

Chapter 1231-“No.”

Still a one-worded reply.

Charmine frowned. Was he angry? Why was he so cold to her?

It was as if he was another person.

Charmine wanted to speak more, but he gave off such an unapproachable aura as he carried her like a robot.

No matter what she said, he would give simple responses.

“Mmh.” “Yeah.” “Oh.”

There was no point in talking to him, so she gave up.

The path was twisted and uneven.

Nial cleared the path on his own. Anthony carried Charmine while Guy helped Yvonne and Grandma Granger.

They walked for an hour before they spotted the bamboo forest hidden in mist.

Nial almost teared up.

Ugh, finally! His hands were breaking! Nial walked toward the area, but Charmine, still on Anthony's back, sensed something was wrong.

She detected it right away and quickly called out, “Stop!” “Hmm?”

Nial looked back. “What's wrong?”

Everyone looked at her in confusion.

Charmine got off his back and took out a special pair of sunglasses to put them on.

Infrared lasers appeared in the originally cleared path.

Charmine explained, “There are infrared lights. If we touch them, we'll be dead.”

Drats!

Nial instantly backed away a few steps, and Guy supported Grandma Granger to step back as well.

Annoyed, Yvonne whined, “What now? We came all the way here, and we can't back out now, right?”

Charmine curled up her red lips stunningly. She said with wild confidence, “I can try.”

Anthony frowned. He did not want her to, but he recalled something.

He could only narrow his eyes and say calmly, “Be careful.” “Okay.”

Charmine took down her backpack and handed it to Anthony, to which he robotically accepted.

Charmine put on her sunglasses and looked at the tightly packed infrared lasers. She bent down ready to go ahead.

The first gap between the lights was bigger than the rest, thus she went through it easily.

However, the gaps started to get narrower after that.

Charmine stretched out her long leg and went through the second gap. She bent over to get through.

She stood back up and there was another one right beside her waist.

She held on her breath and dared not to move.

On the third line of the lasers, one was around her waist while another was next to her knee. There were three to four lines on top of her head, thus there was no way she could go above them.

She could only carefully tilt her body to move downward.

When she got away from the one around her waist, she had more space below.

After avoiding the one by her knees, she went to the ground and crawled forward to the middle.

The lines grew much narrower, so much so that even her arms could touch them if she went over.

Charmine frowned. She looked at the closing-in gaps and the nearest laser closest to her.

She bent down and slowly went through the ten-centimeter gap. <sup>1</sup> Since it was only ten centimeters, there was no room to move around. Her upper body went through first, and she then put her palms on the ground as her legs slowly went over the lasers.

"Ms. Jordan..." muttered Guy in concern as he watched on.

Unable to see the lasers, they could only see her moving cautiously.

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Unable to see the lasers, they could only see her moving cautiously.

Chapter 1233-Everyone was worried at the sight of Charmine being on her hands and knees.

Anthony stood by the side as his eyes darkened. He clenched so tightly that his veins grew visible.

Alas, there was nothing he could do but to watch her closely as he bit his lip.

“Don’t worry,” assured Charmine, “just wait for a while.”

She observed the laser before her as she supported herself on her palms, and she then noticed a gap ahead of her.

Stretching one leg, she pushed herself and jumped into the air.

Swiftly and quickly, Charmine flipped and landed on her feet in just one second!

Before anyone could react, she was already behind the third line as she stood upright.

The crowd watched as she moved cautiously. They felt as if they were the ones moving as they held their breath.

This was the final stage!

Charmine stood still as she eyed the lasers, finding a way through it.

However, the lasers ahead were closely packed like a fishnet. There was no room for a finger to get through!

Frowning, Charmine could only search for an opening from below, but she then noticed lasers dangerously near her feet and knees.

There was no way out!

There was only a gap left slightly above her knees. She could go through it there.

Charmine stared at the gap for a few seconds and looked at the lasers ahead of her.

She gradually bent down and moved along her right knee, balancing her body on one leg.

After crossing it, she tilted her body and supported her weight with her right hand and knee.

Charmine observed for a moment before she maneuvered through the gap above her head.

She dared not to move her hand or leg as she supported her upper body with her waist to get through the gap.

Finally, she stiffened.

She still could not move her leg. Even if she moved it, she had nowhere to place it.

Charmine looked at the last 30 centimeters of the gap when something occurred to her. Her face sank.

She placed both her palms against the ground so both legs could cross the 30- centimeters gap, pulling her upper body over.

Within a second, she landed on the ground steadily again.

Bold, poised, and stunning.

Charmine looked back at the lasers behind her and smirked.

She mastered everything her Uncles taught her.

The crowd was floored at the sight.

Everyone else thought more lasers were up ahead, thus they gazed at her with concern. Charmine, however, merely turned around and said, "Wait for me, I'll ask Frank to come out and turn them off." "Okay," said Anthony, "be careful."

"Okay."

Charmine could feel that he cared for her. 'He cared after all?' she mused to herself.

He was probably just jealous, then, i She smiled at him vaguely and turned to head into the bamboo forest.

The bamboo forest seemed endless, but there was a small wooden house not far away.

Charmine walked over and rang the doorbell.

"Frank! Frank!"

Silence.

Charmine thought about it and said, "Frank, I'm Charmine."

When she said her name, a sound was heard, followed by footsteps.

Following that, the wooden door slowly opened.

A handsome young man came into sight, wearing a long white shirt with a flute on his waist. He bore a carefree demeanor, i Dressed in white, he looked like a prince of old tales as he emitted a powerful temperament of an academic.

Charmine looked at him.

Perhaps it was because he dissociated from this world and lived in a hidden place away from everything else that Charmine felt a sense of calmness from him.

"Charmine?"

Frank looked at Charmine's direction and asked, "You came back?"

Chapter 1234-Noticing Anthony's glowering face, Charmine introduced him, "Frank, let me introduce you to my husband, Anthony Bailey."

Frank's face was gentle. "You're married?" "Yeah, and he treats me well/" beamed Charmine.

Anthony's stern expression grew gentle at that. 1 She spoke highly of him!

Anthony glanced at her and then said to Frank, "Nice to meet you, Frank."

"Please, come on in." When Faye heard the movement outside, she rushed out angrily, wanting to kick the woman away.

Her brother was so ill. How was he supposed to teach her?

When she got to the door, however, she spotted the group of people and paused.

Her gaze was attracted to the tall and handsome man, Anthony.

God!

So handsome! So elegant! So mature!

She blinked. She could not ask them to leave anymore.

Frank said, "Faye, go and make them tea."

She stared at Anthony blankly before she snapped out of her daze and nodded diligently. "Okay." 2 The crowd walked forward and gathered around the exquisitely made bamboo tea table.

Faye prepared the tea exquisitely with a proud look. She held a teapot and performed the art of tea making.

However, she seemed to be putting on the show for Anthony and she glanced at him.

Unfortunately...Anthony never seemed to have noticed her.

After drinking the tea, Frank said to Faye, "Faye, prepare the rooms for them."

With that said, he turned to them. "Please get some rest."

Faye pouted. "We only have two rooms. How do we prepare them? One for men, and another for women?" "The room is big," Frank explained, "and there are four to five beds in each."

Guy nodded. "Okay. Thank you, Frank."

Everyone else nodded.

Anthony looked at Charmine. He thought about how Yvonne would stay with her and take care of her, thus he had nothing to argue with that.

Faye led them to the backyard.

Anthony was going to pick up Charmine's luggage for her but was stopped halfway.

Guy was quicker than him, so much so that he even picked up Grandma Granger's suitcase.

Anthony's face sank. He said nothing and walked to the backyard.

When they arrived at the backyard, they went to the ladies' room first.

Guy wanted to bring in the luggage for them, but Faye stopped him, "Men can't go in." "Okay." Guy had to put them down.

"Everyone else can go," Charmine piped in. "I can do this."

With that said, she brought the suitcases into the room.

Yvonne helped Grandma Granger to enter. When the ladies had all gone in, the men continued walking.

Faye went in to settle them down before coming back out.

Seeing that the men had walked away, she walked over and stood beside Anthony.

"Hello, Brother. What's your name?" "Brother?" Anthony looked at her and frowned.

"Yeah. You're older than I am, so I'll call you brother."

Compared to her enthusiasm, Anthony seemed very cold.

"Just call me Anthony." "Anthony?" Faye's eyes lit up. "Can I call you Brother Anthony?" "No," Anthony rejected her with one word, 1 Faye seemed as if she had not heard it. She stayed by his side as she asked, "Brother Anthony, do you have a girlfriend?"

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Chapter 1236-“Ha...!”

Nial chortled at Faye’s question, and he looked back at Faye. “Young lady, this brother is married.”

Anthony halted and looked at her seriously. “Charmine is my wife, and our child is five years old.”

Faye met his cold eyes and bit her lip, feeling as though a bucket of cold water was dumped on her.

He was married and, worse still, had a five-year-old child!

She looked at his back and fell silent for a few seconds. Not wanting to give up, she caught up to him and continued, “Brother Anthony, your wife is so beautiful.”

Anthony thought of Charmine’s face, and his expression softened unconsciously. “Yeah, she is.” “You two must be so much in love, huh?” added Faye again.

“Not just that. She’s my life, and she’s irreplaceable,” said Anthony coldly.

Faye felt sour; she did not like this feeling.

She wanted to talk to Anthony more, but he was too handsome that she dared not to speak.

If this went on, Anthony would start hating her!

She would have plenty of time to ask in the future.

After arranging the rooms for them, Faye returned to the living room.

Frank stood in the pavilion outside with his hands crossed as his clear eyes looked ahead. He took out his flute and placed it by his lips. He did not move for a long time.

After a while, he took away the flute and hung it on his waist.

Faye walked over. “Brother.”

Frank asked, “Is everything prepared?” “Yeah.”

Faye sounded worried when she added, “It’s cold in the forest at night. Will they catch a cold?” “Don’t worry,” Frank said gently, ‘Til get some wood to make a fire.” “You don’t have to go, Brother.” Faye thought of something, and her clear eyes shifted. “Leave it to me.” “You’re not safe alone,” Frank pointed out. “Let me do it. You’ll prepare breakfast at home.” “Don’t worry about it, Brother,” Faye insisted, “just leave it with me. So many men are here, and I’ll just ask one of them to help me.” “They’re guests... Faye?”

Before Frank even finished, he heard footsteps going away.

Faye had left.

He shook his head hopelessly. 1 Faye went to the men’s room. After knocking, she went in without waiting for a response!

Nial had just removed his shirt to take a nap, too...

He cursed in a low voice and put on his shirt again.

Faye did not even eye him, however. She had eyes only on Anthony, who was unpacking by the side.

“Brother Anthony, it’s cold in the forest. I need to pick some wood to start a fire.”

Anthony thought about how Charmine might feel cold at night. It would be more comforting to sleep with fire.

He nodded. “Where from?” “Just follow me.” Faye looked at Nial and Guy, her tone no longer as gentle.

“You all come with me.”

Guy did not mind. “Okay.” Nial massaged his temple tiredly.

God!

He drove for half a day, cleared up the path for half a day, and hiked for half a way!

It was finally time to rest, but he just had to go find some wood?! 1 God!

Why was he always hurt?

Charmine made her bed as well as Yvonne’s and Grandma Granger’s.

Too tired, Grandma Granger did not speak much before laying down to rest.

Yvonne unpacked for a while and, just as tired, went to bed. Charmine was not sleepy, and she wanted to talk to Anthony.

Chapter 1237-Since everyone had fallen asleep, Charmine walked out of the room and went to the men’s room.

She knocked and called out, “Anthony.”

Silence.

“Anthony?” Charmine called out again.

Nobody responded.

She pursed her lips and pushed open the door, only to find an empty room without its residents.

Charmine frowned. Where had they gone to?

She turned and went to the front yard.

However, when she arrived at the living room, she saw Frank rolling up his sleeves in the pavilion and was preparing to write.

He seemed so unreal and gentle.

Charmine walked toward him slowly. “Frank.”

When Frank heard the sound, he knew exactly which direction she was coming from. He turned over and smiled at her. 'You had a long day. Why are you not resting?' 'I came out to look for Anthony, and I can't find him.' 'Faye took them out to get some wood,' replied Frank, 'in case everyone feels cold at night.'

"Oh." No wonder they all disappeared!

Frank knew that the ink was ready, so he put it down.

Charmine saw the ink on the table—it was well prepared.

Her eyes sparkled as she looked at Frank. "Frank, what are you drawing?"

"Care to guess?" "Hmm..." Charmine looked at the white paper and frowned. "I don't know." "Watch." "Okay."

Charmine stood by the side and watched him quietly.

Frank picked up the brush and dipped the tip in the ink.

Following that, his brush gently landed on the paper. Below the brush, images started to form: river, mountain, mist, the sky, and the sunrise.

Following that, he dipped the ink again and precisely went to the center of the paper. He drew in a downward stroke, and a bamboo tree was revealed.

Charmine widened her eyes in disbelief at the shocking sight.

Frank actually painted the bamboo forest!

He had never seen the bamboo forest. How would he know how to draw every detail to the tee?

The painting looked the same as the forest itself! "Frank." Charmine reacted after a while. "How do you know?"

Frank said, "I feel it. How is it? Is it far different from the actual bamboo forest?"

"Not at all," said Charmine, "it looks exactly the same. Frank, you're too good!"

Frank smiled weakly; he seemed so gentle and humble. "It's not."

Saying that, he seemed as if he could see things. He picked up the painting and handed it to her. "We haven't met for so many years. This is for you."

Startled at his sudden gift, Charmine eventually accepted it. "Thank you, Frank.

I'll keep it safe."

She would bring this to an exhibition for more people to see his work!

Frank smiled. 'You're too polite.'

Charmine smiled as she kept the painting. She walked over to help him prepare the ink.

Frank dipped his brush in the ink and wrote on the sacredly white paper: [I love because I don't know how to not love.] Charmine looked at this sentence and frowned.

Although it was a poem, she somehow felt that there was a strong sense of nostalgic feeling in that sentence.

She looked up at the ever-so-calm Frank. "Frank," she began, "do you fancy a woman?"

Frank's brush moved, but his face was cold like a cold lake. "No. I don't know what to say, so I picked this poem." "Oh." Charmine then looked at this sentence and felt that it was very emotional and touchy. 1 It was as if it was reflecting his current state; he was feeling a strong sense of nostalgia.

Charmine thought for a moment and stared at the words for a long while before saying, "Frank, you truly have fallen for someone. Won't you share? You can tell me, I can help you."

Chapter 1238-Frank merely smiled calmly at Charmine's question. His clear eyes showed no hint of love and emotion as he replied, "No, you're overthinking things. I like to be alone-it's simpler this way. You should know that I'm not interested in love."

"Oh," Charmine did not question anymore. She changed the topic and said, "Frank, try to attract some butterflies for me to see."

Frank landed his brush on the white piece of paper and wrote a sentence.

[Through the woods, you're a destination I can't reach.] As he wrote, a butterfly flew toward them out of nowhere.

Like a bee that smelled pollen, the butterfly flew over curiously.

The butterfly stayed on the paper and fluttered its wings. Along with the beautiful sentence, it formed a beautiful sight.

Charmine was touched again.

"Frank, how did you do it?" "Control the brush deftly. I let the brush, ink, and myself merge into one," explained Frank simply before he handed the brush to her. 1 Charmine put down the ink and took the brush.

She had learned calligraphy before, but just as the bristles landed on the paper, the butterfly flew away as though shocked...

Helpless, Charmine turned to Frank. "The butterfly flew away."

Smiling lovingly, Frank leaned in behind her and reached out his hand. He held her hand that held the brush as they wrote on the paper. 1 Startled, Charmine instinctively looked around, feeling as if Anthony saw her.

Oh, he would lose his mind if he did!

Charmine turned to look at Frank and saw how devoid he was of emotion, fully focused on the paper.

She felt embarrassed.

She knew Frank very well. Why would she overthink?

Anthony planted the fear in her!

Thus, Charmine focused on his teaching.

Faye and the three men came back from picking the wood for fire. Faye walked in front with Anthony while Nial and Guy were slightly behind them.

When they pushed open the gate, Anthony instantly saw Charmine and Frank inside the pavilion, i Frank was leaning in behind Charmine as he held her hand and wrote on the paper. Charmine did not seem uncomfortable; it seemed as if she was doing something natural. Her eyes sparkled as she tried to attract the butterflies.

Anthony's face stiffened as his grip tightened on the wood, so much so that his veins protruded.

Faye looked at Charmine speechlessly.

Why did Anthony like this woman so much? She had the audacity to even flirt with Frank when he was not around?!

How frustrating!

Faye mentally complained as she looked over and squinted, calmly saying, "Who would've thought my brother and Charmine are still so close after all these years. Frank used to be so nice to Charmine. He spoiled her and took great care of her. My brother is so nice and writes so well with a great personality.

Every woman would like my brother." i She then turned to look at Anthony and noted how silent he was.

His eyes were fuming as if he was an agitated lion, proving to be a terrifying sight.

Faye smiled with satisfaction.

Hmph! That Charmine Jordan!

What an easy woman! Oh, how she wanted to see how Anthony would get back at her!

As expected, Anthony put down the logs at hand and walked toward the pavilion.

Faye stayed at the same spot, waiting to watch the drama.

Charmine heard some noises when Anthony put down the logs, and when she looked over, she saw Anthony's cold, icy eyes.

She then thought of how close she was with Frank, and her heart sank.

Charmine saw Anthony walking over and said, "Trank."

Frank heard her anxious tone and then the footsteps. He understood.

He let go of her and backed away from her.

Although he had no intentions of Charmine, he did not want to cause any misunderstanding.

Charmine stayed in the same spot. She looked at Anthony who was walking toward them angrily.

Chapter 1239-When Anthony was close to them, Charmine called out, "Anthony..."

However...

Just as she was about to explain, Anthony merely walked toward Frank and said gently, "Thank you for taking care of Charmine over the years, Frank." "I should be," came Frank's gentle reply.

Charmine frowned. Was he so angry that he had gone crazy?

She walked forward and held his hand. "I'm learning calligraphy," she explained.

"Mmh." Anthony looked at her calmly. "Learn well. Focus."

Charmine was startled, but Anthony merely ruffled her hair and turned to leave.

Frank said, "Let's continue."

Charmine looked away.

She wanted to explain to Anthony, but she did not want Frank to wait for her either, so she continued.

Faye did not see the argument she had anticipated. She pouted.

Charmine was so close to Frank. Was Anthony not angry?

It seemed that he did not love her so much. Any man seeing his wife with another man would have gotten mad jealous. 3 Did that also mean she stood a chance?

Faye's eyes lit up. She held onto the logs and chased after Anthony.

Nial was still stunned on the spot. He could not believe what he had just seen.

Since when did the jealous Anthony become so caring?

Guy was bitter at the sight, but he did not comment on it as he held the logs.

"Let's go," he said to Nial.

"Oh." Nial left with Guy.

In the backyard...

Faye chased after Anthony and asked, "Brother Anthony, are you not angry?"

Anthony's face was cold as usual. It was eerily cold, even.

It was as if he did not hear her as he walked into the kitchen wordlessly.

Faye did not give up. She continued to run after him. 1 When they arrived at the kitchen, Faye approached him and taught him how to make fire.

Just as she did, however, Anthony instinctively backed away, expression still fierce. "Just tell me how." i "Oh." Faye did not feel good, but she stood by the side and taught him nonetheless.

Anthony picked up on the skills quickly, and with that, the fire burned strongly.

His face was cold like water. When he recalled what he saw from the pavilion, he kept on adding wood to the water.

Suddenly...

Crash!

The big pot had cracked into three, and everyone was startled.

Looking at the broken pot and vigorous fire, they were all stunned for a long while and did not know what to say.

Finally, Guy instinctively picked out the pot and replaced it with a new pot.

Nial looked at the fuming fire and said, "Bro, just lash out if you're angry!"

The pot was innocent!

Anthony looked at him blankly. He said nonchalantly, "I'm not angry. It's my first time making fire." Faye used this as an opportunity to flatter him, "Right! You're doing a good job for the first time."

Nial was speechless.

He looked up helplessly, i The days ahead would surely be hellish.

Chapter 1240-Faye saw that it was about time. Recalling that Anthony was keeping the fire going, she started washing the vegetables in the kitchen to prepare dinner.

She wanted Anthony to see how much better she was than Charmine, i That woman was nothing but a vase and a beautiful face!

After washing the vegetables, she turned to Nial. "Brother Nial, can you help me to bring them to the kitchen?" "Okay." Nial then put down his phone and brought the washed vegetables to the kitchen table.

Faye took out her smoked bacon and muttered, "This bacon is difficult to cut."

Nial saw how she held a knife bigger than her face, thus he said, "Why don't I help you then?" "No, no need." Faye brought out her thinly sliced bacon to show them. "You guys won't know how to-only I can cut them so thinly." "Oh," said Nial, "you slice them, then."

Faye was speechless.

She turned to look at Anthony.

He did not even look at her!

Faye bit her lip. It seemed that it was time to showcase her talent!

Taking a carrot and placing it on the cutting board, she held the carrot with one hand and the sharp knife with another.

Chop, chop, chop...

Slices of refined and equally cut bacon were revealed.

Nial clapped blankly. 'That's impressive, Faye, you're very good. Your carrots are perfectly cut.' i Anthony, who had stayed quiet, finally reacted as he looked at her.

Noticing that, Faye tried her best to showcase her cutting skills.

The knife chopped so quickly that one could not even see it!

Just as she expected Anthony to praise her, he frowned and looked at the uncut meat. "You're going to cook these tonight?" "Yes." Faye thought he was worried about her getting tired, thus she blinked and looked understanding.

"Don't worry about me. Cooking is my forte."

Nial thought to himself, 'Worried about her?' This missy thought too much of herself!

He looked at the materials and finally understood what Anthony meant.

Nial stared at how Faye was anticipating to be praised, thus he pursed his lips and tried not to laugh too loudly. 1 As expected...

Anthony's brows furrowed. He put down the logs at hand and walked over.

He stared at the vegetable basket and took out some vegetables from the pile.

Faye smiled. "Brother Anthony, you don't have to help me. I can manage."

Anthony was baffled.

He had a cold look as he said, "My wife doesn't like this. Don't mix them together." 1 "W...What?" i Faye could not believe what she heard.

Not only was he not praising her, he even told her Charmine did not like to eat these?!

Anthony said, "If you all like these, cook them separately."

Faye's face turned pale, and it was only after a long while she forced out,"

Okay." i With that said, Anthony turned away to continue making fire.

Faye glared at his figure angrily. She then stared at the vegetables he picked out and pouted.

Hmph! So what if Charmine did not like this? She did not like this, but everyone else did! Fish leaf was her favorite!

Why was she banned from making it?

After cutting all the vegetables, she picked up the vegetables Anthony took out and cut them out.

She wanted to cook them anyway.

Charmine could either eat them or starve!



After cutting them all, Faye was about to fry them as Anthony walked over." Less salt." "Oh."  
Faye thought he liked less salty food, thus she nodded.