the first person who dares to lay hands on a woman I've slept with!"

After saying that, the Duke whipped out a gun with a silencer and fired once directly at Mark's leg.

“Treat this as a lesson. Remember this, no one’s allowed to touch what’s mine.”

Mark fell to his knees, and blood was spilling out of his calf. The Duke merely glanced at him before getting into his car and leaving the scene.

Mark forced himself to stand up and limped back into the hotel. After taking the elevator upstairs, he glanced at his room and Linda’s room before walking into Linda’s room without hesitation.