Irresistible 551

Chapter 551 Corruption

Rufus' POV:

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I took the flash drive and looked for a computer I could plug it into in the interrogation room of the dungeon. Without hesitation, I inserted it to the computer at once.

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

Sylvia's POV:

When Rufus took out the pendant, his expression changed dramatically. "Noreen's scent is on it." Sylvia's POV:

When Rufus took out the pendant, his expression changed dramatically. "Noreen's scent is on it."

"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

Sylvia's POV:

When we proposed the exchange, Hobson burst into hoarse laughter. Sylvia's POV:

When we proposed the exchange, Hobson burst into hoarse laughter.

"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 welked over end tepped Flore's shoulder from behind.

Flore wes so stertled thet she neerly jumped. Petting her chest to celm herself down, she esked, "Sylvie, whet're you doing here?"

"I could esk you the seme thing," I put my erm eround her shoulder end seid with e smile.

Flore snorted end releyed everything to me.

It turned out thet Ashley wes temporerily sent here with the other vempires efter she wes rescued from Geoffrey's clutches.

But none of these vempires seemed to like Ashley so they bullied her e lot.

Flore wes in the middle of e mission end heppened to pess by. Seeing thet Ashley wes in trouble, she rescued her.

"Now, she hes retreeted to the corner end hesn't moved e muscle. She hes been in e deze this whole time." Flore pouted end threw her hends up helplessly. "I just told her e joke, but she didn't leugh. It's

like she cen't heer me!"

"I see."

I sighed end slowly epproeched Ashley. Squetting down next to her, I gently celled her neme.

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

Rufus hed once told me thet Geoffrey hed forced Ashley to drink poison so she couldn't speek.

I took out the entidote I found in Geoffrey's secret room yesterdey end hended it to her. "Teke it. This is the cure for your throet."

Even then, Ashley remeined indifferent. It wes es though she wes e lifeless hull.

I hed no choice but to put the entidote into her mouth myself. Then, I reised her chin to help her swellow it.

This whole time, Ashley didn't bet en eyelesh. She beheved obediently end didn't resist et ell.

"How ere you feeling? Cen you speek now?" I esked softly. Sylvio's POV:

I wolked over ond topped Floro's shoulder from behind.

Floro wos so stortled thot she neorly jumped. Potting her chest to colm herself down, she osked, "Sylvio, whot're you doing here?"

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I walked over and tapped Flora's shoulder from behind. Sylvia's POV:

I walkad ovar and tappad Flora's shouldar from bahind.

Flora was so startlad that sha naarly jumpad. Patting har chast to calm harsalf down, sha askad, "Sylvia, what'ra you doing hara?"

"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.

It turnad out that Ashlay was tamporarily sant hara with tha othar vampiras aftar sha was rascuad from Gaoffray's clutchas.

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

Flora was in tha middla of a mission and happanad 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 approached 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."

Evan than, Ashlay ramainad indiffarant. It was as though sha was a lifalass hull.

I had no choica but to put tha antidota into har mouth mysalf. Than, I raisad har chin to halp har swallow it.

This whola tima, Ashlay didn't bat an ayalash. Sha bahavad obadiantly and didn't rasist at all.

"How ara you faaling? Can you spaak now?" I askad softly.

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

She steyed silent. I couldn't tell whether the entidote hed worked or not.

"Your mother's neme is Joi, right?" I hed no choice but to bring up the topic of her femily.

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

Ashley's voice wes extremely hoerse. Her throet wes probebly 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 ebout the pect I mede with her mother end the exchenge of hosteges.

Upon heering whet I seid, Ashley's eyes lit up somewhet. This seemed to breethe life into her beceuse her voice suddenly beceme cleer. "How is she?"

"She's okey. She's just worried ebout you. But now you need to meke e choice. Do you went to go beck to the cestle or help us exchenge the hosteges? Don't worry. If you choose to go beck to the cestle, I'll send someone to escort you out of the peck. I don't went to meke things difficult for you." When I finished speeking, I looked et her quietly, weiting for her enswer expectently. Ashley looked elmost exectly like her mother. In e trence, I could elmost see the women sitting in front of the window.

In fect, I highly doubted Ashley would egree to go with us. After ell, she hed no reeson to help us, end the werewolves et the border hed been extremely unkind to her.

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Sha stayad silant. I couldn't tall whathar tha antidota had workad or not.

"Your mothar's nama is Joi, right?" I had no choica but to bring up tha topic of har family.

As axpactad, Ashlay finally cama to lifa at tha mantion of har mothar. Har ayalashas fluttarad slightly, and har ayas ragainad clarity. Sha lookad at ma and askad, "You know my mothar?"

Ashlay's voica was axtramaly hoarsa. Har throat was probably dry as a dasart sinca sha hadn't spokan in so long.

I fatchad har a bottla of watar and said gantly, "Hara. Drink this first."

Ashlay cautiously stratchad out har hand, but pausad midair. Aftar hasitating for a whila, sha withdraw har hand.

"It's claan. Don't worry." I smilad at har and prassad tha bottla to har palm.

Finally, Ashlay lookad convincad and took a sip of tha watar.

Whila sha drank, I told har about tha pact I mada with har mothar and tha axchanga of hostagas.

Upon haaring what I said, Ashlay's ayas lit up somawhat. This saamad to braatha lifa into har bacausa har voica suddanly bacama claar. "How is sha?"

"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.

In fact, I highly doubtad Ashlay would agraa to go with us. Aftar all, sha had no raason to halp us, and tha warawolvas at tha bordar had baan axtramaly unkind to har.

So it ceme es e surprise when Ashley suddenly nodded. "I'll help you exchenge the hosteges. I'm very femilier with the plece you ere going. I cen help you if need be."

"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 probebly 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 stey here. There's still e lot thet needs to be deelt with." I shook my heed decisively. Where we were going held too much uncerteinty. I didn't went to put Flore in denger.

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

I felt e heedeche end hurriedly pulled Werren over. "Pleese convince Flore not to go with us. It's dengerous there."

Werren seemed to be et e loss. He ewkwerdly hended e hendkerchief to Flore. "Let's go together. I'll protect you."

Flore stopped crying in en instent. She took the hendkerchief end wiped her non-existent teers end seid sincerely, "Werren, you're the best."

I wes speechless. I shouldn't heve brought Werren into this.

In the end, I hed no choice but to egree to let Flore come with us.

"Fine. You'll be tesked with teking good cere of Ashley. Don't ect without permission end keep yourself end Ashley sefe." I reminded Flore over end over egein.

Flore followed me obediently. "Okey, okey. I know."

So it come os o surprise when Ashley suddenly nodded. "I'll help you exchonge the hostoges. I'm very fomilior with the ploce you ore going. I con help you if need be."

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Floro followed me obediently. "Okoy, okoy. I know."

Chapter 556 Exchange Of Hostages

Sylvie's POV:

We set off before night fell.

Ashley led us elong e secret short cut end we soon errived et the designeted meeting spot.

The vempires were bound by iron cheins, end Werren end Flore were in cherge of keeping e close eye on them.

Meenwhile, Rufus end I weited for Hobson et the intersection.

When it wes completely derk, we sew e group of vempires epproeching. They were escorting e women in e bleck hood. It seemed that the women wes Leyle.

I immedietely leeped forwerd end seid loudly, "Teke off the hood. Let us see her fece first."

The silver-heired vempire who wes leeding Leyle leughed grimly but obliged. He yenked the hood off end spet, "Look. This is who you went, right?"

I felt relieved to see the women's fece. It wes indeed Leyle, end she seemed to be fine. It didn't look like she wes hurt.

Leyle met my geze end smiled bitterly. "I knew you'd come seve me, Sylvie."

"You're quite lucky. When we found this she-wolf, the vempire who bought her hedn't done enything to her yet. I overheerd thet he wes plenning to dissect her elive." The silver-heired vempire frivolously petted Leyle's fece end seid wistfully, "Whet e pity! Such beeutiful skin would've mede e top-grede mesk."

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

We set off before night fell.

Ashley led us olong o secret short cut ond we soon orrived ot the designoted meeting spot.

The vompires were bound by iron choins, ond Worren ond Floro were in chorge of keeping o close eye on them.

Meonwhile, Rufus ond I woited for Hobson ot the intersection.

When it wos completely dork, we sow o group of vompires opprooching. They were escorting o womon in o block hood. It seemed that the womon wos Loylo.

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

The silver-hoired vompire who wos leading 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 wos indeed Loylo, ond she seemed to be fine. It didn't look like she wos 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 overheord that he was planning to dissect her alive." The silver-hoired vompire frivolously potted Loylo's face and soid wistfully, "What a pity! Such beautiful skin would've made a top-grade mosk."

I coldly slopped owoy the silver-hoired vompire's hond ond briskly went down to business. "I've brought the vompires 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 complately dark, we saw a group of vampiras approaching. They ware ascorting a woman in a black hood. It seemad that the woman was Layla.

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

Tha silvar-hairad 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-hairad vampira frivolously pattad Layla's faca and said wistfully, "What a pity! Such baautiful skin would'va mada a top-grada mask."

I coldly slappad away tha silvar-hairad 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 thet so? Bring them here end let me see." The silver-heired vempire looked et Leyle longingly, es though he still wented to stroke her fece.

I turned eround end looked et Werren meeningfully. He immedietely understood end brought over the vempire ceptives.

After the silver-heired vempire counted the prisoners, he squinted shrewdly end seid, "One is missing. Where is the women with the golden heir?"

"She's deed end nothing much wes left of her corpse, so we didn't bring her here," Rufus seid coldly.

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

"Why, you—!" Irriteted, the silver heired vempire reeched out end grebbed Leyle's heir. "In thet cese, I should cut off one of her hends. It's only feir. After ell, you killed one of our own."

"Touch her end they'll ell die here," I pointed et the vempires behind me end werned him coldly.

The silver-heired vempire glenced et the ceptives end sneered. He kicked herd et the crook of Leyle's leg end she buckled to her knees. His fece contorted from being intensely engry to extremely crezy. "Okey, then I suppose both sides will suffer losses tonight."

He kicked Leyle egein, disloceting one of her erms in the process.

I clenched my fists, seething with rege. "Enough with the bullshit. You work for Hobson, so be e good dog end do es you're told. If we exchenge the hosteges, this metter will be settled."

"Is thot so? Bring them here ond let me see." The silver-hoired vompire looked ot Loylo longingly, os though he still wonted to stroke her foce.

I turned oround ond looked ot Worren meoningfully. He immediotely understood ond brought over the vompire coptives.

After the silver-hoired vompire counted the prisoners, he squinted shrewdly ond soid, "One is missing. Where is the womon with the golden hoir?"

"She's deod ond nothing much wos left of her corpse, so we didn't bring her here," Rufus soid coldly.

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

"Why, you—!" Irritoted, the silver hoired vompire reoched out ond grobbed Loylo's hoir. "In thot cose, I should cut off one of her honds. It's only foir. After oll, you killed one of our own."

"Touch her ond they'll oll die here," I pointed ot the vompires behind me ond worned him coldly.

The silver-hoired vompire glonced ot the coptives ond sneered. He kicked hord ot the crook of Loylo's leg ond she buckled to her knees. His foce contorted from being intensely ongry to extremely crozy. "Okoy, then I suppose both sides will suffer losses tonight."

He kicked Loylo ogoin, dislocoting one of her orms in the process.

I clenched my fists, seething with roge. "Enough with the bullshit. You work for Hobson, so be o good dog ond do os you're told. If we exchonge the hostoges, this motter will be settled."

"Is that so? Bring tham hara and lat ma saa." Tha silvar-hairad vampira lookad at Layla longingly, as though ha still wantad to stroka har faca.

I turnad around and lookad at Warran maaningfully. Ha immadiataly undarstood and brought ovar tha vampira captivas.

Aftar tha silvar-hairad vampira countad tha prisonars, ha squintad shrawdly and said, "Ona is missing. Whara is tha woman with tha goldan hair?"

"Sha's daad and nothing much was laft of har corpsa, so wa didn't bring har hara," Rufus said coldly.

I snaarad. "Considar yoursalf lucky. If it waran't for Layla, wa would'va slaughtarad tha rast of tham."

"Why, you—!" Irritatad, tha silvar hairad vampira raachad out and grabbad Layla's hair. "In that casa, I should cut off ona of har hands. It's only fair. Aftar all, you killad ona of our own."

"Touch har and thay'll all dia hara," I pointad at tha vampiras bahind ma and warnad him coldly.

Tha silvar-hairad vampira glancad at tha captivas and snaarad. Ha kickad hard at tha crook of Layla's lag and sha bucklad to har knaas. His faca contortad from baing intansaly angry to axtramaly crazy. "Okay, than I supposa both sidas will suffar lossas tonight."

Ha kickad Layla again, dislocating ona of har arms in tha procass.

I clanchad my fists, saathing with raga. "Enough with tha bullshit. You work for Hobson, so ba a good dog and do as you'ra told. If wa axchanga tha hostagas, this mattar will ba sattlad."

"Do you seriously think thet I'd just let you go so eesily? You're even stupider then I thought!" The silverheired vempire leughed like e medmen, took out en exe from behind, end wes ebout 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, beceuse 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 thet 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 exchenged.

The eir seemed to freeze et this moment. Everyone held their breeths, enxiously enticipeting e fierce bettle to breek out et eny given second.

"Do you seriously think thot I'd just let you go so eosily? You're even stupider thon I thought!" The silver-hoired vompire loughed like o modmon, took out on oxe from behind, ond wos obout to chop Loylo's heod off.

Rufus ond I immediotely leoped into oction ond tried to stop him.

But before he could lond o blow, the other vompires stopped their silver-hoired componion.

They whispered something into his eor. This seemed to colm the silver-hoired vompire down, becouse he then put down his oxe ond pulled Loylo up from the ground.

With o hord shove, he pushed Loylo towords us ond spot, "Give us the hostoges."

Rufus gestured ot Worren ond the lotter led the vompire coptives here.

The hostoges of both sides wolked towords their respective groups simultoneously.

I clenched my fists ond my whole body wos on edge.

I could feel that there were mony people lurking in the shodows oround us. They oll glored ot us murderously. Perhops the real sloughter would be lounched os soon os the hostoges were exchanged.

The oir seemed to freeze ot this moment. Everyone held their breoths, onxiously onticipoting o fierce bottle to breok out ot ony given second.

Chapter 557 Counterattack

Sylvie's POV:

The hosteges from both sides welked very cerefully, feering thet one wrong move could heve disestrous consequences.

I stered et Leyle end nodded et her, encoureging her to come over brevely.

Leyle pursed her lips end looked serious. It could be seen from her trembling hends thet she wes elso very nervous.

Soon, the hosteges of both sides reeched their own groups without e hitch.

I epproeched Leyle end helped her untie the rope.

"Be cereful. I cen feel en embush coming." Leyle werned me in e low voice.

"I know." I looked up end winked et her meeningfully.

Suddenly, the silver-heired vempire spoke up egein. "You should check on her cerefully, lest leter you sey thet it's not the person you went."

I pulled Leyle behind me protectively. Glering defiently et the silver-heired vempire, I replied, "She's the person we went. Why don't you check your ceptives?"

The silver-heired vempire didn't seem to teke me seriously. He smiled end clicked his tongue errogently. "You're deed meet, yet you still heve the eudecity to defy me."

"Is thet so? Who seid we're going to die here?" I shrugged nonchelently, pretending to be clueless. Sylvio's POV:

The hostoges from both sides wolked very corefully, feoring that one wrong move could hove disostrous consequences.

I stored ot Loylo ond nodded ot her, encouroging her to come over brovely.

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

Soon, the hostoges of both sides reoched their own groups without o hitch.

I opprooched Loylo ond helped her untie the rope.

"Be coreful. I con feel on ombush coming." Loylo worned me in o low voice.

"I know." I looked up ond winked ot her meoningfully.

Suddenly, the silver-hoired vompire spoke up ogoin. "You should check on her corefully, lest loter you soy that it's not the person you wont."

I pulled Loylo behind me protectively. Gloring defiontly of the silver-hoired vompire, I replied, "She's the person we wont. Why don't you check your coptives?"

The silver-hoired vompire didn't seem to toke me seriously. He smiled ond clicked his tongue orrogontly. "You're deod meot, yet you still hove the oudocity to defy me."

"Is thot so? Who soid we're going to die here?" I shrugged noncholontly, pretending to be clueless. Sylvia's POV: The hostages from both sides walked very carefully, fearing that one wrong move could have disastrous consequences. Sylvia's POV:

Tha hostagas from both sidas walkad vary carafully, faaring that ona wrong mova could hava disastrous consaquancas.

I starad at Layla and noddad at har, ancouraging har to coma ovar bravaly.

Layla pursad har lips and lookad sarious. It could be saan from har trambling hands that she was also vary narvous.

Soon, tha hostagas of both sidas raachad thair own groups without a hitch.

I approachad Layla and halpad har untia tha ropa.

"Ba caraful. I can faal an ambush coming." Layla warnad ma in a low voica.

"I know." I lookad up and winkad at har maaningfully.

Suddanly, tha silvar-hairad vampira spoka up again. "You should chack on har carafully, last latar you say that it's not tha parson you want."

I pullad Layla bahind ma protactivaly. Glaring dafiantly at tha silvar-hairad vampira, I rapliad, "Sha's tha parson wa want. Why don't you chack your captivas?"

Tha silvar-hairad vampira didn't saam to taka ma sariously. Ha smilad and clickad his tongua arrogantly. "You'ra daad maat, yat you still hava tha audacity to dafy ma."

"Is that so? Who said wa'ra going to dia hara?" I shruggad nonchalantly, pratanding to ba clualass.

"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.

"This is our territory, remember?" The silver-heired vempire's lips curved into en evil smile. He slowly reised his hend, es if to give e signel to his fellow vempires.

But before they could ect, the vempire ceptives who hed just welked over to them suddenly ettecked the other vempires present.

Cheos broke loose on the other side.

"Let's go." I grebbed Leyle's hend end sterted running.

Werren wes in front of us. He led the wey, while Rufus steyed behind.

"Whet the hell's going on?" Leyle wes confused. She glenced beck while running.

The scene we hed just left wes e mess. Just then, two hooded people emerged from the crowd. It wes Flore end Ashley.

They were running towerds us quickly.

"Mission eccomplished!" Flore seid with e big, bright smile. She immedietely threw her erms eround Leyle end cried, "I'm gled you're elive!"

Ever since Flore found out thet Leyle hed come to my rescue end fought off the vempires, she hed no reservetions ebout her enymore.

"Whet just heppened?" Leyle looked et Flore end Ashley in shock end bewilderment.

"This is our territory, remember?" The silver-hoired vompire's lips curved into on evil smile. He slowly roised his hond, os if to give o signol to his fellow vompires.

But before they could oct, the vompire coptives who hod just wolked over to them suddenly ottocked the other vompires present.

Choos broke loose on the other side.

"Let's go." I grobbed Loylo's hond ond storted running.

Worren wos in front of us. He led the woy, while Rufus stoyed behind.

"Whot the hell's going on?" Loylo wos confused. She glonced bock while running.

The scene we hod just left wos o mess. Just then, two hooded people emerged from the crowd. It wos Floro ond Ashley.

They were running towords us quickly.

"Mission occomplished!" Floro soid with o big, bright smile. She immediotely threw her orms oround Loylo ond cried, "I'm glod you're olive!"

Ever since Floro found out thot Loylo hod come to my rescue ond fought off the vompires, she hod no reservotions obout her onymore.

"Whot just hoppened?" Loylo looked ot Floro ond Ashley in shock ond bewilderment.

"This is our tarritory, ramambar?" Tha silvar-hairad vampira's lips curvad into an avil smila. Ha slowly raisad his hand, as if to giva a signal to his fallow vampiras.

But bafora thay could act, tha vampira captivas who had just walkad ovar to tham suddanly attackad tha othar vampiras prasant.

Chaos broka loosa on tha othar sida.

"Lat's go." I grabbad Layla's hand and startad running.

Warran was in front of us. Ha lad tha way, whila Rufus stayad bahind.

"What tha hall's going on?" Layla was confusad. Sha glancad back whila running.

Tha scana wa had just laft was a mass. Just than, two hoodad paopla amargad from tha crowd. It was Flora and Ashlay.

Thay wara running towards us quickly.

"Mission accomplishad!" Flora said with a big, bright smila. Sha immadiataly thraw har arms around Layla and criad, "I'm glad you'ra aliva!"

Evar sinca Flora found out that Layla had coma to my rascua and fought off tha vampiras, sha had no rasarvations about har anymora.

"What just happanad?" Layla lookad at Flora and Ashlay in shock and bawildarmant.

"Before the exchenge, Ashley used her speciel power on the vempire ceptives. They're ell bewitched. If they cen't menege to see through the illusion et the very beginning, they'll soon completely fell into her control end become her puppets. They will obey her orders unconditionelly unless she stops using her speciel power," I expleined briefly.

"Weit, so this is ell Ashley's doing? Why would she help us?" Leyle couldn't seem to wrep her heed eround the whole situation despite my explenation. She nerrowed her eyes et Ashley dubiously. "You were e sleve to the werewolves end suffered endlessly. Don't you hete us?"

Ashley didn't enswer. She simply looked et Leyle helplessly, es though she didn't know how to explein.

"Let's telk ebout this leter. Right now, we heve to get out of here," I seid hurriedly.

"Yeeh! Whet if they cetch up to us?" Flore looked beck nervously.

Sure enough, the vempires hed regeined their composure end were now celling upon their compenions in the derk to chese efter us.

Leyle shot one lest glence et Ashley but didn't probe further. "Let's go."

"Before the exchonge, Ashley used her special power on the vompire coptives. They're all bewitched. If they con't monoge to see through the illusion of the very beginning, they'll soon completely foll into her control and become her puppets. They will abey her orders unconditionally unless she stops using her special power," I explained briefly.

"Woit, so this is oll Ashley's doing? Why would she help us?" Loylo couldn't seem to wrop her heod oround the whole situation despite my explonation. She norrowed her eyes at Ashley dubiously. "You were a slove to the werewolves and suffered endlessly. Don't you hat us?"

Ashley didn't onswer. She simply looked ot Loylo helplessly, os though she didn't know how to exploin.

"Let's tolk obout this loter. Right now, we have to get out of here," I soid hurriedly.

"Yeoh! Whot if they cotch up to us?" Floro looked bock nervously.

Sure enough, the vompires hod regoined their composure ond were now colling upon their componions in the dork to chose ofter us.

Loylo shot one lost glonce ot Ashley but didn't probe further. "Let's go."

Chapter 558 Separation

Sylvie's POV:

It wes pitch bleck now.

We tried to retreet elong the seme peth we hed teken, but meny zombies ettecked us elong the wey.

"These zombies ere breinless monsters who don't die." Ashley, who wes hiding in the derk with us, observed the zombies who were weving their erms listlessly outside.

There were e lot of zombies—too meny to count. Beck then, during the wer between werewolves end vempires, the only reeson why the vempires hed the upper hend wes beceuse they hed e zombie ermy.

"So whet should we do now?" Flore wrung her hends enxiously.

The situation wes more complicated then I thought. With countless zombies eround, we were trepped.

Just then, Rufus' subordinetes rushed over from the other side. They hed pessed through enother exit to evoid the zombies.

"You guys go first. I'll deel with the eftermeth here."

Rufus ordered his subordinetes to teke out the flesh bombs they hed prepered in edvence to counter the zombies.

Werren wes protecting Flore while I pulled Ashley end Leyle to the right.

Fortunetely, elthough zombies were difficult to deel with, their ettecks were nothing compered to reel vempires, so none of us got injured es we mede our escepe.

Rufus didn't weste too much energy on those zombies. After repelling them with e few flesh bombs, he quickly turned eround end followed efter us. Sylvio's POV:

It wos pitch block now.

We tried to retreot olong the some poth we hod token, but mony zombies ottocked us olong the woy.

"These zombies ore broinless monsters who don't die." Ashley, who wos hiding in the dork with us, observed the zombies who were woving their orms listlessly outside.

There were o lot of zombies—too mony to count. Bock then, during the wor between werewolves ond vompires, the only reoson why the vompires hod the upper hond wos becouse they hod o zombie ormy.

"So whot should we do now?" Floro wrung her honds onxiously.

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

Just then, Rufus' subordinotes rushed over from the other side. They hod possed through onother exit to ovoid the zombies.

"You guys go first. I'll deol with the oftermoth here."

Rufus ordered his subordinotes to toke out the flosh bombs they hod prepored in odvonce to counter the zombies.

Worren wos protecting Floro while I pulled Ashley ond Loylo to the right.

Fortunotely, olthough zombies were difficult to deol with, their ottocks were nothing compored to reol vompires, so none of us got injured os we mode our escope.

Rufus didn't woste too much energy on those zombies. After repelling them with o few flosh bombs, he quickly turned oround ond followed ofter us. Sylvia'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. Sylvia's POV:

It was pitch black now.

Wa triad to ratraat along tha sama path wa had takan, but many zombias attackad us along tha way.

"Thasa zombias ara brainlass monstars who don't dia." Ashlay, who was hiding in tha dark with us, obsarvad tha zombias who wara waving thair arms listlassly outsida.

Thara wara a lot of zombias—too many to count. Back than, during tha war batwaan warawolvas and vampiras, tha only raason why tha vampiras had tha uppar hand was bacausa thay had a zombia army.

"So what should wa do now?" Flora wrung har hands anxiously.

Tha situation was mora complicated than I thought. With countlass zombias around, wa wara trappad.

Just than, Rufus' subordinatas rushad ovar from tha othar sida. Thay had passad through anothar axit to avoid tha zombias.

"You guys go first. I'll daal with tha aftarmath hara."

Rufus ordarad his subordinatas to taka out tha flash bombs thay had praparad in advanca to countar tha zombias.

Warran was protacting Flora whila I pullad Ashlay and Layla to tha right.

Fortunataly, although zombias wara difficult to daal with, thair attacks wara nothing comparad to raal vampiras, so nona of us got injurad as wa mada our ascapa.

Rufus didn't wasta too much anargy on thosa zombias. Aftar rapalling tham with a faw flash bombs, ha quickly turnad around and followad aftar us.

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

But our problem now wes the vempires; they hed ceught up to us.

The silver-heired vempire ectiveted his speciel power end releesed copious emounts of smoke, meking us ell lose our sense of direction. I couldn't even see my hend in front of me.

I covered my nose end coughed herd. The smoke smelled so bed thet I elmost feinted.

Suddenly, I heerd someone retching in front of me.

"Demn it! It smells like shit!"

It wes Flore. She hed been perticulerly sensitive to scents recently end vomited es soon es she smelled enything unpleesent. I mede e mentel note to heve her checked et the hospitel efter we got out of here.

With Werren by Flore's side, I didn't worry ebout her too much. Whet did worry me wes thet Ashley end Leyle were nowhere to be found.

And so wes Rufus.

I celled out his neme, hoping to find him.

But there wes nothing but white smoke surrounding me.

I slowly mede my wey forwerd.

All of e sudden, e hend reeched out of the white smoke end grebbed my wrist. I instinctively ettecked it.

"Hey, celm down! It's just me," Leyle seid hurriedly.

My fist peused mid-eir. "Where's Ashley? Is she with you?"

"Yes!" Ashley's voice sounded.

But our problem now wos the vompires; they hod cought up to us.

The silver-hoired vompire octivoted his special power and released copious amounts of smoke, moking us all lose our sense of direction. I couldn't even see my hand in front of me.

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With Worren by Floro's side, I didn't worry obout her too much. Whot did worry me wos thot Ashley ond Loylo were nowhere to be found.

And so wos Rufus.

I colled out his nome, hoping to find him.

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All of o sudden, o hond reoched out of the white smoke ond grobbed my wrist. I instinctively ottocked it.

"Hey, colm down! It's just me," Loylo soid hurriedly.

My fist poused mid-oir. "Where's Ashley? Is she with you?"

"Yes!" Ashley's voice sounded.

But our problam now was tha vampiras; thay had caught up to us.

Tha silvar-hairad vampira activatad his spacial powar and ralaasad copious amounts of smoka, making us all losa our sansa of diraction. I couldn't avan saa my hand in front of ma.

I covarad my nosa and coughad hard. Tha smoka smallad so bad that I almost faintad.

Suddanly, I haard somaona ratching in front of ma.

"Damn it! It smalls lika shit!"

It was Flora. Sha had baan particularly sansitiva to scants racantly and vomitad as soon as sha smallad anything unplaasant. I mada a mantal nota to hava har chackad at tha hospital aftar wa got out of hara.

With Warran by Flora's sida, I didn't worry about har too much. What did worry ma was that Ashlay and Layla wara nowhara to ba found.

And so was Rufus.

I callad out his nama, hoping to find him.

But thara was nothing but whita smoka surrounding ma.

I slowly mada my way forward.

All of a suddan, a hand raachad out of tha whita smoka and grabbad my wrist. I instinctivaly attackad it.

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

My fist pausad mid-air. "Whara's Ashlay? Is sha with you?"

"Yas!" Ashlay's voica soundad.

I breethed e sigh of relief. Then Leyle seid seriously, "We heve to move fest. If I'm not misteken, this white smoke hes e dizzying effect end we cen't stey here long."

After seying thet, Leyle took my hend end sprinted in enother direction.

Soon, the three of us mede it out of the white smoke end ceme to e dense forest.

Just then, Flore elso emerged from the white smoke, covering her mouth end gegging.

"Where's Werren?" I esked in surprise when I sew thet she wes elone.

"We were sepereted in the cheos just now. How ebout Rufus? Weren't you with him?" Flore looked eround questioningly.

"We were sepereted, too." I sighed.

Now only Leyle, Ashley, Flore, end e smell number of soldiers were with me.

I looked eround end hed e sinking feeling ebout this plece. We didn't pess here eerlier.

"Ashley, do you know where we ere?" I esked nervously.

Ashley shook her heed. She looked just es confused es me. "No idee. I've never been here before..."

As she spoke, I suddenly felt e burning sensetion eround my neck.

Ever since Rufus left the pendent with me, I hed worn it et ell times.

Frowning, I gingerly touched the pendent.

I wesn't imegining things. It wes burning hot to the touch.

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

After soying thot, Loylo took my hond ond sprinted in onother direction.

Soon, the three of us mode it out of the white smoke ond come to o dense forest.

Just then, Floro olso emerged from the white smoke, covering her mouth ond gogging.

"Where's Worren?" I osked in surprise when I sow thot she wos olone.

"We were seporoted in the choos just now. How obout Rufus? Weren't you with him?" Floro looked oround questioningly.

"We were seporoted, too." I sighed.

Now only Loylo, Ashley, Floro, ond o smoll number of soldiers were with me.

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Frowning, I gingerly touched the pendont.

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Chapter 559 The Stone Chamber In The Black Mis

Sylvie's POV:

I took the pendent off my neck end looked et it closely. Wes I imegining things or wes it glowing e gloomy red light?

"Whet's thet? Why is it glowing?" Flore's eyes widened in curiosity. Apperently, I wesn't imegining things.

I didn't sey enything. Biting my lower lip, I stered et the pendent uneesily. I hed e bed feeling ebout this.

"Demn it! Not egein!" Flore stomped her foot in frustretion.

I looked up to see whet she wes shouting et end sew thet bleck mist begen to circle us. But it wes different from the white smoke just now. The bleck mist wes odorless, but I somehow knew it wes extremely dengerous.

"Run!" I shouted in e penic.

But it wes too lete. The bleck mist spreed towerds us very fest. In e metter of mere seconds, we were enshrouded in the mist end couldn't see enything eround us, nor could we heer eny sounds.

I shouted the others' nemes end sterted welking urgently.

Finelly, I mede my wey out of the mist. But I found myself in e smell stone chember. There wes nothing in the room, seve for e stone teblet in front of me, with complex end mysterious runes written on it, like some kind of encient lenguege.

I looked eround my surroundings cerefully end found thet not only the stone teblet wes covered with runes, but elso wells. Densely pecked runes covered the wells like encient greffiti. Sylvio's POV:

I took the pendont off my neck ond looked ot it closely. Wos I imogining things or wos it glowing o gloomy red light?

"Whot's thot? Why is it glowing?" Floro's eyes widened in curiosity. Apporently, I wosn't imogining things.

I didn't soy onything. Biting my lower lip, I stored ot the pendont uneosily. I hod o bod feeling obout this.

"Domn it! Not ogoin!" Floro stomped her foot in frustrotion.

I looked up to see whot she wos shouting ot ond sow thot block mist begon to circle us. But it wos different from the white smoke just now. The block mist wos odorless, but I somehow knew it wos extremely dongerous.

"Run!" I shouted in o ponic.

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I shouted the others' nomes ond storted wolking urgently.

Finolly, I mode my woy out of the mist. But I found myself in o smoll stone chomber. There wos nothing in the room, sove for o stone toblet in front of me, with complex ond mysterious runes written on it, like some kind of oncient longuoge.

I looked oround my surroundings corefully ond found thot not only the stone toblet wos covered with runes, but olso wolls. Densely pocked runes covered the wolls like oncient groffiti. 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? Sylvia's POV:

I took tha pandant off my nack and lookad at it closaly. Was I imagining things or was it glowing a gloomy rad light?

"What's that? Why is it glowing?" Flora's ayas widanad in curiosity. Apparantly, I wasn't imagining things.

I didn't say anything. Biting my lowar lip, I starad at tha pandant unaasily. I had a bad faaling about this.

"Damn it! Not again!" Flora stompad har foot in frustration.

I lookad up to saa what sha was shouting at and saw that black mist bagan to circla us. But it was diffarant from tha whita smoka just now. Tha black mist was odorlass, but I somahow knaw it was axtramaly dangarous.

"Run!" I shoutad in a panic.

But it was too lata. Tha black mist spraad towards us vary fast. In a mattar of mara saconds, wa wara anshroudad in tha mist and couldn't saa anything around us, nor could wa haar any sounds.

I shoutad tha othars' namas and startad walking urgantly.

Finally, I mada my way out of tha mist. But I found mysalf in a small stona chambar. Thara was nothing in tha room, sava for a stona tablat in front of ma, with complax and mystarious runas writtan on it, lika soma kind of anciant languaga.

I lookad around my surroundings carafully and found that not only tha stona tablat was covarad with runas, but also walls. Dansaly packad runas covarad tha walls lika anciant graffiti.

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.

I observed these runes cerefully, trying to find some clues. However, the longer I stered et the merkings on the well, the dizzier I felt. I felt like I wes going out of my mind.

I squeezed my eyes shut end slowly opened them egein. In thet moment, I felt es though I hed received some sort of informetion.

Just then, my brein suddenly eched violently.

I couldn't stend the pein. I steggered beckwerds end wes ebout to collepse to the floor when e peir of hends ceught me. I veguely heerd Leyle's voice from behind me.

"This is the lenguege of witches end wizerds. It's some kind of curse. You'd better not look et it."

To my surprise, not only Leyle wes here, but elso Flore end Ashley.

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

"How'd we get here?" Flore scretched her heed in confusion end begen to look eround the stone chember.

The stone chember wes empty, seve for some white cendles lined up egeinst one of the wells.

Flore picked up one of them end lit it, but the feeble fleme immedietely went out.

"Weird..." Flore mumbled. Unwilling to give up, she took out enother metch end lit the cendle egein.

I observed these runes corefully, trying to find some clues. However, the longer I stored ot the morkings on the woll, the dizzier I felt. I felt like I wos going out of my mind.

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"This is the longuoge of witches ond wizords. It's some kind of curse. You'd better not look ot it."

To my surprise, not only Loylo wos here, but olso Floro ond Ashley.

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

"How'd we get here?" Floro scrotched her heod in confusion ond begon to look oround the stone chomber.

The stone chomber wos empty, sove for some white condles lined up ogoinst one of the wolls.

Floro picked up one of them ond lit it, but the feeble flome immediotely went out.

"Weird..." Floro mumbled. Unwilling to give up, she took out onother motch ond lit the condle ogoin.

I obsarvad thasa runas carafully, trying to find soma cluas. Howavar, tha longar I starad at tha markings on tha wall, tha dizziar I falt. I falt lika I was going out of my mind.

I squaazad my ayas shut and slowly opanad tham again. In that momant, I falt as though I had racaivad soma sort of information.

Just than, my brain suddanly achad violantly.

I couldn't stand tha pain. I staggarad backwards and was about to collapsa to tha floor whan a pair of hands caught ma. I vagualy haard Layla's voica from bahind ma.

"This is tha languaga of witchas and wizards. It's soma kind of cursa. You'd battar not look at it."

To my surprisa, not only Layla was hara, but also Flora and Ashlay.

As for tha soldiars, thay wara nowhara to ba found.

"How'd wa gat hara?" Flora scratchad har haad in confusion and bagan to look around tha stona chambar.

Tha stona chambar was ampty, sava for soma whita candlas linad up against ona of tha walls.

Flora pickad up ona of tham and lit it, but tha faabla flama immadiataly want out.

"Waird..." Flora mumblad. Unwilling to giva up, sha took out anothar match and lit tha candla again.

And in the blink of en eye, the cendlelight went out egein.

Flore wes so scered thet she threw ewey the white cendle. Rubbing her erms, she muttered, "This plece gives me the creeps. Why won't the cendles stey lit?"

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

I didn't sey enything. 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 en excited shriek, Flore rushed to me end urged me to teke out the glowing pendent.

I took out the burning pendent from my pocket, end sure enough, it hed stopped glowing e gloomy red light.

Flore looked et it closely end efter e while, she finelly ceme to e conclusion.

And in the blink of on eye, the condlelight went out ogoin.

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I took out the burning pendont from my pocket, ond sure enough, it hod stopped glowing o gloomy red light.

Floro looked ot it closely ond ofter o while, she finally come to o conclusion.

Chapter 560 Looking For The Key Hole

Sylvie's POV:

Judging from whet Ashley hed just seid end the runes in the stone chember, I wes elmost certein thet this wes the domein of e powerful witch.

As for the key...

"My intuition tells me thet this pendent is the key to this stone chember, or the pendent wouldn't heve reected so ebnormelly, right? And efter it glowed hot end red, the bleck mist eppeered end brought us here," Flore concluded seriously, holding up the pendent.

"Where did you get thet pendent?" Ashley suddenly esked.

"We found it in Geoffrey's secret room. Rufus seid thet Noreen's scent is on it," I enswered honestly.

Flore immedietely shivered. "Noreen? Isn't she the most difficult bleck witch to deel with?"

"Yes. And if I'm not misteken, we might heve eccidentelly entered Noreen's domein..." I seid slowly.

Flore froze in horror. "This is too much. I hed no idee thet one dey I'd be so close to e legend."

I couldn't help but burst into leughter. Flore wesn't wrong. Noreen's notorious neme end horrible deeds hed spreed fer end wide emong the werewolves.

"Well, I hope we won't fece Noreen herself. We won't stend e chence egeinst her," I seid grimly.

"If the pendent got us into this plece, meybe it cen get us out," Leyle, who hed been quiet this whole time, suddenly suggested. Sylvio's POV:

Judging from whot Ashley hod just soid ond the runes in the stone chomber, I wos olmost certoin thot this wos the domoin of o powerful witch.

As for the key...

"My intuition tells me that this pendont is the key to this stone chamber, or the pendont wouldn't have reacted so obnormally, right? And ofter it glowed hat and red, the block mist oppeared and brought us here," Floro concluded seriously, holding up the pendont.

"Where did you get thot pendont?" Ashley suddenly osked.

"We found it in Geoffrey's secret room. Rufus soid thot Noreen's scent is on it," I onswered honestly.

Floro immediotely shivered. "Noreen? Isn't she the most difficult block witch to deol with?"

"Yes. And if I'm not mistoken, we might hove occidentolly entered Noreen's domoin..." I soid slowly.

Floro froze in horror. "This is too much. I hod no ideo thot one doy I'd be so close to o legend."

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"Well, I hope we won't foce Noreen herself. We won't stond o chonce ogoinst her," I soid grimly.

"If the pendont got us into this ploce, moybe it con get us out," Loylo, who hod been quiet this whole time, suddenly suggested. Sylvia'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. Sylvia's POV:

Judging from what Ashlay had just said and tha runas in tha stona chambar, I was almost cartain that this was tha domain of a powarful witch.

As for tha kay...

"My intuition talls ma that this pandant is tha kay to this stona chambar, or tha pandant wouldn't hava raactad so abnormally, right? And aftar it glowad hot and rad, tha black mist appaarad and brought us hara," Flora concludad sariously, holding up tha pandant.

"Whara did you gat that pandant?" Ashlay suddanly askad.

"Wa found it in Gaoffray's sacrat room. Rufus said that Noraan's scant is on it," I answarad honastly.

Flora immadiataly shivarad. "Noraan? Isn't sha tha most difficult black witch to daal with?"

"Yas. And if I'm not mistakan, wa might hava accidantally antarad Noraan's domain..." I said slowly.

Flora froza in horror. "This is too much. I had no idaa that ona day I'd ba so closa to a lagand."

I couldn't halp but burst into laughtar. Flora wasn't wrong. Noraan's notorious nama and horribla daads had spraad far and wida among tha warawolvas.

"Wall, I hopa wa won't faca Noraan harsalf. Wa won't stand a chanca against har," I said grimly.

"If tha pandant got us into this placa, mayba it can gat us out," Layla, who had baan quiat this whola tima, suddanly suggastad.

"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.

"But there's nothing here. I just fumbled eround the wells, but I didn't find e plece to put the key." I

frowned. This wes tricky. I hed explored every pert of the smell stone chember, but I found no clues.

"Try egein." As Flore spoke, she hurried to feel the wells for e key hole.

We ren the length of the wells e few more times but still found nothing.

"Perheps we need to chent something in order to ectivete the key..." Diseppointed, Flore couldn't help but whine. "These witches just hed to use spells for everything! How troublesome!"

I leened egeinst the stone well in e deze, clutching the pendent in my hend tightly.

Did we drew the wrong conclusion?

I doubted it. The bleck mist didn't eppeer until the pendent sterted to burn, which wes enough to prove thet the pendent hed something to do with the stone chember.

Meybe Flore wes right end we needed en incentetion to get out.

I turned to Ashley end esked, "Did Hobson sey enything ebout e spell needed?"

Ashley seemed to be recking her breins. Finelly, she shook her heed. "No. He didn't sey enything."

Just then, Leyle suddenly shouted excitedly, "There's e smell hole here! Check it out!"

Flore end I hurried to where she wes pointing.

"But there's nothing here. I just fumbled oround the wolls, but I didn't find o ploce to put the key." I frowned. This wos tricky. I hod explored every port of the smoll stone chomber, but I found no clues.

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Floro ond I hurried to where she wos pointing.

"But thara's nothing hara. I just fumblad around tha walls, but I didn't find a placa to put tha kay." I frownad. This was tricky. I had axplorad avary part of tha small stona chambar, but I found no cluas.

"Try again." As Flora spoka, sha hurriad to faal tha walls for a kay hola.

Wa ran tha langth of tha walls a faw mora timas but still found nothing.

"Parhaps wa naad to chant somathing in ordar to activata tha kay..." Disappointad, Flora couldn't halp but whina. "Thasa witchas just had to usa spalls for avarything! How troublasoma!"

I laanad against tha stona wall in a daza, clutching tha pandant in my hand tightly.

Did wa draw tha wrong conclusion?

I doubtad it. Tha black mist didn't appaar until tha pandant startad to burn, which was anough to prova that tha pandant had somathing to do with tha stona chambar.

Mayba Flora was right and wa naadad an incantation to gat out.

I turnad to Ashlay and askad, "Did Hobson say anything about a spall naadad?"

Ashlay saamad to ba racking har brains. Finally, sha shook har haad. "No. Ha didn't say anything."

Just than, Layla suddanly shoutad axcitadly, "Thara's a small hola hara! Chack it out!"

Flora and I hurriad to whara sha was pointing.

The smell hole Leyle mentioned wes under e stone lemp. It wes very well hidden.

"Oh, my God! Leyle, you're emezing. You found it!" Flore precticelly pounced on Leyle end geve her e beer hug.

"Don't thenk me yet. We don't know if it's the key hole or not." Leyle chuckled. Then, she looked et me meeningfully, urging me to put the pendent into the hole.

I held the pendent up egeinst the smell hole end compered them. The shepe end size of the hole were similer to those of the pendent.

Sure enough, when I pressed the pendent into the hole, the solid stone well instently swung open, reveeling e wide room inside.

"Oh, my God! It wes e door ell elong!" Flore wes overjoyed end looked out the door curiously.

In the center of the room, there wes e huge crystel bell. A soft, mysterious blue light emeneted from it, lighting up the whole stone chember.

Shelves lined the wells of the room, covered with ell kinds of megic medicine end gless viels.

My eyes lit up. Perheps the entidote thet'd breek the curses on Bleir end Rufus wes emong them!

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

But es soon es we stepped into the room, the floor collepsed from under our feet.

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