

730 Finally. Getting Closer

Maxwell's car sped through the night toward the Sanctic Military Research Base. The facility was under strict military lockdown, surrounded by multiple checkpoints, and no outsiders were allowed within a kilometer.

Only then did Harrison realize where their mother had been imprisoned. No one would ever think to look for Kelly in the military's most heavily guarded site.

Caitlin frowned and said in a low voice, "We can't just rush in. Let's wait for everyone to arrive first. I'll contact Magnus."

Alicia looked worried. "If Maxwell finds out Harrison lied to him, won't he be in danger?"

Caitlin stayed silent for a moment, glancing up at the darkening sky. A knot of unease twisted in her chest.

Soon, the others arrived. Magnus came leading a convoy of military vehicles, accompanied by several trusted officers loyal to the King. He ordered everyone to change into army uniforms, then used his command pass to bring them through the gates.

Inside the base.

Maxwell's sudden arrival caught the stationed officers off guard.

"Commander, what brings you here so late?" one of them asked, quickly saluting.

"None of your concern," Maxwell replied coldly. "Get back to work."



He moved past a series of checkpoints and entered the laboratory wing. Harrison followed at a distance, his eyes widening as he took in the sight before him. Half the facility was a research center, the other half a reinforced prison. The walls were made of bulletproof glass and heavy steel bars, sealing whatever was inside.

Through the glass, he saw a woman curled up on a bed, her wrists and ankles chained. Her hair was completely white, her figure frail. She looked like an old woman ravaged by suffering.

Was that really their mother? She was still young—how could she have become like this?

Maxwell motioned for the head scientist to unlock the door, then stepped inside alone.

Kelly stirred at the sound of his footsteps. When her eyes opened and fell on him, they hardened with pure hatred. "You bastard. What do you want now?"

Maxwell gave a cold smirk. "You've still got the strength to curse me. Doesn't look like someone planning to die."

Kelly spat in his face, trembling with fury.

He calmly wiped it away and said, "Since you're alive, you're coming with me."

"Get away from me!" she screamed, struggling violently.

From behind the glass, Harrison could see her face clearly now—bruised, scarred, almost unrecognizable. His chest tightened, his eyes burning with tears.

Even Maxwell's expression flickered with disgust. Deep down, however,



there was a trace of guilt. His sister had done this—driven by jealousy, she'd ordered Kelly poisoned when she couldn't kill her, destroying her beauty forever.

"Don't you want to see your daughter again?" Maxwell asked.

Kelly gave a hoarse, bitter laugh. "Don't try to fool me. My daughter's dead! You just want to use me—to make me find something for you!"

Her voice cracked with anger and despair.

Maxwell's tone turned cold. "Take her out."

Harrison steadied his breath and entered the room, lifting his mother carefully from the bed. She was so light it made his throat ache. He turned to leave—but suddenly felt a gun barrel press against the back of his head.

From behind came Maxwell's low, cutting voice. "After all these years, you've learned to lie to me?"

He had known the moment he saw Kelly alive that something was wrong. Gunnar must have been turned—fed him false intel to lure him here.

"How much did they pay you?" Maxwell demanded.

"I only did what was right," Harrison replied quietly.

Maxwell's mouth twisted into a sneer. "You know what happens to traitors."

He lowered the gun and ordered coldly, "Lock him up."

Just then, a soldier ran in. "Sir! Multiple military convoys have breached the outer perimeter!"



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At the gates, Magnus presented the royal decree bearing Leif VI's seal as Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. The guards froze, then saluted sharply.

"Open the gates!"

The military trucks rolled through. Maxwell came out with several officers to meet them.

"Magnus," he said tightly, "what are you doing here at this hour?"

"Uncle, I'm here for an inspection," Magnus replied evenly.

"Inspection? By what authority?"

"As Supreme Commander."

When Magnus produced the insignia and the King's signed order, the entire base fell silent. The officers snapped to attention, and even the Army Council chief saluted in respect.

Maxwell's face darkened. "Inspections are done in daylight. What can you possibly see at night?"

Magnus met his gaze coolly. "Anyone with eyes can see. I'm not blind."

He led his team forward.

As they passed Maxwell's car, a man bound hand and foot on the ground caught Caitlin's eye. Her heart stopped—Harrison. She instinctively moved, but Sebastian gripped her wrist, shaking his head.

Magnus paused deliberately. "What happened here? Isn't that Gunnar?"



"He betrayed me," Maxwell said flatly. "I had him punished."

Magnus gave a sharp nod. "Then have him taken away."

Maxwell didn't question it further.

The group continued their inspection through the entire facility, even down to the detention cells. Everything appeared normal.

But Caitlin's anxiety grew. Every hallway looked too clean, too quiet. Her instincts screamed that something was hidden.

Was there a secret room? A buried level below the labs?