

Chapter 177 Candy Might Just Be Fake

"Too much of a coincidence?" Annabel asked with a frown.

"Yes," Anika replied, pursing her lips. "When exactly did Candy show up?"

"She appeared on the day Rupert and I got engaged," Annabel answered thoughtfully.

"Okay. Have you ever cared to know what Candy was doing prior to the ceremony?" Anika asked with a smile. "I'm asking because I found out from a reliable entertaining platform that she is a singer at Charming Bar. Her stage name is Angel." 1

"You are right. I met her there on Marcel's birthday," Annabel nodded. She understood what Anika meant.

"Now that's strange! Some time ago, you told me that Rupert and his men searched for Candy for several years without finding her, right? You also asked Anthony to look for her, and the result was the same. Even if the others weren't able to track her down, Anthony should have done that easily. Anthony is one of the best hackers in the world, after all."

"You are right," Annabel's beautiful eyes narrowed. "I didn't pay attention to these details in the past."

"Don't be too hard on yourself, Annabel. Onlookers see more clearly than players. Still, your canceling the engagement ceremony on impulse gave Candy a chance. But come to think of it, what if Candy is fake?" Anika snorted.

"Isn't that just absurd?" Annabel furrowed her brow.

Despite her response, she couldn't help flashing back to what happened at Benton Group earlier.

Actually, Candy was nothing like the kind-hearted girl Rupert used to describe. She was two-faced and conniving.

A lot of things weren't adding up about her.

"But I don't think Rupert would make such a mistake." Annabel touched her temple subconsciously.

Since Rupert was sure that Candace was Candy, there must be no mistake.

Was there anything wrong?

"What makes you so sure about that?" Anika begged to differ. "Didn't you tell me that Rupert once treated you as Candy? Why then do you think he wouldn't repeat it again? Did Candy just stumble on your engagement ceremony, at the precise time she did? And what happened after that? The engagement was canceled. Wasn't that too much of a coincidence?"

After thinking for a while, Annabel replied, "You know what, Anika? We'll check it out when I come back. Let's stop talking about this for the time being. My biggest wish right now is to find the doctor as soon as possible, so that he can help cure Bruce."

"You've got to look into the matter more carefully. It's not easy to find someone you love. Don't give up so easily." Anika let out a sigh.

Annabel and Anika traveled for a long time before finally arriving at Chilly Mountain.

It was a vast expanse of forest, covered with trees, snow and ice.

"Are you sure the doctor is here?" Anika asked, shivering from the cold.

"He should, if my instincts are right." Annabel rubbed her arms together to feel warm. "Many years ago, he told me he would like to live in Chilly Mountain in the future."

"Oh, just your instincts? How awesome!" Anika said helplessly.

Annabel noticed that her friend was almost freezing to death. "How about we ask someone around about him?"

"That's fine with me." Anika nodded her head and looked around.

At the foot of the mountain, there was a small village with several farmhouses.

After a while, they got to one of the houses and knocked. "Hello! Is anybody home?"

"Who are you looking for?" A middle-aged woman with gray hair opened

the door and stared at them curiously.

"We didn't mean to bother you, ma'am. Do you mind pointing us in the direction of Perigoda?" Annabel smiled faintly.

She still remembered that Chayce said that if he eventually settled down in Chilly Mountain, he would live in Perigoda, because the closest person to his heart was staying there.

"Of course, I don't mind." The woman raised her head and looked into the distance. Then she pointed her finger uphill. "It's over there."

Perigoda was indeed a real place.

Annabel was overjoyed. "Would we be able to get there if we leave now?"

"What's your business in Perigoda?" There was a hint of suspicion in the woman's eyes. "Why are you bent on going there despite the snow?"

"We are looking for someone." The smile on Annabel's face became more pronounced.

"Let me guess... You are going there in search of Chayce, aren't you?" the woman asked knowingly.

Chayce!

Annabel's heart skipped a beat on hearing the name.

"Yes, he is the one." Annabel nodded. "Can you tell us how to find him, please?"

"Come in please." The woman invited them into her house.

"Madam, can you please tell us about Chayce?" Anika could tell that Annabel was very anxious about finding the doctor.

"He is a very strange fellow who insists on staying in Perigoda for no reason." The woman gave her visitors a cup of hot coffee each. "Whenever the weather is good, he comes down the mountain to treat sick villagers. Not only is he an amazing doctor, but also a good person."

On hearing that, Annabel blurted, "That must be him." She and Anika looked at each other excitedly.

"But how did you know the doctor?" The middle-aged woman was a little confused. "He has a bit of a temper and doesn't appreciate people talking about him."

"He is friends with my grandfather," Annabel said honestly.

"Is that so?" The woman nodded. "It's been snowing on the mountain lately. So he won't be coming down anytime soon. May I suggest that you stay in the village for a couple of days until the weather gets better?"

"I can't afford to do that. I have to go right now." Now that Annabel had ascertained that the doctor was somewhere not so far away, she couldn't wait any longer.

Bruce's illness needed urgent attention, and she didn't want to fail him.

The sooner Chayce got to him, the earlier Bruce would wake up from his coma.

"It's dangerous to go up the mountain on such a snowy day." The middle-aged woman tried to persuade Annabel and Anika. "Both of you aren't familiar with this place."

"Anika, how about you stay here?" Annabel said. "I'll go find him."

"Do you want me to just let you go up the mountain all by yourself? That's not going to happen! Why not hold on until tomorrow? Perhaps the snow will stop by then," Anika replied.

"I'm afraid Bruce can't wait," Annabel said firmly.

"But—"

Anika wanted to say something but Annabel stopped her. "Just wait here. If I don't come back in time, then you can inform the right people to come and look for me."

Seeing how determined she was, Anika knew that it was useless trying to convince her otherwise. After asking the middle-aged woman for the dos and don'ts in Chilly Mountain, she turned to her friend and said, "Please be careful."

"Of course, I will." Annabel gave a heartfelt response. She wore a thick jacket, a red scarf and a pair of cotton gloves. "I'm confident I'll return with good news."