

## Benefits 641

Chapter 641: Held

"How is he doing, doctor?" the man asked in a low, strained voice, his concern etched deeply in his furrowed brow.

"He is stable for now, but he's sustained significant injuries. He's suffered a concussion, multiple lacerations, and a few broken ribs. He's lucky to be alive."

The man's expression hardened, his jaw tightening. "When will he wake up?"

The doctor hesitated, choosing his words carefully. "Given his condition and the severity of the head trauma, I'd estimate he'll regain consciousness in about four to five days. But there are no guarantees. This is a small hospital, and we lack the facilities to handle more complex issues if they arise, especially not for severe trauma cases like this."

The man's gaze sharpened, his eyes narrowing. "What are you saying, doctor?"

The doctor met his gaze, holding it steady. "I recommend transferring him to a larger hospital as soon as possible. A facility with better resources and specialized care will significantly improve his chances of a full recovery. Here, we can only provide basic treatment and monitoring. If his condition worsens, we may be unable to save him."

"Can't he be shifted when he has recovered a bit?" The man asked irritably.

The doctor nodded but added, "He can, but the sooner he gets advanced care, the better. It's the best option for him."

The man sighed, his shoulders sagging. "I am sorry, doctor, but at the moment, the best option for him is to stay here. There are people looking for him who might want to hurt him."

The doctor nodded and left the room quietly, casting one last look at the man before closing the door behind him. He never would have agreed to something like this if the man hadn't shown his police

identification card. But despite confirming the man was an officer of the law, the entire situation made him wary.

After the doctor left, the room fell into an uneasy silence. The man glanced down at Gabe Frost, lying motionless on the bed, and sighed heavily. He knew the doctor was right, but the risks of moving Gabe were too high. He couldn't afford to let Gabe fall into the wrong hands.

He took a deep breath, then reached for a chair and sat down beside the bed, his mind racing. He needed to decide whether to inform Gabe's family about the situation. They might have already discovered his identity, but reaching him wouldn't be easy.

With a sigh, he stared at the unconscious man and shook his head, his frustration bubbling to the surface. "I did try to warn you about Savoy. Now see what he did! Damn it! If you had been more careful, things would have been so different!"

He paused, his eyes narrowing as he continued to speak to the unconscious Gabe. "What would have happened if I hadn't been following you and reached the accident site immediately? You would have been dead. You're the only person standing between poor Autumn and that horrible man. What would have happened to them then?"

He glanced at his phone, debating again whether to make the call to Gabe's family. Ultimately, he decided against it. The fewer people who knew about Gabe's location, the better. Even though Gabe's brothers trusted each other, he couldn't risk them knowing where Gabe was until they agreed to help him achieve his goals.

A nurse entered the room quietly, her footsteps barely audible on the linoleum floor. She checked Gabe's vitals and adjusted the IV drip, her movements efficient and practiced. She glanced at the man, her eyes curious but respectful. "If you need anything, just let us know," she said softly before leaving the room, closing the door gently behind her.

His eyes narrowed. He did not like this situation. The nurse seemed too interested in him and in Gabe. He'd have to move the from here soon.

A little while later, the door burst open, and the panicked doctor rushed in, his face pale. "You need to leave, now," he said urgently.

The man stood up, his demeanor calm but his eyes sharp. "What's going on?"

The doctor wrung his hands, his voice trembling. "Another police officer and a man came looking for the patient. That man looks like the patient. They... they you were a suspect and you had kidnapped this man."

The man's expression hardened. These Frosts were really smart, if they'd reached this place so soon. After all, this place could barely be called a clinic let alone a hospital... "What did you tell them?"

The doctor shook his head frantically. "I sent them away! I didn't want to get involved in any mess. I told them we didn't have anyone by that description here."

The man stepped closer to the doctor, his presence intimidating. "You realize you've lied to the police, right? That makes you a criminal now. If you don't want to be punished as an accomplice, you better stay quiet about this."

The doctor's eyes widened in fear. "I-I understand. I won't say a word, I promise. But please, you need to leave. Don't bring trouble to us."

Since they've already left, then there is no need to panic. I'll shift him tomorrow."

"But..."

The officer inhaled sharply and pulled out his gun," Doctor, I've been dealing with a lot of troubles. Be careful that you do not trouble me. I've already paid you for your silence and said that I will leave tomorrow. If you want to argue more, then I have a better way to silence you."

The doctor nodded vigorously, sweat beading on his forehead as he stammered and stepped back, "I understand. I'll do everything I can to keep you comfortable until you're ready to move him."

It seemed involving the Frost brothers was now imperative. Which meant, he would have to make arrangements to go further...He sighed and looked at the unconscious man on the bed. If only this man had not gone to confront that woman yesterday, all this would not have happened...

#### Chapter 642: Why

Seb stared at the record of Officer Humphry, his frustration evident. "What I don't understand is the motive of this man?" he muttered, more to himself than anyone else.

"For all intents and purposes, this man is an honest police officer. His record is clean, and there is nothing to indicate that he might be crooked. There is nothing that might help us understand why he has kidnapped Gabe and what he intends to do with him," Ian continued, his voice now hoarse from having been talking on the phone for hours while he looked for Gabe.

Demetri leaned forward, his brow furrowing in thought. "If the officer isn't dishonest, then perhaps the motive could be revenge... But why? Did this man know Arabelle by any chance? Is he kind of delusional like her?"

Ian shook his head. "That doesn't fit either. There's nothing linking Gabe to revenge with this man. They've never been even in the same city before meeting in B Town. It seems highly unlikely that there's any personal vendetta here."

The room fell into a contemplative silence as the brothers exchanged looks of frustration and confusion. Their brother had been missing more than twenty four hours now and they were nowhere closer to getting to him. It did not sit well with any of them.

Erarsi, who had been quietly observing, finally spoke up. "I think we're looking at this from the wrong angle. The person is not seeking revenge against Gabe. The motive might be directed towards someone else."

"You think the man wants revenge on Autumn?" Ian asked incredulously, while even the others looked on amazed.

But Erarsi shook his head, "Not Autumn. But Gabe. Try to look for a connection between this man and Savoy."

"But if he anything against Savoy, why did he kidnap Gabe?"

The brothers exchanged puzzled glances before diving into their search for any connection between Officer Humphrey and Gregory Savoy. They sifted through files spread out on the table and cross-referenced data, searching for clues that might reveal the link.

After a few tense minutes, Demetri paused, his eyes widening as he compared the name on the Officer's file with another document. "Wait a minute," he said, "Look at this. Officer Humphrey grew up in an orphanage that Savoy used to 'support'."

Demetri passed the file to the other then, now knowing the man's motive. A little girl had died there soon after Gregory made his donation...

"That still does not make it clear about why he has Gabe..."

As they trailed off, the phone rang. Gabe glanced at the unknown number and quickly answered, putting the phone on speaker mode.

As expected it was the kidnapper," I am sure you are all worried about your brother... But before you get any bright ideas about rescuing him, let me make one thing clear: this isn't about Gabe himself. He is unconscious and safe at the moment, but his continued safety is in your hands.

Seb took a deep breath and spoke up, trying to reason with the man. " Officer Humphrey. why are you doing this? What do you have against Gabe?"

The man snorted at the question," Do not underestimate me. I know you've already found out by now that I have nothing against him. My target is Gregory Savoy!"

Seb sighed and tried to coax," Listen, we understand that you're angry, but taking the law into your own hands won't solve anything. Especially you know Gabe and Gregory Savoy are enemies. So what is the point of kidnapping Gabe? Bring Gabe to us, and we won't press charges. It wouldn't ruin your career."

The young man scoffed on the other end of the line. "You think it's that simple? I'm too far in now to back off. The entire police community in B Town is under Savoy's thumb. They are being coerced into helping him evade the law, and no one is in a position to challenge him. They've even declared that Savoy is dead and are now actively working to capture Autumn so that they can later claim that she lied in court. And then Savoy would return to his respectable position."

"I had no choice but to take matters into my own hands because the system is rigged. The people who should be upholding the law are instead serving Savoy's interests."

"We understand that! And we understand your frustration! Gabe, too has been trying to capture Savoy and bring him to justice. But the man is underground..."

"No, he is not! That man is living openly in Elena Winthrope's mansion, planning to take Autumn and the little child!"

"How do you know?" Erasmi asked sharply now.

"He is the one who messed with Gabe's car! And now that I have saved him, I think this is the perfect opportunity to lure him out of his hideout."

Erasmi and Demetri exchanged glances then. "What do you mean? What are you planning to do?"

"I am going to use your brother as bait! At this moment, Gregory Savoy has only two things in his sight. To get Autumn and get rid of Gabe, the man responsible for his downfall. I will offer your brother to him on a platter. And when Gregory takes the bait, " I will get rid of him. Make the world a better place."

Demetri cursed then while Seb exploded, " That is a foolish plan! What do you think Gregory will do to you? You think he will let you harm him just because? Look, Humphrey, we have a common enemy. We can work together on this. Don't be foolish and endanger your life..."

"Oh. You are going to help me...You see, it will be you people who will get their hands bloodied with Savoy's blood. I will lure him and when he comes, you will be waiting for that man. I know you Frosts can get away with it. Once Savoy is dead, I will bring Gabe back to you..."

"Humphrey, you are over simplifying things. What will you do if Gregory doesn't take the bait?"

#### Chapter 643: Waste

Elena's eyes flashed with fury as she slammed her hand on the table, rattling the dishes. "What did you do? You fool!"

The man looked up from his meal, a smug grin spreading across his face. "I did something you were too scared to attempt," he said coolly. "I made sure my enemy would disappear."

Elena's jaw tightened as she struggled to control her rising anger. "You imbecile," she snapped, her voice low and dangerous. "Do you have any idea what you've just done? If anything happens to Gabe, you'll find out firsthand what the Frosts are capable of."

Gregory Savoy, wiped his mouth delicately on the napkin before leaning back, with a wide smile. "Oh, Mrs Elena, you are always the cautious one. That's why you've been suffering at their hands. You've never took any decisive action that would put them down forever. Now me? I don't like playing games. I wanted Gabe gone. So he is now... gone! Gabe Frost is dead while all you've been able to do is threaten and intimidate all this time."

Elena's eyes narrowed in disbelief. "You fool! Gabe isn't dead—he's missing. And you've just made things infinitely more complicated. The Frosts are not just any family. You can't take them down one by one... You need to tackle them all at once, or they'll come back stronger and more relentless."

Gregory Savoy coughed at that, feeling a sliver of fear even as he disregarded it the next moment. But it was something else that bothered him...

Gregory Savoy coughed, a flicker of unease crossing his face despite his efforts to remain composed. "How is that possible?" he demanded, his voice edged with irritation. "I made sure the accident was severe. I followed him, watched as he bled out. He should be dead!"

Elena's eyes flashed with a mix of scorn and urgency. "You clearly underestimated the Frosts' resilience. Gabe might be missing, but he's far from dead. Erasmi Frost came back from the dead after ten years! The Frosts have a way of surviving impossible odds, and you've just set yourself up for their wrath. And me! Dam\* it! I brought you here and warned you to stay hidden! And what did you do? You went ahead and revealed yourself!"

"Then do something to stop them? If you know these people so well, then you can do something to keep me safe!"

Elena's eyes bore into him with a fierce urgency. "You think I can fix this mess for you? You've made your bed, Gregory, and now you have to lie in it. The only thing I can do is make sure we both get out of here alive. And even then, let me warn you if it comes to choosing between saving myself and saving you, then you are dead meat!"

"How can you say that? I did everything you said! But you promised to get me Autumn and Arabelle? What about that? You've done nothing to fulfill your end of the bargain! What are you expecting? I won't cooperate with you. All this is just your ruse to get me out of the way. Don't take me for a fool, Elena Winthrop!"

Elena gave a short sharp laugh, "Take you for a fool? You are the one who has created trouble for me! I asked you to lie low! To wait for the opportunity! I have never met a man as foolish as you!"

Savoy's face twisted with rage, and without warning, he grabbed the heavy glass vase from the table. "Enough!" he shouted, swinging it with all his might.

The vase connected with her temple with a sickening thud. Her eyes widened in shock and pain as she stumbled backward, the impact sending her crashing into a nearby chair. Dishes clattered to the floor, shattering into pieces as she fell, her hand gripping the edge of the table for support as she struggled to maintain her balance. Her eyes blazed with a mixture of rage and pain as she glared at Gregory, who was already swinging the vase again.

She tried to protect herself, feeling the next impact of it on her arm and lost consciousness from the pain...

Gregory kicked her again and again, letting his rage free! This b\*tch! She really thought she could talk back to him! His face twisted with anger he looked down at her crumpled form, his breathing heavy and erratic as he shouted, "You think I'm scared of them? Of you? You're nothing but a failed schemer who couldn't get the job done. Wait wait wait! I gave up everything like you told me and all you can do is ask me to wait! I should have investigated you first before agreeing! You've been waiting for a revenge for more than two decades now! You think I have that kind of time?"

Just then, he heard the sound of people racing up the stairs and knew that her servants would soon discover him. Throwing aside the vase, he glanced around the room, his eyes darting to the door. Without another word, he turned and bolted, his footsteps echoing through the hallway.

Next, he burst into the garage, his breaths coming in ragged gasps as his weight did not allow him to move faster. Elena's blood smeared his hands, leaving a trail everywhere he touched but his maniacal eyes were clear and determined with a goal. He spotted Elena's sleek black sedan parked in the corner and hurriedly started it.

Gregory's mind raced as fast as the car raced out. So what if Gabe was missing and not dead? As long as he wasn't there with Autumn, Gregory had a chance. A sick, twisted smile spread across his face as he navigated the winding roads away from the estate.

"I can fix this," he muttered to himself, his eyes gleaming brighter. "Autumn will be mine, and Gabe... Gabe can remain missing. Heck! I might even return that Autumn to Gabe when I am done with her..." All these years of waiting and yearning were finally coming to a closure...

Chapter 644: Problem

"Something doesn't add up..." Demon ran a hand over his face as he looked at the data spread out in front of him. This Humphrey person had been a good cop for all intents and purposes, working honestly until Savoy entered the picture.

But then, who had killed Bianca? The natural assumption would have been Humphrey, given his hatred for Savoy. After all, he wanted to get rid of Savoy. And yet, he didn't want to get his hands dirty. So, was there a third person involved in this matter? And if there was, where were they now? Hiding in the shadows?

His thoughts were interrupted by Erasmi, who entered the room and slouched into the chair. "I feel like a mercenary for hire. Damn it! Who does he think we are? Some criminals?"

"It's your fault for what you did," Demon retorted.

"That was revenge, damn it! And those people are monsters. While I agree Savoy is one too and deserves to live in hell forever, that doesn't mean I want to be the one to send him there." Erasmi sighed as he finished his rant, looking at the scribbles that Demon had made.

"Do you think it could be Pierce who did that?" Erasmi asked.

"Pierce?" Demon repeated, looking at the picture of the man in front of him. As a matter of fact, while Bianca's death was a blow to Savoy and could be justified as an act against Savoy, Pierce is the one who benefits most from it. With Bianca out of the way and Savoy as well, Pierce stands to gain significantly. Additionally, Bianca's death puts him in the most advantageous position. And if Gabe was out of the picture...

"But he has an alibi already," Demon continued. "So unless the alibi is also lying, we have no way of proving it."

"Why are you still stuck on this? Gabe is in that man's hands, and we need to find a way to get Elena to release the information on Savoy or look for Gabe... We don't even know how he is planning to contact Savoy about Gabe."

Before either could say more or discuss anything further, Seb entered the room. "I have multiple news updates. Brace yourselves. First, Elena is hospitalized. She has a fractured skull and a broken arm. Additionally, her internal organs have been damaged due to someone kicking her."

Demon and Erasmi exchanged shocked glances as Seb continued. "According to her servants, Elena's guest, who had been staying there for a few days, is the one who did it. The servants provided an accurate sketch, and now the police are looking for him everywhere. No points for guessing who the guest was. Gregory Savoy. The man actually went bald to keep his identity under cover. And honestly it doesn't help his looks."

"Also, he has absconded, but our person who was keeping an eye on the situation reported that—" Seb paused, taking a deep breath, as if the weight of the news was too heavy to bear. He rubbed his temples before continuing, "We have to act fast. We need to find this guy before he disappears completely."

"And lastly, Lucy has probably found our Gabe and is even now planning a rescue with the police. His situation is stable and he is under medical observation for now."

"He did? How did he find out? Hadn't they already checked everywhere?"

"They had. But he was suspicious of a small place. So he went back. And apparently some nurses fell for his good looks when he'd visited the hospital. And using his special band of flirting, he was able to get her to spill the details."

Demetri and Erasmi seemed to let out a collective breath of relief as they heard the news about Gabe. Meanwhile, Seb could not help but waggle his eyebrows, "Our Lucy actually dared to flirt... Sigh! What do you think will happen?"

Demon and Erasmi both chuckled, momentarily forgetting the worries as they imagined their brother being thrown into the doghouse by Evana.

Demon, however, quickly refocused on the task at hand. "Alright, jokes aside, we need to stay sharp. If Savoy goes into hiding, he won't be easy to track."

"I think his target should be Autumn if he knows that Gabe is not there. Autumn would be in the most vulnerable position. She is not alone, right?"

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Autumn was alone. Finally, the girls had all left after hearing the news about Gabe and seeing that she was holding up alright.

She, too had breathed a sigh of relief as she heard the news about Gabe. He was alright. Finally. Wiping her tears, she quickly freshened up, ready to go to the police station and wait for news about Gabe's rescue from the police. She couldn't expect Lucien to give her an update when it might hinder the rescue.

The knowledge that he would be okay and back tonight made her feel as if a weight had been lifted off her shoulders.

Before she could leave, there was a knocking on the door. Autumn's heart skipped a beat. Who could be here? and why? Had someone from the girls forgotten something and returned to get it?

She opened the door cautiously and spying the person outside, quickly tried to close the door back as alarm bells rang in her mind. Hurriedly she tried to close the door, but Pierce quickly pushed his foot inside, preventing it from shutting. "Autumn, please. Listen to me."

But Autumn was in no mood to listen. Hurriedly, she tried to close the door, but was no match for Pierce's strength as he pushed at the door hard and widening the opening and stepping inside.

Abandoning the door, she raced to the kitchen, grabbing the biggest knife she could find and raised it, threatening Pierce who was still standing there, the door closed behind him.

"Pierce. I don't know why you are here. But get out now or I swear I will kill you."

#### Chapter 645: Rescued

Humphrey had barely stepped into the washroom when the nurse opened the inner door of the clinic, revealing the man on the bed. Lucien raced inside, his heart pounding wildly as his eyes locked onto his nearly lifeless brother. The sight of Gabe, pale and motionless, made his stomach churn, but he pushed the feeling aside, knowing they had little time.

Following closely behind Lucien was a doctor and two men dressed in police uniforms. With deft hands, the doctor quickly assessed Gabe's vitals, his eyes flicking over the monitors and the pale, unconscious figure on the bed. He noted the weak but steady pulse, the shallow breaths, and the stable readings on the machines. Satisfied, he gave a curt nod to the men, signaling that it was time to proceed.

The officers gently but efficiently lifted Gabe from the bed, careful not to disturb the IV lines too much and quickly maneuvered him outwards, while keeping an eye on the restroom door, in case Humphrey came out sooner than expected. They'd carefully mixed a little bit of laxative into the man's food. Just enough that he wouldn't suspect anything...

Once they'd wheeled the stretcher outside, Lucien, already dressed in a hospital gown, with a bandage covering his head, and half of the face, took Gabe's place, jumping into the bed.

The nurse, standing there, watched in concern, her eyes darting between the door to the restroom and the bed where the man was now trying to hook himself to the machines. Hurriedly, she stepped forward and grabbed an IV kit, muttering, "Mr Frost? Is this necessary? Your brother is rescued already. You can just have the man arrested."

Lucien winced slightly as the nurse inserted the needles into his veins, but he forced himself to remain still, as he answered, "It is necessary. But I have to thank you for your help. This would not have been possible without you."

The nurse cast a look at the handsome man and turned to concentrate on the IV lines. This man before her was too handsome. It was better to not say much more. She deftly connected the tubes and adjusted the monitors, her hands moving quickly and methodically.

Just as she was about to attach the final IV-line, Humphrey's voice cut through the quiet.

"What's going on here?" Humphrey asked, his tone sharp and inquisitive as he re-entered the room. His eyes swept over the nurse and the figure in the bed, searching for any signs of irregularity.

The nurse froze momentarily, her hands stilling mid-air with the IV line. Lucien's heart raced as he held his breath, praying that Humphrey wouldn't notice the discrepancy.

"The IV line came loose," she explained, her voice steady. "I'm just reattaching it to make sure everything is in order." With that, she finished securing the final connection and quickly left the room, her footsteps echoing softly down the hallway.

Humphrey's brow furrowed as he watched the nurse depart. He moved closer to the bed, his eyes narrowing in scrutiny. The rhythmic beeping of the heart monitor and the steady hum of the IV drip filled the room. He leaned over to inspect the machinery, his fingers deftly checking the connections and the fluid levels.

As he glanced at the monitors, a creeping sense of unease began to settle in the pit of his stomach. Everything seemed to be in order, but something felt off. He turned to the bed, his gaze fixed on the patient. The figure under the covers was eerily still, almost too still. Humphrey took a step closer, searching for any sign of irregularity.

Lucien kept his eyes closed, cursing his own plan. What made him think he would be able to fool this man. After all, even though Gabe and him had similar builds and face structure, they were not twins who would be unrecognisable if interchanged. In fact if the room had been well lit, then he wouldn't have dared to pull such a stunt.

Feeling the man come closer, he clenched his hand, ready to abandon the plan if he was discovered.

Thankfully, just as the man was about to reach closer for a more detailed examination, his phone rang, slicing through the tension like a knife. The jarring sound startled Lucien as much as Humphrey, almost making him jump.

He watched from under his lashes as the man glanced at the number and stepped back, further away from the bed. Lucien strained to hear what was being discussed but could only catch broken snippets...

Soon, the man summoned the nurse and ordered her, "I'll be moving him tonight to a better hospital. Help me shift him into the ambulance."

The nurse cast a worried glance at the man on the bed and then at Humphrey, "But sir, the patient is not yet stable...."

"I know what I need to do. Just do your own work. Move his bed towards the ambulance bay."

With a single nod, the nurse quickly approached the head of the bed, making sure to cast a shadow on the man, as the bed was moved. Outside, an old shady ambulance stood waiting and the nurse felt fear in her heart. What if this person harmed the person on the bed. But even so, the nurse dared not say anything as she watched the two people climb down from the ambulance and push him into it.

As Humphrey climbed into the ambulance, the people quickly pushed the door close and the ambulance started to drive away.

It was only after the ambulance had driven for a while, that the quiet person inside the ambulance suddenly spoke up, "Finally, we are reaching the last leg of our plan, Humphrey. I am so happy! Soon, that Savoy would be dead and then we can start our own life without a shadow of the past!"

Humphrey smiled while Lucien stiffened as he heard the voice. He didn't know who this woman was but her voice sounded familiar and they now knew that their guess was correct. There was someone in cahoots with Humphrey as well.

Chapter 646: Friend Or Foe

"Pierce. I don't know why you are here. But get out now or I swear I will kill you."

Pierce took a step back, raising his hands in a gesture of surrender. "Autumn, I swear, I'm not here to harm you. Please, just hear me out."

Autumn's grip on the knife tightened, her eyes darting to the door and then back to Pierce. "Why should I believe you? Why else would you be here?"

"I know I've given you plenty of reasons not to trust me, but this isn't about me. It's about you. About your safety. Bianca is dead, you know that."

"I know. But that has nothing to do with me."

"It has everything to do with you. You are going to be that person's next target. There's something you need to know. Something that could change everything."

Pierce took a cautious step closer, but Autumn quickly raised the knife higher, her hand trembling. "Stay where you are, Pierce. If you have anything to say then say it later."

Pierce froze, his hands still raised. "Okay, okay, I'm staying right here. Just please, listen to me. You know that Bianca's death is related to Savoy. But there is more. See, the thing is that officer who was investigating Gregroy's death? He was also looking for Gregory. When he questioned me about Bianca, I felt something did not add up. So, I followed him and..."

"I know Officer Humphrey is involved. He is the one who discovered everything and even warned us about Gregory being declared dead falsely." Autumn told him, interrupting the man as she continued, "Now please leave."

What she didn't tell him was that the officer had now kidnapped Gabe and was even threatening them to kill Savoy...

Before Pierce could finish, the sound of a car pulling up outside interrupted him. Autumn's heart skipped a beat as she heard the engine cut off. Pierce's eyes widened with urgency.

"Let me check who it is," Pierce whispered, his voice tense. "It could be him."

Autumn hesitated but nodded, keeping the knife close as Pierce moved cautiously to the curtain. He lifted it just enough to peek outside and immediately cursed under his breath.

"It's Savoy," he hissed. "How did he get here?"

Cursing, Autumn raced to the window and pulled the curtain back to its place, spying the man who was now alighting the car, covered in blood. Feeling fear race through her, she tried to think of a way to escape. But before she could do anything, Pierce moved to the door to open it...

Autumn raced to the door, grabbing Pierce's arm just as his hand touched the lock. "What are you doing? Are you trying to get me and yoourself killed?" she hissed, her eyes wide with fear and disbelief.

Pierce frowned, his determination evident. "I'm going to confront Savoy and capture him. This might be our only chance."

Autumn's grip tightened on his arm. "Are you insane? How do you plan to fight a ruthless man like Savoy? You don't even know how to throw a punc whereas he has years of training!"

Pierce's face hardened. "I have to try. For Bianca. For you."

Autumn shook her head vehemently. "No, Pierce. We can't take that risk. He'll kill you, and then he'll come after me. We need to hide. Now."

Pierce hesitated, torn between his desire to act and the logic in Autumn's words. The sound of Savoy's footsteps approaching the front door made the decision for him. He nodded reluctantly.

"Alright. Let's go," he whispered.

Autumn dragged him to the back door, trying to think of a way to escape this place and get information about Gregory being here to the others. Dar\* it! Why did she not grab her phone?

From outside the house, she heard Gregory knocking on the door and then call outa mocking tone in his words. "Autumn, oh Autumn, where are you? Come out, come out, wherever you are! Look who is here."

Even as she did not make a sound, Gabe seemed to know that she was here and continued to call out... And then she heard the worst sound... The sound of the door handle being rattled. She gulped and looked at Pierce, her mind racing. She needed to find a way to make Savoy think...

An idea came to her then.... Quickly, she handed a few things to Pierce and said, " Wear this and race out of the back door. When you are a bit further away, make a little bit of sound to attract his attention... So that he will follow you.. Remember he should not see you."

Pierce looked down at the clothes and shoes in his hand and then at Autumn, "What are you trying to do? And what do you mean I should race away? How can I leave you here to Gregory's mercy?"

"You said you've come to protect me, Pierce. Then do it. I need Gregory distracted to tackle him. So, the best thing would be that he believes that I am escaping from the back door and makes to follow. And while he is busy chasing you, I will tackle him from behind..."

"But that is too risky. What if something goes wrong? Why don't we escape together? We can do that quietly. If we're together, then we can handle things better..."

"No. This is our best shot. Just do what I tell you."

Pierce took a deep breath, slipping on the clothes and shoes. "Alright. Be careful."

Autumn watched as he quietly opened the back door and slipped out, her heart pounding in her chest. As she heard Pierce escape, she closed her eyes and prayed that Gregory would take the bait and follow Pierce.

After a few moments, Autumn heard a loud crash outside as Pierce intentionally knocked over the metal trash can. The sound echoed through the yard, and she heard Gregory's footsteps pause and turn outside to go back... This was her chance. She peered outside, her hand raised to attack, waiting for Gregory to appear...

Chapter 647: Anti- climatic

Olivia looked up as Autumn stepped out from the hospital room, her hand bandaged and a grin spreading across her face. "Here comes our knight in shining armor."

Isabelle smirked and shook her head, "Why are you changing her gender? She is our knightess." She then turned to Autumn and grinned, "I can't believe you took down Savoy with a trash can."

Nora patted Isabella's back, " I mean... that was anti climatic but superb.. The guys and us, we raced there to save you. Our hearts were almost in our throats when we saw Elena's car parked at the curb. We were almost expecting you missing, you know.. Like how I was kidnapped or how Olivia was captured..." Nora giggled then as she paused, recalling the scene they had instead come to, before continuing, " But it was fitting... That image is going to live with me forever..."

Autumn shrugged at the praise. Honestly, she too had not expected that things would come under control so quickly and easily... She'd been living in fear for months...but something had just snapped inside her when she'd heard Savoy calling her and Arabelle's name...

Hidden from a corner, Autumn watched as Pierce threw the lid of the trash can to make a loud crashing noise before turning around the corner, letting Savoy catch a glimpse of him as he raced away...

As expected, Gregory Savoy had taken the bait. He'd stormed after the noise, his voice dripping with venom as he shouted, "Come out, Autumn! You really think you can hide forever and keep Arabelle safe? Come here quickly. If you come to daddy, I promise I'll even spare Arabelle for a few more years."

Autumn's fists clenched at her sides as she listened and felt like throwing up. This is what he'd been saying... asking her to call him that when he'd tried to... It was something that she'd forgotten, in the burning past. And yet, the words seemed to trigger something within her as she felt memories of that night almost pressing down on her.

And yet that man's slimy voice continued to echo through the backyard. "You are a fool if you think you can escape me. Look what happened to Mrs Jenkins? Did she escape? No. Your mother was such a fool too and you are no different.. You should have known better than to cross me!"

"That woman played smart with me and recorded my confession! She had the gall to blackmail me into agreeing to a divorce! She thought she'd won after I conceded to her conditions. Pathetic woman! She actually thought that she'd succeeded. But look at her now! She is six feet under the ground and I am standing strong as ever! On the verge of having you... Come come , Autumn. Aren't you angry? You should come out... I'll even tell you about how I saw your mother before she died. Don't you want to know how she begged me to leave you alone?"

Autumn's blood boiled with each word. Everything seemed to be crashing down on her. That night. Her mother's lifeless body... Arabelle crying each night asking for her mother, the numerous rumours and stares she'd had to face...all because of this man! This man had been responsible for taking away her only family!

She stepped out from her hiding spot, moving quietly behind him. He was so focused on where he believed she had run off that he didn't notice her approaching from behind him. She didn't know what came over her, but in that moment, she did not feel fear. Only a need to hear him scream in pain.

She grabbed the metal trash can, her knuckles white with anger. It was heavy, she knew and yet the anger and adrenaline racing through her blood, had her picking it up..

With a swift, decisive motion, she swung it, aiming for his head. And yet, she was unable to lift it that high. The metal connected with a satisfying clang at his shoulders causing Savoy to yelp as he turned around. He moved towards her then, his beady eyes making her even angrier! This was the rat that had caused so many plagues in her life!

Lifting the trash can again, she watched his eyes widened and he moved to push her back. She changed the direction of the can mid attack and it hit him on the foot! It was barely a blow but she couldn't help be pleased as he hopped on one knee, trying to hold his crushed toes...

And then, somehow, he lost his balance and tumbled backward, falling to the ground with a heavy thud as his head hit the concrete... Autumn stood there stunned, the trash can still clutched in her hands as she screamed at him," Get up now! Get up and try to speak the shi\* you've been spouting!

As Autumn finished recounting the entire story, Olivia shook her head, "So, you hit him with the trash can and then he fell and hurt his head..."

"And that is when we reached her the backside after listening to her scream at the unconscious Savoy on the ground with all the trash on him and bleeding..." Nora finished off, still finding it unbelievable and yet hilarious.

"I think it is not a bad exchange..you gave him a head fracture while only earning a sprained arm... It is worth the exchange, I'd say. And now, he is going to rot in prison!" Olivia muttered as she hugged Autumn carefully.

Autumn sat down tiredly on the bench, her eyes downcast... Suddenly it didn't matter to her what happened to Savoy. All she wanted to know was about Gabe...

"Where's Gabe?" she asked, her voice tinged with worry.

Isabella and Nora exchanged a glance before Nora spoke up, "He's been admitted to the hospital, here. Upstairs. There was a complication when he was being brought here."

Autumn felt her heart clench as she stood up hurriedly, "Where is he? I need to go there..."

#### Chapter 648: Partners In Crime

"Gabe?" Autumn's voice trembled as she looked at the tense faces of Ian and Demon. The silence that followed was deafening, each second stretching her anxiety to its limits.

"Please, tell me!" Her desperation was palpable, her eyes pleading for any kind of reassurance.

Finally, Ian broke the silence, his voice carrying a note of sympathy. "How are you holding up, Autumn?"

"I'm doing as well as I can be, Ian," she replied, trying to steady her voice. "But please, just tell me—how is Gabe?"

Ian's face darkened with concern. "There's swelling on his brain. During transport, there was a minor accident that caused the swelling to increase. He's currently in the Critical Intensive Care Unit. We won't have a clearer picture of his condition for at least the next twenty-four hours."

Autumn felt as if her world was crumbling. Her knees felt weak, and she gripped the edge of a nearby chair, trying to hold herself upright. "What do you mean we won't know anything? He has to be fine. He can't be anything else..."

Demon placed a comforting hand on her shoulder and gently guided her towards a chair. "I know it's hard, Autumn. We're all hoping for the best. For now, we need to sit tight and wait for him to wake up."

"But—" Autumn's voice faltered as she struggled to grasp the situation. "What exactly happened? I thought he was rescued. How could there be an accident?"

Ian and Demon exchanged a somber glance before Ian responded, his tone weary. "It's just details, Autumn. The main thing is that Gabe is with us, and we're all holding onto hope that he'll pull through."

Autumn nodded mechanically, her concern for Gabe overwhelming her. She sank into the chair, her head falling back as she tried to process the grim news. Her focus remained solely on Gabe, so absorbed that she didn't even notice Lucien, Erasmi, and Seb were missing from the waiting room. Something that would have been impossible if everything had been well.

Meanwhile, Nora approached Demetri with a worried expression, gently taking his hand. "Is there any update?" she asked.

Demetri shook his head and even though he seemed calm, his hand clutched onto Nora's as if it were a lifeline as he spoke mechanically, "Seb and Erasmi have gone to look for him... but that man had not yet contacted again. Lucien is missing."

"And do we know if Lucy was discovered or not?"

Demetri shook his head, "They moved him to the ambulance and left from there without suspicion. After that, we can't be sure... The people who were following them, lost them half way through the chase."

Nora gave his hand a light squeeze, "He'll be fine."

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Lucien had no idea what was going on. Who was this woman who wanted to live happily ever after with Humphrey? And what did that have to do with killing Gregory and kidnapping Gabe?

And why had Humphrey silenced the woman abruptly. He could hear the sound of their breathing but the two people were as quiet as a mouse. And he didn't understand this.

Meanwhile, he knew he needed to find an opportunity to stop these people from going wherever they were going.

Finally, the woman spoke again, "Where are we going? Don't you think you should contact the Frost brothers and ask them for an update? We can't take Gabe all the way there. I don't even understand why you were so intent on saving him. It was just a stroke of luck that we noticed Gregory. If, you'd gone in after Gregory when he tampered with the car, instead of chasing after Gabe to save him, Gregory would already have been dead."

Finally, Humphrey sighed, "We don't need Gregory to be dead, okay? We need to bring him to justice. I told them to kill him only to pacify you. I know those people won't do it. Once, that is done, I will hand myself to the police and receive my just punishment for kidnapping."

"No! You can't do that! What will I do then?" The woman started to cry in a shrill voice, making Lucy want to wince at the sound. "I am a fool! That is what I am! Falling for fake promises everytime! First it was Gregory. That man promised to look after my daughters, if I helped him get his daughters! And then, it turned out that he was nothign but a monster in disguise. And then you came into my life when you wanted to investigate me. You've become my pillar of strength! I cannot let you leave me!"

"I am not leaving you! I won't be punished too heavily because I did harm Gabe. In fact I even saved him! At most they can blame me for kidnapping or detaining. Once I explain it to the jury, they will definitely give me a lighter sentence.."

The woman seemed to have become unreasonable, though. She shook her head and suddenly grabbed a syringe from the side of the ambulance! With a quick move, she placed the needle in Gabe's (Lucien here but they don't know it yet) throat and threatened, "Tell them Humphrey! Tell them to disregard everything and kill him! You don't know him! He will come back if he is left alive! Just ask them that they should make sure he should suffer."

Humphrey's eyes widened in shock as the woman brandished the syringe, her hands trembling with a mix of fear and anger. "No! Don't!" he shouted, his voice urgent.

"Please, put the syringe down," Humphrey pleaded. "We don't need to escalate this. We're supposed to be working together to get justice, not making things worse. You are not a cold blooded murderer!"

"You don't understand! I've been betrayed by everyone I trusted. First my husband then Gregory, then you, who I thought would be different. I can't lose you, Humphrey. You're all I have left!"

"I know you're scared, but this isn't the answer. If you do this, it won't just be Gabe who suffers; it will be you, too. You'll be making things much worse for yourself."

#### Chapter 649: Shocked

"Where is Lucifer?" Evana's voice echoed through the hospital corridor as she raced towards Demon and Ian, her heart pounding in her chest, her face full of anxiety. She'd been thinking and hoping that Lucifer would be safe as she'd flown all the way when she'd heard the message he'd dropped on her voicemail.

She watched as Demon exchanged a quick glance with Ian before answering, "He's with those people still, Evana. But the police are tracing him so..." And yet, the glance told her that everything was not so simple. The very fact was he was engaged.

"Are they tracing him or have they lost track of him? Don't lie to me, Demon," she asked directly, knowing that this was the only reason that these people would be worried even more.

"I am not lying! They did lose track for a while, but the GPS tracker we put on the ambulance is now working. We can follow them at a distance."

Evana's face paled as she struggled to maintain her composure. "And he is okay?" Her voice was barely above a whisper, betraying the vulnerability and fear she was feeling.

Hearing Evana's trembling voice, Autumn, who had been sitting nearby, worried for Gabe, felt a cold chill run down her spine. She quickly realized the gravity of the situation—Lucy, Seb, and Erasmi were all missing. The absence of their presence was a stark reminder of the danger they were in. How had she not noticed this?

She knew that Gabe was being rescued by Lucien and that they were supposed to have caught Humphrey. But then why did Lucy not return yet. Horrified, "Why is Lucien still not here? If they'd successfully rescued Gabe, why didn't he slip out?" she asked, her voice filled with confusion and concern.

"And Gregory has already been caught. Is Officer Humphrey not cooperating anymore?"

Demon sighed deeply, running a hand through his hair. "It's much more complicated than that," he muttered. He then turned to the two officers standing inconspicuously on the side. "These people can explain better."

"Miss Autumn. I understand that the Frosts are all concerned for the safety of Mr Luien but we do believe that it is for the best. The thing is, when you started to move against Savoy, you unknowingly pulled a thread that unraveled an entire web of crimes..."

That caught her attention and she turned to look sharply at the officers. "What do you mean?"

"Other than the reports of mysterious deaths in orphanages that Demon Frost gave us, showing a link between the donations and timings, and then Officer Humphrey's constant warnings to Gabe, despite being pressurised by his own department to stay quiet, gave us a hint that something bigger was at play here.

"So we investigated deeper and have unravelled a plot, identifying one of the biggest human trafficking rings operating in the country. You see, we couldn't get over the fact that a simple Commissioner of a small town would have so much power as to control every officer in his old precinct."

"As a result we ran all the old files related to missing children etc during the different times where he was posted in different places. Many of the unsolved kidnappings had partial finger prints which were

never identified. From there we understood that Gregory was part of a much bigger crime ring and these people would do anything to get rid of him if he were ever caught."

"Other than trafficking, he'd been blackmailing a whole lot of people who now want him dead. His aide, Bianca's death was one of these. The perpetrator tried to show that it was a revenge killing but in reality, it was a warning to Gregory that he better not be caught.

"Anyway, when Officer Humphrey contacted you and insisted that Gregory should die, we thought something was messy. And that is why we convinced Mr Lucien Frost to cooperate with us..."

While Autumn remained quiet, realizing the kind of danger she and Arabelle had just escaped, Evana asked, "So, what is it now? And what about Lucien?"

"It seems Officer Humphrey was also duped..." The officers hesitated and continued, "We've now discovered the identity of the person responsible for this. When we took Gregory into custody earlier, we ran his prints against those in the system... Many of them matched."

"Also, did you know how he was able to blackmail those people? The idiot carried the list of his partners in crime and every dealing he had made in a small USB. It had been embedded into his ankle...He thought that no one would be able to get their hands on it if he had it on himself. However, when you hit him, his foot, already weakened from multiple surgeries there, collapsed under him...And we rushed him to the hospital later... Where the operating doctor found the chip..."

The room fell silent as the enormity of the revelation sank in.

"And now?" Autumn asked, her voice barely above a whisper. "Who is the person behind this?"

"It's the woman who was playing his fiance for the court case. She has been known for trafficking quite a few children and women. She'd even found a buyer for Arabelle... Just like Humphrey tipped you off, he thought he was being kind to the woman who was allegedly duped by Gregory. He didn't realise that she was the mastermind behind everything.

"So, what is the next step now?"

"We need to keep this quiet for now. The more people know, the higher the risk of someone tipping off the ring. Now that we have discovered the identity of the person responsible for coordinating these operations, our next step is to grab her and obtain a list of her buyers."

"Also, we're going to arrest every person mentioned on that USB in a massive coup," the officer replied. "We've already begun collaborating with multiple departments across the country to ensure no one slips through the cracks. This is going to be one of the largest coordinated operations in recent history. Thanks to your information, we can bring down this entire network."

"And?"

"Actually, that woman had a lot of power, as you might guess, with politicians and businessmen. We are going to need time to gather evidence and..."

As the policeman tried to continue, Evana cut off, "I meant what about Lucien? What are your plans for rescuing him?"

"We're doing everything we can. The GPS tracker is helping us monitor their movements, and we're coordinating with multiple units to ensure a successful rescue."

Demon placed a reassuring hand on Evana's shoulder. "Lucien is tough, Evana. He knows how to handle himself. We have to trust that he'll hold on until we can get to him."

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Lucien's heart pounded in his chest as he lay still, feigning unconsciousness. He knew this was his only chance to take control and seize the woman while she was occupied with Humphrey. Every muscle in his body tensed as he waited for the right moment. And yet, feeling the cold press of the needle with whatever medicine inside it, he knew the situation was precarious.

He recognised the woman now. He'd seen her a few times during those distasteful parties where they were required to deal with politicians and bureaucrats. So, this woman had been involved with Gregory and was probably trying to kill Saviy using Humphrey to save herself.

As he prepared to make a move, the sound of a phone ringing broke the tense standoff between the two people.

The woman answered the call with a sharp, "What?"

"Ma'am, Savoy's been caught, but we haven't found anything else," the voice on the other end reported.

The woman cursed as the voice echoed in the ambulance and screamed at Humphrey, throwing her phone to the floor in anger, "Now she what you have done! I told you to make sure that Savoy was dead! Now he is in police custody!"

Humphrey frowned, "But that is a good thing. We have evidence against him. So, it is a good thing, isn't it? Don't worry. He will definitely get his just rewards!"

"You fool! Everything is falling apart and you think this is a good thing?"

Humphrey's eyes widened in sudden realization. "Why are you so insistent that Savoy dies? What's really going on here?"

The woman smirked, her voice dripping with contempt. "I need to save myself, Humphrey. I've been using you for information from the start. You were just a pawn in my game."

Humphrey's face twisted with a mix of betrayal and anger. "You used me?"

"Yes," she spat. "And now that Savoy's caught, I have no other option but to use Gabe to get what I want."

Just as the words left her mouth, Lucien made his move. With a swift, practiced motion, he tackled her, knocking the needle from her hand. They struggled fiercely, each trying to gain the upper hand. Lucien's strength was formidable, but the woman was cunning and desperate.

Before he could overpower her, the ambulance jostled violently, throwing them both off balance.

#### Chapter 650: Another rescue

"I hate you!" She sobbed, picking up another flower from the bouquet on the table and aimed it at his head. With his free hand, he caught it effortlessly while his other hand, heavily bandaged, remained on his side. He blew her a kiss and grinned, "I love you."

"Stop that, Lucifer! Do you have any idea how worried I was? Couldn't they have arranged for someone else to take Gabe's place? All I knew was that when I landed here, you were gone..."

Lucien leaned back with a wince and sighed, "Come here, please," he tried coaxed softly, but she shook her head, crossing her arms stubbornly.

"Absolutely not. I'm not falling for that again. You better thank your stars that you've come back safely or I would have killed you!"

"That is kind of contradictory, Evana." Seb muttered as he entered the room. Placing the bag in his hand on the table, he said to her, "Here, Ian has sent food for you and this little p\*ick here. Also, the fact that he almost got himself killed is the least 'troublesome' thing he has done recently."

Lucien glared at Seb, "Hey! Stop trying to rile her up! I'm already injured here, okay?"

Seb turned to Lucien and gave him a genuine smile, his eyes soft even as he looked ready to tease the man. He walked to the man, caught him in a hug, careful not to move his arm and patted his back, "I'm glad to have you back. These last two days, looking for you, have been horrible!" At the same time, he slipped something into Lucien's hand which was quickly hidden away and stepped back.

"And now, I'm off."

Evana waved at Seb, before turning to look at the food. It was better to concentrate on the food. Even though Lucien was relatively unharmed and there was nothing to worry about anymore, she still could feel her insides shiver at the thought of losing him. When he'd been brought to the hospital, unconscious, she'd almost lost her soul.

Seb, however, paused at the door and turned back, calling to her, " Evana?"

Evanageline looked up at Seb then who winked at her," I think you really need to ask him how he got information about Gabe's location from the pretty nurse and then convinced her to help him... Let me give you a hint- he used his beauty trap..."

While Evana turned to glare at Lucien, Lucien groaned and threw a pillow at Seb, "You ba\*tard!" Unfortunately, the pillow never reached Seb, who's already closed the door behind him.

Lucien turned to look at Evana who was standing there, shocked and sad. Cursing, Lucien quickly explained," Angel! I did not use any beauty trap,okay?"

"Didn't you? Then how did you find about Gabe?"

"We scanned all the small and big hospitals, okay? The doctor in that behaved oddly so I ent back to check..."

"And you used your beauty trap like you used on me.." Evana completed softly.

Lucien cursed. He had not flirted with the nurse even a bit.. He'd only had to smile at her and explain and the woman had blurred out everything! And he wouldn't have even spoken to her if not for needing information about Gabe.

"Angel, come here, please." Lucien tried to call her but Evana looked away, and he was sure he heard a sob as she said," I don't want to."

Seeing that his attempts to coax her weren't working, Lucien decided to try another approach. "Fine. Don't come if you don't believe me." He then groaned, as if in pain,"I'll just get some water myself. Ahhh..."

As she turned around and saw his face contorted in pain, her resolve waivered and she hurried to him. Grabbing the glass of water, she coaxed him," Just lie down. Why are you so..."

Before she could say more, Lucien had grabbed her by the waist of her jeans and pulled her to him. She stumbled forward, falling into his arms as he held her tightly, his mischievous smile returning.

"Gotcha, angel" he whispered, his breath warm against her ear.

She glared at him, while moving quickly to check his arm, but he simply held her close and she couldn't help the small smile tugging at her lips as she blamed him, "You tricked me!"

"And I'd do it again just to have you close," he murmured, his eyes softening as he looked at her. "Angel, you know I'd never flirt with anyone but you. My beauty trap only works for you."

Evana looked up at him, before holding him close like she'd yearned to these days, "You idiot. Do you have any idea how scared I was? I thought I lost you." His hand caught hers and she held it close to herself

"I'm sorry, angel. I didn't mean to make you worry. I just... I had to make sure Gabe was safe."

She sniffed, wiping her tears with the back of her hand. "I understand. And I'm glad that you were able to rescue him. Just promise me you won't do something so dangerous again."

"I promise. I'll be more careful, okay? I don't want my fiance blaming me."

Evangeline rolled her eyes as she looked up at him, " You don't even have a fiance. Only a girlfriend."

"Uh huh. The ring on your finger says otherwise..."

Evana's breath hitched as she looked down at the ring glinting on her finger. "Lucifer, what is this?"

"It's exactly what it looks like, Angel. I know this might not be the most conventional proposal, but after everything we've been through, I realized I don't want to waste another moment. Lets get married soon.

She blinked, tears welling up in her eyes again, "Are you serious?"

"Of course, I am. You think I'd joke about something like this? When I felt that needle go inside me, I realized I had only one regret. That I was not married to you... I don't that, Angel. When I die, I want my tombstone to read, Angel's husband."

She cried earnestly now, "Don't say that!"