

## Chapter 442 Cooperation

In a hospital ward

"I'm so dizzy," Emily groaned and cracked open one eye to peek around.

Noticing the room was void of other people, she swiftly sat up and flexed her wrist, pleasantly surprised to find it was no longer painful.

'That conniving witch!' she muttered angrily, grabbing her bag and storming out.

Emily's plan had been to teach Melissa a harsh lesson, but she ended up being outsmarted by her. If not for her own quick thinking, she would've found herself at the police station.

Arielle was still missing, and she'd been humiliated with a slap; the frustration was overwhelming.

Navigating the bustling hospital corridors, Emily remembered the director's words and did her best to avoid drawing attention to herself.

As she finally exited the hospital, she noticed a suspicious minibus parked on the roadside, its door ajar. A man inside stared at her intently.

Was he sent by Melissa, seeking revenge?

Chills ran down Emily's spine, prompting her to quickly walk in the opposite direction.

She wished she could sprout wings and take flight.

After a few steps, she spotted a diamond-encrusted bracelet thrown at her feet.

It unmistakably belonged to Arielle.

"Who's there?" Emily hastily grabbed the bracelet, her brow furrowing as she scanned her surroundings. "Who threw this? Reveal yourself!"

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"Who's there?" Emily hastily grabbed the bracelet, her brow furrowing as she scanned her surroundings. "Who threw this? Reveal yourself!"

Emily called out once more and caught sight of the man who'd been staring at her earlier. He was holding a phone adorned with a case that Arielle had shown off just days before.

"It's him!"

Suspicion grew within Emily as she remembered the disturbing lack of news about Arielle.

With her mind made up, she planned to confront the man about this matter.

However, as she approached, the man gestured to the west and quickly retreated into the minibus.

Determined, Emily flagged down a passing taxi, climbed in, and pointed at the minibus ahead.

"Follow that car!"

Clearly aware he was being pursued, the minibus driver maintained a leisurely pace. He didn't stop until he reached a desolate road on the Western Outskirts.

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Emily exited the taxi and instructed the driver to wait.

She believed that the man in the minibus was not some good guy, so she had to prepare a contingency plan.

With caution, she approached the minibus and rapped on the window.

"Why do you have my daughter's bracelet and phone? What have you done with her?"

"Mrs. Sherman, she gave them to us of her own accord." The door swung open, revealing several imposing men seated inside. The one with a tattoo on his arm brandished a phone and said, "Listen to her."

Emily took the phone, her voice trembling with anxiety.

"Arielle?"

"It's me, Mom."

Hearing her daughter's voice on the other end of the line, Emily's heart swelled with relief, but as her eyes flicked back to the group of men in the minibus, her expression quickly turned to one of concern.

Emily turned away from them, her voice hushed.

"What's going on with these people? Have you been kidnapped? I can-"

"Wait, Mom. Don't say anything. Just listen to me." Arielle, hidden in a secluded corner, clutched the landline phone and continued, "Melissa exposed what I've done. Now Everett wants to send me away, so I escaped on my own. Don't ask me where I am. You just need to cooperate with these men and find out where Melissa's two children live. They'll take care of the rest. When everything's settled, they'll help me escape. I'll contact you when I'm safe. Don't look for me."

With that, Arielle hung up.

"Arielle? Arielle!"

Emily called her daughter's name several times, but there was no response.

After a moment of contemplation, she returned the phone to the man.

"Who are you?"

"It doesn't matter who we are," replied the tattooed man, his tanned skin and the vicious scar on his face adding to his intimidating demeanor. "What matters is whether you cooperate with us or not."

Above all, Emily wanted to save Arielle. Thus, she nodded in agreement.

