

Unfinished 1421

Chapter 1421 I Can Have You Killed

Alice interrupted Beatrix, saying, "Enough. The more you say, the more absurd it becomes. I've already said that the hereditary necklace is with me. How could it be lost? General Bleu is also getting better. It's not as bad as you described."

Beatrix replied, "Alright. Then, let's check the bag Miss Maxwell brought first. If there's nothing in it, I will obey Your Majesty's arrangement. If there is something in there that doesn't belong to her, Your Majesty, there's no need to investigate further. She is undoubtedly the thief. What do you all think?" The people who were whispering to each other just now all spoke up.

"Yes. Your Majesty, we'll only be checking what Miss Maxwell brought with her. It shouldn't be a big deal. This way, Miss Maxwell can clear her name, right?"

"That's right. Better safe than sorry. If she really is a thief, she might have already succeeded by now."

"It's just a simple inspection. Miss Maxwell shouldn't object to it either since it's an opportunity for her to prove herself."

Alice's face turned serious. "Absolute nonsense. If Miss Maxwell really is a thief, would she still be waiting here to be caught?"

Beatrix sneered and glanced tauntingly at Olivia. "Maybe she's hoping that we won't find anything."

Olivia laughed as soon as she heard that. She had been listening for a while and had already gone from panic to calm.

Since Alice wanted to defend her, she naturally could not contradict Alice.

Olivia took a step forward with a defiant look. "Putting aside your flawed story, just your aggressive attitude makes me deeply suspicious of something. Do you not want me to treat General Bleu? One moment you want me to diagnose you, and if I don't, it means I'm afraid and not skilled enough. Then,

you show this video, accusing me of being a thief and a fraud. I really wonder when Eurosia has changed its ruler for a princess like you to have the final say."

Beatrix narrowed her eyes. "The Queen is soft-hearted, especially when it comes to General Bleu. She has always hoped that he can recover as soon as possible, so she's easily fooled by people like you. However, I'm not so easy to deal with. If you want to treat General Bleu, you have to pass my test. I don't care if I'll be cursed out by thousands of people. I won't give you any chance."

Olivia sneered. "Pass your test? Haven't you heard? Doctor Bailey's consultation fee starts at one million. He's always been mysterious and unrestrained, only treating those whom destiny says he should treat. Do you know what that means? It means that if I want to treat someone, I will treat them. If I don't want to treat them, I won't! You're just a nobody!"

"You..."

Beatrix was almost breathless from anger. "How dare you disrespect me! Don't you know I can have you killed whenever I want?"

Olivia calmly responded, "Do you think you are above the law just because you're a princess? Is there no need to back up one's boasting these days?"

Beside herself with fury, Beatrix said to Alice, "Your Majesty, do you see this? She's so arrogant. Isn't she blatantly lying her way out of this? Why don't you just lock her up?"

Alice frowned and coldly said, "Beatrix, that's enough. I don't need you to interfere with how I handle things. Leave now!"

Beatrix was unwilling to go and turned to Olivia. "Since you're not a thief, do you dare to let us see what's in your bag?"

Olivia remained calm. "In our country, no one has the right to search others without a search warrant. It violates our right to personal freedom. Although I am in a foreign country, we were also invited here. Without substantial evidence, you have no right to do anything to us. However..."

She turned around and looked at the surveillance footage. "I have a question for the esteemed Princess. This video doesn't look like actual surveillance footage. This room also seems to be a very confidential and important place, right? That means you secretly placed a video recorder in this room. What did you want to achieve? Ha! It can't possibly be for catching thieves, can it?"

There was a hint of mockery in her smile.

Beatrix was taken aback. She had indeed overlooked this matter and had forgotten to ask her father where he got the video. Still, it was clearly not real surveillance footage.

Chapter 1422 The Culprit

Olivia turned to ask everyone, "Does anyone know where this room in the video is?"

Albert, at this moment, seemed to have just awakened. He had actually doubted Olivia just like everyone else, simply because she had the necklace in her hand.

However, he didn't witness it himself. Perhaps it was a misunderstanding. Why would she willingly walk into a trap if she really was a thief?

Others might not know why she came to Eurosia, but he knew.

With Eugene and Olivia's capabilities, would they need to come to their small country of Eurosia to steal something?

This argument just didn't hold up.

Moreover, Albert knew that Beatrix would do everything possible to discredit Olivia. So, why did Albert fall for it so easily?

The answer to that was that he was not as resolute as Alice.

Thinking of this, he felt a pang of guilt and quickly spoke up, "This is my mother's study. It is indeed a highly confidential place."

Olivia responded, looking innocently at Beatrix and raising an eyebrow. "Care to explain?"

Suppose she wants to say that it is me in the surveillance video, fine! Let's see how she will explain that she has access to the surveillance.

She didn't believe that Beatrix would admit to placing a video recorder in Blanchett's study.

Beatrix's mind was a mess. She didn't know how to defend herself, so she could only say weakly, "Do I need to explain to you?"

Alice spoke coldly, "Then, explain it to me. After the queen's death, this room became mine. I didn't know that I was being watched every moment. Every document in that room is highly confidential. Why did you place a video recorder in my study?"

Beatrix furrowed her brow and hurriedly explained, "No, I didn't place any video recorder. Don't listen to Olivia's nonsense."

Alice pressed on. "Then explain how this video came about?"

Beatrix stammered, "I-I, this is..."

A male voice suddenly resounded before she could come up with a reason. "I gave it to her."

Lucian walked in.

The tall man had a kind smile on his face with a pair of gold-rimmed glasses that gave him a touch of elegance.

As Olivia looked at him, the words "hypocritical sc*m" inexplicably popped into her mind. She felt that his smile was also quite fake.

She had a hunch that he was not the father.

Eugene glanced at Olivia and held her hand, leaning in close to her ear to whisper, "I don't think he is."

Olivia turned to look at him. Her face was filled with joy that matched his intuition. "I think so, too."

Everyone stood up and greeted him. Even Alice addressed Lucian as her father.

Beatrix finally found her confidence and hurriedly rushed over to him, sweetly calling out, "Dad!"

Lucian rubbed her head, saying, "I told you that you won't be able to explain it clearly. With such solid evidence, what is there for you to say?"

He looked at Alice and continued, "The video recorder indeed recorded this, and I placed it in the study. But I didn't intend to monitor anything. If you don't believe me, you can search now."

"I placed the video recorder that day because I received a mysterious call saying someone would steal the necklace that night. At that time, Alice was dwelling on Blanchett's passing, and I didn't dare to disturb anyone. There are some things I can only do on my own. I knew they would turn off the surveillance if they came to steal, so I placed a small video recorder. I also increased the number of guards patrolling."

"But I didn't expect those people to be so skilled. They bypassed the infrared sensors, evaded the guards, and even interfered with the surveillance. They easily entered the study and opened the safe to steal the necklace. Of course, I only found out about all this later. At that time, they intruded and escaped without alerting anyone."

"After they left, I quietly retrieved the video recorder. But when I discovered that the necklace had been stolen, I was also shocked. I even asked Alice specifically, and she said the necklace was still there. They took the fake one. Although they didn't steal the real necklace, the act of theft still happened. I have

been using this video for so many years to track down the thief, but they hid themselves very well. I didn't expect that she would willingly walk into the trap."

Chapter 1423 The Precarious Queen

The crowd erupted in an uproar upon learning the truth.

At this moment, everyone couldn't tell if it was true or false.

However, Olivia knew that what Lucian said was not true. The patrol that night was lenient. There were only a few guards patrolling absentmindedly; it was as if they were slacking off.

As for the so-called infrared rays, it was even more ridiculous. They had never encountered them before. Otherwise, things wouldn't have gone so smoothly.

It went so smoothly that even their seniors began to suspect that someone was secretly helping them.

Now, the truth was revealed, right?

It turned out that Lucian and Double Dragon Court were conspiring. This also explained why Lucian knew so quickly that their necklace was fake.

It was because Joseph asked Alice.

Yet, Olivia didn't understand one thing. Why did he set up the video? What was the purpose of doing that?

Alice narrowed her eyes. No wonder Lucian suddenly asked about the necklace that night and said he heard some noise. He asked if someone had intruded on the place.

It turned out that he already knew someone would steal the necklace and secretly placed a video recorder in the study.

What exactly is he up to? It can't be just for targeting Olivia today, right?

She slowly took a seat in a queen-like posture. "Dad, you said someone sent you a message about the theft back then, right?"

He nodded. "Yes."

She asked, "Who was that person?"

He replied, "It was just an ordinary person's phone number."

Alice narrowed her eyes. "You went to such great lengths for a tip-off from an ordinary person's phone number?"

Joseph looked at the crowd and said confidently, "This is related to the fate of our Euroasia. Of course, I should believe it."

She said, "You went to my study, which is a highly restricted area, because of a groundless tip-off. The reason is too far-fetched. And most importantly, why didn't you tell me about secretly placing the video recorder?"

Joseph frowned, looking hurt. "Alice, what do you mean by this? Although your mother abdicated in your favor, you hadn't officially ascended to the throne at that time. Before she passed away, she specifically called me over and said that your father had died early. She asked me to treat you and Albert as my own.

"For so many years, I thought I had treated you both equally. As you said, I investigated the phone number, and it was indeed an insignificant person. But can I just ignore it because he is insignificant? Of course not. It would be good if we could catch the thief, but even if we couldn't, just think of it as a waste of energy.

"Can I inform you about this matter when it is very likely a prank? Of course not. I was wrong for not telling you later that the thief did sneak into your study. But Alice, didn't I ask you before?"

Alice scoffed inwardly. He and his slick tongue!

Lucian wasn't finished yet. He looked at her with a pained expression. "I only found out today that you never considered me as your family. I treated you as my own, though.

"Otherwise, you wouldn't have suspected my motives. When your mother passed away, Eurosia was in turmoil. You were in tears all day long, and I was also dwelling on your mother's death. What kind of motive could I possibly have at that time? You would rather protect a thief than believe in your own family."

He turned around abruptly and walked out.

The others didn't understand, but the majority of them were displeased with her actions.

Regardless of Lucian's inappropriate actions, they couldn't understand Alice's defense of Olivia.

It sounded somewhat ungrateful.

Back then, Alice was often melancholic. Lucian was busy taking care of everything most of the time.

Alice frowned slightly. Lucian was indeed much more difficult to deal with than Beatrix because he was persuasive.

Olivia and Eugene exchanged glances before looking at Alice again.

As Albert had mentioned, Alice's position as the queen was precarious.

Chapter 1424 The Necklace Thief

Everybody hoped that General Bleu would recover soon. Otherwise, Lucian and Beatrix will replace Eurosia sooner or later.

While everyone had different thoughts, Lucian walked in from the door and took a package from one of the guards, and it was Olivia's!

Olivia squinted her eyes. Her package was taken away when she entered, and she saw them lock it in the cabinet before entering.

How does Lucian get my package? Can he bully people like this?

A surge of anger rose in her heart. Just as she was about to step forward, Eugene held her back. He took big strides and quickly approached Lucian, reaching out to grab the package from him.

Lucian seemed to have known that he would come to snatch it as he instinctively dodged backward, then raised his hand and threw Olivia's package into the air.

Eugene stared as the package jumped up and wanted to catch it, but someone at some point had unzipped her package. Instantly, many things fell out of the package, including various cosmetics, tissues, lipstick, and even a string of pearl necklaces. Of course, these were not the most important things.

The most important thing was a blue sapphire necklace wrapped in yellow silk that fell out of the package.

Everyone was momentarily shocked because of what fell out of Olivia's package and because they thought Lucian's actions were inappropriate. There was no conclusion on whether she was a thief, but

he had already made her package public.

Eugene's eyes were filled with madness and destruction. He bent down to pick up the sapphire necklace from the ground and kicked it toward Lucian.

Lucian was kicked and slid far along the ground, but Eugene wasn't done yet. His face turned dark, and he took a few big steps to catch up and grabbed Lucian's neck. His voice sounded like the wind blowing up from hell, "You're asking for death!"

Everything happened too quickly, and no one had time to react. Even the palace guards looked at each other, unsure whether to step forward and help.

No one expected this man to be so silent, but he was ruthless. They had thought he was just a boy toy living off Olivia's wealth, but now it's confirmed. Hmm, he's someone we can't beat!

Alice was also stunned as attacking a royal family member was not a light crime in their country.

She quickly ordered, "Someone, please pull them apart!"

Albert was even more confused. The necklace had just fallen at his feet. If I'm not mistaken, it is our country's necklace, right? Did Olivia have a necklace? What's going on?

Olivia's face turned cold as she originally wanted to wait for Doreen to recover, and she showed her the necklace while also asking about her background. But now, they suspected she stole the necklace, which happened to fall out in this situation.

What's even more infuriating is that they planted a string of pearl necklaces in her bag to frame her, which conveniently confirmed her identity as a thief.

How despicable!

Now, she couldn't explain herself even if she had a mouth.

She just took a glance and found out that this necklace was discovered in the 16th century and was extremely valuable. It was called the "Tears of the Ocean," and those who wore this necklace were often favored by luck. Many people coveted it, and the pearl necklace was astonishingly heavy, weighing 50 carats, making it one of the most valuable antiques in the world.

Later, it ended up in the hands of Blanchett's mother, who then gave it to Blanchett, and Blanchett gave it to Doreen. This means that she had been to the Governor General's residence and stole this "Tears of the Ocean" for herself.

Huh! Lucian is so cunning.

Lucian also frowned. She didn't take the necklace my men placed in her bag but picked up something from the ground. A necklace? Why did it look like my country's sapphire necklace?

Of course, he was about to be strangled to death by this man now, and he didn't have time to think.

Chapter 1425 Framed

Fortunately, most of the guards rushed in and separated them before things could get ugly.

Eugene knew that he couldn't do anything to Lucian in this situation. So, he forcefully shook off the guard holding him in place and quickly rushed to Olivia's side.

"Are you okay?"

She shook her head. "I'm fine." Then, she took the sapphire necklace that Eugene handed to her and kept it in her pocket.

Eugene's anger was far from subsided. Thus, he turned his attention and glared fiercely at the bewildered Albert. "Albert Bleu! Is this how Eurosia treats their guests?" Albert opened his mouth to say something. Alas, for the life of him, he didn't know what to say.

Mainly because he was also rather confused at the moment!

Now, he wasn't sure whether Olivia was the thief.

If she was, she had no reason to come to Eurosia and saunter right into a trap.

If she wasn't, then what had just happened earlier?

If Lucian planted the 'Tears of the Ocean' to frame her, how could the sapphire necklace have fallen out of her bag?

The only possible reason was that she owned the necklace.

As for whether she bought it herself or stole it... Well, excuse him, but he had no idea.

Unfortunately, Eugene's patience had run out during Albert's brief hesitation, and disappointment could be heard in his voice. "We're nothing but utter fools to have traveled thousands of miles just for the likes of you. We definitely didn't come here just to be humiliated!"

As he spoke, he embraced Olivia's shoulder and said, "Let's go!"

Just as they had spun on their heels to leave, Beatrix blocked their way as a gloating smile appeared on her face.

"Go? Where do you think you're going? You stole something from Eurosia and still had the gall to leave just like that?"

She looked around at everyone and exclaimed, "You all saw what happened, didn't you? Not only did Olivia steal the necklace from Eurosia, but she's also targeting General Bleu's 'Tears of the Ocean.' Everyone knows that Queen Alice gave that necklace to General Bleu herself. It's also a well-known fact that he has always treasured it. If Olivia weren't a skilled thief, I doubt she would have been able to get her hands on this necklace so easily. I told you she was suspicious, everyone..."

Before she could finish her words, she was kicked in the stomach, exactly where her father had been kicked.

She looked up at Eugene in disbelief, with a hint of grievance and sadness in her eyes. This man actually attacked her?

Frankly, no one could understand Eugene's feelings at this moment. He was scarily close to committing murder.

These fools had been testing his patience one after another. It was as though they were deliberately trying to get themselves killed.

Eventually, he spat coldly as a scowl appeared on his face, "Get lost!"

After that, he embraced Olivia and tried to leave yet again.

This time, Lucian stepped forward and stopped them in their tracks. "You, who have both committed assault and theft, can't just leave like this, right? Shouldn't the two of you explain why Eurosia's treasured item has ended up in your bags?"

Olivia's face turned cold, and there was a hidden anger in her eyes. "Then, don't you think you should explain why my bag was in your hands before we circle back to that particular topic? Besides, I find it utterly outrageous that you, who are supposedly a part of the royal family, would stoop so low to use such despicable means to frame a guest who came from afar just to treat your citizen. I have to say, because of you, I have come to find Eurosia's nothing but despicable!"

Then, Eugene interjected, "Why waste your time talking to him? If we are treated unfairly here, it won't just be a war between me and you. Instead, it will be a war that will involve two countries."

Lucian curled his lips into a triumphant smirk. "Unlike you, we have conclusive evidence of your misdeeds. So, why don't you explain to me just how I framed you for a crime that you have clearly done? Sure, you guys claimed that the video could have been doctored. Still, you can't sweep everything under the rug now that you've been caught red-handed. I know you have a powerful country backing you, but

you can't just turn a blind eye to the law, right? I'm not sure if this will blow up into an incident that will bring shame to two countries, but even if it does, you will be punished according to Eurosia's law."

Once he was done, he ordered loudly, "Someone, take them away."

The palace guards moved forward and surrounded Eugene and Olivia upon hearing his instructions.

Eugene took a step back and instinctively shielded Olivia. Then, his voice turned glacial as he threatened, "I dare you to make a move!"

Alice stood up and shouted, "Stop!"

Lucian ignored her words and bellowed, "Arrest them!"

The guards looked at each other, unsure of what to do. Whose orders should they follow?

At this critical moment, a voice suddenly rang out from the entrance. "Wait!"

Chapter 1426 Boundaries

Everyone turned their heads toward the sound as the door swung open. Hugh walked in and bowed deeply to Alice, saying, "Your Majesty, I have been ordered by General Bleu to invite Miss Maxwell and her husband to come with me."

Alice's heart eased slightly as she responded calmly, "Alright."

Then, he looked at Olivia and said, "Miss Maxwell, I apologize for the inconvenience you've experienced earlier."

Olivia shot a glance at Albert, who was still in a daze, and forced a smile, saying, "It's alright. As long as the Queen believes in us."

Eugene's expression remained unpleasant throughout the exchange. Not only was he angry at Albert, but he also didn't like the fact that Hugh had arrived so late!

However, he didn't say anything. After all, the key was to leave this place as soon as possible.

Unexpectedly, Lucian stopped them before they could finally depart from this cruel place. He looked at Alice with a serious expression and intoned gravely, "Alice, I know you want to cure your godmother's illness as soon as possible, but Olivia is nothing more than a thief. She knows nothing about medicine. Aren't you worried about her doing something untoward against General Bleu?"

Beatrix chimed in, "Exactly, Your Majesty! Didn't you see what had happened? Olivia still has a Euroasian necklace in her hand! Even if you let her go, she should at least explain why she has a Euroasian necklace in her possession."

Alice remained silent and took the box handed to her by someone next to her. Then, she opened it and showed the box's contents to everyone. "Can everyone see it? The necklace is clearly with me."

Then, she stood up and placed the necklace in the slot of the Queen's throne. The throne slowly rose after a soft click.

After a moment of surprise, the crowd began to whisper to each other. "What's going on? The 'Tears of the Ocean' necklace hasn't been lost! So, what does Olivia have?"

"Who knows? Maybe she just likes it and bought a replica?"

"I know! It's probably the fake necklace she stole five years ago."

"Didn't the Queen say that the person in the video wasn't Olivia?"

"What do you know? This is simply a competition between the Crown Princess and the Queen! No one cares whether the necklace is missing or whether Olivia is the thief."

Alice restored the throne to its original state before turning around to face everyone, announcing, "See? This is the true sapphire necklace of Eurosia. The necklace in Doctor Maxwell's hand is not from Eurosia. Do I have the right to ask her to explain why she has that necklace? There are several replicas of this specific necklace. Can you say for certain that they're definitely from Eurosia?"

Lucian sneered. "Alice, even if you can explain the existence of the real necklace in your possession, don't you forget that Olivia still has Doreen's 'Tears of the Ocean' in her bag."

She merely retorted, "Then, I'd suggest my dearest Father explain why he took Miss Maxwell's bag. Her bag was in your hands. If I remember correctly, the zipper was open too. I can easily claim that you stuffed the 'Tears of the Ocean' in it to frame Doctor Maxwell, can't I?"

Lucian remained utterly unruffled as he replied, "Everyone can check the surveillance footage. I certainly didn't lay even a finger on the bag while it was in the guards' possession."

She confronted him with a fierce rebuttal, "Even if you didn't touch it, you have no right to take someone's bag without their permission! What's the difference between your behavior and that of a thief?"

He frowned at her behavior. "The evidence is right in front of us. Miss Maxwell is still trying to deny it even though we now have solid proof that she's the thief. She keeps insisting that the person in the video is not her. Plus, she won't let us see her bag or cooperate with Beatrix. Her evasive and abnormal behavior does nothing but raise suspicion. Even the Queen herself is utterly biased toward her. I have no choice but to do this."

She curled her lips into a mocking sneer. "No choice, huh? Father, do I have to remind you that you are not the Prime Minister? Although I address you as 'Father,' there should still be boundaries. Shouldn't you change your disrespectful habit of acting on my behalf under the pretext of doing what's best for me? I have been reigning for almost four and a half years. Although Eurosia may not be as prosperous as it was during my mother's reign, I am not completely incompetent. I can judge for myself just who is in the right and who is in the wrong."

Chapter 1427 I Am the Queen

Lucian said, "So, you're taking the thief's side?"

Alice smacked the armrest of the throne and declared firmly, "She is a guest of Eurosia!"

He narrowed his eyes and said, "In the video, it clearly shows that Olivia stole the necklace! She also happened to have this necklace in her purse. Regardless of the truth of the matter, you can't deny that she's a suspect. It doesn't matter whether she stole the 'Tears of the Ocean', it was still found in her bag. Yet, you still treat such a person as an honored guest?! Alice, you shouldn't let your personal bias against Beatrix and me color your judgment! You should not gamble with the interests of Eurosia based on a mere whim!"

Alice simply looked at him and said, "I am the Queen of Eurosia. You have no right to dictate my actions!"

Lucian felt a surge of anger in his heart. This fury wasn't only directed toward Alice, but also toward Blanchett.

Alice and Beatrix were the same age. Beatrix was even the eldest princess. Yet, that blasted woman insisted on passing the throne to someone like Alice!

To make matters even more unbearable, this brat would always use her status as the Queen to suppress them.

She's doing it again right now.

Did she really take them for easy pickings?

So, he frowned and said, "Alice, if you insist on acting this way, then I really can't let you have your way. Although you are Queen, you are harming the interests of Eurosia with your irresponsible actions. I can't just stand by and do nothing!"

Finally, he ordered the guards, "Investigate this matter thoroughly. Olivia cannot leave the palace until the truth is revealed!"

Alice became furious as she rose to her feet and hissed, "Lucian, are you going against a royal decree?"

Behind his glasses, his eyes flashed with a hint of ruthlessness as he replied, "Since you're so incompetent, I really don't think you deserve to sit in that position!"

Then, he swept his gaze across the room and declared, "Do you all think I have done something wrong? You all saw how everything played out with your own two eyes. I have always placed Eurosia's interest first. That woman is a thief who is full of lies, yet Queen Alice still insists on protecting her. The Queen is even refusing anyone to detain her. It doesn't matter what the Queen's reasons are; you can't deny that she is harming the interests of Eurosia!"

Alice could feel her patience snap as she glared at the guards who were about to attack Olivia. She shouted sternly, "Stop right there! I'm not even dethroned yet! Who is the one paying your salaries here? Shouldn't the lot of you know just whose orders to follow? How dare you put someone else's words above your Queen's?! What? Are you all turning your cloaks?!"

As soon as these words were spoken, the discussions among the crowd came to a sudden halt.

Hugh immediately stepped forward and said, "This is Eurosia, and Alice is the Queen. If she is not worthy of this position, then who is? You? Or your daughter?"

Lucian looked at Hugh, and a glint of malice flashed in his eyes. "Mr. Plumpton, you have only just arrived. So, you are not aware of the situation here. It's better for you to stay out of it."

"I think you are the one who is not aware of their station!" Hugh retorted. "Alice is the Queen of Eurosia. As long as she is present, it doesn't matter what investigation would need to be conducted— her orders are law!"

Lucian scowled. "Hugh, cease harping about trivial matters when this is a major problem! I would have conceded if Alice could provide convincing investigation results. However, the fact remains that we don't know anything about the situation. Yet, you still insist on taking Olivia away before she can be questioned. Have you considered what would happen if our prime suspect vanishes before we could proceed with our investigation?!"

Hugh merely answered, "I invited Doctor Maxwell under General Bleu's orders. So, anyone who dares to obstruct me from taking her to General Bleu will be charged with obstructing official duties."

Then, he took the walkie-talkie and ordered, "Imperial Guards, come in!"

Soon, the gates of the palace swung open, and several imperial guards in blue uniforms entered. They were different from the palace guards, whom Lucian's words could still sway. These men only listened to Doreen's orders.

In fact, their arrival represented Doreen's intentions.

Doreen's abilities and methods were unmatched in the entirety of Eurosia, not to mention Lucian's. This was also the reason why Lucian and Beatrix did everything they could to prevent Doreen from recuperating.

Hugh regarded Lucian arrogantly as he said, "Protect Mr. Nolan and Doctor Maxwell and take them to the Governor General's residence. If anyone tries to stop you, you have the right to silence them!"

Chapter 1428 Lost Friendship

Compared to the indecisive and opportunistic palace guards, the Imperial Guards of the Governor General's residence were much more disciplined. This was shown when they all responded in unison, "Yes, Sir."

Their voices were loud and earth-shattering.

Alice couldn't help but feel a bit envious of the unwavering loyalty they displayed. This was yet another difference between her and her godmother.

Even though the palace guards were under her command, they were easily swayed and went as far as to obey Lucian's orders after listening to him speak!

Perhaps she should also show some courage and establish some rules lest she be stabbed in the back by one of these opportunists one day!

Hugh swept his gaze across the throne room. "The truth will be revealed soon enough! However, let's not speculate recklessly until the matter is thoroughly investigated!"

Then, he turned his attention back to Eugene and Doctor Maxwell. "Mr. Nolan, Doctor Maxwell, please follow me!"

This time, no one dared to make things difficult for them, and they left the palace smoothly under the watchful gazes of the Imperial Guards under Doreen's command.

Albert's gaze followed them as they left, but his feet were frozen to the ground. He couldn't even move a muscle. Frankly, he didn't know how to face them after this debacle.

He was the one who invited them to Eurosia, but he misunderstood them again and again after falling prey to Lucian and Beatrix's instigations.

Eugene and Doctor Maxwell were probably very disappointed, weren't they?

No one knew how chaotic his mind was at that moment.

On one hand, he didn't want to believe that Doctor Maxwell was the thief who stole the necklace five years ago. Yet, he couldn't explain why she had the necklace if she wasn't the thief in the video.

Eventually, he started to think that Lucian's version made a lot of sense.

They lost the necklace five years ago, and Doctor Maxwell was the thief in the video. That was why she had the necklace in her possession.

It was just as Lucian had said earlier—even if the stolen necklace was fake, she still did the deed. That was why he hesitated when Eugene asked him that question.

It was during those few seconds of hesitation that he knew he had lost their friendship.

He deeply regretted it right at this moment. If he could have just said a word in their defense, even if it were useless, it wouldn't have caused them to feel utterly disillusioned by his attitude.

Once he thought of that, he hastily bid Alice to give him leave before chasing after them.

It didn't matter whether they would forgive him for his transgressions; he should still apologize to them.

Meanwhile, Alice exuded a commanding presence as she sat on the throne. She glanced coldly at everyone in the palace before suddenly speaking, "I really can't imagine such a chaotic morning would happen in my palace of all places. Your behavior is not even comparable to the aunties who haggle for prices in the wet markets! Is the video real or fake? Is Doctor Maxwell truly the thief, or was she

framed? Would someone like Doctor Maxwell foolishly hide the stolen things in her bag and wait for you to find them? Are you detaining her without proper investigation due to solid evidence, or only because you want to cut off General Bleu's hope of recovery? Searching through my honored guest's bag without permission yet justifying it with such a pitiful excuse... Is this the etiquette of the royal family of Eurosia? Really? Right in my palace?"

Eugana and Doctor Maxwell were probably very disappointed, weren't they?

No one knew how chaotic his mind was at that moment.

On one hand, he didn't want to believe that Doctor Maxwell was the thief who stole the necklace five years ago. Yet, he couldn't explain why she had the necklace if she wasn't the thief in the video.

Eventually, he started to think that Lucian's version made a lot of sense.

They lost the necklace five years ago, and Doctor Maxwell was the thief in the video. That was why she had the necklace in her possession.

It was just as Lucian had said earlier—even if the stolen necklace was fake, she still did the deed. That was why he hesitated when Eugenia asked him that question.

It was during those few seconds of hesitation that he knew he had lost their friendship.

He deeply regretted it right at this moment. If he could have just said a word in their defense, even if it were useless, it wouldn't have caused them to feel utterly disillusioned by his attitude.

Once he thought of that, he hastily bid Alica to give him leave before chasing after them.

It didn't matter whether they would forgive him for his transgressions; he should still apologize to them.

Meanwhile, Alica assumed a commanding presence as she sat on the throne. She glanced coldly at everyone in the palace before suddenly speaking, "I really can't imagine such a chaotic morning would happen in my palace of all places. Your behavior is not even comparable to the aunties who haggle for prices in the wet markets! Is the video real or fake? Is Doctor Maxwell truly the thief, or was she framed? Would someone like Doctor Maxwell foolishly hide the stolen things in her bag and wait for you to find them? Are you detaining her without proper investigation due to solid evidence, or only because you want to cut off General Bleu's hope of recovery? Searching through my honored guest's bag without permission yet justifying it with such a pitiful excuse... Is this the etiquette of the royal family of Eurosia? Really? Right in my palace?"

Lucian defended himself by saying, "You're only finding fault with my actions because you're biased toward Doctor Maxwell. I don't think there's anything else to investigate in the face of such solid evidence. However, I'm worried that Doctor Maxwell will do something untoward against General Bleu now that she has successfully evaded capture again. I'm afraid General Bleu..."

He shook his head, looking helpless and disappointed.

With a barely concealed sneer, Alice said, "General Bleu is my godmother. No one wants her to be well more than I do. Father, you don't need to worry about this matter anymore. Instead, I suggest that you think about how you will explain yourself regarding your shameless display once the truth is revealed!"

Chapter 1429 Retirement

After Alice finished speaking, she stared everyone down from her throne. "I don't have many virtues, but I do have a good memory. I know the good and the bad. I'm sure that all of you have heard that General Bleu's condition has improved under Doctor Maxwell's treatment. In fact, she can speak now. Plus, Doctor Maxwell is also the famed Doctor Bailey, whom my brother found after eight months of grueling search. If we disregard what had happened earlier, just the fact that she was willing to travel from afar just to help Eurosia... I will never forget her kindness!"

Then, she inhaled deeply and continued, "I haven't been in power for long, and I can never compare to the decisive and wise Queen Blanchett. It's normal for everyone to be dissatisfied with someone as inexperienced as me. But let me ask you, have I ever done anything to harm Eurosia? Have I mistreated any of you Consuls? Yet, all of you have taken advantage of my benevolence time and time again!"

Her voice was intimidating, and her gaze was as sharp as a dagger.

No one said a word. Instead, they all lowered their heads and wilted under her stern reprimand.

Alice looked around and spoke again, "Why is no one saying anything? Weren't you all nattering away happily just a few minutes ago? When a problem occurs, the lot of you just stand around and agree with the loudest person out there instead of coming up with an opinion of your own. Since none of you are willing to step up when there's a crisis, you can return to your homes and enjoy your retirement. Why are you still standing here?"

Everyone couldn't help but gape at her in astonishment. They knew that the person sitting on the throne genuinely held the power of their life and death. It was a fact that whether they could remain in power depended on just one word from that person.

Prior to this, none of them paid any mind to this new Queen.

In their eyes, she had always been a meek and gentle girl, lacking experience and naive in her ways. Although she held the throne, she didn't seem like a Queen. Instead, she had always relied on Doreen for everything.

However, they suddenly realized that the girl they had always looked down on had suddenly grown into herself after today's incident.

She looked utterly comfortable on the throne as she exuded a powerful aura. She didn't seem any less domineering and imposing than Queen Blanchett.

Plus, although her patience was repeatedly tested by Lucian and Beatrix, she didn't back down even for a second.

Now, she sat there with dignity, showing no signs of being easy to manipulate.

Alice instructed the people around her, "Take a look at how many people disobeyed my orders today or showed disrespect to Doctor Maxwell. Send them directly to the judicial authorities and deal with them as necessary!"

The people around her immediately responded, "Yes!"

Then, she swept her gaze across the Consuls and spoke to a man, "Mr. Bailey, you are responsible for investigating today's incident. Determine whether the video is true or doctored, figure out whether the person in the video is truly Doctor Maxwell, and dig out just who was the one who came into possession of Doctor Maxwell's bag. Find out the truth for me by any means necessary!"

Mr. Bailey replied, "Yes, Your Majesty!"

Finally, she turned to the people around her and said, "Give me that necklace. I will ask General Bleu about this."

The people around her immediately rushed to pick up the necklace, handing it to Alice.

She took it, rose to her feet, and coldly said to everyone, "Meeting adjourned!"

After that, she strode out of the throne room without a backward glance.

...

Meanwhile, Eugene and Olivia left the palace and got into the car arranged by Hugh himself.

Both of them remained silent throughout the journey.

Of course, they were far from happy after being accused of theft.

Hugh tentatively broached, "Mr. Nolan, I'm sorry for being late. Are you both okay?"

Eugene only hugged Olivia and shot him with an unfriendly look. "What do you think?"

Hugh felt awkward, not knowing if Eugene's anger was directed at him or if it was because of the injustice he had just suffered in the palace. Now that he was thinking about it, there was a high chance that it was both of those things.

So, he hurriedly explained, "Lucian and Beatrix have always coveted the throne. They only became even more unscrupulous after General Bleu fell ill. Don't mind them. Their words hold no power as long as the Queen believes in you."

Unfortunately, Eugene didn't buy his explanation one bit as he demanded, "When did Shannon arrive at the Governor General's residence?"

Hugh couldn't help but become anxious. "River took her there around 9 a.m.."

Then, Eugene asked sharply, "She arrived at 9 a.m., but you only came at 11 a.m.?"

Chapter 1430 Identity

"Mr. Nolan, I'm sorry for the inconvenience caused to both of you. Alice needs this opportunity to grow. So, I waited at the palace gate for a while before going in," Hugh apologized awkwardly, realizing that Eugene was indeed angry with him.

Eugene exuded a chilly aura, and his voice was cold as he said, "You should have seen what Shannon brought to you and the message she delivered. Then, you should also know Olivia's identity. You let her, a pregnant woman who traveled a long way to come here to treat General Bleu, be wronged, insulted, and humiliated in your palace. If she comes into any harm, not only you but even your dearest General Bleu won't be able to bear the consequences!"

Only now did Hugh feel shocked. Olivia was pregnant?

Thus, he hurriedly defended himself, saying, "I'm sorry, Mr. Nolan. I didn't know Miss Maxwell was pregnant. I'm sorry. I made that decision without consulting anyone. General Bleu didn't instruct me to do any of the sort. Alice has been under my care since she was a child, so I just wanted to give her a chance to learn."

Eugene's face turned extremely ugly. "Is this how you treat someone who is not pregnant? Do we have to accompany your Queen in order to give her a chance to grow into her position? You..."

He wanted to say something else, but Olivia grabbed his arm.

Then, she shook her head at him and said, "Forget it."

Although she was also furious, she could easily let go of her anger as long as someone stood up for her.

She didn't expect this man to be so shrewd. He had already informed Doreen through Shannon about their visit to the palace before they even stepped foot in that place.

No wonder she didn't see her adoption certificate in the bag.

The adoption certificate was very detailed, and if Doreen knew the details of Blanchett losing her, Doreen would definitely know who she actually was.

Eugene looked at Olivia with a heartache and embraced her tightly.

He wouldn't have agreed to visit if he had known that this would happen.

Hugh looked at them guilty and mumbled, "I'm sorry."

Neither of them paid any attention to him.

In truth, they weren't as angry with Hugh as they were with Albert. Even though he was on Albert's side, he still helped them out without hesitation today.

Still, at least he showed up, which was much better than Albert's indecision.

No one knew how anxious Eugene was when he didn't see the Governor General's subordinates. He thought Shannon hadn't been able to enter the residence.

Even though he was far from useless, he was still worried that he couldn't protect the woman in his arms when he was forced to face those palace guards. If she came to any harm, it wouldn't just be her and the child in her belly who would lose their lives. Both he and Blake wouldn't be able to survive the loss!

At this moment, he was filled with fury but didn't know how to vent his anger. So, he used his ire as fuel as he sent a message to Shannon, asking her to hire more bodyguards, as many as possible!

This time, both he and Olivia were fools to have wrongly placed their trust in someone so lacking.

Nonetheless, they soon arrived at the Governor General's residence.

The two followed Hugh and went straight to Doreen's room.

Doreen immediately gestured for the servant to push her wheelchair out. When she saw them coming in, she was extremely excited and kept mumbling something, even going as far as to try to grab onto Olivia. Alas, she could only raise her hand and failed to lift her arm.

Olivia instantly approached her and squatted beside her, smiling, "General Bleu."

Doreen tried hard to say something, but her lips failed to form the words she desperately wanted to say. Tears of frustration instantly rolled down her face.

Olivia smiled and wiped away her tears before saying gently, "General Bleu, please try to stay calm. The more anxious you are, the harder it is to speak."

Doreen nodded and touched Olivia's hand. She held it tightly as she tried to calm herself down.

After a while, she looked at Olivia's adoption certificate on the bed and asked with difficulty, "Who... are... you?"