

Unfinished 1231

Chapter 1231 Trading One Life for Two

Yet, Jewel ignored Phentom's scream completely. She grabbed her by the hair and slammed her head onto the table.

With a loud bang, Phentom's mind momentarily went blank. She swayed unsteadily, and if Jewel hadn't been holding onto her, she would have fallen.

As Jewel looked at her, she sneered. "You're quite skilled at throwing darts, aren't you?" After she said that, she swiftly raised her hand and brought the dagger down, piercing Phentom's right arm.

"Ah! Mmm..."

Jewel was swift. Not giving Phentom a chance to scream, she stuffed a small doll into her wide-open mouth and kicked her skillfully.

With that, Phentom crashed heavily onto the ground, clutching her bloodied arm. She was also glaring at Jewel with anger.

Jewel walked over and grabbed her by the collar with a cruel smile on her lips. "You didn't expect me to come back alive to seek revenge, did you? Do you know how it feels to fall out in a ring of fire? Do you know what it feels like when you can't utter a word because of a smoke-filled throat? I always thought we were pitiful people who should support each other, but it turns out that we harm each other. Did you think only you guys knew how to kill and commit murder?"

Phentom shook her head and quickly took the doll out of her mouth as she explained, "It wasn't me! It was Blood Rose's idea. She never liked you. Every time you were called by Joseph for a talk, she

suspected that you were seducing him. And several times after you came out of Joseph's room, she got punished. She thought you were secretly plotting against her. She set the fire. It had nothing to do with me." Yet, Jewel ignored Phentom's scream completely. She grabbed her by the hair and slammed her head onto the table.

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"I had no choice. We had to listen to her on that mission. You know that. She ordered me to do it, and I couldn't disobey," Phantom explained anxiously.

"Oh, you had no choice?" Jewel laughed. "So, it's only natural for me to seek revenge on you now, right?" As she spoke, she raised the dagger and stabbed Phantom's other arm.

"Mmm..."

Immediately, she used the doll to gag Phantom's mouth again while a delicious smile appeared on her lips. "Don't scream. If you alert the police, how would you explain Damien's murder?"

Phantom's forehead creased in pain. Both of her arms were numb from the agony. Although such injuries were common for her in the past, she hadn't been on a mission or suffered such wounds for several years. Today, Jewel stabbed her twice in a row, so the pain was unbearable.

Jewel looked at her but didn't give her any respite. "Where's the antidote for your debt?"

Phantom's forehead was covered in fine beads of sweat. Yet, she looked at Jewel with a smirk and struggled to raise her hand to remove the doll from her mouth. "So, it was Alex who got hit by my debt, huh? Hehe... Hehe..."

Jewel remained expressionless. "As long as you give me the antidote, I can spare your life."

Hearing that, Jewel sneered. "Don't make yourself look so innocent. You were the one who closed the door to that room!"

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Jewel remained expressionless. "As long as you give me the antidote, I can spare your life."

"Even if you kill me, you won't get the antidote from me." Phantom's eyes glinted with provocation, and her voice was filled with ruthless determination.

As Jewel squinted her eyes, a storm gathered in her gaze, but her face remained impassive, and only her voice was chillingly intimidating. "Fine then, let's drag this out. I want to see how much blood you can afford to shed."

Even with her threat, Phantom laughed maniacally. "If I die, Alex won't survive either. By that time, Double Dragon Court won't let you off the hook. I'm trading one life for two. It's worth it."

At her words, Jewel lowered her gaze and chuckled lightly, her smile filled with contempt. "Do you think your poison is unbeatable? Oh, I forgot to tell you. I've found the genius doctor, Doctor Bailey. It's only a matter of time before she finds the antidote for the poison on your dart. Since you're so eager to die, I'll grant you that wish." As she spoke, she held the dagger and gradually brought it closer to Phantom's face. "I was burned on my face by the fire, right... here."

Her dagger pressed against Phantom's left cheek. The icy touch of the metallic coldness made Phantom instinctively want to dodge. She craned her neck as far away from Jewel as possible, wishing that she could rotate it 360 degrees.

However, Jewel didn't give her that chance. Wherever she tried to hide, the dagger followed.

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Chapter 1232 Now It's Fair

"I finally regained my original face after numerous skin grafts. Do you know how painful skin grafting is?" Jewel's voice was hauntingly soft, like the call of a ghost from hell, scaring Phantom into desperately hiding. She was almost lying on the ground, her heart shrinking into a tight knot.

At this moment, she had to make a harsh threat. "If you dare to lay your hands on me, Jonethen and Joseph won't let you off."

Jewel felt as if she had heard the most hilarious joke. "There are so many car accident deaths these days. You had your face disfigured by an exploding car on your way to work. Even if they intervene, they can only bid you farewell. What else can they do?"

Hearing that, Phantom was momentarily speechless, and after a long pause, she said, "They've been searching for you for so many years. If they find out that you're alive and well, how do you think they will punish you? Have you considered that?"

With a smile, Jewel looked at her and asked, "Are you going to report me? How will you explain my sudden resurrection? Say you wanted to burn me to death, but I survived and came for revenge? Then who do you think will be punished? Jewel Fenton from the Double Dragon Court died in that fire. The one alive now is Jean Louis, someone who can take your life at any moment." "I finally regained my original face after numerous skin grafts. Do you know how painful skin grafting is?" Jewel's voice was hauntingly soft, like the call of a ghost from hell, scaring Phantom into desperately hiding. She was almost lying on the ground, her heart shrinking into a tight knot.

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Just as Jewel leaned down to grab her back, she suddenly pulled out the dagger and slashed it toward Jewel's arm.

Luckily, Jewel reacted quickly and instinctively dodged, but the blade still grazed her sleeve. She felt relieved inside, fortunate that she wore multiple layers and had been on guard against Phantom. If her skin had been grazed, she wouldn't know if she had come for revenge or to meet her demise.

With narrowed eyes, she quickly bent down to grip the wound on Phantom's arm.

In pain, Phentom dropped the dert in her hend. Phentom hed put ell her strength into that strike end now hed no more room to reteliete.

Jewel wes not one to hesitete, either. She snatched the dert up without e second thought end swiftly sleshed it ecross her fece.

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Shrouded in blood, Phantom's trembling hands cradled her face, resembling a bloody gourd. "My face... My face..." she murmured in despair.

Yet, Jewel remained indifferent. "Now it's fair. I don't believe you can watch your face slowly rot and perish."

After saying that, she noticed a roll of tape on the coffee table.

She picked it up and first tied Phantom's hands and feet, then used the tape to seal her mouth. Then, she set on the ground, locked in a stalemate with Phantom. However, her eyes kept scanning the surroundings, as she thought that maybe she could search for the antidote.

Though the chances were slim, she had rummaged through everything on Phantom's body and in her house. She had thoroughly searched any place where she thought the antidote could be hidden but hadn't found anything resembling an antidote.

Growing impatient with her search, she interrogated Phantom, "Where is the antidote?"

Phantom sneered and remained silent.

Seeing that, Jewel became infuriated and slapped her, causing fresh blood to flow from her face.

"Speak!"

Only after she finished shouting did she realize that she had taped her mouth shut. So, she reached out and ripped the tape off. "Where is the antidote?"

Phantom looked at her with a scornful smile. "Didn't you find Doctor Bailey, the genius doctor? Go and ask her for it. You want me to give you the antidote? In your dreams!"

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Chapter 1233 Torture

"Are you not afraid of having such an ugly scar on this beautiful face? How will you use your honey trap in the future?" Jewel asked.

With squinted eyes, Phentom retorted, "I don't care even if I die, so do you think I would care about having a scar?"

"Is that so?" Jewel asked with a smile, then suddenly stood up and went straight to the kitchen. She says it like she's fearless, but I don't believe she's not afraid of death.

Originally, she wanted to find some chili powder or something similar, but she realized that Phentom didn't cook at home at all, so she couldn't find anything. However, she managed to get a glass of hot water from the water dispenser.

When she walked out with the water, Phentom was frightened. It didn't take a genius to figure out that it wasn't meant for drinking.

"Jewel!" she exclaimed in panic.

Yet, Jewel shushed her. "If you don't want to alert the police, keep your voice down. Killing Damien and injuring Alex; any of those charges could land you in prison for more than a decade. It seems like you've just gotten out of Double Dragon Court, right? If the police find out that you're Phentom, the assassin, all the cases of people injured by debts over the past few years will be attributed to you. Do you think you can still be a casino boss?"

Phentom was furious, but she wasn't a match for Jewel, so she had to swallow her pride and ask,

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"Give me the antidote. Otherwise, I'll pour this glass of water on your face. It won't kill you, but it will definitely disfigure you," Jewel said coldly.

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Phantom's eyes flickered, and after a moment, she said, "It's in the small box under my bed."

Hearing that, Jewel put down the glass of water and glanced at the tightly bound Phantom before entering her bedroom. She easily found the small box under the bed, as Phantom had said. However, when she opened it, she found several small bottles inside. She had no idea which one was the antidote and which one was the poison.

With a grim face, she held the small box and walked out of the room. "Which one is the antidote?" she asked.

After Phantom stole glances at Jewel, she casually pointed at one of the bottles, saying, "This one."

"This one?" Jewel took out the green bottle.

Phantom nodded in response.

Suddenly, Jewel poured a bit of the powder in the green bottle onto her gloved hand and was about to apply it to the wound on Phantom's face.

"What are you doing?" Phantom instinctively dodged.

With an innocent smile, Jewel looked at her. "I'm helping you detoxify."

Yet, Phantom evaded her and said, "I don't need your help. Take your antidote and leave."

At this moment, Jewel sneered. "Are you stupid, or do you think I'm stupid? Do you think I'll use whatever you give me? Never mind if you don't tell me. I'll try each one of them on you. If you're not afraid of death, then keep talking nonsense."

"Give me the antidote. Otherwise, I'll pour this glass of water on your face. It won't kill you, but it will definitely disfigure you," Jewel said coldly.

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Having said that, she directly applied the powder to Phantom's injured face.

No matter how hard Phantom tried to dodge, she couldn't avoid it. Suddenly, fear overcame her. This isn't the antidote at all but another type of poison, and now this damn woman is actually applying it to my face. I've never tried combining these two poisons. I have no idea what will happen, but one thing is certain—the outcome won't be pleasant.

She could already feel the burning sensation on her injured face, and it was so painful that she could barely resist the urge to touch it with her hands. However, her hands were still bound.

On the other hand, Jewel wasn't in a hurry anymore. She sat on the floor, examining the bottles in the

box. There were no labels, which meant that only Phantom knew which one was the antidote and which one was the poison. It's fine. If she doesn't want to tell me, I can just try them on her.

"Is it this one?" she asked as she picked up the red bottle.

Phantom glanced at it from the ground. "Yes, that's the one. Take it and go."

However, Jewel snorted. "You have such low credibility. How do I know if you're telling the truth? Maybe I should try it on you first."

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Chapter 1234 Nowhere Near Being Even

As Jewel said that, she reached for the poisoned dart and swiped it across Phantom's arm.

Phantom tried to dodge, but her injured state caused her reaction to be significantly slower. A sharp pain surged through her, causing her body to break out in a cold sweat.

Despite the pain, she dared not cry out. Just as Jewel had warned, the police questioned her yesterday about Damian's murder. If she alerted the police now, she would have a difficult time explaining the multitude of darts and their corresponding antidotes in her house. It would essentially be an admission that she was responsible for Damian's death.

At this moment, all she wished for was for Jewel to quickly take the antidote and leave.

Yet, Jewel continued her experimentation, applying another powder to the fresh wound she had just inflicted on Phantom's arm and carefully observing her reaction.

Desperately, Phantom pleaded, "This is the real antidote. How can I deceive you when you're testing it on me?"

"You're cunning and ruthless. I wouldn't put anything past you. I don't trust you."

The mixture of the two poisons on the wound on Phantom's face caused an intense burning sensation, leaving her feeling agitated and distraught. She could feel her face swelling up. To make matters worse, Jewel kept on nagging, preventing her from even attempting to detoxify herself.

"How can I make you believe me?"

"Just wait a little longer. If I don't see any side effects on you, then I'll believe what you told me," Jewel calmly replied, sitting across from Phantom.

When Phantom heard that, her eyes fluttered shut, and she nearly passed out. Another moment of waiting, and my face will be beyond repair. While she wasn't particularly concerned about other injuries, as they would only require a few days of recuperation, her face would be permanently disfigured if not treated in time.

"Enough, Jewel. You've beaten and tormented me enough. We're even now, aren't we? This is the antidote. I'm not lying."

Jewel sneered. "Even? We're nowhere near being even."

Phantom's heart sank as she furrowed her brow. "What else do you want?"

Jewel's gaze turned icy cold. "I have never done anything to all of you, yet you insisted on killing us. In that case, I must retaliate in the same manner to be fair. You have never experienced being engulfed in flames, nor have you lived a life of hiding and evading. You also haven't spent eight years unable to utter a single word. How can you claim that things are even now? And to top it off, you harmed my boyfriend. How deluded are you to think that this is enough?"

As Phantom looked into Jewel's numb and icy gaze, her heart plummeted in desperation. She urgently explained, "Please listen to me, Jewel. It was Blood Rose who targeted you. I was just following orders. You know how close she is to Joseph. I couldn't disobey her, and she's the one who set the fire. If you want to seek revenge, you should find her. Look at how many times you've slashed me. A woman's appearance is her most important asset, and now you've destroyed mine. Isn't that enough?"

Jewel looked at her, visibly troubled. "But even if you recover, you will still cause trouble. Keeping you alive poses a constant threat."

"Rest assured, we're even now. I won't seek revenge against you, and I won't report this to Double Dragon Court. I'll act as if I've never seen you, okay?" Phantom hastily promised.

However, Jewel remained unmoved. Her voice dripping with coldness, she said, "Your specialty is using darts, isn't it?" With those words, she raised her hand and swiftly aimed for Phantom's wrist.

"Ahh!" Phantom screamed in terror, and her heart was pounding so hard it felt like it might leap out of her throat. However, she didn't feel the anticipated pain. Instead, she noticed that the tape around her wrist had been cut.

Relief washed over her, and she let out a long breath. Thank goodness she didn't actually harm me, otherwise my life would be over.

Yet, just as she was still rejoicing over her quick thinking, a shadow flashed by, and suddenly, her wrist throbbed with pain. Before she could comprehend what had happened, she felt warm blood begin to trickle down her wrist.

Meanwhile, Jewel stood there with a dagger in her hand, her expression devoid of any emotion. "Since you surrendered the antidote, I will spare your life. You can call for medical assistance now."

Chapter 1235 It Hurts!

With that, she kicked back to Phantom the phone she had kicked away, then said, "Don't ever think of calling the police, or you'll be sent to jail on the charges of murder. You might even get yourself killed!" With that, she picked up the box of bottles on the floor and left the room.

Phantom lay in the puddle of blood, seeing red everywhere she looked. Her head was starting to spin, but she forced herself to dial a number. Olivia was awake, and with just one movement, she felt the back of her neck aching. She even thought that she had fallen asleep in the wrong position.

Later on, she slowly regained consciousness. She remembered that she had gone to stop Jewel last night. She had already thought everything out. Even if Jewel insisted on going, she would go with the latter.

But what was going on now?

Why was she still on the bed?

Could it be...

Olivia tried to rotate her aching neck. That girl knocked her unconscious!

She was so startled that she shot up and went straight to Jewel's room. Jewel's blanket was placed neatly on the bed. She probably didn't even come back.

It was already daytime. Did something happen to her?

Olivia was a little panicked as she walked out. She forbade Jewel from going, but the latter went anyway. She grabbed her phone and was about to dial Jewel's number when she heard noises coming from the entrance.

It was very light as if the person didn't want to disturb anybody.

Her eyes shimmered a little. Did Jewel come back?

Olivia hastily walked over to see that it was, indeed, Jewel.

Jewel seemed fine. She had already changed out of the black clothing she wore last night. She didn't look like she had gone to exact revenge; instead, she looked like she had gone out to buy breakfast. She was carrying bags of food in her hands.

Olivia stepped forward and took the food from Jewel, then glared viciously at the latter before turning around and entering the dining hall.

Jewel looked at Olivia, feeling a little guilty as she pursed her lips.

After Olivia set down the food, she didn't even look at Jewel as she said, "Come with me."

Jewel chuckled, then followed Olivia into the room.

Seeing that Olivia was about to fly into a rage, she hastily tried to appease the latter. "I know, I was wrong."

Olivia was so pissed that she could only glare at Jewel. After a long while, she finally said, "My neck hurts like hell!"

Jewel chuckled. "Sorry!"

Olivia took one step forward and pulled Jewel into her embrace. She dropped the haughty act as she said in a weak voice which she never used with outsiders, "You scared me to death, you know?"

Jewel embraced Olivia tightly as well. "Don't worry, I'm fine. I got the antidote."

Olivia wasn't surprised that she did. Jewel was a simple girl. If there was something she wanted to do, she would stop at nothing to get it done!

"What about Phantom? Did you kill her?"

Jewel said, "No, I spared her life."

Olivia frowned. "You spared her life so that she could exact revenge on you?"

Jewel said, "I'm not a killer now, anyway, so I cannot take one's life just like that. However, I ruined her right hand so that she can't hurt anyone with her darts anymore."

Olivia asked, "Then won't she call the police?"

Jewel replied, "She wouldn't dare to. Damian's case isn't solved yet, so she would be a fool to expose herself by calling the police!"

Olivia thought that it made sense. "What about the surveillance?"

Jewel answered, "Don't worry, their surveillance will encounter a system error in that period."

"Did North do that?"

Jewel smiled and nodded. "Yes."

"So even he knew about your plans, but I'm the one who was left alone at home?"

Jewel smiled and cooed, "I can't let you risk your life."

Olivia snorted. "Fine, quit trying to appease me. I'll remember this. Still, seeing how you made it back alive, I won't pursue the matter."

Jewel smiled as she massaged Olivia's neck. "Does your neck still hurt?"

Olivia said pitifully, "Yes, it hurts like heck! I'm mad just thinking about it. How dare you do this to me?"

Jewel hugged her. "Why don't you hit me in return?"

Olivia glared at her. "No way. I want you to owe me forever."

Chapter 1236 How Ungrateful!

Jewel chuckled. "Okay."

Olivia asked, "How are Phantom's skills? Did she improve?"

Jewel scoffed in disdain. "Improve? I think she has gotten worse than when we were around. Maybe she stopped trying so hard after gaining her status. I finished her soon enough."

Olivia asked, "Didn't she use her darts on you?"

Jewel pouted. "Of course, she did. However, I was on constant guard against her darts. I dodged all the darts she threw at me. It was scary, but I'm fine."

Olivia smiled as she gave Jewel a thumbs-up. However, she still scanned Jewel from head to toe, making sure that the latter was truly fine before saying, "Let me have a look at the antidote."

Jewel took out a red bottle. "This is the antidote. I don't know what the others are for."

Olivia scooted closer to take a whiff, but Jewel stopped her. "Don't smell it. What if you get poisoned?"

Olivia patted Jewel comfortingly. "It's okay. Let me analyze its ingredients so that we can replicate it. It's only fair that we do unto her what she did unto us."

"Can you do it too?"

"How hard can it be? I'm not as immoral as she is, that's all."

Jewel was excited. "Then you can expand your research. Maybe make something that we can apply to our bodies to protect ourselves. The sort that won't take lives, but will impair someone's ability to fight."

Olivia thought about it and said, "All right, I'll look into that. But for now, I should save your boyfriend's life."

Jewel said, "Don't tell him that I went to Phantom's place."

Olivia teased her. "Is that how much you like him? So much so that you even want to hide this from him?"

Jewel's face reddened in embarrassment as she glared at Olivia. "It's over now, so why make him worry?"

Olivia chuckled. "All right, I'll stop teasing you. Hurry and get your boyfriend here!"

Jewel said, "Okay. I'll check if he has woken up."

With that, she went straight to Alex's room. He was still sleeping.

Jewel walked over to him as if it were the most natural thing in the world. She touched his head and mumbled, "Good, there's no fever."

It was only then that Alex slowly roused. When he saw Jewel, a smile instantly appeared on his face. "Jewel."

"How are you feeling?"

"I think I slept too much. I'm feeling dizzy and weak."

"You had a fever last night, but Olivia has already developed an antidote. She'll let you try it later."

Alex was surprised. "Really? Is Olivia that amazing?"

Jewel replied, "Yes. You should get ready now. I'll ask Olivia to come in and dress your wounds."

Alex felt a little sorry as he slowly got up. "I think I should go out instead."

Jewel said, "Don't move. You're feeling dizzy, aren't you?"

Alex didn't insist further, for it was true that he felt weak and powerless. No wonder Olivia and Jewel were so terrified; the poison was truly potent.

Seeing that Alex was more or less ready, Jewel got up and asked Olivia to come in.

When Olivia entered, she smiled and teased, "Feels good to be served, doesn't it?"

Alex glanced at Jewel. "It does. If possible, I'm fine with lying like this forever."

Olivia rolled her eyes in exasperation. "You're even thinking of lying down forever? Do you want Jewel and me to serve you all your life?"

"I was just trying to prove a point."

"That won't do. You should recover as soon as you can. Even if you don't mind it, I do."

"How can I not mind it? Are you the type who can't see couples getting all lovey-dovey just because your boyfriend isn't here?"

Olivia looked coldly at him. "How ungrateful! Without my help, how can you two even be together?"

Alex reached up and slapped his mouth. "Sorry, I shouldn't have said that. I will always remember your kindness."

Olivia snorted haughtily. "Fine, I'll let you off for Jewel's sake. If not..."

She chuckled twice, and Alex felt his hairs stand on end when he heard it.

"What? Are you trying to sow discord?" As Alex spoke, he took Jewel's hand as if he were seriously afraid that Jewel would leave him.

Chapter 1237 Video Call From Mom

At that moment, Olivia said arrogantly, "How long do you want to lie in bed? I can help with that."

Alex fell silent. Jewel lowered her gaze and chuckled. "Come on, stop scaring him."

Olivia snorted and finally started to examine Alex.

She promised Jewel not to say anything about the latter obtaining the antidote, so she didn't explain too much about how the antidote came to be.

She removed the bandages on his neck, then disinfected the wound.

After that, Jewel discovered in pleasant surprise that the swelling on his neck had disappeared. "Olivia, look. Are the festered spots decreasing?"

Olivia glanced at it as well, then nodded. "You're right. It's recovering."

Jewel instantly relaxed. Even if she didn't get the antidote today, Olivia could still cure him.

Still, Olivia applied the antidote Jewel obtained. After all, her treatment wouldn't be as effective as the antidote itself.

After applying the antidote, she bandaged his wound again.

It was only then that she said, "You should take another day's worth of detox medicine. You won't have to drink it starting tomorrow."

Jewel responded, "Sure."

After Olivia left, Alex patted the bed, gesturing for Jewel to sit next to him.

Jewel was a little shy, but she did as she was told. "Don't worry, your life should be safe now."

Alex grabbed her hand, his eyes gentle as he said softly, "Were you worried?"

Jewel said, "Not too much. I knew that Olivia would save you."

Alex stared intently as he asked, "Not too much? That's all?"

Jewel pursed her lips and smiled. "It's okay now."

Alex smiled too. His thumb rubbed gently against the back of her hand as he said, "It's okay, even if I arrived in the afterlife, I can turn back. I haven't married you yet, so how can I just die like that?"

Jewel said, annoyed, "You and your pretty words."

Alex chuckled. "I don't know how good I am at talking, but you can help verify whether my tongue is capable."

As he spoke, he pulled her into his embrace, his warm breaths spilling onto her face.

Jewel was speechless. Didn't he just say that he lacked energy?

Why was he so strong when he pulled her close?

She didn't dare resist in case she hurt his wounds.

"Don't move so carelessly. I won't be held responsible if you hurt yourself."

Alex chuckled. "You can't bear to see me getting hurt, right?" As he spoke, he gently pressed his lips against hers.

Jewel fell silent.

So, this was how she was supposed to verify it?

He was bent on eating her up.

Even though she was a little nervous, she closed her eyes and allowed the man to take from her.

Suddenly, the phone rang out, indicating an incoming video call. It startled the tangled lovebirds.

Jewel carefully got up and took the phone he left on the bedside table. Out of the corner of her eye, she noticed that the caller ID read 'Mom'.

It was a call from Stefanie.

She secretly held her breath. Even though she started dating Alex again half-willingly, Stefanie had always been a thorn in her flesh.

Even if she could be with Alex without considering the past, she couldn't be void of grievances like Olivia was toward her godmother.

Of course, she believed that Stefanie couldn't do it, either.

Jewel and Alex would be causing trouble for each other if they were together, but they couldn't bear to be apart.

The person who suffered the most was, of course, Alex, who was stuck between them.

When Alex saw that it was a video call from Stefanie, he suddenly felt annoyed and hung up right away.

If it weren't for his illness, he would've gone home and interrogated his mother about those incidents.

Now, he feared that he would lose control and get mad at her in front of Jewel.

He decisively hung up. Out of sight, out of mind.

Jewel didn't expect him to reject the call. She wondered if it was because she was here.

Stefanie video called him again.

Jewel was understanding as she said, "You should answer the phone. I'll go check if Olivia has prepared the medicine."

With that, she didn't even give Alex a chance to stop her as she hurriedly went out.

She had no desire to listen in on their conversation.

After Alex watched Jewel leave, he looked at the persistently ringing phone. However, his face was no longer gentle like it had been moments before. His face was as cold as harsh winter, and as he suppressed the rage in his heart, he answered the call.

Chapter 1238 Confrontation

"Son—"

As soon as the call went through, Stefanie's voice rang out. Alex, however, stared at his phone, silently looking at his mother who was seated on the couch.

Stefanie had a feeling that Alex wasn't in a good mood. She was about to ask why when she noticed the bandage wrapped around his neck. She was instantly startled as she asked, "Oh my, what happened to your neck, son? Did you get hurt?"

Alex felt a little frustrated at the same time. He was so occupied with confronting his mother that he forgot he was injured. However, he only lost his composure for an instant as he quickly calmed down and said indifferently, "It's nothing."

Stefanie, however, asked in concern, "How did you get hurt? Is it serious? Weren't you looking for Jewel? Why would you get hurt?"

Her words of concern caused Alex to feel like crying for one second.

He knew that his mother loved and cared for him, but why did she treat the girl he loved like that?

He looked at her, his eyes turning red. "I bumped into Damian."

When Stefanie heard that, she looked stunned. Then, she feigned ignorance as she asked, "Damian? I-Is that the man who took Jewel away?"

Alex watched as his mother pretended to be clueless, a mocking smile appearing on his lips. If he hadn't run into Damian, the incident his mother plotted back then might have stayed a mystery forever.

"Aren't you the one who knows the answer the best?"

When Stefanie heard that, she suddenly lost confidence. What did he mean by that?

Could it be that her son already knew about what happened?

No wonder he looked so upset.

How did he find Damian? Also, why was Damian so foolish that he would expose everything?

She smiled sheepishly, feeling lucky as she said, "I just heard it from you."

Alex sneered. "Is that so? Why do I have a feeling that you knew each other a long time ago?"

Stefanie was so scared that she gulped instinctively. "What do you mean?"

Alex looked at her and said coolly, "You're hiding it even at times like this. Are you thinking of hiding it from me forever?"

Stefanie panicked, saying, "Did you learn of something, son? That incident is in the past now. If she doesn't do anything outrageous, I am not opposed to the idea of you dating her. Do you know how hard it is for me to say that?"

He scoffed, a sad tone in his voice as he said, "How shameless can you be to say things like that? Back then, when you gave Damian 70 thousand to hire some hooligans and told him to play along with you, were you the least bit hesitant or regretful?"

Those words rang out like thunder in Stefanie's ears. Even the tiniest sliver of hope left in her heart was gone.

Just as expected, he knew everything.

Stefanie knew that there was no point in hiding it anymore. She took in a breath and said, "Back then, I wasn't able to separate you two. You refused to listen to me, and I was forced to do it because I was out of options. Don't blame me for this, son."

Alex looked at her, doing his best to suppress his anger. He held his breath for a long while, trying to hold back the tears welling up in his eyes.

"Then, why didn't you just tell me that she's Winnie's daughter? I might have a better solution then! Do you know how important purity is to a girl? How can you harm her in such a vile way? You not only got some hooligans to humiliate her, but you even set things up on purpose so that I would see her going

out of the hotel with Damian. And just like you planned, I got mad at her and broke her heart. You turned me into your accomplice. How am I supposed to face her again?"

Stefanie's eyes were filled with tears as well. "My husband fell for Winnie, and my son fell for Winnie's daughter. I couldn't make my husband stay, and now my son is leaving me too. Are you and your father so intent on proving to me that I'm a loser? Am I fated to lose to a woman named Winnie all my life? How can you expect me to tell you about such a shameful past?"

Chapter 1239 She Must Pay the Price

...

"It's better than the dilemma I'm in now, right? I can't bear to see you wronged, and my heart breaks even more seeing Jewel being blamed. I'm caught between you two, and I'd rather die."

Alex continued, "You didn't say a word but put all the blame on Jean. You made her look like she cheated on me, and on top of that, you even claim that she is a b*tch who took 150 thousand from you before running off. Every time I think of that night, my heart hurts. It's like a knife stabbing into it. How could you watch me struggle in pain and resent Jean with all my might?"

"But today, I found out that all of this is a scheme meticulously planned by you. Let's put aside that Jean isn't Winnie's daughter at all, but even if she is, what did she do wrong? She just couldn't stand your son's stalking, so she accepted my feelings. You, on the other hand, are afraid of embarrassment and secretly did so many things to hurt her. She's just an innocent victim. She didn't deserve to endure all of this!"

Looking at Alex in pain, Stefanie felt upset and grunted, "Because she is Winnie's daughter! Even if she wasn't, she was her niece! I hate Winnie, and I will never be able to forgive her in this life. I've held back for more than 20 years without an avenue to vent my frustrations. Who told her to fall for you and chase after you? Alex, I did try to persuade myself to let it go; that Jean and Winnie are different people. I realized stopping Jean from approaching you was torture for you, so I decided that I wouldn't stop her anymore. As for my actions, let's treat it as a price she has to pay for liking you."

Alex lowered his eyes, and one drop of tear fell unexpectedly. He felt as if his heart was being pierced

by thousands of needles.

He couldn't see a drop of blood, but it hurt like hell.

"She's the one who fell for me and chased after me? Is this the price she should pay for liking me?"

"It is the price she should pay for being Winnie Parker's niece!"

Alex choked up and suddenly felt strange looking at his mom's face. With a cold voice, he uttered, "I never knew you could be so unreasonable. How could you sound so confident when you did something wrong? She's not an outsider. She is the girl your son likes the most. I was the one chasing after her, and just because you couldn't stop me from doing that, you claim that she deserves to pay the price? I am not your private property, and don't you even think about using me to go against anyone. Neither Jean nor I are tools to you."

Stefanie took a deep breath and said, "Haven't I already agreed to your relationship? What else do you want from me? Should I apologize to her?"

Alex's tone was aggressive as he retorted, "You are my mother. Even if you treat me badly, we are still blood-related. At most, I will be mad at you, but Jean is different. She was hurt by you for no reason and had no choice but to leave her hometown. Do you know what she has been through for the past years? After her mother passed away, she was sold to a mercenary organization by Damian for 300 thousand, and during a mission, she was tricked by her colleagues and almost burned to death. Her voice was damaged by the smoke in that fire, and she is still a defector of the mercenary organization. All of this was caused by you. Her entire life was ruined by you! Shouldn't you apologize?"

Stefanie kept quiet for some time and merely looked at Alex's distressed gaze. She had a dazed expression as she thought to herself, Her mother is dead?

Besides, what's a mercenary organization?

Although she didn't quite understand what it was, she figured it was probably something bad, judging from her son's expression.

Eventually, she felt guilty. "I-I just drove them away. What happened to them after that has nothing to do with me, does it?"

Alex gazed at her. "But it's a fact that you drove her out of the country and I was your accomplice. Her tragic experience was caused by me and you in the name of love, but in truth, we're committing crimes!"

He suddenly covered his eyes with his hands. "I'm so scared right now. I'm afraid that Jewel will never want me again when she finds out."

Chapter 1240 Paint a Happy Future

Stefanie was silent for a while before uttering, "Isn't she still unaware of it? Since you are already with her, just make up for it in the future. She obviously doesn't remember anything, so why do you have to tell her now? What can be changed by showing me your temper?"

Alex also didn't know the point of losing his temper with his mother.

However, guilt, worry, distress, and all the negative emotions came to him one after another, making him restless.

He didn't know what else he could do for Jewel!

Then, he said weakly, "Don't you think we are bullying her right now? Bullying her because she doesn't remember anything. Every time I see her, I feel so guilty, but I dare not say anything. I'm afraid that by telling her the truth, I won't even have a chance to see her again."

Stefanie brought the phone closer and looked at him in distress. "Okay. I know you feel sorry for her, but if Jewel remembers everything one day, I promise to apologize to her. Is that okay? Now that she doesn't remember anything, it would only cause her more problems if she knew. Are you able to give up on her? If not, then why don't you just take the chance to treat her right?"

Alex sighed weakly. Suddenly, he heard footsteps coming from the door, so he hung up the call in a panic.

Indeed, his original intention was to hide the past because he couldn't bear the consequences of losing her.

However, if he didn't do something, he would feel even more apologetic to her.

The door of the room opened, and Jewel walked in with a bowl of medicine to find Alex's reddened eyes.

She immediately looked away before a thought came into her mind: Stefanie felt bad seeing her injured son, so when Alex saw his mother crying, his eyes reddened.

No matter what, a mother and child just had a special connection.

Perhaps one day, Stefanie might come over to check on her injured son.

In fact, she couldn't help blaming herself for being the reason Alex got injured. He was hurt because he wanted to help her investigate her past.

She tried her best to smile and said, "It's time to take your medicine. I made it myself!"

Alex's impression of making medicine was the traditional way of boiling it. It would be done on a few stoves with different types of herbs in each pot. Frowning, he asked, "Why do you have to make the medicine yourself?"

Jewel chuckled and replied, "It's boiled by a cooker. I just watched it from the side."

Alex retorted, "That counts as you making it yourself. Don't tire yourself out anymore, alright? You just have to stay by my side. I will take care of you when I get better."

Jewel responded obediently, "Okay. Drink up now."

Without taking the bowl, he looked at her with a smile. "Why don't you feed me?"

Jewel frowned slightly and gave him an eye roll. "How old are you?"

Alex looked at her and grinned. "My hands are weak."

Again?

Earlier, he had the strength to yank her down and forcefully kiss her, but now, he was whining about not having the strength to hold a bowl?

Did he think she was easy to fool?

Jewel murmured complaints silently in her heart, but she couldn't bear to ignore him.

Eventually, she held the medicine bowl and brought it close to his lips.

Then, a movie scene popped up in her mind: a woman holding a bowl of medicine said to a man lying on the sick bed, "Sir, it's time to have your medicine."

She burst out laughing suddenly, and the bowl in her hand started shaking.

Alex looked at the woman who was chuckling uncontrollably, and he felt his heart soften. A look of doting bloomed on his face.

"Jean, you look good when you smile."

Jewel was slightly surprised. Why did he call her Jean again?

Seemingly reading her thoughts, Alex explained, "Your current name was given by Damian, but your real name is Jean Louis."

Jewel replied in realization, "It's just a name. You can call me whatever you like."

Alex knew that she had forgotten about the past and was not familiar with the name Jean Louis. She felt like she was listening to someone else's life whenever the name was mentioned and she couldn't empathize with these experiences, so she didn't mind what her real name was.

Taking her hand in his, he uttered, "I hope that I'll be able to paint a future filled with happiness for you with my own hands."

Jewel chuckled, "Alright, alright. It's time to have your medicine, sir."