

## Chapter 43 The Scroll

Katherine began," well, miss. Gina and I were cellmates in prison. She was very nice and truthful, I have never seen her lie and infact, she taught me most of the medical skills I know. When I came out of prison, I wanted to study to become a doctor but Richard wouldn't let me, he preferred to be a housewife so because of the love I have for him. I agreed. But as soon as we divorced, I pursued my medical career but in the military field. But I'll say Miss. Gina's skill help me."

Derrick suddenly winced in pain and sighed heavily.

'Marshall, it's your hand, right? It still hurts, isn't it? I'm working very hard on getting the perfect solution that can cure it." She said.

"I'll be fine, don't worry," he said as he meditated over what she said, "did you think she's telling the truth when she says she's my mother."

"Honestly, yes. I also think she's telling the truth when she said she had agreed to join the spy sent to Western Ocean City just to be able to see you and confess to you. I think she wants the best for you and didn't want the war to happen," as soon as Katherine finished saying this, she received a call.

On answering it, Alessio's voice came through, "General, miss Gina suddenly slumped in the cell, please come to attend to her as soon as she can. She had already been taken to the sixth ward in the medical building."

'Got it." She stood at once.

Derrick also stood and asked, "what's the matter?"

"Miss. Gina fainted and had been rushed to our medical building. I need to go now." Katherine said and rushed out, leaving Derrick behind.

After a couple of minutes, Katherine arrived at the medical building and rushed inside, straight inside the sixth ward. Seeing Miss. Gina on the sick bed, her heart sunk, "miss. Gina... what happened? How are you feeling?" She immediately got her stethoscope and examined her heartbeat before Gina could even respond.

"I thought I'll live long," Gina suddenly said looking at Katherine in the eye.

"Miss. Gina, what are you talking about? Please don't scare me. Derrick will release you soon from the prison and send you back to Aurora Island." Katherine said.

She nodded quietly, after a few seconds of maintaining a sad countenance, she said with tears on her face, "it hurts that I wasn't there for him when he was young."

She held Katherine by the arm and said, "I know he wouldn't listen to me but when I'm gone, tell him it isn't my fault that I abandoned him for many years of his life. It's even shameful that I'm just appearing before him. I feel ashamed of myself as a mother."

"I gave birth to him during the first world war, my husband was a soldier and died in battle at the time that I was heavily pregnant. My parents then wanted to marry me off to a wealthy man from Aurora Island, I told them I wasn't interested and that I was pregnant. How can I marry another man when I'm pregnant with someone else's child?"

She continued, "but my parents said the wealthy man from Aurora Island didn't mind at all and that since the first day he set his eyes on me, he wants to have me as his wife so I had to run away from home and ran off to the mountain on the day the wealthy man was coming to take me away."

"I lived in the mountains for another two months, struggling to survive and eventually gave birth to Derrick. I delivered him myself and marked him with one of the ten precious beads on my neck. I marked him in the upper side of his back. I lived in hardship with him for two months but I soon heard that my father's men looking for me me. I had to hid Derrick somewhere on the mountain and prayed he finds a savior then ran off. But I was eventually found and married off to the wealthy man from Aurora Island."

Katherine couldn't help the tears streaming down her face as she listened Gina's sad story. Gina also continued crying. Her heart was ruptured and she was feeling a type of pain that she had never felt in a long time.

"I found out years later through a spy I sent to Western Ocean City that Derrick was now being taken care by a man who permanently resides in the mountain, his name is Ian Joh. So I only send letters to him since then but I can't reveal myself to him cause my wealthy husband from Aurora Island could track him and kill him," she increased the intensity of her cry and said, "no mother will intentionally avoid their children and prefer to write letters anonymously to them yearly. It hurts but that's the only way I can keep him protected."

"His brother, who is now the god of war of Aurora Island was the boy I delivered for the wealthy man from Aurora Island." Gina explained with tears streaming heavily down her face, "It hurts that Derrick didn't even get to believe I'm his biological mother before my eyes will be closed to death."

"Miss. Gina, please stay alive. He had lived like am orphan all his life, it will take him time to..."

"Katherine, I don't have much time left. Thanks for being there for me. There is a bead in his back, extract it from it, at least, that will make him believe I'm his mother, "Gina said and added, "I taught you a lot about medics when you were in prison with me but I didn't teach you all."

"After I'm dead, cut my stomach open, you will find a scroll in there. It's for you, master it until you literally become an angel of healing walking the surface of the earth." Gina said then took out something from her back pocket and tucked it inside Katherine's hand, "please give Derrick this letter." Then she closed her eyes slowly, "goodnight earth."

Katherine could tell at once that she was now lifeless. "Miss Gina! Miss Gina! ...." She called her name repeatedly in sadness, "miss Gina!" She began to cry painfully like a baby.

Whereas, Derrick had been by the door of the ward that Gina and Katherine were listening to all that Gina was saying.

He pushed the door open after hearing Kathrine cry. He brought out his dagger and said to Katherine, "cut the upper side of my back open and see if you will find the bead in there."

Katherine nodded. She was a surgeon anyways so it will be easy for her only that this dagger will hurt. Derrick had already pulled off his shirt revealing his broad shoulders. She traced the upper back of his shoulder with her thumb then eventually found a slightly swollen place. She confirmed that something odd was there and then took the dagger close to it, "Marshall, I'm about to."

"Go on," Derrick said.

She dipped the dagger right inside his skin and blood gushed out but he didn't even make any sound, but his fist were clenched very hard as if trying hard to absorb the pain. Katherine was able to pull out the small bead from it and showed it to him.

He collected the bloody bead and looked at Gina who had a collection of nine beads on her shoulder. Apparently, the tenth beads was the one he kept in his back.

"Mother," he mumbled with a painful heart and held her cold palm. He caressed her cheek slowly and said, "I understand why you are not there for me now and I don't hold any grudges against you anymore. I'll give you a proper burial here. May your soul rest in peace." He then took steps back.

"Marshall, please let me dress your back, its bleeding." Katherine said, she had already gotten the equipment she would use to help him.

Derrick nodded and let her dress up the wound then he walked to the door, he suddenly paused and said, "and yes, you can cut her stomach open and take the scroll. Afterall, it's her gift to you." Then he walked away.

The following day, Katherine sat in at the General's training field. Today was the sixth day of the seven days training of the generals. She had been working very hard and if not that Derrick will be transferred back to Eastern Ocean City in two days time, she was sure she would be amidst the few generals that will be promoted.

Katherine had Gina's scroll in her hand. She had been studying it since yesterday and felt like even an entire year will not be enough for her to study it finish. It's not like the scroll is cumbersome, it's that the scroll needs a lot of lab works for test and verification. Also, there are some pharmaceutical stuffs she needs to get that would be very hard to find.

Nonetheless, with this scroll, she would be able to do wonders when it comes to healing. She had always been passionate to help many sick people get over their ailments. It's even her dream that someday, she would build a very big and gigantic hospital.

The first session of the training had just been over and that was why she took advantage of the break to quickly read from the scroll, she was so engrossed in it that she didn't know there was someone already standing beside her.

