

Anything For Her Chapter 147 - 178

Chapter 147 Erotic

- Cecelia was angry. Prior to that, she had never cared about Lorelei. However, she just wanted Lorelei dead when she crossed her bottom line.
- “Oh, goodness!” Having grown up with Cecelia, Sophie was well aware of her temper. “That’s it, okay? It’s just Lorelei. She’s done for.”
- “Okay.” Cecelia knew Sophie would get annoyed if she were to carry on pursuing the matter.
- “As an actress, isn’t the state of your complexion important to you? Sleep early, okay?”
- “Hey, you’re way more important to me compared to my complexion.” If Cecelia were a man, she would definitely be a sweet talker.
- The two of them talked on the phone for quite a while before Cecelia reluctantly hung up.
- When Sophie came out of her room, Tristan was still in the living room.
- “It’s getting late,” Sophie said.
- Tristan raised his gaze and glanced at Sophie. She was standing there with her auburn hair over her shoulders, looking as beautiful as always.
- He beckoned her over with his finger.
- Upon seeing that, Sophie walked up to him and stood in front of him. “What? Didn’t I tell you I’m fine? What makes you think I can’t beat Lorelei?”
- Sophie wasn’t one to get bullied.
- “I know you’re very capable, Sophie. In fact, you can even fight off mercenaries. However, I’m still not willing to see you in any form of danger. Even if your counterpart has nothing on you, I would still stand by your side because I’m worried that you might get hurt. I don’t think I can ever stay away from you. Do you know how I feel?”
- Indeed, once someone had fallen in love, they would do anything in their power to keep their significant other safe and sound.
- He then suddenly held her waist and pulled her downward. Just like that, she was sitting on his lap.
- Before that, Sophie was standing in front of him. She couldn’t help but feel that the position she was in was a little too intimate for her liking.
- “Mr. Tristan!” Sophie exclaimed in surprise.
- To her surprise, Tristan merely rested his head on her shoulder.
- Right then, she was overwhelmed with uncertainties. She really didn’t know what to say to make him feel better. All along, she preferred to take everything upon herself and protect the others.
- However, she was at a loss whenever she was with Tristan.
- Due to the uncertainties, she wasn’t even sure where she would end up in the future. Hence, she couldn’t promise Tristan anything.
- “You’re so cruel, you know? I’ve already said so much, but you’re still unwilling to commit to me.” Tristan had never expected that he would end up wanting an eighteen-year-old girl to make a commitment to him.

- “I...” At that point, she didn’t know what to say.
- Tristan wrapped his arms around her neck and kissed her on her lips. “It’s all right. I’m not trying to put pressure on you when I said that. I just want you to know that you’re the only person I want to be with.”
- After staying in that position for around ten minutes, he let go of her and let her sit on the couch. If he were to keep holding her in his arms, he could lose his cool and devour her whole.
- Knowing that she was still young, he had to be patient and have some self-control.
- “I’m sorry, but I need to take a shower. If you’re sleepy, you should just go to bed first. I’ll leave after I’m done showering,” Tristan uttered. Sophie smirked when she saw him trying to flee the scene.
- If some other men were to get turned on by her, she wouldn’t hesitate to end his manhood. However, since the man in question was Tristan, she found his reaction rather cute. At the same time, anticipation had grown in her.
- After taking a shower, Tristan couldn’t help but smile wryly when he saw himself in the mirror. *When did my willpower become so weak? Sophie was just sitting on my lap. It’s not like she was doing anything to me, so why couldn’t I control my urge?*
- “Tristan, are you really a monster? She’s just an eighteen-year-old girl. What were you thinking?” he asked himself.
- The moment he thought about her soft lips and slender waist, his mind was instantly filled with lustful thoughts.
- After showering, Tristan came out with a bathrobe on. *Sophie isn’t in the living room anymore. She must be in bed already, right?*
- Although his emotions were telling him to stay, his mind was telling him to get out of there. Hence, he quickly put on his clothes and fled.
- When Sophie heard the door close, she got out of her room and went to the living room. *As expected, he had already left.*
- A bright smile then appeared on her face when she recalled his actions and reactions earlier.
- Tristan sent Sophie a text when he arrived home.
- Tristan: *I’m home. Sleep early, okay?*
- Sophie: *Okay.*
- Tristan wasn’t happy when he received the one-word reply. *This girl is so heartless. I thought I’m a man with few words, but compared to her, it seems like I’m such a talker. It’s okay, though. All we have is time. I’ll slowly involve myself in her life, and she’ll get used to having me around.*
- With those lustful thoughts in his mind, he ended up having wet dreams that night, and Sophie was in every one of those dreams.
- The next morning, Tristan was bewildered when he recalled those dreams he had. *I didn’t even have a wet dream when I was a teenager. Nonetheless, those were some sweet dreams.*
- Tristan, the legend of Jipsdale, ended up needing a cold shower that morning to calm his thoughts.

- ... In the meantime, Willow spotted Angie the moment she arrived at Jipsdale Premier High, and she couldn't help but frown. *Didn't I already get her to transfer to another school? Everything was arranged for her back then, so what is she doing here now?*
- Willow grabbed Angie's hand and dragged her into an alley.
- Angie let her lead the way. Although she didn't know where Willow was going, she knew she had a lot of things to say to her.
- "Angie, I've already arranged for you to transfer to another school, no? You could've started a new life. What are you doing back here? You have nothing to do with Jipsdale Premier High anymore. Do you think you'll have a peaceful life coming back here? Do you think Sophie is going to let you off the hook?" Willow was very emotional. *As long as Angie doesn't come back, no one will find out about that incident.*
- "Willow, I can't stay in that school. The students there only greeted me with punches and kicks. I can't stay there. Please help me."

Chapter 148 Compromise

- Angie was holding onto Willow's hand so tight that it was as if she was holding onto her last hope.
- Willow wasn't pleased. What is she doing? Does she need to do this? Why should I clean up the mess she has made in another school?
- "Angie, I believe I've done my part. Back then, you were the one who uploaded the photos on the forum, so it has nothing to do with me. I've already helped you, no? Why are you taking advantage of my kindness?" Willow pulled her hand away from Angie and warned, "I'm warning you. Don't ever show up in front of me again. Otherwise, I'm going to teach you a lesson. Also, watch your mouth. I'm sure you know what not to say."
- Angie stared at her in disbelief. If she didn't send those photos to me, how would everything happen?
- "Willow, if I'm going down, I'll be sure to drag you down with me. You'd better find another school for me. Otherwise, I'm going to come after you. Mason doesn't know about your misdeeds, right? Do you think you would still have a chance with him if he finds out about this?" With that, Angie turned around and left.
- So, this is Willow's true self. She's such a disgusting woman.
- After Angie left, Willow leaned against the wall and took a deep breath. Now, Mason is already treating me with such a bad attitude. If he finds out I was involved in those incidents, he'll never forgive me.
- Jipsdale is a huge place. I'm sure the Tanner family has the ability to make a small fry like her vanish into thin air!
- A chilling glare flashed across Willow's eyes when she murmured to herself, "Angie, you'd better watch what you do. If not, I won't show you mercy."
- Willow couldn't help but feel troubled when she thought about Mason's attitude toward her. That man's heart must be made of stone. How has he not softened up after all the time I've spent with him?
- When Willow got out of the alley, she bumped into her followers.

- “Willa, what were you doing in the alley?” one of them asked. Apparently, that alley was the place where most of the bullies in the school would settle their disagreements privately. What was she doing there alone?
- “It’s nothing. Stop asking me about it,” Willow answered.
- “Willa, I saw Angie just now. What is she doing back here?”
- “How would I know? Do you think I have the time for that?” Willow didn’t want the conversation to continue, and she just wanted to get out of there.
- When she arrived at the school’s entrance, she saw Angie there, staring back at her.
- Willow’s heart skipped a beat. F*ck! Why is she still here?
- Right then, Sophie and Ysabelle appeared at the entrance. Seeing that Angie was about to approach Sophie, Willow immediately ran toward Angie and grabbed her hand before dragging her out of there.
- “Willa?” Her followers were stumped. What just happened? Where did she go?
- After that, they started talking among themselves.
- “What’s going on? Why did Angie look for Willow?”
- “I heard Angie was having a tough time at her new school. Not only was she constantly bullied by the other girls, but they had also stripped her naked in public.” In fact, Angie’s life in her new school was far different from when she was in Jipsdale Premier High. There, the students would fight very often. Obviously, that wasn’t an environment that a goody two shoes like Angie could survive.
- “Is it really that bad?”
- “Oh, yes. It’s that bad. However, how does any of it have to do with Willa? Although Willa is a kind person, what can she do to help?”
- “Could it be that Angie is bullying Willa?”
- The conversation went on.
- Unsurprisingly, Sophie and Ysabelle had spotted Angie earlier on. Besides, they also heard the conversation Willow’s followers were having.
- “Serves her right! That’s what she gets for talking sh*t about you.” Ysabelle had no sympathy for Angie at all. Since she dared to hurt Soph, she deserves every bit of hardship she gets.
- Sophie, on the other hand, didn’t have anything to say.
- That was because Angie was not anyone important to her. If she didn’t show up in front of Sophie that day, Sophie would have already forgotten about her existence.
- “Angie transferred to Jipsdale High. That’s the worst school in Jipsdale because most of the students there are gangsters,” Ysabelle added.
- “I’m not interested.” Indeed, none of those so-called gangsters could compare to Sophie.
- “All right. Let’s just forget about her. Whatever it is, she deserves it. That’s what she gets for getting into bed with Willow.” Ysabelle then went into the school with Sophie.
- “Ysabelle, are you all right?” Ysabelle didn’t seem like her usual self that day, and she didn’t eat much for dinner.

- “I’m fine. Why wouldn’t I be? Don’t worry, okay?” Ysabelle didn’t want Sophie to worry about her. Well, it’s not like anyone can help me with what I’m going through.
- Sophie walked up beside Ysabelle and put her arm over her shoulders.
- Suddenly, Ysabelle felt aggrieved. “Soph, do you know that if I could choose my own destiny, I would rather be born into an ordinary family? In that case, I can do what I like.”
- Her father was livid because of the video taken in the karaoke bar. He thought she had done it on purpose.
- Sophie patted her shoulder and said, “Even if you are a Lombard, you can still do what you like. You have my support.” No matter what the others had to say, she would still support Ysabelle.
- “Okay.” Ysabelle was touched.
- After the self-study session, Sophie received a call from Arius, and she wanted to look for him right away. However, she saw Tristan waiting for her outside the school when she was leaving.
- “Why are you here?” Since she was busy, she wouldn’t leave with him even if he was there to fetch her.
- Upon hearing that, Tristan furrowed his brows. She doesn’t seem like she wants me here. Otherwise, why would she have that expression on her face?
- “What’s wrong? Are you busy?” Judging by the look on her face, Tristan could tell that she wasn’t planning on going back to Wisteria Apartments.
- “Yes. I need to pay someone a visit. Hence, whatever you came here for, could we leave it for tomorrow?” Sophie thought she had made herself clear.
- Felix didn’t dare to utter a word after he saw the look in Tristan’s eyes. Felix was there to apologize to Ysabelle because he was the reason the video went viral.
- However, he got a feeling that it was a mistake to go there.
- “Can I leave now?” Sophie glanced at Tristan.
- Tristan nodded. What else can I say? She’s always so busy, and she has a lot of people to meet. I bet I don’t even matter much to her.
- Sophie felt bad when she saw the look on his face.
- That being said, she was dealing with something that concerned Josiah. Hence, it was very important.
- “How about this? Go over to Wisteria Apartments to wait for me, okay?” Sophie had done something she had never done in her life. She had compromised because of how sad Tristan looked.
- “Okay. No matter what you’re going to do, take care of yourself.” Tristan was happy with her suggestion.

Chapter 149 Protecting What She Wants To Protect

- Even though he hoped that he would be able to head there with her, he decided not to press on since she said nothing.
- Sophie knew that Tristan wanted to go with her, but Arius was no ordinary person. Without Arius’ permission, no one, including Sophie, could reveal his location to anyone else.

- “Mr. Tristan, you can send her there.” *Why let a young woman like her take a cab to who-knows-where so late at night?*
- Tristan shot him a look in response. *Do I look like I needed you to prompt me to do that? It's only because Sophie doesn't want me to do it. That's what I mind the most.*
- Right then, Ysabelle came out and saw Felix and her uncle.
- “Are you all here to pick me up?” Clearly, Tristan was not. *But where's Sophie? Did they not come across her?*
- “Send her home safely, and don't let her linger around outside,” was all Tristan said to Felix before getting into the car, ready to head to Wisteria Apartments and wait for Sophie there.
- Ysabelle then turned to Felix and scoffed at the man. She did not forget that they were both giving each other the cold shoulder. Moreover, she had tried to initiate reconciliation, but he ignored her completely.
- “Ysabelle, I was the one who uploaded the video. Sorry.” Felix was overwhelmed with guilt. All he wanted was to help her out, but his action ended up trapping her in a situation like this.
- Ysabelle scoffed again.
- “Oh,” she flatly said as if she was completely unfazed by the matter. “Is there something else you want to talk about? If not, it's time for me to head home. My dad has given me a curfew.”
- Felix pursed his lips, feeling helpless. *I think I've really made a mistake.*
- “Belle, I really didn't mean to be so distant toward you. I just didn't know how to face you.”
- “Is that so? So, you know how to face me now?”
- Felix was silent.
- “If you don't, you might as well just give up. It's the best outcome for all of us.” Then, without giving him a chance to respond, Ysabelle turned and got into the Lombard family's car.
- Felix remained rooted to his spot, thinking, *Maybe I'm really in the wrong. Perhaps we're not suitable for each other. Relationships can't be forced, and it's time for me to sober up.*
- Meanwhile, Sophie had taken a cab to Cloud Nine Hotel, where Arius was waiting for her.
- It only took Sophie a knock on the door before Arius opened it. He was wearing a white top with the two top buttons undone and a pair of black slacks.
- In those clothes, he looked like an intellectual, but there was also a tinge of slyness in his witty eyes.
- “Dress yourself properly,” Sophie huffed.
- “What's wrong? I've already dressed decently, but you're still unhappy with my attire? If not for you, I wouldn't have even worn a shirt. Moreover, don't you know that many girls love the sight of my figure? You're full of complaints despite getting a free show. Don't you think that you're too much?”
- Sophie was silent, pondering where he was getting his confidence from.
- *Dressed properly? You're giving me the urge to wash my eyes with bleach.*
- A beat later, Arius had no choice but to button up his shirt.

- “I’d say you must have really low self-esteem. You’re scared that you’d fall for my beauty, and that’s why you’re so picky with my clothes.”
- Sophie did not know how to reply to that. *He’s so full of himself. I might as well let him wallow in his self-delusion.*
- Arius then asked Sophie to take a seat on the couch before he filled a glass of warm water for her.
- “Here’s the thing. The medical association is about to have a medical summit in a few days, so I have to rush back to attend it. Therefore, I will have to perform your grandpa’s surgery before I go back. Is that fine with you?” Arius said without beating around the bush, knowing that Sophie was a busy young woman.
- “Hm,” she hummed as she tapped the desk languidly.
- Arius then sat down beside her and held her hand.
- “You’d be at ease to hear that I’ll be the primary attending surgeon for the surgery, right?” Arius knew how important Josiah was to Sophie, and that was why he had spent a long time preparing for the surgery to the best of his ability. He was trying hard to minimize all the risks involved.
- “It’s not that I’m worried about your skills.” After all, the one she was talking to was Arius Gullifer. How could she possibly not have trust in his skills as a surgeon? However, it was surgery at the end of the day, and surgery always came with risks.
- “Trust me, Sophie. If I was able to pull you away from the hands of the grim reaper four years ago, I’d be able to save the one that matters the most to you four years later too.”
- Sophie could only incline her head in response.
- “All right, make the arrangements for the surgery, and I’ll talk to my grandpa.” Frankly, if Josiah did not undergo surgery, Sophie did not know how much longer he could hold out.
- The surgery was mandatory, and Arius was the most suitable one to be Josiah’s primary attending surgeon.
- When Arius noticed the hesitant look on her face, he stood up and opened a bottle of red wine before giving her a glass of it. Then, when she was not paying attention to him, he added a little drug to it.
- “I don’t feel like drinking,” Sophie said, shaking her head when she saw the glass he was handing to her.
- “Just a little. This red wine is really smooth. I spent three million to get it. You’ve been too stressed out lately, and drinking a little alcohol will be good for you.”
- Sophie did not have her guard up around Arius at all; the only person she trusted most besides Josiah was Arius.
- Thus, she took the glass from him and drank every last bit of the red wine.
- A few minutes later, she fell asleep on the couch.
- “I’m sorry, Sophie. I didn’t want to do this to you, but I have to check you over.” If not for her stubbornness, he would not have resorted to drugging her.
- Arius then hunched over to lift Sophie from the couch and placed her on the bed before giving her a checkup. After making sure that she was physically fine, Arius let out a sigh of relief and tucked her in.

- “Good girl, rest well. I’ll help you protect the people you care about the most.” At the very least, he was confident in his ability to do that.
- That night, Sophie had a long, long dream.
- Meanwhile, Tristan was getting more and more anxious as time ticked away.
- Sophie had asked him to wait for her at Wisteria Apartments, and that was why he had chosen to do nothing but trust her, believing that she would return.
- However, as time passed, Tristan was getting increasingly doubtful about his choice. *Why? Where did she go? Did something happen to her?*
- Unable to hold himself back anymore, Tristan called her. However, no one picked up his call.
- It was then that Tristan started panicking. He had never felt that kind of fear before.
- In the end, he sent his men to track her whereabouts, not because he had no trust in her but because he was worried about her.
- Nevertheless, once he found out that she was in Cloud Nine Hotel’s presidential suite with an unfamiliar man, Tristan’s expression darkened.
- Instantly, he sped off to Cloud Nine Hotel. He could not stand the thought of her being with another man, no matter who he was.
- After getting down from the car, he went straight to the presidential suite and knocked on the door.
- When Arius heard the sound, he opened the door, only to be greeted with the sight of the enraged Tristan.
- Arius frowned. *Mr. Tristan? What’s he doing here?*
- “Mr. Tristan, how may I help you?” While Tristan did not know who Arius was, that did not mean Arius was clueless about the former too.

Chapter 150 Important To Me

- Tristan immediately narrowed his eyes to study the man in front of him.
- “Who are you? What are you trying to do?”
- Tristan was only worried that the man would hurt Sophie.
- Arius could not hold back his laughter when he noticed how tense Tristan was.
- “Are you trying to ask what kind of relationship Sophie has with me instead?”
- Tristan did not respond to him. Instead, his eyes flitted toward the bed behind Arius and realized that Sophie was indeed lying on it.
- Despite the loud commotion, Sophie was still asleep. At that, Tristan realized that something was amiss.
- “What have you done to her?” Tristan bellowed, his heart leaping to his throat.
- “Who are you, and what right do you have to ask all these questions?” *So, is he the reason Sophie refused to join the medical association?*
- At that point, Tristan did not want to waste any more of his breath on the man, so he began attacking Arius.
- Even though Arius was a medical student, he was quite skilled in fighting as well. A fight promptly broke out between the two of them.
- Nevertheless, no matter how good of a fighter Arius was, he was no match for Tristan. Soon, the latter had him sprawling on the floor.

- “Speak! What happened to Sophie?” Waves of anxiety were washing over Tristan’s mind as he realized that Sophie was still not awake from the loud noises they made. He kept wondering what the man had done to her.
- Arius could not move an inch as Tristan kept him pinned on the floor, but he refused to admit defeat.
- “Why should I tell you anything? Aren’t you worried about her? If so, find out what happened to her yourself.”
- Upon hearing Arius’ stubborn words, Tristan kicked his abdomen.
- “Ah!” Arius cried out in pain. “Sh*t, you f*cking—”
- Before he was done cursing at Tristan, Tristan lifted his leg, about to give him another kick.
- “Stop it.”
- *I know I’m a doctor, but it still hurts when I get kicked!*
- “Speak!”
- No one could keep their secrets if Tristan was the one interrogating them.
- “She’s fine. She’ll wake up in the morning. I’m warning you now; don’t do anything to me. Otherwise, Sophie won’t let you off the hook when she wakes up.”
- *With how close Sophie and I are, she won’t let anyone bully me like this!*
- Arius felt utterly ashamed for suffering a complete defeat.
- “Scram.” The fact that Sophie came all the way there herself meant the two of them were not merely associates.
- That was why he could not jump to a conclusion based on merely his own speculations before Sophie regained consciousness.
- Nevertheless, once Sophie woke up and Tristan confirmed that the man had indeed harbored malicious intentions toward her, he would destroy the man.
- Arius rubbed his nose and muttered, “This is my room. Why do I have to leave? Even if one of us has to leave, shouldn’t you be the one?”
- *So what if he’s the renowned Mr. Tristan? I, Arius Gullifer, am not an easy target either. Just a call from me, and the top assassin will come and kill him!*
- Tristan shot him a glare.
- Again, Arius scratched his nose awkwardly.
- “Fine. A good man knows when to retreat. Since no one can speak up for me while Sophie’s asleep, I’ll wait until she wakes up. Let’s see if you’re still going to be this haughty!”
- Arius then exited the presidential suite and booked a different room. After entering the new room, he lay on the bed and slept.
- In the meantime, Tristan walked over to the bed to look at the sleeping woman. Then, he held her hand.
- “Girly, how could you make others worry about you this much?” *I should’ve ignored her decision and come with her. This wouldn’t have happened otherwise.*
- For the first time in his life, Tristan was feeling regretful.
- After he planted a kiss on her forehead, the anger in him dissipated.
- It was as if nothing mattered anymore as long as he knew that she was fine.
- Tristan felt that it was strange for him to be acting that way.

- When Sophie finally woke up, she noticed Tristan sprawling at the edge of the bed, asleep. She mused, *He looks uncomfortable in that position.*
- Then, she began recalling what had happened the night before. *How did Tristan end up coming here? Where is Arius? Where did he go?*
- Sophie then tried to get off the bed to head to the bathroom, but just as she moved a little, Tristan was jolted awake. Instinctively, he grabbed her hand.
- Her somewhat groggy look made Tristan's heart skip a beat, and he could not help but pin her under him.
- "Didn't you ask me to wait for you at Wisteria Apartments?" Tristan sounded a little resentful and piteous.
- Sophie scratched the back of her head as she, too, did not know how she ended up falling asleep there.
- "Sorry, I accidentally fell asleep here. I have no idea what's going on too. Have you seen my friend?" *The two of them must have encountered, right?*
- Seeing that Sophie was asking about her friend the moment she woke up, Tristan became upset. As a form of punishment, he bit the corner of her lips.
- "Is he more important than me? Why are you asking about him right after you wake up?" Tristan felt that it was no small matter, and he had to get an answer from Sophie.
- "Mr. Tristan..." Sophie never thought that the mature and collected Tristan would ask a question like that. *This is unbelievable. He's making me change my impression of him!*
- "What's the matter? Is that a difficult question to answer?" Tristan insisted.
- Sophie was still pinned under him, and they were in a truly awkward position.
- "Let me get up first. I need to use the bathroom." Sophie was about to lose control of her bladder soon.
- "No. You have to answer me first. Who's more important to you?"
- *He's just like a kid. Am I supposed to console him?*
- "He's important to me," was what Sophie told him honestly.
- Hearing that, Tristan fell silent. *Is that man really that important to her?*
- Finally, he let go of her, and she sat up on the bed. When she noticed the sullen expression on his face, she scrambled for words to say to him. *Why does he have such a look on his face?*
- "Mr. Tristan, are you okay?"
- Tristan shook his head.
- "Not at all," he told her. He wanted to be the one who mattered the most in her life.
- At his response, Sophie scratched her head in confusion. A moment later, she silently went to the bathroom to wash up.
- Right then, Arius returned, for he knew that she would wake up around that time.
- Once Tristan caught a glimpse of the man, he scowled.
- That was what Sophie saw when she came out of the bathroom—a stand-off between two extremely handsome men.
- Then, she spotted the injury on Arius' face, and the corner of her lips twitched.
- *So... these two men have already fought, and Mr. Tristan emerged as the victor.*

- When Arius realized that Sophie was out of the bathroom, he rushed to her side and pointed at Tristan. "Soph, look. He's bullying me!"
- Tristan was speechless.
- *How can this man be so childish and a tattletale?*
- Still, Sophie pretended not to have heard his words. After all, the other man was Tristan. Even if he bullied Arius, there was nothing she could do about it.
- Arius was instantly despondent when he saw Sophie ignoring him.
- "You're too much, Sophie! How can you side with an outsider and not me? I'm—"
- Sophie shot a look at him, and he promptly clamped his mouth shut. *I'm her senior, but what a sad life I lead!*
- "Hmph! The two of you are so mean to me. I don't want to see you anymore. Leave!" Arius fumed.
- "Okay, I'll leave then," Sophie said before turning around to actually leave.
- "Sophie, you're going too far!"
- "I'm going too far? If you didn't drug me and make me sleep for so long, would I be oblivious to the two of you fighting here?"

Chapter 151 Cheap

- Hearing that, Arius rubbed his nose in shame. Indeed, he was the one at fault, so he did not dare to say anything else.
- On the other hand, Tristan shot Arius a vicious glare, and the latter flinched in terror.
- *These two's demeanor are truly in sync! It's quite terrifying.*
- Even after exiting the presidential suite and entering Tristan's car, Sophie said nothing to him to explain the situation.
- "Do you trust him a lot?" It seemed like Tristan was really bothered by the close tie between Sophie and Arius.
- "What do you mean?"
- "You're a cautious person. If you didn't have absolute trust in him, he wouldn't have had a chance to drug you."
- Sophie continued staring straight ahead in silence.
- "Sophie, I don't care how important he is to you. If he hurts you, I won't let him off the hook."
- "Mr. Tristan, he wasn't trying to hurt me." There were many things Sophie still could not tell Tristan.
- Tristan was disappointed. *Even now, she still can't bring herself to explain anything to me.*
- "Send me to the Tanner residence, will you?" Arius had to return to the medical association, so the surgery had to proceed earlier than scheduled.
- "Are you not going to school today?"
- "I need to talk to my grandpa, so I won't be going to school today." Regardless of everything, Sophie had made up her mind to convince her grandfather to agree to the surgery.
- *At the end of the day, this surgery determines how much time Grandpa has left to stay by my side. No matter the cost, I have to get him to undergo this surgery.*

- “What’s going on? Soph, no matter what happens, I hope you won’t keep it a secret from me. I want to face life head-on with you no matter rain or shine.”
- His words moved Sophie. Although they had technically only met by chance, he had been nice to her all this time, taking on all her problems as if they were his.
- Tristan was disappointed to see that Sophie remained secretive with him. *Have I not done enough? Why won’t she tell me anything?*
- Nevertheless, Tristan sent her to the Tanner residence. Only after watching her enter the house did he turn to leave. However, before he could get into his car, Willow stopped him.
- “Hello, are you Sophie’s boyfriend?” Willow’s heart skipped a beat when she finally met the man again.
- Mason was now bed-bound, and no one could tell whether or not he would be able to stand on his two feet again. On the other hand, the man before her was healthy and elegant in all ways. He made her heart race.
- Nevertheless, Tristan was completely uninterested in talking to Sophie’s sister.
- Still, Willow persisted despite his obvious indifference and ran toward him. She had dressed up to her nines that day, and she was sure that no man would reject her.
- “Since you’re here, why aren’t you going in with Sophie?” Willow deliberately asked. “Right, Sophie’s always been like this. She’s very wary of others. Maybe you don’t matter to her, and that’s why she didn’t ask you to come in. I don’t know if you’re aware of this or not, but she brought Mason home less than a month after meeting him five years ago. Oh, I’m sorry. I think I’ve run my mouth.”
- Willow was spilling the beans on purpose.
- Upon hearing her, Tristan drew his brows together.
- *Is she trying to drive a wedge between us? Isn’t that a cheap trick?*
- “Sorry, but I don’t know who you are. Can you move aside now?”
- Whether or not he and Sophie were getting along was none of an outsider’s business.
- Tristan’s straightforward response made Willow grimace.
- After biting her lip, she decided to throw caution to the wind and uttered, “I’m just doing this for your sake. There are plenty of men around Sophie. I’m hoping that you won’t end up as one of her playthings.”
- At that, Tristan narrowed his eyes at her. That look from him sent chills down her spine.
- “I don’t want to hear you talk about Sophie from now on. If I hear this again, don’t blame me for making you pay.”
- Willow never expected that the man would not heed a single word from her despite how she had to muster her courage to tell him those things.
- “I know better than you who Sophie is. A girl like you is asking to be taught a lesson,” Tristan added.
- By then, all the colors had drained from Willow’s face.
- “This is just for your sake...” Willow tried to protest, but Tristan gave her no chance to do so as he went into his car.
- Overwhelmed with rage, she tightened her fists.

- *What spell did Sophie cast on this man to make him so protective of her? Why?*
- Jealousy was an emotion that could drive anyone mad.
- When Willow thought about the recent incidents that she had gone through, she felt the overwhelming urge to skin Sophie alive.
- After Tristan entered his car, he did not leave immediately; he intended to wait for Sophie in the car.
- When he saw Willow still standing rooted to her spot and fuming, he sneered.
- *Disgusting.*
- Tristan was no fool. The moment Willow walked over, he knew what she was about to do.
- When Charmaine saw Sophie return, she immediately paused her work and asked in concern, "You're free today? Are you here to visit your grandpa?"
- Sophie did not even feel like responding to Charmaine's feigned concern.
- "I'm going up to see Grandpa," was all Sophie said before heading to the backyard.
- After all, she knew that Josiah was in the middle of tending to his garden at that moment.
- "This girl is so rude. Does she really think that she owns Tanner Group now?" Charmaine simply could not bring herself to like this daughter of hers.
- "Mrs. Tanner, Ms. Sophie is pushing her luck. Ms. Willow is still the more obedient and sensible one."
- "That's right. Willa's more sensible and sweet. It's genuinely a pity that Mason is in this state now. I wonder if he'll ever recover." Every time Charmaine thought about Mason's leg, she would feel troubled.
- If Mason could no longer walk, Willow would have a hard life, and Charmaine could not bear to let her suffer.
- After all, Willow was the daughter she had doted on since young.
- "Mrs. Tanner, Ms. Willow is such an outstanding person, so there isn't a need for her to stick to the Laird family. I heard from a relative that the best families in Jipsdale right now are the four major families.
- "The four major families." Charmaine knew that those four families were the best choices, but unfortunately, the Tanners had nothing to do with them at all.
- "Mrs. Tanner, since Ms. Willow is such a wonderful person, if she can get a chance to meet anyone from the four major families, she would be able to..."
- Charmaine was starting to grow haughty as she listened to the words of the housekeeper. *If Mason's no longer a good choice, we can always opt for someone else as long as that person can give us what we want.*
- "The four major families? Let me think about how we can approach these four major families..." *She's right. All Willow lacks is an opportunity.*
- "My darling, you've come! Hurry over to look at my orchid!" Josiah beckoned Sophie from inside the greenhouse.
- Sophie then walked over and crouched down beside Josiah to look at his beloved orchid.
- "How is it?" Josiah eagerly asked.

Chapter 152 Good Luck

- Sophie gave Josiah's orchid a few more glances and realized that it was indeed of a rare species.
- "If you like it, I'll get someone to send a few more pots of this orchid to you," was all Sophie said to him in response.
- She had come not to talk about orchids with Josiah but to convince the elderly man to undergo surgery.
- "Soph, is there something you want to talk to me about?" Josiah rarely saw her so hesitant to say anything.
- There was no point in hiding it anymore, so she said, "Grandpa, I hope you'll agree to the surgery."
- Josiah turned silent.
- *Why is she suddenly talking about this? Though, it isn't actually that abrupt. Didn't she bring me to the hospital for a full-body checkup the other day?*
- Josiah was contemplating how he should reply to her. He was old and genuinely did not want to go through the hassle anymore.
- "Soph, I don't want to undergo the surgery. All I want for my final days is to see you happy. That's all I need."
- If he did not agree to undergo surgery, he might have a little longer to live. However, if he agreed to it, there was a high chance that he would not even survive the operation as his body might not be able to handle the stress.
- Nevertheless, Josiah was moved.
- While Josiah was keeping his condition a secret, Sophie, who did not live with him, knew what was going on. On the other hand, Yale, Charmaine, and Willow, who all stayed under the same roof as Josiah, did not notice anything amiss about him. *Who said that she's not caring?*
- "Grandpa, trust me, okay? Please agree to the surgery." Sophie leaned against his leg. He was the last bit of warmth she had in the world, and she did not wish for him to leave her so soon.
- "Soph, I don't want to part with you, and that's why I don't want to agree to this surgery." No one was not afraid of death. Although elderly people were expected to be more accepting of death, Josiah did not want to meet his demise yet.
- He still wanted to stay by Sophie's side.
- If he were to leave as well, she would be all alone in the world.
- "Grandpa, please trust me. I've really sought help from the best doctor in the world, and I trust that he won't let me down. I've never asked for anything from you, but please, do this for me." The only time Sophie would act so lowly was when she was with Josiah.
- Josiah's heart ached to hear her words. *How could I let her be in so much despair?*
- Only then did Josiah begin mulling over his words.
- "Soph, I really can't stop worrying about you." *She isn't even of age yet. If I leave, she'll be all alone, and I can't rest in peace.*
- "Grandpa, you said that you want to watch me get married. Are you going to go back on your words?" she asked. It was an urgent matter, and this was the only way she could persuade him.

- “Soph...” *What decision should I make?* A beat later, Josiah said, “Okay. In that case, I agree to the surgery. But Soph, you have to remember that I’m the one who chose to do the surgery. Even if I don’t leave the operation room alive, you’re not allowed to be sad about that.”
- Sophie blinked quietly.
- *Even now, he still has my best interests at heart.*
- “Okay.”
- Josiah then gently patted Sophie’s back.
- “You always do things discreetly, my child. Don’t you know that’s why you tend to suffer the most?”
- *You should learn from Willow. Be more of a sweet talker, and others will feel bad for you. Isn’t that better for you?*
- As Josiah was going to undergo the surgery, he had to be admitted to the hospital for prior observation.
- Josiah summoned the butler and had the latter pack up for him.
- “Old Mr. Tanner, are you really going to undergo the surgery?” The only one who knew about Josiah’s condition other than Sophie was the butler.
- “That’s enough. You just need to know that I’ll be undergoing the surgery. Pack up. We’ll be going to the hospital with Sophie.”
- “The rate of success for this surgery is too low.” The butler knew that he should not be saying those things to Josiah, but he could not bring himself to feign ignorance after working for Josiah for so many years.
- A minor mistake by the surgeon, and Josiah would die on the operating table. After all, he was no longer as sturdy as when he was younger.
- “As long as Soph’s happy, I won’t have any regrets even if I die.”
- The butler did not know how to respond to that. He knew that Josiah had always doted on Sophie, but he never thought that Josiah would still heed Sophie even when it came to matters of life and death.
- After packing up, Josiah led the butler down the stairs while Sophie went into her room to get some things before coming back out.
- When Charmaine saw the suitcase in Josiah’s hands, she instantly stood up and asked, “Dad, where are you going? Didn’t the doctor ask you to stay at home?”
- “I’ll be staying at one of my comrades’ place for a while.” Josiah did not want to reveal too much about his surgery. He felt that it was better for them not to know about it.
- “Dad, where are you going? No matter where you want to go, you should wait for Yale to come back and send you. If you go out by yourself now, he’ll surely blame me once he comes home.”
- Charmaine could not wrap her mind around what Sophie had said to Josiah to convince him to leave.
- “No need to. You just have to settle the matters at home. You don’t need to intervene in my personal affairs.”
- *If Yale finds out about this, he’ll surely kick up a fuss.*
- Josiah then went out with Sophie. When Tristan saw them, he quickly came out of the car.
- “You haven’t left?”

- “No, I’ve been waiting for you here. Old Mr. Tanner, come on into the car.”
Frankly, Tristan did not even know where Sophie was taking Josiah, but he was going to help the elderly man into the car anyway.
- Josiah was visibly happy when he saw Tristan.
- “Tanny, didn’t I ask you to visit me at the Tanner residence? Why didn’t you come?” Josiah grumbled.
- Tristan did not excuse himself. Instead, he only smiled and replied, “Sorry. I was too busy courting Sophie, so I didn’t have time to come here and visit you. Old Mr. Tanner, please forgive me for that.”
- Then, he helped Josiah into the car.
- Josiah was smiling the entire way as he thought, *Tanny seems like a decent guy. Maybe he’ll be a suitable candidate to take care of Sophie if I’m gone.*
- “You’ve been courting Soph since forever. I wish you all the best. I think you’re good for her,” Josiah encouraged.
- “Okay, Old Mr. Tanner. Don’t worry. I’ll definitely do my best! I’ll win over your dear granddaughter and make sure she won’t ever feel upset.”
- Tristan was a smart man; he knew what Josiah wanted to hear. That was why he said those things to please the old man.
- “To the hospital.” Sophie climbed aboard and pretended not to have heard their conversation.
- Tristan then took on the role of the driver and sent them to the hospital. He knew about Josiah’s condition too. Thus, he wondered, *They’re going to the hospital. Does that mean she has already made arrangements for the surgery?*
- Once they were at the hospital, the hospital director made the arrangements for Josiah himself.
- Josiah could not help but turn to look at Tristan when the director came out to greet them.

Chapter 153 Constance Insults Sophie

- “All the preparations are complete, Old Mr. Tanner. Don’t you worry!” said the director as he personally escorted Josiah to the VIP ward.
- Josiah simply chuckled in response as he knew he had nothing to worry about.
- Tristan helped him get seated after the director left, and Sophie came over with Arius shortly after.
- “Hello, Old Mr. Tanner. I’m Sophie’s senior. My name is Arius Gullifer,” Arius greeted him with a friendly and easy-going smile.
- “Her senior, huh? Sophie, why didn’t you tell me about having a senior like him? What happened in Horington?”
- Sophie shot Arius a glare. D*mn it! Why would he bring up the one thing I dread talking about the most? What happened in Horington is in the past, so I don’t want Grandpa to know about it! Besides, him finding out now won’t change a thing anyway. If anything, it’ll only make him worry even more!
- “Relax, Grandpa! I didn’t do anything wrong!”
- Josiah fell silent. But... I didn’t say she did anything wrong...
- “Anyway, Arius is the doctor I found for you.”

- Josiah started freaking out when he heard that the young doctor in front of him was named Arius.
- Arius is a legend in the medical field! He's the pride of Chanaea!
- "You can just call him Ari, Grandpa." Sophie wasn't planning on introducing him at first, but she did so because she knew what Josiah was worried about.
- Besides, Arius' reputation could really come in handy.
- Arius Gullifer, the only Chanaean in the international medical association. Young, famous, and possesses peerless medical skills. How is someone like him Sophie's senior? How many more secrets are Sophie keeping from me? Also, she seems to be treating him a little differently. Are they really just senior and junior?
- Tristan thought to himself as he glanced at Arius.
- After what seemed like forever, Josiah finally found his voice and said, "Thank you very much, Dr. Gullifer!"
- Arius scratched his head awkwardly and replied with a smile, "You can just call me 'Ari,' Old Mr. Tanner. Given my relationship with Soph, her grandpa is as important as mine! You really don't have to be so formal with me."
- "That's right, Grandpa! You can just call him 'Ari!' He'll be in charge of your surgery, and the director will give him his full cooperation. I'll keep you company in the hospital throughout the next few days, so you have nothing to worry about!" Sophie added.
- Josiah frowned when he heard that.
- "Since the surgery hasn't started, you should all go do whatever it is you should be doing! What are you all standing here for? I have full faith in Ari's medical skills!" Earlier on, he was skeptical about the surgery's chances of success but found a glimmer of hope when he heard Arius would be performing the surgery. Maybe I will be able to see Soph get married and have kids, after all!
- "Thank you for your trust in me, Old Mr. Tanner. I won't let you down!" Arius promised.
- "Of course I trust you! You're the best medical practitioner in the world! Who else would I trust if not you?"
- Sophie held Josiah's hand with an anxious look in her eyes. Despite her usually being as cool as a cucumber, she found herself feeling uneasy when her grandfather's life was at risk.
- "I'll be here with him, Soph. You can go do your work and come back when you're free." Arius didn't want her to stick around as he knew she had a lot of work to do.
- "What's wrong with me being here? Why are you all trying to get rid of me?" Sophie asked with a frown. Does my presence really make them that uncomfortable?
- "I can't help but feel like I'm being supervised when you're around, which makes me feel really uncomfortable. Go on, run along now!" Arius replied.
- He was determined to give his best in performing the surgery anyway, so he really didn't need an extra pair of eyes monitoring him all the time.
- "All right, then. I'll go buy Grandpa some food and come back later," Sophie said. I can't leave! Yale will surely be looking for Grandpa everywhere once he

finds out that Grandpa isn't home. When that happens, I'll have one more problem to take care of...

- "I don't feel like eating anything, so you three can go ahead. Help me treat Ari to a nice meal, okay? I'll personally treat him to another meal when I get better!" Josiah wasn't sure how Sophie got him to help out, but he wanted to thank Arius properly.
- Arius held Josiah's hand and said with a chuckle, "Sure thing, Old Mr. Tanner. I'll certainly claim that meal when the time comes!"
- Josiah felt especially at ease after hearing that.
- The butler waited until the three of them had left before commenting, "Ms. Sophie sure is something else, isn't she? The people she knows are all big shots!"
- However, Josiah wasn't sure how to feel about that.
- "The fact that she knows these people means she must be one of them as well. I remember how Soph used to be such an innocent and adorable girl... Honestly, I would very much prefer for her to remain that way. At the very least, she wouldn't have so many things to worry about!"
- It pained him just thinking about the hardships that Sophie must've gone through to achieve that status.
- "You're overthinking it, Old Mr. Tanner. Besides, Sophie wouldn't have been able to handle all this on her own if she had remained the way she was," the butler replied.
- Only through growth can a person hope to gain what he wants. I suppose we can't have everything our way, huh...
- Constance had just stepped out of Mason's ward when she saw Sophie walking in between two men. To make matters worse, the men both looked extremely handsome and were not the kind to be trifled with.
- Hmph... No wonder she doesn't like Mason at all!
- With that in mind, Constance said disdainfully, "Now I see why you wouldn't visit Mason, Sophie. You've found yourself another man! Or should I make that two? You sure are something else for dating two guys at the same time!"
- Sophie decided to ignore Constance as she knew there was no point in talking to someone that unreasonable.
- However, Arius wasn't about to just let it slide.
- "What, are you jealous? Well, I suppose it makes sense. Given your appearance, I doubt any guy out there would even take an interest in you! You'd probably be alone for the rest of your life if you weren't rich!"
- Constance was so angry that her fingers were trembling as she pointed at Arius. "You... Do you have any idea who I am? How dare you speak to me like that? I could have you disappear from Jipsdale if I so much as feel like it!"
- Arius quickly wrapped his arms around Sophie's and said sarcastically, "Hey, Sophie! Did you hear that? She said she would make me disappear! I'm so scared! What should I do?"
- Sophie burst out laughing when she saw Arius acting like a child. "Now, now... That's quite enough, Arius."
- She deemed Constance an unimportant person, so she didn't want to waste any more of their time on her.

- Arius let out a defiant snort and pointed at Tristan as he added, "I could put you through a fate worse than death before you even make me disappear! Do you even know who he is?"
- Having recalled how powerful Tristan was, Arius decided to use his name instead.
- Sophie quickly stopped him when she realized what he was about to say next. "We're going out for lunch, aren't we? Come on, quit wasting your time arguing with her!"
- Tristan simply stood there glaring coldly at them as Sophie dragged Arius away by the arm.
- "See that? Sophie is the kind of woman who forgets her current boyfriend after finding someone new! She doesn't deserve to be loved at all!"

Chapter 154 You Belong To Me

- "Mrs. Laird, was it? I'm Tristan Lombard. Please keep in mind that there are some people you should never insult, and my woman is one of them." There was no way he could tolerate someone insulting Sophie, let alone doing so multiple times in a row.
- The look on Constance's face changed the moment she heard him mention his name.
- *How is this possible? Even the Laird family finds Sophie unworthy, so how could someone like Tristan be dating her? There's no way the great Lombard family would approve of her! On top of that, Tristan would never allow his woman to get so friendly with other guys!*
- With that in mind, Constance protested, "Are you kidding me? You can't possibly be Mr. Tristan! A man like him would never take an interest in a girl like Sophie!"
- Tristan simply snorted at her without saying anything, but that was more than enough to terrify her to the core.
- With Mason's fate still uncertain as he lay on the hospital bed, the Laird family would be doomed if she offended Tristan.
- "Are you really Mr. Tristan?" Constance asked with an uncertain look in her eyes. She was clinging to the last shred of hope that the man standing in front of her wasn't actually Tristan.
- "What kind of woman did you say Sophie was?" Tristan asked with a sneer.
- Constance didn't dare say anything further after that.
- *All it takes is an order from Mr. Tristan to destroy the Laird family completely!*
- Noticing that Tristan was still standing there, Sophie had no choice but to come back for him.
- "Why are you still wasting your time on her?" she asked with a frown as she grabbed his hand and dragged him away.
- A smile formed on Tristan's face when he saw her holding his hand, and he kept his gaze fixated on their interlocked fingers the whole time.
- Sophie shook her head when she noticed what he was doing.

- “Oh, come on, Mr. Tristan! Are you serious right now?” *Since when did he become so childish? Why must he compete with Arius over everything?*
- “Yes, I am. I want everything that Arius gets. You belong to me, Sophie. Make sure you remember that, okay?”
- He could put up with everything else she did, but this was something he had to stand firm on.
- Sophie felt her heart race when she heard his confession-like statement. She tried pulling her hand back, but Tristan grabbed hold of it and refused to let go.
- “You’ve chosen to hold my hand, so you mustn’t let go for the rest of your life.” Despite being a man of few words, Tristan found himself saying a lot when he was with Sophie. He feared someone else would beat him to it if he didn’t make a move sooner.
- The look on Arius’ face turned gloomy when he saw the two of them holding hands.
- “That’s unfair, Sophie! You need to treat us both equally!” he protested. *She grabbed me by the wrist but went straight for his palm! There’s a huge difference between the two!*
- “Are you two quite done? If you don’t want to have lunch, we can just go our separate ways right now!” Sophie’s patience had run out at that point.
- Arius could only rub his nose and keep his feelings of indignation to himself.
- The three of them soon arrived at a nice restaurant, attracting a lot of attention due to their remarkable appearances.
- After all, a goddess-like beauty hanging out with two ridiculously handsome men wasn’t exactly a common sight for most people.
- Even so, the three of them paid no heed to the strange looks they were getting as they sat down at a table.
- A waiter soon came over and handed them some menus so they could place their order.
- Tristan was fine with having anything that Sophie was having, so he just set the menu aside without even looking.
- Arius, on the other hand, was determined to order the best dishes available since it would be their treat.
- After bombarding the waiter with a barrage of orders, he placed the menu down and said, “Hey, Sophie! I bet you must be really proud of yourself for being able to treat me to a meal, huh?”
- Due to his status in society, there were countless people in Jipsdale who would kill to treat him to a meal.
- Sophie simply ignored him and ordered a few additional dishes according to Tristan’s preferences before handing the menu over.
- Naturally, Tristan’s mood improved significantly after she placed her order.
- When the food was served up, Tristan helped top up Sophie’s plate with all sorts of food. Not wanting to lose to him, Arius poured her a bowl of soup as well.
- Sophie glared at them and shouted impatiently, “Can’t you two just have lunch normally?”
- She was already stressed out due to Josiah’s upcoming surgery, and their childish behavior only worsened her mood even further.

- "It's all his fault, Sophie! I wouldn't have done something so childish if it weren't for him asserting his dominance! Fine! I'm sorry, okay? I'll drink this soup myself!" Arius whined like a wimp.
- "You should eat more, Sophie. Don't worry. I'm sure your grandpa will be all right," Tristan reassured her as he knew she was concerned about him.
- "Sophie, didn't you say you'd trust me to get the job done? Do you not have faith in me?" Arius grumbled in displeasure.
- "This has nothing to do with you. I'd still worry about him regardless of who performs the surgery."
- There was no such thing as a surgery without risks, so she couldn't help but feel uneasy no matter what.
- In order to offer her emotional support without overwhelming her, Tristan simply held Sophie's hand in silence.
- *I bet Tristan would beat me to a pulp if I were to hold her hand right now... Oh, woe is me...* Arius thought to himself with a wry smile when he saw the intimate interaction between them.
- After lunch, the three of them returned to the hospital together with nutritious food for Josiah. Surely enough, Sophie heard Yale's voice from outside the ward.
- "What's wrong with you, Dad? Given your age, you probably don't have that many years left! Why would you put yourself through all this?" Yale had just found out about his condition. Despite his harsh words, he actually didn't want to see Josiah take such a huge risk.
- "I've already made up my mind on this, Yale. There's no point in trying to talk me out of it!" Josiah replied stubbornly.
- "You've been brainwashed by Sophie is more like it! I'm your son, Dad! All I want is the best for you! Have you ever considered the risks of undergoing surgery at your age? What if it isn't successful?" Yale absolutely refused to accept his decision.
- Josiah simply stared at him in silence.
- Frustrated, Yale went off at Sophie the moment he saw her come in through the door.
- "I know you hate us for leaving you all by yourself in Horington five years ago, but that's all on me! If you want to get revenge, then it's me you should come after! Your grandpa is really old now, so he can't possibly handle such a surgery! Will you please spare him from such torment?"
- Sophie ignored him completely and made her way toward the table with the lunchbox in hand. She was planning on feeding Josiah first before dealing with Yale. However, her actions angered him so much that he smacked the lunchbox out of her hand, spilling the food all over the floor.
- "Hey! I'm talking to you! Are you deaf or what? I am your father, Sophie! Watch your d*mned attitude!"
- Sophie's expression turned incredibly gloomy as she looked up at him. "Get the f*ck out of here right now if you value your life, Yale Tanner! Don't say I didn't warn you!"
- Yale had truly angered her to the core at that point.

Chapter 155 Nothing To Do With You

- *What the h*ll? How dare she address me by my full name like that? I'm her father, d*mn it! I'll teach her insolent a*s a lesson!*
- "Looks like I'll have to teach you some manners, Sophie. Can't have you ruining the Tanner family name by going around causing trouble everywhere!" Yale shouted as he grabbed her arm and swung at her.
- Josiah sat bolt upright and yelled sternly, "Stop it, Yale! How dare you hit Sophie in front of me? You've gone way too far!"
- To their surprise, Sophie stopped the slap by grabbing his incoming hand by the wrist and flinging it aside with force.
- Angered by her act of resistance, Yale said stubbornly as the frown on his face deepened, "I'll have you know that I will never agree to this surgery, Sophie!"
- Sophie's gaze was as cold as ice as she replied, "And I'll have you know that the surgery will be performed whether you agree to it or not. I will bear the consequences myself, so it has nothing to do with you."
- Seeing as she refused to back down, Yale raised his hand a second time.
- This time, Tristan caught him by the arm before Sophie could even react.
- "Who the heck are you? I'm disciplining my daughter here, so let go of me! This is none of your d*mned business!"
- *I've been through a really rough day at work. As if that isn't bad enough, I now have to deal with my daughter's insolence and a random stranger? Who is this guy? How dare he grab me like this?*
- "Who I am doesn't matter. What matters is the fact that you're messing with someone you can't afford to."
- Tristan would never lay a finger on Sophie, so he wasn't about to let someone slap her in front of him.
- Not wanting to see them continue fighting, Josiah said, "Go home, Yale. My surgery is none of your business."
- "Dad! I know you've always let Sophie have her way and that you've always looked down on me. However, I'm truly doing this for your own good! Think about it, Dad! An old man like yourself undergoing surgery? How likely do you think you're going to survive it?" Yale protested.
- *I'm the head of this household, yet these people decided on this without even informing me about it! I can't believe I'm actually the last person to find out about this surgery!*
- Josiah glared at him coldly as he asked, "We've been living together for so many years, Yale. Since when have you ever cared about my well-being? You're my son, and yet you didn't even notice such a huge issue with my health. Do you really think you're in a position to object at all?"
- "I've just been too busy with work, Dad. I really am concerned about you right now!"
- "That's enough. The surgery will take place the day after tomorrow. Feel free to drop by if you like, and I won't blame you for not coming if you're too busy. Just don't cause any trouble if you decide to come over."

- “Fine. I won’t stop you if you’re so determined to get that surgery done.” Yale then turned toward Sophie and continued, “Your grandpa really loves you. I hope you don’t repay his kindness with cruelty.”
- After that, he stormed out of the ward and slammed the door shut behind him.
- Seeing as none of them would listen to him, Yale deemed it pointless to say anything further. If anything, he felt more like an outsider compared to Tristan.
- Josiah shook his head helplessly after Yale left. *Sigh... Yale and his hot temper... How will he ever be able to handle problems in life if all he knows is to throw tantrums like that?*
- Tristan went to get a mop from the restroom and began cleaning up the floor.
- “Please don’t take your father’s words to heart, Soph. This is my choice, so I don’t want you feeling upset regardless of what the outcome may be.”
- “Okay.”
- Sophie had been under a lot of stress ever since Josiah decided to undergo the surgery. She was really afraid of it being unsuccessful, but there was no backing out of it at that point.
- “I’ll go buy you something to eat, Grandpa,” she said as the food that she had brought over earlier was all wasted.
- “All right, go on. Tanny, you can just let the janitor take care of the cleaning. Go keep Soph company!”
- Josiah didn’t want her going out by herself in her current state.
- Tristan nodded and set the mop aside before following Sophie out the door.
- “Everything will be fine,” he reassured her gently while wrapping an arm around her shoulder. *Whatever happens, I’ll always be her greatest source of support!*
- Willow had come to visit Mason at the hospital, only to witness that intimate moment between Sophie and Tristan in the corridor.
- *Sophie is seducing another man right after doing this to Mason? Does her shamelessness know no bounds?*
- Her face contorted in rage at the thought of that, and she clenched her fists so tightly that her fingernails were digging into the flesh of her palms.
- “Come on, let’s go buy your grandpa something to eat,” Tristan said. He could’ve just let his assistant do it for them, but he wanted to take her out for some fresh air.
- It wasn’t until Constance came up to Willow and tapped her on the shoulder that the latter snapped out of her daze.
- “How is Mason doing, Mrs. Laird? I’m sorry it took so long for me to come visit him. I’ve been really busy lately. I’m really worried about his condition, so I tried asking around to see if I could find him a better doctor,” she said politely.
- Constance was originally displeased with Willow’s absence throughout the past few days, but she felt her heart soften when she saw the latter’s pitiful state.
- “Thank you for being such a caring sweetheart. You can go in and see Mason now.”
- Unsure of how to face Mason, Willow said, “Actually... I think I should break up with Mason since he doesn’t like me, Mrs. Laird.”
- The look on Constance’s face turned gloomy the moment she heard that.

- “How could you dump Mason like this, Willow? I can’t believe you’d say something like that after how well I’ve treated you!”
- “You know I’ve always liked Mason, Mrs. Laird! The problem is, he doesn’t feel the same about me! Since he likes my sister that much, I figured it’s better if I just give them my blessings instead!”
- As Mason could barely walk anymore, Willow was determined not to waste any more of her time and energy on him.
- Constance was so mad that she broke into a cold sneer as she said, “Heh... I must’ve been blind to think you’d make a great wife for my son, Willow. Very well... You want to leave? Then get lost and never show yourself in front of Mason ever again!”
- “Mrs. Laird—”
- “Keep my name out of your mouth! You’re unworthy of saying my name!”
- Willow clenched her fists tightly but turned around and walked off without saying anything.
- *So what if I like Mason? I can’t be marrying a disabled man! Sophie will only look down on me even more if I do! I can’t let that happen!*
- “What happened?” Mason asked when he saw Constance return to the ward with a furious look on her face.

Chapter 156 Hugging Her

- As she never expected something like this to happen to them, Constance was trembling all over in anger as she shouted, “The Tanners are all sc*mbags, Mason! I can’t believe I treated Willow so well for five years, only to have her betray us like this!”
- Mason, on the other hand, simply smiled upon hearing that.
- He had long since known about Willow’s true nature. The only reason he let her have her way was that she had saved his life before.
- “Now, now... Let it be, Mom. I don’t like her anyway, so it’s a good thing that she no longer wants to marry me. Better to see her for who she is now than after she marries into our family,” Mason replied calmly.
- Had it not been for the car accident, he would have to deliberately go out of his way to make Willow see the truth and give up on him.
- “Whatever. This is all the Tanner family’s fault, so you’d better stay away from them in the future! Don’t get yourself involved in their affairs ever again, you hear?”
- Mason simply kept quiet as he knew he couldn’t forget about Sophie no matter what.
- Feeling uneasy about his attitude toward the situation, Constance exclaimed worriedly, “It’s impossible between you and Sophie, Mason! Even if I don’t object to your relationship, the guy she’s dating will! Do you have any idea who he is? He’s Mr. Tristan!”
- Just thinking of how she had offended Tristan earlier filled her heart with fear and anxiety.

- “Stop worrying about me, Mom. Also, remember not to fall for Willow’s lies anymore.”
- Josiah had already fallen asleep by the time Tristan and Sophie returned with the food they bought him.
- “Just leave the food here, Ms. Sophie. I’ll take good care of things here, so you don’t have to worry at all,” said the butler respectfully. His attitude toward Sophie had changed significantly after seeing her enlist Arius’ help.
- Sophie nodded as she set the lunchbox down on the table. Instead of leaving, she turned around and told Tristan, “You can head on home, Mr. Tristan. I’ll stay here and keep my grandpa company throughout the next few days.”
- She wanted him to leave as she didn’t want to take up any more of his time.
- “No, you should head home and get some rest. I promise I’ll stay here and look after him in person, so you have nothing to worry about!” Tristan replied.
- *He’s a very busy man, yet he’s willing to spend so much time on me...*
- “I want to keep Grandpa company,” Sophie said after giving it some thought.
- “I’ll stay here with you, then.” Tristan wasn’t about to just leave her there all by herself.
- “You don’t have to do this, Mr. Tristan. You’ve been here all day today, so you should go home and get some rest. I can look after my grandpa myself.”
- Tristan grabbed her hand. “I don’t like hearing you say stuff like that. Your grandpa is my grandpa too, so I will stay here with you. Don’t worry. I won’t bother you.”
- “That’s not what I meant. You’re a busy man, so I don’t want you delaying your work because of me.”
- “It’s not an issue if it’s for you.” He was even willing to stay there with her forever as long as he could remain by her side.
- Sophie didn’t know what else to say at that point.
- She wasn’t expecting a person as busy as Tristan to set everything aside just so he could keep her company.
- “I’ll be by your side no matter what happens, so don’t you worry,” Tristan said while gently pulling her into his embrace. *I’ll always be there for her whenever she needs me!*
- Having finished his work at hand, Arius dropped by and saw them hugging the moment he stepped through the door.
- So, *“first come, first served” isn’t a thing when it comes to love... Has Sophie found someone who would risk everything for her? She’s always as cool as a cucumber when it comes to dealing with people. On top of that, she’s so tough that she could handle everything on her own. It’s only when she’s around Tristan that she shows this soft and vulnerable side of her...*
- Arius broke into a wry smile at the thought of that. Instead of interrupting their intimate moment, he silently backed out of the ward and returned to his temporary office. The director of the hospital had renovated an office just for him, and it was equipped with everything he could possibly need.
- Arius lit a cigarette and started puffing away while staring at the night sky outside the window.
- He was halfway through the cigarette when Sophie came over to see him.

- “What’s the matter? Is there a problem with my grandpa’s surgery?” she asked. *Arius only smokes when he’s under a lot of stress. I haven’t seen him smoke in a really long time...*
- “Oh, not at all. I’m the one in charge of his surgery, so why would there be a problem? Rest assured that he is in good hands!” Arius knew how much she cared about Josiah, so he would never joke about it no matter what.
- “Okay.” Sophie felt relieved when she heard that.
- “What do you think of Tristan, Soph?” Arius hadn’t had a chance to ask her that as she had been busy looking after Josiah since her return.
- “Why are you asking me this all of a sudden? What I think about him has nothing to do with you, Arius. You shouldn’t have to compare yourself to him,” Sophie replied after giving it some thought.
- Arius felt a lot better when he heard that.
- “You’re right. No one could possibly surpass a talented individual like me anyway!”
- *Was my statement that convincing? Well, whatever... I’m just glad he’s feeling better now.*
- She then asked Arius about the surgery procedures and things to take note of before returning to the ward. Josiah had already fallen asleep by the time she got there.
- The butler felt relieved to see that she was actually serious about keeping Josiah company.
- “Morgan, you should head back and get some rest. The medical staff and I will take good care of Grandpa.”
- “I know, but I’ve been working for Old Mr. Tanner for a very long time now. I know his needs and preferences like the back of my hand, so I think I should stay here with him.” Morgan used to be a member of the armed forces before an accident forced him into leaving the military. Josiah was the one who took him in when he was jobless and had nowhere to go.
- That was why he shared an incredibly strong bond with Josiah.
- “All right. You can rest on the bed over there, then.” Since it was a VIP ward, there was a spare bed in a corner for family members who were staying overnight.
- “You should have the bed instead, Ms. Sophie. I can sleep anywhere, so go ahead and get some shuteye.”
- “I’m not tired. I’ll be heading out for a bit, so you can sleep if you want to.”
- After glancing at Josiah and making sure that he was fast asleep, Sophie opened the door and left the ward.
- She paused in her tracks when she got to the end of the corridor and just stood there, staring blankly into space.
- Tristan had just returned from taking a phone call when he saw her standing there all by herself. For some reason, he felt his heart ache when he saw her in that state.
- He then walked up to her and hugged her from behind.

Chapter 157 Everything Is Ready

- Feeling the warmth from Tristan's chest, Sophie relaxed completely and leaned against him.
- "What are you doing here all by yourself?"
- "Grandpa is asleep, so I came here to get some air."
- "Hmm... I told you to go back and rest, but you refused. I've asked the hospital director to prepare the ward next door. You should go and get some rest. It's not time for the surgery yet, so you don't have to worry."
- "Okay, Mr. Tristan. Thank you."
- Apart from that, she truly did not know what else to say.
- "No need to thank me. Come on. Go and get some sleep. You'll only need to keep watch after the surgery."
- "Okay," Sophie agreed reluctantly.
- I just wanted to spend more time with Grandpa. After all, no one can predict the outcome of the surgery. If it weren't because there was no other choice, I wouldn't have wanted him to undergo surgery.
- When Tristan led her to the ward next door, she saw a hospital bed and an extra bed inside.
- "I'll sleep on the extra bed. Since you're tall, it won't be comfortable for you," said Sophie, nudging him toward the larger bed.
- "Be good and go to sleep." Without giving her the chance to refuse, he swept her up in his arms and carried her to the bed.
- "Mr. Tristan—"
- Why is he willing to suffer for me?
- Tristan also lay on the hospital bed next to her. The bed was not that big, so it was actually quite a squeeze for both of them to lie on it.
- Nonetheless, it felt very warm and toasty to hug each other in the chilly weather of early winter.
- "Sleep," he murmured in his pleasant and utterly mesmerizing voice.
- "Okay."
- Sophie closed her eyes and leaned against his arm.
- Perhaps because she was too tired, it was not long before she dozed off.
- As Tristan listened to her gentle breathing, he lifted a hand to brush the hair from her face and tucked the loose strands behind her ear.
- "Sleep well, Soph," he said softly. As long as I'm here, I'll shield her from all the problems and worries.
- Sophie woke up early the following morning. Sitting up in bed, she spotted Tristan's tall figure curled up on the extra bed, fast asleep.
- Her heart ached when she saw him sleeping so uncomfortably.
- Climbing out of bed, she went over to the extra bed and gazed down at him as he slept soundly.
- He must be exhausted after the past couple of days. Managing Lombard Group is already a tiring job, yet he's always by my side.
- The moment Tristan opened his eyes, he saw her face close to his.
- He reached out his hands instinctively and hooked them around her neck, then drew her toward him and kissed her right on the lips.
- "You're awake."

- “Yes.”
- Sophie was still a little dazed after being kissed so suddenly, and Tristan could not resist pinching her face gently when he noticed it.
- “Do you have any idea how enticing you look right now? It’s enough to stir one’s desire to have their way with you,” he murmured.
- She’s simply too alluring!
- “I’ll go and check whether my grandfather is awake or not,” Sophie said quickly. I wonder whether he ate anything last night. Anyway, he must be hungry by now.
- Tristan could not help but laugh when he saw her scurry off.
- He then had his assistant buy breakfast from The Crown, and the latter brought back plenty of food. Since Josiah relished a lively atmosphere, everyone gathered in his ward to have breakfast with him.
- Just as they were eating, Arius arrived.
- “I can’t believe you didn’t invite me for breakfast. Isn’t that a bit too much?” Arius complained. He still had one other surgery scheduled that day. It was a very tough surgery, so he had come to ask Sophie to join him and learn from it.
- “Ari! You’ve not had breakfast yet, haven’t you? In that case, come and join us. Tanny bought lots of food!” Josiah called out. The Crown’s breakfast was delicious, and he had eaten a lot.
- “You’re the only one who thinks of me,” Arius said to Josiah, going over immediately to eat breakfast with the elderly man.
- After they finished their meal, Tristan had to leave for Lombard Group as there was some business he had to attend to personally.
- Since Josiah wished to take a stroll, Morgan went with him while Arius led Sophie away to prepare for the surgery.
- Having heard that Arius would be performing surgery at the hospital that day, Constance had arrived early that morning to wait there. However, it never crossed her mind that she would meet Sophie, who was wearing a surgical gown.
- “What are you doing here?” Constance asked darkly, her expression souring as soon as she saw Sophie.
- She harbored a deep dislike for Sophie and felt the latter’s appearance signaled misfortune for Mason.
- “Does that have anything to do with you?” Sophie answered bluntly. She had no wish to be polite to Constance.
- Constance fell silent at her words.
- If it were before, there was no way she would have backed down so easily after receiving such a retort.
- But now, she dared not say anything else because of Tristan.
- Meanwhile, Arius thought Sophie had sneaked away when he did not see her after changing into his surgical gown. Coming out to look for her, he spotted the woman who had bullied Sophie the other day.
- The second Arius saw Constance, his expression turned grim.
- Why does this woman keep showing up everywhere?
- “Why are you here?” he demanded brusquely.

- “Come on. Let’s go in,” Sophie piped up. She had only stepped out to make a phone call, not expecting to bump into Constance.
- Nonetheless, that’s all unimportant. At this moment, I couldn’t care less about Mrs. Laird.
- Arius snorted coldly.
- “Who are you? Why do you look at her with such a haughty and imperious expression?” he asked Constance. The way she looks at Sophie just irks me.
- Furious, Constance responded in a threatening tone, “I’m telling you, you no-name doctor. You’d better show me some respect. Otherwise, I’ll have the hospital director fire you.”
- Is every Tom, Dick, and Harry qualified to mock me now?
- Arius was both amused and enraged.
- “What am I going to do, Sophie? I’m quaking in my boots! It took a long time before I finally got this job. My whole family relies on me to put food on the table. If I lose this job, I’ll starve to death!”
- Sophie did not respond. Instead, she quietly watched Arius put on his act.
- Constance was irate. “Why you—” “How dare you doubt my abilities? Do you think you can intimidate me, you old hag? If you can get the director to fire me, I’ll get on my knees and grovel!” Arius continued, interrupting her.
- Would I, Arius Gullifer, be afraid of others threatening me?
- “You—” Constance began, her entire body trembling with rage.
- Incensed, she snarled, “Sophie Tanner, look at that piece of garbage next to you! I’m calling the director right now!”
- “I didn’t hear that wrong, did I, Sophie? She dared to refer to me as garbage!”
- “Watch your words, Mrs. Laird,” Sophie warned. “Don’t make the mistake of thinking that the Laird family is all that high and mighty. I can easily make the Laird family vanish into thin air.”
- Constance gave a humorless chuckle and uttered arrogantly, “Such audacity! Do you genuinely think that Tanner Group has fallen into your hands? Even if you really were the person in control of the company, do you think the Laird family would take any notice of Tanner Group?”
- In the Laird family’s eyes, Tanner Group is not even worth mentioning. If I wish to, I can destroy the company at any time.
- “You old hag...” Arius growled, utterly infuriated.
- “Is that so? Go on and give it a try, then,” Sophie replied calmly, unwilling to waste her breath any longer.
- “Dr. Gullifer, everything is ready. Oh, Mrs. Laird! You’re here too! Are you and Dr. Gullifer acquainted?”
- “What did you say?” Constance could not believe her ears. This young man standing in front of me is the world-renowned Dr. Gullifer?

Chapter 158 Legendary Deft Hands

- “Do you not know who Dr. Gullifer is, Mrs. Laird? I thought I told you Dr. Gullifer might be able to heal Mr. Mason’s leg,” the attending physician exclaimed.

- Constance froze right there. Little did she know that the man she had looked down on was the mysterious Dr. Gullifer.
- “And what about the girl? That girl is probably just eighteen years old, so why is she standing next to him? How could she wear the surgical gown and follow him into the operating room?” Constance refused to believe what she had heard. *That man is not Dr. Gullifer. Dr. Gullifer is a medical genius from Chanaea. Why would he associate himself with a teenage girl?*
- The attending physician actually did not know much about Sophie.
- “I have to go in now, Mrs. Laird. The director has granted me access to the operating room, so I must take this opportunity to learn from Dr. Gullifer!” The attending physician could not hide his excitement. *All doctors, including myself, want to witness how Chanaea’s best surgeon conducts the medical procedure! It’s a dream come true for me!*
- The attending physician was given this once-in-a-lifetime chance merely because the director owed him a favor. Otherwise, the director would not have granted him exclusive access to the operating room.
- So instead of wasting time talking to Constance and letting the opportunity slip away, he caught up with Arius.
- Constance’s legs weakened after she heard that, and she staggered a couple of times, only managing to steady herself by clinging to the railing next to her.
- She knew she had offended Arius. *Would Dr. Gullifer still help us?*
- Despite learning the truth about Arius, Constance refused to leave. She wanted to be there for Mason since there would be a high chance of him regaining the ability to walk.
- She would do anything for Arius so long as he was willing to operate on Mason. *I’ll even drop to my knees before him if he wants me to! I’ll do anything as long as he can heal my son’s leg!*
- Constance was overwhelmed by mixed emotions. The doctor she had been hunting high and low for had finally appeared, but he turned out to be the man she had offended.
- It was a hard pill to swallow.
- While Sophie and Arius were in the operating room, the rest of the people could only watch the live stream of the procedure from another room.
- Sophie glanced at Arius when she saw no other surgeons and nurses in the operating room.
- “Looks like you have a lot of faith in me, huh?” Sophie said. She was concerned since the man lying on the operating table was a high-ranking official, and his survival would affect the life and death of many people.
- Arius chuckled while putting on a pair of surgical gloves. “In this world, you’re the only one I trust. There would be no one else I could count on if I had zero faith in you.”
- Many doctors and nurses were willing to assist him, but Arius had a much higher expectation of his assistant since it was an intricate surgery.
- After much deliberation, Arius thought Sophie was the only one qualified to perform this procedure with him!

- “Arius, people would think you’re putting the patient at risk.” Sophie might be familiar with the surgery, but she had neither received formal training in medical school nor obtained any certificates.
- “Do you think I care about what others would say? I have confidence in you, Sophie. And I believe you will one day supersede me and become the best surgeon. Being the top surgeon in the country can be quite lonely, and I think it’s time for you to take over the title. What do you think?”
- His remark rendered Sophie speechless.
- More than twenty doctors overheard their conversation outside, and their mouths twitched. *Why does he think so highly of that young lady?*
- All of them expressed interest in training under Arius, yet the genius doctor ignored them and gave preferential treatment to this eighteen-year-old. *What logic is this?*
- “What if Dr. Gullifer made a wrong judgment about her? She’s just a young lady. Can she actually do this?”
- They were all experienced doctors who had carried out hundreds of medical procedures. *Are we no match for this teenage girl?*
- One of the doctors turned to the director and raised his concern. “Can we trust this young lady? The person lying on the operating table is not an ordinary patient...”
- *If anything goes south, everyone in the hospital will be in deep trouble.*
- All these doctors had worked hard throughout their careers to get to where they were. *Our careers will be over if the surgery fails! We can’t allow this to happen!*
- The director, who sat in the middle, kept mum and did not respond to the doctors’ concerns.
- “Keep quiet. The surgery is about to start.” The director had faith in Arius. He believed his most competent disciple would surpass his own achievements.
- Likewise, the director dared not underestimate Sophie too. After all, Arius was the one who brought her to the hospital.
- Arius might seem unreliable, but he would not take any surgeries lightly. Moreover, he would also meticulously explore all the options before making the best decision on a medical procedure.
- Since Arius requested Sophie to join him in the operating room, the director had high hopes for the young lady.
- “But they might put our future in jeopardy!” There were still doctors who were not willing to accept the fact that Arius was better than them. The doctor who made that remark felt that the Chanaeans had over-glorified Arius. *We know he made it into the international medical association. So what? What’s the big deal?*
- “Oh, shut up! Why don’t you take over if you think Arius can’t do it? The man lying on the operating table was initially your patient anyway!”
- The doctor immediately kept mum.
- “Those who want to watch the procedure, zip it. Those who aren’t interested, feel free to leave right now.” The director shot daggers at the doctors. *It took me*

some time to bring Arius over and arrange this live demonstration for them, yet all they do is complain!

- As soon as the surgery began, the doctors who doubted Arius were stunned the moment he made a perfect incision on the patient's body. *He indeed has a pair of deft hands that work wonders!*
- While everyone was still astonished by the demonstration, Sophie had also made a flawless surgical incision in the patient's heart under Arius' guidance. All the experts could not help but gasp when they saw what she had done.
- "Here. Make an incision here," Arius instructed. Taking a glance at the spot he pointed, Sophie made another precise cut.
- "Oh, my God! My eyes aren't playing tricks on me, are they?" At first, these doctors thought Arius merely brought this young lady into the operating room because he wanted to impress her, but when she made the incision, they were taken aback by Sophie's skills.
- The director, too, could not believe his eyes.
- As a mentor who had poured his heart and soul into the medical field and guided countless young doctors, the director had learned a lot just from watching them carry out the procedure in the operating room.
- He was so thrilled that his hands started shaking, losing control of his emotions.
- The doctor who had doubted Arius earlier was also utterly struck dumb by how well they performed the surgery.
- The success rate of this surgery was less than one percent, yet at this point, everyone was confident that the procedure would be a huge success!
- "This Arius is indeed one of a kind!"
- "Yeah! But don't you think the young lady is more impressive? She's just a teenager, but her skills are insane. She's just as capable as Arius."
- "I thought so too. Who is she? I guess the Chanaean medical field is about to witness the rise of an emerging star."

Chapter 159 I Do Not Live Just To Please You

- Sophie was the one who did the suturing at the end of the surgery. Arius knew that she had been reading up a lot on that and that she was gifted in the procedural skill. Back when she was at Horington, she practiced on animals and participated in a few surgeries. Although those were nothing compared to that highly challenging operation, Sophie still performed splendidly.
- Arius's eyes gleamed with excitement as he watched her.
- *Dr. Smith is right. She's a gem. I can totally see why he has always wanted to be her mentor. Her fingers are dexterous and she's really good.*
- "Sophie, you should come with me to the medical association after your grandpa gets well."
- Arius was determined on nurturing her talent.
- She was the most gifted person he had ever seen.
- "We'll see," Sophie replied casually without taking her eyes off her hands.
- It was her principle to always give all her attention to a patient when she was performing surgery.

- She would not allow even the slightest mistake.
- After closing up the wound, Sophie put aside the needle driver and looked at her suture work with a satisfied smile.
- Seeing that Sophie was someone who derived joy from her work, Arius was confident that one day she would willingly join him.
- “Good job. You may leave the rest to them,” he said.
- The doctors and nurses came in in scrubs after Arius spoke. When they saw how the surgery was done, they could not help but marvel at the fine work.
- When they looked back at Sophie, they could not see any expression on her face because she was still wearing a face mask and surgical cap. All they could see was a pair of cold eyes above the mask.
- She walked out with Arius and went on to clean and tidy herself up. When she came back in a new set of clothes, she saw that the director was amazed by how well the surgery was done.
- Sophie was not surprised to see the man’s expression. When people in Horington realized her talent, people from different sectors marveled at her ability and wanted her to join them as well.
- The director walked toward her nervously, rubbing his hands together. He was thinking about how he could persuade the girl to apply for medical school and work for his hospital.
- “Hi, um, Ms. Tanner. I believe you already know who I am. You see...”
- Arius saw Sophie listening uninterestedly to the director when he came back out again.
- He almost laughed at the sight because it reminded him of the past.
- “Come on, you’re making her feel intimidated. She’s only in her senior year!” Although Arius dissuaded the director, he knew in his heart that Sophie would be a renowned doctor if she set her heart on studying medicine, but despite how much potential Sophie had, Arius still thought the man was being too pushy.
- He would only scare her away.
- The director pursed his lips and cleared his throat uneasily.
- *He’s right. I sound too desperate.*
- “What about this?” the director asked after a slight pause. “Come again tomorrow and we will talk about this after your grandpa’s surgery. Is that okay?”
- Arius was left speechless. *You still seem too desperate. Her grandfather has major surgery tomorrow and you’re talking about sending her to study. This is ridiculous. You’re only interested in getting her to work for you.*
- “Well... I’m really tired after this whole day. I think I could use some rest,” Sophie finally said.
- Indeed, Sophie was spent. Although she was skilled, she was still inexperienced. Besides, she did not manage to have a good night’s rest before the surgery, so it went without saying that she was exhausted.
- Arius felt bad for her seeing how worn out she was.
- Being a doctor, especially a surgeon, was a taxing job. Every surgery was a test of one’s stamina.

- “All right. All this can wait. Let’s go back and rest first. We’ll go see your grandpa later,” Arius interrupted.
- “Arius, I don’t care if you leave for the medical association on your own, but she has to stay.”
- Arius looked at the stern man and shrugged.
- “You speak as if she belongs to me, but she doesn’t. Yes, it is true that she needs to learn under someone, but I’m sure that will be at the medical association. That’s the best for her.”
- “But—” the director wanted to speak up and keep Sophie at his hospital, but he knew what Arius said was true.
- “She will be Dr. Smith’s successor,” Arius cut him short. That was what Barney wanted. Despite how good Arius was, he would only remain a mentee to Barney. The latter never once thought of making Arius his successor, but it was a different case for Sophie.
- Barney wanted to make her his successor.
- With that said, Arius stamped out the last shred of hope the director had.
- “Fine...” he sighed. He would have tried his best if it were someone else, but he knew he stood no chance in that case.
- It was the founder of the medical association he had to compete with. Anyone within the medical field would know they should back off.
- “There’s no need to be disappointed. I’ll introduce you to a few good doctors,” Arius promised.
- It was because of the director that Arius came to meet his mentor, so in some sense, Arius was still indebted to him.
- The director felt compensated when he heard that.
- “All right. That’s better than nothing.”
- Seeing Arius had diverted the director’s attention away from her, Sophie went off on her own. When she stepped away, she found out that Constance was still standing there, waiting. When Constance saw her, she dashed toward her immediately.
- “Sophie!” she cried out. “That man. The one who stood beside you. Is that Arius?”
- Sophie looked at her from the corner of her eyes as she continued walking toward the ward. All she wanted was a good rest, not talking to her, but Constance was unwilling to let her go without having her question answered.
- She grabbed Sophie’s hand in frustration. “Hey! Can’t you see I’m talking to you? Mason is still unable to walk, and his doctor said Arius is the only person who could help him. He said Arius is—”
- “What does this have to do with me?” Sophie’s blatant question put the agitated woman to a stop.
- *What did she say? Did she just say she has nothing to do with Mason?*
- Constance frowned at Sophie’s cold expression. *How could she be so cold toward him!*
- “Sophie, you grew up with Mason ever since you were a kid. Don’t you feel sorry for him now that he’s in this state? How could you be so cruel?”
- Constance was disgruntled that Sophie felt no pity for Mason.

- “Well, that’s me for you. You never liked me and you still don’t, and I’m not interested in making a good impression either. What you think of me has nothing to do with me. I don’t live just to please you.”
- “Please, Sophie! I’ll stop interfering in you guys’ relationship if he can walk again. I’ll really just let y’all be!”
- Sophie scowled at her.
- “What makes you think I will help him?”
- “What do you mean? I thought you’ve always liked Mason. I’m giving you a chance to be with him! Stop being so arrogant!” Constance was a proud woman. Although she was at a disadvantage and needed a favor, she still did not know what it meant to ask nicely. She thought by approaching Sophie and asking for help was already enough. To her, Sophie should have accepted her request since she had asked.
- Sophie looked at the arrogant woman and pulled her hand back.
- “I’m sorry. You must have misunderstood. I’m not interested in Mason, so please stop bothering me. Don’t tell me you need me to take an oath again to prove that I don’t like him at all.”
- Constance was shocked. She recalled how she humiliated Sophie five years ago when she forced her to take an oath to never see Mason again.

Chapter 160 Infuriated

- Just as the situation was caught in a stalemate, Arius came out from the operating room and walked toward them.
- “Excuse me, madam, may I know what are you trying to do? I can see that you’ve been bothering my friend. Do you have anything personal against her? Because if you do, you might want to stop before anything happens.” Arius pulled Sophie away and stood face to face with Constance. Sophie stood behind him quietly as if Arius was a defensive mother hen.
- Constance was frightened when she heard Arius’ warning. He was not someone she could afford to offend.
- She slumped to the ground on her knees, begging Arius to treat his son.
- “Dr. Gullifer, please! I’m sorry I was rude. Please forgive me. I really didn’t know you were the person I wanted to see. I would never say something so insolent if I knew it was you.” Arius and Constance were not expecting things to take such a dramatic twist.
- A frown settled on Arius’ face as he thought about what Constance just said.
- “Does who I am even matter here?” he asked. He was not interested in getting an answer. Instead, he turned toward Sophie and gestured at her to leave. “Come on. We should get some rest. It’s been a long day.”
- “Sure.”
- Both of them completely disregarded Constance’s request. To them, her going on her knees meant nothing.
- Constance, on the other hand, got upset when she saw them leave. She clung to Arius’ trouser cuff.

- “Dr. Gullifer, please! I beg you! Please save my son. You’re the only hope we have!” Arius was the last resort Constance had, so she did her best to implore the man to change his mind, but as a doctor, Arius was already desensitized to the inevitability of death.
- “Let go,” he said curtly.
- To him, there was no way he would agree to help her after what she did to Sophie. After all, Arius never once thought he was a benevolent saint who had the obligation to be kind to everyone.
- He pulled back his leg and walked off with Sophie, leaving the distraught woman on the ground, speechless.
- Her shoulders slumped in devastation as she watched them walk off. That was her last hope and losing it shattered her pride.
- She could not believe that the person she once belittled turned out to be the same person she had to count on to save her son.
- Since they had turned her down decisively, she could not think of any other way to solve the problem at hand.
- The opportunity was so close, and yet she failed to seize it.
- Just as she was at her wits’ end, she suddenly thought of Josiah. Sophie had always listened to everything the old man said. *Yes! I should go talk to him!*
- Meanwhile, Sophie went to see Josiah despite how tired she was.
- When she arrived, Charmaine and Willow were already there. Sophie did not greet them but walked over to Josiah straight.
- “Grandpa, you should get some rest. You have surgery tomorrow.”
- “Don’t worry about me. I know what I can and can’t do.” Indeed, Josiah took good care of himself. This surgery was a priceless opportunity for him to recover, but he knew the stakes were high. If things went wrong, it would be the end of him.
- “Soph, Willow and I are just here to see how he’s doing. That’s all.” Charmaine broke the ice trying to explain their visit when she saw that Sophie was being cold toward them.
- “Mom! You don’t have to explain yourself to her. We’re just here because we care about Grandpa.” Willow was resentful toward Sophie because she lost everything because of Sophie, so it went without saying that Willow could not keep her calm when Sophie was around.
- “I don’t care about what brings y’all here. Just make sure you’re not disrupting his rest,” she said, turning toward Josiah.
- “Grandpa, I’ve had a long day, so I’ll go rest first. I’m just right next door. I’ll come again with Arius in a bit. Is that okay?”
- “Sure. You don’t have to worry about me. Go on and get some rest.” Josiah did not want to keep her any longer. He could tell from her face that she was dog-tired.
- “All right. See you in a bit.”
- With that said, Sophie walked out of the room without saying goodbye to Charmaine and Willow.
- “Grandpa! How could you be so unfair?” Willow was dissatisfied when she saw their interaction. She never understood why Josiah gave Sophie everything when both Sophie and she were his granddaughters.

- Josiah kept quiet. He actually wondered why the two women came to see him that day. He doubted that they came just because they cared for him.
- “Dad, how could you give such a huge portion of your shares to Sophie? You’re going through surgery tomorrow. What will happen if, you know, anything goes wrong?”
- That was enough for Josiah to know the true motive of their visit.
- His heart chilled at the realization. He could not help but wonder if he brought his children up the wrong way. His son, and even his granddaughter, were only interested in the inheritance they would receive from him.
- None of them actually cared about his wellbeing.
- “Willow, do you still not know why I like Sophie better? You know she will never ask me anything like this. She never once coveted what the Tanners have.”
- Anger rose within him as the old man spoke.
- “I’ll say this once and for all—Tanner Group will go to Sophie. None of you is changing my mind on that.”
- The door suddenly opened, and Morgan came in. When he saw that Josiah was flustered, he quickly came over to calm him down.
- “What’s the matter? You need to calm down. This is not good for you. There’s a surgery coming tomorrow.”
- “Morgan, please see them out. I don’t want to see them again,” Josiah instructed without having another thought.
- Josiah thought he would be able to come to terms with their greed since he had already seen much worse over the many years of his life, but when he actually heard them utter it, Josiah was still incensed. In fact, he was so furious his body started shaking.
- Morgan was dismayed when he saw that. He looked at the two women disapprovingly.
- “Mrs. Tanner, Ms. Tanner, I’m sorry but both of you might have to leave. Please do not come to visit Old Mr. Tanner again.” The butler had served Josiah for years and had always followed his master’s words to the letter.
- Charmaine and Willow were appalled when they heard such harsh words from Josiah.
- “Grandpa, we don’t mean it that way. We just want to—”
- “Get out.”
- The two women looked at each other uneasily. They had no choice but to leave.
- “What should I do now, Mom?” Willow fretted in disappointment after they went out of the ward. “No one from the four important families will ever set eyes on me now that I have nothing. How could Grandpa be so unfair!”
- “Hush. I heard that the chances of getting through the surgery are very low,” Charmaine said.
- Although she tried comforting her daughter, Charmaine was still worried. She felt everything was not going her way, but there was nothing she could do either.
- “It’s no use complaining anymore,” she told her daughter. “I will hold an art exhibition for you. Mrs. Zales is also an oil painter, just like Mrs. Laird, so she will be interested in your works. We’ll see what we can do from there.”

- Charmaine had already given up on the Laird family. She had decided to put all her eggs in the Zales family's basket.
- Charmaine's suggestion put Willow at ease. The thought of marrying Clayton cheered her up. *Well, jokes on you, Sophie. I'll marry Clayton one day.*
- "I will work hard, Mom. I'm really good at drawing oil paintings. My teacher even complimented me the other day." Willow's teacher was also an eminent oil painter. She had promised to bring Willow with her to an exhibition a few days later.
- Charmaine felt relieved when she heard that. She patted Willow's head in approval.
- "Good. I'm counting on you, Willow. Don't disappoint me."
- Although sometimes Charmaine still wondered if she betted on the wrong child, she knew there was no point thinking about the what-ifs anymore.
- Things had already turned out that way, and Sophie was not someone she could control, but she could with Willow.
- Over in the other ward, Sophie felt energized after taking a nap.
- After she woke up, she went over to conduct a final check on Josiah with Arius.
- "Grandpa, don't tell me you were upset just now," Arius asked knowingly as he looked at the charts. "You know you can't get agitated before surgery right."
- When Sophie heard that, she took the chart from Arius and scanned through it, and her face fell.
- "Is it because of Mom and Willow?" Sophie figured those two were the only ones who could upset Josiah.
- "Who else could it be? They really went overboard. Do you know what they told Old Mr. Tanner?" Morgan answered for Josiah. He could no longer keep it to himself after seeing how affected Josiah was because of the two women.
- "Morgan," Josiah interrupted. He did not want to burden Sophie with what happened.
- "Grandpa, I know exactly why they came. Morgan doesn't have to tell me anything." Sophie could read Charmaine and Willow like open books. The shares she had was the thing they were after.
- "Don't worry, Grandpa. I made you a promise and I will see to it that it happens. As for Willow and Mom, you don't have to worry about them. They can't do anything to me."
- It pained Arius to see Sophie having to tank such a heavy burden on her own.
- "Soph, you should just go to Anglandur with me. There's nothing for you here." Arius had an impulse to just take Sophie away with him to a faraway place so he could shelter her from all the harm and threats she faced.
- When Josiah heard Arius' suggestion, he looked up at the young man and fell into deep thoughts.
- *So he's back because he wants to bring Sophie to Anglandur?*
- "Soph, you should just go if that's what you want. You don't have to worry about me." Deep in his heart, Josiah knew Sophie was no ordinary kid. She was talented and she should chase after her dream.
- Sophie clenched her fists at his words.

- “Grandpa, this is not up for consideration. I will be taking my university entrance exam here.” She wanted to spend more time with Josiah because his days were numbered. As for her future, she still had a long way to go.
- “Come over here,” Josiah said lovingly. He knew what was in her mind and he could not help but feel sorry for the child.
- Sophie walked over and let the old man pat her on her head like an obedient child.
- This side of her was new to Arius. She was the luminary in Horington, so it was difficult for Arius to connect that image of her to what he saw at that moment.
- Over on the outside, Tristan had just arrived at the door when Arius spoke about taking Sophie away. He did not mean to eavesdrop. It just happened that he overheard the conversation. *What is going on? So he’s here to take Sophie with him?*
- Tristan pulled his hand away from the door handle and went over to the staircase. He lighted a cigarette and smoked on pensively.
- *Who is Arius to her?*
- *Will she go to Anglandur with him?*
- Back at the ward, Sophie had received a call from Tristan earlier saying he would come to visit Josiah. Since she had waited for some time, she decided to just go out to look for him, leaving Arius and Josiah in the room on their own.
- “So, Ari, when are you taking Soph to Anglandur?” Josiah figured he should know the details of the man’s plan.
- “Grandpa, I suppose you’ve heard of Dr. Smith? He met Sophie four years ago at Anglandur and has since wanted her to be his mentee because he saw the potential in her. I came back this time not just because I had to perform your surgery, but also because I want to take her back with me.” Josiah saw the truth in what Arius said. The university entrance exam should not be just an excuse for Sophie. She was so gifted she would ace the exam. In fact, Josiah believed she could apply straight to any prestigious university in the world without even taking the exam.
- That thought excited him.
- *I knew she is different. She’s a bright girl.*
- “See, Morgan. Isn’t Sophie amazing? She’s different from everyone else. That’s why I like her so much.”
- Morgan was equally surprised to hear what Arius said.
- Everyone had heard of the founder of the medical association, but none of them had actually seen him in person before, so it went without saying that Josiah and Morgan were astonished when they found out that a legendary figure like that man would want to keep Sophie under his wings.
- “Ms. Sophie is a genius. I’m sure she will be a star in the future,” Morgan praised in admiration.
- The thought of it put tears in Josiah’s eyes. *All achievement comes with a price, and so will Sophie’s, but it’s okay.*
- *I just want the best for her. It will be worth the sacrifice.*
- “Ari, you don’t have to worry about me. I just want Soph to get the best training.” *She’s my granddaughter. She must be the best.*

- Meanwhile, Sophie was looking for Tristan when she saw him at the staircase, engulfed in a cloud of smoke.
- “What are you doing here?” she asked gently, walking toward him. “Why don’t you just go in and see Grandpa?” Her tone naturally softened when she saw Tristan.
- Hearing her voice, Tristan quickly snuffed out the cigarette.
- “Don’t worry about me. I smoke sometimes too.”
- Despite what she said, Tristan still put out the cigarette.
- “Smoking is not good for your health. I don’t want you to be a second-hand smoker. You should get rid of that habit too.”
- All Tristan could think about was her.
- “I know,” she replied shortly. Although she had said that she did not mind, she still felt touched when she knew Tristan was being considerate of her. “Why didn’t you go in?”
- “Oh, well. I just wanted to take a smoke,” Tristan said dismissively. He put his arm around her shoulder, pushing her toward the ward.
- “Hold on a second. You reek of smoke. Grandpa wouldn’t like that.” When Tristan realized Sophie wanted Josiah to have a good impression of him, he felt she actually cared about him, and he was heartened.
- They stood outside for a while more until Sophie pushed the door open.
- “Tanny!” Josiah greeted him enthusiastically when he saw Tristan. It was apparent that the old man was in a good mood.
- “Hi, Grandpa. I came to see you right after I finished my work. I heard someone pissed you off earlier?”
- “Nah. Don’t listen to Soph. I didn’t get angry. I’ve been feeling good this whole day.” The possibility of Sophie having a bright future ahead of her lightens Josiah’s mood.
- “I’ll make a move first then. I’ll see you in a bit, Grandpa.” After briefing Sophie on a few things, Arius left to attend to other matters.
- After Arius went off, Tristan and Sophie sat down to talk to Josiah, but before they could even talk much, a knock came from the door.
- Without waiting for anyone’s permission, the door was flung open, and in came Constance with a mountain of gifts.
- The woman froze the moment she saw Tristan, but she quickly collected herself. *I’m here for Mason today. I have to focus on my goal.*
- “Hi, Old Mr. Tanner. I’m sorry it took me so long to pay you a visit. Mason’s not doing well, so I’ve been taking care of him,” she said courteously. “Speaking of, I didn’t know Sophie knows Dr. Gullifer! She must be really well-connected to have friends like him.”
- Josiah flashed her a polite smile as she walked in. He was not a huge fan of Constance.
- *What does she want?*
- “Oh, you don’t have to come all the way here, actually. You should just stay and take care of Mason.” Josiah was not even trying to conceal his dislike of the woman.

- If it were usual times, Constance would have just left, but that time, she had to suck it up because she needed a favor.
- “Come on, Old Mr. Tanner. The Lairds and the Tanners will soon be joint in marriage. I should show my sincerity.”

Chapter 162 I Will Take Responsibility For Any Damages Incurred

- Constance seemed to be very proud of herself when she mentioned the engagement.
- She thought there was no way Josiah would turn her down now that she brought the engagement up, but the old man’s face fell sunken the moment he heard that.
- Mason and Willow were indeed engaged.
- “Old Mr. Tanner, Mason is part of your family too. Why don’t you just help him out a little? You know how Willow is crazy about him, right? She must be heartbroken now that Mason is in this state.”
- Josiah still did not understand what was she trying to get at. *Well, what happened to Mason is not our fault. Besides, it’s not like we’re able to do anything for him.*
- “Mrs. Laird, I really don’t understand what you are trying to say, but no matter what it is you would like to convey, I don’t have the solutions you’re looking for, so please leave.”
- “You can’t help me, but your granddaughter can. She’s good friends with Dr. Gullifer. He will definitely help Mason if she asks him to.”
- Constance looked at her in anticipation, hoping Sophie would crack under the pressure of Josiah’s presence.
- The old man finally understood why Constance came to visit.
- “Grandpa, you should get some rest already.” Sophie finally broke the silence. “You’ve heard enough nonsense.”
- “All right.” Josiah played along readily. Constance had always been rude to Sophie, and Josiah took it to heart, so it was obvious to the old man that Sophie would not grant Constance the favor. *She must really think we owe her.*
- “I’m sorry, Mrs. Laird. As you can see, I’m not feeling very good myself. I really need to be well-rested for the surgery tomorrow. Please make a move if you have nothing else to say.”
- “Hey—” Constance finally lost it. “Do you not understand what I said? The Tanners used to suck up to us to get all kinds of benefits. Don’t tell me you’re turning your back on us now that things are not looking good for us. You should know better.” Constance lashed out at Josiah without holding back, forgetting that she was there to plead her case.
- Josiah smirked at her remarks.
- “You know what, I don’t care what went on between you and Yale. I couldn’t care less. As for you, I hope you know your place. You’re not the boss here, so stop

acting like one.” Josiah decided it was time he toughened up against the woman.

- “What did you just say?” Constance shook in fury when Josiah showed her his true color, but she still tried to compose herself.
- *I would’ve let you have a taste of your own medicine if I weren’t here to ask for a favor.*
- “Old Mr. Tanner, you were around since Mason was still a child. Don’t tell me you feel nothing for him now that he is in this state. Do you really want to see him ruined?” Constance questioned.
- “As for Sophie...” Constance stopped and softened her tone. “I was wrong for trying to split you and Mason up. I promise I will not stand in the way anymore if he recovers.” This was the first time Constance swallowed her pride in front of Sophie.
- Tristan was angered when he heard her proposal.
- *What is she even thinking? Sophie and Mason? Over my dead body! He’s already out of the game a long, long time ago.*
- “Mrs. Laird,” Sophie snapped. “Do you really think I like Mason all this while?”
- Constance suddenly felt the tables were not turning for good.
- “Sophie, I mean it when I say I’m sorry. Please, help me. Even if you no longer feel anything for him, you should still help him for old time’s sake.”
- “Are you serious?” Sophie scoffed in disbelief. “I never once liked him.”
- Sophie really did not admire him. It was true that she once thought Mason was a nice guy, but that perception was shattered when Mason betrayed her.
- “He’s not even worthy to be called my friend.” Sophie was not planning on being cruel, but Constance had really exasperated her, and she did not want to waste any more time on the matter.
- “Sophie Tanner! How dare you!” That was the last straw for Constance.
- “Mrs. Laird, you might think your son is a good man, but to me, he’s just a spineless boy who can’t even stand up against his own mother. He would be nothing but a useless piece of sh*t if he were not born in the Laird family.” Sophie did not sugarcoat anything.
- “Also, You’re right in saying that Arius is my good friend. Indeed. He will help Mason if I ask him to, but why should I? Do you think I’m the kind of person who returns good for evil?”
- Constance thought Sophie would budge if she apologized, but she got it all wrong. She was taken aback that Sophie had the heart to refuse her outright.
- “Sophie Tanner, how could you? You’re so petty!”
- “A loose tongue causes trouble. Have you heard of that?” Tristan finally spoke. “Grandpa, I brought two bodyguards with me actually. Let me know if you need their help. I knew there would be pesty people here today.”
- “Well, I don’t mind using their help.” Josiah was glad to hear the suggestion. He had already had enough of a nuisance for the day and he needed some quiet.
- “You will not do that! You can’t do this—”
- “Madam.” Before Constance could retort further, two men came toward her and gestured at her to leave.
- She glared at the men and dared not move an inch.

- Seeing Sophie had no intention of interceding, Constance yelled at her.
- “Sophie Tanner! You can’t do this to me. You can’t do this to Mason!” The woman was distressed. She was unwilling to give up since she had done so much to find a cure for Mason, but the guards were equally adamant.
- Each of them grabbed one side of her shoulder and dragged her outside of the ward.
- Tristan followed after them to the door. “I don’t want anyone else to disturb us for the rest of the day. If anyone insists on coming in, make sure they learn a good lesson. I will take responsibility for any damages incurred.”
- “Yes, Mr. Tristan!”
- When Constance heard his warning, she was so frightened she held her breath.
- “By the way, Mrs. Laird, I forgot to tell you that Sophie’s my girlfriend, so don’t even dream about shipping her with your crippled son.”
- “You bast—” Constance was incensed when she heard the insult, but when she saw Tristan’s deterrent eyes, she sewed her lips immediately.
- “You’d better not entertain any silly ideas in that head of yours. Who knows I might make Mason Laird vanish out of thin air?” he warned, glowering at her. “I doubt you’ll be able to have another child given your age.”
- Constance felt she was engulfed by fear.
- *Another child? Y-yes. I’m too old to have another baby.*
- Constance did not doubt what Tristan said. She knew full well that he was completely capable of getting rid of Mason if he wanted to.
- “P-please, Mr. Tristan. I beg you. You have to save Mason. I promise you I’ll never see Sophie again if you help me!” Constance begged with her dear life.

Chapter 163 A Hug

- “Who gave you the guts to threaten me? Why? If I refuse to fulfill your request, does that mean you can appear in front of Sophie?”
- Tristan was a man of few words, but he couldn’t stop himself from speaking more than usual as the matter concerned Sophie.
- “Remember. The Laird family has no right to speak before me,” he concluded in a cold tone. Constance loved using her family’s influence to force others into submission, so he was merely giving her a taste of her own medicine.
- The thought of how she used to bully Sophie merely served to increase Tristan’s displeasure. They were about to suffer from his wrath.
- “Mr. Tristan—”
- Before Constance could say anything, Tristan spun on his heels impatiently and shut the door.
- The security guard grabbed her shoulders when she took a step forward.
- “Don’t you know Mr. Tristan’s temper? If you insist on angering him, I shall break your arms,” he warned.
- “Hey!” Constance was furious. “Who do you think you are? You’re just a dog guarding his door. Do you think you’re that good?”
- “Ha! A guard dog is better than someone like you,” the bodyguard mocked. As she was being rude, he gave her a push that sent her toppling.

- “The Lombard family can afford to take someone’s life,” the bodyguard warned when Constance tried to enter the ward.
- There were a few medical staff watching the debacle at the side. Constance was usually rude to them, so none of them came to help her up.
- “Did you send her away?” Peace was finally restored in the ward, so Josiah was pleased to see Tristan and Sophie together.
- “Yes. Old Mr. Tanner, you won’t mind what I did, right?” Tristan asked. He did that so Josiah could have some peace before the surgery tomorrow.
- “Of course not. I’m satisfied with your arrangements,” Josiah replied cheerfully. “You should head out on a date. I need to take a nap.”
- *Tristan is a good boy. He’s the perfect partner for Sophie.*
- Sophie was speechless. *Why did he ask us to go on a date that calmly?*
- “We shall leave now, Old Mr. Tanner.” Tristan took Sophie’s hand and dragged her out of the ward.
- Sophie said nothing and allowed him to take her out.
- “Mr. Tristan, where will we go on a date?” Sophie joked. She was obviously in a jovial mood.
- “As long as I’m with you, it doesn’t matter where we go.” Sophie was joking, but Tristan was serious. Everything that concerned Sophie was his top priority.
- As his gaze was too serious, Sophie didn’t know how to respond.
- Right then, she noticed it was snowing outside.
- After she left for Horington, she hadn’t seen any snow for five years.
- Tristan realized she was staring at the snow and led her out.
- Outside the hospital, Sophie flashed a grin at the sight of the falling snow.
- It had been ages since she last seen a snowy scene.
- Stretching her hand out, she watched as a snowflake landed on her palm and melted.
- It was snowing heavily. A while later, her head and shoulders were full of snowflakes.
- Tristan helped her put on the hood on her head.
- Looking up, Sophie met his adoring gaze that threatened to drown her.
- “Is it cold?” Tristan asked.
- “Not really.” Sophie rubbed her hands. She had the urge to build a snowman, but the snow wasn’t thick enough.
- “I’m cold,” Tristan told her. Before she could react, he hugged her.
- Opening his coat, he pulled her into his embrace.
- That was the first time someone had ever hugged Sophie. Her cheeks burned, and she couldn’t stop her heart from racing.
- The snow kept falling, and the scenery was gorgeous, but Sophie was no longer enjoying the scenery. She only had eyes for Tristan.
- “Let’s head in. My feet are freezing.” No matter how pretty the snow was, one would freeze after standing in the cold for too long.
- “Mm.” They both turned to leave. Sophie wanted to walk alone, but Tristan refused to let go of her hand. He gripped her hand tightly.
- “Mr. Tristan, let me walk alone.”

- “The road is too slippery, and I’m afraid I’ll fall. Thanks for supporting me,” Tristan lied through his teeth calmly.
- Sophie rolled her eyes in exasperation. *Forget it. He can say whatever he likes as he’s handsome. I shall stay quiet.*
- They soon arrived at the ward that was heated. Sophie could finally warm herself up.
- She stood in front of the window and enjoyed the gorgeous scenery outside. The scene outside was very much to her liking.
- Tristan helped her to take off her down jacket. He shook off the snow and hung it up.
- Josiah’s surgery was tomorrow, so Sophie was overcome by uneasiness. She couldn’t help but grow annoyed by the feeling.
- However, she couldn’t disturb Josiah, for he was most probably asleep then.
- “What’s wrong? You look worried. Is it about your grandpa?” Tristan asked gently.
- *She needs to calm down. Alas, she’s too involved to realize it. Old Mr. Tanner matters a lot to her, so she can’t calm down now.*
- “Yes.” If it was someone else were to ask this question, Sophie wouldn’t have poured her thoughts out. Since it was Tristan who posed the question, there was no need for her to hide her feelings. “I’m very worried about him.”
- Hearing that, Tristan took her hand and brought her into his embrace.
- “It’s fine. I’ll be by your side, so we’ll keep him company together,” he promised.
- He dared not tell her that the surgery would be a success, for that was out of his control.
- No matter what the result would be, they would face it together. That was one thing he could promise her.
- “Hm.” Sophie leaned onto his chest quietly and fiddled with the corner of his shirt.
- Right then, someone knocked at the door. Tristan released Sophie and went over to answer the door.
- Arius was standing outside. He let out an icy snort after seeing Tristan there.
- “Aren’t you busy, Mr. Tristan? Why are you spending your days in the hospital? Do you want to be a doctor?” he mocked. Tristan was feared by many, but he was an exception. He was annoyed that Tristan remained by Sophie’s side.
- “That’s none of your business,” Tristan responded. His tone was harsh, but he still looked as elegant as ever.
- “Sophie, he sucks. Don’t give him any chance, all right?” Arius didn’t bother hiding his dislike for Tristan. “How are you doing? The surgery is going to commence tomorrow.”
- He came to see her hoping to stop her from thinking too much.
- “I’ll be operating on him, so you don’t have to worry. He’ll be fine,” Arius assured her. He was actually afraid that something would crop up, but Josiah would be in grave danger if no one were to operate on him.
- “Mm. You should get some rest and do well in the surgery tomorrow. I’m fine.” It seemed ridiculous that the primary attending surgeon was there to offer her some comforting words.

Chapter 164 Take Him Away

- “Stop being delusional. I was bored and came to visit you. I’m not here to comfort you!” Arius scratched his head shyly.
- Without warning, a commotion sounded outside. Sophie furrowed her brows. Josiah was asleep, so she couldn’t help but wonder who had created a ruckus outside.
- “Let me find out who it is,” Tristan offered.
- *I’ve stationed my bodyguards outside. I can’t believe someone dares to cause a commotion!* Tristan went out to see Yale insisting on entering the ward.
- “Who the hell are you? Who hired you? My father is inside. Why can’t I go in? If you refuse to let me enter, I shall call the police!” Yale snarled.
- He had no idea who the bodyguards were. They might seem menacing, but he had to enter the ward for the sake of Tanner Group.
- “You’re not welcomed here. Please leave right away.” Tristan scowled when he saw Yale outside.
- Yale’s expression was twisted in fury.
- “It’s you again. You plot to stay with Sophie so you can get Tanner Group for yourself, right?” he barked furiously.
- Tristan never knew someone would accuse him of going after Tanner Group. *Seriously? Do I even need to go to this extent just to get Tanner Group?*
- Arius and Sophie emerged from the ward and immediately spotted Yale.
- “Do you need anything? If the answer is no, please leave. You’re not welcome here,” Sophie snapped.
- Her father was obviously here with an ulterior motive.
- “Sophie? What do you want? Why won’t you let me see your grandpa? You want to keep all the Tanner family’s assets for yourself, right? My god, our family is unlucky enough to have someone like you!” he complained.
- Sophie was speechless. Indeed, no one but Yale wanted Tanner Group, for it wasn’t even worth that much.
- “You may leave now.” There was no need for Yale to come here if all he wanted was the company, for Sophie didn’t want to waste time with him.
- “What do you mean by I may leave now? I demand an answer! Why would I leave? I will allow Dad to go for surgery, but first, he has to decide the heir of Tanner Group. If anything happens to Dad during the surgery—”
- “Shut up!” Sophie’s voice was so vicious that she sounded like Hades in person. “Ever since Grandpa decided on the surgery, have you ever said anything nice? Yale, you are nothing but a beast!”
- If Yale hadn’t gone overboard today, Sophie would not have flown into a fit of rage.
- Each and every word he uttered proved he wanted nothing more than Josiah to die on the operating table.
- Yale’s expression was grim after getting yelled at by his daughter in public. However, he refused to leave.

- “I’m not cursing Dad. Someone is greedy enough to help outsiders get our money. I have to put my guard up,” he argued and shot Tristan a pointed look.
- Arius let out an angry snort. Never in his life had he seen someone like Sophie’s father. *Is he even her biological father? How could he be this ridiculous?*
- “Do you know who he is? Your family’s wealth is nothing to him. Stop humiliating yourself, Yale!”
- Yale remained stubborn. “I don’t know who he is, and I don’t wish to know. All I want is to guard Dad’s wealth.”
- “Mr. Tristan, tell him to leave.” Sophie didn’t think it was necessary for them to continue the conversation, for no one would share her father’s sentiments.
- “Wait!” Yale refused to give up just yet. “Sophie, Tanner Group is mine. No one can get it from me!” he announced.
- Tristan made a phone call. Soon, Felix arrived with a bunch of men.
- Yale gaped in disbelief when he saw Felix.
- Tristan was a stranger to him, but he had met Felix once previously. He couldn’t hide his shock when Felix showed up.
- “Mr. Northley? Why are you here?” he blurted out.
- Felix shot him a look.
- “Mr. Tristan, the men are here.” Ignoring Yale, Felix strode over to Tristan.
- “Mr. Tristan?” Comprehension dawned on Yale. *So this young man who Dad calls “Tanny” is the infamous Mr. Tristan?*
- “Soph, is he really Mr. Tristan?” Yale still refused to believe his ears and eyes.
- “Take him away. Release him only after Old Mr. Tanner recovers from his surgery,” Tristan ordered.
- “Got it, Mr. Tristan,” Felix replied politely.
- Yale panicked at once.
- “Mr. Tristan, I was wrong. I didn’t know it was you. I wouldn’t have said those words if I do. Please forgive me!” he pleaded.
- His legs were trembling in fear.
- Everyone knew that Tristan was a formidable presence in Jipsdale that no one should cross, for he was capable of deciding anyone’s fate.
- Alas, Felix’s men didn’t give him a chance to even speak.
- “Mr. Tanner, please don’t make things difficult for us as you’re Ms. Tanner’s father.” If they were to take action without sparing his reputation, Sophie would be affected as well.
- “Just take him away,” Sophie ordered. She wouldn’t let anyone affect Josiah’s mood before his surgery.
- He should be grateful that they were only locking him up elsewhere without harming him.
- “Soph, I’m your dad! How could you do this to me? Where are they taking me? You can’t do this to me!” Yale yelled.
- His voice was so loud that Sophie’s expression turned dark.
- “Grandpa is asleep. He said he didn’t want to see you. If he wishes to see you after his surgery, I’ll bring you to him,” came Sophie’s icy reply.
- “Soph—”

- “Take him away!” Sophie no longer wanted to hear his voice. Sometimes, she couldn’t help but wonder if Yale was truly her father, for he was nothing but a coward.
- After Yale was taken away, the hallway was silent once more.
- “Mr. Tristan, I’ll take my leave now,” Felix said.
- Tristan nodded, and Felix left with his men.
- Arius let out a sigh.
- “Soph, I don’t think there’s anything in Jipsdale that’s worth your time. After the surgery ends, follow me back to Anglandur!” he suggested.
- Tristan shot him a frosty look but said nothing else.
- “Let’s talk about that after the surgery.” Sophie didn’t want to think about that for now.
- “Why don’t you sleep in my room? The director renovated it previously, so it is much more comfortable than being in the wards.” Arius didn’t want her to spend a night together with Tristan in the same room. Just the mere thought of it made him upset. *Why does she treat Tristan differently?*
- “No, thanks. I’m doing fine here.” Sophie rejected his offer.
- Tristan had the urge to kill Arius on the spot, but he quickly calmed down after hearing Sophie’s reply.
- No matter how much Arius sacrificed, he wouldn’t mind as long as Sophie’s heart belonged to him.
- Tristan put his arm around Sophie’s shoulder and led her into the ward. He didn’t even bother talking to Arius and slammed the door in his face.

Chapter 165 Extraordinary Talent

- “F*ck it!” Arius cursed under his breath. *Tristan is savage! He’s declaring war, huh?* “Tristan, do you seriously think I’m afraid of you? Let me tell you. I...”
- Hearing his yells, Tristan opened the door and stared at him without a word.
- Arius rubbed his nose awkwardly and pretended to glance at someone else in the corridor before leaving silently.
- *Fine. I’m not as strong as Tristan. I didn’t forget how Tristan beat me up back then. Why am I this unlucky to run into someone as savage as Tristan? I, Arius Gullifer, am the most capable doctor in the medical association!*
- *Huh, what is it with my ass luck?*
- After he left, Tristan shut the door and turned to see Sophie staring at him wordlessly.
- He shrugged. “I didn’t say anything. He was too noisy.”
- “Mm, you’re right. He’s quite talkative,” Sophie admitted.
- “Do you like men who are talkative?” Tristan asked suddenly. *If she nods, I’ll have to figure out a way to make Arius disappear.*
- However, Sophie shook her head. “No.”
- Tristan was satisfied with her response.
- The surgery was going to be held at nine in the morning. After snowing the whole night, the sky was clear. Sophie woke up really early morning to chat with Josiah.

- She didn't talk much, for Josiah did most of the talking. However, she wanted to spend more time with him.
- Suddenly, Josiah fell silent.
- Sophie glanced at him curiously. *The surgery is about to begin soon. Is he worried?*
- "Soph, come here!" Josiah said solemnly. Sophie had never seen him that serious before.
- She went to him obediently and took his hand.
- "Grandpa, you'll be fine," Sophie said firmly. She had to be strong. "I'll keep you company during the surgery," she promised.
- Arius was there, so she had the privilege to do so.
- Josiah told her, "Soph, don't go in later. I don't want you to take part in the surgery."
- Arius said she was talented. If she were to participate in his surgery but failed to succeed, it might affect her future. He didn't want that to happen."
- "Grandpa!" Sophie shot him a disapproving look. "I promised to stay with you!"
- *No matter what, I'll keep him company throughout the surgery.*
- Josiah let out a sigh.
- "Soph, don't you know you'll get hurt easily with your personality? I'm delighted to learn that you're talented in medicine, but I want you to be happy, all right?"
- "I know. Don't worry, for I'll be happy," Sophie promised despite not knowing what happiness was.
- If that was what Josiah wanted, she would fulfill his wish.
- "I know you're capable, and you've done everything you promised me you would. On the other hand, I promised to protect you when you were young but ended up breaking my promise." He wasn't there when Sophie needed him the most, and he would never forget that.
- Seeing how worried he was, Sophie reached out to stroke his furrowed brows.
- "Grandpa, you didn't break your promise. The incident that happened five years ago wasn't that bad. If it hadn't happened, I wouldn't be who I am today. I'm quite satisfied with myself. Stop blaming yourself, all right?"
- She knew Josiah had been blaming himself for his absence for not being there for her, so she wanted him to know that she was doing great.
- "Soph. Oh, my dear Soph. You're so kind," Josiah lamented. *She never wanted anything, but the others in the family don't understand her at all. Soph never wanted the Tanner family's wealth!*
- "Don't say that, Grandpa," Sophie implored. She didn't want to see him acting as though he wouldn't survive the surgery.
- Josiah squeezed her hand.
- "I'm really useless, huh?" he remarked softly. Despite being in his old age, he was still a coward.
- No one in the Tanner family was Sophie's match.
- Sophie shook her head.
- "Grandpa, everyone is afraid of dying." She had been on the verge of death previously and could understand his feelings.

- Her eyes seemed as though they could see through his heart, so Josiah promptly looked away.
- “Promise me. If I can’t survive the surgery, take care of the Tanner family.”
- He knew she was capable enough and wasn’t interested in the family, but he had worked hard to build Tanner Group.
- Thus, he didn’t want to see Tanner Group go downhill.
- “Grandpa, that won’t happen. It’s almost time and Arius should be ready.” Sophie changed the topic.
- Everything was ready, so all Josiah had to do was play along.
- To her surprise, he refused to leave his bed.
- “Promise me. I don’t want to die with any regrets,” he insisted. Yale was his only son, so there was no way he could ignore his son’s plight.
- “Okay. I promise you,” came Sophie’s answer.
- She would do her best to fulfill Josiah’s requests no matter how hard things would be. Besides, this request was pretty easy to complete.
- “Mm. Your dad caused a ruckus yesterday, right? Tell Tanny to release him.” Josiah wanted Yale to stay by his side at that moment.
- “Sure.” Sophie agreed right away.
- When Josiah was pushed out of the ward, Yale and Charmaine were already waiting outside the operating room. Willow was also there.
- For the first time in his life, Yale felt a wave of agony wash over him. He strode over to take Josiah’s hand.
- “Dad, you must survive this,” he said.
- He didn’t even feel the pinch previously and only changed his mind after seeing his father being pushed to the operating room.
- Yale belatedly realized that his seemingly invincible father was really getting old.
- Josiah gazed at his son.
- “Yale, you’re my only son. I used to have high hopes on you, but you’re too ordinary. When I’m no longer here, let Soph run Tanner Group. You should just take your dividends instead of creating a ruckus,” he said solemnly.
- “Dad, what are you talking about?” Yale’s voice was trembling.
- “Your daughters are all grown up. Why are you crying? Stop it. Don’t embarrass me,” Josiah chided.
- “Dad, you’ll be fine,” was the only thing Yale could say.
- Josiah was pushed into the operating room. As Sophie was nowhere to be seen, Willow told Charmaine, “Mom, Sophie didn’t even show up for Grandpa’s surgery. She doesn’t even care about Grandpa! Grandpa adored her so much. What an ingrate.”

Chapter 166 Breathtakingly Beautiful

- “Willow, mind your own business,” Yale warned. *Tristan was too scary. They didn’t hurt me, but I was locked up and couldn’t make any calls with my phone. That was a horrible experience.*
- “Dad, I was being honest. I feel bad for Grandpa,” Willow responded with pouted lips.

- Yale snapped, "Your grandpa can decide that himself."
- Charmaine cast him a dubious look. *What's with him? He used to despise Sophie. What happened to him today?*
- Before Willow could say anything, Yale chided her harshly and stopped her from saying anything else.
- Willow fumed silently. *Why is everyone going against me?*
- "Mom, I feel a little unwell. I'll go and get some fresh air," she said.
- Charmaine gave her a disapproving look.
- "Willow, your grandpa is in the operating room. Don't be willful," she chided. Willow was unlike her usual obedient self that day.
- "Mom, I am supposed to meet Mr. Zales later," Willow explained. She had no idea why she got lucky. Clayton took notice of her after she appeared by his side deliberately.
- "What? Really?" Charmaine was elated. "Go, then! Seize the opportunity, okay?"
- "But Grandpa..."
- "There are plenty of people here. The doctors are here too, and you can't be of any help. Just go!" Charmaine urged.
- *If we get to establish connections with the Zales family, Willow will get a chance! The Zales family is much more influential than the Laird family!*
- Willow knew what her mother was thinking. After gaining Charmaine's approval, she sneaked away quietly.
- Arius and Sophie had changed into surgical gowns. They were disinfecting themselves for the last time when the doors slid open.
- Sophie turned at her shoulder to see Barney Smith, a renowned doctor, the founder of the medical association, and also Arius' mentor.
- "Dr. Smith? Why are you here?" Arius was surprised to see Barney here, for the latter was recently busy with an important experiment in the lab. *I can't believe he made time just to be here!*
- "I received a call from Mr. Lombard and rushed here immediately. As I was busy in the lab, I didn't know about Old Mr. Tanner. Why didn't you tell me about his condition?"
- If he knew about it earlier, he would've come here at once. Fortunately, he had arrived just in time for the surgery.
- "I was worried you were busy. Besides, I'm confident of undergoing the surgery myself, so I didn't bother informing you," Arius explained.
- Barney turned to Sophie and reprimanded him, "Sophie, didn't I tell you to come to me for help no matter what? You didn't come to me even though Old Mr. Tanner is in danger."
- "Dr. Smith, you were too busy, so I didn't ask for your help," Sophie clarified.
- Barney sighed. "Don't say that. I might want you to be my student, but I won't coerce you into doing anything you're not willing to do."
- Arius rolled his eyes. "That's because you know coercing her won't work!"
- He knew his mentor well and was embarrassed to hear those pretentious words.
- Barney glared at him.
- "B*stard! Is it fun to humiliate me? Did you forget that I am your mentor since I haven't punished you for too long?" he snapped.

- Arius argued, "Dr. Smith, you're wrong. I'm merely telling the truth. You have been dreaming of making Sophie your student every day, right?"
- *Oh my... life is tough and I can't even tell the truth.*
- Barney glared at him and huffed, "Yeah, you're da*n smart!"
- Sophie chuckled out loud after hearing their exchange.
- She was reminded of the times they shared back in Horington.
- Arius got Barney a surgical gown and helped him to put it in. Barney then began scrubbing his hands.
- "Can I come in?" Tristan asked suddenly. He wanted nothing more than to be with Sophie.
- The only thing he could do for her was to invite Barney over.
- Even though he couldn't be of help, he didn't want her to leave his sight.
- "Mr. Tristan, do you think we're having fun inside? This concerns someone's life. Do you think it's an exhibition?" Arius declared.
- Tristan ignored him and kept staring at Sophie.
- "Why are you so talkative? Mr. Tristan can watch the surgery if he wants. He won't affect you!" Barney chided.
- Back in the medical association, Arius wouldn't stop anyone from watching any of his surgeries.
- Sophie nodded.
- She knew Tristan was worried about her and wanted to stay by her side.
- After the preparations were made, the four of them went to the automated glass doors. The doors slid open, and Barney brought Arius into the operating room.
- Sophie halted in her tracks momentarily.
- "Good luck! Everything will be fine," Tristan assured her. He wanted to give her a hug, but she had to enter the operating room soon, so he couldn't do that.
- "Mm. I'll head in now."
- It was pointless to say anything at that moment.
- Sophie's priority was to focus on the surgery.
- Tristan stared at her fragile figure stepping into the operating room and felt his heart ache at the sight.
- He could only pray that Josiah would be all right.
- He didn't even want to imagine how Sophie would react if Josiah couldn't survive the surgery.
- After Sophie headed in, and the surgery began.
- Barney didn't take part and would only provide guidance from aside.
- "Sophie, help Arius." Her hands were extremely important in the surgery, for even Arius' hands weren't as nimble as hers.
- Sophie nodded.
- The anesthesiologist had already injected Josiah with the anesthetics, so he was lying in bed with his eyes shut.
- Arius was ready.
- "Good luck!" he told Sophie.
- Sophie gave a firm nod. Arius and Barney—both renowned doctors—were here in the operating room, so Josiah would be fine.
- The surgery began. Sophie and Arius worked well with one another.

- Their actions were very much in sync.
- That was the first time Tristan saw Sophie performing surgery.
- Each and every action she did was devastatingly attractive.
- Sophie was breathtakingly beautiful when she was focused on doing one thing.
- The surgery went on smoothly. Barney couldn't help but wish he could bring Sophie back to Anglandur after seeing how nimble her hands were.
- "Here, it's your turn," Arius told her.
- That was the most important part of the surgery—to remove the bullet fragment.
- Sophie looked up. *He wants me to do it?*
- "You're the only one capable of doing it," Arius explained. He knew she was very precise, so the surgery would end faster if she were to do the deed.
- "You can do it, Sophie," Barney encouraged her. *After this surgery, she'll know the significance of becoming a doctor!*
- Everyone trusted her immensely, so Sophie knew she couldn't back down.
- "Okay."
- She focused on removing the bullet fragment. It was tiny but had tortured Josiah for many years.
- Thus, she was determined to remove it to end his suffering.

Chapter 167 Uncontrollable

- In twenty seconds, Sophie removed the bullet fragment deftly and without mistakes.
- After the removal of the bullet fragment, follow-up work was just the usual routine.
- When the operation was over, Josiah was pushed into the observation room.
- Sophie and Arius went to shower and change. However, Sophie found herself leaning against the wall, her hand trembling uncontrollably.
- Sophie bit her lip as she watched her trembling hand.
- Tristan had already showered and changed and was waiting outside for her.
- The moment he set eyes on her, Tristan noticed that something was not right, and he held her hand.
- "It's okay, now. You did a great job," Tristan said, consoling her.
- Sophie leaned gently on his body and slowly closed her eyes.
- Performing such a delicate operation was exhausting both mentally and physically, and she was totally drained now.
- "It's okay, now. You did well. Now, go and get some rest." Seeing her in this condition, his heart ached for her. On the operating table, Sophie's skill was so extraordinary that no one could take their eyes off her but she was his woman and he wished that there would be less pressure on her.
- Some might judge him for being selfish but all he wanted was for her not to be so exhausted.
- "I'll go and see Grandpa first." No matter how tired she was, she wanted to see her grandfather before going back to rest. The operation was done but recovery would depend on close observation and aftercare.

- “Okay, I’ll accompany you to see Old Mr. Tanner first. After seeing him, you can go back to rest. I’ll stay there and everything will be fine.” He could take over her place to watch over him.
- Sophie did not protest as she really needed to rest for a while. Besides, Josiah would take several hours before waking up.
- Josiah had been wheeled into the observation room and visitors were not allowed in. So, she went in alone.
- “Grandpa, I’ve done all that can be done. It all depends on you now. You’ve always been my hero so I am sure you can pull through. You won’t let me down, will you?”
- Her grandfather was a veteran. He had been through the war and was an indomitable hero. If it was not for that tiny bullet fragment, he would not leave his beloved job.
- After speaking a few words, Sophie came out of the observation room as she could not stay long.
- Yale saw her coming out. Immediately, he asked with concern, “Soph, how is your grandpa doing? After he was wheeled out, we asked many doctors, but they were not familiar with the case.”
- At that point, Yale’s attitude toward Sophie improved a lot.
- Realizing that Tristan was on her side, Yale did not dare to show any disrespect. After all, the Lombard family was very prominent in the city of Jipsdale.
- “The operation was a success, but we will only know the whole picture after Grandpa wakes up.” After all, he was advanced in age. Younger folks may take a few days to recover, but he would take longer.
- “The successful operation is a good thing,” Yale mumbled, almost to himself.
- Charmaine glanced at Yale in surprise. That was the first time he was so cordial to Sophie.
- “Okay, you’re tired. Go and rest.” Tristan did not want her to stay and talk for too long. The operation had already sapped too much of her energy.
- Sophie stopped talking and went off to the VIP ward nearby accompanied by Tristan.
- “Why are you so nice to Sophie today? Is there something I do not know?”
- She did not understand the present situation at all. *What is going on?* She did not like that feeling at all as she liked to be in control of every situation.
- “Have a better attitude towards Sophie in the future. The entire Tanner family can only rely on her in the future.” Yale had not expected that after he spent so much time and effort on Willow, the boss turned out to be Sophie in the end.
- Charmaine frowned. “Why? I don’t understand.”
- “You don’t need to understand.” Who was Tristan after all? He did not even know if Tristan would mind others finding out about his relationship with Sophie.
- It did not matter what Tristan thought of Sophie, they could no longer ill treat Sophie.
- Even if Sophie was just a pet kept by Tristan, no one would dare to harm his pet.
- Furthermore, no one really knew what Sophie meant to Tristan.
- “What was that about? Can’t you tell me the truth?”

- *We are one family, aren't we? Why is it necessary to be so secretive and hide the truth?*
- "Don't question me. Just do as I say, that's all."
- Charmaine was rather upset. She was his wife, after all. *Why does he always use the same reason to shut me up?*
- Tristan led Sophie to the ward. He had to see her lie down with his own eyes.
- "Sleep well, so I won't worry about you, okay? I shall go over to Grandpa now and watch him. There won't be any problem."
- "Mr. Tristan, I really appreciate this."
- She felt at ease having him around.
- "You don't have to mention that with me."
- Tristan tucked her in, closed the door and left.
- Soon, she fell asleep and had a dream. The dream went on for a long time.
- In the dream, she was about seven or eight years old. Her grandfather went down on all four and dotingly carried her on his back.
- The memory became vivid and it was difficult to differentiate between a dream and reality.
- Nonetheless, she had smiled sweetly in the dream.
- Then, the dream changed and it was about the recent surgery but was a failure.
- "Grandpa—"
- Sophie woke up in fear from the nightmare, drenched with perspiration.
- Sitting up on the hospital bed, Sophie gasped violently. With one hand placed over her beating heart, she reached out for her phone with the other to check the time.
- She had slept for more than forty minutes.
- Unable to go back to sleep, she dressed up and went outside. Tristan was standing guard outside and saw her the moment she appeared.
- He walked toward her, frowning in disapproval. *How long did she sleep? Why is she up already?*
- "Why don't you sleep a bit longer?" He led her to a bench nearby and seated her. Seeing her covered in perspiration, he could not help looking at her with concern. "What happened? Did you have a bad dream?"
- "Mr. Tristan, is my grandpa alright?" As someone who was knowledgeable in the field of medicine, she knew that the operation was very successful, but as Grandpa's beloved little girl, she actually asked a silly question.
- Knowing that she was worried about Josiah, Tristan held her hand tightly.
- "Didn't Arius say it's a completely successful operation? You took part in it yourself." She knew everything, but that did not stop her from worrying.
- Sophie nodded. *That's true!* She knew everything, from beginning to end. She knew it all.
- Yet, she could not help but worry. In fact, she was even fearful.
- Sophie leaned on his shoulder.
- "I know that this is not good but I can't help it. I can't control myself." She did not like it but she cared too much for her grandfather, so she became all worried and felt awful about it.

Chapter 168 Human Emotions

- “Worry has driven you into a mess, but you have really done a good job.” After all, humans were born with emotions and desires, and there was no way to have total control over them.
- She had done very well.
- At that very moment, Arius and Barney came over. When they saw her in that state, Arius could not help but shake his head.
- “Soph, don’t you trust me? As your mentor, I was right beside you throughout the operation. It was totally faultless.”
- Sophie rose to her feet.
- “Dr. Smith, thank you very much for coming here,” she said gratefully, knowing how busy he was.
- Barney burst out laughing.
- “My dear, I don’t know when you will take me as your mentor. However, I’ll wait, no matter how long it will take.” As a leading figure in the medical field, Barney founded International Medical Association.
- The medical association had a lot of medical experts from all over the world under its umbrella.
- From the time he met Sophie, he had always wanted her to helm his medical association.
- “Just give her some time. You’re almost there.” After going through so much, Sophie could think of nothing else but her grandfather.
- “Fine, I will not rush you. For your sake, I have mastered Chanaean. I’ll leave it to you.” At that point, he spoke Chanaean well, but with a foreign accent.
- Arius shook his head. His mentor seemed totally obsessed with Sophie. However, Arius could understand Barney’s feelings.
- Sophie was indeed the most gifted medical prodigy they had ever come across.
- “Sophie, Dr. Smith has to leave now. I’m sure you know how much work he has at the medical association.”
- “Dr. Smith, let me see you out.” Sophie decided to walk him to the entrance because he had come such a long way.
- “You stay here. I’ll walk with him.” Tristan knew how much she wanted to stay with her grandfather, so he offered.
- “Neither of you need to do that. It’s good enough that Arius is with me.” Barney understood how she felt, and he did not want her to do that. “Tristan, you stay here too.”
- Tristan had already done a lot to bring him over.
- “Sophie, you stay here and watch your grandpa. Don’t worry. I’ll stay until he wakes up.” He didn’t want to go off just like that.
- “Thank you, Dr. Smith,” Sophie said sincerely. Anyhow, she was grateful that he had come all the way.
- At that moment, Constance turned up. She had heard that the founder of the medical association was visiting. Even though Arius was unwilling to help her, there was hope for Mason’s legs to recover as long as Barney agreed to help.
- What she had not expected was that she had no way of reaching that level.

- Nonetheless, that was a rare opportunity to meet the foreign expert.
- “Hello, may I know if you are Dr. Smith? My son’s legs are broken. Can I ask you—”
- Before Constance could finish speaking, two bodyguards came over immediately and caught hold of her.
- Seeing that it was her, Sophie’s expression was particularly cold, while Tristan just glanced at the two bodyguards.
- “This must not happen again!” Tristan warned them sharply.
- The two bodyguards were so afraid that they broke into cold sweat. They were well aware of Tristan’s fiery temper. Furthermore, they could not give him any satisfactory reply for Constance’s intrusion.
- The woman had already entered the room and that was an indisputable fact.
- “Sorry, Mr. Tristan.” The bodyguards apologized for their mistake, but the damage was done.
- “Take her away!”
- “Dr. Smith, if you can heal my son’s legs, I can give you whatever you want,” Constance yelled for that was her last chance.
- Barney frowned.
- He did not like the woman’s attitude. There was nothing he wanted that he could not have so far.
- The name Barney Smith was synonymous with absolute power. Where fame and fortune were concerned, he had everything.
- If there were anything he wanted then, it was Sophie.
- Constance was taken away even while she was still trying to convince Barney.
- “Soph, you must come to visit me in Anglandur. Even if you do not wish to join the medical association, you can at least check it out.” He was confident that the moment she visited the medical association, she would definitely be fascinated by what she would see.
- “Alright, I will certainly pay the medical association a visit,” Sophie promised.
- Arius sent Barney to the airport personally. Tristan had made arrangements for his flight.
- “Mr. Tristan, Old Mr. Tanner is awake,” a staff came over to report.
- When Sophie heard that her grandfather was awake, she went over immediately. She went in and saw that he was indeed awake.
- Seeing Sophie, Josiah raised his hand slightly. He was awake, but still unable to talk.
- She went to him and held his hand.
- “Grandpa, don’t worry. The operation was a success. After a few days of rest, we can go home.”
- When Arius came back and found out that Josiah had awoken, he came immediately to examine him. After a series of tests, Arius looked rather pleased.
- “You’re recovering well. So, don’t worry, Old Mr. Tanner. Rest well for a few days, and be sure to listen to the nurses!”
- Josiah nodded slowly as he listened to the doctor.

- At his advanced age, he felt weak after going through such a major operation, but his mind was still sharp.
- “Grandpa, just close your eyes and rest,” Sophie advised after seeing how weak he was.
- Josiah’s eyes were on Sophie all the time.
- He knew that she was undergoing a lot at that moment. Since he was awake, she should go and have a good rest.
- “Grandpa, I’m fine.” She could see that he was worried about her.
- “Grandpa, don’t worry. I’m here for her. She’s going to be fine.” Tristan gazed steadily into Josiah’s eyes.
- When Josiah heard that, he heaved a sign of relief. For some unknown reason, he trusted Tristan and took him at his word.
- Josiah fell asleep again.
- Arius patted Sophie on her shoulder.
- “It’s all good. Now that Old Mr. Tanner has awoken, you can stop worrying.” The truth was that when Josiah woke up, Arius felt relieved too.
- He was worried about any mishaps that might happen. After all, every surgery involved certain levels of risk. That type of surgery Josiah had was especially risky.
- “Thank you, Arius.”
- He waved his hands in reply.
- “Sophie, if you continue doing this, I’ll get angry. There is no need for you to stand on ceremony.”
- Sophie did not say a word, but smiled instead.
- “All is well and I’m tired. I’m going to sleep for a while.” He was not going back yet, but he would leave only after Josiah’s condition had stabilized.
- Arius had gone to rest and Morgan noticed that Sophie did not look well. Immediately he told Tristan, “Mr. Tristan, let me watch Old Mr. Tanner. You send Ms. Sophie to get some rest.”
- With Morgan there, the others need not worry.
- “Morgan, I’m fine.” She knew they were worried about her but she felt fine.
- “You should go home. I’m sure you don’t want Old Mr. Tanner to wake up and see you exhausted or he’ll feel really bad.”

Chapter 169 Irresistible

- “In that case, I’ll go back and shower. Call me if there are any problems.” She, too, wanted to shower at home. Regardless of how luxurious the VIP ward was, she didn’t like bathing there.
- “All right, go on ahead,” Morgan replied respectfully.
- After Tristan returned to Wisteria Apartments with Sophie, he, too, took a bath when Sophie went to take a shower.
- Despite spending the last few days in the hospital, he only managed a single quick bath. After all, the conditions at the hospital were considered terrible for someone like him.

- When he was done showering, he heated up a glass of milk for Sophie and estimated the time she needed before knocking on her door.
- Upon hearing the knock, Sophie opened the door, wrapped only in a towel with her hair still dripping wet.
- The wet look and perky bosoms that greeted him felt like a siren song calling out to him.
- Tristan, unable to help himself, gulped before feeling embarrassed by his own reaction.
- "Have a glass of milk before you sleep. We'll be going to the hospital again tomorrow."
- When Sophie received the glass from him, she brushed against his warm fingers, causing her to flinch in reflex.
- Under such circumstances, it was all too easy for both of them to feel awkward.
- "After a grueling few days, you can finally get some proper rest." Sophie's gentle voice continued to claw at his heart.
- Tristan nodded. "Mmm-hmm. I'll be next door. Call me if you need anything."
- With that, he came out of her room reluctantly.
- Sophie's gaze trailed his silhouette until he returned to his room before drinking the warm milk he had prepared.
- After lying in bed, Sophie slept especially well, probably due to the effects of the milk.
- By the time she awoke, it was already three in the morning.
- Hunger was what had woken her up. With her stomach growling, she couldn't help but feel annoyed.
- In the end, she decided to get out of bed. The moment she opened the door, Tristan heard her movements, causing him to come out too.
- "What is it? Where are you going in the middle of the night?" he asked anxiously, worried that something might have happened to Josiah.
- Sophie's heart was warmed by the concerned look on his face.
- "It's nothing. I'm just feeling hungry, as I had barely eaten during the day."
- However, she wasn't sure if there were still any food delivery services available at night.
- "I plan to order some food. Do you want anything?"
- *I don't remember him having eaten much too. Given that he's one point eight meters tall, shouldn't he be hungrier than I am?*
- "Oh, in that case, let's have supper together."
- After going downstairs and taking their seats in the living room, Sophie opened a food delivery app.
- Despite browsing through it for a long time, she couldn't come to a decision.
- "Come on. Let's eat out instead."
- Sophie looked in his direction.
- "Who goes out for supper at this ungodly hour?" *Isn't it too late for that?*
- "You and me!" *Why not? As long as we fancy it, who's to say that we can't?*
- Sophie nodded.
- "You're right."

- “Wait for me. I’ll go get changed.” Regardless of how brazen she was, there was no way she was going out in her pajamas.
- As Tristan waited in the living room for her, a smile broke out on his face.
- *Who knew that this is all it takes to be happy?* Even though he was just waiting for her to go out for supper, a sense of bliss had descended upon him.
- As long as they were together, he would be easily contented regardless of what they did.
- Meanwhile, Sophie had put on a red hoodie topped by a black down jacket.
- Due to how cold Jipsdale was, she didn’t tie her hair.
- Given how juvenile she looked, Tristan felt guilty being together with her.
- He couldn’t help but question himself on whether he was too old for her.
- “What’s wrong?” *From the moment we entered the elevator, he hadn’t peeled his eyes away from me.*
- “Nothing, you just look very good in your outfit.”
- Sophie was rendered speechless.
- *How should I respond to that?*
- “I think I look good all the time.”
- Not expecting such an answer, Tristan was stunned.
- “I’m just kidding.” Sophie couldn’t resist laughing.
- *It’s been a long time since I’ve felt so at ease, and this feels wonderful!*
- Tristan brought Sophie to a high-end barbecue restaurant.
- Unlike those by the street, it had a wonderful ambiance and looked like a place Tristan would frequent.
- Nonetheless, they didn’t expect to run into Felix and the others.
- At the sight of Tristan, Ysabelle ran up to them.
- “Soph, how is Old Mr. Tanner? I want to visit him too.” Over the last few days, her dad had grounded her at home. If it weren’t for Felix, she wouldn’t even have the opportunity to come out.
- “He’s fine. What about you? Are you still grounded by your dad?”
- Ysabelle sighed at the topic.
- *How did I end up having him as my father? Being grounded sucks!*
- “Let’s not go there, as I get a headache just thinking of it. My dad is just too bullheaded. No one can change his mind.”
- “Mr. Tristan, you should stay by Sophie’s side for the next few days. I’ll hold the fort for you at the office. In return, this meal is on you,” Felix grumbled the moment he saw Tristan.
- “Fine, I’m buying. I’ll make sure you go home drunk, or my name isn’t Tristan.”
- Felix was stumped. *I was just making a casual remark. Getting drunk is such a horrible feeling to have.*
- “Mr. Tristan, I’m sorry. You win. Please let me off the hook!”
- When Charles and Sean saw Felix’s cowardly reaction, they burst into laughter.
- “Mr. Tristan, Sean and I will be taking our leave as we’re done. As for Felix, go ahead and torture him,” Charles suggested with a grin.
- Felix was upset.

- “F*ck, after I invited you out for supper, is that how you repay me? Charles, you had better not cross the line.” Felix rolled up his sleeves as if he was going to get into a fight with them.
- Ignoring him, Sean gave Charles a tug before leaving, with Felix brandishing his fists in the air behind them.
- “All of you should stop bullying Felix. Don’t you think he’s really pitiful?”
- Upon hearing the remark, Felix snuck a glance at Ysabelle, for that was the first time she had ever stood up for him.
- Even Tristan shot her a look.
- “Felix, you should send her home already. Given how strict her dad has lately been, she might be grounded for life if she doesn’t get home soon.” Tristan knew his brother’s character like the back of his hand.
- Upon hearing his comment, Ysabelle, who had wanted to linger a little longer, felt her enthusiasm fizzle out and resigned herself to reality.
- “Soph, once Old Mr. Tanner recovers, I’ll visit him again. As of now, I won’t bother him yet.”
- Sophie nodded in acknowledgment.
- “Mm-hmm. Go on now.” *Poor girl.*
- After being reluctantly led away by Felix, Ysabelle would turn around with a pitiful look on her face every few steps she took.

Chapter 170 I Like You This Way

- When she saw Ysabelle’s miserable expression, Sophie couldn’t help but ask, “Mr. Tristan, as Ysabelle’s uncle, can’t you put in a good word for her?”
- *There’s nothing wrong with joining the entertainment industry as long as that’s where her passion lies. Considering the Lombard family’s position in Jipsdale, no one in the industry would dare take advantage of her in the event she does.*
- “Mm-hmm, I’ll talk to my brother about it in a few days.” As he was occupied with Josiah’s matter, he had no time to spare for Ysabelle’s affairs.
- Nonetheless, since Sophie had made a request, he would definitely get to it.
- After leading Sophie to a private room, both of them sat and waited after ordering.
- The moment Sophie went online, Butterfly’s messages came in.
- Butterfly: *Phantom, you’re finally here. Have you been busy? Why haven’t you come online recently?*
- Phantom: *I’ve been busy taking care of things at home. Did something happen? How are things at Wings of Light?*
- Butterfly: *What’s wrong? Do you need our help? If you do, just press 1.*
- Sophie couldn’t help but smile at Butterfly’s joke.
- Phantom: *I’m fine. My grandpa has just gone for an operation. There’s nothing you can do even if you’re here.*
- Butterfly: *I see. In that case, I’ll visit him tomorrow. Just give me the address.*
- Phantom: *That’s not necessary. He’s still recovering and needs a lot of rest.*
- Butterfly: *All right then. I’ll visit him when he’s better, as I’ve been planning to see him for some time. Please keep me updated.*

- Phantom: *Is everything all right with Wings of Light?*
- Butterfly: *It's fine. Their influence has been expanding under my leadership, so there's nothing for you to worry about.*
- Phantom: *Okay, I'm logging off now. You should rest early too.*
- *I know Butterfly is a night owl, but why isn't she sleeping yet? It's almost dawn now.*
- Butterfly: *I can't sleep as I just broke up. From the look of things, I'm really not suited to be in a relationship.*
- Sophie was at a loss for words.
- *She goes through a breakup once a month. I really have no idea what to say.*
- Butterfly: *Ah, I just keep meeting lousy men. It's not my problem, but the men I keep seeing are terrible.*
- Phantom: *I have to go, as I'm about to eat.*
- Tristan's gaze was fixed on her as she was chatting with Butterfly from the moment she sat down.
- After logging out of her phone, Sophie put it aside.
- "Who was it?" *How can there be someone who has a greater hold on her than me? To the extent that she just can't put down her phone?*
- "A friend." As Tristan still didn't know that she was Phantom, it wasn't the right time to tell him about Butterfly yet.
- "Fine." Sensing her reluctance, Tristan didn't press on.
- When the food was served, Sophie grabbed a skewer of grilled meat and took a bite.
- Even though it was delicious, she didn't feel that it tasted much better than one from a street stall.
- Since spices were the most important ingredient in a barbecue, she enjoyed the particular restaurant's spice rub.
- Sophie, who noticed Tristan wasn't eating, handed a skewer to him.
- "Aren't you hungry too? Dig in!"
- Instead of receiving it, Tristan grabbed her hand and took a bite from her skewer.
- Sophie was rendered speechless.
- *Does he want me to feed him?* She let out a sigh.
- *This is such a pain. Must I also feed him during meals whenever we're together?*
- Even though she was famished a while ago, she became full after just a few skewers. In spite of that, Tristan ordered a serving of mashed potatoes for her.
- After taking a few mouthfuls, she could no longer move a muscle.
- As for Tristan, he finished her leftover mashed potatoes instead of the untouched barbecue skewers.
- After both of them exited the restaurant and got into the car, they saw Willow and Clayton appear in front of it.
- When Sophie was certain the lady beside Clayton was Willow, she couldn't resist snorting in laughter.
- *Isn't she in love with Mason? What changed? Does she not fancy him anymore after what happened to his leg? That aside, why is Clayton with her?*
- The fact that Clayton was behind the assassination attempts on Tristan wasn't lost upon her.

- At the same time, Tristan's expression darkened.
- *There's no reason for Clayton and Willow to be in the same social setting. Now that he has her by his side, what is he planning? Who is he targeting?*
- Tristan didn't forget the incident outside Blossom Garden, where Clayton discovered how special Sophie was to him.
- Therefore, he suspected that Sophie was the reason why Clayton had Willow by his side.
- As Sophie watched Willow, the latter, in turn, saw her and noticed the way Sophie was looking at her. As a result, Willow cracked a smug smile.
- *Is Sophie already jealous when I haven't even done anything? All I'm doing is show up by Clayton's side. In that case, wouldn't she rage in jealous envy if Clayton and I really got together?*
- Taking her attention off Willow, Sophie wound up the window to screen the latter out from her mind.
- *I don't care what happens to Willow, but now that I control the Tanner family, there's no way I'm going to let her harm the family's interest.*
- It went without saying that Clayton, too, saw Tristan and Sophie. Consistent with what everyone's thoughts were, Sophie was the reason why he had Willow by his side.
- Given how important Sophie was to Tristan, hurting the former was the equivalent of doing the same to the latter.
- After all, his only goal in life is to crush Tristan like an insect.
- "Clayton, it's getting late. Let's..." Willow offered herself to him. Since he kept her by his side, she was certain of his desire for her.
- After all, it wouldn't make sense for a man to do that and not lust after the lady, especially one that was of the nubile age of nineteen.
- For someone like Clayton, it would be impossible for him to resist.
- When Clayton checked the time, he realized that it really was getting late.
- In truth, even though Willow's beauty was undeniable, Sophie's presence made her look ordinary, smoldering any lust that he initially harbored for the former.
- "It's getting late. Your parents must be worried. I'll get the driver to send you home."
- "Clayton, I don't feel like going home. Where are you going? Let me come with you. My parents are busy these few days, so they don't have time to bother about me."
- Since the opportunity for her to stay by his side didn't come by easily, she was reluctant to leave just like that.
- "Clayton, I—"
- Willow swallowed her words.
- She was willing to sacrifice anything as long as she could stay by Clayton's side, even if it meant giving herself to him.
- Suddenly, Clayton grabbed her chin.
- "I heard that you and your sister fancied Mr. Mason, and now, you've already changed your mind? How long has it just been since he was hospitalized? Willow, are your feelings for me really sincere? How are you going to prove it?"

- Despite the pain from his brutish grip, Willow had no choice but to maintain her longing stare at him.
- “Clayton, before I met you, I always assumed that I liked Mason’s type. But after getting to know you, I realized I’m actually attracted to ambitious men like you. As for Mason, he’s nothing but a mommy’s boy.”

Chapter 171 Every Move Of Hers Is Sensuous

- Clayton couldn’t help but laugh at Willow’s words. *Does she really think I’m someone like Mason, whom she can manipulate with ease?*
- “Clayton, why are you looking at me like that? Don’t you believe me? Every word I say is true. I really like you a lot. In fact, I’m willing to sacrifice everything for you.” Confident in her beauty, Willow was sure her pitiful look would be able to melt any man’s heart.
- Instead, Clayton tightened his grip on her.
- “Is that so? Are you really sure that you like me and truly understand what kind of person I am?”
- Clayton’s reaction wasn’t what she had expected, causing her to feel at a loss.
- “Clayton, how can I prove myself to you?”
- “The man with your sister. Do you know him? He’s someone that I detest.” Clayton released her chin and gently stroked her beautiful face.
- “Do you mean Tanny? I hate his guts too. However, what are you expecting me to do? He’s Sophie’s boyfriend, and I’m powerless against him.” When the image of Tristan emerged in her mind, it was still enough to cause her heart to race.
- *So what if that’s the case? She’s still Sophie’s man and will never be mine. Furthermore, what’s the use of him being better looking than Clayton? As long as I can become Clayton’s girl, my rise to success will be assured.*
- “I’m not expecting you to do anything. Do I look like someone like that? You know how much I treasure the woman I love. It’s just that he’s an eyesore to me. Since you claim that your feelings for me are true, let’s see how you prove it.” No sooner had Clayton spoken than he ordered the driver to send Willow home.
- Despite her unwillingness to leave, Willow was cognizant that her refusal would only end up infuriating him.
- “Clayton, remember to call me.” Willow then got into the car.
- Right after she did, Clayton took out a wet napkin and methodically wiped his hands with it.
- Since daybreak was upon them, Sophie didn’t return to Wisteria Apartments. Instead, Tristan went with her to the hospital.
- By the time they arrived, Josiah was already awake, but he was still breathing through the ventilator and unable to speak.
- After Sophie sat by his side for a while, she had to leave the room when the nurse came in to give Josiah’s body a wipe.
- Nonetheless, Tristan remained inside. After taking the towel from the nurse’s hand, he personally rubbed down Josiah and did so attentively.

- Meanwhile, Morgan was moved by Tristan's gesture.
- *It's rare for young men nowadays to be willing to do the dirty work. Most of the time, they are just preoccupied with making money. Unlike them, Mr. Tristan is willing to go the extra mile for Ms. Tanner in spite of his distinguished position in society. Therefore, he must truly be enamored with her.*
- Josiah, too, could feel how caring Tristan was. Even his own son wasn't bothered to wipe his body for him.
- *Tristan is really sincere.*
- "Old Mr. Tanner, don't worry. Soph managed to catch a few hours of sleep after going back."
- Well aware of Josiah's concern for Sophie, Tristan updated him on what they did over the last few hours while wiping the former down.
- "Mr. Tristan, let me do it." When Tristan was about to pour off the water, Morgan stopped him at once.
- With no intention of insisting, Tristan rolled-down his sleeves.
- "Ms. Sophie, you can go back in now, as Mr. Tristan is done cleaning Old Mr. Tanner. He really is a good catch. For him to be willing to do something like that for you, he must really like you a lot!" Morgan exclaimed.
- Stumped for a response, Sophie walked by him and entered.
- Inside, she saw Tristan and Josiah getting along very well with each other. At the same time, sweat was beading off Tristan's forehead after wiping Josiah earlier.
- Taking out a few pieces of tissues, she instinctively wiped his sweat away for him, and that was the first time she had ever done something like that.
- Since he was taller than her by an entire head, she had to tiptoe just to reach him.
- Evidently, the height difference between them was simply perfect.
- Watching how caring they were to each other, Josiah's eyes glistened in approval.
- *This is such a perfect scene that I just wish I could freeze it for eternity.*
- "That's enough." Tristan grabbed her hand and helped her to the chair beside Josiah's bed. "Ignore me. Just stay with Old Mr. Tanner."
- All of a sudden, Tristan's phone rang.
- "I'll take the call outside. Call me if you need anything."
- With that, Tristan exited the ward.
- Watching the door close behind him, Sophie noticed the warmth he brought into her life every time he was by her side.
- "Soph," Josiah called out to her, causing her to turn back around.
- "Grandpa, what is it? Do you need anything?"
- "Oh, Soph. I really think that Tristan is a wonderful man. Even though he is much older than you are, the age difference doesn't matter as long as he treats you well. The only thing I wish for is for you to be happy." Having not said a word for more than ten hours, Josiah sounded hoarse when he spoke.
- Sophie nodded in response.
- "Grandpa, I know that. Don't worry. I'll definitely not let happiness slip through my hands." Even though she was young, she wasn't blind to who was good to her.

- When it was past nine in the morning, Willow arrived at the hospital. The moment Charmaine saw her, she pulled the former aside.
- “What took you so long? Your grandpa has already woken up a long time ago.”
- “So what? I’m not a doctor. What’s the use of me being here? Grandpa has never been bothered with me. In his eyes, the only granddaughter he has is Sophie,” Willow grumbled in indignance, for Josiah’s bias had always been a thorn in her heart.
- “Why are you complaining so loudly? Don’t you want any of the Tanner family assets?” Charmaine pulled her aside.
- “Mom, I’m busting my butt trying to get Clayton to like me. As long as I marry him, the Tanner family’s meager assets mean nothing to me.” Just the thought of the prestige that came with being Clayton’s wife caused Willow to feel like she was on cloud nine.
- “Does Mr. Zales really like you?” Charmaine, too, was delighted to hear the news.
- “Mm-hmm, I’ll definitely make him fall for me,” Willow declared resolutely.
- *As long as he falls head over heels for me, he will be eating out of my hand.*
- “Will, make sure you give it your all. As long as you are accepted by the Zales family, you will be a cut above the rest.” Charmaine’s only goal in life was to climb the social ladder.
- “Mom, don’t worry. I’ll definitely not disappoint you.”
- “Let’s go and see your grandpa.” Charmaine then led Willow to the ward. When they ran into Sophie, Willow snorted in response.
- *What’s the use of you having so many men by your side? As long as I’m able to reel Clayton in, all those men are nothing compared to him.*
- Fantasizing about the future put Willow in a buoyant mood, causing her to ram into Sophie’s shoulder on purpose.
- Sophie’s brows knitted by reflex. “Are you blind?”
- Willow sneered as she racked her brains for a response that would inflict misery upon Sophie.

Chapter 172 Are You Jealous Of Me

- “Soph, I didn’t do it on purpose. I really didn’t see you.” Willow feigned remorse. “Anyway, you can stop worrying about me fighting with you over Mason. Since you like him, you can go ahead and have him.”
- “Willow, you disgust me.” Sophie’s eyes were piercingly cold. “Haven’t you fallen head over heels in love with him? What’s wrong? Have you changed your target?”
- Willow was outraged.
- “What are you trying to say? I just realized that some things couldn’t be forced. Since Mason has no feelings for me, there’s no point in me losing my dignity over him.” *So what if I have really changed my target? Since Mason doesn’t want me as his girlfriend, there’s no point in me throwing myself at him. Besides, isn’t Clayton a hundred times better than he is?*

- “Have you heard of the Zales family?” Willow gloated all of a sudden. “It’s only now that I discovered I like ambitious men like Clayton.”
- “How the f*ck is that my business?” Sophie didn’t mince her words. “Willow, let me warn you. I don’t care what you want to do. However, if your actions harm the Tanner family’s interest, I’ll definitely make you pay.”
- *Is she not taking me seriously because I have yet to hold her accountable for the incident with the picture?*
- Due to Josiah’s condition, Sophie had no time to deal with Willow. But now, the latter was getting increasingly on her nerves.
- Willow broke into a smirk.
- “Sophie, I knew you have always been jealous of me. What’s wrong? Are you also going to seduce Clayton just to spite me?”
- Sophie’s eyes narrowed with a dangerous glint in them.
- If they weren’t in a ward and Josiah wasn’t already sleeping, Sophie would definitely have taught Willow a lesson.
- “Willa, that’s enough.” Charmaine was also worried that their exchange would escalate into an argument in the ward.
- “I’m not trying to meddle in your affairs, but you had better not get yourself so deep into trouble that you have to beg me for help.”
- *Does she even know what kind of person Clayton is? She must be deluded to think that she can manipulate him. That aside, am I his target, or is Tristan?*
- “Let me tell you; you’re obviously jealous of me. There’s no doubt about it.” Willow was extremely full of herself.
- “Take her away.” Sophie had lost her patience for further conversation, as she felt like she was speaking to a fool.
- Sensing Sophie’s exasperation, Charmaine grabbed Willow and walked away.
- Upon leaving the ward, she remarked, “Willa, there’s still a long way to go before you and Clayton are together, and yet—”
- “Mom, I’m confident that Clayton will definitely fall into my grasp. How can you not trust me?” Willow was upset by her mother’s lack of faith.
- Charmaine’s concern intensified upon hearing her daughter’s words.
- “Can it be that Clayton is trying to use you?” *With tons of girls clamoring to be with him, why would he give Willow special treatment?*
- Charmaine’s doubt struck a nerve with Willow.
- “Mom, what’s that supposed to mean? Am I not worthy of someone’s love?” *How can she think that of me?*
- Charmaine held Willow’s hand gently and comforted her, “Willa, that’s not what I meant. I’m just worried about you due to Clayton’s bad reputation.”
- *I don’t doubt the influence of the Zales family in Jipsdale, but Clayton is an infamous playboy who is surrounded by girls everywhere he goes. Thus, are his feelings for Willow true?*
- “I know everyone has a bad impression of him, but it doesn’t matter, for I’ll be the one whom he settles down with.” Willow knew she had no control over the past. All that mattered was that he would change for the better once both of them were together.

- “All right now, you should go. If you have time, get yourself some new clothes. You don’t want to be outshone by the girls who are throwing themselves at Clayton.” Charmaine had barely spoken when she handed Willow a card.
- “There’s five hundred thousand in here. Buy whatever you fancy. If there’s a need, get Clayton a present too.”
- Willow took the card gleefully.
- When she was together with Mason, her mother didn’t pay much attention to her.
- In contrast to then, Charmaine had now given her a card with five hundred thousand inside.
- “That’s all, run along now. I’ll keep an eye on things here. There’s no need for you to be around.” *All you’ll end up doing is getting into an argument with Sophie.*
- “Fine, I’m off then. When Grandpa awakes, tell him that I dropped by. Otherwise, he will think that Sophie is the only one who’s concerned about him.” *I care about him too, all right?*
- Charmaine furrowed her brows as she watched Willow leave in delight. Deep down, she prayed that her daughter would succeed this time.
- *Given what happened to Mason, she no longer has any chance with him.*
- In fact, Constance had even given Charmaine a call. It was just that the latter didn’t dare pick up.
- Now that Willow had a new target, Charmaine stopped planning for her and Mason to get back together even if his leg recovered.
- Upon returning to the ward, Charmaine saw Sophie chatting with Josiah, who looked to have recovered a lot.
- “Dad, Willa came to see you just now. Since you were sleeping, I took the liberty to tell her to leave.”
- Worried that Josiah’s resentment for Willow would grow, Charmaine quickly made an excuse on the latter’s behalf.
- “As the university entrance exam is approaching, you had better remind her to focus on her studies and not go gallivanting around.” Even though he wasn’t at home, Josiah was kept informed of Willow’s affairs by Morgan.
- “Dad, how can you say that about Willa? She has always been a good girl. You shouldn’t accuse her of gallivanting outside.” *That’s not an appropriate statement to make.*
- “It’s true that she’s a good girl but unfortunate that both of you have spoilt her.” *Ever since she was young, all she cared about was fawning upon the powerful instead of learning a proper skill. Moreover, it will only get worse when she grows up.*
- Even though Charmaine was upset with Josiah’s comment, there was nothing she could do about it.
- “All right now. You should head home too. As Morgan is here, there’s no need for you to stay.” Over the years, Charmaine had done a lot for the family. However, it was just a shame that she was too narrow-minded.
- Although she wasn’t oblivious to Josiah’s resentment of her, Charmaine was still disturbed by how he reprimanded her.

- “Dad, I know you have never liked me, but I have already done my best. There’s nothing more I can do to change your mind.” Just as Charmaine spoke, she left with a pitiful silhouette.
- Josiah let out a sigh.
- “Grandpa, what’s wrong?” Sophie asked attentively.
- “Oh, Sophie! Do I really demand too much of your mom?” Josiah began to grow unsure of himself.
- Sophie didn’t know what to say.
- “There, there. Let’s not talk about that. Anyway, why didn’t I see Tanny today? Is he busy?” One didn’t need to be a genius to know how occupied Tristan was. After spending the last few days focused on Josiah, there was a huge backlog of work at Lombard Group that needed his attention.
- “Mm-hmm, he will be busy for the next few days.” Lombard Group had recently made an investment worth a few billion.

Chapter 173 Tristan Has Not Tasted The Holy Grail

- “Tell Tanny that if he’s bogged down by work, he doesn’t have to come, as I’m almost fully recovered.” *There’s no need for him to be at two places at the same time.*
- “I will. You should focus on resting and not worry about such matters.” No sooner had Sophie finished than the door opened with Morgan and Tristan walking in.
- One could tell from the tailor-made suit he was wearing that he had come from the office.
- Tristan looked so dashing in his outfit that it was hard for anyone to peel their eyes away.
- “Mr. Tristan, please have a seat. I’ll take care of these.” Morgan took over the dinner that Tristan had brought with him.
- “Why did you come? Aren’t you supposed to be busy?”
- “I have to be here regardless of how busy I am. Besides, it’s not anything that’s particularly important. So, Old Mr. Tanner, how do you feel today?” Tristan asked with concern.
- “Tanny, I’m almost fully recovered and will be discharged in a few days. There’s no need to trouble yourself traveling back and forth.” Both of them were exhausted, fussing over Josiah’s affairs. “You too, Soph. It’s about time you go back to school. Your exams kick off on Monday.”
- At the end of the day, she was still a student who should be prioritizing her studies.
- Furthermore, the one-month deadline was almost upon her. *Can I really take on the role of acting CEO of Tanner Group?* Those were the issues that were constantly on her mind.
- “Mm-hmm. I know. I’ll be punctual for my exams on Monday.” No matter what, she resolved to participate in the physics competition that was going to be held after the holidays.
- “My point is for you to go to school tomorrow. Even though you have a good grasp of your lessons, the revisions for the term exam are still very important.

As my granddaughter, you always have to take everything you do seriously. Do you understand?"

- To him, the result was secondary. What mattered was that she would always do her best.
- Sophie fell silent.
- "What's wrong? Aren't you going to listen to me? Have dinner with me now, and get Tanny to send you back home to rest so that you can attend school tomorrow."
- "All right. In that case, promise me that you'll obey whatever Arius says in the hospital."
- Sophie's mind was put at ease after placing him under Arius' care. Coincidentally, he had yet to return to Anglandur.
- "Fine. I promise."
- Once they were done with dinner, Tristan drove Sophie back to Wisteria Apartments.
- "Rest early." Tristan had to leave as he had other engagements.
- "Mr. Tristan, about Clayton, do you need me—"
- "It's fine. I can handle him." Tristan reassured her, "Everything is under control."
- *Clayton is no more than an insect who doesn't even deserve my attention.*
- "Anyway, I'm heading back out."
- "Mm-hmm. Go ahead." When Sophie walked to the door to see him out, she gave him a curious look when he hesitated to leave.
- *What is he waiting for?*
- "Mr. Tristan, is there anything else?"
- Reaching out his hand, Tristan pulled her into his arms before giving her a kiss on her forehead.
- "What am I to do? At the sight of you, I no longer want to leave. Instead, I feel the urge to stay by your side."
- Sophie was rendered speechless.
- *How is this my fault? I didn't even do anything!*
- "Mr. Tristan!" Sophie gently pushed him away before staggering back. "Go!"
- "In that case, just give me a kiss. Once you kiss me, I'll be motivated to leave."
- Tristan decided to adopt a different approach.
- Nonetheless, the sudden change in his demeanor gave Sophie a shock.
- "Mr. Tristan!" Even though she had developed feelings for him, it was still not in her character to wear her heart on her sleeve.
- Tristan sighed in resignation.
- "It's all right. I'll wait for the day when you'll take the initiative." Tristan planted the gentlest of pecks on her lips before leaving quickly.
- If he didn't leave soon, he was worried that he would be overwhelmed by his growing desire to stay.
- By the time Tristan arrived at Blossom Garden, the other three were already waiting. Felix quickly pulled out a bench to welcome him.
- "Didn't we agree to meet in twenty minutes? What took you so long? Were you doing something unspeakable with Sophie?"

- “Felix, what are you thinking? If both of them were really doing it, it would be impossible for Mr. Tristan to get here in twenty minutes. At the very least, he would need two hours. My guess is that Mr. Tristan hasn’t yet tasted the Holy Grail,” Charles teased.
- Without any hesitation, Sean nodded while adding, “That’s true. With Mr. Tristan’s stamina, two hours would be the minimum.”
- Felix, too, nodded in agreement.
- “Mr. Tristan, I’m sorry to have underestimated your capabilities. Given how enamored you are with Sophie, I’m sure Sophie will not be able to escape your clutches for three days and nights during your first escapade together.
- Felix had barely finished when the other three burst into laughter.
- “The three of you look like you’re enjoying yourselves. Now that my enemy is at my gates, all of you don’t seem to be bothered, is that it?” Despite Tristan’s calm tone, it was enough to send a chill down everyone’s spine.
- “Mr. Tristan, Clayton is desperate to make his presence felt. Since he has a death wish, why don’t you help him along his journey?”
- Despite the Zales family’s influence, they were still insignificant insects compared to them.
- Sean nodded.
- “Exactly! The Zales family is no match for us at all.” Even though Clayton might prove troublesome, he didn’t pose a threat to their combined strength.
- “Mm-hmm. Since he wants to play, let’s oblige him. Besides, my hand is itching to get back into the game after so long.” A devious look descended upon Charles’ face.
- Since he had his dinner with Sophie, all Tristan did was pour himself a glass of wine.
- “Mr. Tristan, when you busied yourself with Old Mr. Tanner’s affairs over the last few days. I must say that I have never seen you care so much about anyone.” At that moment, Sean felt that Tristan was serious.
- “Love makes people blind,” Felix joked.
- “Felix, look who’s talking? You had better mind your own affairs. Despite watching Ysabelle grow up, you have yet to achieve any success,” Charles ridiculed him mercilessly.
- Stumped, Felix felt disheartened over the comment. Nonetheless, there was little he could do, as Charles had spoken the truth!
- Subsequently, the group discussed the massive investment committed by Lombard Group.
- “This time, Clayton must be coveting that same investment.” Despite his lackadaisical attitude toward his affairs with Ysabelle, Felix was extremely competent at work.
- “He already has his eyes on it. Since he intends to come in, we should let him do so. This time, I’ll make sure he throws up whatever he manages to chew off.” Clayton had struck a nerve of his.
- “Mr. Tristan, you seemed to be particularly concerned this time.” This wasn’t the first time Clayton targeted Lombard Group. It was just that Tristan wasn’t bothered by his previous attempts.

- “He is now trying to get close to Willow, but she isn’t his true objective.”
- *Just as expected, it’s all about Sophie. Only she can elicit such a response from him.*
- The next day, when Sophie came out of Wisteria Apartments, she saw Clayton sending Willow to school.
- At the sight of Sophie, he stopped his car on purpose.
- “Isn’t that your sister? Ask her to get in the car,” Clayton ordered Willow.

Chapter 174 Sophie The Savage

- Willow stared at Clayton in puzzlement.
- “Why do you want her to get in? We’re already almost at school. There’s no need to give her a ride.” She was rather fearful of Clayton’s demands.
- “Did you not hear me? We’re not even a couple yet, and you’re already not listening to me. Why should I keep you by my side, then? Remember, I only like obedient women.” The man appeared nonchalant, but his words were more than enough to instill terror within Willow.
- “Clayton...” She gazed at him, not knowing what to do. *What does he mean? Is he interested in Sophie?*
- Clayton said nothing more. He merely tapped on the steering wheel from time to time, looking surprisingly patient.
- Under his watch, Willow called out to her sister, “Sophie! Hop in! Let’s go to school together.”
- Yet, Sophie walked straight in the direction of their school without even looking up.
- Willow balled her hands into fists.
- *She’s horrible! How could she humiliate me like that?*
- Being ignored like that in the presence of Clayton, she felt her cheeks burn in embarrassment.
- “Clayton, I...”
- “School’s about to start. You should get going,” Clayton responded, paying no heed to what had just happened.
- Willow grabbed her bag, hopped down, and stared at him from beside the car.
- “Go on,” the man added with a wave.
- “You go first. I’ll leave after you do,” Willow insisted as she shot him a loving look.
- With that, Clayton drove off immediately.
- *It looks like I won’t be able to get close to Sophie through Willow. I’ll have to think of another way.*
- His phone rang as soon as he began driving.
- “Hey, Clayton, didn’t you ask me to keep a lookout for Phantom? I’ve gotten my hands on some new intel. Phantom’s currently in Jipsdale.”
- “Got it. I’m on my way.” Clayton sped up upon receiving news about Phantom, a figure who had captured his interest. This was the closest they’d been to the renowned hacker. *If we can get Phantom to help us, the upcoming investment’s going to be a success.*
- Meanwhile, Lombard Group had also received word about Phantom.

- “Mr. Tristan, it looks like Clayton Zales is also on the hunt for Phantom, who hacked into Zales Corporation’s system last night.”
- “What?”
- *Phantom... You really are a mystery. Why did you do that? Are you interested in Zales Corporation?*
- “Clayton’s currently gathering all his forces to get a hold of Phantom.”
- Any financial group that could get its hands on Phantom, the founder of Wings of Light, would instantly be rich.
- “It’s been a long time since Phantom last appeared. What’s going on this time? Find Phantom before Clayton does.”
- He had gone up against Phantom on several occasions, only to lose them every time.
- “All right. By the way, Mr. Tristan, do you think Phantom’s a guy or a girl?”
- “How would I know?”
- “If it were actually a girl, I’d say she’s a monster.” Many large financial groups in Jipsdale had tried to locate her but to no avail.
- “What’s there to be afraid of? Don’t you think smart girls are cute?”
- *Given her hacking skills, she’s probably a genius.*
- “Well, no matter how smart Phantom is, she’s nothing compared to you, Mr. Tristan.” Felix couldn’t help but suck up to his boss.
- “How about you start thinking of a way to locate Phantom instead of trying to win some brownie points?”
- In truth, Tristan had nothing to fear even if Phantom were to join forces with Clayton. It would still be troublesome, though.
- “Okay. I’ll get right to it.”
- Unfortunately, Phantom always left as quickly as she showed up, which left Tristan in a bind.
- Meanwhile, Willow waited for Clayton’s car to disappear completely before running toward Sophie and grabbing the latter by her hoodie.
- “What’s with you, Sophie? I know you’re jealous of me, but how could you embarrass me like that? Don’t you know how important Clayton is to me?”
- *This d*mned woman. Why is she always so conceited?*
- Sophie’s face clouded over as soon as she felt her hoodie being seized.
- “Let go.”
- Willow jumped in fright at her sister’s grim expression, but she refused to let go of her.
- “Sophie, no matter what happens, I’m still your sister. How could you treat me like this? I’m saying this for your own good.”
- With onlookers surrounding them, Willow immediately put on a façade. She could never let others know her true colors, no matter what.
- “Forget it, Willow. You may treat her as your sister, but she’ll never do the same. All she does is take what’s yours. You’re better off without a sister like her.”
- “Exactly! Not everyone will be grateful for what you do. Someone like Sophie deserves to die alone.”

- “Do you hear that, Sophie? This is what you look like in other people’s eyes. I know you don’t like me, but it’s not like you can do anything about that,” Willow remarked smugly.
- *You had your way the last time just because there was no one around, but what can you do to me in front of all these people now?*
- Sophie’s brows creased. *Why is she always spouting so much crap? Well, if she doesn’t want this hand of hers anymore, I’ll grant her wish.*
- Suddenly, she grabbed Willow’s hand and bent it.
- “Ahhhh!” the latter shrieked, her face turning pale.
- She didn’t think Sophie would dare hurt her in front of all these people.
- However, Sophie hadn’t done much; she had only bent Willow’s hand lightly, but the latter felt as though her wrist had been broken.
- The crowd had also seen how softly Sophie had curved Willow’s wrist, but for some reason, the older sister appeared to be in so much pain that she broke out in a cold sweat.
- “What the hell is wrong with you, Sophie? She’s still your older sister! How could you attack her like that?”
- “You heartless witch!”
- “Are you okay, Willow?” A few girls who often hung out with Willow immediately expressed their concern, although they dared not approach Sophie.
- “Let go of me, Sophie,” Willow croaked between gasps of air. “Let go!”
- Having not bothered Sophie for a while before this, Willow seemed to have forgotten how ruthless the former could be.
- “What’s wrong now? Where did that smug look on your face go, huh?”
- Willow began to tear up.
- “You broke my wrist, Sophie. I’m an artist. Don’t you know how much my hand means to me? How could you do this to me?” she whimpered. Though it was partially an act, she was feeling genuinely afraid. *What am I going to do if I can’t draw anymore?*
- Seeing how anguished Willow looked, everyone began to rebuke Sophie.
- Yet, Sophie merely smirked.
- “I broke your wrist? Are you sure about that? How about you call a doctor over and find out if it’s really broken? Since you love putting on a show that much, I’ll let you keep going.”
- “Don’t be afraid, Willow. I’ll call a doctor and get him to come over right now. We’ll sue her if she really broke your wrist.”
- One of Willow’s watchdogs immediately phoned the hospital. Then, everyone stayed behind, waiting for the doctor to arrive.
- Nobody moved even though classes were about to begin, and that garnered the attention of the school authorities.

Chapter 175 Exposing Her Schemes

- The homeroom teachers of both Senior Class 1 and 8 had arrived, and the former’s expression turned grim when she saw what had happened to Willow.
- The woman naturally knew that the two were siblings.

- But since this ordeal had taken place in school, the teachers were responsible for addressing any conflict that arose between the sisters.
- “Are you okay, Willow? Try moving your hand. Can you do that?”
- Jenny Calkins, the homeroom teacher of Senior Class 1, knew how far the Tanner family had gone to nurture Willow’s artistic abilities. *If she’s really hurt her hand and can’t draw anymore because of that, her life will be ruined.*
- As soon as Willow lifted her hand, tears streamed down her cheeks from the resulting pain.
- “I really can’t, Ms. Calkins. What should I do?” Willow replied in agony. “You know I’m training to be an artist. If anything happens to my hand...”
- Jenny’s heart ached at the way Willow choked on her words. *She’s never done anything bad ever since she came to my class. She’s such a good girl, but this just had to happen to her.*
- “Sophie, no matter what gets between you two, Willow is still your sister. Why did you do this to her? What good would it bring you to break her wrist? I get that Willow’s always been an incredible student, and you might be jealous of her, but still!”
- “I don’t think that’s something you should say, Ms. Calkins. We don’t even know what happened yet. How could you start accusing Sophie before getting a clear view of things here?” Derrick refuted immediately upon hearing the way Jenny spoke to Sophie.
- Both homeroom teachers had arrived after hearing the news from their students, which meant neither of them had witnessed the event with their own eyes.
- “Mr. Hayes, I know you’ve always been protective of your students, but we both know that the school has always paid attention to both Sophie and Willow. Willow’s an outstanding girl, and everyone knows that. As for Sophie, she may have gotten second place in the exams, but she’s known for being savage and doesn’t have much of a good reputation. Look at what Willow is going through now! Don’t you have any sense of responsibility at all? Should we overlook a person’s character just because they get good grades? So what if someone like Sophie ends up going to the best college there is? She’d only be a menace to society!”
- “Ms. Calkins, I’m asking you to focus on the facts. The truth is none of us know what actually happened. All I want is to find out the exact situation before coming to a decision, so what does it have to do with me being protective? If Sophie is really at fault, I’ll be sure to make her apologize to Willow,” Derrick stated firmly.
- While it was true that many events had transpired ever since Sophie had joined his class, she had only ever acted in an attempt to defend herself. Never had she instigated any trouble.
- “Tell me what happened, Sophie.”
- Derrick spoke gently so as to not frighten the young woman.
- “Nothing much, really. She just pulled me by my hoodie. If you guys don’t believe me, you can always check the cameras. Isn’t there one right over there?” Sophie explained while pointing to a surveillance camera above her.

- “Everyone saw what you did, Sophie! You’re the one who grabbed my hand!” Willow yelled in response.
- “Everyone can find out the truth by checking the camera. What’s wrong? Do you actually think I can alter the surveillance footage?”
- Unable to steer each other’s opinions, Derrick and Jenny eventually resorted to checking the surveillance cameras. Lo and behold, it was Willow who had started it all.
- Everyone else fell silent after seeing the footage.
- What else could they say when the truth had been laid bare in front of them?
- Jenny glanced at Willow.
- “Willow, you...”
- The latter began to panic as she noticed the look of disappointment in her teacher’s eyes.
- “Let me explain, Ms. Calkins.”
- At that very moment, a doctor arrived and gave Willow a check-up.
- “How is she, Doctor? Will she still be able to draw?” Regardless of who had started the fight, what mattered most now was the condition of Willow’s hand.
- The doctor merely turned to them with a frown.
- “What happened to her hand, Doctor? Is she okay?” Jenny prompted anxiously.
- The doctor let go of Willow’s hand.
- “Did you guys deliberately call a doctor over thinking we have all the time in the world? Her hand’s perfectly fine. There’s nothing wrong with her,” he responded, furious at how these students were wasting medical resources.
- “What?”
- Jenny’s expression took an immediate turn.
- As the doctor left, everyone turned to Willow.
- “So, what’s Willow trying to do?”
- “There’s nothing wrong with her hand, but she kept saying it was broken and that she wouldn’t be able to draw anymore. She was clearly trying to frame Sophie.”
- “That’s right. She’s just jealous of her sister!”
- “Yeah. Remember the incident with the photos?”
- “You mean the photos Angie sent? If I remember correctly, Angie uses an Android phone, but those photos were probably taken with an iPhone.”
- “I would’ve forgotten about this if you hadn’t brought it up. Doesn’t Willow use an iPhone?”
- “This is a wild guess, but do you guys think Willow was the one who took those photos? That’s a terrifying thought if it were true.”
- Willow’s gaze darkened as she heard the discussion.
- *Everything was supposed to go according to my plan! What the hell’s going on now?*
- “All right, everyone. Get back to class! The show’s over,” Jenny announced while eyeing Willow in dismay.
- “I really didn’t do it, Ms. Calkins. I don’t know what’s wrong with my hand either, but it hurts so much.”
- Willow frantically raised her arm.

- “Willow, I know Sophie does really well in school, and there’s always going to be some competition between sisters. However, I’m truly disappointed in you this time.”
- Not wanting to say anything more, Jenny turned and left.
- The first period was Jenny’s class, so the other students followed her.
- Willow was about to leave too, but the students of Senior Class 8 immediately held her back. They weren’t going to let her leave after she had put on such an act.
- “What are you guys doing?” Her wrist was still in pain, and yet the doctor had said there was nothing wrong with it.
- *Is Sophie that influential? What’s the cause of it?*
- “You really are a pretentious b*tch, Willow. What were you going on about earlier? Something about how Sophie broke your wrist?”
- “Right? You’ve been trying to do Sophie dirty ever since she came back. Shouldn’t you be apologizing to her now?”
- “Don’t even think about leaving without an apology! You think you can mess with us?” Did she assume the students of Senior Class 8 were a bunch of pushovers?

Chapter 176 That Body And Face

- Willow’s eyes widened in disbelief.
- *What are they trying to do?*
- “Don’t go too far! We’re in school now. Are you going to let your students pick on me like this, Mr. Hayes?” she reminded, turning to Derrick.
- Yet, the teacher turned his head to the other side, pretending as though he hadn’t heard anything. *This girl is too much. She hasn’t stopped trying to hurt Sophie after all this while.*
- Willow was speechless.
- She didn’t think such a fair teacher like Derrick would ever treat her this way.
- “You guys...” Willow hastily put on a teary face, acting as though she was the subject of everyone’s bullying.
- “Enough with the act. We’re not Mason.”
- “Apologize to Sophie now. We still have class to attend!” Despite having spent over four months with Sophie, her classmates had still fallen for Willow’s pathetic little act—until realization finally dawned on them.
- Willow turned to Sophie.
- Then, she remained quiet as though the whole situation had nothing to do with her, even though she was the one who caused it in the first place.
- “Sophie, there has to be some sort of misunderstanding.”
- After remaining silent for a long while, Willow finally spoke while clenching her fists.
- “Misunderstanding? What is there to misunderstand? That’s not what you said when Ms. Calkins was still here.”
- “Exactly! Weren’t you being so obnoxious just a while ago? How was all that a misunderstanding?”

- “You couldn’t even tell whether or not your wrist was broken?”
- “But my hand still hurts till now! What if that doctor...” Willow still felt the pain on her wrist, but as she saw the contemptuous looks on everyone’s faces, she found herself unable to justify herself. “Sophie!”
- *You must be thrilled to see me like this, huh?*
- “You should all go now. Class is starting,” Sophie declared, getting everyone to leave.
- Willow certainly hadn’t expected Sophie’s classmates to back her up today.
- *Wasn’t everyone supposed to hate her? Didn’t they look down on her because of her past?*
- “You should come too, Sophie. Finals are just around the corner. You’ve missed so many days of class, so it’s best you catch up.”
- Derrick had high hopes for her.
- “I will.” The only teacher Sophie still respected would have to be him.
- Now, only she and Willow were left.
- Sophie took one step closer toward the latter.
- Willow immediately stepped back in caution. She didn’t know what Sophie could have done that the doctor found nothing wrong with her wrist, but she was now terrified of her own sister.
- Sophie merely sneered at how scared the other young woman looked.
- “What are you smiling about? What are you trying to pull? What the hell did you do back there? Are you trying to get back at me now?” Willow questioned, her voice trembling.
- She didn’t know what to do now.
- “If you’re that afraid of me, why do you keep getting on my nerves? Do you care so little about yourself?”
- *You know you can’t afford to mess with me, but you keep doing it anyway. Doesn’t that show how little regard you have for your own well-being?*
- “You!”
- *She dare talk to me like that?*
- “I never gave you my time of day because I felt no need to. Have you forgotten about the photo incident? How’s Angie doing now? I bet things aren’t going too well for her.”
- Sophie was naturally aware of Angie’s current situation.
- At the mention of the latter, Willow’s heart began to race.
- “What’s the point of saying all this, Sophie? Do you have any proof?”
- “Proof? Do I look like I need any? I can make that hand of yours unable to draw for the rest of your life if I want to.”
- Sophie’s smile widened as she saw all the color drain from Willow’s face.
- “So, get on with your life, and don’t try to mess with people you can’t afford to.”
With that, Sophie left imposingly.
- Willow gritted her teeth in rage.
- “D*mmmit!”
- She swung her leg at a nearby tree. However, the large tree remained motionless while she bent over to clutch her foot in agony.
- Tears spilled down the sides of her eyes as she boiled with resentment.

- *Why? Why do I keep losing to her these days?*
- Meanwhile, Sophie grew bored after two revision classes. Given how she could remember all these things with one glance, there was really no need for any revision. Thus, she put on her earphones as usual and sprawled on her desk.
- A while later, the young woman felt a knock on her desk, and she looked up to see Bailey.
- This was their first time meeting again after the events that had transpired.
- Bailey seemed to have grown taller again, but this time, his eyes looked much bleaker.
- “Can I help you?”
- *I clearly told him back then that I’m not interested in him. What is he here for this time?*
- “I heard your grandpa had an operation, but I haven’t had the chance to visit him. Is he doing okay? And... Are you doing okay?” In truth, he just wanted to know how she was doing. That was why he had come looking for her right after learning she had returned to school.
- “I’m okay. Thanks for your concern.”
- “I’m really sorry for what happened that time, Sophie. Can we still be friends? Just friends. I want to stay by your side,” Bailey continued. He really wanted to be around her.
- Sophie fell into a brief silence.
- She wouldn’t have minded remaining in contact with him if she didn’t know he liked her. But now that she knew about his feelings for her, there was no way she could be friends with him.
- “I don’t need another friend, Bailey.”
- Bailey’s eyes had just lit up with the slightest bit of hope a moment ago, but now, all of the light vanished as the young man heard Sophie’s response.
- “Okay...”
- Sophie wasn’t sure if she was doing the right thing, but she didn’t want to give him any false hope.
- “We’re not meant to be.”
- Since she wasn’t interested in him, it was better for her to be honest, lest she end up leading him on and hurting him.
- “I know.”
- She wasn’t going to give him a single chance.
- “Here.”
- Bailey took a pack of chewing gum out of his pocket. It was her favorite flavor.
- He then left after handing it to her.
- The students of Senior Class 8 didn’t think Bailey would come to see Sophie. *He looked so humble standing in front of her like that. He must really like her!*
- “Hey, what’s so good about Sophie? Aren’t her body and face the only good things she has going for her? But it’s not like she’s out of Bailey’s league! Why did he look so modest standing in front of her?”
- “Well, like you said, she has that body and face. What kind of guy wouldn’t want that?”

- “You guys aren’t exactly right either. Sophie’s more than that. She ranks second in our grade and is joining the physics competition. That makes her on par with Bailey in terms of intelligence. Honestly, I think they’d make a good couple!”
- Nothing was impossible.
- It didn’t take Whitlea long to find out who her son had gone to see.
- The vice principal, Franky, approached her at once. “Sophie’s got too much of an influence on Bailey, Mdm. Dixon. If this keeps up...”

Chapter 177 Let Us Go At It Again

- Whitlea took out a cigarette from the cigarette box. At once, Franky snagged a lighter and lit the cigarette for her.
- “Since Sophie is so stubborn, bring a few men over to put the fear of God into her.” Whitlea’s father was part of the underworld, so she emanated an ominous aura as well.
- “Sure! Don’t worry, Mdm. Dixon. I’ll definitely teach her a lesson so that she’ll never dare to appear before Mr. Dixon again!”
- Franky immediately seized that opportunity. *As long as I yank Andy down, the position of principal for Jipsdale Premier High will be mine!*
- For him to become the principal of Jipsdale Premier High, he would undoubtedly require Whitlea’s help.
- As such, he had been monitoring Bailey’s every move at school, just to get close to the woman.
- “Go!” Whitlea’s expectations toward Bailey had always been sky-high, and he had really disappointed her recently.
- After the self-study session at night, Sophie and Ysabelle exited the classroom together. Ysabelle had been downcast these days, for her father had been restricting her too much.
- “Soph, how I wish I could go to a place where no one could find me! Then, I’ll be able to do whatever I like.”
- *I just want to sing. It’s not like I want to do something bad. Why is Dad so adamantly opposed to it?*
- “If you really want to be a singer, Ysabelle, stick to your guns. Your dream will only come true if you persist.”
- Ysabelle stared at her.
- “I truly envy you, Soph. I’m jealous that you can do whatever you please.” Perhaps it was because she had glimpsed such insouciance in Sophie’s eyes back then that she had done everything possible to befriend her.
- “Ysabelle, you can become the best singer in the world. Oh yes, The Wheelers is having a concert tomorrow. I’ll bring you there!”
- The Wheelers was all the rage presently, so every single concert by the band was incendiary.
- As long as it was for a concert by The Wheelers, it was difficult to even obtain a ticket.
- “How I wish! I tried to get a ticket last night, but I failed to buy any.”

- Ysabelle was entirely crestfallen. *The Wheelers is really too popular. The main vocalist, Mark, is even renowned across Chanaea. He's the dream man of many girls!*
- "I've got tickets." Mark had someone send tickets to Sophie a week ago, but she hadn't planned on going back then.
- Since Ysabelle had been depressed recently, she decided to accompany her to the concert.
- "Really?" Ysabelle seemed to have come to life the instant she heard that Sophie had tickets. After all, she idolized The Wheelers.
- "Yup!"
- *Sure enough, she's young and guileless that she's so easily appeased!*
- By the time they reached the school gates, the car belonging to the Lombard family was already idling there. Seeing that the driver was already waiting for her, Ysabelle couldn't help heaving a sigh.
- However, her good mood rebounded at the thought that she would be attending The Wheelers' concert tomorrow night.
- "Soph, have my uncle pick me up tomorrow night, okay? Otherwise, it's very likely that I won't be able to get out of the house." She hankered for a revolution, but it was beyond her capabilities.
- At that, Sophie chuckled.
- "Okay! Don't worry. I'll have your uncle pick you up."
- *But... will Tristan be willing to attend such a concert with us?*
- "All right. I'm going home, then! Go back and rest earlier as well!"
- After getting into the car, Ysabelle even stuck her hand out and waved at Sophie.
- Subsequently, Sophie headed back to Wisteria Apartments. No sooner had she taken a few steps than she noticed someone tailing her. Verily, she was sick of such tricks.
- *Can't they be more innovative? They only tail me every single time, yet they can't do anything to me.*
- She stopped short and leaned back against the wall, waiting for those people following her to make an appearance.
- Sure enough, the few men tailing her rushed out upon seeing that she wasn't moving anymore. It was a few burly men with petrifying tattoos on their arms.
- Taking out a strip of chewing gum, Sophie ripped the wrapper off and popped it into her mouth. *It's been a long time since I've last gotten some exercise. They came at just the perfect time!*
- "Do you know who we are, girly?"
- Sophie hadn't even an iota of interest in engaging in such dumb conversation, for it wasn't the least bit significant.
- "Is something the matter?" Sophie asked bluntly. "If you want to fight, just come at me together."
- *Don't they find it boring to play a such silly game when they're all strong and strapping men?*
- "How dare you?"
- *Huh? This script is wholly different from what we imagined.*

- Before Sophie had the chance to make her move, Bailey appeared beside her and shielded her behind him.
- “Who ordered the lot of you to come here? I’ve said that no one is allowed to hurt her.” Bailey had known that his mother would never let Sophie off the hook.
- He had followed her as well when he saw her leaving with Ysabelle after the self-study session at night. Never had he expected to witness such a scene for real.
- “Mr. Dixon...”
- At the sight of him, the few burly men grew somewhat flustered. They all knew his temperament, but it was Whitlea’s orders. For that reason, they couldn’t do anything about it either.
- “Mr. Dixon, Ms. Whitlea is only doing this for your own good. Please don’t make things difficult for us and go home quickly instead! We promise we aren’t going to hurt her. We merely want to scare her for a bit.”
- *Scare her?*
- “Well, the lot of you indeed look rather scary.” *If a kid were to behold their countenances, he would probably burst into tears in fright.*
- “How dare you?” *Argh! Why are her remarks all so irritating? No matter what, we all have normal facial features. How could she make personal attacks on us? This is too much! She’s really going too far!*
- “Look, Mr. Dixon! We aren’t the ones who want to pick on her. It’s the other way round!”
- *How can there be such a girl? We all look like tough nuts at a single glance, okay? Yet, she dared claim that we are lacking in the looks department!*
- Ignoring them, Bailey urged Sophie, “Go home first, Sophie!”
- *It’s very late, so she should go home and rest.*
- Sophie cast a glance at the few men, but she wasn’t certain whether he could handle them.
- “You don’t have to bother about me, Bailey.” *Really, there’s no need for him to strain his relationship with Whitlea because of me. Ultimately, she’s still his mother.*
- Bailey shook his head.
- “I’m to be blamed for this incident. How can I sit idly by and do nothing? No matter what, I must interfere in this!”
- “Mr. Dixon, you’ll definitely be hauled over the coals when you go home if you do so.” *Is he still not familiar with Ms. Whitlea’s temperament? He’ll only suffer if he continues to persist.*
- “In that case, pardon me for my actions!” Sophie pulled the hood of her sweater over her head before she pushed Bailey away. *If I beat them all up, Whitlea won’t blame him anymore, will she?*
- “Sophie!” Panic swamped Bailey. *Crap! She has no idea about their line of work in the past! They’re all brutal and vicious!*
- To his surprise, Sophie wasn’t the least bit inferior to them.
- They were ruthless when they attacked her, but she was even more merciless.
- They were terrifying, but she was even more horrifying than them.
- Sophie stacked them all together. Then she casually dusted her hands.

- “It’s been a long time since I’ve last had such a workout. Get up. Let’s go at it again!”

Chapter 178 Scooting Away

- The few burly men stared at Sophie in horror.
- *We’re now bruised and battered, yet she wants to go again? Who exactly is she? She’s just too terrifying!*
- “Shall we have another go?” Sophie inquired once more. She had been too tired these days, so she was a tad drowsy then. Yawning nonchalantly, she swept a gaze over the few men.
- “We’re sorry for intruding on you, Ms. Tanner! Please have mercy on us!” *Oh my God, she’s really frightening!*
- They had a reputation in the underworld, but when it came to her, they weren’t even enough for her to work up a sweat.
- “Why are you still here, then? Scoot! Do you know how to do that?”
- “What?”
- *This is too much! Is she really asking us to scoot?*
- Some were still hesitating when they saw that Scarface had already started scooting away.
- “Scarface!” *What? He’s actually doing as she said?* “Where are your principles? Is this really appropriate?”
- Scarface glanced over his shoulder at the man.
- “You’ve got principles, yes? Then, you stay there! Why are you butting into my business?”
- *Hah! I know I can never defeat Ms. Tanner!*
- He was really scooting by dragging himself along the ground.
- After all, one had to be quick-witted and adapt to the situation.
Since Scarface wasn’t Sophie’s match, he decided to admit defeat. Besides, her blows hurt like hell!
- “I—” The fierce-looking man who spoke promptly went silent.
- *Okay, then. I used to feel that I was pretty incredible in the past, but things are different now. The Dixon family isn’t the same anymore either. Fine, I’ll scoot!*
- Gratification finally flooded Sophie as she watched the few burly men scooting away on the curb.
- Meanwhile, Bailey was wholly stunned at the side. He had never seen that side of her.
- Yet, such a side of her rendered her all the more alluring.
- Turning back, Sophie instinctively touched her face when she saw him looking at her so intently.
- *Is there something on my face that he’s staring at me fixedly?*
- “Is there something on my face?” she asked when he was still staring after a long time had passed. *There should be nothing on my face, yes?*
- “No, there’s nothing. I merely feel that you’re seemingly shining brightly right now.” At long last, Bailey understood why so many people liked her. Verily, she was too mesmerizing.

- Sophie went silent.
- She really didn't know what to say in response to that comment.
- The moment she turned around, she was greeted by the sight of Tristan.
- It was uncertain how long he had been standing there. Without uttering a word, Sophie went over to him and queried, "Why didn't you tell me that you were coming over?"
- "I missed you, so I came over."
- At once, words eluded Sophie.
- When it came to the man, she still couldn't be as calm and unruffled as she was with others.
- Hence, she inexorably flushed bright red upon hearing that.
- "Mr. Tristan..." *Gah! Can he not say something like that? And why must he look so seductive in everything he does?*
- "What's wrong? I just missed you."
- "Okay, I got it."
- Sophie's face flamed.
- She whirled around and said to Bailey, "If there's nothing else, I'll be leaving."
- "Sophie." Bailey wasn't willing to admit defeat, but he noticed that the look in her eyes when she gazed at Tristan was different.
- Sophie arched an eyebrow.
- "Is something else the matter?"
- In the end, Bailey shook his head.
- "I won't allow them to disrupt your life again." *No matter what, this matter shall end here.*
- "It doesn't matter to me."
- After saying that, Sophie left with Tristan.
- Bailey stared at their backs. The man was tall and handsome, giving off a sense of intense dependability. The girl, on the other hand, was cold in nature, but she exuded a sense of warmth before the man.
- *So, she... likes him? Nothing I say or do will make any difference.*
- "Whitlea came to bother you again." *It looks like she's been too free recently. I can keep her occupied.*
- "Yeah. You know the kind of person she is. Once something doesn't progress according to her plan, she'll definitely make trouble." Frankly speaking, Sophie really didn't have anything good to say about Whitlea.
- "Well, be careful about Clayton these days. Whitlea isn't much of a threat, but Clayton is truly irritating."
- "Okay, I got it. You don't need to worry about me."
- Sophie knew that Clayton wasn't a good man, and she might be the reason he was hooking up with Willow.
- Alas, Willow was exceedingly confident, so she wouldn't believe whatever Sophie said.
- The two of them went back to Wisteria Apartments together. Sophie went for a bath while Tristan took out his laptop and settled Lombard Group's business matters.

- When Sophie came out after her bath, she saw the man answering his emails while reclining against the couch. He was incredibly focused, so much so that she couldn't take her eyes off him. *He's too perfect!*
- "It's very late. Are you going home?" She really didn't mean anything else when she said that. She was merely asking an innocent question.
- From the look in his eyes, however, she knew that he had obviously misunderstood her.
- "I didn't mean anything else. Just carry on."
- *Forget it. He's a man overflowing with testosterone in the first place, so he'll give others such an illusion even if he does nothing at all.*
- Taking her hand, Tristan pulled her into his arms.
- "What's wrong? Is it very tricky?" It was the first time Sophie had ever seen him toiling at something.
- "It's still manageable." *But it's just rather troublesome.* Truth be told, it wasn't that easy to eliminate Clayton, as the foundations of the organizations in Jipsdale were deep-rooted and their networks were intricate. In fact, it was extremely challenging.
- Seeing that he was seemingly exhausted, Sophie reached out and gently massaged his temples.
- "This feels good!" Tristan couldn't help sighing. He lay down and rested his head on her long and slender legs, allowing her to massage him.
- Closing his eyes, he luxuriated in her tenderness at that moment.
- Without realizing it, he drifted off to sleep.
- As Sophie gazed at the man who had fallen asleep on her lap, a sense of unprecedented peace suffused her. Such a feeling made her feel reluctant to lose it.
- She was aware that it was very late then, so she should wake him up and have him go home. Then, she could also go to bed.
- However, she couldn't bring herself to do so at the sight of his peaceful expression. Instead, she wanted to wallow in such warmth and never wake up.
- When Tristan woke up after sleeping for a little over half an hour, he saw Sophie dozing with her back against the couch. Her hands were still resting against his temples.
- At that particular moment, he could no longer hold back. He propped up his upper body and captured the rosy lips he had been pining after.
- As soon as Sophie opened her eyes, she was greeted by the man's enthralling countenance. His kiss was addictive, so she reflexively responded to him.
- Sensing her response, Tristan kissed her even more feverishly. Flipping over, he pinned her beneath him and kissed her passionately.
- His kiss was so intense that Sophie couldn't quite withstand it. Despite that, she had no intention of stopping him and allowed him to kiss her as he pleased.