

Irresistible 551

[Chapter 551 Corruption](#)

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The flash drive not only recorded the process of the transaction, but also the whereabouts of the money and resources. Most of it had been controlled by Geoffrey.

When I saw just how much money was involved, I was furious.

Vampires had always been rich thanks to their immortality. They had accumulated vast wealth in their lifetimes.

The amount of money that Geoffrey and the vampires had embezzled was equivalent to the yearly financial expenditure of the entire country!

How dare he have the audacity to do something like that?

"Geoffrey used the money to hire private soldiers and make weapons. He's a lot more ambitious than you think," Leonard said in a low voice when he saw what I was staring at.

"Is he planning a coup?" Sylvia turned to Leonard in shock.

Leonard shook his head. "He would never rebel. He knows he's no match for us. The weapons and the soldiers are for him to continue his tyranny over his turf. I'm sure you've noticed how magnificent and luxurious his mansion is. When I first came here, I almost thought I had arrived at the imperial palace."

"Geoffrey's ambition is too obvious. Fortunately, we got here in time," Sylvia sighed.

"Yes. You came here so suddenly and caught Geoffrey off guard. As a result, Geoffrey didn't have the time to prepare his weapons and soldiers and it was easy to defeat him." Leonard smiled triumphantly. As he spoke, he poured himself a cup of tea and took a sip.

"I've checked Geoffrey's financial records before, and they were flawless. How did you get your hands on this evidence?" I looked at Leonard, confused.

"I suppose it's only normal that you didn't catch it so soon. My years of experience in dealing with

villains have taught me a thing or two. You, on the other hand, are still young. When you reach my age, you'll understand." Leonard put down the teacup and patted me on the shoulder reassuringly.

I couldn't help but admire Leonard even more. When I was a little over ten years old, I had been to the battlefield with Leonard.

At that time, I was young and arrogant, and refused to accept Leonard's help. He didn't get angry. Instead, he always showed me around and taught me how to strategize on the battlefield.

Although as the prince, I was technically Leonard's superior, I always viewed him as my mentor.

"Geoffrey is so good at lying! He had us all fooled," Sylvia complained with a tight frown.

I couldn't help but chuckle softly. Sylvia had always been a little softhearted. When Geoffrey first mentioned his parents, Sylvia actually felt pity for the man.

But later, Geoffrey's lies were exposed one by one, so Sylvia was no longer naive and didn't believe a word he said.

I pinched her cheek playfully and said, "He didn't have me fooled, Sylvia. You can't just believe everything that comes out of a villain's mouth."

Sylvia pouted like a child. "I know. From now on, I'll only believe in you."

Leonard coughed loudly to signal us that he was still in the room with us.

I quickly withdrew my hand, turned around, and looked at him as if nothing had happened. "Were you able to find the weapons that Geoffrey had made privately?"

Leonard nodded. "Yes. We've found the location of the armory and our soldiers are guarding it at the moment. No one will be allowed to get close to that place. We'll wait for you to check it yourself."

"Okay, I'll go later."

"By the way, there was a box in Geoffrey's secret room." Leonard took out a small gift box from his pocket and handed it to me. "It was hidden really well. I figured it must be something important."

I took the box and opened it cautiously. There was a plain pendant nestled inside and it didn't look particularly extraordinary.

I took it out of the box and looked at it closely. Suddenly, my eyes widened in shock.

How could it have the smell of Noreen?

[Chapter 552 Layla's Whereabouts](#)

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"What?! How?" Leonard's eyes also went as wide as saucers. When Leonard came, we told him about the black witch. We didn't hide it from him anymore. So now he knew that our other purpose of coming here was to find Noreen and save Blair.

"Geoffrey never mentioned this pendant before. It seems that he's still hiding something from us," Rufus said coldly as he eyed the pendant in his hand.

Rufus and Leonard proceeded to discuss the potential origin of the pendant. I stood quietly aside without saying anything, but my heart was secretly in turmoil.

I remembered clear as day that my mother wore the exact same pendant when I was a child. One day, I accidentally knocked the pendant against the staircase, leaving a small chip on its corner.

The pendant Rufus was holding now had the exact same chip. That could only mean that they were one and the same pendant!

This whole time, I thought that the pendant was cremated with my mother's body. Why would it appear here for no reason? And it carried the scent of Noreen, too...

My heart raced wildly in my chest and beads of sweat formed on my forehead. After taking a few deep breaths, I asked, "Can I see it?"

Rufus handed over the pendant. Its cold touch made me shiver. I was sure that I had held this pendant before.

It seemed that the pendant was indeed my mother's.

"What's wrong, Sylvia?" Only then did Rufus notice that there was something wrong with my expression.

"Nothing," I said quickly, shaking my head. After thinking about it for a while, I decided not to say anything about it. I just suggested that I keep the pendant.

Rufus looked hesitant. He seemed to be worried that I might have anything to do with the black witch. He had that exact look on his face whenever we talked about Noreen before.

"Let me keep the pendant first. Flora's father runs a gem business. Maybe she would know where the pendant's from."

I needed to figure out why my mother's pendant had Noreen's scent on it, so I insisted on keeping the pendant.

"Okay, I'll leave it with you." Without any hesitation, Rufus nodded.

Just then, Rufus' phone rang. He answered it briskly and listened to whatever the caller had to say.

"It's Warren. He's coming now. He's probably going to talk about the result of the interrogation," Rufus said after hanging up the phone.

Ten minutes later, Warren arrived. His clothes were stained with blood. It seemed that the interrogation didn't go as smoothly as we had expected.

"Thank you for your hard work," Rufus said gruffly, patting him on the shoulder. Then he gestured at a chair for Warren to sit down.

Warren sat down heavily and told us about the result. "Layla was sold to an auction house for her beauty."

"No wonder we haven't found any trace of her," I said with a frown.

"Their bargaining chip now is Layla. But they don't know what state she's in." Warren gulped down some water and then took a deep breath. "Once werewolf slaves enter the vampire auction house, they're just doomed. Even if they manage to survive that, there are many ways for vampires to torture the captured werewolves."

Rufus frowned and his mind raced. "Exchange the vampires we captured for Layla."

"Okay. Those vampire are useless to us anyway." I agreed with Rufus' suggestion immediately. No matter what, we had to prioritize saving Layla. If she hadn't rushed to help me, she wouldn't have been in captivity now.

"I'll call Hobson," Rufus said promptly as he took out his phone.

"Where'd you get Hobson's number?" I asked curiously.

"Geoffrey told me about it on his first day behind bars. You were busy at the orphanage at the time," Rufus explained in a low voice.

The phone was quickly connected. Rufus put it on speaker, and the old, shaky voice of Hobson sounded from the other end of the line.

[Chapter 553 Exchange Of Hostages](#)

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"I don't give a damn about those vampires," Hobson said calmly.

Leonard pounded his fists on the desk and said angrily, "Hobson, so many years have passed but you're still so good at pretending."

Hobson fell silent for a few seconds. When he spoke again, his voice was hard and irritable. "I didn't expect you to be on this call."

Leonard snorted coldly but didn't say anything more.

"What do we have to do for you to let her go?" Rufus continued determinedly.

Hobson laughed. "She's just an ordinary she-wolf. Why do you care about her so much?"

"We're not cold-blooded vampires like you," Leonard sneered impatiently. "Exchanging hostages is the easiest way to deal with this problem. We're all very busy, so we don't have time to play tricks with you."

Hobson paused slightly. "Let me talk to Sylvia. Then I'll think about it."

Rufus glanced at me and asked in a low voice, "Is that okay with you?"

I nodded.

Rufus handed the phone to me. After clearing my throat, I said clearly, "This is Sylvia. What's up?"

Hobson said seriously, "Turn off the speaker. This'll be our little secret."

I turned to look at Rufus questioningly. He nodded and I turned off the speaker.

Pressing the phone against my ear, I said coldly, "What is it? I turned the speaker off already."

However, Hobson's reply remained cryptic. "The hunter will eventually find and eat the little rabbit. Hide it well."

His words sent a shiver down my spine. "What on earth are you planning?"

Instead of answering my question, he just told me the time and place of the exchange.

"Come alone or I'll kill that she-wolf. But I must be honest with you. Now that the auction's over, I can't guarantee that the she-wolf is unharmed." Hobson laughed sinisterly and, without waiting for a response, hung up the phone.

"What did he say?" Rufus asked immediately when I put the phone down.

With a long face, I relayed to them everything Hobson had said.

"That old bastard is as insidious as ever." Leonard paced back and forth in front of the table. We were caught in a tricky situation. "The place he specified is on vampire territory. I've been there once. The terrain is complicated and there are many secret passages. It'll be easy for them to control the situation."

"And he even asked to meet you at night. It's too dangerous," Warren added worriedly.

Rufus' expression hardened. I knew he wasn't going to let me go there alone.

"Warren and I are coming with you. We'll play it by ear," Rufus decided.

"But..." I was a little hesitant. I didn't know what would happen. There was still a lot of unresolved problems at the border. Rufus needed to take charge to stabilize the public.

"It'll be fine if Leonard's here." As though he read my mind, Rufus insisted on his decision. He turned to Leonard and said, "Please go to the armory and check it out for me. As for the reconstruction plan, I'll rely on you. I trust you, Leonard."

[Chapter 554 Finding Ashley](#)

Sylvia's POV:

"I'll take care of things here. But you must be careful. Vampires are difficult to deal with. In addition to their cunning wit, they also have their special powers. The people we caught aren't noblemen, just disposable minions. The purer the bloodline is, the stronger the vampire is—such as Hobson," Leonard warned us seriously. He looked worried.

"I guess that means we really have no choice but to play it by ear." I sighed resignedly.

"By the way, how'd you reach me before?" Leonard suddenly asked. "The vampires would never let you use a phone. It'd have taken a few days for me to have gotten a letter, too."

I told him about the strange woman I met in the castle and about Ashley.

"That woman used her special power to send messages for me, and in return, she wanted me to find

Ashley for her."

After figuring out what was going on, Leonard suggested that Ashley go back with the captured vampires.

"I'm afraid we can't just send Ashley back like this. She was a slave to the werewolves for years, and I'm sure Hobson's children had something to do with it. She'll only suffer more if she goes back to them. Most importantly, I think Hobson knows that Ashley is still alive and being slaved," I said firmly.

Ellis and others would never let Ashley come back so easily.

Hearing this, Leonard couldn't help but curse. "That old bastard is really ruthless!"

"In that case, we shouldn't give Ashley back. Maybe she can help us during the exchange. Let's wait and see how Ashley will act after everything is done," Rufus suggested.

"Okay, but we have to ask her what she wants first," I added.

"Sounds good."

After everything was settled, Rufus, Warren, and I headed to the basement of the casino.

Flora had complained about this casino countless times. Every time she mentioned it, her eyes were filled with disgust. It was clear that this place had traumatized her immensely.

The casino was nearly torn down by now. It wasn't as dark as I thought it'd be. Bright lights flooded the whole space.

"There used to be a huge cage there, but now it was torn down already," Rufus said in a low voice, pointing at the center of the stage.

I looked to where he was pointing and nodded. "Geoffrey put a lot of energy into setting up a cage so big."

"He didn't need to use energy. Money was more than enough," Warren said with a wink.

I couldn't help but laugh. "You're right."

Ever since Warren started dating Flora, he had changed a lot. He was no longer the broody, serious teen he once was. And he even threw in a few witty jabs here and there.

"The monster was released at the swamp," Rufus added.

"The monster with teeth all over its face?" Truth be told, I was a little curious to see how disgusting this

creature was because Flora always gagged at the mention of it.

"Yes, that's the one."

As Warren spoke, he led us past a huge screen in the hall and came to a small lounge.

All the original furnishings in the lounge had been taken out and it was transformed into a temporary interrogation room.

All the vampire captives sat hunched over in the hall, waiting for their impending punishment. There were about twenty vampires in total.

They all looked very haggard and weak, perhaps because they hadn't eaten in a long time.

I looked around and saw Ashley curled up in a corner. She looked like she was in bad shape and was staring blankly ahead.

To my surprise, Flora was also there!

She was standing in front of the dazed Ashley, looking the vampire slave up and down and talking nonstop. I didn't know what she was talking about.

[Chapter 555 Two Choices](#)

Sylvie's POV:

I walked over and tapped Flore's shoulder from behind.

Flore was so startled that she nearly jumped. Petting her chest to calm herself down, she asked, "Sylvie, what're you doing here?"

"I could ask you the same thing," I put my arm around her shoulder and said with a smile.

Flore snorted and relayed everything to me.

It turned out that Ashley was temporarily sent here with the other vampires after she was rescued from Geoffrey's clutches.

But none of these vampires seemed to like Ashley so they bullied her a lot.

Flore was in the middle of a mission and happened to pass by. Seeing that Ashley was in trouble, she rescued her.

"Now, she has retreated to the corner and hasn't moved a muscle. She has been in a daze this whole time." Flore pouted and threw her hands up helplessly. "I just told her a joke, but she didn't laugh. It's

like she can't hear me!"

"I see."

I sighed and slowly approached Ashley. Squatting down next to her, I gently called her name.

But she didn't respond. She seemed to be completely immersed in her own world.

Rufus had once told me that Geoffrey had forced Ashley to drink poison so she couldn't speak.

I took out the antidote I found in Geoffrey's secret room yesterday and handed it to her. "Take it. This is the cure for your throat."

Even then, Ashley remained indifferent. It was as though she was a lifeless doll.

I had no choice but to put the antidote into her mouth myself. Then, I raised her chin to help her swallow it.

This whole time, Ashley didn't bat an eyelash. She behaved obediently and didn't resist at all.

"How are you feeling? Can you speak now?" I asked softly.

Sylvio's POV:

I walked over and tapped Floro's shoulder from behind.

Floro was so startled that she nearly jumped. Putting her chest to calm herself down, she asked, "Sylvio, what're you doing here?"

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"I could ask you tha sama thing," I put my arm around har shouldar and said with a smila.

Flora snortad and ralayad avarything to ma.

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But nona of thasa vampiras saamad to lika Ashlay so thay bulliad har a lot.

Flora was in tha middla of a mission and happenad to pass by. Saaing that Ashlay was in troubla, sha rascuad har.

"Now, sha has ratraatad to tha cornar and hasn't movad a muscla. Sha has baan in a daza this whola tima." Flora poutad and thraw har hands up halplassly. "I just told har a joka, but sha didn't laugh. It's lika sha can't haar ma!"

"I saa."

I sighad and slowly approachad Ashlay. Squatting down naxt to har, I gantly callad har nama.

But sha didn't raspond. Sha saamad to ba complataly immarsad in har own world.

Rufus had onca told ma that Gaoffray had forcad Ashlay to drink poison so sha couldn't spaak.

I took out tha antidota I found in Gaoffray's sacrat room yastarday and handad it to har. "Taka it. This is tha cura for your throat."

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As expected, Ashley finelly ceme to life et the mention of her mother. Her eyeleshes fluttered slightly, end her eyes regained clerity. She looked et me end esked, "You know my mother?"

Ashley's voice was extremely hoerse. Her throet was probably dry es e desert since she hedn't spoken in so long.

I fetched her e bottle of weter end seid gently, "Here. Drink this first."

Ashley ceutiously stretched out her hend, but peused mideir. After hesiteting for e while, she withdrew her hend.

"It's cleen. Don't worry." I smiled et her end pressed the bottle to her pelm.

Finelly, Ashley looked convinced end took e sip of the weter.

While she drenk, I told her about the pect I mede with her mother end the exchange of hosteges.

Upon hearing what I said, Ashley's eyes lit up somewhat. This seemed to breathe life into her because her voice suddenly became clear. "How is she?"

"She's okay. She's just worried about you. But now you need to make a choice. Do you want to go back to the castle or help us exchange the hostages? Don't worry. If you choose to go back to the castle, I'll send someone to escort you out of the pack. I don't want to make things difficult for you." When I finished speaking, I looked at her quietly, waiting for her answer expectantly. Ashley looked almost exactly like her mother. In a trance, I could almost see the woman sitting in front of the window.

In fact, I highly doubted Ashley would agree to go with us. After all, she had no reason to help us, and the werewolves at the border had been extremely unkind to her.

She stayed silent. I couldn't tell whether the antidote had worked or not.

"Your mother's name is Joi, right?" I had no choice but to bring up the topic of her family.

As expected, Ashley finally came to life at the mention of her mother. Her eyelashes fluttered slightly, and her eyes regained clarity. She looked at me and asked, "You know my mother?"

Ashley's voice was extremely hoarse. Her throat was probably dry as a desert since she hadn't spoken in so long.

I fetched her a bottle of water and said gently, "Here. Drink this first."

Ashley cautiously stretched out her hand, but paused midair. After hesitating for a while, she withdrew her hand.

"It's clean. Don't worry." I smiled at her and pressed the bottle to her palm.

Finally, Ashley looked convinced and took a sip of the water.

While she drank, I told her about the pact I made with her mother and the exchange of hostages.

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"Sha's okay. Sha's just worriad about you. But now you naad to maka a choica. Do you want to go back to tha castla or halp us axchanga tha hostagas? Don't worry. If you choosa to go back to tha castla, I'll sand somaona to ascort you out of tha pack. I don't want to maka things difficult for you." Whan I finishad spaaking, I lookad at har quiatly, waiting for har answar axpactantly. Ashlay lookad almost axactly lika har mothar. In a tranca, I could almost saa tha woman sitting in front of tha window.

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"Think it over first, Ashley. I don't went to force you," I seid seriously.

"I've mede up my mind. If it weren't for you guys, I'd probably still be suffering e lot now." Ashley lowered her heed end looked et the weter bottle in her hend silently.

"Me, too! I'll go with you." Flore chimed in. She put her hends on my shoulders end shook me, es though she wes trying to knock some sense into me. "Sylvie, I'm going with you."

"No, you're not. You stay here. There's still a lot that needs to be dealt with." I shook my head decisively. Where we were going held too much uncertainty. I didn't want to put Flore in danger.

"If I don't go with you, I'll be depressed here!" Flore whined, trying to squeeze out a tear or two.

I felt a headache and hurriedly pulled Warren over. "Please convince Flore not to go with us. It's dangerous there."

Warren seemed to be at a loss. He awkwardly handed a handkerchief to Flore. "Let's go together. I'll protect you."

Flore stopped crying in an instant. She took the handkerchief and wiped her non-existent tears and said sincerely, "Warren, you're the best."

I was speechless. I shouldn't have brought Warren into this.

In the end, I had no choice but to agree to let Flore come with us.

"Fine. You'll be tasked with taking good care of Ashley. Don't act without permission and keep yourself and Ashley safe." I reminded Flore over and over again.

Flore followed me obediently. "Okay, okay. I know."

So it came as a surprise when Ashley suddenly nodded. "I'll help you exchange the hostages. I'm very familiar with the place you are going. I can help you if need be."

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[Chapter 556 Exchange Of Hostages](#)

Sylvie's POV:

We set off before night fell.

Ashley led us along a secret short cut and we soon arrived at the designated meeting spot.

The vampires were bound by iron chains, and Werren and Flore were in charge of keeping a close eye on them.

Meanwhile, Rufus and I waited for Hobson at the intersection.

When it was completely dark, we saw a group of vampires approaching. They were escorting a woman in a black hood. It seemed that the woman was Leyle.

I immediately leaped forward and said loudly, "Take off the hood. Let us see her face first."

The silver-haired vampire who was leading Leyle laughed grimly but obliged. He yanked the hood off and spat, "Look. This is who you want, right?"

I felt relieved to see the woman's face. It was indeed Leyle, and she seemed to be fine. It didn't look like she was hurt.

Leyle met my gaze and smiled bitterly. "I knew you'd come to save me, Sylvie."

"You're quite lucky. When we found this she-wolf, the vampire who bought her hadn't done anything to her yet. I overheard that he was planning to dissect her alive." The silver-haired vampire frivolously petted Leyle's face and said wistfully, "What a pity! Such beautiful skin would've made a top-grade mask."

I coldly slected ewey the silver-heired vempire's hend end briskly went down to business. "I've brought the vempires you went."

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When it was completely dork, we sow o group of vompres opprooching. They were escorting o womon in o block hood. It seemed thot the womon was Loylo.

I immediotely leaped forword ond soid loudly, "Toke off the hood. Let us see her foce first."

The silver-hoired vompire who was leoding Loylo loughed grimly but obliged. He yonked the hood off ond spot, "Look. This is who you wont, right?"

I felt relieved to see the womon's foce. It was indeed Loylo, ond she seemed to be fine. It didn't look like she was hurt.

Loylo met my goze ond smiled bitterly. "I knew you'd come sove me, Sylvio."

"You're quite lucky. When we found this she-wolf, the vompire who bought her hodn't done onything to her yet. I overheard thot he was planning to dissect her olive." The silver-hoired vompire frivolously potted Loylo's foce ond soid wistfully, "Whot o pity! Such beautiful skin would've mode o top-grode mosk."

I coldly slopped owoy the silver-hoired vompire's hond ond briskly went down to business. "I've brought the vompres you wont."

Sylvia's POV:

We set off before night fell.

Sylvia's POV:

Wa sat off bafora night fall.

Ashlay lad us along a sacrat short cut and wa soon arrivad at tha dasignatad maating spot.

Tha vampiras wara bound by iron chains, and Warran and Flora wara in charga of kaaping a closa aya on tham.

Maanwhila, Rufus and I waitad for Hobson at tha intarsaction.

Whan it was complataly dark, wa saw a group of vampiras approaching. Thay wara ascorting a woman in a black hood. It saamad that tha woman was Layla.

I immadiataly laapad forward and said loudly, "Taka off tha hood. Lat us saa har faca first."

Tha silvar-haired vampira who was laading Layla laughad grimly but obligad. Ha yankad tha hood off and spat, "Look. This is who you want, right?"

I falt raliavad to saa tha woman's faca. It was indaad Layla, and sha saamad to ba fina. It didn't look lika sha was hurt.

Layla mat my gaza and smilad bittarly. "I knaw you'd coma sava ma, Sylvia."

"You'ra quita lucky. Whan wa found this sha-wolf, tha vampira who bought har hadn't dona anything to har yat. I ovarhaard that ha was planning to dissact har aliva." Tha silvar-haired vampira frivolously pattad Layla's faca and said wistfully, "What a pity! Such baautiful skin would'va mada a top-gradad mask."

I coldly slappad away tha silvar-haired vampira's hand and briskly want down to businass. "I'va brought tha vampiras you want."

"Is that so? Bring them here and let me see." The silver-haired vampire looked at Layla longingly, as though he still wanted to stroke her face.

"Is that so? Bring them here and let me see." The silver-haired vampire looked at Layla longingly, as though he still wanted to stroke her face.

I turned around and looked at Warren meaningfully. He immediately understood and brought over the vampire captives.

After the silver-haired vampire counted the prisoners, he squinted shrewdly and said, "One is missing. Where is the woman with the golden hair?"

"She's dead and nothing much was left of her corpse, so we didn't bring her here," Rufus said coldly.

I sneered. "Consider yourself lucky. If it weren't for Layla, we would've slaughtered the rest of them."

"Why, you—!" Irritated, the silver-haired vampire reached out and grabbed Layla's hair. "In that case, I should cut off one of her heads. It's only fair. After all, you killed one of our own."

"Touch her and they'll all die here," I pointed at the vampires behind me and warned him coldly.

The silver-haired vampire glanced at the captives and sneered. He kicked hard at the crook of Leyle's leg and she buckled to her knees. His face contorted from being intensely angry to extremely crazy. "Okay, then I suppose both sides will suffer losses tonight."

He kicked Leyle again, dislocating one of her arms in the process.

I clenched my fists, seething with rage. "Enough with the bullshit. You work for Hobson, so be a good dog and do as you're told. If we exchange the hostages, this matter will be settled."

"Is that so? Bring them here and let me see." The silver-haired vampire looked at Loylo longingly, as though he still wanted to stroke her face.

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"Do you seriously think that I'd just let you go so eesily? You're even stupider then I thought!" The silver-heired vempire leughed like e medmen, took out en exe from behind, end wes about to chop Leyle's heed off.

Rufus end I immedietely leeped into ection end tried to stop him.

But before he could lend e blow, the other vempires stopped their silver-heired compenion.

They whispered something into his eer. This seemed to celm the silver-heired vempire down, because he then put down his exe end pulled Leyle up from the ground.

With e herd shove, he pushed Leyle towerds us end spet, "Give us the hosteges."

Rufus gestured et Werren end the letter led the vempire ceptives here.

The hosteges of both sides welked towerds their respective groups simulteneously.

I clenched my fists end my whole body wes on edge.

I could feel that there were meny people lurking in the shedows eround us. They ell glered et us murderously. Perheps the reel sleughter would be leunched es soon es the hosteges were exchanged.

The air seemed to freeze at this moment. Everyone held their breaths, anxiously anticipating a fierce battle to break out at any given second.

"Do you seriously think that I'd just let you go so easily? You're even stupider than I thought!" The silver-haired vampire laughed like a madman, took out an axe from behind, and was about to chop Loylo's head off.

Rufus and I immediately leaped into action and tried to stop him.

But before he could land a blow, the other vampires stopped their silver-haired companion.

They whispered something into his ear. This seemed to calm the silver-haired vampire down, because he then put down his axe and pulled Loylo up from the ground.

With a hard shove, he pushed Loylo towards us and spat, "Give us the hostages."

Rufus gestured at Warren and the latter led the vampire captives here.

The hostages of both sides walked towards their respective groups simultaneously.

I clenched my fists and my whole body was on edge.

I could feel that there were many people lurking in the shadows around us. They all glared at us murderously. Perhaps the real slaughter would be launched as soon as the hostages were exchanged.

The air seemed to freeze at this moment. Everyone held their breaths, anxiously anticipating a fierce battle to break out at any given second.

[Chapter 557 Counterattack](#)

Sylvie's POV:

The hostages from both sides walked very carefully, fearing that one wrong move could have disastrous consequences.

I stared at Leyle and nodded at her, encouraging her to come over briefly.

Leyle pursed her lips and looked serious. It could be seen from her trembling hands that she was also very nervous.

Soon, the hostages of both sides reached their own groups without a hitch.

I approached Leyle and helped her untie the rope.

"Be careful. I can feel an ambush coming." Leyle warned me in a low voice.

"I know." I looked up and winked at her meaningfully.

Suddenly, the silver-haired vampire spoke up again. "You should check on her carefully, lest later you say that it's not the person you went."

I pulled Leyle behind me protectively. Glaring defiantly at the silver-haired vampire, I replied, "She's the person we went. Why don't you check your captives?"

The silver-haired vampire didn't seem to take me seriously. He smiled and clicked his tongue arrogantly. "You're dead meat, yet you still have the audacity to defy me."

"Is that so? Who said we're going to die here?" I shrugged nonchalantly, pretending to be clueless.
Sylvio's POV:

The hostages from both sides walked very carefully, fearing that one wrong move could have disastrous consequences.

I stood next to Loylo and nodded at her, encouraging her to come over bravely.

Loylo pursed her lips and looked serious. It could be seen from her trembling hands that she was also very nervous.

Soon, the hostages of both sides reached their own groups without a hitch.

I approached Loylo and helped her untie the rope.

"Be careful. I can feel an ambush coming." Loylo warned me in a low voice.

"I know." I looked up and winked at her meaningfully.

Suddenly, the silver-haired vampire spoke up again. "You should check on her carefully, lest later you say that it's not the person you went."

I pulled Loylo behind me protectively. Glaring defiantly at the silver-haired vampire, I replied, "She's the person we went. Why don't you check your captives?"

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I stared at Layla and nodded at her, encouraging her to come over bravely.

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Soon, the hostages of both sides reached their own groups without a hitch.

I approached Layla and helped her untie the ropes.

"Be careful. I can feel an ambush coming." Layla warned me in a low voice.

"I know." I looked up and winked at her meaningfully.

Suddenly, the silver-haired vampire spoke up again. "You should check on her carefully, last time you say that it's not the person you want."

I pulled Layla behind me protectively. Glaring defiantly at the silver-haired vampire, I replied, "She's the person we want. Why don't you check your captives?"

The silver-haired vampire didn't seem to take me seriously. He smiled and licked his tongue arrogantly. "You're dead meat, yet you still have the audacity to defy me."

"Is that so? Who said we're going to die here?" I shrugged nonchalantly, pretending to be clueless.

"This is our territory, remember?" The silver-haired vampire's lips curved into an evil smile. He slowly raised his hand, as if to give a signal to his fellow vampires.

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But before they could act, the vampire captives who had just walked over to them suddenly attacked the other vampires present.

Chaos broke loose on the other side.

"Let's go." I grabbed Layla's hand and started running.

Werren was in front of us. He led the way, while Rufus stayed behind.

"What the hell's going on?" Leyle was confused. She glanced back while running.

The scene we had just left was a mess. Just then, two hooded people emerged from the crowd. It was Flore and Ashley.

They were running towards us quickly.

"Mission accomplished!" Flore said with a big, bright smile. She immediately threw her arms around Leyle and cried, "I'm glad you're alive!"

Ever since Flore found out that Leyle had come to my rescue and fought off the vampires, she had no reservations about her anymore.

"What just happened?" Leyle looked at Flore and Ashley in shock and bewilderment.

"This is our territory, remember?" The silver-haired vampire's lips curved into an evil smile. He slowly raised his hand, as if to give a signal to his fellow vampires.

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Ever since Flora found out that Layla had come to my rescue and fought off the vampires, she had no reservations about her anymore.

"What just happened?" Layla looked at Flora and Ashley in shock and bewilderment.

"Before the exchange, Ashley used her special power on the vampire captives. They're all bewitched. If they can't manage to see through the illusion at the very beginning, they'll soon completely fall into her control and become her puppets. They will obey her orders unconditionally unless she stops using her special power," I explained briefly.

"Wait, so this is all Ashley's doing? Why would she help us?" Leyle couldn't seem to wrap her head around the whole situation despite my explanation. She narrowed her eyes at Ashley dubiously. "You were enslaved to the werewolves and suffered endlessly. Don't you hate us?"

Ashley didn't answer. She simply looked at Leyle helplessly, as though she didn't know how to explain.

"Let's talk about this later. Right now, we have to get out of here," I said hurriedly.

"Yeah! What if they catch up to us?" Flora looked back nervously.

Sure enough, the vampires had regained their composure and were now calling upon their companions in the dark to chase after us.

Leyle shot one last glance at Ashley but didn't probe further. "Let's go."

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Loylo shot one last glance at Ashley but didn't probe further. "Let's go."

[Chapter 558 Separation](#)

Sylvie's POV:

It was pitch black now.

We tried to retreat along the same path we had taken, but many zombies attacked us along the way.

"These zombies are brainless monsters who don't die." Ashley, who was hiding in the dark with us, observed the zombies who were waving their arms listlessly outside.

There were a lot of zombies—too many to count. Back then, during the war between werewolves and vampires, the only reason why the vampires had the upper hand was because they had a zombie army.

"So what should we do now?" Floro wrung her hands anxiously.

The situation was more complicated than I thought. With countless zombies around, we were trapped.

Just then, Rufus' subordinates rushed over from the other side. They had passed through another exit to avoid the zombies.

"You guys go first. I'll deal with the aftermath here."

Rufus ordered his subordinates to take out the flesh bombs they had prepared in advance to counter the zombies.

Warren was protecting Flore while I pulled Ashley and Leyle to the right.

Fortunately, although zombies were difficult to deal with, their attacks were nothing compared to real vampires, so none of us got injured as we made our escape.

Rufus didn't waste too much energy on those zombies. After repelling them with a few flesh bombs, he quickly turned around and followed after us.

Sylvio's POV:

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But our problem now was the vampires; they had caught up to us.

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The silver-haired vampire activated his special power and released copious amounts of smoke, making us all lose our sense of direction. I couldn't even see my hand in front of me.

I covered my nose and coughed hard. The smoke smelled so bad that I almost fainted.

Suddenly, I heard someone retching in front of me.

"Damn it! It smells like shit!"

It was Flore. She had been particularly sensitive to scents recently and vomited as soon as she smelled anything unpleasant. I made a mental note to have her checked at the hospital after we got out of here.

With Warren by Flore's side, I didn't worry about her too much. What did worry me was that Ashley and Leyle were nowhere to be found.

And so was Rufus.

I called out his name, hoping to find him.

But there was nothing but white smoke surrounding me.

I slowly made my way forward.

All of a sudden, a hand reached out of the white smoke and grabbed my wrist. I instinctively yanked it.

"Hey, calm down! It's just me," Leyle said hurriedly.

My fist paused mid-air. "Where's Ashley? Is she with you?"

"Yes!" Ashley's voice sounded.

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"Hay, calm down! It's just ma," Layla said hurriedly.

My fist paused mid-air. "Whara's Ashley? Is sha with you?"

"Yas!" Ashley's voice sounded.

I breathed a sigh of relief. Then Leyle said seriously, "We have to move fast. If I'm not mistaken, this white smoke has a dizzying effect and we can't stay here long."

After saying that, Leyle took my hand and sprinted in another direction.

Soon, the three of us made it out of the white smoke and came to a dense forest.

Just then, Flore also emerged from the white smoke, covering her mouth and gagging.

"Where's Werren?" I asked in surprise when I saw that she was alone.

"We were separated in the chaos just now. How about Rufus? Weren't you with him?" Flore looked around questioningly.

"We were separated, too." I sighed.

Now only Leyle, Ashley, Flore, and a small number of soldiers were with me.

I looked around and had a sinking feeling about this place. We didn't pass here earlier.

"Ashley, do you know where we are?" I asked nervously.

Ashley shook her head. She looked just as confused as me. "No idea. I've never been here before..."

As she spoke, I suddenly felt a burning sensation around my neck.

Ever since Rufus left the pendant with me, I had worn it at all times.

Frowning, I gingerly touched the pendant.

I wasn't imagining things. It was burning hot to the touch.

I breathed a sigh of relief. Then Loylo said seriously, "We have to move fast. If I'm not mistaken, this white smoke has a dizzying effect and we can't stay here long."

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[Chapter 559 The Stone Chamber In The Black Mist](#)

Sylvie's POV:

I took the pendant off my neck and looked at it closely. Was I imagining things or was it glowing a gloomy red light?

"What's that? Why is it glowing?" Flore's eyes widened in curiosity. Apparently, I wasn't imagining things.

I didn't say anything. Biting my lower lip, I stared at the pendant uneasily. I had a bad feeling about this.

"Damn it! Not again!" Flore stomped her foot in frustration.

I looked up to see what she was shouting at and saw that black mist began to circle us. But it was different from the white smoke just now. The black mist was odorless, but I somehow knew it was extremely dangerous.

"Run!" I shouted in a panic.

But it was too late. The black mist spread towards us very fast. In the matter of mere seconds, we were enshrouded in the mist and couldn't see anything around us, nor could we hear any sounds.

I shouted the others' names and started walking urgently.

Finally, I made my way out of the mist. But I found myself in a small stone chamber. There was nothing in the room, save for a stone tablet in front of me, with complex and mysterious runes written on it, like some kind of ancient language.

I looked around my surroundings carefully and found that not only the stone tablet was covered with runes, but also walls. Densely packed runes covered the walls like ancient graffiti.

Sylvio's POV:

I took the pendant off my neck and looked at it closely. Was I imagining things or was it glowing a gloomy red light?

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I shouted the others' names and started walking urgently.

Finally, I made my way out of the mist. But I found myself in a small stone chamber. There was nothing in the room, save for a stone tablet in front of me, with complex and mysterious runes written on it, like some kind of ancient language.

I looked around my surroundings carefully and found that not only the stone tablet was covered with runes, but also walls. Densely packed runes covered the walls like ancient graffiti.

Sylvia's POV:

I took the pendant off my neck and looked at it closely. Was I imagining things or was it glowing a gloomy red light?

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"What's that? Why is it glowing?" Flora's eyes widened in curiosity. Apparently, I wasn't imagining things.

I didn't say anything. Biting my lower lip, I stared at the pendant uneasily. I had a bad feeling about this.

"Damn it! Not again!" Flora stomped her foot in frustration.

I looked up to see what she was shouting at and saw that black mist began to circle us. But it was different from the white smoke just now. The black mist was odorless, but I somehow knew it was extremely dangerous.

"Run!" I shouted in a panic.

But it was too late. The black mist spread towards us very fast. In a matter of mere seconds, we were shrouded in the mist and couldn't see anything around us, nor could we hear any sounds.

I shouted the others' names and started walking urgently.

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I observed these runes carefully, trying to find some clues. However, the longer I stared at the markings on the wall, the dizzier I felt. I felt like I was going out of my mind.

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I squeezed my eyes shut and slowly opened them again. In that moment, I felt as though I had received some sort of information.

Just then, my brain suddenly echoed violently.

I couldn't stand the pain. I staggered backwards and was about to collapse to the floor when a pair of hands caught me. I vaguely heard Leyle's voice from behind me.

"This is the language of witches and wizards. It's some kind of curse. You'd better not look at it."

To my surprise, not only Leyle was here, but also Flore and Ashley.

As for the soldiers, they were nowhere to be found.

"How'd we get here?" Flore scratched her head in confusion and began to look around the stone chamber.

The stone chamber was empty, save for some white candles lined up against one of the walls.

Flore picked up one of them and lit it, but the feeble flame immediately went out.

"Weird..." Flore mumbled. Unwilling to give up, she took out another match and lit the candle again.

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"It must be some kind of megic trick set up by e witch," Ashley guessed, scretching her chin.

I didn't sey anything. I frowned end sterted groping the well, trying to find the wey out.

"I once heerd from Hobson thet powerful witches ell heve their own domeins. They're like cunning rets, shrouding their domeins in e fog. One cen only enter with the key."

I stopped fumbling end slowly looked et Ashley. "Did Hobson tell you whet those keys were like?"

"It differs per witch. It mey be e piece of berk, or e pen perheps. It depends on the witches' personel preference," Ashley replied with e shrug.

"Could it be e pendent?"

"Yes! It's possible!" With an excited shriek, Flore rushed to me and urged me to take out the glowing pendent.

I took out the burning pendent from my pocket, and sure enough, it had stopped glowing a gloomy red light.

Flore looked at it closely and after a while, she finally came to a conclusion.

And in the blink of an eye, the candlelight went out again.

Flore was so scared that she threw away the white candle. Rubbing her arms, she muttered, "This place gives me the creeps. Why won't the candles stay lit?"

"It must be some kind of magic trick set up by a witch," Ashley guessed, scratching her chin.

I didn't say anything. I frowned and started groping the wall, trying to find the way out.

"I once heard from Hobson that powerful witches all have their own domains. They're like cunning rats, shrouding their domains in a fog. One can only enter with the key."

I stopped fumbling and slowly looked at Ashley. "Did Hobson tell you what those keys were like?"

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[Chapter 560 Looking For The Key Hole](#)

Sylvie's POV:

Judging from what Ashley had just said and the runes in the stone chamber, I was almost certain that this was the domain of a powerful witch.

As for the key...

"My intuition tells me that this pendent is the key to this stone chamber, or the pendent wouldn't have reacted so abnormally, right? And after it glowed hot and red, the black mist appeared and brought us here," Flore concluded seriously, holding up the pendent.

"Where did you get that pendent?" Ashley suddenly asked.

"We found it in Geoffrey's secret room. Rufus said that Noreen's scent is on it," I answered honestly.

Flore immediately shivered. "Noreen? Isn't she the most difficult black witch to deal with?"

"Yes. And if I'm not mistaken, we might have accidentally entered Noreen's domain..." I said slowly.

Flore froze in horror. "This is too much. I had no idea that one day I'd be so close to the legend."

I couldn't help but burst into laughter. Flore wasn't wrong. Noreen's notorious name and horrible deeds had spread far and wide among the werewolves.

"Well, I hope we won't face Noreen herself. We won't stand a chance against her," I said grimly.

"If the pendent got us into this place, maybe it can get us out," Leyle, who had been quiet this whole time, suddenly suggested.

Sylvio's POV:

Judging from what Ashley had just said about the runes in the stone chamber, I was almost certain that this was the domain of a powerful witch.

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"Where did you get that pendant?" Ashley suddenly asked.

"We found it in Gaoffray's secret room. Rufus said that Noraan's scent is on it," I answered honestly.

Flora immediately shivered. "Noraan? Isn't she the most difficult black witch to deal with?"

"Yes. And if I'm not mistaken, we might have accidentally entered Noraan's domain..." I said slowly.

Flora froze in horror. "This is too much. I had no idea that one day I'd be so close to a legend."

I couldn't help but burst into laughter. Flora wasn't wrong. Noraan's notorious name and horrible deeds had spread far and wide among the werewolves.

"Well, I hope we won't face Noraan herself. We won't stand a chance against her," I said grimly.

"If the pendant got us into this place, maybe it can get us out," Layla, who had been quiet this whole time, suddenly suggested.

"But there's nothing here. I just fumbled around the walls, but I didn't find a place to put the key." I frowned. This was tricky. I had explored every part of the small stone chamber, but I found no clues.

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"Try again." As Flore spoke, she hurried to feel the walls for a key hole.

We ran the length of the walls a few more times but still found nothing.

"Perhaps we need to chant something in order to activate the key..." Disappointed, Flore couldn't help but whine. "These witches just had to use spells for everything! How troublesome!"

I leaned against the stone wall in a daze, clutching the pendant in my hand tightly.

Did we draw the wrong conclusion?

I doubted it. The black mist didn't appear until the pendant started to burn, which was enough to prove that the pendant had something to do with the stone chamber.

Maybe Flore was right and we needed an incantation to get out.

I turned to Ashley and asked, "Did Hobson say anything about a spell needed?"

Ashley seemed to be reeking her brains. Finally, she shook her head. "No. He didn't say anything."

Just then, Lyle suddenly shouted excitedly, "There's a small hole here! Check it out!"

Flore and I hurried to where she was pointing.

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Just then, Layla suddenly shouted excitedly, "There's a small hole here! Check it out!"

Flora and I hurried to where she was pointing.

The small hole Leyle mentioned was under the stone lamp. It was very well hidden.

"Oh, my God! Leyle, you're amazing. You found it!" Flora practically pounced on Leyle and gave her a bear hug.

"Don't thank me yet. We don't know if it's the key hole or not." Leyle chuckled. Then, she looked at me meaningfully, urging me to put the pendant into the hole.

I held the pendent up against the small hole and compared them. The shape and size of the hole were similar to those of the pendent.

Sure enough, when I pressed the pendent into the hole, the solid stone wall instantly swung open, revealing a wide room inside.

"Oh, my God! It was a door all along!" Flore was overjoyed and looked out the door curiously.

In the center of the room, there was a huge crystal ball. A soft, mysterious blue light emanated from it, lighting up the whole stone chamber.

Shelves lined the walls of the room, covered with all kinds of magic medicine and glass vials.

My eyes lit up. Perhaps the antidote that'd break the curses on Blair and Rufus was among them!

I couldn't hide my excitement and rushed into the room, closely followed by Flore.

But as soon as we stepped into the room, the floor collapsed from under our feet.

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