

Heiress 515

Chapter 515

“No... I don't trust Justin. I need to inform Mr. Asher right away.”

Steven could barely hold his phone steady while dialing Asher's number.

The call was answered immediately. Before Steven had a chance to speak, Asher's husky came on the

other end. “Did something happen. to Bella, Steve?”

There must be some sort of special bond between the siblings because Asher had a bad feeling all

night.

Since Steven contacted him, Asher was sure Bella had gotten herself into a situation.

“Mr. Asher!”

Steven teared up. “Ms. Bella... Ms. Bella is in trouble. Please send help to Mount Jaglee at the

National Forest Park.”

Asher was at the military headquarters in Dawnford, more than 350 km away from Savrow, when he

received Steven's call for help.

Now that Asher was in Dawnford, he could not possibly pass up a chance to meet with his third brother,

Declan Brown, who had also taken their mother's last name, like Drew.

His mother gave birth to quadruplets and Bella, and Asher cared about all his siblings equally.

Declan was a young talent. He was a colonel at the age of 28 with outstanding achievements. Since he held a high position, leading the army in Dawnford, he rarely got to meet with his family.

Hence, Asher would visit Declan whenever he got the chance.

"Declan, Bella is in trouble. I need to get back to Savrow right now." Furrowing his brows, Asher could not hide the worry on his face.

"What? Bella is in trouble?"

Declan, dressed in military uniform, jolted to his feet from the sofa, his nerves tensed.

He had always kept his cool and charisma as a colonel in the presence of others. However, he was hysterical at the mention that his beloved sister was in trouble.

As his chest tightened, Asher's voice turned hoarse. "Our little sister went to the National Forest Park to volunteer at a search and rescue party."

Declan clenched his fists and sighed. He paced around in circles nervously.

If the men working under Declan could see him now, their jaws would drop.

“I told her many times to just donate the money. She’s not a professional first responder. She could put herself in danger, but she’s stubborn. She has a mind of her own. She won’t listen to reason.” Asher was worried sick about Bella.

“I mean... Why does Bella go there anyway? Does Mount Jaglee hold some sort of secret or mystery there?”

Declan did not want to be the strict superior in front of Asher. In fact, he shared Wyatt’s humor.

Asher looked at him with intrigue and said indifferently, “Don’t you remember what happened to Bella when she was eleven?”

“I do. Of course, I do.”

Declan sighed dejectedly. “I don’t know what to say about her and the Salvador guy.”

“I’m starting to get to my head that Mom had us first to protect Bella.”

Asher let out a long sigh and walked out. “I got to go attend to the emergency, Declan.”

“Hang on, Ash.”

Declan stopped him and grabbed his beret on the arm of the sofa to put on. “I’m going with you.”

It took quite a bit of walking before Justin discovered a small, dark cave. He carried Bella over.

Bella rested her back against the wall of the cave and folded her arms. Her pale lips quivered, and her soiled face looked flushed.

Even though she looked weak and disheveled, the light in her eyes and her fluttering lashes gave

Justin butterflies in his stomach.

Feeling warm and cozy inside, the man swallowed hard and cupped her cheeks.

He frowned when he found that her face was hot to the touch.

“Are you burning up?”

“I’m fine. It won’t kill me.”

Bella did not shy away from his touch because the cold sensation felt great on her skin.

Chapter 516

Justin nervously put his hand on her hot forehead, and the burning temperature left him distraught.

He quickly took off his jacket and shirt, which were still warm from his body, and wrapped them around

Bella to shield her from the cold.

Bella weakly opened her eyes. The man had given her almost all his clothes. At this moment, he was

only wearing his black vest.

His muscular body was a work of art. His rugged and untamed charm stood out in the wilderness.

“Do you still feel cold?” Justin asked in a raspy voice while fixating on her flushed face.

“Uh... It’s cold. I feel so cold...” Bella hugged herself and shivered.

Justin drew a deep breath. With downcast eyes, he spread his arms apart.

He carefully pulled her into his arms and rubbed some heat into her.

“Do you still feel cold?” The man lowered his face, his heart beating out of his chest.

Bella rested her chin against his shoulder blade, nestling up to him.

Justin heaved a deep breath and dug his fingers into her wet hair to massage her head. He tried to

help her relax and assure her.

Bella felt her tensed muscles easing in his embrace.

She was sleepy, barely able to keep her eyes open.

Justin sat alongside her, providing her with warmth and taking her hand to check her injuries.

Bella’s fingers were bruised and battered. Mud and blood were stuck under her fingernails. These

fingers did not look like they belonged to an heiress.

The man pursed his lips as his mind wandered back to her grasping at survival while clinging to the cliff.

His heart went out to her.

“Bella, I hope this won’t ever happen again. You’re not a cat. You don’t have nine lives.” Justin’s lips shook in rage as he shouted at her.

“Uh... You don’t mean anything to me. Who are you to tell me what to do...” Bella rested her head on his shoulder. Her judgment was clouded by the fever.

Despite the circumstances they were in, she did not hesitate to snap back at him.

“Can’t you tell?” Justin’s ears flushed.

“I can’t. Tell me then.”

Sure enough, he chickened out when push came to shove.

“Ha... Whatever. Your answer doesn’t mean anything to me.” Bella closed her eyes, not wanting to give him any more attention.

The only thing she wanted to do right now was take a nice, hot bath and lie down on her bed for a good

sleep.

She felt so tired.

“Why did you marry me, Bella? Was it because I saved your life? Was it just to repay me?” Justin

clutched her hand and held it to his chest.

The fever blurred her ability to think clearly.

She answered all his questions because she had no energy to argue anymore.

“I married you because I loved you.”

Dumbfounded, Justin breathed heavily.

“I have always hoped to marry you. I didn’t expect my dream to come true.”

Bella’s eyes welled up. “I played catch-up to you for 13 years, Justin. Throughout my teenage years, I

kept searching and chasing after you.”

“What about now? Do you still love me, Bella?” Justin teared up and asked eagerly.

He held Bella’s left hand, including her crippled little finger, tight.

She pulled her hand away from his grasp as if to save her broken heart from him.

Bella was still hurting, afraid she would be back to square one in her healing process.

“I don’t resent or hate you. I’m not angry anymore. That also means I don’t love you anymore.”

Chapter 517

Bella did not love Justin anymore.

She no longer loved him.

Bella could not lie to herself. Despite claiming no feelings for Justin, she could feel her heart breaking.

She was used to the pain, though. In the three years she was married to Justin, the heartbreaking pain

was more of a companion to her than the man was. The pain was a long-time friend.

“What’s the point of asking these questions now, Justin? Are you delusional to think that I will be right there waiting for you?”

Bella narrowed her eyes, her gaze vulnerable. She rarely laid herself bare, and it tugged at Justin’s

heartstrings. “I loved you for thirteen years. I don’t have another thirteen years for you. I have no more

love to give. I’m sick of you. I’m sick of you and the supposed love.”

Her strong emotions cut Justin like a knife. His pale lips shivered, and he could not shake off the lump

in his throat.

He realized that he was the monster.

Justin trapped her in a loveless marriage and nearly destroyed her.

“Do you really mean it, Bella?” Refusing to give up, Justin had to ask, even at the cost of humiliating himself.

“Yes. I have never lied to you.”

Bella chuckled, her nonchalance sending chills down his spine. “I meant it when I said I loved you. It was true that I didn’t want a divorce. The tears I shed for you were real, too. So I was honest when I said I didn’t love you anymore.”

“Bella...”

Justin’s eyes were bloodshot as he gripped her hands. Even though Bella was burning up, her hands were like a block of ice.

His feelings could never get to her anymore.

“I’m grateful that you saved my life again, Justin. I owe you another one. I’m happy to repay the favor if the demand isn’t too much.” Bella spoke callously, as if he were a stranger.

It was clear that she hoped to never be involved with him after this.

Justin wanted to say something, but Bella fell asleep on his shoulder.

She looked like an adorable bunny with her rosy cheeks, fluttering lashes, and sweat-soaked head.

The man swallowed hard as his heart raced. He could not help but hold her closer.

He once had many opportunities to do so.

Now, he had only this rare moment with her alone to cherish.

He did this to himself.

The walkie-talkie was out of range to communicate with anyone, and he could not get a signal on his phone.

Although Justin hoped to spend more time with Bella, she had a high temperature. If the fever went on, she might experience other symptoms too..

Flustered, Justin checked her temperature constantly.

He was in distress because of her.

Justin was trying to figure out ways to get Bella's fever down and to send a signal to the helicopters and park rangers to find them.

In the end, Justin searched in the rain for a long time before locating dry branches. Drawing on his

survival skills honed in the army, he built a crackling fire.

He started a fire outside the cave to signal for help and another one in the cave to provide Bella with warmth.

The amber glow illuminated the woman's face. She looked quiet and peaceful. Her skin also looked flawless.

Justin's gaze deepened as he stared intensely at her face.

"Justin..."

Bella parted her dry lips in a daze and murmured a man's name.

"I'm here, Bella."

Justin got down on one knee. "Do you feel warmer?"

"Justin... You're a bastard!" With her eyes closed, Bella talked in her sleep.

Her dirty arms waved in the air and somehow struck Justin in the face.

It did not hurt, though. Bella was too sick to cause any harm.

Chapter 518

Justin did not know whether to laugh or cry. Bella would still give him a dressing-down in her sleep. It

would probably take a lifetime to undo the hurt he brought her.

A lifetime...

He had started to dream about making it up to her and protecting her for the rest of his life.

Maybe he had fallen in love with her.

With that in mind, Justin's heart pounded out of his chest. He leaned forward and pulled her body

closer to his. His lips met hers.

"Mgh..." Bella whimpered. He could not take his eyes away from her..

His eyes turned glossy as he deepened the kiss.

Bella closed her eyes, and Justin shut his.

Justin let go and allowed his mind and body to take over. All he ever wanted to do was hold her and

kiss her for as long as he could.

A furious wind stirred up outside the cave.

The rumbling came from the spinning blades of a helicopter.

"Bella, don't be scared. Someone's here to save us. We're saved!"

Justin was confident enough to bring her to safety himself. He embraced Bella with joy, as the worst was over.

The helicopter touched down, whipping a whirlwind of dust and debris into a frenzy.

Justin narrowed his eyes and tried to get a look at the chopper with a flashlight.

The helicopter did not belong to Salvador Corporation.

Who found them?

It did not matter, so long as Bella could get the treatment she needed.

Justin carried Bella, who was asleep and bundled up in his clothes, and took strides to the helicopter.

“Bella!”

“Bella!”

A cry of panic pierced through the night sky. Asher and Declan got out of the chopper.

Justin did not show much emotion at the sight of Asher. However, the handsome man in green military wear and black boots, bearing the military rank of a colonel, gave Justin something to think about.

He felt like he was looking in the mirror, staring at a past version of himself.

Even though Justin was the president of a multibillion-dollar corporation, he still missed those glory

days in the army.

Nevertheless, now was not the time to reminisce.

He was more concerned about the man's relationship with Bella.

"Give Bella back to me, Justin!"

Declan's fury was evident in his face. Even when his military uniform was soaked in the rain and his beret dripped with water, the stormy wind could not make him bend his spine.

In truth, Declan had not met Justin before. Asher, on the other hand, could keep his cool before the man who had a long history with Bella, despite his displeasure.

The weather dropped to subzero, and Justin was nearly naked because he dressed Bella in his clothing.

Asher furrowed his brows, feeling a little sorry for Justin for a change.

"Bella... What's wrong, Bella?"

Declan sprinted toward Justin, and the latter stepped back warily and checked Declan out.

"Who are you to her?"

“He’s Bella’s and my brother,” Asher explained.

Justin’s eyes bulged in shock.

Declan and Asher did not look alike, but he resembled Drew. Justin did not catch the resemblance earlier.

Justin never knew that Bella had a brother who held high ranks and was on active duty in the military.

Pursing his lips, Justin held the woman in his arm tighter as a wave of emotions washed over him.

Goddamnit. All the men around her were nothing short of outstanding.

For the first time in his life, a woman stirred up jealousy in Justin. He was jealous of a man.

Chapter 519

“Bella...”

Heartbroken, Declan teared up and tried to take Bella from Justin.

Asher seemed like the kindest soul out of the four boys in the family, but that was not true.

Declan always carried a stoic face due to his career in the military, but out of all of Wyatt’s children, he was the gentlest and most sensible child.

He could not make it back for Bella’s birthday this year because he was on military duty. In the middle

of the night, he hid under the covers and secretly wiped away tears. He was a sensitive and vulnerable man.

“I’ll hold her.” Justin shifted his gaze to Bella and refused to turn her over.

“You don’t deserve to!”

Recalling the divorce, Declan saw red and took out his anger on Justin. “You know full well that you dumped her and hurt her. Don’t act like you’re the good guy here. Even if you saved Bella, I would never thank you.”

“I never expect you to.”

Justin paused before uttering in-a hoarse voice, “Bella is important to I admit that I have caused her a lot of hurt. Everything I do now is to make up for-”

“You can’t make up for anything!”

Declan cut him off sternly. “It’s too late for regrets now. You have ruined my once cheerful and worry-free sister. There is no way you can make amends.”

Justin froze.

“Uh... Home... I want to go home...”

Bella shuddered in the man's embrace and cried out in her sleep..

"I'll take you home, Bella."

Not wanting to waste another breath on Justin, Declan tried to snatch Bella from him.

Just when Declan was about to hold his sister, Bella clutched Justin's black vest and refused to let go.

"Don't go... Don't go..." she mumbled

"I won't go. You're still burning. How can I possibly ditch you?"

Justin had always been a cold-hearted man, but his heart opened up to Bella.

He turned to Declan and said pleadingly, "Let me take her to the hospital. I'll leave once we arrive at

the hospital."

"Dream on!" Declan yelled angrily.

"Dec."

Asher stopped Declan and stepped forward with a sour look. "Let's just go with Mr. Salvador's

suggestion. He can come with us to the hospital."

"Ash!"

“Either way, I need to thank you for saving Bella, Mr. Salvador. Join us in the helicopter.” Asher looked at Justin calmly.

Justin responded dejectedly, “Thank you.”

Bella was back in his arms.

He tended to her with extra care, as if he had found something he had lost.

The choppers sent by Ian arrived, but Justin waved to send them back. He followed Declan and Asher into their helicopter.

The helicopter took flight into the night sky.

Justin held Bella close to him, not once letting up.

Declan caressed his sister’s forehead as his breathing became labored. Tears welled up in his eyes.

“Bella, open your eyes and look at me. I’m here. I’m back.”

“Bella is having a fever, Declan. Don’t worry too much about it.” Asher consoled Declan, but he was feeling anxious too.

“It was rough for Bella today. She nearly fell off the cliff.” Justin stared long and hard at Bella.

The fear still had a grip on him.

Shocked, Asher and Declan shuddered.

“I lent her a helping hand, but she saved herself.”

Chapter 520

“Justin, you deserve to die.”

Declan hissed through clenched teeth, “All of Bella’s sufferings come from you.”

“I know. It’s all my fault.”

After all he had been through, Justin could see himself for who he was in the past. He was ruthless and cold-hearted. Justin was willing to accept all the blame.

“Why did you marry her when you didn’t love her? Why did you give her hope when you didn’t love her?”

Declan looked daggers at him as tears rolled down his cheeks. “She is attached to the mountain because of you. All her life, she has lived. for you. What about you? What have you ever done for her?”

The question hit Justin like a ton of bricks. His heart was ripped apart.

What did Justin ever do for Bella?

Nothing.

He had never proposed to her or given her anything remotely deserving of a spouse.

He dumped her in their bridal suite on the night of the wedding and slept in another room.

He never spent any holidays with her or gave her any presents.

When she and Nigel were caught in an accident, he did not rush to her side.

None of these incidents, added together, caused her as much pain as that one thing.

When Bella was in her prime and loved him the most, his heart. belonged to another.

Justin's beautiful eyes turned bloodshot as he gripped Bella's soft hands. He heaved heavily.

He was filled with regret.

Regret was reserved for losers.

"My sister has put up with a lot and sacrificed too much, Justin."

Like Asher, Declan knew what Bella had been through in the last thirteen years. It hurt him just thinking

about it. "Do you know that Bella nearly lost her life because of you? To pursue you-"

"Enough, Declan," With a scowl, Asher interrupted him.

Declan swallowed his words and clenched his fists angrily.

He was tempted to punch Justin in the face..

Nevertheless, Declan could not act before thinking like Drew. He was a high-ranking military officer, and the years had ebbed away his youthful rashness and added maturity to him.

Only Bella could stir his emotions and awaken the bloodthirst inside. him.

“What did you say?”

Justin’s heart sank. Bella was hiding something bigger from him, and his suspicion grew. “Did you say that Bella nearly lost her life because of me? When did that happen? Tell me when it happened!”

“Mr. Salvador.” Asher said grimacingly, “The history between you and my sister is a thing of the past now. Since Bella doesn’t want to talk about it, we won’t dwell on it anymore. It’s over between you two. But if your continue to pester Bella, don’t blame me for going after you.”

Declan jumped in spitefully. “Justin, if you want what’s best for Bella, you should stay away from her.

You have hurt her enough. Do you want to ruin the rest of her life too? You don’t deserve her after what you did.”

Declan and Asher rushed Bella to the hospital.

Asher kept quiet about Bella’s accident. He even used the helicopter from Dawnford, so Wyatt had no

idea about the situation.

Otherwise, Wyatt would turn Savrow upside down upon learning about his precious daughter's brush with death in the mountains.

Justin stuck to Bella like a magnet. He did not leave after the helicopter ride and followed Asher and Declan.

Bella was brought straight to the emergency room and soon transferred to the ward.

Justin could finally relax.

"Did you forget what you said, Justin? You said you'd leave upon arrival at the hospital. Why are you still here?" Blocking the entrance to the ward, Declan questioned.

"I'll leave once she wakes up." Justin stood tall before him w face.

Even though Justin was pushing his luck and acting shameless would live with it.

lan was right. He and Bella were no longer meant to be. He might have ruined his only chance.

"The nerve of you, Justin!" Declan was not the type to throw a tantrum in public, but he was on his last straw with Justin.