

I Love You, Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard)

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Instead of pushing him away like she usually did, Bonnie welcomed his kiss. Both of them kissed intensely as if they were trying to absorb each other into their own beings.

They remained kissing for more than ten seconds before she pushed him away.

She regulated her breathing and said in a husky voice, "Go on. Don't make Floyd wait for you too long." Staring at her red, swollen lips, Ivor gave her another passionate kiss before pushing her away. Rubbing her cheeks longingly, he said, "I'm leaving for real now. I want you to miss me when I'm gone." She found that amusing, "Alright. What makes you think I won't?"

"Well..." He couldn't help but grumble, "The moment you get started on your research, you'll forget about eating and sleeping. Sometimes, you'd even forget about drinking, let alone miss me."

She promised him with a smile. "I guarantee that I'll miss you this time. Alright?"

He nodded, satisfied. "That's more like it."

"Alright. That's enough. Stop being lovey-dovey here. Hurry up and go. Floyd's waiting for you outside." She gave him a gentle shove.

"Remember, you have to miss me while I'm gone! Also, I don't care how busy it gets in the research institute, you have to eat your meals in a timely manner!"

He was so concerned that she couldn't take good care of herself that he couldn't stop himself from nagging at her.

"Alright. I said I got it. You're prattling on like a grandpa. I'm an adult, for crying out loud. Do you honestly think I can't look after myself?" She might've sounded impatient, but there was a hint of joy in her tone.

Clearly, she was delighted by the way he was worried about her.

Patting her soft, flowing hair gently, the longing in his expression told her just how reluctant he was to leave. She also saw the deep love he had for her in his eyes.

In the end, she couldn't bear to leave him like this. So, she rose and pecked his lips.

"Feeling better? You really have to leave now, Ivor."

Now that he got her kiss, his eyes were brimming with joy.

"Alright. I guess I have to." With that, he rubbed her hair again before he rose and left the bedroom.

She watched as he left.

Pulling out her phone, she texted Collin, "We're taking a flight to Yale tonight."

Before long, Collin gave her a call and asked, "Didn't you say you needed to make some arrangements, chief? Are you done with it already?"

Yawning, she said, "Ivor went on a work trip to mop up the rest of his work there. So, let's go to Yale earlier than planned. We'll try to capture Falcon and retrieve the chip before Ivor comes back to Pyralis."

"He's going overseas as well? What are the odds?" He frowned. "Something feels off about the timing. Do you think he's also a part of the Falcon hunt, chief?"

That reminded her about the fleeting, but familiar feeling she had when she was talking with the leader of

the Dark Knights. However, she thought about how honest Ivor had been with her and dismissed the suspicion.

"He went away on an urgent work trip. His location is on the other side of the earth from Yale. There's no way he'd hide from me if he's traveling to Yale!

"Moreover, he told me every single detail in his life. So, what makes you think he won't tell me about it if he's going somewhere that far?"

"Now that you put it that way, I guess you have a point," he said.

Colin thought, 'However, I just can't shake the feeling that something's off. But if Bonnie couldn't sense it, then I'm not going to comment much on it.'

"The last thing I want is for me to speak out of place and compromise their relationship.'

"Alright. That's enough. Hurry up and make the preparations. We have a plane to catch tonight." She rose from her bed and went to the restroom to freshen herself up.

'Actually, I don't have to act so hastily, but the fact remains that I have no idea when Ivor is going to wrap up his work on his project. That's why every minute counts.'

'I don't want to be caught in the middle when he finished his work while I'm still busy hunting down Falcon at Yale. That'd be a huge mess.'

On the other hand, Collin knew that they were racing against time. So, he dropped the matter. "Roger, chief. I'm going to make the arrangements right away."

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About eight hours later, Bonnie's private plane touched down at the Yale international airport.

The moment they arrived at the hotel, one of her men sent word that the leader of the Dark Knights had arrived.

She couldn't help but raise her delicate eyebrows.

"I've barely arrived at Yale. How is it that he learned about it so quickly? Did he send someone to stalk me?"

"I don't think that's what he did, but I wouldn't be surprised if he sent someone to keep an eye on your movements." Collin responded, "I've also gotten news that he had just touched down at Yale."

At the next moment, a strange feeling rose within his chest again.

'I just can't shake the feeling that the leader of the Dark Knights is somewhat similar to Ivor Knight. But that's just my speculation. I'm not about to say anything until I have a rock-solid proof for my claim.'

"Oh?" She raised her eyebrow. "What are the odds?"

Leaning back on the couch, she waved at the man who brought this news to her. "Let him in."

"Copy that." Her man exited the room swiftly before leading Ivor in here.

"I've just touched down at the airport, and yet you're already here in my hotel room. You've been keeping tabs on things, I see."

His lips curled into a grin when he noticed her inquisitive tone. However, there was no joy in his eyes. "After all, the Nidhogg is one of the major international organizations, and you're its leader. It's only normal that everyone has their eyes on you wherever you go."

It was hard to tell if he was trying to compliment her or make fun of her.

She adopted a profound, meaningful expression and said, "If that's the case, then you should do your job as the leader of the Dark Knights and welcome me with a red carpet. Otherwise, how will you honor my identity as a leader of one of the major international organizations? Wouldn't you say?"

'Geez. He's quick. I'm quite surprised that he could dish out a sarcastic remark back at me so quickly.'

Ivor smiled and sat across from Bonnie.

"I'm more than happy to do it if that's what you want."

"It's not about what I want. You're the one who offered to do it. Don't you think I would've squandered your good intentions if I turned you down?" Her lips curled into a grin, the slight sarcasm in her tone was

unmistakable.

Raising his eyebrow, he chuckled a couple of times.

"You just won't let up, will you? It doesn't matter what anyone says, you just have to argue and shut your opponent up. How am I supposed to make friends with you if you're going to keep this up?"

'Truth be told, I saw a little bit of Bonnie in the leader of the Nidhogs. She was just the same when I first knew her. She had such a sharp tongue.

'I'm not put off or anything. As a matter of fact, I find that people who speak like this tend to have a strong character.'

She glanced at him nonchalantly. "My friends don't usually come at me with sarcasm."

A hint of helplessness flashed in his eyes. "I'm sorry. If what I said made you feel uncomfortable, then I hope you'll forgive me."

'If this had been another person, then I wouldn't have give a damn about how he feels. However, I need his help. So, it's better for me to apologize.

'It doesn't have to be anything too solemn, either. What matters is that he gets my meaning.'

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'With that said, he can forget it if he wants a formal, sincere apology from me. After all, Bonnie is the only one I've met who could make me concede,' Ivor thought to himself.

Bonnie smiled in response, but it wasn't genuine at all. "It's okay. I was just making a joke.

Seizing the opportunity, he changed the topic and said, "I trust that you received news about Falcon being in District Nine. What are you going to do next?"

'The moment I received news about Falcon, I wanted to contact him and discuss our next move. But, I've been busy working and keeping Bonnie company. So, I didn't have the time to do it.

Bonnie grew stern the moment he brought up Falcon.

"My guys have narrowed down the places that he'd go to. So, let's observe him for the time being and wait until we can further narrow it down. That's when we'll take action."

He frowned. "Are we still going to sit on our thumbs? I'm running a huge risk if you do that."

"The Nidhogg's chip has a fourth password, so it's safe. However, Falcon could spend the 1.6 billion dollars on my bank card.

'He's moving too slowly. It's not going to keep my money safe.'

She took a sip of the tea and put the cup down leisurely. "Do you expect me to believe that you didn't take any precautionary measures on your bank card? Didn't you put some sort of spending limit on it? Wouldn't you get any notifications if he spent a certain amount of money with it?"

He stared at her in shock. "How did you know about it?"

"Does this mean you did put a spending limit on it? If that's the case, what are you getting your panties in a bunch for? Why can't you just wait for me to set the whole thing up?"

'I know he's deliberately pushing me into taking action, but we can't just rush into it. After all, we can't even pinpoint Falcon's location. If we act recklessly, it's just going to backfire on us.'

On the other hand, Ivor didn't expect her to get him to spill the facts about his bank card just because he said something.

Taking a sip of tea, he calmed down and said, "It's true. I put a spending limit on the bank card, but my money is as good as gone if he found a way to transfer it to another bank account. That's why I'd appreciate it if you could move faster."

"If what you said is true, then the fourth password I've embedded in the chip is also useless. He could just find a way to crack it, too. Should he extract and use the key content in it, then I'm going to suffer bigger losses than you do."

Bonnie took a moment to relax before continuing, "I didn't mean anything by that. What I'm trying to tell you is that I'll make the arrangements before everything's too late. So, calm down."

Now that she put it this way, there was no reason for him to work himself up.

"Okay. Go ahead and do what you must. I want you to send word to me as soon as you're done making the arrangements."

She nodded and responded, "Sure."

Standing, he turned his head sideways and looked at Floyd. "Let's move."

"Copy that," Floyd responded and followed Ivor.

He didn't say anything until they were both outside. He asked, confused, "We've set spending limits on that bank card, Mr. Ivor. Falcon probably couldn't spend everything for the time being. So, why are you pushing for the leader of the Nidhogs to act so quickly?"

Ivor looked into the distance. His voice was laden with distress when he spoke.

"That's because I learned something earlier today. Leaving Bonnie's side was agony for me, especially when we were only reunited for a short while before having to part ways again. It is particularly tormenting for me.

"I've just left her for a short few hours, but I can't wait to hop on the plane and reunite with her again..." Floyd fell silent and asked gingerly after a few moments. "So, you're not actually worried about Falcon transferring the money from the bank card.

"Instead, you pushed the leader of the Nidhogs into action because you missed Ms. Bonnie and wanted to get back to her side as soon as possible. Is that right?"

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Ivor raised his eyebrow, turned around, and glanced at Floyd.

"Why else? The 1.6 billion is important, but nothing is as important to me as my wife is, not even money,"

Floyd's lips twitched in response. "I'm getting a sharp feeling that you're completely blinded by love, Mr. Ivor."

'Come to think of it, Ivor used to be like this, too. It's just that he still cared enough to mask it and make it less obvious. Now that he's married to Bonnie, he no longer cares about it and lets it show.'

"Blinded by love? What do you mean?" Ivor looked confused.

He had probably never heard about this phrase.

"It means all you care about is your romantic partner and your relationship with her. You care about it so much that you'd risk everything because you've lost your good sense."

Actually, Floyd gave him a rather reserved explanation.

Although Ivor wasn't as bad as what he had described, the former was getting dangerously close to it.

On the other hand, Ivor openly admitted it.

"I think you're onto something. After all, I am willing to give up everything for Bonnie, even if it means losing my good sense,"

Floyd's lips twitched aggressively in response.

'Actually, Ivor and Bonnie loved each other deeply. Both of them worked on the relationship very hard, too. Moreover, she's very reliable, kindhearted, and incredible. So, I guess it's fine that he's blinded by love.'

Realizing that Floyd didn't intend to continue the topic, Ivor started walking outside.

"Let's go back. I have to figure out a way to spur the Nidhogs into action. They're not going to do anything except wait if we leave it to them."

"Got it, Mr. Ivor," Floyd responded and followed his master immediately.

Back in Bonnie's hotel room, she touched her searing ears and frowned. "Is anyone missing me or cursing me?"

Collin was confused. He asked, "What makes you say that, Bonnie?"

"It feels like my ears are burning. Someone might be missing me or cursing me." She rubbed her ears, trying to soothe them. However, nothing she did could bring down the temperature in them.

All of a sudden, he smacked his thigh and said, "I-I got it!"

He spoke so loudly that she turned to look at him. The disdain in her expression was unmistakable.

"What do you mean?"

"You said it feels like your ears are burning. Isn't that because Ivor misses you and keeps wondering about you? What else could it be?" Collin voiced his thoughts.

At first, she was stunned. Then, she came to her senses, and her lips curled into a grin.

"I think you're right. He misses me."

"What do you mean? He surely misses you." Collin gave her a playful look. "I think I don't need to have dinner tonight. I've lost my appetite, looking at the two of you."

She rolled her eyes at him, exasperated. "Do you have to be this dramatic?"

"Do you want to look in the mirror and see for yourself how your lips are constantly curling up?" He shook his head as if he couldn't look at her anymore.

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"Trust me when I say I'm being pretty conservative when I comment on you and Ivor. You guys are so corny, even if you're this far away from each other. I can't imagine how inhumane it will be for us single fellows when you guys are standing next to each other."

Bonnie scoffed in response. "If you find it so inhumane, you could always find yourself a girlfriend and give us a taste of our own medicine."

Collin shook his head vigorously. "Forget it. The wise never commits himself to a relationship. I think I'd rather stay away from any romantic partner."

She couldn't help but raise her eyebrows. "Is that a swipe at me? Are you insinuating that I became a fool as soon as I fell in love with Ivor?"

"Not at all. When have I said anything like that?" He met her sarcastic gaze and explained hastily,

"What I'm trying to say is that only highly intelligent people like you and Ivor have the right to be in a romantic relationship. It's a hard pass for me, though.

"I'm not smart, to begin with. Committing myself to a relationship is just going to take away my mental energy and dumb me down so much that I can't execute my missions."

He was so over the top that it made her laugh.

"Fine. I'm not going to argue anymore. Go on and keep an eye on District Nine. I want you to let me know as soon as you have news about Falcon. I'm going to go over myself."

Collin's expression grew stern at the mention of Falcon.

"Alright, chief. I'm on it."

Waving her hand, she said, "Okay. Do it now. Meanwhile, I'm going to grab some shut-eye."

In the blink of an eye, it was evening.

Bonnie was having dinner at the restaurant when Collin came in and ate with her. He was also here with some big news.

"From what I've gathered, the leader of the organizations in District Nine is going to have some kind of party in the underground market. Falcon is such an important figure to them. It stands to reason that they'd bring him along to have some fun."

He paused a little before continuing, "It just so happens that we have connections to the underground market. Should I get our names on the list so we could sneak in and have fun ourselves?"

"That would be great. Otherwise, it'll be harder for us to sneak into the party. Can you imagine how troublesome it would be? Just use your connection if you have it. There's no need to hold anything back."

'I'm going to seize this opportunity and get a picture of how things work in the District Nine organization. It'll help me when I'm trying to capture Falcon,' she thought.

"Alrighty," he responded, "I'm going to get it done as soon as I'm done having dinner,"

She watched as he gobbled the food and couldn't help but shake her head.

"Do you think you can change the way you eat? I'm not even sure you chewed your food before you swallowed it. People are going to assume that I didn't feed you well if they didn't know any better."

'Actually, this habit of his dates back to before he joined my organization. He's had to worry about every meal ever since his parents abandoned him.

'I was trying to complete my training at the foot of the mountain when I discovered his talents. Then, I brought him back to the mountain and let him train with Master Cary.

'However, he was so used to worrying about every meal that it became a habit. He was subconsciously afraid of not having anything to eat.

'He might've been living a comfortable life now, but old habits die hard. He just can't seem to shake it off.

"Truth be told, it breaks my heart to see him like this. I said what I said because I want him to move on from the painful memories.'

Meanwhile, Collin heard what she said and paused a little. Then, he touched his lips and said to her in a smile, "Alright, chief. I'll do my best and work on my bad habits."

He was laughing in such a carefree manner that she felt a pang of guilt.

"It's fine. You don't have to change it. Just do whatever makes you feel good. With that said, you can only eat like this in front of me and the people of our organization. You'll have to watch your table manners when you're eating with someone else. Alright?"

He knew what she was doing and felt a warm, fuzzy feeling rising in his chest.

"You got it, chief. You guys are my family. Of course, I'm going to do whatever makes me feel good. I'll watch how I carry myself in front of outsiders, though."

She felt heartbroken and relieved at the same time. "Very well. Hurry up and eat. Once you're done, you'll get our names on that list."

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Later, Bonnie and Collin arrived at District Nine's underground market.

The moment she stepped foot in it, she was taken aback by the extravagant scene before her.

The place that the local organizations designated for the party was decorated entirely in precious gemstones. There were also all sorts of liquors on the table, such as tequila, brandy, wine, and more.

Not only were these stuff priceless, but they also signify the kind of power and influence the people here wielded.

Obviously, the people in this party came from some of the most prestigious organizations in District Nine.

Collin realized she was scanning the area and couldn't help but approach her.

He whispered, "How is it, chief? Did you find out anything?"

Bonnie yawned in response. "Nothing so far, but I can be sure about one thing."

"What is it?" He asked.

"There's something about this party. We just might run into Falcon here."

He lifted his chin proudly. "What did I say? I told you this party is where we need to be."

She shook her head helplessly. "You love showing off when you do something mildly successful. If only you could change this habit of yours."

Chuckling, he said, "Can't you tell it's because I want to show you how good I am?"

"Alright. Stop talking. Something's going on ahead." Narrowing her eyes, she raised her eyes and stared.

Realizing that her expression grew solemn, he couldn't help but adopt a stern expression as well. Then, he followed her gaze and saw it.

It was pitch black on the stage, except for a single spotlight illuminating the host, who was holding a microphone.

Collin couldn't help but frown at what he saw.

"What are they doing? Why does it look like they're trying to do something grand? I don't get it at all."

"I have no idea, either. Let's just wait and see." Rubbing her chin gently, she stared at the stage with unblinking eyes, contemplating.

'Usually, the hosts of this kind of party would intoxicate and excite their guests with cigarettes, liquors, and exquisite ladies.

'There are abundant of the first two items. The only thing that's left is exquisite ladies, which is something they might show on the stage now.'

She was still in the middle of her thoughts when the host on the stage started speaking, snapping her out of her trance.

Then, the host was still introducing something when his men rolled a cage from the side of the stage. With that said, a black cloth was draped over it. Top that off with the dim lighting on the stage, it was hard for anyone to see what was in there.

Collin saw it and leaned in close to Bonnie again.

"What do you think is in the cage, chief? Could it be something that's largely at odds with the laws of

Arvador?"

"I'm not sure."

'In the past, I did join in on many parties such as this to complete my mission. However, this is the first time I've seen something like this. I can't possibly pass judgment on something I don't even know.' "What on earth are they doing? It's so mysterious. They're keeping us on the hook on purpose." He said.

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"Be patient and see what happens next. There's no need to be hasty." Bonnie patted Collin's shoulder, trying to comfort him.

She looked so calm and nonchalant that he couldn't help but ask, "Aren't you just a little curious about what they are doing, chief?"

"As a matter of fact, I am. However, we'll see it if we meant to see it. Acting hasty isn't going to help," she said leisurely.

Then, she heard yelling and whistling all around her. It was as if everyone saw something that piqued their interest and grew excited about it.

She turned her head and looked at the stage immediately. What she saw made her brows furrow.

As expected, there was a skimpily dressed lady locked in the cage. Her curvaceous figure was barely visible underneath her gauze outfit, making her look exceptionally seductive.

However, she wore a mask, which meant no one knew how she looked.

At that moment, Bonnie heard Collin's voice. "It's no wonder they're this excited. It turns out they locked up a lady this exquisite in the cage. With that said, don't you think it's a little insulting to be treating a human being like a caged animal? Is it possible that she's forced to do this?"

"You have better stop thinking about this now, Collin. Both of us are treading in dangerous waters here. If we poke our noses where they don't belong and expose our real identity, we're both done for."

She knew clearly that he was very impulsive and got worried that he might actually do something without thinking. So, she had to remind him about it.

Meanwhile, he nodded. He understood what she was concerned about. So, his tone grew more solemn when she responded,

"I'm aware of that, chief. I'm just thinking out loud. Don't worry about me, I'm not going to do anything rash."

That made her feel better. "Okay. If we found out that she's actually forced to do this, or she came from a poor family, then I'll see what I can do for her. I want you to stay clear of this."

"No, can't do, chief. We walked into the belly of the beast together. That means we're walking out of here together. You might be worried that I'll act alone, but the feeling is mutual!" He said hastily, worried that she might deal with it by herself.

'I'm a tough man. It doesn't matter what happens to me. On the other hand, things are very different for Bonnie! What am I going to tell my friends in the organization if something happens to her? Or, worse. What if she's hurt?'

He sounded so nervous and concerned that it filled her with warmth.

"Alright. Don't worry about me, Collin. I won't act alone. I've been executing missions for years now. When have I put myself in dangerous situations?"

That made him feel immensely better. "Great."

Both of them were still chatting when the host started talking the audience up.

"Are you seeing this, guys? Mr. Micah prepared this pet for everyone just for tonight. She boasts a curvaceous figure and has silky skin as well as killer legs. I believe I don't have to tell you how good it's going to feel when you have your way with her on the bed.

"Just look at her figure and use your imagination, guys."

Collin frowned immediately when he heard the host addressing the lady that way, finding it insulting. "These people have no idea how to respect someone. How could he keep calling her a pet? How is that an appropriate way to address anyone?"

He was so righteous and furious that he spoke too loudly and drew unwanted attention to himself. Bonnie frowned and swept her eyes across her surroundings in an imposing way.

Everyone around her was so intimidated by her that they thought they couldn't afford to offend her. Then, they tore their gazes away and diverted their attention back to the exquisite lady in the cage.

Only then did she tone down a little. Turning her head sideways, she looked at Collin and reprimanded him,

"I told you, mind your tongue at a place like this! You might not be able to bear with what you see here. Well, tough! You're going to suck it up and deal with it!

"Otherwise, you're going to put yourself in danger because of your carelessness someday. You won't even have a chance to cry about it then!"

Collin heard what she said and felt as if he was transported to the past when Bonnie had just taken him in. She was this stern back then, too.

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'I have to say, I did become sloppier. What Bonnie said was a wake-up call for me.'

"Understood, chief! I won't make the same mistake again. I'll run things in my head before I speak or do anything."

Turning around, Bonnie stared at him solemnly. "Good. I said what I said because I wanted to teach you a lesson. I hope you understand that we're putting our lives on the line when we're executing the missions.

"It takes one slip, and you might just end up dead. You have to be more careful."

He nodded furiously, "Alright, chief. Loud and clear."

Cliff seemed to actually understand what she said, so she decided she could drop the matter and turn her attention to the stage again.

Suddenly, one of the organization leaders hollered at the host, "You claimed that she has a pair of killer legs. That, she does. As for her looks, however..."

He paused deliberately and glanced at the cage profoundly. "None of us can see what she looks like. So, how are we supposed to know if she's beautiful?"

The moment he said it, there was an uproar among the other organization leaders.

"He's right. You should ask the pet to show us her face so we can judge if she's, indeed, beautiful."

"Hear, hear. From what I see, you guys are trying to auction her off and make us bid for a pleasurable night with her. But, how are we supposed to pay for her if we can't see what she looks like?" "Yeah. What are we supposed to do if the pet ended up having a great figure, but a less than ideal face?"

Not long after, more and more people joined in the uproar.

"Take her mask off and show us her face!"

"Mask. Off!"

"Let us see what she looks like!"

The host couldn't control the crowd. So, he asked his assistant to come on stage. "Hurry up and ask Mr. Micah if we can show his pet's face. I'm not in the place to make this decision."

After all, the hollering crowd was composed of organization leaders. He couldn't afford to offend them, not even one. Otherwise, one of them just might have his head removed from his body when he walked out of the venue.

"Roger," his assistant responded and darted to the backstage.

Before long, he ran back and whispered in the host's ears, "Mr. Micah said you could reveal half of her face and keep them hooked. Otherwise, they just might lose interest in her once the mystery is solved. Then, they won't be paying as much as they would've."

The host looked bitter at that.

"All Micah cares about is making money for himself. What's going to happen if I got everyone here to pay a huge amount of money, only for them to find that the pet isn't worth the price at all?"

"I'll be the one who ends up paying the price for it!"

His assistant realized that he was hesitating. "Also, Mr. Micah wants me to pass you this message. The pet in the cage is none other than Yasmine. She won Best Actress at the Oscars recently.

"So, he wants you not to worry about anything and go ahead and make them eager for her. They're going to be happy with their purchase by the end of the day."

"Y-Yasmine?!" The host's eyes widened. "Um. How did Mr. Micah manage to bag someone like her?"

"That's none of your concern. Just focus on doing your job." His assistant whispered and reminded him. The host gulped. Taking a deep breath, he composed himself before he said, "Loud and clear."

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Collin noticed the change in the host's expression and asked Bonnie, "What do you think that guy told the host, chief? Why's he looking so weird?"

"It's probably something about the lady in the cage." Bonnie started analyzing, "I can't think of another reason."

He nodded and said, "I guess you're right. After all, the others started freaking out over the same topic."

Bonnie looked at the lady in the cage with inquisitive eyes.

'Judging from what they hollered earlier, this lady is going to be auctioned off later. I have no idea if she's forced to do this or if she ran into some issues in life and made a deal with someone. Whatever the real reason may be, there's one thing that I'm sure of. She couldn't have done it out of her own will.

'After all, who in their right mind will auction themselves off like they are a piece of merchandise?

'At first, I didn't want to poke my nose into this matter, but I'm a lady, too. I feel sorry for her. I just can't help it. Perhaps I'll see how it turns out and find a way to give her a hand.' She was still in the middle of her thought when she heard the host's voice again.

"It seems everyone wants to take a look at her face, and Mr. Micah is ready to grant you your wishes!"

With that, he gave the bodyguard a look.

The bodyguard, who was standing to the side, knew what he meant and approached the cage. Everyone stuck their necks out, trying to see what the caged lady looked like.

Meanwhile, Collin and Bonnie swept their eyes across the entire venue, trying to locate Falcon while everyone was distracted by what was going on the stage.

However, they searched for him a long time, only to turn up empty-handed.

"This is weird. Where the heck is Falcon?" Collin rubbed the back of his head. His tone was filled with bewilderment when he spoke.

"He has the chip as well as the 1.6 billion dollars with him. If logic prevails, these organization leaders would've been worshiping him by now. So, how is it possible they didn't bring him to this kind of party?"

"They probably knew that we were hunting for Falcon and hid him somewhere. They wouldn't let him live show up in public," she said as she frowned. "In fact, we should've thought of it sooner. We'll never find Falcon here."

Collins felt guilty at once.

"I'm sorry, chief. This is all my fault. I gave you the wrong idea."

"It's okay." She shook her head. "This trip isn't entirely pointless, Collin. I knew how the hierarchy works in this organization, at the very least."

"Huh?" He was puzzled. "How did you see through it already, chief? I can't tell a single thing about it."

"It's simple. Here, if you don't understand it, then I'm going to show you how it works."

"Just lay it on me, chief." He couldn't wait to find out how she saw through the whole thing.

"First off, this Micah fellow has to be an important figure in District Nine to throw a party this big. He even managed to gather every organization leader here.

"With that said, one of them asked the host to reveal the caged lady's face. For him to have the guts to say something like that, he has to be even more powerful than Micah.

"If my assumptions are correct, he

has got to be the most prominent figure in District Nine. That's why it doesn't matter how much the bidding price is in the end because

I.ne

no one's going to compete with him

to win the lady in the auction."

Collin finally understood what was going on. He was about to say something, but he heard some dispirited sighs around him.

"Huh? Are they only showing us half of her face?"

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Chapter 1088

One of them let out a gasp when the lights shone on her fully.

"Do you guys realize something? Doesn't the pet remind you of Yasmine Howell?"

"Yasmine? Are you talking about the gorgeous celebrity who had just won the Best Actress Award at the Oscars? It would be worth spending a fortune if it's really her."

"Mr. Micah must've paid through his nose to get his hands on the Best Actress! How exciting."

"Actually, she might be Yasmine. After all, we only see half of her face. Perhaps she just looks like Yasmine."

Collin grumble, "Yasmine? Why does it sound more familiar every time they mention her name?"

Bonnie, who was sitting next to him, raised her delicate eyebrows.

"Did you see it?"

He looked around nervously and asked, "What do you mean?"

"This Yasmine they keep talking about is an Arvandorian."

She had planned on lending the lady a hand. Now that she saw that the caged lady is an Arvandorian, Bonnie was more committed to helping her.

"I saw it. Is it something I should be looking out for?" He didn't quite get what she was getting at.

"It's nothing." Realizing that he didn't understand what she meant, Bonnie dropped the matter.

Meanwhile, everyone was fighting for the lady, even if they only saw half of her face. After all, she resembled the gorgeous Yasmine very much.

The host started the bid at a low 100 thousand dollars.

Be that as it may, the bidders raised the price all the way to six million dollars.

Just as the price reached 13 million dollars, the host stopped them. "W-Wait a minute, everyone. Hold your horses."

All of them were extremely displeased that the host stopped them.

"What are we waiting for? Are you going to call off the bidding?"

The host explained hastily, "That's not what's happening here. Mr. Micah said that he'd reveal the pet's face if the bidding price reached 13 million dollars. I wonder if you guys are up for it."

"What kind of question is that? Of course we want to see it!" It was the same person who asked to see the caged lady's face earlier. "Hurry up and do it now. Stop keeping us on the hook."

"Alright. I'm going to ask one of men to

my

e off her mask now." The

host wiped the sweat off his

forehead. Content belonel.

At the next moment, he gave his bodyguard a look and hinted for him to act immediately.

'After all, I can't afford to offend this man. In fact, even Micah would think twice before he crosses him.'

The bodyguard picked up his pace and went over to the cage before yanking off the lady's mask.

The next thing they knew, they were graced with an exceptionally stunning face.

All of them take a sharp breath as they stared at her face, unable to come back to their senses for a long time.

All of a sudden, one of them yelled,

"It's Yasmine! I can't believe it. It's really her! I'm going to bid for her. I'm doing it!"

"I love her with all my heart and soul! I have to bid for her."

"I've been in love with her for a long time. Step aside, guys!"

All of their faces and ears were red as they raised their auction paddle and bade on Yasmine.

"20 million dollars!"

"27 million dollars!"

"40 million dollars!"

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Chapter 1089

In the end, someone raised the bidding price to a whopping 130 million dollars.

It was none other than the same man who wanted Yasmine to reveal her face.

Bonnie had guessed that he'd be the one who'd purchase Yasmine.

As expected, the other organization leaders swapped glances after this man shouted a 130 million dollars. Then, nobody dared raise the bid anymore.

All of them had wanted a sexy night with Yasmine, but they'd rather keep living instead. After all, that guy was one of the most fearsome figures in District Nine. Why wouldn't they be wary of him? Collin saw the moment and couldn't resist smacking his thighs.

"Dang! Your analysis is on point, chief. Ever since he shouted his price, these organization leaders didn't have the guts to raise the bid anymore. It looks like he rules over them."

She nodded. "That's why it's important to observe everything if you want to acquire every bit of information."

"Alright. I promise I'm going to train my eyeballs on him and never let him out of my sight." He responded swiftly.

In fact, it seemed the host had also guessed the same outcome because he, too, didn't look surprised at all.

"Here we go. Going once on 130 million dollars. Going twice. No one's going to bid, huh? Sold! Mr. Billy has won the bid for a pleasurable night with the Best Actress, Yasmine!"

Everyone started applauding and cheering, "You go, Mr. Billy. You're the man!"

The ceaseless hollering was so booming that it made Bonnie's ears ring. She had to cover them quickly so she could prevent her eardrums from being damaged.

Meanwhile, Billy straightened up his clothes while the cheers went on.

Standing up, he addressed everyone, "You're all too kind. I'm only able to grasp such a wonderful opportunity because you were willing to give way to me. With that said, there's no need to feel downtrodden if you missed her tonight.

"I'll have a wonderful time with Yasmine for a while before turning her over to all of you."

He was merely putting it nicely. Everyone knew what he really meant.

Bonnie might've reminded Collin a lot of times now, but he still couldn't control himself after he heard Billy's little speech. He barked, "How sickening!"

Instead of responding to him, she

raised her head and stared ahead. It

just so happened that she met

Yasmine's gaze. The caged lady's delicate eyes were hazy and had lost focus.

Obviously, they drugged her so much that she no longer had her wits about her.

'They must've used some ominous means to abduct her and bring her here! After all, she's the Best Actress that everyone knows and loves, She has a bright future ahead of her

body

Why would she sell her

this?

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'More to the point, she's an Arvandorian and I know for a fact that we Arvandorians have our pride. It's simply impossible for us to be doing something like this.'

At the thought of it, she couldn't hold herself back anymore. She intended to stand up and do something.

Sensing that there was something unusual about her, Collin asked hastily, "What's the matter, chief?"

"I want you to go to the backstage with me later."

"Why?" He didn't quite grasp what she was trying to do.

"I can tell that they drugged the poor lady. She doesn't have her wits about her right now. I have to save her." She voiced her intentions out loud.

His eyes widened in shock. "B-But,

the place is teeming with the people from the District Nine organizations. The backstage is reserved for the powerful, elite group of authority figures. Surely, they have tighter security over there."

He then said, "What are we going to do if you run into danger? No way. I won't let you go!"

"I can't stand here and watch while they ruin a perfectly fine lady." She said. Then, she saw a bodyguard pushing Yasmine's cage backstage.

Instead of waiting for his response, she stood up and darted toward the backstage.

"This is an emergency. Stop dilly-dallying and keep up with me!"

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Chapter 1090

Collin thought to himself, 'Given Bonnie's character, I really should've known she'd intervene.'

'We're in a world of danger now, but I'm going to risk my life and keep her safe, no matter what happens later.'

Both of them raced backstage and climbed to the top floor before they finally saw Yasmine being rolled into one of the luxurious rooms.

Billy had not made it there yet. So, Yasmine was still safe for the time being.

Leaning close to Collin, Bonnie whispered, "Go around to the back. Find a car and wait for me. I'm going to stay here and save Yasmine when I have the perfect window." He shook his head. "No way in hell, chief. We're in this together. That means we will either stay here or leave this place together. I'm not going to leave you here alone." "It's not going to do us any good if both of us stay here and save Yasmine. We won't be able to get away from this hellhole if there's no one to spring us out of here." Reaching out, she patted him on the shoulder. "Do as I say, and we'll get away in one piece. Otherwise, we're just putting ourselves in greater danger."

He frowned. "You might have a point, chief, but—"

Before he could finish, she cut him off. "Stop with the 'buts' and get a move on. Find us a getaway car now."

He was still going to say something, but he heard a series of footsteps, which were followed by chattering.

"You're going to have what you want tonight, Mr. Billy. This is Yasmine we're talking about here. I could just imagine how gratifying it would be to taste her sweet nectar."

Coarse laughter escaped Billy's throat. "Hahaha! I know you guys are eager to do it too. So, I'm going to taste it first and find out just how pleasurable it will be before I let you guys have your turn.

"After all, I consider you guys as my closest friends. Do you think I wouldn't have thought of you all?"

All the organization leaders swapped glances and burst into leering laughter.

"Hahaha! How generous, Mr. Billy! It's so you to be looking out for us!"

"Hear, hear. I've never known anyone more generous and giving than Mr. Billy."

"You're such a wonderful friend, Mr. Billy. We made the right choice to swear loyalty to you and work for you. I'm sure you'll think of us whenever you come across Something wonderful!"

All of them were lining up to kiss Billy's ass.

On the other hand, Billy was extremely pleased with it and had a triumphant grin.

"Why, of course. You guys are my best friends. I'll never forget about you guys!"

All of them cheered again and continued to laud him as a great leader. Meanwhile, the staff brought all of them to the door of the room where Yasmine was kept. "Ms. Yasmine is behind the door, Mr. Billy."

"Alright. I got it from here. You may leave now." Billy waved at the staff before turning around to glance at his group of friends. "This is where

we'll part ways. Once I'm done

having fun with her, I'll have someone send her to you." belongs to

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All of them praised him to the high heavens before leaving.

Bonnie gave Collin a look. Lowering her voice, she said, "Go, now. We have no time to lose."

Collin looked at her hesitantly.

She knew he was reluctant to leave. Frowning, she asked, "What are you waiting for? Are you going to go against my orders?"

He couldn't win with her in an argument. So, he had no choice but to agree to do things her way.

"Alright. I'm going to leave now. Watch your back, chief."

She nodded. "Okay. I won't put myself in danger."

Feeling better at what she said, he proceeded to leave.

Back in the luxurious room, Yasmine closed her eyes, and her muddled mind started to clear up gradually. Turning her stiff neck, she slowly stood up from the cage.

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Chapter 1091

"Yawn... I'm completely worn out. This mission is not fun at all."

Suddenly, she heard a soft click and saw the door swinging open.

Then, Billy strode in. The moment he saw Yasmine, who stood up from the cage, a wicked grin crept up his face. "Howdy! Has the drug worn off, my sweet Yasmine? It's just about time. Now, you can serve and pleasure me." Meanwhile, she pretended to be struck with fear. "B-Billy? What are you doing here? Wait a minute. Why am I here?"

"The last thing I remember is that the award ceremony's tonight. I drank a glass of wine and felt dizzy. Then, I asked my agent to help me to my hotel room to rest. I shouldn't have" She stopped speaking abruptly.

"Is there something wrong with the glass of wine? Did you ask one of your men to spike my drink, Billy? I can't believe it. You wanted me so bad that you resorted to such loathsome trickery!" She retched internally while she spoke.

'Gah. I'm not cut out for this kind of powerless and vulnerable character, but my boss assigned this mission to me. I have no choice but to suck it up and do it.

'Speaking of, Billy had always used despicable tricks to try to get his grubby paws on me. It's just that I'm smart and dodged them. That's why he didn't get his way. He's such a pervert that he makes me physically ill.

'I wouldn't even have talked to the likes of him if it wasn't for the sake of the mission. I guess it's worth it. I'll have a chance to teach him a lesson when the mission is over.

Her lips twitched.

'Billy is such a narcissistic prick.'

Billy continued to walk closer with a perverted smile on his face. "You don't have to concern yourself with that. All you have to know is that own you tonight. You're going to please me and make sure I have a good time. I promise you'll be rewarded handsomely if you do!"

Noticing how he was basically charging at her, she pretended to be vulnerable and helpless.

"I don't want a reward. Get away from me, now."

"Tsk tsk tsk..." He shook his head, the perverted grin on his face growing all the more intense. "Oh, my sweet Yasmine. Your reaction only makes me want you more."
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"Come here." He opened his arms wide and said, "Come to Papa. Let me give you the kind of pleasure you've never had before!"

She stuck to her act and ca

to lean backward fearfully. "No.

Don't come over here. Please, I'm begging you. Would you please stand where you are?"

"That's a resounding no, baby." He chuckled before pouncing on her, trying to seize her.

Just as he was about to lay his grubby paws on her, she ducked out of the way swiftly. All he managed to grab was the hem of her dress.

It made him feel as if he was being played for a fool. In a matter of a second, his face fell.

"Stop being so naughty, baby. Come over here and let me love you."

At the next moment, he charged at her again. She dodged him once more.

The same thing happened over and over again. She could see his face gradually turning red from rage and she grinned.

'What a moron. Does he really think he can catch me? Dream on!'

By then, Billy's patience had reached its limit. The way he glared at her, it looked like he couldn't wait to flay her skin right there and then.

"You have better come over here before I get mad. Otherwise, you're going to pay dearly when I start getting serious!"

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Chapter 1092

Yasmine sniffed, her eyes turning red.

"I'm begging you, Billy. Let me go."

"Heh..." A malicious grin crept up his face as he spoke. "I spent 130 million dollars on you and yet, here you are, asking me to set you free. Do you think it's going to happen?"

With that, he gripped her arm tightly before flinging her to the bed.

She went along with the momentum and allowed herself to fall onto the bed.

As he took menacing steps toward her, she pretended to be scared and crawled backward. Eventually, she reached the edge and there was nowhere else to go. All she could do was stare at him tearfully. "Please, Billy. I'm begging you. Let me go."

However, he had no such intentions. Reaching out, he was about to grope her supple breasts.

That was when she quietly reached behind the back of his neck and struck him fiercely.

"Ah!" He let out a guttural scream before passing out from the sneak attack.

Meanwhile, she looked at Billy, who was unconscious and lying on the bed listlessly. Then, she sneered and withdrew her hand.

"Heh! It's like taking candy from a baby! You don't have what it takes to do anything to me, Billy."

After that, she pulled out something she had prepared beforehand and an antique pocket watch. Then, she propped him up to a sitting pose and struck two of his vital points.

All of a sudden, his eyes snapped open, and he stared straight into her eyes.

Anyone would've been freaked out when they saw something like this, but not Yasmine. She was used to something like this. Crossing her feet, she sat on the bed and swung the watch slowly in front of his eyes, hypnotizing him.

Eventually, his expression gradually grew dull. It was time. So, she started asking him a few simple questions.

Billy answered everything correctly. That meant the hypnosis was a success.

She proceeded to wait several seconds longer.

Realizing that he wasn't sobering up, she asked him the important questions.

"Rumor has it that your organization

lent a hand to someone called Falcon recently, Billy. He holds a chip as well as a bank card that has 1.6 billion dollars in it. Have you

these things before?"

He shook his head in response. "I-I've seen the chip, b-but not the bank card. In fact, I didn't know that he had that kind of money with him."

'How cunning. This Falcon character

is smart enough to keep some things to himself. After all, the whole world knows that he has the chips, but no one knows that he has 1.6 billion dollars with him.

'That's why he wouldn't dare to spend it for the time being. Actually, the chip matters more than the money.'

"Did you guys try to crack the chip, then?"

He frowned in response. It seemed that he was fighting hard not to respond to this particular question. However, he gave her the answer eventually.

"We did!"

She asked again, "Have you guys gotten anywhere with it?"

"N-No. The last two passwords were too complicated. N-Not even my lackeys, who are professional technicians, could crack it." His forehead was covered with sweat as he spoke. It was a sign of him resisting her questioning. Frowning, she hurried on to ask the next big question.

"Where's Falcon now? Does he have the chip? Or, are you guys holding onto it?"

Billy's brows knitted tightly as beads of sweat rolled down the side of his forehead.

He parted his lips as if he was about to answer the question. However, he was resisting her so much on the inside that his body started exhibiting unusual signs.

Realizing that he could break out of her hypnosis at any time, she swung the pocket watch in front of him and tried hypnotizing him again.

"Tell me what I want to know, and I'll give you the thing you want the most."

He was still wrestling with himself, sweating profusely as he did.

Her frown grew deeper.

'Surprise, surprise. I didn't count on him to be this mentally fortified. Eve hypnotized him for this long, and yet he's still keeping his mouth shut. I have no other choices now. I have to use that move.'

She proceeded to hit several of his vital points before swinging the pocket watch in front of his eyes at a faster rate this time.

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Chapter 1093

Bonnie, who was hiding behind the curtains, was shocked.

'Here I was, thinking Yasmine was a harmless, helpless lady. It turns out she's actually immensely capable. Dangerous, even.'

'I've studied hypnosis a little. Nothing too deep, honestly. But, even I can tell that the hypnosis she's employing right now is something that was lost to time. 'This particular hypnosis required a complete mastery in order to wield it. If she makes so much as a misstep, then Billy might end up a drooling fool.'

'From the looks of it, however, she's very proficient. Obviously, she has done it quite frequently.'

'She had won the Oscars as well as the adoration from countless fans. However, she's adept at wielding an extremely intricate hypnosis.'

'The juxtaposition of her current action and her reputation doesn't make sense. I wonder what's her real identity. What's more, she even brought up the chip and the 1.6 billion dollars.

'Is it possible that one of the competing organizations sent her here to snatch the chip away from us?'

Bonnie was no longer sure if she should save Yasmine. 'I think it's wiser for me to stay back and see how things unfold.'

She was still in the middle of her thoughts when Yasmine finished the hypnosis.

Then, Yasmine continued to ask Billy about the chip.

This time, he finally muttered something, "Chip. The chip...'

"Where is it?" She leaned in closer to him.

All of her sudden, she had a sinking feeling in her gut. Her sixth sense told her to duck away swiftly.

Once she got a good look, she saw that Billy was pointing a dagger at her, his face was brimming with an unfeeling coldness and menace.

His eyes were so vicious, as if he was about to cut her to ribbons at any given time.

Her heart skipped a beat. 'I thought I managed to hypnotize him. How did it fail?'

She hopped off the bed swiftly as she racked her brain for an answer.

Standing from the bed, he said, "How dare you try to fool me with such petty tricks? I've known for a long time that you aren't an ordinary lady.

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"Imagine my surprise when I found out you harbor such an incredible secret! Who on earth sent you here to hypnotize me and collect

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information about the chip?!"

Yasmine decided to ditch her act and stopped pretending to be a helpless, vulnerable lady. Her lips curled into a cold grin when she spoke,

"Do you really want to know? You'll have to catch me first."

Bonnie heard what Yasmine said and felt impressed.

'Yasmine is kind of forthright and bold. I her. I'd love to

friends with her if heret

and

with her if her let

mine don't turn out to

rivals.'

"Heh..." Billy sneered. "You're thinking that I can't capture you."

At the next moment, he fished something out of his pocket and pressed on it.

Wee-oo, Wee-oo...

The entire room... Nay, the entire underground market was blaring with a high-pitched noise from the security alarm.

It sounded so shrill that it unnerved everyone who heard it.

The bodyguards who were guarding the door, as well as those patrolling the perimeters, heard it and raced upstairs.

"Something went wrong over at Mr. Billy's room! Get a move on, guys!"

"Move your asses to the top floor!"

"Go, now!"

A group of bodyguards rushed upstairs.

She saw through the window the frightening number of bodyguards making their way there and felt the hair on the back of her neck stood up.

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Chapter 1094

At the same time, Ivor raised his hand and checked the time.

Looking sideways, he said to Floyd, "If Yasmine is as capable as I know she is, she should've gotten the information by now. Get in touch with her and send someone to get her out of that place." "Roger, Mr. Ivor," Floyd responded and pulled his phone out.

He gave a call to her, but no one answered it. His face fell as he raised his head and stared at his boss.

"What should I do, Mr. Ivor? I can't reach her."

"Huh?" He frowned and pulled out a communication device that was exclusive to his organization.

He contacted her to no avail.

"This is bad. She must've run into some trouble." His brows knitted tighter as he spoke. "Pull the car around. I have to go there and see what's going on."

"Copy that." Floyd was perfectly aware that they couldn't afford to lose a single minute. So, he left to do his boss's bidding.

Before long, they hit the road and were on their way to the underground market.

Meanwhile, Yasmine stared as the bodyguards swarmed their way to her room.

She frowned slightly and asked, "Did you set the whole thing up with Micah just so you could lure me into a trap?"

The fact was that it didn't take a genius to figure that out.

After all, Billy was the leader of the District Nine organization. If Micah wanted to win his favor, he could've just served her on a silver platter, instead of auctioning her off.

'It's a shame that the drug he gave me hampered my good sense. That's why I didn't even pause to think about it and fell into their trap!'

"Looks like you're not that big of a fool, Yasmine. It's just that you're not smart enough to figure us out, either." A thick sense of menace was brimming in his eyes. Clenching his fists, he charged at her.

On the other hand, she was ready to take him on. In a matter of seconds, both of them were locked in combat.

To his surprise, she was a very tough fighter. He couldn't gain the upper hand in this brawl.

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The menace in his expression intensified as he spoke, "I've underestimated you, Ms. Best. Actress! With that said, it doesn't matter that I can't overpower you. I've got reinforcements."

"Heh!" Yasmine sneered and wagged her finger at him. "Stop fighting like a chicken and come at me!"

He sneered in response. "All of my men are rushing here right now. Shouldn't you be groveling at my feet and begging for mercy? Are you sure you want to keep taunting me?" He inched closer toward her as he spoke.

"If you ask me, you should get down on your knees and tell me everything I want to know. I can see my way of sparing your life if you tell me who sent you and please me on the bed." "Who asked you?" Yasmine lifted her chin proudly. "Who do you think you are? Why should I listen to anything you say?"

"Why, you little-" He was so enraged that his face turned dark. "Looks like you want to do this the hard way, huh? You're going to pay for this!"

"I'm here, aren't I? Stop messing

|

around and come at me with everything you've got." All she wanted to do was end this fight quickly and find an escape route. She had no intention to waste her time talking with him.

"You'll die for this!" Clenching his fists, he threw himself at her.

She held no punches and fought him with everything she had. Both of them were evenly matched and fought to a tie.

All of a sudden, a loud bang could be heard.

Billy's bodyguards kicked the door open. All of them were shocked when they saw their leader in a tussle with Yasmine. "W-What are you doing fighting with Yasmine, Mr. Billy? Aren't you supposed to be having your way with her?"

"She's a spy. Get the fuck over here

and fucking seize her now!" Billy's patience was reaching its end.

because he spent a long time

fighting her and got no closer to subduing her.

"She's a spy?!"

Then, his bodyguards fanned out and surrounded her while closing in on her at the same time.

"What are you guys waiting for? Do it, now. She mustn't escape! I'll send all of you to the basement and torture you there if she fucking gets away!" Clearly, he had lost his patience entirely.

His bodyguards heard what he said and didn't dare to linger. At the next moment, they swarmed over Yasmine and attacked her.

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Chapter 1095

At first, Yasmine could fend the bodyguards off. However, it started draining her when they kept swarming to her, outnumbering her. "Phew!"

She had just taken a breath when another bodyguard charged at her. Fists after fists swung her way and hit her, all of them as big as a boulder.

Her stamina was about to be completely drained. She realized she could no longer fight them as hard as she did, so she had to move swiftly and dodge their attacks.

Just as she ducked backward, her strained feet couldn't support her weight and momentum. She wobbled.

Billy saw it and his lips curled into a cold, malicious grin. Then, he pulled out a pistol and aimed it at her.

Bonnie, who was hiding behind the curtain, saw what he was going to do and decided she couldn't keep hiding forever.

'It doesn't matter if Yasmine is friend or foe, she's an Arvandorian, same as me. I'll do my good deed of the day and lend her a hand.'

She was still in the middle of her thoughts when she saw Billy was about to pull the trigger. She barked immediately, "Watch out!"

Nobody expected someone else to be here. Bonnie's disguised presence startled everyone.

Yasmine was stunned, too. It only lasted a moment, though. She snapped out of her trance and saw the pistol Billy was aiming at her.

At the next moment, she ducked out of the way. To her surprise, he had predicted where she'd dodge to and fired the pistol.

"Bang!"

The bullet soared through the air and buried itself firmly into one of Yasmine's thighs.

"Argh!" She let out a blood-curdling scream.

Yasmine started sweating profusely. She curled up and backed off into the corner slowly as she clutched her thigh, blood oozing out of the bullet wound.

'I can't believe that Billy can predict where she was going to dodge. It was impossible to guard myself against him!'

Even Bonnie was surprised that Yasmine still got hurt, even after she reminded the latter about the imminent attack.

Then, she pulled out a smoke grenade from her pouch and tossed it to the crowd. In a matter of a second, smoke filled the entire room, disorienting everyone and obstructing their vision temporarily.

Billy raised his voice and barked, "Yasmine has an ally. Keep your senses sharp and pinpoint their location. Don't let them escape!"

"Roger!" His bodyguards responded to him in unison.

Be that as it may, Bonnie had augmented her smoke grenade. Not only did it disorient its victims, but it also blinded them for a short time.

That was why his bodyguards

weren't able to see anything, let

alone capture her and Yasmine.. Even Yasmine's vision was shrouded in darkness, while the pain on her thigh continued to intensify.

'Billy might've claimed that I have an ally, but I know for a fact that I came alone. So, I can't be sure if the person who let loose a smoke grenade is a friend or foe.

'I mean, what I am going to do if the person turns out to have some ill intentions for me?

'I'm a tough lady and I don't scare

easily, but I have to say that fear is creeping into me right now. Oh dear. Howd wish someone could lend me a hand in this kind of situation.' en.swhovels.net

She was still in the middle of her thoughts when someone swooped her up. Then, she heard a charming voice.

"Wrap your arms around my neck, I'm getting you out of here."

That stunned Yasmine. Raising her head, she looked at the person and saw his sexy Adam's apple as well as a defined jawline.

It looked like her savior was a handsome guy.

She couldn't explain it, but she felt very safe in his presence.

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Chapter 1096

On top of that, her savior's arms might not have been thick and strong, but it was the kind of arm she wanted in her future boyfriend! Sensing Yasmine's intense gaze, Bonnie lowered her eyes and looked at her.

"Don't stare at me like that. I'm not used to it."

The moment Bonnie lowered her head, Yasmine saw how delicate and graceful she looked and was stunned even more.

"Y-You're such a handsome man."

Yasmine had spent a lot of time in the entertainment industry. Naturally, she had seen countless handsome, stunning men. However, she was rooted to the spot when she saw the "man" before her!

"This is not the time for this, miss." A sense of helplessness flashed in Bonnie's eyes. "Also, would you please stop staring at me? You're making me feel uneasy, and that's going to distract me from what we're doing right now."

Yasmine had been staring at what she thought was a handsome man boldly, but she averted her gaze at once.

'Geez. He can't blame me for that. After all, he's just too dreamy. He's like a piece of art that's flawlessly delicate. I just can't get enough of looking at him.'

Bonnie sensed that Yasmine was no longer staring at her as boldly as she had a second ago. So, she carried her out of the room.

Once they were out of the room as well as the bodyguards' sights, she headed toward an abandoned warehouse and holed up there. She made sure that there were some windows for a handy getaway before barricading the door with some heavy objects and

locking it. The moment she was done with all of that, she made her way over to Yasmine.

"Give me your foot."

Yasmine was stunned for a while. "My foot? Are you going to—"

Before she could finish, Bonnie cut her off. "I'm going to check the bullet wound on your thigh. I don't have other intentions. So, please don't misunderstand me..."

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Bonnie rubbed her brows, trying to stave off a headache. 'Yasmine's prone to imagination so wild that it's hard for me to keep up with her sometimes.'

Yasmine cleared her throat out of

embarrassment. 'That seems right. He's clearly a guy who has rid himself of such primitive desires. So, why would he harbor the same dirty thoughts the way the other man did?

*Also, he saved me. How could I think of him in that manner?'

Noticing that Yasmine was still in a daze and not moving at all, Bonnie couldn't help but remind her again. "Give me your foot."

That snapped Yasmine out of it. She extended her injured foot hastily and said, "Um. Pardon me. Thanks for your help."

Her face was laced with shyness and her sparkling eyes were trained on Bonnie.

"Don't mention it," Bonnie said with a blank expression. She held Yasmine's ankle and examined the bullet wound.

About three minutes later, she withdrew her hand and pulled out a bottle of medicinal powder.

"It might sting when I pour the powder onto your wound. I need you to bear with it and grit your teeth until the pain clears. It won't hurt at all after that." Realizing that Bonnie was very proficient with it, a hint of surprise flashed in Yasmine's eyes.

"This is surprising. Not only are you agile, but you possess quite an extensive knowledge of medicine. Do countless girls just throw themselves at you?"

"Not really." Bonnie poured the powder on Yasmine's thigh and chatted with her at the same time

She was Worried that the pain would be too great for the latter to bear, so she tried to divert her attention by chit-chatting.

"I don't exactly have a lot of ladies interested in me."

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Chapter 1097

"I'm afraid I don't believe you." Yasmine stared at Bonnie with unblinking eyes.

"You've got such good looks that countless ladies must've tried putting their moves on you. I work in the entertainment industry. So, I'm perfectly aware of how important looks are."

"Naturally, but I'm more intrigued by someone if they're interesting to be around with." Bonnie saw that the powder was about to seep into the bullet wound and couldn't help but ask her, "How does it feel now? Does it hurt?"

Yasmine noticed where Bonnie was looking. So, she followed her gaze.

Blood was still oozing out of her wound. She didn't feel anything a second ago, but suddenly she felt a great deal of pain.

"Ugh..."

She tried hard to hold it in. In the end, however, she couldn't do it anymore and groaned painfully. Beads of sweat covered her forehead.

"I-It hurts a lot."

Bonnie's brows furrowed. "This shouldn't be happening. The powder is supposed to help with the pain. Why did it do the opposite and intensify your pain this much?" Holding Yasmine's hand, she checked her pulse. Before long, she found the heart of the

issue. "Did you take something to fight against the drug they spiked you with?" Yasmine gritted her teeth, turned her head sideways, and clamped up. She might've been very grateful for Bonnie, but there were some things she just couldn't say. Meanwhile, Bonnie read her expression and got the answer she wanted nonetheless.

"I didn't notice it because it has been a long time since you took that medicine. It wasn't until after you felt an intense pain from my powder that I realized it."

"W-What's causing it?" The pain was so excruciating that Yasmine felt as if she could die at any moment. In fact, she had never felt this level of pain in her whole life.

"That's because the medicine you took reacts negatively to one of the ingredients in my powder." Bonnie said and soothed her, "With that said, there's no cause for alarm. It will hurt a little, but it won't damage your body or anything like that."

"A little? I-I'm holding back tears as we speak." Yasmine gritted her teeth as sweat continued to roll down the side of her forehead.

In order to distract herself, she made a playful remark at Bonnie. "B-But, the pain is more bearable because you're here with me." "Really? That's wonderful!" Bonnie pulled out a dagger from her pouch.

Yasmine was calm and collected most of the time, but even she was spooked by Bonnie's actions.

"W-What are you going to do?"

'He might not have looked like a bad

guy. On top of that, he's so

handsome that it's impossible for him to be a bad guy. However, I just can't understand what he's doing. It unnerves me a bit that I have no idea what he's about to do next.

"I'm going to take the bullet out of your thigh, of course. It didn't bury itself too deep into your foot, so we have to seize this opportunity and do it now. Otherwise, we won't have the time to do something like this if Billy's bodyguards catch up to us. "More importantly, you're in danger of losing your foot. The bullet might not have penetrated your bone, but it lodged itself in a critical spot. Your foot is going to lose its function if

we don't take it out while we still

can."

UMS

Bonnie was going to perform the crude, minor surgery, but she saw the expression on Yasmine's face and stopped in her tracks.

"With that said, this is your foot. Now that I've told you about the consequences, it's your call. I'm not going to push you to do it."

Yasmine gritted her teeth and took a couple seconds before she made up her mind. "G-Go ahead and take the bullet out! I'll bear with the pain!"

"No worries. This isn't going to hurt much." Bonnie soothed her.

For a moment there, Yasmine wasn't sure if she should cry or laugh in response. "Have you forgotten how you told me that the powder wasn't going to hurt me? Well, guess what happened?!" "It's different this time." Bonnie waved the dagger on top of her thigh.

"How is it different?" Yasmine asked, puzzled.

At the same time, Bonnie had already taken the bullet out with perfect precision.

"There we go. I've gotten the bullet out."

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Chapter 1098

"Did you take the bullet out already?" Yasmine gawked at the bloody bullet that Bonnie extracted from her thigh. "Why didn't I feel any pain, though?"

"Well. Taking the bullet out would've caused you a sharp pain that only lasted a second, but your pain from earlier overshadowed it. That's why you didn't feel anything when I took it out."

Bonnie took another medicinal powder out and poured it on Yasmine's thigh before bandaging up her wound.

Needless to say, Bonnie was being humble. A huge reason Yasmine was spared the pain was because Bonnie was extremely proficient at this.

Yasmine watched as Bonnie wrapped her wound like a professional. She felt overwhelmed with admiration.

"You're so awesome. It feels like you just know everything."

"This isn't anything special. It's just a minor surgery." Bonnie waved modestly.

That only served to make Yasmine like her even more.

"I might not have known anything about medicine, but I've witnessed doctors performing surgeries with my own eyes. You haven't shown much, but what you did is enough to tell me that you've surpassed ordinary doctors."

Bonnie raised her eyebrows. "You've witnessed doctors performing surgeries with your own eyes? This isn't something a celebrity should've had the chance to see under normal circumstances. Just who—" She was about to ask who Yasmine really was, but she couldn't say it because she heard someone trying to kick the door down.

Thud thud thud!

Then it was followed by a ruckus.

"I know for a fact that the door to this warehouse has always remained open. Now, however, someone has locked it up. They're probably in there. Put your backs into it and kick down the door." "Get a move on! Mr. Billy said he wanted both of them alive so he could interrogate them and find out who they served. Don't let them escape again."

"Throw your weight behind the door! It'll break down soon if all of us kick together!"

"This isn't working. The door is too sturdy. We have to ram it open."

About ten seconds later, Bonnie and Yasmine could hear something thrusting against the door, producing a dull sound.

The door, which was shut tight a second ago, was showing subtle signs of being forced open.

Yasmine's face turned pale for a second before she turned and instinctively looked at Bonnie. "What should we do now?"

After she asked, she was shocked by an entirely different notion. 'I can't believe it. We haven't known each other for too long, and yet I've already relied on this man on a subconscious level. 'I've never felt this way in my life.'

Meanwhile, Bonnie was unperturbed. "See if you can stand."

"Got it." Just hearing Bonnie's composed voice was enough to calm Yasmine down.

Then, she tried to stand up, but she slumped toward the ground due to the excruciating pain in her thigh.

Bonnie acted swiftly and caught her in time. "You can't stand? Is it because the pain is too great to bear?"

They were in a dire situation and Yasmine had no wish to become a burden to Bonnie.

So, she tried standing again, only to sense a spastic pain shooting up from her thigh. She couldn't help but groan painfully as beads of sweat covered her forehead.

Bonnie could tell what Yasmine was thinking and reached out to pat the latter on the shoulder.

"Don't push yourself if you can't stand up. I have a way to get you out of here." Yasmine stared at Bonnie's handsome disguise. All of a sudden, she felt a little dispirited.

"Am I a burden to you? We're already in a dire situation. My foot is just making things—"

Bonnie cut her off and said, "That's enough. This isn't the time to feel sorry for yourself. What matters now is that we make it out of this hellhole in one piece."

Biting her lips, Yasmine nodded furiously.

"Alright! Your word is my command. I'll do everything you ask me to do and not be a burden to you."

"I've never thought of you as a

burden since the moment I decided to save you. So, I want you to stop thinking about yourself in that manner." Bonnie walked over and estimated the height from the window.

Then, she looked for something to stand up on. She found and dragged a chair and said to Yasmine, "Come over here."

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Chapter 1099

Yasmine was still mesmerized by what Bonnie said. It filled her with such warmth and strength.

All of a sudden, her eyes were filled with tears. She looked at Bonnie in a daze and remained quiet.

She was so moved that a man would go out of his way to help her.

On the other hand, Bonnie saw that Yasmine wasn't speaking or moving. She couldn't help but frown. "Hmm? Hurry up. We've got no time to lose."

That snapped Yasmine out of her trance. She bore with the pain and limped over to Bonnie. She stopped next to the chair and waited for further instructions.

"I'm here. So, what am I supposed to do now?"

"I'm going to help you to the chair, and you're going to climb onto the window and sit there. Then, I'm going to leap out of it and grab you on the first floor. That way, both of us will be able to get out of here safely."

"Okay," Yasmine responded.

Pulling herself up with the window sill, Bonnie leaped over to the other side with ease.

Once her feet hit the ground, she shouted at Yasmine. "Jump off."

Yasmine saw how high she was and grew anxious.

"Am I going to smush you if I jump at you?"

"I'll be fine. Hurry up."

A hint of anxiety flashed in Bonnie's eyes. The bodyguards were going to break down the door at any time. On top of that, Yasmine's foot was injured. If she didn't hurry up and jump off the window, they'd capture her, and she could be in real danger.

"Jump, now!" Bonnie couldn't help but say it impatiently.

Taking a deep breath, Yasmine mustered up her courage and said, "Alright! I'm going to jump now."

At the next moment, however, the door was broken down.

Yasmine turned. She was stunned at the sight of the bodyguards swarming into the abandoned warehouse. She wasn't stunned for long, but it was enough for one of them to charge toward her and grab her feet. "Pull her down now. We need to bring her to Mr. Billy."

"Remember, Mr. Billy wanted her alive so he could have his way with her. So no one's using any weapons on her. Use your fists and feet instead. You'll pay a heavy price if something happened to her!"

"Understood. We'll do as Mr. Billy says."

Yasmine heard everything they said and grew panicked. Despite that, she maintained a calm expression.

Then she used her other foot to relentlessly kick the bodyguard.

"L-Let me go! Unhand me!"

The bodyguard's head was kicked heavily

several times. He was pissed off by her assaults and tightened his grip over her foot.

"What are you idiots waiting for? Hurry up and give me a hand!"

The rest of the bodyguards came to their senses and ran over to grab her other foot.

A deep sense of despair rose within Yasmine as she felt the bodyguards dragging and pulling her down from the window.

Turning around, she glanced at the spot where Bonnie was standing, only to find that no one was there right now.

'I guess it's logical that he ran away

when he heard the bodyguards breaking down the door. After all, he did his best to save me earlier. If he barges into the abandoned warehouse to save me again when the situation is so perilous now, he'd be putting himself in unpredictable danger.

'After all, no one would put their lives on the line for the sake of someone else...'

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Chapter 1100

Just as Yasmine was wallowing in despair, she saw Bonnie appearing at the door out of the corner of her eyes.

Bonnie, still in her disguise, had guns in both of her hands and opened fire at the group of bodyguards.

None of them were prepared for this moment. A number of people dropped dead to the ground. Those who survived looked at their fallen comrades and fell into panic. They quickly pulled out their own guns and aimed them at Bonnie.

Yasmine grew anxious and yelled at Bonnie, "Run away, now! Forget about me. Just run!"

She thought, 'He might be powerful, but they outnumber him. On top of that, I'm wounded. There's no way he could win all of them by himself.'

Bonnie pursed her lips and didn't respond to Yasmine. She turned and gave one of the bodyguards nearest to her a roundhouse kick.

Thud!

The bodyguard crashed into the wall. Then, he slid down and coughed up blood.

Her attack made the rest of the bodyguards understand just how formidable she was. All of them got serious and boxed her in.

Bonnie acted quickly and without hesitation. Just as the bodyguards were wondering if they should open fire on her, she pulled the trigger.

Bang, bang, bang!

More bodyguards fell to the floor, dead.

Bonnie moved swiftly toward Yasmine, carried her, and raced toward the hallway. Beads of sweat rolled down the side of Bonnie's head.

All Yasmine knew was that Bonnie looked so manly and heroic right now.

'He doesn't have the typical scent guys have. In fact, there's a faint medicinal smell about him.

However, that smell is manly, as far as I'm concerned. It smells great and makes me feel very safe.'

Yasmine leaned on Bonnie, and they walked on for a while.

She continued to stare at Bonnie's dashing disguise when something popped into her mind. She said, "I turned around and looked at where you stood when one of the bodyguards was about to pull me down. You were nowhere to be seen. I thought you had abandoned me to save your own skin.

"To be honest, I wouldn't have blamed you if that's what you did. After all, you did everything you could to save me. I was the one who couldn't follow your orders."

Bonnie replied, "I've decided I'd save

your life. There's no way I'd abandon

you! I left because I had to retrieve the weapons that I'd stashed over there. I mean, am I supposed to

save you with nothing but my fists?"

There were bodyguards at the underground market entrance. So, no one could've brought weapons in here. However, she brought a couple of guns with her, just in case she needed them. 'Boy, I'm glad that I snuck this trick up my sleeve. Otherwise, I wouldn't have stood a chance at saving Yasmine, even if I went back for her.'

"So, that's what happened. Thank you." Yasmine admired Bonnie even more now.

'How is it that there's such a decent, responsible, and reliable guy in this world? He's almost as awesome as my boss.'

Bonnie carried her through the side path and brought her to a pitch-black alley.

Realizing that they had made it out of the underground market, a hint of bewilderment appeared in Yasmine's eyes.

"D-Did we make it out?"

"Yeah. We're out of the underground market now," Bonnie said in her usual calm tone. "Now, I'm going to send you somewhere safe. Where do you want to go?"

"A-Aren't you going to stay with me?" Yasmine asked instinctively.

Bonnie heard what she said and couldn't help but giggle. Raising her eyebrow, she asked, "Why should I stay with you?"

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