

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin_Jnr Chapter 136

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Chapter 136

Read The Consortium's Heir Chapter 136 – Alice couldn't believe her eyes at the sight before her. The terror and fear she felt earlier increased tenfold in front of the owner of the voice. This was because the owner of the voice was none other than her high school ex boyfriend and heir to the Finn Conglomerate; Michael Finn! Michael Finn sat on a very luxurious white sofa as his grey eyes stared at Alice.

He wore an impeccable white suit, with his hair jelled back and packed into a ponytail. His beard was clean shaven. He reeked of masculinity as he sat on the sofa, and he looked incredibly handsome.

There was a table in front of him, and on the table was a half empty bottle of red wine, a rare brand that cost over six figures. His temperament was way more mature and solid than it was three years ago.

It was no wonder that so many of her high school friends wanted to date him, and were incredibly jealous when Alice was the one he chose. However, Alice knew that beneath those sparkling grey eyes was a scheming and brutal personality.

If she had the power, she wouldn't want anything to do with him at all. Michael Finn had a proud smirk on his face as he looked at Alice. He had waited so long for this day, the she would be finally brought to him, and it had finally happened.

He was finally reconciled with his woman after more than three years. He stood up and walked towards Alice who had fallen to her knees from both fright and fatigue.

Alice had walked hurriedly through the forest route, so her clothes were torn and dirty, and her hair was covered with leaves from the trees in the forest. Michael stretched his hands to caress her face, but Alice flinched and inched away from him.

An imperceptible frown appeared on his face at Alice's actions, but it barely lasted a few moments before it disappeared. He was about to turn away from Alice when his eyes caught sight of a very visible palm print on her cheeks.

He narrowed his eyes at the palm print on her cheeks and asked in a very dangerous voice. "Who hit her?" Alice flinched again at how dangerous his tone sounded. Even though the question wasn't directed at Alice, she could feel how angry he was from the tone of his voice.

The four burly men who kidnapped Alice paled visibly at Michael's question. They had been working under Michael for some time now, and they knew of his temper.

Usually, they had kidnapped several people for him, and even tortured people who had gone against his wishes. Hence they were used to being brutal in their jobs. Before he ordered them to kidnap Alice, he made sure to inform them to treat Alice with the utmost care, and not a hair on her head should be hurt.

However, they didn't do that. Not only was Alice brought to him in a mess, one of them even had the audacity to lay his hand on her. He could forgive them for Alice's rough state, but he could never forgive the person who laid his hand on his woman.

"I asked you lot a question." Michael stated in a cold voice. The four powerfully built kidnappers looked at each other briefly, before the kidnapper who slapped Alice stepped out. Michael looked at the kidnapper and asked in chilly tone.

"You're the one who slapped her?" The kidnapper nodded his head timidly. Despite his heavily built frame, he was terrified of Michael.

They had been working for him for a long time, so they knew how dangerous and brutal he could be when offended. "Why?" Michael asked calmly.

The kidnapper had barely opened his mouth to answer his question when a loud sound echoed in the room. Crash! Michael had smashed the half bottle of red wine against the brawny kidnapper's head. "How dare you?!" Michael yelled angrily, completely shedding away his attitude of a very calm gentleman.

The kidnapper fell to the ground with a loud thud, his hands grabbing his head as he fell. Soon enough, blood started pooling around his head from the wound he sustained on his head. However, Michael showed no sign of stopping.

He raised the table the bottle of red wine was kept on, and smashed it on the body of the kidnapper. Crack! A loud bone crunching sound echoed in the room, and the table was smashed to pieces. The body of the kidnapper wasn't well off either.

His right arm was bent 90 degree in the opposite direction, creating a gory sight. The three kidnappers turned away from the scene, terror in their eyes.

Alice held back a scream, completely horrified of the scene in front of her. If she wasn't a strong adult, she would have peed herself in fear.

Michael paid no attention to their reactions and still didn't stop there.

He kept on beating the kidnapper with the remainder of the table. The more he beat the kidnapper, more he recalled the palm print on Alice's cheeks, and the more he recalled the palm print on Alice's cheeks, the angrier he felt.

It wasn't until after five minutes of intense beating that Michael finally came to a stop. By the time he was done, the healthy muscular kidnapper from before couldn't be

recognized, and what was in his place was a battered man with broken bones and severe injuries.

Michael Finn had displayed his brutal personality once more.

“Take him out of here.” Michael ordered coldly, while wiping his hands stained with blood with a spotless handkerchief. The three kidnapers didn’t waste any second and rushed over to their battered comrade.

They hoisted him up onto their shoulders and exited the cabin hastily to treat him, without even turning back. They were afraid they would end up in their comrade shoes if they wasted anymore time.

Michael scoffed at their scurrying figures and turned back to Alice, a smile on his face. “Now; where were we?” Michael asked gently, a charming smile gracing his lips. Although he looked incredibly handsome and charming with such a smile on his face, the only image Alice could see was one of a cold blooded devil.

On the other hand, while Michael was beating up the kidnapper who slapped Alice, Darius was speeding to Yale city, Alice last known location in his Bugatti. His phone call to the police proved to be very useful, and after expending a lot of resources, they discovered that Alice was indeed kidnapped.

They were able to get their hands on the black box footage of a car, and the car recorded when Alice was manhandled by four muscularly built men and pushed into a black sedan. The kidnapers were not fools, and could be called top professionals in their profession.

As such their car obviously had no license plate, making it extremely hard for the police to track down the black vehicle. The police immediately mobilized their top professionals, and started working hard to find where Alice was taken.

The distance to Yale city was more than an hour from Kingston University, but Darius who was driving a super sports car worth millions of dollars at top speed arrived at Yale city in less than twenty minutes.

The policemen on traffic duty tried to caution Darius, but when they saw the luxurious sports car and the special license plate, they refrained from doing so.

The background of the owner was not something they could fathom or dare to annoy.

As long as Darius didn’t cause any road accidents, they would turn a blind eye to his high speed.

While Darius was speeding to Yale city, he made a phone call to the chairman of the subsidiary company that produced the GPS tracker app. The phone only rang once

before the chairman answered the phone call. “Mr. Reid!” the chairman, Vita Layne answered excitedly but respectfully.

“I want the tech team of your company to use every means possible to find a close friend of mine.” Darius said curtly, ignoring Vita’s excited voice and going straight to the point. “Certainly Mr. Reid!” Vita replied boldly.

“There’s no one that our tech team can’t find in this world! Leave it to us!” Vita yelled boastfully. Who was Mr. Reid? He was someone who he couldn’t hope to meet on a normal basis. Now that the said big shot contacted him first to ask for his services, he would be a fool if he couldn’t fulfill it.

This was a once in a lifetime opportunity, and there was no way he would let it pass. “Good.” Darius said powerfully. “If you complete this job well, I would reward you accordingly.” Darius added after half a second.

Vita’s excited breathing became even more erratic from the other end of the phone, and Darius could imagine the short man sweating profusely from excitement. “Rest assured Mr. Reid! This task you’ve entrusted to me will be completed in no time!” Vita promised boldly

. Darius then gave Vita Alice’s details before disconnecting the phone call, and let out a distressed sigh. He had no idea who the kidnappers were, so all he could do was pray that Alice could hang on until he found her.

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Read The Consortium’s Heir Chapter 137 – Alice woke up in the black sedan with the four burly men who kidnapped her. She was squeezed in between them in the backseat of the sedan, and as the sedan drove at high speed, she was greatly affected when the driver drove right past some potholes. The potholes made her unbalanced, and she came into close contact with the two burly kidnappers beside her.

She was very terrified of the burly men, so she dared not voice her discomfort at how uncomfortable she was.

Alice remained as still as a quiet lake as the sedan drove, and it was unknown how long the sedan drove for, but just when her butt was beginning to get numb, the sedan came to a stop.

The four burly men alighted from the black sedan in hurried steps and roughly pulled Alice out of the vehicle.

Alice screamed from fright, but before she could scream even further, a crisp sound was heard, and a burning sensation spread in her cheeks.

One of the burly kidnapers had slapped her.

“Shut up! One more sound from you and it won’t end with just a slap!” the kidnapper who slapped her yelled angrily.

Alice nodded her head in fear, the stinging sensation and the very visible palm print on her cheeks giving her an indelible mark. She knew that if she offended them again by chance, it wouldn’t end well for her.

The four burly men led Alice through a forest path, and walked for over twenty minutes in silence.

Alice, who was still dressed in the outfit she picked for her coffee date with Darius, felt the insects biting her with gusto. Her outfit was clearly unsuitable for her to walk through a forest path, and with how quickly the burly men walked, she was afraid of being left behind, so she gritted her teeth and ignored the pain she felt.

If asked to choose between wild animals and the kidnapers, she would definitely choose the kidnapers. The kidnapers were still humans after all. No one would love to be at the mercy of wild animals.

After walking for another ten minutes, the four burly men finally came to a stop at a well built cabin.

Alice who was already numb from the pain of the insect bites looked at the cabin in shock. The last thing she expected to see was a cabin in the middle of a forest.

Moreover, this wasn’t your average cabin. It was a luxury cabin that must have cost millions of dollars to build!

Alice gulped and subconsciously remained behind. She didn’t want to go close to the cabin at all, but when the burly kidnapper who slapped her earlier glared at her coldly.

She sucked in a cold breath and walked towards the cabin. As much as she didn’t want to enter the cabin, she also didn’t want to risk angering the burly kidnapper; therefore she obeyed him unwillingly and stepped into the cabin.

The moment she stepped inside the cabin, a male voice, one that she could never forget, seeped into her ears.

“Did you miss me?” the male voice asked haughtily.

Alice looked up to where the voice came from, shivering visibly from horror and fear, and when she saw the owner of the voice, her heart started beating rapidly against her chest!

Alice couldn't believe her eyes at the sight before her. The terror and fear she felt earlier increased tenfold in front of the owner of the voice. This was because the owner of the voice was none other than her high school ex boyfriend and heir to the Finn Conglomerate; Michael Finn!

Alice felt petrified at his stare, and just as she was about to say something to Michael, Michael raised his hand and slapped her hard across the face!

Alice fell to the ground with a burning sensation on her cheeks. She looked up at Michael in fear, and tears were pooling in her eyes, but contrary to her expectations, Michael raised his hand and slapped her even harder across the face.

“You b*tch! How dare you leave me and go on dates with other men?!” Michael yelled angrily.

“You're mine, and only mine!” Michael said in a furious tone.

“You only have your brother left in your family, don't you?” Michael suddenly said and smiled at Alice warmly again, making Alice's blood run cold.

“Your younger brother is being monitored by my people now. I'm sure you don't want to see anything happen to him; which is why you should just do as I say.” Michael stated calmly, but the sinister look in his gray eyes couldn't be hidden.

Alice glared at him as he finished speaking, the terror she felt earlier completely absent, and anger replacing them.

Michael had threatened her with the safety of her younger brother. He demanded for her to quit her studies and go back with him.

Of course, there was no way Alice would agree to go back with Michael; but there was no room for her to reject him. If she did, he would immediately order his men to take action against her brother.

Her brother was the only family member she had left, so she most definitely did not want any harm to befall him.

As a result, Michael's actions placed her in between a rock and a hard place. She was stuck in a dilemma.

Michael looked at Alice's conflicted expression, and let out a smirk. He knew that she loved her brother more than she loved herself, so she would definitely choose to leave with him in exchange for her brother's safety.

Alice closed her eyes, and tears dropped from her eyes. Just as she opened her mouth to agree to Michael's condition, a loud sound echoed in the room.

Bang!

The door to the room flew open, completely crushed, and Darius walked into the room confidently, an icy expression on his face.

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Chapter 138

Read The Consortium's Heir Chapter 138 – Michael and Alice both had surprised looks on their faces. They were extremely shocked to see Darius walking past the door. Darius sudden entrance relieved and delighted Alice, who was about to agree to Michael's demand. She got up from her knees and threw herself into Darius' arms. Her actions inevitably softened the icy expression he had on his face.

The moment Alice sank into his arms, all the fear she felt from the moment of her kidnap to this current moment melted away, and she cried loudly. She had never felt so secured before in her life, and different turbulent emotions rocked her.

A dark expression appeared on Michael's face as he watched Alice throw herself at Darius. He was incredibly furious at the moment.

"How did you find us?!" Michael yelled angrily. He had spent a lot of money to build this cabin in the middle of the forest, so that he wouldn't be easily discovered by the police or private detectives. However, it had been less than 12 hours since his subordinates kidnapped Alice. How on earth did Darius find him so quickly?

Darius fixed his gaze on Michael after hearing his question, and the anger he felt from earlier returned tenfold.

He was extremely glad that he was able to arrive on time. After driving in his Bugatti at top speed, he was able to arrive at Ophen Hills in an hour instead of the stipulated three hours. After that, he

spent over ten minutes searching relentlessly for the cabin in the forest. If it weren't for the minute tracks the kidnappers left behind in their wake, he wouldn't have found the cabin so quickly.

"Why did you kidnap Alice?" Darius asked angrily.

"That is none of your business." Michael replied coldly.

"I don't know how you found this place, but you won't leave this place alive!" Michael said threateningly.

"Come out!" Michael yelled, and almost immediately, the three heavily built men who kidnapped Alice appeared in the broken door and entered the room. The fourth kidnapper who was beaten severely by Michael was just treated recently and was still recovering.

Darius instantly tensed up when the kidnappers appeared. He could tell that Michael had spent a hefty sum of money hiring these kidnappers, as they were incredibly threatening, even for him. They certainly had substantial amount of kills.

"The three of you listen closely. I want him dead." Michael ordered coldly.

The three kidnappers nodded obediently at Michael's words and started moving towards Darius, eliciting a frown from Darius.

"Stand back." Darius ordered Alice in a steady tone. He then took off his jacket and covered Alice's shoulders with it. This happened in the span of five seconds.

Alice felt warmer than ever when Darius casual but expensive jacket covered her shoulders, and the sense of security she

felt increased exponentially.

Every woman wanted their man to be able to offer them a sense of security, and this was true even in ancient times, and Alice was no different. This was why the feelings she felt for Darius intensified by tenfold. At this point, she would do whatever Darius instructed her to do without question.

Michael saw Darius' actions and even became angrier than he currently was.

"Make sure you kill him!" Michael yelled cynically.

Darius tensed up and stretched every part of his body to the extreme, and the three kidnappers did the same. The moment of silence and inactivity between them was just them weighing up each other abilities, and once they got a rough estimate of each other's strength, they would strike.

After one minute of staring each other down, the fight happened.

Darius was the first one to rush forward, launching a powerful kick towards the direction of one of the kidnapers.

Bang!

A loud sound echoed in the room as Darius' legs connected with the stomach of the kidnapper.

The kidnapper groaned loudly in pain when the kick connected, and flew back from the force of the kick.

Darius, who had meditated every morning and practiced the series of movements in the 'Journals of Madra' everyday had seen a significant improve

in strength, and could not be compared with how he was during the assassination attempt.

The three kidnapers looked at Darius with grim expressions after seeing his kick. They thought that he would be an easy fight, but his kick had shown them that if they didn't take him seriously, they wouldn't know how they lost.

The two kidnapers who were still standing shared a brief glance with each other, then ran towards Darius and attacked him at the same time.

The kidnapers were strong on their own right, so when faced with the combined of the two kidnapers, he inevitably felt a sense of crisis.

Clash!

Darius raised his arms in front of him to

block the attacks from the two kidnapers, but he still moved back more than five steps because of the force packed in the attacks. By this time, the third kidnapper had recovered from Darius' kick, and joined the fray and attacked Darius.

Sounds of combat filled the room as Darius engaged in a tough fight with the three kidnapers.

Michael watched the fight with a very grim expression on his face. The fight had been going on for three minutes now, and it was very intense. After spending a lot of money to hire the kidnapers, he thought that they would be able to take care of any issues they encountered, yet the situation in front of him was completely different from what he envisioned.

Not only were they not able to take care of him after three minutes, they were even on the losing end of the fight!

On the other hand, Alice was incredibly happy when she saw Darius holding his end against the three kidnapers. She never knew Darius was this strong. He seemed like the attacks were not even hurting him!

Darius on the contrary, was under a lot of pressure when faced with the combined attacks from the three kidnapers. Unlike what Alice and Michael thought, Darius knew that any slip up would result in a fatal injury for him.

The fight continued for two more minutes, and Darius was about to launch a finishing blow to one of the kidnapers, but the kidnapper dodged the attack at the last second.

Unfortunately, as the room was a bit cramped for such an intense fight, this put Alice directly in the path of Darius attack.

Darius narrowly moved his attack away from Alice, but this created an opening for the kidnapers to capitalize on.

Crack!

Three powerful blows landed on three critical points on Darius body, and Darius flew back from the force of the attacks.

The three kidnapers rushed over to Darius, not giving him any sign of reprieve. Faced with a flurry of attacks, and left with no way to defend against them, Darius was injured severely by the kidnapers.

Just as one of the kidnapers wanted to land a critical blow to Darius' head,

several bright lights shone onto the cabin, illuminating the cabin, and several loud helicopter sounds could be heard.

Darius let out a knowing smile the moment he heard the sounds. The police had arrived just in the nick of time!

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Read The Consortium's Heir Chapter 139 – Outside the cabin, more than six police helicopters shone their bright lights on the cabin, and more than sixteen police vehicles surrounded the cabin.

The policemen all alighted the vehicles fully armed with weapons and trained them on the cabin and were ready to shoot at a moment's notice.

"This is the police! Keep your hands in the air and exit the cabin obediently; otherwise we will be obligated to use forceful means." A police officer who seemed to be in charge of the rescue operation said loudly.

Michael, who maintained his composure during the duration of Darius' fight with the kidnappers

could not maintain his composure when faced with such an extravagant line up of policemen.

"What are they doing here?!" Michael yelled loudly, his face paling in horror. The appearance of the police made him incredibly panicked.

As the current head of the Finn conglomerate, he could not be involved in any controversial issues, or the hard work he and his ancestors had put to grow the Finn conglomerate would be rendered useless!

Michael wasn't the only one panicking. The kidnappers were even more panicked than Michael at the arrival of the police.

This was expected, as their boss Michael came from a wealthy background, so they wouldn't dare kill him. However the same couldn't be said for them. They were henchmen at most, and based on Michael's character, he wouldn't mind them taking the fall for him.

Darius forced himself to his feet, and stood in front of Alice while the kidnappers were still surprised by the appearance of the police. Although his injuries were severe, the self-healing trait of the golden liquid was already kicking in, so Darius was able to move about fairly easily.

"The police has arrived, and they are fully prepared, so there's nowhere for you to run. Turn yourselves in, and this issue won't be complicated further." Darius said to the kidnappers between gritted teeth.

The kidnappers looked at one another after hearing Darius' statement, different thoughts running through their mind. Nonetheless, the subtle gaze they shared with one another agreed on one thing, and they were leaning towards Darius' statement.

“Don’t listen to him! There is a way for us to get out of this unscathed. Just trust me!” Michael yelled loudly, afraid that the kidnappers would really be convinced by Darius’ words.

Darius took note of the change in the expression of the kidnappers, and pressed further.

“There are already several fully armed police officers waiting for the order to raid this cabin. If you don’t concede now and turn yourselves in, they will be forced to use unscrupulous means. By then, no one will be able to save you.” Darius started.

“On the other hand, if you turn yourselves in now, you will surely be shown leniency when tried for your crimes. The choice is yours.” Darius concluded; his eyes still trained on the three kidnappers.

The four kidnappers shared a glance with each other, and let out a sigh. They then raised their hands and moved right into the spot where the bright lights from the helicopters were shining and yelled loudly.

“We surrender!”

Michael had a horrified expression at his subordinates’ concession and roared loudly.

“What the hell do you think you three are doing?!”

“Do not believe that son of a bitch!” Michael yelled crazily; yet the kidnappers showed no sign of obeying Michael’s yells. Even though they were subconsciously afraid of Michael, they were not fools, and they knew which decision was right for them.

“Put your hands on your head and come out!” the police officer in charge of the case yelled into a loudspeaker.

The four kidnappers shared a glance with each other and exited the cabin, their hands on their head.

Darius shared a brief glance with Alice, after which she followed the kidnappers outside the cabin. Michael’s eyes turned bloodshot when he saw Alice escaping his grasp once again, but there was nothing he could do now.

The police were outside, and Darius was standing close to Alice. After Darius held his ground against the four kidnappers, Michael didn’t think he could outmatch Darius in a fight.

As soon as Alice exited the cabin, several medical personnel rushed forward to examine her; carefully leading her to the ambulance dispatched in case of injuries.

Darius let out a sigh of relief when the kidnappers surrendered. He thought they would go crazy from the pressure the police applied and

do something stupid, but luckily they still had a clear grasp of their situation.

“Mr. Michael Finn, your involvement in this kidnapping case has been confirmed. Please exit the cabin and turn yourself in, or you will put yourself in an even more disadvantageous position.”

The police man in charge of the rescue operation yelled loudly into the loudspeaker.

“You!” Michael bellowed angrily and pointed at Darius in fury. He wanted to speak, but he was so angry that he could not get the words out of his mouth.

Darius looked at him coldly, and said in an icy tone.

“You brought this upon yourself, and you have no one but yourself to blame.” Darius stated; and also started making his way out of the cabin.

Michael glared at Darius for a few seconds, before laughing loudly.

“If I can’t defeat you, then we just have to die together!” Michael roared manically in a crazed tone.

Darius felt a malicious feeling the moment Michael started laughing, so he turned to face him immediately.

The moment he did however, his eyes widened in shock; for Michael had pulled out a menacing pistol, and aimed it at him!

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Read The Consortium’s Heir Chapter 140 – Beads of sweat drooped down Darius’ face when faced with the menacing pistol in Michael’s hand. The safety of the pistol was off, and the moment Michael pulled the trigger, a bullet would be embedded in Darius’ heart.

Darius felt genuine fear when faced with the gun trained on his heart. He wasn’t a fool, so he knew that with the amount of training he had now, there was no absolutely no way he could dodge a bullet. The instant Michael shot him, Darius would be a goner.

Alice's eyes widened in shock and horror the second she saw the menacing pistol in Michael's hands; and her heart started pounding rapidly. Her blood immediately ran cold, and she had never felt so much fear in her life before.

"Wait!" Darius bellowed loudly just as Michael was about to pull the trigger.

Michael paused and looked at Darius with a sinister gaze; while the police officers outside the cabin moved closer to the cabin the moment they saw a firearm in Michael's hands.

"Do you have any last words?" Michael asked sinisterly, the gun still trained on Darius' heart.

"Are you sure you want to do this?" Darius pleaded.

"There is still a chance for you to make a comeback. At most you just have to face charges for kidnapping. With your wealth and status, you wouldn't spend more than five years in prison; but the moment you shoot me, even if I don't die, you will be charged with attempted murder."

"This time, you will not be able to worm your way out of this no matter your status. Are you sure you want to do this?" Darius pleaded, trying to speak sense into Michael.

Michael looked at Darius and laughed manically.

"You took my woman away from me, and now you're pleading for leniency. Do you think you're in any position to plead for mercy?" Michael asked cynically.

"You're right. The moment I shoot you, I would no longer be able to save myself. Even then, I still have to kill you." Michael stated firmly; and with that statement, he pulled the trigger on the pistol.

Bang!

A split second later, Darius only felt something solid embed itself on his chest, and he swayed unsteadily for a few seconds before his whole world turned black

"Darius!" Alice screamed loudly the second the bullet connected with Darius' chest. Her heart squeezed painfully as she watched Darius sway unsteadily on his feet before dropping to the ground, a pool of blood forming around his feet.

She tried to run towards Darius who was lying motionless in the cabin, but the police forcefully held her back.

Gunshot sounds soon rang out in the forest, scaring the wild animals and birds in the forest area. Of course, the gunshot sounds were from the police, who had shed all forms of civility with Michael and opted for the forceful approach to arrest him. Since he had shot a civilian, there was no need to be so cautious with him.

Sure enough, the round of shooting was brutal, and a bullet struck Michael's arms. With the remaining strength he had left, he brought out a smoke bomb he prepared for the worst case scenario and threw it into the clearing, completely obstructing the police officers' view. He then fled into the vast forest using the secret route he had prepared beforehand.

However, no matter how prepared Michael was, he was going up against the police. Coupled with the fact that he was shot and was already bleeding, his physical condition could clearly not keep up with a high speed chase.

"He's fleeing into the woods! After him!" A police officer with keen eyes shouted after spotting Michael's fleeing figure amidst the thick smoke. Immediately, more than half of the police officers went into hot pursuit, while the remaining police officers stayed behind to guard the area.

Some policemen ran into the cabin and wheeled the critically injured Darius out of the cabin on a stretcher and handed him over to the medical personnel present.

Meanwhile, Michael was running as fast as he could in the dark forest, but he could hear the footsteps of the police officers on hot pursuit.

It was late in the night, and the forest was dark, but the police were fully prepared with bright lights and torches lighting up the dark forest. The police hounds were also tracing Michael's scent, and were leading the police in the right direction.

Michael gritted his teeth and ran; his calm and relaxed demeanor nowhere to be found anymore. His impeccable suit was stained with blood and dirt, and several scratches could be found on his skin, but he could not care less about that. He was just focused on evading the police and making it to safety.

Completely focused on running away, he didn't notice a dark figure had suddenly appeared in the middle of the path he was running on. By the time he focused his attention on the path, it was too late for him to slow down, so he crashed directly into the figure.

"Son of a b*tch!" Michael cursed angrily; but there was also a bit of fear in his

voice. He never expected to suddenly see someone in the middle of the forest when he was running from the police.

Moreover, he could barely see this figure, and a creepy aura kept emanating from the figure, eliciting goosebumps on his skin.

“Who are you?” Michael asked fearfully.

“Michael Finn?” The figure asked in a gravelly voice, ignoring Michael’s question and returning it with a question of his own.

The figure’s voice had a compelling force to it, and Michael felt compelled to answer his question.

“Yes I am Michael Finn. Who are you and what do you want?” Michael asked shakily.

“You don’t need to know who I am, and as for what I want, that is very simple. My master wishes to see you, so come with me.” The figure answered.

Michael looked at the figure with a complex gaze. He could hear the sounds of the police hounds barking, and knew that the police officers were drawing nearer to his location.

“How do I know that you’re not after my life?” Michael asked skeptically. He didn’t feel inclined to follow the figure just like that.

“Your life is basically over the moment the police officers arrest you. If you don’t want to follow me and struggle for a few more seconds before you’re finally arrested, be my guest.” The figure said nonchalantly. He certainly wasn’t bothered about Michael’s survival.

“Alright! I agree! I’ll follow you.” Michael gritted his teeth and said in a pained voice.

“Good; now let’s get out of here.” the figure said and grabbed Michael hands, leading him out of the forest.

Just a few seconds later, the police officers arrived at the spot Michael met the mysterious figure. However, they couldn’t find any tracks to follow from that spot onwards. It was like he just vanished from the face of the forest.

The police officers didn’t give up though, and searched the forest thoroughly for any sign of Michael. Unfortunately, they were unable to find anything.

Just then, a message came from the police officer in charge of the kidnapping case.

“Did you find him?!” the police officer’s voice came urgently from the walkie talkie.

The police officers shared glances with each other before one of them replied dejectedly.

“No chief. We lost him.”

Author

Hello! Author here. I'm incredibly sorry for the lack of updates recently. I've been so occupied with some issues lately, and wasn't able to update. I also had to edit some of the previous chapters before posting these ones, so this also contributed to the lack of update. I appreciate you all for sticking with this novel. I'll definitely try to increase my update schedule this month. Thank you.