

Unfinished 1251

Chapter 1251 A Slow-Acting Poison

After observing River's reluctance to take the medicine, Olivia set the bottle on the table. "It's up to you whether you believe it or not. Your wound will heal even if you don't get it. It will take longer and cause you a bit more discomfort."

Then, Albert picked up the bottle from the table and said, "Miss Maxwell, how could we not believe you?" While saying this, he handed the bottle directly to River.

Meanwhile, River held the bottle as if it were a hot potato. He was in a pickle, unsure whether to keep or toss it. He worried that it might be some kind of poison that worked over time. Why else would she ask me to use it frequently? Obviously, it's a slow-acting poison. His mind was filled with thoughts of her trying to harm him.

On the other hand, Albert did not think as deeply as River but was perplexed by Olivia's sudden kindness. What does she mean by this? Does she believe our words?

Soon, she uttered, "Mr. Bleu, could you help me go to the police station as a witness?"

When Albert heard this, he immediately responded, "Of course, I would be honored."

"Wait for me a moment." After saying this, she left the room and called Eugene.

An hour later, Eugene and Alex appeared in the private room, where Olivia reintroduced everyone and exchanged greetings.

Afterward, she recounted Albert's encounter with Blood Rose to Eugene and Alex. She concluded by saying, "Mr. Bleu said he is willing to help testify."

After hearing this, Alex excitedly approached Albert and shook his hand. "Then, I have to thank you on behalf of my girlfriend, Mr. Bleu."

However, Albert was surprised to hear that and asked, "Miss Fenton is your girlfriend?"

Alex replied, "Yes."

Albert had not forgotten that Winnie was Jewel's aunt and knew their relationship was not too distant. At this moment, it dawned on him that Euroasian people might be able to get along with Eugene and Alex. However, it took him a while to regain his composure before saying, "Mr. Road, you're welcome. I consider Miss Maxwell a friend, and her friends are my friends. It's only a small favor."

Olivia sensed that his words were quite strategic, as she could not keep him away with his current assistance, regardless of whether she wanted to be involved with him. Nonetheless, she was willing to part with the necklace if they could save Jewel.

Then, Alex replied, "Thank you. In fact, while I was on duty at the doctor's office, I discovered evidence that the window had been wire-bound. The nurse on duty mentioned that she had taken a short nap, presumably when the woman disguised as a nurse entered the ward and committed the murder."

After hearing this, Olivia and Eugene exchanged glances, and she proposed, "Let's not delay any longer. Let's go directly to the police station!"

Everyone stood up, went to the clinic to retrieve the restored surveillance footage, and headed to the police station.

On the way, Alex called Peter because it would be more convenient if he was present. He also asked Peter to assist him in finding a competent lawyer because they were unfamiliar with the laws of this country.

The police quickly met with them as they had heard about Alex and the others before, so naturally, they couldn't easily offend Alex and the others. Nonetheless, the police had no choice but to take the matter seriously after receiving an anonymous tip that Jewel could be located at the clinic.

While the police were still confused about the situation, Alex and the others already had new evidence, and the police couldn't afford to show any attitude. Hence, the police re-investigated and collected

evidence based on the information provided. They also took statements from Albert, River, Olivia, and others.

It was confirmed that on the night of the 3rd, Jewel did not leave her home, let alone engage in a fight, and Olivia presented surveillance footage from the clinic and hospital as additional evidence.

River further verified that the nurse in the surveillance video of the hospital who fought with him had a figure comparable to the woman in the footage. It was also consistent with the timeline that Brett passed away shortly after the woman left the nursing station.

Later, the police also had experts examine River's injuries, confirming that he sustained them four days prior and proving he had not lied.

Chapter 1252 New Evidence

With the defense of their lawyer, the police believed their testimonies. Although the evidence and witnesses pointed to another culprit, it didn't absolve Jewel of suspicion. She was granted bail but forbidden to leave Mastar until the case was resolved. The group persisted until nightfall when the police finally released Jewel.

After taking a few steps toward her, Olivia embraced her and said soothingly, "It's okay now. Everything is okay."

However, Jewel glanced at Albert and River standing nearby and asked, "Do you have new evidence?"

Olivia replied, "Mr. Bleu and the others provided testimony. They encountered the murderer who killed Brett that night."

Jewel was surprised upon hearing this and asked, "Who was it?"

"It's not certain yet, but we can rule you out. The person had a red rose tattoo on their ankle, and their weapon was a wire."

Jewel widened her eyes in astonishment and asked again, "Is it Blood Rose?"

"It's not confirmed yet. We'll have to rely on the police investigation for more evidence." After saying this, Olivia held her hand and said, "Let's go back."

After leaving the police station, Olivia looked at Albert and said, "Mr. Bleu, thank you for your willingness to testify. I appreciate your help and will surely express my gratitude in the future."

Then, he replied, "You're welcome. As I said, I consider you a friend. Don't make it seem like everything I do has some ulterior motive."

Nonetheless, Olivia smiled and replied, "All right."

After parting ways, Olivia, Eugene, and the others returned to the clinic.

Ellen, still shaken by fear, hurriedly greeted them and hugged Olivia. "Jewel, are you okay?"

"Godmother, I'm fine. Sorry for worrying you."

"As long as you're okay! Thankfully, they rescued you. By the way, you must be hungry. I'll cook for you." After saying this, Ellen went straight to the kitchen.

Jewel then watched her godmother's bustling figure and felt a warm feeling spread in her heart.

In the meantime, Alex felt his throat drying out and thought about how much easier things would be for him and Jewel if his mother were more like Ellen.

At this moment, Jewel took a couple of steps toward Olivia and said apologetically, "Albert helped us because of you. I didn't expect you to owe him a favor."

"Even without this incident, he would have found another way. After all, he wouldn't give up on finding the necklace. Don't overthink it. Did you face any suffering inside?"

"No, they treated me quite well."

"That's good, then. Go home, take a shower, and get a good night's sleep. Don't think too much."

Jewel replied, "Okay, bring me along the next time you meet Albert."

Olivia agreed, "Sure."

On the other hand, George had just returned and overheard their conversation. He couldn't help but ask, "What did Albert say? Did he ask you to exchange the necklace?"

Olivia replied, "No."

Then, he snorted, "He must be worried you'd give him a fake one."

"I don't know his intentions, but no matter what, he did help us today."

"Well, don't overthink it. Even if he helped us, we could repay the favor through other means. Why insist on using the necklace?"

Olivia responded, "If giving him the necklace will settle things, then so be it. I was planning to give it to him anyway. Keeping it in my possession serves no purpose. It's their lack of sincerity that prevents a discussion about it. As long as he guarantees I won't be involved in their political struggles this time, I'll give it to him."

However, George asked again, "Well, what about Blood Rose?"

She replied, "We've provided the information to the police. They should set up a trap for her, which will work unless she never leaves Double Dragon Court."

Chapter 1253 Don't Push It

"How is it possible that Blood Rose won't leave? If she finds out Jewel has been released on bail, she won't let her off the hook." Then, George earnestly advised Jewel, "Try not to go out during this time."

However, Jewel snorted, "I'm more concerned that she won't come out, and if she does, it will save me a lot of trouble."

His eyebrows furrowed in response. "Didn't you hear what I said?"

Then, she smiled and reassured him, "I got it, George. From now on, I'll stick with Olivia."

Soon, the group chatted and laughed before retiring to their rooms around 10.00PM.

Meanwhile, Eugene, excited at the prospect of some alone time with his girlfriend and the possibility of some passionate exchanges, got to his feet as soon as he saw Olivia heading for her room.

The moment he took more than a couple of steps, George reached out and grabbed his arm. "Your room is this way," he said firmly.

Eugene frowned upon hearing this and explained, "I know. I just want to talk to Olivia for a bit."

George huffed silently, knowing full well what Eugene intended to do, and he didn't give Eugene a chance before dragging him off to his own room. "Whatever you have to say can wait until tomorrow."

His actions irritated Eugene, and he said, "But... It's urgent."

Nonetheless, George stared at him with a blatant threat in his eyes. "Eugene, don't push it."

Eugene was speechless by that. Who's the one pushing it? It's been several days since I last saw Olivia. Even after returning, I couldn't have an intimate moment with her before learning of Jewel's predicament, which ruined our time together. Since Jewel is fine and my woman has returned to her room, it's a shame that George has to come and mess everything up. What is the matter with him? Can't I have a private moment with my own woman? Then, he protested, "I'm just talking to my girlfriend. Why do you have to stop me?"

George snorted in response. "What if I tell her to break up with you?"

Eugene glared at him and remarked, "She won't break up with me."

Regardless, George gave him a provocative look, saying, You can't stand me, but you can't do anything about it. After that, he deliberately provoked Eugene. "Perhaps, but even if she doesn't break up with you, she would feel indebted to me."

Eugene remained silent. This man is so vile to make things difficult for Olivia. She has given in to his request for something she could not refuse. If he decided to follow through with his threat, it would not be difficult for him to do so. Ah! I can't take it any longer. I will be moving out tomorrow, as I cannot continue living here any longer. George is intentionally trying to make me suffer and become celibate!

It felt like a deliberate attempt to push him to his limits. In fact, it was like forcing a cat to taste the deliciousness of a fish and then telling it that it could only look at the fish but not eat it. How cruel was that?

While other couples had a mother-in-law as a barrier, Eugene had a meddling older brother-in-law, which was too frustrating.

He had so much to say, but in the end, he swallowed it and followed George back to his room with a sulking expression.

Meanwhile, George's lips curled into a smile as he acknowledged his deliberate action. He was already being tolerant by not stopping them from being with each other, but to let them be intimate right under his nose was something he couldn't do.

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The next day, Eugene started packing up early in the morning.

Naturally, George wouldn't permit it because he wanted to keep an eye on Eugene to ensure he stayed in line. In addition, he had little faith in Eugene's good behavior, even under surveillance. He knew that if Eugene moved out, the man would have even more freedom to do as he pleased, as he would be further away and out of sight.

Eugene said, "It's inconvenient to stay here."

George smiled and replied, "Olivia has lived here for six or seven years."

However, Eugene argued, "There are too many people here, and it is troublesome for everyone."

Still, George retorted, "Well, let the bodyguards move in first, and you two can stay here. It's more convenient for medical purposes, and everyone can care for each other."

After several rounds of debate, they couldn't reach an agreement. Olivia ultimately decided they would not move for now and would remain here.

On the other hand, Eugene felt like he was about to burst into flames. Is this woman deliberately going up against me?

George's lips curled with a smug smile upon seeing his expression.

Nevertheless, Olivia knew Eugene's frustration and spoke up. "Eugene, from now on, don't sleep in the same room as George. It affects rest, and the clinic does have other rooms."

After that, Eugene looked at his woman and felt slightly comforted. He happily agreed, feeling relieved from his annoyance.

Chapter 1254 Giving Albert the Necklace

It was now George's turn to fall into sullen silence, but he persisted in his struggles. "Eugene and I can chat during the night. He won't be a bother. Just let him sleep in my room."

Olivia glared at him coldly, reminding him, "I think you'll be the one bothering him. He's used to the silence and has not been sleeping well lately. If there are no available rooms, we'll just move back to our place."

Is this a threat? He glared at his heartless junior and petulantly argued, "That's enough. Why move around? It's not like you won't be here during the day. Why bother tormenting yourself?" Then, he turned to Eugene and said, "Go clear a room for yourself."

"I'll help you," she said, smiling.

Nevertheless, Eugene was so happy after hearing those words that he taunted George before responding nonchalantly, "Okay."

When Ellen learned of this, she offered her room next to Olivia so that her son could be near his woman.

In the meantime, George's heart throbbed in jealousy and pain. Since when does Eugene take over the place by her side? However, the sight of Olivia bustling about stopped him from complaining. Fumed, he stormed off to the clinic, reasoning that he could better control his anger if the whole mess was out of sight.

After a full morning of hard work, Eugene was finally moved into the room adjacent to Olivia's. Even though the two remained separated by a wall and under George's wary gaze, it was considered a victory for him.

Conversely, it would be much easier for Eugene to head to his darling girlfriend's room to chat and snuggle.

Meanwhile, Ellen was slightly worried because she had not imagined that she had been moved to the room next to Hector's after all the fuss. The realization of this caused her cheeks to redden. A third party might have believed she orchestrated the room swaps. Unbeknownst to her, the room next to her was now unoccupied.

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On the other hand, Alex and Jewel sought out an opportunity to express their gratitude to Albert, as they could not simply remain silent and forget everything he had done for them. Still, they knew Albert's willingness to testify was solely due to Olivia. Despite this, Jewel was more aware of Albert's intentions than Alex, and she was even aware that Albert desired Olivia's necklace. However, it did not matter what his motivations were because they were the ones who benefited from his actions, so they were obligated to express gratitude.

Later, Jewel approached Olivia and inquired about the most appropriate way to thank Albert.

Olivia replied, "There's no need to do anything. Eugene would be flying back in a few days. I'll have him bring the necklace over. We can meet up with Albert one day to discuss the necklace. If he is sincere, I have no problem giving him the necklace."

In contrast, Jewel was hesitant for her to simply hand over the necklace like that for fear of future complications and...

"That necklace is your only proof of identity. They are looking for the necklace, not the princess. If you give it to them, what can you use to prove you are who you are in the future?"

"I am living a blessed life right now. I don't want to be acknowledged or brought back into the fold. As long as the country's development does not affect me, I don't care," Olivia answered.

Then, Jewel chuckled and praised, "You are well-loved. Only a woman surrounded by love could be so bold and fearless."

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One week later, Eugene returned with the necklace.

The next evening.

Olivia scheduled a meeting with Albert at the restaurant where they frequently dined.

"Are you going to give him the necklace today? I'll go with you," Eugene said worriedly.

"It's fine. Jewel will be there with me," Olivia reassured him. "It'll count as Jewel's show of gratitude. I don't plan on giving it to them anyway. We're testing the waters to see if he'll be truthful with me. I won't give him the necklace if he doesn't tell the truth. Then, we'll return the favor some other way."

"Be careful then."

She chuckled and said, "Don't worry. Albert is a smart man. If he wants to force me into giving the necklace up, he will not do it when we are just warming up to each other. Jewel will be there as well. You can come with me when I do hand the necklace over."

Chapter 1255 The Dinner

Meanwhile, Eugene was particularly susceptible to following Olivia's wishes when she spoke softly and demurely. Thus, he agreed to do as she asked. At 6.00PM sharp, Jewel and Olivia arrived at the restaurant where they would be meeting Albert.

Olivia had assumed Albert and River would not be there yet, but when she opened the door to the room they had reserved, she noticed the two men inside. Then, she quickly looked at her watch and realized that while she wasn't exactly late, it was still rather awkward for the host to arrive after the guests. "My apologies for being late," she said.

Albert hurriedly got to his feet and politely replied, "No, no. You're not. We were here early."

She smiled and stepped into the room. "Please, sit down."

Despite this, River did not sit but instead bowed to her. "Thank you so much, Miss Maxwell."

Olivia was dumbfounded by the unexpected show of appreciation and asked, "Thank me? For what? Should I not be thanking you instead?"

"Yes. We're the ones who should be thanking you," Jewel chimed up. "Without your testimony, the police would not have let me go so easily."

"That's not—" River hurriedly rolled up his sleeves and said, "Look at this, Miss Maxwell. My wound has healed up. It's all thanks to you. If not for your medicine, I could never have recovered so quickly."

With a new understanding of the situation, Olivia said, "Oh, that. It's nothing. It's great that you're fine now."

"Miss Maxwell, I was a stupid fool in the past. I projected my meanspirited assumptions onto you. Today, I realize that you are a friend worth having. Sir was not mistaken in choosing you."

With her mind stuck between crying and laughing, she teasingly said, "Your mind got better along with your arm."

After hearing this, River scratched his head awkwardly and stated, "I'm sorry, Miss Maxwell. Please don't be angry with me."

Then, she smiled as she ushered him into his seat. "I'm not angry at all. It's in the past, and I'm not that petty."

At this moment, Albert chuckled helplessly and said, "He has been going on and on about thanking you in person over the past few days."

"There's no need to thank me. It was nothing."

"I've been meaning to ask you this since I saw how deftly you bandaged River's arm. You're a designer, right? How are you that good at treating someone?"

Olivia smiled and replied. "I've stayed in a clinic for six years. I only started a fashion studio after I returned home."

Albert's eyes widened in shock as he exclaimed, "Amazing!"

"Not really," she humbly responded. "If you stay in a clinic long enough, you'll eventually learn something just by being surrounded by everything you overhear."

Deep down, Jewel was in awe of how humble Olivia was. Does her knowledge simply count as just "something"? Would they faint from fright if they discovered she was Doctor Bailey, the genius doctor?

Afterward, Olivia did not continue the conversation and changed the subject. After all, she was the host, so she needed to be more proactive. Then, she handed the menu to Albert and said, "Let's order our food."

Soon after, he ceased the small talk and placed a few dishes, returning the menu to her before passing it on to River.

"It's fine. I'll eat whatever Sir orders," River stated quickly.

Olivia smiled and added a few more dishes to the order before handing over their menus to the waiter.

While waiting, the group continued to converse until the food arrived.

They waited until the waiter left the room, closing the door behind him, and it was only then that Olivia raised her glass of wine and said, "There might have been many misunderstandings in the past, but that is all behind us now. I thank you for helping us with Jewel's matter."

Jewel spoke up as well. "I know you two only helped Olivia, but I am still the one who is being helped. My boyfriend and I will remember this. Please ask away if there's anything you ever need of us in the future."

Surprised, Albert hurriedly held his glass up as well. "There's no need to thank us. It is our duty. That person has injured our people as well. In the end, we're actually just helping ourselves."

Chapter 1256 Friends

One had to concede that Albert possessed a silver tongue because his response sounded sincere and did not exert any pressure on the other party.

Hence, Olivia now has a newfound respect for him. In her mind, she agreed with his statement because it was the proper way to make friends. Nobody would ever approach a stranger and casually declare their friendship. Also, being so forthright and direct would make him appear desperate, and nobody would be so naive as to fall for that. Isn't it better if he stays this way? Moreover, I am not an ingratitude-filled woman. At this thought, she raised her glass again to Albert and River before everyone toasted and drank.

When Albert placed his glass down, he said, "You guys don't have to take what happened previously to heart. I'll admit that I approached you with an ulterior motive before. It might be related to how I was raised as I was taught to always be wary whenever meeting someone. However, after our interactions, I know you better now. I truly want to be your friend."

Olivia smiled and said, "I must have made life hard for you with how strict I was with my definition of a friend."

"It's fine. I think you did fine." He chuckled and continued, "I have many people who stick by my side, most of whom are friends. Still, my friends will run faster than anyone else in times of danger. You're right. Not everyone could be called a friend."

After hearing this, Olivia laughed awkwardly. "I'm way too direct and not good with the social twists and turns. Rather than speaking with implied messages the entire time, I would rather set a proper boundary from the start. Those who wish to get close to me, to be my friend, would need to meet my

requirements. It's because I'm scared of being hurt and also because I'm not that good with social skills and words."

Then, Albert returned her smile. If she genuinely thought she lacked good social skills, she would be among a very small group of people deemed adept at it. "This is fine. You're being honest and true to yourself. Being your friend feels safe."

However, she winked at him playfully. "That's true. While it's hard to become my friend, all my friends will have no fear when interacting with me."

A polite smile spread across his lips and hinted, "It looks like I'll have to work hard to be your friend."

Olivia chuckled again and held up her glass. "You don't have to work hard, my friend."

Then, Albert stared at her in shock as joyful astonishment was painted over his face. "I passed your test?"

"I'm not that unreasonable."

After hearing this, he raised his glass as well. "I'm honored to be your friend."

Later, she tipped her head back and downed the remaining wine in one gulp before grabbing the bottle to fill his glass.

"I can do it myself," he hurriedly said.

"Let me." Olivia filled up Albert's and River's glasses before sitting back down. She then said to them, "Helping Jewel means helping me. Let me know if there's anything I can help you with. I'll do whatever I can."

The instant she uttered those words, River reflexively turned to Albert. At that moment, realization struck his blanked-out mind, and he finally understood what Albert meant when he said this might be their chance.

Olivia was not someone they could force into something. Not only was it because she was not a pushover, but also because she had the backing of someone incredibly powerful like Eugene. Thus, they couldn't use brute force and had to take a gentler approach. Still, how were they supposed to approach her?

They had attempted to reason with her, but she proved to be as stubborn as she had claimed. Nevertheless, despite how risky their actions were, they finally convinced her to accept a favor from them. That was all thanks to Albert's forethought. Olivia's offer was a clear invitation for them to mention the necklace. It seemed like they might be able to head home one day.

On the other hand, River's eyes were sparkling brightly with hope as he glanced at Albert, who had stayed silent the entire time. Why is Sir not saying anything? This is an incredibly rare chance.

However...

Chapter 1257 Free Tea

In a drawn-out manner, Albert said, "There is nothing. What kind of person do you think I am, Miss Maxwell? Even though there was some ulterior motive for my actions, I will not take advantage of you. That would make me feel like the word 'friend' would lose all meaning."

Olivia's eyes widened in surprise as she realized that her hint was so obvious that he would have to ask to see the necklace. What does he mean by this? Is he no longer eager to find the necklace?

She tilted her head and stared at him before saying, in an even more direct manner, "This is your only chance, Mr. Bleu."

Albert smiled in response. "I know. I'm fine as long as our friendship does not end abruptly."

Olivia was taken aback by his statement and quickly realized that he was being astute with this favor. Now that they were friends, it was only a matter of time before he could look at the necklace. If he had insisted on using the favor to get a glimpse at the necklace, their "friendship" would no longer be valid. Additionally, she would probably assume that any outstanding debts between them have been paid off since they would be friends in name only. On the contrary, she was now looking at him in a new light. Then, she smiled and said, "Of course not."

In the meantime, stars twinkled deep within his eyes as he silently smiled back.

On the other hand, River's eyes darted between the two during the entire conversation. What on earth is Sir doing? When else would he ask to see the necklace if not now?

After listening to their conversation, Jewel heaved a silent sigh. I am the sole reason why Olivia owes

someone a favor. Therefore, it is clear that Albert's motivations go beyond a simple desire to look at the necklace and that he also wants to make friends

A moment later, as everyone in the room had become engrossed in their thoughts, there was a knock at the door.

"Come in," Olivia called out.

Then, the waiter pushed the door open and walked in with a teapot. After glancing at the people seated at the table, he said, "Pardon me. I have a pot of exquisite Sencha for you. It's a gift from the restaurant."

When Olivia heard this, she was taken aback because she had just looked at the menu and remembered that Sencha was more expensive than the other tea options. Why is the restaurant so generous? At this thought, she asked, "Is it free?"

"Yes. The boss says it's because you're a frequent customer here, so it's a gift for a regular," the waiter said. He then dutifully poured them a cup of tea each.

The aroma of the tea quickly permeated the room, which was a testament to the quality of the tea.

Suddenly, Albert raised an eyebrow and remarked, "It is good tea."

Although Olivia found the entire situation suspicious, she did not speak up just yet. She had lived in Mastar for years, but this was the first time she had heard of a restaurant giving away free tea. Is it just because we are repeat customers?

"Please enjoy." Once the waiter was done serving them, he bowed and walked out of the room.

Albert smiled and said, "We have come here too often. The restaurant owner even knows who we are now."

"The tea smells wonderful," Jewel commented.

At that point, Olivia tried to dismiss her concerns, convincing herself that she was simply being overly cautious. Their enthusiasm made her smile, and she nodded, saying, "Let's try it out then." After saying this, she brought the tea to her lips and took a small sip, frowning as she realized something was wrong. As she observed the others raising their glasses, she quickly shouted, "Wait—"

Everyone instantly froze and turned to look at her in confusion.

Then, she brought the cup back to her nose and took another sniff, at which point the furrows between her brows deepened.

Nonetheless, Jewel could not help but feel nervous upon seeing that and asked, "What is it, Olivia?"

"Don't drink the tea. It has been spiked with Ecstasy," Olivia replied.

Although the scent of the drug was obscured by the fragrance of the tea, it was still detectable through careful sniffing, albeit not as obvious.

On the other hand, Albert was shocked to hear that. "Ecstasy? Are you sure?"

"Yes."

His face was painted with skepticism, not because he didn't believe her but because he found the situation extremely odd. Her ability to smell the Ecstasy in the tea baffled him since most drugs on the market had no discernible odor or flavor. After that, he gave his tea a whiff or two, but no matter how closely he sniffed, he could only detect the aroma of tea.

Meanwhile, Jewel had unwavering faith in Olivia, so she shot to her feet and dashed out of the room. "Let me check it out."

Chapter 1258 Blood Rose

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On the other hand, Olivia was uncomfortable letting Jewel investigate the spiked tea alone, so she accompanied Jewel. After leaving the room, the two women confronted a terrified waiter.

The waiter jumped in fright when he saw them stomping over. "What do you want?"

Olivia's eyes narrowed as she demanded sternly, "Who told you to do it?"

His heart sank at her words, but he continued to play dumb. "What?"

However, she repeated patiently, "The pot of tea you gave us was spiked with Ecstasy. Speak! Who told you to spike it? I know you wouldn't actually have the nerve to do that. If you tell the truth, I will not make this hard. Otherwise... Well, you asked for it."

The waiter's heart literally stopped beating after hearing this. I'm doomed! So, there is something wrong with the tea.

When he still didn't say anything after a few minutes, Jewel became frustrated and kicked him in the abdomen. "Speak!"

After a painful groan and an attempt to shield his beaten abdomen with his arms, he stuttered, "A-A woman asked me to bring the pot of tea to your room. She claimed to be your friend but didn't want you to know it was her. I was told to say it was a gift from the restaurant. The tip she gave was huge, so I

helped her. I didn't know it was spiked. I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!"

"What woman?" Olivia asked, frowning.

"She's tall and pretty," the waiter replied.

When Jewel and Olivia heard this, they exchanged glances and realized who it was.

"Where is she now?"

Then, he ducked his head and responded feebly, "She had already left, and she had gone in that direction."

Suddenly, Jewel grabbed him by the shirt collar and warned, "Just wait. I'll be back for you later."

They then took off running in the direction the waiter had indicated. However, no matter how hard they searched, they could not find the woman. They ran for a while before eventually stopping.

"Forget it. That woman must be hiding in the shadows, watching us. There is no way we can find her. Let's just head back," Olivia said.

Jewel angrily looked around, reluctant to just give up. A moment later, she asked, "Who do you think it was?"

"Blood Rose," Olivia answered.

In the meantime, Jewel was pleased to learn that Olivia's guess mirrored her own. "You think so, too,

right? It looks like she has left the Double Dragon Court." As soon as she uttered those words, a shadow appeared at the corner of her eye. "Over there!" Her eyes lit up, and she dashed after the mysterious figures.

"Jewel—" Olivia instinctively called out to her. She noticed that the location they were heading toward would not be covered by surveillance cameras, implying that it was most likely a trap.

Unfortunately, Jewel's mind was so consumed by her desire for vengeance that she did not hear Olivia calling out for her and continued running.

Worried, Olivia had no choice but to chase after her.

The mysterious figures ran into a remote alleyway before stopping and then turned around to shoot Jewel taunting glares.

Meanwhile, Jewel had also come to a stop, and as she studied the people in front of her, her eyes were unflinchingly cold and utterly devoid of any sign of fear. She observed that they were clad in plain black clothing, and it was abundantly clear that these people were professional assassins, but the alleyway was far too dim for her to make out their features. However, she immediately recognized the group's leader, Blood Rose. Her real name was Rose Blunt, but she went by the pseudonym Blood Rose during the mission. Then, she stated coldly, "You are truly fearless. The police are looking for you everywhere, but here you are."

Chapter 1259 Surrounded

Blood Rose cackled and replied, "What can I do? I can't sleep as long as you're alive."

A cruel smirk spread across Jewel's lips and taunted, "If you can't fall asleep, you should die. That way, you'll sleep forever!"

However, Blood Rose grinned at her response and said, "There's no point in sleeping alone. That's why I found you a companion today. Where's Olivia? The two of you are joined at the hip, right?"

Jewel frowned, surprised that her investigation led her to Olivia. Suddenly, her heart skipped a beat. Shoot! I have raced all the way over without any care. Olivia must have chased after them as well. Even though I do not care about my own life, I cannot involve Olivia in this. At that thought, she promptly turned around to run back the way she came from.

However, Blood Rose knew she was going to do that. With the press of a button on the remote in her hands, a thin coil of steel wire shot toward Jewel.

As she sensed impending danger, Jewel ran close to the wall. As soon as she became aware of the oncoming impact, she ran up the wall and leaped away to avoid the steel claw that crashed into the alley's wall.

When Blood Rose's repeated presses of the recall button on the remote did not release the claw from the wall, she became enraged and discarded the device.

After wasting precious seconds dodging Blood Rose's hidden weapon, the assassins intercepted

Jewel's escape attempt and surrounded her.

Then, Blood Rose slowly walked over with a cold, dismissive, yet deranged smile on her lips. Her face twisted in hatred, and she uttered, "Be happy you were allowed to live for a few more years. This is the end of the line for you."

Jewel scoffed in response. She had no qualms about dying, as she had known for a long time that she was only alive because she was determined to get her revenge. Therefore, she was indifferent to life or death. She knew she couldn't drag Olivia into this because Olivia had a happy life, a loving husband, and a very cute son. Hence, she realized she couldn't fight zealously.

As she prepared to eliminate the two assassins blocking her way and make a break for it, she heard the sound of approaching footsteps toward the alleyway. Her heart sank, and she prayed that it was not

Olivia, but it was. Nonetheless, her heart was filled with warmth when she caught a glimpse of Olivia's face out of the corner of her eye. She knew that Olivia would never abandon her, regardless of when or how much she disliked Olivia's presence to be there.

"Go back, Olivia," Jewel shouted.

On the other hand, Olivia could not leave Jewel alone after seeing her surrounded by enemies.

When Blood Rose saw this, she laughed and said, "I never thought the two of you would be so close after all these years. In that case, why don't I let you have what you want? That way, you won't be alone ever again."

As Jewel fought, she spat out, "You should stop right now, Blood Rose. Olivia is not someone you can make an enemy out of now."

Then, Blood Rose glanced at Olivia's approaching figure and scoffed. "She's the one who came to die. What am I supposed to do?"

Jewel decided that it was pointless to argue with her and instead focused on launching more powerful attacks on her enemies. She was regarded as an excellent close-range combatant, but only when faced with a single opponent. Nonetheless, she was currently up against five opponents, and while none of the assassins were as good as Blood Rose, she would not be able to escape easily.

Additionally, Blood Rose joined in on the action as well.

They were on the same page, wanting to eliminate each other before Olivia arrived.

While Olivia raced over, she whipped a small bottle of bone-softening powder out of her pockets. Although it might not be harmful, it could buy them valuable escape time. She intended to scatter it all over the battlefield later, and then all the assassins would go limp as their strength left their bodies in just a few minutes. However, one charged at her before she could get near the group of assassins. Even though there was only one assassin, she did not care because every opponent eliminated counted, so she promptly scattered the powder.

Chapter 1260 The Fight

Nevertheless, the assassin had lightning reflexes, and her hand shot up to cover her nose with her sleeve.

Then, Olivia seized the chance to land a kick on the assassin's abdomen.

It was just a fluke that the bone-softening powder floating around in the air ended up getting blown onto the face of the assassin.

Suddenly, the assassin was baffled by her repeated attempts to stand, but to no avail.

On the other hand, Olivia felt a surge of pride upon witnessing this and realized that her powder appeared effective. She waited until the powder had dispersed before releasing her grip on the nose. Then, she shouted to Jewel, "Don't breathe in, Jewel!" After saying this, she shook the bottle full of powders in the direction of the fight.

Everyone present was an assassin, so they naturally had quick reflexes. All of them instantly moved to run away with a hand over their mouths and noses. An outsider might have thought she had thrown a grenade into the area.

Seconds slowly ticked by, and the assassins felt nothing.

Olivia was confused by the outcome. Why isn't the powder working? Did I use up all the powder on one assassin? No wonder the powder worked so well earlier. Shoot! She didn't have much time to process what was happening, so she sprang into action and dragged Jewel out of the group so they could

escape.

Before she could get more than a few paces ahead, Blood Rose sprinted over and swung an angry fist at Olivia's head.

Although she wasn't a great fighter, Olivia made up for it with her speed, agility, and acute awareness of danger. She managed to avoid the fist, but Blood Rose's next strike was already aimed at her. Consequently, she could not counter Blood Rose's attacks and could only dodge them and defend herself.

Soon, Blood Rose's barrage of attacks eventually wore Olivia down because Blood Rose was the second strongest fighter in the Double Dragon Court, right after Jewel. In the meantime, close-quarters combat was also Olivia's Achilles' heel. With years of idyllic living dulling her skills and reflexes, her fight with Blood Rose was akin to an inexperienced fighter facing the strongest. It was not surprising to see her overwhelmed by the fight.

She scanned the area between her blows and noticed a rotten wooden staff lying on the ground. While Blood Rose was herding her in that direction, she took advantage of the opportunity to grab the staff from the ground.

At this moment, Blood Rose had just run up to her to launch a second assault when she felt a gust of wind. She was taken aback and reacted instinctively by dodging, but it was too late. She might have avoided being hit in the head, but the wooden staff brushed past her ear and smacked her shoulder. The sudden onset of pain caused her to sway while standing. She raised a hand to her sore shoulder and seethed through gritted teeth, "Do you want to die?"

Olivia held the staff up with a murderous look on her face. "You're the one who has a death wish!"

Blood Rose snorted before charging at Olivia once more.

After that, the two women exchanged blows for a few more minutes.

Although Olivia now had a weapon, she was still unable to fight as well as she would have liked. Then, she glanced at Jewel and saw she was engaged in combat with four opponents and could not assist her. If this keeps up, we're both going to die.

Fortunately, Olivia was a versatile fighter who could make use of whatever she could find. She used anything she could get her hands on as a weapon, including random sticks, trash cans, and the steel wire that was still affixed to the wall.

As the fight heated up, distant heavy footsteps could be heard, followed by the roar of a harsh and commanding voice. "Stop that!"

Not wanting to be sidetracked from her battle with Blood Rose, Olivia didn't bother to look in that direction, but she could tell it was Albert and River. As she had predicted, their faces soon appeared within her view.

Meanwhile, Blood Rose turned to look at River and snorted. "I was wondering how Jewel got away from the police. Since you escaped last time, I'll seize this opportunity to settle the score once and for all!"