

Under the Heiress' Facade

Chapter 496

"She is one of Jadonia's talents. You can't take her away!" Jim strode over, his tone leaving no room for argument.

Hera was surprised to see Jim speaking up on her behalf, but she began to piece together the situation when she saw Tyler. It seemed her mentor was still looking out for her.

Tyler noticed her gaze and winked.

Hera was speechless.

Bernard glared at Tyler when he noticed, wanting him dead!

Tyler returned Bernard's stare with a smirk. Everyone had their own strengths in life.

Bernard's gaze darkened and he texted Aaron.

Laura observed Jim and Tyler. Remembering their achievements that launched their fame, she frowned. "Are you serious, Deputy Commissioner Hawkins?"

"How could I joke about this?" Jim furrowed his brows.

She was at a loss for words, and the onlookers were also shocked. Even Jim was protecting Raven! And he was doing so on behalf of Jadonia!

This meant that if Laura insisted on taking Raven away, it wouldn't just be a conflict between a country and an individual, but exalted to a conflict between two nations!

"The actions of Miridian's National Space Administration have threatened the safety of our people. Please leave immediately!" The special forces Tyler brought with him surrounded the area. Their imposing presence was intimidating.

Seeing that the special forces were here and that the arrest warrant had been revoked, Laura didn't dare escalate the situation and left with her tail between her legs.

The crowd watching erupted into applause.

Meanwhile, Raven had become the talk of the town overnight. When someone finally revealed that Raven was the renowned healer, Dr. Shadow, the overwhelming responses caused the servers and

several live-streaming platel?

crash. Only the Cyber Web

to

continued to hold out, so the curious flooded there.

Topics discussing Vulcan, S, and Raven being the same person circulated the platform. They even brought up how Jadonia protected Raven from Miridian, and the fact that Raven's arrest warrant was revoked.

As the discussions grew more heated, Cyber Web's servers experienced an unprecedented crash!

...

Back at the anniversary event, with the Miridian having withdrawn, the crowd gradually dispersed and returned to socializing.

Rhett and his son managed to get closer to the stage. They were eager to finally see Raven in person. But they saw were familiar faces like Hera, Bernard, Tyler, and a few others chatting with Jim. And Raven's assistant, Leon, wasn't even present.

Before entering the venue, Rhett had already been misled by Frederick's overconfidence, which led them to. chase after a van to the

et

underground parking lot and caused a misunderstanding. Fortunately, there weren't many people in the parking lot. Otherwise, their reputation would have been

damaged.

This time, Rhett was much more cautious, instructing Frederick to first confirm the target.

Learning from his mistake, Frederick stopped a passing waiter and asked, "Did you see who Raven was?"

"It's the miracle doctor over there." The waiter pointed to Hera.

"What! She's Raven?" Frederick's eyes widened in disbelief.

The Raven they had been searching for was Hera? The one whom he had always looked down on? Was this a joke?

Chapter 497

Wasn't Hera just a measly assistant? And wasn't she still studying D Language?

"Are you sure?" Rhett questioned.

The waiter nodded. "Yes, I'm sure. Everyone saw it. She took out Vulcan, S, and Raven's USB flash drives."

The father and son were stunned as their minds spun.

Hera's identity as the miracle doctor was already giving Rhett a headache. Now she had another identity as a hacker as well? How did Hera become so capable after leaving the Killians?

No! He had to come up with a plan and ask Chad to cancel the partnership with Raven! He couldn't allow Hera to return to the Killians!

While she conversed with Jim, Hera's mind was occupied by Bernard's identity.

Jim had to leave early due to other matters.

After sending him off, Hera immediately grabbed Bernard's hand. "I have something to ask you."

Theo noticed this and dispersed everyone. Only he, being shameless, refused to leave.

"I also have something to ask you!" Tyler stood between them, looking at Hera.

"Your question can wait!" Bernard pushed Tyler aside and led Hera down the hall. "Sweetie, let's find somewhere private."

Tyler stumbled. "Bernard, are you a dog?"

"I'll talk to you later." Hera glanced back. She really couldn't bring herself to be so formal with Tyler.

"Fine!" He huffed.

Bernard picked Hera up and quickened his pace. "You can't meet him again!"

Hera wrapped her arms around his neck and argued, "You can't control me!"

Bernard carried her to a large office

He kicked open the door and

entered. There was a hidden

ne

behind the bookshelf that por

to

another office.

Before Hera could take in her surroundings, Bernard placed her on the desk. He leaned in. "Then, I'll punish you!"

Hera recalled the feeling and fearfully placed her hands against his chest to prevent him from coming closer. "Don't do it!"

"Then, you have to promise me that you won't meet him privately again!" He gritted his teeth.

"No way!" Hera refused without hesitation. She still had many questions for Tyler.

Bernard frowned. "What's your relationship with him? When did you meet?"

Hera pulled out a USB flash drive from her pocket and slapped it against Bernard's chest. "Before I answer that, shouldn't you explain this first, Mr. Killian?"

Bernard didn't like her tone. "Don't call me that, sweetie."

"Then, what should I call you? Vulcan? Or the Grandmaster of Astral Nova?" Hera stared at him.

He was at a loss for words. He took the USB flash drive that he left in his suit pocket.

How careless of him. Now his cover was blown.

Bernard mumbled, "I'm sorry, I didn't mean to deceive you."

et

Although Hera had a suspicion about his identity, hearing him admit it brought a mix of emotions-anger,

sadness, and undersve

Chapter 498

Hera's mind was a mess. She never expected that the person she was trying to find while keeping her whereabouts hidden from her boyfriend, would turn out to be her boyfriend himself!

"Did you recognize me at the auction for the Eclipse Stone last year?" Hera asked.

She recalled Bernard saying he recognized her as the miracle doctor from the bracelet she was wearing. Thinking back, it made sense that he was the Grandmaster of Astral Nova. The only people she interacted with when she won the Eclipse Stone were Samantha and the Grandmaster of Astral Nova.

"Yes," Bernard admitted. Although he was usually quick-witted, he found himself at a loss, feeling uneasy by the look Hera was giving him.

"Bernard, you're something else!" Hera pushed him away and got off the desk.

Not only did he find out about her secret identity, but he also made her spend 880 million dollars to get the Eclipse Stone for him! He scored big time! Moreover, he had made her agree to add him on WhatsApp, tricking her into taking photos and making deals with him.

And she ended up falling for Bernard during this...

Hera recalled everything that had happened with the Grandmaster of Astral Nova and felt like a fool.

Bernard stumbled back from the push. He anticipated that Hera would be angry if she found out he had deceived her. He also considered telling her his true identity but had refrained due to Astral Nova's rules.

He had planned to first change Astral Nova's rules before telling Hera, but he didn't expect his disguise to be exposed due to his carelessness.

"Sweetie, I'm sorry. Please let me

explain. Khad my reasons for not revealing my identity. And I only

knew you

were the miracle doctor

then not that you were Raven,"

Bernard started.

He added, "I only recently discovered that you were Raven from the deleted transfer records in Astral Nova's financial system."

Hera was mad. But considering she had also hidden her identity from him, she suddenly felt guilty. Her mind swirled as she looked at him and they both stared at each other silently.

They were both hiding their identities from each other, so it was quite a coincidence.

Hera noticed there was a computer

and a laptop on the desk, just enough for the two of them. The hidden door of the office had closed, leaving only them in the office. It seemed unlikely anyone would find

them here. Content b

to

She didn't know why Bernard knew about the hidden door. Hera snorted to herself. As the Grandmaster of Astral Nova, of course, Bernard knew about it.

"Let's have a match." She picked up the laptop. She wanted to see him work.

Bernard was just as eager. Although they had competed before, it was always initiated by Hera and ended abruptly. So, they never got their fill.

"Alright, you can use the computer," he said, taking the laptop from her. The computer was easier to use than the laptop.

Hera sat at the desk while Bernard sat on the couch, facing each other. They turned on their devices and inserted their USB flash drives.

Bernard looked up. From his angle, he could only see Hera's profile. Her lips were pursed, and she didn't look very happy.

et

Hera thought about the D language book she had annotated and was preparing to give him to help him learn. Now she knew how foolish she looked. He was the world's top hacker, someone on par with her mentor! She was a small fry compared to the real deal,

Chapter 499

Hera took a deep breath. "Let's start."

Bernard was excited. Did this mean that Hera was accepting his identity? He recalled she had always been the one to initiate the attacks before. "After you."

Hera didn't hesitate and began to type. The clattering of the keyboard flooded the office.

Her eyes darted back and forth between the rapidly changing windows and lines of code on the screen in a daze. She remembered how they had once studied basic computer programming languages together, and now they were competing against each other.

What surprised her the most was that Bernard, who had pretended to be pitiful, claiming he was struggling at the Killians and needed to fend for himself, was actually the Grandmaster of Astral Nova, a figure feared even by the four influential families!

Hera's moment of distraction led to a code error, but Bernard ignored it and skillfully avoided it.

She frowned and reminded him, "Pay attention, and don't go easy on me!"

Bernard smiled. Hera was better than he had expected. She even sensed he was going easy on her.

"If you don't take it seriously, I won't feel any satisfaction if I win." He smirked.

Hera's temple throbbed. She hadn't expected Bernard to be such a jerk. He had been pretending all along! She even wondered if she truly knew him. "Really? Well, don't come crying later." With that, Hera forced herself to clear her mind and focus on the task.

Aside from S, Bernard hadn't faced such a formidable opponent in a long time. He couldn't help but marvel at her learning ability. The flaws she had shown in their last match were gone, and she had even learned some of his techniques and updated her methods to handle the viruses he created.

Hera never ceased to surprise him. He was falling for her even more.

Hera was locked in and immersed herself in the match.

Two hours later, she breathed a sigh of relief at the lines of codes on the screen. She felt much better and slumped against the office chair, glancing at the couch with her heart racing.

Bernard stopped as well. He rubbed his sore neck and looked at Hera.

Their eyes locked and he smiled. "You won."

set

Hera, however, felt no joy in her victory. Instead, she was filled with anger. She suddenly got up and moved toward the couch, reaching for the laptop.

Bernard avoided her. "I lost. Please let me off the hook, sweetie."

"Hmph, drop the act. Don't think I don't know you were going easy on me!" Hera pounced, grabbing the laptop from him.

Bernard didn't expect her to catch

on. Afraid she might fall, he

trying to wrestle the laptop away

and pulled her into his lap.

W

Bernard's code was still on the screen. Hera searched for the areas where he had intentionally made mistakes.

She was annoyed as she looked through the code. "Bernard, do you take me for a fool?"

Chapter 500

"No," Bernard immediately denied. "Look, you were able to spot these small issues, which shows how skilled you are. Even your mentor might not have noticed them."

When hackers competed, they wouldn't notice if their opponent was going easy on them. Everyone was just focused on finding loopholes and invading.

"Stop with your sweet talk. You're just looking down on me and going easy on me."
Hera read his code.

But Bernard's code was better than hers. It was undeniable that she wouldn't have won if he hadn't gone easy on her.

The more he acted this way, the more her anger burned. She even suspected...

"Did you intentionally lose for the Eclipse Stone?" Hera stood up and shoved the laptop back to Bernard, glaring at him.

Bernard's heart sank. He had hoped that letting Hera win would be enough to quell her frustration. He didn't expect her to connect this with the Eclipse Stone.

"Yes, we entered the same price back then," he admitted.

Just as she had suspected! Anger flared within Hera. Bernard had been toying with her from the beginning.

Seeing this, Bernard explained, "I'm sorry, sweetie. I did recognize you back, and I took advantage of my identity to deceive you into doing things for me... But it's because you said our relationship would be over once I cured your illness. I didn't want you to leave, so I used a bit of trickery."

A bit of trickery? He was basically deceiving her for money and sex!

Hera tried to control her anger and nodded. "Is there anything else you're hiding from me? Confess now." Bernard felt guilty and uncomfortable seeing her like this. He didn't want to deceit her further.

Noticing his silence, she thought he was unwilling to speak and said, "If you don't want to tell me, then..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Bernard confessed abruptly, "XS Corporation actually belongs to me."

She was shocked. Didn't the XS Corporation have a strong rivalryz with Killian Corporation? She knew Bernard didn't like the Killians, but she didn't expect he was secretly working against them.

If Chad found out, Bernard would be chased out by the Killians! Bernard was going too far...

No wonder they flew to Lumiville with XS Corporation's plane. How had she not thought of this...

"Remember when you went to work

with me at Shuttle Ventures? I don't usually work there. Instead, I would

either be at Astral Nova or here,"

Bernard continued. "Also, the Everetts' investment was a trap I set.

Hera's heart sank. "What else?"

swn y

et

"I was trying to make you jealous when I had dinner with Camille. And I had them send me back when I injured my leg because I wanted to see you. And I didn't lose the flower accidentally. My hand wasn't really injured. I just wanted you to feed me," Bernard listed off.

Hera felt they were straying off-topic.

"Oh, and that photo wasn't a mistake. I pretended to send it by accident because I noticed you seemed to like my body, so I..." he added.

Hera's face heated up when she recalled the photo. "Don't bring that up!"

"Isn't this relevant?" Bernard asked.

Hera was afraid he might go off track further and said, "It's not."