

Irresistible 221

[Chapter 221 The Mysterious Flora](#)

Sylvia's POV:

Just as the gate to the school was about to be locked up for the night, Rufus took my hand and walked me back to the dormitory.

"Go on now. Call me if anything happens." Rufus kissed me on the forehead and bade me goodbye.

"Okay." I reluctantly let go of his hand and walked inside the building, looking back at him from time to time.

Not long after I arrived, Flora rushed in.

"Sylvia!" she shouted breathlessly. "I have an idea! I think I know how to stop the rumors from spreading on the Internet!"

"What? How?" I was taken aback. What on earth could be going on in her mind?

Flora's eyes lit up. Then, she approached me and took my hand, patting it as though she was an elderly she-wolf talking to her granddaughter. "Sorry but I have to keep it a secret. You'll find out tomorrow."

I didn't know whether to burst into tears or laughter. "Tell me or else I won't be able to sleep tonight."

Flora shook her head. "Relax. You'll know when it's time. Everything will play out in due time."

"Just tell me!" My curiosity was killing me. The more she refused to tell me, the more I wanted to know.

Flora covered her ears and dodged my advance. "No, no, no."

I pestered her for a long time, but she was stubborn, so I gave up eventually.

She retreated to take a shower and minutes after she locked the bathroom door, I heard passionate singing coming from inside. I sighed, hoping her brilliant plans wouldn't scare me tomorrow.

Before dawn the next day, Flora suddenly dragged me out of bed. Having been rudely awakened, I looked at the clock on the bedside table and found that it was only half past three. What the—?! Was she crazy?

"I'm so sleepy. Let me sleep a little longer." I shoved her away and melted back into bed.

"Get up! Let's go to the morning exercise!" Flora pulled me out of bed once more and wiped my face with a wet towel. "Okay! Now your face is clean. Go change your clothes."

I was sobered up by the wet towel and looked at Flora, who was in high spirits. Confused, I said, "The morning exercise isn't until five o'clock. We usually get up at half past four and can totally manage it."

"We have to get rid of that bad habit, starting today. Now, go get changed!" Flora pushed me towards the dressing room.

I had no choice but to change into my school uniform and follow her to the playground to wait for the morning exercise to commence.

I rubbed my eyes and leaned my head on Flora's shoulder. Yawning loudly, I asked, "Why are you so excited today?"

Flora ignored my question and adjusted her posture to make me feel more comfortable. Then she started to hum a happy tune. It was clear that she was in a good mood.

As the minutes ticked by, more and more werewolves showed up. Soon, the she-wolves who came to bully us yesterday arrived. They glared at me viciously and spoke in loud, arrogant voices.

"What the hell is a slut like you doing here? You don't need to go to school. You're better off learning more about how to seduce men."

"No wonder I smelled your stench this morning."

"I guess she went out with a man again last night. Just look at her! She looks like she barely slept."

"I don't know why the school's tolerating such a slutty she-wolf!"

I simply ignored them. I didn't want my mood to be influenced by good-for-nothing scumbags.

"Stupid bitches," Flora cursed disdainfully and led me away from the crowd.

I looked at Flora in surprise. Why was she suddenly so calm today? She definitely wasn't as impulsive as yesterday.

I couldn't help but think about the mysterious look on Flora's face last night. The curiosity in my heart bubbled up again.

After the morning exercise, Blair said a few words as usual and concluded the event.

"Wait! There's something I have to say!" Flora's hand suddenly shot up and she nimbly ran to the platform.

[Chapter 222 Surprise](#)

Warren's POV:

Last night, I couldn't fall asleep because I was too excited. I was actually in a relationship with Flora!

I tossed and turned all night, unable to calm down. My mind kept thinking about Flora's adorable face.

At some point, I wanted to call my father to tell him that I had a girlfriend, but it was too late in the evening, so I gave up. I figured I could just tell him as soon as the morning exercise was over today. I didn't know if he would support me or not, but even if he objected, I wouldn't change my mind. Flora was my responsibility now.

Today, at the playground, I noticed that Flora was different from usual. Her smile was radiant, even more dazzling than the rising sun. Did being in a relationship with me make her so happy?

Her happiness was infectious. I soon found myself smiling, too.

I kept stealing glances at her during the morning exercise. Although she never met my gaze, I figured it was probably because she was shy.

Having a secret that only the two of us knew made me feel inexplicably satisfied. I didn't know if Flora wanted to make our relationship public or not, but I respected her choice, whatever it may be. Secret or not, as long as she was happy, I was happy.

After Blair concluded the morning exercise, I walked towards Flora and wanted to invite her for breakfast.

But before I got close, she suddenly raised her hand and ran to the platform. "Wait! There's something I have to say!"

Confused, I watched her climb onto the platform. She seemed to be very excited. She snatched the microphone from Blair's hand and turned up the volume to its extreme.

Blair also looked confused. It was clear that he had no idea what Flora was going to do.

I walked to Sylvia and whispered, "What's Flora doing?"

Sylvia frowned in distress. "I have no idea, but I have a bad feeling about this."

"Me too..."

A strong buzz blasted from the loudspeaker boxes on either side of the platform.

I pressed my hands against my ears subconsciously, while others on the playground also looked towards the platform curiously.

"Everyone, keep quiet and listen to me! Also, all the other classes, please come here! I only want to say a few words. It won't take up your breakfast time," Flora shouted into the microphone.

The dispersed crowd suddenly began to gather in front of the platform. They were all very curious about what Flora was going to say.

"I believe that everyone has already seen the post on the school forum yesterday," Flora began seriously.

Sylvia and I exchanged nervous glances.

Harry walked over and put his hand on my shoulder. Confused, he asked, "Hey, man. Do you know what Flora's up to?"

"No idea." Sylvia and I shook our heads in unison.

"I guess we're going to have to wait and see," Sylvia said with a sigh.

At the mention of yesterday's post, the crowd began to whisper amongst themselves.

"Quiet!" Not unlike Blair, Flora looked around the audience with one hand clasped behind her back. "I hope you can listen to what I'm going to say next very carefully. I'll only say it once."

Blair raised his eyebrows, crossed his arms over his chest and watched the show with interest. "Just say it already. Don't waste our time."

Flora cleared her throat. "Although the post claimed that it was Sylvia, I want to tell you now that..."

She paused and suddenly raised her voice, eyes flashing fiercely. "You're all wrong! You're all absolutely wrong! You didn't even know that you were fooled! The ones in the photos were actually Warren and me! You idiots!"

My brain immediately went blank and I wondered if I was hallucinating.

"You know Warren, don't you? He's the tall and handsome man over there." Flora pointed directly at me.

All of a sudden, the werewolves around me all turned to fix their eyes on me. I was totally stunned.

[Chapter 223 The Mysterious Couple](#)

Flora's POV:

I stood on the stage and watched the students below burst into an uproar. I was very satisfied with the

result.

"Warren and I have been together for a long time. It just so happened that we couldn't control ourselves that day." Of course, I added fuel to the fire. I winked at Warren and continued, "I'm not a chaste woman, and my boyfriend is so handsome. Of course, I also want to enjoy the joy of love."

Everyone was in an uproar, and the scene became chaotic. A she-wolf even fainted on the spot. She must be one of Warren's admirers.

And this time, it seemed that Blair had also lost his composure. He obviously didn't expect me to say something this shocking, so he grabbed the microphone angrily. "Give me the microphone! Don't make trouble here."

Taking advantage of my height, I slipped under his arm. Then I moved to the edge of the stage and raised the microphone. "I repeat, Warren and I are in a relationship. We are deeply in love with each other now."

My voice echoed in the spacious playground. But I felt that something was missing, so I fumbled for the remote control in my pocket.

It was connected to the audio center console. I got it this morning when Sylvia didn't notice. My only intention was to play a background notice. But unfortunately, Blaire was already chasing me right now. He wanted to take the microphone away from me.

I immediately ran away, so I didn't have time to play the music anymore. But as I ran, I screamed into the microphone, "The werewolves in the picture on the post are Warren and me. I hope you won't mistake us for someone else."

When I saw that everyone in the audience was stunned, I was satisfied, so I howled again, "We will be careful next time. We won't do it in the academy again."

"Flora, stop it!" Blair was so furious that he grabbed my collar. "I said stop it!"

I held the microphone tightly and once again get rid of his grip. Then I jumped off the stage agilely, ran to Warren at an unprecedented speed, and hugged him tightly. "Honey..."

Warren's expression was unusually dull.

I felt that his whole body was as stiff as wood, and his temperature was frighteningly high. It was as if he was going to burn on the spot.

The students around gathered curiously and surrounded us.

"Warren, is what she said true? It doesn't look like it."

"She's lying! Maybe she only wants to take the blame for Sylvia."

"That's right! Look, they don't seem to have anything to do with each other at all."

"I didn't see any signs before that they were dating. They must only be acting now."

Upon hearing these comments from the students, I froze and panicked for a second. How could these werewolves be so sensitive that they could see through me at a glance?

But I didn't let them affect me. I calmed myself down and wrapped my arms around Warren's neck intimately. "Honey, are you happy now? I know that you've always wanted to make our relationship public, so I prepared this surprise for you."

"He's actually more scared than surprised!" one student exclaimed. This made the crowd burst into laughter.

Harry came out of the crowd with Blair behind him. And they were both stunned as if they couldn't understand what was going on yet.

I immediately got off Warren's body with a flushed face. I was a little annoyed that he was like an idiot, not saying anything. How could I continue acting if he was like this?

"Honey, tell me if you are happy or not. I have summoned up all my courage just to do this for you." I pouted and shook his hand, pretending to be shy. Then I secretly pinched his waist, leaned closer to his ear, and said, "Didn't you say yesterday that you would take responsibility?"

"Yeah..." Warren seemed to have regained his senses this time. He nodded to everyone and said in a somewhat dry voice, "Flora and I are indeed together. The werewolves in the equipment room... That was us."

His words stirred up the crowd.

"It's actually true!"

"Since when have you two been together? This is too dramatic!"

"Indeed, he is a man who does great things in a low profile."

"This is unacceptable! Help me! I am going to faint. My prince charming has a girlfriend now. I can't take it!"

[Chapter 224 True Or False](#)

Flora's POV:

When Warren announced our relationship, everyone burst into an uproar.

I snickered. Everything was going according to plan.

But before I could grow complacent, that bitch Davina shouted in a shrill voice, "The post said that it was Sylvia! You're just trying to cover for her!"

My nostrils flared angrily. I had been planning this for a while now, yet this she-wolf was hell-bent on ruining everything. "You believe whatever a post says? What are you, a three-year-old child? Can't you think for yourself?"

"'Child'?" Davina's eyes went wide with fury. She pointed at the crowd and barked, "Ask them if they believe it or not! Only a fool would fall for your blatant lies!"

"Who are you calling a fool? Stop belittling us," someone in the crowd shot back discontentedly.

I placed one hand on my hip confidently. "See? They believe me. You're the only one who doesn't."

"And why should I? How can you prove that it was in fact you and Warren in the photos? And how dare you claim that you and Warren are a couple? Ridiculous! How could Warren fall in love with you? If it's true, prove it!" Davina crossed her arms over her chest and shouted loudly, determined to fight me to the end.

I rolled my eyes and turned to Warren, wrapped my arms around his neck, and kissed him passionately.

Honestly, it felt good. His lips were soft and sweet.

When I finally pulled away, I felt a little reluctant.

It seemed that Warren wasn't expecting me to be so bold. He was so shocked that his pupils dilated.

Everyone around us fell silent. I took this as an opportunity to wrap my arms around Warren's neck and jumped up. Warren instinctively caught me, scooping me up into his arms.

With arms wrapped around Warren, I looked at Davina smugly. "Tell me, how else do you want me to prove it? You can't ask for too much. After all, there are so many werewolves here. I'm not shameless after all."

Davina's face turned purple from rage. The onlookers around started nodding, convinced that Warren and I were a couple.

"Did you see how he caught her? It's obvious they've been together for a while since he's so used to

carrying her."

"They look like a good match!"

"They complement each other. One is cold and quiet, and the other is as noisy as a newborn chick."

With a sweet smile on my face, I pretended to be shy and rested my head on Warren's shoulder. "I hope everyone can bless our relationship."

Then everyone broke into big smiles and began to tease me and Warren. As a thick-skinned she-wolf, I didn't feel any embarrassment. On the contrary, however, Warren seemed to be getting hotter and hotter.

I touched his face with the back of my hand and said in surprise, "You're warm!"

"Enough! Stop it!" Warren hissed at me, putting me down stiffly.

"Okay, fine." I pouted and stopped making fun of him. Then, I dismissed the crowd. "You can go now. I have nothing more to say."

Davina, however, was still unwilling to give up. She stood glued to her spot and pointed at me, seeming to want to say something more. However, someone next to her snorted. "Just drop it. It's none of your business. Both parties involved have admitted to it. Just forget it."

"That's right. If you don't believe them, check this out." Another man took out his phone and clicked on the photo album. He pointed at a photo and said, "Look at this figure. It has to be Warren."

Davina took the phone and looked at the photo. Then she looked at Warren and me. She was at a loss for words.

With my hands on my hips, I assumed a relaxed posture. Everyone got so excited over the two blurry figures on that man's phone.

The werewolves nearby gathered around the phone and looked at the photos carefully. The man looked very proud of himself. "Fortunately, I saved the photos."

Just then, Blair emerged from behind him like a ghost and confiscated his mobile phone.

[Chapter 225 The Farce Was Over](#)

Sylvia's POV:

Flora and Warren were surrounded by a dense crowd of werewolves. I couldn't squeeze past the crowd at all. There was nothing I could do but stand at the sidelines anxiously.

Hearing Flora's nonsense, I was so angry that my eyes twitched. So this was the idea she was talking about last night. No wonder she had been acting weird. It turned out that she was keeping her bad idea a secret from me and didn't dare to let me know until it was too late.

Finally, I couldn't take it anymore and squeezed through the crowd. I pulled the chattering Flora away from Warren and hissed, "Come with me. Now."

As soon as Flora saw that it was me, she immediately quieted down and with her hands in front of her like an obedient child.

"Are you insane?!" I exploded, feeling both angry at and sorry for her.

How could she casually lie about a relationship with Warren? Although she was doing this for me, I didn't understand why she was willing to dirty her own name.

At this time, Blair, with a black phone in his hand, wove through the crowd and walked to Flora. "Return the microphone!"

Flora pursed her lips. "I'm not insane. What I said is true. Mr. Joshua caught us that day. If you don't believe me, you can ask him!"

After taking a few steps towards Blair, she suddenly ran past him and towards the control room beside the platform, microphone in tow.

Blair pulled a long face and avoided making eye contact with me. Through gritted teeth, he briskly dismissed the students.

All the irrelevant students dispersed in an instant, except Harry.

The atmosphere was thick with tension because of what Flora said. The eerie silence wasn't broken until Flora came back from the central control room.

With a relaxed smile on her face, Flora asked, "So are you guys done talking?"

There were only five of us left in the playground. Blair, Harry, and Warren stood in front of me in a row, silent as mice.

With a cold expression, I yanked Flora towards me and demanded, "Tell me! What the hell happened that day?"

Flora's lips parted slightly in surprise. "Didn't Blair tell you?"

"It's none of my business." Blair shrugged and stood to the side.

"I... I'm too embarrassed to say it out loud. Harry saw it, too! Let him tell you!" Flora nudged Harry forward and winked at him.

Harry pretended not to see her and looked up at the sky and whistled, with his hands deep in his pockets.

I looked at Flora seriously, in no mood for any more games. "Just tell me. Why are you so embarrassed now? There were so many students earlier but you were so excited to blab then!"

Finally, Flora averted her gaze guiltily and mumbled, "What I said is true. I'm really in a relationship with Warren."

"What? Are you serious?" I was so shocked that I had to ask again.

Flushed bright red, Flora didn't dare to say anything but nodded weakly.

I looked to Warren and hoped to hear a different answer, but Warren nodded, too.

"It's true," he whispered. After saying that, Warren lowered his head like Flora.

With a long face, I turned to look at Blair and Harry, who both nodded awkwardly.

"You—!" I was so angry I nearly ripped my hair out of my head.

Flora and Warren had never interacted with each other before! Such a huge change could only have been caused by something uncontrollable. Which meant that something had really happened between them in the equipment room that day...

I took a deep breath and forced myself to calm down. "So what on earth happened exactly?"

"Well, I went to the equipment room looking for you, but then I found out that you had escaped. Then I saw Warren, who had been drugged. Later, we ended up having sex..." Flora whispered, her eyes fixed on the floor.

All of a sudden, I lost control of myself. I was so angry that I suddenly grabbed Warren by the collar and punched him on the chin. "How dared you force her?!"

[Chapter 226 The Promise](#)

Warren's POV:

Sylvia was so angry that she beat me until I was on my knees. "Warren! I thought you were a gentleman! How could you do this?!"

I covered my face helplessly, not daring to fight back or speak a word. After all, it was true. I had slept

with Flora. I was guilty.

"Say something, you scumbag! Explain to me right now!" Sylvia was so angry that her face turned purple.

"I have nothing to say. I'm guilty. Hit me." I sat on the ground and smiled bitterly. "I will be responsible for Flora."

"You—!"

Sylvia couldn't control her anger. Just as she was about to strike me again, Flora stopped her. "It's not his fault! I was the one who forced him!"

Flora's words made everyone fall silent, save for a few crows nearby that flapped their wings and flew away, scared off by her loud voice.

Sylvia's fist froze in the air. She blinked blankly, as though she was still digesting Flora's words.

Blair cleared his throat awkwardly. "Indeed, Warren was the one who looked more miserable that day, wasn't it, Harry?"

Blair then kicked Harry behind the knee. "Yes," Harry said quickly, forcing a smile. "He's right."

"Is that so?" Sylvia withdrew her fist and turned to look at Flora expectantly.

Sitting on the ground, I looked up at Flora's back. She had stepped forward to stand in between me and Sylvia's fist. It was the first time someone had stood in front of me like this to protect me.

Thinking of this, my heart skipped a beat and I instinctively reached out to hold Flora's hand. However, she stepped aside and seemed to have realized the gravity of what she had just said. Her pretty face flushed a bright red. She stammered and changed her testimony. "Uh, to be exact, it wasn't that I forced him. I mean, I did it with voluntarily. I had sex with Warren, and he didn't force me. End of story."

"You say you did it voluntarily... But you've never interacted with Warren before. Since when did you fall for him?" Sylvia asked, squinting at her suspiciously.

"Well, ever since we were in the pack, I always imagined he'd be my prince charming. But when we entered school, I didn't want to bother him, so I never exposed my feelings for him." Flora's face turned even redder and her eyes wandered.

I stood up from the ground and said in a serious tone, "Sylvia, please trust me. I promise to treat Flora well."

"Yes, Warren is very good to me. He brings me food every day, food he even makes himself. Harry has

even eaten some!" Flora patted Harry's shoulder. "Right, Harry? You enjoyed those desserts that day, didn't you?"

Harry covered his mouth in horror. "Did Warren make those? I thought you bought them!"

Flora chuckled then reached for my hand. "It's rare for a man to cook these days."

Blair couldn't help but burst into laughter. "It's true. A man who cooks is a rare thing. It's clear that they love each other very much. Just let them be."

Sylvia looked at Flora then at me, speechless. "I'm not trying to stop you from being together. It's just that you got together so fast that I was shocked! But since you're really together and both of you are serious about the relationship, then I suppose there's no harm done. I hope you two will be happy."

"We will, Sylvia. Flora will be my mate for the rest of my life," I promised sincerely.

"Okay, good!" Sylvia nodded and finally resigned herself to the fact that Flora and I were really together.

"Okay, go ahead with your business. Warren and I want to be alone now!" Flora took my hand and shooed them away.

"Remember to come to class later. Don't get too carried away," Blair said slowly, shooting us a meaningful look. Then, he dragged Harry away, mumbling, "You're coming with me. I need help carrying all the equipment."

"Can I not? They're too heavy!" Harry whined with a gloomy face.

"No."

Before leaving, Sylvia shot me a murderous look and said ferociously, "Remember what you said today. If you dare hurt Flora, I will never spare you!"

[Chapter 227 Pretend To Be A Couple](#)

Warren's POV:

As soon as the others left, Flora immediately breathed a sigh of relief. "Whew! That was close. Sylvia almost found out the truth."

I didn't understand what Flora was saying. She seemed very disturbed.

She looked around, took my hand, and hinted at me to leave.

It was actually the first time that a she-wolf held my hand. I felt a little strange, but I didn't hate it. My heartbeat even went abnormally fast.

Her hand was so small and soft. It was like the marshmallows I ate when I was a child.

When I moved my fingers to also grip Flora's hand, she had already let go of me.

I regretfully withdrew my hand and rubbed my fingertips. It seemed that her warmth was still there.

The sunlight was blocked by the trees, and a flock of white pigeons flew over my head. I was in a trance for a while. And when I came back to my senses, I realized Flora had already pulled me to a secluded place.

I looked at her helplessly, feeling a little funny. Although I knew that our relationship would be made public sooner or later, I didn't expect that it would be in this way. When I thought of the gossip I had to face in the future, my head suddenly ached.

But this was the only way to protect Sylvia for the time being. And since it was all my fault, I had to take the responsibility, so it should be fine.

I sighed and gently rubbed Flora's fluffy head. "Next time, before you do anything, at least discuss it with me first, okay?"

"I know what I did was wrong. I'm sorry, Warren. But everything will be fine soon," Flora said and sighed. She looked helpless. But the way she beat her chest made me feel like she was a liar selling fake drugs on the street.

I walked forward and held her shoulders. "Forget about it already. Somehow, it was a good idea."

Flora looked at me. This time, with tears in her eyes. "Thank you for being so understanding and considerate. Please be patient and continue to pretend as my boyfriend for the time being. Because if we break up too soon, it will only arouse everyone's suspicion. Especially Sylvia, she is not that easy to fool. But don't worry, I won't pester you because of this. As soon as people stop talking about it, we'll immediately break up."

I didn't react at once. My brain seemed to be struck by one hundred thousand volts of electricity. "What did you say? Pretend to be a couple? Break up soon?"

"Yes. After this matter subsides, we will find an excuse to break up peacefully. I'll think of a valid reason later. We have to come up with a convincing one. How about I cheat on you because I fall in love with Harry?" As she spoke, Flora rubbed her chin, lost in thought. "Oh, no, it's not possible. Harry is just an idiot. No one will believe I dump you for him."

"Flora, are you kidding?" I asked in disbelief.

She raised her head and looked at me in surprise. "Of course, I'm serious! Didn't you agree with me last

night? Anyway, we have to fool the public for a while. And to avoid Sylvia from blaming herself, we also have to deceive even my friends. I just need you to cooperate with me. But don't worry, I will repay you in the future." Flora talked without giving me a chance to interrupt. Then she ran away without giving me a chance to refute.

Not only me but also Salt was struck dumb by her.

"Are we being prostituted for nothing? Damn! What's the difference between her and a scumbag who just left after having sex with a woman? Oh wait, she's worse! She still want to take advantage of us!"

My mind went blank, and strange emotions surged up in my chest. I wasn't sure if it was anger or unwillingness. I thought that Flora and I were really together and even started planning our future. But she just told me that we were just pretending. Did I flatter myself too much?

I gritted my teeth and rushed forward, trying to catch up with her. I wanted to ask for an explanation. But at this time, my phone rang. It was my father, so I had to answer it first.

Before I could say anything, my father's angry voice on the other end of the line erupted like a volcano.

"You disgraceful brat! Shame on you! Do you know that your sex scandal in the equipment room of the school has reached our home?"

"Father, I..."

"You shut up! Just answer my questions. Who is that she-wolf? Is she your mate?"

"Maybe she is..." As soon as I opened my mouth, I suddenly remembered what Flora had said just now. I felt frustrated, and my tone became erratic. "Or maybe not..."

"Damn you, bastard! What the hell are you talking about?" My father got even more furious, and his tone was terribly grumpy. If I were in front of him right now, he would have already slapped me to death. He made me feel like I was the most immoral and unfilial son in the world.

"I'll go to the imperial palace with Alpha Leonard for the parade this time. I'll definitely teach you a lesson when I see you there." After saying this, my father hung up the phone.

I stood rooted to the spot, holding my phone gloomily. The anger in my mind eventually turned into a bitter smile.

[Chapter 228 The Manipulator](#)

Sylvia's POV:

Not long after I returned to my room, Rufus called me.

I sat down on the edge of the bed and answered the phone. "Flora and Warren are together," I blurted.

Rufus didn't sound surprised.

"Did you already know?" I asked curiously with one brow raised.

"I just heard, but the news should spread soon," Rufus said nonchalantly.

I couldn't help but sigh. "Never in my wildest dreams would I have expected those two to get together. They're polar opposites!"

"I knew they'd get together," Rufus countered. Aside from his voice, I could hear clattering tableware from the other end of the line.

Only then did it occur to me that it was still breakfast time. "Are you eating? You can call me when you're finished with breakfast."

"No need. I just finished." As he spoke, I heard the sound of a chair moving across the floor. After a few seconds, the noise completely disappeared, leaving only the sound of his breathing. "I'm in the study now. I'll talk to you first. Where were we just now?"

"How did you know that Warren and Flora would get together?" I asked in confusion, returning to the previous topic.

"That day, we went to the equipment room looking for you, but found Warren and Flora instead. They were disheveled, flushed and panting. And the look on their faces; there was just something more than shame and awkwardness. In fact, I was surprised that they didn't announce it sooner. I suppose Blair helped them cover it up," Rufus explained patiently.

"Am I the only one who didn't see it coming? They were so weird today. Flora and Warren might truly love each other, but I still feel bad. After all, it was my fault." I sighed, voicing out my uneasiness. "I'm worried that Flora's just doing it for me."

"I know how you feel. But no one can exactly explain love. Perhaps Flora and Warren secretly harbored feelings for each other even before that day. If so, then this was a good opportunity for them." Rufus comforted me gently. "Now that things have come to this, the best you can do for Flora is thank her."

I sank into the bed dejectedly. "I just hope that this matter dies down soon. I don't want to involve anyone else."

"Don't worry, honey. I'm sure everyone's attention will shift soon enough. Plus, I've already deleted all the posts regarding this matter. They will never be able to look back and check." Rufus' tone was so calm and confident that I felt inexplicably relieved.

"But who could be behind all this? Whoever drugged us and whoever posted it online should be one and the same." I just couldn't figure it out. "Actually, I was going to ask Warren about it this morning. But because of Flora, I didn't get the chance yet."

Rufus fell silent for a while. "We didn't have a clue back then, but this time, whoever posted first on the forum was too careless and forgot to hide their IP address. We managed to trace them to the imperial palace."

"The imperial palace?!" I practically shouted in shock. Sitting bolt upright, a thought suddenly occurred to me.

"Yes, the imperial palace. Also, the photos were obviously taken from inside the equipment room. But there's no surveillance system in the equipment room, so it's obvious that someone planted a camera beforehand. So you're right. Whoever posted is the one behind it all." Rufus analyzed the facts and came to a rudimentary conclusion.

"Rufus, I have a theory." But I wasn't too sure. Although the answer in my mind hadn't been confirmed yet, I had a strong feeling about this.

"What is it?"

"Could it be Alina who's behind all this?"

Rufus chuckled. "I think so, too. But we have no proof yet. I've already instructed my men to investigate the matter, so the truth will come to light soon enough."

[Chapter 229 The Annoying Richard](#)

Rufus' POV:

We chatted for a little while longer. Then Sylvia needed to go to class, so we reluctantly got off the phone.

I headed out of the study to attend a meeting. Just then, Maya approached me to report the latest finding.

"Miss Quinn is in the queen's place right now."

As she spoke, I took my suit jacket from an attendant. "I suppose now's a good opportunity to show my mother just what kind of she-wolf the girl she likes is."

"Prince Rufus, please bear in mind that you have a meeting later," the attendant reminded me.

"Postpone it," I said flatly.

"Okay."

On the way to my mother's place, I ran into my father and Richard.

"Father!" I greeted him. I was planning to leave after saying hello, but to my surprise, Richard stopped me.

"Where are you going in such a hurry, dear brother?" Richard asked, smiling warmly at me.

He always pretended that we were close whenever my father was present.

"To Mother's. Care to join me?" I asked dryly.

Richard's expression changed subtly. "No, it's okay. I have something to deal with at school. I'll visit Mother some other day."

I sneered and didn't say anything more. He had always been at odds with Laura, so I knew he wouldn't go see her. At most, he would simply pretend to be a dutiful son in front of our father.

"But Rufus, your favorite slave is really something. I wonder if Mother knows that. You went out of your way to send her to the school for training, but your effort was in vain. She hooked up with another man there," Richard added snidely. And he emphasized the word "slave" on purpose.

"She has a name, you know? And Sylvia is not a slave. She was admitted into the school because she passed the exam on her own. You should use your brain first before you speak, unless you don't have one," I said coldly, restraining my raging anger.

Richard was like a pest that kept testing my patience over and over again.

Richard gasped exaggeratedly. "Oh, so, her name is Sylvia! I never knew you had such high expectations for her."

My father gave me a meaningful look and coughed. "I've heard about her, too. She's an excellent girl, but she should be more careful with her private life."

Richard pretended to look remorseful. "If you like her so much, Rufus, there's nothing we can do about it. I could only say that such a character as hers must have something to do with one's upbringing."

"Nonsense!" All of a sudden, Maya exploded in anger. "Prince Richard, how can you say that when you don't know the truth?"

"Oh, isn't this the truth? Or do you have any other explanation for her raunchy behavior?" Richard feigned a smile.

Since our father was here, he didn't dare to act too aggressively.

"Things have changed now, Prince Richard." Maya looked at Richard with disdain. "And anyway, Miss Todd isn't like that. She was the victim of slander."

An attendant beside my father stepped forward and explained the latest development. Now that he knew the whole story, his expression softened. "Oh, so it was all just a misunderstanding."

Richard's smile stiffened. "Well, I suppose it's better that it's a misunderstanding."

"Oh, please, Prince Richard." Maya exposed Richard's hypocrisy. "It's you who should pay more attention to those around you. Your fiancée—"

"Enough!" I interrupted her, shooting her a meaningful look. She took the hint and immediately shut up.

I didn't expect that Maya would talk about Lucy's affair.

I knew she was simply defending me, but it was a royal scandal after all. It was too reckless for her to talk about it in front of the king and all these guards present.

[Chapter 230 Confrontation](#)

Rufus' POV:

My father's expression darkened and he cast a sidelong glance at Maya. Finally, he turned and snorted at Richard. "Take care of your own mate. Quit making a fool of yourself."

I heaved a sigh of relief. Fortunately, my father didn't blame Maya.

Richard's face instantly fell. He retorted, "Those are all rumors. They're not true at all!"

My father didn't want to listen to his excuses. He waved his hand dismissively. "You can leave now."

He was always a man who had the final say. Richard had no choice but to leave with his attendants.

"If there's nothing else, I'll go to Mother's place first." I turned to leave after saying goodbye to my father.

But he stopped me. He leaned towards me and whispered in my ear in a voice so low that only the two of us could hear. "Don't forget our agreement. If Sylvia's identity as a traitor's daughter can't be redeemed, no matter how many achievements she attains, she will always be a slave."

I didn't say anything. I simply nodded to him then left with Maya.

As soon as I arrived at the gate of the queen's residence, I heard peals of laughter from inside.

The guard at the gate saw me approach and showed a look of surprise. He immediately rushed inside to announce my visit.

I didn't wait for the guard to come back and invite me in. Instead, I entered the palace and went straight to the hall.

There, I found Alina and my mother chattering about. My mother looked amused.

"Rufus, what brings you here?" When she saw me, my mother stood up in surprise and walked over to receive me. "You rarely visit me. Aren't you busy with work?"

"Not right now. I came to see how you're doing." We walked to the sofa and sat down. An attendant handed me a cup of coffee, which I accepted gratefully.

"Nothing's changed. I'm still the same as before. But thanks to Alina, I feel much better these days." She winked at Alina and pushed her towards me. "You two should talk!"

Alina stood in front of me obediently and smiled at me softly.

"Long time no see, Prince Rufus," she said meekly.

I ignored her and continued to sip from my coffee.

Embarrassed, Alina smiled awkwardly then glanced at my mother for help.

"You two should spend more time with each other, or else you'll never get to know each other on a deeper level." My mother tried to smooth things over for Alina. She smoothed the creases on Alina's clothes as though she was her mother. "You don't have to visit me so often. Go see Rufus whenever you have time."

Alina lowered her head shyly. "I'm worried I'll disturb him at work."

"You're so considerate and honest," my mother praised approvingly. "You can have dinner with him sometime. He's always so busy that he often forgets to eat. You have to watch over him for me."

"I wonder if Prince Rufus would be open to that idea..." Alina parted her mouth slightly and looked at me hesitantly. Her tentative and cautious tone was very convincing. She was such a great actress.

"Of course he would. Who could refuse such a good girl like you?" My mother didn't even bother to consult me and made the decision for me.

I couldn't help but sneer. "She drugged two students from the military school with an aphrodisiac, took a video, spread fake news on the forum, and caused cyber and physical bullying. Is this what a good girl

would do?"

A trace of panic flashed in Alina's eyes but she quickly recovered. "Prince Rufus, I don't know what you're talking about."

"I traced the IP address through the post on the forum. Guess what I found?" I asked slowly. Alina's panic was obvious now.

She didn't dare to say anything. She simply sat down next to my mother, her face as pale as a ghost.

"I traced the IP address to your maid's phone. What a coincidence, am I right?" I sneered indifferently.

"How can that be..." Alina was completely flustered, her lips trembling, unable to finish her sentence.

My mother, on the other hand, was pissed. "What the hell is going on? Explain to me right this instant!"

Tears started to stream down Alina's face. "Coco was the one who did it. I... I have nothing to do with it!"