

## **Our Billion 541**

Chapter 541-“Master Cedrick, good news! Miss Clark has been kidnapped!” Charles shouted excitedly.

Cedrick narrowed his eyes coldly. “What did you say?”

“The reason Miss Clark isn’t here at the airport is that she’s been kidnapped, not because she wants to refuse you!” Charles handed the video and screenshots of the surveillance footage.

Cedrick stared at the screen on the phone intently and saw Catelyn getting into a taxi, but the driver started to drive further away from her destination and eventually turned to direct an evil smile at her.

‘A taxi?’ He thought to himself, ‘Was she on her way here to the airport?’ For a moment, he felt as though he had ascended from hell to heaven. Of course, he quickly got over his relief and excitement and became concerned with Catelyn’s safety. He could not allow her to get hurt again.

Cedrick looked away from the phone and commanded coldly, “Find out where this taxi has headed to!”

20 minutes later, his subordinate came back and reported that they had located the taxi, but a bigger problem emerged.

The car was abandoned at the bottom of a mountain in the outskirts; the area was generally referred to as the Forest of Death. Covered by large forestation, the landscape was complicated and the area was a habitat for various kinds of wild animals, so no one would dare step foot into the area under normal circumstances.

Catelyn could have been taken anywhere in that vast forest.

Cedrick arrived outside the Forest of Death, regret filling his eyes as he stared at the never-ending sea of trees before him. Had he not let Catelyn leave the night before or simply took her to the airport directly...

There was no point in wondering 'what if'.

"I've checked the perimeters, Master Cedrick. This forest is really dangerous. It's a swampy area too, so those people must be very familiar with this area to take Miss Clark in with them."

Cedrick clenched his fists. "Find a few locals and bring them here. I need to ask them something."

Catelyn was carried away, and after what felt like forever, her kidnapper finally stopped and tossed her onto the ground like she was a piece of cargo.

Her head bumped into a rock on the ground and she internally gasped from the pain, but she did not dare open her eyes out of fear that the kidnapper would realize she was awake.

She should be safe for as long as she pretended to be unconscious.

Catelyn had no idea why she had been kidnapped. She originally thought that the driver wanted to rob or assault her, but she was surprised to find out that there were others. She realized that there was a bigger scheme behind this.

While the kidnappers were discussing something, she took the chance to observe her surroundings.

It was an abandoned old hut with wooden windows and doors, a large shelf in the center of the room, and fabrics hanging on it.

The air was filled with a rotten scent, and she realized that it must have been a long time since someone had lived here.

"Boss, are we really doing as our employer said? That's so much money..."

"Yeah. If he gives it to us, we won't be able to spend it all even if we have ten lives! We won't have to do this sort of thing ever again."

The person with a scar across his face gave the other two a punch to the head and warned with a dark voice, "Just because we can get our hands on that money, doesn't mean we get to spend it. Quit yammering on and get to work."

'Employer?' She thought, 'Who hired them to kidnap me?' Just as Catelyn was considering if Maia or Ivan had sent the assassins, she heard footsteps approaching.

Splash!

A splash of ice-cold water hit her on the face, and she shivered at the sensation before opening her eyes by reflex.

The first thing she saw was a few towering men standing before her; their faces were unmasked and revealed to Catelyn.

An ominous feeling had taken over her.

If they were not afraid of letting her see their faces, it meant that they had no intention of letting her go alive.

Chapter 542-"Wakey, wakey." Scarface crouched to stare at Catelyn as though he was looking at a dead person.

Catelyn's shoulders trembled in fear as she stuttered, "Who... Who are you people? I'm just an ordinary office lady! You've got the wrong person if you want money!"

Scarface sneered and grabbed a fistful of her hair before shoving a phone to her face. "Quit playing around! Call Cedrick Mason now and tell him that if he wants you safe and sound, he's going to donate all his assets to charity in public."

Catelyn's scalp burned as though it was being ripped off of her head. However, she smiled bitterly through the pain and said, "So this is all because of Cedrick Mason? He won't possibly donate all his money for my sake. You've really gotten the wrong person..."

“Go,” Scarface commanded another obscene-looking man.

The man grinned, showing his yellow teeth, and rubbed his hands while his eyes glittered with lust. “Alright. I was just concerned that you wouldn’t approve, Brother...”

In the next moment, Catelyn’s trousers were torn to reveal her thigh. She frantically tried to cover her skin, her hair standing on end as she screamed, “Don’t get any closer! If you touch me, I’m going to bite off my own tongue and die right here!”

Scarface kicked at her right knee. “Keep being stubborn.”

The sharp head of the leather shoe knocked into her knee, and she immediately lost all her strength and started sweating. It took everything she had to not roll on the floor in pain.

Scarface tossed the phone at her arrogantly and said, “Why don’t you just make the call and save yourself from suffering?”

Catelyn hugged onto her knee and reached one trembling hand for the phone.

Cedrick could be furious that she was not at the airport at the moment, so he would not possibly agree to give up his wealth for her sake.

However, if she refused to call, she would certainly die.

Beep. Beep. Beep.

The number was dialed, and her heart raced as she waited for the call to be connected.

Would he come to her rescue?

What would he choose between his wealth and her?

“Who is this?” Just then, someone came to the phone.

Catelyn subconsciously reached up to cover her mouth. The sound of Cedrick’s familiar voice left her choking on tears as she was overwhelmed by emotions.

On the other end, Cedrick received a call from an unknown number. Though time was running short, he answered the call out of concern that he might miss Catelyn’s call.

Silence lingered and he felt as though a hand had gripped his heart. “Catelyn?” he asked gingerly.

Feeling a lump in her throat, she realized that she wanted to hear his voice despite all the resentment and doubt in their history. She suppressed her fear and nodded. “It’s me. I’m...” She stuttered again as soon as she started speaking and she hated herself for it.

Gone was Cedrick’s usual dominating demeanor and he became extremely gentle in his tone. “Don’t be afraid. I already know someone has kidnapped you and that you’re calling me because the kidnapper asked you to. What do they want me to do? You can tell me...”

His husky voice seemingly got to her and slowly soothed her wary heart.

Her eyes reddened, and she took a deep breath before glancing at the ferocious kidnappers.

“They want you to donate all your money, or they’ll kill me.”

The other side of the line fell into silence.

Chapter 543-A bitter smile appeared on Catelyn’s lips.

She should have known. No man would willingly give up their wealth to save a woman, let alone for a couple with so much left to overcome like her and Cedrick.

"If I can't make it back, take care of the boys for me," she feebly mumbled, muttering a silent goodbye with what little strength she had left.

"Who said you won't make it back?" Cedrick retorted, interrupting her thoughts. "You'll be out of there safe and sound!"

"Miles might argue with you a lot, but he's a kind child, so do be patient with him. Ollie is very understanding, but he tends to keep his feelings bottled up inside, so talk to him whenever you have the time..."

"What's all this nonsense, Catelyn?!"

She sounded as though she was already dying when he had not given her permission to leave him.

She forced a smile, but before she could say anything else, Scarface grew impatient and snatched the phone away from her before walking to the other side, cursing the entire time. "It's not time to bid farewell just yet! Cedrick Mason, you heard her! We have your woman, and I've laid out my condition.

Why don't you make a choice already?"

Catelyn stared intently at Scarface, scared that she would miss a single word of their conversation. However, he was too far away and the phone was not placed on speaker, so she could only hear Scarface's voice and not at all what Cedrick was saying.

In the end, Scarface hung up with satisfaction and sneered. "That idiot!"

Catelyn's heart jumped into her throat. "What do you mean? What did he say?"

Scarface simply ignored her and ordered his two subordinates. "I'm heading out. Guard this woman with your lives!" He paused briefly and added, "If any of you try anything before Cedrick donates his assets, you'll answer to my gun!"

The two men watched as Scarface left with a big smile on their faces and turned to stare at Catelyn.

Sensing their eyes on her, she immediately covered herself with her arms.

“Don’t forget what your boss said. You’ll answer to him if you mess up the deal you have with your employer!”

“Tsk. You’ll be begging me for it soon.” One of them spat barbarically and looked away.

Simply guarding Catelyn was too dull a task, so they tied her up with ropes and went to the door to play poker.

They had used a sailor’s hitch on her, which tightened the more she struggled.

The skin on her wrists and heels tore, but she did not dare stop and slowly used Cedrick’s proposal ring to cut the rope.

She would never have imagined that the ring would become her tool to escape in her wildest dream, but the execution was not as easy as coming up with the idea.

She was drenched in sweat shortly after before the rope was severed, though she did not try. She did not know what Cedrick had chosen to do and what Scarface would do to her once he came back...

‘I can’t die,’ she told herself, ‘not here, and not now!’ Meanwhile, at the entrance of the Forest of Death.

Cedrick hung up and turned to look at Charles and the technology specialists he brought.

Ever since the kidnapper called, the team had been working to trace the number.

“Master Cedrick, the call wasn’t long enough for us to pinpoint a spot. We only managed to narrow it down to the north side of the forest,” reported one of the specialists regretfully.

Cedrick pursed his lips and ordered Charles directly. “Get the accountants to start listing out all my assets.”

“Master Cedrick, don’t!” Realizing that Cedrick planned to accept the kidnapper’s condition, Charles immediately pleaded, “Your personal assets include shares for Mason Group and multiple subsidiary companies. If you donate all of it, the entire society will be shaken!”

Chapter 544-“I’m not that stupid.” Cedrick’s lips curled into a cold sneer. “This whole thing is plotted against me, not her. They want to use her to make me give up on everything I have, do they? Let’s see if they have what it takes.”

Charles was shocked at first, but he soon realized what he meant. “You’re trying to buy more time?”

“Record a short video of me, and if the kidnapper calls again, just tell him that I’m summing up my assets. The rest will follow me into the forest.”

“Master Cedrick, let me do that!” volunteered Alex.

He had been given the cold shoulder for the past few days, and he had to help, seeing as Catelyn was caught in a dangerous predicament.

Cedrick glanced emotionlessly at him. “If I need you to rescue my woman, what kind of a man would I be?”

“But it’s dangerous, and we don’t know who the kidnappers are!” Alex’s face flushed with frustration as he tried to convince Cedrick.

“Please let me make up for the mistake I made. I’ll bring Miss Clark back!”



“Don’t worry. It’s a big area, so you’ll have the chance to redeem yourself.”

Soon, Cedrick commanded the team to spread out and entered the forest in small groups. He reminded every person that they were to not alert the kidnappers and were to inform the others as soon as they found Catelyn.

Two hours had passed, and the two kidnappers were still playing poker outside the door. One of them kept losing and started arguing with the other.

Catelyn seized the opportunity and untied the rope around her heels and jumped out of the window. Because she had been kicked in the knee by Scarface earlier, however, she felt as though her bones were dislocated when she landed on the ground.

The pain was insufferable, but she refused to even stop for a second.

She took a deep breath and darted outside.

Though the two kidnappers were arguing, they were also paying attention to the situation inside the hut.

“What? You seemed happy enough when you were winning, and now that you’ve lost, you don’t want to pay up?”

The other pointed at Catelyn and shouted, “Sh\*t, this is your fault! Stop talking!

That woman’s escaped! We need to go after her!”

Catelyn heard them cursing behind her. Not daring to look back, she forced herself to sprint as fast as she could, dragging her injured right leg along.

It had just rained, and the area was covered in trees. The roads were uneven with small pools of water everywhere.

She darted into a narrow trail, stumbling, wishing that she could be invisible to the others.

The trees and leaves scratched her skin as she ran, and her arms and face felt numb in the aftermath.

“Stop right there, you b\*tch!”

She froze for a second as she listened to the approaching sound of footsteps.

If they caught her, it was very likely that her chance to survive would be little to none!

She could not afford to gamble.

As their shouts sounded closer and closer, she found herself on the edge of a cliff and flushed anxiously.

She turned and discovered a stone wall not far away, and there was a pile of hay next to it.

Though the hay was filthy and muddy from the rain, she gritted her teeth and flipped past the wall regardless and darted into the hay regardless.

According to the time she had estimated, the kidnappers should be here any minute, so she held her breath nervously. She knew that hiding here was not the best choice she had, but there were no other options.

Just then, a hand reached around her neck and covered her face abruptly, sealing her mouth tightly so that she could not even gasp.

Startled, her mind went blank and she moved to jab her elbow against the chest of the man behind her when all of a sudden...she heard that familiar husky voice.

"It's me. Don't move."

The scent of his favorite cologne enveloped her as her heart raced.

Chapter 545-Time froze as Catelyn stared at him in awe.

Cedrick was right next to her.

She profusely blinked, struggling to believe what she saw.

Cedrick was observing her closely at the same time, and when their eyes met, Catelyn felt a little prick on her chest and looked away frantically.

Once he was certain that she would not scream, he slowly let go.

Her hands and her body were cold, so he swiftly moved to take off his jacket and placed it over her shoulders. He rubbed her dirt- stained cheek endearingly before lowering his head to kiss her on her lips, the tip of her nose, her eyes, and her temples. His lips moved across her face as his heart finally settled down from concern.

Catelyn, meanwhile, was still mentally caught up by the dangerous situation she was in and Cedrick's sudden appearance, so she could not react in time to push him away.

A storm gathered, and shadows loomed over the forest.

The kidnappers followed Catelyn's trail to the edge of the cliff and stopped.

"There's no way from here, so that woman has to be somewhere around here.

She wouldn't get far."

"If Boss comes back and finds out that the woman made a run for it, we're going to be punished!"

"Look at that wall over there..." One of the men pointed at the stone wall.

The two gave each other a look before tip-toeing toward the wall. As they approached, both confident that Catelyn was hiding there, they started making devilish jokes about how they would make her beg for her life once they caught her.

Catelyn subconsciously reached down to her trousers behind the pile of hay next to the wall.

One of her pant legs was torn, and the way those men looked at her at the time was appalling.

Cedrick noticed Catelyn's reaction and glanced at the slim leg that was exposed in the air, his eyes glittering with malicious rage.

"Hide yourself properly, and don't come out," he reminded.

He turned into a flash of shadow before her eyes in the next instant as he darted out like a blood-thirsty beast. Before the kidnappers could react, he had already knocked them down in swift and lethal movements.

One of the kidnappers hit the back of his head at the tree nearby and lost consciousness; the other was covering his head on the ground in pain.

Cedrick stood tall like an unmoving mountain that was capable of fending off anything. "It's done," he called out to Catelyn, "you can come out."

Catelyn bit her lower lip and stumbled outside while holding onto his jacket tightly.

It was at that moment that Cedrick finally saw how discomfited she appeared.

Her fair face was covered in dirt and leaves, her trousers were torn on the right leg, and there were scratches from twigs on her legs and hands.

His heart sank as he regretted not finding her sooner. He hurried over to help her up, but Catelyn simply reached her hands up to grab onto the collar of the jacket to avoid his touch.

She kept her head bowed, not daring to meet his eyes.

Her mind was tangled in a mess. One moment, she was in hell, and the next, she felt as though she was in heaven and could not contain her emotions.

She walked over to the kidnapper and kicked at him. "Who hired you? Why did you kidnap me?"

Chapter 546-The kidnapper held his head and begged, "Please spare me! I really don't know who it was. Our boss was the one who accepted the mission, and we're only working for him to carry out the kidnapping!"

Catelyn did not believe a word he said, however. Even if he did not know who hired them, he must have known something else.

She gritted her teeth and paced around when she accidentally came across a sharp dagger in the hand of the kidnapper who lost consciousness. She stumbled toward it and walked back to the other kidnapper, waving the dagger all the while.

"You won't spill? Fine. Since you both wanted to kill me, I might as well play along, right?" She chuckled. The sunlight shone on the blade and reflected onto her face in a horrifying manner.

Frightened, the kidnapper failed to conjure his words.

"I heard that there's a surgery where they can sew your bits back even when it's been cut off. Do you want to try it?" Catelyn batted her eyes innocently.

Cedrick paled.

There were plenty of ways to threaten a man, and she chose the most horrible one!

The kidnapper stared as the blade inched closer to him and felt the excruciating pain even before the blade cut into his skin. He shivered and looked at Catelyn pleadingly. "Don't! I—I'll tell you! I'll tell you everything I know... The person who hired my boss to kidnap you was—ack!"

Before he could finish, a bullet pierced through the air and shot the kidnapper in the head. He lifelessly fell to the ground, his eyes wide open and peculiarly swirling with remnants of regret.

"Watch out!"

Cedrick's expression darkened and darted over to shield Catelyn with his body.

The two fell to the ground and rolled off to take shelter behind the stone wall; through the wall, she could still hear the sound of bullets hitting off the ground.

A faint scent of blood filled the air and Catelyn simply thought that it was from the kidnapper who was shot dead. She grabbed onto Cedrick's hand nervously in fear.

"This has to be the other kidnapper who left earlier. Where's Mister Peterson?"

"Why are you here alone?"

Cedrick kept one arm around Catelyn and pressed her toward him as close as possible to avoid exposing their location to the kidnapper. His lips were pressed against the back of her ear, and his stubble pricked against her skin.

"The area is too large, so I told everyone to spread out."

“Are you an idiot, CedrickMason?” Catelyn felt herself tingling in rage. Had they not been in this situation, she would have shoved him away.

“You knew that these people were willing to risk their lives, and you came alone? Even if you want them to spread out, you should’ve at least brought Alex!

Good job. We don’t even have any tools or weapons now...”

Cedrick observed the frustrated expression on her face. His heart fluttered as he lowered his head to rub his cheek against hers. ” Worried about me?”

“I’m just worried that I won’t get out of here alive!”

“If we survive this, will you come with me to Las Vegas?”

“I’ll decide once we’re out of here.”

Catelyn was not in the mood to discuss such a matter when she just narrowly escaped hell, only to run into another dangerous situation. Her heart was still racing, but she also knew that she could not allow Cedrick to die in vain for her sake.

“Why don’t you escape on your own?” She looked up and stared at Cedrick sincerely. “They’re targeting me, so as long as I step outside to draw the kidnapper’s attention, you’ll have the chance to escape. Considering how well-trained you are, you shouldn’t have any issue getting out of here—”

Before she could finish, Cedrick pinched the side of her waist harshly.

She grunted in pain, but it sounded like she merely gasped. Cedrick’s expression darkened as he narrowed his eyes.

Chapter 547-“You want me to leave you and escape on my own?”

Catelyn felt helpless and pathetic as she suppressed her aching wrist. She wanted to leave with Cedrick if she could, but the kidnapper had a gun.

“The boys are too young to lose both parents. Haven’t you been saying how you want to give them a better life? You can only do that if you manage to get out of here!”

Fury burnt hot within Cedrick as he hissed, “And what about you?”

“Just tell them that I’ll always love them.” She lowered her head as tears scrolled down her cheeks.

Her heart felt as though it was torn apart as she readied herself for death.

Cedrick stared broodingly at her.

He had underestimated her; he never imagined that she would be capable of such a ‘righteous’ act.

‘How dare she?’ He thought.

The tension around them grew, and Catelyn was holding onto his shirt to the point that it became horrendously wrinkly as she prepared herself.

“Just fix that bad temper of yours and love the boys twice as much in my place.

Go, Cedrick. I’ll cover you.”

“You think you can just run away from me like that?” He grabbed her by the chin and tilted her head upward. “I’ll tell you now: You are mine, alive or dead. The only words they can carve onto your gravestone will be ‘Missus Mason’! Doesn’t matter if we stay or leave—we’re sticking together!”



Catelyn was stunned by the determination in his voice.

His tone became increasingly dominating at her silence. "Even if I manage to get out of here, what am I supposed to tell the kids?

That I left their mother to save my own hide?"

She stared dazedly at him and thought, 'Is he staying with me?' Just then, the kidnapper finally broke the silence and shouted, "Stop hiding; I already see where you are!" He slowly got closer to the stone wall but was worried that he might miss. "Cedrick Mason, I only need that woman. Leave her here, and I'll let you go!" He offered.

Catelyn stared intently at Cedrick, not even hesitating upon hearing the offer. He never planned to give up Catelyn, even under such life-threatening circumstances...

She could not help but reflect on whether she had been too harsh on him.

After a few moments of silence, she grabbed onto his hand and smiled. "Alright.

If we can't get out, then we'll die here together."

"You've underestimated your man," he said confidently and snatched the dagger from Catelyn's hand.

He threw the dagger out and it pierced through the air as it flew toward the kidnapper.

No one knew how he managed to aim, but the dagger found its way to the kidnapper's stomach.

"Argh!" Injured, the kidnapper fell onto his knee and gasped, his hand hovering over his wound.

"Let's go!" Cedrick said, before pulling Catelyn up his back and running towards the forest in one swift motion.

However, Catelyn's attention at the moment was on Cedrick and not the kidnapper, because she noticed the large stain of blood on his back.

It was a gunshot wound!

Chapter 548-"You were shot?!"

Catelyn's stomach churned at the overwhelming scent of blood and struggled to get off of his back, all the while thinking to herself, 'How can he piggyback me like this?!

Cedrick reached behind his back and secured her lower body with his arms. Instead of letting her off, he pinched her warningly. "Your knee is injured, so you can't run fast. Letting you down will slow me down! Just stay put and don't move..."

"You..." The spot where he pinched her itched as though she was burned. Embarrassed, she flushed and shouted, "Your wound will worsen if you keep this up!"

1 Cedrick held his breath and darted into the woods.

She heard nothing but the sound of wind blowing past them.

Seeing that he refused to respond and that the kidnapper was not following them, she decided to not protest any further at the moment.

Once they had gotten far enough to a safer location, she immediately told him to stop so that she could treat his wound.

"What kind of wedding do you like?" he asked in a low voice.

"If you pass out, I won't be able to drag you along, so I'm going to leave without you."

“Sure. You’ve always been heartless.”

Annoyed, she wrapped her hands around his neck to choke him, but her face accidentally brushed past his new-grown beard. Though not very visible, his stubble was still very prickly, so she pulled her hands back and bit her lower lip in silence.

“Do you want an Eastern-style or a Western-style wedding?” he asked.

Frustrated, she retorted, “If you keep walking, it’s going to be a funeral-style wedding.”

“I’m surprised that you’re into that sort of thing.” He held her tightly with his arms and tilted his head. She could not quite see his face but spotted the faint smile on his lips.

Catelyn simply closed her eyes and ignored his teasing.

‘How did we end up like this?’ She wondered.

Seeing as she did not respond, he mumbled again, “Let’s have an Eastern-style wedding. I want to see you in cheongsam, the kind with a high split on the side.

You’ll look beautiful in that...”

He was going to force her to marry him by threatening to take custody of the twins. Naturally, he would decide what she wore.

He sounded as though everything was up to him to decide.

She gasped and lowered her head to bite on his neck until she drew blood. Tears scrolled down her face pathetically as she took in his scent.

He tightened his arms around her to the point that she could feel the bone on his arm jabbing at her lower body.

A while later, her jaw began to feel sour, so she quietly let go. Her sight was blurred by the tears in her eyes, and her cheek was painted red with the blood on his back.

Through the thin fabric of the shirt he was wearing, she could still see the scars on his right arm.

They were proof of the time he risked his life to save her when the neon board fell.

‘And now, this... He’s all banged up again to save me.’ Perhaps it was because she had been tense the entire day that she slowly began to lose her strength and drifted off to sleep on Cedrick’s back. Just as she was about to fall asleep, she could make out a few words. Few, and silent.

It sounded as though he was apologizing.

Chapter 549-Catelyn wanted to focus on the voice, but her eyelids felt heavy, and she eventually closed her eyes.

Still, the voice lingered in her heart.

Cedrick carried Catelyn all the way to safety. They ran into another group of assassins along the way, and the two worked together to defeat them using the swamps around them. However, Cedrick’s wound reopened once again because of the fight, and his face, especially his lips, was as pale as a ghost due to blood loss.

She had never seen him in such a vulnerable state before, and it was hard not to worry about him.

She trembled as she removed the bullet from his back and sighed in relief the moment the bullet dropped to the ground, despite still feeling worried.

She reached up to wipe her forehead and realized her entire face was covered in sweat.

The sky turned dark and Cedrick was resting against a tree, shivering in the cold.

Catelyn gritted her teeth and crawled up to run into a bush nearby before returning with some herbs and twigs. There was water on the twigs, so it was hard to make a fire out of the ones she gathered. It took her a lot of time and effort to finally build a small fire.

She chewed the herbs so that they became a paste and applied it gently onto Cedrick's wound.

Cedrick hummed in a rather seductive manner from the discomfort but did not open his eyes in the process.

Catelyn wondered if he had lost consciousness.

"Don't you die on me, Cedrick Mason..." She reached out to touch his forehead and was shocked by his temperature.

She ran to a small pond nearby through the darkness and wiped his forehead, arms, and chest repeatedly.

Though Cedrick was running a fever, he had not lost consciousness and could distinctly sense her hands moving around on him. His lips curled into a faint smile when he heard her helpless mumbles.

Catelyn traveled back and forth in the woods restlessly, stumbling and falling countless times in between before his temperature finally went back to normal.

In her dazed state, she could sense something warm on her lips, but she had lost all her strength from all the hassle and she felt as though she was stepping on clouds, so she did not resist.

Cedrick planted a gentle kiss on her lips and stared endearingly at her.

Her face was covered in dirt and sweat with countless tiny cuts that were presumably caused by the leaves and twigs along the way. The fire had gone out, and she was curled up into herself, shivering.

He slowly wiped the dirt on her face away, his eyes glittering with emotions.

He knew that she was only harsh with her words but not in her heart. If she truly wanted to save herself, she could have left him.

Unfortunately, they were stuck in an area without signal, so he could not reach Alex or Charles.

However, he was in no hurry to leave and enjoyed spending time alone with Catelyn.

He moved her slightly so that she could rest comfortably against his chest.

The next morning, Catelyn woke up from a nightmare and looked up to find Cedrick's eyes staring down at her.

She froze for a moment before grabbing his arm and exclaiming, " Cedrick? Are you okay now?!"

Overjoyed, she did not notice the fact that she had been sleeping in his arms.

"Even my reaper was touched by how much you care about me, so he let me come back." Cedrick tightened his arms around her and ducked down to capture her lips.

Chapter 550-Don't move," warned Cedrick in a hoarse voice.

Catelyn listened to his heartbeat and felt the sudden urge to cry as she recalled all the sweet moments they shared in the past.

Cedrick held onto her tight and refused to let go, and she picked up how his breaths grew deeper.

The temporary truce between them only existed because they were on the run, and they had no energy to consider the past. Once they were safe again, the burden of the past would haunt them once more.

Her eyes reddened as a lone teardrop fell. She frantically tried to dry her eyes by blinking rapidly and forcing a teasing tone, saying, "You sure seem relaxed considering the fact that we're being chased. I feel like those people are aiming at you."

Cedrick did not respond.

The assassins were, indeed, sent after him, and Catelyn was merely bait to lure him here so they could kill him. Cedrick noticed that the people who kidnapped Catelyn and the assassins that came after them were at completely different levels.

The kidnappers were merely local thugs, while the others were professional mercenaries.

Someone had taken the time to create a trap just for him.

Cedrick took a deep breath before tilting her chin up to plant a few kisses on her.

Catelyn tried to move away, but he let go immediately and promised, "I'll take you away from here safe and sound."

After getting ready, the two walked past a river and finally found a signal on their phones.

Cedrick reached Alex but was informed that both Alex and Charles were stuck deep in the woods as they had, too, encountered numerous assassins along the way, so only a few men and a doctor were left on the trail that led into the forest to wait.

When everyone heard that Catelyn had been found, they were all relieved.

Cedrick carried Catelyn all the way out of the Forest of Death and spotted the car from Mason Estate on the empty trail.

The black Bentley was parked on the side of the road, but the people who were supposed to be waiting by it were gone.

Cedrick instinctively realized something was wrong.

Catelyn scanned around the surroundings in confusion and asked, "Where are your men?"

She had thought that they would finally be able to have Cedrick's wounds treated by a doctor once they were out of the Forest of Death.

Just then, rumbling noises approached from afar as numerous cars came into sight.

All the cars in Mason Estate were Bentlys, and the ones that were approaching were of a different brand.

Cedrick realized that his men had been compromised and glanced at the bruise on Catelyn's knees.

It would only make the situation worse if they headed back into the Forest of Death, so he swiftly opened the car door and commanded, "Get in the car."

However, an ominous feeling overwhelmed him as soon as he got into the car.

He narrowed his eyes and scanned the interior of the car, but they had no other options.

Before Catelyn could even fasten her seatbelt, he had already stepped on the accelerator. The car darted forward and raced through the mountain trail as he continued to command her in a low but steady voice, "Fasten your seat belt and sit tight."



Catelyn knew that there were people going after them and did not dare risk distracting Cedrick.