

Pursuing 491

Chapter 491

Felix called his assistant and had him come take care of the discharge procedures as soon as Ysabelle left.

While waiting, he made his way to Tristan's ward and said, "I'll be getting myself discharged, so I won't be keeping you company in the hospital, Tristan."

Felix found staying in the hospital incredibly uncomfortable.

The only reason he stayed for so long was to spend more time with Ysabelle.

"Ysabelle told me you didn't want to get discharged, no? Then why are you thinking of leaving right after she left?" Sophie teased him.

"Please don't expose me like that, Sophie," Felix said with an awkward smile.

"All right. I won't expose you, then!" Sophie couldn't help but chuckle when she saw how much effort Felix was putting into wooing Ysabelle.

After Felix got discharged, Tristan decided to get discharged as well.

"I want to get discharged too. We can head back to Wisteria Apartments. You're a medical student, so I'll be fine as long as you're around. There's no need for me to stay in a hospital."

Hospitals are never a pleasant place to be. My condition will probably worsen if I stay here even a little while longer!

"I think it's fine for you to stay here, though."

“No, it's not! Come on, let's get the discharge procedures done. You can replace my dressing at home too.”

Hmm... Yeah, I suppose he's right.

With that in mind, Sophie said, “Okay, I'll have Arius get you discharged. Still, are you sure it's okay if you don't go home? If your dad finds out that you didn't go home after getting discharged, he might—”

Tristan cut her off, “You don't have to worry about a thing. Once I'm all better, I'll bring you over and formally introduce you to him.”

“So soon?”

Sophie wasn't prepared to meet his father just yet.

“I just want you to be at ease when you're with me.” Tristan figured it wouldn't make a difference since they would have to meet each other sooner or later.

“You don't have to rush it, really. This can wait a little while longer.” Sophie didn't really know how to get along with old people.

I really like Tristan, but what if his father doesn't like me? Wouldn't that put him in a difficult situation?

“You don't have to worry about a thing, Sophie. Just leave everything to me,” Tristan reassured her.

I've decided that Sophie is the one I'm going to spend the rest of my life with, regardless of how my father feels about her. I won't let anyone get in the way of my decision.

“Okay!”

“Sophie, aren't you spoiling him a little too much? It's best if he stays in the hospital. There's a possibility of his wound getting infected if he goes home. You know how problematic that can be, don't you?” Arius said with a frown as he came over to get Tristan discharged.

“Well, he's got me. Don't worry for I'll make sure his wound doesn't get infected.”

“It's tiring to look after him all by yourself.” There were plenty of nurses to take good care of him in the hospital.

“All right, stop arguing and get the discharge procedures over with.”

Arius found himself at a loss for words.

Honestly, she spoils Tristan way too much! Oh, well... Nothing I say is going to change her mind, so I might as well just get him discharged.

“Are you sure you can manage it on your own? Maybe I should move in with you two,” he said worriedly after getting Tristan discharged.

“No, that won't be necessary. You have plenty on your plate as is, so you should worry about yourself instead. We'll be fine!” Sophie replied.

Arius was indeed very busy as he hadn't completed the task that Barney had assigned him.

“But you're all by yourself—”

“I said, I can handle it!”

Tristan had no issues with his mobility, so all Sophie had to do was replace his wound dressing and keep his wound dry.

Although Tristan was technically not fit to be discharged, it wasn't an issue with Arius around.

He even went as far as driving the two of them to Wisteria Apartments.

"Hey, Tristan! You have lots of housekeepers at home, don't you? Why not go home and let them look after you instead? Why must you trouble Sophie like this? It's very tiring work, you know?" Arius said as he dropped them off outside the apartment.

He found Tristan's behavior incredibly selfish.

"That's none of your business."

Since Tristan and Sophie were both very busy people, she wouldn't have spent so much time with him if it weren't for his injury.

That was why Tristan refused to go home just yet.

"Wouldn't your father be upset if you don't go home?" Sophie asked.

"I told you I'll give my father a call and explain it to him. I feel like my wound will heal faster if I'm with you," Tristan replied.

Arius fell speechless when he heard that.

William hadn't visited Tristan at the hospital throughout the past few days, but Sophie wanted to make sure he was informed. "All right, then. Hurry up and give your father a call. He'll get worried if he goes to the hospital and finds out that you're gone."

Those words had barely left her mouth when William's call came in.

He started yelling in an authoritative voice the moment Tristan answered the phone.

"Where the heck have you been, Tristan? Why aren't you resting in the hospital like you're supposed to? Tell me where you are, and I'll come to you right away!"

Just like Sophie had predicted, William showed up at the hospital and got mad when he found out Tristan got himself discharged.

What the heck is he thinking? How could he get discharged with such severe injuries? This is absolutely ridiculous!

"Calm down, Dad! I'll go deaf if you keep yelling in my ear like this. Look, I got myself discharged because I have some things to take care of. Anyway, I'm fine, so you have nothing to worry about."

"What is wrong with you, Tristan? Why didn't you come home after getting discharged? The housekeepers can help to look after you."

William had no idea where Tristan went, so it was only natural that he would get worried.

"I have someone looking after me. That's all you need to know."

"What do you mean? Who's going to look after you? Did you find yourself a girlfriend?" William bombarded him with a series of questions in response.

Oh, wow... Since when did Dad get so good at guessing?

"Yes, I have. My girlfriend will look after me, so you don't have to worry about me."

"What?"

William had always wanted him to get a girlfriend, so he wasn't too happy about Tristan keeping it a secret from him.

“When did you get yourself a girlfriend, Tristan? Why didn't you introduce her to me?”

“I'll bring her over when the time is right.”

“Why? You're not planning on getting her pregnant first, are you? Who is she? Bring her over right now!”

“Now isn't the time.”

I have yet to recover from my injury. I won't bring Sophie over to meet Dad unless I can guarantee her safety.

William narrowed his eyes as he asked, “Are you truly in love with her?”

He wasn't sure if Tristan was just making it up.

“What do you think?” Tristan had never lied to him before.

“All right, I get it. You can bring her over when you've recovered from your injuries.” William was all too familiar with Tristan's temper. He knew that forcing Tristan would only make things worse, so it was better to let him set the pace instead.

Since Tristan had found himself a girlfriend, it was only a matter of time before he would bring her home.

Even so, William couldn't help but wonder what his son's girlfriend was like.

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“You told your dad that you have a girlfriend?” Sophie asked the moment Tristan hung up the phone.

“He wanted me to come home, but I don't feel like going home just yet, so I had to play the girlfriend card. Don't worry since he won't do anything to you,” Tristan replied confidently with a nod.

Sophie fell speechless when she heard that.

What? I'm not afraid of him hurting me! I just don't feel like dealing with this stuff just yet!

Noticing the displeased look on Sophie's face, Arius shot Tristan a fierce glare and said, “You'd better handle those family relationships of yours well, you hear me? If you make Sophie upset, I'll take her somewhere far, far away! You won't be able to see her ever again!”

He couldn't bear to see Sophie get bullied.

“I suggest you leave before I beat you up,” Tristan threatened.

This is between me and Sophie! He has no right to interfere!

Arius waved his fist in the air defiantly as he snapped back at Tristan, “Yeah? With those injuries of yours? I'd like to see you try!” Even if he couldn't defeat Tristan in a fight, he had other ways of getting back at him.

“That's enough, Arius! Didn't you say you have something to do? You should head on back now!”

Sophie knew Arius was just trying to help her out, but she believed it wouldn't be appropriate for him to

butt into her relationship problems with Tristan.

“All right, then. I'll be leaving now. Let me know if he bullies you, okay? I'm a surgeon. I can stab at him a hundred times, and it still wouldn't count as murder!”

Tristan shot him an icy-cold glare in response, but Arius ignored him completely and continued chatting with Sophie for a little while longer before leaving.

When it was just the two of them in Wisteria Apartments, Tristan gently hugged Sophie from behind and asked, "Are you unhappy because I told my dad I had a girlfriend?"

"No, I'm not unhappy. I just don't know how to get along with elderly people," Sophie replied. Although William was Tristan's father, he was most certainly old enough to be Sophie's grandfather.

"You don't have to worry about a thing. I'll take care of things with my family, so no one will give you any trouble."

"Okay."

"I'll bring you over to meet my father once I'm all better."

William was the most important person in Tristan's life, so he really wanted to introduce them to each other.

"All right."

She couldn't possibly say no to meeting someone who mattered that much to him, especially since he had always treated Josiah so well.

Tristan gently caressed her cheeks as he added, "I'm serious, Sophie. You're too adorable to be disliked!"

He believed his father would come to appreciate her as well.

Sophie brushed his hands off and said, "Okay, stop trying to convince me! I promise I'll go with you!"

I'm serious about my relationship with Tristan, and I believe we'll be able to make it work. I'll have to meet his family sooner or later anyway.

William, on the other hand, was freaking out after hanging up the phone.

I can't believe it! My son has finally found himself a girlfriend!

Sarah got curious when she came home and saw William smiling happily to himself. Dad has been rather depressed ever since Tristan got injured. Why is he suddenly so happy today?

She walked up to him and asked, "You seem to be in a great mood today, Dad! What happened?"

"Your brother found himself a girlfriend, Sarah! Why didn't you tell me about it?" William exclaimed.

He had been worried that Tristan would have difficulty finding himself a girlfriend.

What? Dad found out about it?

Unsure of whether William was just trying to trick her into telling him the truth, Sarah decided to play dumb and asked, "What are you talking about, Dad?"

"Don't play dumb with me! Tristan already got discharged by the time I went to visit him at the hospital, but he didn't come home. I gave him a call, and he told me he has a girlfriend! I always thought you'd tell me everything, but it looks like you're keeping secrets from me too!"

"I'm not keeping secrets from you, Dad! I only found out about him having a girlfriend recently, and I didn't know how I should tell you about it."

Having served in the military for so many years, William could tell she was lying simply by looking at her.

“Nonsense! Anyway, who is that girl? Which family is she from? What is her personality like? Is she worthy of dating Tristan?”

William believed his children were the most excellent, so he expected them to only date those who were equally excellent.

“She's a decent girl, and I like her very much. Please don't bully her, okay?”

William, who always saw himself as easy-going, asked, “What are you talking about? Are you saying I'm a difficult person?”

“I'm just reminding you, Dad. Tristan likes her to the point where he's determined to marry her, so you'd better not scare her away!”

“What do you mean by that, Sarah? Am I really that scary?” William exclaimed in displeasure. What's the meaning of this? I thought my kids liked me!

“I didn't mean anything else.”

“Whatever, I'll let that slide this time. Even your brother has found himself a girlfriend, Sarah. Isn't it about time you get yourself a boyfriend too? I know you like Juan, but he doesn't seem to feel the same about you. You've been holding on to your feelings for him for so many years now. It's time to let go and move on.”

William didn't want to pressure her as he knew about her feelings for Juan, but he got worried when he saw that she was still single after so long.

Sarah did not want to talk about that.

“I know what I'm doing, Dad. Don't worry. I've already given up on Juan.” Having kept at it for so long, she got really tired and decided to give up.

"All right. You're an adult now, so I trust you know what's best for you. Your mom was the only person in this household you could talk to freely about your problems, so life must've been rough for you after she was gone. I may not be able to help you out much, but I do hope you'll find someone who'll love and treasure you."

As a father, it was only natural for William to care deeply about his daughter.

"I know, Dad."

Later that night, Sarah brought some food over to Wisteria Apartments.

Tristan wasn't too happy about her showing up uninvited, but Sarah didn't care.

Ysabelle rushed over the moment she heard Sarah was there, which only added to Tristan's displeasure.

Sarah got straight to the point and asked, "Dad already knows about you having a girlfriend, Tristan. When will you bring her over to meet him?"

"I'll think about it when I'm all better," Tristan replied.

"What? Does Grandpa know about this? Do you guys think he'll like Sophie?" Ysabelle asked curiously.

"It doesn't matter if he likes her or not," Tristan said.

Sophie felt a warm sensation in her heart when she saw how protective he was.

"Don't worry, Sophie. My dad is a very easygoing person. He knows how much Tristan likes you, so he won't pick on you or anything," Sarah reassured her.

“Okay.”

After everything she had experienced in life, Sophie no longer felt nervous over such trivial matters.

However, she couldn't help but feel a little concerned about meeting William. After all, Tristan would be put in a difficult spot if things didn't go well between her and William.

Chapter 493

“Ysabelle, how was the preparation for your album while I was gone?”

“I was busy taking care of Felix at the hospital, so there are still some outstanding issues. But don't you worry, Sophie, as I'm now fully focused with Felix out of the hospital.”

Fundamentally, there weren't any problems, and they were ready to start promoting it.

“Why don't we celebrate Ysabelle's new album with a bottle of red wine?” Sarah suggested.

“Sure!”

Ysabelle felt that it was a terrific idea.

“I'll go get it.”

“You gals have really made yourselves at home,” Tristan lamented.

These two ladies don't know their place at all! How dare they come here and take Sophie from me?

Ysabelle then gave Sophie a pitiful look.

“Sophie, ever since I have gotten to know you, I have fallen out of favor with Uncle Tristan.”

Sarah added, “Tristan, don't behave this way. It saddens us when you do that.”

“Instead of clinging onto Sophie, the two of you should find someone to fall in love with since you have nothing better to do.” Tristan didn't mince his words at all.

“We're not the kind to ignore Sophie even if we have found the love of our lives.” No man was able to come between their friendship.

It wasn't until it was eleven at night that Ysabelle and Sarah said a reluctant goodbye.

“Sophie, I'll get you help if you have trouble taking care of him all by yourself.” Sarah was concerned about Sophie overextending herself.

“It's fine. I can manage.”

All this while, she disliked having outsiders at home. The only reason she accepted the cook hired by Tristan previously was that she was sitting for the university entrance exam.

Now that she was essentially home all the time, a housekeeper wasn't necessary.

“All right then, I'll leave it to you. Feel free to call me if you need anything.” Given how demanding Tristan was about food, she was genuinely worried that Sophie would fail to cope.

“Sophie, don't push yourself, all right?” Ysabelle was equally concerned with Sophie looking increasingly haggard over the last few days.

“Okay.”

It wasn't until the two ladies were out of sight that Tristan was finally happy.

When he sat on the couch with no intention of going to bed, Sophie knitted her brows.

"Didn't I tell you that you need to be resting more?" In fact, I just told him to go upstairs.

"I'm fine. I'm not tired at all."

Tristan felt his heart ache when he saw how drained she looked.

Am I being selfish? There wasn't a need for me to come here in the first place. I'm adding to her burden by doing so, as she has to tend to me.

"Sophie, I appreciate what you've done. You must be exhausted from the last few days."

After settling down right beside him, she gently pinched his chin as she replied, "I'm fine. Your recovery is all that matters."

"Mmm-hmm."

My carelessness this time not only got me grievously wounded but also caused her to worry. Going forward, this will never happen again.

"In that case, you should go to bed now."

"Okay."

As The Wheelers were public figures, they didn't visit Tristan in the hospital despite learning of his

injury.

Instead, they came over to Wisteria Apartments once they heard of his return.

Since they were Sophie's friends, Tristan was obliged to entertain them.

"Mr. Tristan, how's your injury?" Mark asked curiously.

"I'm almost fully recovered. Thanks for asking."

As both men were not the chatty type, there was no chance for the conversation to even warm up.

Sunny, too, had little to say ever since Mark quit the band. It was even worse for the remaining three as they barely knew Tristan.

Fortunately, despite the lack of conversation, it didn't feel awkward at all.

Sunny asked, "Sophie, you look tired! Is it too much work for you? If it is, you should hire someone to help you."

As a best friend, he naturally cared a lot about her.

"I can manage. There's no need to worry about me." Now that she was home, she managed to rejuvenate after a good night's sleep the day before.

"You're not cut out to care for someone, so don't force yourself!" At the end of the day, Sophie is still a young girl. Nursing someone back to health should be done by professionals. Mark couldn't agree

more.

"I understand, but I'm fine. There's no need to fret," Sophie replied with a smile before getting up to serve them drinks.

However, Sunny—having none of it—sprang to his feet to help her.

"Just stay where you are. We'll serve ourselves." It's not like we hardly know each other.

Nevertheless, Sophie still poured five glasses of water and had Sunny bring them over.

"Mark, how are you coping with the Emerald Gang?" Due to how busy she was, Sophie had no time to check in on him. He probably isn't used to it yet.

The mere mention of Emerald Gang gave Mark a headache.

Given that it was common for gangs to wage turf wars against each other, the Emerald Gang became a target due to him being new—an issue that caused him a lot of grief.

In spite of that, this was his responsibility which he didn't want to trouble Sophie with.

"Everything's going smoothly. There's nothing to be concerned about."

Now that she's swamped with work, I don't need her to worry about my affairs.

Tristan offered, "Mark, if there's anything you need, feel free to let me know."

He was, after all, well acquainted with many people of the underworld.

Nonetheless, Mark shook his head.

“Thanks, but no thanks. This is the path I have chosen, and I will walk it myself.” Mark rejected any help that was offered.

Since there is no one I can rely on all the time, I need to do this myself.

Sophie—cognizant that Mark was upset—refrained from commenting further. Once Tristan has recovered, I'll talk to Emerald Gang and Quinton myself.

Even though Sunny and the others were clueless about Emerald Gang and its affairs, they still felt the urge to help Mark.

“Mark, you have to tell us if we can help you in any way.” As they were the best of friends, sharing his burden was the least they could do.

“Sophie, why don't you get Xandra to find them another lead singer? I don't want the group to break up because of me.”

He didn't mind someone else being the lead singer.

All that mattered was that the band could still continue playing.

Sunny interrupted, “Mark, what are you saying? The Wheelers only have one lead singer—you! There's no way we would agree for anyone else to take your place.”

His words saddened Mark, for it was he who declared that their band would stay together forever.

And yet, he was the one who ended up leaving.

Mark shook his head.

"Sunny, can you stop being so stubborn? All of you have a passion for music. It would be a shame to give it up just because I quit. Sophie, help them find a lead singer. I really don't mind." After all, I was the one who abandoned the band.

"Mark, you're the only lead singer whom we're willing to accept," the two other members added, reiterating their refusal to accept anyone else.

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Sophie was stumped, as she, too, couldn't imagine someone else being the lead singer of The Wheelers. Naturally, she figured that the fans shared her sentiments too.

After all, many bands were destined to break up once they lost their lead singer.

"Mark, there's no need to be concerned about this yet, as it isn't something urgent. We can discuss it again sometime down the road."

Currently, many fans were devastated by the news, so they might not accept a change in the lead singer of the band, especially since Mark was their favorite and their reason for being fans in the first place.

"Sophie is right. There's no rush. You should deal with whatever you need to do and not be concerned about us." Since none of us are worried, there's no reason for him to feel that way. Sunny wanted to wait in case Mark regretted his decision.

They were willing to give him all the time he needed and would always be ready to welcome him back.

"Not that I'm anxious, but the search for a good lead singer will take a long time. Therefore, we have to start the process even if we choose to do it discreetly." Mark's suggestion had their best interests at heart, for they had sacrificed a lot just to follow him.

After going through so much, how can they just give it all up?

"I understand. Don't worry, as long as I'm around, I won't allow anyone to lose out."

Since they were artists under TS Entertainment's stable, they were naturally her responsibility.

"Mark, there's no need for you to be worried about us. We're all adults who can take care of ourselves," one of the members added.

He was cognizant that no one was at fault, for everyone made their own choices.

Hence, it fell upon them to figure out how they were going to move forward.

With Tristan yet to fully recover, The Wheelers, not wanting to disrupt his rest, didn't stay too long.

Thus, Sophie escorted them to the door.

"Mark, please be careful. Turf wars between gangs can be really intense. They're willing to go to extreme ends to achieve their goals." Mark was Sophie's greatest worry now.

"You really shouldn't worry. I can deal with it myself." It's no problem at all.

Sophie felt helpless.

"Once things settle down at my end, I'll come to talk to you again." Truth be told, the Emerald Gang was a hot potato in every sense of the word.

Whoever took over it would not have any peace.

"There's no need to be concerned on my behalf, as you're busy enough as it is. Instead, you should

focus on your own affairs and take good care of yourself."

Mark, due to his feelings for her, felt his heart break when he saw her being overwhelmed.

"All right, I got it." Sophie had no intention of rebutting. She couldn't deny how exhausting taking care of a patient was, but she was at least happy to be able to do something for Tristan. "Sunny, you had better behave for the time being. Now that your hand is healing gradually, there's no rush to go back to practice."

"I understand. There's no need to fret about me. I'm all grown up now and will learn how to take care of everyone else."

He was no longer the same Sunny who always got into trouble.

"I'm glad to hear that."

Sunny has matured a lot.

However, Sophie felt melancholic about it, as she had secretly hoped that he remain a carefree boy forever.

"All right now. You should go back in."

It wasn't until she watched the elevator doors close that Sophie returned to the house. As for Tristan, he had opened the door to look for her.

"They're gone."

"I can see that."

"There's no need to be so concerned about Mark. My men are watching over him, so he'll be fine." Considering that Mark had never gotten involved in gang wars before, it was understandable for her to worry about him.

“Thank you.”

Sophie felt grateful for Tristan's attentiveness despite him being grievously wounded.

“Why are you being a stranger? Didn't I tell you that your affairs and friends are my business too? There's no way I would sit idly by and ignore them.”

It was evident that Mark wasn't cut out to lead the Emerald Gang. “I'm currently looking for someone to replace Mark but didn't manage to find anyone suitable yet.”

“To take over Emerald Gang?”

“Mmm-hmm.”

Mark was truly ill-suited as a gang leader even though he had achieved phenomenal success in the entertainment industry.

As someone who was inherently kind, Mark didn't have the gumption to lead a gang.

Conversely, without a capable leader, the members of Emerald Gang would suffer a terrible fate.

“Take your time searching. You'll find a suitable candidate sooner or later.” The matter was time-consuming and couldn't be rushed.

“I know.”

Consequently, she didn't feel anxious over it.

As long as she could ensure Mark's safety, everything else could wait.

After resting at home for a couple of days, Sophie would've continued to stay by Tristan's side if not for school starting.

On that day, she needed to get herself enrolled at the University of Medicine.

As Jipsdale University was right next to it, Ysabelle dropped by with the intention of heading to school together.

"Sophie, I feel kinda nervous now that school is about to start."

Faced with the uncertainty of who she would meet and that of university life, Ysabelle was filled with both anticipation and anxiousness.

Now that her album was about to be released, she would also need to mind her conduct in school as a celebrity.

"Don't fret. Just be yourself and you'll be fine."

As the company didn't impose a specific persona on her, there was no risk of having a divergence in her public appearance and her private life.

The realization of Sophie's thoughtfulness caused Ysabelle to give the former a tight hug.

"You've always been good to me, Sophie." As long as she didn't do anything controversial, she was free to let her own personality shine.

"Ysabelle, you're not allowed to hug Sophie from now on." Tristan was upset by the sight.

"Uncle Tristan, I'm your niece, for goodness sake. Isn't it ridiculous to be jealous of me? It's just a hug. What's the big deal?"

“No means no. Are you challenging me?”

Ysabelle responded by throwing Sophie a pitiful look.

“Sophie, your boyfriend is bullying me again. Do something about it!”

Isn't he too much? Without me, would he have won Sophie's heart that easily? Do I not deserve a little respect for that? What's with this blatant display of ungratefulness?

Sophie gave Ysabelle's cheek a pinch.

“There, there. Just let it slide since he's still a patient.”

Tristan was speechless.

Fine. At the very least, she's taking my side. As for Ysabelle, her temper eased upon Sophie's efforts to assuage her.

“All right. I'll let him off the hook. Come on, it's time to go to school now.”

After all, Sophie will be mine again once we're at university!

Chapter 495

“Wait, I'll send both of you there!” How can I not be there for their first day of school?

“Uncle Tristan, shouldn't you be resting at home since you have yet to fully recover?” What's he tagging along for? Besides, we're there to enroll ourselves, and there's no luggage to carry.

“Sophie, with school starting, will you be staying there or what?” It was a crucial question for her.

"Instead of staying on campus, I'll find a condominium nearby." As she needed to attend both the University of Medicine and Jipsdale University, it was inconvenient to live far away.

"In that case, can I share your unit? Going home just takes up too much time."

Now that she was also an artist, going back and forth was too troublesome.

"You should get your own place," Tristan interrupted before Sophie could react.

Since both ladies were adults and Sophie was attached, it would be inconvenient for them to be housemates.

As a result, Tristan snuffed out the idea right away.

"Come on, Uncle Tristan. I want Sophie's company because I'll be lonely staying by myself."

Why can't you let me stay with her? I really don't want to live alone.

"Don't you worry. I'll behave and not get in your way at all!"

I'll hide in my room whenever he's here. I'm sure that'll make him happy.

"Sophie, I really want to stay together with you, as I'll definitely be bullied when I'm alone."

Ysabelle had no choice but to play the victim card against her uncle's objection.

"Tristan, let her stay with me, please? It's no big deal."

Sophie, wavering from the sight of Ysabelle's pitiful face, shared the sentiment that staying together allowed them to look after each other.

"I'll be willing to let you stay in the same building but in a different unit." Her presence will definitely get in the way.

Despite Ysabelle's defiance, the look on Tristan's face stopped her from protesting any further.

Thereafter, he drove both of them to Jipsdale University first.

The moment they arrived, Christopher Olsen, the university chancellor, gave Sophie a call, worried that she wouldn't turn up.

When the three of them went to the chancellor's office, they found Christopher waiting for them there.

"Sophie, the researchers at Jipsdale University are extremely smart. With your credentials, you'll have no trouble being accepted."

Jipsdale University's research institute was considered a nest for the national research institutes. It was filled with talents who were headhunted by the same institutes upon graduation.

"Prior to this, I was worried that you wouldn't come. I understand that saving lives is important, but high-tech research is equally crucial to the nation." Given Sophie's capabilities, Christopher hoped that she would concentrate her efforts on nuclear research.

"Mr. Olsen, don't worry. Since I have given you my word, I'll definitely keep it. That said, my goal remains the same—I'm still going to the University of Medicine," Sophie insisted.

Her resolute stance elicited a nod of resignation from Christopher.

"I understand. I'll get the dean of the Faculty of Physics to take you there." There's no point in forcing her now. Once she learns more at the Faculty of Physics, she would naturally be spellbound by the mystery of physics. When that happens, I'm sure she'll drop the University of Medicine.

"It's fine. I don't need any special treatment. We'll find our way there." Having the dean of the Faculty of Physics guide me will attract too much attention.

It was important to Sophie to keep a low profile on campus.

"Sure. In that case, why don't get a handsome senior to come and get you?" Christopher cracked a joke out of nowhere.

Having noticed Tristan by Sophie's side and guessing they were close, he couldn't help but tease the former, just to get a kick out of it.

No sooner had he spoken than Tristan shot him a murderous glare. Nonetheless, the unfazed Christopher continued to sip his coffee calmly.

"Mr. Olsen, thank you for the kind thought, but I'm fine getting there on my own." Sophie proceeded to hold Tristan's hand to signal that she didn't need some good-looking senior at all.

Their responses triggered a smile from Ysabelle.

She was envious of Sophie, who had Tristan fussing over everything related to her.

After emerging from the chancellor's office, the three of them headed straight for the Faculty of Physics. Due to the expansive campus, they rode there on bicycles provided by the bike share program.

Upon their arrival, they noticed that the place wasn't crowded. As the top faculty in a premier university, there were few students due to the high entrance requirements.

Furthermore, most of the students were male.

The moment a beauty like Sophie stepped onto the premise, all of them ogled at her with glistening eyes.

She's gorgeous! Even the prettiest girl in the faculty pales in comparison to her.

Unfortunately, their brazen attention made Sophie uncomfortable, causing her to wonder if there were any consequences for killing a couple of them. After all, these were the future pillars of the nation.

"Miss, are you here to enroll in the Faculty of Physics? Let me be your guide!"

Pretty girls were never short on men picking them up, and Sophie was no exception.

The presence of the dashing Tristan didn't stop them from trying their luck.

"Thank you, but I'm fine doing it myself," Sophie declined cordially.

"Miss, I'm Jackie Chance, a final-year student. This is my number... If there's anything you need, feel free to give me a call."

Jackie had barely flashed her a vibrant smile when his friends pulled him away.

"Sophie, this faculty is full of handsome guys!" Ysabelle was surprised by the number of hunks she spotted as she had expected to see nerds.

Why do I get the feeling that Uncle Tristan is being challenged?

"Moreover, all of them seem to like you." Well, they would be fools not to!

At that moment, both Sophie's and Tristan's moods began to bifurcate.

Tristan felt threatened by the thought of Sophie studying in a place like that, whereas the latter was simply annoyed by the attention.

What am I going to do with so many people staring at me?

When a group of male students who were in the midst of registering themselves saw her, they made way for her immediately.

Watching the treatment accorded to Sophie, Ysabelle couldn't help but beam.

Evidently, Sophie is just as popular in university. Everyone loves her!

"Are you sure you don't want to register?" Sophie cocked a brow.

"Gorgeous, you should do it first, as we're not in a hurry. Given how hot is, you can hurry back home once you're done." The guys in the Faculty of Physics certainly knew how to treat a woman well. "I suppose this is your brother. He looks really handsome too!"

They continued making conversation with flattery.

Brother? Is there something wrong with their eyes?

"I'm her boyfriend!" Tristan staked his claim at once. D*mn it, I'm not going to tolerate them coming onto her.

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"What? Boyfriend?" Obviously, the answer surprised the boys.

"Do pretty girls nowadays prefer older men?" This person looks so much older than her.

"What did you say?" Tristan was so frustrated that he was about to lose his mind. How dare they call me old? Do they have a death wish?

"It's true that you look older than us!" The few freshmen from the Faculty of Physics spoke their minds as they weren't intimidated at all.

Tristan was speechless. He really had the urge to murder someone. I wonder what will happen if I kill someone at the Faculty of Physics on the first day of school?

Ysabelle was also at a loss for words. Why are they looking at Uncle Tristan like that? He's way more good-looking than them, even if he's older!

"He's my type!" answered Sophie.

The few boys fell silent immediately upon hearing her response. Since the lovely lady had spoken, there was nothing else they could say. However, the beauty and this man are merely dating. If we pray for them to break up sooner, she will belong to the Faculty of Physics.

Sophie went to settle her registration.

"Name?" After seeing the scene just now, the teacher who was in charge of the registration wasn't too fond of Sophie. She has stolen my status as the prettiest teacher on the first day she came here.

"Sophie Tanner!"

"You're Sophie Tanner?"

"That's right!"

As soon as she found out Sophie was someone whom the chancellor personally recruited, the teacher didn't dare to delay any further and immediately helped Sophie with the registration process.

Then, the teacher handed Sophie an A4 paper with instructions written on it and a timetable.

After settling the admission procedures, Sophie didn't stay there for much longer. She still had to register herself at the University of Medicine, after all.

After exiting the Faculty of Physics, Sophie, Ysabelle, and Tristan went to the Faculty of Finance for Ysabelle's registration.

"It seems like there are downsides to being pretty as well. There are so many people who like you, Sophie. Uncle Tristan, do you feel threatened now?" Ysabelle teased.

Tristan chose to ignore her. Why are you still spewing nonsense now? "Go register on your own. I'm going to the University of Medicine with Sophie now," he said.

Ysabelle was speechless. Well, I shouldn't have said that!

Just then, Felix was done with his work and came to look for Ysabelle. "Finally, I've found you guys! What is wrong with the three of you? Why won't any of you answer your phone?"

"Why are you here?" Ysabelle was shocked to see Felix there.

"Of course, I have to be here for your registration!" Stop kidding me! There are so many handsome guys at the university. Since today's the first day of registration, I must declare that Ysabelle is mine! What if someone tries to steal my future wife from me?

"Why did you come?"

"Ysabelle, I'm just worried that someone will bully you, so I came. Why? Am I not allowed to be here?"

"It's nothing like that. Let's go, then!" Ysabelle stopped overthinking it. Since Felix is already here, I should stop following Sophie and Tristan.

Ysabelle and Felix rode a bike and left.

“Wait here for me. I'll buy you a bottle of water!”

“Okay.”

While Sophie was waiting for Tristan to buy her some water, someone approached her. However, the person left after she shot him a glance.

She was an impatient person who found it pointless to get into ambiguous relationships with people she didn't like.

Meanwhile, when Tristan returned, he saw someone approaching Sophie again. There was nothing he could do other than take a deep breath to calm himself. Looks like it can be rather stressful to have a good-looking girlfriend.

He returned to Sophie's side and opened the bottle cap before handing the water to her. “What should I do? I don't think I want you to attend the university now! There are too many boys who have their eyes on you.” Tristan was really bothered by this matter.

“Don't worry, they're not my type.”

“What's your type, then?”

“Someone like you.” That's why I don't care about what anyone else is like, as long as I set my mind on him.

Upon hearing her reassuring words, Tristan felt as if his bad mood since morning had disappeared.

He realized he was someone who was easily contented. All he needed was a few words of affirmation from her for his mood to improve drastically.

“Of course, I trust you. I believe our love won't change because of these trivial matters.” We will stay together forever.

To be frank, he didn't want to be so sentimental. However, he would feel emotional occasionally.

"Let's head to the University of Medicine now! You can't stay outside for too long since you are not completely healed. You must head home and rest." After all, Sophie was most worried about his health.

"Actually, I've almost recovered. You don't have to worry about me." She had been worried about his health for the past few days, and he didn't wish to see her so tired.

"No, I can't be careless. You must remember that your body isn't yours only, but it's mine, too." Therefore, she would never allow him to neglect his health.

"All right, I got it." He actually enjoyed being cared for by her. At least, it meant she really liked him and was concerned about him.

"Don't fall for those young men, understand?"

"Didn't I already tell you I only like you? I'm not even remotely interested in other guys." I really didn't expect Tristan to have such a side to him.

They rode their bikes to the entrance, then drove to the University of Medicine in their car.

Since they didn't want to ride a bike anymore, Sophie called the chancellor of the University of Medicine directly.

Next, the chancellor called the security guard to inform them about Sophie and Tristan's arrival. The security guard granted them entry and opened the gates for them to drive into the compound.

"I didn't expect it's so beneficial to become a high achiever at the university entrance exam," Sophie said jokingly. This is really unexpected.

“It's quite useful.”

After all, high achievers on the university entrance exam were always highly valued by all academies. Hence, such status was always practical, not to mention when she was the valedictorian.

Tristan and Sophie arrived at the chancellor's office at the University of Medicine.

The chancellor greeted them at the door with a grin. “Sophie, you have such good taste. I can guarantee you won't regret your choice. It's sacred to treat patients and save lives.”

The chancellor couldn't believe that this year's high achiever would visit the University of Medicine.

He heard the chancellors of Jipsdale University and Capston University had visited Sophie themselves. Thus, it was shocking when he found out Sophie had actually applied to the University of Medicine.

However, there was nothing odd about it. After all, the University of Medicine was the best university. Although being a doctor was a tiring occupation, it could give one a huge sense of accomplishment.

“The situation is like this, chancellor. I'll be studying at the Faculty of Physics of Jipsdale University while I study here at the University of Medicine. Would this be a problem for you?”

“Of course not! Why would it be? You'll definitely give up on going to the other university after you start studying here.” The chancellor was confident in his capability to make talents stay.

“If that's the case, then I will need your help on scheduling my timetable.” Of course, I can hack the system and arrange my timetable directly if I want to. But there's no point in doing so since they've promised to help.

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“No problem. Just bring Jipsdale University's timetable over when the time comes. I'll arrange it for you.”

“Okay. Thanks for your help.”

Nonetheless, she was grateful for the chancellor of the University of Medicine's support.

“You definitely won't regret it, Sophie. There's a rumor that International Medical Association will eventually move to Jipsdale. You've got a bright future ahead if you can join them.”

The chancellor had a good point, as joining International Medical Association was every medical student's dream.

“Do you know Professor Gullifer? He's joined the International Medical Association and is well known in Chanaea now.”

Words eluded Sophie at the mention of that.

She struggled to retain the flow of the conversation and finally parted her lips and said, “Yeah. He's really something.”

She could only nod in agreement.

Well, Arius is undeniably an impressive person.

Sitting beside her, Tristan did not utter a single word throughout the conversation.

Although the chancellor had never met Tristan before, the latter's temperament and aura had caught his attention somehow.

“This is...”

As he regained his composure, he finally noticed Tristan's presence and recalled that Sophie had yet to introduce the man beside her.

"He's my boyfriend."

"I see."

The chancellor could tell at a glance that Tristan was not someone ordinary.

He was not surprised, though. Since Sophie was a high academic achiever, he believed her boyfriend would be a remarkable man as well.

The chancellor continued to give impressive and wise advice.

When he noticed Sophie was not interested in those, he finally held his tongue.

Deep down, he was excited and couldn't wait any longer to brag to the others about Sophie joining the University of Medicine.

It was understandable as the University of Medicine had never stood a chance of snatching students

from Jipsdale University and Capston University in the past. That day, however, they managed to recruit a high achiever for the university entrance exam effortlessly.

"Since you don't have any objections, I shall leave for my registration now. I'll send you the timetable afterward," Sophie excused herself.

"Sure. I'll walk you out," said the chancellor with a smug grin.

The chancellor walked Sophie and Tristan all the way to the registration venue. As the new student whom the chancellor received personally, Sophie made a deep impression on the university teachers.

What impressed them the most was none other than the beauty that made her stand out among the crowd, be it the pretty celebrities in the entertainment industry.

They could not believe such a pretty young lady would join the University of Medicine—a stressful place with no room for one to slack.

“Sir, who's this young lady? Are you sure she's not a student from the film academy?” one of the university teachers asked.

She thought a beauty like Sophie should attend a film school instead of suffering in their university.

“This is Sophie Tanner, the high achiever in the university entrance exam. Aren't you surprised that she's joining our university? At least I myself never expect that.”

“So she is Sophie Tanner!”

The news media did not report much about the high achievers of the university entrance exam that year.

The university teachers, however, had heard of Sophie's name before.

She was known to the public as the third daughter of the Tanner Group founder and had a poor reputation long ago.

Little did they expect that the young lady would be one of the high achievers in the university entrance exam that year.

How can there be such a vast difference between us? Not only she excels academically, but she also has a stunning look.

"In short, please serve her well. All of you will be in trouble if she fails to register today." Since Sophie had come to the door, the chancellor would not let the chance to recruit such a high achiever slip away.

Meanwhile, Sophie's appearance caused a great stir in the university.

Students who could enter the University of Medicine would not be someone incompetent.

Yet, those high-achieving students lost their composure when they saw a pretty junior on campus.

"D*mn. One look at her makes me want to fall in love."

"She's my goddess. So, stop imagining things and get out of my way!"

"Honestly, she looks even prettier than my goddess."

"Your goddess is as nothing compared to her. Look! Her skin glows without caking on tons of makeup."

Tristan, who had been listening to the conversation of the guys next to him, couldn't help but let out another sigh.

The thought of Sophie always getting these guys' attention no matter where she went made him flustered.

Right then, Sophie completed the registration process and walked to his side. She held his hand directly and interlocked their fingers together, giving him a sense of security.

"Let's go! It's time for us to head back."

Since she had set her mind on Tristan and given him her heart, she would not let other men have thoughts about her anymore.

Seeing their goddess and a handsome man clasping their hands together, the high-achieving students of the University of Medicine felt their hearts break.

“Did you hear that?”

“What?”

“The sound of heartbreaking.”

“Yeah! My heart has been shattered without even starting a relationship with someone. This feeling isn't good at all.”

“Sure enough, beauties always belong to someone else. I don't deserve any of them.”

When Sophie and Tristan got to the car, she tried to take her hand off, but he tightened his grip and refused to let go.

“Maybe I should attend university with you,” he suggested.

He wanted to stroll around the campus with her, experiencing campus romance with her once.

“What? That's not necessary. Don't worry. I will learn everything within the shortest time possible,” Sophie assured.

“There's no need to be in such a hurry. Pace your studies, or you'll drain yourself.” Although Tristan wished to settle down with Sophie, he couldn't bear to see her overstraining herself.

Besides, learning was supposed to be a process that happened gradually.

"I know."

Unfortunately, Sophie was a fast learner and had no other choice.

It wasn't until they arrived at Wisteria Apartments that Sophie received a call from Sunny.

"Sophie, where are you? Something's happened to Mark. We are at a loss for what to do now. Come over quickly!" said Sunny anxiously.

Sophie frowned upon hearing that.

"What happened? Calm down, and make things clear."

"Emerald Gang is in trouble. Someone is trying to cause a stir. All of us are here right now."

In fact, Sunny did not know why he called Sophie at such a critical moment. Sh*t! What's wrong with me? Isn't it more dangerous for Sophie to come here alone?

Despite that, he felt it would be better to inform Sophie about the matter for some reason.

"All right, I got it now. Get Mark to stabilize the situation for the time being. I'll be there in a short while." As Sophie expected, things would not go smoothly. It was common for gangs to fight for their territories, after all.

"Mhm. Got it."

Sunny instantly felt relieved when he knew Sophie would be there soon.

“Why don't you ask for Mr. Tristan's help? We should be able to get things solved easily with him around,” he suggested.

Anyhow, Sophie was a girl. He thought even if she went over, she might not be able to completely solve the problem.

“Don't worry about it. I'll come over now.”

Sophie thought Tristan, who has yet to recover from the injury, should not concern himself with that but leave things to her.

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Sophie went into her room to change after hanging up the phone.

Tristan had no idea what had happened since he had been in the shower before this.

“What happened? Are you going out now?”

“Yes. TS Entertainment needs me.”

“I'll come with you then.” After all, Tristan had nothing else to do. He had Sean to look after Lombard Group in his place.

“No. You've been keeping me company for the entire day now. Get some rest. I'll be back once I've taken care of things there. It's nothing serious, so you don't have to come along.”

Tristan kept quiet.

“Alright then. You stay home,” Sophie said domineeringly.

“Are you sure you don't want me to come? Haven't I told you? I'm feeling much better already. You don't have to worry.”

“Mr. Tristan, I'm the doctor here. I know your body best.”

“Alright.”

Tristan knew he was never going to win this argument. Hence, he decided to let it slide.

“Drive safe.”

“Okay. Oh, right, you don't have to wait for me. I don't know what time I'll return. So you can go to bed first.”

She didn't know how long it would take her to take care of the issue.

That was why she didn't know what time she would return.

Tristan frowned.

“What is it about? Is it serious?” He thought everything was going well for TS Entertainment.

Why would she need to take so long if it's just a small matter?

“Alright, I've told you everything's fine. I'm leaving.” She didn't know how much longer Mark could hold on. Hence, she had to get there as soon as possible.

“Okay.”

Tristan decided to let her be as he sent her off at the door.

“Sleep early tonight, okay? I'll be mad if I see that you're still awake by the time I return.” He needs to take better care of himself.

“Okay. Got it. Just go. Call me if you can't handle it. If you're worried about my health, you can call Sean.”

After all, Sean was also quite a big-shot in Jipsdale.

He believed that nothing was impossible for him.

Sophie slung her arms around his neck and kissed him on the lips.

“Okay, got it. I can handle this. Don't be such a worrywart.” With that, she turned around and entered the elevator.

Tristan stood by the elevator, feeling a little dejected for he had wanted to tag along.

What a shame she wouldn't let him do that.

Emerald Gang.

Sunny felt daunted as he stared at the ferocious-looking men before him.

He had never faced these kinds of people before. That was why he was overwhelmed with fear.

But I can't back down no matter what since Mark is here. I will stick with him till the end.

“Mark, haven't I told you? You're not fit to be in a gang. We're gathered here today because we've decided to eradicate Emerald Gang,” one of the men spat.

“Really? Well, we'll see about that! Do you seriously think you're invincible?”

Mark's temper flared.

He couldn't stand to have his authority challenged even though he hated being the heir to Emerald Gang.

He was going to fight back no matter what.

“Hehe. Brat, you're not going to give up till the very last second, huh? Well then, I'll show you what my gang is made of.”

“Get them! Emerald Gang will not exist anymore after today!”

Sunny was rendered speechless.

How could he be so rash and arrogant?

“Sunny, you guys should leave first. This has nothing to do with you. You don't have to get involved in this mess!” Sunny and his men had never gotten involved with the underworld before.

“Mark, how could we leave you alone in times like these?” They were a loyal bunch.

“I'm ordering you to leave now. You address me as your leader, but you're going to ignore what I ask of you now?”

Mark was genuinely worried for their safety.

These men wouldn't give a da*n about who you are during the fight, and people get injured or killed in fights.

What am I going to do if they get hurt?

“Mark, we've been following your orders all along. But if we were to leave now, we're not worthy of being called your friends.”

“That's right. We are part of The Wheelers no matter what. We won't leave you during troubled times.”

“We want to stick together no matter what. The worst that can happen is death. It's no big deal.”

Mark was at a loss for words.

He had nothing more to say to his friends.

They were always like that.

“I know you guys are loyal. But this isn't something that can be settled easily with loyalty. You guys should leave.”

“Leave? No one is leaving today,” Harold yelled.

“Harold, don't push your luck. They have nothing to do with this.”

“Mark, why are you so naïve? Do you think I'll let them leave when they're your friends?”

Harold chuckled wickedly.

Mark clenched his fists tight. Da*n it. I shouldn't have brought them here.

None of these would have happened if he hadn't brought them along.

"Okay, let's cut to the chase. Will you hand Emerald Gang over to me?" Harold had lost his patience.

"No way!"

Mark had a pistol in his hand. He would never give in that easily now that he was the leader of Emerald Gang.

The gang belonged to his father.

Right then, he was filled with rage

"Guess we're doing this the hard way then. Guys, don't be shy. Attack!"

"Protect these four!" Mark said to one of his subordinates.

Just then, Sophie appeared at the door. Mark almost popped a vein when he saw her. He turned to Sunny.

"Sunny, did you call her? Why did you call her over during times like these?"

Mark didn't want to put Sophie in danger. After all, she was a girl.

"Mark, I called her over because I thought she could handle this. You should know she's not the girl she once was anymore."

In fact, Sophie knew a lot of big-shots.

Any one of them could take care of the problem easily.

He couldn't see why he shouldn't call her over when that was the case.

Moreover, Mark had mentioned that Sophie would forever be a part of the Wheelers no matter what.

“Yo, what a lovely young lady. Mark, she's not your girlfriend, is she? Well, you can have Emerald Gang if you hand me the girl. We can let you off if you do so.” Harold had never seen such a pretty young lady before.

She looks even prettier than the women I saw on television.

“Harold, don't you dare lay a finger on her.” Mark was enraged.

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He didn't care who it was but he just would not stand anyone who tried to degrade Sophie.

“Boss, look at him. He's getting all mad,” one of Harold's lackeys teased.

Harold let out a derisive snort.

“Missy, it's not going to do you any good being together with him. Why don't you stick to me instead? I'll be sure to treat you well,” Harold said.

“What crazy nonsense are you spewing right now?” Sunny berated.

He regretted calling Sophie over.

It was only a matter of getting into a fight if it only involved men.

However, things were more complicated with Sophie being there.

She was a girl, and a pretty girl at that.

Thus, it was dangerous for her to come to a place like this.

Sophie smiled and shrugged as if she didn't care.

"It seems like you're quite spirited today. I guess you're not going back if I don't play with you for a bit, huh?" Sophie retorted.

"Ah, you have such a pleasing voice as well. You're exactly my type, girl. Well, you're right. I'm going to have fun with you today."

"Oh, really? What do you have in mind?"

Sophie gauged him with a fearless look on her face.

Who the hell do you think you are? You're gonna play with me huh?

"How else can a woman and a man play? Get in bed and I'll teach you a thing or two," Harold said with a lecherous smile.

The members of The Wheelers found his lewd smile off-putting.

They could put up with a myriad of things, but they could never tolerate any men looking at Sophie like that.

"It seems we're going to spill some blood today," Sunny declared.

However, before he did anything, Sophie had already sent Harold flying with a kick.

“You should be honored.” Sophie would not let anyone bully The Wheelers, not especially when she was around.

Harold was infamous for being a huge bully.

Therefore, he did not expect to be sent flying by a girl's kick.

“Boss, are you all right?”

Harold's lackeys immediately helped him to his feet.

He was so furious that his veins popped.

The girl may seem harmless and weak, but the kick in his stomach really hurt.

It was so painful that Harold could not even stand straight.

Tension hung in the air after Harold was kicked. Both parties even had their guns out.

“Sophie. Come over here.” Is Mark worried that this Harold guy is going to take advantage of me? Meanwhile, Mark pointed his gun at Harold and gestured for Sophie to make her way over.

“Don't get all worked up. They have only a few people here. Are you worried that we can't deal with these small fries?” Sophie said bluntly.

She had faced far more formidable opponents.

They were just a few hooligans, nothing to be afraid of.

“You—”

If Harold had not taken Sophie seriously before, he was starting to see her as a threat following the kick in his stomach.

“Why? Are you thinking of having a match with me? If you don't fancy the idea, get the hell out of here,” Sophie warned.

“Boss, she's too much! I'm going to teach her a lesson right now!”

Harold's lackey could no longer put up with Sophie's attitude.

How could she bully our boss like this? We're going to lose our ground if word of this gets out on the streets.

When his lackey was about to fire, Mark grew even more anxious.

“Sophie, please. Come over here right now,” he pleaded.

It was a real gun, and a shot could really kill.

“Sophie, don't get all worked up because of them. Hurry up and come over here,” Sunny added. He was getting worried as well. These hooligans were not afraid of dying. Why is she giving a crap about them?

“I told you guys not to worry.” Sophie knew that the guys were worried about her. However, those hooligans were nothing to be afraid of.

“D*mn it! Boss, she's really too arrogant! How are we going to show our face in the future if we don't put her in her place?”

The lackey lunged right at Sophie after that.

He was not going to let this golden opportunity to showcase himself slip by.

As long as he avenged Harold, the latter would surely back him up in the future.

However, before he could even lay a finger on Sophie, she had already sent him flying with another kick. The kick was more powerful than the one she gave Harold.

The lackey couldn't even get up from the ground.

He widened his eyes in disbelief at the woman before him.

“Boss, it hurts so much!”

Harold didn't even dare to make a sound.

“Do you want to see who has better marksmanship now? We can begin now if that's what you want,” Sophie said as she snatched over a gun.

Her movement was so swift that they didn't even realize what happened when the gun was already in her hands.

Then, she fired a shot at the most vocal lackey.

She shot precisely where it would hurt the most. He wouldn't die, but he would live to suffer every

moment of the excruciating pain.

The lackey convulsed in pain on the ground.

Everyone was rendered speechless at the shocking turn of events.

Is this really the Sophie we know?

Even the hooligans who were used to such violent exchanges were baffled.

She was truly a ruthless woman with few words.

They all thought she embodied the spirit of Emerald Gang perfectly.

Sophie eyed the others and asked, "Who wants to get a taste of this too?"

She was not a violent person, but she would not stand for anyone bullying her friends.

"I'm going to give you guys one minute to get the hell out of my face. Otherwise, don't blame me for not showing mercy."

Then, she took out her phone and started a countdown timer.

The other lackeys dared not tempt their fate and scurried off, leaving their injured friends behind.

Their turf was important, but nothing was more important than their lives. What good was the turf if they'd all lost their lives?

"Boss, are you abandoning me?"

“Boss, I'm still here!”

The other two lackeys who were injured lay on the ground, immobilized from the pain. They still couldn't get themselves up and had to crawl their way out of there.

“Bring your trash with you. We're not going to clean up after you,” Sophie said. She didn't know the lengths she would have to go to get rid of those hooligans.

Harold sent four men to carry the two injured lackeys back.

With that, the problem was solved.

The four members of The Wheelers were dumbfounded at how things turned out in the end.

They really did not expect that the matter would be resolved so easily.

Sunny didn't even know why he called Sophie. Moreover, he didn't expect her to solve the problem all on her own.

Sophie approached Mark and said, “Mark, didn't I tell you that you're really not suited to be in a gang? One needs to be vicious and ruthless to lead a gang, and you're not carved out to be one of those. Not now, not ever.”

Mark was at a loss for words.

Of course, he knew that he was not suited to lead a gang.

However, there was no one else.

Emerald Gang was his father's legacy.

If he left it all behind, how would he protect the Wheeler family? Mark knew he had to hang in there to protect everyone, even if he was not suited for the role.

“Mark, I think that Sophie's right. You're really not suited to be in a gang.”

Chapter 500

Even members of Emerald Gang agreed with Sophie.

It was true that Emerald Gang was established by Quinton. However, as his son simply wasn't suited to lead the gang, the members did not want Mark to lead them.

That was because their futures would not be guaranteed with a gang leader who was not capable.

Human beings were all afraid to die, and they were no exception.

“All right. You guys should leave first. You shouldn't be here. Don't let the paparazzi take photos of you being here with Emerald Gang.”

They still had a long journey ahead of them, and Mark did not want them to give up on music because of him.

“Mark, we really care about you. Since you are not suited to lead a gang, you shouldn't force it. You're not indispensable in a huge organization like Emerald Gang, right?”

It just did not make sense for him to continue doing that.

“You guys are not me, so don't make decisions on my behalf. All right. I don't want to talk about it anymore. You guys should really leave now.”

Mark had already made his decision.

If that was the case, they should not try to change his mind.

“Mark, are you chasing us away now?” Sunny looked at Mark in disbelief.

Aren't we best buddies? We can't even speak our minds now?

Although Mark felt bad seeing Sunny like that, he kept a poker face and remained cold.

“Sophie, please take them away. You guys shouldn't be here,” Mark said firmly.

Everything that needed to be said had already been said.

Sophie glanced at Mark and asked directly, “Are you sure about this? Are you cutting all ties with us now?”

Mark was struggling internally.

However, he had to set clear boundaries for their sake.

“That's right. I'm cutting ties with all of you now. From today onward, let's go our separate ways and not cross paths ever again.”

“Mark, how can you do that? Didn't you say we have to stay together? Even if you are facing difficulties, we can deal with them together.”

How could he say such things easily!

“Mark, don't act rashly. No matter what it is, let's face it together.” It was too dangerous for him to be here alone.

After all, something similar was likely to happen again next time.

“That's enough. Please leave now. Otherwise, don't blame me for not showing any mercy.” Mark pointed a gun at them.

Sophie and Sunny were speechless when they saw that.

“Mark!”

Sunny was just not able to comprehend what was going on. Even if they were not seeing eye to eye, Mark should not be behaving in that manner.

He's making me so sad.

“Sophie, let's go.” Sunny was really hurt. He had never expected things to turn out that way.

Sophie nodded before saying to Mark, “Mark, don't think too much. We will leave now.”

She knew that Mark did not feel good either.

However, Sophie did not approve of Mark's behavior.

After all, they were such good friends, and they were only speaking the truth.

There was no need for him to act that way.

With that, Sophie and the other members of the band left.

As Mark looked at their departing figures, he felt an excruciating pain in his heart. How did things turn out this way?

He was already regretting it.

Nevertheless, there was no point regretting it since there was nothing he could do about the situation.

“Mark, actually, they are right. Emerald Gang is not for you. It would be too dangerous for the gang if you continue staying here.”

“That's right. We have to consider this again.” Mark was indeed not suitable to be there.

“Everyone, please don't worry! I will work hard to ensure the success of Emerald Gang.”

No one was born ready for anything.

As long as it was something Mark set his mind on, he would definitely do it well.

“Mark, some things are inborn. You're just not cut out for this. On the other hand, I think the girl who was here just now would be a suitable person for the job.”

That powerful presence was exactly what they needed.

“Don't get any ideas about her. She has got nothing to do with Emerald Gang.”

In fact, that was Mark's greatest worry.

No matter how capable Sophie was, she was still an ordinary girl. She should not be dragged into things like that.

“Mark, she's really a good candidate for this.”

“I've already told you not to get any ideas about her.”

So what if she's suitable? She belongs to the stage, but hasn't she also left the stage?

Mark loved Sophie so much and only hoped that she would be able to live the life she wanted.

He did not want anyone to interfere with her life.

No matter what he said, the others were already certain that Sophie was the best person to lead Emerald Gang. As such, it was their wish for the girl to manage the gang.

Even though they had stopped bringing up the matter in front of Mark, they went to look for Quinton and told him everything that happened that day.

“Boss, no matter what, we watched Mark grow up and know his character well. He's really not the right person to lead Emerald Gang.”

In fact, they were aware all along that Mark was not suited for Emerald Gang.

However, no one said anything out of respect for Quinton.

But after what happened that day, they had no choice but to speak about it. After all, it was a problem that had to be solved.

Quinton looked at his men who had been with him for over twenty years.

Indeed, they still ended up speaking their thoughts.

“What does that mean? I was the one who established Emerald Gang. I've built it up single-handedly, and it's my decision to let Mark take over the organization. Are you guys doubting my decision now?” Quinton spoke in such a low and commanding voice that no one dared to speak any further.

However, for the sake of Emerald Gang's future, they could not back down at such a crucial moment.

“Boss, we have listened to you all the time, but as this concerns our future, we have to take it seriously.”

Quinton was at a loss for words.

In fact, he knew that Mark was not a suitable candidate.

However, other than him, there was no one else.

“Boss, we think Sophie is not bad. She's the girl who came here to challenge us last time.”

“You're willing to let a girl be your leader?”

In fact, Quinton knew that Sophie was a perfect candidate for the role and hoped that she could join them.

“Yup. We only care about abilities. It does not matter if our leader is a man or a woman.” After all, men and women are equal in the modern day.”

Quinton did not reply.

“Boss, I think you should give it some serious consideration.”

Quinton remained silent for a moment before saying, “All right. I got it. You guys can leave first.”

After they left, Quinton rang Mark at once and told him to come over. When Mark received his father's call, he arrived soon after.

Quinton let out a sigh when he saw Mark.

“Are things not possible between you and Sophie?” It would be much easier if Sophie became his daughter-in-law.