

### 322: Struggling to Hold Him

The two men were about to engage in a real showdown.

However, Sebastian knew full well that Black Hawk was a treacherous and cunning individual, someone who would resort to any vile means necessary. So, Sebastian wasn't about to show him any mercy.

"Ah!" Black Hawk let out a roar as he lunged at Sebastian. Sebastian countered his every move, and soon, the two were in a brutal fight.

They spared no effort, each trying to kill the other. Fists and kicks flew relentlessly. How long they fought, neither of them knew, but the battle went on until the last firework burst in the sky and its fading light slowly disappeared.

With all his strength, Sebastian kicked Black Hawk away, sending him crashing into the railing. Sebastian pinned him down, rage coursing through him, wishing he could snap Black Hawk's neck right there.

But then, Black Hawk struggled to speak, his voice hoarse and labored. "Kill me... Caitlin... will die... boom..."

Sebastian's eyes widened as he realized Black Hawk might not be working alone on the ship—there could be other accomplices ready to harm Caitlin. The words "boom" from Black Hawk sounded like a warning: was he planning an explosion?

Taking advantage of Sebastian's momentary distraction, Black Hawk suddenly broke free from his hold and landed a heavy punch to Sebastian's face.

Sebastian staggered back, but before he could recover, Black Hawk made a daring move—he vaulted over the ship's edge and jumped into the sea.



The splash echoed in the air, but Black Hawk's figure quickly disappeared into the dark waves.

Without a moment's hesitation, Sebastian bolted back in the direction of the ship, his mind consumed with worry for Caitlin's safety. He ran with everything he had.

At that moment, the cruise ship was on its way back, and the guests, who had finished watching the fireworks, slowly returned to the performance hall. They found that there was no entertainment or ballroom dancing scheduled. When they asked, they were told about the murder aboard.

The news that Caitlin had killed someone stunned everyone, but no one knew the full details and could only wait in confusion.

Meanwhile, Caitlin was still searching frantically for Sebastian, moving from floor to floor. Her feet were blistered, and she was gasping for breath, but she didn't stop.

Her dress was too long and hindered her speed, so she tore it off, determined to run faster.

On the third floor, she ran into Benjamin and Nolan. She immediately asked, "Benjamin, Nolan, have you seen Sebastian?"

"He was attacked and went after the attacker. We're also looking for him!" Benjamin replied.

"Then keep looking! We have to find him!" Caitlin urged.

Just then, Nolan glanced down and noticed something that made his heart skip a beat. "Someone fell into the sea!"

"Could it be Sebastian?"



Caitlin's heart raced with panic. She immediately followed them to the lowest deck.

Finally, they arrived at the bottom deck, near the ship's stern, where Caitlin spotted a piece of clothing on the ground.

She picked it up, and her breath caught in her throat—it was Sebastian's suit.

"This is Sebastian's jacket!"

The suit was lying on the ground, but there was no sign of him.

Benjamin noticed something else hanging on the ship's side—a piece of fabric that looked like it came from a shirt. "There's a piece of shirt fabric. Could he have fallen overboard?"

Caitlin's heart tightened painfully. She looked down at the dark, churning sea. Had Sebastian been fighting Black Hawk earlier? Did Black Hawk push him into the water?

Nolan also looked down, his voice grim. "I saw someone fall into the sea just now. It could be Sebastian! Quick, we need to prepare a rescue!"

As they scrambled to find a lifeboat, Felix arrived, finally finding Caitlin.

"Caitlin..."

"Felix! Something's wrong! Sebastian might have fallen into the sea! We need to rescue him!" Caitlin explained, her voice full of urgency.

Felix shook his head. "It wasn't Sebastian who fell. It was Black Hawk! I saw Sebastian earlier!"

Hearing this, Caitlin's heart gave a lurch. "Where is he? Where is he now?"

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"He went up to find you," Felix said.

Caitlin's heart leaped at the news. Without a second thought, she dashed back upstairs, determined to find him.

Sebastian had already reached the top floor of the performance hall. He was asking everyone he met, "Have you seen Caitlin?"

But no one had. Some even told him, "Caitlin killed someone and ran. Felix is chasing her!"

Kill someone? That was absurd!

Sebastian searched the entire area, but he didn't find Caitlin. He ran to the lower floors, calling her name as he went.

Caitlin, still searching for Sebastian, was in the same frantic state. She couldn't be at peace for a second until she found him.

Every person she passed, she asked, "Have you seen Sebastian?"

She ran back to the third floor and encountered a crew member there. She asked him, "Have you seen Sebastian?"

The crew member nodded. "I just saw Mr. Vanderbilt. But he's injured. Caitlin, please follow me! I'll take you to him!"

Upon hearing Sebastian was injured, Caitlin's concern deepened. She thought it must have been from his fight with Black Hawk.

"Okay! Lead the way!" Caitlin urged.

The crew member led her to a cabin on the third floor, but when they



arrived, there was no sign of Sebastian.

"Where is he?" Caitlin asked, spinning around to look at the crew member.

To her shock, the crew member smiled eerily, and with a quick motion, he pulled a weapon from his waist. Caitlin instantly recognized the danger.

"You're not one of the crew!" she snapped.

The realization hit her—this man wasn't trying to help her find Sebastian. He was likely an accomplice of Black Hawk.

Without waiting for him to raise his gun, Caitlin threw one of her shoes at him, hitting him square in the face.

As he ducked to avoid the shoe, Caitlin seized the opportunity, kicked the weapon from his hand, and a fierce struggle broke out between them.

Just as Sebastian reached the third floor, he heard the sounds of a fight coming from the cabin. Bursting in, he saw the crew member pinning Caitlin to the ground, choking her.

Fury exploded inside him, and with lightning speed, he kicked the man off of her.

The crew member was sent flying, but he quickly grabbed a steel pipe and swung it at Sebastian.

Sebastian dodged the attack, and a brutal fight ensued. The crew member, a skilled fighter and ally of Black Hawk, fought fiercely. Sebastian and he battled for over ten minutes, destroying nearly everything in the cabin along the way.



In the end, Sebastian overpowered him. He landed blow after blow to the man's face, until the crew member could no longer fight back.

Once he had subdued him, Sebastian rushed over to Caitlin, who had managed to get up.

"Caitlin! Are you okay?"

Seeing the blood at the corner of her mouth and the scratches on her body, Sebastian's heart ached.

"I'm fine, Sebastian..." Caitlin replied, relieved that he was unharmed, but she couldn't stop the overwhelming surge of emotion. Her eyes grew misty, and a tight, bittersweet feeling gripped her heart.

"Sebastian..."

Sebastian pulled her into his arms, holding her tightly. Caitlin clung to him just as desperately.

They had both faced life and death, and now, they truly understood how important they were to each other—irreplaceable.

As they embraced, the unconscious crew member slowly regained consciousness. With one last effort, he threw a grenade at them...

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