

## Chapter 486 The Corpse In The Lake

Anthony's POV:

I felt very guilty, seeing how much my family cared about me. They were right. How on earth could I have given up on myself so easily? Because I lost my love, I hurt those who loved me.

I was the lycan king. The werewolves depended on me. I had to do my best to function properly, for the sake of those around me. Only after I dealt with the state affairs could I spare the time to deal with the search for Jennifer. And I knew Jennifer wouldn't want to see me so depressed either.

I had to cheer up and start taking care of myself—for Jennifer.

Even after dinner, we stayed seated at the table and continued to chat.

My mother was in a good mood. She asked Caroline if there was anything going on with Alice lately.

"Guess what, Mom? Alice can climb from one side of the crib to the other now!" Caroline said excitedly, her eyes sparkling.

"Really? That's great! I hope you can bring her here sometime and let me see for myself." My mother seemed delighted to hear this. Naturally, she was excited to hear about her grandchild.

"Actually, Austin's better at taking care of her than me," Caroline said with a timid smile. "He changes Alice's diapers and feeds her bottled milk himself."

"Austin, it sounds like you're a good father," I said, raising my eyebrows.

"I had practice many years ago." Austin also raised his eyebrows and smiled at me evilly. "Anthony, I practically raised you. Do you remember how many times I had to take care of you?"

My eyes widened. I didn't expect Austin to talk about me.

"Anthony, you were such a crybaby. One time, you kept squirming in my arms and I dropped you by accident. You peed on my hand as revenge." Austin pointed a spoon at me accusingly.

I couldn't help but burst into laughter. I didn't expect Austin to mention this. But I didn't feel ashamed at all. I just felt brotherly warmth.

"Ha-ha, Anthony, this is the first time I've heard this story! It never dawned on me that you were a normal baby at some point." Caroline giggled, amused by Austin's words.

I chuckled alongside her. "I was a baby once, like everyone else."

The harmonious scene before my eyes made me sigh wistfully. If only Jennifer was also here!

Just then, the door suddenly swung open and a maid rushed in.

"Mr. Jones, bad news! Something happened in the garden!" the maid reported to me, out of breath.

I frowned. "What happened? It's okay. Just say it. No one will blame you here."

"Mr. Jones, here's the thing. The soldiers on patrol found a corpse in the garden lake." The maid squeezed her eyes shut and delivered the macabre news.

What? Both Austin and I stood bolt upright in shock.

"Whose corpse? What happened exactly?" I asked, my expression darkening.

"Mr. Jones, I'm just delivering the message. I haven't seen the corpse with my own eyes. But the captain of the guards told me himself. Mr. Jones, please go and see for yourself." As she spoke, the maid wrung her hands anxiously.

My frown deepened. "Mom, I have to go. Don't worry. I'll tell you once I find out what has happened."

"Yes, this is important. Be safe." The smile from earlier was wiped from her face. "This is the royal palace. How could such a thing happen?"

"Anthony, do you want me to go with you?" Caroline asked worriedly.

"What are you going to do? Seeing a dead body will only scare you." Austin shook his head immediately. "Caroline, just stay here with Mom. Anthony and I will be back soon."

I agreed.

Soon, the two of us rushed to the garden. It was already dusk, but under the dim street lamp, I could see that the garden path was still full of people. Many maids and attendants were lining up by the lake, craning their necks to get a good look at the body, and the soldiers were also with them.

"Mr. Jones is here!" one of my attendants announced loudly.

As soon as they saw me, they bowed and greeted me with respect. "Mr. Jones."

I waved my hand dismissively and ordered, "Tell me, what happened? How could there be a corpse here?"

"Mr. Jones, my men found the body while they were on patrol," the captain of guards stepped forward and answered respectfully. He pointed at the body, which was lying by the lake, covered with a white cloth. "According to the uniform on the body, we suspect she was a maid in the royal palace."

What? My heart sank to the bottom of my stomach. I had a bad feeling about this, which made me want to step back. No, no, no...

I strode towards the corpse and lifted the white cloth.

A pale and lifeless face appeared in front of me.

It wasn't Jennifer.

I breathed a sigh of relief, but upon a closer look at the corpse's face, I was shocked. I knew her.

"This is my personal maid, Emma." Then, I turned around and questioned the captain of guards harshly, "Have you begun to search for anything suspicious?"

Although I felt relieved that the corpse wasn't Jennifer, Emma was also a kind girl. I felt sorry for her death.

"You, tell Mr. Jones how you found the corpse," the captain of guards told one of his subordinates.

"Yes, sir." The guard stepped forward and lowered his head. "Mr. Jones, I was the one who found the body. I was in charge of patrolling the vicinity of the lake. Not long after my shift started, I saw something floating in the lake. When I approached, I realized it was a girl. I shouted for help and jumped into the lake to rescue her. But to my surprise, she was already dead when I got her ashore."

Hearing this, the captain nodded and then pointed at a girl among the maids. "You, tell Mr. Jones about what you know."

The maid quickly stepped forward. "Mr. Jones, I'm Emma's roommate, Alva. Emma didn't return to our dorm room the past few days, but I didn't try to find out where she was. I thought she just went home for something, so I didn't report it to our superior. Something like this had happened before. I had no idea that Emma was already..."

Alva's voice trembled and she burst into sobs.

"Don't cry in front of the king!" The chief maid scolded her.

"Well, she just lost her roommate. It's only natural that she's sad and emotional." I waved my hand, signaling to the chief maid to give Alva a break. Then, to Alva, I said, "Thanks for telling me. You can leave now."

From what I had heard so far, it didn't look as though Emma had been murdered. Could she have fallen into the lake by accident and drowned?

