Dauntless 391

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Chapter 391

"Hey, Marilyn, don't do this!"

Harold sighed when he felt Marilyn's passionate advances.

Although Marilyn was aware that Harold wasn't asleep, his response surprised her, causing her to freeze.

"Do... you not like me? Am I not beautiful enough for you?" Marilyn asked, her heart beating nervously.

"No. You're gorgeous. There are not many women in this world whose beauty would come close to yours."

Harold paused after he spoke, unsure if it was appropriate for him to continue.

Under the cover of darkness, the shy Marilyn blushed upon hearing Harold's words.

As her cheeks began to burn, her heart fluttered at the warmth welling up within her.

"But I have given my heart to Bella from the very beginning. What happened between us was an accident."

In the end, Harold decided to make his feelings clear. He carefully chose his words while providing Marilyn with an explanation, during which he felt like a jerk.

Nevertheless, he didn't want to betray the love he had for Isabella. What happened between him and Marilyn was unintentional. Hence, he was reluctant to go further down the wrong path for fear of losing whatever slim chance he had of reconciling with Isabella.

No sooner had he spoken than Harold felt Marilyn's body tremble behind him.

As warm teardrops silently fell on his back, the vengeance they carried made him feel as if they would sear him with their heat.

Despite knowing that his words had hurt Marilyn, he didn't expect such a strong reaction from her.

Soon, his entire shirt was drenched by her tears.

"You're lying to me. If you only care about Isabella, why did you rescue me from the wedding? Why didn't you just let me marry that crazy pig?"

The more Marilyn spoke, the more sorrowful she became until she burst into tears at the end.

"I... was just trying to make it up to you. I couldn't bear to see you forced into a situation against your will!" Harold replied candidly after a brief pause.

Behind him, Marilyn finally stopped crying but didn't say anything in response.

Harold, not knowing what to say, kept mum too. He knew that every word that rolled off his tongue was like a dagger in her heart.

After a long bout of hesitation, Marilyn began to move right before Harold attempted to break the awkward silence.

Amidst the darkness, she flipped the sheets aside and climbed out of Harold's bed. She then headed toward the door after putting her clothes back on.

Barely had Harold heaved a sigh of relief when Marilyn suddenly stopped at the entrance.

"Harold Campbell, I don't need you to make amends nor want your sympathy!"

Immediately after, Marilyn covered her mouth as she hurriedly left his room.

Harold's words had not only hurt her but embarrassed her at the same time.

I offered myself to him, yet he rejected me. He's such an idiot!

Upon returning to her room, Marilyn slumped to the floor with her back against the door before she started to sob.

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With that thought in mind, the teary-eyed Marilyn got to her feet and ran to Harold's room.

Staring at the empty room, Marilyn called Harold at once, but he had turned off his phone.

The fact that Quintus had returned from Jinrich in defeat on multiple occasions further convinced her that Harold was lying.

Thereafter, Marilyn rushed to Paradise Hotel's headquarters to see Quintus.

Unfortunately, she was informed that he wasn't around, and no one knew where he had gone.

Upon returning home in disappointment, Marilyn entered Harold's room again. Uncontrollable tears trickled down her cheeks as she gently stroked the blanket he had covered himself with the nights before.

"Harold, you have to come back alive. Regardless of whether you have feelings for me or not, I'm forever yours."

With her face buried in her hands, Marilyn wept in the room.

She felt as if she had been a fool the night before. If he has no feelings for me, why would he rescue me from the Jackson family? He also wouldn't have told all the powerful leaders of Hishwick Island that I'm his woman.

"You're an idiot, Marilyn. Why did you believe him so easily?"

Marilyn began to blame herself.

Meanwhile, when Jeslyn appeared at the room entrance and saw her daughter crying, she assumed that Harold had fled without saying goodbye due to his fear of Jinrich's drug lords.

"Don't cry, Marilyn. A cowardly man like him doesn't deserve your tears!" Jeslyn consoled Marilyn as she hugged the latter's head.

"He's no coward, Mom. He went to rescue Dad and Evelyn!"

All of a sudden, Marilyn got to her feet and corrected her mother loudly.

"All right, all right. I get it."

When she saw how devastated Marilyn was, Jeslyn didn't dare argue any further. Nonetheless, she thought that her daughter was just refusing to accept the truth.

With that, both mother and daughter comforted each other in the room.

Meanwhile, Harold had ordered Quintus to fly them somewhere near Jinrich in a helicopter.

Jinrich was located in the tropical mountains of South East Aploth at one thousand feet above sea level. Its warm weather and fertile land made it extremely suitable for farming, for crops would be produced in three out of the year's four seasons.

When it was time for harvest, the lands would be covered in a golden hue.

That was how Jinrich got its name based on the local language.

"Land here."

As Harold had little knowledge of the situation in Jinrich, he got Quintus to drop him off somewhere near before returning to await further instructions.

If they had gotten any closer, they ran the risk of their helicopter being shot down by artillery.

Other than Harold, no one else could survive such a shot. Quintus and the pilot would definitely be killed.

"Yes, Mr. Campbell!"

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"It's time for the next shift!"

Outside the wooden hut where Zyaire and his daughter were kept, two young men, one tanned and one fair-skinned, arrived.

"You two b*stards must have come early knowing that there's a beauty in there, haven't you?" the two guards whose shift was ending remarked sarcastically.

Nonetheless, the two new guards simply exchanged clueless glances.

After some idle chatter, the two new guards took over the shift.

When they saw their fellow guards turning around to look while leaving reluctantly, both of them glanced curiously into the hut.

They had heard that their boss and his second-in-command had kidnapped the Gambling King of Hishwick Island together with his daughter.

Furthermore, their bosses had made a fortune the night before and prepared to demand a ransom for the father and daughter repeatedly.

The moment the guards laid their eyes on the bound Evelyn's voluptuous body, they couldn't help but let out wolf whistles.

"Bro, who was the one who tied the lady up? The way he did it is igniting the sado-masochism urges in me! Also, I heard that Gambling King has nine daughters, each one more beautiful than the other. Don't forget that there's a pair of twins too. Why don't we take the cover off her head and see for ourselves?" the tanned young man suggested craftily.

Without a moment's hesitation, his partner went into the hut and removed the black covering from Evelyn's head.

Gasp!

Gulp!

The moment they saw her face, their throats began to dry out as they swallowed their saliva in reflex.

She's gorgeous!

With duct tape plastered across her mouth, Evelyn was still wearing the gown from the banquet she was kidnapped from.

Although her beautiful hairdo was all messed up from her attempts to struggle free, it didn't diminish her beauty at all. Instead, the wild look intensified her allure.

The ropes wrapped around her body accentuated her perfect curves, while her big round eyes and dainty lips were simply irresistible for any man who laid eyes on her.

The look in her eyes, a mix of rage and fear, would cause a man's heart to race and ignite the lust in him.

"I've never seen such a stunning-looking woman in my entire life. She's even more beautiful than all those women with edited images on the internet. Why don't we have some fun with her?" the tanned youth suggested mischievously to his partner.

The fair-skinned youth, consistent with his decisive demeanor, nodded as he sprang into action.

He walked up to Evelyn and tore the duct tape over her mouth off.

"What are you doing?" the tanned youth yelled before he had the chance to stop his comrade.

"I like to hear them moan when I do it. The more intense, the better. Otherwise, it will be like doing it with a corpse!"

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When she saw what the two men were about to do, Evelyn calmed down and warned, "What are you doing? I have AIDS. If you're not afraid, go ahead! I'll give it to you!"

Her words gave the two a shock. The fair-skinned youth retracted his hand by reflex.

"Coward, why did you fall for her lie so easily?" the tanned youth mocked his companion's reaction.

With that, he grabbed Evelyn's gown from below and ripped it off her, revealing everything beneath her hips.

If not for her underwear, her private parts would have been exposed to them.

Just as the tanned youth was about to proceed further, the rotting wound on Evelyn's thigh came into their view.

"The wound... Can she be telling the truth?" the tanned youth asked his partner in an uncertain tone.

"I heard that the rich love to mess around, so she may very well have AIDS. Why don't we just forget about this?" the fair-skinned youth remarked after giving it some thought.

"This sucks. Stay here and keep an eye on them while I go to the brothel in the next village to satisfy my urges," the tanned youth grumbled in frustration before leaving in a huff.

Despite feeling that it was a waste, he didn't dare put his life at risk.

With that, a cunning look flashed across the eyes of the fair-skinned youth.

"He's such a fool. How can he fail to recognize if someone has AIDS or not?" he mumbled to himself as he watched his partner's disappearing silhouette.

Thereafter, he turned around and eyed Evelyn's sensuous body lecherously.

Gulping a few times, he approached Evelyn again.

It turned out that he had pretended to be fearful to scare his partner away. By doing so, he could have Evelyn all to himself.

Due to her beauty, Evelyn was like an angel sent from heaven when compared to the local girls.

There was no way he was going to share her with anyone else.

"What are you doing? Let me remind you that I truly have AIDS!"

Evelyn, who was relieved just a moment ago, grew anxious a second time.

"Babe, only an idiot would believe that. There aren't that many people in this world who have AIDS!" the fair-skinned youth retorted insidiously.

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Just as the guard wanted to tear what was left of her dress off, the sound of footsteps was suddenly heard outside.

The door was subsequently opened from the outside with a gentle creak, allowing the rays of the morning sun to illuminate the wooden hut.

It immediately caught the attention of the raging Zyaire and struggling Evelyn.

As for the guard, he turned around thinking that his partner had returned.

However, when he got a good look at who it was, panic descended upon his face.

All three of them were greeted by the sight of two men and a woman.

One man was physically imposing, while the other was short and wore a grim look on his face.

As for the woman, she looked like a country bumpkin dressed in a green outfit.

The three of them had straw hats hanging off their respective backs. If not for the long sniper rifle slung behind the woman's shoulder, one could have easily mistaken them for farmers who had just returned from work.

The sight of the three figures caused the fair-skinned youth's knees to buckle.

"What are you doing?" the woman with the sniper rifle questioned with a smile.

Her melodious voice was just as soothing as the gentle spring breeze.

As for the two men, both of them glowered at the guard.

"Boss, I... was just trying to help her... scratch an itch!"

Despite the gentle smile on the woman's face, the guard dropped to his knees, tongue-tied with fear.

"Really? In that case, why are you so afraid?" the woman asked, maintaining a vibrant smile on her face.

"He's lying to you. He wants to have me to himself after tricking his partner into leaving! Look, he has already torn off my dress!" Evelyn screamed despite being tied to the wooden pillar.

The guard turned pale upon being exposed.

"Please don't listen to her. She was trying to seduce me so that I would let both of them go," the panicking guard refuted her claims.

"Where's your partner?" the towering man asked in a frosty tone.

The moment he spoke, Zyaire and Evelyn instantly knew that he was the leader of the kidnappers.

"He..." The guard was suddenly lost for words.

Noticing the guard's hesitation, the shorter man pulled out a gun from his hip.

"Boss, no. I'll tell you. Please don't kill—"

Bang!

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However, after taking into consideration the lay of the land in Jinrich, it wasn't hard for him to understand it.

Jinrich was an area that was largely inaccessible to the outside world. There was only a single mountain track where one could enter, while its three other sides were protected by natural barriers—mountain cliffs and rivers with currents so rapid that boats couldn't sail in them at all.

On the third side, there was a jungle filled with air that was poisonous to all living beings.

Even the villages within Jinrich were only connected by a few narrow tracks.

Transportation between them consisted mostly of horse caravans still.

"Why shouldn't I have killed him? He almost foiled our grand plan. Venustus, check the goods!"

Cobra spoke in a nonchalant tone, for he had no qualms about killing a subordinate who had disobeyed orders.

"Yes, Cobra!"

Upon receiving her orders, Venustus walked toward Evelyn.

"W-What are you doing?"

Evelyn was terrified by the trio's ruthlessness, especially when Cobra killed the guard without batting an

eyelid. Having never been exposed to such a gruesome sight, she felt her knees go weak.

The only thing stopping her from slumping onto the ground in fear was the wooden pillar she was tied to.

Hence, the sight of the approaching Venustus triggered a fearful scream from her.

"Shut up!"

Slap!

Venustus smacked Evelyn to quieten her down, cowing the latter into silence.

After nodding in satisfaction, Venustus reached underneath Evelyn's dress.

The latter blushed but didn't dare resist for fear of being shot just like the guard.

Despite the guard being one of their own, they didn't even hesitate when it came to putting a bullet in his head. What hope does a hostage like me have? These people are cold-blooded murderers!

It wasn't until a minute later that Venustus removed her hand.

"Cobra, Viper, she's still a virgin. We can continue with our plan," Venustus reported to the two men.

"Good. Viper, send her to my father-in-law's. Ever since the death of my wife, his support for me has waned considerably. Nothing we do in Jinrich will succeed without his backing. Once God of War takes care of Quintus and Mr. Campbell, throwing the underground into chaos, the time will be ripe for us to strike!" Cobra remarked excitedly.

His words inadvertently caused Zyaire and Evelyn to become ashen-faced.

"Yes, Cobra, I'll take her there right away!"

The moment Viper clapped his hands, two of his subordinates entered the hut. They subsequently untied the terrified Evelyn from the wooden pillar and took her away.

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When Zyaire saw what the tanned youth was doing, he thought that he was being transferred to another place.

The moment he felt the ropes around him loosen, he unleashed a hand chop at the youth.

However, he was shocked to see the youth dodge his attack easily.

Zyaire had learned martial arts from a skilled master when he was young. Thus, an ordinary person was no match for him even though age had caught up.

That was how he managed to maintain his position as Gambling King for the last few decades.

Just as Zyaire balled his fingers into a fist and threw it at the youth's chest, the latter intercepted it effortlessly as he whispered, "It's me, Harold!"

Harold had successfully infiltrated Jinrich.

He managed to arrive in such a short time because Quintus had planted his men inside.

After failing to conquer Jinrich multiple times, Quintus sent a few specially trained men into the area as undercover spies. This happened to be a wonderful opportunity to put them to good use.

With the help of the spies, Harold not only learned about the situation in Jinrich but also found out where Zyaire and his daughter were held.

Subsequently, he killed the tanned youth and disguised himself as his victim.

"Mr. Campbell? We have to hurry and rescue Evelyn. She has been taken by Viper—one of The Three Serpents—to the leader of Jinrich's largest tribe, General Goldknife."

Delighted to find out that the youth was Harold in disguise, Zyaire tore off the duct tape over his mouth and anxiously related everything that happened.

"Shush! Not so loud. Five snipers are hiding around this hut. It will be dangerous for us to leave just like that. Now, listen to me..."

Harold proceeded to briefly explain his plan to Zyaire.

Once Zyaire agreed to it, Harold stuck the duct tape back on the former's mouth and tied him back to the wooden pillar.

But this time, the knot he used was different.

With one end of the rope in Zyaire's hand, he could easily free himself with a tug in the event of danger.

Once he was done, Harold left the hut on the pretext that he needed to use the toilet.

Thereafter, Quintus' spy disguised himself as the tanned youth and returned to stand guard outside the building.

As for the snipers outside, including Venustus, none of them realized that the target they had been waiting for had already come and gone.

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"It's been a long time since anyone from The Three Serpents came over. Bring them here!" Goldknife ordered without opening his eyes. Physically, he was still as strong as an ox.

"Yes, General Goldknife!" Zorro quickly relayed the order.

Ten minutes later, Zorro returned with Viper together with the terrified Evelyn, who was still shaking in fear.

"General Goldknife, I've brought them here as you requested."

Right after he spoke, Zorro took up position someplace nearby, ready for Goldknife's next instruction.

As Goldknife gradually opened his hazy eyes, a scared yet gorgeous girl appeared in his sight.

With her dress torn up to her waist, he could see her in her nude-colored underwear in all its glory.

Her stunning features combined with her fearful look quickly captivated his heart.

Once he laid eyes on her, Goldknife suddenly felt that the beauties in the pool were plain and ordinary.

The difference was like comparing a city gal to a country bumpkin.

Consequently, Goldknife's half-opened eyes widened fully as he got up from his lounge chair.

"Whatever it is that you want, spit it out!"

The moment he saw Evelyn, Goldknife knew that The Three Serpents wanted something.

"General Goldknife, what are you talking about? Can't we send you a pretty girl without wanting anything in return?" Viper remarked with a grin.

"Is that so? Where did you get her? She doesn't look like she's from around here," Goldknife commented thoughtfully as he gave Evelyn a devilish look.

"You have a sharp eye, General. Cobra and I have captured Gambling King and his daughter."

"So, she's Gambling King's daughter. That explains her extraordinary looks. Go back and tell Cobra that I appreciate his gift. Also, as long as you all are in Jinrich, you'll be under my protection!" Goldknife readily declared as he understood The Three Serpents' intention.

Upon receiving the answer he wanted, Viper left Evelyn behind before departing with a satisfied smile on his face.

Upon Viper's departure, Goldknife approached the trembling Evelyn with a wide grin.

"You... What do you want? Don't come near me!"

When she saw Goldknife, who was her father's age, smiling lecherously at her, Evelyn let out a piercing scream before turning around to flee.

Tha momant ha saw Evalyn, Goldknifa knaw that Tha Thraa Sarpants wantad somathing.

"Ganaral Goldknifa, what ara you talking about? Can't wa sand you a pratty girl without wanting anything in raturn?" Vipar ramarkad with a grin.

"Is that so? Whara did you gat har? Sha doasn't look lika sha's from around hara," Goldknifa commantad thoughtfully as ha gava Evalyn a davilish look.

"You hava a sharp aya, Ganaral. Cobra and I hava capturad Gambling King and his daughtar."

"So, sha's Gambling King's daughtar. That axplains har axtraordinary looks. Go back and tall Cobra that I appraciata his gift. Also, as long as you all ara in Jinrich, you'll be under my protection!" Goldknife readily daclared as he understood The Three Sarpants' intention.

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"You... What do you want? Don't coma naar ma!"

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Goldknife glanced at The Bloody Walnut sign on the pillar. His mouth was set in a grim line and he spoke softly to himself, his voice barely audible. "Is that man really here?

He could not help but think of the legendary king of the underground circles.

Six years ago, an enigmatic figure emerged in the shadowy realms of the underground world, a man whose abilities were so formidable they were almost supernatural in nature. He was known simply as "Mr. Campbell", and his reputation preceded him.

In just one year, he defeated all underground forces in the world except for Jinrich.

Whenever the mysterious figure made an appearance, he would leave behind a bloody print of a walnut in advance, which was referred to as The Bloody Walnut by locals.

A year later, he disappeared mysteriously.

Everyone thought he was gone for good, but The Bloody Walnut made a dramatic reappearance six years later!

Back then, Goldknife assumed Harold had been made a legend and wasn't as capable as everyone thought.

To him, Harold only managed to conquer the underground circles around the world in one year with the help of his loyal and capable subordinates.

Right now, he couldn't help but believe the rumors.

His mansion was heavily guarded, with armed security guards regularly patrolling the premises. It was virtually impossible to gain access without being immediately detected.

It was an immense surprise for him to find Harold stealthily entering his property without alerting any guards to paint the notorious Bloody Walnut on the gazebo situated close to the swimming pool.

In fact, it could be said that The Bloody Walnut was painted under his nose without him realizing it!

"Let me go! Help!"

Right then, Evelyn's screams jolted Goldknife out of his reverie.

"General Goldknife, we caught her!"

Two gorgeous ladies clad in bikinis led Evelyn to the gazebo.

"Shut up!"

Goldknife was overwhelmed with frustration, and when Evelyn started shrieking loudly, it was the last straw. He couldn't take it any longer and lashed out, delivering a sharp slap to her cheek.

At once, Evelyn stopped struggling.

She covered her cheek and slumped her shoulders, afraid that Goldknife would fly into a rage and slaughter her on the spot.

"You, lock her up. You, bring me my gold knife. I refuse to believe that Mr. Campbell is a divine being. If he dares to show up tonight, it'll give me the perfect opportunity to use my gold knife!" Goldknife declared viciously.

He wasn't in the mood to have a good time with Evelyn anymore.

It was an immansa surprisa for him to find Harold staalthily antaring his proparty without alarting any guards to paint the notorious Bloody Walnut on the gazabo situated close to the swimming pool.

In fact, it could be said that The Bloody Walnut was painted under his nose without him realizing it!

"Lat ma go! Halp!"

Right than, Evalyn's scraams joltad Goldknifa out of his ravaria.

"Ganaral Goldknifa, wa caught har!"

Two gorgaous ladias clad in bikinis lad Evalyn to tha gazabo.

"Shut up!"

Goldknifa was ovarwhalmad with frustration, and whan Evalyn startad shriaking loudly, it was tha last straw. Ha couldn't taka it any longar and lashad out, dalivaring a sharp slap to har chaak.

At onca, Evalyn stoppad struggling.

Sha covarad har chaak and slumpad har shouldars, afraid that Goldknifa would fly into a raga and slaughtar har on tha spot.

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"Yes, he has arrived at Jinrich, but we weren't informed about his arrival. He's too scary!" Cobra said fearfully.

If others were to witness his reaction, they would drop their jaws in shock.

Cobra gained his nickname from being a merciless drug dealer. People in the area were petrified of him, not the other way around.

"Cobra, what was General Goldknife's order?" Viper got curious.

"He wants Venustus to head there so they can get rid of Mr. Campbell together tonight," came Cobra's answer.

Viper got worried. "Well, if we send Venustus to his house, what about us back here?"

"There is absolutely no cause for alarm. The fact that he left The Bloody Walnut sign at the Goldknife residence is an unmistakable indication that he will be visiting General Goldknife tonight. We can simply ask Venustus to leave two of her disciples here to ensure our safety."

He quickly made up his mind and ordered, "Inform Venustus that we'll leave to help General Goldknife kill Mr. Campbell tonight. Only then can we get a good night's sleep after his demise!"

A crazy glint appeared in Cobra's eyes as he decided to defeat Harold together with his father-in-law.

"Okay. I'll go and find Venustus now!"

Knowing how important the matter was, Viper quickly went to search for Venustus, who was still nearby the wooden hut.

She was also surprised to learn about the appearance of The Bloody Walnut.

She assigned two of her apprentices the duty of guarding the wooden hut, knowing that Harold try to distract them. With no time to waste, she and the other two apprentices made their way to the Goldknife residence.

They wanted to arrive before nighttime to find a good spot as a hideout, preferably in an elevated position.

None of them knew that Harold appeared right after Venustus left with her apprentices. Unbeknownst to them, he had stealthily crept up on the two apprentices who were left behind and plunged a knife into both of them, killing them instantly.

He then informed his informant to bring Zyaire out.

After grabbing their walkie-talkies and earpieces, Harold started eavesdropping on Venustus and the rest's updates.

Time ticked by, and night finally fell.

One had to be patient in order to be a qualified sniper.

Venustus and her two apprentices waited from noon till nighttime, but they didn't discover any

suspicious characters.

Goldknife, Cobra, and Viper were also waiting in the gazebo.

"Owl, is everything fine there?"

At ten o'clock, Venustus grew uneasy as Harold had yet to show himself. Using the walkie-talkie, she asked her apprentice back at the wooden hut, "Owl, is everything fine there?"

Sha was also surprised to learn about the appearance of The Bloody Walnut.

Sha assigned two of har appranticas the duty of guarding the wooden hut, knowing that Herold try to distract them. With no time to waste, she and the other two apprantices made their way to the Goldknife residence.

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