

25 A day off.

"Aiden." 1

Arwen blinked, as if she had expected to hear something else. Her brows furrowed, but then she heard him speak again.

"That's my name," Aiden said before continuing, "And if you don't remember me well enough, it only means we haven't met before."

Even though he had said it that way, Arwen sensed a bitterness in his tone as if the words didn't sit well with him. "Really?" 1

"Sir, ma'am, are we going to wait here for more time?" Emyr asked, not understanding why the couple had suddenly stopped halfway. His gaze shifted between Arwen and Aiden, completely lost.

Just when he was about to apologize for interrupting and walk away, he heard his boss say, "We aren't waiting. Go and get the car ready." 1

Emyr nodded promptly as he took a step towards the car, but then Arwen spoke up, "I might not be able to come with you."

The moment she said that, Emyr felt the dark cloud looming overhead. He didn't dare to look at his boss because he knew that one glance at him now might terrify his poor soul.

Emyr could only pray for the lady. She had unknowingly poked the sleeping dragon, and he feared the consequences. 6

Arwen didn't know much about Aiden, but she had gathered a few observations thus far. First, his looks were nothing but a trap -he could lure you in without you even realizing it. Second, he was much more than what he seemed. She hadn't missed how the magistrate's demeanor shifted as soon as Aiden played his first card. And third, his mood was very unpredictable. It changed so quickly that it left people in a whirl of confusion.

Just as it was doing to her now. Aiden has seemed fine a moment ago, but now, his expression carried a sense of betray, as if she had stabbed at his back.

"We are married now." Aiden said slowly but firmly, reminding Arwen again. "Since we have decided to make this real, there is no way I am letting you slip away just after we have just walked out of here."

"I am not slipping away," Arwen replied without hesitation. "I know we are married. Even though no vows taken and no love shared, I know what I signed up for, and I am not planning to back out."

"Then what is it?" Aiden asked, frowning slightly. He realized that as the reality of the situation was sinking in, she was becoming hesitant. He knew she needed time to adjust. If it had been someone else in his place, he might have given her that space and time to adjust.

But he was no such person. When it came to her, he was selfish to the core. He would allow her anything and everything –except the choice to leave him, even for a second.

Arwen sighed. She might have been confused, but with his eyes boring into hers like that, she understood why his mood had changed. "Aiden, I don't think I got a chance to properly introduce myself. I am Arwen Quinn. Although we took the decision of getting married in a rush, I am not having any plans of backing away from it now. I made a choice and I won't step back from taking responsibility for it."

She hadn't fully grasped it before, but after giving it some thought, she did now. One must

She hadn't fully grasped it before, but after giving it some thought, she did now. One must take responsibility for their choices. Arwen had made hers when she chose to escape a loveless marriage with Ryan, and regretting that or running away now wasn't an option.

"You might not know me before, so might have found hard to trust me. But now that you are my husband, I expect you to believe me. When I said I might not come with you, I didn't mean that I won't go with you. I just have a few things to handle first," Arwen explained, noticing the darkness slowly fading from his expression. 1

So, she had been right -it was that which had bothered him.

A small smile curled on her lips while Emyr, standing to the side, was completely taken aback. He blinked several times, trying to process the situation. Was that all it took to calm his boss down? Just a few words of assurance. 2

He never knew his boss could be so easily pacified. If Winslow Global's partners and rivals found about this, they would go berserk.

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Emyr's gaze became a little helpless as he stared at Aiden before shifting to look at Arwen. In the future, this lady would be saving the world. It would be wise to align himself with her from today itself.

"Ma'am, if you need to go somewhere, let me know and I will drive you there," Emyr offered, pasting the best smile he could muster.

Arwen glanced at him before turning back to Aiden. "Ah, I don't think that's necessary. I can get there on my own. Besides, I am sure, you must have things to do as well."

Even though Arwen didn't know her husband well yet, seeing his bespoke fitted vest that perfectly accentuated his slender but fit figure and the Rolls Royce parked nearby, she could tell he must be as busy as any other prominent businessman in Cralens.

"There is nothing on my schedule today. Besides, this is what I should do as your husband. Give Emyr the address, and he will drive you there," Aiden said, shutting down any argument further.

Emyr didn't know how to react anymore. No schedule? Since when did his boss ever have a day with nothing planned? He had cancelled all his billion-dollar meetings on his schedule to

"Really?" Arwen turned to Emyr for confirmation. From the corner of her eyes, she had caught him gasping at his Aiden's words.

But by the time she looked at him, there was no sign of shock on Emyr's face. He quickly smiled and nodded. 2

"Yes, there is nothing on Sir's schedule today. It's his day off?"

"Day Off?" Arwen repeated, clearly confused. It wasn't even the weekend.

But seeing Emyr nod, she had no other choice to believe it.

"Well, if it's not disrupting my husband's schedule, then I don't mind accepting a lift."

Arwen said, smiling at Aiden. She was surprised to see a faint blush creep onto his expression, but thought it's the streetlights playing tricks and didn't take it seriously. She gestured towards the car, which wasn't far away. "Then, shall we?" 1

Aiden nodded, while Emyr followed behind them. Aiden opened the car door for Arwen, and once they both were settled inside, Emyr climbed into the driver's seat.

"To what location, ma'am?" Emyr asked.

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Arwen paused for a moment before enunciating,
"Foster Villa on St. Fords Lane."

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Scarlet_Shine

Creator's Thought