Irresistible 341

Chapter 341 Permanent Imprisonmen

Rufus' POV:

The couple appeared in unison outwardly, although it did not seem to be the case inwardly. The male wolf walked fast and kept a cold face, without a hint of fear at all.

Meanwhile, the she-wolf he came with had dull and lifeless eyes, carrying a gray doll in her arms.

"Those are the parents of the boy. I met them at the crematory when I was there," Sylvia whispered.

"Yes, I figured. While you were in the forbidden forest, Blair updated me all about it. He came back before you entered the forest for your test. The rescue was slightly delayed because he was still interrogating the couple. He came to our rescue as soon as he finished questioning the parents," I leaned down and whispered in Sylvia's ear.

The male wolf stood straight and confessed everything. "It was Prince Richard. He offered a great sum to buy my son's life and even asked me to slander Prince Rufus."

When the she-wolf heard this, her eyes widened with disbelief and she looked as if the world around her collapsed. She broke out into hysterical tears and grabbed the male wolf's clothes. "How could you do this? How could you? That was our baby. He was just a little boy. How could you bear to sell his life just like that?!"

Sylvia lowered her head, not having the heart to watch this scene anymore.

I put my arm around her shoulder for comfort.

It seemed that not all parents felt sorry for the death of their child. The male wolf's reaction differed greatly from his wife. Apparently, he didn't think this was such a big deal.

"What do you mean? There's nothing wrong with what I did. If we lose a child, we can just have another. What's important is that we have the money. Money is most important to me."

When my father heard this, he got even angrier and pounded the table. "Guards, take this man away! I am sentencing him to a permanent exile!"

The cold male wolf broke character and knelt down in desperation. "Please, Your Majesty! I admit I was wrong now! Just please don't exile me. I... I can make up for it. I can return the money Prince Richard gave me!"

The cold male wolf broke character and knelt down in desperation. "Please, Your Majesty! I admit I was wrong now! Just please don't exile me. I... I can make up for it. I can return the money Prince Richard

gave me!"

But my father refused to hear any more from him. He simply waved his hand and gestured for the guards to drag the man away.

On the other hand, Richard was just as terrified and did not dare to say a word.

"It seems now that the truth has been brought to light." My mother stood up and walked over to my father's side. She had a calm expression on her face, which sharply contrasted the gloom on my father's face.

My father just stared at Richard for a long time without saying anything, but the disappointment in his eyes was subtle yet powerful.

Richard was too frightened to keep up with his act. Regardless of whatever image he had built for himself, he knelt on the ground and begged, "Father, please. I'm innocent. Don't believe anything they say!"

"There are already so many witnesses here. How can you still deny it?" My mother added coldly, "I never expected this from you, Richard. You have greatly disappointed me."

"No, no! They set me up!" Richard tried to stagger to his feet, shaking his head violently.

"You!" My father shouted and pointed at Richard with a trembling finger.

He then ordered to imprison Richard for now and declared that he would be convicted after this investigation.

I reasoned with myself that my father was probably trying to stall for time. He was still trying to protect Richard until now.

Several Alphas who were watching the trial couldn't sit still anymore at this time. I recognized them all to be supporters of Richard.

"I agree, Your Majesty. Before we convict Prince Richard of anything, we must figure out everything that happened in detail." Alston, the Alpha of the Blue Moon Pack and also Lucy's father, was the one who spoke first. He walked over to my father and continued, "Prince Richard also did give a good point. Even if Prince Rufus wasn't the murderer of the boy, we still cannot deny the fact that he had hurt many soldiers and innocent civilians because of his crazy stunt in public. We can't just let that go either."

My mother reised en eyebrow, scoffing. "So whet do you went to do ebout thet?"

"My suggestion is to imprison Prince Rufus indefinitely, forever if needed. It's the only wey we cen evoid such e tregedy from heppening egein."

Alston's words stirred e heeted discussion emong the crowd. Some ergued egeinst it fiercely. I recognized Herry's fether es one of those who ergued with Alston.

Despite ell this, I remeined celm. I hed expected them to bring this up egein.

"Pleese, give the order! Prince Rufus' condition is like e time bomb. For the seke of your people, it is best to put Prince Rufus in prison forever. We cennot let the future of our country be ruined by e monster!"

My fether, who hed been silent ell this time, suddenly slemmed the teble with his fist, blue veins popping out on his foreheed. Whet he seid surprised me. "Thet's enough! If you reelly ere thinking ebout whet's best for the future of our country, you would not sey something like thet!"

"But if we don't contein Prince Rufus in prison, the public will not rest over it!" Alston persueded my fether feerlessly. He wesn't going to stop until he got whet he wented, it seemed.

"Do you reelly know whet the people went? Are you doubting my judgment?" My fether's eyes bulged out in enger, es they usuelly did whenever he lost his temper.

His sudden outburst surprised me. But et this moment, it wes one of the first times I hed ever felt thet he wes protecting me.

My mother raised an eyebrow, scoffing. "So what do you want to do about that?"

"My suggestion is to imprison Prince Rufus indefinitely, forever if needed. It's the only way we can avoid such a tragedy from happening again."

Alston's words stirred a heated discussion among the crowd. Some argued against it fiercely. I recognized Harry's father as one of those who argued with Alston.

Despite all this, I remained calm. I had expected them to bring this up again.

"Please, give the order! Prince Rufus' condition is like a time bomb. For the sake of your people, it is best to put Prince Rufus in prison forever. We cannot let the future of our country be ruined by a monster!"

My father, who had been silent all this time, suddenly slammed the table with his fist, blue veins popping out on his forehead. What he said surprised me. "That's enough! If you really are thinking about what's best for the future of our country, you would not say something like that!"

"But if we don't contain Prince Rufus in prison, the public will not rest over it!" Alston persuaded my father fearlessly. He wasn't going to stop until he got what he wanted, it seemed.

"Do you really know what the people want? Are you doubting my judgment?" My father's eyes bulged

out in anger, as they usually did whenever he lost his temper.

His sudden outburst surprised me. But at this moment, it was one of the first times I had ever felt that he was protecting me.

Chapter 342 Shameless Man

Sylvia's POV:

I recognized the man who proposed to put Rufus in jail. He was Alston, Lucy's father. When Richard and Lucy got engaged, he was there and was also on the news.

"I believe that while enjoying the love and respect of the people, the royal family should set an example. Obviously, Prince Rufus failed to do this. When he went manic in public, it made people no longer trust him. If the royal family doesn't show an attitude, I'm afraid that people will think you are seeking private ends with power."

Alston's words did not only criticize Rufus but also implied that Ethan was partial to his son and defeated the ends of justice.

I heard that Alston was arrogant, and he never took anyone seriously. So now that Richard was convicted, he was willing to risk everything to drag Rufus into the mire to maintain the checks and balances.

I didn't know what Ethan felt at the moment. But in my case, I couldn't stand it anymore. I was so angry that I wanted to rush over and beat Alston up. He is a shameless man.

But Rufus stopped me. He held my hand so tightly that I couldn't even take a half step away from him.

"Honey, just calm down. My father has his own judgment," he whispered in my ear.

I pursed my lips and stared at Alston in a frenzy of rage. Now I finally understood why Lucy had a twisted personality. It turned out that it was Alston who had influenced her.

He was the kind of person who confused right with wrong and sought nothing but profit. He was destined to force himself and the people around him to the point of no return. Lucy was a good living example.

Ethan was too angry to say a word. It was Laura who stood up to stop Alston.

Ethan was too angry to say a word. It was Laura who stood up to stop Alston.

"Alston Mill, I don't think you can represent the entire people. And you don't have any rights to judge your king at will,"

Laura said calmly. Her beautiful eyes were drawn with exquisite eyeliner, and her eyes were sharp and cold.

However, Alston didn't take her words seriously at all. He pulled a long face and said, "It seems that you like Prince Rufus very much. Prince Richard is also your son. Why haven't you said anything protective to him?"

"How dare you!"

Laura snorted coldly. Her chest heaved violently. Obviously, Alston's words pissed her off. Even if Laura was indeed biased, it was inappropriate for Alston to point it out in front of everyone. It was such a slap to her face.

At this time, Gamma Mateo also stood up. Among the group of Alphas, he had the lowest status.

"Alpha Alston is right. No matter what, Prince Rufus has to give everyone an explanation for his mania. It doesn't matter even if he won't be imprisoned permanently. But he should be deprived of his rights as a prince and will no longer appear in public in the future."

As soon as Mateo finished his words, Shawn agreed with him. Their complacent faces really infuriated me. They were indeed the real villains.

"Who do you think you are to convict Prince Rufus at will?"

I angrily asked through clenched teeth. They were a bunch of hypocritical bastards. They claimed that they were doing this for the sake of the people. But the truth was, they were just motivated by their own ambitions.

They were just using people es en excuse to cover up their pretense. How shemeless!

Shewn glered et me, but I turned my heed ewey end didn't look et him.

"How meny bettles hes Prince Rufus led end won? How meny people hes he protected, end how meny injuries hes he suffered? He hes risked his life to bring peece to our country. It's okey thet you don't eppreciete it. But whet's unbeereble is thet you stepped on him when he fell down. You ere the leeders of your peck end the highly-pleced officiels of the country. If you reelly cere ebout the good of your people, you won't sey such words."

My voice echoed in the hell. I looked et ell of them with mockery, feeling indignent in my heert.

"Very well seid," Leure seid eloud.

She smiled, set beck in her seet, end returned to being the elegent end noble queen. "Only those who heve committed heinous crimes deserve e life sentence. If you went to erese ell of Rufus' echievements

with mere words, then thet's reelly heertbreeking. Remember, the power of the country doesn't depend on mere words, but deeds."

Despite mine end Leure's words, Alston didn't went to give up. "Prince Rufus hes won meny bettles, which meens he is powerful. But once such e powerful person loses control end goes crezy, the consequences will be unimegineble. Only putting him into prison for the rest of his life is the best choice."

They were just using people as an excuse to cover up their pretense. How shameless!

Shawn glared at me, but I turned my head away and didn't look at him.

"How many battles has Prince Rufus led and won? How many people has he protected, and how many injuries has he suffered? He has risked his life to bring peace to our country. It's okay that you don't appreciate it. But what's unbearable is that you stepped on him when he fell down. You are the leaders of your pack and the highly-placed officials of the country. If you really care about the good of your people, you won't say such words."

My voice echoed in the hall. I looked at all of them with mockery, feeling indignant in my heart.

"Very well said," Laura said aloud.

She smiled, sat back in her seat, and returned to being the elegant and noble queen. "Only those who have committed heinous crimes deserve a life sentence. If you want to erase all of Rufus' achievements with mere words, then that's really heartbreaking. Remember, the power of the country doesn't depend on mere words, but deeds."

Despite mine and Laura's words, Alston didn't want to give up. "Prince Rufus has won many battles, which means he is powerful. But once such a powerful person loses control and goes crazy, the consequences will be unimaginable. Only putting him into prison for the rest of his life is the best choice."

Chapter 343 Unjust Case Overturned

Sylvia's POV:

"This is obviously a set up. Prince Rufus went manic because he was drugged by a villain. And although he hurt some people when he lost control of himself, he didn't kill anyone." I stared at Alston coldly, the corners of my mouth slowly raised into a faint smile. "If that's the only reason why you want Prince Rufus to be imprisoned forever, then it's only right for Prince Richard to be chopped into pieces. After all, many people died in his hands."

Alston finally looked at me with his eyes full of coldness. "I only care about the evidence. You said that Prince Rufus was set up, right? Then where is your evidence? What's more, I've never heard of such a

drug that can make people crazy. I'm afraid that you're just making up stories to help Prince Rufus get away with his crime."

"That's right! How can such a drug exist in our country? And who are you, by the way? How dare you speak up here!" Mateo interjected coldly. His old face looked mean and cunning.

Rufus pulled me behind him, glanced at Mateo, and chuckled. "How come a mere Gamma is able to join the meeting of the Alphas?"

As soon as Rufus said this, Martin, Harry's father, sneered. "Aren't you ashamed at all?"

Mateo was embarrassed by Martin's laughter. He blushed and didn't dare to say anything more.

Rufus' face was still cold. He glanced at Blair and nodded at him.

Blair stepped forward and cleared his throat. "What if I can prove that this drug really exists?"

There was an uproar in the crowd, and Alston was the most emotional.

"That's impossible! If there is such a drug, it will cause chaos."

Blair looked at him disdainfully and turned to Ethan. "Your Majesty, a week before the military parade, Prince Rufus secretly ordered me to go to Sylvia's pack to find out the truth about her mother's rebellion. I accidentally found the key evidence, and it might also be related to this incident."

"Show the evidence," Ethan ordered in a low voice.

I noticed that Mateo became uneasy. He seemed not in the mood to enjoy the show anymore. He turned to look at Richard with anxiousness written all over his face. But what could Richard do? He couldn't even protect himself now. He was also so anxious that he was sweating profusely. How could he have time to care about Mateo?

My heart skipped a beat when I saw Blair take out the recorder pen.

It was the recording of the conversation between Mateo and the former Alpha and Luna when he killed them in the Black Moon Pack. Mateo said that when the two died, he would drug my mother, who was the Beta of Black Moon Pack at that time to make her crazy. Then he would frame her and pin the blame on her.

This incident happened many years ago. Although the recording was somewhat damaged, Mateo's unique voice was unmistakable. It was easy to tell that it was his voice.

I had already known that the culprit was Mateo. But the moment the evidence was revealed, I still couldn't control the killing intent in my heart.

My body shook involuntarily. Every word they said in their conversation reminded me of the day my mother was executed. At that time, I was so desperate and helpless.

I thought I wouldn't be able to live on. But my hatred and my mother's expectations of me allowed me to hold on and last until now.

And this time, the truth was finally brought to light.

After playing the recording, Blair asked someone to bring Lena to the hall. She would also testify as a witness.

Lena looked worse than the last time I saw her. She became thinner and bonier, and her hair was all white.

I looked away, trying to hold back the bitterness in my heart. Rufus held me in his arms. The warmth of his chest gave me silent comfort.

Lena was much calmer than I had expected. She bowed to Ethan and started to talk about how Mateo framed my mother back then. She explained everything in detail, including why the recorder pen appeared in Mateo's room.

In the face of such irrefutable evidence, what else could Mateo say? Ethan immediately ordered him to be locked up in prison.

Now that the truth was finally revealed in front of him, Shawn seemed to have lost his mind. Regardless of Ethan's presence, he pulled out a sword from a guard and slashed at Mateo like a mad beast.

He was so agitated that he lost his temper, clamoring to kill Mateo to avenge his parents.

Leonard immediately stepped forward, grabbed the sword from his hand, and subdued him.

Chapter 344 Over

Sylvia's POV:

Unable to do or say any more, Shawn finally quieted down.

Blair went ahead and took out another thing-- a transparent ziplock bag. He handed it to Ethan as well and said, "This was the remaining drug I found in Mateo's room. We can have it tested. Recently, it's been discovered that Prince Richard and Mateo have been contacting each other closely. We should be able to look into the details of their communication. Perhaps this entire thing was planned by the two of them." I bit my lower lip hard, fighting the urge to kill that was boiling up inside my body. I knew I could not afford to show impulsiveness right now.

Ethan's face darkened. He ordered his confidant to send the sample to a lab immediately for testing.

"Your Majesty, please let us know the results. This will greatly help clear my mother's name." With tears in my eyes, I bowed to Ethan.

The day of reckoning was finally upon us.

Ethan sighed and nodded somberly.

"I will announce the results in three days."

While waiting for the rest of the investigation, Mateo was put in jail for the meantime and Richard was grounded.

Rufus took my hand and together, we left the meeting hall. I followed him closely and began to notice that the haze that had been shrouding my heart for many days was finally beginning to disappear.

When we walked into the corridor, we saw Shawn there.

He was standing in the middle of the hallway with a blank expression on his face, looking like he had lost his spirit.

I stole a quick glanced at him as we passed by, but moved forward and pretended I didn't see him.

"I'm sorry for treating you as my enemy's daughter for all these years. I guess that was why I did those things to you."

I heard Shawn's mumbling voice come from behind. He spoke in such a low tone that it could almost be swept away by the wind if I hadn't heard it.

I stopped in my tracks, but decided not to respond.

His late apology and regretful expression seemed too late for me.

Rufus looked at me with concern. Looking up at him, I just smiled quietly and continued to walk forward.

We planned to visit Flora and Warren in the hospital, but as soon as we were about to leave the palace, Flora called me.

Immediately, Flora's excited voice came through. "Warren's operation went well! For now, he's out of critical condition!"

"Oh, that's great to hear!" I echoed her excitement. "Alright, Rufus and I are on our way to visit you now."

"Don't bother. Warren's still in the ICU and the doctors won't allow anyone inside yet. We'll have to wait until at least tomorrow to see him. I can stay and wait here. When Warren wakes up, I'll call you at once."

"Okay, then. Call us if you need anything, Flora."

After dropping the call, I looked at Rufus at a loss and didn't know where to go.

Rufus pinched my cheek in amusement. "My place it is then."

I nodded obediently and followed Rufus back into the palace.

Rufus led me to his study and asked the attendants to serve us some desserts.

When they returned with a table full of different kinds of desserts, I was confused.

Rufus chose a small slice of matcha cake, scooped out a corner with his fork, and brought it up to my mouth. "Open wide."

I obeyed and let him feed me, the strong fragrance of the matcha flavor filling my mouth.

"Why did you do that?" I said in a daze.

"Desserts can heal sadness," Rufus answered softly. His long eyelashes fluttered as the silver fork glistened in his hand. It was such a simple action, but I could feel the love and care he had for me through it.

I did not expect Rufus to sense my sadness. After swallowing the cake in my mouth, I shrugged. "I'm fine. I'm not sad at all. In fact, I'm happy. I finally see a glimmer of hope that my mother's name will be cleared."

I faked a smile. I didn't want to worry Rufus right now.

Rufus put down the plate and fork, looking at me. "Sylvia, your eyes tell me everything I need to know. What's wrong?"

"I don't know... My heart just feels empty now..." I gave up the pretenses and pressed my forehead against his. "My life's purpose is about to be fulfilled. All because of you, Rufus. If it weren't for you, I would have never seen this day come."

My eyes stung and I felt my throat dry up.

Rufus wrapped me gently in his arms and kissed my tears away. His kisses were so soft that I wanted to treasure them all my life.

"It's okay to cry."

I shook my head and looked at him, trying to be okay again. "No, I can't cry right now. What about Shawn? Don't you think he's also pitiful? All these years, he's been pouring all of his hatred on the wrong person."

Rufus playfully bit my chin and pouted, "Don't talk about other men in front of me."

"Hey, ouch." I covered my chin and pouted as well. My heart skipped a beat as I stared at this handsome lycan before me. I bit my lip and tugged on his sleeve, saying, "Let's make love, Rufus."

Chapter 345 Take Advantage

Rufus' POV:

I was slightly taken aback. This was the first time Sylvia ever took the initiative to make love, but I could see the passion burning in her eyes. The look on her face made me tremble with excitement.

Sylvia didn't wait for an answer and got to taking off my clothes already. When she arrived at my belt, she couldn't find the hidden buckle, which made her frustrated.

I held her hands so that she could pause.

"Sylvia, look at me. Do you really want to do this?" I stared into her eyes and tried to search for the truth.

We looked at each other quietly for a few seconds. Without giving an answer, she leaned over and kissed my lips, her breath still fragrant with the matcha cake she just ate. "I'm serious, Rufus. I want to make love now. I want you inside of me."

I held the small of her back and lightly pressed her onto my chest.

Sylvia followed and leaned in closer, pecking me on the lips again.

Her kiss was intoxicating and irresistible, just like herself.

Very soon, my lower body reacted and the desire in me was aroused. I tried to hold back my breath and held Sylvia closer to my body. I would have wanted to integrate her into my body if it were possible. I never wanted to separate from her.

"Sylvia, listen. I don't want to take advantage of you in this moment." My words meant one thing but my actions meant another. I found my hands unconsciously slipping under her clothes, brushing past her slender waist, and moving up to her plump breasts.

"But I want you to take advantage of me."

Sylvia wrinkled her nose. She said it in such a natural and direct way that I found cute.

But because of her words, the cage that restrained my desire had been broken. I turned us over and now pressed my body on top of hers. Perhaps it was good for her to vent out her sadness in this way.

I did not restrain myself anymore. And I wasn't going to allow her to retreat either. I kissed her roughly and passionately, occasionally brushing her lips with my tongue.

Sylvia rolled her head back and let out a soft moan.

"Go ahead. Take my belt off." I guided her hands to my belt buckle, allowing her to continue what she was doing a while ago.

Sylvia gasped with excitement and blushed. With my guidance, she was finally able to unbuckle my belt.

I quickly ripped her clothes off and picked her up off the couch.

Sylvia wrapped her legs around my waist and weakly placed her arms on my shoulders.

I couldn't help but thrust my lower body forward so that my penis rubbed against her wet pussy.

Sylvia was still feeling a little shy, but she moaned and twisted her waist in response, hoping to rub on my penis again.

As I supported her back, I nibbled on her collarbone and moved downward until her dark red nipple found its way into my mouth.

My lust now burned fiercely, and I felt my strength about to spiral out of control.

Sylvia bit her lips in pleasure and pulled my hair.

The slight tugging sensation on my scalp only turned me on even more.

I walked over to the desk and used one hand to sweep everything off of it. I then put Sylvia down on the desk.

I spread her legs open and saw the moist hole that lay in between. It glistened underneath the dim lighting.

I reached for the hole and rubbed it with my fingers slowly. When I felt that it was wet enough, I held my penis and brushed its tip against the entrance. Whenever my penis was about to slip inside, I would move away to tease her. As I let my penis get wet, the girl under me melted like a pool of water.

"Get inside me, Rufus." Sylvia whimpered and complained.

I leaned down and gave her a deep kiss, only breaking away when she was out of breath. Finally, I channeled my strength and thrust my penis inside of her body.

I grunted in pleasure and felt complete for the first time.

Sylvia's mouth fell open, seemingly taken by surprise.

I thrust halfway inside, filling the room with a gushing sound. Her vagina was so tight that it wrapped my penis from all directions as if it never wanted me to leave it again. I couldn't help but push deeper in.

"Ah!" Sylvia shrank in response, which made me lose the last bit of my sanity.

I locked Sylvia's waist with my hands and began to thrust back and forth violently. The sound of our bodies colliding was mixed with Sylvia's cries.

"Be gentle, Rufus!" Sylvia placed her hands on my chest with teary eyes, but that look on her face only made me want to be rougher on her.

I didn't obey. Instead, I placed one of her legs on my shoulder and thrust in deeper and more violently.

"No, Rufus... I can't..." Sylvia turned red and her eyes blanked as if she had fallen into a trance.

Just when she was about to reach her climax, I pulled out my swollen penis and turned her over. I pinned her arms over her head with one hand and locked her waist onto me with the other.

"Give me your ass."

Sylvia groaned, but she did as I said. "Will it hurt?"

I aimed and entered her body again without a reply.

"How's that? Are you feeling better now?" I couldn't help but moan loudly. My scalp tingled from the extreme pleasure. All I wanted to do was to make love with this she-wolf until I die.

Chapter 346 Crazy

Sylvia's POV:

I had never had sex so wild before.

Rufus had tied my hands together with his belt. My chest felt so limp and numb that it almost couldn't catch my breath.

Rufus was busy licking the cream off of my breasts. He was the one who put the cream on my body just now.

He then said that he wanted to eat up every bit of me.

I did not expect Rufus, who was usually a calm and restrained man, to be this crazy in bed. All of these must have come from his own instincts.

"Rufus..." I helplessly wrapped my weak legs around his waist.

The feeling in my vagina reminded me that Rufus was still inside of me.

I couldn't count any more how many times we had sex, but there were marks of our love in every corner of the study.

"Rufus, are you done?" I called his name to get his attention.

Rufus finished licking up all the cream and arrived at my nipple, pulling it before finally taking it out of his mouth.

My breasts were now red and swollen, filled with marks of his teeth.

Rufus picked me up and switched our positions. Now I was above, and he was underneath me. He raised his lower body and thrust inside again. He came inside of me.

My lower abdomen was bulging a little bit, which told me that he must have released a lot of sperm.

He held onto my waist and thrust dozens of times. Then, he patted my ass and said, "Your turn."

I bit my lip and looked at him coyly, slowly bouncing up and down on my knees.

The slow movement magnified each and every feeling in our bodies. The walls of my vagina grazed the length of his long and hard penis, its tip reaching the deepest parts of me. Every thrust let out a wet sound.

Rufus was panting, which I found very sexy. I leaned down and kissed on his neck. When I did that, I felt him grow even bigger inside of me.

Not long after, Rufus' eyebrow twitched. He couldn't take the slow movement anymore. He turned us

back over onto our first position and pressed his body on top of mine.

There came a fierce attack. He thrust in me with a newer strength each time. My toes curled and I could feel myself coming to a breaking point. I begged him for mercy and asked him to stop.

But all he did was to gently kiss the tears from my eyes. He continued to slide in and out of me with an increasing violence.

There was no strength left in me to resist, so all I could do was moan loudly. At this point, I was already dazed. My body and mind were now under Rufus' control and occupancy.

The sex was so intense that it knocked me out. I had a vague memory of Rufus carrying me into the bathroom for a bath.

I was so exhausted that I couldn't even lift a finger, but Rufus was kind enough to clean me up as well. But it wasn't long before he got horny again and fucked me in the bathtub.

I only came to my senses completely once he laid me on the bed. Rufus was hugging me from behind and kissed my hair. "Sleep well."

His warm embrace gave me an inexplicable sense of security, which lulled me to sleep immediately.

In my dream, I saw a familiar figure come into light.

As the shadow got closer and held me in her arms, I began to recognize her even more. She began to sing a lullaby like she did when I was a child.

"Is this a dream?" I stared closely at my mother, not daring to even blink.

My mother didn't answer, but she had a gentle look on her face. "My Sylvia, you've suffered so much."

"No, not at all..." I mumbled. The urge to cry arose in my chest, but I couldn't bring myself to do it. My eyes were completely dry.

My mother didn't seem to have a response, so I continued. I had so many things to tell her.

"I'm not lonely anymore. I've found my mate. He treats me very well and even helped a lot with your case. If you were still here, you'd like him."

My mother smiled and nodded. "I have seen him. He is an excellent man."

"Mom... Am I useless?" I couldn't help but ask, pursing my lips. "I spent so many years doing nothing. I kept you waiting for so long."

My mother caressed my head. "Sylvia, don't be harsh on yourself. You've already done a great job."

I reached up and hoped to hold her hand, but I felt nothing.

Then, my mother's figure began to blur.

I grabbed onto her in panic, but it was like I just caught air.

"Mom, don't go! Please!" My tears now fell uncontrollably. Realizing that this was all just a dream, I broke down. "I miss you so much. Please, come back."

Shaking her head, my mother gave a small smile. "It's time to let go, Sylvia. You are not alone anymore."

Chapter 347 Soul Resonance

Rufus' POV:

While in bed, I vaguely heard the girl in my arms mutter something in her sleep. I peeled my eyes open and reached out to touch Sylvia's face subconsciously, only to find that her cheeks were stained with tears.

It seemed Sylvia was having a nightmare.

Pursing my lips, I pulled her closer to me, stroking her back gently. But my effort to comfort the sleeping Sylvia was in vain. After a while, she began to sob. I felt so sorry for her that I kissed her eyes and brows over and over again.

Suddenly, Sylvia woke up and called out my name in a panic.

"I'm here, Sylvia. I'm right here." I rubbed her back reassuringly.

"I... I had a bad dream. My mom had left me." Sylvia could barely speak coherently. As though in a trance, she grabbed at my arm with trembling hands. It was clear to me that she hadn't completely come out of her dream yet.

I reached out in the dark and turned on the bedside lamp. Sylvia's face was covered with tears and her eyes were puffy from crying. She looked like a deer caught in headlights.

Seeing this, I sighed heavily and ran my fingers through her hair. "It was just a dream, Sylvia. You mom will never abandon you. Even though she couldn't be by your side right now, she would always be watching and protecting you from heaven."

Sylvia's wide eyes looked at me and she whispered in a trembling voice, "Really?"

I knew that what was happening lately had a huge impact on Sylvia, so I sat up and pulled her into my

arms, whispering into her ear softly, "Of course. Your mom loved you so much. Why would she leave you alone? Plus, you have me. I'll never leave your side."

Sylvia's nose was red and she was still teary-eyed. Such a pitiful scene made my heart ache for her. I leaned over and planted a kiss on her forehead. "You're no longer alone, okay? I'll always be with you. I love you, Sylvia. I love you so much that I'd be willing to give up my own life for you. No one will take you away from me."

At this moment, my strong love for Sylvia burst forth from my heart. My possessive desire for her reared its ugly head, like a beast who had come out of a coma. I closed my eyes, trying my best to control myself with my last remaining ounce of sanity.

I sincerely hoped that Sylvia would stay under my wing forever, so that no one would find out just how amazing she was. I knew this kind of love was suffocating and toxic, but I couldn't stand the thought of losing her.

Sylvia didn't seem to notice my internal struggle. She was still reeling from that terrible nightmare.

She looked at me with big, sad eyes. Finally, she couldn't help but burst into tears, burying her face into my neck.

I secretly heaved a sigh of relief, knowing she finally allowed herself to vent her emotions.

Sylvia had had a fake smile plastered on her face ever since we came back from the meeting hall. Although she pretended to be fine, I could see through her facade and knew that she was depressed.

I quietly stroked her hair, waiting patiently for her to calm down.

Sure enough, a few minutes later, the crying ceased and the woman in my arms let out a small burp.

"Can... can I get a glass of water? Burp... I feel... uncomfortable, eh..." Sylvia raised her tearful face and seemed even more aggrieved.

Seeing this, I really wanted to laugh out loud, but was also afraid it would annoy her. In the end, I obliged her and hurriedly got out of bed to fetch her some water.

Sylvia didn't stop burping until she drank the whole glass of water.

When I saw that she had calmed down, I set the glass aside, lifted the blanket, and slipped into bed. I patted the gap between us, signaling her to come closer to me.

Sylvia obediently scooted over and rested her head on my arm, her eyes puffy and her nose red. She was still sniffling.

Wanting to lighten up the mood, I poked fun at her. "Your puffy eyes look like big candies."

Sylvia's cheeks flushed red with embarrassment. Covering her face with her hands, she murmured, "Don't look at me."

I gently pulled her hands away from her face and kissed them. "Why not? You're still beautiful."

Sylvia rolled her eyes but then wrapped her arms around my waist.

Quite a while later, she whispered, "I told Mom about you. She was very satisfied."

"Naturally. After all, it was Miss Todd who personally picked me. She has impeccable taste. Of course she'd choose the perfect mate." I deliberately lowered my voice and made it raspy, pretending to talk like an old man.

My ploy worked and Sylvia giggled. I couldn't help but chuckle with her.

Now that her mood was lighter, I began to share some jokes with her that I had heard from some of my subordinates.

I had never told anyone a joke before, so I felt a little shy at first. But before I'd even deliver the punch line to the joke, Sylvia would burst into laughter like a fool.

The room was filled with laughter all the way until midnight.

"Hey, you should go to sleep already," I murmured, hugging Sylvia tightly. I lowered my head and gave her a good night kiss.

Sylvia nodded sleepily and nestled in my arms. Soon, her breathing stabilized and I knew she had fallen asleep.

I gently pulled her closer and rested my chin above her head. It wasn't long before I fell asleep too.

Although we were just cuddling, I felt unprecedentedly satisfied.

Early the next morning, right when I got out of bed, my father's subordinate told me that I was to attend the closing ceremony of the military parade and Mateo's trial.

Chapter 348 The Trial

Sylvia's POV:

The military court of the empire would decide whether a trial should be public and confidential.

Before the closing ceremony, Rufus and I were brought up to the trial platform.

The trial today was open to the public. The trial was set in an open-air location with three layers of balconies. The empire army flag waved in the air in front of the huge arch. The seats were filled and the audience was huge, most of which were high-ranking leaders in the army, officials, and aristocrats. The place was packed, but the atmosphere remained still solemn.

The judge was first to come out, wearing a black robe. He stood on the high platform, holding a thick stack of documents. After giving an opening speech, the beginning of the trial had commenced.

Surprisingly, I was not as nervous as I was yesterday. After having Rufus' company and comfort last night, I was able to face today with full determination and courage.

A minute later, Mateo was then ushered out by the soldiers.

In just a span of a night, Mateo looked like he had grown ten years older. His hair turned white and his face grew wrinkles I had never seen before. He was wearing white clothes, which were now bloodstained as if he had gone through much torture.

When he passed by, he looked at me with eyes full of hatred and unwillingness.

Until Mateo was brought up to the platform, Ethan didn't show up. He then sat on his chair on the high platform, surrounded by his personal guards.

Everyone was looking at Ethan. Nobody dared to make a sound.

Ethan coughed slightly and then waved his hand, signaling the judge to begin announcing Mateo's crimes.

"According to the joint investigation of the military court, the suspect Mateo Brook, the Gamma of Black Moon Pack, his specific crimes are as follows. First, the murder of his pack's former Alpha and Luna, including framing the former Beta, Olivia Todd, and making her suffer humiliation and miserable death. Second, drugging Prince Rufus during the parade, setting him up into going crazy in public."

The judge knocked the hammer before he continued. "Third, bewitching Prince Richard, burying a large number of bombs in the forbidden forest, causing numerous casualties. Among them was Second Lieutenant Dylan, who unfortunately died in that major accident."

The generals and soldiers in the audience lowered their head in mourning for their fallen comrades.

"The Ministry of Communication and Inspection was able to restore a record of communication between Mateo Brook and Prince Richard. This record proved that Mateo Brook indeed bewitched Prince Richard into taking part in a treacherous plan. At the same time, there was also evidence to prove the collusion of the two of them."

Almost all of the blame was being placed on Mateo, which surprised me. Upon hearing the words, it seemed that Richard was even being painted as a victim who was taken advantage of by a bad guy.

Mateo also raised his head with a look of disbelief, obviously not agreeing with the judgment. He tried to move but his hands and feet were both cuffed, in addition to the two soldiers holding him back.

"With sufficient evidence presented, Mateo Brook is hereby convicted of the aforementioned crimes. In accordance to the thirty-sixth and forty-first articles of imperial criminal law, the judgment is as follows. Mateo Brook is convicted with several crimes such as intentional homicide and instigating others into crime. He is hereby sentenced to death."

With loud bang, the judge knocked down the gavel which officially enforced the judgment.

Mateo still struggled to move. He opened his mouth to say something, but he couldn't say a word.

It was only then that I realized his tongue had been cut off. That was why he couldn't speak.

My heart sank. Seeing this, I was even surer now that Ethan put all the blame on Mateo so that Richard could be protected.

I thought that Richard was finally going to be rightfully punished for what he had done, but in the end, he was still safe. This was unfair to Rufus.

A wave of depression and anger came over me. It turned out that we might have still been powerless all this time, like pawns under the control of one supreme power.

Chapter 349 A Perfect Ending

Sylvia's POV:

Rufus held my hand and spoke in a low voice. "Well, Richard technically is the healthy son between the two of us. That's why our father wants to protect him."

I grumbled, "Still, he shouldn't do that. It's been proven that Richard's done so many horrible things. He caused you so much suffering, Rufus..."

Rufus managed to chuckle and lightly pinched my cheek. "Oh, stop pouting. We finally cleared your mother's name, at least. We can also be confident that Richard will be behaving himself for a while after this incident."

"I guess..." I frowned, still upset for Rufus.

After announcing Mateo's crimes, the judge ordered to take him away. He then announced Rufus' innocence and reinstated him.

I smiled at Rufus and excitedly shook him by the arm. It was a good moment.

As usual, Rufus didn't say anything. He only touched my head affectionately and returned a smile to show me that he was also in a good mood.

"Finally, Miss Sylvia Todd, please come up to the platform." When the judge declared my name, I was stunned.

Patting my shoulder, Rufus said, "Go ahead."

Confused, I obeyed the judge's order anyway and got up the platform.

The judge was smiling at me when suddenly Ethan also stood up from his seat and walked over to me with a calm expression on his face as well.

"My child, I promised you something yesterday. I will fulfill it today."

I smiled back calmly, despite the excitement raging inside of me, as Ethan walked up to the microphone.

"Now that Mateo Brook's crimes have come to light, it is only fitting that we rectify the name of the former Beta of the Black Moon Pack who he framed more than ten years ago, Olivia Todd."

Ethan's regal voice resounded throughout the audience with an unquestionable authority.

"I hereby declare that Olivia Todd, the former Beta of the Black Moon Pack, was innocent. She did not betray nor murder her pack's Alpha and Luna at the time. Therefore, the slave status of her daughter, Sylvia Todd, is also hereby eradicated. Today, she will once again be known as the daughter of the pack's deceased Beta."

As soon as Ethan's declaration was finished, the audience burst into an applause.

Tears filled my eyes and uncontrollably fell down my cheeks. My heart felt like it was going to explode with mixed emotions.

I wasn't sure if my mother could see what was happening now, but I hoped that this would finally allow her to rest in peace.

"There is also one more thing I would like to announce," Ethan continued, after letting the applause run for a minute.

The crowd quieted down in no less than ten seconds, all eyes turned back to Ethan again.

With joy in his eyes, Ethan smiled. "It is important to note that Sylvia Todd has also performed very well in the test in the forbidden forest. Not only that, she even went beyond and rescued many of our

soldiers from death. Because of this heroic act, the soldiers have collectively appealed and we've decided to give her an advanced recruitment. She will be granted with the title of staff sergeant and awarded with a second-class merit."

I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I thought I was having a hallucination, but Ethan said my name again.

"Sylvia Todd, do you accept the position to work for the empire?" Ethan smiled.

My mind was blank. A part of me was afraid that all of this was in my head and I was only in a dream. I turned to Rufus, who was watching from below the platform. He gave me an encouraging nod.

With Rufus' positive reply, I was filled with confidence.

I turned back to Ethan with a newfound determination.

"Yes!"

The crowd cheered for a long time. From a distance, I thought I heard Harry's voice and looked in that direction, only to find that he was actually there. Harry followed his father and was shouting for joy.

After minutes of applause, it was time for the title conferring ceremony.

"Commander in Chief, please come up and confer the title." Ethan now called on Rufus to the platform.

Rufus fixed his cuff links and put on a serious look on his face as he walked up to the platform.

After saluting to Ethan, he then walked toward me.

Chapter 350 Announce The Mate Bond

Sylvia's POV:

I was so nervous that my palms were sweating. I didn't dare to look up at Rufus.

He took the medal from a soldier and calmly put it around my neck.

My body went stiff at his touch and I held my breath. Although I was nervous, I was a little excited, too. I actually got the thing that I never thought I'd have. I wanted to pinch myself, wondering if I was dreaming.

So I did. I pinched my finger hard and felt the pain. No, I wasn't dreaming.

Subconsciously, I raised my head. My eyes met Rufus'. He was looking at me intently, a hint of a smile playing at his lips.

I almost couldn't control my emotions. There was a lot I wanted to say to him in that moment. But in front of so many people, I could only shake hands with Rufus briskly.

Rufus was also very serious. He shook my hand firmly before finally letting go.

I thought that was all, but then he also hugged me.

"Congratulations, Todd. Your future is bright."

Although the embrace was purely professional, I couldn't help but smile sardonically.

He had never hugged me like this before. Usually, he hugged me so tightly and passionately that I'd almost suffocate. But now, he pretended to be abstinent.

"Thank you, Prince Rufus," I said gruffly. I played along and clapped him on the back.

We didn't dare move in such a way that would've made us look like more than just a superior and a subordinate.

Even then, Ethan cleared his throat loudly. "Enough. You've been hugging for too long."

Embarrassed, I withdrew my hands awkwardly. I could feel my ears burning. Rufus, on the other hand, let his arms drop to his side as though nothing had happened. He straightened his collar and nodded at Ethan curtly.

"That concludes today's trial. Everyone, please proceed to the closing ceremony," Ethan announced, intending to leave.

I was about to follow behind Ethan's attendants, but before I could step off the platform, Rufus stopped me suddenly.

I whirled around, wide-eyed, and looked at him questioningly. "What's wrong?"

Rufus gave me a small smile and simply asked me to wait for him for a while. Then he turned to the judge and asked for the microphone.

"Please wait a moment, everyone. There's something I'd like to announce." Rufus' deep voice boomed through the speakers.

Everyone exchanged confused glances and returned to their seats, wondering what Rufus had to announce.

I saw Ethan's face darken from the corner of my eye. He seemed to have figured out what Rufus was

about to say, but he didn't step in to stop him.

I too had a hunch, but I couldn't believe it. It was just too bold.

But if my hunch was correct, then...

My heart banged against my chest as Rufus slowly walked towards me. Then, he took my hand and turned to face the audience.

"There is something I have been hiding from you—my mate."

My mind went completely blank and I didn't know how to react. I just stared at him dumbly.

"The Moon Goddess designated Sylvia as my mate. Ever since we first met, we've fallen in love. She's the love of my life, now and forever."

Hearing this, the crowd burst into an uproar.

I saw Laura stand up indignantly. She seemed to want to say something, but Ethan pulled her back to her seat.

I tightened my grip on Rufus' hand, nervous and at a loss.

Rufus looked at me and gave me a gentle smile, his eyes twinkling. In that moment, I got lost in his eyes and could not think straight. It was as though the whole world disappeared and it was just us two left.

While the crowd argued and discussed, Rufus suddenly lowered his head and kissed me.