

Chapter 481 Relieved To See Him

No matter what tricks Westley tried to pull, it didn't matter one bit to Gabrielle. This time, nothing would change her mind.

She had to clear it all up. It would give her peace of mind and more.

Admittedly, the start of their relationship wasn't good. They were essentially forced to get married because of Bryce and Nellie. But over time, things had changed.

It wasn't long before Westley and Gabrielle fell for each other—hard. What started as a marriage of convenience ended up with both parties finding true love. All things considered, they really should thank Bryce and Nellie.

"Gabrielle, I'll get you the clothes, and you have to change quickly. I don't know how much time we have here." Westley went out and fetched a black duffel bag, which he left in advance. Inside it, there were dark clothes to help camouflage them at night, a pair of shoes for Gabrielle, and weapons for self-defense—among other things. She thought it was typical of Westley—to think everything through.

Gabrielle put all the things on the wash basin and looked at them. She was about to change when she stopped.

"Westley, is it really necessary to bring so many weapons? I have a dagger. Lance gave it to me. This bag has enough arsenal to arm a few soldiers." Gabrielle stared at the dagger Westley brought and initially thought she didn't need it. Then, she noticed how his face darkened at her words, so she quickly backtracked.

"But, you know what? I prefer the one you brought me." Gabrielle picked it up and clutched it to gauge its fit. She had to admire the excellent workmanship.

Somehow, Westley always found things that suited her perfectly. She had no idea how he did it.

"You really like it? You swear?" Westley cocked an eyebrow. He wasn't totally sold on how fast she changed her mind.

Westley knew that since Lance decided to bring Gabrielle here, he would certainly need to give her something for self-defense. She had probably never held a weapon in her life, so a dagger made perfect sense. It was light and easy to use. Still, he didn't like the one Lance gave—for obvious reasons. So, Westley gave her something he chose himself.

"Of course I like it. You got it for me." Gabrielle looked at him with a smile. She shrugged lightly and continued to study the dagger.

"Go and change your clothes first. We don't have much time left. We have to leave before they find us." Westley spoke with a sense of urgency. He darted his eyes around the room, taking note of everything.

"Okay, okay." After she changed into the clothes Westley brought for her, he helped her put on a bullet proof vest. It was a bit heavy and uncomfortable, but she didn't have a choice. They needed to be extra careful, and they had to make sure they were well protected. It was a very dangerous place, after all.

"Westley, is it that serious? How much of a danger are we in?" Gabrielle asked uneasily, trying to adjust the vest so it didn't chafe her neck.

"Trust me. Everything will be fine, and I won't let anything happen to you. But it's going to be a tough journey. The path is steep and hazardous." Westley double-checked that she wore the bullet proof vest correctly. Then, he gave her an apologetic look. If it were entirely up to him, he didn't want to put Gabrielle through this.

Gabrielle licked her dry and chapped lips. She was nervous, and she understood that it was going to be hard and challenging. They were in the forest, and there were threats all around them.

"Lance said something happened in the forest. Was that you?" Gabrielle asked anxiously. Her voice was low; she was afraid someone might hear them if she spoke in her normal volume.

"Yes, I had to. Otherwise, how could I come to your room to pick you up?" It had been two days since Westley and his men came to the forest. Even though he wanted to just grab Gabrielle and leave, he had to bide his time. They didn't take any action because they needed to prepare. Westley had to ensure his plan would work.

Before he set foot in the forest, Westley didn't know that the Campbell Family and Bain had a grudge against each other. Westley wasn't aware of the lengths Bain was willing to go to just to exact his revenge.

So if Bain found out that Gabrielle didn't just know someone from the Campbell Family but was actually related to the eldest daughter of the family, Bain would never let her go. The worst case scenario? He might kill or hurt Gabrielle. That was why Westley knew he had to make a move. He needed to get Gabrielle out as soon as possible.

Gabrielle was the one in greatest danger, so she had to be armed. Regardless of Wilson's discouragement and against his brother's advice, Westley went all the way here to rescue her. He asked the men from the Campbell Family to drive on the main road while he traveled alone and on foot—sticking close to the riverside—so he wouldn't be discovered.

So far, no one had found out that he was already here. But since Bain already knew that people from the Campbell Family were outside his borders, Westley couldn't stay here for long. He and Gabrielle would be in big trouble if villagers saw him.

Time was of the essence. They had to leave before the village erupted in chaos.

"You should have known how dangerous it was for you to come here. They don't know who I am, so they won't do anything to me. I already knew about the feud between Bain and the Campbell Family. Men of the family have been staying outside the forest, and yet, it's still peaceful. Bain won't act rashly. But now, you're here and ordered the people of the Campbell Family to come into the forest, war will begin." Gabrielle cast a worried glance at Westley. Her palms were sweating, and she was a wreck.

Gabrielle and Lance originally planned to stay here for two more days. They were waiting for Bain and the others to put their guards down. That way, they could leave safely with Bryce.

Apparently, Westley had a different plan. There was no way for Gabrielle and Lance to get out without a ruckus, especially if they wanted to bring Bryce with them.

"Gabrielle, please. I'm here now. It's too late for regrets. I can't change things. I knew I had to

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appreciate all the risks you have taken for me. Right now, we need to leave and get as far away from this place as possible." Gabrielle touched Westley's cheek as she said this. He leaned and pressed towards her palm.

Westley smiled at her. He was so proud of his wife.

"We need to leave through the window and head straight to the woods." Westley opened the curtain and scanned the surroundings outside. It was quiet, and he didn't hear any movement. He jumped over and used the rope to lessen the impact of his feet on the ground. They were just on the second floor, and the building wasn't too high.

"Gabrielle, you can come down now. I'll catch you." Westley mouthed the words. He didn't dare speak loudly. He looked up at her and urged her to climb down. He steadied himself to catch her.

Gabrielle stared down from the window and gulped. She was only slightly nervous, but she wasn't really afraid. It was a short jump, and she believed in Westley.

She jumped over and climbed down slowly, her hands digging into the rope.

Westley held out his arms when she was almost to the ground. She let go of the rope and stumbled towards him.

"I was almost..."

"That was too slow. We have to be quick, or someone will spot us." Westley held her hand tightly, and they ran towards the woods. #

Chapter 482 Escape At Midnight

Illuminating the path with a torch in the middle of a dense forest wasn't a very good idea. It may cause a forest fire or attract other people's attention.

Luckily, the woods was well-lit by the bright moonlight. It pierced through the thickness of the treetops. It was enough for the two of them to see the trail ahead.

"Gabrielle, slow down. Be careful. You might get hurt. Let me know if you're tired. I'll carry you on my back." Westley held her hand and strode slowly across the forest. He was worried that the trees' thorns would hurt her.

"Westley, I'm fine. Let us follow a different route." Gabrielle was reminded of the path that Rose took them to when they went hunting.

Rose had reiterated that it was the safest way for them to get away from the forest. Gabrielle thought of giving it a try. It was risky but still better than letting Westley wander around the boundless forest.

It was safer to follow the river's direction.

"Alright, let's go." The affirmation in the tone of her voice convinced Westley that she knew what she was talking about.

After all, Gabrielle had been living here for a couple of days.

"Come with me. It's this way." Gabrielle held his hand and led the way.

"Gabrielle, you've suffered so much trying to escape with me. I could've tried a different approach. A more arrogant and heroic one. However, I was afraid that it would hurt you. Innocent people would be hurt too if I do that. From the beginning, my brother did not want to involve violence to solve this problem," Westley explained as he followed her.

He was hoping for Gabrielle not to be upset over such a thing. After all, it wasn't what he wanted.

"I agree with your brother. Although the people in this village all have committed some sort of crime, not every one of them is a bad person. I don't want them sacrificing their lives just because of me. Even if they have been sentenced to death, it's the law's job to carry on with their punishment. Not us. I don't think the people in the Campbell Family would kill without blinking their eyes." What Gabrielle said made sense.

She had always had the expertise when it came to weighing the importance of things. Even if people had made terrible mistakes, she wouldn't take matters into her own hands.

"That's why I sneaked in. My brother will negotiate with Bain in the most peaceful way possible. However, I'm certain that once your identity is exposed, Bain wouldn't let you go that easily because of his hatred for the Campbell Family. I had to take the risk to come save you. Gabrielle, you are my wife. I wouldn't be able to forgive myself if I just sat there doing nothing. I can't let you risk your life. I had to come here and take you home myself," Westley said in a whisper. Despite his quiet voice, Gabrielle heard what he said. Emotions flooded her heart.

"Didn't you stop to think that you might be in danger as well when somebody finds out that you

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left with no choice but to run along the river. She wasn't confident of her stamina. She was afraid she would only be a burden to Westley.

"Westley, do you regret coming here? You might get hurt trying to save me," Gabrielle asked with curiosity.

"I will regret it more if I didn't come save you. To me, nothing else matters," Westley replied. Dominance was evident in the tone of his voice. ●

For him, coming here to save his wife would never be a regret. He couldn't bear the idea of just sitting there and doing nothing.

"Westley, you're so kind to me. How could I possibly repay you?" Gabrielle said in a low voice.

"I can wait. I'm sure you would come up with something eventually. My love for you is one thing. Escaping is another. You can't offset one with the other," Westley replied seriously.

"I know. Is the kayak ready?" Gabrielle asked to confirm. When she turned to look at the kayak, it was already fully inflated. She didn't know that such a small thing could expand like that with just air. Gabrielle was awestruck.

If it weren't for the fact that they were trying to flee, she would think that the two of them were merely enjoying a romantic canoeing date.

Chapter 483 Rose Was Right

After busying himself for a while, Westley's kayak was finally ready. He put it directly into the river to test if it was safe to use and check if there was any leaking hole. If it had some cracks, it would be useless and they would have to walk.

However, it would take at least two hours to walk out of the forest. Based on this fact, time was not the only thing they had to consider but also physical strength. Moreover, there were snakes, beasts and many other dangerous things in the forest. So, Westley concluded that no matter what, it was the fastest and safest way to leave by water.

Even though there could be numerous types of reptiles in the water, it could at least save their strength if they drifted down along the flow of the river by this boat.

"Gabrielle, get on it. The kayak is useable." Westley boarded first and then reached out his hand to let her hold his hand as a support.

Gabrielle's trust in this man was immeasurable. She completely trusted Westley in whatever he did.

When she was alone these days, her thoughts always wandered to Westley. She felt that as long as he was beside her, everything would be fine.

Now that they were finally together, Gabrielle felt complete and she was rest assured. From now on, no matter how dangerous the way ahead was, as long as he was with her, she could face it together with him.

"Westley, are you sure this kayak is solid?" When she sat on the kayak, she became a little worried as it did not seem very stable.

"Don't worry. This is a military-used survival canoe which means it's pretty solid. Not to mention the two of us, even if there are two more men on this, it will not be a problem. Just sit tight and hold it well." Westley asked her to sit behind him, so that he could protect her from any incoming danger which would come from the front and the sides.

"Okay, I know." At the sight of his tall and broad back in front of her, Gabrielle couldn't help feeling a sense of security even though she was scared.

"Gabrielle, since you are sitting behind me, you don't need to pay attention to the road ahead. Leave that to me. You just need to be careful not to be stabbed or scratched by any branch that is in the way of us. Also, the base of the river is not very flat. There are sharp bends and shallow ponds. There's also a low waterfall ahead. We may have to get off and walk when we arrive the waterfall, okay?" Westley told her all the possibilities and danger there was while rowing forward.

Since they were a couple facing such a difficult situation together, it would be better to let Gabrielle know what might happen in advance, lest she would be scared when she encountered those things later. That way, she could think about what to do in advance.

Westley had memorized all the important information about the waterway on the way here. He knew that it would come in handy later, so he memorized all about the position of the sharp bends, shallow pools and places with many stones.

That way, he could remind Gabrielle when they faced them later.

"I see. You can remind me when it's time. Speaking of it, how come you remember all about the general terrain of the waterway?" Gabrielle laughed softly. Even though she teased him, she also thought that this man was really powerful and capable, completely beyond her imagination.

Westley seriously responded, "Well, since I came to save you, I have to know everything about this in advance. Otherwise, how can I bring you back safely? I have to investigate and judge if it will be too dangerous to escape by river." Westley didn't do it for himself. All this time, all thoughts about saving Gabrielle and bringing her to safety occupied his head.

He was planning in his mind to make sure that he could take her away in the safest way without letting her take any risk.

If the waterway wouldn't work, he had thought about arranging a helicopter to take her away directly. However, that could lure more attention and danger towards them.

"Everything will be fine. We will get out of here safely as long as we both try our best. Nothing will happen," Gabrielle tried to comfort both of them.

Besides, she honestly believed so. Since Westley could enter the forest, he would naturally have a way to take her out as well.

"Gabrielle, you seem to trust me so much. Why?" Of course, Westley was very happy to be trusted so much by his wife. Which man wouldn't be happy in such situation?

Westley was simply over the moon now.

"What do you mean 'why'? Don't you deserve my trust?" Gabrielle asked back in reply with a smile on her face.

Westley laughed out loud while rowing the boat. He didn't expect to be defeated so easily like this. Nonetheless, he replied, "Of course I know that I deserve your trust. So, don't worry. I will definitely take you out of here safe and sound."

"Yes, but we need to be careful. Rose told me that there are snakes and even crocodiles in the river. It won't be nice if you get bitten," Gabrielle reminded him cautiously.

At this time, Gabrielle really believed in the words of Rose. Rose was the one who wanted them to leave and she also explained so much to her seriously.

Westley comforted her in a low voice while looking around the river, "I know there are snakes, but I am not sure about crocodiles though. This is not the Amazon River after all. Even if there is, wild crocodiles are rare. So, you don't have to worry too much."

What Rose told Gabrielle was not necessarily a joke. No one exactly knew for sure. The crocodiles and cannibal fish could be everywhere like the Amazon River had.

Westley also thought of this. Before he came here, he only took a rough look at the terrain of the river and didn't carefully study about the water creatures which could be living here. Maybe there were really crocodiles after all.

The snakes could still be dealt with if they happened to stumble upon them. However, if it was an adult crocodile, it would be difficult to deal with. Westley couldn't help worrying even more.