

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 896

“Vinson...” Surprised, Arielle circled her hands around the man’s neck.

Vinson edged his lips close to her ears and said in his baritone voice, “Now, no one will be able to disturb us.”

He had set his phone to silent after getting off the car just now.

That way, he would be able to enjoy his time with Arielle without anyone interrupting him.

Arielle bit down on her lip and said nothing as she leaned quietly against his shoulders.

She was not ready the last time. However, this time she was all ready to surrender herself to Vinson.

The two of them reached the spacious bed upstairs in no time.

Vinson finally quit restraining himself and kissed her deeply. Then, he caressed Arielle’s slender legs.

His hands traced further up her thighs as he continued kissing her passionately.

However, Vinson suddenly paused as his body stiffened.

Arielle was lost in the passionate moment and felt the man stiffen all of a sudden.

Bemused, she looked at the man and asked, “What’s the matter?”

Then, Vinson raised his right hand to show that it was stained with blood.

Arielle was stumped and was hit by a pang of realization.

Her period was here.

What great timing...

Arielle's already crimson red face burned hot with embarrassment.

Vinson let out a helpless chuckle. "I thought no one would be able to get in our way this time. Who would've thought..."

"Um... Sorry..." Arielle did not know what else to say. Noticing that Vinson was trying hard to restrain himself, she suddenly felt a pang of guilt hit her.

He caressed her earlobe with his other hand and said, "Silly girl, what are you apologizing for? You're going to be mine sooner or later anyway."

Arielle's cheeks burned further. She noticed that Vinson's hands were on her stomach.

"Does it hurt?"

Arielle shook her head and nodded her head. "Sometimes it hurts, sometimes it doesn't. This time I don't feel anything in particular."

If it had hurt, she would not have needed Vinson to remind her that her period was here.

Vinson pinched her cheeks and said dotingly, "All right. Change your clothes. It's better for you to bathe in warm water these few days. I'm going downstairs to shower."

Vinson kissed her on the forehead before turning around to leave.

Arielle was left all alone in the bedroom. She felt like she had just experienced the most awkward moment in her life.

Could I be the first woman to have a man remind me that my period's here right before we do it?

At the thought of Vinson's bloodstained hand, Arielle let out an exasperated low grunt.

She covered her face with a pillow to let out a muffled scream. Afraid that with any further delay, she might stain the sheets, Arielle got up to clean herself.

Vinson was in no better shape than she was.

He could only relieve himself in the shower seeing as he was cockblocked by the unexpected circumstance.

Meanwhile, feeling abashed about what happened, Arielle spent a much longer time in the shower than usual.

After she was done convincing herself that it was not

her fault and mustered enough courage to go look for Vinson downstairs, Arielle realized that the man was not in the bathroom

Where is he? Is he mad at me?

Just when Arielle was feeling anxious, she noticed some clanking noises coming from the kitchen.

"Vinson?"

She padded toward the kitchen and noticed that Vinson had made her hot chocolate.

Vinson smiled at the sight of her. "I don't know if this is to your taste. I could make another one if you don't like this one."

Arielle felt a warm feeling course through her heart. She reached out to take the hot chocolate and finished it.

It was exactly how she liked her hot chocolate to be.

She was about to thank him when Vinson caught onto her and said, "I've said so many times that I do not accept any thanks from you. I thought I'd told you to say something else."

Arielle pursed her lips and muttered, "Vinson, you're the best."

The man seemed pleased and said, "You'd better keep track of your cycle. You should drink this before you

get your period."

Arielle nodded her head and looked at the man. "Were you mad just now?"

Vinson did not beat around the bush and admitted it right away. "Yes. Not only did you ask another person out for dinner, but you also forbade me from tagging along."

"I just didn't want to scare her..."

"I'm not a frightening beast," Vinson mumbled indignantly.

"I'm sorry. I won't do it again. I will be sure to explain to Trisha that you're actually a guy who's easy to get along with."

Vinson lifted his chin and said, "I'm not the type to be appeased that easily."

Cocking her head to one side, Arielle asked, "So, teach me. How can I appease you then?"

Vinson looked deep into her eyes and said in an enigmatic tone. "You'll be able to do so when your period is over."

Arielle was rendered speechless. "I want to sleep alone tonight."

"No way. Then you won't even be able to appease me even after your period is gone."

"Vinson, I never knew that you were such a difficult and shameless man."

"I'll take that as a compliment."

The two of them broke into a chuckle afterward. Though they said nothing else, there was no denying that it was a saccharine moment.

Words were not necessary when two people were in

love.

Meanwhile, Wendy was waiting for her parents to come to fetch her after she was done with the exam. However, her parents' flight was delayed, and she could only head back to the rented apartment unit all alone.

The apartment was quiet. Wendy checked on her phone after settling down.

There was no new message other than the message from her mother telling her that their flight had been delayed.

She then recalled that since leaving the Nightshire Manor, Susanne had not contacted her.

Is she busy, or has she given up on me?

Wendy bit down on her lips indignantly.

She could not risk losing Susanne's favor. The latter was her only hope of marrying into the Nightshires.

With the thought in mind, Wendy hurriedly texted

Susanne.

Ms. Stone, I'm done with my school exams, and I'm free this weekend. Can I drop by to visit you? What desserts would you like to have? I could bring them over.

She ended her text with a playful emoji.

Meanwhile, at the Nightshire Manor., Susanne was playing cards with her friends when she noticed her phone ping with a notification.

She lifted her phone to check the message. An inexplicable emotion washed over her after checking the notification.

Actually, Susanne was quite fond of Wendy as she considered the girl an all-rounder. Wendy came from a good family and was quite well-mannered and studious at the same time. Susanne thought that she would be a great help to Vinson's career in the future.

However, her only concern was that her son seemingly harbored no interest in the girl. On the other hand, Vinson was infatuated with Arielle, who had a disconcerting background.

Susanne let out a heavy sigh.

Ah, forget it. I should honor my promise to Arielle and give her a chance to prove herself.

Susanne's friend asked, "Susanne, what's the matter? You're only a card away from winning the game."

She snapped out of her thoughts and ignored Wendy's text.

The next moment, she won the game.

The joy from winning made her throw Wendy's text to the back of her mind.

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On the other end of the phone, Wendy started to get more and more exasperated when she had not gotten a reply from Susanne.

She shouldn't be sleeping at this hour. Why isn't she replying to my message?

Has she really given up on me? Damn it. It seems like I have to use a harder approach.

Wendy then decided that she would bring her parents to go visit Susanne the next day.

Her parents finally arrived after some time.

She deliberately cooked instant noodles and thrashed her room to make it look messy. On top of the pale makeup that she put on, Wendy made herself look as lifeless and disoriented as she could be.

Wendy's mother, Cecilia, teared up at the sight of the situation her daughter was in.

"My darling daughter! What happened to you?"

Wendy said nothing as she shook her head lightly.

Susanne's father's face sank as he said, "Make her some proper dinner. Instant noodles are not proper food! Wendy, don't worry. We will go look for that woman, Susanne, tomorrow!"

Soon, the next day arrived.

It was the day when Vinson was going on a business trip. When Arielle woke up, she noticed the breakfast that Vinson had bought earlier and his handwritten note by her side.

She read the note: I'm going on a business trip to Horington. I'll be back tomorrow at noon.

Her lips curled into a smile as she found the little note heartwarming, especially since he had already told her about the business trip the night before.

Vinson was more attentive than Arielle thought he was.

Just when she was planning to continue sleeping after having breakfast, Jared called.

She picked up the call, only to realize that it was actually Harrison on the line.

"Ms. Moore, when are you coming over? Harvey has already been transferred from the ICU to a normal ward, but he's not giving any cooperation to the nurses on duty when they tried to give him an IV drip."

Arielle wondered if he had developed any post traumatic symptoms for IV drips.

"All right. I will be there in an hour," Arielle replied.

"Okay." Harrison hung up the call. Arielle got up to prepare herbs in the kitchen.

After an hour, she took the herb that she prepared to the

hospital.

Sure enough, Arielle noticed that Harvey was chasing a nurse out of his ward upon her arrival.

Meanwhile, Jared apologized on his brother's behalf.

"I'm sorry. My brother isn't usually like this. Could you come over later after I've consoled him?"

"It's all right," the nurse said with a smile. "It is normal for patients to have mood swings. You guys could try to communicate with him more to improve the situation. I'll come over in a bit."

"Sure, thank you."

Jared noticed that Arielle was making her way over.

He was elated at the sight of her. But he soon had mixed feelings about her presence.

"Boss."

Arielle nodded to acknowledge him but did not enter the ward. She pulled Jared over to one corner and asked, "Your Grandpa called me and told me about Harvey, and I've seen how bad it is with my own eyes too. What happened to him. Why is he refusing his treatments?"

Jared gritted his teeth and said guiltily, "It's all my fault. I should not have brought it up in front of Harvey."

"What's the matter?" Arielle asked with a deadpan expression.

“I don’t know what’s the matter with my Grandpa. He’s set his sights on you as his granddaughter-in-law and even told Harvey that he would make the necessary arrangements after Harvey’s recovered. Seeing him getting all hyped up about it, I didn’t want Harvey to feel too disappointed later on and told him about the fact that you and Vin are already married. And so...”

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Arielle finally understood what was going on.

Jared pleaded, “Boss, only you are able to talk some sense into him right now. Please explain it all to Harvey.”

Arielle nodded. “I’ll try my best.”

Then, she headed into the ward.

Just after heading into the ward, she heard Harrison scolding Harvey, “So what if they’re married? They could just get a divorce any time! Do you know that more people are getting divorced than people getting married in Jadeborough? Do you still think those people are lining up at City Hall to get married? They’re all there to get a divorce, okay? Refusing treatment and giving up on yourself are not wise moves, my son. If I were you, I would focus on healing and pursuing Arielle afterward!”

Arielle’s lips twitched after listening to the man.

She had never seen an elderly talk in that way before.

Abashed, Jared reminded Harrison, “Grandpa, Harvey, Boss- I mean, Arielle, is here.”

Jared, who was on the bed, stiffened his body and closed his eyes. He did not wish to see Arielle.

Harrison stood up and was seemingly unfazed they possibly overheard him. He greeted Arielle with a broad smile and said, “Ms. Moore, you’re here! Come and

have a seat. Harvey's been waiting for you."

Arielle let out a dry cough and made her way to Harvey's side. "Get up and drink this."

Harvey did not budge and appeared as if he had really fallen asleep.

"Drop the act," Arielle exposed him. "I've already been here for quite a while and even witnessed you chasing a nurse out of the ward just now."

Harvey knew there was no point to keep pretending and opened his eyes to look at her. "Why are you here?"

She showed him the herb that she brought over and said, "This."

"I'm not going to drink that." Harvey closed his eyes again and said impassively, "Just leave."

Harrison grew exasperated.

"Hey, you little"

Arielle interrupted him and said, "Please don't scold him. I fully understand if you're reluctant to see me. So, I'm going to leave this here and be on my way."

Harrison was taken aback. "You're leaving already?"

Arielle muttered an affirmative response. "He doesn't want to see me. It's better for me to get out of his sight."

Harvey's lids moved before his eyes sprung open. "Grandpa, Jared, could you guys give us a moment? I want to speak to her in private."

Harrison was about to say something when Jared dragged him out of the ward and closed the door behind them.

Arielle and Harvey were left alone in the ward.

Harvey did not speak for some time, and Arielle waited patiently aside for him to speak first.

In the end, Harvey finally parted his lips.

“Jared told me you’re married to Vinson?”

“Yes.” Arielle nodded.

Harvey pursed his lips and turned pale.

“When? Was it before or after I became a spy?”

“Before.”

Harvey furrowed his brows. “W-Why didn’t you guys let me know? Are you guys taking me for a fool?”

There was a subtle change in Arielle’s expression. She could understand how Harvey felt right then.

She would have stopped Harvey if she had known that he would risk his life to become a spy for her.

However, it was already too late. Arielle knew there was no turning back time. She explained patiently, “Both Vinson and I had never taken you as a fool. We did not exclusively keep it from you as everyone had no idea that we were married either. Anyway, Harvey, I want to apologize. I know I should have

explained everything much earlier to you, but I really take you as only a friend. You should know that feelings can't be forced."

"Forced?" Harvey let out a dry chuckle. "Do you feel burdened by my feelings?"

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"No, it's not a burden at all." Arielle shook her head profusely. "In the past, I didn't know how to cherish myself. It was only after receiving your love that I finally realized my self-worth. I promise to hold your feelings close to my heart."

After a few moments of silence, Harvey asked, "Do you love him?"

When she heard Harvey's question, Arielle was reluctant to tell the truth. Nevertheless, Harvey already knows that I'm married to Vinson. It'd be better if I told him the truth. This way, he won't be hurt anymore. "I do." Arielle nodded without beating around the bush.

When he heard this, Harvey closed his eyes as a look of anguish crossed his face. "All right, please take your leave," he replied quietly.

"Your medicine" Arielle began hesitantly.

"Don't worry; I'll make sure to take it. Do you take me for an idiot? I won't sacrifice my life for a woman," Harvey interrupted before Arielle could finish her sentence.

"But you became a spy."

"Don't overthink it. I went undercover on my own accord. It has nothing to do with you. Since that b*stard nearly killed me, I merely went to get my revenge," Harvey uttered in a cold voice.

Arielle nodded. "Remember to take your medicine, all

right? I'll be back tomorrow to bring you more."

“There’s no need for you to do that.” Harvey glanced at Arielle with a dark look. “It wouldn’t be appropriate for a married woman to be seen visiting another man.”

“I’m just here to visit my friend...”

“Stop it!” Harvey bellowed as he lost his temper. “It will be impossible for us to be friends anymore. Please leave. I don’t want to see you ever again.”

Arielle couldn’t help but clench her fists when she heard Harvey’s hurtful remarks. All of a sudden, it felt like Harvey had become a complete stranger.

Arielle couldn’t muster the courage to approach him.

“Okay, I’ll take my leave first,” Arielle replied.

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Harvey remained silent as he closed his eyes and refused to acknowledge her.

Helpless, Arielle spun on her heel and left.

As soon as she stepped out of the ward, Jared and Harrison rushed over.

“How was it? Did you manage to persuade him?” Harrison asked anxiously.

Arielle shook her head before looking at Jared. “He doesn’t want to see me ever again. I’ll give you his medicine. Please ask Carter to instruct the doctors to

heat it for half an hour according to the instructions.”

“Let me see you out,” Jared offered with a conflicted look on his face.

“It’s all right,” Arielle denied his offer politely. “Harvey’s recovery will quicken if he’s in a good mood. Coincidentally, it’s the weekend right now. You should stay here and keep him company. Make sure to be careful around his wound too.”

“Okay.”

After giving them another reminder about Harvey’s medicine, Arielle left the hospital.

Since Harvey doesn’t want to see me, it’d be best if I respected his wishes and kept my distance.

The moment Arielle departed, Harrison could not restrain himself anymore. Swiftly, he made his way into the ward. “How could you be so foolish? Who cares if she’s married? Don’t you know that women hate being stalked? You could’ve tried to win her over after you regained your health. Why did you drive her away?” he fumed in anger.

Harvey scowled and snapped, “Grandpa, stop bringing this topic up. I don’t have any feelings for her anymore.”

“No feelings? Your bluff won’t work on me. How could you have a change of heart overnight?”

“I’m telling the truth. I have no interest in married women. Don’t mention her in front of me anymore. Just the thought of her makes me annoyed,” Harvey replied stubbornly.

Harrison was speechless as he could not tell if Harvey was telling the truth.

On the other hand, the duo’s interactions left Jared with a pounding headache.

I can’t believe this happened because I told Harvey about Boss’ marriage. Seeing how things have turned out, I should have kept this information to myself.

Yet, it would have been impossible for him to keep it a secret forever.

After Arielle left Harvey's ward, she dropped by to visit Josee before hailing a cab to Southall Group.

Now that summer has arrived, it is time for me to change Southall Group's name.

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Since Southall Group was a joint-stock company, the court took all of Henrick's shares after he was sentenced to prison.

His shares were then handed to the state's treasury. There, it was used to compensate the villagers for their monetary losses. Those shares were also utilized to

restore the geological damage caused by the mining project.

The meeting between Southall Group's shareholders happened to fall on that very same day as they planned to elect a new chairman.

In the newly refurbished meeting room of Southall Group, two groups were locked in a face-off. The

leaders of these respective groups were none other than Jacob Campbell, a representative of Henrick, and Oliver Moore, who held the largest portion of shares amongst the Moores. They each owned fifteen percent of Southall Group's shares.

Before this, Cindy had bribed Oliver to gain his support. Nevertheless, their alliance fell apart as they both sought after the position as Southall Group's new chairman.

At the height of their heated arguments, Oliver slammed his fist on the table and thundered, "Let's decide this by casting our votes!"

Upon Oliver's suggestion, Jacob fell silent.

Since this company originally belonged to the Moores,

their shares and members on the board of directors vastly outnumbered his supporters.

If they proceeded with the voting process, there was no doubt that Jacob would lose.

“I disagree with this idea!” Jacob leaped to his feet and pointed a threatening finger at Oliver. “You must have plotted for this ever since Mr. Southall was sentenced to jail. Did you contact the directors and other shareholders to manipulate the voting process?”

Oliver merely sneered as he let out a bark of wry laughter. “This company has always belonged to the Moores. Why has an outsider like you taken an interest in it? Are you trying to take over this company?”

“Not at all. I’m simply trying to expand and improve this company.”

“If we don’t decide this by voting, what do you suggest we do to elect our new chairman?” Oliver asked.

Jacob cleared his throat and said, “I think we should let the majority shareholder become the chairman.”

Ever since Henrick’s downfall, Jacob had been secretly purchasing Southall Group’s shares. Although Oliver may think that we have an equal amount of shares, these additional shares will make me the majority shareholder of the company!

All of a sudden, the company’s lawyer stood up from his seat. “I apologize for interrupting, but if we proceed

with the majority shareholder, the person with the largest amount of shares is yet to arrive.”.

Oliver and Jacob were stunned. “Isn’t Mr. Southall the biggest shareholder of this company? But all of his shares have been transferred to the state treasury,” Jacob asked in surprise

The lawyer shook his head and showed them a document. "Before Mr. Southall's incident, he transferred a portion of his shares to Ms. Arielle Moore. A part of Ms. Cindy Moore's shares were also passed to her. Hence, Ms. Moore gained twenty percent of the company's shares. She also acquired many of the company's shares herself. Right now, she wields thirty percent of Southall Group's shares."

Immediately, a dark expression loomed over Jacob's and Oliver's faces.

How on earth could a young maiden like her have more shares than the both of us?

Since Oliver was on the same side as Cindy, he refused to let Arielle become the new chairman.

"A young woman like her has no idea about the workings of a company. Besides, she's still pursuing her studies. I'm sure she has no interest in this. It'd be best if we choose a new chairman by voting," Oliver blurted out immediately.

"Who said I wasn't interested?" a feminine voice stated from the entrance of the meeting room.

Instinctively, everyone turned toward the source of the voice.

They caught sight of a slim and stunning woman making her way into the meeting room. There was an amused smile that tugged the corners of her lips upward.

The woman had long and luscious black hair that framed her petite shoulders. The stark contrast of her raven-colored hair against her porcelain skin made her appear as fair as snow.

Furthermore, she was dressed in a sleek Prada suit and radiated an air of elegance. Her exquisite makeup further enhanced her breathtaking beauty.

Overall, she looked nothing like a university student. Even Oliver and Jacob could not hold a candle to this woman's domineering aura.

Promptly, deathly silence descended over the entire meeting room.