

I Love You, Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard)

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The accomplice's eyes lit up when he heard Falcon's claims. The former said, "You have a backup plan?" Falcom grinned cunningly. "You'll find out soon enough."

Meanwhile, Bonnie led Ivor through layers of traps until they reached the villa's backyard. The area was overgrown with weeds, obscuring the view of what lay beyond.

Ivor glanced ahead and analyzed the situation while rubbing his chin. "I think Falcon might be on the other side. Let's head over right away."

He was about to step forward when Bonnie hurriedly stopped him. "Wait! Don't take another step! Back up!"

Ivor stopped mid-step and withdrew before moving closer to her side. "Are there more traps here?"

He had assessed the terrain and saw no suitable places for traps, so he felt confident about proceeding. However, he did not expect Bonnie to stop him. Her following words caught him off guard. "Yeah, there are traps here. They could blow you to pieces if you're not careful."

Ivor raised a brow. "How so?"

She looked proud and confident as she raised her brow, asking, "Do you think your knowledge of traps surpasses mine?"

Ivor had to admit he could not argue with her expertise. "All right, I'll leave it to you and watch you from behind."

"Step back a little so you don't get in the way," Bonnie instructed.

He grew curious and puzzled as he stepped back and watched Bonnie pull out a knife. She held it tightly and turned as if she was about to stab him.

Ivor was startled as he took several more steps back. "What are you doing?!"

His voice had a hint of coldness, showing his genuine alarm. Bonnie looked at him in puzzlement and asked, "What are you doing? Did you think I'd stab you?"

Ivor realized he might have overreacted. After collecting himself, he said, "No."

Although he was wary of her, he could not admit it for fear of damaging their business relationship and his interests.

Bonnie noticed it but did not expose him. Instead, she asked, "Do you have a knife to lend me? I need another one. I'll return it when I'm done. Don't worry. We're in this together, and I won't jeopardize your safety,"

Ivor frowned, hesitant if he should hand over his knife.

'Maybe I should tell him I don't have one.'

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Ivor was conflicted and hesitant because his knife was his only means of protection. Although he got along relatively well with the Nidhogs' leader, he could not guarantee she would not use his knife against him.

Bonnie guessed his thoughts and smiled knowingly. She realized the leader of the Dark Knights was cautious.

'Fine, I'll just rely on myself since I can't count on anyone else.'

She broke the awkward silence, saying, "I'll use my own if you don't have one."

Without waiting for Ivor to respond, she continued to work on the trap. Meanwhile, a mix of emotions arose in Ivor as he watched.

'Maybe he realized I'm being cautious and overly defensive. Still, my actions are for my safety.'

Ivor gathered his thoughts and played along, saying, "Today's my lucky day. I didn't bring anything to help you."

"It's fine," Bonnie casually replied as she began to dig the ground with the dagger.

Ivor watched with a hint of curiosity. "Is something buried in the dirt?"

Bonnie nodded. "Yeah, there is."

Ivor's curiosity piqued. "What is it?"

"You'll know soon enough," Bonnie replied, not intending to sound mysterious. However, she knew Ivor might not believe her explanation. She thought he would once he saw it for himself.

"Okay," Ivor responded lightly and continued to watch Bonnie's actions. Despite his lingering caution, he was prepared to assist where he could. Still, traps were not his forte, so he could only watch without interfering.

Bonnie worked quickly, causing dirt to fly in all directions. Seconds later, the buried object became more apparent, and Ivor's eyes widened in shock. "Falcon buried landmines here?!"

'No wonder he said the traps here can blow me to pieces. He wasn't exaggerating.'

"Yeah, I noticed something off about the ground when we first entered. I suspected Falcon had buried landmines, and I was right." Bonnie realized Falcon had modified his trap significantly.

However, she knew what he was thinking since she was his mentor. These traps posed no challenge to her. Bonnie unearthed a series of landmines and carefully placed them aside. Meanwhile, Ivor pursed his lips, intrigued by Falcon's trap-setting methods.

"It hasn't been that long since we located Falcon. I wonder how he set up so many traps in such a short time."

Bonnie raised her brows and asked, "Why do you think he set up these traps so quickly?"

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Chapter 1017

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Ivor narrowed his eyes and rubbed his chin. "Did Falcon start setting up these traps the moment we discovered his location?"

Bonnie surveyed their surroundings, saying, "That's the only way he could've set up so many traps. Otherwise, there's no way he could've managed this many in just a day. I know his capabilities well. Now that it's safe, we can keep moving forward."

Ivor noticed the Nighoggs' leader's pride and confidence. The former felt a surge of admiration, thinking, His awareness and sharpness are above mine. I wonder what experiences he must've gone through to hone such keen senses.

'He must've undergone rigorous training to become so skilled. I thought he was too young to be the leader of the Nidhoggs. Now, I finally see why. He's a formidable guy.'

Bonnie waited for Ivor to proceed. Noticing his absent-mindedness, she said, "Hey, what's wrong with you? Let's go."

Ivor was startled before approaching. However, he felt a sudden crack when he took his first step. He froze, sensing something shift underground. In that critical moment, Bonnie lunged forward and pulled him aside.

Then, a grenade exploded, sending dirt flying onto the duo.

"Ugh!" Bonnie spat out some dirt and quickly went to check on Ivor. "Are you okay?!"

Ivor nodded. "I'm fine, thanks to your quick reflexes."

"Phew, good." Bonnie sighed in relief and got to her feet. She scowled as she studied the terrain.

'I was sure I cleared all the landmines, so how did he trigger one? Are Falcon's traps more complex than I thought?'

As that thought crossed her mind, she realized something and quickly shouted, "Step back! Move, now!"

However, she was too late. The ground beneath Ivor gave way, and he fell instantly. Before Bonnie could react, the ground under her collapsed, too.

"Damn it!" She cursed as she sat up and looked at the hole above. "I got careless. I didn't expect Falcon to set up a chain trap."

Although she had anticipated this possibility, she had reacted too late.

"Cough, cough!" Ivor coughed after accidentally inhaling some dust. Then, he sat up and said, "We should be thankful there weren't any spikes down here. Falling from that height could've crippled us if not killed

Bonnie shrugged. "That was my fault. I should've been more careful. I promise I'll get you out safely." "It's okay. You probably didn't expect something like that. Let's find a way out together."

Ivor only noticed how cramped the space was after standing up. Due to that, the duo was almost pressed against each other.

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Ivor was about to say something when he smelled a fresh and delicate fragrance. The scent caused a strange flutter in his heart and reminded him of his wife. He had noticed it earlier but thought it was just his imagination.

However, the clarity of the scent now made it impossible to dismiss as a mere suspicion.

His gaze toward the Nidhogs' leader grew increasingly profound and mysterious. It was like he wanted to see through her exterior.

Bonnie sensed his unusual stare but did not understand it. To diffuse the awkwardness, she took a light-hearted approach. She crossed her arms and teased, "Are you staring at me because you're interested? "Although I can't see your face, I can tell you're not bad-looking from your build and demeanor. Still, I'm a man and don't swing that way. Forced love is not sweet, so don't get any ideas."

"Are you sure you're a man?" Ivor got closer.

Bonnie raised her brows, wondering if the Dark Knights' leader could see through her disguise. Despite her thoughts, she remained calm and looked at him teasingly.

"You can see my gender for yourself, but remember that we're partners. Digging too deep into my business won't benefit you. I advise you to stop while you're ahead and not do anything out of line." Although she was smiling, her tone carried a subtle warning.

"Just chatting doesn't seem out of line to me," Ivor replied, though he backed off.

He understood that their relationship was solely for cooperation and mutual interests. Ivor's suspicions about her scent were too far-fetched to act on without concrete evidence.

Bonnie knew he understood her warning when he backed off. She said nothing more about it. Instead, she checked their surroundings to find a way to escape.

Suddenly, Ivor had an idea as he followed her gaze. "How about you step on my shoulders and try to climb up? Once you're up, you can find something to help pull me out."

After some thought, Bonnie gauged the height and nodded. "Yeah, we can try that. Bend down, and I'll see if I can reach the top."

"All right," Ivor said as he lowered himself.

When Bonnie stepped on his shoulders, he noticed how light the Nidhogs' leader was. Though Bonnie had a small frame and looked delicate, she did not weigh nearly as much as an average adult male.

Ivor's suspicions grew stronger, and he was now sixty to seventy percent sure the Nidhogs' leader was a

woman.

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Although suspicious, Ivor decided to stop dwelling on the subject. It was as Bonnie said. Their relationship was strictly professional, and digging deeper was unnecessary.

"All right, you can slowly stand up now. I'll see if I can grab something to help you out." Bonnie pressed against the hole's edge to stabilize herself and prevent falling.

"Got it." Ivor gathered his thoughts and slowly straightened up with Bonnie on his shoulders.

As she saw more light, she noticed a black object and quickly withdrew her hand. Suddenly, a snap echoed as a mouse trap triggered where her hand had been. There were more traps scattered around the hole's perimeter.

Bonnie's expression turned cold, shocked that Falcon had set up multiple layers of traps and nested more within them. It made it nearly impossible to avoid them all.

Ivor felt her trembling and asked, "What's happening up there?"

"Slowly lower yourself for me to get down," Bonnie replied.

He carefully did as she said and allowed her to climb off his shoulders. Then, she dusted her hands and calmly explained, "We can't get out yet, but don't worry. I have a device that can send a signal to Collin. Once it reaches him, he'll bring our men to save us."

Ivor stood up and looked at the Nidhogs' leader. "What's it like up there?"

"Falcon placed plenty of mousetraps around the edges. If I get careless, I'll trigger them. He wants to trap us here." Bonnie sighed regretfully. "Falcon has a real talent for setting up traps, but he misused his intelligence."

Although Falcon betrayed her, she could not deny his exceptional trap design and setting skills.

Ivor glanced at her in surprise. "Despite all he's done to you, you still admire his talent. You have a broad mind."

"It's not about that. I simply give credit where it's due. After all, Falcon was my student. This situation we're in is a testament to my teachings. As his mentor, I can't help but feel a certain satisfaction, even if the circumstances are far from ideal."

Bonnie sent a signal from her wrist device and added, "There, I sent my signal. Now, we just have to wait for Collin and the others to come and rescue us."

Ivor felt amused by her perspective. He smiled helplessly and replied, "Different perspectives lead to different things, right? You have an interesting outlook."

"It's just the truth." Bonnie shrugged before finding a corner to sit in. "Let's rest and wait for my guys to arrive."

Ivor sat across her, saying, "I have a signal device, too. Should I get my people to help?"

"No need for that." After some thought, Bonnie formulated a plan. "Let my guys handle the rescue, and

tell your people to form a perimeter around the villa to prevent Falcon from escaping. If I'm right, he'll probably try to flee if he knows I'm trapped."

Ivor nodded, appreciating the strategic thoughts behind her plan.

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Bonnie knew more about Falcon than Ivor, so he didn't say much and simply agreed. "Alright, I'll send the signal to them now."

He then took a signal transmitter from his inner pocket, inputted the message, and sent it to Floyd. "Done."

They had anticipated that there would be no signal in such a place, so they hadn't brought their phones. Instead, they relied on the signal transmitters developed by their respective organizations. Fortunately, they had these or might have been trapped for an unknown time.

"Okay, now we wait," Bonnie said, leaning against the dirt wall and closing her eyes to rest. She felt it wouldn't be long before Collin came to rescue them. She had faith in Collin's abilities.

Seeing this, Ivor didn't say anything further and closed his dark eyes.

Meanwhile, Collin and Floyd received the signals and messages from their respective leaders simultaneously. They looked at each other in unison and exclaimed, "Something's wrong!"

Floyd quickly composed himself and shared the message Ivor had sent him. "Mr. Ivor wants me to surround the abandoned estate and prevent Falcon from escaping. What's your directive?"

Collin didn't hold back and shared, "According to Mr. Boyd, she and Mr. Ivor are trapped and need me to rescue them."

"Trapped?" Floyd frowned deeply. "I'll send others to surround the estate while I go with you to rescue them. My job is to protect him and ensure his safety."

"It's not up to me, do as you wish," Collin said indifferently. He didn't mind; he would rescue Mr. Boyd anyway, and having one more or one less person didn't make much difference.

"Then it's settled," Collin said, turning to his subordinates. "You, take our men and surround the exits near the estate. Keep a close watch and don't let Falcon escape, understand?"

The named subordinate stood straight and responded firmly, "Understood!"

He then led his team to surround the estate. Collin continued to give orders, "You four, come with me to rescue Mr. Boyd. The rest of you coordinate with the Dark Knight Organization to surround the estate and ensure Falcon doesn't get away."

"Yes," the subordinates responded and began to act.

Collin led the way and warned Floyd to keep up. "If you're coming with me, stay close. Don't fall behind, or you'll end up in a trap, and I won't know how to rescue you."

Floyd was observing the dark environment of the estate and was surprised by Collin's words. "He managed to set traps in such harsh conditions?"

"Yes, Falcon is a true disciple of Mr. Boyd regarding traps. If Mr. Boyd can set traps in such places, then Falcon can, too. Besides, how could someone as skilled as Mr. Boyd be trapped if there weren't traps?" Collin spoke with a hint of pride when mentioning his boss.

"But if she's so skilled, why is she trapped?" Floyd felt Collin was exaggerating.

Upon hearing Floyd doubt his boss's abilities, Collin rolled his eyes at him without hesitation.

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"The reason she's trapped is because Falcon's methods are insidious. She accidentally fell into his trap. It has nothing to do with her abilities," Collin defended.

Floyd's mouth twitched, "How do you know that?"

"She's my boss, of course I know," Collin replied, unwilling to continue the conversation.

"Alright, let's rescue them. No need to discuss this any further," Floyd shrugged. "Some people just can't handle the truth."

Collin's fist clenched, and he turned to glare at Floyd. "Shut up! Stop talking."

He would have loved to punch Floyd if it weren't for their current situation. Despite the cooperation, members of the Dark Knight Organization were still just as annoying, doing nothing but provoking others.

Floyd glanced at him briefly and decided not to push further after seeing Collin struggling to control his emotions. "Fine, I'll stop arguing with you."

"Fine, truce! Until we rescue my boss, I won't say anything to you!" Collin glared at him once more, then turned and walked briskly ahead, clearly trying to put some distance between them. But considering their cooperation, he eventually slowed down to let Floyd catch up.

Whatever, Collin thought. Saving his boss was more important now, and he didn't want to waste energy bickering with someone like Floyd.

Seeing Collin's actions, Floyd regarded him with rare admiration. Collin showed great composure, indicating that his boss had taught him well. Floyd now acknowledged that Collin's boss was indeed formidable.

Meanwhile, Falcon was hurriedly packing, which left his accomplices bewildered. "Didn't you say they were trapped? Why not go and finish them off? Why the rush to escape?"

"Are you stupid? If we don't run now, we'll get caught," Falcon said, packing quickly. "I know our boss's capabilities better than anyone. If we go there, we'll get counterattacked for sure! And they must have people outside. If we don't escape now, it'll be too late."

His accomplices remained skeptical, "Is your boss really that strong? If so, how did you manage to steal the chip?"

"That's because she wasn't around at the time!" Falcon didn't want to waste more time explaining. "I know our boss better than anyone. Trust me, or we'll all be finished! Our goal is the chip and the money."

Falcon's serious expression convinced his accomplices. "Alright, let's go with your plan. Hurry and pack!" At that moment, another accomplice exclaimed, "We're done for! I just saw the estate surrounded by people. They're from the Dark Knight Organization and the Nidhogg Organization!"

"They both mobilized?" The accomplice frowned at Falcon. "What now?"

"See? I told you we should've left sooner. Now we can't escape!" Falcon looked at the narrow hole in the basement and said, "We'll crawl through the rat hole. Keep your bodies as small as possible-it's our only way out."

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The two accomplices looked at the narrow rat hole before them, finding it hard to believe. "Are you sure we can fit through this tiny hole? Stop joking."

"I'll try first. If it doesn't work, we'll think of something else." Falcon put on a head cover and lay down to test it out. He was desperate to leave as quickly as possible. He knew all too well Bonnie's skills and methods. Bonnie despised traitors, and death was certain if caught.

Falcon easily dug through the rat hole as the soil around it was loose, eventually creating a path in the corner. Excitement gleamed in his eyes as he called his accomplices over.

"This hole is big enough for us to escape. Hurry, crawl through! Don't forget the chip and the card."

"Got it," one of the accomplices responded. The other followed closely. When Falcon saw them pass through, he crawled out as well.

The sudden brightness outside was almost blinding, giving Falcon a feeling of rebirth. He took a deep breath of fresh air, ready to share the joy of survival with his accomplices. However, when he turned around, the sight before him made his blood run cold, and his smile froze.

A large group surrounded the area, and he recognized some faces from the Nidhogg Organization. These people had been sent to capture them. He had suspected Bonnie would have a backup plan, which was evident now.

Falcon felt admiration and urgency as he tried to signal his accomplices to run. However, someone from the Nidhogg Organization spotted him before he could speak.

"Falcon is over there! Quick, catch him!"

As soon as the shout rose, the surrounding people converged on Falcon and his two accomplices. The three of them paled and quickly bolted in the opposite direction. Members of the Nidhogg and Dark Knight Organization gave chase immediately.

Collin and Floyd arrived at the abandoned manor's main hall with their teams. Seeing the disarmed traps around, Collin felt worried for Bonnie.

"Mr. Boyd! Mr. Boyd! Are you here? If you hear me, answer!" Collin called out while moving forward, his heart in his throat. His subordinates scanned the area with flashlights, searching for any sign of Bonnie and the others.

Floyd frowned while surveying the surroundings. Noticing footprints leading to the backyard door, he quickly approached. Floyd saw several spots where the soil had been disturbed. He was uncertain of the situation and turned to Collin.

"I think your boss and my boss went this way, but there are several places where the soil has been dug up. I'm not sure what to make of it. Come take a look."

"Places where the soil has been dug?" Collin furrowed his brow and quickly went to Floyd's side.

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Upon seeing the scene before him, Collin quickly understood the situation. "Falcon buried landmines here. The spots where the soil has been disturbed are where our bosses defused the traps. Be careful, everyone, and watch your step. Don't step on any landmines."

Although their boss had defused the traps, that cunning and treacherous Falcon might have planted more landmines. They had brought a significant number of people, so it was crucial to be cautious to avoid any accidents.

In unison, the subordinates responded, "Understood."

Floyd was surprised upon hearing this. "Where did Falcon get landmines in such a short time?"

"How should I know? I'm not him," Collin retorted, eager to find Bonnie and uninterested in further discussion.

Floyd pondered a more profound issue, "Do you think he found a stronger backer in Yale? If so, recovering the 12 billion and the chip will be even more challenging." =

Upon hearing this, Collin's already furrowed brow tightened further. "It's possible, but the priority right now is to find our boss and your boss. We can only proceed with the next steps after confirming their safety."

Floyd rarely agreed with Collin, nodding, "You're right. Let's find them quickly."

"Okay," Collin replied and began shouting, "Mr. Boyd! Mr. Boyd! Are you here?"

The faint sound in the distance made Bonnie, resting against the tunnel wall, open her eyes. She immediately met Ivor's deep black eyes.

She blinked in surprise before asking, "Did you hear something?"

Ivor nodded slightly, "I heard it. It sounds like that subordinate who is always with you."

"Yes, it's him," Bonnie said as she slowly stood up and stretched her stiff body. She shouted toward the tunnel entrance, "I'm here!"

Her voice quickly reached Collin. His eyes lit up instantly, "Mr. Boyd! Mr. Boyd! Where are you? I'll come find you right away!"

"Don't rush," Bonnie's voice halted Collin in his tracks. "Why, Mr. Boyd? Are there still traps set by Falcon?"

Bonnie explained her current situation, "I'm in a tunnel. There are many rat traps near the entrance. You should check carefully before coming over, or you might get hurt."

"I understand, Mr. Boyd. I'll have the team check first," Collin responded, turning to his subordinates to give orders. "You heard Mr. Boyd. Start checking for rat traps. Be careful, and don't be careless."

"Understood," the subordinates responded and started checking for traps.

After giving instructions, Collin didn't just stand idle. He began checking the area ahead. Floyd followed while frowning.

Soon, the two arrived near the large pit. Collin's eyes reddened with anger, seeing the dense array of rat traps around the entrance. "That bastard Falcon! Setting such vicious traps to trap the boss after everything the boss has done for him!"

Floyd didn't know what to say for a moment upon hearing this. He bent down and picked up a stick to start

clearing the traps. "Your boss and my boss should be nearby. Let's clear these traps and get them out." Collin looked at him sharply. "Do you think I need you to tell me something so obvious?"

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Floyd glanced back at Collin in disbelief and continued to clear the rat traps in front of him. About two or three minutes later, they finished removing all the traps and saw Bonnie and Ivor trapped in the pit.

Collin was the first to express concern, "Mr. Boyd, are you okay?"

"I'm fine," Bonnie replied briefly, then looked at Ivor and suggested, "Squat down and let me step on your shoulders to get up. Then, the three of us will pull you up together."

Floyd's mouth twitched upon hearing this.

'The leader of the Nidhogg Organization had a lot of nerve! Asking Mr. Ivor to squat down and be used as a stepping stool? That was reckless!'

He remembered Ivor was obsessed with cleanliness and hated being touched by others, even himself, though his wife was an exception. Floyd anticipated that the leader of the Nidhogg Organization would be harshly rejected.

To his shock and disbelief, the scene that unfolded next left him stunned. Ivor squatted down to allow the leader of Nidhogg Organization to step on his shoulders and climb up!

Floyd rubbed his eyes, questioning his sight. After rubbing his eyes several times, the scene remained unchanged, confirming it was not an illusion.

Reflecting on Mr. Ivor's words during his first encounter with the Nidhogg Organization leader, Floyd's expression grew increasingly complex and peculiar.

'Could it be that Mr. Ivor is somewhat fond of the Nidhogg Organization leader? But, the Nidhogg Organization leader is a man!'

'If the object of his boss's affection were a woman, it might be somewhat understandable, but if it were a man, that would be shocking.' Floyd wondered what Mr. Ivor's wife, far away in the Pyralis, would think if she knew about this.

After pulling Bonnie up, Collin saw Floyd constantly massaging his eyes and asked, "What's wrong? Did sand get in your eyes?"

Floyd snapped out of his thoughts and looked at Bonnie, standing beside Collin with an indescribable expression. He had to admit the Nidhogg Organization leader was quite handsome. However, Ivor was married, and this unexpected situation was challenging for him to accept. He felt deeply conflicted about whether to inform Ivor's wife.

Seeing Floyd staring at her with an indescribable expression, Bonnie raised her hand to touch her face in confusion. "Why are you looking at me like that? Is there something on my face?"

Floyd quickly gathered his thoughts, coughed lightly, and composed himself before responding, "No, no. I was just thinking about something and got distracted. I didn't mean anything by it. Don't misunderstand."

Bonnie still found Floyd's gaze odd but couldn't pinpoint what was strange about it. "I wasn't misunderstanding anything. I was just asking."

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She didn't overthink it and turned to look at the pit's opening. "I have a rope here. You guys try to see if you can pull him up. If that doesn't work, we'll figure out another way." She pulled a rope from the small bag behind her and handed it to Collin.

Floyd was still standing in a daze when Collin grabbed the rope and threw it to the ground. He shouted, "Hey, what are you standing there for? Is he your boss or mine? Get over here and help!"

Floyd hadn't been dazing for long. He was shocked by the situation involving Ivor and the leader of the Nidhogg Organization, still trying to wrap his head around it.

He was startled back to reality when he heard Collin yell and realized he had almost completely forgotten about his boss's safety. He immediately wanted to slap himself hard.

He quickly went over to help Collin pull the rope. Collin looked away from Floyd and asked Ivor, trapped in the pit, "Hey, Dark Knight Organization leader, can you grab the rope? If you can't, let us know, and we'll lower it a bit more."

Soon, Ivor's voice came from inside, "If there's more rope, lower it a bit more. I can grab it, but I might not be able to climb up as it is."

Collin understood instantly, "Okay, we'll lower it more."

After lowering a substantial length of the rope, he asked again, "Is it good now?"

"Yes," Ivor wrapped the rope around his hand to ensure a firm grip and said, "You can pull me up."

"Alright." Collin glared at Floyd, who gave a nod and gripped the rope more tightly before beginning to pull briskly.

Bonnie came over to assist them both when she saw how hard it was for them to pull Ivor up. Ivor sensed the upward pull and used some climbing techniques to ascend. With the combined efforts of the four, Ivor was pulled up in less than a minute.

As he dusted off his clothes, he saw Floyd not far away and frowned slightly. "Why are you here? Didn't I tell you to stay with the team to ensure Falcon doesn't escape?"

Feeling the intense aura from his boss, Floyd quickly explained, "I assigned others to the task. Members from the Nidhogg Organization are also there. My presence here won't affect the mission."

Ivor reluctantly nodded upon hearing this. "That's acceptable."

Bonnie overheard their conversation and turned to Collin to ask, "What's the situation with Falcon? Have we received any updates from our team?"

"No updates yet. I'll use the signal transmitter to check with them." Collin replied, pulling out a small device from his inner pocket. Just as he was about to send a message, an incoming message popped on the

screen.

"Chief Collin, Falcon, and his two accomplices have fled to the back mountain. The forest there is vast. Can you send more people to assist us? We need more personnel to find Falcon quickly,"

Collin was uncertain and showed Bonnie the message, "Mr. Boyd, what do you think? Should we send more people?"

Bonnie narrowed her eyes slightly and responded without hesitation, "Is that even a question? Of course, we need to send more people. We must capture that traitor Falcon as soon as possible! If he gets away this time, he'll be more cautious in the future, making it much harder to catch him."

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Collin nodded and immediately said, "I'll send a message to deploy additional personnel to assist them."

He looked at the pile of disarmed traps in the corner, his voice filled with anger. 'Falcon set up so many traps, clearly wanting to kill you. You treated him so well, and that ungrateful scum dared to do this to you. It's infuriating just to think about it.'

Bonnie shook her head. "The Falcon I painstakingly trained is already dead. The current one is merely a thief and traitor who stole my chip. There's no need to get angry over such a person. We just need to capture him and deal with him according to the rules."

Her tone was so calm, yet it sent shivers down one's spine. Even Collin, who had been by her side for a long time, shuddered when he heard her speak this way. Collin could foresee the miserable fate awaiting Falcon once he was captured.

However, he wouldn't sympathize with someone like Falcon; he would only feel satisfaction. After all, a despicable traitor deserved nothing less than a punishment worse than death.

Ivor listened to the conversation and offered, "I can send some of my people to help you capture Falcon. Do you need them?"

Bonnie glanced at him indifferently. "While I appreciate your offer, there's something wrong with the way you put it." "What's wrong with it?" Ivor didn't quite catch her meaning.

"Falcon took 1.6 billion from you. Sending your people is for your benefit, not for mine. So, don't talk about assisting me."

Bonnie had seen through Ivor's ulterior motives. He deliberately phrased it as assisting her, hoping to make her owe him a favor and use that as leverage for future negotiations. However, Bonnie wasn't naive and wouldn't fall into the trap he set so easily.

Ivor looked at Bonnie with a gradually deepening gaze. 'I knew the Nidhogg leader was sharp and wise, but I didn't expect him to see through my intentions so effortlessly. Such a person is indeed frighteningly perceptive. Fortunately, I'm the one dealing with him. Anyone else would likely be outmatched.'

Ivor reined in his expression slightly and smiled at Bonnie. "We are allies, after all. Is it necessary to draw such clear lines?"

Seeing him continue to play dumb, Bonnie clarified, "Of course it's necessary. I don't want to owe you any favors without reason. Even close brothers settle accounts, let alone us."

Ivor looked surprised for a time before grinning, though his eyes showed little warmth. 'Your level of caution is a bit excessive.'

Bonnie raised an eyebrow and retorted, "And you're not?"

Ivor was momentarily speechless, then responded after a pause, 'I thought that after what we just went through, we were already friends. I didn't expect you to be so guarded against me. It makes me a bit sad.'

Bonnie smirked slightly and glanced at him. "You're sad? I can't tell. Why don't you cry for me to see?"

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Chapter 1027

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Ivor was taken aback but quickly found a response. 'Forget it. Haven't you heard the saying 'men don't easily shed tears? I won't cry and embarrass myself.'

The last time he was left speechless by someone was Bonnie herself. The leader of the Nidhogg Organization was brilliant and very sharp- tongued! 'Anyone who interacted with him probably wouldn't dare to become his opponent.'

Bonnie was disinterested in further conversation and started strolling ahead with her hands behind her back. "Let's head to the back of the mountain and see how the search for Falcon is going."

Collin tried to dissuade her. 'Mr. Boyd, the area is dangerous. You should wait at the hotel for the team to bring him back.'

Bonnie stopped and turned to look at him with raised eyebrows. "Are you joking? Do I look like someone who retreats from danger? Besides, I fell into Falcon's trap because I was careless. If he used fair tactics, do you think he'd be a match for me?"

Collin thought it over and realized she was right. His boss was the top-tier figure in the organization. Falcon was nothing in comparison.

It was just that their boss had been busy with other matters in recent years and wasn't around much, making him almost forget how formidable she was.

Collin felt nostalgic for the days they fought side by side in the organization. He felt excited and wanted to join forces with her to capture Falcon. "Mr. Boyd, why don't we team up and catch Falcon in the mountain? It's been a while since we worked together, and I'd love to collaborate with you again."

Bonnie raised her eyebrows and accepted the idea. "Alright, but let's wait until we assess the situation."

"Yes, Mr. Boyd!" Collin nodded excitedly, following closely behind her.

Ivor also followed, his deep gaze fixed on Bonnie. 'I wonder what kind of person Mr. Boyd is in everyday life and what experiences he had gone through to become so strong and wise.'

Floyd noticed Ivor's gaze and frowned in confusion. He cautiously reminded, "Mr. Ivor, have you forgotten that you're already married to Ms. Bonnie?"

Ivor was briefly puzzled by the seemingly out-of-place question. "What are you talking about? How could I forget something so important?" Floyd glanced at Bonnie's back and said with a complex expression, "If you haven't forgotten, then why are you staring at the leader of the Nidhogg Organization? Are you interested in him?"

Ivor was utterly exasperated. 'I'm interested in him, but not in the way you think. Stop overthinking and don't go spreading nonsense to my honey, understand?'

Hearing this term of endearment, Bonnie suddenly stopped in her tracks.

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Chapter 1028

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Did she mishear, or were the leaders of the Dark Knight Organization actually calling someone 'Honey'? Or was it just a similar-sounding name? Hearing this familiar term so unexpectedly in Yale gave her a strange sense of déjà vu.

Noticing Bonnie's gaze, Ivor asked in confusion, "Why are you looking at me like that? Do you have something to say?"

Bonnie scrutinized the masked face of the Dark Knight Organization leader and thought she could faintly see a resemblance to Ivor. 'Could it be...?' Just as the suspicion arose in her mind, she dismissed it. Ivor was on a business trip in a neighboring city to Pyralis. He couldn't be here.

Her feeling of familiarity was probably just because she was used to Ivor calling her 'honey.'

Shaking off her thoughts, Bonnie responded, "It's nothing. Let's head to the mountains."

Ivor was puzzled by her look and couldn't figure out why she was staring at him that way. Nonetheless, he didn't press the matter and followed silently behind them. Floyd glanced between Bonnie and Ivor, sensing something odd.

Half an hour later, the group arrived at the back of the mountain. The subordinates of the Nidhogg Organization greeted Bonnie with respect. "Mr. Boyd."

The subordinates of the Dark Knight Organization also greeted Ivor.

Bonnie and Ivor both nodded slightly in acknowledgment. Bonnie lifted her gaze towards the forest. 'Have you located Falcon yet?'

A subordinate responded, "We've already narrowed down the search area. It shouldn't be long before we capture them."

"In such a short time? Your efficiency is quite impressive," Bonnie remarked, turning to Collin. "Didn't you say it's been a long time since we fought side by side? Want to team up to catch Falcon? Then let's go."

Collin's eyes lit up with excitement at her words. "Great! With our teamwork, we'll catch Falcon in no time!"

"Hmm."

Bonnie smiled slightly, seeing his excitement, reminiscing about the old days in the organization when they fought together. The tension, the excitement, the challenge it was all exhilarating!

Ivor approached them. "Do you need us to join you?"

Bonnie waved her hand and decisively refused. "No, this is our internal matter. You don't need to come."

Since she made it clear, Ivor didn't insist. "Alright, we'll wait for you here then."

"Okay."

Bonnie then gave Collin a look, and he followed her as they left together. Ivor watched her as she walked away. His eyes glinted.

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Chapter 1029

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Considering his interests, Ivor wanted to go along to help and build a good relationship.

However, she blocked him with just the word "family matters." It was unclear if she had discerned his intentions and didn't want to give him any advantage. If that were the case, it would be problematic.

Following his gaze, Floyd looked at Bonnie and was momentarily stunned. "Mr. Ivor, are you reluctant to part with him?"

Ivor turned his head and gave Floyd a look, as if he were an idiot. "When we get back to Pyralis, I'll give you a day off. You should see an ophthalmologist."

Floyd didn't immediately understand what Ivor meant. "But, Mr. Ivor, there's nothing wrong with my eyes."

Ivor raised his eyebrows high. "Nothing wrong? Are you sure?"

"Nothing-"Floyd was about to finish his sentence when he suddenly realized what Ivor meant.

Seeing that Floyd had caught on, Ivor put on a stern face. "To reiterate, my interest in the Nidhogg Organization's leader is not what you think. Don't say anything shocking in front of me again, understood?"

Floyd knew Ivor's words were more of a warning, especially about not spouting nonsense in front of Ms. Bonnie. He quickly nodded in agreement. "Understood, Mr. Ivor. I won't say such things anymore."

"Good." Ivor gave him a slight sidelong glance before looking away and finding a place to sit. "We'll wait here."

"Yes, boss," Floyd replied, standing by his side.

Meanwhile, Bonnie and Collin were following the clues provided by their subordinates. Collin kept looking around and observing their surroundings. "Mr. Boyd, there doesn't seem to be any tracks here. Should we check somewhere else?"

Bonnie shook her head. "No need. We should pick places that don't show signs of passage to catch Falcon and his men off guard. That way, they won't have anywhere to run."

"Oh, so that's your plan? Got it," Collin nodded, his admiration for Bonnie growing. Though she hadn't been on missions for years, her tactical thinking was still sharp.

Despite having more recent experience, Collin realized his considerations weren't as thorough as hers. This reaffirmed why he followed her so loyally.

Bonnie suddenly spotted something and gestured to Collin. He understood immediately that someone was hiding behind a tree.

Once they were concealed, Bonnie whispered so only he could hear, "Falcon and his two accomplices are hiding in that pile of grass ahead. First, we need to confirm if they're armed. If not, we'll move in."

"Got it," Collin replied softly, pulling out a mini binocular from his inner coat pocket and looking in the direction Bonnie indicated.

These binoculars were Bonnie's invention, providing a clear view even from a distance. One look through them revealed the situation on the other side in detail.

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Chapter 1030

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Collin could easily see the situation with Falcon and his two accomplices. "From what I can tell, none of them have any large weapons. But since they are lying prone, it's hard to tell if they have any concealed weapons, like guns."

"Knowing they don't have large weapons is good enough," Bonnie said, beginning to lay out her plan. "You attack from the left, I'll attack from the right. We have to move quickly and not give them any chance to react. Otherwise, we might find ourselves in danger. Understand?"

Even though she and Collin could easily handle Falcon and his two accomplices, there were too many unknown variables. They had to be cautious and not underestimate their opponents.

"I understand, Mr. Boyd. I'll do my best to keep up with your speed," Collin said, feeling some pressure.

After all, his boss was incredibly fast, with movements that were hard to predict. She could usually incapacitate an enemy before they even realized what was happening. Keeping up with her would be a challenge.

"No worries, just be as quick as you can. I'm not expecting you to match my speed exactly," Bonnie said, her eyes narrowing with a sharp glint. Are you ready?"

Collin took a deep breath and quickly responded, "Ready!"

Bonnie lowered her voice and started counting down.

"Three."

"Two."

"One."

"Go!"

As soon as she finished, both shot out like arrows from a bow.

Hiding in the grass, Falcon suddenly felt a chill down his back. "Do you guys feel like it's a bit cold here?"

One of his accomplices gave him a look that suggested he was an idiot. "What's cold about hiding in a grass pile? I think there's something wrong with your brain, not the temperature."

Falcon glared at him. "Who are you calling an idiot?"

The accomplice retorted, "Who else but you?"

Falcon was about to retort when another accomplice cut him off.

"Can you two shut up? Do you know what situation we're in? Stop arguing!"

Falcon calmed down and remembered that the Nidhogg Organization and Dark Knight Organization had surrounded the area. He frowned deeply. "In this situation, getting out of here will be tough"

"You think we don't know that? Stop talking nonsense and come up with a plan! How are we supposed to get out of here?"

The fear in the accomplice's angry voice was palpable. He was terrified of being captured and tortured.

"Don't rush. I have a backup plan, but I won't use it unless necessary, Falcon said, frowning tightly.

"What plan? Isn't now the time to use it? Do you want to wait until we're captured?" the accomplice said in frustration and anxiety.

"Calm down. We're well hidden here. Let's wait and see. If it comes to it, I'll use my plan," Falcon replied.

"Fine, just don't get us all caught, the accomplice muttered.

Just then, the accomplice noticed something was wrong. He instinctively turned around to look behind him. He screamed when he saw the sudden appearance of a dark figure.

Falcon frowned. "Why are you screaming? You'll attract them here."

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Chapter 1031

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Falcon followed his accomplice's gaze as he spoke. The moment he saw Bonnie, he sprang up from the ground.

"B-Boss!"

Bonnie showed a fake smile. "Don't call me boss. We're not that close."

She then slowly approached Falcon with her hands in her pockets. "Falcon, hand over the chip, and I'll spare your life."

Falcon took a step back and touched his chest out of instinct. It was clear that he had hidden the chip there. Bonnie moved to attack before he could respond.

Falcon reacted quickly to defend himself, but Bonnie's relentless assault left him unable to retaliate, and he was soon overwhelmed.

Seizing the opportunity, Collin dashed forward and delivered a kick to Falcon's abdomen.

The force of the kick was immense, causing Falcon to spit out blood and nearly collapse. Collin approached him with an icy expression.

"Falcon! You treasonous dog! Hand over the chip now!"

Falcon clutched his chest and managed a defiant smile. "Why should I give up something I earned?" Collin's face grew even colder upon hearing this. "If you hadn't exploited our trust to sneak into the lab, do you think you would have had a chance to take the chip? Hand it over now, and we might consider leniency."

Falcon knew this was just a tactic to force his compliance, and he refused to be swayed. "Haha! I earned this chip. If you want it, come and take it."

This provocation ignited Collin's fury. Just as he was about to speak, Bonnie interrupted him.

"Don't waste words on him. Let's just take the chip."

Collin took a deep breath, suppressing his anger. "Understood, Mr. Boyd."

Bonnie acted swiftly, her hand clawing at Falcon's clothes. The force of her grip tore a piece of fabric from his shirt. With a ripping sound, the chip fell from its hidden place inside his shirt.

As Bonnie reached for it, Falcon's two accomplices leaped forward to shield him. Falcon caught the chip and held it tightly, attempting to negotiate with Bonnie.

"Boss, considering how long I've worked for you, even if I haven't done much, I've still put in effort. Could you give me this chip? I'm begging you, just let me off this once."

Bonnie laughed mockingly. "If you needed the chip that badly, you could have asked me before. I might have considered it. But now that you've stolen it, you're a traitor! I don't tolerate treachery."

"Hand over the chip and come back with me to face punishment, or your fate will be much worse."

Falcon heard her and took a step back while clutching the chip. "Then I'm sorry, boss."

He pulled a smoke bomb from his coat and tossed it at Bonnie's feet.

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Chapter 1032

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When Falcon threw the smoke bomb, Bonnie immediately dodged but couldn't prevent the smoke from spreading. She immediately covered her mouth with her collar out of concern that the smoke might be poisonous.

Collin wasn't as quick to react and inhaled much of the smoke, causing him to cough violently.

"Cough, cough, cough"

Bonnie's eyes flashed with concern, hearing the continuous coughing beside her. She strode over and asked, "Collin, are you okay?"

"Cough, cough, cough-"

While coughing, Collin waved his hand. "I-I'm fine, Mr. Boyd. Don't worry about me. Catching Falcon is more important."

As the smoke began to clear, Bonnie scanned the surroundings with her sharp eyes. She spotted Falcon and his two accomplices fleeing in a panic. She swiftly drew the dagger from her boot and threw it at Falcon's shoulder.

With a "whoosh," the dagger struck Falcon's shoulder, causing blood to spurt and eliciting a scream from him.

"Aaah!"

Falcon could have endured such a wound without screaming under normal circumstances. However, Bonnie's precise strike targeted a particularly painful spot and caused him to cry uncontrollably.

Seizing the moment, Bonnie advanced quickly and kicked Falcon's shoulder, driving the dagger deeper. Falcon could not speak due to the intense pain, causing cold sweat to stream from his forehead.

Falcon, now barely able to stand, was supported by his two accomplices. Seeing his dire state, one whispered urgently, "Didn't you say you had a backup plan? You better use it now, or we'll be finished here."

Just as Falcon was about to respond, he saw Bonnie preparing to strike again. Desperately, he bit his lip and pulled a signal gun from his pocket, firing it into the air.

"Bang-"

A red flare exploded in the sky, making Bonnie frown. It was a signal for reinforcements. 'Does Falcon have more allies coming to rescue him? This can't be allowed.'

Bonnie quickly pulled out a communicator and sent a message to her subordinates around the area. "Falcon is at the center of the forest. Close in from all sides and make sure to capture him."

She continued to chase Falcon while giving orders, her composure and calmness never wavering despite the chaotic situation.

Falcon's shoulder bled profusely, and his face turned ghostly pale.

Eyeing the chip in Falcon's hand, one of his accomplices urged, "Falcon, you're not going to make it. Why don't you give us the chip and card? If something happens to you, we can at least take care of your family,"

"No need," Falcon replied, taking a deep breath. "I got this myself, I'll keep it myself."

Seeing Falcon's determination, the two accomplices exchanged glances but didn't argue further. Soon, they found themselves cornered at the edge of a cliff.

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Chapter 1033

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Below the cliff, a torrent of rapids surged. The two accomplices looked terrified as they turned to Falcon and asked, "Falcon, we're cornered. What do we do now?"

Falcon looked up into the sky as if he were looking for something. But when no signs appeared, his expression darkened.

He bit his lip and said determinately, "If it comes to it, we'll jump. We can't let them capture us. If they do, the consequences will be dire."

Upon hearing this, one of the accomplices looked at Bonnie with a fierce glint in his eyes. "We might as well fight to the death! We can take them down!"

Falcon chuckled as if he'd heard a joke. "It's not just that we can't beat my boss, there's also Collin. And once their reinforcements arrive, we'll have no chance."

Falcon's knowledge of the Nidhogg organization was more profound. His words turned the accomplices' faces pale.

"Is there really no other way?" one of them asked.

"There is," Falcon said, stepping closer to the cliff's edge. "We gamble on the jump. It's our only shot at escape."

The accomplices hesitated, unsure about Falcon's plan. "What if we jump and die-"

Falcon cut him off before he could finish. "If you don't want to jump, then wait here to be captured."

Seeing Falcon's determination, the accomplices reluctantly agreed. "Fine! We'll do as you say. If you jump, we jump!"

They had no better option.

Bonnie finally spoke up leisurely, "This cliff is high, and while there are rapids below, it looks very dangerous. Are you sure you want to jump? You stole the chip and got the money, indicating you want a better life. Do you really want to throw that all away?"

She slowly approached Falcon and his accomplices and spoke in a soft tone. "Hand over the stolen chip and money, and I'll spare your lives. As long as you're alive, there's always hope, right?"

Falcon knew Bonnie was trying to trick them and didn't fall for it. However, the two accomplices were swayed. They looked at the cliff and the rapids below, then at Bonnie standing not far away.

Finally, they decided to help Bonnie persuade Falcon. "Falcon, let's hand over the chip and card. Surviving is more important. If we live, we can always rebuild."

"Yeah, if we die, we get nothing. All our efforts will be for nothing!"

Falcon saw through their intentions immediately. "You're just afraid of dying. I won't force you. If you don't want to jump, don't. I'll jump alone."

The two accomplices protested, "You need to give us the chip and money! If we don't have it, they'll never let us go!"

Falcon stepped back and watched them warily. "I earned this chip and money. You can't have it."

Seeing his resolve, the accomplices moved to grab it from him.

As they wrestled, Bonnie's eyes flashed with sharp determination. She sprang forward, aiming to snatch the chip from Falcon's hand.

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Chapter 1034

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Falcon noticed Bonnie's move out of the corner of his eye, and his expression changed. His eyes grew cold, and a shadow of deep malice flickered in them. He then shoved one of his accomplices toward Bonnie to block her.

Bonnie swiftly kicked the person aside and looked back at Falcon, only to see him leap off the cliff. As she rushed towards the edge, Falcon shot her a mocking smile.

Witnessing this, Bonnie's eyebrows knitted together, and her lips pressed into a tight line. Falcon was as slippery as an eel and disgustingly cunning,

Despite the cliff, the stream below gave Falcon a chance to survive. Jumping off the cliff wasn't necessarily fatal, but getting caught by her certainly would be. Likely, this realization drove Falcon's reckless leap.

As Falcon's figure disappeared from view, Bonnie immediately took out her signal transmitter to alert her subordinates, instructing them to head toward the stream and capture Falcon. Dead or alive, they had to find him.

Falcon might have escaped, but his two accomplices remained. They also considered jumping but were quickly subdued by the swift-acting Collin.

Collin asked Bonnie, after seeing only the two accomplices, "Mr. Boyd, where's Falcon?"

Bonnie glanced back at him, then looked towards the cliff. "He jumped."

Collin was momentarily stunned. "He's that fearless?"

"There's a stream below, not hard ground. Jumping might not kill him," Bonnie's eyes glinted with a cold light. "I've already ordered our men to head to the stream. They must bring Falcon back, even if it's just his body. If not, I'll keep searching."

Collin sensed the chill emanating from Bonnie and felt a pang of pity for Falcon. If Falcon had confessed and shown some remorse earlier, Bonnie might have given him a second chance due to their long history. But now, Falcon had pushed Bonnie too far.

Imagining Falcon's fate upon his return was daunting. No doubt, his punishment would be even harsher than what Bonnie originally intended.

Bonnie's gaze shifted to the two captives Collin had secured, and she spoke in a calm voice. "Take these two back for interrogation. They must know Falcon's next steps. Extract all information about him."

"Yes," Collin responded, immediately binding the two tightly. The knots were secure, leaving them no chance to escape.

While waiting for updates from her subordinates, Bonnie discovered a shortcut to the stream. She instructed Collin to hand over the captives to other team members and then proceeded.

As they reached halfway down the hill, a series of roars filled the air. When they looked up, they saw over a dozen helicopters circling. One had already landed by the stream, and two people were loading something onto it.

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Chapter 1035

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Bonnie's brows furrowed deeper, and she quickly extended her hand towards Collin.

"Quick! Give me your binoculars."

Not understanding the urgency, Collin swiftly handed them over to Bonnie.

Bonnie adjusted the focus and looked ahead. The person being carried onto the helicopter by those two men was none other than Falcon, who seemed lifeless.

The people on the other side seemed to sense their presence. Immediately, someone in the helicopter hovering above opened a window and aimed a gun at them.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The shots were fired so unexpectedly that Collin would have been hit. However, Bonnie was quick and pressed Collin's head down behind a tree, narrowly avoiding the bullets. Collin swallowed nervously.

"Mr. Boyd, what's going on? Why are they attacking us? Don't they know we are from the Nidhogg Organization?"

"So what if they know? In the face of immense interests, even if our strength is formidable, they'll still take action," Bonnie replied, not expecting Falcon to have found backing so quickly. This miscalculation could have been prevented if she had anticipated it earlier.

"Immense interests?" Collin was puzzled for a moment. Then it dawned on him. "Mr. Boyd, are you referring to the chip and the 1.6 billion dollars?"

"What else?" Bonnie's lips curled into a cold smile, her eyes glinting with icy light.

"When this chip was developed, you wouldn't believe how many eyes were coveting it. But no one dared to make a move because it was kept at our headquarters. Hence, the chip remained safe. But everything's different now since Falcon has taken it out. People will protect Falcon with their lives to get the contents of that chip, making them our enemies."

Given that the Dark Kight Organization was willing to pay 1.6 billion for the chip, its value was clear.

It was no surprise that these people were going mad over its worth.

"Did Falcon anticipate this all along, which is why he dared to go against us?" Collin pondered, realizing he had underestimated Falcon. Falcon was cunning and intelligent, constantly slipping through their fingers just when they were about to catch him.

Bonnie tried to see the organization logo on the helicopter through the gaps in the trees using the binoculars, but it was too far to make out clearly. Therefore, she couldn't determine which organization was helping Falcon.

Collin followed her gaze. "Mr. Boyd, did you see which organization took Falcon?"

"No, it's too far to see clearly." Bonnie pocketed the binoculars. "Let's regroup with our men and plan our next move. Only by identifying the organization that took Falcon can we track him down. Staying here aimlessly won't help and might even pose a risk."

Collin thought it over and agreed, nodding. "You're right, Mr. Boyd. I'll tell the brothers to retreat. Once we're back, we'll discuss how to investigate the organization that rescued Falcon."

Bonnie responded with a simple "Hmm."

When they returned, Ivor saw them empty-handed and asked, "Where's Falcon? Didn't you catch him?"

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Chapter 1036

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"No," Bonnie replied. Then she meticulously recounted everything that had transpired to Ivor.

Ivor raised his eyebrows and asked. "He managed to find support in such a short amount of time? Your subordinate is quite capable!"

Bonnie rolled her eyes at him after sensing a hint of sarcasm in his tone. "Given the situation now, there's no point in dwelling on it. We should focus on figuring out how to solve the current problem."

Ivor chuckled at her words. "So you do need my help after all. I thought you wouldn't want me to get involved."

Bonnie didn't rise to Ivor's teasing. "If you don't care about your 1.6 billion, you can leave. No one is forcing you."

Ivor hadn't joined Bonnie in capturing Falcon because he wanted to build goodwill with her, hoping to extend the chip loan period in the future. However, Bonnie's response seemed a bit ungrateful.

Still, he didn't want to quibble. The immediate priority was to find Falcon.

"Of course, I want the money," he said, pausing briefly before narrowing his deep-set eyes and sharing his plan. "We should post a bounty on the dark web and observe which organization reacts the most. This will help us deduce who took Falcon."

"Many organizations don't know about our alliance. Since we're both prominent on the international stage, learning about our cooperation will make them wary, leading them to possibly make mistakes. We can use these clues to uncover the truth."

Bonnie looked at Ivor with newfound respect. "That's a pretty good plan. I didn't think of that."

She had expended a lot of energy trying to capture Falcon and had just been through a fight, making it hard to think clearly.

"It's not that you didn't think of it; you're just exhausted," Ivor remarked, believing that with the Nidhogg leader's intelligence, coming up with such a plan would be easy.

Bonnie raised her finely shaped eyebrows. "I didn't expect you to understand me so well."

"It's not that I understand you; I trust your intellect and capabilities. Given your wit, it's impossible for you not to think of this," Ivor said.

Though they were both allies and rivals, he didn't shy away from giving credit where it was due.

Bonnie's eyebrows arched even higher. "I'm not sure if you're complimenting me or mocking me." Ivor laughed softly. "I'm complimenting you. When did I ever mock you?"

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Chapter 1037

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"Your eloquence is quite impressive," Bonnie offered a mild compliment. However, it was merely a courteous exchange devoid of genuine sentiment.

"Is that so? Well, thank you for the compliment." Ivor's smile remained unchanged, but a closer look revealed that his eyes lacked any genuine amusement.

This was his way of cooperating with others, making him appear more approachable. In reality, his genuine smile was evident only in Bonnie's presence.

"You're welcome," Bonnie responded perfunctorily. She then glanced at her watch. "It's getting late. Let's head back. Otherwise, the road will be difficult to navigate when it gets dark."

"Head back just like that? Aren't we going to investigate further for any other clues?" Ivor had assumed Bonnie would start the process of issuing a bounty right there and then. He was surprised when she suggested leaving.

Floyd, who was standing nearby, echoed his sentiments. "We deployed so many people, and not only did we fail to capture Falcon, but we also didn't recover the 1.6 billion or the chip. Are we just going to give up now? We should keep searching; maybe we'll find some clues."

Ivor's eyes were as dark as ink and grew even colder at Floyd's words. Undoubtedly, they had been outsmarted by Falcon, leaving them in a frustratingly precarious situation.

'But, the most unsettling aspect is the Nidhogg Organization leader's overly calm demeanor. He should be persistently tracking them down, given that Falco might hand over the chip to his rescuers. Yet he suggested returning instead."

This led Ivor to question whether the Nidhogg Organization might be colluding with Falcon to swindle his money. Was this all just an elaborate ruse?

His eyes narrowed with suspicion as he looked at Bonnie. "What are you planning next? Are you really going to just leave and abandon the chip?"

"You mentioned posting a bounty on the dark web to monitor the organizations' actions. We don't even have the equipment here to do that," Bonnie replied, fully aware of Ivor's underlying suspicion but choosing not to address it directly, instead teasing him slightly.

"Just that measure? What if he sells the chip? The technology within it is precious. If someone fully replicates it, the chip becomes worthless." Ivor's brows furrowed deeply, his tone was more serious than ever.

"You're more concerned about my chip than your 1.6 billion. Why does it seem like you're more worried about my chip than I am?" Bonnie said, hinting at his concern.

"Considering our agreement, the technology within that chip is at least half mine. How could I not be worried?" Ivor admitted it frankly, showing no attempt to hide his concern for the chip.

Bonnie smiled. "Don't worry. Even if he sells the chip, they won't be able to decipher the technology right away,"

Ivor's suspicion turned to curiosity. "Why are you so certain? Is there something special about your chip?" Bonnie nodded slightly. "Yes, Falcon thinks my chip has only two layers of encryption. In reality, there are four. He has only cracked the first two layers, which contain basic and simple technologies. The critical elements are hidden behind the remaining two layers.

"With Falcon's skills, it will take him some time to break through. Moreover, I can precisely locate him

once he does. When that time comes, he won't be able to escape."

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Chapter 1038

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The more Ivor listened, the more astonished he became. He hadn't realized how meticulously Bonnie had planned everything by considering all possible angles.

It dawned on him that when he had initially made a deal with Falcon, he might have unwittingly fallen into Bonnie's trap.

Bonnie spoke again. "Even if we can pinpoint his exact location, we might not be able to reach him immediately if he's far away. Therefore, we need to identify his general area and set up in advance to ensure the chip's technology isn't stolen."

She arched toward Ivor. "So, what do you think? Should we follow my plan, or do you have another way to track down your 1.6 billion?"

Ivor gathered his thoughts. "Falcon was once your subordinate. You understand him better than I do and can predict his next move. If I send people after him on my own, it might disrupt your plan and fail. It's best to follow your lead."

"Good. Since you agree, you must fully cooperate with me. If you disrupt the plan and affect our chances of capturing Falcon, it could lead to a serious fallout between us," Bonnie warned, giving Ivor a significant look. "I believe you don't want that outcome, right?"

"Of course. I prefer us to be allies rather than enemies," Ivor replied sincerely. After all, no one liked making enemies, especially someone as capable as Mr. Boyd, both in intellect and combat skills.

"How coincidental, I feel the same way." Bonnie shrugged lightly. "Now that I've said this, are you reassured? Can we head back now?"

"Yes, we can." Ivor paused, then added, "Once we're back, let's exchange contact information. We can communicate directly if any issues arise."

Bonnie gestured an OK. "No problem."

An hour later, Ivor and Floyd also returned to the hotel. Just before entering, Ivor turned to Floyd and asked, "How long have we been out on this trip?"

Floyd thought for a moment. "It's almost been a week."

"A week? That long?" Ivor furrowed his brows, reflecting on Bonnie, who was far away in Pyralis. His longing for her felt like a tight cord wrapping around his heart. "I wonder how my honey is doing? Does she miss me?"

He hadn't contacted Bonnie during this period, considering her focus on her research. When Bonnie worked on research, she often became entirely absorbed and neglected everything else.

He didn't want to disturb her. However, he was surprised at how quickly time had passed.

Floyd opened his mouth but remained silent, realizing he couldn't predict Bonnie's thoughts. He decided to keep quiet to avoid saying anything wrong.

Ivor stood there, lightly rubbing his chin as if contemplating something. After a moment, he spoke, "Book me a flight for tomorrow. I want to surprise honey. Tomorrow also happens to be our one-week wedding anniversary. I'll treat it as a celebration."

Floyd had no objections. "Alright, Mr. Ivor. I'll make the arrangements as soon as possible."

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Chapter 1039

Chapter 1039

"Don't just do it quickly, arrange it right now, or it'll be too late by tomorrow," Ivor said with a hint of urgency, revealing how much he wanted to see Bonnie.

Floyd also nodded slightly, "Understood, Mr. Ivor. I'll handle it immediately."

Meanwhile, Bonnie was sitting cross-legged on her bed, discussing with Collin which organizations in Yale might have rescued Falcon.

Collin said while resting his chin on his hand, "First, we need to rule out the smaller organizations. Even if they saw the huge profits in the chip, they wouldn't dare to make a move. Next, we need to consider the larger organizations."

Bonnie furrowed her brows and began to ponder. "There are indeed quite a few large organizations in Yale. I can't figure out who it could be off the top of my head."

"Ms. Bonnie, it's understandable that you can't remember. You haven't managed the organization in a long time," Collin thought for a moment and quickly came up with an idea. "How about I draft a list of potential organizations for you to analyze?"

"That works. We won't get anywhere just guessing," Bonnie said as she lazily leaned back against the bed. "Tracking Falcon is proving to be trickier than I thought. It looks like we won't be able to go home anytime soon."

Collin smirked teasingly upon hearing this. "Ms. Bonnie, are you missing Mr. Ivor? Is that why you seem so wistful?"

Bonnie rolled her eyes at him. "Wistful? Where did you get that?"

As she spoke, the image of Ivor's handsome face flashed through her mind. She sighed slowly. "But honestly, it's the first time I've been away from him for so long. I do miss him a bit. It's kind of hard to get used to."

"Long? It hasn't been that long," Collin calculated. "We've been out of Pyralis for less than a week. How is that long?"

He exaggeratedly rubbed his arms, pretending to be grossed out. "Is this how you married folks are? So clingy?"

"How is that clingy? It's a normal reaction," Bonnie said, taking the opportunity to tease Collin. "Oh, I forgot. You're single. Single people like you wouldn't understand our feelings."

Collin was speechless for a full ten seconds before he found his voice again. "Boss, you guys can be all lovey -dovey. I didn't say anything. Why the personal attack? That's really hurtful, you know?"

"Really? I didn't see you looking hurt," Bonnie retorted, continuing to tease him. Then, as if struck by a thought, she frowned. "But seriously, in the past few days, Ivor has only called me once. Could he be dealing with some difficult issue?"

Usually, Ivor would call her at least three times a day and send dozens of messages when he was on a business trip. But in the past few days, there hadn't even been a single message, let alone a video call. This was very unusual.

Collin joked, "Could Mr. Ivor have found a new lover? Is that why he doesn't have time for you?"

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Chapter 1040

Chapter 1040

Bonnie gave him a sharp look without hesitation. "Don't talk nonsense. He's not that kind of person."

Although she often teased Ivor with similar remarks at home, she trusted his character completely. Those words were just jokes. She never believed Ivor would betray her or seek out other women.

"Tsk, tsk, tsk," Collin shook his head and commented, "You're a husband protector."

Bonnie lifted her chin, her expression filled with pride and confidence. "Of course. If I don't protect my own man, should I expect you to?"

Collin waved his hands frantically, "No, no, I wouldn't dare think that."

After all, someone as capable as Mr. Ivor wouldn't need his protection. He understood that Bonnie's words were just a retort. But truthfully, he didn't dare think that way.

Bonnie gave him another sharp look. "Shut up. Listening to you gives me a headache."

Collin chuckled awkwardly and mimed zipping his lips.

Bonnie took out her phone from the drawer. "I need to call him and see if he's facing any difficulties. Maybe there's something I can help with."

'Ivor always wanted to bear it himself by keeping everything inside, no matter what he encountered. I need to ask him. Otherwise, he would never tell me!'

"Someone as impressive as Mr. Ivor probably wouldn't encounter anything he couldn't handle, right? Maybe he's just too busy to call you." Collin tried to comfort her, seeing the worry etched on her face.

Bonnie suddenly remembered how Ivor used to compress his work schedule to return to her as soon as possible during business trips.

"Being too busy is a possibility, but I'll call him to make sure. Otherwise, I won't feel at ease."

"Do you need me to leave?" Collin pointed towards the door.

Considering how Ivor liked to whisper sweet nothings in her ear, Bonnie thought it might be awkward if Collin overheard. So, she waved him away.

"You should leave. I'll make the call."

"Okay." Collin didn't say anything further and got up to leave.

Just as Bonnie was about to call Ivor, a video call request popped up on her screen. The caller was none other than Ivor himself.

Instinctively, she almost pressed the answer button. But then she remembered she was still in disguise and stopped just in time.

Taking a deep breath to compose herself, she switched the call from video to audio and asked in her usual tone, "What's up?"

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Chapter 1041

Chapter 1041

Ivor furrowed his eyebrows when he saw Bonnie switch from video to audio.

"Honey, why didn't you answer the video call? Don't you want to see me?"

Bonnie responded with a smile, "You've been away from home for so long, do you think I wouldn't miss you? I was just about to call you, but you beat me to it. Isn't that telepathy?"

Ever since marrying Ivor, Bonnie's behavior became much bolder and more straightforward, unlike before when she was more reserved.

Ivor was quite pleased that Bonnie said she missed him. However, looking at the dark screen, her words lacked conviction.

"If you miss me, why not switch on the video to see me? It makes me wonder if you're just saying that to make me happy, and you don't actually miss me."

Bonnie had already prepared an excuse in her mind, so she wasn't nervous when she heard Ivor's words. "I've been doing some research for a few days and look a bit disheveled. I was worried that seeing me like this might scare you, so I switched to audio. I didn't expect you to think I didn't miss you."

Ivor quickly replied, "I don't mind. No matter how you look, I like you all the same."

"You might not mind, but I do. Which girl doesn't want to show her best self in front of the person she loves?" Bonnie said this to make Ivor happy.

Soon, the man's hearty laughter came from the other end, clearly showing how pleased he was with Bonnie's words. "Honey, you're really becoming... more irresistible."

Bonnie smiled helplessly at Ivor's happy voice.

"By the way, why haven't you called or messaged me for so long? Did you run into some serious problems during your business trip?"

"No, the issues have been mostly resolved. I'll be back tomorrow, and I'll give you a big surprise."

The surprise was still intact because Ivor told Bonnie simply that he would be returning and not that he was arranging a surprise for their one-week wedding anniversary.

"Y-You're coming back tomorrow?" Bonnie was so shocked by the news that her voice trembled slightly. She was currently in Yale. If Ivor returned tomorrow, could she make it back in time? If not, wouldn't she be caught?

"What's wrong? Are you not available tomorrow? If it's inconvenient, I can adjust my schedule," Ivor said, thinking Bonnie should be able to find some time even if he returned. But he felt something strange in her tone.

"No, it's not inconvenient at all. It's just that my research is at a critical stage, and I didn't expect you to come back tomorrow. It's a bit surprising, but if you're coming back, that's fine.

"I'll finish my research early, though it might be a bit late. If you get back earlier, just wait at home for me.

Bonnie said this to buy herself some time. The time from now until tomorrow was very tight, and if she couldn't make it back in time, she would be in trouble.

"Sure, take your time with your research. I'm okay with that." Ivor thought it would be good if Bonnie came back a bit late, giving him more time to prepare a romantic surprise.

"Alright, I'll get back to work. Message me when you arrive tomorrow, and I'll try to come back as soon as I can." Bonnie hung up and quickly called Collin back in.

"Collin, check if there are any flights from Yale to Pyralis tonight or tomorrow morning. I need to get back as soon as possible."

Seeing her urgency, Collin didn't dare delay and immediately took out his phone to check the flights.

"Ms. Bonnie, it's the peak travel season. Most flights from Yale to Pyralis are fully booked." Bonnie furrowed her brows profoundly and asked, "Is there not a single seat left?"

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Chapter 1042

Chapter 1042

"There's not a single seat left. The only tickets available are for the day after tomorrow, and even those are going fast," Collin said, puzzled by Bonnie's urgency. "Ms. Bonnie, why are you suddenly in such a hurry to go back? Is something wrong in Pyralis?"

Bonnie's usually calm voice was now tinged with anxiety. "Ivor said he would return tomorrow. I need to get back as soon as possible; I can't afford to delay too long."

Seeing Bonnie so anxious was a rare sight, and Collin quickly started brainstorming solutions. "How about we arrange a private jet from Yale? That would save us more time."

Bonnie hesitated. "But that would attract too much attention. I don't want Falcon and the organization helping him to know I'm returning; it might make them even more reckless."

"Then... with no flights available, what should we do?" Collin was frustrated and scratched the back of his head.

Bonnie thought for a moment. "Keep an eye on the flights. See if anyone cancels their ticket between now and tomorrow. If there's any availability, grab it immediately, no matter the time."

"What if, there are still no tickets in the end?" Collin voiced his biggest concern.

"If it comes to that, we'll use the private jet," Bonnie said, knowing that she had to consider every detail during this critical period. A single mistake could mean losing the best chance to retrieve the chip. "Understood, Ms. Bonnie. I'll keep watching for tickets now." Collin took out his phone to monitor the flight availability.

Meanwhile, Ivor was facing the same problem. No tickets were available through any channel.

He furrowed his brow, his face clouded with displeasure. "But I've already told honey. How can there be no tickets at this crucial moment?"

Floyd explained, "It seems to be due to the peak travel season. There's a high demand for flights from Yale to Pyralis, and more people are traveling during the winter holidays. All the tickets have been booked."

Ivor's frown deepened as he got up from the sofa and sat back down, clearly restless. He had promised to surprise Bonnie, but there were no flights available.

As he pondered this, a thought suddenly flashed through his mind, and his eyes lit up. "Arrange a private jet for the return trip immediately. We need to move fast."

"Understood, I'll arrange it right away." Floyd quickly went out to make the arrangements.

Everything was set up within minutes. "Mr. Ivor, it's all arranged. We can depart now."

"Good," Ivor replied, getting up and following Floyd to the location to board the private jet back to Pyralis.

Just as Ivor departed, Bonnie received the news.

"The leader of the Dark Knight organization just left on a private jet? This timing is too coincidental."

She was still contemplating whether to use a private jet herself when the leader of the Dark Knight Organization left ahead of her. 'Was this a coincidence or something else...?'

Upon hearing this, Collin advised, "Ms. Bonnie, maybe you should also take the private jet. After all, it will take Falcon some time to crack those four code locks. Leaving for a bit shouldn't make much difference."

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Chapter 1043

Chapter 1043

"How's it going over there? Any open tickets?" Bonnie furrowed her brows, feeling both hesitant and conflicted.

"I'll check again," Collin replied, glancing down at his phone. "Still nothing."

Bonnie pressed her fingers to her temples in frustration. "It looks like I'll have to take the private jet. But we need to keep it under wraps and make sure they don't know we're heading back. Even though it might not make much difference if I'm away for a bit, it's better to keep it secret."

"Got it. We'll follow your plan." Collin, not wanting to make any decisions on his own, asked again, "Should I prepare the private jet now?"

Bonnie nodded. "Yes, go ahead."

Collin immediately started making arrangements with her approval.

Half an hour later, Bonnie had packed everything and boarded the private jet back to Pyralis.

Ivor landed before Bonnie. Alfred was there to greet him as soon as he arrived. "Mr. Ivor."

Without waiting for Ivor to ask, Alfred began updating him on Bonnie's status. "Ms. Bonnie has been out most of the time recently and hasn't returned home."

Ivor nodded knowingly. "She's been busy with her research at the lab, and there's no point in her coming back with me not being home."

"I figured Ms. Bonnie must have informed you. I just wanted to keep you updated," the butler explained, knowing it was his duty to report. After all, Ivor had instructed him to take good care of Bonnie before he left. With Bonnie leaving soon after, he felt he owed an explanation.

"No worries, I understand." Ivor acknowledged the butler's intentions and didn't say much more after a brief response.

After resting on the sofa for a bit, he called Alfred over again. "Tonight, gather all the household staff to help me with something. Time is tight, and the more people we have, the better. We need to get everything done by tomorrow afternoon."

"What's the urgent task, Mr. Ivor?" Alfred inquired.

Ivor's lips curled into a slight smile. "I haven't been home for nearly a week. Now that I'm back, I want to give honey a big surprise."

Alfred nodded. "Alright, Mr. Ivor. Just tell me what needs to be done, and I'll instruct the staff accordingly,"

"Good." Ivor beckoned the butler closer. "Come here, I'll explain what I need."

Alfred leaned in as Ivor detailed his plan, which took a good 10 minutes to outline fully.

When he finished, Alfred smiled helplessly. "Mr. Ivor, you really know how to be romantic. I have a feeling Mrs. Bonnie will be moved to tears by your gesture."

"She won't cry," Ivor said, smiling at the thought of Bonnie. "With her personality, do you really think she'd cry?"

Reflecting on Bonnie's strong character, the butler shook his head. "You're right, it's unlikely she'd cry..."

"On such a happy occasion, why would I want to make her cry? I want to see her smile." Ivor said, laughing softly. "Alright, don't delay any further. Go ahead and make the arrangements."

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Chapter 1044

Chapter 1044

Ivor couldn't bear to see Bonnie cry, even if it was from being moved to tears.

"Yes, yes." Alfred knew Ivor was in a great mood, and he also smiled. "Mr. Ivor, I'll mobilize the villa staff to get started on this task right away."

"Go ahead." Ivor then headed to the study to tackle the backlog of company matters.

A few hours later, Bonnie's plane landed. She first went back to Verdant Valley Retreat to remove all her disguises and then made a quick call to the lab at the research institute to check in. Only then did she fully relax.

Throughout the journey, her mind had been on edge. She was worried that Ivor might suddenly call her, and she wouldn't be able to get back in time. Fortunately, he hadn't called, and she landed without incident.

After ensuring Bonnie's safe return, Collin prepared to head back to his apartment. "Ms. Bonnie, now that you're safely home, I'll be heading back. I'll let you know immediately if there's any news from Falcon." "Alright, you go on. I'm going to rest for a bit." Bonnie yawned lazily. The past few days dealing with Falcon had left her sleep-deprived. She felt the fatigue wash over her as she was back in her own home. "Okay, bye, Mrs. Bonnie," Collin replied. He then opened the door and left.

Bonnie sprawled on the sofa, draped a blanket over herself, and quickly fell asleep.

The following day, Ivor went to a flower shop early to pick out flowers before heading to Bonnie's research institute to find her. He was beaming the entire way there, his whole demeanor radiating joy.

Floyd noticed this and teased, "Mr. Ivor, you must really miss Mrs. Bonnie. You're practically wearing your eagerness on your face."

Ivor gave him a mild look. "Mind your own business!"

Despite his words, there was no anger in his expression. Floyd smiled but wisely chose not to comment further.

An hour later, they arrived at the research institute. The security guard recognized Ivor and immediately allowed them in. The researchers inside, busy with their work, were surprised to see him.

"Mr. Ivor, is there something important you need?" one of the professors asked.

Ivor looked around but didn't see Bonnie. He furrowed his brows and asked, "I'm here to see Bonnie. Isn't she in the lab?"

The professors exchanged puzzled glances. Bonnie hadn't been to the lab in some time. Why would Mr. Ivor come here looking for her? But being tactful, none of them dared to speak up right away.

Ivor pressed more urgently after sensing something off, "Where is Bonnie? I need to see her right now."

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Chapter 1045

Chapter 1045

The professors exchanged uneasy glances, none willing to speak up. Ivor narrowed his eyes, considering barging in, but restrained himself out of respect for Bonnie's research institute.

"Can any of you professors tell me where Bonnie is? She said she's been working on a major project in the lab these past few days, but I can't see her anywhere. Has something happened to her?"

The professors, who were already cautious, became even more reluctant to speak. Saying the wrong thing could offend Bonnie, and no one wanted to be responsible for that. However, Ivor's imposing presence made silence equally inappropriate.

Finally, one professor suggested quietly, "Someone should go inside and call Ms. Bonita to ask her how to handle this situation."

"But... if we leave under Mr. Ivor's watch, won't he become suspicious?" Another professor doubted the feasibility of the plan.

The first professor gave him a stern look. "You fool! Just make an excuse to check on the experiment's progress. Who told you to tell the truth?"

Realizing the suggestion, the second professor responded, "Oh, I get it. I'll call Ms. Bonita right away." Clearing his throat, the professor adjusted his demeanor and addressed Ivor, "Mr. Ivor, I need to check on the experiment's progress inside. You can talk to the others while I'm gone."

The professor dashed away without waiting for a response. As Ivor watched his hasty retreat, he became more suspicious. 'Where could Bonnie be? Why were these professors so evasive?'

Ivor's lips pressed into a thin, stern line, and his gaze became as deep and unreadable as a dark ocean. The atmosphere grew increasingly tense until Toby emerged from inside, looking puzzled at the gathered professors.

"Don't you all have your own tasks today? Why are you standing around here?"

The professors tried to signal Toby with their eyes when they saw him. "Uh, wasn't Ms. Bonita just in the lab with you? We can't find her now. Did she tell you where she went?"

Realizing Ivor's presence, Toby recalled Bonnie's earlier instructions and calmly replied, "Oh, Ms. Bonita? She's been exhausted from the experiments and went home to rest. She mentioned that Mr. Ivor would be returning today and wanted to be well-rested for your rare visit."

Feigning surprise at seeing Ivor, he continued, "Mr. Ivor, you're back so soon! Should I call Ms. Bonita and let her know, so she can prepare?"

Ivor's sharp gaze scrutinized Toby to seek the truth. "Prepare for what?"

Toby was taken aback by Ivor's intense gaze and felt his heart skip a beat. However, he maintained his composure and answered, "Well, every girl likes to look her best in front of the one she loves. Ms. Bonita is no exception.

"She felt disheveled from spending days in the lab, so she went home to freshen up. She would want to look her best when seeing you. Since you're back earlier than expected, I should call her to give her a heads -up."

This explanation matched what Bonnie had previously mentioned; hence, it eased Ivor's suspicions

slightly. Just as he was about to say something, the professor who had gone to call Bonnie returned while frowning.

"Hey, Ms. Bonita's phone is "

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Chapter 1046

The other professors started coughing as soon as the professor started speaking, trying to warn him to be careful.

"Cough, cough, cough—"

The coughing echoed throughout the research institute, creating quite a spectacle. The professor shut his mouth as soon as he realized what they were trying to say and concluded that it would be best to leave things unsaid.

Ivor raised an eyebrow in curiosity upon seeing this. "What's going on with you all...?"

He had almost dismissed his suspicions, but the professors' strange behavior reignited his unease. It felt like they were hiding something from him about Bonnie.

Sensing the tension, Toby quickly intervened. "Mr. Ivor, recently our professors here have caught a bad case of the flu and have been coughing non-stop for days. You should leave quickly to avoid getting infected."

"Caught the flu?" Ivor's worry for Bonnie was evident. "What about Bonnie? Did she catch it too?"

"Ms. Bonita has been very careful with her protective measures. She always wears a mask when she comes to the institute, so she hasn't been infected," Toby replied while avoiding direct eye contact with Ivor, afraid his lie would be detected.

Ivor sighed with relief. "As long as she's not infected."

He then looked at the group of professors and politely said, "If you're all sick, please rest well. I'll take my leave now."

"Goodbye, Mr. Ivor." Toby waved as Ivor nodded slightly and left with Floyd.

Once they were gone, the professors collectively exhaled in relief. One professor turned to Toby and asked, "Ms. Bonita hasn't been at the institute these past few days. Where did she go? Why did Mr. Ivor come here looking for her?"

Other professors echoed their confusion.

"Yeah, Ms. Bonita is usually either in the lab or with Mr. Ivor. Now that Mr. Ivor is looking for her and she's not here, could there be trouble in their relationship?"

"Yes, this is quite unusual."

As the professors continued speculating, Toby interrupted, "Enough! Stop jumping to conclusions! If Ms. Bonita isn't here, she must have her reasons. Our job is to cover for her, not to pry or gossip."

The professors quickly agreed, realizing the importance of their support.

"Right, if Ms. Bonita asked us to keep Mr. Ivor in the dark, she must have a very good reason, possibly related to some important international matter. She wouldn't do this without a significant cause."

"Exactly. Ms. Bonita is always involved in critical work that advances humanity. It's likely due to confidentiality if she didn't inform Mr. Ivor."

"Alright, everyone, let's get back to our work. The fact that Mr. Ivor didn't suspect anything means we handled it well. Let's focus on completing this phase of the experiment."

"Absolutely. I still have to finish my part. Time to get back to it."

With that, the professors returned to their respective tasks.

Meanwhile, Ivor sat with a pensive expression in the Maybach parked outside the research institute.

Sensing his boss's mood through the rearview mirror, Floyd hesitantly asked, "Mr. Ivor, are you thinking that the professors' responses about Ms. Bonita's whereabouts were a bit off? Almost like they were evasive?"

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