

Resent Reject Regret by Aqua Summers

Chapter 716-745

Chapter 716 A Shot In the Dark

Deirdre's hands were shaking. She tried to open her eyes as wide as possible to see clearly the man in front of her, but to no avail. She forced herself to calm down and asked, "Why... Why is Kyran's phone in your car?"

Brendan had never expected something like this to happen. He frowned and chided himself for his carelessness. He had been very cautious in the past and had always been meticulous about everything. Now, he had made a mistake because of the photo.

However, he soon calmed himself down and said, "I met with him today."

Deirdre became nervous. "You met with him today?!"

"Yes, what's the matter?" Brendan sneered. "Don't worry. I didn't do anything to him. We just had a little talk."

Deirdre's heartbeat was getting faster and faster, and her chest was heaving up and down rapidly. "What did you guys talk about?"

"Well, we talked about a lot of things. For example, we talked about you."

"Me?"

"Didn't you beg me to let him go? Honestly, I didn't want to do it, but since I was the one who put you in a dangerous situation yesterday, I approached him. As long as he helps me with a favor, I'll wipe the slate clean."

Deirdre's face turned pale. "What kind of favor?"

"It's just a very small thing that's not even worth mentioning." Brendan smiled coldly again. "I just didn't expect him to be so careless. How could he drop his phone in my car?"

Deirdre took a deep breath. Even though she was skeptical of the things that Brendan had told her, there was no better reason to explain why

Kyran's phone would appear in his car. 1

There was no way Kyran would keep in touch with Brendan just because he knew him. It was also impossible for him to...

Deirdre's expression changed as she said, "Give me his phone."

Brendan handed her some bread and said, "I'll give it to you after you finish this."

Deirdre was stunned. She did not want to accept Brendan's kindness, but she could not say no to him since she wanted to take Kyran's phone back. Therefore, she could only take the bread and take a bite.

To her surprise, she liked the taste.

In the past, Brendan would not have noticed something like this at all.

She froze for a moment and then calmed herself down. How could

Brendan know what she liked to eat? Deirdre did not know. Perhaps he had gotten it right out of pure luck. 2

After she returned to the mansion, Deirdre clipped the copied version of the photo that Glenna had given her in a book. Then, Tobey called.

"Deirdre, I've already arrived. Where are you? I'll bring the stuff to you now."

Deirdre was surprised. She had not expected Tobey to arrive so soon, so she hastily

told him her address.

After a while, the doorbell rang. Deirdre opened the door and found Tobe standing outside.

Tobey was stunned when he saw Deirdre's face, and a hint of surprise crossed his eyes. Then, he smiled and said, "Deirdre, your face recovered?"

Deirdre nodded. 'Yeah, my face recovered. I forgot to tell you about it.' Tobey smiled helplessly and teased her. 'You were originally out of my league, and now that your face has recovered, I feel even more inferior to you. You were right not to choose me.' 'Tobey...'

Tobey let out a hearty laugh and said, "Don't take it so seriously. I'm just joking. Can I come in now?"

Deirdre hastily moved aside to make way for Tobey. Tobey, who was holding a lot of things, asked, 'Where should I put these things? All of them are edible, and although you can find them here, my mom insisted that I bring them over to you.'

'Thank you,' Deirdre said. 'You can just put them in front of the door.'

Tobey smiled and pulled the photo out. "What about this? This is Mrs. McKinnon's photo."

Chapter 717 Provocation

Tobey knew that she could not see with her eyes, so he described the photo to her.

"Mrs. McKinnon looks very healthy in this photo. She's smiling brightly at the camera."

Deirdre remembered that Ophelia had been very nervous at the time. She had been worried that she would not look good in the photo, so she had taken her best outfit-a flower dress-out and put it on. Unfortunately, she was too skinny, so the dress had not suited her well.

She had taken a rope and tied it around her waist, and Deirdre had felt like crying upon seeing what she had done. She had leaned on her mother's shoulder and said, "Mom, when I make a lot of money, I'll buy many beautiful dresses for you. We will stay in a big house, and you won't have to push a cart down a muddy road anymore when you go to the market."

However, little had she expected that she would be the one to cause her mother's death.

Deirdre's eyes turned red around the rims, and she smiled. "I remember you saying that the flowery dress looked good on my mother."

"Yeah. Although things are different now, I'm sure your mother would be very happy to see that you have a wonderful life."

As soon as he finished speaking, Deirdre's expression changed, and she said, "Tobey, actually, there is one more thing I need you to help me with."

Tobey raised his eyebrows and asked, "What is it?"

"Wait for me here."

Deirdre went upstairs to bring down the book with the copy of the photo clipped inside.

As she fumbled downstairs, she carefully flipped through the book.

Perhaps she was distracted, as she missed a step.

Tobey reacted rapidly and took a hold of her before she fell down. Luckily, it was already the last step, so she was not injured.

'You need to be more careful.'

"I'm sorry..." Deirdre said apologetically as she tried to stand up straight. Suddenly, the door opened up.

When Kyran saw the two of them hugging each other, his pupils constricted. His rationality was telling him to stay calm, but his brain had already gone blank, and he could not calm down upon seeing how close they were standing to each other. Before he knew it, he had already rushed forward and grabbed Tobey's arm tightly.

"Get away from her!"

He flung Tobey away as he glared at him menacingly.

"Kyran?" Deirdre was stunned. This was the first time she saw him so angry, so she hastily explained, "Kyran, calm down. It's Tobey."

It went without saying that Kyran knew the man was Tobey. He knew exactly what Tobey was up to.

"When did you two see each other?"

"Us? Not long ago." Deirdre's face turned slightly pale as she clenched her fists.

"What's the matter?"

Deirdre did not know why but she felt that the man in front of her was not Kyran upon seeing how aggressive he was. She felt like he was...

"Nothing..." It was only then that Kyran regained his composure. He knew he had lost his cool, so he calmed himself down and said in a gentle voice, "I thought there was a stranger in the house, just like last time."

"I see..." Deirdre smiled. Then, she introduced Tobey to him. "This is Tobey. He's Madame Russell's son and my..."

"Let me introduce myself." Tobey suddenly chimed in, interrupting Deirdre. With a smile, he straightened his tie, lifted his chin, and extended his hand to Kyran. "I'm Deirdre's childhood friend. I can say that, right? After all, her mother always said that we were like two peas in a pod."

Even though he sounded like he was making a joke, Kyran felt that he was provoking him.

His face sank a little. He did not take Tobey's hand and he said, "I've heard about you. You've done a great job taking care of Deirdre all these years. It's thanks to you that she can be with me without worrying."

Chapter 718 I Don't Want to Let Go of You "Kyran..."

Deirdre felt that there was something wrong with them. She bit her lip and asked, "Why did you come back so early today?"

Kyran pushed the hair in front of her forehead to the back of her head gently and said, "What's the matter? Did you not want me to come home early to keep you company?"

"That's not what I meant..." Deirdre's voice became lower. "I was just a little bit surprised."

Kyran grabbed her hand and brought her over to his side. "It's been a long time since I spent time with you, so I decided to spend the day with you today."

Deirdre let out a dry laugh.

For some reason, she felt that Kyran was putting on a show to flaunt their close relationship in front of Tobey.

This made her feel slightly uncomfortable. She did not like to act all lovey-dovey in front of people she knew.

"So he's the boyfriend you've been talking about, Deirdre?" Tobey chimed in. "He doesn't seem at all like what you told me. You said that your boyfriend was very gentle and understanding, but it now seems to me that he is kind of... aggressive? I'm sure he must be very successful in his career."

Kyran squinted his eyes, and Tobey said with a smile, "Since you're not available today, we should meet again some other time. I have an appointment with my friend, so it's time for me to go."

"Okay." Deirdre nodded. "Take care of yourself, Tobey."

"Okay, remember to call me when you're free. As long as you want something, I won't hesitate to help."

Tobey shifted his gaze from Deirdre over to Kyran. Then, he left with a grin on his face.

As soon as the door was closed, Kyran asked, "What is he talking about? What did you ask him to help you with?"

It went without saying that Deirdre could not let Kyran know about the photo. She was worried that he would confront Brendan if he learned about it.

"It's nothing..." Deirdre said as she clutched the book tightly. "I just asked Tobey to help me take care of my mother's house after we left."

"You could've told him just now. Why did he ask you to call him again?"

"Kyran?" Deirdre blinked. She felt that Kyran was in a bad mood today. After a long silence, she asked, "Is everything alright, Kyran? It seems to me that you're in a bad mood today."

Kyran froze. He felt like someone had hit him in the head and he realized what he had done. Perhaps he had taken on the role of Brendan and he had been too emotionally tense for too long. When Tobey had provoked him just now, he had lost control of his own emotions.

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean to be so harsh with you."

Deirdre lowered her head and said, "It's okay. I'm just worried about you. After all, you seem like you just had a bad day."

And that scared her.

Kyran fell silent for a moment and slowly pulled her into his arms. He took a breath and said in a deep voice, "I'm sorry. I didn't mean it. I just... I just feel insecure. I was scared and worried, so I lost my temper there."

"You feel insecure?" Deirdre raised her head to look at Kyran.

"Yeah. I haven't offered you any help ever since we got together. I have to leave early and come back late every day, and you have to stay at home alone at all times. I have failed as your husband," Kyran said, mocking himself. "I was worried that you would leave me to be with Tobey. After all, he can give you a better life than I can."

"But Deirdre, I don't want to let go of you. I can't live without you."

Deirdre's pupils constricted. As she listened to Kyran's desperate and helpless voice, she felt as if something had struck her and her heart melted.

She was confident that anyone would be touched when they heard what Kyran had said, let alone her.

After all, he was Kyran. He was always calm and collected and could solve every problem to perfection. He had been with her through thick and thin. She just had not

expected a perfect man like him to feel scared. She did not know that he could feel insecure as well and that he thought he did not deserve to be with her.

Chapter 719 Are You Going to See Him Tomorrow?

“Kyran...” Tears streamed down from Deirdre’s eyes. She lowered her head, and her voice sounded choked when she said, “How could you think like that?”

He should feel more secure than anyone.

“No matter what happens, I won’t leave you. I love you, and unless you don’t love me anymore, I’ll always be by your side. I promise you,” Deirdre said with a smile, her eyes filled with tears. ‘You’re better than me, and it’s my honor to be with you. I don’t understand why you would feel so insecure. You shouldn’t feel this way...

‘Tobey has only treated me like his younger sister since we were kids.

We’re like brother and sister. The fact that I didn’t choose to be with him in the past means that I’ll never be with him in the future either.”

Kyran cupped her face between his hands and asked, “Really?”

Deirdre nodded sternly. Kyran lowered his head and kissed her. Deirdre felt embarrassed as she said, “Is my face salty? It’s filled with tears.”

“It’s sweet,” Kyran whispered into her ear. “It’s because you shed them for me.”

Kyran’s breathing was gradually becoming ragged with each passing minute. The tips of Deirdre’s ears turned red, as she knew what he wanted to do now. In a second, Kyran had scooped her up in his arms and walked over to the room.

Deirdre knew what was going to happen next as she buried her head embarrassingly in his chest.

It was a long night for both Kyran and Deirdre. Kyran kept his emotions in check and stayed focused while giving his all to Deirdre.

Toward the end, Deirdre was so exhausted that she could barely move her fingers and toes. It was Kyran who took her into the bathroom.

She could not hold her head up to look Kyran in the eye. On the contrary, Kyran was looking at her as he tried his best to hold back a smile. Finally, it was Deirdre who kicked him out of the bathroom.

She took a bath for a while. She only put on her bathrobe and went out of the bathroom after the soreness had subsided.

The room was filled with cigarette smoke. When Deirdre came out of the bathroom, Kyran snubbed out the cigarette and opened the window to make the smell dissipate.

“How do you feel? Is everything alright?”

Deirdre nodded in embarrassment. Then, she asked, “Why are you smoking again?”

Kyran rarely smoked, especially in front of her.

“I just felt like smoking,” Kyran replied. He was worried that Deirdre would catch a cold, so he closed the window. “Are you going to meet Tobey tomorrow?”

Deirdre was stunned when Kyran mentioned Tobey. She thought about the photo and nodded carefully. “Can I?”

“What?”

“Can I go see him?”

Kyran chuckled and kissed her. “What do you think I am, Deirdre? You can see whoever you want to see. I won’t stop you or interfere. If you want to see him, just go ahead.”

Deirdre heaved out a sigh inwardly. If Kyran had not allowed her to see Tobey, then she did not know what she would have done next.

"But..." Kyran continued. "Make sure you keep an eye on your surroundings when you're outside and give me a call when you're coming back. I might be able to pick you up."

"Okay."

Kyran left very early the next morning. Deirdre's mind was focused on the photo, so she did not sleep for too long. She put on a shirt and went downstairs. Then, she called Tobey and told him to meet up with her in a coffee shop.

By the time Deirdre arrived in a car, Tobey was already waiting for her in the coffee shop. When he saw Deirdre, he waved at her and said, "Deirdre, over here."

Deirdre walked over and took a seat. When Tobey saw the hickey on her neck, his smile froze. Then, he said, "Deirdre, why didn't you put on a turtleneck?"

"A turtleneck?" Deirdre asked. "It's almost summer, and the weather is good today. It would have gotten a little bit hot if I had worn a turtleneck today..."

Tobey chuckled. "It seems like you haven't noticed yet."

"Noticed what? Is there something on my neck?" Deirdre asked as she ran her fingers over her neck. Suddenly, she realized something and her cheeks flushed red with embarrassment.

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Chapter 721 Switched

Deirdre nodded while Tobey came back to the point of the conversation by saying, "You sought my help yesterday, but you haven't managed to tell me what sort of help you need."

Deirdre's breathing felt much heavier upon hearing that. She clutched a book she held tightly.

"Tobey, please don't be too surprised by what I'm about to tell you."

"What's going on?"

Deirdre regulated her breathing for a while. "It's possible that my mother is still alive."

Tobey's eyes were filled with disbelief upon hearing that.

Deirdre continued. "I'm unable to explain this matter fully. All in all, I wasn't with my mother during her death, and I only found out about her death after a long time. I gradually accepted the information, but then this photo came.

She pulled the photo out of the book. "My friend told me that the person in this photo looks about 70% similar to me and about my mother's age. Can you please help me to take a look if it's her?"

Tobey's expression turned serious as he took the photo.

Deirdre could not help feeling anxious. Every breath she took felt extremely heavy. She would fight Brendan if Ophelia was still alive.

In the end, Tobey folded the photo and said, "Deirdre, I apologize that I have to be the bad person in this scenario. The woman in the photo is not Mrs. McKinnon."

Glenna passed the photocopied photo to Declan.

Declan threw away the cigarette butt and tore up the photo into shreds before saying gently, "Glenna, thank you for your willingness to follow my instruction to edit the photo into someone else."

"You don't have to thank me because I didn't do it for you." Glenna's eyes were tainted with conflicting emotions, and she asked with a ghastly pale face, "Are you sure that you're not lying to me, Mr. King? Is the woman in the photo really Deirdre's mother?"

"Yes." Declan leaned on his car and chuckled. "No, perhaps she is not."

Glenna furrowed her eyebrows tightly. "What the heck is going on here?"

Declan dealt with the photo casually. "The truth is just as I told you on the phone. The woman in the photo is under someone's control. Brendan and I are looking into this matter in secret. If Deirdre were to find out about the matter, the situation would get out of hand."

He softened his tone and said, "It's a very complicated situation. I understand that it might be very difficult for you to betray Deirdre, but there isn't another better way. We can't allow her to be a part of this in view of her condition. However, I'm glad that you're still willing to trust me at this point." i

Glenna clenched her fists tightly and avoided his gaze. She did not wish to be charmed by Declan's face again.

"Everything that I did is for Deirdre. Hence, I did it willingly if what you said is true. However, if you were to deceive me..."

"I won't. I might deceive anyone to achieve my goal, but I'll never deceive you."

Declan's eyes and eyebrows were smiling, and his beautiful eyes were slightly raised, making him appear affectionate. Perhaps it was precisely due to this reason that no one knew about this icy cold, reckless heart that he kept hidden.

Glenna smirked in self-mockery and turned around in preparation to leave.

Declan said calmly, "Glenna, what I said still counts. If you still intend to be with me, feel free to come and meet me anytime. Even though I can't give you sincere feelings, I can still take care of you as your identity deserves."

He had almost etched the words 'I don't love you' into his remark.

Glenna almost felt faint. She turned her head to look at him and had difficulty suppressing the emotions in her chest. She clenched her fists tightly and asked, "What do you mean by you can't give me sincere feelings, but you can still take care of me as my identity deserves?"

Chapter 722 I Wonder if I've Offended Someone

Declan pondered for a moment.

Before he could answer, Glenna sneered and said, "Mr. King, you make the act of sleeping with someone sound so refreshing and refined."

Declan furrowed his eyebrows ever so slightly. "That's not what I mean."

Glenna asked, "What do you mean then? You don't love me, yet you want to take care of me as my boyfriend. What else are you trying to say if not this?"

She mocked herself by saying, "Should I feel honored that I'm capable of charming Mr. King with my appearance and identity? I should be grateful that I'm so blessed."

Declan subconsciously shifted his gaze to the face and figure that Glenna was referring to.

The woman belittled herself improperly. In truth, Declan found her to be very pretty, and her figure was also quite amazing.

He swallowed a gulp of saliva without his notice. Declan said, "It's possible that I spoke inappropriately without considering your feelings. What I'm trying to say is that I know that I've disappointed you in some ways, so I am good with complying with you to make you happy. I can do many things with you as long as it's for your happiness."

"For my happiness?" Glenna could not refrain from bursting out with laughter. She laughed so ferociously that her eyes were reddened with tears. She sniffed and said, "Mr. King... Oh, I'm sorry. Declan, you're so good at insulting others."

Even if Declan was trying to appease someone, he would never say something so blunt in view of his high emotional intelligence. In other words, he was insulting her repeatedly so she would know how he found her feelings for him ridiculous.

"I'm not." Declan furrowed his eyebrows.

Glenna did not wish to listen to his explanation anymore. "Don't worry. I'm best at knowing my limits. You don't need to remind me over and over again. I don't have feelings for you anymore."

Declan's gaze changed rapidly when she said that.

Meanwhile, Whelan walked out of the company building. "Glenna, I saw you standing at the door for a long time. Why haven't you come inside yet?

You're going to be late for the meeting. Aren't you worried that the devil is going to chastise you?"

Glenna avoided Declan's gaze, composed herself, and said, "I've almost forgotten about the meeting. Let's go."

"Hmm."

The man walked side by side with Glenna. Declan narrowed his eyes as he witnessed the scene that he found to be an eyesore.

"Deirdre, I apologize that I have to be the bad person in this scenario. The woman in the photo is not Mrs. McKinnon."

Deirdre's mind went blank for a moment. "No? Could you please look closely again? Is it really not her? You went to study abroad in high school, so it's possible my mother has changed, and you can't recognize her..."

"Deirdre." Tobey considered and said, "Mrs. McKinnon is my godmother too. I wouldn't mistake her for someone else. Perhaps you can keep the photo for yourself and attempt to search for an answer by yourself when you can see."

Deirdre's eyes were filled with anxiety. She shook her head and said, "It's fine. It's

possible that I'm overthinking the situation. How can a dead person possibly be resurrected? If she was still alive, there's no reason why she shouldn't come and see me."

Tobey ordered a dessert from the waitress and changed the topic of conversation.

"You came in such a rush, so you haven't managed to eat yet, right? Let's get some food in your belly so you won't get sick."

"Thank you."

Deirdre took a few bites, but the food was tasteless to her.

She did not show it, but she continued to chat with Tobey by asking him about work recently.

Tobey said jokingly, "Speaking of work, I wonder if I've offended someone, to be honest."

Deirdre was stunned. "Why?"

"Initially, I completed a project, so I was given half a month of break from work. I was supposed to go home, but something happened to the project on my way home. It's not unusual for the project to be problematic, but the problem is the partner company suddenly picking a fault. They named me the only person to handle the project, which took up a lot of my time."

Tobey smiled bitterly. "However, they were still fine before I went on a break."

Chapter 723 He's From Neve Too

"How is this happening?" Deirdre inhaled sharply. She agreed that it seemed intentional indeed. "Are they doing this to dismiss your company because they are not planning on working with your company anymore, but they refuse to reject the company?"

"No. The collaboration is supposed to be a win-win situation for both companies."

Tobey was amused. "Moreover, we did it because of them... So, I would assume that it was Kyran who commissioned someone to distract me if I didn't know that you and Kyran had just gotten acquainted at the time."

Deirdre smiled and regarded it as a joke. After all, it sounded absurd.

They chatted for a while more until Tobey's phone rang. He picked up the call and said, "You're here too? Please hold on."

He asked Deirdre, "I have a university friend who's nearby and wants to pass something to me. Will it be okay for my friend to drop by for a while?"

Deirdre nodded. "Of course."

Tobey announced the exact address to his friend and said after hanging up the call, "Speaking of which, my friend is from Neve too."

Deirdre was surprised. "What brings him here then?"

"He is on a business trip. He is doing quite well in his career because he's working for a government-owned corporation and is highly appreciated for his capability. He might even get a promotion after this business trip."

Deirdre smiled. There were too many unpleasant memories in Neve for her, so she did not inquire further.

Kyran's call came coincidentally.

"Is your hangout session over?"

Deirdre said softly, "Not yet."

"Are you going to have lunch together?" Kyran sounded displeased. "I'm almost done with work today, and I would like to have the food you cook. Shall I pick you up so we can go home together? Hmm?"

He spoke in a rather coquettish tone.

Deirdre could not resist his charm and felt tenderhearted. She said softly, "Hold on, let me ask."

"It's all set. Send me your location, alright? I shall pick you up first. As for Tobey, if he is willing, he can join the lunch."

The sound of Kyran shutting the car door was heard. Deirdre told him her location before she looked toward Tobey in embarrassment.

Tobey smiled and said, "I overheard the conversation. I have something to attend to in the afternoon. You should go home with Kyran. I would be concerned about your safety if you were to go back alone. It's good that he's coming for you."

Deirdre felt relieved. Tobey was considerate enough so she did not feel embarrassed.

Afterward, Tobey's friend dropped by, and it sounded like a bubbly man. The man's gaze landed on Deirdre, and he patted Tobey's shoulder.

"Look at you. Have you finally been enlightened? You had so many women trying to date you in university, yet you refused to go on dates with anyone."

I used to think that there was something wrong with you. So, it turns out that you keep your beautiful wife hidden, huh?"

Tobey explained by saying, "You've misunderstood. This is my dear friend who is like a sister to me."

"Good friend?" The man's eyes lit up.

Tobey understood his friend's intention, so he was determined to set his friend's mind straight. "She has a boyfriend, and her boyfriend is very goodlooking."

The man heaved a sigh. "Alright then. You're so good-looking, yet you're still single. What do I have to be afraid of then?"

Tobey was amused. "You're really fond of comparing yourself to others."

The man shoved him and said, "Are you going to introduce us or not?"

Tobey said, "Deirdre, this is my friend from university, Jamie Lynch. This is my good friend, Deirdre."

Jamie extended his hand. "Hello, hello, Deirdre."

Tobey slapped away Jamie's hand. "She can't see, so don't even think about using the trick."

Chapter 724 I'll Be Mad if I Have the Audacity to Take His Woman

Jamie feigned his anger. "What do you mean? Do I look like that kind of person who takes advantage of women by shaking their hands?"

Deirdre could not help laughing. She took it upon herself to extend her hand. "Hello, Jamie."

Jamie was chivalrous indeed. He loosened his grip over her soon after they shook hands. Then, he asked enthusiastically, "Are you from here, Deirdre? Do you know of any good places to eat here? The three of us should go grab some lunch, my treat!"

"She's not living here. Moreover, she has been living in Neve for a few years, so I'm sure that she wouldn't know about the food scene here."

"Neve?" Jamie was surprised. "I've returned to Neve for three to four years since I

finished graduate school, but I'm actually unaware of such a beautiful girl living in Neve. It seems that I've been staying at home for too long."

He was only joking, but Deirdre was thinking way too much.

It was normal for Jamie not to notice her presence because she had been hated by everyone five years ago, forced to go into prison, and spent very little time going out because she lost her sight afterward, especially after meeting Brendan again...

Deirdre's gaze dimmed as she thought about the man that haunted her for a longtime.

Jamie said, "I shall be the host today by taking all of you to lunch then."

Tobey explained on behalf of Deirdre, "Forget it. Deirdre's boyfriend is coming to pick her up."

"Boyfriend?"

Speaking of the devil!

The glass door opened the next moment. Kyran's 1.8-meter-tall, muscular figure drew the attention of many people. His hair was combed back casually, and his dark eyes exuded coldness. His facial features were flawlessly handsome, and he exuded a presence that kept people at bay, yet people could not take their eyes off him.

Someone inhaled sharply in the surroundings, but Kyran acted normal. He looked around, and his gaze landed on Deirdre.

He walked over, and Tobey's gaze turned colder. He kept a hand in his pocket.

Kyran did not express his hostility in an obvious manner this time. On the contrary, he had a faint smile on his face. He nodded to greet Tobey. "Mr. Russell."

Then, he wrapped his arm around the woman's slender waist and pulled her closer to him while he asked, "Why are you standing?"

Deirdre explained, "Tobey's friend is here."

"Friend?"

Kyran shifted his gaze to look toward Jamie and nodded to greet him.

Jamie was stunned. He furrowed his eyebrows and expressed his confusion. In the end, he could not refrain from asking, "What is your name, sir?"

Kyran paused for a moment. "Reed."

"Reed?" Jamie appeared conflicted. Soon afterward, he smiled and said, "That's a good last name."

Kyran nodded nonchalantly and disregarded the matter.

Deirdre said, "Tobey, Jamie, we shall take our leave first."

"Hmm. Stay safe and keep in touch for the next two days."

"Sure."

Deirdre and Kyran walked away while Jamie was still constantly distracted from staring at them.

Tobey teased him. "Why are you still having trouble parting with her when she's already long gone? You can't have fallen in love with Deirdre for real, right? I'm warning you that her boyfriend is definitely not a kind man."

"I'm aware of that, of course!" Jamie cleared his name by saying, "Her boyfriend wears a watch that costs more than 150,000 dollars. He is on a totally different level, and I'll be mad if I have the audacity to take his woman!"

"Why were you looking at her then?"

Jamie said with a frown, "I was looking at Mr. Reed." 1

Tobey shifted his gaze to Jamie's face upon hearing that. He said meaningfully, "I

wasn't aware of your sexuality. It was no wonder you used to pester me to shower with me during university."

"F*ck you!" Jamie was furious.

Tobey burst out laughing aloud and said, "So, why were you constantly staring at him then? Could it be that you're acquainted with him?"

Chapter 725 Deirdre Is Going to Leave Him

Jamie said, "I'm not too sure about that either, but I found him familiar.¹ "Familiar?"

Jamie asked in a serious tone once again, "Is his last name Reed for real? Are you sure that he's not someone else?"

"Hmm. Aside from that, it's also impossible for you to have met him elsewhere before."

"Why do you say so?"

Tobey said, "If I'm not mistaken, Deirdre told me that he grew up in Eastgene as a child and lived in Germia for a long time. You've never been in either of these places, so how can you be acquainted with him?"

"You're right." Jamie said softly, "Perhaps I've mistaken him for someone else. I'll ask someone when I'm back in Neve."

After getting in the car, Kyran asked, "Are you going to reach out to Tobey in the next two days?"

He remembered Tobey's remark even though it was no longer as provocative as before.

Deirdre nodded. "Tobey will be leaving the day after tomorrow, and that is why he is traveling between Village Alnwick and here to stay in touch." ¹

"Leaving the day after tomorrow?" Kyran's expression relaxed slightly at last. "Are you going to see his flight off?"

"Hmm. There's no telling when we'll meet again after parting ways this time, after all," Deirdre said in a soft, regretful voice.

Kyran leaned over and bit her lips once when the car was stopped at a red light. He said in a hoarse voice, "I'm going to say something selfish. I hope that you can save all your unwillingness to part for me and pay a little less attention to Tobey." ⁱ

Deirdre looked up, her beautiful eyes lit and surprised. "Kyran, are you jealous?"

"Hmm." Kyran let out a muffled chuckle. "I'm very jealous."

Deirdre cracked a faint smile. "You're adding worry to yourself."

Kyran held her hand and let go. "Perhaps."

He was constantly feeling oppressed recently. He was constantly bothered by a feeling that Deirdre would leave him...

The next day, Madame Russell came in Tobey's car. She was delighted to see Deirdre. "You're really pretty... You're too beautiful! You look exactly like Ophelia! I was in disbelief when Tobey told me that your face was already cured. I didn't expect that he was telling the truth." ⁱ

Deirdre felt extremely grateful that she looked more and more like her mother. She said smilingly, "The doctor is highly skilled and performed surgery on me to restore my face."

Madame Russell held Deirdre's hands tightly and repeatedly said, "That's wonderful, that's wonderful. It's just that you'll be moving to a place so far away, so how am I going to take care of you on behalf of Ophelia, huh? If you were to get married..."

Tobey said gently, "Mom, you should show Deirdre the outfit you made for her." Madame Russell turned around to wipe away her tears before grabbing the bag joyously. "Deirdre, I was free at home, so I came up with the idea to make you a warm outfit. Put it on and show it to me so I can see if it fits." The clothes fitted her extremely well and kept her very warm. Even though the weather was not cold, Deirdre could not bear to take it off.

Afterward, Madame Russell paid a visit to the kitchen and prepared to cook enthusiastically. Deirdre wanted to help, but she was kicked out of the kitchen.

"I'm going to get my hands on the kitchen appliances in the city today. No one is allowed to fight me for that. Go to the sofa to watch TV."

Deirdre was helpless and could only say, "Come and ask us if you need any help, Madame Russell. We'll be in the living room."

She turned around and sat on the sofa while Tobey looked at the paintings on the wall. He said smilingly, "I didn't manage to look around closely due to the urgent incident previously. I just came to realize that there are many paintings of renowned artists here."

"Paintings?"

"Hmm. These paintings will sell at a high price of a few hundred thousand dollars each in an auction." Tobey heaved a sigh. "It seems that Kyran is from an influential family. It's hard for me to imagine that he is actually a self-made entrepreneur."

Chapter 726 What an Uncultured Woman You Are

'Yeah.' Deirdre felt a pang of pain shoot through her chest. She was confident that Kyran must have gone through a lot as well.

"This is the result of his efforts. It wasn't easy for him to get where he is today."

'Yeah.' Tobey averted his gaze. Suddenly, he remembered something and chuckled.

"What's the matter?"

"Do you remember Jamie?"

'Yeah.' According to Deirdre's memory, Jamie was a cheerful young man who liked to help other people.

"Initially, he planned to invite the two of us to a meal today. But he suddenly thought of something, so he went back to Neve after his mission was over."

"What did he think of?"

Tobey continued indifferently. "He said that he felt Kyran was familiar and he seemed to have seen him before in Neve. He remembered that he had a photo of him on his old phone, so he went back to get it."

Deirdre was stunned for a moment. Then, she smiled. "He must've mistaken Kyran for someone else. Kyran only works in Eastgene and Germia. He has only heard of Neve before, so there's no way Jamie could know him."

"That's what I told him too, but he's very stubborn and he insists that he's right, so I just let him be."

Deirdre laughed.

Then, Eilis served them a table of dishes. When she brought the dishes out of the kitchen, she asked Deirdre where Kyran was.

Deirdre remembered that Kyran had gone out in a hurry that morning. She hesitated for a moment before she said, "He's been busy with work these days. Let me give him

a call.”

“Okay, you should go call him. Even if he’s busy with work, he has to eat too.”

Deirdre found a quiet spot and called Kyran. Unfortunately, she could not get through to him even though she had made a few calls. She returned to the house and said, “Kyran said he’s busy, so he’s not coming.”

Eilis shook her head in disappointment, and then Tobey said gently, “Mom, he owns a big company. He has to handle more than a hundred documents every day, so it’s normal that he’s busy and not as free as normal people like us. You don’t have to worry about her.”

“Sigh... I’m just worried that Deirdre...” Eilis swallowed the second half of her sentence and changed the topic. “Anyway, let’s eat!”

After they finished their meal, Tobey suggested taking Deirdre and Eilis out for a walk. All of them then went downtown. They went shopping and watched a movie. After doing that, they took Eilis for a haircut.

Eilis was satisfied with her new hairstyle, and when she asked them how much it cost, both Deirdre and Tobey decided not to tell her the real price.

“About ten dollars.”

“Ten dollars? That was expensive! The hair salon at the entrance of the village can get it done for a dollar.”

Deirdre said, “Well, you did not just have a haircut. You permed your hair too. Perming is definitely more expensive.”

Eilis nodded in understanding. As she checked her new hairstyle through the mirror, the shopkeeper’s enthusiastic voice suddenly came from the side.

“Ms. McKinney, come in, please!”

Then, Deirdre heard a sharp and loud voice that she would never forget in her life.

“Where is the hair stylist that I made an appointment with?”

“He’s right inside waiting for you.”

Deirdre clenched her fists. She had not expected to run into Charlene here. It seemed to her that the world was truly small.

There was nothing she could do other than try her best to avoid making eye contact with Charlene. It would be fine if she was alone, but Tobey and Eilis were with her now, so she wanted to avoid getting into trouble.

Just as she turned around, Eilis got up to fix her hairstyle. She stretched her elbow back a bit and bumped right into Charlene’s face.

Charlene flew into a rage when she was elbowed by Eilis in the face. When she turned around and saw Eilis’ outfit, she said exasperatedly, “What’s wrong with this hair salon? It seems to me that your quality and standards are getting lower and lower. How can you allow an uncultured woman like her in here?”

Chapter 727 Mr. Cruz Didn’t Hurt You, Right?

Eilis felt a bit embarrassed. Since it was her fault, she forgave Charlene for her rude comments and smiled. “I’m very sorry about that, girl. You were standing behind me, so I didn’t see you.”

“You didn’t see me? Are you saying that I purposely walked into your elbow myself and allowed you to hit me? How is there any possibility that you didn’t see me?” Charlene pressed on. She pointed at a shopkeeper and said, “Hurry up and get this old thing

out of this salon! Can't you smell her body odor? I'm sure that her house must be a garbage dump. I can't believe that you guys are willing to serve her. Are you not worried that she might spread the virus and bacteria on her body to others?"

Eilis's face turned pale when she heard Charlene's harsh comment about her.

She had made the clothes on her body all by herself. Even though they were a bit worn out, she would take them off and wash them when they got dirty, so there were no stains on her clothes at all.

"What are you still waiting for?" Charlene sneered coldly. "Hurry up and get out of here."

Before Eilis could say anything, a calm female voice rang out from a few feet away from them. 'There are even bacteria in the air, let alone on human bodies. Miss McKinney, if you feel that a place full of bacteria is no place for you, I suggest you go to a volcano. After all, no bacteria can survive in such a hot place.'

Charlene was stunned when she heard the voice. She raised her head, and when she saw Deirdre, a scornful smile appeared on her face. "How have you been. Miss McKinnon?"

Tobey frowned. "Deirdre, do you know her?"

"Of course I know her. Not only that, but we're also old friends." Charlene chuckled.

"Why didn't you tell me that she's your friend, Miss McKinnon? If you'd told me earlier, I would certainly not have gotten angry at her. After all, birds of a feather flock together. It's normal for this older woman to do such things if she's your friend."

Anyone with ears would be able to discern what Charlene was implying. Tobey could not stand her anymore, but just when he took a step forward, Deirdre stopped him and said calmly, "I admire you for having the courage to remain unfazed by people like us. Even though you came out of jail, you can still hold your head high and act as if you're above everyone else. Oh yeah, I heard that they only serve cold bread and soup in that kind of place. Is that right? In that case, you must've suffered a lot."

Without waiting for Charlene to say anything, Deirdre added, "Ah, I get it now. No wonder you're going on a revenge spending spree and demeaning someone you don't know to make yourself look better."

Charlene's expression changed. She could sense that everyone was looking at her differently.

The last thing she wanted other people to know was that she had gone to jail before. However, Deirdre had to go as far as to expose this in front of everyone.

She clenched her fists so tightly that her fingers stabbed into her palm. She gritted her teeth and said, "At least it's more comfortable than staying in jail!"

Deirdre chuckled lightly. "Miss McKinney, it isn't something that you should be proud of, so you better keep it to yourself. After all, you want to join people in polite company, don't you?"

Charlene calmed herself down and stared daggers at Deirdre.

She did not know when it happened, but the moment she realized it, she hated Deirdre to the bone. If it weren't for her superior luck, she wouldn't have arrived at the fire first and saved Brendan. She hated her for her looks, her temperament, and her calm composure. It seemed to her that Deirdre was better than her in every possible way.

Even now, even after she had fallen from grace, she still had a sharp tongue.

However, she thought of something and a smile crossed her face. 'Yeah, you're right. I don't like to compare myself with other people since I've always been perfect in Brendan's eyes. He loves me so much that he's willing to...'

She paused midway through her sentence and said with a smile on her lips, "Mr. Cruz didn't hurt you, right?"

For a moment, Deirdre's pupils constricted. She was overwhelmed by a torrent of mixed emotions. She bit her lip tightly as she was assaulted by wave after wave of pain.

The boisterous laugh of the man, the way he had treated her like an object and a bargaining chip... Everything that had happened that night made her feel so sick that she refused to recall it.

Chapter 728 Is He Really Kyran?

Deirdre did not expect Brendan to tell Charlene everything, and that was what infuriated her the most.

He used her pain as a tool to please Charlene. Otherwise, how would Charlene be so clear about what happened? i

Deirdre closed her eyes and forced herself to calm down. After a short while, she opened her eyes and ignored Charlene. She turned around and looked at Tobey.

"Let's go."

Tobey could see that something was not right with Deirdre. He nodded, and the trio began walking toward the door.

Charlene's lips curled up in a cold smirk as she said, "Hold on for a second."

Deirdre stopped in her tracks.

Charlene approached her and leaned closer to her. There was only a small distance between their lips as she said, "Since both of us have known each other for so long, let me give you a hint. Are you sure the Kyran who shares the same bed as you is the real Kyran?"

Deirdre froze. In the next second, she caught a familiar scent from Charlene, and her countenance turned ashen pale. She tried to search through her memory, but she could not remember where she had smelled it.

Charlene looked at Deirdre triumphantly for a moment before turning around and leaving.

Deirdre's face was still pale even after they left the hair salon. She still could not forget about the scent she caught from Charlene. If her memories served her right, she had never had any close contact with Charlene lately, so she did not understand why she felt the scent was so familiar.

It was as if...

"Deirdre, who is that woman? Why does she have to be so..." i

Deirdre returned to her senses and said apologetically, "She's my exhusband's current girlfriend, so we're not on good terms with each other."

After she finished speaking, Deirdre asked herself, 'Does Brendan consider himself as my ex-husband?'

However, Eilis would keep asking if she did not explain their relationship in that way.

Eilis fell silent for a moment before saying, "Well, you're going to Germia soon, so you won't be seeing her anymore."

"Yeah," replied Deirdre, smiling at Eilis, "Let's get into the car. It's cold outside." After that, the three of them went to a restaurant for lunch and put the things that happened in the hair salon to the back of their heads.

In the evening, Tobey sent Deirdre back to her house. "When are you going back tomorrow?"

"Eight in the morning."

'Til send you off. Remember to call me when you arrive."

"Okay," replied Tobey. He stretched his arm forward and petted her head to comfort her. After Deirdre got out of the car, she opened the door with the key and went into the living room.

As soon as she switched on the light, she saw a figure on the couch. The living room reeked of alcohol.

"Why didn't you switch on the light?" Deirdre asked as she put her purse down.

Kyran looked at her through his blurry vision. It seemed like he was drunk as he said, "I'm a bit drunk, so I turned off the light to rest for a while."

"What's wrong?" Deirdre went forward and put her hand on the man's forehead.

"Were you entertaining your clients again? How are you feeling now? Do you want me to make you some hangover soup?"

"It's alright..." Kyran clutched tightly at her clothes. "Just stay closer to me."

When he learned the exact location of the place in the photo this morning, he rushed over to the place immediately, but unfortunately, he was too late. No one was in the house besides a few streaks of blood and fallen teeth. It was not difficult to imagine what Ophelia had gone through.

And he was the one who brought this suffering to her.

He was seized with remorse, but there was no way he could turn back time. He just wondered bitterly if Deirdre would still be so gentle if she learned all this, i

He was confident that she would only be looking at him with her eyes filled with disgust, just like how she confronted him with a knife in her hand that day and hoped that he would die. 1

Deirdre could detect the helplessness in his voice, and she was certain that he must have run into some kind of problem. She looked at him lovingly and sat on the sofa with her arms around him. 1

None of them spoke to each other. After a short while, Kyran kissed her, and Deirdre closed her eyes.

Suddenly, she cracked her eyes open.

Chapter 729 I Want to See Charlene

Deirdre still could not see the man's face clearly. Kyran felt her stiffness and asked, "What's the matter?"

Deirdre shook her head, but her heart was pumping rapidly in her chest. "I... I'm not feeling well today."

Kyran nodded understandingly. He draped his jacket over her shoulders and said,

"Let's go upstairs and rest then. It's cold here, and you might get sick."

"Okay..."

After they went upstairs, Deirdre told Kyran that she was going to take a shower and locked herself up in the bathroom.

She splashed her face with cold water, yet her head remained a muddled mess.

'Why would Kyran have Charlene's body scent on him?'

Suddenly, she remembered the thing that Charlene had said to her.

'Since both of us have known each other for so long, let me give you a hint. Are you sure the Kyran who shares the same bed as you is the real Kyran?'

If it were in the past, she would never believe in Charlene. She would only take it as one of Charlene's tricks to sow discord between her and Kyran, but she did not know about it now. After all, Kyran and Charlene were like two people from two different worlds. There was no way they would run into each other.

'But if Kyran isn't Kyran... Then who is he?'

"Deirdre, are you taking a shower? Why didn't I hear the sound of water?" Kyran asked as he knocked on the door.

Deirdre hastily replied, "I was combing my hair."

Deirdre finished her shower and came out of the bathroom. Kyran was so tired that he had fallen asleep. Deirdre listened to his steady snoring, and for some reason, she felt suffocated. She felt like she was getting drowned and could barely breathe.

The next morning, when Deirdre woke up, Kyran was coming out of the bathroom.

When he saw Deirdre had woken up, he apologized to Deirdre and said in a tired voice, "I'm sorry. I drank some beer last night and had to trouble you to help me change my clothes."

Deirdre smiled and said, "With our relationship, you don't have to feel embarrassed at all. It's just that you shouldn't drink so much beer in the future. It's not good for your health."

Kyran sat beside her and kissed her forehead. "Are you worried about me?"

Deirdre nodded, and he chuckled. "Alright, I promise you I won't drink beer anymore from now onward."

"You don't have to do that..." Deirdre said softly, "You're a businessman, so you need to drink some while entertaining your customers. It's just that I hope you can make sure you won't get so drunk anymore."

"Okay." Kyran said, "I'll do everything you said."

At the same time as Deirdre felt a gush of warmth in her heart, a surge of mixed emotions rose from her stomach pit.

After she sent Kyran out, Tobey called her and told her it was time for him to depart. Deirdre got herself a cab and went to the airport.

Tobey was waiting for her in front of the airport. When he saw her, he walked up to her and said, "I didn't want you to come over here to send me off, but I thought that we might not have the chance to see each other anymore after you left for Germia, so I figured that I should see you again."

"Well, I should come here and send you off," said Deirdre. "Where is your mother?"

"I asked her to stay at home since it would be difficult for her to get a cab back to Village Alnwick."

After that, Deirdre and Tobey chatted until it was time for him to board the plane.

Tobey seemed to have something to say to her, but he swallowed it back to his stomach pit in the end. He grabbed his luggage and boarded the plane.

Deirdre flagged down a cab after she got out of the airport.

"Where are you heading to, lady?" asked the driver.

Deirdre was stunned for a moment and replied, "Bring me to Gracious Palace." It was the place where Eilis got her hair cut the previous day. After the car stopped, Deirdre heard that there were only a couple of people doing some cleaning inside. When they saw Deirdre, one of them walked up to her and asked, "Are you here for a facial treatment or a haircut?"

Deirdre took a deep breath and replied, "I'm here to see Charlene."

The staff was stunned for a moment. She told Deirdre to wait for her for a while and went to call the manager. The manager was not surprised and said something to the staff.

Chapter 730 Brendan Is Kyran

The staff member said, "My manager told you to wait in the room. Miss McKinney has been waiting for you. She'll be there shortly."

Deirdre nodded and entered the building stiffly.

After a while, Charlene appeared. When she saw the woman on the couch, a smile appeared on her lips as she said, "It seems like you're not that stupid after all. At least you understood my hint."

Deirdre was not in the mood to argue with Charlene right now. She got down to business and asked, "What's your relationship with Kyran?"

"What's my relationship with Kyran?" Charlene chuckled. "Deirdre, do you really not know, or are you just pretending that you don't know?"

"What do you mean?"

"Kyran is Brendan, and Brendan is Kyran. They're the same person!"

RumbleDeirdre's pupils constricted, and she froze on the couch as if she had been hit by a

bolt of lightning. The answer felt like it was ripping open her heart and pulling out her soul. After she came around to her senses, she lifted her head and her eyes turned bloodshot. Gritting her teeth, she said, "That's not possible!"

There was no way Brendan could be Kyran. It was impossible! Their behavior was totally different, and it was impossible that they were the same person!

Her chest was heaving up and down rapidly. Her face was pale as she got to her feet.

"If you don't stop saying stuff like this, then I don't think there's any need for us to continue this conversation."

Charlene stretched her arm out to stop her and sneered coldly, "Wake up, Deirdre.

Stop lying to yourself. You already have an answer in your mind, right?"

Deirdre pushed her arm away. Her lips were trembling rapidly, and her blood was turning cold. "Yes, I already have an answer in my mind, and that's that Brendan and

Kyran are two different people. Charlene, if you think you can sow discord between me and Kyran this way, then I suggest you drop the thought, as it'll never happen!"

She rushed out of the room, her heart beating rapidly below her ribs like a bird fluttering its wings madly in a cage.

She did not know how long she had walked in the cold wind before she finally came back to her senses. Facing a probability that might break her down, she gritted her teeth and tears began to fall from her eyes.

"No, it's impossible."

Kyran had appeared in her world when she had needed help the most. He was gentle,

kind, and thoughtful. There was no way he could be Brendan. She took a deep breath, and the sharp, icy wind that entered her lungs finally calmed her down a bit.

At that moment, the phone in her pocket rang. She pulled her phone out and answered the call. "Yes?"

Kyran's voice wafted from the other side of the line. "Has Tobey boarded his plane already?"

Deirdre was stunned for a moment before she replied, "Yeah. He just boarded the plane not long ago."

"Are you home yet?"

"Not yet. I feel bored at home, so I went out for a walk."

Kyran chuckled. "You should go back early. It isn't safe for you to stay outside alone. If you want to go out for a walk, I'll take you out again tonight."

"Okay..." Deirdre replied as tears streamed down her cheeks.

She did not believe that a man like Kyran could be Brendan.

When Kyran heard that she was sobbing, his voice became stern. "What happened? Who bullied you? Was it Tobey? Did he say something to you again?"

Deirdre wiped the tears off her face and said, "Nothing happened. You're just being too sensitive. I caught a cold a few days ago and I have a sore throat."

"Really?" Kyran calmed down and said, "If you really are bored at home and don't want to wait for me, you can call Glenna. She's off work today."

Deirdre's pupils constricted.

'Glenna? That's right! Why didn't I think of her?'

She remembered the conflict between Declan and Glenna some time ago. She was like a drowning man clutching at straws now, but she did not care about anything else at the moment.

Chapter 731 Reconciled to Her Defeat

After ending the call, Deirdre wiped her face and hailed a cab to head to Glenna's residence.

She looked forward to having someone to deny the answer she had in her heart.

When she arrived at the door, she rang the doorbell repeatedly with a shaky hand.

After a while, Glenna opened the door drowsily and said, "Who the h*ck ruined my wonderful sleep early in the morning?"

She paused for a moment when she saw Deirdre. "Deirdre?"

She also noticed Deirdre's reddened eyes, but before she could respond to the situation, Deirdre had already clutched her arms tightly with reddened eyes that looked like she had just cried.

Glenna was stunned instantly. "What's going on? What happened to you?"

Deirdre suppressed her breathing sound with all her might and gnashed her teeth ferociously to force herself to calm down. "Glenna, tell me the truth, please... Who the h*ll is Kyran Reed?"

Glenna's expression changed for a moment, and Deirdre's eyes reddened even more.

She said in a pleading tone, 'You got into a conflict with Declan after meeting Kyran.

What happened there? Kyran Reed... is Brendan Brighthall, right?"

Glenna choked up, her eyes widened, and she could not utter a word.

Deirdre was almost bowing down to Glenna. She bent over slowly with her arms hugging her body tightly. "I'm begging you, Glenna! Please tell me! I'm begging you to let me know what the h*ll is going on?"

Glenna felt her heart wrench in pain. "Even if the truth is bad for you, do you still want to find out as well?"

Upon hearing that, Deirdre was stunned for a moment, with a tear streaming down her face.

Glenna took a deep breath.

"Kyran Reed is Brendan Brighthall."

Deirdre reconciled to her defeat at last after receiving the answer from Glenna. The glow of her eyes darkened as ash, and she looked ahead absentmindedly.

The crushing blow she felt in her chest felt like a sweet relief. She did not feel the pain anymore because she gained extreme serenity after the emotional breakdown.

Glenna could not refrain from saying, "However, even if he is Brendan, his love for you remains unchanged. Even though I don't know what happened between the both of you, I've learned that Brendan loves you very much after interacting with him during this period. Isn't it good for both of you to reconcile the relationship away from the Kyran identity?"

"Reconcile?"

Glenna nodded strenuously. "He made a promise to me personally that he would love you for the rest of his life."

Deirdre suddenly found it ridiculous. 'Is Brendan so good at putting on an act? He has deceived not only me but Glenna as well?'

Her teeth were chattering, and she smirked in a self-mocking manner." Glenna, he killed my mother."

Glenna's expression froze abruptly.

"We were together for two years, yet he sent me to prison because of Charlene. He made me miscarry my child and disfigured my face. Tell me, how am I supposed to reconcile with him?"

Glenna's expression was filled with astonishment. She finally understood why Deirdre would choose to part ways with Brendan and why he would rather assume Kyran's identity.

There was a deep, hatred-filled blood feud behind their story.

It was so deep that Deirdre could only love Brendan if he was someone else.

Glenna was at a loss for words. Deirdre had already stood up, turned around, and headed outside.

Glenna found her voice after a long time. "I'm sorry."

Her face was ghastly pale. "I thought I did it for your own good, and I didn't expect that I would become one of your deceivers too."

Deirdre's back turned stiff for a moment. She did not utter a word but walked out of the door.

Feeling the slightly cold breeze in the residential area, Deirdre was suddenly at a loss for where to go.

'Where is my home?'

She used to think that home was where Kyran was. She lived in agony for a long time to be granted a good ending at last, only to discover that it was just a crushing blow.

Chapter 732 Confront Him Face to Face

"Mother... isn't your daughter pitiful?"

Deirdre's expression was filled with dejection and panic she could not hide, and her eyes were tainted with despair and self-mockery.

"I thought that I had finally broken free from that man, yet I'm still marching on the same spot in the end. Not only have I failed to avenge you, but I've been running around in circles from being tricked..."

The most sorrowful part was that she had fallen in love with the same man.

It was no wonder that Charlene would mock, tease, and ridicule her so much. She was idiotic indeed. Had Charlene not enlightened her, she would have never realized that the man sharing a bed with her was the man that she loathed the most for the rest of her life.

She raised her head with tears streaming down her face. She wanted to confront Brendan so badly and query him on why he would trick her this way, yet she knew that it would not produce any fruitful result.

Just like Brendan's usual erratic behavior, his roleplay was just a spur of the moment. She stood outside for a very long time until her face was numb, and she was having trouble crying. Only then did she calm down.

She took a deep breath and hailed a taxi. When she got into the taxi, she had no idea where her destination was.

'Should I go home?'

She was afraid of being in Brendan's presence. She was afraid that she would have an emotional breakdown and that he would notice something was off.

She pondered deeply and came up with an answer.

'Run!'

She could not run under such circumstances. She would need to figure out a way to leave without leaving any traces so Brendan would not be able to respond in any way and have the chance to find her.

After making up her mind, she told the taxi driver to send her to the villa.

As soon as she said that, her phone buzzed.

Deirdre picked up the call and heard Tobey's shocked, angered voice saying,

"Deirdre! Tell me the truth! Who the h*ll is Kyran? Who is he? Who is he to you?"

"Jamie told me that Kyran is Brendan Brighthall! It was Brendan who tampered with the photos online by editing the person into someone else. He deceived him, so has he deceived you!"

Deirdre was well aware of the situation. In fact, she had absorbed and understood everything that Tobey had just told her. She said to Tobey calmly, "Tobey, if you trust me, just pretend that you don't know anything about this and go back to work. I'll deal with this myself."

"How are you going to deal with it? Are you going to contend with a man of his status? Deirdre, he can't possibly have gotten close to you for nothing. He must be dating you because he has some sort of ulterior motive.

"He tracked me to my company and created some obstruction for me at work just so he could be with you. You shouldn't stay with a man like him anymore. You're putting yourself in danger the longer you stay with him!" Tobey said in a resolute voice.

"I've already bought a ticket to come back now. I'm going to see him and confront him

face to face. I'm going to take you with me!"

"Hold on, Tobey? Tobey!"

The call was already hung up, and Deirdre's face was ghastly pale.

It would be highly possible for Brendan to find out that she was already aware of the truth because of Tobey's behavior. Most importantly, Brendan would certainly put Tobey in deep trouble this time.

He did not have any ounce of morality in him, so he would never let off Tobey!

Deirdre's body was drenched in a cold sweat. She called the number again, but the number could not be reached, possibly due to Tobey preparing to board the flight.

She hastily called out to the taxi driver, "Please head to the airport!"

She could only try her luck on stopping Tobey now. Otherwise, the situation would get out of hand.

She rushed to the airport and figured out a way to get a staff member with great effort to inquire about the flight from Eastgene. She learned that the flight had already taken off more than ten minutes ago and it would arrive in two hours.

Chapter 733 Tobey Is With Me

'Two hours?'

Deirdre felt relieved because there was still time.

She stood at the most eye-catching spot and had people striking up conversations with her frequently, yet none of them was Tobey.

After checking the time on her phone a few times and numerous people walking past her in succession, Deirdre could not stand it anymore and grabbed someone next to her to ask, "Do you know if the flight from Eastgene's arrival has been delayed?"

"Delayed?" The woman came from Eastgene. She said, "It landed more than half an hour ago."

"What?"

Deirdre did not have the time to feel shocked before her phone buzzed. She hastily picked up the call and heard Kyran's voice. There was the faint sound of breathing that belonged only to Brendan. It was calm, composed, yet unfathomable.

"Deirdre, didn't you say that Tobey has already gotten on a flight?"

Deirdre widened her mouth and felt a pricking pain in her throat. She pinched herself ferociously so she could calm down and asked, "What's going on?"

Brendan furrowed his eyebrows and said, "He claimed that he was calling me from the door of our house and that he wanted to see me."

'Where are you now?'

"I'm rushing home now."

Deirdre almost lost consciousness. She had to exert a lot of strength to force herself to move her legs. "Please wait first and call me when you're about to reach home. I'm heading back now as well."

She ended the call upon saying that and hailed a taxi eagerly to rush back to the villa. She urged the driver to drive faster all the way in the hope that she could arrive at the house before Brendan could and stop Tobey. She wanted to clearly explain the severity of the situation to Tobey, but she was still late.

The taxi driver exclaimed when the car was approaching the destination, "Is that car opposite us an Audi S8? That car is expensive. This is a wealthy residential area

indeed. The residents here drive luxurious cars.”

Deirdre came to realize that Brendan was one step ahead of her.

The vision before her eyes darkened, and her body was drenched in layers of cold sweat.

She was in distress from the matters of Kyran being Brendan and Tobey confronting Brendan.

She was clenching her fists so tightly that her palms were flushed. She calmed herself with great effort and paid the taxi driver before she got out of the car.

The mansion’s door was opened, and Deirdre predicted that she would feel an oppressive presence when she entered the house.

“Deirdre!” Tobey was the first to speak, and he was walking toward her.

Brendan was smoking a cigarette on the sofa. Enshrouded by smoke, his flawlessly handsome face was tainted with rigidity and ferocity.

Deirdre felt her knees buckle.

Brendan put out his cigarette and got up while he said, ‘Tell Deirdre what you just told me again, Mr. Russell.’

Tobey said in a resolute voice, “So what if I tell her again? God knows what sort of danger you’re putting her in by being with her when you’re such a filthy person. I’ve already told Deirdre, so she won’t love you anymore. I’m taking her with me!”

Brendan’s expression turned solemn quickly. Even Deirdre could feel the suddenly oppressive ambiance despite her blindness, and her face turned ghastly pale.

After a while, Brendan asked gently, “Deirdre, is that true? Do you not love me anymore, and you are leaving with him?”

Tobey was displeased. “I’ve already explained to you clearly-”

“I haven’t given you permission to speak!”

Brendan narrowed his eyes, and his ferocious gaze felt akin to a sharp blade on the throat.

Deirdre swallowed a gulp of saliva, and she was sweating profusely from the pain.

He lit himself another cigarette and asked Deirdre again, “Are you leaving with him?”

Chapter 734 We’re Just Good Friends

Brendan sounded and behaved as if he was asking about the weather today. Deirdre felt a sense of intense fear.

Brendan could stir fear with his imposing behavior, even when he was not angered. He could speak in the calmest tone and would still exude the greatest sense of oppression.

It was possible that Kyran seldom lost his temper previously, which was why she only realized the similarity between Kyran and Brendan now. It was always there, but it was well hidden.

“I…” Deirdre took a deep breath and suppressed all the emotions she felt. Then, she raised her head and said to Tobey, “You’ve misunderstood, Tobey.

“I know you fancy me, and that is why you have the idea to take me with you, but Kyran and I have already decided to migrate to Germia and settle down there. I don’t know why you’d misunderstand, but we’re only as close as siblings and nothing else.”

Tobey widened his eyes in surprise. “Deirdre! What are you talking about? Don’t you know that he-”

'Tobey!' Deirdre interrupted him loudly, albeit she was already on the brink of an emotional breakdown at this very moment. "Why are you doing this? You are well aware of my relationship with Kyran, yet you suddenly barge in here rashly and insist on taking me with you. Have you thought about how I feel about this? If you insist on being like this, we shall not be friends anymore from now on."

Tobey was stunned. He looked at Deirdre's reddened eyes and was at a loss for words.

A moment later, he said, "I'm sorry, Deirdre. I just can't bear to see you being with him, and that is why... Blame it on my selfishness. I'm sorry."

Deirdre felt as if she would have shed tears by now had she not been numbed by all the pain she felt.

Why would she blame Tobey? Everything he did was out of consideration for her—he was worried about her safety. She should be the one apologizing to him.

Still, she could only say with an indifferent expression, "You should leave. I believe that there is still a flight to Eastgene now."

Tobey looked at Deirdre deeply. "Alright."

He walked out of the house with his fists tightly clenched.

"Hold on."

All of a sudden, Brendan spoke casually from inside the house.

He said calmly, "Even though I'm a good-tempered person, I am still a man and don't enjoy being provoked by others. I will consider that you haven't come here today if you just acknowledge that you won't have the selfish idea of owning Deirdre from now on."

"Who do you think you are!?" Tobey glared at Brendan in rage. "You can meddle with everything else, but you wish to meddle with who I have feelings for?"

Brendan smiled. "Deirdre is mine. I have to meddle when you have feelings for her."

Upon saying that, his gaze turned cold, as if something was brewing in him. "Or are you only relenting for the time being and planning to persuade Deirdre to leave me in secret when I'm not around?"

"You—"

Deirdre scratched her head and said, "Tobey, you will need to clarify the situation properly, indeed. I don't want there to be a misunderstanding between us anymore. I don't want us to be anything more than good friends."

"Deirdre?"

Deirdre did not raise her head, and her eyes were lowered.

Tobey said with a bitter smile, "Do you have to deliver a crushing blow to me in his presence?"

Deirdre was numb from the pain.

Brendan took a step forward and wrapped his arm around her slender waist. He smiled nonchalantly and said, "Or else?"

"Alright..." Tobey said, "I will only regard you as a good friend as dear as a sister to me from today onward. In fact... we won't keep in touch with each other anymore for the rest of our lives!"

Upon saying that, he lifted his luggage that had lost a wheel and walked out with strides quickly without stopping for a moment.

Brendan gazed after Tobey's departing silhouette and felt the pent-up anger fading

slightly. He lowered his head, looked at the woman next to him, and said softly, "You're not going to blame me for treating him with such a poor attitude, right?"

Chapter 735 I Might Be Pregnant

"Why would I do that?" Deirdre forced a smile and said, "I was feeling troubled about how to deal with Tobey initially. Now that this has happened, I'm glad I got to resolve the issue perfectly."

She explained softly, "He turned around and claimed that he could not go without me even though he was already boarding the plane today. He claimed he wanted to see you so he could take me with him. I urged him not to do that, but he refused to listen to me. If he were to do that over and over again, it would be troubling indeed."

"Yes. He is being really strange today. I thought that he had already made peace, yet he did not. He told me to set you free in a threatening tone when he met me."

Brendan let out a muffled laugh. "I didn't understand what he meant and why he wanted me to set you free. Aren't we in love?"

He asked in a carefree tone, but Deirdre felt troubled in her heart.

What was Brendan's intention when he said that? Was he trying to sound out her intention?

Or had Brendan noticed something was off because of their previous deep conversation?

Deirdre could not get an answer at this very moment, so she could only force herself to remain calm. She raised her head and said, "We are deeply in love, of course. However, Tobey refused to accept that all this time. It is possible that he can't accept that we got together during his time away from me."

Brendan chuckled. "He is kind of out of his mind. Even if you didn't end up with me, you still wouldn't be with him."

"You're right." Deirdre lowered her gaze and chose to change the topic of conversation. "Aren't you supposed to be busy with work? Did Tobey keep you from work?"

"No. I was planning on coming home first. The Village Alnwick project is already settled, and our work is coming to an end." At that point, Brendan hugged her, planted his lips on her hair, and said with his eyes shut, "After the long wait, we can finally head to Germia, Deirdre."

"Is that so?" Deirdre batted her eyelashes and lowered her eyes, i

If it were any other day, she would be delighted to know that her relationship with Kyran would have a good ending. However, all she felt now was a coldness spreading through her entire body.

She would not be able to flee if she were to move to Germia with Brendan.

She used the excuse of getting changed to head upstairs. She fumbled through the closet but felt her chest being weighed down until she was suffocating.

Also, there was Tobey...

Deirdre smiled bitterly and thought about how he would never take an extra glance at her anymore.

How many more people would she lose for Brendan?

After getting out of the bathroom upon showering at night, Brendan hugged her with his naked upper body and lowered his head to kiss her fair, slender neck while he was

at it.

He was breathing heavily, and anyone would know what was about to happen.

Still, Deirdre's body was extremely rigid.

She could not let the matter go.

In fact, she felt disgusted at the thought of the man before her being Brendan.

After kissing for a while without getting any desired response, Brendan finally realized something and loosened his grip on her. His sharp gaze landed on her face.

"What's going on?"

Deirdre felt her heart racing. Her body's reaction was a reflection of her feelings, and she had no control over it. However, Brendan would grow suspicious of her in view of her reaction.

Her heart was racing, and she lowered her head to say in a feigned uneasy tone, "Kyrán, there's something that I wish to tell you."

Brendan's breathing slowed down. He did not speak but moved his hand away from her waist as if he was thinking about something. His gaze remained fixed upon her face, and he asked after a while, "What is it?"

Deirdre said, "I haven't been getting my period in the past few days. Moreover, I don't have much appetite for food, so I suspect that... I might be pregnant."

Brendan's pupils constricted abruptly upon hearing that. Joy appeared on his flawlessly handsome face, which was unexpected. He clutched

Deirdre's shoulder and said, "Really?"

Chapter 736 Do You Not Want Our Baby?

Deirdre was hesitant. I'm not too sure if it's true. I'll still need to get myself checked."

She did not lie about her irregular menstrual cycle recently.

However, she was well aware that she was not pregnant because she was already diagnosed with infertility. Her irregular menstrual cycle was a result of her being under pressure because of the events she had recently experienced.

Brendan hugged her tightly, and the joy in his voice could not be concealed when he said, "Really? Really? You're pregnant, Deirdre! You're pregnant with my baby!"

Deirdre was caught in a daze.

She could not tell if the joy in his voice was real.

If he really wanted her to get pregnant so eagerly, why did he cause her miscarriage in prison so mercilessly in the past? Why did he have to do it in such an unforgettable way without giving her time to mentally prepare herself?

Brendan was so happy that he was slightly frantic. He picked her up and twirled a few rounds while he muttered, "Deirdre... a baby. Our baby! It's our baby!"

Deirdre was jolted back to reality and lowered her head in feigned embarrassment.

"It's not for sure yet. It might be just because of my lack of sleep."

"Let's get it checked! We'll get it checked tomorrow!" Brendan came to remember something and immediately placed Deirdre on the bed so cautiously as if he was caring for a baby. "I was so overjoyed earlier that I almost hurt you. You should sleep by yourself today. If you are pregnant, I worry that I might accidentally push on the baby in my sleep."

Deirdre was stunned, but she nodded.

She did not wish to sleep on the same bed as Brendan because she would lose her

mind even in her sleep.

The day passed peacefully. The next day, Brendan made an appointment with a doctor early in the morning, just as Deirdre expected. He took her to the doctor's appointment.

Deirdre attempted to figure out Brendan's intention along the way.

'Is he looking forward to the arrival of the baby sincerely, or is he trying to find out if I'm pregnant so he can continue to make plans to ensure that I won't get pregnant?' Either one of the answers was bad for Deirdre. Hence, her face was ghastly pale throughout the drive.

Brendan was worried that she was experiencing motion sickness, so he covered her body with his jacket and winded down the window for fresh air.

Deirdre went through a series of examinations in the hospital, and Brendan took the whole process so seriously beyond Deirdre's expectations. He was extremely meticulous in every way.

The doctor adjusted his glasses after he read the test result and said,

"Congratulations, Miss McKinnon. You're pregnant."

"What?"

It was not Brendan who exclaimed that but Deirdre. Her mind went blank, her ears were humming, and her face turned ghastly pale due to the shock.

Brendan could tell that her reaction was definitely not out of joy, so his gaze turned dim for a moment. "Deirdre, aren't you looking forward to the baby?"

'Why would I look forward to the baby?'

Deirdre felt her entire body shaking, and the only thing that came into her mind was 'fate deals some people a rotten hand'.

If this had taken place a few days ago, she would have certainly been delighted and looked forward to the child's arrival. 'Yet, why? Why does it have to happen now?'

'How can I be pregnant? I hate Brendan and loathe him for destroying my life. I would rather die than bear his child!'

Moreover, how can I flee if I'm pregnant with the baby?'

Deirdre was already suffering from an emotional breakdown in her heart, but she kept up her usual expression in

Brendan's presence and asked the doctor, "Are you sure?"

The doctor was certain. 'You're pregnant about a month along.'

"What's going on, Deirdre?" Brendan's voice deepened ever so slightly, and his dark eyes were tainted with complicated emotions. There was no telling what was on his mind. Then, he bent over and said, "Do you not want this baby? Do you not want our baby?"

Chapter 737 Get an Abortion Anytime

He sounded like he was asking but also like he was gauging her reaction.

Deirdre held back her tears by force, shook her head, and said, "I'm not... I'm just caught by surprise. I thought that I wouldn't be able to get pregnant for the rest of my life because of my weak body."

Brendan smiled and said, "You're blessed, so we can have the chance to have a child together."

Deirdre feigned a smile.

The doctor said, "Miss McKinnon's health is not too good, so she must exercise caution during her pregnancy. She will need to maintain her emotional stability and rest more. The first trimester is going to be risky."

Brendan nodded strenuously and memorized everything that the doctor told them. He sought the doctor's help to prescribe some health supplements, held her hand, and walked out of the hospital.

While getting into the car, Brendan had not forgotten about Deirdre's unusual reaction. He refused to believe that

Deirdre was just caught by surprise, but he did not attempt to pry for more information in the doctor's presence.

After they were both settled in the narrow space of the car, Brendan asked with feigned casualness while he started the engine, "Deirdre, you don't actually look forward to the

arrival of the baby, right?"

Deirdre's pupils shook once. "What makes you think that?"

"You haven't smiled even for a moment from the time you received the information."

Deirdre's fists tightened while Brendan kept quiet for a moment. There was no telling what was on his mind, then he said, "If you don't want it, I'll respect your decision. You can abort the child that belongs to us anytime if you want."

Brendan's remark stabbed into her heart like a knife.

He wanted her to make the decision to either continue with the pregnancy or brace herself to take the cruel action.

Deirdre was capable of making the cruel decision, but she thought about how Brendan would be alarmed for sure if she were to get an abortion when she used to love Kyran so much.

After thinking through the situation, she said in a hoarse voice, "No... You've misunderstood, Kyran. I'm not planning on aborting the child. On the contrary, I look forward to the arrival of the child very much, only that..."

"Only what?"

Deirdre could not help smiling bitterly, lowering her eyes, and said, "Have I told you that I was pregnant before?"

"It came at a very ingenious time when I was extremely hopeless and helpless. I was determined to keep the baby, yet the baby's father did not allow that. Hence, it was gone.

"I was pinned down on the floor by a bunch of people in the cold prison and forced to be fed abortion pills. It turned into a pile of mushy flesh and was tossed into the sewage drain. I knew very well that I had disappointed my child.

"Hence, Kyran, I couldn't be happy after finding out that I'm pregnant. I'm scared that our child will end up the same..."

Her body began to shake when she became emotional. After all, she was haunted by the memory of this event for many years. On the other hand, the culprit was sitting next to her.

Brendan felt his heart wrench in pain upon hearing that. His expression changed, but he forced himself to calm down by gnashing his teeth. He stopped the car by the road.

After regulating his breathing for a while, he hugged Deirdre, who was still shaking.

"It's alright, Deirdre. It's alright..." He comforted her, his dark eyes glistening with

determination. "I promise I will do everything within my capability to protect our child, so it will be born healthy and become an outstanding person. I will love, care, and raise it into an adult no matter the gender."

Deirdre nodded strenuously, and the tears of hatred rolled down her face.

"Miss McKinnon is actually pregnant." Declan came rushing over as soon as he received the news. He came bearing expensive supplements and said smilingly, "So, will I be able to reserve the position of the baby's godfather in advance in view of our friendship?"

Chapter 738 Pregnancy Announcement

Brendan's smile did not fade. "We'll have to wait until the child is born and see what it wants." "If that is the case, it's set then. After all, I'm most skilled at babysitting children."

Deirdre received the supplements with a smile and behaved as normally as she could. Declan was far more observant and sensitive than the others, so she would need to perform her best in his presence.

"Oh right." There was no telling if Declan suddenly remembered this or if he intended to as he asked, "I wonder if Glenna is aware of this."

Deirdre was stunned and could sense Brendan's gaze shifting to her. "That's right. Is Glenna aware of the news? I haven't heard you mention Glenna's name for the past two days."

Declan said jokingly, "You girls are not quarreling, right?"

"How can that be possible?" Deirdre continued to say in a very calm manner, "Glenna has been too busy with work recently. I don't want to call her and disturb her just because I'm pregnant."

"However, she deserves to know about this anyhow. If she were to learn that she is the last to know about this, she would throw a tantrum in view of her temperament." Declan said smilingly. "It's a good time for her to come and have a gathering with us today."

Deirdre smiled, placed down the supplements, and said, "I shall head upstairs to grab my phone and call her then."

After she got upstairs, Deirdre sat on the bed and dialed Glenna's number.

The call was picked up almost instantaneously. Judging by Glenna's voice, she was apparently emotional and joyous." Deirdre!"

Afterward, she composed herself but still could not hide her excitement. "You took it upon yourself to call me!"

Deirdre's gaze dimmed. She had mixed feelings toward Glenna.

She knew very well that Glenna had not concealed the truth about Brendan from her on purpose. In fact, Glenna had even gotten into a quarrel with Declan for her.

However, she could not make peace with the fact that Glenna was working for Declan either at the same time.

Moreover, Deirdre was preparing to flee. She would not keep in touch with Glenna when she was fleeing, no matter how close they were, so she figured she might as well treat Glenna coldly from the start to create distance.

"Declan is here today and thought about you, so he told me to call you. He wants to invite you to join our gathering."

The smile on Glenna's face froze. A moment later, she smiled once again and said, "Is that so... It's alright, I'm already very happy that you're calling me."

"Will you be coming?"

"Yes, I'm coming! What is the occasion?"

Deirdre kept quiet for a moment before she said, "My pregnancy announcement."

After ending the call, Deirdre sat for a while before she went downstairs and discovered that Brendan and Declan were busy cooking in the kitchen.

Brendan did not allow her to enter the kitchen anymore from the day they learned about the pregnancy. He was afraid that the cooking fumes were bad for her, and he would come rushing home at once as soon as he got time from work to take her out for a walk before the sun had set.

He was extremely meticulous in every way and portrayed the behavior of a good father to perfection. She figured she would have been delighted if this had happened five years ago.

Noticing Deirdre's presence, Declan asked, "What did Glenna say?"

Deirdre forced a smile and said, "She will be joining us today. I believe that she will be arriving soon."

Glenna came much slower than expected. By the time she arrived, the meal was already served on the table. She said jokingly, "It seems that I'm really good at picking my arrival time such that I can be excused from the work, yet I get to eat."

"You're quite lucky today that you get to taste Kyran's cooking. He doesn't cook more than a few times a year." Declan teased by saying, "However, we will still need to examine the taste."

In truth, the dishes tasted rather great, but everyone had something on their minds, especially Deirdre. She was full after finishing half of her meal portion.

Chapter 739 Get an Abortion

Deirdre stood up in preparation to head upstairs to rest, but Glenna seized the opportunity to say, "I'll keep you company!"

Deirdre did not decline Glenna's offer and headed to the bedroom with Glenna.

Glenna's expression changed drastically as soon as the door was shut. She said hastily, "Deirdre, what is going on? How are you... pregnant with his child!?"

"How can I not?" Deirdre's expression was calm. "We have never used any contraception, and we were trying to conceive at one point. It is only normal for me to get pregnant."

"Yet, this is Brendan's child!"

"You're right." Deirdre smiled. "Or else? Am I supposed to abort the baby? Will Brendan allow that?"

Deirdre knew that she had lost all her freedom from the moment she found out that Kyran was Brendan.

Glenna's face was ghastly pale. She had thought about many things on the way there and figured she could never be as calm as Deirdre if she were to be in the same position and pretend nothing had happened.

She wanted to help Deirdre, so she stretched out her hands to hold Deirdre's and said, "If you don't want to keep the baby, I can take you to get an abortion, Deirdre. If Brendan blames you, you can claim that you were completely unaware of the situation

because I deceived you. I don't want you to be pregnant with his baby!"

"Have you lost your mind?" Deirdre's pupils constricted. "Do you know what this means? Brendan will never let you off!"

"I can't be bothered anymore!" Glenna said with bloodshot eyes, "I owe it to you from the start. I should have told you from the start, and you wouldn't be pregnant with his child, you won't."

The door was opened, and Brendan heard the final remark. Soon afterward, he said, "Won't what?"

Glenna was rendered speechless, while Deirdre was extremely calm. "Glenna is complaining about her superior at work."

"I see." Brendan smiled nonchalantly. "The ambiance in the room feels different."

Glenna let out a forced chuckle. "You're right. My work superior is truly infuriating. He made me work the extra hours for three consecutive days, but there was nothing I could do to refuse. Thus, I can only complain to Deirdre."

"It's good to vent to your friend." Brendan's smile was tainted with a warning look. "It's just that Deirdre is pregnant, and her body is weak. The doctor advised us not to trigger her emotionally too much."

Glenna felt a shiver down her spine for no apparent reason.

She could clearly feel that Brendan treasured Deirdre's baby very much. Undoubtedly, he would do things beyond normal people's understanding for Deirdre's child.

Glenna could not help feeling sad for Deirdre at this very moment.

"Understood."

Brendan said, "Thank you for your understanding. You can still come and keep Deirdre company when you're free so she can relax."

"Sure."

Glenna swallowed a gulp of saliva and announced that she was leaving.

Declan appeared to be waiting for her for a long time and got up from the sofa when he saw her going downstairs.

"I'll give you a ride."

Glenna could not bring herself to ignore him. She nodded politely and said, "It's alright. It's easy to get a taxi here. Moreover, I'm heading to the company, and it's a different way from yours."

"It's on my way." Declan made up an excuse by saying, "Isn't Southein Park near your company? I'm heading there to have a business meeting for a project."

Glenna was unwilling, but she nodded in the end.

After getting into the car, she fastened her seatbelt and kept quiet by scrolling her phone.

Declan said casually, "You're less talkative than usual today. I remember when we used to talk on the phone, you would chatter endlessly."

Chapter 740 Is Deirdre Capable of Leaving?

Glenna tightened her grip on her phone and concealed her emotions by saying, "We hadn't met each other at the time, and I didn't know much about you, so I was bolder."

Declan let out a muffled laughter. "You still can be bold now, you know."

Glenna suddenly fell silent while Declan did not seem to notice her change. He asked, "Who was the man with you the other day?"

Glenna's mind went blank for a moment before realizing the situation. "You mean Whelan?"

"Hmm, I suppose."

"He's a colleague."

"Just a colleague?" Declan said in a meaningful tone, "He looks like he is deeply concerned about you. Is he your suitor?"

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Declan could see Glenna's reaction, so he stayed on the topic of conversation on purpose.

Glenna bit her lower lip and took it upon herself to speak for the first time. "Do you think that Deirdre's pregnancy is happening at the right time?"

Declan inquired closely, "What do you mean by the right time? What isn't the right time?"

"Isn't Brendan concealing his true identity to be with Deirdre? This signifies that he won't be in this relationship for a long time, but he will move on when he's bored.

What will Deirdre and her baby do when that happens?"

Declan chuckled. "If this is all that you're concerned about, I can tell you that you're worrying too much. Brendan wants this baby more than any of us. Unless Deirdre leaves him one day, Brendan will most certainly stay and be with them."

Glenna's gaze turned dim quickly, and she said, "Will Brendan agree if Deirdre wants to leave?"

Declan controlled the steering wheel and said casually, "The question you should ask is whether Deirdre is capable of leaving."

In the next few days, Deirdre discovered that Brendan was almost defenseless in her presence through her observation.

Her phone was not tapped, and no one was posted outside to guard her. She had the freedom to leave the house and even touch any of his belongings if she wanted to.

If she were a normal-sighted woman, she could find the right opportunity to slip away without anyone's notice. However, she was blind.

It would be very difficult for her to even get a flight ticket, let alone move away from this place and flee to an unknown location. She would lose her way or starve to death away from here.

Perhaps it was precisely due to this reason that Brendan did not pay too much attention to her.

She and Brendan were supposed to go to her prenatal checkup this afternoon, but he was busy. As such, he sent Fionn to keep her company.

Deirdre waited for her appointment quietly. She had mixed feelings for no apparent reason after the appointment.

The baby was doing very well, much better than the previous one.

If this continued, it would be born safely and grow healthily.

Fionn was delighted and took a photo of the examination report to send to Brendan.

Deirdre moved and said, "I'm going to the restroom."

Fionn did not follow her because the restroom was not far from them. He told Deirdre that he would wait for her at the door.

Deirdre washed her face and discovered that she had no idea how she felt about the pregnancy that came so unexpectedly.

Should she hate it or fear it?

She was confused but knew it would be a huge mistake to bring the child into this world.

She was preparing to leave after calming herself when a tall, huge figure entered the restroom. The figure grabbed Deirdre's hand and pulled her into a toilet cubicle.

Deirdre was panic-stricken and almost screamed aloud. The man said, "Deirdre! It's me!"

Deirdre was shocked and incredulous upon hearing the familiar voice.

Chapter 739 Get an Abortion

Deirdre stood up in preparation to head upstairs to rest, but Glenna seized the opportunity to say, "I'll keep you company!"

Deirdre did not decline Glenna's offer and headed to the bedroom with Glenna.

Glenna's expression changed drastically as soon as the door was shut. She said hastily, "Deirdre, what is going on? How are you... pregnant with his child!?"

"How can I not?" Deirdre's expression was calm. "We have never used any contraception, and we were trying to conceive at one point. It is only normal for me to get pregnant."

"Yet, this is Brendan's child!"

"You're right." Deirdre smiled. "Or else? Am I supposed to abort the baby? Will Brendan allow that?"

Deirdre knew that she had lost all her freedom from the moment she found out that Kyran was Brendan.

Glenna's face was ghastly pale. She had thought about many things on the way there and figured she could never be as calm as Deirdre if she were to be in the same position and pretend nothing had happened.

She wanted to help Deirdre, so she stretched out her hands to hold Deirdre's and said, "If you don't want to keep the baby, I can take you to get an abortion, Deirdre. If Brendan blames you, you can claim that you were completely unaware of the situation because I deceived you. I don't want you to be pregnant with his baby!"

"Have you lost your mind?" Deirdre's pupils constricted. "Do you know what this means? Brendan will never let you off!"

"I can't be bothered anymore!" Glenna said with bloodshot eyes, "I owe it to you from the start. I should have told you from the start, and you wouldn't be pregnant with his child, you won't."

The door was opened, and Brendan heard the final remark. Soon afterward, he said, "Won't what?"

Glenna was rendered speechless, while Deirdre was extremely calm. "Glenna is complaining about her superior at work."

"I see." Brendan smiled nonchalantly. "The ambiance in the room feels different."

Glenna let out a forced chuckle. "You're right. My work superior is truly infuriating. He made me work the extra hours for three consecutive days, but there was nothing I

could do to refuse. Thus, I can only complain to Deirdre.”

“It’s good to vent to your friend.” Brendan’s smile was tainted with a warning look. “It’s just that Deirdre is pregnant, and her body is weak. The doctor advised us not to trigger her emotionally too much.”

Glenna felt a shiver down her spine for no apparent reason.

She could clearly feel that Brendan treasured Deirdre’s baby very much. Undoubtedly, he would do things beyond normal people’s understanding for Deirdre’s child.

Glenna could not help feeling sad for Deirdre at this very moment.

“Understood.”

Brendan said, “Thank you for your understanding. You can still come and keep Deirdre company when you’re free so she can relax.”

“Sure.”

Glenna swallowed a gulp of saliva and announced that she was leaving.

Declan appeared to be waiting for her for a long time and got up from the sofa when he saw her going downstairs.

“I’ll give you a ride.”

Glenna could not bring herself to ignore him. She nodded politely and said, “It’s alright. It’s easy to get a taxi here. Moreover, I’m heading to the company, and it’s a different way from yours.”

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Chapter 741 I'll Take You Away From Here!

"Tobey? Is that you? How?! I thought you had returned to Eastgene!" Deirdre still remembered just how glum and dejected Tobey was when he left—that happened merely a week ago! She really thought she would never get to talk to him again. Tobey looked at her in pity. "Silly girl. How could I possibly abandon you and return to Eastgene on my own? My departure was a feint. The clue was the words you used. I understood immediately that you were just saying them because you had no choice, and for that, I'm sorry."

"I was such a reckless idiot! I thought things could be solved by laying things bare, but I underestimated Brendan's power! Think about it. This is a guy who has the power to make me lose my job and my employability through his influence. How easy must it be for him to control you? God. If you didn't remind me of that with what you said, I would have put you in so much harm!"

Deirdre shut her eyes tightly and felt a sob building up. She dared not let it out—lest Fionn noticed her puffy eyes later. "D-Don't say that, Tobey. I know you only did all that because you wanted the best for me. You would do all kinds of things just for me," she said, smiling painfully.

"Everything you have, all that you are today, are fruits of your honest, earnest labor. Someone who belongs to all that is good about the world doesn't know how bad things can be on the moon's dark side."

Deirdre would have never known how dark it was either if it were not for that fateful incident. She could have lived her whole life never encountering figures as dangerous and powerful as Brendan.

"He's too powerful, Tobey. No one can fight him, so... don't. All I want to know is that you don't hate me for what happened, and now that I know, I'm happy. Please, go home. Return to Eastgene and live your life in peace."

Tobey shook his head. "Not going to happen," he declared firmly. "If I knew nothing, I would have no problem leaving you to suffer by his side, Dee. But this is different. I know now, Dee. I know you're being shackled to that demon, and I won't leave until I pry you away from his hell!"

"Are you... taking me away?" Deirdre's breath hitched for a moment. Then, raspily, she warned, "Do you know what that means, Tobey? Your career. Your future. Your mom!"

She let her brewing emotions calm down and closed her eyes. "Listen. I'm grateful as it is to know how much you care for me, but I can't be more selfish than that. Please, forget me and live a better life—"

"This 'better life' I envisioned has you by my side, Dee!" He suddenly cut her off, his eyes red. He sounded agitated. "Do you know what my biggest regret is? Not coming home to bring you with me to Eastgene as soon as I got my first pay. Had I done that... you wouldn't have ever met Brendan in your life!" 1

Deirdre's eyelashes fluttered. She could not help but chuckle under her breath in self-deprecation. How nice would it be—to have never met Brendan?

"Well, it's too late now, Tobey. There's nothing you can do, so go. The last thing I want is to capitalize on your feelings for me by any means at all. I can't love anyone again, not after all of this. So, please, don't waste your time and effort on me or a relationship that isn't going to happen."

Tobey frowned. He seemed to be enraged as his voice turned grave. 'You really think I'm doing all of this because I want you to reciprocate my feelings!? Dee! I would do this even if I didn't love you that way because you're my sister and Mrs. McKinnon's daughter! I'm hardly the only one who's not okay with you being stuck to that demon's side. My mom will never let you either!"

His words shocked Deirdre. It was then that she heard a series of knocks on the door before Fionn's concerned voice rang. "Are you okay, Miss McKinnon? You've been in there for more than ten minutes!"

Deirdre's heart raced. She affected a false tone of calmness and replied," Uh, I'm having a bit of a stomach upset! Please wait for me for a bit. I'm going to be out soon enough!"

Chapter 742 What Do You Prefer: a Son, Or a Daughter?

Fionn proved to be rather trusting and did not press on. He simply replied,* Okay, then."

Tobey gripped Deirdre by the shoulders. "We don't have much time, Dee. You know Brendan better than I do, right? You practically live with him.

You'll be the one to vie for the most opportune time, you hear? I'll never change my number, and I'll always be around where you live. Anytime you're ready to flee, you give me a heads-up, and I'll take you away from all of this. We'll go somewhere so foreign even Brendan would not know where to look!"

Tobey was oozing so much conviction that Deirdre finally yielded. Her mind was a million panicked thoughts rising at once, but she forced herself to think as coherently as she could. "What about Madame Russell?" she asked. "When Brendan's possessed, he goes all the way through the bottom of the barrel. He's not gonna let anyone go, not even Madame Russell."

"Don't worry about that. I'll send my mom to live in her hometown these few days until all of this blows over. She doesn't like living in cities but feels right at home in any rustic countryside."

That calmed Deirdre down.

The time she had bought had run out. She pushed the door open and walked out, but before she left, she told Tobey under her breath, "Thank you."

Tobey had taken a gambit with his life just so she could have a chance to escape Brendan. That was a sacrifice so momentous that failure ceased to become an option. The medical examination went on swimmingly, and Brendan was overjoyed. He pulled her into his arms as he read their report and breathed in her ear, "Would you rather we have a baby boy or a baby girl?"

In the past, Deirdre would have thought either was fine-as long as he was the one who fathered it. But things were different now. It was precisely because he had fathered it that made the child so undesirable.

She could not leave him hanging, so she cast her eyes down and replied," A boy, I guess."

Brendan, surprised, cupped her face so he could meet her in the eyes.* Why?"

"What do you mean, 'why?'"

Brendan wanted to reply, "Because that was not your answer back then."

He distinctly remembered the night of their wedding when a few of their friends

wanted to play Truth Or Dare with the newlywed couple.

Deirdre was selected again after the last round, and she was dared to mouth-feed Brendan strawberries. The experience flustered Deirdre so much that she chose Truth.

One of their friends then asked, "Do you want a baby boy or a baby girl?"

Deirdre shot a look at Brendan, whose forced smile was indicative of annoyance. Still, she loved him so much that she ignored his subtle ire and answered sincerely, "Baby girl."

"Why?"

Brendan interjected, "That's a second question. Truth is over."

Deirdre did not resent the follow-up. In fact, she willingly—though quietly—answered,

"Because I think... I think she's gonna be very happy to be born to this family."

She knew she was just a placeholder on that wedding night. She harbored no delusions about it.

But she still loved him.

Little did she know just what cruel fate awaited her from then on—she could not have predicted it.

"No reason in particular," said Deirdre.

Brendan reminded himself that, as Kyran Reed, he should not know much about Deirdre's past, let alone her old preference. He feigned a casual tone and replied,

"Huh? And here I thought you'd like a baby girl more."

Something in Deirdre's eyes darkened. She turned her head sideways just in time before Brendan could see mocking amusement in her eyes. She used to want a daughter, but now she feared for her.

She was terrified that her daughter would suffer the same terrible fate as she did.

"What about you?" she asked.

The corner of Brendan's lips curled. He did not even hesitate. "A baby girl."

That was out of Deirdre's expectation. She had been under the impression that Brendan's dogged desire for a child stemmed from his need to find an heir for the Brighthall family. But now that she thought about it, maybe his answer was precisely because he was sure their child would not see the world. Even if she did arrive, Brenda would probably sideline her as an illegitimate child.

Chapter 743 An Engagement

Still, Deirdre could not stop herself from asking, "Why?"

Brendan placed his head on where her shoulder and neck met. He twirled a strand of her hair with his fingertip. "Because a baby girl will be an adorable, mischievous, sweet little gremlin. Just like her mother."

"But what if it was a boy?"

The light in Brendan's eyes dimmed. "Then I hope he doesn't turn out like H me.

Had Deirdre still believed him to be Kyran, she would have chalked this up as Kyran being modest as usual. He was perfect! Impeccable! Flawless! Why would anybody hope their son turned out differently?

But now, she was simply startled at Brendan's sudden display of self-awareness. She forced herself to smile and reply, "You're pulling my leg again."

Brendan responded by squeezing her hand silently. Feeling a little disconcerted,

Deirdre made up an excuse, "It's getting late. I need to take a shower."

She rose, and Brendan suddenly called out to her. "Dee?"

"Hmm?"

"I love you."

Deirdre was stunned. "How much?" she asked, just to go along.

"So, so much. I'd sacrifice everything for you. I'm... I'm so happy for our child, Dee. I'm just so grateful for them to even exist. Oh God, I love you."

His voice, his words, his manner of speaking—all of them were saturated with unmistakable sincerity. It overpowered Deirdre so much that she almost lost control of her act, and that thought terrified her. She could feel that sudden, impulsive urge to just beg Brendan to let her go because somehow... Somehow, she wondered if Brendan had some sense and decency left in him. If he did...

If he knew he had done much wrong, he would let her go in good faith, right? Right?

"Dee?"

She shook herself out of her thoughts and raised her head. "Hmm?"

"I thought you were going to take a shower upstairs."

She nodded. "Oh. Right."

Deirdre closed the bathroom door and turned on the shower. Cold water beat down on her hands as she stared into space. She had to repeatedly remind herself that "Kyrán Reed" was a product—a well-made, heavily designed and packaged hoax. They were the same person all along.

But was there a hint of authenticity in the things he said just now? What if?

Fortunately for Deirdre, her question was answered soon enough. It did not take more than three days before she heard about Brendan and Charlene's engagement from the news.

The media had a field day with this godsend of a topic. They teased, joked, and milked the fact that Brendan and Charlene had been a couple for such a long time but never seemed to have the good timing for their engagement. That moment had finally arrived, as it seemed—the two would be engaged by next week, and their wedding should be expected within three months.

It was neither shocking nor breaking news, but the media managed to ramble about it for more than ten minutes. As Deirdre tightened her grip around the remote control and listened, she thought of the confession

Brendan had made yesterday.

God, it was both disgusting and hilarious. What he meant was loving two people via two separate identities. How "sweet."

She shut her eyes and tried to calm the storm in her mind. It was then she heard the sound of keys entering the knob and turning.

Brendan strode inside just in time to hear the talk show hosts' remarks. "I'm sure this isn't going to be an empty promise like the last time, right? I mean, if my memory serves, which it does, he was supposed to get engaged last year. And then some whatchamacallit happened, and it got delayed indefinitely the way your flight is always delayed."

"Come on, Stephen. Be nice. Mr. Brighthall's got a bit of a health complication at that time, remember? Pardon him for not having the energy to go on with the not-hectic event that is 'rich people's engagement party', man! Besides, people wanna be

engaged when they are at least in the pink of health, right? So, when he's finally right as rain, that engagement is going full-steam ahead!"

Deirdre switched off the TV quickly as Brendan frowned. He stepped forward and asked, "Why are you watching that?"

"I was just listening to his talk show, and the news became one of the talking points," Deirdre answered placidly. She rose from the couch. "I didn't expect you to be home this early."

Suddenly, she picked up the scent of roses.

Brendan brought the flowers to her. "I bought some sweet pastries for you today, and there was a florist next door. I thought about how much you love flowers, so I went ahead and bought a bouquet."

Chapter 744 A Business Trip to Neve

Deirdre took the bouquet, leaned close to the petals, and sniffed it. The flowers were so fresh the air was thick with their scent. Little drops of dew even matted the tip of her nose.

Brendan wiped the water away gently. "I didn't plan to buy roses at first. I would have guessed from your personality that you like baby's breath better. Still, you wouldn't be able to see its splendor right now, so I picked a flower famous for its strong scent."

"I love it." Deirdre caressed the bouquet gingerly. "Every flower is my favorite so long as you're the one buying it for me."

She managed to find a vase and began to carefully slip each stalk inside. When it was done, Brendan threw his arms around her from behind.

"I think it's time you take a step back and take a break. Here, have some pastries. They're still warm. A friend of mine suggested it when I asked. According to rumors, this bakery makes delicious desserts that are pregnancy-friendly."

Deirdre had lost quite some appetite these days, so Brendan waited for two hours to get her something she would like.

The young woman in question had no appetite for it, but she heeded Brendan's suggestion and sat. He passed a puff to her hand, and she took a bite.

She cupped her hand over her mouth. The sweetness of its filling erupted on her tongue, causing her stomach to churn and react. She blanched.

Brendan quickly pulled a garbage bin below her before Deirdre retched and threw up. She grabbed a fistful of the mat in agony, a few tears trickling down her eyes.

When she was done, Brendan swiped some wet tissues and gently wiped her mouth clean, paying no mind to how dirty she was. He then cleaned the garbage bin and returned to cradle her in his arms, his features twisting into a frown. "I'm so sorry."

Deirdre curled into a fetal position, "I-It's alright. N-Not your f-fault."

"Ugh, it's totally my fault," Brendan muttered, clearly distressed. "I should have known this isn't the food you can stomach for the time being."

In the end, Brendan went to the kitchen and made a bowl of plain spaghetti. The only seasoning it had was salt, so it was borderline tasteless. Still, Deirdre managed to eat quite a fill.

Brendan spoke while thumbing through his documents as she lay on her bed after dinner. "I'm going to be on a business trip next Monday. It's going to take three days." Deirdre's eyes snapped open as he caressed her hair. "I think I'll ask Glenna to come

for a two-nights sleepover.”

“Hey, what’s that supposed to mean? I’m not a kid who needs adult supervision!” Deirdre rolled and sat up from her bed, feigning rage. “Do your thing, you busy, busy man. Don’t drag my best friend into this!”

Brendan hugged her. “What’s the matter? Can’t bear to leave me? If you can’t, you can come with me.”

Go with him? Ha! Why would she? This was a windfall! Brendan’s departure meant she had the perfect time to escape. It should take him some time to realize she was gone, but by then, she should already be on a ferry on her way to a foreign city. The point was not to drag Glenna into the trouble her planned escape would cause.

She leaned her head against his chest. “Glenna’s company is really far from here, isn’t it? And I’m a grown-up. I don’t need someone to keep me company at all times. She can always just meet me after her work’s over.”

“I don’t feel safe about it, though. Your sight is severely limited. What will happen if you get hurt?” he refuted in concern, frowning. “Maybe you should come with me instead.”

Deirdre looked up. “Where are you going?”

A long beat later, he answered, “Neve.”

Deirdre reeled in realization. So that was what his “business trip” was all about. Next Monday was his engagement day. 1

Deirdre could not stop the scornful amusement from pooling in her chest. Her expression darkened a little as if just the mention of the city summoned her ire. “Why Neve all of a sudden?”

Chapter 745 Where Should I Run To?

Brendan had always been a master weaver of lies. “Declan has an ongoing project in Neve, but his project at Alnwick sets him back from finalizing the deal. I’m going there on his behalf.”

Deirdre nodded. A moment later, she declared, “I don’t want to go.”

She began to shiver. “There are too many traumatic memories associated with that place. I can’t even think about it without feeling fear. I worry that I might not even be able to sleep once I’m there. It’s that stressful.”

An expecting mother’s mental health would always be the top priority. The last thing Brendan wanted was for Deirdre feeling too tense and distressed. The excuse not to go with him practically wrote itself, and all Deirdre had to do was to use it. “So, I think you should go alone. I’ll be fine here. Don’t worry. If you’re worried about me, then give me a call every once in a while when you’re free.”

Brendan kissed her hair. “What happens if you accidentally kick the table and get injured?”

She laughed. “Kyran, please. Pregnancy doesn’t lower a woman’s IQ, okay? And it’s only just beginning. I’m not close to labor or anything now, am I?” she quipped. “Look, I’m going to be extra careful when you’re not around, but you really shouldn’t worry. I’ve been doing fine even when you’re working, right? It’s going to take only a few nights. It’s a cakewalk in the park.”

Brendan was finally convinced, but the most stubborn remnants of his anxiety and concern still managed to prompt him into taking some precautions. He instructed Sam

to buy some surveillance cameras and set them up in the corridors and living room behind Deirdre's back.

She never came around to find out since he never told her. He worried that the young woman would become paranoid if he told her she was being captured on camera.

Besides, it was only going to last three days. He would remove the cameras as soon as he was back.

Deirdre did not notice anything amiss. Her mind was too preoccupied with her escape. Next Monday was her only chance, though she had no inkling of where to go. It had to be a place far from Brendan's control—a place where his power and influence could not reach.

She mulled over her options and found no answer.

"Uh, Surstate, huh?" Glenna intoned as she turned the heat down on the stove. "It's developing quickly enough, but it's nowhere near a metropolis like Neve or Eastgene. It's a pretty nice place to live, though. It's a seaside city and perfect for vacations."

"If someone were to, say, disappear there... Is it easy to locate them in the city?"

Glenna thought for a moment. "Surstate city council is hoping to become a tourist attraction, but a beginning as humble as that place means they have a lot of work cut out for them. It has way too many people with complicated, messy housing distributions. If anyone goes missing there, I don't think it's going to be that easy to find them. No offense, but a developed, wealthy urban city is just too different from an underdeveloped, backwater area."

Deirdre nodded quietly.

Glenna set a steaming bowl of porridge on the table. "Here you go. Oh, it's a little hot. Careful."

Deirdre blew the steam for a while before putting a scoop in her mouth. Excited, Glenna asked, "So, how is it? I know my culinary skill is not as great as yours, but it's still pretty edible, right?"

"Please, you undersell yourself. It's amazing." Deirdre drank her fill until she was sated. Then, she rose and announced, "It's getting late. I should head back."

Glenna quickly fetched a coat. "I'll drive!" "Glenna, you've been working late recently, right? You should take some early rest instead of being my driver again," Deirdre replied placidly. "I'll hail a cab and go straight to the villa." "Well... I'll watch you get into the car, then!"

Deirdre did not reject her this time. "Sure."

As the taxi made its way to its destination, Deirdre closed her eyes and mulled over Glenna's suggestion. Surstate sounded like a good place to hide, though traveling there was a little more difficult since it was a seaside city. She should get Tobey's opinion.

When the car stopped, and the driver informed her, she opened her eyes, thanked him, and paid him before striding toward the gate. Then, a hazy silhouette formed in front of her gate, stark enough for her damaged eyesight to pick up.