

The old notebook laid quietly beside a precious amber fossil, seeming awkwardly out of place.

However, Vinson felt it was the right place for it. "Great. Let's go. Now we can call Arielle to send us the location."

One way or another, he was determined to find out the man who tried so hard to kill him.

"Okay," Carter spoke as they headed outside. "Give me her contact then."

Just then, Vinson's eyes narrowed as if he did not trust Carter. "I'll contact her."

Carter noticed something off about Vinson's complexion, but he could not figure out why.

Meanwhile, at the Southall residence, Arielle was bribing Larissa, one of Cindy's spies.

That was when she received a message from Vinson.

Back to the bribing, Arielle had been secretly observing Larissa for a long time. She found out that the latter had a child with polio, and she needed a lot of money for treatment.

That was also how Cindy manipulated Larissa to conduct crime by giving the latter the money she needed.

In fact, Larissa had submitted to Cindy countless times for the sake of her child.

Nonetheless, Arielle did not come after Larissa because of her soft spot but because she had worked at the Southalls' house for a long time. Larissa had started working here when Maureen was still around.

If Arielle were looking for new clues, Larissa was surely the person to start with.

However, Arielle's bribe tactic did not seem to work well. When she asked Larissa to spy on Cindy, Larissa responded with defensive eyes and a fake smile. "Ms. Arielle, what are you doing? The house has been giving me decent pay. How could I ask for more money?"

Seconds later, Arielle slowly pulled out two flight tickets from her pocket.

Larissa studied those tickets and understood it was an overseas flight.

At that instant, the smile on Larissa's face disappeared. "Ms. Arielle, what do you mean? Are you going to send me overseas if I refuse to receive your money?"

With that, Arielle pulled out another name card.

Looking at the particular name card, a surprised glint fled across Larissa's eyes, as she stared at Arielle in awe.

Arielle smiled at her faintly. "This polio specialist is a friend of mine, and she is internationally renowned. Usually, people have to wait at least a

year to get an appointment with her. Those tickets are not for you; you must find an entrusted person to bring your child for treatment. I'll sponsor all the treatment and daily expenses over there. How does that sound? Do you want this deal?"

Larissa's heart skipped a beat.

All this while, Cindy had been giving her money. But the best doctor could not be bought with money alone, as one needed some connection. Never did she expect a housekeeper like her would have a chance to get such a good specialist.

Right then, Arielle tapped on the table impatiently. "I'm running out of patience here. What do you say?"

Larissa bit her lips tightly.

In fact, her child's condition was critical, and she had not much time to waste.

Frustration began to replace Arielle's calmness as she rose from her seat. "Fine. Since you're so loyal, forget about what I said then. You can leave now."

Upon saying that, she reached her hand to take back the name card inside Larissa's hand.

Just then, Larissa immediately grabbed the name card tightly.

Arielle arched her brows, trying to convey her incomprehension.

Chapter 166

Larissa took a deep breath. "Ms. Arielle, tell me what I should do. As long as my child can recover, I would do anything!"



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Arielle let go of the name card. "Okay. The flight is tomorrow. Send your child overseas and keep a low profile. I promise I'll bring him back safe and healthy."

Larissa's heart was beating fast, with her eyes brimming with tears. "Thank you so much, Ms. Arielle. I knew that you were a good person all along. But, what is it you want me to do for you?"

"I... I want to know about my Mom."

Right as those words left Arielle's lips, Larissa's face paled in fright, as though the former had mentioned something terrifying.

"Why?" Arielle asked curiously, "What's wrong?"

Larissa said with a soft voice, "We're forbidden to mention Mrs. Moore in this house."

Arielle furrowed her brows. "Fret not, Mrs. Southall is currently at the monastery, while Dad is occupied with his works. They won't show up here. Just tell me everything you know about my Mom."

Larissa carefully headed to shut the door, before coming back to the conversation.

"Ms. Arielle, to be frank, there's a rumor among the elder staff here."

"Rumor?" Arielle shook her head right away. "I don't want to hear any rumor, just the facts that you know. Starting with the day my Mom got killed, did you notice anything unusual that day?"

Larissa pondered earnestly for a while. "It was just the same as other days. Mrs. Moore headed to work after sending you to school. Then later, we received the news that she jumped from the top floor of the company."

Arielle's gaze dimmed. "I know about all these. Please tell me something that I don't know. Think carefully, was there anything odd that day?"

"If you say odd... I suppose there's one thing. Mr. Southall used to wake up late, and he would join his friends for card games after that. But he woke up early that day. And instead of his usual sportswear, he went out in his suit. I remember it well as he seldom wears his suit."

Arielle bit her lips to suppress her emotions.

It seemed like her prediction was correct that her mother's death was closely related to Henrick.

However, she needed more information than that.

"Anything else?"

"I could not recall anything else about that day. But I remember that Mrs. Southall cried hard at the funeral, even though they were not close as sisters. However, Mrs. Southall did not live here during that time. So if you're suspecting her with the death of Mrs. Moore, there's nothing I can help."

Larissa added, "Plus, Mrs. Moore was also not close with Mr. Southall. She used to attend all

occasions alone without him. As Mr. Southall was the one who married into her family, he got a low status during the time. He got looked down on by some of the housekeepers, and Mrs. Moore would not allow him to be part of your life."

Thinking that Henrick was not her birth father, Arielle could comprehend her mother's action fully.

Larissa spoke while observing Arielle's expression. "Shortly after we heard about Mrs. Moore's suicide, we heard that you were gone. Rumor has it that it was because Mrs. Moore didn't pick you up at school, so you tried to find your way to the company but were abducted on the way. Strangely, Mr. Southall did not call the cops, as he said he had hired people to search for you. That's all I know."



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Arielle nodded as she knew Larissa was speaking all the truth she knew. "Alright, that's all for today. Tell me again if you remember anything."

"Okay. Is there anything else you want me to do?"

Arielle shook her head. "Not for the moment. I'll find you if I need you. You continue to work for Aunt Cindy and don't let her suspect anything. One more thing, please prepare a list for me. I want to know who is on her side in this house."

"Understood, Ms. Arielle. Then I'll excuse myself." Larissa bowed gratefully to Arielle and left with the flight tickets and the name card.

After Larissa left, Arielle sat alone in the room, pondering for a long while.

After she cleared her thoughts, she took out her phone to check her messages.

She saw a brief, straightforward message from Vinson: *Come over when you're free and help us to locate the man.*

Without wasting any time, Arielle turned on her computer and started pinpointing the location.

She tried her best to narrow down the scope. Even so, there were still quite a few private islands that matched the search.

By the time Arielle sent the location, Cindy had also just arrived at the monastery entrance.

Just when she got off her car, Louisa walked out with a cold expression and said rudely, "Are you guys treating here as a motel?"

Cindy let out an unnatural smile and greeted her, "Hello, Louisa."

Louisa's stare was still cold. "We have a lot of pilgrims at the moment, and we have not enough rooms. So you'll stay in the same room with me."

Upon hearing that, Cindy's expression stiffened. "How could I interrupt your meditation? I'll stay with Shannie."

"Shannie?" Louisa smiled awkwardly. "I've asked her about that, but she's reluctant to stay with you."

Cindy lifted her head in awe. "That's impossible."

"Feel free to ask her yourself," Louisa said indifferently while heading into the monastery.

Later, Cindy asked for directions along the way and finally found Shandie, who was chopping the wood up.

From afar, she could see clearly that Shandie's face had turned pale and tired compared to a few days before.

She was heartbroken as she stepped forward to grab the ax in Shandie's hand. "Why're you doing such harsh work? Look at your skin!"

Shandie snatched back the ax coldly, without even looking at Cindy. "You'll need to do it starting from tomorrow until Dad decides to fetch us back home."

Both of them were in total blind that Arielle had blocked all their letters.

That explained why Shandie acted so cold towards Cindy, as she thought the latter had been ignoring all her letters.

Disappointed by Cindy, Shandie felt that she could only count on herself.

The main priority within these walls was not how to protect her skin but to please Louisa in order not to starve.

Cindy noticed Shandie's peculiar behavior towards her. "Shannie, is this how you speak to your own mother?"

Shandie cast a resentful smile. "Mother? Do you think you deserve that title? Don't think I'm a fool. I know that you're with another man beside Dad."

"You... what's wrong with you? Are you trying to piss me off?" Exasperated by those words, Cindy uncontrollably threw a slap on Shandie's face.

A loud smack was heard.

Dumbfounded, Shandie covered her face with both hands.

Chapter 168

With that, Shandie's gaze turned extremely malicious.

She even started to suspect if she was really Cindy's birth daughter.



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After throwing the ax away, Shandie walked out of the courtyard.

Fraught with remorse, Cindy went after Shandie to apologize to her.

"I'm sorry, Shannie. I didn't mean it. Even if you were being impudent just now, I shouldn't have hit you. Tell me, has Aunt Louisa been bad-mouthing about me?"

Louisa deplored the marriage between Cindy and Henrick. She had been disparaging Cindy ever since Cindy and Henrick were married.

Louisa must've been behind this.

Peeved, Shandie pushed Cindy aside and left without saying a word.

Cindy couldn't catch up to Shandie.

Thus, she had no choice but to sleep on the same bed with Louisa that night.

Tossing and turning on the bed, Cindy was having a hard time sleeping. When the next morning came, Cindy woke up with dark circles under her eyes.

I can't stay here any longer!

I'll go gonzo if this continues!

Cindy went to a secluded corner before giving Matthias a call.

Upon hearing Cindy's current situation, Matthias immediately replied, "I'll send someone over to pick you up now! We shouldn't care about the assets of the Southall Group anymore. Just get back here right now and tell Henrick that you're going to divorce him!"

"I can't divorce him now!"

"Why? You were left in the monastery by him. Do you still think that he cares about you?" Matthias lowered his voice, "Cin, come and live with me instead. I will treat you well!"

Cindy was comforted by his words. "It's not that I don't want to live with you, but I just can't right now. I assume you already knew about the incident regarding the collapse of Southall Group's building. But what you don't know is that Vinson is willing to pay for the aftermath of this incident. Knowing Henrick, he'll use this chance to wring out as much money as he can from Vinson. By then, we should make moves of our own and try to take the money from him. Not to mention, we can also use this opportunity to get the directors on our side," explained Cindy.

Matthias was pensive. "Then what should we do now? Henrick has eyes all over the monastery right now. You can't do anything while you're in there."

Cindy was reticent for a few seconds. "That's why I need to get out of here as soon as possible. To that end, I need you to prepare a certain drug for me."

"What kind of drug?"

After hearing the name of the drug from Cindy, Matthias hurriedly went to do some research on it. He was quick to discover the place which sold that sort of prohibited drugs.

"I'll go and buy the drug right now. However, there's a small problem. This drug requires daily consumption to work. Once you stop taking the medication, the symptoms will be obvious."

"It's ok. I'll drink it every day if that's what it takes. You should just focus on getting me the drug."

"Okay. I'll personally go abroad to buy the drug."

After the call ended, the frustration that had been gripping Cindy's chest finally loosened a little.

Cindy turned around and saw Shandie sweeping the floor from a distance.

Seeing that, she dashed over to Shandie and grabbed her arm. "Shannie, why are you up so early today? Also, why are you bothering yourself with this mundane task?"

Shandie shook off Cindy's hand and gave her a sneer. "You'll need to do it too eventually."

"I've been looking all over for you. Where on earth have you been?" The voice of Louisa was heard behind them.

Cindy turned her head around and was met with

Chapter 169

Louisa, who was walking toward her in a green dress.

In Louisa's hand was another green dress made from coarse cloth.

"Louisa..."

Before Cindy could finish her sentence, Louisa lobbed the dress onto Cindy and uttered, "I don't like people slacking off. Change these gaudy clothes that you're wearing right now and get back to work. I need you to carry the firewood in the mountains."



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"What?" Cindy was perplexed.

I have never taken laborious work my whole life!

Did Louisa hit her head or something?

Cindy rejected Louisa's order. "Louisa, I'm feeling a bit under the weather today. I don't think I can help you with the firewood."

"Is that so? I didn't know you were as frail as your sister, Maureen. Despite having a weak body, your sister always does what I tell her to do. You ought to learn from her more."

Enraged, Cindy was gritting her teeth.

She's comparing me to a dead person huh?

Louisa continued, "Fine. If you don't want to work, then there won't be any food for you tonight. Shandie, you'll have to cover for her. Come with me to the mountains after you're done sweeping."

"I..." Gazing at Louisa's minatory eyes, Shandie had no choice but to comply.

Having been in the monastery for quite a while now, she was used to being pushed over by Louisa.

Cindy clenched her teeth and uttered, "I-I'll go with you. This sort of work isn't suitable for Shannie. She's just a child..."

Unperturbed, Louisa turned around and left.

Chapter 170

Shandie took the broom and continued sweeping the floor—completely ignoring Cindy.

Cindy was livid.

*Arielle! We're down to this state because of that b*tch!*

Just you wait, Arielle. I'll make sure to pay you back two-fold!

In the meantime, Arielle was waking up from her bed.

Since Cindy and Shandie weren't around, Arielle felt refreshed. *It's nice to be free of their revolting faces for once.* After getting up, Arielle ran a few laps around the manor.

My body isn't as strong as before. Acupuncture wouldn't have made me queasy if I were still as healthy as before.

I guess I really have to train my body consistently to stay healthy.

Just as Arielle was getting ready to take a bath, she received a call from her subordinate, who was keeping an eye on Matthias.

He must have something serious to report to me. Otherwise, he wouldn't call me at a time like this.

Arielle locked her bedroom door before answering the phone.

WhatsApp
Seen 170

"What's wrong?" she queried as she walked toward the bathroom.

Her subordinate responded reverently, "Ms. Sannie, Matthias is currently at the airport. He isn't bringing any luggage with him, though. He seems to be in a hurry to go somewhere. I've taken a peek at his flight ticket—he's heading to Manchernius."

"Manchernius?" Arielle frowned incredulously.

The situation over at Manchernius is dire. Why would Matthias want to go to a place like that?

"Yeah. Also, he bought the tickets rather precipitously. He must have something urgent to attend to. Should I follow him?"

"Follow him. Find out what he's up to. Just remember to keep out of his sight. Oh and, be careful."

"Yes, Ms. Sannie!" The subordinate hung up after that.

Arielle went into her bathroom to take her shower. *Matthias must've gone to Manchernius on Cindy's orders.*

That being said, what does she wish to accomplish at Manchernius?

That's okay. I believe my subordinate will find out soon enough.

Once I figure out what Matthias' purpose at

Chapter 170

Manchernius are, I'll be able to crush Cindy once and for all.



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