

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1771

“Maddox, you’re mine from today onward.” Anna arched an eyebrow at Vinson. “You have to do whatever I tell you to do. No rejections are allowed.”

The man scrunched his brows as he averted his deep gazes toward her.

“Ms. Anna, thank you for saving me from those people’s clutches. But I can’t be your slave forever. I have a family. I need to go home and protect them,” he expressed unhurriedly.

Hearing that, a scowl appeared on Anna’s face. Since birth, no one had ever dared to rebut her words.

“You will never be able to leave this place. How are you still going to protect your family?” Anna coldly scoffed.

Vinson glued his sharp eyes on her.

What does she mean by that?

When he first saw her, he thought Anna exuded an exceptional temperament. That was why he decided to make use of her to get Lorraine and himself out of the slave market. Unexpectedly, she was not the kind of person he thought she was.

“What do you mean?” Vinson solemnly questioned.

“On this island, no one can leave without my dad’s commands,” Anna uttered. “You better dismiss the idea of getting out of this place.”

Vinson threw her a puzzled look.

Why can’t anyone leave without her father’s commands? What kind of place is this?

“Look, Ms. Anna. If you’re willing to let me go, I’ll try my best to satisfy whatever request you have,” Vinson said as he looked at her.

All he wanted was to leave as soon as possible so that he could go and look for Arielle. Being clueless about Arielle’s predicament had undoubtedly rendered him extremely worried and concerned.

“Let you go?” Anna broke into a frosty laugh. “Why should I let you go?”

He’s the man I have my eyes on! How can I just let him leave?

This is the first time I ’m interested in a man. I will never let him run away from me!

“It’s not that I disagree with you leaving. But even if I agree, my dad won’t allow you.”

The truth was, no one had ever been able to exit after setting foot on the island.

Anna’s words made Vinson’s heart sink to rock bottom.

“What place is this? Why can’t I leave?” Vinson narrowed his eyes. “I know nothing about this place. Why can’t you guys let me get out of here?”

“No means no. There’s no need for any explanation,” Anna pouted as she walked up to the man.

With a brow raised, she continued, “As long as you stay here and be my man, I’ll make sure you can spend the rest of your life in luxury.”

Indeed, that was what she wanted, for the man before her eyes to become hers.

It was beyond Vinson’s imagination that Anna would have such intentions.

Gosh! If I knew she had such plans, I wouldn’t have allowed her to fork out money to buy Lorraine and me from the slave market.

“I’m sorry, Ms. Anna. I’m married and have a woman I dearly love.” Vinson’s eyes dimmed as he clarified, attempting to talk her into agreeing to his departure.

At the knowledge that he was already married to the woman he loved, Anna felt a bolt of rage. Nonetheless, she did not allow her emotions to show on her face.

“So what if you’re married? So what if you already have a woman you love? Now that you’re here, everyone will think that you’re dead. I’m not bothered about that as long as you’re willing to become mine from now on.” Anna snorted.

“Ms. Anna, I’ll never betray my wife,” Vinson replied icily.

The edges of Anna’s lips curled into a mocking smirk.

No man can escape my charms. I’ll make sure he climbs onto my bed voluntarily. Tonight, I will turn him into mine!

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“I’ll make it so that you’ll climb into my bed willingly and beg me to sleep with you, Maddox.”

After saying that, Anna strode into her bedroom in high heels. She wanted to tell her best friend about her having come across a top-notch man.

Vinson watched as she left, plunging into silent contemplation for some time. He then whirled around and headed out to explore the place. But just when he reached the door, he was greeted by the sight of two rows of armed guards standing sentry. The moment they saw him coming out, they all swung their guns at him in unison.

Without the slightest hesitation, he pivoted and went back into the house. He couldn't act rashly, for he hadn't yet located Arielle.

That entire scene was clearly witnessed by Anna in the bedroom. Her lips curved into a smirk.

Even if you want to leave, it hinges on whether you've got the guts to do so!

Having returned to the living room, Vinson sat on the couch quietly, his eyes narrowed a fraction.

In the bedroom, Anna had already told her best friend, Jenny, about her attraction toward Vinson.

That aside, she told her about Vinson's claim that he was married and would never betray his wife, but his insistence only intensified her desire to subjugate him.

"Isn't it easy if you want to subjugate him, Anna?" A wicked smile played on Jenny's lips, and she murmured a few words to Anna.

In a flash, Anna's eyes lit up. In truth, she had the same idea.

Since Jenny has said the same now, it looks like my idea is feasible.

She chatted a while longer with Jenny before hanging up the phone. Placing the phone on the bed, she got up and sauntered over to the mirror. As she gazed at herself in the mirror, she grinned from ear to ear.

The woman in the mirror had a slender and exquisite figure, her curves alluring.

What man wouldn't be tempted by me?

Only Maddox is blind and can't see how wonderful I am. But it's okay because I'll show him.

"Sannie, Peter Pan is truly incredible! Did he manage to defeat the pirates and rescue everyone in the end? Then, there's Tinker Bell. Can she really not be with Peter Pan?"

Just as Sophia returned from outside, she heard Clyde's barrage of questions. Before she could figure out the person he was speaking to, a voice tinged with laughter drifted out, saying, "I'll tell you the answers to those questions next time. My throat is a bit parched after talking for the entire afternoon."

"Have some water to soothe your throat, Sannie!" Clyde hurriedly poured a glass of water before handing it to Arielle.

Gosh, I was too absorbed in the story that I actually forgot to pour her some water!

Outside the door, Sophia entered the room in casual attire. Only when she saw the person Clyde was talking to did she know that the woman they saved the other day had regained consciousness.

"When did you wake up? Are you feeling better now?" she inquired, strolling over to Arielle.

"This is my aunt, Sannie. Her name is Sophia," said Clyde before turning to Sophia.

"Aunt Sophia, her name is San. She's a teacher." He introduced them to each other with a bright smile on his face.

The two women looked at each other, both sensing that there was more to the other than met the eye.

"Nice to meet you!"

"Nice to meet you, too!"

As they both shook hands and greeted each other, undisguised delight showed in Clyde's eyes at the side.

When it was time for dinner, Sophia had the housekeeper deliver some food for Arielle. Clyde initially wanted to eat with the latter, but he immediately changed his mind after glimpsing the look in Sophia's gaze. He ended up having dinner with his aunt instead.

Although Arielle was a touch tired after dinner, she remained vigilant, for she could sense that Clyde's aunt, Sophia, was no ordinary person.

On the other hand, a housekeeper entered Sophia's room after dinner.

"Ms. Sophia, Mr. Clyde is getting attached to that woman. What are your plans?"

Sophia's eyes narrowed into slits. In the next second, an idea popped into her mind. Not only would it be able to distance Arielle from Clyde, but it would also advance her career significantly.

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Turning time back to an hour ago, Anna's housekeeper knocked on the door and informed her that dinner was ready just after she had her fill of looking at herself in the mirror.

Anna had her housekeeper, Amy, enter the room. She then whispered a few words into the latter's ear.

Amy had been serving Anna since young and had never dared to go against her orders. This time, however, she was rather hesitant after listening to Anna.

"Ms. Anna, if your father were to learn about this..."

"I believe you'll make it so that he wouldn't learn about it!" Anna snapped, shooting her a glare.

Don't think I'm ignorant to your capabilities!

Amy's heart lurched. Subsequently, she relented in a low voice, "I'll go and do it right away."

Ten minutes later, Anna came out of her room. Right then, Vinson was sitting on the couch. When he saw her coming out, he merely glanced at her impassively.

Unfortunately, that only amplified Anna's interest toward him.

Ever since young, I've always gotten what I want.

"Come and dine with me if you don't want to starve. No matter what, filling your stomach is the most important thing," Anna remarked with her eyes trained on him.

That comment of hers resonated with Vinson's thoughts.

While he wanted nothing more to do with her, he was in her territory at that moment. He could skip a meal, but he couldn't do so indefinitely. After all, he still needed to keep his strength up to look for Arielle.

For that reason, he stood up and went to the room at the side to wash his hands when her words rang out. Then, he returned to the dining table and sat down across from her.

At that, Anna smiled.

This is exactly the type of man I like, handsome and smart!

By then, the food had already been served. When Anna started eating, Vinson picked up the fork and did the same.

Halfway through the meal, Amy came over with two glasses of red wine, placing a glass each in front of them.

“Congratulations on surviving that explosion, Maddox.” Anna lifted her wine glass.

Eyeing her, Vinson followed suit and clinked glasses with her. Both of them took a sip at the same time. The smile on Anna’s lips widened as she watched him down the red wine.

She drank while enjoying her steak. Before she realized it, she had finished a glass of red wine.

Likewise, Vinson had also polished off the wine as she clinked glasses with him incessantly.

“Your room is right next door. I can’t allow you to go out and roam around yet for the time being. There’s a television in the room, so you can watch television if you’re bored.”

After saying that, Anna went back to her room.

As soon as she picked up her phone, she spotted a message from Jenny.

It read, Well? Did you do as I suggested?

Anna swiftly texted back, Of course! I’ve already returned to my room now, waiting.

She was waiting for the drug to take effect in Vinson and for him to seek her out when he could no longer control himself.

At that time, I’ll have him beg me to have a roll in the hay with him!

Another message then came from Jenny, Did you change into sexy clothes? Let me tell you, no man could withstand such temptation.

Sexy clothes?

With her phone in hand, Anna ambled over to her closet and swept a gaze over her clothes. All of a sudden, her eyes lit up. She reached out and took out a black dress that was as thin as gossamer, rendering her assets indistinctly visible.

Putting down her phone, she changed into the dress and scrutinized herself in the mirror. Her curves were vividly on display, rendering her enticing and titillating.

Grinning in satisfaction, she snapped a selfie and sent it to Jenny.

Jenny promptly texted, Oh my God, this dress is too seductive! You'll definitely be able to bag him tonight!

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Anna then replied, Just wait for my good news!

After sending that text message, she placed her phone on the bedside table and walked out barefooted.

Right then, Vinson was tense, his entire body burning up. At that moment, an intense desire to vent the passion within him seized him. The increasingly uncontrollable desire coursing through him had the realization that he had been drugged dawning upon him.

Meanwhile, the person who could have drugged him was none other than Anna.

Never had I expected her to resort to such a despicable method. How repulsive!

He turned on the lights and looked around, only to discover that there was no bathroom in the room.

If he wanted to take a cold shower, he could only go to the room where he had taken a shower earlier that day. However, no sooner had he gone to the door and opened it than Anna in a black dress entered his line of sight.

She was giving off a sense of hazy enticement.

Vinson took two steps back and regarded her with a frown.

Don't tell me she's planning to seduce me by dressing like that.

At that thought, a glimmer of iciness flashed across his eyes.

Even if I'm drugged, I'll never do anything to betray Arielle!

"Are you in pain, Maddox? Do you need me to help you out?" Anna gazed at him sweetly, her soft voice tinged with a hint of allure.

Regretfully, Vinson merely stared at her expressionlessly.

"Thank you for your kind intentions, Ms. Anna. But I'll pass." Having said that, he forcibly held himself together and headed to the bathroom ahead.

The look in Anna's eyes darkened when she saw that he was still unwilling to touch her despite having been drugged.

He's got quite the self-control. But I'm determined to shatter it. A man I've taken an interest in will never be able to escape from the palm of my hand!

Turning around, she moved to hug him from behind. Just when she was about to make contact with him, Vinson seemingly sensed it. He quickly darted to the side and turned back to stare at her coldly.

"Please have some self-respect, Ms. Anna!"

"Self-respect?" Anna echoed.

She didn't understand what it meant, but she felt that it was a refusal.

"Aren't you hurting, Maddox? Do you not want me to help you? If you allow me to help you, you don't need to hurt anymore."

While saying that, she took a step forward and reached out to touch the man's body.

Seeing that, Vinson spun around and strode to the bathroom ahead with his face devoid of expression. Right then, he only wanted to take a cold shower to ease his discomfort.

"Taking a cold shower won't help, Maddox. This drug is exceedingly strong. If you don't relieve yourself, you'd become impotent in the future even if you manage to withstand the effects of it forcibly," Anna threatened, her eyes fixated on the man who had reached the bathroom door.

She didn't believe that he wouldn't turn back and seek her out when she had said as much.

To her disappointment and fury, Vinson turned a deaf ear to her warning. He opened the bathroom door and stalked in before slamming the door shut.

Indeed, that drug was exceedingly strong. If it hadn't been for his strong self-control, he would've probably snapped and pounced on Anna when she seduced him.

After entering the bathroom, he turned on the shower. As icy cold water poured down on him, he felt much better.

Outside the door, Anna was instantly livid to see that Vinson didn't fall for her seduction. She was so furious that she summoned the guards outside the door.

Pointing at the bathroom where the sound of running water came from, she snarled, "Take him out and throw him into the slave camp!"

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When the guards came in and saw Anna's attire, they abruptly didn't quite know where to look anymore. Some of them even started burning up with a single glance.

I've long since known that Ms. Anna is a beauty, yet I never thought that not only is she stunning, but she also has a great figure. If I even get to bed her once...

At that line of thought, the guard hastily clamped his legs together, afraid that someone would notice his awkward condition.

"Why are you all standing around? Hurry up and do as I instructed!"

Hearing her orders, the guards snapped back to their senses at once. They marched over to the bathroom and broke the door. Vinson pinned a sharp gaze on the guards who appeared without warning.

As the guards studied the man who had just taken a cold shower and cast their minds back to Anna's attire, it suddenly dawned upon them that Anna wanted to seduce Vinson but failed.

Anna, on the other hand, saw red at the sight of Vinson all aloof.

She pointed a finger at him. "Take him away and have him do all the dirty and tiring chores henceforth!"

After saying that, she stared at him fixedly. Her eyes inexorably turned red-rimmed when he continued turning a blind eye to her and ignoring her completely.

Biting her lip, she added resentfully, "B-Beg me now. As long as you do so, I won't have you lift a single finger!"

Vinson didn't reply to that. Instead, he turned to the guards and urged, "Aren't you to take me to the slave camp? Make it quick!"

He didn't want to stay there at all, for it was practically impossible to keep his guard up at all times. He was really fearful that she would drug him at every turn, and he wasn't immortal to remain alive without eating and drinking.

His words had Anna going off the deep end.

I've already taken a step back, yet he's still unwilling to yield!

She roared at the guards, "Take him away! Send him to the slave camp immediately! Have him do all the dirty and tiring chores! I want him to do the filthiest and most exhausting chores!"

The guards looked at Vinson as though he was an idiot.

It'd be great to be with Ms. Anna, having abundant food and living in a mansion. On top of that, he'd even have such a beauty like her to keep him company.

How wonderful! Verily, he's a fool!

As they criticized him inwardly, they took him out of the mansion.

Anna stood at the door, trembling in fury as she watched them escort Vinson away.

Am I really that unappealing to him that he'd rather go and stay at the slave camp instead of begging me and submitting to me?

Snorting, she spun on her heel and went back to her room.

I shall see how long he can persevere!

Meanwhile, Arielle couldn't hold out when she went to bed at night due to her physical condition. She slumbered deeply despite her increased vigilance since she had just awakened from a coma that day.

Several days passed without Sophia making a move against her.

Clyde came over to keep her company daily, listening to her narration of "Peter and Wendy". Even the meals delivered by the housekeeper were ones that facilitated her recovery. Consequently, her condition improved.

In the past two days, she got out of bed and went on strolls in the courtyard every day to stretch her muscles.

In fact, Arielle felt that she would be back to normal in another two days. At that time, she would be able to talk with Sophia. In the past few days, she learned from Clyde that one must have a visa issued by the general if one wanted to leave the island.

She felt that she could negotiate with Sophia to send her out of the island. In return, she would do her best to fulfill whatever the latter demanded.

Alas, the best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry. She was already in the jaws of danger before she could execute her plan.

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“Dennis, do you think the general will be into her?” asked Sophia softly as she looked at the man before her, who was constantly checking Arielle out.

The general hadn't been assigning her as many tasks lately, so Sophia needed to find some ways to get on his good side. Only then would he assign more tasks to her. Without those tasks, her family would slowly fall out of the general's favors, and that wasn't good.

“Judging by her looks, I think he'll like her,” replied Dennis.

He smiled at her and asked, “Where did you find such a pretty woman? I'm sure the general will reward you handsomely if he's happy with her.”

Sophia smiled deviously after hearing what Dennis said.

She had already decided how she would deal with Arielle the second the latter opened her eyes and regained consciousness.

“I found her on the streets,” answered Sophia while narrowing her eyes before turning her gaze to Dennis and asking, “When will the general be back?”

She couldn't wait to see how happy the general would get.

“He went shopping for clothes with his wife. My guess is that he won't be back until this evening,” answered Dennis.

“Then I will leave her in your care.”

“Sure. I'll send someone to inform you if the general is happy with the woman,” replied Dennis, looking at Sophia.

She nodded. Before she left, she glanced at Arielle once more.

The general is the king around here, so you'll be in luck if he's in to you and you get to serve him.

After Sophia left, Dennis took another glance at Arielle, who was lying on the bed.

The general will surely be happy with such a fine specimen. She is younger than the general's wife, so I'm sure she will be able to give birth to a son for him.

Oh, that would be wonderful. If she is able to give him a son, my and Sophia's future would be bright!

The general and his wife had been married for over a decade, but they only had a daughter. There was no news of another pregnancy since.

Over the years, the general had hired a number of doctors to treat his wife so that she could get pregnant again, but nothing ever happened. The general was so desperate for an heir that he slept with countless other women. Unfortunately, none of them bore him any son.

The woman before Dennis was not only pretty but also had an alluring figure. She was definitely one of a kind.

Dennis was certain that the general would become attached to her and would sleep with her more than once. That meant that sooner or later, she would be pregnant with his child.

“Keep an eye on her,” ordered Dennis after summoning two housekeepers over. “This is the general’s woman, so you will both lose your lives if you fail to keep an eye on her.”

The housekeepers nodded right away after hearing what he said. After that, they stood on both sides of Arielle’s bed and guarded her as though they were her warden.

“The general’s wife will probably be devastated if she learns that the general will be sleeping with such a beautiful woman.”

“So what if she’s devastated? It’s her fault she failed to give him a son. If the general has a son, he would not have slept with all those other women.”

Arielle heard the housekeepers gossiping quietly before she even opened her eyes.

She was going to continue feigning being unconscious so that she could gain more information from them, but unfortunately, that was also when she heard one of them saying, “Stop talking. We’ll both be in danger if anyone overhears us.”

Right after that, the other housekeeper agreed with her friend, and silence ensued.

Seeing that they had stopped discussing, Arielle thought it was pointless to continue feigning unconsciousness. Thus, she opened her eyes and asked, “Where’s Clyde?”

As soon as she finished asking that question, her gaze darkened. She recalled what happened that morning.

I’ve fallen into a trap! My breakfast was drugged!

“Where am I? Who brought me here?”

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One of the housekeepers was surprised to learn that Arielle was familiar with their language.

She was quick to answer the woman's question, "This is the general's mansion, but we don't know who sent you here, either."

Dennis had already made it clear that the woman in front of them belonged to the general. Thus, the housekeeper thought she should treat Arielle better so that the latter would consider her a trusted lackey. That way, her position in the household would also elevate along with Arielle.

The general's mansion? Why did Sophia take me here?

Arielle didn't need to be a genius to know that Sophia was the one who kidnapped her. After all, Clyde, who was kind and innocent, would never do something like that to her.

Sophia, on the other hand, made Arielle feel uncomfortable from the very beginning. She sensed a malicious aura from Sophia from the moment they met, but she didn't expect the latter to do something as cruel as this.

"Do you guys know why I'm here?" asked Arielle while smiling at the housekeepers.

Though it looks like she has some ulterior schemes of her own, she doesn't seem smart. Maybe I can get some information from her.

"Of course I do," replied the housekeeper right away after she heard Arielle's question. "You are sent here to become the general's wife."

"Miss, the general is a bit older, but he doesn't look his age at all. More importantly, he doesn't have a son. If you were to bear him a boy, the baby will be the future heir, and your position in the household will only be second to the general."

The housekeeper became increasingly excited as she spoke.

Toward the end of her sentence, her tone was filled with reverence, as if she was already treating Arielle like her boss.

Arielle, however, felt her heart sinking after she heard all that. She was about to ask some more questions when a young girl suddenly barged in.

The girl ran toward Arielle right away and shouted at her, "You evil woman. You are not allowed to take my daddy away from me!"

"Lena, it's rude to shout like that."

Before Arielle even had the opportunity to talk, a deep male voice sounded outside. When she turned to look in the direction of the voice, she saw a man entering.

The guy had a muscular figure. His defined features made him seem gentle, and when he looked at Arielle, he broke into a warm and amicable smile.

“Lena is just a kid. Please don’t take her words to heart.”

Arielle shook her head to show that she didn’t mind it.

She’s just a little girl, so why would I hold it against her?

“Both of you, take Lena to her mother,” ordered the man, turning to the housekeepers beside Arielle.

He said “both of you”, which meant he was asking both of them to leave.

Arielle had her guard up.

He’s deliberately sending them away so that we could be alone.

“Yes, sir.”

The two housekeepers held Lena’s hand and coaxed the little girl to leave the room, leaving the general and Arielle alone.

The man, which was the general, Micah Watson, took a seat across from Arielle after everyone had left. His deep, abyss-like eyes were locked on the woman as his heart stirred with emotions and desires.

After shopping, his wife claimed that she was tired, so she went back to her room to rest. He then took Lena out for a walk in the plantation and ran into Dennis, who informed him that Sophia had sent a young woman to him.

At first, he didn’t care much about it. Many of his subordinates had sent women his way, but none of them managed to catch his eye. He never let them stay for long.

However, Dennis claimed that the woman in question was much more beautiful than the rest and promised that Micah would love her. Dennis also said that the woman was already sent to his mansion, he asked Micah to drop by when he was free and check her out.

Lena was upset when she heard what Dennis said.

She let go of her father’s hand and ran into the mansion right away. That was when the drama ensued.

“I will allow you to be my woman.”

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“But I don’t want that!”

Arielle didn’t expect the general before her to be that straightforward. That was the first time they met, and he already asked her to be his woman.

What the heck? He might be okay with this, but I am not!

“What did you just say?” asked Micah as he stared at Arielle in shock.

It was as though he couldn’t believe what he just heard.

“I said I don’t want to be your woman,” repeated Arielle.

The warm smile on Micah’s face turned upside down instantly. He didn’t expect the woman in front of him to be that difficult. As far as he was concerned, she was lucky that he was into her.

How dare she turn me down?

“Do you know who I am? How dare you turn me down like this?” said Micah, shooting daggers at Arielle while wearing a stoic expression on his face.

He was exuding a natural intimidating aura without having to put up a front.

“I don’t care who you are. My answer remains the same,” Arielle replied calmly while looking right into his eyes.

Micah stared at her for quite some time before he suddenly grinned. “You sure are bold.”

It had been a while since he met a woman as defiant as Arielle. However, the more she behaved like that, the more he became intrigued by her.

Arielle scoffed.

Bold? This has nothing to do with courage. I’m just confident, that’s all.

“Have you been feeling dizzy recently? Do your ears ring? Does your skin feel numb, and sometimes your thinking is slow?”

As soon as Arielle said that, the expression on Micah’s face changed drastically. He strode over and clasped her neck.

“How did you know all that? Who sent you here?” demanded Micah in a frosty tone.

Actually, Arielle saw that coming and could've dodged Micah's grasp, but she could only bear with it in order to not expose her own identity.

Micah's powerful grip made her cough a little, but she managed to answer his question. "I-I am a doctor."

A doctor?

Micah loosened his grip and looked at her suspiciously. "You figured all that out just by looking at me?"

Arielle nodded, knowing that Micah was beginning to believe her.

"I knew it the instant I saw you. My guess is that you have consulted many doctors over the years to treat your condition. They couldn't cure you, right?"

Micah remained silent.

It was true. He had secretly consulted many doctors and had practically visited every hospital and clinic out there. However, they couldn't cure him, even though they were able to diagnose him.

He wanted an heir, so over the past few years, he had been taking medications to condition his bodily functions.

"Let me guess. You haven't had a kid since you had Lena. Isn't that right?" asked Arielle, her tone placid but firm. "I'll help you get your body ready for another child and boost your fertility. You'll have kids again. But, my only condition is that you don't touch me."

Arielle didn't know if what she said would end up persuading Micah, but it didn't matter even if she failed. After all, she still had her silver-plated needles with her, so if he dared to touch her, she would not hesitate to strike.

She would make it so that he would never be a real man again.

Micah wavered upon hearing her offer.

Women were a dime a dozen to him. However, doctors who could cure him were extremely rare. Most importantly, he was impressed that she was able to diagnose him just by looking at him.

"Are you sure you can cure me?" asked Micah, staring intently at her. "If you lie to me..."

"I never make any promises I can't fulfill."

That indifferent statement from Arielle was all it took to elicit some trust from Micah.

“Fine. I will agree to your terms. I won’t touch you, but you must cure me,” replied Micah. His gaze was filled with hostility as he threatened, “But if you fail…”

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Clyde became anxious when he noticed that Arielle was gone after he returned from the plantation.

Worried sick, he quickly went to ask Sophia, “Aunt Sophia, where did you take Sannie?”

Sophia’s face darkened as she took note of Clyde’s behavior.

“Really, Clyde? Is that how you talk to your aunt?”

Clyde realized that his attitude is inappropriate, and he immediately apologized, “I’m sorry, Aunt Sophia. I didn’t mean it. I’m just too worried about Sannie, that’s all…”

Sophia was rather upset to see how much he cared about Arielle.

She was the one who raised him, but he had always behaved respectfully and fearfully around her, unlike when he was around Arielle. The boy warmed up to Arielle and was at ease with her.

“You should forget all about her. She’s nothing but a stranger,” replied Sophia calmly.

Clyde was heartbroken to hear that.

Sannie is not a stranger!

Clyde stared at Sophia with distress in his eyes. “Aunt Sophia, please tell me where you took her. Don’t bother lying to me. I’ve already heard what the others said. They said you sent her away. Where did you send her off to?”

Sophia glanced at him and said indifferently, “She went somewhere she’s supposed to go. Go do your work. I’ll take you out of the island for a trip after a few days.”

In the past, Clyde would be ecstatic to hear that he got to leave the island. However, he wasn’t at all happy this time. All he could think about was Arielle.

He understood that his aunt would not tell him about Arielle’s whereabouts, so he murmured a reply in disappointment before turning around to leave.

Well, if Aunt Sophia won’t tell me, I’ll go ask the others. I’m sure I can find her.

Sophia's gaze dimmed as she watched Clyde leave. She didn't expect Clyde to become so attached to Arielle in just a few days' time.

Thank goodness I sent that woman away. If she were to stay even longer, Clyde would become even more attached to her.

After Clyde left the house, he went around asking about Arielle. His investigation bore no fruits, though. Sophia had already told everyone to keep quiet and say nothing about Arielle's whereabouts when Clyde asked.

Disappointed, the boy returned to his room. Sophia grinned happily when she saw that he had seemingly given up.

"Are you really here to treat my daddy?" asked Lena curiously.

The little girl's huge eyes narrowed into a curve as she smiled.

Arielle pinched Lena's chubby cheeks and smiled. "That's right. Once I treat your daddy, your mommy will be able to give you a baby brother."

Ah, this kid is so adorable! She became friendly after she knew I'm here to cure the general. She went from hating me to becoming friends with me.

Lena was ecstatic to hear that her mommy would be giving her a baby brother. She hated to have another woman give birth to a baby brother for her, as her mother would be devastated.

Her mother would hug her and cry whenever her father was spending time with other women. Hence, she hated those women, who came to steal her father away from her.

Lena said sadly, "I'm sorry for shouting at you the other day. I was just afraid that you're here to steal my daddy. Daddy is nice to Mommy, but Mommy would still secretly cry sometimes."

A strange glint flashed across Arielle's eyes when she heard that.

Could it be...?

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While negotiating with the general the other day, I actually did name another term. And that's for him to send me back after he recovers and his wife conceives.

Alas, he gave me an outright refusal right there and then. He told me he could let me stay and I'd want for nothing, but he couldn't let me leave. Then, he walked away after uttering those words.

Maybe I can try to talk to Lena's mother instead. However, I'll need to think carefully about how to cross paths with her.

Arielle ruffled Lena's curly hair and said with a smile, "After I cure your father and your mother gives you a baby brother, she won't cry anymore."

"Okay!" Lena nodded happily, then looked at Arielle and added, "I'll take you to go and meet Mommy. She's very gentle and kind, and you'll definitely like her after meeting her."

Since Arielle had decided to approach Lena's mother, the proposal fit right into what the former had in mind.

"Sure. I'll go with you to meet your mommy, then."

Seeing that Arielle agreed, Lena led her back home cheerfully.

"I don't drink coffee. Who told you to pour me some?" After they heard those words, a loud crash rang out.

The expression on Lena's face shifted. Then, she let go of Arielle's hand and hurried into the living room. Although Arielle knew it was not really the right time for her to go in, she still decided to do so after pondering for a while.

She reasoned that under such extreme circumstances, she could not pass up on any opportunity to glean information.

At that moment, Lena was bristling with anger as she stood protectively before a woman with reddened eyes. The woman was Abigail, Lena's mother.

Lena's eyes were wide as she glared at Anna, who was standing opposite her.

"It's fine if you don't want to drink the coffee, but why did you have to throw the cup? Why do you have to yell at Mommy?" she demanded, shooting daggers at Anna.

I hate her the most! Every time she comes over, she yells at Mommy and makes Mommy cry.

"This is my house, so I can do whatever I want. What does it have to do with you?" Anna retorted, gazing at Lena gloomily.

Still fixing her eyes on the latter, she continued, "Remember this well. From now on, I'm not your sister, and you're not allowed to refer to me as such."

Just the mere sight of these two makes my stomach turn. If not for them, my mother wouldn't have died. I'll never be able to forget how she died with so much hatred.

"Fine. I won't! Do you think I want to refer to you as my sister? I'm just as unwilling!" Lena shouted furiously

Those words instantly made Anna feel uncomfortable.

It's one thing for me to forbid her from referring to me as her sister, but it's another if she says she's unwilling to do so!

Just as Anna was about to reprimand Lena, Abigail stepped forward from behind Lena.

She turned to the younger girl angrily and chided, "How can you talk to Anna like that? Apologize to her at once."

"No way. Why should I apologize to her? She's clearly the one at fault. Mommy, she did something wrong first. Why am I always the one who has to apologize?" Lena asked, looking at Abigail sadly.

"Because she's your elder sister!"

"So what if she is? What's so great about that? Does being an elder sister mean she can do whatever she wants? I don't want to apologize. She's no elder sister. I certainly don't want her as my sister," Lena said stubbornly, gazing at Abigail with red-rimmed eyes.

The moment she said that, a slap landed on her cheek.