My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 291

/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance Chapter 291 Who The Hell Are You

When I told Lavinia that it was time for me to leave, her assistant happened to be away to deal with something. It was then that Lavinia offered to drive me home herself. But I didn't have the heart to bother her, nor did I deserve to. Thus, I told her that I would just take a cab home. Seeing that I was adamant on my decision, Lavinia finally agreed.. Due to the fact that it was a snowy day and I was in an isolated location, I had to walk back a long way to get to the main road. However, I still couldn't hail a cab. After about ten minutes' worth of walking, I finally saw a taxi coming towards me. And just before I could wave my hand, I heard an engine's roar coming from behind me. The moment I turned around, I saw several motorcycles approaching me at a blinding speed. On instinct, I went to the roadside to avoid them. However, one of the motorcycles kept on rushing towards me. I was so scared that I was forced to go to the center of the road. Then, the motorcycles all circled around me. a Suddenly, they stopped, but their engines were still roaring, Once the taxi had passed by me, the driver glanced at me for a few times before finally deciding to drive away without uttering a word. I stared at the motorcycle riders with fear in my heart. They were all wearing boots, leather jackets, and thick rings on their fingers. One glance was all it took for me to assess that these men weren't good people Feigning composure, I asked, "What do you want?" My question seemed to amuse them and they burst into laughter. None of them even answered my question. As I looked around, I locked my eyes on one of them, who was wearing a pair of sunglasses. He also had a pair of boots on. He supported his motorbike with one foot on the ground. His arms were crossed over his chest, and his head was tilted. Through his tinted sunglasses, he looked at me with pursed lips.

omehow, I got the feeling that this particular man looked familiar. However, most of his face was covered by the sunglasses, so I couldn't recognize him. I put my hand in my pocket to take out my phone. All of a sudden, someone threw a snowball at me, causing me to let go of my phone.

I was just about to pick it up, but the man wearing the sunglasses picked it up first. I tried to grab it, but he held it so high that I couldn't even touch it with my fingers.

And as I stared at the man holding my phone, I felt that this man was someone I had met.

"Who the hell are you?" I asked, staring at him.

He chuckled at my question while taking off his sunglasses.

The moment I saw his face, I was shocked.

It was Lean!

"What? Are you that surprised to see me?" Lean crossed his arms, seemingly amused by my reaction. Naturally, I was indeed surprised, for I had no idea that he had already been released. On the one hand, I was glad that everything we'd done didn't go in vain. But on the other hand, I had a strong feeling that Lean's acquittal would only cause trouble for Derek. "Give me back my phone." I tried to snatch it away, but he refused to hand it back to me. Instead, he stashed it into his pocket and walked back to his motorcycle. Two others got off their own motorcycles, held my arms, and lifted me up to sit behind Lean. I wanted to jump off, but I was far too late, for the motorbike I was sitting on had already bolted forward I almost fell down. Fortunately, I grabbed the back of Lean's clothes just in time. It was easy to guess that this young man was trying to scare me, so I bit back my scream that almost escaped my throat. Unfortunately for me, he was driving so fast that the gust of wind blowing past my face felt like paper cuts. It felt like all the muscles on my face had been bent out of shape because of the wind. "Are you crazy?" I gripped his clothes, balancing myself. The moment I opened my mouth, bursts of wind poured into it, and I couldn't utter another word. Lean's motorcycle was like a wild horse without reins. He didn't slow down even when he was turning a corner. Fearing that I might die, I held onto his clothes like my life depended on it. It frightened me that I might fall off the motorcycle if I let go for even a second.

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I didn't know how far we had gone. My entire body had turned cold as ice.

Finally, the motorcycle slowed down at the foot of a mountain. Lean pivoted the vehicle and ascended the mountain. It was a narrow road—about three or four meters wide. There were footprints and tire ruts all over the snow covered road. As soon as the motorcycle climbed the slope, the front of the vehicle rose, propelling my body backward. I clasped his clothes with one hand and the rack under me with the other.

"Where on earth are you taking me?" I growled, staring at the back of his head. I heard his soft chuckle through the howling wind. "To see the snow." I gripped the motorcycle as we traversed the crooked paths of the mountain. The bike skidded and lost balance several times. My heart was in my throat all the way. However, the group of bikers had no fear or anxiety. The roars of the engines along with the laughter, whistles, and vulgar conversations between the men filled the air. "Put me down, Lean!" I shouted. However, he ignored me. When we reached the top of the mountain, the motorbike skidded to a halt.

My face was numb. I moved my mouth and licked my lips but couldn't feel anything. "Alvaro!" Lean shouted. I opened my eyes and saw Alvaro leaning against a motorcycle, smoking. His eyes widened in surprise when he saw me. "Alvaro, this is my sister-in-law. Derek's woman," Lean said, pointing toward me. I jumped off the bike as soon as he stopped it. Alvaro straightened his body, threw the cigarette butt to the ground, and nodded at us. Then, he turned around and

walked toward the open space. He didn't bother looking at me and behaved as if he had never seen me before. The others also got off their bikes and followed him. Only then did I realize there were many fireworks on the ground. Alvaro wrapped one arm around Lean's shoulder and pointed at the fireworks. "See? Twelve sets of fireworks to welcome you so that you'd have good luck every month of the year!" "Thank you, Alvaro!" Lean squealed cheerfully. They went over and lit the fireworks. Twelve sets of fireworks exploded simultaneously. The deafening sound was frightening. The ground trembled under my feet; it felt as if the mountains were about to shatter. The men looked at the sky and laughed. It was still daytime. The fireworks were almost invisible in the sky, yet they wanted to celebrate. Everyone clapped and cheered. Alvaro stood still, with his hands in his pockets. His mouth curved into a smile, but it didn't reach his eyes. I figured he would have been genuinely happy if Raul had also been released. The men laughed and talked for a while. It was snowing heavily. Everyone hopped on their bikes to go down the mountain. I stood still. No one dragged me onto any of their motorcycles this time. Lean looked at me. "Are you coming with me or not? No? Okay, guys. Let's go." He didn't even give me a chance to answer or think. He hopped onto his bike and sped off. I knew he did it on purpose.

The others laughed and followed him. "Alvaro, hurry up," someone shouted back at him. Alvaro got on his motorbike and cast me a quick glance. Without saying anything, he pressed the accelerator and sped away I watched their bikes disappear out of my sight. The sound of the engines grew faint as they sped off. The snow became heavier, I touched my face but couldn't feel my cheeks. I was all alone here. After taking a deep breath, I looked around and walked down the mountain. I was glad they didn't force me to join them. Walking down the mountain was much safer than sitting on Lean's motorbike. However, it felt as if the universe was conspiring against me. The snow grew heavier, and eventually, hailstones pattered on me. I winced as the heavy stones hammered against my head. At that moment, my gaze fell on a pavilion. I decided to stay there for a while until the weather got better.

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/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance Chapter 293 Suffering

I wanted to call Derek, but I remembered that Lean had taken my phone away. The hailstones spattered against the pavilion above my head. I could hear the tiles cracking.

I stood in the pavilion and looked at the white expanse before me. I prayed for the weather to get better, but the hail didn't stop. It seemed to grow bigger and more intense with time. The bean-sized stones smashed on the ground one after the other. Some of them were bigger than the size of my thumb

The temperature seemed to drop. I wondered if I would freeze to death on this mountain.

I didn't have my phone, so I didn't know the time. Every minute was torture. After a long while, I heard the sound of a bike engine growing louder. Moments later, a bike came into sight. It was Alvaro.

He looked around as he drove forward, and his eyes finally settled on me.

He stopped and strode toward the pavilion.

I looked at him foolishly. His arrival made my heart soar with joy. I felt as if I had finally seen my savior.

Perhaps the silliness on my face amused him. He looked at me and smiled. "Are you afraid?" I was indeed afraid but didn't want to admit it because I felt they had abandoned me on purpose and had come back only to see how frightened I was. Just then, I saw specks of blue in the distance. | squinted to get a closer look at it and realized the dots were actually people in blue uniforms. They were carrying tool kits.

running in our direction.

They rushed into the pavilion, wearing helmets. One of them pointed at Alvaro. "Why can't you listen to our advice? The road is blocked, but you have driven all the way up to the mountain amid the hailstorm regardless of the slippery road. What were you thinking? Do you want to die?" Alvaro smiled faintly. "It's snowing so heavily. How can I rest assured when my girlfriend is all alone in the mountain?"

I was taken aback by his comment and shot daggers at him. But there was no point in clarifying the situation now.

The man who reprimanded Alvaro looked at me suspiciously. "Miss, what are you doing here in this weather?"

I lowered my head and fell silent. But it looked like they had understood something. One of the elders smiled at me. "No matter

how you quarrel with each other, you should be careful about your safety."

The man who had reprimanded Alvaro earlier also seemed kindhearted even though he seemed rude before.

"Don't leave in a hurry. It's too dangerous. We are going to check and maintain the electric power equipment now. We'll take you to the forestry center later. You two can stay there until the weather gets better."

With that, they left. Alvaro and I were the only ones in the pavilion,

He smiled at me, but I stood aside and refused to interact with him.

Finally, those people returned, and the weather got better as the hail subsided. Alvaro secured the helmet hanging on his

motorbike, on my head. I wanted to refuse but didn't want to make things hard on myself.

The dormitory of the forestry center was nearby. After a short drive, Alvaro stopped the bike in front of a row of red brick houses.

Apparently, the forest guards lived here. Mr. Hunter Diaz was the middle-aged forest guard. He also ran a small grocery store that sold cigarettes, alcohol, and snacks. He said the business prospered during summer because many people came to the mountain to play, and he was the only one who ran a grocery store on the mountain. However, business was pretty dull during this season because people seldom came here during the snowy weather. It was getting dark, and no one could go down the mountain. It looked like we might all have to stay here.

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/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance Chapter 294 Stay In One Room

I didn't want to trouble Hunter, but he was a hospitable man. He told me that he had been living here all along, and he would be

very happy to have us accompany him.

Alvaro tried to give him a hundred dollars and asked him to cook a few more dishes. However, Hunter refused the money and smiled at him. He said that he didn't have fancy ingredients out here, and he would just cook whatever he had at the moment. Thus, Alvaro bought several bottles of wine, some sunflower seeds, peanuts, and other snacks from Hunter's store. He also bought every man present a pack of cigarettes. After the others were given a pack of cigarette, they began to treat us better. The man who had sternly criticized Alvaro before even cracked some jokes.

"Hey, you're a man, right? Whenever you and your girlfriend are in a fight, you need to appease her. From what I can see, she's

not an unreasonable woman. Look at how far you've run. It doesn't seem too good to be trapped here, right?" After criticizing Alvaro, he turned to me and said, "Don't be angry anymore, dear. I've seen how this young man treats you, and he's very kind to you. I saw him driving up the mountain amid the hailstorm to look for you, ignoring his own safety, and I could tell that he was really worried about you. I was also young once, so I understand how you feel."

I didn't say a word. Meanwhile, Alvaro flashed them a smile and poured them a shot of liquor.

While Hunter was cooking several dishes, Alvaro, I, and a few strangers all huddled up together because of the hail and

snowstorm.

My first impression of Alvaro was that he was a cold blooded man. But as I watched him interact with these strangers, I realized that he was a good conversationalist and quite talkative at that. Suddenly, the power was cut. One of the men cursed, "Damn it! I knew the circuit would be destroyed sooner or later because of the hail!"

Hunter looked for a flashlight and turned it on so that we could see the food. After the meal, he arranged rooms for all of us to

have some rest.

I didn't expect that he would arrange a single room for me and Alvaro.

At this point, I decided that it would be best to clarify my relationship with Alvaro to others.

| approached Hunter and said, "Um, Mr. Diaz, you've got it all wrong. We're actually not in a relationship. We..." "Miss, I'll be honest, the lad seems like a good man. Please, forgive him. There's no such thing as a perfect man. Even if he's done something wrong, you should at least give him a chance to turn over a new leaf, right?" Before I could even finish my sentence, they all interrupted me with all sorts of comments, and concluded that Aivaro and I were just having a lovers' spat. In the end, they urged us into the room.

As a matter of fact, I had already noticed the moment we got here that there were only two bedrooms. If Hunter had reserved

this one for us, it meant that he had to stay in one room with all the other men.

Alvaro turned on the flashlight on his phone, and the beam of light lit up the small room.

Inside, there was a wooden bed, a chair, and a desk that had an old TV on it.

It was a snowy night on the mountain. There was no air conditioner, no stove, and even if we were to keep the doors and windows shut, the room still felt like an ice cellar. Even with a down jacket on, I was still freezing.

By now, the hail had stopped, but the wind was still strong and the snowfall was still heavy. I could clearly hear the whistle of the wind from inside the room.

The window glass was unbroken, but it wasn't tightly shut. The curtains were being blown by the wind that seeped into the room from time to time.

As I stared at the only bed, I put on my guard, ready for anything.

Alvaro placed his phone on the stand beside the TV, and propped it into a position that provided the room with the best lighting.

Suddenly, he turned his focus to me. 2

Even though the light was dim, I could still see the playful smile on his face that made it known to me that he saw through my uneasiness and embarrassment

All of a sudden, he grabbed my hand. Before I could get rid of him, he pulled me into his arms, causing me to stumble forward. My forehead accidentally bumped against his chin.

I wanted to take a step back and get far away from him, but he clasped my waist with one hand, instantly closing the distance between us. At the same time, he planted a kiss on my forehead.

Shocked by what he did, I looked up.

In the dim light, I saw Alvaro smile, licking his lips with the tip of his tongue, The joy on his face made him look like a greedy child that had tasted honey for the first time.

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/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance Chapter 295 Don't You Want To Sleep

"Bastard!"

I was bursting with anger and shame, and I really wanted to slap him.

However, he managed to grab my wrist in midair.

He stared into my eyes and said, "Since you think I'm a bastard, I guess I'll have to do something bad to you."

The sound of his voice softened, and his words were quite ambiguous.

I shook off his hand to display my irritation, and fortunately, he let me go this time.

"To tell you the truth, I'm used to sleeping alone. Sadly, there's only one bed. I can't ask for too much, given our current situation. We'll have to huddle up on bed. Besides, it's just for tonight," he said.

At this point, I was speechless.

Alvaro walked to the bedside to sit down, and then he shot me a mischievous glance. "Don't you want to sleep?

Do you think I'm some sort of molester or something? Don't worry, Eveline. I won't do anything to you." The way he spoke made it seem like he was amused by this.

Even though it was just one night, it was still dangerous to be in the same room as a man like Alvaro, not to mention he had the audacity to kiss me a moment ago. I would never believe anything that came out of this man's mouth. "You're really not going to sleep? Well, good night then! I'll be going to bed now," he added. However, I still ignored him. Not long after, he took off his shoes and lay down on the bed.

Bang!

My eyes widened with shock and I burst into laughter.

The bed collapsed? Did that just really happen?

I laughed so hard, especially when I saw how his originally relaxed expression turned into shock the instant the bed collapsed.

When Hunter and the others heard the noise, they immediately went to our room.

Upon hearing a knock on the door, I went to open it. And when the others came in, Alvaro sprang to his feet and got off the

broken bed.

The moment they saw what had happened, they all laughed and looked at me and Alvaro, seemingly implying something.

11 was then that I realized that they had misunderstood what happened. My face immediately turned red.

Hunter walked to the bed to inspect it. He seemed embarrassed and apologetic about the broken bed. "To be honest, nobody has

slept in this room for so long. It used to be a spare bedroom for anyone who couldn't make it down the mountain. I guess the bed

must've deteriorated already. I'm really sorry about that."

Alvaro cleared his throat. The dim light concealed his shame.

"It's fine if we can sleep properly or not. I'm just glad that we could stay somewhere away from the snowstorm," he said.

Then, the others voiced out that they couldn't sleep either. They were all playing cards in the next room. I guessed that they

planned to play overnight to pass the time

One of thern suggested that Alvaro joined them to play cards, and he agreed. They also invited me to watch them, but I refused

Now, I was the only one left in the room. It was dark and eerily quiet. Fortunately, Alvaro's phone flashlight was enough to

Iluminate the room somehow

Outside the window, I could hear the whistling sound of the wind.

When the curtains fluttered about due to the wind, the shadows on the wall seemingly danced, and it sent shivers down my spine. In all honesty, I felt a little scared.

Moments later, the door was pushed open and Alvaro came in with a basin in his hand.

After he put the basin down, I noticed that there was a burnt charcoal in it. "Why aren't you playing cards with them?" I asked.

He smiled at me. "If I played with them for a whole night, I would've won all their money. I'd rather not do that to those good people," he said. "Do you fancy yourself a god of gambling or something?" In silence, Alvaro stood up and walked to the corner of the room to fetch an abandoned long plank. Afterwards, he put the plank beside the brazier and sat on it with his legs crossed. Then, he looked at me and patted the spot

beside him.

"Come. Sit with me," he said.

But I didn't move.

At this moment, the light from his phone suddenly went out, and the room was covered in stark darkness.

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/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance Chapter 296 Are You Afraid That I Would Eat You

The only source of light was the charcoal fire.

Alvaro took out his lighter and lit his cigarette. "I think my phone is out of charge."

I had seen thriller movies before, and most of them had a similar plot that showed an unexpected blackout. According to the logic of thriller movies, either ghost would appear, or something tragic would happen. A shiver ran down my spine as I thought about it. The goosebumps on my back hadn't subsided. I couldn't help but move toward the brazier.

Just then, I felt strong hands pulling me backward. A startled gasp escaped my lips as I fell against the man's chest.

His breath and scent were different than that of Derek. I felt his cold leather jacket touch my cheek-it still had snow on it.

I tried escaping his hold with all my strength, but his arms tightened around me, arresting me in place.

I put my hand on his chest to distance myself from him and stared at him warily. The red light of the burning charcoal reflected on his face as he looked at me with amusement. "What? Are you afraid that I might eat you?"

I didn't say anything because I felt I had to be cautious under such circumstances.

After all, the situation was unfavorable to me.

He suddenly lifted his arm and hoisted me beside him. The moment he let go of me, I scooted to the far end of the plank. I was scared to be far away from him because the erratic weather and the strange situation frightened me. But staying close to him was equally dangerous. I sat in a place that was at a safe distance from Alvaro but not too far. The room fell silent, and we heard the faint sounds of people playing cards next door.

Alvaro sat cross-legged with a cigarette in his mouth. He became silent all of a sudden. The faint smell of smoke lingered in the

aiг.

Just then, the curtains blew up as the wind became stronger and the rustling sound of snowfall became intense. If it continued to snow like this, we might not be able to descend the mountain tomorrow. I couldn't explain the situation to Derek and wondered if he would be anxious. Would he look for me everywhere? 2 "Is Derek good to you?" Alvaro asked, snapping me out of my thoughts. I was taken aback because his tone didn't seem like him. He sounded like an old friend. The concern in his voice broke my defense against him.

"Of course," I said, looking at the flames dancing in the brazier.

Alvaro smiled and flicked the ash of his cigarette on the brazier.

"You are right. He came all alone to save you and offered that piece of land as a bargain just for you. It proves that he cares a lot about you."

But I had a different thought. I remembered Derek telling me that he would have given the piece of land to Alvaro even if the man didn't threaten him.

"You are building a grave there on purpose to destroy the Flash Village." My tone sounded harsh, but I didn't care because I was indeed blaming his selfish move.

He smiled coldly. "If it's just to destroy the Flash Village, I could have used a more direct way."

I stared at him in shock.

He glanced at me as his lips curled up. "What? Don't you think I'm capable of doing that?"

I believed he could do that. But the fact that he had other plans shocked me.

"Then, why did you have to build a grave there? What the hell are you going to do?"

He simply looked at me and smiled. After a while, he snorted arrogantly.

"That land is mine. I can do whatever I want with it."

His answer irked me. "Whose tomb are you going to build?" | asked. 1

The cigarette between his fingers bent as he pinched it harder. He lost interest in smoking and threw the cigarette into the brazier. As soon as the cigarette touched the burnt charcoal fire, a small ball of fire ignited and slowly extinguished. Before I could hear his answer, a loud noise interrupted us. Moments later, pieces of tiles scattered down. Fortunately, they didn't

fall on us

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/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance Chapter 297 How Will You Repay Me

It happened all too suddenly. I looked up and was blinded by the dust falling from the ceiling of the room. Within a split second, someone tackled me to the floor and at the same time, I heard something collapse. A gaping hole appeared in the

ceiling. The hole provided a dim light. The moment I turned my head, I was horrified. I was shocked to find a 3.5 inches thick beam on the spot where I was just sitting. If it weren't for Alvaro, I would've been caught under this beam by now. As he lay on top of me, he stared at me, gasping for breath. I could sense a lingering fear from his rapid breathing. "How will you repay me for saving your life?" he asked. The thought of the near-death experience I had just now made me feel like I had lost the ability to speak. It took me a few moments to gather enough courage to speak again. "Thank you," I muttered. "That's it?" he replied, seemingly unsatisfied. "What else do you want?" He was so heavy that I could barely breathe. I tried to move him away, but he wouldn't budge. "You don't have to repay me with your body. But the least you could do for me is to give me a kiss, right?" he bantered. • I was rendered speechless. This man was still joking at a time like this. The gratitude I felt for him disappeared in an instant, and I pushed him even harder. "Get off of me!" It was then that the door was kicked open. Hunter and the others rushed in. Within seconds, several flashlights shone down upon us in an instant. "Are you all right?" they asked, surrounding us. "Lad, your leg! It's gotten stuck!" Hunter exclaimed. He and the others hurried to lift the wooden beam off Alvaro's body. I was scared of what happened, but Alvaro was acting like nothing had happened. He was even smirking. After the beam was moved away, they lifted Alvaro off my body. Hunter's flashlight was lighting Alvaro's legs. The moment I saw what happened to them, I was horrified. His jeans were covered in blood. "Lad, your leg is seriously injured, but we can't go down the mountain right now. What should we do?" said Hunter, sounding worried.

One of the men intervened on the conversation and said, "I just checked out what happened. There's a tree in the backyard that fell down and broke the beam on the roof. Young man, you're very unlucky!" Unbeknownst to everyone else. I was the unlucky one. If it weren't for the fact that Alvaro saved me, I would've been squished like a bag. But to everyone's surprise, Alvaro didn't even flinch. He just put on a smile and said, "No worries, everybody. It's a flesh wound. Nothing more." Considering how bloody his pants were, it would be fair to assume that he must be seriously wounded. "Mr. Diaz, do you have any hemostatics or a first aid kit, at least?" I asked. Hunter pondered for a moment. "I do have some hemostatic powder around. I'll go look for it." I nodded in response. "I'll try to stop him from bleeding out." The others decided to carry Alvaro to the bed in the other room. One of them held Alvaro's head, two of them were at either side of his waist, and the rest held up his legs. Alvaro seemed to be amused by being carried around like this. He broke into laughter and remarked, "Guys, my legs still work, you know! I can walk by myself." One of them put on a stern face. "None of us have any idea if you've fractured a bone or two, so it's best to err on the side of caution, lad. You're still so young." After finding the hemostatic powder, Hunter brought some boiled water and stuffed a towel into my hand. I accepted it without hesitation, and was about to clean Alvaro's wound. . Even if he hadn't saved me earlier, I wouldn't have ignored him in a situation like this. Alvaro's jeans were so tight, that it was hard to clean up his wound. "Mr. Diaz, do you have a pair of scissors?" I asked. Hunter nodded and fetched the scissors. Once I had the scissors, I cut open Alvaro's jeans. Meanwhile, two of the men were standing by the bed and providing me some light. I gently pushed aside his bloody jeans, and at that moment, I saw that his leg was covered in so much blood that I couldn't even tell where the wound was.

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/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance Chapter 298 A Slap

A strong scent of blood pervaded in the air. It was good that I had experience as a nurse, so this sort of situation wasn't a first for me. I wrung the towel and used it to wipe the blood from his leg. I glanced at him and said, "I might accidentally dab your wound, so I'm going to need you to bear with it." For some reason, Alvaro seemed like he was enjoying it. He even had his hands clasped behind his head. "If I let even a peep out, I don't deserve to be called a man," he said. After wiping off the bloodstains, I could finally see his wound clearly. It seemed deep. But even so, it was still hard to tell whether the bones were fractured or not. I sprinkled the hemostatic powder over his wound, and wrapped it with the clean cloth that Hunter had found. Throughout the endeavor of treating his wound, Alvaro didn't even flinch. After everything was done, Hunter went to make a bowl of sugar water for Alvaro. At last, everyone gathered in this room until the break of dawn. At the break of dawn, the snowstorm finally stopped. The other men went up the mountain carrying toolkits in their backpacks, and soon, the power went back on. Hunter went to the kitchen, saying that he would cook some porridge for us. Later on, the sky became completely bright, and the light peered in through the glass window. At this time, Alvaro was lying in bed with eyes wide open and a grin on his face. "Why are you smiling like that?" I asked, confused by his reaction. He tapped on the bed, seemingly relaxed. "So, when am I going to get that kiss you promised?" After thinking on the subject for a while, I answered, "I never asked you to save me. It seeemed that he didn't expect me to say that. A bitter smile appeared on his lips. "I lost so much blood to save you. I may not even regain the ability to walk normally in the future. Don't you feel guilty saying that?" he said jokingly I sprang to my feet and replied, "I'll go check if the porridge is ready." I was stunned by who I saw at the door when I opened it. It was Derek. With a stern face, he looked over my shoulder and saw Alvaro lying in the bed in the room. Then, he entered the room. Despite seeing Derek, Alvaro didn't even seem fazed by his appearance. As soon as Derek came in, a group of people rushed in. They were Alvaro's friends. "Alvaro, what happened to you?" "Oh, my God! Your leg! Is the injury serious?" Lean was the last who entered the room. When he saw me, he slowed down his pace, avoiding eye contact with me and looking guilty. I rushed towards him and slapped him across the face. "How dare you!" Visibly displeased, Lean raised his fist and intended to fight back. However, Derek caught his wrist. I glared at Lean, making it known just how much I hated him. "You've just gotten acquitted, and you're a father now. Why in the world are you still so reckless? It seems you still haven't learned your lesson. If we had known this would happen, we wouldn't have tried so hard to get you out of prison!" With a stemn expression, Lean moved his chin. It seemed that he was infuriated by my words, but he must've understood to an extent that he was in the wrong, so he didn't say anything in the end. Hunter was originally cooking porridge in the kitchen, and he rushed over when he saw a group of people coming. Seeing that they were all people that Alvaro and I knew, he said, "You'll have to go down the mountain at once. Alvaro's leg is badly injured. Get him to a hospital as soon as you can!" we didn't even get a bite of Hunter's porridge. Alvaro's friends carried him down the mountain, while Derek held my hand. "Let's go home." Those were the first words he told me since he appeared. I figured

he'd have so many questions in his heart right now. What should I say so that he'd believe me? After a horrible night laden with snowstorm, the road heading down the mountain became really slippery. I hadn't even walked that far, and I had already slipped a few times. Fortunately, Derek was holding my hand the whole time to prevent me from slipping. Suddenly, he let go of my hand and squatted in front of me. "Come on, allow me to carry you." I stared at his broad back for a moment, hesitating to get on. In the end, I decided to climb onto his back. Lean, Alvaro, and the rest were walking ahead of us, making it seem like they were actually the biological brothers. They were carrying Alvaro on their backs in turns, while Derek carried me on his back, so we were moving at a relatively slow pace.

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Halfway down the mountain, I had been thinking about what to say for a long time. "I have nothing to do with Alvaro," I whispered. I was aware that this explanation would be useless. However, Derek said, "Alright." I wasn't sure if he just said it as a casual response, or he actually meant that he understood. "Eveline, if you ever find out that I'm not as good a person as you think I am, are you going to leave me?" Despite carrying me for a large distance, the sound of his voice was still calm. I found his question odd, considering that it sounded like he was implying that he had a bad side. "So what if you have a bad side? Nobody's perfect," I said. This time, he just carried me all the way down to the foot of the mountain in silence. The moment he put me down, I noticed that half of his trousers were wet. There were several cars parked at the foot of the mountain. Aside from the Maybach, the rest of the cars were used by Alvaro's friends. While Alvaro was being helped into one of the cars, he looked back at me. The faint smile on his face served as a reminder that I owed him a kiss as thanks for saving my life. I quickly looked away and got in Derek's car. They sent Alvaro to the hospital, while Derek took me home. As soon as I entered the house and changed my shoes, someone hugged me from behind. Derek gently kissed my ear. I leaned against his chest, gradually losing my strength. He held me up and took me inside. After putting me on the sofa, he got on top of me and began to kiss me. The kiss was so abrupt that I was taken by surprise. He didn't even say a word. I thought that he was still frustrated by what happened last night, but to my surprise, he was kissing me even more gently than usual. Aside from making out with me, he didn't do anything else. The kiss was so solemn and focused. After having kissed me for a long time, he finally let me go. He stared at me with unblinking eyes. I couldn't see blame nor doubt in his eyes, but I noticed that he was tired. "Lean was the one who took my phone and brought me to the mountain," I said. "I'm aware of that," said Derek. "Honestly, I have no idea why Alvaro was there, too, but I have nothing to do with him," I responded. "Don't worry, Eve. I believe you." 'I was pleasantly surprised by his response.

He lay down beside me on the sofa. Then, he rested his head on my shoulder. I could feel the warmth of his breath on my neck, and it felt ticklish. He caressed my face over and over, and moments later, I heard his deep, magnetic voice resonating in my ears. "I tried to call you yesterday, but I couldn't get through.

I've searched everywhere you might've gone, and I nearly called the police. Lean was the one who took the initiative to return your phone and tell me your whereabouts. It wasn't difficult to find you for one night. Eve, I'm going to be honest. I'm so scared that you might leave me one day, and what scares me the most is that I'll never find you again." His words shattered my heart into pieces. I nuzzled into Derek's embrace, and wrapped my arms around his neck. "I didn't leave you for no reason. If I ever decide to leave you someday, it's probably because I no longer have a place by your side." Derek caressed my hair and pressed my head against his chest. That night, while Derek was taking a shower in the bathroom, I received a call from an unknown number. "It's me." As soon as I heard the person on the other end of the line, 1 glanced at the bathroom door, feeling a bit guilty. "What do you want?" I asked in a hushed voice. Alvaro must've noticed that I was agitated, so he chuckled and asked, "Are you with Derek right now?" "If you have nothing important to say, I'm going to hang up now." I remarked. But before I could hang up on him, he said, "Hold on." I stared at the bathroom door and guessed that Derek must be coming out any minute now. I held the phone with the little bit of patience I had for Alvaro. "I got hurt because of you. Aren't you even coming to see me? I want to show you something. I'll be waiting for you tomorrow, okay? And I won't take no for an answer. If you don't come, you're going to regret it." After that, Alvaro hung up first, leaving me no chance to ask any details.

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As the sound of running water ceased, I quickly put the phone away. The next day, after Derek went to work, I changed my clothes and went out a Sousen was covered with snow; only a few people were on the road. When I walked past the fruit store, I bought some strawberries and apples and went to the hospital.

The door of Alvaro's ward was open, and he was all alone inside. I He was lying on the bed looking at his phone. Hearing the footsteps, he looked up at the bag of fruit in my hand and smiled. "How do you know I like strawberries?" I put the fruit on the bedside table and frowned. "I didn't know you liked strawberries. I randomly bought some. If I had known you liked strawberries, I wouldn't have bought them."

However, he didn't seem angry, rather looked at me with a playful smile. "I like whatever you buy." I rolled my eyes and looked at his leg that was in a cast. I understood he must have broken his bones.

My imitation subsided as I realized he had injured himself to save me. "What did the doctor say?" I asked. "It's a little serious." Hearing that, I became nervous. "How serious is it?" Alvaro sighed and looked at me with resentful eyes. "I'm disabled—the doctor said I can't walk anymore. You have to be responsible for me." I frowned and looked at the diagnosis report hanging on the bedside table. I breathed a sigh of relief when I saw his results were normal.

"I used to be a nurse. I know you are bluffing." I glared at him.

Alvaro grinned and shook my hand. "I'm just kidding." I shook off his hand. "That's not funny. Do you wish to be disabled?" He giggled. "I'm thirsty. Can you get me a glass of water?" I stared at him as he carefully tugged at my sleeve. "All right. I know how pathetic I am. No one takes care of me. I need to ask the nurse's help even to drink water. If I keep calling, they will show attitude and ignore me. Can you please bring some water?" I finally got him a glass of water. I handed him the glass of water and studied his face. "Why is no one taking care of you? Where are your friends?" Alvaro took a sip of water and scrunched his nose up in disgust. "They are all boors. All they know is to fight with people instead of taking care of me. Forget it. I want to live a long, healthy life." My mind flitted to his grandmother, but she was too old. He probably didn't want her to know about this. I wondered if he didn't have anyone else to take care of him but didn't bother asking. "All right. What are you going to show me?" I asked. He looked at me and smiled.

Thinking he had fooled me, I took my bag and turned to leave. "What will happen if Derek sees this video?" Alvaro said. I stopped and turned around as he took his phone and showed it to me. My eyes widened in horror. Although the video was dark, my face and Alvaro's were still clear. We were in the room of Hunter's house. The way Alvaro held me in his arms and kissed my forehead looked ambiguous through the lens. I didn't know Alvaro had turned on the camera along with the flashlight last night. "You are a despicable man!" I grabbed his phone, found the original file, deleted it, and threw the phone on his quilt. Alvaro looked at me with his hands folded behind his head. "Well, there is a backup of that video in my cloud." I clenched my fists as anger surged through my veins. "What do you want?" "You have to come whenever I call you, or I'll send the video to Derek," he threatened me. I raised my bag and wanted to smash his face with it. "Do you want to bite the hand that feeds you? God is watching everything!" he said, smiling, I withdrew my bag, turned around, and left in a huff. Lean appeared at the door. He glanced at me, but I ignored him and left angrily.