

Love Burned She Rose Unscathed Novel

Love Burned Chapter 101 - 110

Chapter 101

Donning her sunglasses, Leda sipped her coconut water, mimicking Roseanne's relaxed posture, and leisurely curled up the corners of her mouth X

Roseanne crossed her long legs and casually flipped onto her side. "Weren't you off to a date?"

Leda made a face of distaste. "That blond guy was all muscles. I thought he'd be something special. Turned out to be all show and no go, not even as fun as my little boyfriend."8

Roseanne chuckled. "The one from last time... Keven, right?"

Leda shook her head. "Switched up already. This new pup is all sunshine, cute as a button, smells like heaven, and can cook! The meals are to die for!"

"And what about you?" Leda peered over her sunglasses teasingly. "Not planning to find someone new?"%

Hanging onto one person was just dull, huh? Dating around was where the fun was!!

Roseanne gazed at the ocean ahead. "Not considering it. No time, no energy, and no need."

"Fair enough" Leda smacked her lips. "Guys just mess with a nerd's study flow, dragging down exam scores,"

Stretching lazily, Leda looked around. "So, I spotted this cutie earlier. I'm gonna go talk to him. Have fun on your own. Bye!"

Roseanne raised her glass in a toast. "Have a blast"

"Got everything straightened out?" Murray stood before the floor-to-ceiling

goffice window, his sharp gaze landing on the assistant. "This better not be another mistake."

The assistant was nervous. "Sorry. Mr. Sherwood. The last time was s my oversight. We've got it clear now. Ms. Cole didn't head to Novano but to the Maldor Beach,"

Murray narrowed his eyes. "Are you sure?"

The assistant nodded. "Yeah. Here's the flight boarding information. Ms. Cole's name is on the

Murray didn't look closely, trusting there were no errors this time!

is on the passenger list"

The last error wasn't entirely the assistant's fault, after all. No one could have anticipated Corley would stoop so low, swapping Roseanne and another passenger's information, deliberately misleading his investigator with false intel

Murray announced, "Book me on the earliest flight "70

The assistant checked his phone, "Mr. Sherwood, the earliest flight is at seven tomorrow morning.

Murray instructed immediately, "Book that one."

The assistant bowed respectfully, "Alright. If there's nothing else, I'll head out."

Murray waved him off.

As the assistant left, he closed the door respectfully behind him.

"Maurice, you're sweating like hell. Did Mr. Sherwood give you a hard time?"

Maurice waved it off. "Let's not go there. Could you book Mr. Sherwood's f now.

"Sure, head off to your parent-teacher conference for Tommy, I've got this flight for 7 a.m. to Maldor Beach? I'm in a hurry. I must leave

Maurice chuckled. "You've been here for how long, like a few days? Don't jinx it. It's easy to end up eating your words."

"Trust me. Booking flights is something I can't mess up. You're underestimating me."

"Fine, just hurry up. I can't be late, or Tommy will never let me hear the end of it..."

The female assistant immediately took out her work phone to start the booking

Just as she was about to confirm, the screen showed she was about to book two tickets. Her first instinct was to call Maurice to clarify whether it was just Murray flying or if they should include another passenger, Millie, making it two tickets.

However, the call got cut off after just two rings.

Not daring to ask Murray and considering Maurice's urgent tone, she was in a dilemma but eventually booked two tickets!

The reasoning was solid. Murray heading to Maldor Beach couldn't possibly be for business. Assuming it was for leisure, he'd want to bring a girlfriend.

Yep, two tickets must be right

Chapter 102

Early morning, Murray was resting in the VIP lounge at the airport, mindlessly scrolling through his social media.

With half an hour left before his flight, time seemed to crawl at an agonizingly slow pace, wishing he could teleport onto the plane.

Suddenly, he froze, straightening up as something caught his eye. A post from Corley from the day before showed a beautiful beach scene with the perfect blend of blue skies, turquoise waters, and the golden hue of sunset!

The caption read, [The weather on Maldor Beach is nice, but the best part is meeting someone special.

Comment from A read, [Is Corley hunting for romance on his vacation?]

Corley's reply: [I'm not casting a wide net. I'm fishing with precision.]8

Comment from B: [Sounds like Mc Sullivan's caught something interesting?]

Corley's reply: [Grinning with teeth.]

As Murray scrolled further, his mood darkened. With too many mutual friends, the update had caused many speculative comments about Corley's love life.

That sneaky guy spread fake news while he sneaked off to Maldor Beach to meet Roseanne

Just then, an announcement reminded passengers headed to Maldor Beach to board, prompting Murray to grab his coat and head out the lounge.

As he opened the door, he bumped into Millie, who was about to enter. Their eyes locked, and her initial intention to push the door became a hug.³

Caught off guard, Murray got embraced tightly, standing frozen at the moment.

“Babe, you’re the best. I casually mentioned I’ve never been to the Maldor Beach, and you took it to heart.” She straightened up, waving her boarding pass. “I’ve heard about their amazing overwater bungalows, where you can fall asleep to the sound of the waves and wake up to the sunrise. Not to mention the stunning sandbars...”

Feeling a twitch in his brow, Murray muttered an excuse about visiting the restroom and quickly walked away.!!

In a secluded corner, he called his assistant, Maurice, with a frosty tone.

“Mr. Sherwood?” Maurice picked up the phone, wondering if Murray should be boarding at the hour.

Murray fumed, “Maurice, if you don’t want your job, say it’s

On the other end, panic set in. “Mr. Sherwood, what are you talking about?”

“If I recall correctly, I only asked you to book my flight, not go off booking double and handing it to Millie. If there’s a problem with your hearing, you should get it checked.”)

Maurice realized a newbie must have caused the mix-up. Yet, he didn’t try to excuse himself. Instead, he apologized, “I’m sorry, Mr. Sherwood. I failed to give clear instructions and didn’t double-check. It won’t happen again.”

Murray’s tone softened slightly. “Better so.

“Babe, why did you take so long? They’re about to close boarding,” Millie rushed up to him as he returned from the restroom.

Murray replied curtly. “Let’s go.”

Stuck in the situation, he decided to go with it

Millie chirped excitedly, “I can’t wait. It’s my first time going abroad...”

Thinking about Maldor Beach, she put on makeup and packed several sexy bikinis, hoping to rekindle something with Murray. Since a drunken night led to an unintended

intimacy, he hadn't touched her, ignoring all her hints. Perhaps the trip could change that.8.

Upon landing, they headed straight for the seaplane to the island.

Having only seen Maldor Beach through pictures and videos, Millie couldn't stop snapping photos on her phone.

Suddenly, she paused, realizing she and Murray had never taken a photo together. Knowing her roommates heard about the trip, she slyly turned her phone toward Murray,

Tired and having slept poorly the night before, Murray yawned as Millie aimed her camera at him. His expression darkened immediately. and he blocked the phone X

Chapter 103

Millie paused, "Babe, it's our first trip abroad together. Aren't we going to take a selfie?"

Murray replied indifferently, "I'm not into photos." After that, he closed his eyes to rest.

Millie bit her lower lip, feeling like a bucket of cold water spilled over her excitement.

The Maldor Beach welcomed them with its vast blue skies and seas. Immediately after they disembarked from the helicopter, a staff member greeted them.

After checking in, a bellhop took care of their luggage. Looking tired, Murray headed to the elevator, and suddenly, his gaze landed on Corley.B

Emerging from the elevator, Corley seemed to have embraced the local vacation vibe, donning a floral print button-down shirt paired with matching beach shorts. Maybe it was his buff build or good looks, but he somehow made that gaudy outfit look totally classy without even trying.

Corley spotted Murray immediately and strolled to him with a somewhat teasing smile, sunglasses hanging from one hand, exuding a carefree charm. "Hey, here for a getaway?"

Unamused, Murray replied, "Yeah, what a coincidence, huh?"

Corley smirked, "Maybe it's fate. But you're a bit slow. I got here a day earlier."

Murray's expression darkened at the mention, "Thanks to someone's misleading information, I got delayed. But your early arrival didn't quite pay off, huh?"

Corley remained silent at that jab.

“Do you think all your little schemes, even following her here like a lost puppy, will make her fall for you? I know her too well. You don’t stand a chance as long as I’m around.” Murray was confident in his assertion.

Given his relationship with Roseanne, Corley wouldn’t have a chance even if they broke up.

Corley’s eyes darkened, a sly smile forming as he glanced meaningfully at Millie. “Why not give it a try? People change, you know. Aren’t you the same?”

“Enjoy your holiday. Corley said, patting Murray’s shoulder, which Murray swiftly dodged. “I’ll manage my fun, Mr. Sullivan. But some people might not find theirs as enjoyable. With that, Murray strode into the elevator.

Millie hurried after him, gripping his hand tightly.

Did Corley’s words mean Roseanne was also there??

Dings

The elevator doors opened, and Murray pulled away, “I’ve got things to do. Enjoy yourself.”

Without looking back, he walked away.”

Roseanne examined the fox mask in her hand, admiring the intricate carvings and craftsmanship that brought its eyes to life!!!

“Where did this come from? It’s neat,” she asked, directing her gaze at Leda X

Roseanne tried it on. The mask covered only the upper half of her face, fitting surprisingly well with the lower half, not feeling out of place at all.

Leda said, “There’s a masquerade ball at the hotel tonight at eight. You gotta wear a mask to get in. I picked out this fox mask for you Cool, right?”

Leda glanced at Roseanne’s outfit, a red and white striped maxi dress with a pearl hairpin tucked behind her ear, the red pendant earrings swinging gently with her movements, adding a touch of allure. The mask’s playful fox motif perfectly complemented her look.

Chapter 104

Roseanne was surprised. “Masquerade ball?!”

Leda nodded and explained, "Yeah, it's a hotel tradition, held bi-annually, each with a different theme. Last time, it was a costume party, and before that was a Halloween haunted house. The theme's standard is well-received by most, so I expect a bustling crowd tonight."

With Christmas around the corner, the hotel was adorned with Christmas trees and fairy lights, immersing everyone in a festive mood.!!

Leda said, "When I walked in earlier, I noticed all the waiters were wearing masks. It's bound to be a blast!

She had chosen a fox mask for Roseanne and a lion for herself, the queen of the forest, in one word, "majestic!"

Roseanne teased, "Why didn't you pick a tiger mask for yourself?"

"Why would I choose a tiger?"

"Isn't a tigress even more majestic?"

Leda retorted, "You want a piece of me, huh?"

a. or we'll be e late!"8

Roseanne grabbed her mask and dashed off, putting it on as she ran, "Hurry up,

"Hey, stop right there! Who are you calling a tigress? You're the one 3

In the 23rd-floor ballroom, stepping out of the elevator, Roseanne could feel gazes from all directions. She wasn't fond of crowded places, but the mask on her face provided an instant sense of comfort.

Leda pulled her through the crowd toward the bar. "A martini for me. Anne, what'll you have?"

Roseanne replied, "A lemonade."

Leda's mouth twitched. "Care to repeat that?"

"Til have a lemon__"}

While interrupting Roseanne, Leda told the bartender, "Make a Bloody Mary for her!"

The bartender smiled slightly. "Coming right up."8

Roseanne smiled helplessly.

Unbeknownst to them, a pair of eyes in the shadows lingered on Roseanne, unwilling to look away.!!

Murray leaned against the wall at the ballroom entrance, occasionally glancing at his watch. His mask was a mythical opera ghost, with cracked black and gold pieces adorned with irregular musical notes, giving him an aura of cold elegance. Especially with his white shirt slightly unbuttoned below the Adam's apple, exuding a forbidden allure that made passersby turn heads.

After waiting for five minutes, Murray's patience was wearing thin. Millie tapped him on the shoulder from behind as he was about to leave. "Babe, I'm here!"

When he turned around, he saw Millie in a fluffy bunny mask, with those pointy ears and bunny makeup that totally matched her sweet and innocent look

"I got lost, so I'm two minutes late, sorry Millie playfully swayed their hands. "I heard today's lucky guest wins a mystery prize. With my luck, I'm sure to win.")

Any irritation in Murray's heart melted at her adorable demeanor. "Let's go. Aren't you eager for that prize draw?"

Meanwhile, as Leda set down her glass, she spotted a handsome guy passing by, fitting her taste perfectly.

Without waiting for Leda's cue, Roseanne gave her blessing. "Go for it, but take it easy. Don't go overboard."

Leda blew her a kiss. Then I'm off."

Roseanne sighed and looked around. The place was packed, and most had gone to lengths with their attire, enhancing the ceremonial feel of the ball. Amid the romantic ambiance and exotic music, the crowd began to warm up, moving gracefully to the rhythm.⁸

Roseanne headed to the dessert section, picked some sweets, and sat in a quiet corner. She munched on her treats while flipping through articles on her iPad."

Out of nowhere, a hand with standout knuckles popped up in front of her, followed by a deep, smooth voice saying. "My beautiful lady, may I have this dance with you?!"

Chapter 105

The man was in a sleek black suit, the sapphire blue cufflinks catching the light in a way that was impossible to ignore. His vintage Patek Philippe added a touch of timeless elegance, perfectly complementing his choice of disguise for the evening, a Phantom of the Opera mask.#

Roseanne locked eyes with him, and right away, she recognized the playful spark in his look that revealed his identity.

It was Corley!

Roseanne turned him down. "Sorry, I don't dance."

Yet, Corley was unyielding. "I've seen you practicing ballet behind the school auditorium."

Caught in her lie, Roseanne was speechless for a moment. She then remembered. He referred to her solo performance, which never happened during her senior year's prom night. After two months of relentless practice, an ankle injury had kept her off the stage. She had almost forgotten about it, but he knew.

Suddenly, the emcee said something, and the spotlight began scanning over the crowd.

The audience's screams grew louder with each passing second.

Caught off guard, the beam of light landed on them, enveloping them in a circle of illumination.

Corley's lips curled into a smirk. "It's tradition here that if a man and a woman are caught in the spotlight, they

ey have to dance. Would you

really let the crowd down?'

As he spoke, he bowed slightly and extended his hand for the invitation.

The crowd around them started chanting, "Say yes. Say yes!"

"Dance a tune. Dance a tune..."

With gritted teeth and no way out, Roseanne placed her hand in his. Corley immediately whisked her into the center of the dance floor.

As they moved together forward and backward, spinning and embracing, the tall, dashing Phantom of the Opera had caught a cunning yet endearing little fox in his arms. Their movements intertwined, their eyes locked, and Corley's smile was pure joy and satisfaction.

Roseanne could dance, and she was good at it. It was thanks to her mother, who believed her daughter should be well-rounded, encouraging her to explore dance, art,

music, and manners from a young age. She had groomed Roseanne to be polite, talented, and knowledgeable, never expecting her to excel academically even more.

Roseanne had entered every science and computer competition available, progressing from local to national levels, eventually selected for intensive training camps and winning awards at international Olympiads.

That year, Roseanne had stunned her school and the nation. Top universities offered her scholarships and spots without exams, promising study abroad opportunities, but Roseanne declined them all. She insisted on taking the SAT and aced it, earning her place at Kingswell University.

“What are you thinking about?” Corley’s voice brought her back to the present.

Roseanne answered lightly, “Just some memories.”

“Memories from college?” His gaze darkened with the mention of a time containing people he’d rather forget.

“No,” Roseanne shook her head.

Suddenly, Corley laughed, a deep, resonant sound emanating from his chest. With a swift movement, he spun Roseanne around in a quick twirl, eliciting another round of cheers from the crowd.

Although she had to follow his lead, Corley’s steps were considerate, not too big or exaggerated, as if he was mindful of her comfort. His hand on her waist was gentlemanly, offering only enough support without overstepping

“You look amazing tonight. That fox mask really suits you,” he said, a hint of amusement in his voice.

Roseanne raised an eyebrow. “What a coincidence. You’re on vacation, too?”

Corley smiled. “Of course.”

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Chapter 107

Seeing Murray and Roseanne part on bad terms, Corley raised an eyebrow with a smirk. It seemed like someone’s tricks weren’t working anymore!

Despite the current fallout, Murray and Corley were real deal buddies in the past.

Murray tried to win her over with gifts, presents, humble gestures, and sweet nothings. Unfortunately, Roseanne wasn’t falling for it

anymore.

“Mr. Sullivan, enjoying the show?” Millie suddenly spoke innocently, her expression pure.

Corley smiled, “Of course.”

Millie asked again, “Is it because Murray got the cold shoulder from Roseanne?”

Corley raised an eyebrow, acknowledging her for the first time. “Isn’t that what you wanted to see?”

Millie openly admitted, “Yeah, I want to be with Murray forever.”

“Well then, I wish you... a lifetime of happiness?” With that, Corley let go of her, stepping back.

Millie smiled and nodded. “Thank you, Mr. Sullivan. And I hope you win your lady’s heart, too.

Tsk! Corley turned away. He gave Murray a sympathetic glance, thinking he had attracted a gentle soul, but ended up stirring up a hornet’s nest, the kind with stingers and venom.

As the two men passed by each other, Murray suddenly spoke “Stay away from Anne

Corley stopped in his tracks, his eyes narrowing. “I could say the same to you. You have no right.”

“At least I had my chance with her legitimately. What are you?” Murray stared him down, his eyes somewhat gratified. “If it weren’t for me, you and Roseanne wouldn’t have crossed paths. She wouldn’t give you a second glance.”³

Corley snorted. “Before you say that don’t forget you and I are now on equal footing. An ex and a suitor, we’re both strangers to her.”

Murray watched Corley coldly, but Corley lost interest in continuing the conversation and left through another exit

Back in her room, Roseanne took off her mask and showered. With her hair down, she stepped onto the second-floor balcony, the night air carrying the slightly damp saltiness of the sea. The waves rose and fell, their dull sound magically calming.²

Leaning on the railing, she gazed at the glistening sea surface, where lights strung together in a line, appearing from afar like stars suddenly dotting the earth. The night was beautiful, soothing her mood.

Next door, Corley also stepped onto his balcony and saw Roseanne sitting under the light, quietly looking into the distance. Softened by the gentle light, her perfect profile made him pause for several seconds before he regained his composure.

Feeling his gaze, Roseanne turned to look

Corley was the first to speak, "Here, your earring."

He opened his hand, revealing a delicate earring resting on his palm.

Roseanne instinctively touched her ear, remembering she had noticed an earring missing after taking off her makeup. She hadn't realized she lost it at the party. She thanked him and took the one earring she lost

But Corley lingered a bit longer. "I've traveled far and wide, but only Maldor Beach brings me peace and a gentle feeling, like the sea—wide and welcoming."

Looking out at the sea, he suddenly felt inspired.

Roseanne agreed. Before coming, she was anxious and stressed, with the pressure of her thesis and Murray's occasional outbursts wearing her down. After arriving in Maldor Beach, her mood miraculously calmed, and she truly enjoyed her vacation.

Feeling her gaze, Corley spoke softly. "Do you have something you want to say to me?"

Roseanne looked at him with a complex expression. "Can we talk? Could you stop pursuing me? It's a waste of time chasing something you know is unattainable. 2

Chapter 108

Corley smiled. "I'm chasing what I want. Don't worry about it. How will I know the outcome if I don't try?"

Roseanne said with concern, "Even if it ends in disappointment?"

His gaze deepened. "Then I'll accept it."

She hadn't expected him to be so stubborn and fell silent.

Noticing her mood, Corley didn't push the conversation further but quietly listened to the waves with her. It wasn't until well past midnight that he finally left.

Roseanne thought about his silent defiance and determination. In truth, Corley was a man who knew his limits and boundaries. His pursuit was neither aggressive nor

reckless, always mindful not to trouble her, unlike Murray, who used to chase her relentlessly and would fly off the handle at the drop of a hat.

Roseanne sighed, knowing there was little she could do to stop others' actions.

"Just focus on doing you," she told herself.

As she headed back inside, she caught sight of a shadow standing silently in the dark, almost like a ghost."

She nearly screamed in fright. The shadow entered the light, and Roseanne finally saw it was Murray.

"Murray, what the hell are you doing?" she exclaimed.

Standing there in the middle of the night without a word was indeed terrifying.

Roseanne had ducked out of the party early, and suddenly, the night lost its sparkle for Murray. He followed her outside but couldn't spot her anywhere.

However, Millie stuck to him like glue, complaining of hunger and wanting to eat. Murray's patience ran thin, utterly frustrated. He eventually flagged down a waiter to take Millie to the dining area.

Due to the hotel's strict privacy measures, Murray had made some effort to get Roseanne's room number. Eager, he found her and Corley standing side by side on the balcony, looking out at the sea

Her white bohemian backless dress fluttered in the sea breeze, her expression calm, her hair cascading down her shoulders, a solitary figure in the night. The man stood tall, broad-shouldered and lean. Together, they looked like a scene from a painting.

Murray froze in place. It wasn't until Corley left that Roseanne noticed him.

Murray still wore the mask from the party, his eyes carrying a faint, dark glint. He stepped forward, causing Roseanne's brow to furrow!

Roseanne asked coldly, "Why are you here? I've said all there is to say, you..

Before she could finish, her wrist got seized with a forceful grip.

"Why can he and not I?" Murray demanded, eyes blazing.

Roseanne struggled, then met his gaze head-on. "What madness are you on about now?"

"I saw Corley here just now," Murray said. "Do you even know what kind of man he is?"

His breath was close, and Roseanne stepped back. "What are you trying to say?!"

Roseanne's withdrawal only fueled his anger, his tone growing harsher, "Do you think he's into you? Playboy who fucks around. Don't let him fool you."

you? He's nothing but a cunning fox, a

words but deep

lly from

a young age, Corley rarely expressed his likes or dislikes. He was a man of few w

Groomed as the heir to his family thoughts.

Even as his buddy, Murray sometimes couldn't fathom what was going through Corley's mind. The sudden hostility made him doubt Corley's intentions, suspecting he might be using Roseanne for some ulterior motive.

Roseanne couldn't understand and lost interest in deciphering their motives and stated, "Whatever his intentions, they have nothing to do with me."

Chapter 109

Upon hearing that, Murray's expression softened slightly, but then it hardened again as she continued, "You mean nothing to me."

"It's getting late. If you're going to keep acting crazy, I'll have to call the butler to send security over"

Murray tried to say, "Anne..."

"I'm counting to three. Three, two... Roseanne pulled out her phone and was already on the dial screen. All she had to button, and the butler would appear instantly.

Frustrated but helpless, Murray left with a huff, "I'll come back for you tomorrow."

With that, he stormed off.

Millie quietly observed the scene from a nearby restaurant patio, her expression and eyes hidden in the darkness.

Dawn was breaking when Leda returned the following day.

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press a

Roseanne poured herself a glass of milk and grabbed a slice of toast, barely taking a few bites before she heard the lock disengaging.²

Leda had changed into a new dress and was humming a tune cheerfully.

Seeing the sandwich on the table, Leda grabbed a piece, savoring the perfectly toasted, soft, and crispy bread before reaching for a second slice.¹

Sitting across from her Roseanne watched her glow with contentment and smiled. “Looks like you had a great night yesterday.”

“Yep. I haven’t met such a handsome catch in ages. Leda’s face held nostalgia and pleasure at the memory, “Broad shoulders, six-pack abs, a real prime specimen.”

The young man was from the Usrota, with undeniable good looks. And with the fitness culture there, Leda was sure the abs she felt the previous night were real.

It had been a long time since she found such a compatible partner in bed, especially when she woke up in the morning to find him still there, his tanned skin marked with her red kisses. Those puppy-dog eyes almost made her lose control again.”

Luckily, she remembered her appointment with the diving instructor and didn’t want to cancel at the last minute, so she hurried back.

“Didn’t I tell you the day before? I booked a diving instructor. We can head out around ten.””

The waters of Maldor Beach are famously clear and blue, with designated deep-diving areas where you can swim among fish and coral reefs at depths of about a hundred meters, a must-try activity on the island.

Roseanne had heard about it. Though intimidated by the pressure and the possible claustrophobia underwater, her curiosity and love for the ocean won out, but she agreed to go with Leda :

his!

The instructor she booked was well-regarded locally and known for his humor and patience. When he saw his clients were two beautiful ladies, he went out of his way to be thorough and attentive.

Before diving, he methodically told the dos and don'ts, including underwater hand signals and how to use the gear. Besides, there was some basic training before getting into the water.}

Leda had dived a few times before and was already familiar with the routine. It was a whole new experience for Roseanne, so she listened more attentively.”

The instructor tapped her arm when she made a mistake with the hand signals. “Hey, you’re too tense. Relax. Diving will show you a different side of the ocean’s allure. Just imagine. The underwater world is vibrant and colorful, where you can quietly feel the presence of the sea. It’s a beautiful thing.”

Chapter 110

Roseanne tilted her head, trying to paint a picture with her barren imagination. However, she felt a noticeable drop in her anxiety levels

fter hearing her instructor’s words.

By the afternoon, when the sun was high and the air felt a tad warmer, it was time to hit the water

Diving suits came in two styles, including the two-piece and one-piece, and one could pick whatever suited his fancy. Ever the fashionista, Loda went for a stylish two-piece, while Roseanne opted for a slightly more modest one-piece.

Even so, when they stepped out of the changing room, they caught quite a few admiring glances, and someone whistled in their direction.

Before they jumped in, the instructor suggested they get acclimated to the water’s temperature first.

“Once you’re in, try not to tense up too much. I’ll guide you to the diving area myself,” he said. “Our rescue team is nearby. If anything happens, signal for help, and they’ll be there in a heartbeat.”

“Okay,” Roseanne said, her eyes sparkling with anticipation.”

“Okay, ladies, welcome to the underwater realm. I hope you have the time of your lives,” the instructor said with a smile that was infectious enough to make Roseanne smile back.

But when it was time to get in the water, Roseanne’s nerves inevitably crept back up.

Leda gave her hand a reassuring squeeze, thumbing toward herself as if to say, “With me by your side, there’s nothing to worry about.“!

Roseanne steadied her heart and watched Leda leap fearlessly into the water. Taking a deep breath, she followed suit. As she sank deeper, the light began to blur, and her body felt significantly heavier than it did on land.

Leda was sinking faster, and the pressure from the water flow almost made her lose sight of her friend.

Just then, the instructor gestured that they had descended about fifty meters.

Roseanne exhaled slowly, starting to immerse herself in the surrounding world. Fish swam by, darting past her on both sides. A translucent jellyfish floated before her eyes, pulsating open and closing like a tiny umbrella repeatedly unfurled and folded.

She played with the water, causing the jellyfish to contract into a ball no bigger than a fist before it vanished from sight. She chuckled to herself, her nervousness evaporating as she examined her surroundings.

Swimming joyfully, Leda turned back and saw Roseanne pausing to watch the fish, her eyes lit with curiosity. She tried to grasp something but only watched the fish slip through her fingers.

With a raised eyebrow, Leda swam over and took her hand, leading her in a new direction.!

Soon, Roseanne saw a vibrant, dazzling coral reef emerge from the murky waters, looking like a little mountain in the d

The reef, made of rocks and corals in every color imaginable, seemed endless.

deep blue.

And the tropical fish, whose names she didn't know, zipped through the waters like they were in paradise...

The breathtaking scenery felt like entering another world, and she realized how beautiful the underwater world the instructor spoke of could be.

Following a school of fish through a circular hole in the coral, she chased after a starfish when a massive shadow suddenly obscured the light above.!!

Roseanne looked up to see a shark looming directly overhead. She gasped.

The diving area had safe and dangerous zones, and before diving, the instructor had assured them their area was completely safe, free from any large predators.}

Panicking, she turned around but couldn't spot Leda or the instructor anywhere.!!

With the shark about to spot her and no way out, she knew she would become its next meal if she didn't act fast.