

The Enigmatic Return (Neera and Jean)

Chapter 1201

Upon hearing this, everyone carefully stepped aside to avoid the confrontation.

However, due to the narrowness of the open space, they inevitably ended up crossing paths with the two forces engaged in combat.

With just one glance, Caleb's expression subtly changed.

Meanwhile, the two forces were solely focused on their current conflict, paying no attention to others. Consequently, no one noticed Caleb and his people.

Observing the situation, Neera breathed a sigh of relief and stuck close to Finnley, eager to leave this "battlefield" as soon as possible.

However, Caleb remained motionless.

Naturally, his people also came to a halt.

Neera turned around and saw them standing still. She quickly lowered her voice and asked, "Mr. Medicina, why aren't you moving? Hurry up and catch up."

Upon hearing the sound, Shane stopped. "What's wrong?"

He glanced at Caleb, then at the two groups fighting each other, noticing something. "Do you know these people?"

Caleb's eyes darkened slightly, his previous carefree demeanor vanishing without a trace.

"Yes, these are the people from Lordsworth Estate, the Beasley family, who have collaborated with the Medicina family before."

Shane understood. "So, you want to help them?"

Caleb nodded. "They're at a disadvantage now, and I can't just stand by and watch them perish. Mr. Gordon, you guys should go ahead. Don't get involved in this matter anymore. Once I've dealt with this situation, I'll catch up with you."

"Sorry, but I have to disagree," Shane shook his head. "You've been supporting the Gordon family all this time. Now that you're in trouble, wouldn't we be utterly heartless if we just walk away? The Gordon family can't do such a thing. We'll stay and help you."

Caleb was somewhat taken aback, quickly furrowing his brows.

"But Lordsworth Estate and Bartitsu Guild have always been at odds. Along this journey, the Gordon family and the Medicina family traveling together is already somewhat inappropriate. If we were to help save the forces from Lordsworth Estate, I'm afraid the Gordon family's situation with Bartitsu Guild would become even more difficult. I've heard that Ms. Garcia was previously questioned by the Gordon family elders and the people from Bartitsu Guild because of matters related to Lordsworth Estate. So, it's best if you leave."

No sooner had he finished speaking than Neera, who had come over, calmly and firmly rejected his suggestion.

"The relationship between Lordsworth Estate and Bartitsu Guild is not good, but that has nothing to do with our two families. The stance between the powers does not represent the position of the Gordon family. I remember all the help that the Medicina family has given to the Gordon family. Naturally, we won't just leave you behind."

Shane pointed ahead. "If you continue to resist, the people of Lordsworth Estate may not be able to hold on any longer."

He recognized another force, the Frazier family, affiliated with the Ancient Martial Arts Guild.

Seeing their determination to help, Caleb no longer declined their offer.

"Alright, thank you all very much. Let's get going!"

As soon as the words were spoken, he and Shane gave their respective orders, and their men charged forward.

Over there, both the Frazier and Beasley families were taken aback, not expecting someone to suddenly intervene.

Due to the sudden and overwhelming arrival of the Gordon and Medicina families, the situation was swiftly resolved. It was akin to cutting through tangled hemp with a sharp knife.

The Beasley family was rescued, while the Frazier family attempted to escape, but they were intercepted and captured by the Gordon family.

"You... You are from the Gordon family!"

The members of the Frazier family recognized Shane and Neera and immediately started questioning them.

"The Gordon family is part of Bartitsu Guild, yet you don't share our enmity against the Beasley family. Instead, you're colluding with the Medicina family! What are your intentions? Aren't you afraid of the guild's punishment?" [SEARCH THE WEBSITE TO ACCESS CHAPTERS OF NOVELS EARLY AND IN THE HIGHEST QUALITY.](#)

Shane grabbed him by the collar, sneering coldly, "Stop using the guild as an excuse in front of me. If you dare, go ahead and report us, the Gordon family, to the guild. I'd love to see if you have the guts to do that!"

"What... What are you trying to do? Are you going to attack your own people?" The person was instantly filled with shock and anger.

At that moment, Neera also sneered.

"If we're talking about taking action, hasn't that already happened just now? As for being on the same side, that's not necessarily the case. Once we enter this dense forest, what's the difference whether we're from Lordsworth Estate or Bartitsu Guild? Isn't every power just looking out for their own family's interests? Do you really think the guild's forces would give way to each other and not fight for the white flag?"

The person was instantly speechless, his face turning red.

Shane had no patience for his nonsense and asked him directly, "Tell me. Why did you target the Beasley family? We're still a long way from the white flag on the mountaintop."

The person gritted his teeth, stubbornly retorting, "Why do you have so many questions? If they're the enemy, of course, we fight whenever we want to!"

At that moment, someone from the Beasley family shouted, "We've been ambushed by them!"

"Ambush? What's going on?" Caleb had a vague feeling that something was off and immediately pressed for answers.

While it was normal to encounter conflicts along the way, they usually only escalated into major battles after significant conflicts.

But it was not yet the critical moment, and the Beasley family wasn't exactly a formidable opponent. Why should they go out of their way to ambush them?

[SEARCH THE WEBSITE TO ACCESS CHAPTERS OF NOVELS EARLY AND IN THE HIGHEST QUALITY.](#)

Chapter 1202

Just Give Up

Only a few members of the Beasley family remained, and one of them, who could still speak, coughed up blood before speaking.

"Mr. Medicina, thank you for your timely assistance. Without you, the Beasley family would have been wiped out. We will never forget your kindness! We were ambushed before we could prepare to defend ourselves, and we have been retreating ever since. We were chased and blocked all the way here, losing five people along the way. Now, only a few of us remain. We have never had any disputes with the Frazier family, and we have always followed the rules. Furthermore, we have never intentionally offended anyone. So, we don't understand why we were targeted for this ambush..."

Upon hearing this, Caleb's eyes darkened, and he shifted his gaze back to the Frazier family members.

"I'm giving you one last chance. Speak up. Why did you set up an ambush?"

Everyone in the Frazier family seemed to have taken a vow of silence, refusing to utter a single word.

Caleb suddenly laughed, but his eyes did not share the mirth, making it rather chilling.

"Alright then, since you choose to do it the hard way. Don't blame me for being impolite."

After he finished speaking, he turned to Shane, "Leave them to us. After all, you are from the Bartitsu Guild. If word gets out, it won't be easy for you to explain."

Shane did not refuse. He loosened his grip and allowed the Medicina family to take them into the nearby woods.

Before long, a series of horrifying screams echoed from that direction, filled with utter desperation, chilling to the bone.

Neera felt a chill run down her spine, causing goosebumps to rise all over her body. [SEARCH THE WEBSITE TO ACCESS CHAPTERS OF NOVELS EARLY AND IN THE HIGHEST QUALITY.](#)

At that moment, Darcel walked over. He did not say a word, but just stood in front of her, positioning himself between her and the forest, like a silent wall.

Before long, the group finally confessed the truth as they could no longer bear the torment.

"Last night... last night, nearly two groups of people were... were eradicated. Someone has put out a hefty bounty to find the culprit. We're just trying our luck..."

As these words were spoken, Caleb's expression subtly changed, and he instinctively glanced at Darcel.

At the same time, the depth of Darcel's eyes became even more profound, as if they were dyed with ink, and covered with a layer of frost, chilling to the bone.

In this subtle moment, a silent exchange of glances between the two of them went unnoticed by everyone else...

Due to this minor incident, the group decided to take a short break here.

Neera had been walking for so long that her legs were too tired to carry her any further, so naturally, she had no objections.

She and Finnley found a rock to sit on, sighing and muttering to each other.

"We've only been in the forest for two days and so many conflicts have arisen. It seems the days ahead will be even more challenging. We must be careful."

Finnley, however, was quite carefree, leisurely savoring the coffee from the thermos.

"Rest assured, peace is not an option here. What do you think this is? It's a power struggle. From the moment we entered Mount Cloud, life has not been peaceful. All that remains is endless danger. Relax a bit, there's no need to be overly tense. We'll face whatever comes our way and adapt to the situation. No matter what happens next, we'll overcome it, even if we have to confront it head-on."

Neera was initially a bit nervous, but hearing him say this, she was amused and felt like laughing.

"I've noticed that your mindset is truly admirable. It seems like even the most tumultuous events are nothing to you."

The old man just shook his head and looked a little smug.

"Well, what did you think? That I've lived all these years for nothing? I've experienced so much more than all of you many times over. How could I possibly act like you youngsters, getting startled at the drop of a hat..."

Meanwhile, Caleb walked up to Darcel and asked him, "What's your take on this matter?"

Darcel glanced at the members of the Frazier family. Their faces were bruised and battered, and a glint of sharpness flashed through his eyes.

"Most likely, someone is operating behind the scenes, trying to form alliances with other forces and doing their best to eliminate any opposition. This way, they can save some energy. Otherwise, someone is trying to create chaos, so they can take advantage of the situation."

"A third party will benefit from a conflict between two parties. Ha, if that's the case, it's indeed a well-played strategy."

"It's not particularly wise, but sure enough, someone still falls for it."

"Let's not talk about this for now. What should we do about those people from the Frazier family? If we just leave them be, I guess they'll be rescued soon."

"Didn't you hear what they just said? If someone rescues them, the Gordon family will inevitably be dragged into this."

Caleb suddenly slapped his own forehead. "Oh right, I forgot about your sweetheart. We can't involve her in this. So, what's your plan? To get rid of them directly?"

After a moment of silence, Darcel said coldly, "Just discard them."

Caleb raised an eyebrow, "Alright, whatever you say, we'll do it your way."

So, he signaled his men, instructing them to drag those people into the woods for handling.

As for the remaining five from the Beasley family, they were taken in by the Medicina family, joining them on their journey...

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1203

Before embarking on their journey, Neera looked around curiously.

"What about the people from the Frazier family? Have they been set free?" she asked.

Caleb didn't respond immediately. Instead, he glanced at Darcel.

Darcel wore an expressionless face and replied indifferently, "I've left them in the forest to fend for themselves. There is no need to worry about them."

Neera didn't dwell on it too much and simply nodded to show her understanding.

Caleb's lips twitched slightly as he thought to himself, "Love really does bring about a world of change."

"Is this still the man I know? The one who is decisive and ruthless, who wouldn't even hesitate to seal someone's fate?" he wondered.

"How come he has become so gentle in his actions now, even his words have become so tactful?" Caleb found it odd.

He remembered the time when Tiago had excitedly called him to vent about Jean, and he didn't believe it. Now he understood why Tiago had such a strong reaction.

"What are you looking at? Let's go," Darcel interrupted Caleb's thoughts, urging him to move.

Caleb snapped back to reality and saw that everyone had finished preparing. He nodded and said, "Let's continue."

Next, they embarked on another aimless journey up the mountain.

As dusk approached, Luna, who had been absent for a long time, suddenly returned.

She still maintained her cool and aloof demeanor as she walked straight to Darcel's side and began to report with utmost respect.

"We have a problem. We're being followed," Luna informed them.

Upon hearing this, both Darcel and Caleb came to a sudden halt.

They didn't look back, but their attention was clearly focused on the surrounding area behind them. Using their peripheral vision and straining their ears, they tried to catch every detail of the situation unfolding behind them.

However, in the dense forest, apart from the thick tree trunks, they discovered nothing else.

With his back facing the rear, Luna spoke in a hushed tone, "I've noticed that a considerable number of people have gathered behind us, following us at a safe distance. It seems they have no intention of attacking at the moment. However, since they've been tailing us for so long, they surely won't be doing it for nothing. I fear they might launch a surprise attack on us tonight."

Darcel's eyes narrowed slightly, and a hint of ruthlessness appeared in his obsidian-like gaze, fleeting and quickly replaced by a cold indifference.

"I understand," he finally replied. Then, he hurried to catch up with the Gordon family, accompanied by Caleb.

"I have something to discuss with you," Darcel deliberately walked over to Neera, strolling alongside her.

Neera was talking to Shane when they both heard something and turned to look at him, stopping in their tracks.

"What is it? Go ahead and tell me," Shane said.

Darcel said, "Don't stop, and don't look back. Keep walking and talking as if we're having a casual chat while strolling."

Shane quickly grasped his meaning, his pupils abruptly contracting.

Neera took a moment to process the situation. Before she could react, Darcel's hand had already moved past her, landing on her other shoulder.

In the next moment, he straightened her body to face forward.

His large hand slid down to briefly rest on her back before quickly withdrawing with a gentle push.

"Keep walking and talk as we go," Darcel instructed smoothly. His expression remained unchanged, as if nothing had happened at all.

Neera's heart pounded uncontrollably, followed by a wave of annoyance and a touch of anger.

She was angry at this man's behavior and at herself for allowing him to get so close.

Apart from Jean, there hadn't been another man who could get this close to her.

"What the hell did he just do? Isn't that a bit too rude?" she thought.

At the same time, she was angry with herself, feeling disappointingly weak.

It was just a small gesture, but why did her heart rate increase?

Could it be because of the sense of familiarity she felt with this man?

But he was not Jean....

"Neera? Neera? What are you thinking about?" Shane waved his hand in front of her eyes, pulling her back from her thoughts. Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

She quickly apologized, "I'm sorry, I was lost in thought. What were you saying just now?"

Darcel lowered his gaze to her and repeated, "Someone is tailing us from behind, and not just one person. They're probably waiting for an opportunity to strike."

Upon hearing this, Neera's heart immediately skipped a beat. She wanted to look back, but she knew she couldn't act rashly and risk being noticed.

After regaining her composure, she asked, "So, what do we do now? Should we try to shake them off?"

Shane dismissed the idea immediately.

"No, it won't work. We have a sizable group. If we move together, we'll be too conspicuous and it will be difficult to lose anyone following us. Besides, we're in the mountains, surrounded by dense forests. If we're not careful, we could easily get lost, especially if we split up. We can't take that risk."

Darcel shared the same thought. "Exactly. If we act rashly, not only will we fail to shake off those people, but we might also be detected. There's a chance that they might launch a surprise attack in advance. The enemy is in the dark while we are in the light, so they might have already figured out our situation, yet we still don't know anything about them. The situation is very unfavorable for us."

Neera frowned. "So, should we just let them keep following us? Doesn't that mean a conflict is inevitable?"

Search the [Findnovel.net](#) website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1204

Darcel pondered, lightly tapping his chin. "The other party clearly came prepared and determined to take action. No matter how cautious we are, there will always be a moment of negligence. Therefore, violent conflict is inevitable."

Neera expressed deep concern. "How could this happen? Could it be the same people who attacked us in the middle of the night before?"

The first attempt didn't succeed, so they've brought enough manpower to try again?

Darcel shook his head. "It's not that group of people."

Seeing his resolute assertion, Neera couldn't help but question, "How can you be so sure?"

Caleb remained silent on the side, muttering complaints to himself.

Of course, he knew that he had already sent those guys to meet their maker.

Lord of the Night paused for a moment, then responded calmly, "That group was severely hit by us recently. They won't recover so quickly."

"I see..." Neera didn't quite understand, but she chose to believe whatever he said. "If it's not them, then who is it this time? Does the Gordon family have so many enemies?"

Shane's face turned serious. "Actually, it's not too bad. However, the guild's attitude towards the Gordon family this time is rather intriguing, and it's attracting a lot of attention. So, it's hard to say how things will turn out."

Caleb casually rubbed the back of his head, his tone as laid-back as ever, showing no signs of nervousness.

"Actually, whether we have enemies or not is no longer important. Once you enter this dense forest, everyone wants to break through the encirclement and come out on top. Whether it's between the guild and Lordsworth Estate, or within the guild and the estate itself. In fact, their relationships have long been strained."

Darcel also said, "Now is not the time to worry about who they are. We'll figure out what's going on once we've captured them and thoroughly interrogated them."

"Capture them? But are we confident enough to confront them directly?"

A shadow passed over Darcel's eyes. "If conflict is inevitable, then we should steer it towards the outcome we desire. They have the advantage in numbers, so we can't overpower them. Instead, we must outsmart them."

Shane also agreed. "That's right. Even if we confront them head-on and win this round, the journey ahead is still long. Who knows what violent conflicts might occur in the future? If we exhaust all our energy and strength here, causing casualties, it would not be beneficial for us in the long run."

Neera understood their intentions.

"So, your idea is to strike first, catch them off guard, minimize our own involvement as much as possible, and aim for a swift victory?"

"Bingo!" Caleb gave a thumbs up. "That's exactly what I mean."

The group chatted as they slowly moved forward.

After some thought, Neera casually glanced around, pretending to be nonchalant.

"If we want to gain the upper hand, the only thing we can use right now is our surroundings. But looking around, aside from the dense forest, there doesn't seem to be much else we can utilize."

In the face of the current situation, although she was slow to accept it at first, once she understood, her mind worked quickly.

"Ms. Garcia, you're so clever," Caleb praised her with a smile, "Just a moment ago you seemed confused, but now you've quickly come up with a strategy."

Neera felt somewhat embarrassed by his compliments.

"Mr. Medicina, you flatter me. I'm just brainstorming, I haven't come up with a solid plan yet." Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Beside her, Darcel watched her intently. A hint of admiration surfaced in his deep, obsidian-like eyes.

Shane spoke up at this moment, "There's nothing here we can use to our advantage, but that might not be the case up ahead. It seems to open up more in the front, like a relatively flat valley."

Darcel nodded. "That's right. The valley lies ahead. The surroundings are flat, but the middle is slightly lower, forming a pond. We can take advantage of that place to set a trap."

Neera was surprised. "You seem very familiar with the terrain here. Have you been here before?"

Upon hearing this, both Caleb and Darcel's expressions subtly changed.

Caleb thought to himself. How could I not be familiar? This guy rose to power during the initial election at Lordsworth Estate, it all started from this very place!

No one probably knows the situation here better than this man...

Darcel would certainly not admit it, so he casually made up an excuse, "Before I came in, I checked the information and maps drawn by others."

Neera chose not to doubt his explanation and nodded. "So that's how it is."

Shane said, "Alright, let's do it this way. We'll catch the prey in the trap when the time comes. It will definitely save us a lot of effort."

Darcel nodded. "For now, let's pretend we haven't noticed anything. We'll set up camp when we get there. They've been following us all this time without making a move. They surely don't want to reveal anything. They'll probably wait until the dead of night to act. We can discuss further once we're there."

And so, the matter was settled.

And so, the group continued on their journey as if they hadn't noticed a thing.

As evening fell, they finally reached the valley.

Darcel had given prior instructions, specifically to not venture into the valley, but to pitch tents along its edge instead.

This way, those who were tracking them could not get close, remaining completely unaware of the situation in the valley...

Search the **Findnovel.net** website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1205

Neera felt a bit uneasy at first.

"Is this really okay? This valley is semi-enclosed, with only one exit. If we station ourselves here and they launch a surprise attack at night, we'll have no choice but to enter the valley with them. If they outnumber us and completely surround us, wouldn't our plan fail?"

Darcel raised an eyebrow. "I understand your concerns, but as the saying goes, the most dangerous place is often the safest. This valley may seem dangerous, but if we use it well, we can achieve unexpected results."

"Catch them off guard?" Neera asked curiously, leaning forward unconsciously. "What's your plan?"

She didn't notice that they had unintentionally moved closer while talking.

At this moment, their shoulders were almost touching, their breaths closer than before, allowing them to catch the faint scent of each other's freshness and fragrance.

Darcel noticed that, and a flicker of emotion passed in his eyes. On his rigid, cold face, a hint of a smile emerged. It was faint and not easily detected by others.

But Neera noticed it nonetheless.

In those beautiful almond eyes, there was a moment of bewilderment, followed by a mix of surprise and suspicion.

Meanwhile, some expectations took root in her heart, spreading rapidly.

She had always felt an inexplicable sense of familiarity with this man. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

At first, she thought it was an illusion, as she felt that her excessive longing for Jean was playing tricks on her mind. So, whenever she saw even the slightest hint of something familiar, she would instinctively think of him.

"But the more time we spend together, the stronger that feeling becomes."

"Especially when this man is around, he gives me a sense of security."

"Just like when Jean is around, he always inexplicably puts me at ease!"

Just now, she clearly caught the emotion in this man's eyes, such tenderness, the same as what she saw in Jean's eyes!

"Could it be him?"

"Is the man by my side Jean?"

For a moment, images flooded her mind of the countless encounters in the dense forest. Each time, this man had appeared by her side just in time, guarding and protecting her.

His extraordinary care and concern for her now seemed to make sense.

"And so, the unusual beating of my own heart makes sense..."

Her innermost feelings were revealed through her eyes.

Darcel's pupils contracted slightly, his hands subconsciously clenched into fists.

In the next moment, he abruptly shifted his gaze away. When he spoke again, his voice was significantly colder.

"The so-called strategy is actually quite simple. It's about using that pond to kick a dog when it's down."

He steered the conversation back to the most pressing matter at hand.

Neera was taken aback when she noticed his sudden indifference.

How come... that familiar feeling has disappeared?

Looking at the man's profile, she gently pursed her lips, the light in her eyes dimming slightly.

Darcel didn't look at her, so he didn't notice. He just calmly discussed the upcoming strategic deployment.

"By nightfall, everyone will move into the valley. We will split into two groups, each lying in ambush on either side of the valley's exit. The plan is to counter-attack when the enemy charges in, leading them towards the pond. The goal is to knock as many as possible into the water. Once they are in the water, they will essentially be defenseless."

Upon hearing this, Shane pondered and nodded slightly.

"This idea is feasible. Let's proceed with it and work out the specific details."

Darcel nodded, quickly summoning everyone in groups and arranging them accordingly.

Roughly an hour later, all preparations were in place. Everyone carried on with their usual chatter and laughter, while subtly heightening their guard, ready to tackle any trouble at a moment's notice.

Neera preferred to stand by and listen quietly.

For now, she set aside her own worries.

Yet, her eyes just couldn't look away, automatically drawn to that man.

"Am I overthinking it?"

"Perhaps this man is just somewhat similar to Jean..."

"Neera?" Suddenly, Shane called out to her.

Neera regained her focus. "Shane, what's wrong?"

Shane looked a bit peculiar. "Shouldn't I be the one asking you what's wrong? You seem... a bit off."

He paused, seemingly contemplating whether or not to ask.

"I notice you're always staring at Darcel, seemingly lost in thought. Is there something wrong with him?"

Neera was taken aback, her cheeks suddenly turned red, and she instantly felt a bit embarrassed.

"I..."

Seeing how she hesitated to speak, Shane felt somewhat apologetic.

"I understand that it's not my place to pry into your personal affairs. If you don't wish to discuss it, that's perfectly fine. I didn't mean anything by it, but I just find this man a bit peculiar."

Neera blinked. "Do you also think there's something off about him?"

"Mm, of course, I'm not questioning his loyalty. I just feel that his care for you is a bit excessive. Even if it's an order from Caleb, I still find it strange. After all, the Medicina family and the Gordon family are not on the same side. They are with Lordsworth Estate, and we belong to Bartitsu Guild. Although there's no conflict between the two families due to different affiliations, we should just be acquaintances, nothing more. It's not so good that we would travel together, especially in such an important competition..."

Search the **FindNovel.net** website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1206

Upon hearing his words, Neera also found them a bit strange.

"But what could the Medicina family be planning if they have hidden motives? Besides, Mr. Medicina has always been sincere towards me. If he truly wanted to do something, there would be no need for him to wait until now..."

Shane nodded, glancing at the few people who were planning a counterattack.

"I'm not sure if the Medicina family has hidden motives or if they genuinely have no interest in the district president. I don't know Caleb well, but he has had a good

reputation over the years. He is a non-competitive man who avoids trouble. The Medicina family is also fully dedicated to the field of medicine. If they suddenly have the urge to help the Gordon family, that would be the best outcome. We would definitely remember their kindness. However..."

"We should not have ill intentions towards others, but we must also be cautious of those who might harm us. We don't know the Medicina family well, and it's difficult to understand their intentions. Moreover, the two families have different levels of power. I know it may sound paranoid, but it's better to stay vigilant." Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Next, he brought up a point that he was particularly concerned about.

"Furthermore, some of the people the Medicina family brought with them don't seem to be part of the Medicina family itself. Luna and Darcel, their skills are not something inherited within the Medicina family. But I've never heard of the Medicina family joining forces with any other family. So, what exactly is the identity of these people?"

Neera understood what he meant.

"I understand. I will be cautious."

Shane let out a deep sigh. "This election has everyone on edge. It would be better if it ended soon."

Neera nodded thoughtfully, her gaze falling on the group of people engrossed in discussion.

As she recalled Shane's words, she also became distracted from the situation over there.

Gradually, she noticed something strange.

Even though Caleb was clearly the leader of the Medicina family, she couldn't help but feel that Darcel, somehow, seemed more like the main figure...

Once everything was settled, Caleb pulled Darcel aside.

"Do you need something?" Darcel responded with his usual indifference.

Caleb raised an eyebrow. "Ms. Garcia and Shane were watching you the whole time you were making arrangements. I wonder what they were talking about."

Upon hearing this, a slight movement flickered across Darcel's eyebrows, but he remained silent.

Caleb leaned against a rock, a blade of foxtail grass dangling from his mouth that he had picked up from somewhere, looking every bit like a carefree and idle young nobleman.

"I'm thinking, Shane probably wants your precious fiancée to be wary of us. After all, you are officially representing the Medicina family now. Yet, you are so devoted to her, always attentive, and even go out of your way to protect her. It wouldn't be surprising if Shane suspects that you have hidden motives."

Darcel glanced towards the Gordon family and immediately found Neera in the crowd. Seeing her sipping some water, he paused for two seconds before shifting his gaze away.

"So what?"

Caleb turned his head to look at him. "You seem to not care about anything. Of course, the Gordon family wouldn't do anything to the Medicina family. At most, they would just be a bit cautious. However, I don't think Ms. Garcia sees it the same way. Don't think I didn't notice earlier, but the way she looks at you is completely different from before. Perhaps you have done too much and revealed something? Maybe she already suspects you."

Darcel leaned against a large rock with one leg bent, and his arm casually draped around his leg. His ordinary face was resolute and indifferent, yet his gaze was profound, his expression inscrutable.

"She won't recognize me," he said.

Caleb was confused. "I heard you two had a falling out? Was it because of the things that were posted online? Haven't you made up yet? Is that why you chose to be with her in this way? Isn't that unnecessary? I don't think she's the type to hold grudges. From the way she looked at you just now, she probably wishes you were him. Can you bear to disappoint her? Even if the truth comes out, it wouldn't be a big deal, right?"

Upon hearing this, Darcel recalled the phone call he received after arriving in District Twenty-One.

Recalling what she said...

"We have reconciled, and there are no hard feelings anymore."

"There you go!" Caleb tossed aside the foxtail grass. "So what's holding you back?"

Darcel stood up. "My identity could bring her trouble. I cannot reveal myself until everything is settled."

Caleb sighed. "Given your status, it's not impossible for you to protect her. Besides, people are bound to find out sooner or later, so why make things so complicated?"

Darcel's gaze was deep. "For now, it's better to leave things as they are to avoid unnecessary complications."

Caleb gave in. "Alright then, you have your own reasons, so do as you wish. It seems you truly cherish her, huh. Tsk tsk, I never thought I'd see the day when you'd fall deeply in love..."

Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1207

The night gradually grew darker.

Above the valley, where the dense canopy of trees no longer obstructed the view, the deep blue night sky stretched out, adorned with a brilliantly bright moon.

Despite the brightness of the moon and the sparse stars, the night in the mountains had a unique charm. Many twinkling stars could still be seen.

After finishing her dinner, Neera decided to sit outside the tent, gazing dreamily at the night sky.

I wonder what my aunt and uncle are doing right now.

Are Grandpa, Grandma, Uncle Jeremiah, and Aunt Nadine enjoying themselves on the small island?

Are the triplets behaving?

In quiet moments, one often missed their loved ones. Neera missed them dearly, so she reached for her phone with the intention of sending them a message.

However, as soon as she took it out, she remembered that she was in the mountains where her phone couldn't get a signal.

Nevertheless, she still opened WhatsApp and scrolled through her previous chat history.

As she looked through her messages, her fingertips once again rested on Jean's name.

Upon opening the chat box, she saw that the messages were still from the day before she went into the mountains.

"No matter what happens, I'm here for you. Once you've figured things out, I'll come to see you."

That man could clearly sense her unease over the phone.

So, he sent those words after hanging up.

Is he here...?

Subconsciously, she lifted her gaze, her eyes traveling past clusters of people resting here and there, finally settling on the figure of Darcel.

Darcel also turned to look in her direction, as if he had sensed something.

Their eyes met. Although they were separated by a distance, their emotions were not clearly discernible to each other.

Then, Neera saw him stand up and walk over, with Caleb following by his side.

"Ms. Garcia, you should rest early when you get a chance. Try to sleep if you can. We don't know when a surprise attack might happen at night, and it's not good to keep waiting."

Neera stood up, brushing off the dirt from her clothes.

"I don't think I'll be able to sleep. The thought of what's going to happen tonight keeps me awake. I'll stick with Shane later, and I'll try my best not to cause any trouble for all of you."

She knew that in the face of such violent conflicts, she was mostly useless. All she could do was try her best not to cause them any trouble.

Caleb raised an eyebrow. His casual demeanor did not suggest that anything significant was about to happen.

"Ms. Garcia, you shouldn't think of yourself as a burden. If someone gets injured, they'll need your help for treatment."

Neera chuckled helplessly. "Although you're right, I'd rather not be needed in such situations. It's best if everyone could avoid getting hurt."

Caleb smiled faintly. "I've just discussed with Mr. Gordon to have him and Darcel protect you together."

Neera paused slightly, glanced at Darcel, and hesitated. "Having Shane should be enough, right? We probably don't need to bother Darcel..."

"It's safer this way," Caleb insisted, "The people following us are mainly after you and me. Without a leader, this family won't have a reason to fight, so it's better to have more people protecting you."

Neera felt a bit embarrassed. "I'm really sorry... I can't be of much help and always seem to be holding you back..."

At this moment, Darcel spoke calmly, "No, tonight, after they fall into the water, you can use stealth weapons to catch them off guard. I will assist you then."

Upon hearing this, Neera's eyes lit up. "Really? Can I do that too?"

Looking at the sparkle in her round eyes, Darcel felt a hint of amusement but managed to hold back his laughter. He pursed his lips and nodded. "Hmm."

With this, the burden in Neera's heart finally felt a bit lighter.

"Great! I will definitely do my best to help all of you!"

She had a serious look on her face, as if she had been entrusted with an important mission.

Seeing her like this, Darcel really wanted to ruffle her hair.

...

In the early hours, the campsite was enveloped in silence.

Everyone was awake, holding their breath in anticipation of the imminent surprise attack.

As expected, the group of people thought they had gone unnoticed. They had been lying in ambush in the nearby dense forest for quite some time. Now, they finally found their opportunity and swiftly moved towards the camp.

Upon closer inspection, they realized that no one was on guard.

This took them by surprise.

However, they had received the order, and it had to be carried out tonight.

Therefore, they overlooked these anomalies and began searching for traces of the Gordon and Medicina families in the valley behind the camp.

And so, step by step, they walked into the trap set for them by both families...

The unexpected happened in an instant!

The moment this group reached the entrance of the valley, two large groups of people suddenly rushed out from both sides and charged at them fiercely!

Their attention had initially been focused on the valley ahead, so they did not expect an ambush here. As a result, they were caught off guard and taken by surprise! Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

In a flash, they responded in a flurry of confusion, scattered by the blows. While counterattacking, they were simultaneously retreating in the opposite direction.

Due to the darkness of the night, they failed to notice the pond not far behind them...

Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1208

Thud!

The sound of splashing water echoed as they fell into the pond one after another.

Followed by the screams of those individuals.

Clearly, this was an unexpected and unprepared situation for them.

The people on the shore didn't give them a chance to catch their breath. They relentlessly beat them and prevented them from reaching the shore.

Meanwhile, not far away on the hillside, three pairs of eyes were intently watching the situation across the pond.

It was indeed Darcel and Shane who were faithfully guarding Neera.

"How did we end up here?" Neera asked, carefully navigating her way with night vision goggles, paying close attention to the stones under her feet.

What concerned her more was the cliff not far behind her.

"This place seems quite dangerous..."

Darcel reached out his hand towards her. "Don't be afraid. Grab my hand and jump over."

Following behind Neera, Shane slightly furrowed his brows upon hearing those words.

However, the current situation didn't allow him to say much. He gently patted Neera's shoulder, soothing her in a soft voice, "Go ahead. I'm right behind you to protect you. Nothing will happen."

Neera preferred to gaze at the jumble of rocks in front of her. She took a deep breath, reached out, but did not grasp Darcel's hand. Instead, she just held onto his wrist, showing restraint.

The glint in Darcel's eyes flickered subtly as he caught her slender wrist. With a gentle tug, he pulled her to his side.

Due to her rather large leap, Neera almost bumped into his embrace with her nose lightly brushing against his chest.

"Thank you," she said softly, her expression subtly changing.

Just now, she caught a whiff of his scent. For some reason, the familiarity it once held for her had vanished.

Although it still smelled fresh and pleasant, it was not what she remembered.

She had no time to dwell on these messy thoughts as the clamor from the valley below quickly drew her attention back.

"Why are we here? Aren't we supposed to use stealth weapons?"

Pointing downwards, Darcel asked, "Can you see clearly?" Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Neera adjusted her night vision goggles. "Hmm, it's very clear."

This was her first time experiencing this, and in such a perilous environment no less. She could feel her blood coursing faster through her veins, and her heart pounding rapidly in her chest.

It felt as if there was a tiny flame inside, crackling and burning away.

"Alright, this spot is not far from the pond and it's elevated, making it convenient for you to aim at them. Don't worry. Just throw the darts freely, and consider it as practice."

Neera swallowed, feeling somewhat embarrassed.

These are living, breathing individuals we're talking about. It seems a bit too cruel to refer to them as mere practice. Don't you think?

However, she wouldn't be blinded by kindness.

She knew very well that these individuals were after their lives.

In this battle, one shall stand and one shall fall.

With this in mind, she took a deep breath and pulled out the carefully wrapped darts...

Somehow, her aim was unusually good tonight, almost every dart hit the mark.

Of course, she didn't aim for vital spots. Her targets were areas like the arms and shoulders, places that wouldn't be fatal, but would hinder their movements.

Inside the pond, those individuals were already struggling to move. Now, they were further tormented by these darts that appeared out of nowhere, gradually leaving them with no room to defend themselves.

From a high vantage point not far away, Neera was delighted to see that the situation below was almost entirely under the control of her people.

As this was the first time she participated in real combat and achieved significant results, she excitedly shook Darcel's arm.

"I did it! I really did it!"

A hint of amusement was hidden in the depths of Darcel's eyes as he spoke warmly, "Hmm, you've done it, and done it very well. You've contributed greatly to this surprise attack."

Beside her, Shane was also quite surprised.

"Neera, you have made rapid progress!"

Neera chuckled, feeling a bit embarrassed by the praises. "It's all thanks to Finnley's good teaching. He's put in a lot of effort during this period. When I see him later, I really need to express my gratitude to him."

Darcel observed the situation below, and when he saw that the time was right, he said, "Let's go. We're heading down."

Neera nodded slightly, then stood up to walk back.

Shane jumped over the pile of rocks before her, taking the lead.

But just then, an unexpected turn of events occurred!

A thunderous boom, akin to a startling clap of thunder, exploded right beside their ears. Accompanying it was the earth and mountains trembling!

"What... what happened!"

Neera was shaking so much that she could barely stand, almost falling down.

Still, it was Darcel with his sharp eyes and quick hands, who caught her in time.

Meanwhile, many stones of various sizes tumbled down from above their heads, conveniently forming a barrier between Neera and Shane.

"Neera! Ahem, ahem... Neera!" Shane's anxious voice came from the other end.

It was too late before Neera could respond. The number of stones rolling down increased, and two of them hit her and Darcel.

At the same time, the tremors on their side were becoming increasingly intense, as if the mountainous terrain beneath their feet was also shifting!

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1209

How could this happen! Search the [FindNovel.net](#) website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Neera was completely shocked, desperately trying to steady herself.

But the tremors were growing stronger, shaking Neera to her core as if all her internal organs were shifting.

Meanwhile, it felt as if something was descending upon them from above.

In her haste, she lifted her gaze, her pupils suddenly constricting.

The mountain!

A large section of the mountain had collapsed!

Countless chunks of the mountain crumbled like snowflakes, hurtling towards them!

Neera's mind was buzzing with activity. She knew that her immediate priority was to escape, to quickly find a place to hide.

For the first time, she was faced with such extreme danger. However, her body couldn't keep up with the pace. It was as if her feet had become rooted to the spot, rendering her unable to move.

At this critical moment, it was Darcel who held her tightly, intending to take her behind a pile of rocks.

However, their current location was perilous, with the terrifying cliff right behind them.

The mountain shook more and more violently due to the collapsing rubble. The two people couldn't even stand steady, let alone move to escape.

Just as the fragments streamed towards them, about to crash into them, Darcel took a risk. He held her and rolled out of the way!

In the next moment, both of them tumbled off the cliff, falling downward under the force of gravity.

The sudden sensation of weightlessness startled Neera so much that her heart nearly leaped out of her chest.

At that moment, Darcel's voice suddenly echoed in her ears.

"Don't be afraid." These few words, without a trace of panic or fear, carried a profound sense of determination and comfort.

Neera was momentarily stunned, then felt someone protecting her.

She felt a strong arm supporting her back and the back of her head.

And there before her was that warm and dependable chest.

For reasons unknown, her heart, once filled with unease, was miraculously soothed by these simple words.

As if by magic, she felt that everything would be alright...

Throughout, Darcel was constantly trying to steady himself, trying to stay rational and calm even as he tumbled.

Fortunately, the edge of the cliff was covered with vines, providing some obstacles on their descent.

Also, at the bottom, there were thorny bushes serving as a cushion.

Although the sight of those thorns was shocking, it was still much better than falling directly to the bottom of the cliff.

Even with some cushioning, the impact of falling from a cliff was not to be underestimated. So, when the two of them finally came to a stop, they were battered and bruised, knocked unconscious. Before they could even register the pain, they had already passed out...

When they woke up again, several hours had already passed.

Darcel regained consciousness before Neera did.

Before he came to a stop, his only conscious thought was to protect the woman in his arms. He made sure to land on his back, holding the woman securely against his chest.

At this moment, he was still holding Neera, his arms scratched and scarred by the thorny bushes, yet he didn't loosen his grip in the slightest.

The moment he regained consciousness, pain swept through his entire body. Every limb ached as if it had been run over by a car.

He gently touched the woman's shoulder, moved her slightly, and couldn't help but draw in a sharp breath.

At this moment, Neera slowly regained consciousness.

She lifted her eyelashes, and upon seeing the chest before her, she was momentarily taken aback.

The events that occurred before she fell unconscious quickly flooded her mind. Instinctively, she lifted her head, accidentally bumping into the man's chin.

A muffled grunt sounded above her head. The man's voice was deep and slightly hoarse when he said, "Don't move yet."

Suddenly, Neera dared not move.

"I'm sorry... I didn't mean to. Are you okay?"

Leaning against the man's chest, she was too worried to be embarrassed or flustered.

"I'm fine," the man responded softly.

Then, she felt the man start to move and quickly stopped him. "Don't move. This place is full of thorns you'll get hurt!"

The man continued his actions without pause, his voice sounding somewhat suppressed. He held his breath as his body tensed with intensity.

"Even if we don't move, we'd still be lying here. The most pressing matter now is to find a safe place."

Having said that, he endured the piercing pain throughout his body and sat up.

Neera was just about to look at him when he changed the way he was holding her.

In the next moment, the man finally stood up with her in his arms.

At this moment, Neera finally saw his face.

Thankfully, his face was unharmed, just a bit dirty.

Soon, Darcel carried her out of the thorny bushes and arrived at a clearing, where he gently set her down.

Almost at the very moment when Neera wished to set foot on the ground, he seemed overwhelmed, his legs devoid of strength, and he collapsed entirely.

"Darcel!" Neera was startled and quickly squatted down to help him.

Darcel was too heavy for her to move, so all she could do was help him lie down on the open ground.

"I'm fine, don't worry. I'm just a bit tired. A little rest will do me good."

Darcel looked at the clear worry on her face, soothing her in a low voice.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1210

He asked her again, "Are you alright? Do you have any injuries?"

Neera shook her head. "No, I'm fine."

When she fell from the cliff, Darcel protected her well. Besides a few scratches and abrasions, she wasn't seriously hurt.

However, Darcel himself was not doing well as he had focused on protecting her.

When Neera saw his usual expression just now, she felt relieved that he was okay.

But now, upon closer inspection, she noticed that his entire body was covered in scrapes and bloodstains. His clothes were mostly dyed red with blood, a sight that was truly shocking.

"Are you okay? How did you get hurt so badly..."

Guilt filled Neera's heart as she thought about how he only became like this after he protected her. Her eyes reddened at the mere thought of it.

Seeing her tears, Darcel immediately propped himself up.

"Don't worry, these are just superficial wounds. They may look terrifying, but they're not serious."

He deliberately downplayed his injuries, hoping to reassure her.

"But I find it hard to believe," Neera said skeptically. "You fell from such a height, landed directly on the ground, and got all bruised and battered. You've bled so much, so how could it possibly be just superficial injuries? Don't try to fool me. Give me your hand. Let me take your pulse and see." [Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

As she spoke, she reached out to touch his wrist.

Yet, Darcel skillfully dodged, gently refusing, "Really, there's no need. I'm not lying to you. They're just minor injuries. If you don't believe me, take a look."

As he spoke, he lifted his aching arm, slowly unbuttoning his shirt.

Soon, all his scars were laid bare before Neera's eyes...

Neera's gaze suddenly froze, her eyes wandering over the blotchy scars. Her expression was complex, as if she was lost in thought.

Most of those scars were old wounds accumulated over the years. Some were cuts created by the thorns when he rolled off the cliff, and there were also traces of bumps and bruises in various shades of blue and purple, crisscrossing each other, which was startling to look at.

Darcel was observing her expressions, capturing the surprise in her eyes and the fleeting sense of loss.

"You can relax now. There are no serious injuries. Don't worry."

He spoke with an air of nonchalance, pretending not to notice her emotional state.

Neera took a deep breath before saying, "Yeah."

Darcel buttoned up his shirt, casually asking her, "What's wrong? Is something amiss?"

Neera did not know what to say.

The moment she saw those old scars, she couldn't quite articulate her feelings.

There was surprise, there was the unexpected, there was the expected, and there was disappointment...

All doubts and suspicions were laid to rest at this moment.

He was not him.

That man didn't have these scars.

As expected, she was overthinking it.

That's right. This is Phison, after all. How could he possibly come here?

"It's nothing." All her doubts were swept away by the night wind. She shook her head and spoke softly.

With a profound look in his eyes, Darcel asked again, "So, are you scared?"

Neera looked up at him, her gaze different from before. It was familiar, yet it felt appropriately distant. Her expression was now calm.

In this world, probably only that man could make her show a flustered, helpless, worried, and scared expression. As for other people and other things, she could face them rationally.

"There's nothing to be scared of. Don't put on your clothes yet. We need to treat your wounds or they might get infected. I brought some medicine with me. I'll clean and bandage them for you. It might hurt a bit, so bear with me.'

Luckily, she didn't lose the bag she was carrying with her. It came in handy at that moment.

Darcel nodded silently, obediently taking off his shirt.

Looking at those startling scars, Neera pursed her lips, her hands moving as she softly asked a question, trying to divert his attention.

"Darcel, how did you get these wounds? Do you often get hurt?"

Due to the potency of the medicine, his wounds throbbed with intense pain. Darcel's body was tense with discomfort. His voice was suppressed as if he was speaking through a mouthful of sand.

"Yeah, I've been practicing martial arts since I was a kid, so getting hurt is pretty common. It's no big deal."

Neera applied the medicine and bandaged him up.

"Do you fight often?"

"Yes."

"What just happened? Why was there such a sudden disturbance? It was like a landslide."

"It wasn't a landslide. Someone took advantage of the chaos and blew up the hollow of the mountain."

"Blew up the mountain?" Neera was shocked, pausing momentarily in her actions. "That's insane... If something goes wrong, wouldn't everyone die together?"

While they were talking, she had already bandaged his wounds.

Darcel sat up, dressed himself, and slowly let out a breath.

A thin layer of sweat formed on his forehead. He paused for a moment before explaining to her.

"The other party wanted exactly this outcome. We were careless. They must have had a backup plan ready to deploy when things didn't go their way. Unable to complete their task, they chose to die together. Moreover, once they blew up the hollow of the mountain, everyone panicked and ran in all directions. This gave them the perfect opportunity to escape in the chaos."

"

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1211

The more Neera listened, the more her brows furrowed.

"If that's the case, these people are incredibly malicious. I wonder who is so desperate to see us dead."

Darcel shifted his arm slightly. Thankfully, there wasn't any serious issue.

"It's not clear at the moment, but judging by their methods, it's likely the influence of the Bartitsu Guild." SEARCH the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Neera recalled what Chad had said before. The power they had at Lordsworth Estate was mostly moderate, while the Bartitsu Guild would go to any lengths to achieve their goals. She felt that this was highly probable.

"I keep thinking that this incident is somehow related to the people who ambushed us last time," she mused. "Both of these large-scale attacks were clearly targeted, and the number of people involved this time was noticeably more than the last. The plan was also more comprehensive than before, as if they've learned from their previous failure, hence the increased investment and meticulous preparation."

After some thought, Darcel nodded. "It's not impossible. However, if it's related to the previous group, we'll need to be even more cautious going forward."

Neera was puzzled. "Why?"

"Last time, there must have been at least two family forces gathered. Afterward, they suffered heavy losses and left. This time, those people definitely won't be involved again. However, the fact that the mastermind behind this can still send out so many people indicates that this person has likely rallied even more forces behind the scenes to serve him. Given this, it won't be easy for the Gordon family to deal with it."

Hearing him say this, Neera couldn't help but feel deeply worried.

"I wonder what's happening on the other side of the valley now. I hope Shane and the others haven't been injured. And those people who attacked in the night..."

Seeing her worry, Darcel comforted her in a gentle voice, "Don't panic. Everything is fine. Before the landslide, we were in a good position. Most of their forces were in the water. It's almost impossible for them to turn the tables. At most, they could take advantage of the chaos to escape. They wouldn't harm the Gordon family. Besides, Caleb is there. They will help the Gordon family. Don't worry."

Indeed, that was easier said than done. She couldn't help but feel anxious since she couldn't see them and didn't know what the situation was.

Because her thoughts were all focused on Shane, she failed to notice the small detail of Darcel directly calling Caleb by his name just now.

"Don't worry about them for now. You're injured too—you should take care of yourself."

"Ah, this? It's nothing to worry about." Neera glanced down at the scratch on her forearm, seemingly unconcerned.

Yet, with a serious expression, Darcel insisted, "What do you mean it's nothing to worry about? An injury is not a trivial matter. It needs to be taken care of. Let me help you."

After he finished speaking, he reached out to grab her hand.

Neera, however, chose to dodge his hand, just as he had dodged her hand earlier.

"This is just a minor injury. I can handle it myself. I'll take care of it."

Neera chose to step back and obediently follow instructions, but she refused the man's offer to help.

No matter what, Darcel was an outsider. She needed to maintain propriety and distance.

Darcel's hand paused mid-air, and he glanced at her. Her head was slightly lowered, her expression calm, her eyebrows subtly raised.

"All right, you handle it yourself. Take a break here. I'm going to check out the situation and see what we should do next."

Neera nodded. "All right, just be careful."

At that time, Shane and his companions had already escaped from the valley.

The recent landslide almost buried them inside the valley.

Luckily, they reacted quickly and didn't linger in the fight.

However, it was a pity that the group managed to escape during the chaos. They couldn't catch anyone.

"Damn it! They got away, and we don't even know who's pulling the strings behind the scenes!"

The members of the Cox family were all disheveled, cursing loudly in their anger.

Shane was not in the mood to deal with these matters at the moment, his gaze incessantly wandering around his surroundings.

"Is Neera around? Has she not come out yet? Has anyone seen her?" Unable to spot Neera, he grew anxious, his questions coming out in a rapid-fire manner.

Everyone shook their heads, both Charles and Finnley's faces looking terrible.

"We didn't see her. Wasn't she with you before? How did you two separate?"

Shane gritted his teeth. "We were together initially, but when the mountain collapsed, we were separated by the rolling stones. I couldn't get across, nor could I see what was happening on her side! As the rolling stones increased, I had no choice but to descend first. I kept thinking she must have run down another path with Darcel!"

Charles' face turned even more unsightly when he heard that.

If something were to happen to Ms. Garcia, how would we ever explain it to Mr. Gordon?

Just then, Caleb spoke in a soft voice. "There's no need to worry so much. Ms. Garcia will be fine."

Currently, Finnley was also full of worries, his tone somewhat unpleasant.

"What do you know? How can you be so sure! You don't seem worried at all. The one who disappeared with Neera is one of your people. You're so calm. Don't tell me you don't care about their well-being at all?"

If anyone else had said this, Caleb would probably have been frowning by now.

However, since Finnley was an elder and a highly respected individual, he would naturally show some respect. He explained in a calm and unhurried manner, "Easy there, Mr. Weaver. It's not that I don't care about their well-being, but I trust in the abilities of Darcel. He's been through a lot of these situations and has managed to escape death every time. Rest assured, he's got a strong life force. He definitely won't die in a pile of rubble. He'll surely escape with Ms. Garcia."

With a hum, Finnley voiced his doubts, "Do you really trust him that much?"

With a resolute expression, Caleb said word by word, "My trust in him exceeds that in myself."

Search the **Findnovel.net** website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1212

Shane and the others looked at him with solemn expressions. Their lips moved slightly, but they remained silent.

Caleb continued, "I understand how you feel, but please trust me. Darcel will definitely bring Ms. Garcia back safely. The most urgent matter now is our next course of action."

Charles furrowed his brows in uncertainty. "So, what should we do now?"

Caleb's eyes narrowed slightly, his gaze deep and distant as he looked towards the valley, strewn with countless shattered rocks.

"It's quite simple. We head towards the mountain peak while searching for Darcel and Ms. Garcia along the way. Since we've all been separated, we must find a way to regroup. Given that we all share the same destination, they will surely head towards the mountain peak once they escape from danger. All we need to do is move forward."

He paused, his tone taking on a somewhat profound significance.

"But before we set off, we should definitely sort things out here."

Shane was puzzled. "What else is going on here?" [search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

"Don't you find it strange? The mountain was perfectly fine, so how could it suddenly collapse? And before the collapse, did any of you hear an explosion?"

Charles immediately nodded. "I heard it! It seemed to come from above the valley!"

Caleb raised an eyebrow. "That's correct. So this mountain collapse wasn't a natural disaster, but a deliberate act. Someone caused it."

Shane also realized. "Are you saying that it was those individuals from earlier who did this?"

"It's highly likely. As the saying goes, 'a person can't run away forever.' It's not always about people. Traces are left behind after something is done. The clues you're searching for are right here, within your reach."

Both of them were perceptive individuals. Shane immediately grasped the implications of his words. He turned his head to gaze deep into the valley, at the collapsed section, his eyes filled with darkness and coldness.

...

"Are you well-rested?" After surveying the surroundings, Darcel returned to inquire.

Neera nodded. "I'm actually fine, but I'm more concerned about you. With all those injuries on you, are you sure you can handle leaving now? If you strain yourself, it could be really painful."

Darcel appeared nonchalant. "It's alright. Your medicine is very effective, and I'm feeling much better now. We should depart as soon as possible. They might be searching for us right now, probably heading towards the mountain. It's not ideal for us to be separated, so it's best if we catch up with them as soon as possible."

Neera understood that her medicine wouldn't work immediately, but she also realized that time was of the essence and they couldn't afford to waste any more of it.

"Alright. Let's go then." She stood up, brushing off the dirt from her clothes, and tidied up her hair, trying her best to appear presentable.

"But what should we do next? We're at the bottom of a cliff. I'm not sure if there's a way to climb back up the mountain..."

Darcel walked to the bottom of the cliff and pointed at the vines.

"I've checked. There's no path to take. The only way is to follow the vine and climb back up."

Neera tilted her head back, swallowed, and said, "Alright then."

There's no other option at this point. No matter how challenging it becomes, she had to persevere.

And so, the two of them quickly grabbed onto the vines, climbing up bit by bit.

Although this cliff wasn't completely vertical, there was still a slope, making it relatively easier to climb.

However, gravity played a role in everything. Overcoming their own weight proved to be quite a challenge.

Neera had only climbed halfway when her fingers and palms became raw, causing intense pain.

In addition, the injury she sustained a few days ago had reopened due to the strain on her shoulder, leaving her feeling overwhelmed.

While switching hands, a sudden sting caused her grip to loosen inadvertently, almost causing her to fall.

Luckily, Darcel was right beside her. Seeing this, he quickly and skillfully wrapped his arms around her.

"Don't be afraid. Just hold on to me, and I'll take you up there."

The man's deep voice resonated above her head, causing Neera to hesitate, instinctively wanting to refuse.

"No need. I can do it myself..."

However, Darcel insisted, "Don't push yourself. Your hands are injured. If you continue like this, your hands will be ruined."

Neera gritted her teeth. "But you're in the same situation."

Darcel remained calm. "No worries. I'm a grown man, so I can certainly handle this weight. Just hold on tight to me."

Neera hesitated for a moment, feeling that it wasn't right. However, the current situation was a matter of life and death. Therefore, she wrapped her arms around his waist without further hesitation.

Nevertheless, she didn't rely on him completely, but kept one hand free to hold onto a vine.

"By using your strength like this, I can also help you conserve some energy."

Seeing her determination, Darcel pursed his lips and nodded in agreement.

After a strenuous climb, the two of them finally reached halfway up the mountain again at daybreak.

As they climbed, both of them were exhausted to the point of collapse, instantly falling onto the flat ground, panting heavily, with no desire to get up.

"Finally... I made it up here. I'm so exhausted. This is way more tiring than staying awake for three days and three nights in the lab without eating or sleeping..."

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1213

Neera observed the indirect sunlight appearing on the horizon, breathing heavily while muttering to herself.

Darcel glanced at her, a slight smile forming at the corner of his mouth.

"After all, our efforts were not in vain. We survived a great disaster and were able to rise again. We're truly fortunate."

Neera agreed. "Exactly, when the mountain collapsed, I thought it was the end for me. I wondered what would happen to my family if I died here. Thankfully, you were there, Darcel. Thank you for protecting me. We've truly experienced life and death together. If you ever need anything in the future, don't hesitate to ask. I will definitely repay your kindness."

Darcel didn't look at her, his gaze fixed on the gradually brightening sky, a hint of restrained tenderness flickering in his eyes.

"I can ask for anything?" he suddenly asked.

Neera, despite her exhaustion, nodded firmly. "Anything you want."

With the great kindness Darcel had shown her, she felt it was only right to repay him with all her might.

However, something seemed to cross Darcel's mind, deepening the curve of his smile.

After a short rest, the two of them regained their strength.

Neera sat up, still concerned about Darcel's injured hands.

"Darcel, your hands are injured. Let me clean them up and bandage them for you."

Darcel also stood up, his gaze falling on her hands full of wounds. His drooping eyelashes concealed the pain in his eyes.

"Why do you always take care of others? You're the one who's injured. I can handle it. Let's take care of your wounds first."

After speaking, he took Neera's medicine without hesitation, grabbed one of her hands, and began tending to her wounds.

Neera couldn't refuse, feeling somewhat helpless.

In her current state, she was unable to help others. She couldn't even worry about maintaining a distance from the opposite gender. Now, she had no choice but to let him assist her.

When the medicinal powder scattered on her hand, she couldn't help but wince in pain and recoil.

Darcel held her back, not allowing her to dodge. He lowered his head and gently blew on her wound with utmost care.

"It will feel better this way. Just bear with it a little longer, and it will be over soon."

Neera looked at him, momentarily lost in a daze as the image of that man resurfaced in her mind.

Seeing her silence, Darcel glanced up and noticed she was staring at him. He asked softly, "What's the matter?"

Neera snapped out of her thoughts, smiling apologetically as she shook her head. "It's nothing. I was just thinking of someone."

Darcel's eyebrows twitched slightly. "Who is it?"

Neera didn't explicitly say his name, she simply replied, "Someone very important."

Darcel's heart raced, but he didn't press for more information. He continued to tend to her wounds, bowing his head.

During the following process, neither of them spoke again.

Once they had finished bandaging each other's wounds, they couldn't help but laugh as they looked at the gauze wrapped around their hands.

"Darcel, we're truly sworn friends now."

With a slight smile, Darcel didn't say anything but helped her to her feet.

At that moment, they realized that the place before them was not the valley they had fallen into, and they couldn't see their original campsite. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Where are we?" Neera was completely lost in the mountains, unable to determine directions or recognize any paths.

Darcel looked around, but he wasn't very sure either.

"I don't know, but it doesn't matter. All we need to do is head towards the mountaintop."

As he spoke, he turned his head to look at her. His gaze was deep and serene, radiating a comforting strength.

"We may encounter other forces along this journey, but you don't need to worry. I will protect you. Just stay close to me."

After everything they had been through, Neera had come to trust him deeply.

In that moment, her eyes curved into a smile.

"Yes, I feel at ease with you, Darcel. You remind me of someone I know. I even thought you might be him at first."

Darcel's eyelid twitched, and he asked calmly, "Oh, who is it?"

Neera didn't explicitly mention his name, she simply said, "A very important person."

Darcel's jealousy seeped into his words, though he tried to hide it. "Is that the person you mentioned earlier, the one you consider your fiancé?"

Neera was initially taken aback, then couldn't help but laugh. "Of course not, he's not my fiancé."

Darcel knowingly asked, "Is that so? But currently, the whole of Phison is buzzing with the news that you two are engaged. The Cox family has even acknowledged you as their future daughter-in-law and defended you to the Gordon family."

Although he concealed it well, a hint of jealousy slipped into his words.

Neera, however, didn't catch on as her mind was focused on clearing up the misunderstanding.

"No, it's true that there was a marriage arrangement between the Cox and Gong families, but I never wanted this union. The marriage was never finalized, so Mr. Cox and I are completely free. We are not engaged. Mr. Cox initially used this pretext to help me gain a foothold in the Gordon family."

After hearing her explanation, the jealousy in Darcel's heart subsided a bit. He continued to feign ignorance, coaxing her to share more.

"I see. So, is there someone else who is your fiancé?"

Neera nodded slightly, her eyes and brows warming at the thought of that man, a radiant smile tugging at the corners of her mouth.

"My fiancé is the only man in my heart..."

With his head slightly lowered, Darcel responded nonchalantly with a simple "Hmm." However, the amusement in his eyes was almost impossible to hide...

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1214

On the journey ahead, his mood visibly improved, although he didn't speak much.

Neera didn't know what had come over him, but she seized the moment and poured out her longing that she had been holding back.

"Darcel, you probably don't know, but you really resemble him. Your demeanor is almost identical, and your eyes, they're just like his too."

"It's been a long time since we last met. At first, I thought you were him, but then I felt I was overthinking. This is Phison, so how could he possibly find his way here?"

Darcel listened quietly, his lips never ceasing to smile.

He was always someone rational, but he couldn't help but feel a surge of emotion upon hearing these words. Unable to contain himself, he asked, "Do you miss him a lot?"

Neera walked with her hands behind her back, casually kicking the small stones on the road as she went along. She nodded her head slightly.

"Yeah, I do miss him, and I miss him a lot. This is the longest we've ever been apart. And before we separated, we had a quarrel. But we've made up now, so I really want to finish everything here as soon as possible. I want to leave this place soon and rush back to see him."

At this point, she lifted her head, watching the warm sun rise, and revealed a smile that was even brighter than the sunlight.

"Before I entered Mount Cloud, I had contacted him. He said he would come to see me. However, he doesn't even know where I am. How could he possibly find me? It seems I'll have to go see him instead."

"He will," Darcel suddenly said, "He will come."

Neera looked at him quizzically, tilting her head. "Huh? But he doesn't even know I'm in Phison, so how could that be possible?"

Darcel's gaze was deep and mysterious, his eyes bright. His voice was low, as if he was suppressing something.

"Since he said he would come to see you, he will definitely come. Men do not make promises easily. They will do what they say. Even if he doesn't know where you are, he will definitely find a way to locate you. What you need to do is believe in him."

She didn't expect him to say these words. Neera was somewhat surprised, her eyes slightly doubtful.

"Darcel, the way you speak, it's as if you know him very well..."

Darcel's gaze faltered slightly, realizing he had been a bit too hasty earlier. He steadied his emotions before speaking again.

"I just feel that the man who can hold a place in your heart wouldn't be the type to make promises lightly without taking responsibility. You're so outstanding, and the man who deserves you won't be any less. So, if he said he would come to see you, he definitely will."

"I see..." Neera touched her nose and smiled slightly. "Alright then. I'm looking forward to it."

After she finished speaking, she started to feel a bit embarrassed. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Um... Darcel, I got a bit carried away earlier. I found you very approachable, and I might have spoken a bit too much due to my excitement. You don't mind, do you?"

Darcel hooked his lips into a smile. "No, you can say whatever you want, and I will pay attention."

How could he possibly mind? To him, these words were the most precious treasure.

Neera let out a "hmm," feeling that her longing had been mostly expressed. The excitement had passed, and she felt too embarrassed to say anything more, so she simply changed the subject.

The two of them chatted as they walked up the mountain. The journey was rather peaceful, and they didn't encounter any danger for the time being.

By the time noon arrived, Neera was feeling a bit hungry.

Gurgle...

The sound of a growling stomach echoed, and Neera immediately covered her abdomen in embarrassment, feeling somewhat awkward.

"Sorry, I'm a bit hungry, but it's okay. Let's keep going. We might run into Shane and the others soon."

With a slight smile, Darcel said, "There's no need to apologize. We've been walking all morning. If you're hungry, let's take a break. Who knows when we'll run into them. It's important to replenish our energy first."

Luckily, there were some emergency rations, enough for the two of them to have two meals in the backpack that Neera chose to carry with her.

And so, the two of them sat down right there and shared the bread.

Darcel didn't really mind, but he couldn't help but feel a bit unsettled seeing Neera willing to eat dry bread.

"It's tough on you, a young girl, to participate in such a brutal and harsh election."

Neera didn't really feel anything unusual.

"There's no question of difficulty or ease here. As the head of the Gordon family, once I've assumed this position, I must shoulder the responsibility, whether I'm forced into an unwelcome situation or not. This is an important election, so I can't avoid making an appearance as the family head. Besides, I just need to persevere, no matter how tough or challenging the situation can be. It will pass somehow."

Darcel nodded silently, yet in his heart, he thought, "This girl remains as tenacious as ever."

While the two were taking a break, suddenly, a few people appeared out of nowhere. They looked disheveled, just like refugees, and they ran straight towards them.

The color drained from Darcel's face instantly. Without any hesitation, he pulled Neera behind him, firmly shielding her.

Neera watched these few people, his heart suddenly on edge, his gaze alert.

"Who are these people? What are they running over here for? They wouldn't be planning to take advantage of us, would they?"

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1215

As the group approached, Neera became increasingly confused.

The other party seemed ecstatic, as if they had just reunited with a loved one. Their emotions were so overwhelming that they were on the verge of tears.

If it weren't for Darcel's intimidating aura, Neera believed that this crowd would have eagerly embraced them.

"Leave if you don't want to die," Darcel coldly rebuked, showing no concern for the odds. His aura was powerful and unpredictable.

The few individuals swallowed hard and hesitated to step forward. However, they were unwilling to leave and remained nervously in their original spot.

"Um... Sir, please don't be scared. No, I mean, please don't be angry. We... we're a little frightened..." the tall man leading the group hesitated before speaking, his tone tinged with a sense of grievance.

Darcel watched with a cold gaze.

Neera was speechless, her face filled with exasperation. What on earth was happening?

What kind of introduction was this? Couldn't he be a little more subtle?

They had approached and immediately played the weak card. It was quite candid.

However, Neera and Darcel remained cautious.

The other party's behavior could be a ploy to catch them off guard. They were unsure if it was a deliberate act or genuine naivety.

Neera scrutinized the man who had spoken, analyzing him with her gaze.

He had a handsome and refined appearance. If it weren't for his disheveled state, he would probably look quite energetic.

He doesn't seem like a scheming person, Neera thought.

Behind him stood five others, all wearing tense expressions, some even showing signs of embarrassment.

It seemed they had encountered some sort of trouble to end up in such a sorry state.

With that thought, Neera became distracted again, glancing at herself and Darcel.

Hmm... Our current state isn't much better. We look like refugees, just like these people.

Darcel's sharp and imposing gaze swept over each of their faces.

Those who caught his gaze immediately straightened up, standing tall and firm like poplar trees guarding the frontier.

Seeing that Neera and Darcel remained silent, the man at the forefront began to fidget, nervously rubbing his hands together. He then awkwardly scratched the back of his head, looking utterly lost.

"Miss, sir, we mean no harm. There's no need for you to be so wary. We have no ill intentions, nor do we wish to hurt anyone. We just wanted to ask if we could join your team. It seems there are only two of you, and this gentleman here looks very dependable. If we stick together, we'll surely be safer!"

Darcel stared at him coldly, his vigilance unwavering, and began to interrogate.

"Who are you people?"

Upon hearing him speak, the man's eyes instantly brightened a bit. He quickly responded, "My name is Cayden."

Darcel's eyebrows slightly furrowed. "Are you the head of the Massey family?"

Cayden nodded enthusiastically. "Yes! That's me!"

Neera almost facepalmed, internally rolling her eyes in exasperation.

Really? Are you serious?

This is actually the head of the Massey family!

She had thought it was someone else's mischievous kid! [SEARCH THE FINDNOVEL.NET](http://www.findnovel.net) website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

She had thought her uncle was outrageous enough before, pushing her into resuming the position of family head. But she hadn't expected the Massey family to be even more absurd than the Gordon family...

Cayden had a pair of doe eyes, which were somewhat adorable as they were moist and sparkling.

He caught a twitch at the corner of Neera's mouth, blinked his moist eyes, and asked her, "Are you mocking me?"

Neera was surprised. "How did you know?"

Cayden said, "I knew it. Everyone reacts the same way when they hear about my identity. They all can't believe it, finding it unbelievable that I'm actually the head of a family. But I truly am the head of the Massey family, as real as it gets!"

He patted his chest proudly, but patted too hard and choked himself, coughing twice.

Despite the tense situation, his antics somehow managed to inject a bit of comic relief.

Neera couldn't help but shake her head. This guy is really wasting his talent by not being a comedian.

Darcel was left somewhat speechless, his face stern, by his antics.

"So why do you want to team up with us?"

Cayden's face immediately fell, and he poured out his woes with a bitter laugh.

"We were having such a great time on this trip, enjoying the mountains and waters, truly having the time of our lives. We thought this journey was well worth it. We planned to camp and rest last night, then throw a barbecue party

to unwind. But for some unknown reason, we were suddenly attacked. Our campsite was destroyed, some of us got injured and had to be carried down the mountain. Now, only a few of us are left."

"I'm worried that someone might take a dislike to us again and attack us, so we won't dare to rest. We'll have to keep moving. But our numbers have been cut in half now, and I fear we might not make it to the mountain top. So, we're looking to team up with others who are also on their own, to travel together."

As he spoke, his gaze swept over Neera and Darcel, sizing them up.

"Judging by your appearances, it seems like something has happened to you too. Have you been separated from your companions?"

Ignoring his question, Darcel asked again, "Do you know who attacked you?"

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1216

Cayden shook his head. "I'm not sure, but it seems like it's the power of the Bartitsu Guild. The other party is wearing a mask, so it's hard to tell who they are specifically."

Saying this, he irritably ran his fingers through his hair, messing it up like a bird's nest.

"Ugh, what a ridiculous election. If it wasn't for the guild insisting that all families must participate, I wouldn't have bothered! What does being the district president have to do with me? The Massey family doesn't care about such things. All this fuss for nothing, not to mention it's exhausting and I almost lost my life. The other families are the same, fighting tooth and nail over such a trivial matter. It's really pointless..."

He had been bottling up his dissatisfaction all along the way, and now he began to complain incessantly.

Neera was left speechless for a moment, the corner of her mouth twitching repeatedly.

What a barbecue party, sightseeing, and vacation. It looks like this guy really doesn't care about the position of the district president.

I'm afraid that even Caleb would feel ashamed in his presence.

Darcel stared at him, his gaze as sharp as a knife. His eyes then swept over the faces of the others, intent on discerning the truth behind the words that were just spoken.

He had read countless people, so he was almost able to discern their thoughts at a glance.

After a few seconds, the wariness in his eyes slightly diminished. In a calm voice, he said, "I've heard before that the Massey family lives a peaceful and non-competitive life in Phison. Seeing it today, it seems the rumors were not unfounded."

Seeing that his face was no longer as terrifying as before, Cayden's eyes lit up.

"Yeah, we Masseys are just honest businessmen. As long as we can make money and live to spend it, that's all that matters. We really don't want to get involved in those power struggles and fights for profit. Now, mister, you finally believe me, don't you?"

With a nonchalant expression, Darcel responded, "Barely passable."

Cayden's face immediately lit up with joy, as if he had received some extraordinary approval.

"That's good, that's good. Rest assured, we will absolutely not cause any trouble for you! When necessary, the Massey family might even be able to help you! So, let's travel together now!"

Neera found it amusing to see him getting comfortable so quickly.

However, since Darcel had agreed, it seemed these people pose no threat to them.

And so, the two groups journeyed together.

At first, Darcel and Neera were somewhat cautious, maintaining a certain distance from them.

Neera took the opportunity to ask him, "Darcel, what's the story behind the Massey family? Do they really not compete for anything?"

Darcel positioned her on his inner side, adopting a protective stance to shield her from the Massey family members.

"Indeed, the Massey family is one of the powers within the Bartitsu Guild, but that's only because they are located within the guild's sphere of influence and were automatically included. The Massey family itself doesn't really have a stance. For centuries, they've been solely focused on doing business, never involving themselves in the internal conflicts of the Bartitsu Guild, nor the disputes between the guild and Lordsworth Estate. In a way, they could be considered a neutral family.

"However, Cayden is somewhat different. Rumor has it that he values loyalty highly, and for this reason, he has broken the ancestral precedent of not participating in conflicts. But it wasn't for any profit disputes, but rather, he stood up for some of the lower-ranking families in the guild.

"Lower-ranking families?" Neera was somewhat surprised. "I thought every family in Phison was not to be underestimated."

Darcel turned his head to look at her, giving a light chuckle.

"Phison is vastly different from the outside world. On the surface, every family appears to have the strength to compete freely. However, in truth, it's just like the outside world, with clear distinctions of class hierarchy. Where there is strength, there will be weakness. It's just like the Eight Elders in the Bartitsu Guild. It's precisely because they are more powerful than other families that they can take the elder seats, becoming the leaders within the Bartitsu Guild."

"For the weakest, the lowest-ranking families, although they are stronger than many of the prestigious families outside, they are extremely vulnerable under the rules of Phison and are the easiest to be oppressed. I heard that once, Cayden stood up publicly to the

elders of the Bartitsu Guild to protect two low-ranking families from being humiliated and almost ended up in a bloody fight."

Surprisingly, the man who seemed to lack seriousness also had such a righteous side. Neera began to see him in a new light, even developing a bit of a liking for him.

"So, what happened in the end? What was the outcome? The Massey family couldn't possibly have defeated those elders, could they?"

Narrowing his eyes, Darcel answered with profound meaning, "That may not necessarily be the case. I must say, the ancestors of the Massey family were all exceptionally astute. Even though the Massey family does not participate in the power struggle in Phison, appearing as if they have been marginalized, it's actually not the case."

"The Massey family is a renowned prestigious family, famous across the global business circle. Phison is not an isolated utopia, so its existence inevitably requires economic support. Almost half of Phison's economic lifeline is held by the Massey family. If the Massey family were to fall, at the very least, the Bartitsu Guild would definitely suffer a significant blow, not to mention Phison." Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chapter 1217

Neera finally understood. "In all matters, profit comes first. To ensure the prosperity of the Bartitsu Guild, we must ensure the prosperity of the Massey family. They rise and fall together. Therefore, even the elders dare not act recklessly against the Massey family."

Darcel nodded. "Exactly. Haven't you noticed? Even though the Massey family was ambushed, they weren't annihilated. They even left Cayden alive. The reason those people did this was simply to ensure that the Massey family wouldn't have the chance to compete for the district presidency, and also to ensure that the Massey family wouldn't experience any turmoil due to this conflict."

Neera took a moment to digest these words, feeling somewhat moved.

"I never expected it to be this intricately complex, with so many nuances."

The corners of Darcel's mouth lifted slightly, but the smile did not reach his eyes.

"Indeed, in this land of freedom, various forces are suppressing and competing with each other. On the surface, things may appear calm, but there's a raging storm beneath it."

Then, he added, "I agreed to let them go together because of Cayden. However, we still need to be cautious."

Neera nodded. "Yes, I know that."

As the two were talking, Cayden had joined them unbeknownst to them. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"My dear lady and this gentleman, I realize I don't know who you are. Would it be possible for you to tell me who you are? Otherwise, I'm not sure how to address you."

Neera gave Darcel a glance, noticing a slight tuck of his chin. Then, she decided not to hide anything and revealed her true identity to him.

"My name is Neera Garcia."

Upon hearing this name, Cayden's eyes widened in surprise, his mouth agape as if he could swallow an egg whole.

He portrayed his shock quite convincingly, then began to stroke his chin, circling around her in a manner that he was studying her.

What is this?

Suddenly, she felt that the new light she had just given him must be because her mind was playing tricks on her.

This person seems like an idiot no matter how I look at him.

She tried to tolerate it, but she just couldn't stand his monkey-like antics.

As it turned out, she didn't even get a chance to speak. Darcel made the first move, his face visibly turned dark, clearly showing his displeasure.

"Have you seen enough?"

Cayden's gaze remained steady as he casually waved his hand. "No."

With a cold laugh, Darcel said, "If you don't want your eyes anymore, I'll gouge them out for you."

Cayden shivered all over, suddenly leaping away. He looked just like a startled fawn, gazing at him in terror.

"My God, you... you mustn't act recklessly in broad daylight, okay? Stay calm, stay calm!"

What's this all about? I didn't really run into an idiot, did I!

Darcel remained silent, his gaze coolly fixed on him.

"Ahem, ahem..." Perhaps Cayden felt a bit awkward, so he cleared his throat, rubbed the back of his head, and explained with an embarrassed smile.

"Mister, please don't be angry. I was just so surprised that I wanted to see who Ms. Garcia really is. I didn't expect to meet the head of the Gordon family by accident! So, I got a bit excited for a moment, hehe..."

What does he mean by that? No matter how Neera tried to understand it, it just felt awkward.

"I'm just a regular person with one nose and two eyes. There's nothing particularly extraordinary about me."

"No, no, this statement is not right!"

Cayden immediately corrected her, bringing up the gossip in Phison.

"Ms. Garcia, you may not realize this, but you are now the center of attention in the entire Phison! First, the former head of the Gordon family spared no effort to push you to the top, then the head of the Cox family served you loyally, protecting you at all costs. Later, there was a commotion, and Lordsworth Estate stepped in to back you up. Each of these events is unheard of in history!"

Neera's face fell. "You're being overly dramatic. You should be a storyteller."

"Tsk, Ms. Garcia, I'm not exaggerating. It's all true. Everyone is so curious now, wondering how you did it. I even thought you were a witch before I met you. It's hard to imagine that the real you is just a young girl."

A witch...

A twitch tugged at the corner of Neera's mouth; she felt like hitting him.

Cayden was still enthusiastically talking. "Ah, come to think of it, she is indeed the woman Avery Cox has taken a liking to. She's naturally beautiful and has a great aura. He is truly lucky..."

Neera was at a loss for words.

Even though he had praised her, she didn't feel like saying thank you!

"Stop it right there." She couldn't bear to listen any longer, so she interrupted him and stated solemnly, "Mr. Cox is not interested in me. Our relationship is purely platonic, so please don't spread rumors."

Cayden let out a "Huh," his face full of curiosity.

"Don't you two have an engagement? And there are rumors everywhere saying that Avery Cox is spending a fortune just to make you happy..."

11

What the f*ck!

Neera could feel a headache coming.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.