

### 316: She Doesn't Believe It!

Caitlin was determined to use Sebastian's second theory to corner Teresa.

Teresa said nothing, but it was clear from her nervous expression that she was uneasy. Caitlin kept her gaze fixed on Teresa's eyes, missing no detail, no subtle shift in her expression.

"Nothing to say? Do you think that by staying silent, I won't know?" Caitlin asked sharply.

"The mastermind behind everything is Zorro and Zeke, right? This is all part of Shadow Moon Pavilion's plan, am I right? The goal is to get the Yun's Aromatic Codex. I'm not wrong, am I?"

Teresa, caught off guard by Caitlin's direct accusations, grew anxious. If her sister had already confessed, how could she keep hiding the truth?

"Teresa, do you know how I feel right now? All this time, I've seen you and your sister as saviors. I was grateful to you, thought of you as family. But now... now I feel like I've been stabbed in the back."

Caitlin's eyes were red, her tone a mixture of anguish and disbelief. The thing she feared most had come true.

"Do you remember when you and your sister brought me to Shadow Moon Pavilion? I trained alongside you. You taught me so much. We became partners, family. You gave me warmth when my life was dark. But now... now you're telling me it was all fake? All false, all deceit, all betrayal! A plot! Do you know how that feels?"

As she spoke, Caitlin slapped her hand over her heart, her eyes burning with rage as she glared at Teresa.

Teresa, clearly moved, felt tears well up in her eyes, regret washing over

her face. At last, like her sister, she tearfully apologized, "I'm sorry, Caitlin..."

"Don't apologize anymore. I need to know who's really behind this. Was it Zorro and Zeke conspiring, or something else? If you won't tell me, I have other ways to find out! I'll confront Zorro and Zeke myself!"

Caitlin's voice was firm as she stood up, ready to leave. But Teresa called out to her, "Caitlin, don't go after the Boss. This isn't Boss's doing. It's the Chief! It's the Chief's plan!"

Caitlin turned, her eyes icy with rage, fury blazing in her gaze.

"I admit, five years ago, when we rescued you, it wasn't by accident. It was on purpose. The Chief wanted the Yun's Aromatic Codex, and we discovered that you were Eleanor's heir, hoping to use you to find the codex."

"Ximena is indeed part of Shadow Moon Pavilion, but she's a criminal. Everything she's done is in service to Shadow Moon Pavilion. She carries a death contract; if she doesn't follow the Chief's orders, the Chief can take her life at any time."

"Her task was to raise your daughter and use her to exchange for the codex. She was just a part of the plan."

As Teresa confessed these painful truths, Caitlin felt as if her heart had been pierced by millions of needles. The truth shattered everything. The family she thought she knew crumbled, and the powerful support she once relied on collapsed entirely.

Thinking back to Zorro's care, Caitlin couldn't help but laugh bitterly. It had all been part of a plot.

Seeing Caitlin in such pain, Teresa felt deeply guilty. "Caitlin, I'm so sorry. We didn't want to deceive you..."

"Enough! The damage has been done. No amount of apologies will fix it. I only hate myself for trusting you!" Caitlin's voice trembled with heartbreak, her heart frozen with coldness. "What I hate most is deception and betrayal! You should know the consequences of deceiving and betraying me!"

Teresa knew all too well, but she too was trapped.

"Fine, even if it's all a conspiracy, let me ask you this—if killing Freya was to help Ximena eliminate a threat, then why did you cut off one of her hands after killing her?"

Teresa fell silent at the sudden question.

"What did you do with that hand? Tell me!"

Caitlin pressed on, her voice sharp. Teresa bit her lip, determined not to reveal the truth.

"It's gone."

"Where did you throw it?"

"I threw it away. I can't remember."

Teresa had already confessed everything, but she still had to protect the Boss.

"Can't remember? Well, then try remembering better!"

With that, Caitlin turned and left the room. Her subordinates were waiting outside.

"Guard her! Don't let her contact the outside world."

"Yes!"

After attending the SY Capital Partners' dinner, Caitlin would hand Sienna and Teresa over to the police. No matter what, they would not escape the charges for their crimes.

After the interrogation, Caitlin was overwhelmed by cold fury, her emotions deep in turmoil. She shared everything she learned with Sebastian, who replied, "As I suspected. So, what's next? Are you still going to attend the SY Capital Partners' dinner?"

"Of course I'm going. I want to hear directly from Zeke!"

Caitlin needed to get to the bottom of everything. She couldn't just take one side's word for it. A five-year-long plan—there was no way Zeke wasn't involved. She didn't believe it!

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The night was alive with lights.

A massive luxury cruise ship docked at the harbor, its seven lavish floors equipped with all kinds of entertainment facilities. The celebratory dinner for SY Capital Partners' entry into the US was about to begin on this grand vessel.

At the dock, a large group of reporters had gathered, eagerly awaiting. The red carpet was rolled out, and invited guests had begun arriving.

As an emerging international multinational group, SY Capital Partners had extended invitations to the high society and business elites of New York. Major families, including The Xenos Family, The Jones Family, The Jackson Family, and The Mitchell Family, were all present.

Ximena and Zora were among the invited guests. The mother and daughter appeared in grand attire, walking together down the red carpet.

Ximena was extremely excited to be invited, arriving early with her daughter.

"Mom, do you think Caitlin will come?" Zora asked.

"Of course, she wouldn't miss an occasion like this."

Zora scanned the crowd but didn't spot Caitlin. However, thinking about the opportunity to get close to Zeke, she said, "Mom, tonight I want to take the chance to get close to Zeke. You need to help me."

Ximena immediately opposed, "No."

"Why not, Mom? If I get with Zeke, won't it also make Caitlin mad?" Zora argued.

"I said no, and that's final. Don't entertain such thoughts!" Ximena warned firmly.

Zora looked confused, "Mom, is it because you like him?"

She couldn't help but notice how her mother's gaze lingered on Zeke every time.


Before Ximena could answer, a stir in the crowd caught their attention. The reporters who had been photographing them rushed away.

"They're here! They're here! Quick, get the shot..."

The journalists surged forward.

Ximena and Zora turned around in unison, eager to see who had caused

316. She Doesn't Believe It!

 +15 BONUS

such a commotion. Who was it that could draw such attention?

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