Read Novel Her Billionaire Husband Chapter 891

Chapter 891 Don't You Want to See Me?

"Are they Hayley's children?" "They've already grown so much!" "What is Queen Tanya thinking? What's the purpose of inviting the previous head to join the hunting ceremony?"

"I'm not sure. Who knows what goes on in the higher-ups' heads?"

"But when Queen Tanya rose to power, she had previously announced an amnesty for the Elrod Royal Family. There wouldn't be any trouble if the Elrods do not bear any intentions of rebelling, but if they do..."

"Sigh. Who's to say they wouldn't?"

The crowd was in an uproar, criticizing the three figures that had appeared on the big screen. Since Veronica was Hayley's daughter, Hayley introduced her as 'Veronica Elrod'. It was the same for Randy as well. After introducing her children, Hayley returned to her seat.

The microphone was passed to Tanya before she added, "We specially invited Madam Hayley and her children today because it's the hunting ceremony that the hidden clan holds every ten years. It'd be a wonderful chance for Veronica and Randy to participate and enjoy the festivities."

"What is Queen Tanya thinking?"

"What is she doing? This is outrageous."

"I know, right?"

"I think Madam Hayley's children might not make it out of here alive."

. . .

On the other hand, Veronica was quietly remaining in her seat. She did have her miniature translating device with her, so she could understand what the others were saying.

Even if she did not have her device, she could still engage with the others in a basic conversation. She had spent days and nights learning the hidden clan dialect and was quick to learn it because of her remarkable memory.

When Tanya finished her speech, Eleanor stood up and spoke inspirational words to encourage and wish the contestants of the hunting ceremony good luck.

After half an hour of the speech-giving session, everyone began to dig in. While everybody was having their meal, the dancers and musicians entertained the crowd, creating a lively atmosphere. After dinner, they headed back to their tents to rest.

All the participants in the hunting ceremony were to gather at the training grounds by 3.00PM to sign the death waiver before entering the woods together.

Meanwhile, Veronica sat inside her tent, feeling energetic. Sitting beside her was Matthew, who comforted her. "The event starts at 3.00PM, so it'd be best if you rest and conserve enough strength to face the battle in your best condition."

"Alright." She nodded in agreement and lay down to rest.

Since there were numerous people there, the tents were set up quite densely, and they could hear the sounds of people coming and going past their tents.

At that moment, a voice came from outside their tent. "Veronica, is Master Iron inside?"

When they heard the lively and energetic voice, they knew it was Eleanor.

Matthew, who was sitting on the chair, looked at Veronica before shouting at the entrance, "No."

Yet, the tent's drape was pulled open as soon as he said that, and a bright red-dressed Eleanor entered. "How could you not be here when I heard your voice? Master Iron, are you that reluctant to see me?"

A smile appeared on her charming face as if she did not mind his rejection.

"Isn't it obvious?" While leaning against the chair, Matthew held 'Rules of the Hunting Ceremony' in his hand.

"Of course, it is. It can't be any more obvious than that." With her scarlet lips hooked into a smile, she looked toward the vague figure behind the partition. "But I'm here to see Goddess Veronica." Subsequently, she bypassed the six-panel flower-embroidered partition and saw that Veronica had sat up from bed. "I was bored, so I came to chat with you."

"What would you like to talk about?" Since Veronica could not sleep, she sat up after hearing Eleanor's presence.

However, she did not expect Eleanor to walk up to her bed and sit right at the edge before leaning against the neatly folded covers. "Do you know that Tiffany has gone missing?

Read Novel Her Billionaire Husband Chapter 892

Chapter 892 A Gift from Eleanor

"Missing?" Veronica pretended not to know about it and frowned. "What happened? Wasn't she always with Hendrey?" After she asked that, Eleanor looked straight at her as though wanting to see through her thoughts by observing her expression. However, she could not see anything out of the ordinary after staring at Veronica extensively. "Yesterday, I heard she's gone missing, and no one has located her ever since."

"This is the hidden clan and your territory. How can you guys not be able to find her?" Veronica asked. "Huh." While leaning against the folded covers, Eleanor propped her chin and smiled. "Tiffany had agreed to come to the hunting ceremony but suddenly disappeared. Do you think she has something planned or is she too afraid of death and ran away?" she asked, wanting to obtain information from Veronica.

Meanwhile, Veronica remained unfazed and pondered for a while, "I think both are possible." "I think so too." Eleanor discovered that it was impossible to get any useful information from Veronica, so she waved her hand instead. "Forget it. I'm not going to look for her anymore." Then, she stood up from the bed and circled the partition before arriving in front of Matthew. "Here, take this. There won't be any mobile services once you enter the mountain, and the participants aren't allowed to bring their phones either. If you encounter any dangerous situation, use this to signal for help. I'll come over to save you."

The item she gave Matthew was a signal flare that looked like a lighter. While looking at the item in the palm of her fair hand, he hesitated for a few seconds, wanting to refuse, but then glanced at the woman behind the partition from the corner of his eye. In the end, he received the item. "Thank you."

There is no telling what might happen after we head inside the mountain. Maybe this will come in handy.

Since the people of the hidden clan knew that the geographic nature of the two mountains did not allow them to build a base station, they could not possibly get cell service. Therefore, the signal flare could not have a tracking device, and they would not be exposing their location. Otherwise, Matthew would not have accepted the signal flare so readily.

Then, Eleanor sat sideways at the table and ruffled her bright-red pleated skirt. "Master Iron, I'll be waiting for your safe return. You must come back out alive."

"Wouldn't my death be more convenient for you?" Matthew asked with a raised eyebrow.

"Hahaha! How could that be?" She leaned toward him and stopped inches away before lowering her voice and whispering, "I want to make you mine and own everything here with you." She patted his shoulders. "Mark my words." A bright smile appeared on her stunning face as she finished her words and got up to leave. Before she went out, she hollered to Veronica, "Goddess Veronica, I'll be taking my leave now. See you later."

Meanwhile, Veronica ignored her and lay down with her eyes closed while thinking. Moments later, Matthew came over and lay beside her before encircling her waist with his hand. "Be good. I'll hug you to sleep."

Her hands braced against his chest, stopping him from getting too close to her. "Don't you know you reek of dense perfume?"

"Do I?" He lowered his head and sniffed his sleeve. Immediately, he frowned and informed her, "I'll change my clothes."

"She's the future head of the hidden clan. Are you sure you're not going to consider her?" While raising her eyebrows, she joked, "All descendants of the hidden clan royalty can have several husbands."

Although only women could give birth, the hidden clan did legalize surrogacy. The head of the hidden clan would choose the best man she could find and bear a child with him so that she could have the best genetically chosen offspring. That was why all descendants of the hidden clan royalty were so excellent.

Read Novel Her Billionaire Husband Chapter 893

Chapter 893 Separating into Groups

Initially, Veronica intended to joke with Matthew, but he pulled her into his arms and argued, "Well, do you like having many husbands?" "W-What?" The sight of his gloomy expression stunned her for a moment, for she did not understand what he was talking about.

He raised his hand and pinched her soft cheek. "Are you asking questions you know the answer to?" "I..." A few seconds later, she finally understood him and burst out laughing. "Haha! Now that you've mentioned it, it does sound quite nice."

She knew what Matthew was implying. He was jealous since the head of the clan could have more than one husband, and she would replace Eleanor as head of the hidden clan soon. Hence, she could also follow the rules and be polygamous.

"I dare you." With a cold expression, he leaned in and sealed her lips with a kiss, wanting to punish her for what she said. However, a ray of light suddenly shone inside the tent, and the two immediately sat up and saw through the partition that someone was coming in. On the other side of the partition was Xavier, who lowered his voice to a whisper. "I have something to tell the two of you."

The two on the bed gazed at each other before rising to their feet. When they came before the partition, they saw Xavier standing there while exuding a cold aura.

"What's the matter?" Veronica did not expect he would come over when the hunting ceremony was about to begin. Meanwhile, Xavier's gaze landed on her figure before averting to Matthew. He looked at him with cold eyes while warning them, "I came here to tell you..."

After conveying his message shortly and simply, Xavier turned around and left. Taking a step forward, Matthew asked, "Why did you come here just to remind us that?"

Xavier turned around and stopped in his tracks to glance at them from the corner of his eye. "I just don't want to see Ro... Veronica gets hurt."

At last, they could not help the distance between them. Instead of calling her Roni, he called her by her full name.

Once he finished his words, he left.

Feeling a pang in her heart, Veronica was filled with immense guilt. I owe Xavier too much in this life and don't know how I will repay him.

Following that, she turned around and sat on the chair before half-heartedly picking up the Rules of the Hunting Ceremony notebook and flipping through it.

A while later, Crayson and Hayley came and nagged at them about several things before leaving.

At 3.00PM, all the participants of the hunting ceremony gathered at the training grounds.

Meanwhile, Tanya stood on stage while holding the microphone and announcing, "Since today is the hunting ceremony held every ten years, we've decided to modify the rules. One, everyone is not to bring along any personal belongings. Two, to be fair to everyone, all the equipment you'd be bringing with you will be prepared by the commissariat department. Three, since there are many of you heading into the mountain together, we will draw lots to divide you all into groups for fairness' sake. Four, we're changing the usual rule. Head into the mountain on foot, find the things displayed on the big screen, and then return here safely. Whoever returns first will be the winner..."

Since it had been announced before that whoever won the hunting ceremony today would be heavily rewarded or even promoted to a minister in court to contribute to the country, everyone was in high spirits.

When Tanya announced the altered rules, the crowd descended into an uproar.

"How could that be?"

"Why do we have to be split into groups?"

"We were told that we need to head into the mountains on foot, but why didn't they announce sooner that we would be divided into groups?"

"Gosh. What's going on?"

"Who knows?"

"I think it's better if we split into teams because that would be fairer. If your team has all your friends, it might cause disputes between one another since there'd only be one winner. So, it's better if we're split up."

The discussions went on heatedly.

Read Novel Her Billionaire Husband Chapter 894

Chapter 894 Surrounded by Danger

Although Tanya emphasized that friendship came before the competition, the prize of getting promoted to ministry still fired the participants' urge to win.

One could not possibly return from the hunt uninjured at this point. "I give up. My dad has nothing but riches, so I have no interest in becoming a minister."

"Hey, how about you participate in my place? You'll get to be a minister if you win and make our family proud." "I'd rather drop out of this competition."

"Hahaha! It's better if you all drop out. I'll have a larger chance of winning then." "The rules are getting interesting."

"I'd better give it my all. I might catch Princess Eleanor's attention if I win. Then, I'll be promoted to a higher position. Just thinking about it makes me happy. Hahaha!"

"Such wishful thinking. Not bad."

The chatters continued.

Since there was a change in the rules, over a hundred people dropped out of the competition. Later, all the participants had to collect their numbers before entering the arena, and the computer would randomly distribute them into groups.

"Now, let's start sorting into groups. Whoever gets their number called out, please head to the stage to get your equipment before heading into the mountains," Tanya instructed.

With a frown, Veronica stood beside Matthew and commented, "This hunting ceremony is different from what I imagined." She was worried.

He assured her, "Don't worry. I'll meet up with you as quickly as I can."

"Alright, but you have to be extra careful." As she looked at him affectionately, her eyes were also filled with reluctance and worry. She was afraid he would encounter danger.

Amongst the thousands of participants, Zac, Troy, Hendrey, Xavier, and Antheena were standing together.

Antheena asked, "What are we going to do now that they've changed the rules?"

Zac answered, "The new rules make it easier for us to do away with Matthew and Veronica."

Xavier added, "But it also makes us easy targets for them!"

Hendrey commented, "Now, no one can be sure who's getting hunted."

After snorting, Zac looked at his stunted left arm. "No matter what, Matthew Kings must die here." He came and participated with unhealed injuries just so that he could get revenge.

Although it was named a hunting ceremony, the participants seemed more like prey than hunters.

An animal appeared on the big screen, and it was a white bird that resembled a phoenix, representing the hidden clan's spirit animal.

According to legend, the bird was on the brink of extinction, so one would have to head deep into the mountains to locate it. More importantly, the bird had quick reflexes and speed, so it was highly difficult to capture it. However, the participants of this year's hunting ceremony did not sign up to find the bird.

Grabbing Xavier's hand, Antheena stammered, "I-I'm a little worried about this."

With a cold expression, he told her, "You should drop out. This is not for you."

Since this event was extremely dangerous, he did not want her to participate.

"Are you worried I would hurt Veronica, or are you worried about me?" Antheena asked sarcastically.

Ever since the incident at Primrose Hill, where Xavier risked his life to protect Veronica, Antheena had been harboring hatred inside her.

Although they had done the deed that night at the hotel, when she went to Zac's place, she watched the security footage Veronica provided and discovered that Veronica and Xavier had met each other late at night. In the end, Antheena could not keep her jealousy under control.

Therefore, she had one simple goal while joining the hunting ceremony—to abolish Veronica in her hands! Once Veronica is dead, Xavier will be all mine.

"Of course, I'm worried about you!" Xavier frowned and reprimanded, "Veronica is stronger than you, and we're going to be randomly distributed into groups now. Who will be there to protect you?"

Read Novel Her Billionaire Husband Chapter 895

Chapter 895 Heading into the Mountains

Xavier's words were half true. Of course, he would be worried about her because she was his wife, and she treated him very well, but he was even more anxious that she would work with the others to hurt Veronica.

Hearing his words, Antheena was stunned for a moment as her bright eyes filled with hesitation. "Just listen to me once, okay?" he asked gently.

"No!" Ultimately, she rejected his suggestion. "Since it's so dangerous, I have more reasons to stay with you. If you choose to drop out, I'll do that too." "That's impossible!" His eyes filled with determination. "Matthew Kings must die!"

The feud between Matthew and I must have an end. Grabbing his hand with hers, she said firmly, "Then, let me do it with you." When her hand grabbed him, Xavier felt mixed emotions as he felt the chill from her hands.

Antheena looked affectionately at him with her occidental eyes. Her golden hair was tied up into a high bun while a strand of her curly hair beside her temple swayed in the wind, rendering her a picturesque view. Along with her tall and graceful figure was a strong temperament she was born with. She resembled the queen of all fairies coming out of the woods, and no one could withstand her charm. However, Xavier's heart was filled with Veronica, so no matter how much Antheena loved him or how nicely she treated him, she could never win his heart. Everyone in Bloomstead knew he was a free spirit, but they would not have expected him to be such a devoted person inside.

"Antheena, I'll say this once again. Before coming to the hidden clan, your dad repeatedly entrusted me to keep you safe. You should know that he wouldn't allow you to take such risks, and I don't need you to protect me," he warned her again, hoping that she would stop insisting on coming with him.

However, the result was obvious. "Number 5, Number 17, Number 583, Number 994, Number 234."

The loudspeakers around the training grounds were constantly calling out numbers, ordering the owners of those numbers to head up to the stage.

Veronica looked at the number in her hand and frowned before turning to look at Matthew. She showed him her number and said, "I need to head up to the stage."

She was Number 17. With cold eyes, he reminded her, "Number 5 might be Liam. You need to be wary of him."

"Okay." She nodded and looked at Matthew affectionately for a few seconds and parted her lips, wanting to say something but then choosing not to say it. Following that, she walked out of the crowd.

Soon, she discovered that Liam, Xavier, Zac, and another limping man were in her group. Her heart skipped a beat as she became nervous. Secretly taking a deep breath, she composed herself and headed onto the stage.

At that moment, she was not surprised that the hidden clan royalty had manipulated some aspects of the hunt, but she did not expect them to arrange for her to be in the same group as Zac and Xavier.

When they headed up to the stage, she walked at the end of the line. Then, they all signed their name on the death waiver before removing all metal-made objects and passing a security check to ensure they did not bring any other belongings.

It was then that Veronica found out that the only personal belonging she could bring with her was her watch. That was because they still needed to know the time after heading into the mountains. Hence, her wristwatch did not get confiscated.

However, she was not allowed to bring the medication Crayson gave her, as well as... her miniature translating device, which would not be of much use if she brought it with her because there was no signal in the mountains anyway. After checking that they did not have any other items on them, they proceeded to collect their uniformly distributed backpacks. Inside each backpack were some camping necessities, signal flares for when they needed help, and other supplies.

When Veronica collected her bag and turned around to look at the training grounds, she could feel Matthew's burning gaze from far away.

"It's time to leave," Xavier reminded her from behind.

Nodding, she turned around and left with him with her heavy backpack.

In front of them, Zac and Liam were chatting while Veronica and Xavier walked together. The limping man was all alone, slowly trailing behind them

Read Novel Her Billionaire Husband Chapter 896

Chapter 896 Something's Fishy About Him

As they continued walking, they could still hear the sound from the training ground's loudspeaker. Mount Manos and Mount Gazette were two huge mountains, and there was even a massive natural lagoon at Mount Gazette.

The target of their hunt today happened to be active around Mount Gazette's lagoon. That meant they had to pass through Mount Manos before hiking up Mount Gazette.

Lowering her head to look at the time, Veronica saw that it was already 3.30PM. Along the journey she shared with four other men, the only person she could trust was Xavier, so it would be a lie if she said she was not afraid.

Four hours later, the sky had turned dark, and rolls of thunder and booming lightning suddenly struck, followed by a thunderstorm.

"It seems like we can't move forward anymore. Let's set up a camp here." Liam beckoned Xavier and the limping man over. "Guys, come assist me. Zac's hurt, so he can't help."

"Sure." Xavier agreed while the limping man nodded. "Sure, Prince Liam."

Veronica was beside them, squatting down to rummage through her waterproof backpack. She was shocked when she suddenly heard the limping man's voice.

Ever since they left the training grounds that afternoon, this was the first time the man uttered a word. However, his voice sounded very familiar!

Frowning, she thought about it for a moment, but then a loud boom from the sky interrupted her thoughts, so she continued to look inside her bag for her tent.

After setting it up, she placed her bag inside before heading to help the others.

"Veronica, you go with Nelson to get some firewood," Liam ordered her while pointing at the limping man.

So, his name is Nelson.

"Sure." Without thinking much about it, she called out to Nelson, "Let's go."

Although they were deep in the woods with an abundance of pine needles on the ground, there were barely any branches that could be added to the fire.

Since the hidden clan was located in the tropics, all the trees here were thriving, which made it hard to catch fire. Therefore, they could only scour the place for firewood.

The mountain route was wet and slippery after the rain, so Veronica reminded Nelson when she saw him having difficulty walking on the path. "It's quite slippery. Be careful."

"Alright." He nodded in response.

With a torchlight, she walked forward but suddenly stopped and frowned.

"You understand the local language?" She looked at him.

The light from the torchlight illuminated their surroundings, including his plain-looking face.

She could distinctly sense a change in his eyes when he replied, "Yes, I can."

"Phew... That's great. I thought you couldn't understand the local language and was worried about how I would communicate with you."

"I can understand both languages," Nelson answered before adding, "Let's go."

Although many of the hidden clan royalties knew English, the way they spoke had a mix of their local accent, making it differentiable. However, not only was his pronunciation spot on, it sounded like the natives in Bloomstead.

He seems...

While smiling, Veronica offered. "Why don't you walk in front? I'll light the way with the torchlight."

Nelson looked calm and unfazed, but the moment he looked at her, she discovered the unintentional glimmer in his eyes.

"Sure." He walked in front.

The two stopped conversing with each other and went looking for firewood before carrying them in their arms while heading back to camp.

On their way back, she trailed behind him like she said she would.

When they returned to their camp, they placed the firewood on the ground, and Xavier picked up some pine needles to start the fire.

Read Novel Her Billionaire Husband Chapter 897

Chapter 897 Xavier Is a Great Man

Since it had just rained, the firewood was damp, so it took a while to get the fire going. "Come over and sit beside the fire to dry your clothes. Otherwise, you might get sick," Xavier urged everyone.

They came over and sat on either a rock, a piece of firewood, or a stomp. Then, the atmosphere descended into complete silence.

Sensing the awkwardness, Liam took the initiative to start a conversation with Zac. Meanwhile, Veronica stared at the crackling firewood while lost in her thoughts.

To prevent the groups from trekking on the same path, there were seven to eight different entrances for the groups to head into the mountains.

She had been leaving markers for Matthew along the way, but she did not expect the rain, which could erase all her trails. Can Matthew still find me?

Liam yawned and stated, "I'm tired. Let's go to bed. We still have to make up for lost time tomorrow."

Then, Zac looked at Veronica meaningfully before getting up and entering his tent.

"You guys go ahead. I'll be the first one on watch tonight. Nelson, you'll be responsible for the latter half of the night." Xavier volunteered to keep guard for the first half of the night.

After all, Zac and Liam were Princes, and Veronica was a woman, so he could not let her keep watch.

"Sure." After saying that, Nelson rose to his feet and limped to his tent.

Once all three of them were in their zipped tents, Xavier and Veronica gazed at each other before he piped up, "You should hurry up and get some rest. I'll be keeping guard so all of you can have a good rest."

What he meant was, I'll be looking over you, so nothing will happen to you.

Pursing her lips together, she nodded before heading into her tent.

Since there was hardtack in their backpacks, they only ate that for dinner. Moreover, their vision was limited at night, so they could not go hunting for food. There were no edible plants or berries either, so the hardtack was their last option.

While lying in her sleeping bag, Veronica closed her eyes and forced herself to fall asleep. At least with Xavier keeping guard outside, she felt more assured.

She did not know how long she had slept, but she keenly felt her sleeping bag moving some time later. After reaching her hand under her pillow to grab a dagger, she did not budge and waited to see what would happen next. Subsequently, her sleeping bag was gradually pulled open, and someone came inside.

Feeling the person coming nearer, she grabbed the intruder's shirt and pinned that person on the ground before putting the dagger near the person's face. "Who are you?" she whispered.

"It's me!" the man whispered back.

It was then that she withdrew her dagger and suppressed her voice to ask, "Xavier, what are you doing?"

"Changing sleeping bags." His answer was short and simple.

After hearing his answer, Veronica did not need to ask for a reason, for she could easily guess that he wanted to switch tents to protect her.

"No, you don't have to!" She refused immediately. I owe him too much. I cannot let him bear the dangers for me again.

"Tanya spent so much effort to change the rules of the game just so that she can do away with you and Matthew, so I'd advise that you not think too highly of yourself."

Although it was said to be a personal tent, it was just a sleeping bag.

Following that, Xavier came into the tent while Veronica kneeled to the side with one hand on her collar while she propped up the other near his forehead. Since they were afraid to be eavesdropped on, they came close to each other, making their current position feel ambiguous.

Inside the small confined space, they could feel the warmth from each other's bodies through their thin clothing.

He had dreamed countless nights of being this close to her, but at that moment, he did not have any lustful thoughts because all he cared about was her safety.

"That's exactly why I can't let you risk your life!" she replied.

"If you put it that way, I… have a suggestion."

"What?" she asked.

Now, it was Xavier who became hesitant.

He hesitated for a few moments before saying, "A man's tent is blue while a woman's tent is pink, and you're the only woman in our group. Those who come to kill you could still do it without entering your tent, so the best option is..."

Read Novel Her Billionaire Husband Chapter 898

Chapter 898 Stabbed Twice

Xavier only finished half his sentence and stopped because he was sure Veronica was smart enough to guess what he was implying. She was caught off guard for a moment. Knowing that there was no other choice, she agreed. "Alright."

It's a matter of life and death. How can I have the time to be worried about so many things? The best option is to stay alive. "But..." She felt conflicted and voiced her doubts, "You established a partnership with Zac. If you help me now, won't he do something to you?"

"You just have to take care of yourself!" Without saying anything else, Xavier sat up and crawled out of the tiny tent. He and Zac had indeed established a partnership, but their target was only Matthew!

After he left, Veronica placed her backpack inside the sleeping bag before covering it with a thin blanket to disguise it. Then, she headed outside.

The hidden clan had a good environment, with the moon and stars shining brightly in the sky, making Xavier's figure beside the bonfire seem vaguely visible.

They gazed at each other under the dark of the night, and she headed into his tent. Meanwhile, Xavier was waiting for Nelson to change shifts with him, and she could not possibly wait until Nelson's turn to move into Xavier's tent.

They had just wandered deep into the woods before a thunderstorm rolled in, wetting everything and creating a moist environment that welcomed pests. The pests found in deep jungles were extremely dangerous, and a mere bite could cost a man's life.

After tonight, they could find other ways to stay through the night when they arrived at their next campsite. Veronica went into Xavier's tent and had just lay down when she heard another voice coming from outside.

"You can head to bed now. I'll continue to keep guard," Nelson told him. "It's fine. I'm not that tired," Xavier declined. Inside the tent, she felt guilty when she heard that. Before she agreed to Xavier's plan, she was hesitant as she thought he might take advantage of her. Now that she was lying inside his tent, he was reluctant to come over because he wanted to give her some personal space.

Outside, he and Nelson shared a long chat.

The next time Nelson urged him to rest, he could not reject him again, so he returned to his tent at last.

In the dark surroundings, there were low hums of bugs and birds, as well as the sound of the breeze rustling the leaves.

When Xavier pulled the zipper down, Veronica inched her body to the side. He quickly pulled up the zipper after he entered the tent and lay beside her. Both of them were in utmost proximity to each other.

"Go to sleep. It's late." Her voice was soft.

"Hm." He agreed and slowly closed his eyes without doing anything obscene, especially when he was beside her. While the two were sleeping together, he could feel his heart thumping wildly, rendering him worried while still forcefully suppressing the urge within him.

Three hours later, Xavier opened his eyes and felt his surroundings lighten up, which made his heart skip a beat. When he discovered Veronica missing by his side, he felt reassured and got up to exit the tent.

There was no one outside, so he looked around and saw her tent shaking. He called out worriedly, "Roni?" His voice sounded a little raspy from being nervous.

"I'm fine. I was just packing my stuff."

Inside the tent, Veronica looked at the two stab holes in the thin blanket, feeling gloomy. She knew they would do something, but she did not expect them to take action so soon.

"Zac? Nelson?" Xavier shouted their names but did not get any response.

She answered him, "They went out for a walk and to investigate the trail." While she spoke, she came out of the tent.

Since the rain had moistened the ground, she began carefully observing the footprint embedded there.

Read Novel Her Billionaire Husband Chapter 899

Chapter 899 Taking Things Slowly

"What's the matter?" asked Xavier as he approached her, sensing her strange behavior. While her head was lowered as she observed her surroundings, Veronica answered, "It's nothing."

"Did someone try to kill you?" Despite her efforts to hide the truth, he had guessed the answer just from studying her expression.

Knowing she could not hide the truth from him anymore, she nodded without speaking as she observed the footsteps on the ground, wanting to find clues from the traces left behind.

Xavier went inside the tent and felt his heart skip when he saw the two stab marks. At that moment, his anger for Matthew surged, but he knew that no matter what the situation was, he did not want to see Veronica get hurt.

When he came out of her tent, he saw a few people coming toward them and whispered a reminder, "They're back. It's better if they didn't know what happened last night."

"Alright." She nodded and stood up straight before looking toward Nelson's tent. Narrowing her eyes, she fell into deep thought.

"We found a few wild bird eggs. Xavier, Miss Murphy, you guys get some water boiling so we can cook them," Liam ordered.

"How are we supposed to cook without a pot?"

Keeping the events of last night in her heart, Veronica smiled and joked with Liam, "There's no pot of any sort in our mighty backpack." Then, she pointed at the eggs in his hand. "Let's eat them raw."

Since they have limited resources, it was best to have it raw.

"Miss Murphy's right. I agree with her," Nelson voiced his agreement.

Frowning, Zac spoke in disdain, "We aren't in a hurry to head up to the mountain, so why make things difficult for ourselves? It's still quite early. We should slow down our

pace. After all, isn't there a saying that those who covet gains ahead are unaware of the danger behind them?"

In other words, it was already challenging to find their target animal, so would it not be better if they let the other groups see the animal and fight amongst themselves for it? Then, they would be able to take advantage of their worn-out state and get what they wanted.

"Zac's plan sounds nice." Xavier agreed.

"I agree with Zac too."

Liam crossed his arms and beamed. "Since there are so many competitors, we don't need to be in such a hurry. Wouldn't it be better if we just treat this as a camping trip?"

"Prince Liam is right." Nelson nodded.

Seeing that they were all supportive of Zac's idea, Veronica did not say anything else. She turned around and looked toward the mountain's peak in the distance, feeling nervous. We've agreed that we would look for each other after entering the mountain, but now, Zac and the others want to slow down our pace and even stay in the same spot. That means Matthew and I will not be able to meet up. It will be more difficult for him to look for me. If I leave here alone...

While thinking of that, she glanced at her tent, conflicted.

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"Good morning, Master Iron. Here, for you."

On the other hand, Matthew and Eleanor were arranged into the same group with three other strangers. However, since yesterday afternoon, he had concluded that the other three were here to protect her.

The three had prepared wild fruits and barbecued fish early in the morning before presenting them to the princess.

After thanking them, Eleanor immediately brought them to Matthew and gave them to him.

"Thank you." He accepted her offerings and took two wild pears before taking a bite.

Since they entered the mountain, there were not any other edible foods besides the hardtack, and in comparison to that, he would rather have some wild fruits.

"Hehe. Master Iron, you don't have to be so polite with me." She approached him and leaned against a tree trunk. "It's what I should do."

While saying that, she glanced at the tree behind him and saw a snake with a bright green body spitting its forked tongue at them.

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Chapter 900 Acting Coquettishly

"Don't try to act like we're close." Matthew eyed her coldly. "And you better not think about things you're not supposed to." His tone was cold as ice, and he did not even care about being courteous to her.

However, Eleanor seemed immune to his indifference and raised her leg to place the tip of her foot beside his pants before moving around, deliberately teasing him.

"What thoughts can I possibly have? I just want to build a good relationship with you so that you'll take better care of me." Her slender and fair finger pointed at the gigantic mountain. "Whether it's up that mountain or back below, many are looking to kill both you and me. I'm just sticking with you so that we can help each other out."

It would be even better if I can win your heart, she wished. "Your mom specially arranged three strong and powerful men to be in the same group with you. How can they not be able to protect you?" After that retort, Matthew turned around to pack up his tent, wanting to move forward.

However, Eleanor was still leaning against the tree trunk while raising her head to look at the emerald-green snake, seemingly lost in thought.

While he was not paying attention, she approached one of the men and whispered, "Find an excuse and leave quickly."

"But Princess Eleanor, you…" The man wanted to say something, but she glared at him, shutting him up.

Soon, all five packed their baggage and were ready to continue their journey.

"Princess Eleanor, there are three crossroads ahead. Jonathan and I will scout ahead. Kenneth, you take that route," the man who spoke beckoned Jonathan to the right path and ordered Kenneth to take the middle course.

Then, Matthew told her, "You stay here while I scout that path."

It was a great chance to get rid of Eleanor, so he naturally would not let such a chance go.

However, she was not going to let him have his way!

"I'll go with you. Staying here is too dangerous." Without giving him a chance to get rid of her, she stuck to him like glue.

While they trekked on the route, both of them remained silent. Rather than calling it a route, it was more like an ambiguous path created by other participants of the hunt walking through here.

Seeing Matthew walking rapidly without any intention of looking back, Eleanor reckoned he might be thinking of losing them so that he could go looking for Veronica.

A glimmer of light appeared in her eyes as she devised a plan in her head. "Hey, Master, slow down. I can't catch up." While tugging on the straps of her bag, she quickened her pace to chase after him before striking up a conversation with him. "Why are you walking so fast? Are you in a hurry to see your wife?"

The man stayed quiet.

Seeing that he ignored her, she continued, "I've always been curious about how you met each other. Can you tell me?"

This time, he finally spoke up, but it was merely a cold retort. "It has nothing to do with you."

"Wow. That's mean."

Having been continuously ignored, Eleanor felt displeased.

The two continued to walk up the hill. The hillside was steep, with huge boulders and crushed stones at the top, so there were only a few trees in this area.

She stepped on the stones and felt difficulty walking. When she peered at the man's back, she discovered more than a dozen feet of distance between them. She narrowed her eyes as a mischievous glint appeared in them.

Suddenly, her legs gave out as she screamed, "Ahh—Help!"

Following her scream, she fell to the ground and rolled down the hill. "Help! Master, help me!"