

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1441-1445

Chapter 1441 Provocation

Undeterred by his authoritative voice as she outranked him in terms of power wield and was a favorite of the queen's, Miranda merely sneered at Sybil down the length of her nose.

"So what if she is a distinguished guest invited by the king?" she asked with arrogant provocation. "The bodyguard under her employ beat the prince up. You know as well as I do that it is a crime to assault a member of the royal family."

Only then did Sybil discover the true reason for Arielle's summon.

"Be that as it may, Ms. Moore is Chanaean and an honored guest of the king's. Turlenese laws and regulations have no jurisdiction over her."

It is indeed a crime for a commoner to lay a finger on the prince. However, Ms. Moore is the eldest princess of Turlen. Isn't it normal for an older sister to hit her younger brother?

Nevertheless, Sybil did not dare voice his thoughts out loud as it was not yet time to expose Arielle's true identity.

Miranda raised an eyebrow. "Though she can't be punished, her bodyguard is a citizen of ours who does happen to fall under our jurisdiction. We only intended to take him with us, but Ms. Moore insisted that she come along. That puts me in a tough spot, doesn't it?"

"I was the one who ordered the bodyguard to strike, Sybil," Arielle corroborated, aware that he must have been sent by Dylan. "If the queen is going to punish him for following orders, it's only fair to hold me accountable too."

"Don't worry, Ms. Moore," Sybil said cryptically before departing. "Things will turn out well."

Arielle stared doubtfully at Sybil's departing silhouette as she recalled Vinson's analysis of him several days ago. It seems that I need to find out why the king cares about me so much.

Miranda's eyes narrowed as she studied the exchange between Sybil and Arielle. What does the king see in this Chanaean doctor? What sorcery could she possibly possess to cause both men of the royal family to be this infatuated with her?

Sybil reported his encounter with Arielle to Dylan the moment he returned to the latter's study.

Dylan was relieved to learn that it was another matter altogether that had invoked the queen's summon rather than the exposure of Arielle's identity.

Although he wanted more than anything else to reconcile with his daughter, he was not in the optimum position to do so at the moment. If the queen mother and the queen find out about Arielle's identity, who knows what they will do to her? I must not take this risk and put Arielle in danger.

"Your Majesty, the prince and the princess seem to be on excellent terms," Sybil said after a short pause. "If I may, you could give the prince a call and have him speak to his mother."

Dylan frowned as he considered the matter before eventually agreeing. At this juncture, it's the only viable method left to resolve the matter peacefully.

However, the unfairness to his son if he did so gnawed at him. Although the boy was not born to his expectations, Aaron was his son nonetheless. It would be unfit for him to demand that the person who assaulted his son be rescued and spared.

Ultimately, he chose to side with his daughter as he felt guilty for being absent from her life for over twenty years. Although he did not give the boy too much fatherly love, he did fulfill all of the paternal responsibilities expected of him. He felt awful for not standing up for his daughter who had grown up without a fatherly figure to depend on.

Chapter 1442 He Is With Me

Dylan looked up at Sybil and was about to have him call Aaron when he decided to make the call himself on second thought. If I have to even ask Sybil to carry out such a simple task on my behalf, how is it different from running away from my own problems?

As he dialed Aaron's number, Sybil left the study tactfully and waited outside.

Aaron had just had his bruises tended to when his phone rang. The bodyguard beside him immediately picked up the phone and handed it to him. He glanced at the caller ID and answered the call immediately.

"Yes, Father?"

"Ms. Moore was taken to the palace by your mother's orders," Dylan said solemnly. "I'm entrusting you with her safe return."

Aaron became anxious upon hearing that Arielle had been taken away by his mother as he knew very well what she was capable of. "Why would she do that?" he asked, panicking.

Could she be angry at Arielle because I rejected the marriage prospects she had lined up for me?

Aaron's eyes darkened at that thought.

"She learned that Ms. Moore's bodyguard beat you and had them taken away," Dylan replied impatiently. "Enough questions, Aaron. Save them from your mother's wrath."

“Yes, Father.” Aaron hung up and rushed to the palace.

Despite still feeling hurt at Arielle prioritizing her bodyguard over him, Aaron could not bear for her to suffer any harm or grievance if he could help it.

Gloom accompanied him all the way to the palace. As soon as Aaron arrived outside the queen’s quarters, he spotted Sybil, who was pacing with visible anxiety.

“Don’t worry, Sybil.” Aaron offered a reassuring smile before entering. “I’ll bring her back safely.”

Though he did not know why Sybil had not dared to meet Arielle until recently, Aaron felt obligated to be on friendlier terms with Sybil to gain his support if he ever needed it to marry Arielle in the future.

After all, I can’t use my authority to force Arielle into marrying me.

Sybil frowned at Aaron’s departing silhouette. The way the prince had spoken to him gave him a funny feeling, though he quickly dismissed it as Arielle’s safety consumed his thoughts once more. The king must be out of his mind with worry.

Meanwhile, Miranda led Arielle and Vinson through the main hall of the queen’s quarters. Atop her throne at the very end, the queen sat on a chair and surveyed Arielle and Vinson imperiously.

Her gaze darkened when she turned to Arielle. This must be the woman who has my son’s heart on a string. Because of her, he has forsaken better and worthier girls.

Initially fuming over the impossibility of punishing her, the queen was delighted when Arielle volunteered to come over herself. Since she showed up expecting me to show no mercy, I won’t be doing so.

“Put that one in jail,” she said to one of the guards as she pointed to Vinson.

Immediately, the guard in question stepped out smartly.

“I’d like to watch you try!” Arielle stepped out and met the queen’s haughty stare with her own.

You’ll be needing my permission to lay a finger on him!

“He is with me, Your Majesty. Nobody can touch him without my say-so, including you and your royal husband.”

Arielle’s nonchalant tone made the queen tremble in spite of herself. It was the first time she was met with a regal presence that rivaled even her own.

Chapter 1443 Insolence

However, her insecurity was fleeting.

This is the first time anybody has dared speak to me like this. How presumptuous! The queen was about to explode with fury as she pointed a shaking finger at Arielle. "You arrogant little b*tch. Who do you think you are to speak to me like that?"

Arielle sneered at the sight of the queen's austere features that contorted from her anger. "Is my gruff manner of speaking too much for your delicate palate? Let me return to Chanaea, then. I don't care much for your country."

Her impertinence took the queen's breath away.

"What are you still standing there for?" the queen shrieked at her men. "Take him away!"

The guards started at once for Vinson, who caught Arielle's eye and nodded grimly as an unspoken understanding passed between them. Just as the guards were about to lunge, Aaron burst through the doors.

"Stop!" he roared. The guards froze at the sound of his voice. Aaron glanced at Arielle before walking to the queen's side. "Mother," he asked sullenly, "what are you trying to do?"

"This peasant dared raise a finger against you," the queen snapped at her son for his gallantry. "As a punishment befitting the crime under our laws, I'm having him arrested and put in jail."

Aaron agreed with his mother. "It's indeed a crime to beat the prince in his own country, Ari," he said as he turned to look at Arielle. "Nobody in Turlen is above the law."

In truth, Aaron had an ulterior motive. Having intensely disliked the bodyguard from the moment he saw him, Aaron had planned to replace him just so that he could not remain by Arielle's side.

Arielle saw through his charade at once.

"I'm not saying that he has immunity," Arielle began tentatively. Aaron's eyes lit up. Is she going to obey the laws of Turlen and comply? Before he could celebrate, her condition plummeted his hopes. "I'll accompany him throughout his imprisonment, and I will only come out upon his release."

Instantly, his heart sank. Aaron suppressed the aching pain in his heart with great difficulty as his eyes fell on Arielle.

Why is this bodyguard so important to her? Is it worth keeping him company even at the cost of going to jail? Who is he?

As if he had known it all along, a name appeared in his mind.

Aaron's vicious gaze became fixed on Vinson at that thought, but he quickly became certain that Vinson was clearly not the person he had in mind.

"Ari, you are putting me in a tight spot here," Aaron said with a scowl.

She knows that I would never have the heart to put her in jail. She's saying these things just to hurt me further.

"It feels as though you are putting the screws on me instead. You want your mother to put him in jail despite knowing that he acted on my orders. If you are dissatisfied with my presence, you can send me back to Chanaea. I've had enough of Turlen."

Arielle took a small pause before continuing, "If you're going to arrest him by force, I promise you that not a single one of you will leave this palace alive. Don't test me."

If it were not due to the fact that she was looking for her biological father, Arielle would have attacked Aaron back when he kidnapped her adoptive parents in Lightspring.

Disregarding most of what Arielle said, the only part that had caused a stab-like pain in his heart was her disdain for remaining in Turlen. Has nothing in Turlen captured her heart at all?

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Chapter 1445 Unappreciated Gestures

The queen was irritated by how disdainfully Arielle behaved toward her son’s gestures. I would like to see just how you manage.

She cast a cold glare at Arielle. “Sure, if you want to stay so badly.” Arielle was not afraid of her at all. Instead, her lips curled into a smirk. “Your Majesty, do you feel a tightness in your chest like you’re having trouble breathing?”

Like a trigger, her words startled the queen who clutched at her chest with one hand and pointed an accusatory finger at Arielle with the other. “What have you done to me?”

“Ari...” Aaron stared at her, horrorstruck. “I’d warned you not to test me.” Ignoring Aaron, she stared at the queen coldly. “In half an hour from now, even the antidote wouldn’t save you.”

Though Vinson had been looking in confusion at one speaker after another throughout their time at the queen’s quarters, he could tell that she was powerless against Arielle. Unnoticed by any of the others jabbering away in Turlenese, he smirked with amusement as he observed the proceedings silently.

By then, the queen was becoming thoroughly frightened. She did not expect Arielle to be capable of poisoning her without a trace.

Even Miranda was cowering with terror in the corner of the room as she clutched her chest.

“What do you want?” the queen asked through gritted teeth.

“Cancel your deal with Aaron, let us leave peacefully, and never use this matter to trouble my bodyguard again.”

“You’re not getting out of here alive if you kill me,” the queen said viciously, unwilling to back down from Arielle’s threat.

Arielle sneered. How naïve.

“With all due respect, Your Majesty, you really are a stupid woman. I’ll just tell everyone that you have succumbed to an illness for which you’ve contracted my services. Unfortunately, I found out that there is no cure for your terminal illness.” Arielle shook her head with mock sadness before adding, “What exactly did the king see in you, I wonder? Definitely not your brains, Your Majesty.”

Her words struck a chord.

The queen had only managed to marry Dylan due to the efforts of the queen mother. If it weren’t for her, Dylan would have been unwilling to fulfill their marriage contract. Aaron might never have been born if it had not been for the act of his grandmother against his father on the night of our wedding.

“Insolence!” she shouted at Arielle. “Treason!”

The queen was so furious that she wanted to sentence them to imprisonment on the spot. Before she could open her mouth, Arielle spoke again while smiling at the queen’s outburst, “Twenty-five minutes to go!”

“She really is capable of doing this, Mother,” Aaron pleaded. “Just give in, will you?” Knowing his mother well, he could tell that she was just being stubborn. By speaking up, he was saving her ego.

Although he knew that Arielle wouldn’t kill his mother, he was familiar with his mother’s temper. He was aware of how ugly things would get if she got infuriated and refused to allow Arielle and her bodyguard to leave.

Though unwilling to let Ariel and her companion go unpunished, the queen knew that survival was much more important. If she lost her life just for the momentary satisfaction of her ego, it would all have been in vain.