

# I Love You, Miss Genius ( Bonnie Shepard )

## Chapter 730 - 800

### Chapter 730

One of the executives thought, 'We don't even know what Finley looks like, so how can we find her? And how can we give an exact time?'

Shane's anger burned even hotter as he watched the executives remain silent.

Just as he was about to start scolding, there was an urgent knock on the door.

Suppressing his anger, Shane said in a deep voice, "Come in."

The assistant hurriedly pushed the door open.

"Mr. Shane, we've found Finley."

Shane's eyes widened suddenly, filled with shock and joy. "Really? Where is Finley now?"

"She's right downstairs in our company."

"Hurry, bring her to my office immediately."

Rubbing his hands together, Shane felt an uncontrollable rush of exhilaration. Suddenly, he thought of following the assistant as she went to invite the person upstairs. "Never mind, I'll go personally to meet her."

Shane hurried over after seeing a long-haired woman sipping tea in the lobby as he arrived downstairs.

"Are you... Finley?"

The woman nodded gently and said, "Yes."

Shane calmed down slightly and gestured to the woman. "Finley, let's go to my office and talk."

The woman nodded slightly.

Shane got straight to the point in the office.

"Although no one would dare to impersonate the powerful Finley, only a few people know what Finley looks like. Please show me some proof. Otherwise, I won't be able to confirm if you are the real Finley."

"No problem." The woman responded calmly and took out a document bag from her bag, "These are my recent design works, as well as sketches and drawings. You can take a look."

After giving them a thorough examination for a few minutes, Shane concluded that the individual in front of him was Finley based on the design style.

Raising his head, he looked earnestly at the woman before him.

"Finley, I think you should know about the bidding for cooperation with the jewelry tycoon, Ferryover Jewelry. If you can secure that cooperation, I won't treat you unfairly." The woman raised her chin slightly and proudly replied, "Don't worry, when it comes to jewelry design, no one can rival me."

Her confident words made Shane instantly relieved.

"Then this bidding will be left to you."

He spoke with a deep gloom in his eyes as he thought of Ivor. 'This time, I'll definitely crush the Knight family under my feet!'

The woman responded with a smile full of meaning. "It's a small matter, Mr. Shane. Rest assured, this bidding belongs to Gemedica Group."

Shane loved hearing this and immediately smiled.

'Haha, good. Finley's ability is beyond doubt. I can finally sleep well without any worries tonight.'

...

As soon as Bonnie arrived at the university the next day, she called for a high-level meeting to discuss the university's recent issues.

After expressing her thoughts and suggestions, she immediately received applause.

The distinguished professors and executives gazed at her with admiration and reverence.

Bonnie felt a bit strange. The high-level executives and professors were unusually quiet, especially in how they looked at her. There was an indescribable feeling.

Her gaze swept over the crowd. "As for what I just said, if anyone has opinions or suggestions, feel free to speak up. Let's discuss and come up with a more suitable solution together."

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## Chapter 731

A chorus of praises rang in her ears.

"Ms. Bonita's ideas and proposals are the best. We have no objections."

"Yes, our university is so honored to receive such an outstanding president as Ms. Bonita."

"Since Ms. Bonita came to our school, the problems that had plagued us for a long time have been solved. Not only that, we have also gained recognition and investment from many big shots."

"If we continue to develop like this, we'll draw in an increasing number of talented students and investors, which will improve the learning environment for the students. All of this is thanks to Ms. Bonita." "Ms. Bonita has achieved what we couldn't before. We can't compare to her! We must learn from Ms. Bonita."

After saying this, everyone else chimed in and agreed with the perspective.

"Yes, Ms. Bonita's arrival has brought about a leap in development for our school."

"How fortunate are we to have Ms. Bonita as our president? Without Ms. Bonita, our university would not have developed so quickly."

"Ms. Bonita has brought us too many surprises, and I can't even count them all."

As everyone spoke, they felt ecstatic.

By only using the name of "Ms. Bonita," everyone who wanted to enter their university would be queuing up.

They could not formally declare Ms. Bonita's presence at their school, though.

But that was sufficient; they didn't have to worry about anything as long as Ms. Bonita, their president, remained in place.

The flattery in her ears was constant, and Bonnie's mouth twitched.

Although Bonnie knew that the executives and professors found out about her identity as Ms. Bonita, she still mentally prepared herself before convening this meeting.

However, what she didn't expect was for these high-level executives and professors to be so exaggerated.

They were practically elevating her to the heavens with their words! It made her feel awkward to the point of cringing.

Professor Reece was left dumbfounded when he heard the others' flattery and had to snort coldly.

'These people are ass-kissers. They had mocked me for flattering Bonnie and looked down on my working style. However, every one of them is flattering even louder than I did. "They don't even feel ashamed! Especially Professor Adan, who usually seemed quite honest. Most importantly, Professor Adan had even criticized me for praising Ms. Bonita. "But now? Professor Adan was praising Ms. Bonita even more fervently. Sweet words are just so hypocritical.'

He had been colleagues with Professor Adan for so many years and had never heard him say so many flattering words.

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## Chapter 732

This group of people were all talking at once. Each one was more excited than the last, not giving him a chance to get a word in edgewise.

'If these people had not discovered Ms. Bonita's identity, I would've been free to lavish her with praise, accept assignments that others would be afraid to take on, and excel in her presence. 'But now they have even stolen away my opportunity to perform!'

Professor Reece was filled with an unexplainable rush of anger that made him want to seal their mouths.

Bonnie was overwhelmed, seeing everyone becoming more intense in their discussions that couldn't be stopped.

She lifted her head and examined each person individually with her eyes.

"Alright, everyone, quiet down."

Her tone was neither light nor heavy, and she did not sound particularly strict either.

The meeting room was bustling with noise just a moment ago, and now it instantly fell silent. All the high-ranking officials and professors sat quietly in their seats, each looking like a child eager to perform well in front of the teacher.

Professor Reece sighed inwardly.

Even the former president couldn't make all these high-ranking officials and professors immediately shut up.

It could only be said that Ms. Bonita's prestigious identity is incomparable to anyone else's.

Seeing that everyone had quieted down, Bonnie continued, "I am the president of this university, so you can just call me Ms. Bonnie at school. Don't call me Ms. Bonita."

"Okay, we'll remember that."

Ms. Bonita's low-key style was known to everyone in Arvador. Hence, these high-ranking officials and professors understood it too.

Bonnie asked, "Does anyone have anything else to say? If not, let's end today's meeting here."

Halfway through the meeting, a high-ranking official said, "Ms. Bonnie, I need to discuss something with you."

Bonnie looked at him and asked, "What is it?"

"It's almost the end of the semester, and there are still more than 10 days until winter vacation. According to the usual practice, there should be a school meeting at the end of the semester, and the president must personally appear to summarize the end of the semester."

Bonnie frowned involuntarily. "Must appear in person?"

The high-ranking official nodded, "Of course, this is a tradition of our university. As the highest leader of our school, you have to say a few words at the end of the year to set an example for the students and let them see the responsibility of our school leaders."

He looked around at the other high-ranking officials and professors as he spoke.

"Do you all agree with what I said? Should we let the president speak?"

Everyone echoed in agreement.

"The president's speech at the end of the semester is the longest-standing tradition of our school, so no matter what, we must uphold this tradition."

"Yes, and the president's speech has a certain inspirational effect on the students."

"Ms. Bonnie, just go up and say a few words. Everyone is looking forward to your speech."

Bonnie instantly thought of the impression she left on the students as a student and her identity as the president...

'This matter is becoming more and more of a headache the more I think about it. Am I going to publicly reveal my identity as the president in front of the students?'

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## Chapter 733

The official asked, "Ms. Bonnie, what do you think? Are you going to speak on stage?"

Bonnie appeared distressed as she pressed her temples firmly. "Since you say it's a tradition, I must comply."

As soon as she finished speaking, there was another round of flattery.

"We feel relieved."

"We believe Ms. Bonnie will deliver a splendid speech to the students."

"I can't wait to see such a scene. It must be grand."

Bonnie twitched her lips, not knowing what to say for a moment.

When they all said their piece, Bonnie slowly stood up from her chair and asked, "Does anyone have any other questions?"

Everyone shook their heads, indicating they had no further questions.

Bonnie nodded. "Then let's end today's meeting here. I have something else to attend to, so I'll leave first."

No one objected. Bonnie withdrew her gaze from them and walked out.

She had some free time today and realized she hadn't cooked for Ivor in a long time.

Since she had some free time today, she could go to the market and buy some groceries.

...

Ivor was having a meeting with the executives in the Knight Group conference room.

He glanced at the documents in his hand, then looked up at the executives in front of him and said, "Regarding the bid for partnership with Ferryrover Jewelry, have you all come up with a solution?" The executives exchanged glances.

Then one of the executives stood up and said, "Mr. Ivor, Ferryrover Jewelry has made it clear that whoever can find Finley will be their first choice. It's said that Gemedia Group has already sent people to inquire about Finley's whereabouts."

"Finley has always been elusive, and no one knows what she looks like. How are we supposed to find her?"

"That's true, but no matter what, we have to find Finley before Gemedia Group because we've always had conflicts with them. We absolutely cannot fall behind them in this matter. Otherwise, we might be ridiculed by their company!"

"Yes, absolutely, we must stand our ground against Gemedia Group. We can't give them a chance to ridicule us!"

Listening to the words of the executives, Ivor furrowed his brows. "Quiet."

The executives were instantly silenced and scared to speak again when the tone.

Ivor's cold gaze swept over them lightly and said, "I just asked you to come up with a solution, not to chit-chat. Let me ask again. Has anyone come up with a solution?"

The executives fell silent instantly. No one dared to speak up.

Ivor's expression became even more somber after seeing this scene. "Not a single person can come up with one?"

The executives shrank their necks and lowered their heads even more. None dared to meet Ivor's gaze.

None of them had thought of any solution at all.

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## Chapter 734

Ivor felt his chest heave as he watched this scenario, a heavy fury whirling in his eyes. He then slammed the documents heavily on the table.

"Since none of you can come up with anything, stay here until you do," he said.

Floyd trembled in fear. 'It had been long since I had seen the boss this angry. It seems that we're going to get it today... I wonder when his anger would dissipate...'

As time passed, the meeting room atmosphere became so tense that you could hear a pin drop. The executives sitting in their chairs were even more tense. They were sitting upright and dared not even breathe. After all, everyone knew that their CEO was furious.

Ivor's phone, placed on the table, suddenly vibrated.

"Bzzz..."

Ivor lowered his gaze and saw the caller ID, "Honey." There was a slight hint of softening in his icy expression as he quickly picked up the phone.

"Honey, aren't you busy today? Why do you have time to call me?" he asked.



A clear voice came from the other end of the phone.

"I was not busy, so I bought some groceries and planned to cook. I'm downstairs at your company now. Do you want to go back together? Or should I go back and cook, then message you when it's done?"

She asked this because Ivor seemed very busy lately, often staying up late in the study and looking at documents. She was worried that he still had work to do in the company, so she didn't want to disturb him. "Of course, let's go home together, honey," Ivor said. He was incredibly thrilled to be able to have a dinner prepared by Bonnie herself.

"You can rest downstairs for a while. I'll be there in about 10 minutes."

"Okay," Bonnie replied.

Ivor hung up the phone and looked back at the executives. Although his face still didn't look good, his tone was gentler.

"Today's meeting ends here. After you go back tonight, think carefully about a solution. When you come to work tomorrow, I must see a feasible plan, or all year-end bonuses will be canceled." Everyone breathed a sigh of relief and echoed, "Yes, Mr. Ivor..."

"Hmm," Ivor responded lightly, picked up his phone, and walked out.

As the executives watched his hurried departure from the meeting room, they felt like a heavy burden had been lifted. Cold sweat formed on their backs.

As they watched Ivor disappear from view, the executives dared to discuss in low voices.

"We owe a lot to Ms. Bonnie. Otherwise, we would've been in big trouble today."

"Yeah, I haven't seen Mr. Ivor so angry in a long time. If not for Ms. Bonnie's call, Mr. Ivor might have kept us here until late at night."

"Did you see how awful Mr. Ivor's expression was? It wouldn't surprise me if we had to stay until tomorrow morning."

"Truth be told, the person we should be most thankful to is Ms. Bonnie. We wouldn't have been freed so easily if it weren't for her."

As the executives discussed, Ivor had already taken the elevator and arrived downstairs at the company.

He picked up his speed and hurried over to where Bonnie sat in the lounge, sipping tea and eating desserts. "Honey, sorry I'm late. Let's go home."

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## Chapter 735

When Bonnie noticed him, she looked surprised.

"How did you get here so quickly?"

"Didn't you just say to wait for you for ten minutes? Not even five minutes had passed."

"Of course, it's to see you faster," Ivor said with a smile. He walked over and took Bonnie's hand, leading her outside. "Let's go home."

"Okay." Bonnie lightly curled her lips and leisurely followed his steps.

Back at home, Bonnie started preparing the ingredients.

Ivor didn't idle. He helped wash and cut vegetables on the side. The two of them cooperated very tacitly, and they finished cooking the meal in just an hour. Before the final wagyu steak was plated, Bonnie picked up a piece with a fork and brought it to Ivor's lips.

"Try it and see how it tastes. Is it seasoned enough? If not, I can add more salt."

Ivor leaned in, took the steak off the fork, and enjoyed it.

"Mm... your cooking is just wonderful. Even a five-star chef would feel inferior in front of you."

"Always so smooth-tongued." Bonnie rolled her eyes, then turned around and placed the remaining steak on a plate.

"The taste is good enough. Hurry and bring it out. I'll wash my hands, and then we can eat."

Ivor took the plate from her. Ivor's lips curled up slightly with a hint of pleasure.

"Alright, alright, I'll listen to you. Whatever my honey asks me to do, I'll do it."

Bonnie rolled her eyes again and didn't respond, She started washing her hands.

Ivor's lips curled up a bit more, no longer teasing Bonnie, and he carried the plate out of the kitchen.

Ivor's phone rang nonstop during dinner, with one business item after another requiring his attention.

There were also some calls discussing plans and decisions regarding the bid for the partnership with Ferryover Jewelry.

He lowered his voice so Bonnie wouldn't overhear.

Although Bonnie couldn't hear what the person on the other end of the phone was saying, she could tell from Ivor's tone that this matter seemed tricky.

So when Ivor finished his call, she asked, "Is something going on in your company recently?"

She remembered that Ivor had never been so frequently on the phone before; this was the first time.

Ivor pretended to be nonchalant, and responded, "Nothing, just that the company is pushing forward with an important project recently, and they have a lot of indecision, so they're calling to ask for my opinion." "Really?" Bonnie didn't believe it.

Ivor smiled, picked up some food for Bonnie, and then put it on her plate. "Of course, it's true. Would I need to lie to you about such a trivial matter?"

After careful thought, Bonnie realized it made sense and didn't dwell on it any longer.

"Then eat quickly. Finish your work after eating. The sooner you finish your work, the sooner you can sleep. Otherwise, if you stay up late like this all the time, your body won't be able to handle it."

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## **Chapter 736**

"Got it. Thanks for your concern, honey. You always know how to care for me." Ivor gently held Bonnie's hand, looking at her tenderly. Bonnie's heart thumped hard in her chest. She turned her head strangely, and her cheeks began to flush.

"You always say the same thing every day. Are you trying to be cheesy?"

"Not cheesy at all," Ivor shrugged. "Isn't this how you should treat someone you love?"

Bonnie slowly withdrew her hand from his.

"You better eat quickly. Finish your meal so you can handle your work. Otherwise, your phone will be ringing off the hook later."

"At your command." Ivor chuckled and made a salute gesture, obediently lowering his head to eat.

Bonnie shook her head, feeling there was no way to deal with this man.

After dinner, Ivor went to the study to deal with documents while Bonnie watched TV in the living room.

Floyd, carrying a stack of papers, was standing outside the door when he suddenly called out excitedly. "Ms. Bonnie!"

Bonnie was startled by him, almost dropping the apple in her hand.

After calming her thoughts for a moment, she put the apple in the basket and glanced at Floyd.

"What's the fuss at this late hour?"

Floyd trotted over, his eyes shining brightly as he looked at Bonnie.

"Ms. Bonnie, on behalf of all the company's senior executives, I want to thank you!"

Bonnie looked puzzled, not understanding what was going on.

"Why are you thanking me? I haven't contributed anything to your company recently."

"Who said you haven't? Your contribution is significant!" Floyd briefly recounted what had happened in the meeting room today.

"You don't know how grim Mr. Ivor was. He looked like the king of hell reborn. But as soon as you called, Mr. Ivor immediately became as gentle as a spring breeze. He even allowed us to end the meeting early. Otherwise, we would've had to stay in the meeting room until tomorrow!"

Bonnie smiled helplessly at Floyd's words. Then, she thought of Ivor's busy appearance during dinner, answering one call after another. She looked at Floyd and asked, "Has something happened in your company recently? Why does it seem like Ivor is so busy?"

Floyd's eyes flickered. He thought that if Mr. Ivor hadn't told Ms. Bonnie about the bidding situation of Ferryrover Jewelry, it meant that Mr. Ivor didn't want Ms. Bonnie to know.

So he vaguely said, "It's nothing, just that the company is having some difficulties with a project recently, so Mr. Ivor is a bit agitated."

"Really?" Bonnie frowned, thinking Floyd's words differed from what Ivor had told her. 'Could it be Ivor had something else he was hiding from her?'

"Yes, that's right." Floyd feared Bonnie would press him further, so he pretended to be in a hurry and said, "Ms. Bonnie, I won't say anymore. Mr. Ivor is waiting for the documents. I have to hurry and deliver them. Let's chat another time."

With that, he swiftly ran off with the documents.

Bonnie watched Floyd's departing figure with a pensive look in her eyes. She wondered what was going on in Ivor's company.

'It probably wasn't a minor matter; Ivor would have told me otherwise. There must be something more to it.'

She felt that things were more complex than they seemed. She decided to ask Ivor later in the study to see if he would tell her the truth.

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## Chapter 737

It was 10 p.m. when Bonnie carried a glass of milk to Ivor's study. She saw the door was tightly closed and knocked on it.

After waiting for about 10 seconds, there was no response from inside.

'This is unusual. If Ivor were in the study, he would've responded by now.'

Bonnie pushed the door open. When she looked inside, she was taken aback. She saw that Ivor had fallen asleep on the desk. His handsome face was now filled with exhaustion, with dark circles under his eyes. He was fatigued.

Bonnie knew how disciplined Ivor was. If he was sleeping like this, he must be exhausted. She became even more convinced that there was a problem in his company.

But now that Ivor was so tired, pressing him for answers didn't seem appropriate. It would be better to wake him up and let him rest in the bedroom.

Bonnie slowly approached Ivor's side and reached out to gently pat his shoulder.

"Ivor, wake up, Ivor..."

The soft call in his ear made Ivor's eyelashes flutter, and he slowly opened his eyes. When he saw Bonnie in front of him, he stared blankly.

"Honey? How did you come into my dream?"

Bonnie smiled and flicked his forehead with her finger. "Does it hurt?"

Ivor didn't feel any pain, but he still pretended to be in pain, covering his forehead with his hand.

"Ouch, it hurts, honey. Are you trying to kill your husband?"

Seeing through his act, Bonnie's smile grew even broader. "Stop pretending. I know my strength. How could a little force like that make you hurt so much?"

Ivor stopped pretending after realizing he was caught. He reached out to embrace Bonnie's waist and rested his head against hers.

"Honey, how are you so clever? You saw through me instantly."

Bonnie's lips twitched helplessly.

"If you have nothing to say, you don't have to say anything. There's no need to praise me so blatantly; it makes me feel embarrassed."

"What's embarrassing about it? My honey has always been so clever and outstanding." Ivor raised his head to look at Bonnie, his expression unusually serious.

When Bonnie saw those eyes, Bonnie's heart almost skipped a beat. The intense palpitations she felt in the afternoon returned.

She inhaled deeply, steadied her thoughts, and covered the man's eyes with her palm before saying, "I don't want to waste time with you. Now, I command you to go to bed and sleep after drinking the milk. No more staying up late to read documents."

Ivor first froze for a moment, then smiled and spoke to Bonnie in a tone of negotiation, "There are just a few more documents left. After finishing them, I'll go to bed and sleep without delaying a second. So, honey, can you give me a little more time?"

"No." Bonnie's expression was unprecedentedly firm. "You're so tired that you fell asleep on the desk. If you continue like this, can your body take it? Tell me, are you going to sleep or not? If you don't, I'll be angry."

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## Chapter 738

Ivor quickly grabbed her hand and coaxed, "I'll go to bed right away. Don't be angry."

Bonnie's expression softened slightly. "Well, drink the milk first."

"Okay." Ivor took the cup and quickly finished the milk.

Bonnie immediately urged the man to go to bed. "Get up. I need to supervise you so you can return to your room to sleep. Your condition can't be delayed, and you must rest quickly." "Okay, okay, I'll go rest now." Ivor looked helpless but still stood up from the chair.

Bonnie watched as Ivor returned to the room, turned off the lights, and then went to the kitchen with the cup to wash it.

While washing the cup, she started to ponder.

'What exactly happened to Ivor's company? I wanted to investigate, but doing so seemed inappropriate.'

'Forget it. I'll just wait for the right opportunity to ask Ivor again.'

The next day, the high-level executives at the Knight Group submitted their plans and decisions to Ivor's desk.

Ivor opened the first few documents, and the more he read, the deeper his frown.

Floyd asked, "Boss, is there something wrong with what they submitted?"

"There's nothing wrong with them." Ivor leaned heavily on the back of the chair while pressing his temples with a headache.

"It's just that these plans are not suitable for the investment bidding project of Ferryover Jewelry. The most direct method is still to find Finley."

After saying this, he looked up again at Floyd and asked, "Didn't I ask you to send someone to investigate Finley's whereabouts last night? Is there any news?"

Floyd shook his head and said in a heavy tone, "I've been keeping an eye on it. I've asked dozens of times, but Finley's whereabouts are too mysterious. None of the people we sent out have gained anything, not even a piece of useful information."

Upon hearing this, Ivor's brows tightened even more.

"Continue to investigate and keep an eye on Gemedia Group. We must find the person before they find Finley."

"Yes." Floyd had just finished speaking when the phone in his pocket rang.

Taking out his phone and seeing it was a call from the person sent out to find Finley, he didn't hesitate to answer and asked anxiously, "How's it going? Have you found any news about Finley?"

The person on the other end of the line paused momentarily before cautiously saying, "We haven't found anything yet... But there's bad news. Another team we sent out just reported that the people from Gemedia Group have already found Finley."

"What?" Floyd's eyes widened suddenly, filled with disbelief. "Are you sure these messages are true?"

"These are the messages our people obtained internally. There can't be any falsehoods."

Floyd didn't know what else to say. He hung up the phone and glanced at Ivor, feeling hesitant as he considered the news he had just received.

"Mr. Ivor..."

Even if he didn't say it, Ivor had already vaguely guessed the gist of their conversation just now.



"What do you want to say? Do you want to tell me that Gemedi Group has already found Finley?"

Floyd nodded awkwardly and said, "Yes, that's the news our people just reported. I didn't expect Gemedi Group to act so quickly and manage to find Finley before us."

Ivor's dark and unclear eyes were full of gathering storms.

"I didn't expect Gemedi Group to find a loophole."

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## Chapter 739

"What should we do now, Mr. Ivor?" Floyd suggested, seemingly struck by an idea, "Should we send someone to negotiate with Finley and persuade him to come over?"

"This approach is feasible," said Ivor, his expression darkening.

"However, since Gemedi Group found Finley before us, they must have hidden her very securely. It won't be easy to locate her."

"In that case, I'll send someone to investigate which designers have recently been in close contact with Gemedi Group. Once we have any news about Finley, I'll immediately send someone to negotiate." "Alright, you handle the arrangements first and then contact other outstanding designers as a backup plan."

"Okay, Mr. Ivor."

In the afternoon, Bonnie had just returned from the research institute and ran into Halle and Rowena at the villa gate.

The three exchanged glances, and Bonnie smirked slightly.

"Why are you here?" Bonnie asked.

Halle straightened her chest and said arrogantly, "This is my cousin's house. I can come whenever I want. Do you think just because you used some shady means to be with my cousin, you can be the lady of the house?"

Bonnie retorted, "I am the lady of the house here. What's wrong with that?"

"You and my cousin haven't even gotten married yet, and you dare call yourself the lady of the house? Have you no shame—"

Halle's words were cut short as she saw Bonnie calmly approaching with her hands in her pockets.

She instantly stepped back and hid behind Rowena.

"W-What do you want to do?"

Seeing this, Bonnie let out a light chuckle. "Coward."

Halle glared at her resentfully. "Who are you calling a coward, you—"

Bonnie cut her off before she could say anything more. "Say one more word, and I'll throw you onto the street right now." Halle was instantly intimidated by Bonnie and choked. She might have taken it as a joke if someone else had said this. But Bonnie had the power to do it.

So Halle could only talk a big game. When it came to real confrontation, she dared not, because she was simply no match for Bonnie. Rowena calmly stood before Halle, smiling gently at Bonnie.

"Ms. Bonnie, sorry to disturb you. Could you please let Halle and me in? I have something to discuss with Ivor."

"Of course, I won't stop you since you really have something to do." Bonnie smiled insincerely.

Anyway, they couldn't cause any trouble in front of her. Bonnie wanted to let them in and see what they were up to.

"Thank you, Ms. Bonnie," Rowena said with a smile.

Bonnie responded with a polite smile, "You're welcome."

She then turned around and led the way into the villa ahead of Halle and Rowena.

Halle looped her arm through Rowena's and whispered. "Look at her. She really thinks she's the lady of the house! She is so arrogant. Once my cousin gets tired of her, she'll be kicked out in no time, won't she?"

Rowena maintained her cheerful expression, although there was a trace of gloom in her eyes. "Halle, let's not say too much for now. Let's wait until we see Ivor."

"Right, right, let's wait to see my cousin first. So that Bonnie won't go crazy for real and have the bodyguards throw us out." Halle nodded in agreement.

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## Chapter 740

The three entered the living room.

Ivor was reading documents on the sofa. When he turned at the sound, his icy demeanor softened as he laid eyes on Bonnie and became incredibly gentle. "Honey, why are you back so early?"

Before Bonnie could respond, Ivor glanced at Halle and Rowena behind her, and his expression instantly turned cold again. "What are you doing here?"

Halle felt both aggrieved and indignant, witnessing her cousin's swift change in attitude.

'Why is he so harsh to us? Yet he's so gentle with Bonnie? It is infuriating! It's all Bonnie's fault. If it weren't for her, Ivor wouldn't have changed like this.'

Not only was Halle upset, but Rowena was even angrier. Her fists clenched tightly, and her face twisted with suppressed rage.

However, she composed herself in the blink of an eye and approached Ivor calmly. "Ivor, I came to see you for an important matter. It's not appropriate with outsiders around. Shall we discuss it in your study?" When Rowena referred to outsiders, she meant only Bonnie. The intention was to exclude Bonnie discreetly.

Bonnie saw through Rowena's intentions immediately. 'Did she think she could undermine me like this? Make me feel embarrassed?'

Well, such naive tactics were laughable to her. However, she was curious about Ivor's response. 'Will Ivor go to the study with Rowena or...'

Ivor caught her meaning, and his eyebrows furrowed slightly. "If there's something, just say it here. There is no need to go to the study."

Rowena cast an involuntary glance at Bonnie. "But..."

Ivor grew impatient with her hesitation. "Are you going to speak or not? If not, leave."

"Ivor, I-I came to help you. How could you be so harsh?" Tears welled in Rowena's eyes, appearing genuinely aggrieved.

Halle could not bear seeing Rowena so upset. Hence, she stepped forward to speak for her. "Ivor, Rowena always supports you and always thinks for you. Can't you at least treat her with kindness? It's completely unfair to her!"

"Unfair?" Ivor's icy gaze shot directly towards Halle. "Then tell me, what would be fair?"

Halle wanted to respond but dared not under Ivor's intense stare. She quickly sought help from Rowena with her eyes. Rowena understood and took a step toward Ivor.

"It's okay, Ivor. Let me speak here. What Halle said was unintentional. Don't take it to heart."

Ivor responded with just one word. "Speak."

Rowena glanced at Bonnie briefly before turning back to Ivor. "Ivor, I heard you're looking for Finley?"

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## Chapter 741

Bonnie raised her eyebrows.

'Ivor is looking for Finley? Is that the source of his recent distress?'

Ivor's eyebrows furrowed tightly. "Who told you?"

Rowena responded gently, "Nobody told me. I found out myself. My parents sometimes discuss the competition between the Knight Group and the Gemedica Group for the Ferryover Jewelry sponsorship. So, I inquired a bit. It wasn't hard to find out."

"Who gave you permission to inquire about my affairs?!" Ivor's tone turned icy, and his expression became even more unpleasant.

"Ivor, I-I'm just concerned about you." Rowena didn't expect Ivor to be so cold toward her. She looked genuinely distressed as she took a few steps closer to Ivor.

"I came to tell you that my mom has connections in the design industry. If you need anything, I—I can ask her to find out about Finley's whereabouts for you."

"It's unnecessary. You may leave." Ivor's tone remained indifferent, devoid of any warmth.

Rowena's eyes revealed a visible unwillingness.

"Ivor, I know it was wrong of me to inquire about your matters without permission, and it made you angry, b-but I did it because I wanted to help you. Can't I care about you?"

"I said it's unnecessary. Don't be presumptuous." Ivor's tone remained emotionless.

"Ivor..." Rowena looked deeply aggrieved. Tears hung on her lashes, ready to fall, making her appear pitiful.

Yet, this failed to elicit any sympathy or pity from Ivor. Instead, his expression grew colder. "Leave," he commanded.

Halle stepped forward once again. She attempted to speak up for Rowena. "Ivor—"

Ivor interrupted her with a cold voice. "I said leave. Do you not understand?"

Halle hesitated for a moment, but Rowena gently tugged at her sleeve. "Halle, forget it. Since Ivor doesn't welcome us, let's leave."

She glanced at Ivor, trying to discern any hint of pity or sympathy from his expression, but he didn't even spare her a glance.

Rowena's gaze dimmed, but her heart was filled more with resentment towards Bonnie.

'It is all that despicable Bonnie's fault. If it weren't for her, things wouldn't have turned out like this between Ivor and me. It is all her fault! When I get the chance, I'll make that despicable woman pay!' Only Bonnie and Ivor remained in the living room.

Bonnie crossed her arms. After giving Ivor a severe glance, Bonnie remained silent and headed upstairs.

Knowing that Bonnie was angry, Ivor quickly stood up and grabbed her wrist tightly. "Honey, where are you going?"

Bonnie pretended to be annoyed as she shook his hand. "You dare lie to me repeatedly, and you still have the nerve to ask me where I'm going? What does it have to do with you?"

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## Chapter 742

Ivor knew that Bonnie would be angry about this matter. He was apprehensive about it. He constantly pondered in his mind how to explain this to Bonnie properly.

Now, seeing Bonnie even angrier than he had imagined, panic instantly occupied his heart. He gripped her hand tightly, fearing that his hard-won wife might leave if he let go. "Honey, I can explain this matter. Don't be angry. Sit down and listen to me carefully."

Bonnie scoffed coldly. "You always lie to me. How do I know if what you tell me is the truth?"

"I can guarantee that what I say is true. If I tell a single lie, I'll be struck by lightning and die!" Ivor raised his hand to swear, his expression unusually serious.

Bonnie furrowed her brows and pressed down his hand. "Alright, who curses themselves like that?"

Ivor saw Bonnie's reaction, and his face lit up with a smile again. "Honey, I knew you'd feel sorry for me."

Bonnie rolled her eyes. "Hurry up and explain to me what you lied to me about."

"Come, let's sit over there on the sofa, and I'll slowly explain it to you," he said as he led her to sit down with him.

Ivor then systematically explained everything about the dispute with the Gemedi Group, the sponsorship bid for Phoenix Jewelry, and the search for Finley.

"Honey, the reason I didn't tell you about these things is that I didn't want you to worry while you're busy. Besides, these are minor issues, and I can handle them myself without troubling you."

"So? To avoid troubling me, you stayed up late working overtime without telling me the truth? Are you dumb?" Thinking of Ivor's tired appearance from working overtime, Bonnie felt distressed. Upon hearing this, Ivor couldn't be happier. "Honey, are you concerned about me?"

"What? Am I not allowed to be concerned about you? Only you can be concerned about me?" Bonnie found this man's foolishness adorable.

Ivor smiled even more. "My honey is the best." With that, he leaned over and planted a deep kiss on Bonnie's cheek.

Bonnie pushed him away with a look of disdain. She rolled her eyes at him and said, "Why are you like this? Just talk! I think you're perfectly fine and don't need me to worry about you."

"Of course I need it. Your concern is what I've always longed for-rare and precious." Ivor hugged Bonnie tightly, unwilling to let go.

Bonnie gently patted his arm, seeing that he still hadn't let go, so she just let him be. "Forget it. I won't waste time talking nonsense with you. Let's talk about some real business next. What are you going to do about Finley?"

Ivor's expression turned dark. "I forgot to tell you something earlier. The Gemedia Group has already found Finley. I just sent Floyd to investigate her whereabouts this morning to see if we can persuade her to come over."

"What?" This news stunned Bonnie for a moment.

After reacting, she raised her delicately arched eyebrows and said, "There's no need for you to persuade her. It's useless."

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## Chapter 743

Bonnie's response made Ivor vaguely aware that something was amiss. "Honey, why did you answer so confidently?"

Bonnie felt a slight pang of guilt when she faced Ivor's probing gaze. 'Oh no, I'm too quick with my mouth and almost said something I shouldn't have.'

Bonnie regained her composure in the blink of an eye.

"Both you and Gemedi Group have issued notices to find Finley, but she chose Gemedi Group first under such circumstances. I think it means she wants to work with them rather than you. So even if you find her, you won't be able to persuade her to come over,"

Bonnie's words echoed Ivor's thoughts.

"Apart from this, there are no other better solutions at the moment. We can only take it step by step.

"Then go for it." Bonnie reached out and patted Ivor's shoulder. "As for matters related to design, my expertise is not broad enough to help you."

Although her knowledge of design was indeed not extensive, she could give him a big surprise on the day Ivor went to negotiate the cooperation.

As for what the surprise was, she wouldn't say for now; it was best to keep an air of mystery.

Bonnie didn't think this way to be modest; she genuinely believed that among all her skills, design was her weakest area.

Ivor smiled and didn't bring up the matter again.

Time passed quickly, and soon, it was the day of the bidding for Ferryrover Jewelry sponsorship.

In the study, Ivor was frowning slightly.

"Even after asking you to invite other outstanding designers, you still couldn't find any?" Floyd shook his head, his tone full of frustration. "Those designers heard they were going to compete against Finley and immediately backed out. Not a single one was willing to take on this job." Ivor remained silent, but his eyes flashed with an obscure light.

Floyd cautiously asked, "Mr. Ivor, what should we do now? Are we still going?"

"Of course we are." Ivor slowly stood up from his chair and continued with a firm tone, "Until the last moment, I will never admit defeat."

Floyd nodded heavily and said, "Yes, Mr. Ivor."



Just as they were about to head out the door, Ivor noticed Bonnie strolling over from the backyard. So, instead of rushing to the car, he stood in place and waited for her. When she approached, he reached out and pulled her into his arms. "Honey, I'm about to participate in the bidding for the Ferryrover Jewelry sponsorship. Wish me success."

Bonnie shook her head. "I won't."

He didn't expect her to give such an answer. "Why not?"

Bonnie smirked, a hint of cunning flashing in her eyes. "Because... you're not going to lose."

Ivor was surprised. "Honey, you have high hopes for me. What if I lose? Won't that disappoint you?"

Bonnie raised her chin, her eyes flashing with a hint of pride and confidence. "Don't worry, I won't let you lose."

Ivor knew that the odds were not in his favor in this showdown with the Gemedi Group, so he assumed Bonnie was trying to comfort him.

He smiled and reached out to affectionately tousle her hair. "Well, thank you, my lucky charm. I will do my best to win this cooperation."

Bonnie was satisfied with Ivor's reaction and reached out to pat his shoulder. "Then go quickly. It's getting late."

"Okay," Ivor answered, and he turned to get into the car.

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## Chapter 744

Bonnie watched as the Maybach gradually disappeared from view, then pulled out her phone and made a call.

"I have some personal matters to attend to today, so I won't be going to the research institute. Carry on with whatever you need to do. Don't wait for me," Bonnie said on the phone. The person on the other end immediately responded, "Alright, Ms. Bonita."

When Ivor got out of the car, he saw Shane also leaving his car outside the Ferryover Jewelry store.

Without revealing any emotions, Ivor continued walking straight toward the lobby. However, he heard Shane's voice from behind.

"Mr. Ivor, don't be in such a hurry to leave. Don't you greet old acquaintances when you see them?"

Ivor halted his steps, turned around, and said expressionlessly, "How's your mother?"

Upon hearing this, Shane's face turned purple with anger. "Is that supposed to be funny?"

"Well, it's alright," he replied calmly.

Shane let out a long sigh, then smiled and said, "Mr. Ivor, why do you look so grim? Do you already know you'll lose before the bidding even starts?"

Ivor responded with a faint smile. "Whether I win or lose isn't for you to decide, and I also advise you not to be too happy too soon, lest you fail miserably."

Shane felt stifled. He had come to show off, but Ivor's indifferent attitude made him furious.

Since he couldn't achieve the desired effect, he decided not to waste any more words on Ivor. "Let's wait and see! Rest assured, I will ensure you see my success today!" Ivor remained calm. "I'll be waiting."

"Hmph!" Shane snorted heavily and turned away from Ivor, leaving in large strides.

Watching Shane's departing figure, Floyd felt indignant and asked, "So what if he found Finley before us? We've beaten him many times before but never flaunted like he does!" Shane's behavior was irritating.

Ivor glanced at him sideways and suddenly called out his name, "Floyd."

Floyd was stunned, then looked at Ivor and asked, "Mr. Ivor, what's up?"

"There's something I hope you'll remember," Ivor said, glancing in the direction Shane had left. "Don't argue with idiots."

Upon hearing this, Floyd laughed helplessly, "Haha, Mr. Ivor, you're quite humorous today."

Ivor smiled faintly and then strode forward. "Let's go."

Floyd quickly caught up with his steps and said, "Alright!"

Shane and Percy Crosby, the person in charge of Ferryover Jewelry, were chatting happily at the bidding venue, and their conversation was seemingly delightful. Percy caught sight of Ivor's figure and immediately greeted him, "Mr. Ivor."

Ivor nodded slightly and found a seat to sit down.

Upon seeing this, Shane's eyes flashed with jealousy.

He looked at Percy Crosby and deliberately asked, "Mr. Percy, didn't you say before that whichever company finds Finley will enjoy the priority for cooperation?"

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## Chapter 745

"Yes." Percy nodded.

He then suddenly remembered something, turned to Shane, and asked with his eyes gleaming, "Have you found Finley?"

Shane lifted his chin and gave Ivor a few arrogant looks. "Of course, I've found Finley a long time ago."

"Really?" Percy was a fan of Finley and had long wanted to meet her. Now, hearing Shane's words, he felt indescribably excited. "Where is Finley? Quick, bring her out!"

Shane didn't immediately respond to Percy's words. Instead, he turned to Ivor and smirked, "Mr. Ivor, I heard you've been looking for Finley too. Now that you're about to meet her, I wonder how you're feeling?" "Finley is well-known. I'm also eager to meet her." Ivor's tone remained calm, making it hard to discern his emotions.

'Pretentious!' Shane cursed inwardly, then turned to his assistant and said, "Since everyone wants to see Finley, go and bring her here."

"Yes." The assistant replied and brought Finley in soon.

"Mr. Shane, Finley is here."

When everyone turned to look, they saw Finley, who had long hair and appeared youthful and attractive.

Finley modestly stepped forward to greet them. "Hello, my name is Felecia Boyd, and Finley is my designer name. I've heard that you all like my work, and I'm grateful for your support. I will continue to work hard and strive for better achievements in the field of design."

Her voice was gentle, and her words were humble and polite, which left Percy with a favorable impression. "I didn't expect you to be so young. It's quite surprising that you have achieved such high accomplishments in design at such a young age."

Percy's words were not just praise; they were also a test. After all, he had been in the business world for many years and couldn't unquestioningly believe that someone was Finley just because they said so. Felecia understood his meaning and took out a stack of design drafts from her bag. "Mr. Percy, these are my previous works and the recent design drafts I've drawn. You can take a look." "Good!" Percy took the design drafts and carefully examined them. After looking at them several times, his hand holding the drafts trembled slightly. "A-Are you really Finley?!"

He looked at Felecia eagerly and said, "Finley, I'm your fan. Can you give me an autograph later?"

Felecia gave a faint smile. "Of course, it would be my pleasure to have your favor."

"Finley, y-you're too modest." Percy rubbed his hands together, his expression full of eagerness, as if he were meeting his idol.

Felecia remained calm, as if she were used to such occasions.

From this, Percy became more confident that Felecia was indeed Finley. After all, only those who were truly capable could remain calm and confident in the face of praises. When Shane saw them chatting enthusiastically, he spoke up in a timely manner, "Mr. Percy, since you've confirmed Finley's identity, about our cooperation..." Upon hearing this, Percy immediately made a decision.

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## Chapter 746

"I'll stick to my previous words. Whichever company finds Finley, I will prioritize cooperating with that company. So, I will cooperate with Gemedia Group this time."

He glanced in the direction of Ivor. "Mr. Ivor, I want to apologize to you, but I still look forward to cooperating with the Knight family next time."

Ivor shook his head lightly. "It's okay. Since Mr. Shane found Finley first, this collaboration naturally belongs to him. I'm willing to admit defeat." He had anticipated this result, so he wasn't shocked by Percy's answer. However, the current Finley gave him a strange feeling...

This was still just his speculation. He wouldn't easily speak out without concrete evidence.

Percy smiled helplessly. "Indeed, Mr. Ivor, you have a great temperament."

Ivor responded indifferently, "Mr. Percy, you're too kind."

Shane's eyes toward Ivor were faintly mocking. "I never expected to hear you say the words 'admit defeat' in my lifetime. I wonder if you are truly convinced or if you're just speaking for the sake of it." Ivor turned his head slightly and gave Shane a disdainful glance. "And what about you? When we discussed the land in Larcbost before, you suffered a loss. You also said you admired me very much. "Now I'm curious, were you speaking sincerely, or were they just empty words? But judging from your current attitude, you're not very convinced."

Upon hearing Ivor touch his sore spot, Shane's face turned livid. "Regardless of the past, I outperformed you slightly this time, didn't I?"

"Hmm, indeed, you did slightly outperform me this time. And?" Ivor met Shane's resentful eyes with an insincere smile.

Shane ground his teeth, about to say something, when he saw Percy instructing his assistant to prepare for the signing of the contract.

Upon seeing this scene, his gloomy expression instantly faded, replaced by a faint smile.

"It's nothing. I'm just thrilled. I wanted to say it to make you happy, too. After all, once you get through this, you probably won't be happy anymore."

Ivor glanced at him indifferently. "Oh? Is that so?"

"Isn't it so? Our cooperation with Ferryrover Jewelry can help our company advance to a higher level. The position of the richest man in Pyralis will probably be mine in the

future." Shane's smile grew wider as he spoke. "I wonder if you'll still be able to laugh then?"

Seeing Shane become increasingly outrageous, Floyd's fists clenched. He was about to speak when Ivor sensed his intention and stopped him. "Don't be impulsive."

Floyd had no choice but to forcibly suppress the surge of anger in his chest.

Ivor withdrew his gaze from him and looked at Shane. "Mr. Shane, with just one collaboration, do you think you can pull the Knight family down from that position? It's a bit of wishful thinking." Shane smirked. "We have to take it step by step. After all, who can predict the future?"

Ivor did not respond; he just chuckled coldly.

Just then, a high-level executive rushed into the conference room, panting heavily. He looked at Percy and said urgently, "Mr. Percy, s-someone outside is c-claiming she's the real Finley!"

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## Chapter 747

"What?! Another Finley?"

Everyone's mouths fell open as they looked at Felecia with skeptical eyes.

Felecia's eyes flashed with panic. But she quickly calmed herself down and scolded the executive who rushed in, "Nonsense! I'm the real Finley. The person outside is just a fake. Don't let her cause trouble by letting her in and wasting everyone's time."

The executive turned to Percy and asked, "Mr. Percy, should we kick her out?"

"Don't rush." Percy, accustomed to storms, quickly decided. Standing up from his chair, he strolled to the executive and asked, "Besides claiming to be the real Finley, did she say anything else?"

"She gave me a stack of design drafts besides claiming to be the real Finley. She said these were her usual practice manuscripts and that as soon as you see this stack of manuscripts, you'll know who the real Finley is."

The executive handed the stack of drafts to Percy.

"She's just a scammer! You must not look at her things. Otherwise, you'll fall into her trap." Felecia immediately spoke up to stop Percy.

Although she didn't know if the person outside was the real Finley, she knew better than anyone that she was a fake herself.

'If the person outside is Finley, I'll be finished. So, no matter what, I have to stop Percy from looking at that person's things! Because the consequence of being exposed is too terrifying.'

Upon seeing Felecia's anxious expression, Shane narrowed his eyes and asked calmly, "What's the situation? Why are you in such a hurry? Could it be that you're a fake?"

Felecia's heart skipped a beat. She avoided his gaze, not daring to meet his eyes.

"How could I possibly be fake, Mr. Shane? I'm just trying not to waste your time on unrelated people."

Shane warned her sternly, "I hate deception the most. You'd better not deceive me. Otherwise, I have many ways to make you suffer."

Felecia's face turned pale, and she replied with a wry smile, "Mr. Shane, how could I have the courage to deceive you?"

She suddenly remembered that Finley had always been elusive, not appearing publicly for many years. So the purpose of the person outside should be the same as hers-to get a piece of the pie from the competition between the Knight Group and the Gemedial Group.

However, she was very confident in her abilities. She had copied Finley's work for many years and was confident no one could surpass her.

Felecia gradually regained her confidence, looked at Shane confidently, and said, "See what I said? That fake Finley has indeed influenced you. Now you're starting to doubt whether I'm the real one. Mr. Shane, I hope you can also trust me. Don't make me feel disappointed."

Hearing her confident words, Shane believed her somewhat, and his expression softened slightly.

"As long as you don't fool me, everything will be fine."

Felecia raised her hand to assure him, "Mr. Shane, you can rest assured that I will never do anything selfish and harmful to others."

Although Shane didn't respond, his expression showed that he believed Felecia's words.

Floyd overheard them talking and asked Ivor, "Mr. Ivor, do you think this Felecia is Finley or not?"

Ivor pondered for a moment and soon concluded.

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## Chapter 748

"Most likely fake."

Floyd was taken aback. He quickly asked, "Mr. Ivor, how did you figure that out?"

"Intuition." Ivor looked at Felecia with a pensive expression.

He had long suspected the authenticity of this Finley. Now, he was even more convinced of his speculation through observation. After all, Felecia acted immaturely in every way, lacking the demeanor of a master, let alone Finley's international stature.

"Intuition?" Floyd wore a big question mark on his face.

"Yeah," Ivor responded lightly.

Just as he finished speaking, excited voices suddenly came from beside Percy.

"T-The person outside, she's the real Finley! Quickly, go and invite her in!"

As soon as these words were spoken, the scene erupted into chaos.



Shane was stunned. He looked at Percy and asked, "Mr. Percy, the one I found is the real Finley, right? Why do you say the person outside is the real one? Did something go wrong?"

Percy didn't explain much. Instead, he handed the stack of manuscripts to Shane.

"Mr. Shane, take a look for yourself. After you see it, you'll understand."

He then turned to the executive beside him and ordered, "What are you still standing around for? Hurry up and go invite Finley in!"

"Yes, yes, I'll go right away." The executive quickly hurried out.

Shane lowered his head and carefully examined the stack of manuscripts Percy handed him. After finishing, he compared it with Felecia's earlier designs.

Only after comparing them did he realize the stark differences. The latest manuscript had its own distinct style, showing exceptionally profound design skills. On the other hand, Felecia's work merely imitated the general outline, with completely different details and design styles.

The truth of who was real and who was fake became apparent at a glance.

No wonder the person outside was so confident earlier. It turned out that she was fully confident in her abilities.

Just as Shane thought this, the executive led the real Finley inside.

Finley was dressed in black, wrapped tightly from head to toe, with only a pair of eyes visible.

Upon seeing this scene, everyone sighed. This was what a true master looked like.

As for Felecia, she was nothing but a pretender.

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## **Chapter 749**

Percy rubbed his hands together, a trace of caution evident on his face as he watched Finley enter.

"May I ask, are you the real Finley?"

Hidden under Finley's shell, Bonnie glanced around before speaking lightly, "Yes, I am Finley. If you don't believe it, I can design a sketch for you on the spot."

Although Percy had already confirmed Finley's identity when he saw those manuscripts, seeing a sketch on the spot was still prudent. He nodded repeatedly, obviously agreeing with the proposal. "If you can sketch on the spot, it would be most appropriate."

"Yes," Bonnie responded faintly. She shot a look at Felecia and asked, "Ms. Felecia, dare to compete with me?"

Felecia instantly felt exposed. She swallowed hard and responded with a forced tone, "Compete? Who's afraid of whom? I am the real Finley. I have no reason to fear you."

Bonnie raised the corner of his lips. "Then, Ms. Felecia, please go ahead."

With a heavy snort, Felecia sat down and began sketching the design. Bonnie stood silently with her arms crossed, watching without saying a word.

In less than 10 minutes, Felecia finished her sketch. When she saw the design in front of her, which was better than any of her previous ones, she immediately revealed a satisfied smile. She glanced triumphantly at Bonnie with a provocative smile.

"How about it? Are you still willing to compete with me? I advise you to admit defeat now to avoid crying later when you lose miserably."

Bonnie chuckled as if she had heard a funny joke.

"The one who will cry later will be you, not me. Your drawing is very similar and has some of my style, but you've only scratched the surface. You have a long way to go before you truly learn my design style! Moreover, you not only lack skill but also humility. That's your biggest flaw. You can try to imitate my designs again when you learn to seek advice humbly."

Felecia's face darkened momentarily. She looked at Bonnie coldly and said, "Stop talking nonsense! Go ahead and draw. I want to see what you can come up with!"

Until now, she still firmly believed that the person in front of her was not the real Finley. After all, Finley had disappeared from the public eye for a long time. How could he suddenly appear, especially at Ferryrover Jewelry's bidding competition?

This was a bit too coincidental, so she concluded that the person in front of her was a fake Finley, with the same purpose as her to profit from the situation!

"You're stubborn, aren't you?" Bonnie shook his head and looked at her as if she were a fool, then picked up a pen and sketched on the paper.

A lifelike necklace sketch emerged on the paper in just two or three minutes. Not only were the lines clear, but the unique characteristics of the necklace were also prominent, making it a flawless sketch. When Felecia saw Bonnie sketching, she thought she was watching a joke. But the more she watched, the wider her mouth opened. Until the end, her mouth was wide enough to fit an egg.

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## Chapter 750

"H-How did you... do this?" She remembered her previous teachers, none of whom could accomplish this feat in just two or three minutes. 'T-This strength, is it not heaven-defying?' The onlookers witnessed this scene unfolding, stunned beyond words. Finally, Percy led the applause.

"Well done! This design is drawn so well! It's no wonder you're Finley. You prove everything with your strength directly, without wasting words. I love people like you who are straightforward the most!"

With Percy applauding, others in the conference room followed suit. Applause filled the air.

Bonnie raised the corner of her lips and replied calmly. "Thank you for the praise, Mr. Percy."

"Finley, you're truly amazing! I would like to buy this sketch from you for our seasonal flagship necklace for 10 million dollars. Would you be willing?" When Percy raised this question, he was a bit nervous. It's said that people with extraordinary talent usually have peculiar tempers. He was curious to know if Finley would agree. Although it was only a sketch, it was something genuinely designed by Finley. Finley's work was priceless. It would be considered a bargain even if he bought it for ten million dollars.

Bonnie raised her eyebrows helplessly. "Are you sure you want to buy my sketch for 10 million?"

"Of course, I'm sincere. I wonder if you're willing to let go?" Percy looked at Bonnie eagerly, hoping she would give him this sketch.

Bonnie agreed without much thought, "It was just a casual sketch. Then, it's yours."

"Really? Finley, are you really willing to give me this sketch?" Percy was so excited that he could hardly contain himself, as if he could bounce up.

"Yes." Bonnie's voice was very light, but Percy was ecstatic as a child who had just received candy, dancing joyfully. "Thank you, Finley! Later, give me your account, and I'll have the finance department wire the money to you."

"Okay," Bonnie replied, subconsciously glancing toward Ivor.

Surprisingly, she found that Ivor also looked in their direction when she turned around. Not only was he looking at her, but he was also staring at her with a piercing gaze.

'Can it be that Ivor can still recognize her? But even if he did, it doesn't matter. I came here for Ivor, and my intentions were not hidden from him. I disguised myself like this to conceal my true appearance and avoid attracting more annoying people.'

Floyd noticed Ivor's gaze on Bonnie and asked in confusion, "Mr. Ivor, what are you looking at?"

Ivor scrutinized Bonnie for several moments before asking, "Do you feel that Finley's figure is somewhat similar to my honey's figure?"

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## Chapter 751

Floyd's lips twitched. He could not help but say, "Gosh, Mr. Ivor. Does everyone remind you of Ms. Bonnie?"

Bonnie had disguised herself too well, yet Floyd did not know how Ivor concluded it was her. Floyd was confident his boss missed Bonnie so much that he began to see her everywhere.

"You seriously can't tell?" Ivor frowned. When he stared at Bonnie again, he fell into deep thought.

'She came to me before we came here. She said she'd never lose the bet. She wouldn't have said that if she wasn't confident, right? Is she really...'

Floyd helplessly replied, "I'm sorry, Mr. Ivor, I honestly can't tell how Ms. Finley resembles your fiancée."

Ivor glanced at him disdainfully and said, "Something must be wrong with your eyes. Maybe you should get them checked."

Floyd dared not talk back to his boss and could only grumble quietly, "My eyes are fine. Why would Mr. Ivor say that? He must miss his fiancée too much. It's only been several hours, yet he can't stand it already. That's why he sees her everywhere."

Ivor did not quite hear Floyd's grumbling. The former glanced at his assistant and asked, "What are you mumbling about? Are you badmouthing me behind my back?"

Floyd quickly shook his head. "I-I wouldn't dare, Mr. Ivor!"

Ivor scoffed lightly. "You better not."

Floyd chuckled dryly and gestured to zip his mouth.

Meanwhile, Bonnie stood just a short distance from the duo and heard their entire exchange. She could not help but smirk and giggle. Suddenly, she heard a furious voice, "I thought you told me you're Finley! Explain how this happened now!"

Bonnie looked toward the voice and saw Shane glaring at Felecia. On the other hand, Felecia did not expect the real Finley to show up here.

Felecia did not know how to explain herself. Since she was out of options, she stuck to her act, saying, "I-I'm sorry, Shane. I didn't mean to lie to you. I-It's just that I've admired you for so long and wanted to work for Gemedica Group. Please don't—"

Before she could finish, Shane roared, "Shut the hell up! You can't expect me to trust you after what happened!"

He was furious, panting heavily as his face reddened. Then, he saw his assistant from the corner of his eyes, intensifying his fury.

Shane questioned his assistant, "You told me you found the real Finley. You even asked various sources to verify her identity. How did it all come to this?!"

The assistant lowered their head and explained, "I-I did check her identity with various sources, Mr. Shane. Based on the information I acquired, her resume was impressive, and she won multiple awards. That's why I thought she was the real deal. I-I didn't know she was an impostor."

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## Chapter 752

Shane sighed and tried hard to suppress his anger. He said, "Take the impostor away. I'll clean up this mess and deal with her when I'm done."

"R-Right away, Mr. Shane," the assistant replied, waving for the bodyguards to seize Felecia.

Immediately after, she cried and begged, "Shane! I didn't mean to lie to you. Please give me another chance!"

Shane detested Felecia. "Get her out of my sight!"

While the guards dragged her away, Shane looked at Bonnie sparkingly. He had just thought of a good idea. He smiled and approached, saying sheepishly, "Greetings, Ms. Finley. I'm Shane from Gemedi Group."

She glanced at him and said coldly, "Can I help you?"

"H-Here's the thing, Ms. Finley. My company needs a top-tier jeweler, and you're the perfect candidate. I want to hire you with a thirteen-million-dollar annual salary plus commission. That's a sincere offer, Ms. Finley!"

Shane knew he had to be modest toward her. After all, he needed her to be his company's lead designer. Then, he would use her to take the Knight Group down a peg and make himself look good.

'Although a thirteen-million-dollar salary might be overkill, getting her on my side will be worth every penny.'

"You're willing to pay me that much, huh?" Bonnie said sarcastically, "Gosh, you're throwing a lot of money at me."

Shane thought he had piqued her interest and proceeded to push it. "That's not it, Ms. Finley. You're just worth that much. I promise to give you anything you want if you work for my company."

Ivor noticed Shane openly poaching his designer. The former stood up slowly and was about to say something when Finley turned and looked at him, saying, "Indeed, that's an attractive offer, Mr. Shane. However, I've decided to work with the Knight Group. I'll have to reject your offer."

Shane felt a sense of déjà vu at that moment. He recalled going to Tang Fusion Studios to talk to Hamish. Back then, he also got rejected, similar to what Finley did just now.

Shane's fury welled within him. He sneered but said calmly, "Pardon me, Ms. Finley, you should've instantly turned me down when I made my offer. Why did you play me for a fool earlier? Did you find it amusing?"

He knew he could not offend the renowned jeweler and tried his best to stay calm. However, he had suffered too many setbacks and could no longer bear it.

Bonnie turned and glanced at Shane casually. "Is there a problem with me choosing to work with the Knight Group? It's my decision, and I can choose to work with whoever I want. You don't get to teach me how to do my job."

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## Chapter 753

Shane was stumped, not knowing how to retort. He took several breaths to suppress the anger boiling in his chest. Then, through gritted teeth, he said, "Of course not, Ms. Finley. I can't tell you how to do your job."

He turned to Percy and said, "I think my work here is done. I'll leave you and Mr. Ivor to it."

Shane headed toward the entrance, looking furious as he thought, 'This is the only thing I can do now. After finding the real Finley, I thought I'd finally work with Ferryover Jewelry. I thought I could finally take Ivor down a peg.'

Shane never expected to become the butt of the joke. He was sure Percy would not give him the collaboration even if he stayed around. Since that was the case, Shane decided to leave before enduring any more humiliation.

Meanwhile, Ivor watched Shane leave. Then, the former turned to Bonnie and mouthed her actual name.

Bonnie realized he was not being ambiguous. She raised her brow and smirked but did not respond to Ivor. Instead, she was content with keeping up the mystery.

A moment later, Percy presented contracts to the duo. "Mr. Ivor, this collaboration is undoubtedly yours. Here's to a smooth journey."

"Why, of course." Ivor shook Percy's hand and then signed the bottom of the contract.

Percy tucked it away and smiled. "I'm surprised, Mr. Ivor. I never thought your social circle would be so wide that you'd know someone as prestigious as Ms. Finley." Ivor smirked discreetly at Bonnie, saying, "That makes two of us. I never expected Ms. Finley to come to my aid."

Percy was stunned.

"You didn't expect her to help you?" Percy instinctively turned to Bonnie and asked, "Ms. Finley, when did you become Mr. Ivor's acquaintance?"

"Not only are we acquaintances, but we're pretty close."

Before this, Ivor was unsure of himself. He was still trying to determine whether Finley was Bonnie. However, her response gave him the answer he needed.

'I thought so. She's Bonnie, after all,' with that thought in mind, Ivor's smile grew wider.

Ivor added, "Forgive me for not recognizing you earlier, Ms. Finley. That was a foolish mistake on my part."

Bonnie scoffed when she realized he had figured her out. Instead of responding to him, she glanced at Percy and said, "Thanks for having me, Percy. If there's nothing else, I'll be taking my leave. Here's to a smooth collaboration between Ferryover Jewelry and Knight Group."



Percy noticed there was more than met the eye with Finley and Ivor but did not say it out loud. Instead, he responded smilingly, "Hopefully, we manifest that. That said, I believe everything will go without a hitch between Ivor and me."

Ivor nodded in agreement and said, "Naturally, Percy. I'm sure our companies will create something remarkable."

The trio stood up and chatted with each other for a while. Once the conversation ended, Bonnie took the initiative to leave.

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## Chapter 754

Ivor saw Bonnie leaving and hurried after her. However, he did not speak until they reached Ferryrover Jewelry's entrance. "Ms. Finley, you remind me of someone I'm close to. Do you have a minute?" She knew he would wait until she was along to ask her that, so she did not turn him down. Bonnie tilted her head toward a car and said, "Sure, let's talk in there."

"All right." Ivor smiled and looked at her as he approached the car. That was when Floyd called out to him.

Floyd whispered, "I mean it, Mr. Ivor. She isn't Bonnie. Don't poke around, or you'll embarrass yourself. Worse, you'll make things awkward."

Ivor asked, "What makes you so sure she isn't Bonnie? How can you tell?"

"Just think about it, Mr. Ivor. Not only is she Ms. Bonita, but she's also extraordinarily talented in every field. Ms. Bonnie possesses an inhuman number of achievements, too. I know she's a genius, but can she be Finley, too? Your judgment must be skewed, Mr. Ivor."

Ivor grinned, saying, "All right, if you're so sure Finley and Bonnie aren't the same person, follow me to the car. We'll find out who's right then."

Floyd nodded enthusiastically. "Say what you want, Mr. Ivor, but you bet on the wrong horse. There's no way Ms. Bonnie is Ms. Finley."

Floyd and Ivor were still chatting as they opened the car door and entered. Then, the former turned around to look at the backseat, and his eyes widened with surprise.

Meanwhile, Bonnie waved and calmly greeted him, "Howdy."

Floyd gulped, unable to believe his eyes. "W-Wait a minute! Y-You're working on multiple jobs, Ms. Bonnie? How do you have time to design jewelry? You must have crazy time-management skills!"

'Ms. Bonnie isn't human. Not only is she proficient in every imaginable area, but she excels at them. That's so badass!'

"It's not as hard as you think. I picked up on jewelry design because I became interested in it. So, I started studying it whenever I had time. I never poured much effort into it, either. So, why would I feel tired?" Bonnie responded casually.

'Sh-she just said she never poured much effort into it, yet she's one of the most popular jewelers. She's bragging about her talent without even knowing it.'

Floyd was envious, asking, "When will I become as incredible as you, Ms. Bonnie?"

She patted his shoulder and said, "You can do it. Just work harder. I'm sure you'll overtake me in the future."

Floyd was shocked. His lips twitched as he responded, "Forget about it, Ms. Bonnie. I don't have what it takes to be like you."

Bonnie giggled. Then, she felt a hand on her shoulder as Ivor's charming voice sounded, "How many secrets have you kept from me, Bonnie?"

'She's like Pandora's Box. A pleasant surprise awaits me whenever it opens. Bonnie's so capable that I don't feel safe anymore. It took me a great effort to win her heart. What'll I do if she slips away while I'm not looking?'

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## Chapter 755

Bonnie raised her brow at Ivor, asking, "Don't you think it'll be less fun if I tell you everything?"

Ivor chuckled. "Are you telling me you're purposely stringing me along?"

"It'll be more fun if you slowly dig up my secrets. What's wrong? Aren't you patient enough to learn about me?" Bonnie lifted her chin, her eyes filled with humor and mischief.

Ivor chuckled again and held her tighter. "It's not about patience. It's just how incredible you are. I fear someone else will try to steal you from me."

Bonnie turned to look at him and asked, "Have you always had such a low opinion of yourself?"

"I've always felt unsure around you. I thought you knew that," Ivor admitted.

"Here's the thing." Bonnie yanked his tie and stared into his eyes. "The man I fell in love with is the most incredible and excellent person on the planet. You're the one who can say you're my equal.

"We can support and improve each other, too. If you keep underestimating yourself, I might fall out of love with you."

Ivor knew she said all that on purpose. It was Bonnie's way of building his confidence in their relationship. He was thrilled and moved to hear her say such things.

Meanwhile, Ivor only sounded unconfident because he wanted her to soothe him. After all, he would not have become the family head if he constantly beat himself up over nothing, not to mention leading the family's company to massive success.

"I understand, Bonnie. I'll never repeat such words to upset you."

Bonnie pretended to be mad and pouted. She said sternly, "I'll hold you to it. If I catch you repeating those words, I'll start ignoring you."

"Okay, I swear not to repeat the same mistake." Ivor smiled.

Ivor parked his Maybach at the villa entrance and exited the car to open Bonnie's door. When she got out, she yawned and said, "I woke up too early today. I bushed."

Ivor went beside her and said warmly, "You should get some shut-eye, then. I'll wake you when dinner's ready."

"That works for me," she responded. Then, she yawned again and headed toward her room upstairs.

Ivor watched her leave and then turned to Floyd abruptly. "I need you to do something for me."

Floyd responded, "What is it, Mr. Ivor?"

Ivor proceeded to relay his order briefly. Afterward, Floyd's eyes widened in surprise as he gasped. "M-Mr. Ivor, that's... Th-that's just "

Ivor glanced sidelong at him. "What's wrong?"

Floyd closed his mouth and waved. "N-Nothing, Mr. Ivor. It's such a last-minute decision. That's all."

"If you know it's last minute, why are you still here? How can you make it in time if you don't leave now?" Ivor's questioning made Floyd panic.

The latter spoke faster than usual, "Understood, Mr. Ivor! I'll get on it now."

Bonnie slept for a long while. It was already nighttime when she finally woke up and washed her face. "Ivor? Ivor!"

She called out to him several times but received no response.

'That's weird. I thought Ivor told me he'd wake me up once dinner's ready.'

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## Chapter 756

'Not only did Ivor not wake Bonnie up for dinner, but he had gone missing. She wondered where he was. It was also so dark outside that she thought the villa had a power outage. Her mind was full of questions but no answers.

Bonnie returned to her room and got her phone to turn on its flashlight before going downstairs.

'Under normal circumstances, a power outage would be impossible since the villa has its own power supply. It's probably Ivor's doing. If he's being so mysterious, he's probably planning some grand gesture. Still, I have no idea what he's doing.'

As she descended the stairs and entered the living room, she heard loud noises around her.

Thud, thud! Thud!

Immediately after, all the lights turned on, and Bonnie could not resist looking around. Before she knew it, she saw a sea of roses from the ceiling to the carpet, with a long table in the middle.

Ivor had set up a candlelight dinner, creating a romantic and picturesque vibe throughout the living room.

Bonnie could not help but grin.

'I knew there was a reason all the lights were off. Ivor was missing, too. It turns out he was hoping to surprise me.'

As she was thinking, she heard Ivor's charming voice, "I learned this song just for you, Bonnie. I hope you like it."

She turned to gaze toward the voice and saw Ivor sitting at a piano. He wore a black tuxedo with a white piano before him. The chandelier shined on him, accentuating his features. Even his every movement brimmed with grace and sophistication.

Bonnie could not help but sigh.

'Ivor's such a wonderful man. He's perfect, yet he always feels he's not good enough for me. I just don't get why he thinks so. He's proud to have me as his soulmate, and I'm happy to have him, too. Why doesn't he believe that?'

Plink, plink, plonk!

Musical notes echoed.

Bonnie only heard the intro and already knew the song title. After all, a famous pianist in Arvador composed it for the woman he loved deeply. Naturally, the song title was "Dearly Beloved."

The song told a bittersweet and poignant love tale. Ivor played it wonderfully and injected a sentiment into the notes so rich that it immersed Bonnie utterly. She did not even realize it until he finished. Afterward, Ivor rose from his seat and approached Bonnie with a bouquet. He looked at her lovingly, giving her the bouquet of fresh, pink roses. "These are for you, Bonnie."

Boonie took the flowers and could not help but gaze across the living room to admire the sea of roses. She giggled and teased him, "You decorated the room with red roses, but why did you give me pink roses instead? Is there a special meaning to it?"

"Of course, there is." Ivor held her waist. The pink roses are unique in this room. They represent my love for you and only you. The red ones are decoration pieces to remind you that my love is only for you." Bonnie held the bouquet and smiled, asking, "Do you think comparing the pink and red roses is enough to convey your unique love for me?"

The pink roses were delicate but paled to her smile. At that moment, Ivor thought, 'Bonnie's much more delicate than any flower. As far as I can tell, the flowers don't hold a candle to her beauty.' Ivor did not speak. Instead, he just stared at Bonnie.

She waved at him and asked, "What's wrong, Ivor? Cat got your tongue?"

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## Chapter 757

Ivor returned to his senses and stared into Bonnie's eyes, which reminded him of stars. "Sorry, your beauty took me out of this world for a moment."

She glanced at him and said, "Here we go again. Don't you ever get tired of that?"

She pushed at his chest. Surprisingly, he grabbed her waist and said, "I like saying stuff like that."

Bonnie tried pulling her hands away, but it was futile. Even so, she did not try too hard. "That sounds like a you problem."

Ivor lowered his head to lean closer to her. "Don't you like it?"

His voice was so mesmerizing that Bonnie almost could not help but blush. Ivor was happy when he noticed it.

Then, he looked at the pink roses and answered her earlier question, "The red and pink roses are merely one way to show how my love for you is unique. As for how special and important you are to me, I'll prove it with actions."

Ivor's words were so genuine that they stirred something in Bonnie's heart. The sentiment churned in her chest as she hugged him back tightly.

"Ivor!" She said nothing sweet or moving. She only called out his name, her voice trembling. It was more than enough to convey her feelings for him.

Ivor lowered his head and rested his chin on Bonnie's shoulder. His charming voice brimmed with affection as he said, "I love you, Bonnie."

A moment later, she heard fireworks exploding.

Boom! Crackle!

They flew into the night sky and lit up the darkness. The gorgeous fireworks reflected in Bonnie's eyes, and she turned to look at Ivor. Suddenly, she felt honored to have someone like him to spend the rest of her life with.

Ivor noticed her looking at him and asked, "Do you like the fireworks, Bonnie?"

"I love them. They're wonderful." Bonnie led Ivor to the dining table. "You must be tired from working all day. Was preparing all this troublesome?"

"Of course not. It's meaningful since I did it for you." Ivor followed along. Once they reached the table, he pulled her chair out. "Have a seat."

"Thanks." Bonnie put the bouquet onto the table and took a seat. Although it was a small gesture, it warmed her heart.

Then, Ivor took his seat and poured Bonnie some red wine before pushing a plate of cut-up steak to her. "You like your steak medium rare, right?"

"Yeah, thanks, Ivor." She ate one of the pieces. "Mmm, it's good."

Then she raised her wine glass and sniffed it. A moment later, she looked at him and raised her brows, asking, "Is this the Screaming Eagle Cabernet Sauvignon? It's a strong wine-you've just poured me a huge glass. Are you trying to get me drunk?"

"What are you talking about?" Ivor did not know how to react to her response.

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## Chapter 758

"One of my business partners gave me this fine bottle of wine. We wouldn't have a chance to drink it under normal circumstances, so I thought tonight was a perfect opportunity." "Are you sure about that?" Bonnie was skeptical.

"Of course I am. Why would I be plotting anything?" Ivor said matter-of-factly.

Instead of responding, Bonnie snorted lightly. Although she trusted him, she would be lying if she wholeheartedly believed his story. After all, he had tried to fool her one too many times. She had to be vigilant around him.

"Hurry and eat the steak. The texture will change if it gets too cold," Ivor said as he proceeded to pour more red wine into her glass.

Bonnie silently watched as he did that. Then, she sipped the wine, thinking, 'It's strong, but it won't make me pass out. I guess I'll wait and see what he plans to do.'

Ivor noticed her deliberate stare and could not help but chuckle. "Why are you staring at me? Do you have something to say?"

She shook her head. "Nuh-uh."

Ivor glanced sideways at the wine bottle and realized it was already half empty. Then, he looked at her and asked, "Should we finish the wine? Otherwise, it'll be a waste." "Sure, why not?" Bonnie did not find his words suspicious.

'Since I'm not in a hurry, I'll wait and see what he has planned.'

"Perfect." Ivor smiled as he clinked his glass with hers. "Cheers for getting me the collaboration, Bonnie."

"Cheers, Ivor." Bonnie downed her wine.

The duo intermittently emptied their glasses. Soon after, they finished the whole bottle. Bonnie began to feel dizzy and could not help but shake her head.

'I'm not a lousy drinker, but why am I drunk already? I can't let this go on. I have to get up and walk around to sober up. Otherwise, it'll worsen.'

At that thought, Bonnie propped herself on the table and stood up. However, she snagged the tablecloth and spilled everything in her direction.

Crash!



Although she swiftly backed off as the plates, utensils, and glasses fell to the floor, she was not fast enough. The sauce from the dishes spilled on her clothes, too. Ivor bolted upright and pulled Bonnie back, asking, "Are you okay? Did you get hurt?"

She shook her head. "I'm all right. Still, I almost flipped the freaking table and ruined everything you worked so hard to prepare."

Ivor laughed and brushed her hair behind her ear. He said, "We've already finished eating. It's okay if the rest fell on the floor. What matters most is that you're okay."

"Yeah. I drank too much wine, and now I'm dizzy. It's hard to control how I move." Bonnie rubbed her brows but still felt dizzy.

"The wine must've been too potent. We've also been drinking for a while, and your body simply couldn't adjust. You should take a break since you're drunk. I'll send you back to the room. You can shower and sleep."

"Okay, thank you." Bonnie's dizziness was awful, so she leaned into Ivor's arms.

He noticed her submissiveness and smiled as he helped her up the stairs.

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## Chapter 759

Floyd watched the couple go upstairs. Then, he told Alfred and the housekeepers to clean up the place.

Floyd recalled how Ivor played the piano for Bonnie and how romantic it was. As the former helped the housekeepers clean up, he could not help but sigh and say, "It must be great to have a soulmate like that. I wonder when my life partner will show up."

'I guess I'm doomed to work for someone else forever.'

Alfred glanced at Floyd and teased him, "Are you considering getting a girlfriend? How about I set you up with some blind dates?"

The latter's eyes gleamed initially. Then, Floyd thought about something and shook his head. "Forget about it. You can't push these things. I guess I'll just wait for my turn. I believe my better half and I will find each other someday."

Alfred smiled and said nothing further.

Bonnie felt sticky all over from the food that spilled on her. She was about to remove her clothes when she saw Ivor standing in her room. He did not look like he was about to leave, either.

Bonnie stopped and said, "I'm about to shower. Aren't you going to leave?"

Ivor walked closer to her and said, "You're drunk, right? I'll help you."

Bonnie rolled her eyes at him, her expression saying, "I knew it."

"Hmph, you're finally showing your cards, Ivor. Did you think you could hide them from me?"

She knew he was up to no good when she saw him taking out the more potent wine earlier. Ivor's words all but confirmed her suspicions.

Although Bonnie discovered Ivor's intentions, he innocently spouted nonsense, "I'm just worried you might hurt yourself in the shower. After all, you're pretty drunk, and the bathroom floor will get slippery. What'll happen if you fall?"

"You don't need to worry about that. I'll never slip and fall." Bonnie rolled her eyes at him again. "Fine, stay here if you want. I'll still shower by myself."

She turned away from him and took a fresh set of clothes before heading to the bathroom. As she was about to close the door, Ivor pushed against it and squeezed through the crack with a smile. "Let me help you, Bonnie. I mean it. It's dangerous to bathe alone in your condition. I'm just here to bathe you. I won't do anything else."

She looked at him condescendingly and asked, "Do you honestly think that'll work?"

'Jeez, Ivor's change. He'll spin any lie just to take advantage of me.'

Ivor said, "What do you mean? I'm not trying to trick you. I meant what I said. I'm genuinely worried about you."

Bonnie crossed her arms and said sarcastically, "Well, believe me when I tell you there's nothing to worry about. I've never been safer than when you're not around me."

However, she still failed to deter Ivor. Instead, he continued to convince her, "I'm serious, Bonnie. I'm not fooling around."

"Then, do you think I'm fooling around?" Bonnie glanced sidelong at him. Then, something occurred to her, and she grinned. She approached him and asked, "Do you want to bathe me?"

Her face was inches away from Ivor. Her brows and rosy lips were captivating, too. She drew closer to him whenever she fluttered her eyes.

Ivor gulped and took a step closer to her. The couple was so close that they could feel each other's breaths. He stared at her and said seductively, "Of course I do. Why would I joke about something like that?" Bonnie scoffed and pulled his tie before swirling it around her finger.

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## Chapter 760

As Ivor and Bonnie's noses were about to touch, the latter stopped and stared at him profoundly. She said, "How about we bathe together? Maybe we can scrub each other's backs." Ivor believed her wholeheartedly as his breathing intensified. Then, he said earnestly, "Oh, okay. Of course, we can."

He wanted it to happen so badly. It would be an overstatement to say it was what he had always dreamed of. Still, he dared not show it as he did not want to seem too eager and turn Bonnie off. She asked again, "Do you want to do it?"

"Yeah!" Ivor replied swiftly and firmly. He feared she would change her mind if he responded a second later.

"How much do you want it?"

"Very much."

A hint of mockery flashed in Bonnie's eyes. Suddenly, she shoved him away and rolled her eyes at him. "Dream on!"

She slammed the door in Ivor's face, and the loud bang snapped him out of his trance. Ivor stared at the door and could not decide whether to be mad or amused. "You know how to keep me on the hook, Bonnie."

Bonnie replied, "You're the one who's constantly trying to take advantage of me."

Ivor said helplessly, "I'm a man, and it's normal to do that, not to mention you're the woman I love. Do you think I can stop myself from doing that? I didn't have such thoughts initially, Bonnie. Still, I couldn't help myself once you fluttered your eyes at me. I hope you can understand that."

Bonnie said sternly, "I understand that you have needs and desires, but you promised you wouldn't do anything to me until we're married. I expect you to keep your word, Ivor. Don't cross the line, or you'll do something I think is intolerable. I'll never agree to do anything before marriage."

Although it was not as severe as she made it sound, she wanted to keep her stance.

"I get it, Bonnie. I'll leave now. Be careful in there."

Bonnie heard Ivor's footsteps leading away from the bathroom and felt slightly regretful.

'Did I go overboard? After all, he's a man with needs and desires. It's only normal for him to want to do it with his loved one. Not only did I refuse, but I shut him out. That might've been inappropriate of me.' The more Bonnie thought about it, the more regretful she felt. She held the doorknob and pulled it, expecting to see the lonely Ivor leaving. Suddenly, he appeared from his hiding spot and kissed her cheek. He had already leaned back before Bonnie could return to her senses. He said, "I know I can't overstep, but a peck on the cheek isn't too much, right?"

Then, as if he feared she would get mad, he added, "Good night, Bonnie. I'm going to hit the hay now."

Ivor left the room as Bonnie watched. She then rubbed her eyebrows and smiled helplessly.

'He can be such a doofus sometimes. Still, he's adorable.'

The following day, Bonnie woke up and saw Ivor waiting for her in the dining room. The latter saw her and got up, asking, "Did you sleep well last night?" She glanced at him and asked, "What do you think?"

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## Chapter 761

Ivor's improving on sneaking up on me. Not only did he steal a kiss from me last night, but he also snuck into my bed. He didn't do anything, but I couldn't sleep until midnight because of him. How was I

supposed to sleep well?'

Ivor gazed at Bonnie and recalled how he snuck up on her. Feeling embarrassed, he changed the topic out of guilt, "The new chef made your favorites for breakfast. It's homemade pizza. Have a taste and tell me what you think."

She watched as he offered her a slice. She scoffed lightly and said, "Since you put it that way, I guess I'll have a bite."

Considering how she spoke, Ivor knew she had forgiven him. He smiled and said, "It smells good, so it should taste just as well. Enjoy."

"Okay," Bonnie replied and took a small bite.

Immediately after, Ivor asked, "So, how is it? Is it any good?"

"It's not bad." Bonnie reacted neutrally. Then, something occurred to her, and she looked at him. "Hurry up and finish your breakfast. I have something to show you."

Anything she said seemed to pique his interest. He could not help but ask, "What is it?"

Bonnie gestured for him to have breakfast, saying, "I thought I said I'd show you after breakfast. Eat up.'

"Okay." Ivor did not ask further. Instead, he lowered his head and tucked into his breakfast.

Ten minutes later, the couple finished eating, and Ivor asked, "Okay, you said you'd show me something, right? Let me see it."

"Damn, can't you wait? You're that eager to see it, huh?" Bonnie helplessly shook her head and pulled out her phone to show it to him. "Here, see for yourself."

Ivor took the phone and read it.

Bonnie had logged into her research institute's official Twitter account and made an official announcement. It stated they would cancel their collaboration with Gemedi Group and never consider a future partnership.

Simply put, Bonita Research Institute had blacklisted Gemedia Group once and for all.

Bonita was the most significant figure in Arvador and commanded massive respect from everyone in the nation. Her announcement sparked intense public discussion.

"I wonder what Gemedia Group did to warrant such a thing. Why would Ms. Bonia make such an announcement?"

"My guess is as good as yours. Was Gemedia Group involved in a scandal or something?"

"They could be a ticking time bomb. We should be careful working with them. Otherwise, they might drag us down."

Ivor read the comments and got worked up. "B-Bonnie, why would you pull such a stunt?! I can't believe you're giving up working with a company as huge as Gemedia Group! That's a considerable sacrifice you're making for me, Bonnie."

Although he had bad blood with Shane, Ivor would have understood if Bonnie's research institute needed to collaborate with Gemedia Group. Ivor would not dream of stopping her, either.

'I never thought Bonnie would use her research institute's name to give up on them for me.'

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## **Chapter 762 -**

## Chapter 762

'Bonita and her research institute command respect in the world of scientific research in Arvador. Now that she made this announcement, it doesn't take a genius to know that she has effectively buried the

Gemedia Group's future.'

Ivor was moved and did not know what to say.

"What's the big deal?" Bonnie lifted her chin. The arrogance in her tone was unmistakable, "He's so nasty to my fiancé. Of course, I'm going to make him pay for it. What gave him the idea that he could just mess with you the way he did?"

"I want him to know that you have some strong backing. Anyone who picks on you in the future will suffer worse fates!"

He was so moved when he heard what she said. Taking brisk steps toward her, he pulled her into his arms and hugged her tight.

"I appreciate that you stood up for me, Bonnie. You're the best."

Reaching out, she patted him on the shoulder gently.

"Stop saying that. You've made a lot of sacrifices for me as well. We both have. That's how it works between us. We make sacrifices for each other."

He heard what he said and tightened his embrace.

"Yeah. We make sacrifices for each other because we love each other."

Bonnie and Ivor might've been basking in a sweet and loving moment, but the same couldn't be said for Shane.

Since Bonita Research Institute announced, he went through the roof. Everyone in his company was preoccupied with fixing the damage.

Putting his hands behind him, he paced back and forth frantically in his office. His brows knitted tightly as well.

"What on earth is happening here? Why would Ms. Bonita make such an announcement out of nowhere? If memory serves me right, I've never interacted with her, not even once, let alone offend her. "What she's doing now is effectively pinpointing my company. How am I supposed to survive in Arvador, then?"

He knew far too well how much influence she wielded in the nation. He wouldn't have been this agitated otherwise. He could never understand why she'd do something like this for his life.

Even his assistant looked bewildered. "Not even someone like you knows what's happening, Mr. Shane. I simply stand no chance of finding out. After all, I'm just a small potato. So, how am I supposed to contact someone like her?"

Shane rubbed his eyebrow hard. The headache was killing him.

"Why on earth would she do this? Just why?"

His assistant stood to the side and didn't dare make a peep.

Meanwhile, he continued to pace back and forth, churning his mind and trying to recall if he had done anything that would cross Bonita and her research institute.

The more he pondered on it, the more confused he got.

'I can't figure it out. When have I done anything to offend her? Have I talked to her at all?'

His assistant watched him walking back and forth. Then, something occurred to him. He couldn't help but say, "O-Our stock market is opening soon, Mr. Shane. With Ms. Bonita's announcement, we might just see a drop in our stock."

He was busy thinking about why Bonita had pinpointed them earlier. He never thought he should worry about his company's stock.

Now that his assistant had reminded him, he suddenly realized that the debacle might have serious repercussions.

"Hurry up and tell the public relations department to suppress the negative comments and news about our company. We have to do something before the stock market opens. We'll review our next move after we get over this hump."

His assistant lowered his head and checked the time. "There's only over an hour until our stock market opens. Do you think they can repair the damage in time?"

"Just do what I say. What's with all the crap?" He roared.

"Copy that." Not daring to utter another word, his assistant left and did his bidding.

The last hour was hell for Shane. He felt like a helpless prey that could do nothing before the leopard. All he could do was wait. There was simply nothing else he could do.



An hour passed. The moment his assistant hurriedly entered his office, he stepped forward immediately. "How did it go? Do you know the results already? Is there a horrible drop in our stocks?"

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## Chapter 763

Shane's assistant looked at him for a second. The former tried to say something before wondering if it was worth telling him the truth.

"How did our stock do? Hurry up and tell me! Why are you stuttering?" Shane was very agitated, seeing his assistant like this. He couldn't control the fury in his chest and roared.

"I-It's not that I don't want to say it, Mr. Shane. I'm worried you can't take the news if I do." His assistant looked troubled.

'Mr. Shane had some health issues to begin with. What if he passed out after I told him the news? I can't afford to bear something like that.'

"Cut the crap, Archie. Just do as I say and tell me what I want to know!" Shane's face turned red. He was pissed off.

Archie looked at his CEO, sighed, and laid everything on the latter.

"The company stock has plummeted since Ms. Bonita made the sudden announcement, and it's still dropping as we speak.

"Our public shareholders couldn't process it and left nasty remarks on our official account. At the same time, they're looking for ways to sell their stocks at a much lower price. If this keeps up, our company will face disastrous losses."

Shane knew things were serious, but he had never expected it to be this dire.

At that moment, it felt as if the entire world was swirling. His face turned so pale that it was devoid of color. He wobbled a little before slumping onto the floor.

Archie went over and helped him up immediately. Then, he led his CEO to a chair.

"Are you okay, Mr. Shane?"

Shane waved his hand. "I-I'm fine. Hurry up and figure out something to stabilize our collaborators. Do your best to avoid losing too many of them. If we suffer huge losses like this, we might no longer be the top one hundred most prestigious companies worldwide."

"Roger." Archie had just responded when his phone started buzzing.

Pulling out the phone, he realized it was none other than one of the collaborators. For a moment there, he wasn't sure if he should answer it. So, he showed it to Shane and said, "It's one of our biggest collaborators, Mr. Briggs. Do you want to answer it, Mr. Shane?"

Shane had a bad feeling about it as he stared at the phone.

'With that said, I can't escape what happened. I have to answer the phone.'

At the thought of it, he patted his chest and took the phone from Archie. Then, he composed himself and spoke with a smile.

"To what do I owe the pleasure, Briggs? Are you calling about another collaboration?"

"I've seen everything on the internet, Shane. I think this is where our collaboration ends. Also, you can forget about looking for me again."

Briggs's cold voice further unnerved him, and he felt a sinking feeling in his gut.

"We've been partners for a long time, Briggs. I believe you know more about my character than anyone else. How could you just throw everything out the window over something you read online? It isn't fair at all."

Briggs sighed helplessly, "Believe me, Shane. I don't want it to turn out like this, either. However, I can't find a better way to overcome this debacle! Moreover, you're well aware of how influential Ms. Bonita is.

"If I continue to collaborate with you, my company will suffer along with yours. I'd appreciate your understanding."

Shane parted his lips and was about to say something, but Briggs spoke before he could.

"That's the reason I gave you this call, Shane. Farewell."

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## Chapter 764

The next moment, Briggs hung up the call, not showing Shane any respect.

Shane looked at the phone and tightened his grip so much that the veins on his hands popped.

"How on earth did it come to this? Why is this happening?"

Be that as it may, things were far from over.

He barely had time to breathe when several business associates called him and asked him to terminate every current collaboration. Worse, they all announced it on their official accounts as if they were worried about being dragged down by him.

All of these, in turn, caused the Gemedi Group's stock to drop even further. By the end, it was downright pathetic and miserable.

Shane sat on his chair and watched as his company stock plummeted and the nasty online remarks. His face turned ashen, and the light in his eyes was barely there. There was nothing but hope in them.

'I still don't get it. Why would Ms. Bonita call off our collaboration? I've made plans to get a few more collaborations and bring my company to the next level. Then, we'll overtake the Knight Group, and I'll become the wealthiest man in Pyralis.

'I was very hopeful for the past period.

'Little did I know that everything I was looking forward to coming to fruition would vanish into thin air in the blink of an eye.'

Archie saw how defeated his CEO looked and took pity on him. He couldn't help but remind him, "None of us know why Ms. Bonita is doing this, Mr. Shane. Why don't we find her at her research institute and get to the bottom of it."

Shane's eyes glimmered with hope at the suggestion.

"You're right. Get the car ready. I'm going to look for Ms. Bonita immediately. I have to get to the bottom of this. Otherwise, I wouldn't have known why she was doing this to me in the first place." An hour later, he arrived at the research institute.

Shane was about to head inside, but the security guard stopped him.

"Excuse me, sir. You're at an esteemed research institute. We can't just let anyone in."

He poked his head out and looked inside. At the same time, he glanced at the security guard in front of him nicely and said, "Here's the deal. I'm the CEO of the Gemedi Group. I'm willing to stay off the premises, but can you tell Ms. Bonita to see me out here? I have something significant to discuss with her."

"Ms. Bonita is a busy person. She'll meet with you if that's what she wants to do. Otherwise, you won't be able to see her, even if you come all the way here." The security guard said coldly. His chest rose and fell rapidly as his face turned red with rage.

'I'm on an urgent mission to look for Bonita right now. Otherwise, I wouldn't have spoken to this security guard, much less let him talk so cockily to me.

'However, the truth remains that I have to find Bonita at all costs. Otherwise, I'll learn the truth behind her actions.'

At the thought of it, he shoved his anger down deep and smiled at the security guard. He was about to say something when he saw a familiar figure out of the corner of his eyes.

At first, he thought he had made a mistake. However, once he turned his gaze to her, he realized it was Ivor's fiancée, Bonnie.

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## Chapter 765

'Isn't this an esteemed research institute? So, why would someone like Bonnie show up here?'

At the next moment, Shane saw a more jaw-dropping scene.

Bonnie walked straight past the gate and headed toward the institute's door. However, the security guard ignored her and tried not to stop her.

The sight of his rival fanned the flames of fury in his heart further. The moment he saw her, it felt like he was about to explode like a volcano. His good sense was all but thrown out the window. At last, he couldn't hold himself back anymore. He roared, "Hold it right there, Bonnie!"

She couldn't help but be stunned when she heard him.

Turning around, she saw Shane, who was standing in front of her and looking pissed off. She was headed straight for the lobby when she exited her car earlier. She didn't even notice him.

At the same time, she knew just what he was doing here. He intended to ask her about the announcement she had made.

However, he wasn't aware that she was Bonita, so his quest for the truth was doomed to fail.

'You know that? I hope he passes out from sheer anger. That'll teach him to set me and Ivor up.'

She folded her arms and glanced at him blankly at the thought. "Anything?"

"You bet you're sweet behind. I have something to say!" He barely kept a lid on his anger and walked to the security guard. Then, he pointed at her and questioned,

"Didn't you say you won't allow anyone to enter this esteemed research institute? So, why do you allow her to enter it but not me? Can I read your actions as discrimination?"

The security guard frowned and responded instinctively, "She's not just anyone. She's..."

Just as he was about to expose her real identity, Bonnie stood beside him and cleared her throat.

"Ahem..."

He knew that she was warning him to tread lightly. So, he clamped up immediately.

Shane saw it and instantly knew that something was off. He kept looking back and forth between Bonnie and the security guard.

"Who is she? Why don't you finish your sentence? Go on!"

Instead of responding to him immediately, the security guard glanced at her.

Then, she threw him a casual glance in response.

He was also brilliant, so he caught her drift and instantly said, "She works here. Naturally, she can enter the institute."

'Bonnie works here? At the Bonita Research Institute?'

Shane frowned and scanned her from head to toe as he tried to make sense of the situation.

'Judging by her looks, she has nothing to do with scientific research. With that in mind, she must've gotten lucky and been chosen to work some odd jobs inside.'

However, the security guard wasn't done. "You, on the other hand, are entirely different. Tell me, how are you related to the research institute? Why do I let you in just because you said so?" "Why, you..."

Shane was beside himself with rage as he pointed at the security guard tremblingly. "Such discrimination! I'll report you to your superiors!"

The security guard thought to himself. 'Bonita holds the most power in this premise. She even quietly consented to me handling things this way. What does this guy think reporting me will achieve?' "Here's the thing, sir. Go ahead and report me however you want. It's not going to help you one bit. I'm still not going to let you enter the premises."

Shane's face contorted with rage as he clenched his fists. He was about to say something when he heard Bonnie's casual voice.

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## Chapter 766

"You're standing at the Bonita Research Institute's entrance, Shane. It's only right that you follow our rules. If you keep stirring up trouble, you might be mistaken as an intruder who's trying to invade private

property and get yourself arrested."

Her calm tone so pissed off Shane that he gnashed his teeth and glared at her fiercely.

"I'm here for Ms. Bonita. You're just holding down an insignificant job here. What makes you think you have the right to talk to me?"

Her lips curled into a grin as a hint of mockery flashed in her eyes.

"You got me there. I don't have any right to be speaking to you. Enjoy waiting here, Shane. I'll be heading inside now." With that, she hummed some cheerful tunes and strolled into the research institute before his eyes.

He went through the roof when he saw how leisurely she seemed. Then, he turned his gaze to the security guard, his face red with rage.

"Just you wait and see. I'm going to make you regret for turning me away!"

The security guard shrugged and said, "Whatever floats your boat."

'What a joke. I received an order from Ms. Bonita herself. She's going to back me up. Who does this man think he is? He's nothing compared to her.'

"Why, you..." Shane's chest rose and fell rapidly, his face looking as awful as they came.

Archie saw what happened and went over to hold his CEO back immediately. "Don't work yourself up, Mr. Shane. Come on. Let's get back to the car for now. We'll talk about the rest when we're in there." Shane knew pestering the security guard would not get anything done, so he nodded and said, "Okay."

They got into the car, and Shane leaned back on the chair. He waited until the rage simmering in his chest subsided before he looked at Archie and asked, "Don't you think the security guard was showing Bonnie a little too much respect earlier?"

'I saw it with my own eyes. The security guard was about to reveal her identity, but she cleared her throat at that moment. She was hinting at him to stop talking.'

'Moreover, the security guard threw her a glance when I asked him some follow-up questions.'

'Under normal circumstances, someone as insignificant as her would not be treated with so much respect.'

'That's why the whole thing felt off to me.'

"I don't think it's about her. Perhaps the security guard was merely wary of the fact that she was Mr. Ivor's fiancé. I'd even go out on a limb and say that she got her job here, as

insignificant as it may be, because of her connection with the Knight family. After all, that family certainly could command respect from a security guard."

Shane listened to what his assistant said and thought it made much sense.

"Point well-made. I'm sure the security guard showed her respect because of the Knight family." At the mention of that despicable couple, his face grew grim immediately.

"I want you to send two teams of men to tail both Ivor and Bonnie. They'll inform me when they think they have found the perfect window. I have to teach them a lesson myself. Otherwise, I can't let go of this grudge."

Archie couldn't help but say, "Our company is still teetering on the brink of a total collapse, Mr. Shane. If we do something like this, and it gets out to the public, then we won't be able to come back from it." "Heh heh heh." Shane sneered. His eyes flashed forbiddingly.

"I've lost everything, which means I've got nothing to lose now. They're the ones who did this to me. So, I have to avenge myself and redeem my honor. I've spent such a long time in Pyralis. If I can't do that, then I'll have wasted my entire life."

Archie realized that his CEO had made up his mind. So, he decided he was going to save his breath.

"Understood, Mr. Shane. I'll get it done once we go back to the company. Rumor has it that the Knight Group collaborates with Everpeak. They've finalized the team that's going to do an inspection there, and Ivor will lead them himself. That should be a wonderful chance to do it."

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## Chapter 767

Shane's eyes gleamed. Then, he threw his head back and laughed. "Hahaha! Even Heaven is looking out for me! Hurry up and send a team to tail him. I want them to inform me as soon as they find the perfect window to strike.

"Also, don't ever alert Ivor and Bonnie of our presence. Be very careful. Don't waste this perfect opportunity. Got it?"



Archie nodded, "Sure thing, Mr. Shane."

Back in the villa, Bonnie had wrapped up her work at the research institute and returned home. The first thing she saw was Ivor packing up his suitcase. She couldn't help but walk over and ask him, puzzled, "Are you going on a work trip? Why are you packing up so much stuff?"

He nodded in response and complimented her. "Yeah. You're so smart, Bonnie. You got it on the first guess."

"If memory serves me right, you don't have a work trip in your recent schedule. So, why are you leaving all of a sudden?" Bonnie said as she walked over and helped him.

He explained, "It's a last-minute decision. They discovered a rare ore in a quarry in Everpeak, and I have to be there in person. Otherwise, the others might get ahead of me and lay their hands on it." "Everpeak?" She pursed her lips, and a trace of solemnity flashed in her eyes. "Not only is it a harsh environment but also a plateau. You must bring enough clothes to stave off the cold and oxygen tanks. Otherwise, you'll be hard-pressed to find proper treatment if you get sick."

Back in her traveling days, she once set foot in Everpeak.

Aside from rich ores, that place was severely lacking in all other resources. That was why Bonnie was worried Ivor needed to inspect a collaboration there.

He cupped her face with a big smile. "Are you worried about me, Bonnie?"

She rolled her eyes at him in response. "What kind of question is this? Do you find it fun to ask the obvious questions?"

With that, she pointed at his suitcase. "Do you remember what I just said? Make sure you bring enough stuff. Don't just turn a deaf ear to what I said."

"Don't worry about it, Bonnie. I'll always remember everything you said. There's no way I'll ever forget about it!" He pulled out his phone and showed her a list.

"I did a lot of homework, investigating Everpeak for this work trip. I've also asked Floyd to prepare everything I need. So, there's nothing to worry about. I won't let anything happen to me."

She proceeded to read everything on his list meticulously. She didn't feel better until she had confirmed that he didn't miss out on anything.

"Remember to send me several texts and a video call every day when you're there."

His lips curled into a smile. Then, he pulled Bonnie into his arms.

"Are you reluctant to see me leave? If so, I'll ask someone else to go instead. I'll stay back."

'He's just saying this because he's caught up. I know just how important this collaboration is for him. Otherwise, he wouldn't have made this last-minute decision and returned home to pack his stuff quickly. He has always loved messing with me. I guess I'll return the favor a little.'

At the thought of it, she reached out and wrapped her arms around his neck. "You're right. I'm reluctant to part with you. I don't want you to leave. Will you stay?"

He was stunned at that. Bonnie looked like she did not want him to leave. He couldn't help but gulp.

"Are you being serious now, Bonnie?"

'She has never said anything like this before. I'm a little troubled now that she's asking me not to leave.'

'I couldn't bear to leave her alone, but the collaboration was necessary for the company.'

He ended up wrestling with himself so much that he couldn't make a choice.

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## Chapter 768

Bonnie saw that he was wrestling with himself and couldn't help but giggle. "I was just joking, Ivor. Are you seriously thinking about it?" At first, he was stunned. Then, he couldn't decide if he should cry or laugh.

Holding her waist, he said, "You naughty girl. Did you make that up just to mess with me?"

She shrugged, her smile as wide as ever. "You're such an easy target, though. You'll believe in just about everything I said."

"I think you deserve a little punishment." His eyes were flashing with an inexplicable glow.

She raised her head instinctively and asked, "What kind of punishment..."

Before finishing, she lifted her chin and smelled his minty breath. Then, his seductive lips closed on hers. Her pupils contracted in response. Before she knew what was happening, he was kissing her more intensely.

She should've fought back, but she thought about how he was going on a work trip and had no idea when he would return to Pyralis. So, she decided to leave him be.

About a dozen minutes later, both of them leaned back.

She touched her lips. They felt hot and swollen as if bitten by ants, which made her uncomfortable.

Then, she thought about the culprit and instinctively raised her head. She gave him an accusing glance.

"You do this every time. Can't you be gentle with it?"

He smiled and patted her shoulder to soothe her. "Think of it as my goodbye kiss."

She rolled her eyes at him. "You can come up with countless excuses if it means taking advantage of me."

"That's because you're such a charmer, Bonnie. Do you think I could've controlled myself?" He responded and approached her again. Then, he held her tightly and sniffed her scent, seeking solace. Instead of pushing him away, she leaned on his chest quietly. However, she grumbled, "There you go with your smart mouth again."

He pushed himself away slightly and gently kissed her fair forehead. "Wait for my return, Bonnie."

Initially, she wanted to say something opposite to what he asked. Then, she met his profound, longing gaze and couldn't bring herself to do it. Instead, she hugged him back and patted his back. "Alright. I'll be waiting for your return. Everpeak is a harsh place. You have to watch your back." "Okay." They hugged each other in silence, taking in the moment's serenity.

Suddenly, Floyd hastily entered and said, "Your private plane is ready, Mr. Ivor. Let's hit the road now."

Then, he saw how both of them were hugging each other and turned his head sideways immediately.

"Pardon me, I didn't mean to intrude on you guys. I'll head out and ask them to wait for a minute." With that, he bolted out of the room.

She turned around and looked at him, only to see him leaving swiftly. Reaching out, she pushed against his firm chest.

"It's time for you to go."

His arms remained wrapped around her waist, maintaining the same pose from earlier.

"I can't bear to leave you alone, Bonnie. What should I do? How about you come with me?"

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## Chapter 769

Bonnie sighed helplessly, "I want to do that, but we're hitting the most important milestone in the research institute. I can't afford to leave right now."

"I know you're busy. It was just a joke. Don't let it bother you." He said. Then, he held her shoulders and pecked her slightly swelled-up lips.

"I'm leaving now. Keep me in your mind, Bonnie."

"Alright. Just go already." She might've sounded impatient, but her eyes had a sense of longing.

'He has constantly bugged me and loves fooling around with me. Sometimes, I wish I could be left alone to enjoy peace.

'However, the thought of not seeing him for so long makes me feel a little sad. I'm reluctant to see him leave.'

"Remember, Bonnie. Keep me in your mind." He leaned in close again before kissing her cheeks intensely. Then, he walked out the door and met up with Floyd.

She watched as he left in a hurry.

'I'll miss you.'

In the blink of an eye, Ivor has left for Everpeak for three days. In the meantime, she has made a significant breakthrough in the augmentation research for the latest nanomaterial.

'I think we'll finish developing the important technology soon.'

Toby read the research information. His eyes were filled with shock. "You did it, Ms. Bonita. We've been working at it for many days but are not even close to making a breakthrough. You came in and showed us how it's done in two days. Impressive. You're badass, Ms. Bonita!"

She smiled humbly. Reaching out, she patted Toby's shoulder and encouraged him, "Just keep working at it, Toby. I believe that, someday, you'll be able to do everything I can. Who knows? You might even supersede me."

"You've got a high opinion of me, Ms. Bonita." He scratched the back of his head, feeling embarrassed. "I would've been happy if I could do one-tenth of what you can do. Regardless, I'll give it everything I've got and contribute to the world of scientific research in Arvador."

She nodded in approval. "Great. I like that you're ambitious. Keep at it, Toby."

It was six in the evening when she took a quick dinner outside before returning to Lenfield Resort. She took a bath and read some documents on her phone.

Then, she pulled up Twitter. To her surprise, Ivor merely sent her a few texts today. Under normal circumstances, he would've sent her more texts and a video call.

'This is a little unusual for him. Could it be that he was too busy, though?

'Forget it. Instead of making wild guesses, why don't I just give Ivor a video call and find out what's going on? After all, he has always been the one who calls or texts me. I should take the lead this time.' At the thought of it, she made a video call to him.

On the other side, Ivor was lying on the bed. His face had turned pale from his recent sickness, and he was coughing nonstop.

"Cough cough cough..."

Floyd noticed it and handed him a glass of warm water. "You've been coughing for days now, Mr. Ivor. The medicines aren't working either. Your cough is worsening by the day. Maybe you should get yourself checked at a clinic."

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## Chapter 770

"That won't be necessary." Ivor took over the glass of water and drank half of it. He added, "This is the most crucial stage of the inspection. I can't just leave now.

"Furthermore, the hospital is so far away. If I waste my time traveling back and forth, how long will it take to return to Pyralis and finally see Bonnie again?" Floyd couldn't help but sigh at that.

"So, you're refusing to go to the hospital because you want to go back and reunite with Ms. Bonnie as soon as you can. However, your condition is so serious now, Mr. Ivor. Do you think you'll be healthy to do anything if you keep postponing treatment?"

Ivor had been sick on his second day in Everpeak. His body couldn't acclimate to the harsh environment on the plateau, and he started having a high fever in the middle of the night.

Now that he had finally recovered from the fever, he started coughing. Being sick also massively reduced his appetite. He practically couldn't eat anything.

Coupled with his demanding work, he had grown much skinnier and paler.

"I'll be fine." Ivor shook his head. At the next moment, he started coughing fiercely again.

"Cough cough cough..."

Realizing that his boss was coughing badly, Floyd patted him on the back, trying to make him feel better.

He didn't speak until after Ivor had stopped coughing. His expression was explicable when he said, "I didn't want to say this, but I think I have to. You'll break Ms. Bonnie's heart if she sees you in this state."

At the mention of Bonnie, Ivor raised his head and looked at Floyd. He said hastily, "Remember, Floyd. If she calls and asks you about my situation, just tell her that everything's going swell. Don't say a word about my sickness. Got it?"

"Why would you want that, Mr. Ivor?" Floyd looked puzzled. "You've always thought Ms. Bonnie never gave you enough care and attention normally. If I tell her about your

condition now, surely she will be very concerned with your well-being. Isn't that what you wanted?"

He looked at Floyd sideways. Right now, the latter was no different from a moron to him.

"Have you got a screw loose, Floyd?"

Floyd felt sorry for himself at the way Ivor scolded him. At the same time, he was puzzled. "Did I say something wrong, Mr. Ivor?"

"You're right about a part of it. If she learns that I'm sick, she'll shower me with love and concern. That'll certainly make my day.

"However, we're so far apart now. If I tell Bonnie about it, I won't achieve anything but spook her and get her worried. If so, why don't I keep it from her instead? Wouldn't it be better for me to keep her happy so she could do whatever she wanted?"

"More to the point, her research hit an important milestone. I'm not keen to disturb her with something petty."

Everything he said made it clear that he was thinking about Bonnie the whole time-truthfully, he wasn't thinking about himself at all.

Floyd couldn't help but sigh at how great love was.

'Love has turned Ivor from someone who wasn't interested in ladies into someone who could think about nothing but his soulmate.

'It's a good thing that Bonnie was an incredibly excellent person. I know she wouldn't do anything unfaithful to Ivor. Instead, she will treat him right and remain his lovely wife for the rest of his life.' Noticing that Floyd didn't respond to him, Ivor said again. "Did you hear me? Keep this under wraps. Don't make a blunder. You hear?"

Floyd nodded. "Understood, Mr. Ivor. I'll never let her know that you're sick."

"Okay." He responded faintly. Just as he was lying down to rest, his phone buzzed.

He couldn't even muster up the strength to get up. So, he closed his eyes and said to Floyd, "Take a look at my phone and see who's calling me right now. Hang up if it isn't anyone important. I want to take a break."

"Alright." Floyd walked over to the table and saw who the caller was. His eyes widened in shock. Then, he turned around stiffly and said to his boss, "M-Ms. Bonnie is calling you, Mr. Ivor. What's worse, it's a video call!"

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## Chapter 771

"Wh-what? Why's Bonnie video-calling me?" Ivor was so surprised that his coughing worsened, "Cough! Cough, cough!"

Floyd hastily patted his boss's back, saying, "Don't get so worked up, Mr. Ivor. Please get a hold of yourself, or Ms. Bonnie will find out you're sick once you answer her call."

His concern was not unfounded, as Bonnie was simply too observant. She could detect the subtlest sign that something was wrong. If Ivor did not want to get caught, he would have to watch out for the details and tread carefully.

"All right, I'll let it ring for a while. Let me compose myself." Ivor coughed so hard that he trembled. "Cough, cough! Cough!"

His throat only felt slightly better once he drank the remaining water. "F-Floyd, you can answer the call now."

Floyd looked at him inexplicably and asked, "Are you sure, Mr. Ivor? You still look a little pale."

"I'll be okay. If Bonnie notices it, I'll tell her it's the lighting." Ivor did not want to miss her video call, so he took his phone from Floyd and answered it himself.

Ivor relaxed immediately after seeing Bonnie's face on his screen. "What's wrong, Bonnie? I thought you were supposed to be at the institute. How do you have time to call me?"

"Can't I call and chat?" She considered how long it took him to answer the call and asked, "What were you doing? Why didn't you pick up sooner?"

Ivor smiled and explained, "The signal is weak here."

'That's true. The signal in the plateau is indeed weak.'



Bonnie nodded understandingly. "Oh, that's why. Well, take care of yourself, okay? Getting sick in a remote place like Everpeak won't be good. Make sure you stay healthy, all right?"

She showed concern for Ivor in a way she had never done, filling him with a wave of warmth. "I understand, Bonnie. I'll take good care of myself you should do the same for yourself. Don't get sick or anything."

Suddenly, Ivor felt an intense itch in his throat, threatening to make him cough against his will. He tried his best to suppress it. Ultimately, he could not fight it and coughed lightly, "Cough, cough."

Although faint, Bonnie instantly caught it. She squinted and questioned, "Were you coughing? Are you sick?"

Ivor shook his head and made an excuse, "Nah, it's just dry over here, and it upsets my throat. I just had to clear it."

He saw her concerned eyes and smiled, saying, "Hey, I'm a tough guy, and my body's in excellent shape. What makes you think I'd get sick so quickly?"

Bonnie rolled her eyes. "You might be a man, but you're not made of steel. It's common for you to get sick."

She composed herself and looked into his eyes profoundly.

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## Chapter 772

"Ivor, you can tell me if you're sick. I won't get mad unless you hide something important from me," Bonnie said.

Ivor's eyes shifted for a split second. "You know me too well, Bonnie. Do you think I would hide such a thing? I would've told you to indulge in your concern and attention."

After some thought, Bonnie realized he was right. After all, it was uncharacteristic of Ivor to hide something like that. The former said, "I guess I can believe you if you put it that way."

Still, she could not help but think something was amiss. Since she was not with Ivor, she could only trust him.

"Great, then." Ivor sighed discreetly and suddenly felt an intense itch in his throat. He felt a cough approaching and could do nothing to stop it. Even so, he tried his best to suppress it and forced a warm smile. "Bonnie, I have an urgent matter to tend to. I'll talk to you again soon."

"Hey, are you-" Before she could finish, Ivor hung up.

Immediately after, Ivor stopped suppressing his cough and let it out vigorously, "Cough! Cough! Cough!"

It was so bad that his face reddened. Then, he turned pale and felt like his lungs were about to explode.

Floyd noticed how unbearable the cough sounded but could do nothing about it. He said, "Wait here, Mr. Ivor. I'll ask your business partner if they have some tablets. They stayed here for a long time. Maybe they know what medicine is more suitable for your cough."

"All right." Ivor felt terrible. Instead of rejecting Floyd's suggestion, he let the latter do whatever was necessary.

Meanwhile, Bonnie pondered on the video call and realized something was seriously off. She crossed her legs as she sat on the couch and rubbed her chin, formulating a theory, 'Tonight seems so odd. First, Ivor has always answered my calls instantly, but he took so long to answer this time. He said the signal was weak, but now that I think about it, he sounded a little forced. Secondly, he coughed and looked a little pale. Lastly, it didn't seem like he hung up because of an emergency. Instead, it looked more like Ivor was trying to suppress something.' Based on those clues, Bonnie could conclude that he must have gotten sick and did not want her to worry about him.

'He must've not wanted to waste my time, so he didn't want to tell me he was sick. Now that I think about it, Ivor looked pretty awful. I thought it was because of the lighting, but he's sick.' Bonnie knew he would keep it from her for as long as possible if she did not question him. She felt heartbroken and annoyed when she picked up her phone and called him again.

When Ivor's phone buzzed, he felt so terrible that he did not have the strength to check who the caller was. In a daze, he answered weakly and hoarsely, "H-Hello?"

Immediately after, Bonnie confirmed her theory. She was furious as she questioned, "I'll give you one more chance, Ivor. Are you sick?"

Ivor became wide-eyed when he heard her voice. He still tried to find an excuse, speaking huskily, "I'm not sick, Bonnie. I thought I explained myself just now. You have to believe me. I don't have to lie to you over something like this."

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## Chapter 773

"I know you're sick, Ivor. Why do you insist on lying to me? Are you sure you want to keep it up?" Bonnie said sternly.

At that moment, Ivor recalled the earlier video call.

'I don't think I gave off any signs. I'm sure I kept up my act flawlessly. That means Bonnie's trying to interrogate me. I can't have that. I must keep denying it.'

"You have to believe me, Bonnie. I'd never lie to you over something like that." Then, Ivor felt the urge to cough again. Although he tried to fight it back, he could not do it this time. "Cough, cough!"

She stared at him through the screen and hung up without a word.

"Bonnie? Bonnie!" Ivor panicked and tried calling her again, but she outright rejected it. He knew she did not want to talk to him, but he thought he had done nothing to make her mad at him. With that in mind, something occurred to him, and he could not help but frown.

Floyd, who had gotten the cough medicine, returned and saw how serious his boss looked. The former asked, "What's wrong, Mr. Ivor? Why do you look like that?"

Ivor turned to look at him while recounting his conversation with Bonnie. The former also remembered his fiancée hanging up on him wordlessly.

"Floyd, help me out. Consider Bonnie's response and tell me if she saw through me."

"Ms. Bonnie would never throw a fit like that for no reason, Mr. Ivor. That's unlike her-" Floyd analyzed the situation before looking at his boss. The former felt troubled, saying, "She knows, Mr. Ivor."

A hint of uncharacteristic panic flashed in Ivor's eyes. Then he looked at his phone, thinking about how she had hung up on him, which only made him more panicked. "What should I do now? Should I call Bonnie back and explain myself?"

Floyd's lips twitched as he thought, 'Come on. He's been in a relationship longer than me but still doesn't know what to do. What makes him think I'd know? I'm single, for crying out loud. Still, Mr. Ivor looks troubled and concerned. I must do my best to give him a solution. After all, it's my job to solve his problems.'

"You must explain the situation and apologize to Ms. Bonnie now. Then, you'll have to soothe her immediately. However, Mr. Ivor, you're so far apart now and can't see or touch each other. She might be so mad at you that she'd leave before you finished work here and return to Pyralis."

Ivor sighed heavily. "All I did was spare her from worrying about me. I didn't think it'd blow up in my face."

He lowered his head and texted her, "I'm sorry for lying to you, Bonnie. I'm sick, but I didn't mean to deceive you. I didn't want you to worry about me and distract you from your research. I know I was wrong. Can you forgive me, please?"

"I know you're reading my texts. Would you please reply to me? Come on, Bonnie, I mean it. I shouldn't have kept it from you. Will you please forgive me? I'm sorry."

He sent her more than ten texts in one go but had yet to receive a single reply.

Floyd witnessed everything and felt how helpless his boss was. "It looks like Ms. Bonnie's pissed this time. What'll you do now, Mr. Ivor?"

"What else can I do? We're in the middle of the inspection. I can't just leave now," Ivor rubbed his eyebrows and said, "The only thing I can do is keep calling and texting Bonnie until she forgives me." 'If I'd known this would happen, I would've told her everything. Gosh, what kind of mess did I get myself into?'

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## Chapter 774

Floyd sighed. "I guess that's the only way, Mr. Ivor."

At Lenfield Resort, Bonnie looked at her phone as Ivor repeatedly texted her. She could not help but grit her teeth and mutter, "He's always been like that. He'll make mistakes first and apologize afterward."

"I even let him off easy and forgave him before, but not this time. I must teach him a lesson and show him what happens if he keeps lying to me. That said, I still have to do what's necessary."

Bonnie took her phone and called Jim, saying, "Arrange for a private plane to take me to Everpeak as soon as possible."

Jim was stunned to receive such an order. "What's wrong, Bonnie? Did something happen? Why are you in a rush to get to Everpeak?"

After Bonnie told Jim what happened, he nodded and said, "Understood. I'll make the arrangements immediately. Prepare to leave in two hours."

Then, he teased her, "It looks like Ivor is the only one who can get you this worried and rash."

Bonnie rolled her eyes, saying, "He's my fiance. Of course, I'll take care of him and feel heartbroken when he's sick. Am I supposed to let another woman do it instead?"

Jim could not help but laugh, "Hahaha! You have a point there, Bonnie."

She rolled her eyes again. "Get on it! I don't have time to waste on you."

"Fine, I'll make the arrangements now, and you can see your fiance as soon as possible." Jim smiled and hung up to do as she requested.

The following day, Ivor continued working through his sickness. That said, his cough no longer bothered him as much. He was only worried about Bonnie giving him the cold shoulder. She had not replied to his texts all night, much less answered his calls.

Ivor would clamber up from bed whenever he received a notification on his phone. However, he felt greatly disappointed that none were from Bonnie.

He acted so unlike himself that his business partner noticed it. The latter could not help but ask in concern, "Are you okay, Mr. Ivor? You look distracted. If you're unwell, you should return to your room to rest. You can leave the rest to us. We'll give you the accurate data."

Several Knight Group higher-ups also noticed Ivor's uncharacteristic behavior. One asked, "That's right, Mr. Ivor. Take a break if you're not feeling well. The work is nowhere near as important as your health." "We only need to measure a few more things. You can trust us."

"You don't look too good, sir. You should go and rest."

Floyd added, "You didn't sleep well last night, Mr. Ivor. Come on, I'll take you back for a break."

Ivor tucked his phone away when he saw everyone's concern for his well-being. He looked at them and said, "Okay, I'll leave you guys to record the data. I'll take my leave now. Remember to get the data as accurate as possible. We can't make any mistakes."

"Understood, Mr. Ivor. Consider it done."

Ivor nodded and returned to the hotel with Floyd.

The latter had just left the car when he looked up wide-eyed. "M-Mr. Ivor? Ch-check it out. Look who's here!"

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## Chapter 775

"Who is it?" Ivor asked, exhausted. He also sounded frail.

Floyd excitedly pointed at the hotel entrance and said, "Don't ask, Mr. Ivor. Just turn around and see for yourself! There's a surprise waiting for you at the door!" 'What the hell is it? I have no idea what he's blabbering about.'

Ivor half-heartedly raised his gaze and looked toward the door. He was stunned when he saw the petite figure, thinking he was hallucinating from his sickness.

'Of course, I'm hallucinating about seeing her. It must be because I miss her too much.'

Bonnie grinned as she stood across the road, noticing how frozen Ivor was. She asked, "What's wrong? We've only been apart for four days, tops. Did you forget about me already?"

Ivor did not realize she was real until he heard her voice. He clutched his chest and ran to her. "B-Bonnie? Cough, cough. What are you doing here?"

Although he felt awful, it did not stop him from wanting to hug her. Meanwhile, Bonnie watched as he raced across the road toward her. She felt moved by it, ran to him, and dove into his arms. "Ivor." Ivor embraced her and took in her scent. He felt restless earlier but calmed down instantly when he hugged her.

'I wasn't hallucinating, after all! Bonnie did come to me!'

She leaned on Ivor's chest quietly before raising her head to see his somber eyes and ashen face. Suddenly, she felt so heartbroken that she felt his cheeks and scolded him, "I can't believe you forced yourself to work when you're sick! You could've worked yourself to death."

Bonnie grew increasingly upset and pinched his cheek. Initially, she wanted to do it harder to teach him a lesson to love himself more. However, she considered his illness and could not bear to pinch him too hard. Instead, she did it lightly.

Ivor read her thoughts and could not help but chuckle. He held her hand and kissed it, saying, "I'm okay, Bonnie. You don't need to go easy on me."

She glared at him accusingly. "What made you think I'm going easy on you? Stop flattering yourself."

Although she said that, she still held his hand and led him into the hotel. "Where's your room? Take me there now so I can check on you. I don't know what's wrong with you until I do."

Ivor felt her soft, delicate hands and grinned as he followed her.

Meanwhile, Floyd watched them leave and then strode toward them. That was when he saw Jim. The former greeted Jim softly, "You're here, too, Master Jim?"

"Mhm," Jim faintly responded as he entered the hotel.

Simultaneously, a sedan parked to the left of the hotel. Shane stared at Ivor, Bonnie, and the other two as they entered the building. Shane asked menacingly, "Have you looked into how many people they brought on this trip? Is anyone among them tricky to deal with?"

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## Chapter 776

Archie lowered his head and checked the files. "According to our investigations, they only brought a few elite bodyguards on this trip.

"We've hired a team who are evenly matched with them. So, there's nothing to worry about here. Also, we outnumber them. Our victory is all but assured, Mr. Shane."

He looked at his CEO and asked, "When do you want to do it, Mr. Shane? The team's ready for action."

Shane looked at the hotel entrance. Then, he caught sight of something and was stunned.

"Hold on. Look over there, Archie."

Archie followed his gaze and saw a tall, burly man wearing a mask and a hat.

"He seems like an ordinary guy, Mr. Shane. Is there a problem here?"

Shane tore his gaze away and analyzed the man's stature.

"Judging by his imposing posture and gait, I think he's a tough character. I have a feeling he might be a formidable fighter."

Archie couldn't tell anything about the man. He asked, "Well. How do you want us to proceed, then?"

Shane's face grew grim. He fell silent and started mulling it over. Then, something came to him, and his eyes sparkled.

"I have an idea. Come closer, I'll tell you about it."

Archie leaned in closer and listened to his CEO's orders. Then, he nodded in understanding.

"Alright, Mr. Shane. I'll get it done as fast as possible."

"Very well. Take your time with it. Remember, tread carefully, and don't alert them to our presence. Definitely don't let them know where we are. Otherwise, our efforts will have been wasted. Got it?" He had said similar things to his assistant several times now. However, he was still worried that Archie might botch it. That was why he'd remind him to be careful every time he relayed an order. Archie nodded solemnly and responded, "Understood, Mr. Shane."



"Great," he responded dryly. He glanced at Ivor and Bonnie again, looking cold.

"Go ahead and get it done. I'll ensure they won't have the chance to return to Pyralis. They're going to pay dearly for humiliating me."

The moment they got inside the room, she pinned him on the bed, grabbed his hand, and checked his pulse.

"Stay put. I'm going to check on you."

"Okay." Ivor raised his head and looked at Bonnie, his eyes brimming with tenderness.

Jim glanced at them before walking over to the window. Then, he took a look at the side of the road.

Floyd noticed it and couldn't help but ask, "What are you doing, Master Jim?"

"I'm monitoring the surroundings," Jim explained, and he went to another window to look at the streets again.

"Are army men usually this vigilant?" Floyd followed suit and looked at the same place as well. However, despite his efforts, he couldn't see anything strange.

"This is the bare minimum for someone in our profession." Jim finished checking the surroundings and closed the windows and blinds.

Then he sat on the couch across the room.

Floyd gave him a big thumbs up. "How professional. I'm very impressed, Master Jim."

They were still chatting by the time Bonnie was done checking Ivor's pulse. She couldn't help but frown, now that she was sure about his health.

"How did your condition become this severe? When did you start getting sick, exactly?"

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## **Chapter 777**

Realizing that Bonnie had diagnosed his condition, Ivor saw no more reason to hide it from her anymore.

"Frankly speaking, I felt feverish the first day I touched down in Everpeak. I took some medicine then. I didn't think it was too serious, so I ignored it.

"Then, my coughing got worse on the second day, and I haven't been doing better since then. I was worried that I might make you worry. So, I didn't tell you about it."

Then something occurred to him. He asked, "Didn't you say your research is hitting an important milestone? How do you find the time to visit me, then? Did you put it aside for my sake?"

A hint of guilt flashed in his eyes. 'I know just how important this experiment is for Bonnie. That was why I didn't want to tell her about my sickness in the first place.

'If she really put aside the research just so she could see me, doesn't that mean she has to postpone her plan?'

"Oh. I guess I hadn't told you about it," she said as she pulled out silver needles from her pouch. "I've made a major breakthrough in my research. They're wrapping it up as we speak. I think we'll be able to develop the augmentation soon."

His eyes sparkled. It seemed he was happier about it than she was.

"Really? You've been at it for so long now. You can finally take a break for a while and stop working so hard."

"Yeah. You probably should worry more about your health than my research right now." She flashed the silver needle before him and gestured for him to lie down. "Come on, I'll administer acupuncture for you." He obeyed and lay down. "Alright."

Floyd saw it and said to Jim, "How about you rest in my room for the time being, Master Jim? I'll head to the lobby and check for another room for you."

Jim knew it wasn't a good idea for him and Floyd to stay any longer. So, he stood up slowly and said, "That'd be great. I appreciate it, Floyd."

Floyd waved his hand and responded, "Nah. It's no problem. It's my honor to be able to help you out."

'I might've enjoyed some standing in the circle because of my identity as Ivor's assistant. However, it's nothing compared to someone as prestigious as Jim.' "Okay," Jim responded courteously before exiting the room with him.

Bonnie and Ivor were left alone in the hotel room.

Now that there were no other people, he started taking advantage of her. Holding her hands, he started rubbing them sensually.

"I'm thrilled you flew all the way here just to see me, Bonnie. I'm so glad that you're doing this for me."

She rolled her eyes at him. "Do you think you're the only one who can be concerned about his fiancé around here?"

"That's not what I meant. I just want you to know I'm very happy to see you here."

The mere sight of her renewed his vigor. His sickness even felt more bearable.

"That's enough. Just lie down and stop talking." She shook her head helplessly.

'He looked so weak and vulnerable earlier, but now, he's so full of life that he's still the smart mouth he had always been. Geez. I just can't with him sometimes.' "Alright." He responded and shut up.

Bonnie proceeded to administer the acupuncture to him.

'He got a cold and fever because his body was trying to acclimate to the plateau. In that process, his body was weakened and became vulnerable to the cold. 'What I have to do now is neutralize the cold in his body and treat him. He should be recovering well in about three days.'

Several minutes later, she wiped the sweat from her forehead and sat down next to him.

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## Chapter 778

"Stay put and rest quietly. Otherwise, the silver needles might go deeper into your skin, and I won't be responsible for it."

At this moment, Ivor would agree to everything Bonnie said.

"Alright."

So, he remained motionless and rested without a peep. However, he stared at her with unblinking eyes, as if he couldn't get enough.

She felt a little restless from the way he stared at her. Resting her chin on her hands, she stared straight into his eyes.

"What are you looking at me for?"

"You're like an angel who fell from heaven. I should stare at you more," he responded matter-of-factly.

She couldn't help but roll her eyes at him.

"Are you still sticking to these corny lines in this day and age? It's a cringy."

His lips curled into a faint smile, and his eyes were still trained on her.

"Saying something sweet to my soulmate isn't cringy. On the contrary, it fills me with this warm, fuzzy feeling. Isn't it the same for you, Bonnie?"

"You're so knee-deep in these corny lines that you can't even tell the difference anymore. I'm going to have freaking goosebumps." She rubbed her arms. "Rein it in, Ivor. I can't stay here any longer if you keep up with it."

He didn't have a choice but to do what she said.

"Alright. Fine. I'll stop."

She snorted lightly and ignored him. Then she rested her chin on her hands again and shut her eyes.

He couldn't help but feel a little heartbroken at the sight of it.

"Did you have a tough time sleeping on your flight here, Bonnie?"

"Yeah. It's too noisy for me. So, I can't sleep," she said and yawned.

'Well, it's actually not about the noise. It's just that this is such a sudden trip that I didn't have time to make arrangements for my work at the research institute. I was so busy settling them on the flight that I didn't really have time to sleep.

'Then, I rushed here to treat him immediately after I touched down. The truth is that I can't hold it anymore.'

He knew just how drained she was and felt heartbroken. He couldn't help but say, "If you're this worn out, you should rest, Bonnie. Don't worry about me."

She raised her delicate eyebrow. "Are you sure you can do it by yourself? Don't you need my help to remove the silver needles?"

That was when it hit him. He chuckled dryly and said, "You got me there. I don't think I can."

"That's what I'm talking about." She leaned back on the couch leisurely. "Just stay put and stay quiet. I don't need you to worry about me."

He wanted her to rest, but the circumstances wouldn't allow it. So, he had to agree to it. "Alright."

10 minutes later, she removed the silver needles one by one before hiding her yawn behind her hands.

"Alright. Now, I need to sleep. I can barely keep my eyes open."

He shifted his body to the side and made some room for her on the bed.

"Just sleep right here, Bonnie. Don't bother going back to your room. You can think about the issues when you're well-rested."

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## Chapter 779

Bonnie gave Ivor a sidelong glance and raised her eyebrows even higher.

"Something smells fishy..."

"Do you need more room? How about I move further inside?" He pretended not to understand what she was saying.

She yawned again, and her eyes were barely open right now.

She was so exhausted that she couldn't be bothered with everything else. Moreover, he probably couldn't do anything in his current state. So, she agreed to it. "Alright. I catch a nap here, then."

Then, she warned him. "Don't take advantage of me, Ivor. Otherwise, I'm going to fly back to Pyralis first thing in the morning."

"Who do you think I am, Bonnie? Do you have any idea how tired you are now? Why would I do anything to you in this state?"

'Is it me, or is she that distrustful of me?'

She scoffed lightly in response. "No one knows what you might do. I'm giving you a fair warning nonetheless."

"Alright. Okay." He smiled helplessly. Raising his hand, he swore, "I give you my word that I won't lay my grubby paws on you so you can have a good rest. Is that good enough for you?" "Fine." She responded. Then, she got onto the bed and laid down comfortably. She welcomed the soft sensation the bed provided, as well as his familiar scent.

It didn't take her long to fall asleep under these comfortable circumstances.

He heard her even breathing and knew that she was sound asleep. Resting his chin on his hands, he admired the delicate view. Leaning in closer, he planted a gentle kiss on her forehead. "Goodnight, Bonnie."

The next day, she woke up and couldn't find him on the bed. Wearing a pair of indoor slippers, she was about to go into the restroom when he came in with a tray full of breakfast foods.

He was stunned a little when he saw that she was awake.

"Aren't you tired? Why are you waking up this early? Go ahead and sleep longer."

"I'm fine. I've slept for the entire night. That's more than enough." She stretched and walked over to him, scanning the food on the tray.

She couldn't help but ask curiously, "What are these things? They don't look like your typical breakfast."

"These are local delicacies. My stomach was feeling funny a couple of days ago. My business partner sent it to me, and I liked how it tasted. I thought you'd like it too. So, I brought some over to you." With that, he brought the tray closer to her. "Care to take a bite?"

"Sure." She popped one of the food into her mouth. Once she swallowed it, her eyes sparkled. "Woah. This is tasty. I'm going to bring some of them back to Pyralis when we're leaving."

"No problem at all. I'll make the necessary arrangements." He checked his watch as he spoke.

"I have to meet with my business partner at another quarry today. Would you like to join me?"

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## Chapter 780

Bonnie shook her head. "I want to go out and take a stroll on the plateau. Immerse myself in the local culture, you know? I'll go with you tomorrow instead." "Sure thing. Go ahead and walk around. We'll take a stroll in the night market when I'm done with the inspection."

'I want to stay with her, but I'm here on a work trip. I can't afford to delay everyone's time. So, I'll have to finish my work before anything else.'

"That works for me," she said. Noticing that he was looking strong and fit again, she asked, "How are you feeling today? Are you recovering well?"

"I'm much better now." His lips curled into a smile as he glanced at her affectionately. "This is all thanks to you, Bonnie. How else would I have recovered so soon?"

"Alright. That's enough. Stop being a smart mouth and go. You're keeping everyone waiting." She was speechless at his response.

"Okay." He chuckled and patted the back of her hand. "Wait for me. I'll be back soon."

"Yeah. I know that. Just hurry up and go." She waved her hand impatiently, eager to shake him off. He was so clingy.

'That's how conflicting humans are. I miss him when he isn't around. The moment we're together, however, he irritates me.'

She watched him leave, then collected her thoughts and tucked into her breakfast.

Once that was done, she took a stroll in Everpeak's streets with Jim. They found themselves at a bustling market, and she managed to buy some adorable trinkets.

Jim did his job by standing next to her and keeping her safe, ever aware of the crowd milling about in the area.

She turned around and saw how vigilant he was. Feeling helpless, she said, "This is Everpeak. Nobody knows us. Relax, Jim."

"No way. I have to be on guard." He said. Then, he thought back to the gut feeling he had back at the hotel entrance and looked at her before telling her about it.

"I had this feeling that someone was watching us when we first arrived yesterday. However, I didn't alert them to my suspicion. I waited until we were upstairs before poking out the window and checking for suspicious targets.

"What struck me as strange is that nothing was wrong. I thought I was being oversensitive, then. However, I'm getting the same gut feeling again. It pays to be on our toes."

"Your gut feelings have always been right. I think someone's targeting us." Rubbing her chin, she said, "We don't really have the lay of the land around here. Let's try heading to crowded areas. That should prevent them from doing anything to us."

"Got it." He responded, his sharp eyes sweeping across their surroundings.

"Don't get too worked up." She lowered her voice and reminded him, "We should just carry on with what we're doing and pretend that we never know about them. I believe they'll show up sooner rather than later. I'm going to observe them and find out what they're up to."

"Copy that." Jim nodded.

Hiding out in an alley, Shane watched as Bonnie walked side by side with the tall, burly man. He couldn't explain it, but something felt uncanny at that moment.

'If that man is just an ordinary guy, there's no way Bonnie would bring him with her all the time. However, I have no way of knowing how formidable he is until I send someone over to feel him out.' Archie, who was standing next to him, saw it too. He couldn't help but frown.

"Look at them, Mr. Shane. Do you think they found out about us?"

Shane pondered it for a while before shaking his head. "Probably not."

Archie said again, "But, they keep going to where the crowd is. We can't exactly send our men in."

Then, a gleam flashed in Shane's eyes.



"Don't worry about it. I've got an idea."

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## Chapter 781

Bonnie and Jim continued to shop at the market. They'd browse through the trinkets on the stalls, giving off the impression that they didn't realize something was unusual there. She swept her eyes across her surroundings but didn't see anyone suspicious. So, she gave him a look, hinting at him to take a seat at a food stall.

Once both of them sat down, she leaned closer to him and whispered, "I checked out our surroundings, but I didn't discover anything or anyone unusual. What about you?" He shook his head gently and frowned.

"I've got nothing for now. Could it be that our assailant is extremely proficient and discreet?"

"You say that, but both of us aren't exactly amateurs. We should've been able to suss out something." She rubbed her chin and mulled it over.

"Let's just continue to observe them. If they're targeting us, that means they're trying to do something. They won't be holding back forever."

"Okay. Remember. Don't wander off too far from me. I'm worried that you're their target," he said solemnly.

'I'm not worried about myself. Keeping Bonnie safe is what matters most to me,' he thought.

She nodded. "Alright."

Both of them had just finished talking when they heard an ear-piercing scream.

"Someone's mugging me! Can anyone help me?!"

They followed the voice and turned their gaze. Then, they saw it. There was a lady from across the road, who was chasing after the mugger who snatched her pouch. She was holding a baby in her arms. Her face was filled with despair as she cried and ran.

Bonnie saw it and couldn't bear it anymore. She shot up from her seat and raced after the mugger.

"Hold it right there, you damn thief! Give her back her pouch."

'How despicable. I can't believe he'd snatch something from a lady who's holding a baby. What a crazy, heartless guy!'

Jim saw it, stood up, and gave chase as well.

They ran the mugger into a remote alley. Realizing that he was still running very fast, she swept her eyes across her surroundings. Then, she picked up a pebble and lobbed it at his ankle. "Eeek!" The mugger yelped, his face contorted with pain. He stumbled and rolled on the ground.

She walked over and kicked him. At the same time, she took the lady's pouch. "Haven't you seen that she's got her hands busy with a baby? How despicable!"

Bonnie was so angry that she kicked him again.

"Eek!" The mugger yelped and clutched his ankle, while he moaned painfully.

'How is it that a pebble hurt me this much? It feels as if my leg is ruined.'

At that moment, Jim dove into the alley from another side. He let out a sigh of relief when he saw that she was safe.

"Now that you have the pouch, let's get a move on. We can't afford to stay here for too long."

'I'm not sure if I'm wrong, but I get the feeling that the mugger led her here on purpose. It's such a remote alley that nobody would've used it. 'However, the mugger led her here nonetheless. Perhaps he has some ulterior motive. Or, I could be wrong. We'd better get out of there.' "Alright." She responded and took the pouch with her. Then, she walked out of the alley with Jim.

Just as they arrived at the entrance, several yellow-haired thugs swarmed them and stood in their way.

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## Chapter 782

Jim stood in front of Bonnie and shielded her instinctively, emanating an authoritative air from head to toe.

"Who are you guys? What do you think you're doing?"

The yellow-haired thugs faced each other and swapped glances.

Then, one of them came out from behind and said, "You're wearing some expensive jewelry, which means you're rich. I'm ordering both of you to surrender everything valuables to us. Otherwise, we'll teach you a lesson."

Bonnie frowned and gave Jim a look, hinting at him.

'Is that all these guys are after? Valuables? Aren't they here for something else?'

'If that's all this is, it would've been much easier to deal with. With that said, I'm not sure how it's going to turn out if they have other motives.'

Jim shook his head gently. He, too, wasn't sure about it. All they could do now was wait and see how it'd turn out.

The leader of the thugs noticed both of them were quiet. Frowning, he took a step closer and barked, "Hey! Do you guys hear me? Hurry up and give us your valuables. Otherwise, I can't guarantee your safety You're not going to like what my boys and I will do!"

Then, his gaze fell on Bonnie and he was immediately thrilled.

"Dayum! Never have I thought that such a hot booty would come to Everpeak. After all, it is located in the middle of nowhere. It looks like we're going to have ourselves some fun, boys."

With that, he turned around, looked at his henchmen, and chuckled.

Jim's eyes were filled with intense menace. Then, he darted at the leader with lightning speed and threw a fierce punch.

"Mind your insolent tongue. That'll teach you to insult people."

He threw his weight behind the punch. Naturally, the leader was feeling dizzy from it. In fact, he just found out that Jim knocked his teeth off.

Then, he felt an itch in his throat and proceeded to cough up blood.

His lackeys saw it and were shocked to the core.

'H-How's he this strong? It doesn't look like we can take him lightly.'

They were in the middle of their thoughts when their leader roared at them, "What are you guys waiting for? Come over here and help me up!"

The lackeys came back to their senses and hurriedly helped their leader.

Once the leader found his footing, he glared at Jim and Bonnie hatefully. "Swarm them! There are so many of us. There's no way we can't take them out!" "Roger, chief!" The lackeys responded.

Clenching their fists, they charged at both of them.

Bonnie cracked her knuckles, looking as if she was ready to kick some ass.

Sensing her movements, Jim looked at her sideways and said quietly, "Stay put. These thugs aren't worth your fists."

She swept her eyes across the charging thugs and realized none had a steady footing, which meant they weren't fighters at all. It would've been a piece of cake for him to wipe the floor with them. So, she lowered her hands and took a step back.

"Okay. Have at it, Jim."

Shane was watching the entire thing from a corner not far from them. His eyes were flashing menacingly.

"Let's see how good this tall, burly man she brought is. I wonder if he's as good as the men I hired."

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## Chapter 783

At the next moment, a fight broke out in the alley.

Bonnie stood behind Jim and watched the whole thing, counting down the time. In less than a minute, he wiped the floor with the yellow-haired thugs.

"Eeek!"

Endless cries rose in the air as the thugs slumped onto the floor. They couldn't even get up, even if they wanted to.

'T-That guy's simply too strong. We're no match for him at all!'

'He's terrifyingly powerful.'

Once he was done incapacitating the thugs, Jim walked over to Bonnie and asked her, "How should I deal with them?"

She pondered it for a while and said, "Send them to the nearest police department and interrogate them."

He frowned, his stoic face revealed a hint of bewilderment. "Judging by the way they fought, they were just common thugs. Is there a need to take them to the police department at all?" She swept a cold gaze across them and lowered her voice. "I think they showed up at too convenient a time. I can't explain it, but something feels off. So, we should interrogate them a little." He didn't have qualms about that. "Alright."

Pulling out his phone, he called the police.

Several minutes later, the cops arrived to take the thugs away and put them behind bars.

Just as she was about to get in the car, she sensed something and glanced at the corner of the alley.

'That's weird. I thought I saw a figure flash by earlier. Did I see it wrongly?'

Jim noticed the look on her face and asked, concerned, "What's the matter?"

Casting another glance at the alley, she realized there was nothing there. So, she tore her gaze away and said,

"It's nothing. Come on, let's move."

He dropped the matter and said, "Okay."

Shane and Archie didn't come out of the corner until they were sure that all of them were gone. He watched as Bonnie and the gang left. His face grew grim as he spoke. "As expected, we can't afford to take the tall, burly man lightly."

Archie could also tell that. "What should we do now, Mr. Shane?"

Shane looked at his assistant coldly. "I'll figure out something."

Then, he headed toward his car, which was parked at the side of the road.

"Let's go."

Archie took off after him. "Okay, Mr. Shane."

Back in the police department, Jim told them his real identity. So, the cops agreed to let him and Bonnie interrogate the thugs.

She stared at the leader of the thugs, who was bruised, in the interrogation room. Tapping the desk lightly, she asked leisurely, "Who sent you guys here? Am I right in saying that you're not just here to mug us?"

She went straight to the point. There was no point in beating around the bush.

The leader responded helplessly, "W-We're just a bunch of guys with no jobs, miss. We realized that you guys were tourists and started thinking if we could mug you. I-I'm sorry. We won't do something like this again."

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## Chapter 784

Bonnie raised her eyebrows and scanned the leader from head to toe. Then, she stared at him menacingly.

"Are you sure?"

'I didn't bring any bodyguards other than Jim on this trip. I guess it isn't that crazy an idea for them to find me an easy target.

'However, that still doesn't explain what Jim said about us being targeted on the first day we touched down at Everpeak. He had monitored our surroundings, but even he couldn't find out who was monitoring

us.

'On the other hand, this bunch of thugs can't fight for shit. So, it's downright impossible that they knew how to keep themselves hidden.

'With all of these in mind, I don't think these thugs just wanted to mug us. There's more.'

The leader of the thugs nodded heavily. "O-Of course I am, miss. You've beaten us to a pulp. Why should I lie to you at all?"

She cast another glance at him again. There wasn't any sign of guilt or lying. She couldn't help but frown.

'This guy still hadn't given me any openings to this moment. Is it because my theory is wrong? Or, is it because he's just that good of an actor?'

She was in the middle of the thought when Jim came inside. He walked over to her side and whispered, "I got their information from the police. These guys are the local thugs. Moreover, they have mugged tourists before. This isn't their first rodeo.

"The way I see it, they just happened to mug us by chance. The whole thing isn't as serious as you might've thought."

"Is that so..." She rubbed her chin gently and gave the leader of the thugs a sidelong glance.

He was hunched in his seat, looking like nothing more than a dummy. There wasn't any sparkle of intelligence in his eyes.

'People like him typically don't have their own opinions, much less do big things. However, I just can't shake the feeling that something was off.

'Something definitely smells fishy, but I just can't put my finger on it.'

Jim nodded in response. "I got this information from the cops. They can't be wrong."

"Okay." She responded dryly and stood up from the chair.

She didn't speak to him again until they were both outside. "Lock these thugs up and investigate thoroughly if they have made contact with anyone. Then, have someone monitor their every move. Keep them behind bars until I say it's okay to release them."

'I've always believed in my instincts. If I say there's something weird about them, then I'm not going to take any chances.'

"Copy that," Jim said and left to do her bidding.

Later, both of them came out of the police department. The first thing she saw was a Rolls-Royce that just so happened to pull over by the side of the road.

At the next moment, the car door swung open. A tall figure came out of it and ran across the road in a hurry.

He came over to Bonnie, held her shoulders, and asked hastily, "I heard that you guys were mugged. Is everything okay? Are you hurt?"

'I know that she and Jim are tenacious fighters. In fact, these thugs probably posed no threat to them at all. However, that does nothing to make me feel better. I can't take it if something happened to her.' "I'm fine." She nodded and walked toward the car with him. "Let's continue our talk in the car. This isn't the right place for any conversation."

He responded, "Okay."

Once they were all in the car, she told them about her worries.

"I know the information from the police department proved that these were just thugs and nothing more. They might've tried mugging us because they sensed that we were different from the ordinary folk. The fact that we wore expensive stuff on us didn't help, either.

"That's why they conspired with each other and put up an act to rouse our sympathy. That's how they lured us to the alley and mugged us there earlier.

"Still, I can't shake the feeling that something isn't right. However, Jim didn't manage to suss out anything strange about the situation.

"My point is that we have to be very careful when we go out for the next several days. We can't afford to be careless."

"Got it," Ivor responded. Reaching out, he held her on the shoulder and pulled her to his chest. "Don't worry, Bonnie. It doesn't matter what happens, I'm going to keep you safe. No harm's going to befall you." She rolled her eyes at him. "Perhaps you should spend more effort in protecting yourself. I can look after myself, after all."

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## Chapter 785

Ivor snorted light in response.

"This is something I have to do as a man. You don't get to turn it down."

She rolled her eyes at him again. "There you go with your smart mouth again."

"What are you talking about? Don't you think it's true?" His eyes were brimming with affection and humor. "I mean it. It doesn't matter what happens. I'm going to keep you safe. There's no need to be afraid."

Noticing that he was inching closer to her, she used her elbow and pressed against his chest. "Alright. I got it. Stop trying to take advantage of me when you're speaking."

His lips curled into a smile. The humor in his eyes thickened.

"Did you see through me already? You're just so smart, Bonnie."

"Geez. Just cut it out." She was beyond speechless now.

'I can't take it with him. Although he did deliver on everything he said, I have no idea how to form a comeback to his corny lines.'

"Get some rest. I'll wake you up when we're at the hotel." He ran his fingers through her hair lovingly.

She was worn out after what happened today. So, she didn't turn down his offer. She leaned on his chest, found a comfortable position, and closed her eyes slowly. "Okay. Don't move, then. I'm going to grab some shut-eye."

He smiled and responded, "Alright. I'll stay put."

Before long, she fell asleep.

Listening to her even breathing, a sense of relief rose in his chest.

Several minutes later, he confirmed that she wasn't about to wake up and talked to Floyd, who was driving the car. "Did you hear everything she said earlier?" Floyd nodded in response. "I do, Mr. Ivor."

"Okay." He said, "Once we get back to the hotel, arrange for some men to be sent over from Pyralis. We need to be prepared for the worst."

"Roger." Floyd knew how important this order was, and nodded hastily.

The next day, Bonnie was sound asleep when Ivor woke her up.

"Wake up, Bonnie. Come on, wake up."

She strained and opened her eyes a crack. "What's the matter?"

"Didn't you promise me that you'll be coming with me to the new quarry? Come on, we've got to go."

'Actually, I want her to rest at the hotel. However, what she said yesterday made me feel uneasy. I can't leave her here alone without being worried sick about her. I'll be able to see her anytime I want if I bring her along for the inspection. That'll make me feel better.'

"The inspection, you say?" She sobered up, sat on the bed, and yawned. "Give me a minute. I'll be ready soon."

"Yeah. Go ahead and freshen up. I've prepared breakfast for you. We'll hit the road as soon as we're finished eating." He planted a kiss on the side of her face, rose, and left the room.

She had gotten used to these little routines with him.

Wiping her cheeks, she strolled toward the restroom. Several minutes later, she was done freshening up and came outside. The first thing she saw was Ivor pouring her a glass of milk.

He heard the sound of the restroom door and raised his head. The moment he laid his eyes on her, he put on an affectionate smile.

"Breakfast is ready, lover. Get over here and have some."

She rubbed the goosebumps on her arms and shot him a look. "Can you please not be this corny this early in the morning?"

Then, he adopted a pitiful expression and looked at her.

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## Chapter 786

"Why don't you like anything I do, Bonnie?"

She ate some of her soup, and said, "Just rein it in and stop acting so recklessly. Then, I'll start liking what you do."

"What do you mean by reining it in? I don't get it, Bonnie. Can you show me how it's done?" Ivor said.

He seized the chance and sat next to her.

She noticed how opportunistic he was, and her lips twitched.

"Just stay away from me and stop saying those corny lines. That's how you rein it in."

"You say that, but I love you the most, Bonnie. How am I supposed to stay away from you? Moreover, those aren't corny lines. Everything I said came directly from the bottom of my heart," he said matter-of-factly.

What he said was downright cringy, but they sounded sincere and affectionate.

She fell silent immediately. Lowering her head, she tucked into her breakfast.

Noticing that she was quiet, he reached out and waved his hand in front of her.

"Why aren't you saying anything, Bonnie? Don't you agree with me? You have to see the point I'm making. Right?"

She couldn't take it anymore. Raising her voice, she said, "Will you please shut up?"

He knew she might get mad for real if he kept fooling around. His lips curled into a grin in response. Then he made a gesture of zipping his mouth shut.

"Alright, Bonnie. I'll stop speaking. Hurry up and eat the breakfast already."

She rolled her eyes at him again. "I wonder who's wasting our time around here."

He smiled and remained quiet.

Once they were done with breakfast, his business partner arrived. All of them, including Floyd and Jim, hit the road and headed toward the quarry.

They put on their hard hats when they arrived at the place and began the inspection. His business partner, Tom, looked at the tunnel under construction not far away.

Tom asked Ivor, "Why don't we head inside and look at our mineral resources?"

Instead of responding to Tom, he turned around and glanced at Bonnie. "What do you think, Bonnie? Do you want to do it?"

She cast a glance at the tunnel. It was pitch black in there. She couldn't even see where the darkness ended. Then, she shook her head.

"It's too dark. There are bound to be some hazards there. Forget it."

When Tom heard that she didn't want to go, a hint of menace flashed in his eyes.

Then, he smiled and said, "There's nothing to be worried about. Our team is doing construction in there as we speak. Why would they have entered there if it wasn't absolutely safe? Furthermore, we installed some lights in there. It's not going to stay pitch black."

She couldn't help but glance at him sideways.

"Why do you insist on us going in there? Why can't we just do a simple inspection and be done with it?"

Ivor couldn't help but frown at that. Then, he also looked at Tom.

He might not have said anything, but his silent look was enough to rouse fear in anyone.

Tom felt sweat covering his back. Gulping heavily, he smiled and explained, "I'm just trying to show Ivor the mineral resources we have here. That way, he just might invest more in us."

He pretended to sigh out of sadness.

"Eh... Everpeak is a plateau. So, we don't stand a chance against the common areas. We barely have any investors looking our way. N-Now that Ivor is showing interest, I guess I got a little carried away. "Please don't hold it against me if I said anything inappropriate. I swear, I'm not out to harm you guys."

Tom offered a sound explanation. She nodded in understanding and looked at Ivor.

"What do you think? Do you want to take a look inside?"

He pondered it a little and responded, "Since he put it that way, I guess we can do it."

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## Chapter 787

Tom put on a big smile and gestured for them to walk forward.

"This way, please."

Ivor nodded and led her into the tunnel. Just as they were about to go inside, Tom smacked his head and said, "Oh geez. I forgot to bring an important tool!"

The more he said, the more upset he got. His eyes were filled with regret and guilt as he looked at them.

"I'm so sorry, Ivor. You guys should go ahead first. I'll be back as soon as I get my tool. Age has truly caught up to me. Even my mind isn't working as well as it should be. I can't believe I forgot about something like this."

Bonnie stopped in her tracks, turned around, and looked at him.

"You've just forgotten to take a tool. It's not a big deal. Go and get it. We'll head inside and look around."

That was what Tom was counting on. He quickly responded, "Alright, then. I'm going to go back outside and take it now."

Then, he saw Floyd and Jim out of the corner of his eyes. A hint of menacing light traced his eyes before he adopted a troubled expression and looked at her.

"It's just that the tool is a little heavy. I'm afraid I can't lift it by myself. I'll need a couple more men to help me with it. Would it be okay if I loaned both of your men?"

That was when she felt that something was wrong. However, the feeling was so fleeting that she almost couldn't register it.

An intense feeling rose in her chest, making her frown. Then, she stared at Tom with judging eyes.

"What about your workers? You could always ask them to move the tool for you."

His expression grew more troubled.

"The workers are working in the quarry now. They're in the deepest part of the tunnel. I can't call them here. Furthermore, I might be their boss, but am I supposed to ask them to come to the surface for something so menial? That's a little inhumane, don't you think?"

Again, Tom's words were making some sense. However, she couldn't shake the feeling that something was off.

She turned around, looked at Ivor, and asked, "What's your take on this? Should we let Jim and Floyd help him out?"

'After all, I don't have much experience with Tom. I don't know him that well. It's much more appropriate to let him think about the best way to proceed with this.'

Ivor lowered his gaze and stared at Tom.

Tom's heart skipped a beat from the way Ivor stared at him. He was afraid that Ivor might be able to tell that something was wrong. Trying his very best to stay calm, he forced a smile and said, "My tool isn't too far away, Ivor. It's right over there."

He pointed at a house not far from here.

"Furthermore, they're both rough, bulky guys. D-Do you honestly think I can do anything to them?"

Ivor stared at him profoundly again. Then, he retracted his gaze and nodded lightly. "Alright, guys. Go with him and get the stuff he needs. Come back to us immediately after."

Now that Ivor had given his orders, both Floyd and Jim nodded.

"Alright."

"Copy that, Mr. Ivor."

Tom let out a subtle sigh of relief when he saw that Ivor agreed to it at the end of the day.

"Thank you, Ivor."

"Don't mention it," Ivor responded dryly.

Tom took both Floyd and Jim away at once.

Bonnie watched as they left and started to mull over the situation.

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## Chapter 788

"Why do I get the feeling that something's weird about Tom? Is something wrong with him?"

Ever since she ran into the thugs, Bonnie had kept her guard up around everyone.

"I think he's fine." Ivor led her into the tunnel and analyzed, "I started following up on this collaboration a few years back. I chose to invest in him because he's sincere and willing to do anything to make it happen. That's also why I agreed to inspect the quarry myself.

"It's like he said, Everpeak might have rich mineral resources, but there aren't many big investors looking here. Some investors wanted to collaborate with them, but turned away because of the harsh environment.

"Anyway, Tom is basically digging his own grave if he tried anything."

She nodded. "That explains why you trust him so much."

"Yeah." He chuckled. "Do you think I do my collaborations based on blind faith?"

Then, he pinched her fingers gently, savoring her presence. "Furthermore, you're here with me. There's no way I'd put you at risk."

She couldn't help but smile at that. That didn't mean she spoke sweetly to him, though. "There you go with your smart mouth again."

He wore a helpless expression, but he continued to hold her hands tightly.

"How many times do I have to say it before you believe me, Bonnie? I mean what I said. They're not flattery."

She shrugged. "I'm not the one you should be posing this question to. After all, that's up to you."

"What do you mean?" He looked confused. He had no idea what she was talking about.

Glancing at him, she said sarcastically, "Speak less corny lines, and I'll believe that it comes from the bottom of your heart."

"Sigh..." He said helplessly, "I'm afraid I won't be able to do it for the rest of my life. I'm saying these things to you out of pure instinct because I love you. Are you going to ask me to go against my instincts?" She rolled her eyes at him.

"I think you're beyond help."

He nodded in approval. "Yeah. Nothing could cure my love for you."

'Forget it. I'll just keep quiet. Otherwise, he's going to get more kick out of it.'

Floyd and Jim were about to get the tool at Tom's storehouse. They were about to go inside when Tom feigned a stomachache by clutching his belly and howling out of pain.

"Ow. Ouch. My belly. It hurts!"

Floyd walked over and asked, concerned, "Are you alright? Should we send you to a clinic?"

Tom looked like he was wracked with pain. Even his forehead was covered in sweat.

"T-There's no need for that. I just have to use the restroom. Go ahead and look for the tool. It's a silver box. I'll be back in a jiffy."

Just as he was about to get away, Jim called out to him abruptly.

"Hold it right there."

Tom stopped in his tracks. Still clutching his belly, he feigned a tortured face and pretended to have just come back to his senses.

"I-I can't hold it in anymore. Just wait till I get back. For now, I'm going to have to ask the two of you to look for the silver box."

Tom bolted out of there.

Jim watched as he left, contemplating the situation.

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## Chapter 789

Floyd noticed that Jim didn't look right. So, he asked, "What's the matter, Master Jim? Why are you staring at him like that?"

Jim pondered for a while before asking, "Didn't you feel that something was wrong with Tom?"

Floyd scratched the back of his head. "Is that so? Everything seems right to me. Tom's a little scaredy-cat. He might be spooked because he has to deal with all of us."

Jim was searching for the silver box with Floyd. He paused and turned to look at the latter.

"How do you know that he's a scaredy-cat? Have you dealt with him before?"

Floyd continued to search for it while he responded to Jim. "Yeah. Mr. Ivor and I have been following up on this collaboration several years back. We've dealt with him plenty of times. He wouldn't have invested in this place otherwise."

"So, that's how it is. I might've been reading too much into things, then."

'Ivor is an extremely perceptive guy. If he's dealt with Tom before, then Tom's probably fine. I'm getting worried for nothing.'

Floyd didn't quite catch what Jim was saying. "What did you say, Master Jim? I didn't hear you."

"It's nothing." Jim shook his head and dropped the matter. "Let's just hurry up and search for the silver box. We have to get back to Bonnie and Ivor as soon as possible." Floyd nodded, "Alright. Gotcha."

Tom exited the storehouse and straightened up his back, his eyes filled with menace.

"Men, come over here."

A bodyguard dressed completely in black came to him.

"Your orders, master?"

"Lock the shed and keep the two guys in there at all costs." Tom glanced back at it, the menace deepening in his eyes.

His bodyguard nodded and responded, "As you wish."

Meanwhile, Bonnie and Ivor were in the heart of the tunnel.

She checked her surroundings before she picked up something and put it in her palm to look at it. "There are, indeed, a lot of mineral resources here. Many of them are rare where we came from, but they're as common as pebbles here."

"Different environments yield different gems. What we're seeing here is something you could never find in Pyralis." He walked over and touched the wall. "Furthermore, my company can find uses for all the minerals here. It looks like this trip is well worth it."

"They are fine gems." She agreed with his sentiment wholeheartedly. "Let's go deeper. We might find more rare gems."

He noticed the lights were dimmer in the deeper parts of the tunnel. He couldn't resist holding her hand.

"I don't think we should go in further for now. Let's just wait for Floyd and Jim instead."

'I can't explain it, but I feel uneasy. I can't ignore this feeling that Bonnie and I are walking into some sort of danger.'

She heard him and stopped in her tracks.

"I guess you're right. We should just wait here. Otherwise, they might have trouble finding us."

"Okay. Let's head outside and wait for them there." Rubbing his eyebrows gently, he could feel the unease growing more intense. His grip on her hands tightened involuntarily.

Sensing his anxiety and noticing his tight grip, she asked, bewildered. "What's wrong?"

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## Chapter 790

"Maybe it's the tunnel. I just get this ominous feeling about the place." His frown grew deeper. Then, he held her hand and started moving outside decisively. "We should head to the exit now. Then, we'll come inside again once everyone's here."

"Okay..."

Suddenly, she felt the tunnel shaking violently. She could also hear deep rumbles, signifying the tunnel collapsing.

Before she could come to her senses, he was dragging her and racing out of the place.

"Run, Bonnie!"

Thoughts were running through his head. 'What in the world went wrong here? We've only been here for 15 minutes, but there is a serious chance this tunnel could collapse. This shouldn't have happened! 'Gah. Forget it. What matters now is that I get out of this hellhole with Bonnie. Otherwise, we won't be able to escape once the tunnel caves in.'

Instead of responding to him, she followed his lead and ran with him. Then, she recalled how weird Tom had acted.

"There's something wrong with Tom."

"What are you trying to say? Do you think he tricked us into this tunnel and sent Jim and Floyd away?"

'I've trusted Tom so much that I didn't suspect anything earlier. Now that I think about it, there were way too many coincidences. Obviously, it's an elaborate plan to trap me and Bonnie in the tunnel,' he thought "Absolutely. Why else would he have this many excuses? He wouldn't come inside himself, and yet he's doing everything he can to trick us into coming here. It's plain as day that he's hiding something." Bonnie fell into deep thought.

'I've sensed that there's something wrong all along, but I neglected to think too much about it. I really should've given it more thought, too. If I had been more careful, we wouldn't be in this mess.' He took a deep breath, held her hand, and ran forward.

"Save your breath, Bonnie. Let's just focus on getting out of here first."

"Okay." She responded and ran as fast as her feet could carry her.

Before long, the entire tunnel shook more violently.

He wore a solemn expression and pursed his lips.

'Once I get out of here, I'm going to round up the people who are doing this to us and torture them to the point they wish they were dead instead. None of them will escape me! 'This is all my fault. I wouldn't have asked Bonnie to tag along if I had known this would happen.'

On the other hand, she knew he was beating himself up and feeling guilty. So, she held his hand and comforted him. "It'll be fine. I know we're going to get out of here."

"Yeah. I won't be able to forgive myself for the rest of my life if I can't bring you back home safe." It was true. He did feel guilty about this, and he certainly felt responsible for it.

However, this wasn't the time to talk about it. They had to focus on escaping this hellhole.

"It'll be fine." She comforted him again.

The next thing she knew, a boulder was falling toward his head.

She moved swiftly and shoved him out of the way.

Crash!

The boulder missed his head by an inch and landed squarely on her shoulder instead.

"Argh..." A sharp pain shot from her shoulder and made her groan out of pain.

However, she wasn't concerned about it now. All she could feel was relief.

'It's a good thing that the rock fell on my shoulder instead of his head. Otherwise...'

He whipped his head back. What he saw almost made him fall apart.

"Bonnie!"

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## Chapter 791

Ivor relied on the dim light and saw the big red stain on Bonnie's white shirt. Her delicate face had turned so pale that she barely looked alive.

Feeling a lump in his throat, he hurried over to check on her. He wanted to touch her shoulder, but thought about how he might hurt her and withdrew his hand.

He was sure what could be done at this moment. "Why did you do it, Bonnie? Why?"

'Bonnie got injured because of me. How am I supposed to live with that?'

"I'll be fine. It's just a minor injury."

Half of her shoulder was numb, but she was still trying to soothe him.

"H-How could you say that? I-It's such a bad injury." His eyes turned red as he looked at her. He was so heartbroken that he was having trouble speaking. "You're such a dummy. How could you expose yourself to such a critical injury?"

She forced a smile on her pale face. Then, she reached out with her other hand and patted him on the shoulder.

She teased him. "Why do you think you're the only one doing the protecting around here? Don't you think I can do the same for you? Look. You've kept me safe so many times. It's only right that I repay the favor."

"I don't need your protection, Bonnie. What I need is for you to stay safe." He could smell the stench of blood in the stuffy air. Every breath he took pained him deeply.

She snorted lightly. "You say that, but I did protect you from the boulder. So, you're not getting out of this."

"That's the furthest thing from my mind," he explained hastily.

She put a finger on his lips. "Hush. I know that's not what you mean, but, right now, we have to get the heck out of here. We'll run out of oxygen if we stay too long in the tunnel." "Alright. I'm going to carry you out of here." He bent down and was about to swoop her up.

Gripping his arm, she said helplessly, "The boulder landed on my hand. My feet are fine. I can walk by myself. There's no need for you to carry me. Preserve your stamina for when I really need it. Then, I'll let you carry me."

"A-Alright. I'll just hold your hand, then," Taking her hand carefully, he laid eyes on her bloodstained shirt. It was such a heartbreaking sight.

"Okay." She followed his pace and walked over to a safer spot.

Treading through the tunnel together, they could feel that they had grown closer to one another.

Back at the tunnel entrance, Tom was barking orders, directing the excavators to demolish the tunnel.

Several minutes later, a group of men walked over to him from afar.

The leader of the group was none other than Shane.

When he first landed in Everpeak, he had gotten in touch with Tom. The thing about collaborations was that the business partners would choose whoever was giving them a better offer.

Shane had signed a ten-year contract with Tom. On top of that, the latter would gain five percent from the profit they made from this quarry. Then, he sealed the deal by giving Tom five hundred million dollars. That was why Tom agreed to set Ivor up for him.

'Yeah. I paid through my nose to make this plan work, but all I care about is that I can teach Ivor a lesson. I don't give a damn about the kind of money I have to pay.'

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## Chapter 792

Tom saw Shane coming over and flashed him a smile.

"You're here, Mr. Shane. I've done everything according to your orders. Are you satisfied with how it turned out?"

"Nicely done." Shane gave Tom an approving look before standing at the tunnel entrance and peering inside.

"How long have they been in there?"

Tom counted the time and responded, "They've been in there for about half an hour. They're probably halfway in the tunnel by now. It's impossible for them to escape."

His eyes glinted with menace as he heard what Tom said.

"Heh. Ivor Knight went overseas for an inspection and was tragically killed when a tunnel collapsed. His fiancé died along with him.

"This will become the media's headline for their articles. Once something happens to Ivor, the entire Knight family will be thrown into disarray. The Knight Group's stock price will surely plummet too. "That's when I'll poach all of their collaborators. I'll become the richest man in Pyralis in no time!"

"I just wanted to teach Ivor and Bonnie a lesson. I wasn't out to take their lives. With how things are going, though, I might as well make use of the situation and up my game.

"More to the point, I have to kill Ivor and destroy the Knight Group if I want to become the wealthiest man in Pyralis!"

Tom congratulated him immediately.

"Congratulations, Mr. Shane. Your wish is about to come true soon enough. When the fateful day comes, I hope you remember to share some of your wealth with me as well."

"Consider it done, Tom." Shane smiled. Reaching out, he patted him on the shoulder. "You're the main reason I'm able to pull this off. I wouldn't forget about you if I had something suitable for you later." Tom knew that Shane was a generous man. So, he was thrilled to hear what the latter said.

"Thank you, Mr. Shane. I'll be waiting for your good news, then."

Shane looked at the tunnel, which was still collapsing. Then, he laughed wickedly.

"Hahaha! From here on out, Ivor is history! This is fantastic! No one's going to get in my way ever again!"

Tom led everyone to give him a round of applause. Things were looking merry for them.

Back in the storehouse, Floyd looked outright miserable while Jim was trying to find some possible escape routes.

"Who would've thought that Tom was this vicious? How dare he set us up? I swear I'm going to rip him to shreds the moment we get out of here."

Floyd gnashed his teeth. He was beside himself with rage.

With that said, he still couldn't figure something out.

"The thing is, we didn't have any bad blood with him. We were even having a good time with him, too. So, why would he do something like this?"

"He might've done it in exchange for a better deal," Jim said as he found a crowbar.

Walking over to the door, he tried hard to pry the door open.

"A better deal?" Floyd frowned and stood where he was, pondering on it. "I guess that makes sense. That begs a question, though. Who could've offered him a better deal than the one Mr. Ivor did?" "That's hard to say." Jim saw another crowbar out of the corner of his eyes. Picking it up, he tossed it at Floyd's feet.

"Forget about all that for now. We have to get out of here as soon as we can and check on Bonnie and Ivor. I suspect they sent us away because they're going to do something to both of them. "It would've been fine if they were after money. On the other hand, if they're after their lives, then..."

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## Chapter 793

Jim didn't finish his sentence. It wasn't as if he needed to finish it, either. Both he and Floyd knew just how serious things were now.

Floyd picked up the crowbar and helped Jim to pry the door open. He said, "Hurry up. We have to get the door open as fast as we can. Otherwise, something bad might happen."

"Okay." Jim responded and threw his weight behind the crowbar, the veins on his muscles started to show through his shirt.

"Give it everything you've got. The door is poorly built. We just have to exert more pressure, and it should swing wide open."

A dozen minutes later, both of them were yelling. "Ahh!"



The next thing they knew, they heard a loud bang. The storehouse door had swung open.

Wiping the sweat from his brow, Floyd said, "We finally pried the door open. Let's head out and look for Mr. Ivor and Ms. Bonnie now."

He couldn't wait, not even a minute. He started racing toward the tunnel. To his surprise, he had just taken a couple of steps when Jim grabbed the back of his collar.

"Simmer down."

Floyd stopped in his tracks and turned around, puzzled.

"What's the matter, Master Jim?"

"I'm going to look for them. You should go back to the hotel and get us some reinforcements." Jim told him his plan.

'I'm no match for Jim when it comes to combat prowess. Letting him save Ivor and Bonnie is the best plan now. After that, he just has to buy some time until I return here with backup.' "Alright. I'm going to get more men and come back. I'm leaving Mr. Ivor and Ms. Bonnie in your hands, Master Jim. Please stay safe."

"Okay," Jim responded dryly before racing toward the tunnel. His face was grim, but his footsteps were sure and lightning-fast.

'I have to get to them as soon as possible! They have to hang in there until I arrive!'

Shane stood above the tunnel and stomped hard on the soil beneath him, his eyes filled with twisted pleasure.

"Hahaha! We have to make sure Ivor and Bonnie are buried underneath these soils. They'll be trapped in there forever and ever. Hahaha!"

Still stomping on the soil, he cackled maniacally, giving rise to the look of a madman.

Tom stood next to him and kissed up to him. "I'm sure they're not going to be able to escape at this rate. The excavator is going to destroy the tunnel and bury them along with it." Shane's laughter grew crazed the moment he heard that.

"Hahaha! That'd be wonderful. I will have finally taken out the biggest obstacle on my road to becoming the wealthiest man in Pyralis."

Tom laughed along, trying to please Shane. He was about to continue buttering Shane up, when he heard a sarcastic voice.

"What makes you think you have what it takes to become someone like that? Dream on, Shane!"

'The voice sounded so familiar...

'Wait a minute. I-Is that Bonnie?!

Shane whipped his head around and found himself staring at her cold eyes. His eyes widened in shock.

"Y-You... Um..."

Before he could even begin to speak, she had closed in their distance with lightning speed. The next thing he knew, she lifted her feet high and kicked him squarely in the belly. Everyone was still in shock when he was sent flying into the air and tumbled down the top of the tunnel.

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## **Chapter 794 -**

### **Chapter 794**

"Eeek!" Shane let out an ear-piercing shriek.

Tom's face fell. "Mr. Shane!"

He was about to turn around when Bonnie appeared in front of him.

Her lips curled into a wicked grin when she met his gaze. "Weren't you about to go down there and look for him? Worry not, I'm going to send you down as well." Tom's face was filled with fear instantly. Then, he kept taking steps back when he spoke.

"N-No."

"Heh heh heh..." She sneered and snorted lightly. "I'm not asking."

He tried to run, but she caught him. Twisting his wrist, she kicked his bottom squarely and booted him down there.

Tom's miserable cries rose in the air. He rolled all the way down until he crashed into Shane.

"Ouch!" At first, Shane had scrambled to his feet, but he fell again when Tom rammed into him. It was so painful that he felt as if someone had broken his back.

Holding his waist, he kept groaning out of pain. His face was contorted with agony as well.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Shane. Are you okay?"

The slope wasn't exactly steep. So, falling from the top of the tunnel wouldn't have killed them.

With that said, both of their suits were littered with dust, making them look miserable.

Shane helped himself up with Tom's support. Staring at Bonnie, who was standing on top of the tunnel, his eyes were filled with unbridled fury.

"Didn't you say they were trapped in the tunnel and that they'd be buried with it soon enough? What's the meaning of this? Why are they on the surface now? Care to explain?" "I... Um..." Tom didn't count on Bonnie and Ivor being this lucky.

'I can't believe they escaped such a dire situation. How am I supposed to explain it to Shane?

'After all, I cut corners when I carried out the whole thing. Now, however, I'm exposed. So, how am I supposed to explain it?'

Shane was starting to see something now. In a matter of a second, he was pissed off.

"Cat got your tongue? Hurry up and spill it. I demand an explanation!"

Tom's eyes got shifty as he lowered his head. He simply didn't dare to say anything.

Shane's face grew more forbidding as the second passed by. He was about to say something when he saw both Bonnie and Ivor coming down from the top of the tunnel. Both of them walked toward him, side by side.

Bonnie spoke leisurely as she strolled toward him. "It's fine if he didn't know how to tell you. I'm more than happy to do it for him. I'm sure you don't know about it yet. He spent billions of dollars on this mining tunnel.

"Suffice it to say that he simply couldn't bring himself to dig up the entire tunnel. So, he merely dug the front part of it. He decided to use the soil to block our path and trap us in there, suffocating us. "What he didn't count on is that the workers dug an emergency

recovery shaft. Fortune smiled upon us and showed us to that shaft. That's how we managed to escape the tunnel in one piece." Then, she looked at Shane and said leisurely, "I'm sorry to have disappointed you, Shane. It's just not our time yet. You went through such a great deal of trouble, only to come up short of killing us." Shane felt the full brunt of her sarcasm.

He looked downright terrible. His face turned as red as blood. Turning around, he glared at Tom and his eyes turned red as well. He looked like he could throttle him.

"I can't believe I placed that much faith in you. How dare you play me for a fool? Just wait and see. You're going to pay for this!"

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## Chapter 795

Tom was so shocked by what Shane said that a bead of sweat rolled down his forehead.

"It's pointless to talk about this now, Mr. Shane. Now that it has come to this, we should work together and figure out a way to kill both of them."

Then, he looked at Bonnie and Ivor, his eyes brimming with menace.

"We brought with us dozens of bodyguards, Mr. Shane. And there are only two of them. We'll just kill them right now and announce to the public that they were buried in the tunnel because of a freak accident. It'll achieve the same result."

Shane thought about what he said and found that it made sense.

'Fighting with Tom wouldn't help my situation one bit. My priority should be killing both of them now. Only then could we carry on with our plan.'

"You got a point! We'll take care of them first and leave the rest until after that."

"Exactly. I'm so happy that you see reason, Mr. Shane." Tom was counting on creating a sense of camaraderie with Shane, so the latter wouldn't blame him for anything.

'Once that's established, there's no way Shane will find fault with me in the future.'

'All that's left now is to kill off Ivor and Bonnie! As long as I keep doing everything Shane wants, he's going to remember how useful I am when he finds success.'

The more he thought about it, the more Tom felt thrilled.

Turning around, he yelled, "Gather around, everyone!"

There were only several bodyguards with them earlier. Now, however, dozens of bodyguards came out of the mounds at his order.

They formed ranks and created a sea of black.

Ivor saw it and pursed his lips. Stepping forward, he shielded Bonnie behind his back.

"Don't be afraid, Bonnie. I'll keep you safe."

He didn't say or do anything just now because they talked it over back at the tunnel.

'She insisted on teaching Shane and Tom a lesson with her own hands. That's why I reluctantly agreed to let her do it.

'Now, however, things are different. I have to step forward and keep her safe. No harm is going to befall her as long as I'm around.'

"I'll be fine. I'm not afraid because I know you're here with me," she said confidently, her eyes brimming with fearlessness.

'I've never been afraid under these circumstances, nor have I shied away in the past.

'Death is the worst thing that can happen to me. That's not a big deal at all.

"Very well!" He responded solemnly. Holding her hand, he clasped her fingers.

They felt each other's warmth through their palms, which provided both of them with an infinite supply of courage.

Shane saw what they were doing, and his eyes were filled with mockery.

"Heh... You guys are such a lovely couple. It's such a shame that you'll be dead soon."

She met his gaze. There was nothing but coldness and tenacity in her eyes.

"This isn't your call to make, Shane! We control our own fates. We don't need you to tell us how things are going to end for us."

"Keep up with the tough talk! Take a look at your situation now. Do I have to spell it out for you? There are only two of you. How are you guys supposed to win my bodyguards? There are dozens of them. "Perhaps you should just save your breath. You might as well get on your knees and apologize. Tell me you're wrong, and start begging for your lives. Let me hear it. That way, I might consider giving you a quick death."

Shane was very sure that both of them could never slip through his fingers.

'Yeah. Both of them are pretty good fighters. How's that going to help them, though? I've got dozens of bodyguards with me. I could just keep sending them to fight until they ran out of stamina. How are they supposed to be fighting against me now?'

She sneered in response. Just as she was about to say something, she heard a deep voice from nearby.

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## Chapter 796

"What makes you think there's just the two of them? Don't count me out!"

Jim stepped out slowly from behind Bonnie and Ivor, looking like an impenetrable mountain.

Shane's face fell the moment he saw Jim. Turning around, he looked at Tom and questioned the latter, "Didn't you say you locked him and Floyd up in the storehouse? You guaranteed that nothing could go wrong. Tell me, then. What is Jim doing here now?"

He personally saw just how formidable Jim was. With him in Bonnie's ranks, it was that much more difficult to kill them now.

"Um... I did lock them up in the storehouse. I have no idea how he got out." Tom looked very puzzled. He had no idea how Jim escaped.

With that said, he quickly calmed down and tried to soothe Shane.

"It's just one more guy, Mr. Shane. He's not going to be able to make a difference. We still have dozens of bodyguards with us. Are we supposed to be frightened by three of them?"

'I've hired some top-notch bodyguards from an international organization. So, what if Jim is an excellent fighter? There's no way he could take on all of them and win the fight!' At the thought of it, Shane felt much better.

Turning around, he waved at the bodyguards. "Take them out. Don't pull back any punches. Hit them till they drop!"

"Roger!"

The bodyguards responded to him unanimously. Then, they charged right at Bonnie and the gang.

Bonnie, Ivor, and Jim prepared themselves to teach these bodyguards a lesson.

Ivor stepped forward subtly, putting her behind his back.

"You suffered a heavy injury. Maybe don't join the fight. Jim and I will take care of this."

When Jim heard that she was injured, he scanned her from head to toe. Then, his brows furrowed when he saw the blood stain on her shoulder. "What happened? Why are you so badly injured?"

She moved her arm and responded as if she wasn't fazed. "I'm fine. It's just a minor injury. I'll just apply some salve, and it'll patch up in a few days."

"You're bleeding, for heaven's sake. How's that a minor injury? Are you sure you want to join the fight? Aren't you worried that your arm might be ruined forever? Also, how are you supposed to conduct your beloved research if you don't have one of your arm?" The longer he talked, the more pissed off he sounded.

"I'm fine. I mean it." She frowned slightly. "Moreover, both of you might not be able to fend them off if I don't join in the fight. If I fight alongside you, however, at least I can take on some of the opponents." "You're in bad shape. It's better if you take it easy. Don't do anything rash! Leave them to us. We just have to hold out a little. Help is on the way." Jim said.

The moment she heard that reinforcements were coming, she took a step back and stopped pushing herself.

"Alright. I'll leave these bodyguards to you. I'm aware that you guys are worried about me. So, don't worry about it. I won't do anything unless I don't have a choice."

"Okay." Jim nodded. Turning around, he dealt with several bodyguards charging his way.

In the blink of an eye, both Jim and Ivor had taken out several of them. The bodyguards were lying on the floor, groaning out of pain. They couldn't have climbed to their feet, even if they wanted to. Shane saw what happened and grew agitated.

"Get up, you fools! Aren't you guys elite bodyguards from a reputable organization? How is it that you guys can't take care of two people?"

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## Chapter 797

Tom didn't expect Ivor and Jim would be this tough once they teamed up. He gulped heavily and took a step back instinctively. Shane's face fell. His eyes were filled with disdain when he looked at Tom. "What a weasel!"

A hint of embarrassment flashed across Tom's face at that. He hung his head and didn't make a peep.

Shane hated the fact that Tom couldn't do better. Tearing his gaze away, he looked at the bodyguards behind him coldly.

"Listen to me! Anyone who seizes them will be rewarded with 10 million dollars! Hurry up and get a move on!"

'The bodyguards aren't giving their all to the fight. I've got no choice but to give them some additional incentive.' The moment all of them heard that there were 10 million dollars to be had, they got excited in a matter of a second.

"Charge!"

Throwing money at the issue worked for Shane. His bodyguards were giving all they've got into the fight now.

Ivor and Jim formed a perimeter around Bonnie and kept her in the center of it, protecting her from every assailant.



Realizing that there were more bodyguards around them, she couldn't help but frown. "Stop trying to protect me. Let me give you a hand. I can lighten your load if I join in the fight. I'll just avoid using my hands."

Jim parted his lips. He was about to say something when he heard Ivor's voice.

"That won't be necessary. You're injured. So, just concentrate on resting. Don't concern yourself with everything else."

"That's right. Get some rest. I mean it when I tell you to leave the fight to us. We're going to keep you safe, and that's that." Jim agreed with Ivor wholeheartedly.

She looked helpless and said, "Alright. Okay. I'll do as you guys say."

'I just can't argue with both of them. They're treating me as if I'm some helpless damsel. When have I been that weak?'

After that, Ivor and Jim dove back into the fight.

She'd alert them from time to time, trying to keep them from getting hurt.

Shane saw what was happening and decided he couldn't let things run their course. So, he waved at the bodyguards next to him.

"Over here."

A bodyguard walked over to him and asked, "Your orders, Mr. Shane?"

He gave him a look, hinting at him to look at where Bonnie was. Then, he lowered his voice and whispered, "Capture Bonnie and use her against them." "Roger." The bodyguard responded and snuck from the back to try to seize her.

Shane curled his lips, revealing a wicked grin.

'Don't blame me for doing this. After all, they're the ones who overestimated themselves and messed up someone they shouldn't have!' Before long, that particular bodyguard snuck to a spot behind Bonnie. He arched his body and waited for an opportunity to strike.

She sensed it and rubbed her feet on the ground gently, preparing herself to strike back at him.

On the other hand, the bodyguard didn't realize that. His face was filled with menace as he pulled out a knife and darted after her.

She saw him out of the corner of her eyes. Her lips curled and a hint of mockery flashed in her eyes.

'Heh. What a fool. I can't believe this bodyguard's trying to sneak up on me. Oh, he's going to know the meaning of pain soon.'

She was in the middle of her thoughts when the bodyguard closed the distance. She knew what he was going to do. So, she took a step back before giving him a roundhouse kick, sending him flying.

However, this bodyguard was obviously much stronger than the others. He merely took a couple of steps back before he regained his footing and charged at her again.

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## Chapter 798

Clenching her fists, Bonnie started trading blows with the bodyguard.

Ivor and Jim noticed it. They wanted to go over and lend her a hand, but the other bodyguards were keeping them occupied.

Ivor was worried that she might suffer heavier injuries if this kept up. His face was filled with concern.

Even Jim was a little bothered. He dealt heavier blows by the second, doing his best to take out the surrounding bodyguards, so he could race to her as fast as he could. However, the bodyguards just kept coming.

It was becoming clear to Bonnie that this particular bodyguard wasn't easy to deal with.

If she had been in better shape, she wouldn't have had any problem dealing with the likes of him. She could've taken on ten of them, for crying out loud.

With that said, her shoulder was injured. The fact that she stayed in the tunnel for so long meant that she was asphyxiated. So, she was not on top of her game.

It was not like she was losing ground with this particular bodyguard, but keeping him away was a little difficult.

She wasn't too worried about it. If she was lacking in the stamina department, then she'd make up for it using her skills!

Halfway through the fight, the bodyguard was starting to realize that Bonnie wasn't as frail as she made herself out to be. So, he, too, started getting serious.

Both of them were locked in deadly combat. At first, she could deal with him with ease. As time went by, though, she was getting more tired. At one point, she pulled her shoulder and let out a painful groan. "Ugh..."

The bodyguard seized the opportunity. His eyes were filled with menace as he swung the knife at her.

She reacted, but not fast enough. All she could do was turn the side of her body at the knife and try to bring the damage to a minimum.

Jim noticed it almost immediately.

Just as the knife was about to slash Bonnie, he darted at the bodyguard, hurling his feet at his belly.

The bodyguard swung the knife at Jim at the last second.

The tip of the knife sliced past his face, drawing blood and cutting off his mask.

As the sliced mask fell off, Jim's stoic face was revealed to everyone there.

He had shown up on the international papers. So, it didn't take them long to figure out who he was. Their eyes widened in shock and their jaws dropped.

'Jeez! I can't believe he's the world-renowned King of Combat, Jim Ryan!'

Shane was still stunned when he scanned Jim from head to toe. Then he looked at Bonnie, who the latter was protecting with his life, and thought back to how the security guard at Bonita Research Institute treated her.

Then, it hit him, and his eyes widened in shock.

"Y-You're... Ms. Boni..."

He didn't finish his sentence, but his stammering was more than enough to tell her just how astounded he was.

What he said was enough to tell her one thing. Shane knew who she was now. Stepping forward, she looked at him coldly.

"If you know who I am, what are you waiting for? Call your men back right now. You'll become the entire nation's enemy if anything happens to me."

Shane's face fell. In a matter of seconds, his back was covered with sweat.

'No one could've known that Ivor's fiancé is the world-renowned Ms. Bonita! However, I've come so far. It's too late to pull back now. It's not like I can just call the whole thing off anyway.'

'I can't just let them leave, so I should just kill all of them and get rid of them once and for all! Everpeak is such a remote place that no one will know what I did as long as my men and I don't leak the news.'

Then, he turned around and barked coldly at the surrounding bodyguards, "Take them out! I want all of them dead. None of them are leaving this quarry alive!"

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## Chapter 799

'I didn't count on Shane being this reckless. He knows about Bonnie's true identity, but he's still trying to kill her.'

Jim stepped forward and glared at Shane coldly. "I'm going to give you another chance, Shane. Are you going to keep going down this path?"

There was blood seeping off the cut on his face. Top that off with his imposing aura, he was sending chills down everyone's spine.

Shane was intimidated by it so much that his throat started getting dry. Even his back was covered in sweat.

'Jim truly lives up to his name of the King of Combat. Just look at the aura emanating from him and his pose. It's blood-chilling.'

Noticing that Shane didn't respond to Jim, Bonnie stepped forward and stared at him with cold, imposing eyes.

"Turn yourself in now. I might consider letting you off easy. If you insist on going down this path, however, you're going to regret it very much. You can't handle the consequences, Shane."

Ivor followed suit and stepped forward to stand side by side with her. His eyes were also filled with coldness when he glared at Shane.

"I'm warning you, Shane. Stop what you're doing now. Otherwise, I'm going to get my hands on you and you won't like what I'll do to you. Needless to say, I'll also take it easy on you if you own up to your mistake nicely."

All three of them were staring at him. Shane's back was drenched in cold sweat. It just so happened that the wind blew past him from the back, sending goosebumps all over him.

'Should I let Bonnie and the others go? Are they really going to forgive me if I do? Will they take it easy on me, like they promised?'

Tom realized that Shane was wavering. So, he said hastily, "Don't listen to their crap, Mr. Shane! They're only making things up to get you to let them go. If they get away safely, they're going to send someone else to destroy us."

"

Archie thought what Tom said made a lot of sense. So, he also chimed in, "That's right, Mr. Shane. Don't believe in them. We've gone too far. They're not going to let us go." Shane listened to both of them and thought back to how ruthless Ivor had been in their long-time rivalry. All of a sudden, he also thought the latter wouldn't let him off that easily. He might've wavered before, but he was becoming more resolute now. 'That's right. I can't afford to let them go. They have to die right here.'

He was in the middle of his thoughts when he looked at all three of them coldly.

"I'm not a fool. What makes you think I'll buy what you're selling? Here's the thing, guys. The only way things are going to end for you is that you guys will stay here forever!" Bonnie's eyes were filled with coldness when she heard what he said.

"I have to give it to you, Shane. You've got some nerve. You're trying to kill someone who works for the nation! You better hope that you can make us stay here forever. Otherwise, things are not going to end well for you."

He scoffed. "Get it through your thick head, Bonnie. There are only three of you here. Meanwhile, there are dozens of us. How do you fancy that you can win this? I can't believe you're thinking about getting out of here. Dream on, Bonnie!"

With that, he waved his hand at the surrounding bodyguards again.

"Take them out now! I said it once, and I'll say it again. Do not let any of them live! Make sure all of them stay here forever, and I promise all of you will get a handsome reward!"

All the bodyguards heard what he said and instantly became motivated. They roared before charging at Bonnie and the gang again.

Jim and Ivor saw how their adversaries were advancing on them and formed a perimeter around her again. This time, they kept her in the heart of it as well.

She noticed how the bodyguards were coming at them with the intention to kill.

'If this keeps up, then all three of us might be in great danger.'

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## Chapter 800

'No. I have to figure something out. Jim and Ivor need a break.'

Bonnie checked her surroundings. Then, something popped into her mind and her eyes sparkled.

'That's it. How could I have forgotten about it? I brought with me about a dozen itching powders from Pyralis just for this occasion. The greatest part is that I'm carrying all of them with me.

'I just have to pour them out, and the bodyguards are going to suffer an unbearable itch.

'It's not like we're out of hot waters immediately, but it would give both of them a chance to take a much-needed break, at least.'

At the thought of it, she stuffed her hands into her pocket and shouted at Jim and Ivor. "Out of the way!"

They heard her and turned around. Seeing her hands in her pockets, they knew that something's about to happen. They swapped glances and stepped aside in unison.

She pulled out the itching powder and hurled it at the bodyguards.

The bodyguards still didn't know what happened. So, they kept charging at her.

Shane saw the moment and got a sinking feeling that something was wrong. He shouted at his bodyguards hastily, "No. Stop charging at her! Back off, now. All of you, back off!" However, the bodyguards couldn't stop now.

Then, every last one of them was hit by Bonnie's itching powder.

She watched as red rashes showed up on all of their necks and knew that the powder was working. She couldn't help but sneer.

"Heh... I developed an upgraded version of the itching powder. Enjoy it, guys."

With that, she shouted at both Jim and Ivor. "Run!"

Both of them followed her and ran without a moment's hesitation.

Shane was stunned by what he saw. Then, he returned to his senses and roared at his bodyguards, "After them! Hurry up. Don't let them get away!"

The bodyguards were about to do as they were told, but there was an unbearable itch on their bodies. It was so itchy that they simply couldn't stand it.

They couldn't care about anything other than scratching the itch.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say that they'd just as soon peel their skin off if it meant it'd stop itching. That was especially true for the bodyguards who were nearest to Bonnie. It was so itchy that they were rolling on the ground.

Tom couldn't help but widen his eyes. He was very taken aback by the sight.

"She drugged so many people in one go. How on earth did she do it? W-What a terrifying power she wields. She looked delicate and frail, but she's a tough cookie!"

Then, something occurred to him. Looking at Shane, he asked, "That reminds me, did you see through her real identity earlier, Mr. Shane? Who in the world is she? I don't get it at all."

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