

Talented Heiress: A Rose With Thorns

"Y-You..." Victoria's face paled as Nancy unleashed a torrent of insults. Soon, her eyes turned red, adopting a pitiful expression as if she had been wronged.

"Yvie, your friend misunderstood me! I never meant to ruin your relationship with Wilson. I just see Wilson as an older brother."

Nancy looked at Victoria with disgust, pointing a finger at her nose.. "What are you pretending for? Don't think we don't know what's your true intentions. Yvie doesn't care to argue with you, but I won't let you off so easily! If Yvie is unhappy, I'll make sure you never have a moment of peace!"

Victoria's expression darkened further. Why was everyone siding with that vixen, Yvette?

She could only endure, maintaining her delicate and pitiful demeanor. With a quivering voice, she said, "Yvie, you've really misunderstood me. I was just worried about Wilson and wanted to check on him. I never meant to come between you two. I swear, nothing happened between us!"

Although Victoria tried to clear the misunderstanding, her repeated emphasis only made it easier for others to misinterpret her intentions.

Fueled by anger, Nancy deliberately raised her voice. "Yvie, please don't get upset. Otherwise, you'll fall right into the trap of this shameless bitch! I believe Wilson's taste isn't that poor. He wouldn't be interested in someone like her."

Yvette could see the affection in Wilson's eyes when he looked at her. Before meeting her, he had never shown interest in women at all. Thus, Yvette didn't believe Wilson would be swayed by Victoria.

Yvette remained calm and unfazed by Victoria's antics. "Nancy, don't worry. I understand." She trusted Wilson completely.

Relieved, Nancy wrapped her arm around Yvette's. "Let's go. Just looking at her pathetic act makes me want to throw up!"

As they turned to leave, Victoria bit her lip in frustration and called after them. "Yvie, I don't understand why you're misunderstanding me. I never wanted to compete with you for Wilson. I just felt sorry for him because he looked so sad."

Listening to her feigned innocence made Nancy lose her patience. She pushed Victoria away. "Get lost! You're so annoying."

"Ouch. That hurts!"

Victoria let out a pained cry as she was pushed to the ground. Her face contorted in anguish, tears welling in her eyes as she sobbed like a heartbroken child.

"Yvie, it's fine if you don't believe me, but why did you have to push me?" Chapter 701

Nancy rolled her eyes at Victoria's dramatic display. She hadn't even used much force. There was no way Victoria could have fallen so hard. It was clear she was just trying to play the victim. What a shameless woman!

Victoria's eyes darted around, and a malicious glint flickered in them as she continued to plead, "Yvie, if you can't accept me, I'll tell Wilson to send me abroad. I just want you and Wilson to stop fighting because of me!"

She thought that by saying this, Yvette would naturally feel jealous and suspicious. She planned to drive a bigger wedge between Yvette and Wilson

However, Victoria didn't expect Yvette not to get angry at all. Instead, she smirked and replied, "Did you really think I would argue with him because of you?" Her tone was casual but

condescending.

Victoria's expression shifted instantly, her resentment deepening as her sharp nails dug into her palms.

Did Yvette really have so much trust in Wilson? Victoria had tried so hard to create discord between them, yet her efforts seemed futile.

"Don't play these petty games with me," Yvie said coldly, her words piercing Victoria's heart and igniting a fierce hatred within her.

A Rose 702

"Ms. Olson." Lionel returned to find Victoria in distress after stepping away for a while. Anger flared within him as he rushed over to help her up.

"Are you all right, Ms. Olson?"

"I... I'm fine," she replied, leaning against him with a trembling façade. Her fragile appearance only made her seem more vulnerable.

Lionel shot a fierce glare at Yvette and Nancy. "Did you push her?"

"Yeah, I did. So what?" Nancy retorted, lifting her chin defiantly. "I'm honest about my actions, unlike some who pretend to trip just for sympathy!"

"I didn't fall to get sympathy." Victoria's eyes brimmed with tears as she spoke, her sorrow palpable.

Nancy scoffed. "Still playing the victim? It's honestly pathetic!"

"I'm not." Victoria cried harder, and Lionel's heart ached for her. He turned his darkening gaze toward Nancy.

"Anyone who bullies Ms. Olson needs to face the consequences!"

With that, Lionel charged at Nancy, his fist poised to strike. It was a dangerous move that could

cause serious damage, even death.

But Yvette was quicker. She stepped in front of him, blocking the blow. "How dare you lay a hand on my friend?"

Yvette's eyes glimmered with coldness, creating an unsettling atmosphere that made people

uneasy.

"Who gave you the nerve?" With that, Yvette delivered a swift kick that sent Lionel flying, crashing to the ground like a broken kite.

"Argh." Lionel coughed up blood and looked at Yvette in disbelief. He was one of the top fighters in the security training camp, yet she had effortlessly knocked him back and left him injured. Her skills were clearly superior."

Refusing to give up, Lionel pushed himself off the ground, ready to charge again.

"Lionel, don't! Please don't fight Yvie!" Victoria pleaded, grabbing his sleeve with urgency.

She had already lost the protection of the Quinn family. If Lionel hurt Yvette, Wilson would never forgive her.

Victoria had hoped to use Lionel to eliminate Yvette, but that needed to happen in secret, not Chapter 702

through a direct confrontation.

"They bullied you, Ms. Olson! I can't stand by and let this happen."

Yvette's kick nearly shattered Lionel's ribs, but he fought through the pain, glaring at her with resentment.

11

"I'm fine. Just don't hurt Yvie," Victoria insisted, shaking her head vigorously.

"They didn't mean to push me. I don't blame them.

No matter what, she couldn't let Lionel hurt Yvette. If that happened, Wilson would definitely come after her in retaliation.

Lionel looked at Victoria intently. "You're too kind. That's why people keep taking advantage of you."

Spin to Claim Your Surprise Reward!

704

A Rose 704

Yvette nodded in satisfaction before lowering her head to think.

After the competition, she planned to return to the headquarters of the Dark Organization to seek Theodore's forgiveness. The losses this time were significant, and she hoped he wouldn't be too

angry.

Originally, she intended to introduce Wilson to Theodore after the medical congress, but now his impression would likely be less than favorable. Just the thought of it made her head throb.

Just then, Madison's excited voice interrupted her thoughts. "Yvie, someone's looking for you. And he's a total heartthrob!"

The girls in the classroom began to swoon, their eyes glued to Xavier standing at the door. They started whispering among themselves.

"Oh my gosh, Yvie knows so many handsome guys. I can't even imagine how happy she must be every day!"

"I want that kind of happiness too!"

Yvette preferred not to draw attention to herself, so she stood up and walked out of the classroom toward Xavier.

"What are you doing here?" she asked.

Xavier smiled warmly and replied, "You left your phone in the car. I thought I'd bring it to you

since class just ended."

"Thanks."

Xavier chuckled and said affectionately, "There's no need for that."

He continued, "By the way, I need to talk to you about DY Organization."

Yvette's expression turned solemn. "What is it?"

"This is not a good place to discuss this. Let's grab a bite first."

With students bustling around the Jubilife University campus, it wasn't the best environment for serious conversation. Yvette nodded in agreement and followed Xavier to his car.

Meanwhile, a black Maybach was parked nearby, the people inside watching intently.

Why was Yvette getting into Xavier's car again? Samuel felt a chill run down his spine, unwilling

to turn around and see Wilson's reaction. Wilson had rushed out of the hospital-against advice- only to find Yvette with Xavier.

Wilson's fists clenched at his sides, his piercing gaze darkening with fury.

"Follow them."

"Yes, Mr. Quinn!"

Without hesitation, Samuel started the car, trailing them quietly.

Xavier parked at the most exclusive restaurant in Jubilife and led Yvette into a reserved private

room.

"I've ordered a few dishes for you, I wasn't sure if your tastes had changed but I stuck with what you used to like," he said.

"They haven't changed." Yvette shook her head, though a fleeting image came to mind. Her preferences were still the same, but a certain man had developed a newfound love for spicy food, just like her. "Good to hear," Xavier replied with a charming smile.

Yvette wasn't in the mood for pleasantries, so she cut to the chase. "What do you know about DY Organization?"

Xavier's smile faded, replaced by a more somber expression. "I just got word that DY Organization has been conducting experiments on human subjects. They're even using infants as test subjects."

Talented Heiress: A Rose With Thorns

"According to investigations, DY Organization prefers using infants and children as experimental subjects. The recent wave of infant disappearances across the country may be connected to them,

but their operations are incredibly covert.

"After each experiment, they erase all traces. Without solid evidence, no one can take action against them."

Every word Xavier spoke made Yvette's expression grow graver. Her eyes darkened with a cold, chilling intensity.

"They're absolutely insane!" Using humans for experiments violated international law, but to target infants and children? That was completely inhumane.

So many children had been separated from their families and subjected to unspeakable suffering because of them.

Yvette could feel that pain deeply because she had experienced the torment of being separated from her family. Luckily, she had met Kayla, but not all the children were as fortunate as she was. Many were taken as experimental subjects, enduring unimaginable physical pain and, in some cases, losing their lives due to these cruel experiments.

"Yvie, we haven't found out why they targeted you.

Yvette lightly tapped her slender fingers against the edge of the table. Her delicate face showed no emotion but it sent a shiver of fear through anyone who saw it.

"It's time we paid them a visit."

In just a few days, she would be heading to Yenosha, and she could find some time to meet with the people from DY Organization.

Xavier understood her intentions almost immediately. His brows knitted together, a look of disapproval crossing his features.

"Yvie, Yenasha is Shadow Alliance's territory. While DY Organization isn't exactly favored or prioritized by them, if you make a move against them there, the Shadow Alliance will see it as a provocation. They won't just stand by and watch. It's too dangerous."

What's more, the Dark Organization had been enemies with the Shadow Alliance for years. If they discovered Yvette's identity, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Yvette raised a brow, and her lips curved into a faint sneer. "Who cares if they see it as a provocation? Xav, when have I ever been afraid of the useless fools in the Shadow Alliance?"

Her tone was casual, but it carried an unmistakable intensity,

Xavier sighed and flashed a smile that was both helpless and affectionate, Perhaps only Yvette would dare speak so boldly about the Shadow Alliance.

"Fine. Since you've made up your mind, I won't say anything more. I'll go with you."

"No need." Yvette rejected him without hesitation.

Hearing her unflinching refusal, Xavier's gaze darkened slightly. "Yvie-"

Xavier wanted to keep arguing, hoping to change her mind. However, before he could finish,

Yvette cut him off.

"Xav, there's no need for further discussion. I've already made up my mind."

Xavier understood that it was impossible to change her mind once she had made her decision. He didn't

say anything more, but a single thought grew stronger in his mind. He had to ensure Yvette's safety.

"I'm going to the restroom," she said, rising from her seat. As she walked gracefully toward the bathroom, her keen senses picked up a hint of danger as she passed the staircase.

A shadow suddenly loomed behind Yvette, and her striking fox-like eyes narrowed, instinctively preparing for a confrontation. But as the familiar, crisp scent of cedar filled the air, her body froze.

Suddenly, she was yanked backward into a corner by a pair of strong hands, the unmistakable smell of alcohol wafting around her.

"You-" Yvette furrowed her brow, about to voice her protest when the man tilted her chin up.

His heated lips descended upon hers like a storm forceful and demanding, leaving no room for

refusal.

The kiss was more aggressive than any she had experienced before. It was as if he intended to meld their very beings together.

It wasn't until Yvette struggled for breath that he reluctantly pulled away. "I disagree with canceling the engagement party," he said.

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Wilson's captivating eyes glowed a deep crimson. It was fierce and unsettling, sending a shiver down Yvette's spine. Yet, the hint of vulnerability at the corners of his eyes made him almost pitiable.

"I absolutely refuse," he said firmly.

Yvette felt her resolve waver slightly at his words but she shook her head, standing her ground.

"I can't do that. I've made my decision."

Theodore had likely already learned about the destroyed shipment, and she needed to return to the Dark Organization as soon as possible.

"Are you really going to cancel our engagement party because of Xavier?"

Wilson's gaze darkened further, his voice turning icy as he enunciated each word with chilling intensity.

He continued, "I'll make him disappear. He won't be able to interfere with us again!"

Yvette blinked in disbelief. Her softened expression hardened once more. Infuriated, she pushed him away without hesitation. Wilson still couldn't see his faults.

"If you keep acting like this, we're done."

Wilson's eyes widened in shock, pain etching across his features as he instinctively reached for her. "Yvie, please don't-"

But she sidestepped his hand with an icy expression. "Come find me when you realize your mistake."

With that, she pressed her lips together and turned to leave.

"Yvie..."

Wilson instinctively reached out to follow her, but a sharp pain shot through his abdomen, draining the color from his face and leaving him unsteady on his feet.

"Argh."

Hearing the sound behind her, Yvette immediately halted, her expression shifting to one of

concern as she took in the sight of his pale face. "What's going on?"

Samuel rushed over to support Wilson. "Ms. Yvette, he had surgery for gastric bleeding yesterday

and then drank quite a bit of alcohol," he explained

"Is he trying to get himself killed?" Yvette snapped. She then pulled out a small porcelain vial Chapter Do

from her pocket extracted a pill, and forced it into Wilson's mouth.

Drinking after a gastric bleed? Are you sick of life

Samuel instinctively recoiled. Yvette was truly terrifying when she was upset.

After Wilson reluctantly swallowed the pill, the pain on his face eased somewhat, but he still looked incredibly weak.

Yvette pursed her lips and asked, "Why didn't you tell me about this?"

Samuel explained, "I tried to call you today hoping you could talk him out of leaving the hospital, but Mr. Phillip answered the phone."

Yvette frowned. "I left my phone in the car."

"Didn't Mr. Phillip mention this to you? He said he would pass along the message

At that, Yvette's expression turned solemn. Xavier certainly hadn't told her about this.

Chapter

707

Xavier had never kept anything from Yvette before.

She narrowed her eyes. There would be time to figure this out later. Right now, getting Wilson to the hospital was the priority.

"Take him to the hospital. My medication can help with the pain, but he needs proper care."

Samuel nodded and heeded her advice. "Understood, Ms. Yvette."

Just then, Yvette received a call from Jacob. His voice was laced with panic, a stark contrast to his usual calm demeanor.

"Yvie, have you seen Nancy this afternoon? I can't get in touch with her."

Yvette's heart sank. "I haven't seen her since earlier today. I'll reach out to her right away. Don't worry."

"Please let me know as soon as you have news."

After hanging up, Yvette quickly dialed Nancy's number, but it went straight to voicemail.

A knot tightened in her stomach, and a wave of dread washed over her. Nancy never ignored her calls.

Suddenly, an anonymous text message popped up on Yvette's phone. Attached was a photo of Nancy tied up in a dimly lit basement, bruises marring her face and body, a gag stuffed in her mouth that made her look both pained and helpless.

"You must come alone if you want her alive. Otherwise, I'll kill her. You have half an hour to get here. If I don't see you by then, it'll be the end for her. If you bring anyone else, I'll make sure she dies right away." As Yvette read the chilling messages, fury washed over her. Her eyes glinted with a deadly intensity, Nancy had no enemies in Jubilife, so the kidnapper was clearly targeting Yvette, using Nancy as a pawn. "Don't hurt her. I'll come as you ask," Yvette replied to the message.

Silence followed. Her heart sank further, the coldness in her demeanor deepening. She couldn't let anything happen to Nancy.

"Is something wrong, Ms. Yvette?" Samuel asked.

A chill ran down his spine at the sight of her frightening expression. It was the first time he had seen her like this.

"Get him to the hospital I have something urgent to take care of," she ordered before striding

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toward the parking lot.

Without hesitation, she jumped into her car and slammed down on the accelerator, the engine roaring as she sped away.

Yvette had to reach the designated location within half an hour. Otherwise, Nancy's life would be in grave danger.

Chapter 708 1/2

A splash of ice-cold water shocked Nancy back to consciousness, the freezing sting biting into her wounds and amplifying the pain. A scream escaped her lips as she couldn't endure the pain.

The cry was cut short as rough hands clamped around her throat, choking her.

The man's cold and venomous voice rang in her ear, dripping with malice.

"What's wrong? Can't handle a little pain? Did you ever stop to think how much Ms. Olson suffered when you hurt her?"

Nancy's vision blurred as she struggled, her face turning ghostly pale from the crushing grip. Yet, even amid her torment, Lionel's twisted smile only grew darker, his hands tightening with sadistic pleasure.

"You insulted Ms. Olson and made her suffer. This is your punishment! Ms. Olson is kind and beautiful-she's the only one worthy of Mr. Quinn. And Yvette? What is she compared to Ms. Olson? How dare she try to compete with her?"

Nancy's breath came in desperate gasps as the hands tightened around her neck, but she still managed to glare defiantly at Lionel.

"You're out of your mind! That conniving bitch, Victoria, is nothing compared to Yvie. Luckily, Wilson never had eyes on that bitch to begin with.

"I won't allow you to insult Ms. Olson!"

Lionel's expression darkened, his eyes fixed on Nancy with an intensity that could tear through her. "Anyone who harms Ms. Olson will pay the price. Today, both you and Yvette shall die!" Although Lionel hated to admit it, Yvette's abilities far exceeded his, and he knew he didn't stand a chance against her. In his desperation, he went with a different tactic. He abducted Nancy to threaten Yvette.

Lionel's plan worked perfectly. Now that he managed to capture Nancy, all he had to do was wait for Yvette to fall into his trap.

Lionel smirked after checking his watch. Next, he raised his hand and struck Nancy unconscious.

It was almost time for Yvette to arrive, and his plan was set to unfold. Once Yvette was dealt with, no one would compete with Victoria for Wilson's attention.

The mere thought of Victoria filled Lionel with a mix of longing and obsession.

As long as Victoria could finally be happy with Wilson, Lionel would do anything for her—even give his life. Chapter 708

From her hidden vantage point, Victoria watched it all unfold on the monitors. A satisfied smile played on her lips as she awaited Yvette's arrival.

With just a few tears shed in front of Lionel, she manipulated him into betraying Wilson and orchestrated everything.

Lionel was proving to be a remarkably useful pawn. Once Yvette was gone, she would complete

the task assigned by the organization, and no one would stand in the way of her and Wilson.

The innocent façade Victoria usually wore vanished, leaving only a cold, calculating determination.

Wilson was hers alone!

Half an hour later, Yvette's car pulled up at the destination. She drove fast enough to make it there in record time.

As soon as she stepped out, she spotted Nancy bound to another vehicle. Her head was lowered, seemingly unconscious. It was impossible to see her face.

Yvette's face flickered with concern, and she rushed forward to free Nancy from her restraints. As her fingers brushed against the ropes, a hidden trap sprang to life, releasing a cloud of toxic gas into the air. "Ha! You fell right into my trap, Yvette."

Lionel laughed triumphantly behind her, narrating "This poison has no antidote. Once inhaled, it will leave you powerless and in agony until the end You're doomed. No one can save you now!"

Act Fast: Free Bonus Time is Running Out!

A Rose 709

Meanwhile, at the hospital, Samuel heaved a sigh of relief when he saw Wilson wake up.

"Mr. Quinn, you're finally awake."

Wilson furrowed his brow, the pain in his abdomen subsiding, but his complexion remained pale. As soon as he opened his eyes, he began searching for Yvette.

"Yvie... Yvie..."

Samuel quickly replied, "Ms. Yvette had some other matters to attend to, so she asked me to bring you to the hospital. But don't worry, she really cares about you. When you were in pain, she was so anxious that she turned pale. That shows just how much she worries about you!"

Hearing this, the man's icy facade began to crack. A faint smile appeared on his lips, and his deep voice softened with warmth.

"If my fiancée isn't worried about me, who else would she be worried about?"

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Samuel was rendered speechless. He didn't realize Wilson could be satisfied with a minimal display of affection.

However, Wilson's expression quickly shifted back to seriousness, his gaze darkening.

Yvette was the most compassionate person he knew. She would never leave him when he was in pain. Something must have gone horribly wrong.

A wave of unease washed over him, and his handsome features tightened.

"Find out where she is. Now!" 0000 1:10:000 □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Seeing the urgency in Wilson's demeanor, Samuel felt a mix of confusion and concern but still nodded quickly. "Of course, Ms. Quinn."

"Ha! Look at you now, Yvette!"

As Yvette sat helplessly on the ground, poisoned and unable to move, Lionel reveled in his triumph, a wild grin plastered across his face.

"You never saw this coming, did you? The 'Nancy in the car was a decoy! I used her to trick you!"

He lifted the head of the fake Nancy, revealing a stranger's face. Yvette's complexion paled and she glared at Lionel with hatred.

"You coward."

"How could I ever catch you if I didn't use these tactics?" Lionel sneered, his eyes glinting with Chapter 709

malice. "Today will be the day you die."

He had deliberately chosen an isolated remote location, with a sheer cliff looming at the end. It was the perfect spot for a cover-up.

Once he disposed of Yvette's body over the edge, no one would ever find her.

As the poison coursed through her veins, Yvette's face twisted in pain as she slumped to the ground.

Lionel approached with a sinister smile, dagger in hand, closing in on her.

"No one can take what belongs to Ms. Olson."

With that, he lunged forward, aiming for her heart. A triumphant grin spread across his face at his impending glory. Suddenly, his expression froze as he felt a sharp kick land squarely in his chest.

The sickening sound of cracking bones echoed through the air. Lionel was sent flying back, crashing to the ground and spitting blood. He couldn't even stand up straight.

"Did you think you're the only one who can play dirty?"

A Rose 710

Yvette stood up leisurely, brushing off the dust on her clothes. She looked energetic and showed no signs of poisoning at all.

She had purposely let herself be exposed to the toxic smoke. Without doing that, Lionel would never have let his guard down.

Lionel struggled to his feet and glared at her with hatred.

"You clearly inhaled the poison. By now, you should be weak and suffering. How are you perfectly fine?"

"Did you think your little tricks can harm me? I've mastered the art of poisons!"

Yvette smirked as she calmly pulled out a token from inside her pocket. "If your poison had

worked on me, how would I maintain my reputation?"

When Lionel saw the token in her hand, his face went pale, his eyes wide with disbelief.

That token belonged to the Miracle Healer, a legendary figure capable of bringing the dead back to life.

Yvette was the Miracle Healer? She was far more formidable than he had ever imagined.

"Where is Nancy?" Yvette didn't bother with any more idle conversation. She wrapped her fingers around Lionel's throat. What looked like a gentle hold was anything but. He couldn't seem to break free.

Soon, Lionel was gasping for air, his breath cut short. Even so, he snarled, "You can kill me, but I won't say a word! If I can't take you down, I'll drag Nancy to hell with me!"

Instead of getting angry, Yvette chuckled. Her gaze was icy and calm as she said, "Don't be so quick to make promises."

She casually pulled out her phone and dialed Jacob's number for a video call. The call connected instantly.

"Yvie, I've done as you asked. The target's been captured."

"Good," Yvette replied with a satisfied smile. She'd already messaged Jacob before arriving, instructing him to capture Victoria. Lionel might not value his life, but he'd certainly care about hers.

The camera panned to show Victoria. Her eyes were red, tears streaking her pale face as she trembled in fear. She looked utterly pitiful.

"Who are you people? Why are you here? What do you want from me?" she whimpered, her voice Chapter 710

shaking.

As soon as Lionel saw Victoria on the screen, his face twisted in fury. His bloodshot eyes locked onto Yvette's, filled with murderous rage. It was as if he could tear her apart right then and there. "You venomous witch! How could you harm Ms. Olson? Let her go, now!" Lionel bellowed.

Yvette replied calmly, "You know my skills well. I'm not just a healer, I'm also a master of poisons. If you don't tell me where Nancy is, your precious Victoria will suffer, tormented by hundreds of the deadliest toxins."

Lionel's composure cracked. His eyes reddened with panic, veins pulsing in his temples. "Don't hurt her! I'll tell you! Nancy is locked in the basement beneath the cabin-by the cliff! I've already

poisoned her. If she's not rescued soon, she'll die!"

"You're truly disgusting." Yvette's expression turned solemn. Without a second thought, she wrenched his right arm, the sickening snap of bone echoing through the air.

Nancy wasn't like her. Yvette had been trained for years, soaking in medicinal baths to become immune to poisons.

Nancy wouldn't last much longer. Yvette had to get to her immediately.

Ignoring Lionel's groans, Yvette sprinted toward the cabin, her heart pounding with urgency.

Every second lost could be fatal for Nancy.

Lionel whimpered, clutching his mangled arm. The pain was unbearable, threatening to pull him

into unconsciousness. But his hatred was stronger

Eyes blazing with malice, he crawled into his car and slammed his foot on the gas.

Yvette wouldn't make it out alive today. He would make sure of it.

Talented Heiress: A Rose With Thorns

Clape 711 Chapter

711

As Wilson sped toward the scene, his heart clenched vilely as he stood perilously close to the cliff's edge, and Lionel's car barreled straight at her one hit, and she'd be sent tumbling into the abyss death a certainty "Yvie!" Wilson's voice rang with desperation. Panic surged through him, and without a second thought, he charged toward her. The only thing on his mind was that he couldn't let anything happen to her. She was his everything

"Mr. Quinn!"

Lionel's eyes widened in horror from behind the wheel as he saw Wilson push Yvette away. He slammed on the brakes, but it was too late. The tires screeched as the car skidded uncontrollably, heading straight for Wilson

"Wilson Quinn!" Yvette's voice cracked with fear, and she hit the ground hard, she lifted her head just in time to see the car slam into Wilson, The impact was brutal, sending him hurtling over the cliff's edge. Ellen and Xavier arrived shortly after Wilson. They witnessed the tragedy unfold before their eyes. They stood frozen, disbelief etched into their faces.

For the first time in her life, Yvette felt a pain so profound it seemed to tear her soul apart-far worse than any injury she had ever sustained in the line of duty, She felt a suffocating weight in her chest. Without thinking, Yvette scrambled to her feet and bolted toward the cliff

"Yvie!"

Xavier's face turned ashen with fear as he lunged to stop her, grabbing her just in time and holding her tightly, "Calm down! If you jump, you'll die too!"

Yvette wrenched herself free with a force that startled him. Her usually calm, captivating eyes were now bloodshot and filled with grief.

"Let me go."

Xavier froze, staring into Yvette's fear-filled eyes. He had never seen her cry before,

Through all the brutal missions, the close calls with death, and the injuries that left her barely hanging on, Yvette had never once shed a tear. But now, for Wilson, she was falling apart.

As she spiraled into grief, Xavier forced himself to speak. "Yvie, jumping won't bring him back. You'll only be throwing your life away. Is that what Wilson would want? He pushed you out of the way to keep you safe,"

His words hit her like a slap of cold water, but the raging emotions inside her wouldn't let her calm down. Her entire body shook, trembling with pain, rage, and helplessness.

Seeing her so distraught, Xavier's expression softened. His voice gentled, "Yvie, I'll send a team down to search the bottom of the cliff. We'll find him. He'll be okay."

They both knew it was an empty comfort. The cliff was too high; anyone who fell from that height wouldn't survive. Finding Wilson alive was a near impossibility.

Ellen watched Yvette with deep concern. She gently pulled Yvette into her arms and said gently, "Yvie, Xavier is right. We'll find Wilson, so don't do anything reckless."

Yvette loved Wilson deeply, and the thought of something happening to him was unbearable. She couldn't imagine how she would survive if he didn't make it.

"I know. Don't stop me. I'm just going to take a look."

Yvette pushed past them, her tear-filled eyes fixed on the spot where Wilson had fallen. Her steps were slow, and heavy, as if each one carried the weight of the world. She finally understood what it meant to feel a heartbreak so deep that nothing could compare.

She shouldn't have been so careless. If only she had taken out Lionel first, none of this would have happened. Wilson wouldn't have fallen over the cliff to save her.

Not far away, Samuel clenched his fists in grief and slammed them into the ground.

Suddenly, a loud crackle erupted in the air. A burst of fireworks exploded overhead.

Samuel looked up in disbelief. Then realization dawned, and his face lit up with joy. "That's the Quinn family's emergency signal. Mr. Quinn is alive!"

At the sound of his words, Yvette turned around and looked at Samuel. "What did you just say?" she demanded, eyes wide with desperate hope.

"Ms. Yvette, Mr. Quinn is alive!" Samuel repeated, a smile spreading across his face. He quickly moved toward where the signal had gone off, scanning the area for clues.

"Though I don't know what happened to Mr. Quinn after he fell, judging by the flare's location, he must have been trapped on the ledge halfway down the cliff, We just need to lower a rope, and he'll be able to climb back up.'

"What are you waiting for? Get the rescue gear ready!" Yvette ordered. No one wasted a second, working swiftly to prepare for the rescue.

Time seemed to stretch into eternity. And then, finally, a pair of hands appeared on the edge of the cliff. The man that Yvette had been waiting for emerged.

Wilson was bruised and bloodied, his clothes torn, and his once-perfect face marred by cuts. His skin was pale, and it was clear he was badly injured.

"Wilson!"

Yvette couldn't hold back her emotions any longer. She rushed forward, throwing herself into his arms. "Baby, don't cry," Wilson murmured, lifting a hand to gently wipe her tears.

He kept his voice low and soft, hoping to soothe her. "It hurts my heart to see you like this."

Yvette cling to him, feeling the overwhelming relief of having him back. Her tears fell freely as she held him tightly. "You fool! Next time, don't you dare put yourself in harm's way for me!"

She would rather have taken the fall herself than see him risk everything to protect her.

Watching the scene, Ellen grew uncharacteristically solemn. The gravity of Wilson's sacrifice for Yvette had struck her hard.

"Xavier, regardless of what you choose to do from now on, I won't help you keep secrets from Yvette anymore.

A man willing to sacrifice himself for Yvette was undoubtedly deeply in love with her. Ellen finally accepted Wilson as someone who deserved her love,

Xavier's face reflected his bitterness, his hands clenching at his sides. It wasn't just Wilson who could risk his life for Yvette he would have done the same. But he'd arrivast one moment ion late.

Chapter

712

"Don't cry, baby." Wilson sighed softly as he gently cupped Yvette's face. His voice was laced with tenderness and concern.

"Seeing you cry like this is breaking my heart," he said.

Even if faced with the same choice, Wilson would still shield her without a second thought. But he swore never to let it come to that again.

He smiled and added, "My face got scratched up. Think you'll stop liking me now?"

Just as he expected, Yvette's eyes lit up, and she gave him a stern look. "Even if your face was ruined, I'd still love you," she said seriously.

Besides, the cuts on his face weren't deep. With her special medicine, no scars would remain.

Wilson's smile broadened at that, all his earlier tension melting away. He wrapped her tightly in his arms, holding her close, but not without casting a triumphant look toward Xavier to show off his victory.

Xavier's expression darkened instantly. His fists clenched tighter, veins bulging beneath his skin as he fought to control the storm of emotions inside him.

Sensing the awkward tension, Ellen stepped in quickly. "Yvie, we've rescued Nancy from the basement, but she's in bad shape. The poison is lethal. We need your help."

Ellen had sent someone to carry Nancy out of the basement. She was found with darkened lips and signs of severe poisoning.

Yvette wasted no time, pulling out her silver needles with a steady hand. Her focus was absolute as she began the detoxification process, her movements so swift they were almost a blur.

Within moments, Nancy's eyes fluttered open, and she violently coughed, expelling a mouthful of blackened blood.

Yvette gently patted Nancy's back before taking out a small pill from a porcelain vial. She then slipped it into Nancy's mouth.

Slowly, the bluish tint on Nancy's lips faded, replaced by a healthy shade of rose, though she still looked somewhat pale and drained.

Nancy's eyes flickered with sudden alarm. She clung to Yvette's arm, her voice shaking. "Yvie, be careful of Lionel. He tried to use me as bait to get to you. He nearly strangled me. It was terrifying."

Yvette's expression softened. She brushed her hand over Nancy's hair and said soothingly, "It's over, Nancy. You're safe now. I won't let anyone hurt you."

"As long as you're here, I'm not afraid..." Nancy's voice trailed off, and she slumped back into unconsciousness.

"Why'd she pass out again?" Ellen asked, worry creasing her face.

"It's okay. She's just exhausted and shaken. Her body needs rest," Yvette replied, feeling Nancy's pulse with practiced ease.

Yet, when Yvette's gaze fell on the dark bruises around Nancy's neck, her expression hardened, the icy determination unmistakable.

Lionel deserved to die. She wouldn't let him escape this time.

Earlier, Lionel had fled from the scene after knocking Wilson off the cliff.

Seeing Yvette's uptight demeanor, Wilson covered his hand over hers and said gently, "I've already sent people after him. He won't get far."

Just then, Jacob appeared, his usual calm replaced with deep concern. "Yvie, how's Nance?"

"Don't worry. She's stable, but we should get her to the hospital to treat her injuries," Yvette said.

Jacob immediately replied, "I'll take her now." He carefully lifted Nancy into his arms, carrying her gently to the car.

Talented Heiress: A Rose With Thorns

Chapter

713

"You need to go to the hospital too!" Yvette insisted, grabbing Wilson's arm and tugging him toward the

car.

She'd learned that he'd been drinking heavily, causing an internal stomach bleed. Her frustration was mingled with concern.

"No more drinking from now on!" she declared.

Far from being irritated, Wilson's lips curved into a soft smile. "I'll follow my fiancée's orders." "Wilson!"

Jacob approached in a rush, having settled Nancy safely in the backseat of his car. He'd learned everything on the way over. His expression was complex as he looked at Wilson. Finally, he firmly clapped Wilson on the shoulder.

"I'm trusting you as Yvie's husband-to-be. She's our family's treasure, and if you ever make her unhappy, I won't let you off easily."

Wilson's expression turned solemn. "I swear, Jacob. I'll dedicate my life to protecting Yvie. She'll never know pain or heartbreak because of me. If ever I fail her, I'll pay for it with my life."

Jacob's expression softened, and he nodded approvingly before stepping into the car to take Nancy to the hospital. 1

Yvette reached out, slipping her hand into Wilson's. His gaze softened, locking onto hers with warmth and devotion. Standing together, their hands entwined, they looked like they belonged in a painting—two souls bound in quiet harmony.

Watching them, Xavier pressed a hand to his chest, feeling his heart shatter piece by piece. The ache was visceral, a jagged pain that left him breathless.

Ellen couldn't help but say, "Xavier, stop looking. Just let it go."

He swallowed hard, fighting to contain the hurt. His hands clenched tighter as his gaze darkened.

Xavier was only a moment too late. The regret burned inside him. [2

At Yellowwood Manor, Victoria received news of Lionel's failed mission.

"Damn it!" she cursed, her face twisted with fury.

In a fit of rage, she swiped everything off the table, sending things crashing to the floor.

Her plan had been flawless. She'd manipulated that foolish Lionel into kidnapping Nancy to lure Yvette

out. The plan was to kill Yvette and dispose of her body over the cliff, erasing all traces.

Unfortunately, Yvette had outsmarted Victoria. Before Yvette arrived at the location, she arranged for Jacob and his team to barge into Yellowwood Manor and use Victoria as leverage against Lionel.

With the mission failed, Yvette and Wilson were bound to retaliate fiercely.

Just as anxiety twisted tighter in her chest, a noise from the window startled her. "Ms. Olson."

Lionel crawled in, battered and bruised. He'd been dodging pursuers all night, hiding in the sewers to stay out of sight. Now he was filthy and exhausted, reeking of the grime he'd accrued.

Yet, his focus was entirely on Victoria, worry overriding his pain altogether. "Ms. Olson, they didn't hurt you, did they?"

The stench hit her immediately, and she wrinkled her nose in disgust. But on the outside, she kept up her usual innocent, fragile demeanor.

"I'm fine. They only forced their way in to use me as bait," she gritted out.

Relief washed over Lionel's face as he exhaled. "Thank goodness you're safe."

Talented Heiress: A Rose With Thorns

Victoria did not feel an ounce of gratitude upon hearing Lionel's words. Instead, a cold distaste curled tighter within her.

Lionel was absolutely useless. He had outlived his usefulness, and any further association with him would only risk dragging her down with him. Victoria couldn't afford any loose ends, especially with Wilson now on the hunt.

Victoria quickly composed her thoughts, her face assuming a look of genuine concern. "Lionel, you must escape. Get as far away as you can. If they catch you, Wilson won't spare you."

Her false worry tugged at his heartstrings, and Lionel's face softened. "Ms. Olson, there's no escaping this. No one can evade Mr. Quinn on his turf. I only risked everything to see you one last time. Knowing you're safe is all I needed."

Lionel was prepared to turn himself in, accepting whatever fate Wilson had in store for him. To see Victoria one last time made the sacrifice worth it. Victoria's mind whirled with racing thoughts. If Lionel willingly surrendered himself and shouldered all the blame, it would leave her unaffected.

Victoria heaved a sigh of relief but continued to feign heartbreak. Her tears glistened as she put on a mournful expression.

"Lionel, I'll beg Wilson to spare you. I can't bear to lose you..."

"Ms. Olson..." Lionel's gaze grew even more infatuated, his heart swelling at her apparent distress. Victoria was such a perfect woman. Lionel was willing to take full responsibility for his actions. It didn't matter if Wilson wanted to kill him. He only regretted he could never stay by Victoria's side again. "Ms. Murray, Mr. Quinn suffered severe internal bleeding and only just came out of surgery. With these new injuries, he must stay hospitalized for a full recovery. There's absolutely no way he can be discharged so soon again," the doctor insisted.

Yvette pursed her lips and nodded. "I understand."

The doctor began to add another cautionary note, only to be interrupted by Samuel. "Don't worry. No one can keep Mr. Quinn in line better than Ms. Yvette. This time, he wouldn't dare argue his way out." Turning to Yvette, Samuel added, "Ms. Yvette, Mr. Quinn is waiting for you inside."

"Okay." Yvette nodded and stepped toward the room, her long strides graceful but purposeful. As she entered and saw Wilson lying on the bed, she found his face pale and gaunt. A surge of worry washed over her.

Seeing this, Wilson reached out, his hand closing around hers. His gaze remained fixed on Yvette as he said, "Baby, let's never fight again. Okay?" 1 She ran her fingers along his face. "Alright, I promise. But you have to promise not to destroy any more of the Dark Organization's property."

Act Fast: Free Bonus Time is Running Out!

X

Talented Heiress: A Rose With Thorns

As soon as the matter came up, Wilson's grip on Yvette's hand tightened. His voice, deep and magnetic, was laced with a hint of guilt and vulnerability. "Baby, I didn't destroy that shipment. I only hid it away." Wilson had been provoked by Xavier and wanted to prove his own importance in Yvette's heart. Thus, he had ordered the destruction of the Dark Organization's shipment. However, he was also afraid Yvette would get angry since he secretly held onto the goods.

When she called him out on it, Wilson had wanted to tell her the truth. But she had been too angry and had threatened to cancel their engagement party. That left him so furious that he couldn't get a word in edgewise.

Yvette couldn't believe her ears. Her beautiful eyes widened in astonishment. So, he hadn't destroyed the Dark Organization's shipment after all. All their heated arguments had been for nothing.

"I'll have the shipment returned immediately." Wilson's voice, rich and seductive, lingered in her ear. Each word dripped with persuasion, effectively coaxing her.

"Baby, please don't cancel our engagement party, okay?"

Yvette didn't hesitate, nodding her head in agreement. "Okay, I won't cancel it."

Since the shipment hadn't been destroyed, she wouldn't have to go back to the Dark Organization's headquarters to meet Theodore. This meant she didn't have to call off the engagement party either. As soon as Yvette agreed, his attractive and sensual lips curved into a smile. His eyes sparkled with joy. She looked at him seriously. "Now, can you tell me why you seized the Dark Organization's shipment in the first place?"

Wilson fell silent for a moment before responding, "It's all because of Xavier."

"I've already told you that Xavier and I are just friends, nothing else. Why won't you take my word for it?" Yvette explained to him earnestly, though she looked puzzled. "I have complete faith in you. Why can't you do the same for me?"

"Baby, it's not that I don't trust you." His mesmerizing almond eyes held hers captive.

"It's just that I don't know everything you've been through with him. You grew up together, and you've been through thick and thin. He knows you better than I do, and he understands you better. When I think about that, I can't help but feel uneasy. I'm afraid of losing you..."

Yvette's heart melted at the sight of Wilson's vulnerability. Her delicate fingers traced his jawline as she pressed a kiss to the corner of his mouth. "If you want to know about my past,

just ask me. Don't worry, I'll never leave you."

As soon as she made that promise, his heart was filled with warmth. He wrapped his arms around her, his embrace as consuming as wildfire

"Now, I'll tell you about my past," Yvette said, her voice calm and gentle as she wrapped her arms around him.

"As far back as I can remember, my grandma was the only person who was good to me. The Murphy family were terrible, always hitting or yelling at me. They even tried to abandon me, but Grandma always looked out for me.

"When I was seven years old, I met Mr. Maximillian by chance, and he took me under his wing. He treated me like his own child and taught me many things. That's when I met Xavier and

Ellie.

"We trained and completed missions together. We were like a family! But when I returned from a mission one day, I received news that my grandma had passed away. I went back to the village to attend her funeral. That's when my real parents found me and sent their butler to bring me to Jublife.

Wilson's heart went out to her as she shared her story. She had endured so much hardship and suffering at such a young age.

Why hadn't he met her sooner? He could have protected her and spared her from all that pain.

Yvette squeezed his hand and smiled tenderly. "One of these days, I'll take you to meet Mr. Maximillian." 1

A Rose 716

Yvette had promised Theodore that her identity would be kept secret. She couldn't reveal it to anyone outside of the organization. Only those approved by Theodore were exceptions.

"Well, would I be seeking his approval to marry you?" Wilson's warm breath caressed Yvette's delicate earlobe. His large hand had already wrapped around her slender waist, gently stroking her. A sensual tension filled the air.

She nodded, her ears turning bright red. A tingling sensation spread wherever he touched her.

As Wilson gazed at her blushing face, he couldn't help but chuckle, and his emotions got the better of him. Just as he leaned in to kiss her, a loud, boisterous male voice echoed from outside the room.

"Wilson! I'm here to visit you! The second I got the news, I ditched a bunch of girls and came running. Now that's what I call friendship, right?"

Collin burst in like a tempest, shattering the intimate atmosphere in one fell swoop.

Yvette's ears grew even redder as she quickly pushed Wilson away.

Wilson's dark, piercing eyes narrowed in annoyance, fixing Collin with a menacing stare.

Collin felt a chill run down his spine as he froze in the doorway. It seemed he had come at the worst possible moment.

"Okay, okay. I'll leave you two alone! Wilson, Yvette, keep at it!" Collin flashed them a flattering smile before turning to leave.

"Stop right there."

Collin immediately halted and walked back into the room, looking every bit the obedient lackey. Wilson spoke in a low tone. "How's the task I assigned to you going?"

"Wilson, you can trust me on this. I've sealed the news up tight. Mrs. Quinn Senior won't hear a peep about this incident."

Neither Wilson nor Yvette wanted their families to know about the recent occurrence as it would only worry them needlessly.

Collin's serious expression lasted only three seconds. His gaze then shifted to Yvette and Wilson's intertwined hands. Then, he let out a sigh of relief and chuckled. "Yvette, you two have finally made up! I'm so glad I no longer have to see his cold face!"

He was fed up with Wilson's vicious, and hostile behavior over the past few days.

Just then, a voice called, "Mr. Quinn." Samuel knocked on the door respectfully before Chapter 716

entering the room to report.

"Mr. Quinn, Lionel has come forward to confess.

Wilson didn't show any surprise. It was only a matter of time before Lionel would get caught, regardless of whether he chose to turn himself in

As he recalled Lionel's recent actions, Wilson's handsome face grew icy. In a low, menacing tone, he said, "Bring him in."

"Yes, Mr. Quinn!" Samuel replied respectfully before leaving the room.

Soon, Lionel was brought in, a sorry sight with his body covered in injuries. Yet, he managed to stand with his back ramrod straight.

Talented Heiress: A Rose With Thorns

When Lionel saw Wilson, he abruptly dropped to his knees. The sound echoed throughout the room. His voice trembled as he expressed his deep regret and remorse. "Mr. Quinn, I am deeply sorry for my crime! I'm so glad that you're safe and sound..."

He had intended to kill Yvette, that damned woman. Wilson, on the other hand, was his savior. Wilson had taken Lionel in as an orphan and put him in a guard training camp. If it weren't for him, Lionel would have died on the streets.

Although he had betrayed Wilson for Victoria, he had never intended to harm him. All Lionel wanted was for Yvette to be dead..

The coldness in Wilson's eyes was almost tangible as he glared daggers at Lionel. Yet, the instant he shifted his gaze to Yvette, a warmth seemed to radiate from him. His deep, velvety voice was dripping with indulgence as he said to her, "Baby, you decide what to do with him. I'm all ears."

Yvette nodded, looking pleased. She wanted to handle this herself -if only to vent her anger.

Lionel knelt rigidly, his eyes filled with venomous hatred as he glared at her. He knew he was doomed. His only regret was that he hadn't been able to kill her for Victoria before his

downfall.

Yvette's icy gaze fell on him, and she spoke in a slow, measured tone. "Did Victoria order you to kill me?" "How dare you! You can't slander Ms. Olson like that!" Lionel's face turned red with anger. She is the kindest person I know. She would never ask me to do something like that! She had no idea about this whole thing! I did it all on my own-out of hatred for you! This has nothing

to do with Ms. Olson!"

As Yvette watched his agitated expression, the truth dawned on her. Her eyes grew even colder.

Lionel's anxiety grew, and he hastily spoke up once more. "I'm the only one responsible for this. Ms. Olson had no part in it. Come after me if you want revenge.

Her beautiful eyes, now filled with murderous rage, sent shivers down everyone's spine as she thought of his past deeds.

Killing him would be too easy. She wanted to make him suffer. Since he loved Victoria so much, she would expose the true, monstrous nature of the woman he loved. She intended to have him experience the despair of heartbreak.

"Take him to the dungeon first."

Though puzzled by Yvette's command, Samuel complied respectfully. "Yes, Ms. Yvette!"

As Lionel was taken away, Collin couldn't help but protest. "Yvette, why are you letting him

off so easily? He almost killed Wilson-"

"Shut up!" His words were cut off by Wilson's stern voice. "Yvie knows what she's doing, so. mind your own business.

Chastened by Wilson's rebuke, Collin rubbed his nose and fell silent, clicking his tongue in irritation. Did Wilson need to be so protective of her?

The sight of him defending her filled Yvette with a comforting warmth. "You guys carry on. I've got something to take care of. I'll come back to keep you company later."

Wilson refused to let Yvette go. His mesmerizing almond eyes were locked on her as he spoke with a hint of coquettishness. "Baby, if you leave I'll be all alone..."

Yvette let out a sigh. "Collin is still here, isn't he

Collin was initially shocked by the almost flirtatious way Wilson was speaking to Yvette. However, he quickly caught on and began to nod along in agreement.

"Exactly, Wilson! There's a living, breathing person standing right in front of you. Can't you see me?" Wilson narrowed his eyes, then gave Collin a cold, menacing stare.

Collin immediately cowered and hastily turned to Yvette. "Yvette, I'm not even a person! No need to treat

me like one. You should stay here with Wilson. He can't bear to be without you!"

Talented Heiress: A Rose With Thorns

"Baby..." Wilson's voice was a low, seductive purr He drew out his words, sending shivers down one's spine.

Yvette was helpless against his charms and could only say, "Let me just check on Nancy. I'll come back to keep you company soon."

"Okay." He finally released his grip on her hand, watching as she walked away.

"Come on, Wilson. Stop staring. Yvette is already gone! And besides, she'll be back soon. Do you really need to act like a lovesick teenager?" Collin teased as he chuckled.

Wilson's eyes narrowed, and he gave Collin a condescending look before snorting in amusement. "You're not married, so you wouldn't understand."

Collin was lost for words. He thought to himself, "Give us a break from all the lovey-dovey smothering!" Collin felt a thousand pangs of hurt, and his face twisted in distaste. "I'm much happier being single! Wilson, I'd never want to be stuck under my wife's thumb like you. Even if I get married, I'll still wear the pants in the relationship."

Wilson didn't bother responding. Collin could talk tough all he wanted, but when he met the right person, he'd surely be eating his words.

As if remembering something, Colin said, "Wilson, I'm glad you're okay."

Collin still felt a shiver run down his spine when he thought about what had happened earlier. If Wilson hadn't grabbed onto those vines on the cliff, he would have fallen to his death for

sure.

"Weren't you scared, Wilson?"

Wilson's face was calm and resolute as he replied, "I'm more afraid of losing Yvie than of dying."

If it happened again, Wilson would do the same thing in a heartbeat to protect Yvette, even at the cost of his own life..

As soon as Yvette walked out of the ward, she was met with the sight of Xavier. It was clear he had been waiting for her for a long time.

"Yvie..."

He immediately approached her, holding out a tube of ointment. "Yvie, I noticed that your hand was injured earlier.

He worried she might be so focused on Wilson that she'd neglect her own injury. Thus, he waited for her with the ointment in hand.

"No need, my hand has already been bandaged," vette declined while shaking her head.

a doctor to treat her. When she arrived at the hospital, Wilson had already called fo

As she thought back to the incident, a wave of warmth washed over her. She hadn't even noticed her own injury, but Wilson had.

Xavier's eyes clouded over slightly as he silently put the ointment away. He hadn't expected Wilson to be so attentive to her needs, even when he was injured himself.

Yvette broke the silence. "By the way, Xavier, I have something to tell you. The shipment from the Dark Organization wasn't destroyed. It will be returned tomorrow."

Xavier tightened his grip on the ointment tube, struggling to control his emotions. He fought to maintain a neutral expression. Wilson hadn't destroyed the shipment, after all.

"Got it! I'll arrange for the shipment's return to the Dark Organization as soon as possible."

"Good!" Her expression turned serious. "Xavier, I left my phone in your car this afternoon. I heard that Samuel called me. Why didn't you tell me about it?"

Talented Heiress: A Rose With Thorns

Had Yvette known about Wilson's internal bleeding, she would have immediately stopped him from leaving the hospital. No matter how much he insisted on a discharge, she wouldn't have let him.

Xavier knew this moment would come. He couldn't hide the truth from Yvette forever. So, he had already prepared a flawless explanation that wouldn't raise any suspicions.

"I received intel from DY Organization and was in a hurry to report to you, so I forgot about the phone for a moment," he said.

Seeing her expression soften, his eyes flickered, and he apologized. "Sorry, Yvie."

Yvette was a person who appeared cold, but she had a soft spot when it came to her family and friends. By apologizing first, he knew that she wouldn't pursue the matter further.

Xavier indeed understood her well. After hearing his explanation, she didn't think much of it and didn't press the issue further.

"It's okay, it's not your fault. I was the one who left my phone in your car in the first place. Anyway, I need to go see Nancy now. Let's catch up some other time."

As Yvette walked away, Xavier clenched the ointment tube in his hand. His dark, narrow eyes held a deep, unsettling gloom.

He had always been the one by her side, and he would continue to be so in the future. There was no way he would give Yvette up without a fight.

As Yvette reached Nancy's ward, she saw Jacob soothing Nancy in a gentle embrace.

"Nance, it's my fault. I should have done more to protect you..."

Nancy's heart softened as she witnessed the remorse and self-loathing etched across Jacob's face. She reached out and hugged him back.

"Jacob, please don't beat yourself up about this. It was my own carelessness that led to Lionel abducting me. You were the first to realize I was gone and immediately reached out to Yvie. I owe you big time for that."

Jacob leaned down and kissed her forehead. "Nance, I insist that you have a bodyguard with you whenever you go out from now on. I can't bear the thought of going through something like this again." She shuddered at the memory of what had happened and quickly nodded obediently. "Okay, Jacob. I'll do as you say."

Watching the heartwarming scene in the hospital room, Yvette didn't want to intrude. She was about to slip away quietly, but Nancy had already noticed her.

**vvie!"

Yvette had no choice but to stride in, her long legs carrying her forward. Nancy immediately pulled her into a warm hug, leaving Jacob feeling rather left out.

He had to compete with his younger brothers and Wilson for Yvette's attention-and now with his own girlfriend as well! He wasn't sure how to feel about his sister being so popular.

"Yvie, this is all my fault. I dragged you into this. I'm so relieved you're alright, or I would never be able to forgive myself.",

Seeing Nancy's eyes well up with guilt, she gave her cheek a pinch. "Don't you dare say that! It's my fault you were dragged into this. Lionel was out to get me, not you. I'm the one who put you in danger!" "No way!" Nancy immediately protested. "Yvie, I won't let you say that!"

With a gentle tap to her nose; Yvette said, "And you have to promise not to blame yourself anymore." Nancy instinctively nuzzled against her hand, nodding sweetly as she clung to Yvette's arm. Okay, okay. Let's not say things like this again. It's all that bastard, Lionel's fault!"

Jacob watched the scene unfold with mixed feelings. He was Nancy's boyfriend, yet she had never been this affectionate and clingy with him. In this situation, Yvette seemed more like Nancy's boyfriend than he did.

Geez, how did he end up feeling like the third wheel here?

"I

720

Talented Heiress: A Rose With Thorns

The next day at Jubilife University, Charlie made an announcement to the class.

"Everyone, you'll be heading to Yenosha for the International Medical Congress in two days. The attendees are the most outstanding medical talents from all over the world. The competition will be fierce, but I believe that our students from Jubilife University will succeed!

"Let's go out there and show the world what we're capable of! I'm confident you'll make our country proud.

Charlie's motivating speech ignited an even greater fervor among the students. However, Yvette remained indifferent, only frowning ever so slightly.

If she told a certain womanizer that she'd be leaving for Yenosha in two days and would be staying there for a while, he'd likely make a fuss.

"Yvie, what are you thinking about? You look so lost in thought." Madison and her friends' voices snapped Yvette out of her reverie.

"Nothing. What's up?" she replied, turning to face Madison.

"We're thinking of having a class party tonight since the semester is almost over. Would you like to come, Yvie?" Madison asked.

Without a second thought, Yvette refused. "Sorry, I have a prior commitment at home." She had promised a certain womanizer that she would visit him after school.

Someone suddenly exclaimed, "Oh my! It's all too lovey-dovey. I'm going to die of sweetness overload!" "Who would've thought? Mr. Quinn gives off such cold, distant vibes, but in reality, he's quite the cuddle bug. The contrast is adorable. I can't get enough of them!" another classmate

chimed in.

As she listened to their banter, a subtle smile played on Yvette's full, crimson lips. Then, in a leisurely tone, she began to speak. "I may not be able to join you tonight, but I'll cover the bill. Have fun!" The class erupted into cheers.

"Yvie, you're the best!"

"Thanks, Yvie!"

"Yvie!"

As soon as Yvette walked out of the school gate, she found Samuel waiting for her.

"Ms. Yvette!" The moment he laid eyes on Yvette he bowed respectfully to greet her. "Mr.

Quinn has asked me to pick you up and take you to the hospital."

If she hadn't prevented him from getting discharged, Wilson would have come to pick her up himself.

She gave a slight nod and slid into the car, her long, graceful legs extending before her.

"Has he been behaving himself at the hospital today?"

The way Yvette was questioning him made Samuel feel like he was being interrogated. Cold sweat beaded on his forehead as he nodded nervously, his voice uncertain.

"Yes, Ms. Yvette. Mr. Quinn was extremely compliant with the hospital's treatment today."

She seemed satisfied with this response and nodded. "Let's go to the hospital."

"Okay, Ms. Yvette!"

Half an hour later, the car stopped in front of the hospital.

As soon as Yvette approached his ward, she saw the doctor standing at the door, holding some

prescribed medication. He looked nervous, not daring to enter.

This was what Samuel meant by Wilson being compliant with his treatment? She raised an eyebrow, took the medicine from the doctor, and headed toward the room.

The doctor's eyes widened in alarm as he saw Yvette about to enter. His face drained of color as he frantically tried to block her path.

"Ms. Murray, you can't go in there... Mr. Quinn is attending to some business and hates being disturbed. Maybe we should wait until he's finished before sending in the medicine..."

"Let me through."

She couldn't be bothered to say more, her voice carrying a distant, frosty tone.

The doctor felt a chill run down his spine, intimidated by her presence. Instinctively, he moved out of the way.

Talented Heiress: A Rose With Thorns

Yvette walked into the ward, holding the medicine. She snatched the documents out of Wilson's hands, tossing them aside. "Don't look at those anymore. Take your medicine first."

The doctor at the door was so shocked by what he saw that his eyes widened in disbelief.

This was going to be a disaster! Wilson was notorious for hating interruptions while he worked. She had not only interrupted him but also tossed aside his documents. Was she trying to get herself killed?

The doctor was on edge, worried about what would happen next. But just as the doctor felt the incoming onslaught of a panic attack, he was shocked by what happened next.

Far from being angered, Wilson gently grasped her hand. His voice was so soothing and sweet to a sickening degree as he said, "I'll take my medicine right away, Yvie. Please don't be mad, okay?"

The doctor's eyes almost popped out of his head. Was Wilson actually apologizing?

The doctor stood at the door in stunned silence, wondering if he was hallucinating. He pinched himself hard to see if he was dreaming. Holy crap, this was actually happening!

The doctor recovered from his shock and muttered to himself in amazement, "Wow! Wilson Quinn is no different from the rest of us. He's afraid of his wife too!"

Yvette's porcelain features remained cool as she said, "You need to focus on your recovery right now. We'll deal with work when you're better."

She was really underestimating him. Wilson chuckled softly, his graceful hands twirling around Yvette's fingers.

"Okay. I'll listen to whatever you say, baby."

She didn't pull her hand back, watching over him as he took his medicine. "I have something else to tell you."

"Yeah?" He toyed with Yvette's fingers. His deep resonant voice was laced with a hint of languor.

"Baby, what is it?"

"I have to leave for Yenosha in two days to attend the International Medical Congress. I'll be staying there for a while."

But what she didn't mention was her true intentions for going abroad. She was secretly planning to investigate DY Organization.

The organization had tried to kill her multiple times, and she couldn't let that go unpunished. Their outrageous actions had to be brought to light.

As expected, Wilson's expression darkened at her words, and his grip on her hand tightened.

"Baby, I'll go with you,

Yvette's response was immediate and decisive. "No. You're still recovering from your injuries. You'll have to stay put in Jubilife and recover."

"Yvie..."

He tried to wheedle his way into getting her to agree, but she wasn't having any of it.

"No means no. Don't try to change my mind."

Wilson's eyes narrowed, gleaming with a calculated light. It seemed that she was resolute in her decision. Fine, he would just have to follow her secretly to Yenosha, then.

With that thought in mind, he nodded meekly, still holding her hand.

"Okay, I'll stay in Jubilife and wait for you."

Yvette gave him a cold stare. Her gorgeous fox-like eyes narrowed. With a chilly voice, she warned, "Don't even think about sneaking after me. I'll be angry if you do."

Watching from outside, Samuel was on the verge of bursting into laughter.

Yvette sure knew how to wrap Wilson around her little finger. Everyone knew that Wilson was fearless. The only thing he truly feared was Yvette's anger!

Talented Heiress: A Rose With Thorns

As soon as Yvette finished speaking, Wilson's expression stiffened. His beautiful almond-shaped eyes drooped instantly, revealing a look of disappointment.

Yvette was amused by his pitiful expression. Her delicate fingers traced his handsome features as she spoke slowly. "Don't be like that, Will. I'll give you a reward when I return."

Reward? His eyes sparkled with renewed interest. He grasped her slender waist with his large hand, staring at her intensely.

"Baby, what's the reward?"

Yvette tilted her head to the side, not answering his question. Instead, she wrapped her fair arms around his neck and whispered in his ear, "Stay put at Jubilife and behave yourself. You'll find out what the reward is when I get back!"

Feeling the warmth of her breath on his ear, Wilson's body tensed. He swallowed hard, overcome with desire.

"Baby, don't tease me..."

His deep, husky voice sent a flush to Yvette's cheeks and made her heart race. Watching the bobbing of his Adam's apple, she found it unbelievably sexy. Unable to resist, she leaned in to kiss the spot.

"Baby..."

He couldn't suppress the surging emotions anymore. With a swift movement, he gripped her waist and pulled her onto the bed. He flipped her over with ease, pressing his body against hers. His captivating eyes were blazing with desire.

He managed to ask, "Baby, you're asking for it, aren't you?"

Yvette blinked her beautiful eyes in confusion. She hadn't realized that a simple kiss on the neck would provoke such a drastic reaction.

"You're crushing me-"

But before she could finish speaking, Jacob's voice echoed from somewhere outside the room.

"Yvie, I'm here to check on Wilson. Why don't you go and keep Nance company? She's been asking for you.

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Both their hearts leaped when they heard Jacob's voice. They frantically tried to stand up, but their efforts were in vain. Jacob had already opened the door and stepped inside.

"Yvie?"

Jacob gaped at the shocking display, his voice dying in his throat. After a long moment, he snapped back to reality, his gaze fixed on Wilson with a fierce glare. His fists clenched so tightly that his knuckles turned white.

"You son of a... How could you? Yvie is a minor!"

Yvette quickly intervened as Jacob seemed to be on the verge of punching Wilson.

"Jacob, you misunderstand..."

But his anger only intensified. "This isn't your fault, Yvie. Move aside, let me... Let me kill this bastard!"

Yvette frowned, glaring at him with annoyance.

"Jacob! He's still recovering from his injuries. You're not allowed to touch him!"

Jacob's aggressive demeanor dissipated, but his gaze remained fierce as he glared at Wilson. His threat of violence had been more of a hot-headed outburst than a serious intention. But to make things worse, his precious sister was now shielding that old lecher!

Jacob was fuming, but he was terrified of upsetting his sister, so he could only blurt out, "Okay, okay, Yvie. Don't get mad! I won't touch him, I promise!"

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Yvette nodded in satisfaction. "Jacob, I'll leave him to you. I have some things to attend to."

She initially felt mortified when her brother stumbled upon such an awkward situation. Relieved after securing Jacob's promise not to harm Wilson, Yvette seized the opportunity to make a hasty retreat.

Act Fast: Free Bonus Time is Running Out!

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As soon as Yvette left, Jacob's expression turned dark and foreboding. He gave Wilson, who was lying in bed, a nasty glare.

His tone was heavy with warning as he said, "Behave yourself from now on. Yvie is still young, so you should know better than to do anything inappropriate!"

A flicker of helplessness crossed his chiseled features as Wilson clenched his teeth. Yvette had been the one to provoke him in the first place. Had she not been so flirtatious, he wouldn't have lost control like that.

Unfazed by Wilson's silence, Jacob continued, "You hear me? If I catch you again, I'll break your damn legs!"

As Jacob's temper flared, Wilson clicked his tongue. In a deep, resonant voice, he replied calmly, "Jacob, rest assured. I'm not quite a beast yet."

He would wait for Yvette to mature before he would abandon all restraint.

"Ms. Yvette, as per your instructions, Lionel has been subjected to all forms of torture. Yet, remains stubborn and insists that he acted alone. He refuses to divulge anyone else's

involvement," Samuel relayed.

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Yvette wasn't surprised by this news. After all, Lionel had proven himself capable of betraying Wilson for Victoria. He even attempted to kill Yvette for that very person. She had already expected him to do anything for Victoria, even endure unimaginable torture.

"Have you brought the person

in?"

Samuel nodded. "Yes, Ms. Yvette. Everything has been done according to your orders."

"Let's go,

then. It's time to meet her," Yvette said as she turned to leave.

Her delicate, porcelain-like face was icy and unyielding. The sight of her was enough to strike fear into anyone's heart.

It was time for Lionel to know what true agony felt like.

Yvette followed Samuel into a secret room, where Victoria was found, bound by ropes.

As soon as she entered, Victoria became agitated. 'So it was you, Yvie. You sent people to capture me. Why did you do this?"

Watching Victoria's pitiful expression, Yvette's expression remained stone-cold, her gaze unflinching.

"Cut the act. You're the one who orchestrated everything Lionel did."

Yvette's accusation only made Victoria cry harder. Her fragile, helpless appearance elicited sympathy from everyone watching.

"Yvie, I don't understand what you're talking about!" Victoria wailed.

Yvette's crimson lips curled into a cold sneer, her voice icy as she said, "You claim you're not involved in Lionel's crimes, but he and I have nothing to do to each other. Why would he want me dead?"

Victoria's eyes widened in alarm. She quickly regained her composure, but her voice still shook from the intermittent sobs.

"I honestly don't know anything! Lionel is my bodyguard, but we're not exactly friends. We hardly talk, so I have no idea what he's been doing."

Yvette laughed mockingly at Victoria's claim of having no connection with Lionel.

"Given your lack of communication, you sound like strangers. Then, why did he make it a point to visit you at Yellowwood Manor before turning himself in?"

Victoria's face changed in an instant, her eyes flashing with panic.

She pondered to herself, "How did that bitch find out? I already erased all the surveillance footage surrounding the manor."

Talented Heiress: A Rose With Thorns

"I don't know why Lionel went back to the manor," Victoria stammered before regaining her composure. "He's always been obsessed with me. Maybe that's why he returned..."

Victoria had already disabled the surveillance cameras that observed the manor. The only other active cameras were in the vicinity of the property.

She didn't know how Yvette discovered that Lionel had returned to Yellowwood Manor before surrendering himself. But she was confident Yvette wouldn't know what happened inside the

manor.

With that thought in mind, Victoria felt a wave of relief wash over her. If she could pin everything on Lionel, she'd be completely in the clear. That bitch, Yvette, had no evidence so she couldn't do anything to her!

Yvette's mesmerizing fox-like eyes held a chilling indifference as they swept over her. With a cold and measured tone, she said, "He loves you. That's why he returned to the manor-to see you one last time before turning himself in.

"He endured hours of agonizing torture for you. And now, he's on the brink of death. His life is hanging by a thread as we speak."

"What does that have to do with me?" Victoria demanded. Her voice rose in indignation. "He was just a small, insignificant bodyguard Wilson assigned to protect me. He grew delusional. I could never have feelings for someone like him. His love for me is disgusting!"

Yvette's delicate eyebrows arched lazily, her tone nonchalant. "Is that so?"

"Of course!" Victoria replied, eager to distance herself from Lionel.

"I had no idea he felt this way about me. How could I possibly find a lowly bodyguard like him attractive? I've even asked Wilson to transfer him away. His mere presence filled me with disgust. Now that I know he has these feelings for me, I feel even more disgusted!

"Thank goodness he's been caught now. I'll never have to see that disgusting thing ever again!

11

In the adjacent secret room, Lionel's limbs were bound by iron chains. A gag was stuffed into his mouth, preventing him from making a single sound.

His body was covered in wounds, and fresh blood stained his clothes. Despite the wall separating him and his beloved Victoria, he could still hear her words loud and clear.

His eyes turned a crimson hue. Every word from Victoria felt like a thousand- knives piercing his heart. The pain caused him to shudder in agony.

It was a pain more excruciating than any torture he had endured. Chapter 724

Victoria, oblivious to anything amiss, continued to speak. "And I had no idea about the things he did! I never thought he would be so cruel-that he would do such things. He deserves to die. Yvie, you can't let him get away with this!"

As Lionel listened to the woman he had risked everything to protect, he trembled uncontrollably. A torrent of dark blood spilled from his mouth.

Victoria had pleaded with him in tears to eliminate Yvette. Out of pity for her, he eventually turned on Wilson and attempted to kill Yvette.

Yvette narrowed her stunning fox-like eyes. Her lips curved into an ambiguous smile as she asked, "Do you despise Lionel that much?"

"Of course!" Victoria replied without hesitation. He tried to kill Wilson, for crying out loud! I want him to rot in jail."

"Very well," Yvette said, turning to Samuel. "Bring him over."

Standing beside her, Samuel nodded respectfully "Yes, Ms. Yvette."

Victoria was utterly confused, an ill sense of foreboding washing over her. She thought to herself, "Who are they bringing over? What is that bitch planning to do?"

Before long, Lionel was brought in and roughly forced to his knees. His gaze was riveted on Victoria, revealing a blend of sorrow, disappointment, and despair.

How on earth did Lionel end up in this position?

The color drained from Victoria's face. Had he heard everything she'd just said?

Seeing the lifeless, hopeless look on Lionel's face, Samuel leaned in closer to Yvette. He spoke softly, unable to help himself.

"Ms. Murray, this move of yours is truly ruthless.

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Lionel had endured hours of torture without showing such an expression. But after hearing Victoria's cruel words, he had fallen into great despair.

To not only kill but to utterly destroy someone's will to live-Yvette knew best how to do that.

Victoria wasn't stupid. She quickly realized that this was a trap set up by Yvette, who had deliberately baited her into speaking so Lionel could hear.

Her hands, hanging at her sides, clenched tightly and her sharp nails almost dug into her palms.

That bitch, Yvette, had ruined her so thoroughly! She had put Victoria in such an impossible situation, leaving her unable to advance or retreat. Now, she could only sever ties with Lionel -yet she couldn't allow him to become completely disheartened by revealing the truth.

In any case, she absolutely could not let the foolish Lionel expose her, or everything would be over!

Victoria suddenly raised a hand to her chest as she grimaced. Her face turned deathly pale, and a look of pain crossed her face. "It hurts..."

"Damn!" Upon seeing this, Samuel sensed something was wrong and quickly turned to Yvette,

"Ms. Yvette, Ms. Olson has an old illness. It looks like it's acting up again. She must be taken to the hospital immediately."

Victoria's face grew even paler, and she seemed on the verge of collapse, barely able to stand

"Ms. Olson..." Lionel called out anxiously. If he hadn't been bound by chains at both hands and

feet, he would have already rushed forward to protect Victoria.

Yvette's red lips tugged into a cold smile. "Quite the convenient time for a relapse."

For some reason, Victoria felt as though Yvette had seen through her act with just a glance.

But she quickly pushed that thought aside. She had taken the medicine provided by the organization, so even if a doctor were to examine her, they wouldn't find anything amiss. Yvette, that bitch, definitely wouldn't see through her act.

"Yvie, I don't know why you harbor such hostility toward me. If you really dislike me that much, I'll never appear in front of you again..." Victoria said tearfully, looking as if she was in great pain from her alleged illness.

The Quinn family valued loyalty, so while they might no longer protect her, they certainly wouldn't stand by and watch Victoria die from illness.

Bound by chains, Lionel was frantic. "Ms. Olson has always been weak, and now her old illness is flaring up. She needs immediate treatment! Ms. Murray, if you have any grievances, take

them out on me, but please send Ms. Olson to the hospital!"

"Ugh... it hurts... please... save me..."

Victoria clutched her chest, acting as if she was struggling to breathe, looking utterly pitiful.

Yvette watched her quietly, her stunning fox-like eyes filled with cold indifference. Sooner or later, she would expose Victoria's true colors.

"Send her to the hospital."

"Yes, Ms. Yvette!" Samuel immediately responded respectfully. He then instructed the hidden guards to take Victoria to the hospital.

Only after seeing Victoria taken away did Lionel finally relax, breathing a sigh of relief.
"You're willing to do so much for her, but she only ever wanted you dead. Is it worth it?"