

Chapter 90

Patterson was in Ferdinand's residence again for another session to satiate Larissa. He'd initially planned to only do it just so he could leak out this affair, but now, he came with something else in mind - wanting to find out if Larissa knew anything else about Catrine Carter, perhaps even Monica Upshaw and the recent attacks on hunters headquarters.

What he couldn't comprehend was what the perpetrator could hope to gain from these strikes. The hunters were a large part of the defense systems, too. Soldiers alone weren't enough. Why did it feel like they were being exterminated? There were no casualties from the parking lot explosion, fortunately. The most severe injury was a third-degree burn that had been treated with a positive prospect of recovery.

And the situation got really suspenseful when the media caught the fire because some witnesses nearby reported hearing the explosion. When the reports and headlines circulated, speculations went two ways: some thought someone sought to murder the duke after the brutal execution of many high-ranking hunters; others opined the duke himself planted the bomb in his car to kill the hunters within reach as well as the Chief Octopus as revenge for the Delilah et al. conspiracy, weakening the hunters' mechanics by annihilating the main brain behind their day-to-day operations, and killing himself because he never got over the heartbreak.

Public opinion from the kingdom and human territories seemed skewed toward the former, most finding it difficult to believe that the duke would detonate his own car if he'd really wanted to annihilate the hunters. The bomb would've had a better chance of accomplishing that if it was installed within the headquarters itself.

So bad light was now projected on the hunters. Again.

And thanks to that development, the kingdom's access to the hunters'

systems remained intact, which meant Greg and the mavericks weren't being kicked out, much to the hunters' relief. They could use the help and protection in case another attack occurred. As an added problem, the lycan rulers now demanded the defense ministry hand over every single piece of information the government had on file and in their physical archives, access to their defense systems and troops, and every password within the system. The attempted assassination of the duke had been their main point of argument.

From what Patterson had been told, the kingdom's defense minister very crudely said that the human government has displayed - over and over again in the span of weeks - that it was incapable of cracking down its own cases and protecting its own people, giving the kingdom no choice but to interfere to secure the safety of the mavericks and the duke; the queen adding that if such failure came from their side to the hunters' detriment, the hunters would've already declared war; and the king finished off by declaring that he would wage war if their demands had not been met by the end of the day, and so followed a very interesting next few hours.

Passwords were surrendered and non-physical documents had been shared. Physical documents were being photocopied the entire day until some machines broke down. The kingdom's defense minister verified passwords while the queen herself checked the first three stacks of photocopied documents, making sure none had been redacted before giving her people the nod to take them away.

Kenji and Patterson secretly celebrated the defense ministry being stepped on for once, but knew the battle against an unknown enemy was far from over, which led Patterson to disclose to the eastern leader of his involvement with Ferdinand's wife. Kenji only got three words of protest out before Patterson asked whether he wanted to continue living in fear of another attack or perhaps take his place to fuck some information out of the woman.

With that, Kenji surrendered and claimed that Patterson's self-authorized plan was - in technical sense - still authorized.

For the first time, Patterson called to ask Larissa if he could go over when it was normally her who extended the invitation. He was shocked to see the defense minister's car in the driveway and was about to leave when Larissa opened the door wide and waved him in.

Deciding to just play it by ear if he ran into the minister, Patterson entered through the doors with an external confidence and courage that did not reflect the anxiety spiraling within his being asking him to turn around and run while he still could.

Upon stepping foot into the house, he heard some shouting and instantly recognized it as Ferdinand's voice, hollering, "I DON'T CARE THAT HE'S IN A MEETING! TELL THE PRESIDENT WE NEED TO MEET TO DISCUSS WHAT TO DO WI—"

The shouting was muffled out after Larissa signaled one of her two maids to shut the door before leading Patterson by his hand to the bedroom, locking the door behind them. As she undid her robe in an unhurried pace with the intention to seduce Patterson in stages, not knowing he was far from affected after the years of successful assignments under his belt and the fact that he'd seen her body at least six times before.

Still, he let her have her fun, seeing her drop her robe before stepping to him and removing his coat when she purred, "Long day?"

"More like a long few weeks."

Larissa smiled sadly. "I heard. He's in his home office in case the lycans decide to pay a sudden visit to the defense ministry."

"Hiding away," Patterson summarized.

Larissa mm-ed, beginning to unbutton his shirt as she swayed her butt when Patterson's hands went to her waist and slowly trailed down the curves. When her fingers reached the third button, she said, "Despite what the public thinks, he's actually a coward."

"I know from experiencing it first hand," Patterson noted in amusement.

Larissa shook her head with an empty smile - in disappointment and

disgust - at the man she chose to be her spouse. "Same here."

He scoffed. "And what has he done to you? Make you take the blame for a family accident?"

The unbuttoning stopped, her eyes delved into deep contemplation, and her chest began to rise and fall at the thoughts invading her mind.

Patterson was not going to ask if she was okay. In a previous visit, she stayed silent for quite a while before showing him the receipts in her home office - the receipts that confirmed Catrine Carter's grand transformation was in large part thanks to her affair with Minister Ferdinand when the figures there matched the withdrawals from a ghost account that was set up by Ferdinand's former secretary. Larissa's silence now only meant there was more information, and Patterson braced himself for intel about Monica Upshaw.

Chapter Comments

