

Mr. Edwards' Unraveled Life Chapter 402

Chapter 402

The off-road vehicle was no better than the military one they had just used. It was covered in dust and mud, and the front had taken a serious hit, leaving a noticeable dent.

The door swung open.

Levi stepped out first, making his way to the back seat before pulling the door open. "Captain Edwards, we've arrived in Country K. I found a hotel where we can stay for now. I'll send the address over so they can meet us here directly."

"Hmm." Kevin responded in a low voice.

As he moved to get out, his brows furrowed deeply.

Levi quickly reached out to help him.

Kevin leaned on Levi as he stepped out of the vehicle. Under the sunlight, his face looked almost ghostly pale, the veins on his skin clearly visible.

Frank parked the car and caught up with them.

Inside the hotel, Levi grabbed a keycard from the front desk. Frank said, "I'll go pick up some food and grab hemostatic medicine first. You two wait in the room."

They split up.

None of them noticed that the previous guests registered in the system were Norah and Karina.

Twenty minutes later.

Frank returned with food and the hemostatic medicine.

Kevin was leaning against the headboard while Levi worked on treating his wound.

He had taken a bullet.

Fortunately, it hadn't hit anything vital. The bullet had passed clean through his shoulder blade.

"Captain Edwards, do you want a towel to—"

"No."

Kevin cut him off.

His years in the military had conditioned him to endure pain without anesthetics. It was nothing new to him.

The only thing on his mind was, "Charge my phone."

Since his last contact with Kian, his phone had been out of signal and battery.

He needed to check on Norah.

Frank reassured him, "Captain Edwards, don't worry. I already plugged it in. It'll be ready to use soon."

"Hmm."

Kevin clenched his jaw, enduring the pain. By the time Levi extracted the bullet from his shoulder, his entire body was soaked in cold sweat.

Levi handed him a painkiller.

Two minutes later, Levi offered him some water, but Kevin reached out instead. "Give me the phone."

He needed to check on Norah. That was all that mattered.

Before leaving, he had made all the necessary arrangements, even finalizing his divorce. He didn't care about his company or anything else.

But Norah...

Frank quickly handed him the phone, already dialed in to call Kian.

Despite the time difference, Kian picked up instantly, as if he had been waiting for this call.

“Mr. Edwards! You finally called back! Madam—Madam went to the Yi Tribe!”

Kevin’s face darkened. His brows twitched. “When?”

Kian hesitated. He knew Kevin would be furious.

Telling him now was like throwing gasoline on an open flame.

“More than thirty hours ago... Mr. Edwards, I tried calling you, but your phone was off. I have people following her.”

Kevin’s expression turned ice cold. “Stay on top of things at the Edwards estate in Craggville. I’ll have people handle it on this end.”

With that, he hung up.

He hesitated, gripping his phone tightly, then dialed Norah.

But her location had no signal.

A mechanical voice responded, “The number you dialed is not in the service area. Please try again later.”

This place was a war zone. Chaos was everywhere.

And yet, Norah had dared to come here.

“Captain Edwards, don’t worry. I’ll inform our contacts to start tracking Madam’s whereabouts. As soon as we get an update, we’ll notify you. But you need to rest now. If you’re not at full strength, we won’t be able to carry out the mission.”

Levi stood beside him, having overheard the call. He could see the tension in Kevin’s face.

Kevin never lost his composure.

Levi had been with him for a long time, and the only times he ever saw Kevin falter were when it involved Norah.

Kevin truly cared about her.

“Find her as soon as possible.”

He wanted to go after her himself, but he couldn't leave. He was here on an official mission.

All he could do was entrust the search to Levi and Frank. “She must be heading for the Yi Tribe.”

Norah was looking for Steven and him. But she had no idea that she was stepping into something far bigger than she could imagine.

The Yi Tribe spanned a vast area. If she didn't find them soon, she would remain in danger.

“I'll go after her,” Levi volunteered. “Captain Edwards, you need someone by your side.”

Frank agreed. “Yes, sir. Madam is smart. She wouldn't come unprepared.”

Norah still had Karina with her. But this was a war zone. Even if she had a hundred guards, it wouldn't be enough.

Kevin's face remained tense. “Keep trying to contact her.”

If he couldn't reach her, Levi and Frank had to.

“Got it, Captain Edwards. Now, you need rest. We'll wake you if anything happens.”

But Kevin couldn't sleep.

His mind was racing.

Left with no choice, Levi knocked him out.

Meanwhile, Norah's journey continued.

The vehicle sped toward the Yi Tribe. At first, they passed high-rise buildings and scattered signs of civilization. But as they drove further, the landscape turned barren, merging into a vast desert.

Nothing but open sand. No signal. No safety net.

Norah gripped her gun tightly.

If something went wrong, there would be no escape.

Suddenly—

A sharp screech.

The car came to a stop.

“Ms. White, the vehicle broke down. The driver needs to check under the hood.”

Norah waited, every second feeling like an eternity.

“The engine is shot,” the driver reported. “And there’s no signal here. I’ll have to walk back to call for help. If you want to wait in the car, you can. Otherwise, I have a tent in the trunk...”

“Don’t we have a pager? Can’t we use satellites to request rescue?” Karina asked.

Before she could get an answer, figures emerged in the distance, approaching on camels.

Chapter 403

The desert stretched endlessly before them, an unforgiving expanse of sand and heat.

The driver had gone to find help, but no one knew how long it would take for him to return.

In this harsh terrain, camels were the best means of transportation.

Norah had a sudden idea, but before she could speak, the woman beside her abruptly waved and shouted. Her child mimicked her actions.

“She’s calling them,” Julissa said.

Norah remained silent, watching.

Before long, a group of people approached on camels. The woman gestured toward Norah, speaking to them.

Norah felt their eyes scanning her—first with curiosity, then suspicion.

After a brief negotiation, the woman ran to Norah, speaking excitedly.

Julissa translated in real time. “Ms. White, she’s from the same tribe as these people. We can leave the desert on camels.”

“Okay.”

That was exactly what she needed—to get out of the desert, find the address, and reach the Yi tribe as soon as possible.

The driver, who hadn’t left yet, overheard the conversation. “If you leave on camels, we won’t refund your deposit,” he warned.

Karina dismissed him with a wave of her hand.

Soon, the group freed up two camels. Karina and Norah rode together, while Julissa accompanied the woman, and the woman’s child rode with one of the men.

The tribespeople had dark skin and faces painted with colorful clay. They remained silent as they moved forward.

The sun cast a red glow over the sand, and the heat was stifling.

Karina handed Norah a bottle of water. “It’ll take hours to get out of here. When we reach the next stop, you should rest. If you get dehydrated or overexert yourself, it could be dangerous.”

“Hmm.”

Norah was eager to find Steven and Kevin, but she had to be realistic about her limits.

Under the relentless sun, they trudged forward. Eventually, both Norah and Karina ran out of water.

Norah’s vision blurred. Her head grew heavy, and she couldn’t keep her eyes open. Just as she was about to collapse, Karina grabbed her, preventing her from falling off the camel.

“Julissa, ask her how much longer until we’re out of the desert!” Karina’s voice held a note of urgency.

Norah wasn’t as strong as Karina—she hadn’t been in the organization for long and wasn’t used to this kind of hardship.

Julissa relayed the question. The woman noticed Norah had fainted and quickly spoke to one of the men. Moments later, she retrieved a bottle filled with a dark liquid.

Julissa translated. “Give this to Ms. White. It’ll be at least three more hours before we’re out of the desert.”

Three hours...

Norah was already dehydrated. There was no way she could last that long.

And this black liquid—was it safe to drink?

Julissa continued translating. “She saved my child, and I promised to be your guide. This comes from a tree we call the ‘black tree.’ The sap from its leaves is our best remedy for surviving the desert.”

Karina understood—it was essentially an energy booster.

With no water and no other options, they had no choice.

Karina took the bottle, tilted Norah’s head back, and poured the dark liquid into her mouth.

Norah choked, coughing violently. The bitter, pungent taste jolted her awake, but she was too weak to move. She slumped against the camel’s hump.

Karina called her name. “Norah, can you hear me? Are you okay?”

“Hmm.” Norah’s voice was barely above a whisper.

She felt like a fish gasping for air.

Karina, worried she’d fall, kept an arm wrapped around her.

Eventually, even Karina started feeling faint.

She drank the black sap as well. The taste was awful, but she had no other choice.

She wasn’t sure how long they traveled after that, but in the end, it was Julissa and the woman who helped them out of the desert.

They emerged onto barren land. The temperature had dropped drastically with the setting sun.

After dismounting, they built a fire and set up a tent.

There was food, but no water.

As they huddled around the fire for warmth, the woman handed them a water bag. “We won’t make it out tonight. The nearest settlement is three more hours away, but we’ve been traveling all day. We’ll rest here.”

Julissa translated.

Karina reached for the water bag—

Then suddenly—

A low, chilling howl echoed through the night.

Norah tensed. Wolves!

The tribesmen, armed and experienced, remained calm.

Karina squeezed Norah's shoulder. "Stay by the fire for a while, then go inside the tent."

Norah had never faced anything like this before, but she wasn't terrified. Karina admired her for that—she was handling it well. They had built trust with these people, and for now, they had to rely on them.

Norah shook her head.

She couldn't keep running from danger. If she avoided it now, she'd just face something worse later.

She had to be strong.

"The wolves are watching us. We don't know what's coming next. You should go inside and stay safe."

If Norah saw what was about to happen, she might regret staying out.

The moment Karina finished speaking, a pair of glowing eyes appeared in the darkness.

By the firelight, they saw it—

Wolves. A whole pack, led by a massive one with razor-sharp fangs.

Norah's heart pounded.

Before they could react, the wolves lunged.

The tribesmen sprang to action, weapons flashing as they fought off the beasts.

The scene was pure chaos.

One wolf locked onto Norah.

It charged at her, knocking her to the ground. Its claws slashed toward her face.

A cold dread spread through her body.

But the pain never came.

Instead—a gunshot rang out.

The wolf collapsed on top of her.

Blood splattered across Norah's face. Her throat went dry. Her stomach clenched.

Then, instinct kicked in. She shoved the lifeless wolf off her.

Karina rushed over, her face tense. "Norah! Are you hurt?"

"I'm fine." Norah shook her head, breath unsteady.

Just... that was close.

Chapter 404

At least ten wolves circled them.

Without the guns, they would've been dead meat.

But these people...

Their diet, beliefs, and experiences were different. They skinned the wolves with bare hands, then roasted the meat over the fire without hesitation.

The woman handed Norah a roasted wolf leg. She shook her head.

She couldn't eat.

Even now, the scent of wolf blood clung to her breath.

Karina gave her the last piece of bread she had, along with the black leaf sap from earlier.

Norah sniffed the sap and felt a bit more alert. She pulled out her phone—still no signal.

They'd be spending the night here. Tomorrow, it would take another three hours to reach civilization, and even then, she still had to get to the Yi tribe.

When would she finally see Steven and Kevin?

Norah hugged herself, staring up at the night sky.

The stars and moon shone bright, undisturbed.

At the same time, in another place, Kevin wasn't having it any easier.

He had met the people he was supposed to, received his new mission, but there was still no word from Levi or Frank.

The last they knew, Norah had gotten off the plane.

That was it.

Unlike back home, where they could pull strings and track people down, here, there were no resources. No easy way in or out.

It was like searching for a needle in a haystack.

Since arriving, Kevin had been in constant motion, dodging bullets every day. He hadn't even had time to smoke.

But now, the urge hit him hard.

Levi noticed and immediately handed him a cigarette.

Kevin lit up, the smoke curling around his face, his thoughts unreadable.

Levi knew better than to push.

"Captain Edwards, I already sent word. I also got a photo of Madam from Kian. If there's any news, you'll know first."

Kevin stayed silent.

This place was nothing like Craggaville. Back home, if someone went missing, you could leverage connections. Here? No such luck.

He had arranged everything to keep Norah safe, hoping she'd stay in Craggaville, focus on her work, live her life.

But now...

He couldn't reach her. Couldn't protect her. Couldn't even warn her.

Levi hesitated before speaking again.

"Captain, you should rest. You're still injured."

Kevin exhaled sharply, tossing the cigarette aside. His face was cold, unreadable.

"What's the update on Pharaoh?"

Levi sighed. "Not good. Patrols have tightened. Our guys can't get through."

Kevin's jaw clenched. His eyes darkened, his anger a slow-burning fire.

He looked like a man who had walked straight out of hell.

Levi's voice dropped. "We'll keep following up. You just focus on recovering."

"No need," Kevin said flatly. "I'm leaving for the Yi tribe now."

They had already connected with their contacts. There was no reason to wait.

"But, Captain Edwards—"

Levi hesitated.

Kevin was still recovering. Charging into another war zone could get them all killed.

Kevin, however, didn't waver.

"This is nothing," he said. "Let's go."

Levi had no choice. He knew Kevin's mind was fixed on one thing—Norah.

As long as she was missing, he wouldn't rest.

So, they set out for the Yi tribe overnight.

Norah couldn't sleep.

As the night stretched on, the temperature dropped sharply. The others slowly drifted off, but the fire couldn't burn forever. Eventually, she had to retreat into the tent.

Karina hadn't slept either. Even though Norah moved quietly, she caught the slightest sound.

"Get some rest," Karina murmured. "You need to keep up your strength. Didn't you hear Steven's recordings?"

Norah was surprised.

Karina was just as exhausted but still awake.

"You haven't slept either?" Norah asked.

Karina smirked. "How could I? Besides, someone has to watch over you."

Norah exhaled. "I get it. But we're already here. We have to push forward."

Karina's voice softened. "I know."

But Norah's mind was spinning.

Kevin. Steven.

And that tiny, newborn face...

The horrifying moment from earlier flashed before her eyes.

"Karina," Norah whispered, her voice tight. "Do you think something's wrong with me?"

Karina's brows lifted.

"Wrong?"

Norah swallowed hard.

She had been so sure that getting here meant finding Steven and Kevin quickly. She hadn't expected delays, setbacks—

She had underestimated the journey itself.

And now, she wasn't even sure how much further she had to go.

Karina's eyes gleamed in the dim light.

"Honestly? There's nothing wrong with you. But you're exhausted. If you're drained, why don't we—"

"No."

Norah's voice was firm.

She had come this far. She wouldn't stop now.

Not until she found them.

Right then—

A sudden noise outside.

A car engine.

Both women tensed.

Karina placed a hand on Norah's arm.

“Relax,” she whispered. “Probably just a passing car. We’ve got people around us. If anything happens, I’ll protect you.”

Her tone was steady, reassuring.

Her job was to keep Norah safe. Even if it cost her everything.

Norah took a slow breath.

“It just caught me off guard,” she admitted.

Fear wasn’t the issue.

It was the unpredictability of it all. The uncertainty.

Karina nodded. “Get some rest.”

Silence settled between them.

Then, out of nowhere, Norah spoke again.

“Karina, when Kevin asked you to take care of me... did he say anything else? When I gave birth, did he—”

Karina cut in quickly.

“No.”

Norah studied her carefully.

Karina was lying.

But she wouldn’t say more.

Kevin had his reasons.

Meanwhile, miles away, Kevin rode through the Gobi Desert.

Above him, the brightest North Star shone, illuminating the vast, open land.

And ahead, his only destination—

Norah.

Chapter 405

Norah drifted in and out of sleep, waking to the scent of roasted meat. When she opened her eyes, the sky had already begun to lighten. A quick glance at the time—just past 5 AM.

The temperature shift between night and day was sharp. As she stepped out of the tent, a shiver ran through her, and she instinctively hugged herself for warmth. Around her, everyone was already awake.

A woman gestured toward the fire.

Chunks of meat still sizzled over the flames.

Julissa translated, “You didn’t eat last night. Have something now—we’ll be leaving soon.”

But Norah had no appetite.

She shook her head.

Karina, on the other hand, ate plenty.

Together, they rode camels for three hours, finally reaching a more populated area just after 11 AM. Signs of civilization—restaurants, people, noise.

Inside a small eatery, as they waited for food, Norah’s phone suddenly caught a signal.

Her screen lit up.

Missed calls from Kevin. Kian, too. Several messages.

[Norah, I know you’re heading to the Yi tribe. Call me back as soon as you see this.]

For the first time in days, Kevin had reached out to her first.

She had known all along that Kian would inform him, that Kevin would eventually find out where she was.

She wasn’t running.

She called him back.

The line rang.

After a moment, Kevin’s deep voice came through. “Where are you? Are you safe?”

“I should be in the Yi tribe. I’m safe,” Norah answered calmly.

She had no idea how tightly Kevin was gripping his phone at that moment, how his hands had trembled the instant her name flashed on his screen. He wanted to demand her exact location, to drop everything and rush to her. To hold her. But he couldn't.

He had already made Norah believe their child was dead. He had already sent Kian with the divorce papers. He had taken every step to ensure their separation. He couldn't undo it now.

"You came to the Yi—"

Before he could finish, Norah cut in, her voice quiet but firm.

"I came to the Yi tribe to find Steven. And you. But Kevin, I don't think there's any reason for us to meet again. While I still have signal, let's end things here."

She had once been willing to live and die by his side.

But he never needed her the same way.

His voice was unreadable, devoid of urgency. But Norah had spent seven years by his side—she knew him. And she knew that this detachment meant only one thing.

She wasn't needed anymore.

Fine. She didn't need him either.

Norah pressed forward. "Kevin, Steven came here because of me. If anyone should be looking for him, it's me—not you. As for the money and property you gave me, I don't want it. Tell Kian to take it back. We... we don't have anything to do with each other anymore. If there's nothing else, I'm hanging up."

Every word was clear. Decisive.

But to Kevin, it was like a knife to the chest.

He had prepared for this. He had expected her to hate him, to scream, to question him.

But he had never expected this calmness.

His breath caught in his throat.

Before he could say another word, the line went dead.

He dialed back immediately.

"The number you have dialed is temporarily unavailable. Please try again later."

Kevin's grip on his phone tightened. A dark determination flickered in his black eyes.

“Levi. Frank. I need more people stationed in the Yi tribe. The second you see Norah, bring her back to Craggaville.”

It was too dangerous here.

She didn’t know how to fight. If Pharaoh’s men found her first...

Levi hesitated, his brows furrowing. “Captain Edwards, you know Madame’s personality. If she could be forcibly taken back, she wouldn’t have made it this far.”

Frank added, “Even if we do take her, we can’t keep her locked away. She’ll just find a way to escape again.”

Kevin understood.

Even if she were sent back, she had the means and the will to come right back here.

His lips pressed into a thin line. His voice turned cold. “I have my own plan.”

Once she was back in Craggaville, he’d have Kian keep an eye on her.

“Understood.”

Levi and Frank exchanged looks, then nodded in unison.

Norah frowned.

The signal was gone again.

Strange. She was in a populated area now. Why would there still be no reception?

Just as she stepped outside to try calling again, chaos erupted.

A dozen masked men stormed in, weapons drawn.

Before anyone could react, gunfire ripped through the restaurant.

Karina moved instantly, grabbing Norah and pulling her toward the stairs.

A woman clutched her child, Julissa followed close behind, and screams filled the air.

“Boss, they ran to the second floor!”

The leader made a sharp gesture.

“Find her—dead or alive. If we bring back Norah’s corpse, Pharaoh will reward us handsomely.”

“Yes, sir.”

A chorus of voices echoed, chilling and resolute.

Karina’s stomach twisted.

Pharaoh was after Norah?

Why?

Was it because of the poison that had once been in her system? No—Norah’s poison had already been cured. They had only just escaped the desert. How could Pharaoh’s men have tracked them down so quickly?

Unless...

Unless there was a traitor among them.

Karina tightened her grip on Norah’s wrist. “Norah, take off your clothes. We’ll swap. I’ll go east, you go west.”

The woman beside them nodded. Julissa quickly translated, “Ms. White, she’s offering to take you to her tribe. They’ll help you find who you’re looking for.”

Julissa turned to Karina. “What about you?”

“You go with them,” Karina ordered. “I’ll stay behind.”

Her voice was sharp, urgent.

But Norah didn’t move.

She had heard what Karina heard. Understood what Karina understood.

Switching clothes meant sending Karina to die in her place.

She couldn’t do it.

BOOM!

An explosion ripped through the air.

The blast sent a shockwave through the building, and Karina shoved Norah with all her strength.

Norah felt herself being pulled—by Julissa, by the woman—dragged toward a half-collapsed iron door.

The room they stumbled into was pitch black.

Then—

A flicker of orange light.

Norah turned, heart pounding.

She wanted to go back...