

Chapter 532 Escape (Part Two)

Mercer swung the door open. "Come out. Those people have left. It's not safe for you to hide here. Join me."

Frozen in place, Melissa eyed him warily.

"What? Why aren't you following me? You'll be caught when they return."

"Are you helping me?"

Melissa couldn't comprehend why Mercer would assist her, considering he was part of the Carter family too.

"Yes, I'm helping you. Come now. I'll take you somewhere safe."

"Why should I trust you?"

Joyce's sudden change in attitude and the fact that Susie was a poison master left Melissa unwilling to trust any Carter.

"Without my aid, do you think you can escape? You must realize how tight our security is. Even mosquitoes can't breach it, let alone a person."

Melissa was dumbfounded by his words.

"Come. Let me help you."

Mercer grasped Melissa's wrist, but after only a few steps, laughter echoed nearby.

Eyes darting, Mercer spotted Karl emerging from a bush.

"Ah, Dr. Sherman. Will you come willingly, or must I drag you away?"

Instinctively, Melissa wrenched her hand free, regretting her trust in Mercer.

Fists clenched, Mercer asserted, "Trust me. I didn't bring him here."

"True, he didn't summon me. But when I saw my brother scurrying about, I knew he was here to save you."

Karl stroked his beard, eyes glacial.

"Karl, I've treated you well for years. She's our niece. Let her go!"

Karl scoffed, "Of course I can let her go. As long as she hands over what I need, I won't harm her."

Melissa clutched her pocket. "Even if I die here, I won't let you harm more people!"

Karl's face darkened. "Melissa, that's your only escape route. Do you know the pain your mother caused us? My mother went mad from her betrayal. She tormented us, even my child... My mother strangled my baby during a psychotic episode. All because of your mother!"

Melissa retorted, "It's not my mother's fault. It's your family."

"Shut up. I'll rip your mouth open!"

Karl charged at Melissa, rage ablaze.

Swish.

Mercer brandished a knife.

Eyeing the blade, Karl raised his hands, retreating slowly. "Mercer, don't threaten me. Let's talk."

"Let her go!" Mercer bellowed.

"Mercer, if we release her, what will Mom do to us?"

"I'm an adult. I'm not afraid of her."

"But what about Archy? He's just a child! Do you want him to be strangled by our mother, like my son?"

Mercer's gaze hardened. "I've sent Archy and Ivanna away. I won't let Mom find them."

Closing in on Karl, Mercer slashed, leaving a crimson gash on his

brother's neck.

"Let her go!" Mercer roared once more.



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