

Resent Reject Regret

Chapter 301 Be My Daughter-In-Law

“Tobey is coming back?” Deirdre could not help feeling surprised. “Why? Isn’t there still some time until Christmas?”

Madame Russell looked toward Deirdre with a smile. “He called me up some time ago, and it was only natural that I brought you up in our conversation. Then, he applied for a long leave of absence from his company, claiming he missed me after not seeing me for more than six months. However, I’m quite certain that he is coming back to see you.”

“To see me?” Deirdre wrung the towel and was confused. “Why is he coming back to see me?”

“Silly girl, I refuse to believe that you don’t have the slightest idea about this.” Madame Russell cracked a gentle smile. “Didn’t you know that Tobey has liked you since he was a child?”

Deirdre choked on the water she was drinking.

Madame Russell hastily soothed her. Deirdre recovered from the cough, but she was still in a daze.

She regarded Tobey as her elder brother all this time, and they did not interact much with each other before she moved away from her. It was because Tobey did not come home frequently after he went to a boarding school in high school.

It was truly an unexpected surprise for Tobey to have feelings for her.

She was embarrassed. “You must be joking, Madame Russell.”

“Why would I lie to you, child? Everything he wrote in his journal during junior high was about you. If you don’t believe me, I can grab it and read it to you.”

“It... It’s fine...” Deidre was uneasy when she said, “It’s the past anyway.”

“What’s with the past? I think that Tobey still has feelings for you. Why else would he sacrifice his leave of absence to travel home immediately?” Madame Russell held Deidre’s hands and said, “I think you should stay with us and be my daughter-in-law!”

Deidre was stunned and pulled away her hands in response.

Madame Russell came to understand the situation. “Could it be that you don’t like Tobey, Deidre? I’m not bragging, but Tobey is popular for his good looks. He is a fine-looking man who graduated from a pristine university and is now working for a huge corporation. Moreover, he is good-natured and will treat you

well.”

“No...” Deidre could not help chuckling in spite of herself. “Madame Russell, it’s normal for Tobey to like me in the past because I used to hang around him all the time. However, the situation is quite different

now.”

“How is it different?”

Deidre pointed at her face.

Madame Russell furrowed her eyebrows. “That’s fine! I’m sure that Tobey won’t mind that!”

Deirdre smiled but did not speak. She had encountered way too many people who were disgusted by her face and understood the burden caused by her face.

Tobey was a good man who Madame Russell could easily persuade. He would take pity on her and forced to marry her even if he had no interest in or feelings for her. It would not be a good thing for both

of them.

Moreover, she was incapable of loving another person anymore.

“I’ll be fine to be just friends. I still have many matters to attend to, and I’m not looking into marriage.”

Madame Russell felt sorry about the situation and could not bear to part with Deirdre. Yet, she did not comment further, but she said, “Just get in touch with him first, then. It’s between both of you young people anyway. You can decide for yourselves.”

Deirdre returned to the room after the meal. She was planning on taking a nap, yet she became more conscious after lying down.

She listened to the time reported from her phone and came to realize that it was 27th. Brendan and Charlene’s engagement would take place tomorrow.

She kept her unfocused eyes open and felt an ineffable feeling in her usually numbed heart. Perhaps she was feeling slightly recalcitrant.

She was recalcitrant that the man survived the ordeal and would live a better life than before. On the other hand, everything of hers had been ruined because she was sent to prison as a scapegoat.

Yet, it was already lucky for her to flee successfully. In view of her identity, what else could she do other than hide?

Chapter 302 A Traveler Is Here

Deirdre found it cynical.

She could not sleep, so she felt about her closet for her trench coat and put it on before going downstairs.

When Madame Russell opened the courtyard door and entered, she had just arrived in the living room. She said hastily when she found Deirdre, "Why aren't you in the house? Go back quickly. It's freezing out

there."

Madame Russell shuddered while she walked. "A traveler just got here despite the weather. It's freezing out there, and there's no telling why the traveler is here. He is dressed in branded clothes and drives a luxury car. However, he's a very good-looking man, and his arrival caused quite a huge commotion."

"A traveler?" Deirdre felt her heart racing.

Yes, he seems to be looking for someone and refuses to leave at all. He asked me a few questions when he saw me."

"What did he ask?" Deirdre spoke anxiously, her face pale.

Madame Russell was stunned for a moment before she said, "In truth, he didn't ask much. He asked about the situation in our village, the economic condition, and others. I found it strange because our village is known for being poor and desolate. It has already been close to six months since anyone new has entered our village."

Deirdre clenched her fists tightly and felt her heart pounding in her chest. She was so anxious that she could hear her loud, rapid heartbeat, and she forced herself to calm down with great effort.

'No, it can't be... It can't possibly be so coincidental. I'm already regarded as a dead person by everyone now, so how can Brendan possibly know that I'm here? Moreover, Madame Brighthall wouldn't have revealed my whereabouts to him.'

"What's going on, Deirdre?" Noticing that something was off, Madame Russell stretched out her hand to caress Deirdre's face. "Why is your face so pale all of a sudden? Are you sick?"

"No..." Deirdre forced a smile with great effort and asked, "That traveler... How tall is he? What does he look like?"

"His height? About 1.8 meters, I guess. He's about Tobey's height. As for his looks, he is good-looking, of course. Otherwise, he wouldn't have caused a commotion."

"1.8 meters.."

Before Deirdre could react, someone knocked on the backyard door suddenly. The door was not fully-shut, so the person took the liberty to open the door.

Deirdre stepped back abruptly and felt the urge to run subconsciously when she heard the person asking. "Hello, is this Elis Russell's home?"

It was a stranger's voice.

Deirdre's act of running was frozen. Then, she heard Madame Russell say to her softly. "Deirdre, this is the person I was telling you about earlier. The one at the edge of the village.

Soon afterward, Madame Russell cleared her throat and replied to the person, "Yes, what's going on? How can I help you?"

The man walked forward smilingly and passed his business card "This is the situation. We're a land development company from Eastgene, and we're very interested in the plot on the hill We're planning on

purchasing the land so we can develop it into a tourist region.

"The village head told us that you're the person we should talk to when it comes to the hill area, so I would like to talk to you about that."

"Ah! I see." Madame Russell let down her guard and said, "Let's talk inside then."

Both of them entered the house while Deirdre was still standing at the entrance. She was only jolted back.

to reality when her body was trembling in the cold wind. She felt relieved.

So, it turned out that the people from Eastgene had taken a fancy to the hill.

Deirdre was born here and knew very well that the future of this place would be wonderful if it was developed as a tourist region. Hence, she did not find the man's arrival to be surprising

On the other hand, Madame Russell said in astonishment after the person left, “No one has taken an interest in Village Alnwick for centuries, yet the stars are aligned somehow this year. Someone has taken a fancy to that plot on the hill. If they develop the region, aren’t the residents going to benefit as well?” “That is of course.” Deirdre smiled and explained, “They will try to figure out ways to bring in the tourists. in order to make a profit after the region is developed. More tourists will come by then, and the villagers will be able to profit from selling local specialty products. It’s possible that the villagers here can make a good living from tourism.”

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Chapter 303 He Has Feelings for You

"Is that so? That would be amazing!" Madame Russell beamed widely. "If that is the case, don't even think about leaving anymore, Deirdre. You can stay in the village to run a business, and I will also be able to take care of you."

"Ophelia is gone, and I don't want you to go through hardship anymore. Otherwise, I will be too embarrassed to meet Ophelia in the afterlife when I'm gone," exclaimed Madame Russell.

Tears welled up in Deirdre's eyes because she knew Madame Russell sincerely cared for her.

She kept her head lowered.

Madame Russell held her hands tightly and said, "Be my daughter-in-law, Deirdre. I like you sincerely, and so does Tobey."

Deirdre could not bring herself to reject Madame Russell, so she paused for a moment before saying. "We'll see what Tobey thinks about this."

Madame Russell smiled joyously. "Sure, sure, sure! We'll see what Tobey thinks about this. If he has feelings for you too, I won't bear to let you leave us anymore"

'Speak of the devil.'

Tobey's call came immediately, claiming that he had already arrived at the village.

Madame Russell held Deirdre's hand to meet him and could not refrain from complaining to Deirdre when she saw Tobey from afar, "That scoundrel will never put on a suit even when he visits during festivities. Look at him being so well-dressed now. He even got a haircut."

Deirdre smiled in response, yet she felt deeply saddened in her heart.

She could not see because of Brendan.

Naturally, she did not think that Tobey had dressed up for her. Even if he did it for her, he would be backing out after seeing her by now.

"Here, Tobey!" Madame Russell waved her hand joyously upon seeing her son.

Tobey hastily walked forward after seeing Madame Russell with the luggage in his hand. His movements halted to a stop when he saw Deirdre standing next to Madame Russell.

"Deirdre?"

His voice was filled with astonishment, but Deirdre did not find his reaction surprising. She nodded and smiled gently. "It's been a long time, Tobey."

"Your face... What happened?" Tobey's eyes were filled with pity. He could not believe that the exquisitely beautiful woman in the past would turn into this cloudy-eyed woman with a sad smile on her scarred face. "Nothing." Deirdre did not wish to talk about it, so she

explained briefly, "I had a minor accident at work, and my face got disfigured in the process. As for my blindness, it's due to my own health issues. I'm already used to it."

Tobey suddenly said, "It must be painful, huh?"

Deirdre was stunned. She could feel the man staring at her and his extremely gentle gaze. "If only I were with you back then, I wouldn't have let you get so severely injured for sure."

Deirdre's mind went sluggish when she heard the remark and felt warm and fuzzy in her chest. Tobey sounded like he was deeply saddened by her state and eagerly wanted to be with her.

Deirdre was rendered speechless.

Madame Russell held Deirdre's hand and said with a smile, "It has passed. Since it is the past, we shall not talk about it anymore. Let's go home and celebrate Tobey's return."

"Hmm." Deirdre nodded with a smile.

The three of them returned home.

Madame Russell went to the kitchen, preparing to cook up Tobey's favorite meal.

Deirdre was eager to try something, so she rolled up her sleeves and said, "Can I have some flour and water, Madame Russell? It's a rare occasion that Tobey is home. I would like to bake a cake."

"Can you?"

Deirdre nodded. "It's fine. I used to bake frequently for the children when I was working in a clinic previously."

Chapter 304 Who Is This Man?

"Sure." Madame Russell sent over the ingredients.

Tobey got up as well. "I'll help."

Deirdre did not decline, but she devoted her full attention to feel for the tools she needed in the kitchen. Her bangs tucked behind her ears scattered before her eyes when she lowered her head to mix the ingredients.

Tobey stared at her for a long time before he stretched out his hand.

Deirdre took a step back abruptly yet consciously, as if she was hypervigilant.

Tobey was stunned for a moment before he tried to explain himself, "Your hair is in the way. Let me help you tuck it."

"Is that so..." Deirdre was embarrassed. She had a hard time trusting outsiders because of what Brendan had done, yet Tobey was not an outsider but a neighbor who would help her frequently in the past.

"I'm sorry that I was caught off guard."

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"It's fine," Tobey answered in a gentle voice. "It's normal for you to be vigilant because of impairment. This is a good thing. If you're still as naive and trustful as you were in the past, I would be worried that you might get hurt."

Every word he spoke was out of sincerity.

Deirdre could not help being stunned, and she changed the topic of conversation when she recovered from her surprise. "You don't have a girlfriend, huh, Tobey?"

"That's right." Tobey added water to her mixture and said smilingly, "Why? Are you surprised?"

"Hmm." Deirdre nodded. "I remembered you being very popular, tall, and handsome. You should have already had a girlfriend and been married by now. Is it because you are too demanding?"

"No." Tobey denied it without hesitation. He looked at Deirdre for a long time as if he wanted to say something to her. He hesitated for a short while before he answered smilingly, "I still haven't met anyone suitable. It would be unfair to marry a woman just so I could settle down, so I'm still waiting. I'm still waiting for that person in my heart to appear again."

'Again?'

Deirdre was stunned for a moment, as if she noticed something in his remark. She did not respond to the remark, but Tobey said, "Deirdre."

"Hmm?"

"You have flour on your face."

“Where is it?” Deirdre’s hands were covered in flour, so she could only wipe randomly with her sleeves. As a result, her face was covered in flour stains.

“Hold on” Tobey lifted Deirdre’s chin and wiped away the flour stuck to her face in all apparent seriousness. He could feel the uneven texture of her scars, and it tainted his gaze with pity. “It’s done.” Deirdre lowered her head.

No one knew, but a pitch–black pinhole camera had been installed on a wall in the courtyard, aiming at the living room.

“Did you find her?”

In a shady room, a man was seated in a dim corner with an intravenous infusion in his hand. Half of his face away from the shadow looked sick yet cold as ice.

The incoming person hastily presented the photo. “Here.”

Brendan clutched the photos tightly and glared at the photo with his dark eyes. The person standing at the door would shiver in fear every time Brendan took a glance at the photo.

After a long time, Brendan asked calmly, “Who is this man?” His tone was filled with boundless coldness.

The man standing at the door trembled subconsciously and felt his back drenched in a cold sweat. He said shakily, “Ms. McKinnon is living with her neighbor, and this man is the neighbor’s son. His name is Tobey Russell.”

“Tobey Russell.” Brendan chanted, his eyes filled with coldness. His fingertips tightened, and he tore up the photo bit by bit into shreds before he crumpled it in his palm.

“Deirdre...”

He raised his head and chanted the woman's name. He could not care about the backflow of venous blood in his intravenous line, but his mind was only filled with the woman's smile and her confused expression after Tobey touched her without flinching.

He should have known that Deirdre was an extremely charming woman. Even with her blindness and disfigured face, she would always be surrounded by suitors who liked her.

Chapter 305 Tickets From Mr. King

'First there was Sterling, then Sam, and now there is this Tobey Russell. She has no lack of people who fancy her, so she left without hesitation.'

"Mr. Brighthall..." The man at the door was feeling slightly uneasy. When he saw the blood in the intravenous line, he hastily said, 'I'm calling the doctor.'

"Don't." Brendan opened his eyes—they were bloodshot beyond his control. He pulled out his intravenous Infusion without any concern for the blood dripping down the back of his hand. "Get me the bus ticket. I'm going to Village Alnwick now. Do it at once, now!"

The man said rapidly, "Mr. Brighthall! You still can't-

He shut his mouth in fear after he met Brendan's sharp gaze, yet he could not refrain from saying. Moreover, now is not the best time. We've just found Ms. McKinnon and can't fully confirm if she will stay there. If you show up now, your presence will only hurt her."

"Could it be that you still want her to run away again, Mr. Brighthall? Just recuperate until your body is well. When Ms. McKinnon has calmed down, you can go over in person and pick her up. Isn't that a good plan?"

Brendan could not vent his anger because the man was right about everything he said. Brendan could not meet Deirdre now because he would want to imprison her immediately if he were to see her. He wanted to shut her away so no one else could see or touch her.

She was his!

Yet, he had a hard time accepting the fact that Deirdre loathed him.

It had always been that way.

She loathed him so much that she would choose to strike a deal with Madam Brighthall, conceal her identity, and flee to Village Alnwick.

The man continued to say boldly, "Moreover, our people discovered that Eastgene's company is looking into developing the village, so Ms. McKinnon might stay there for a long time for the development. You can go and see her any time you want once you're healed."

Brendan fell silent upon hearing the remark.

The temperature was warmer after the snow. Deirdre seized the opportunity to remove the weed on the east side of the house during the warmer weather.

Tobey stayed by her side and helped her. He almost did not leave Deirdre since he was back, and Deirdre knew that he was most probably worried that she would hurt herself.

On the way home, the mischievous children in the village called Deirdre an ugly monster loudly and ran away joyously afterward.

Tobey was furious and could not refrain from scolding them in anger. Then, he said to Deirdre, "Don't listen to them. You're not ugly. You're not that different from how you looked in the past."

Deirdre could not help laughing. "Tobey, I'll be really sad if that's how you put it. Are you insinuating that my previous appearance is nothing impressive, and that is why I don't look that different now?"

"How can that be? Tobey wanted to explain, but he came to understand the joke after seeing Deirdre's cunning smile. He said in frustration, "Stop messing with me. You know that's not what I mean."

"I know. However, don't worry. The children's naive remarks won't sadden me. I'm really fine and don't care." Deirdre was unbothered.

Tobey felt his heart wrench in pain and was rendered speechless, staring at her for a long time.

Madame Russell entered the house just in time to witness the scene and smiled widely.

"Stop flirting around, both of you! The developer's staff member came earlier and gave me two tickets to a musical. It's going to be held in the church. Take it and go watch it."

"Tickets to a musical?" Deirdre took the tickets and was confused. "How is there a musical in the village?"

"Do you still remember the man who came to see me previously? They organized it and commissioned the cast to perform there for the villagers. They do it so that no one will oppose them purchasing the land and so that the villagers would abide by their arrangements."

Deirdre came to understand the situation. She held the two tickets and said, "Why don't you and Tobey go, Madame Russell? I'm blind, so I can't see anyway."

“What’s the point of an old person like me going there?” Madame Russell said, “Don’t worry about me. I have a ticket too, but I’m not interested in this. You young people should go. I’ll be waiting for you to come back for dinner.”

Chapter 306 Do You Have Someone You Like?

As Madame Russell was speaking, she winked at Tobey

Tobey took the hint swiftly. Noticing that Deirdre was still hesitant, he said smilingly, “Don’t worry about my mother, Deirdre. She still has sewing work to do and is not interested in watching musicals. We shall go ahead ourselves and consider it a diversion. You’ve been busy with the yard for days, so it’s time for you to rest and relax your mind.”

Deirdre agreed with his remark. Some enjoyed musicals, and those who did not would find them boring. Perhaps Madame Russell would find it a waste of time if she were to go.

“Alright then, Tobey and I shall go.”

“Go, go!” Madame Russell wanted to shut the door eagerly. “It will be fine even if you come home late!”

After the door was shut, Tobey cleared his throat and said, “That’s just how my mother is. She’s always so easily excitable. She is not trying to do anything. She just doesn’t want you to feel lonely. Don’t mind her”

“I know.” Deirdre lowered her gaze and chuckled softly, feeling warm and fuzzy in her chest.

She could feel that she was smiling more during the time she spent with the Russells, even though her heart hidden in her chest cavity was still so scarred and battered by someone that it could only beat.

Deirdre held Tobey's arm and was led to the church soon. They were assigned seats by the staff members, and it did not take long before the musical began.

As they listened to the cast's elated voices, Tobey said softly, "Don't you find it strange?"

"What?"

"If there is an entertainment event in the village, it will usually be a movie screening that the people commonly enjoy. It's my first time watching a musical in the village."

Deirdre pondered for a while and figured that Tobey was right indeed. She could not figure it out either.

Tobey chuckled and added, "Perhaps those developers enjoy watching musicals, but it is actually a good thing for you because you can listen to it with your ears."

Deirdre nodded. The musical was very inclusive for her because it was mostly played with voices and songs. The ambiance was controlled to perfection, and Deirdre felt as if she was experiencing it personally, albeit she could not see.

On the other hand, Tobey could not take his eyes off Deirdre's face for a moment next to her.

Even though the woman's face was disfigured and she had lost her prior delicately beautiful face, the tenderness of her face did not change for the slightest bit. Her eyes were lowered, and the lighting on the stage illuminated her face and charmed Tobey at every moment.

His heart was racing.

Deirdre noticed the gaze from her side halfway through the musical and turned her face subconsciously. Tobey? Are you looking at me?"

Tobey came to react to the situation by letting out a muffled laugh. "How are you so sensitive? Could it be that this is a woman's sixth sense?"

He did not answer her question straightforwardly, but his remark insinuated that he was looking at Deirdre.

Deirdre chuckled and said, "I can't explain it either. Perhaps this is how our sensory perception works."

Upon saying that, Deirdre asked, "Why aren't you looking at the stage? Are you not interested in the musical?"

"No."

"No? What is it then?" Deirdre was confused. "Do you have something to say to me?"

"Hmm." Tobey clenched his fists. He had never felt as nervous as he was now, not even when he was queried for a project at work.

In the end, he mustered the courage to say, "Deirdre, do you have someone you like?"

"Someone I like?"

The pair of cold, dark eyes flashed past Deirdre's mind beyond her control. Soon afterward, her expression changed ever so slightly.

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It was not that she still had feelings for Brendan, but it was instinctive. It was because he was the only person that she had ever loved.

Chapter 307 You'll Find Someone Better

Yet, Deirdre could not feign the agony and hatred shown in her body language.

She could not bring herself to answer his question within a short period. Tobey expressed his dejection. So, you do have someone already?"

"No," Deirdre blurted and exhaled a breath.

She suppressed the tremble caused by the resistance she felt in her heart and forced a smile with great effort. "I was only caught by surprise Why did you suddenly ask me this? You also know about my current situation and how I don't meet many people. How can I possibly have someone I like, huh?"

"Really?" Tobey's eyes glistened with a glint. He leaned closer to her and asked in a lowered voice, "So, Deirdre, can I?"

Deirdre was stunned.

Tobey continued to say, "Deirdre, I'm not scared to make a fool of myself, but I have liked you since high school. You were very outstanding, and I could not help being attracted to you because you were like the sun. Yet, you were too young, and I was ashamed because of that. I strived to get accepted into the best university in an attempt to lessen my feelings for you, and I only discovered that I failed when I heard your

name again.

“I dated over the years, but my relationships ended without reason every single time. They claimed that I lacked the yearning for love. I did not understand initially but understood after seeing you.”

Deirdre’s hand that was placed on the seat was held by Tobey gently. He did not hold her tightly, and she would be able to struggle free just by pulling away.

“It is fate for us to meet again this time. Would you be willing to be with me, Deirdre?”

Deirdre’s mind went blank, and she could hear soft, chaotic noises in her ears. She was having a hard time orienting herself now.

She was surprised. Yes, she was.

Even though she could not see how disheveled her face looked, she could figure it out based on the outsiders’ mannerisms toward her. She was under the assumption that Tobey had changed his mind at the very moment he saw her, yet she did not expect...

After not receiving a reply for a long time, Tobey could not help feeling disappointed. He perked up with great effort. “Did I scare you, Deirdre? I’m not trying to force you into a relationship. You don’t need to feel any obligations.”

“Tobey...” Deirdre inhaled sharply and said, “I know, and I’m very grateful that you like me,

but...”

But she would only be a burden to him now.

She was blind and a disgrace who could not be shown to the outside. She would only be a burden to him even if he were to support her to stay home. She appreciated Tobey and Madame Russell's kindness, and it was precisely due to this reason that she refused to repay their kindness with ingratitude.

Deirdre raised her head and said in all apparent seriousness. "You'll find someone better."

Tobey said with a bitter smile, "Deirdre, you can reject me with the reason of you not liking me, but you shouldn't force this excuse on me to sweeten the deal. No one else is better than you in my heart."

'No one else is better than you in my heart.'

Deirdre's eyes reddened with tears upon hearing that. She lowered her head and would be lying if she were to claim that Tobey's sincere confession did not move her after experiencing too many taunts.

Moreover, she knew that Tobey would end up being the next Sterling. His life would be ruined in an effort to protect her.

Deirdre bit her lower lip tightly.

Tobey could see her hesitation, and he said in an exploratory manner, "Deirdre, do you hate me? Or is it because you have feelings for someone else?"

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Tobey's phone rang all of a sudden. He hung up the call and apologized to the disrupted viewers before he checked the caller ID. He frowned and said, "Hold on, Deirdre. I have a work call that I need to return."

Chapter 308 Is That Him? He's Here to Take Me!

"Alright."

Deirdre nodded. Tobey returned after a short while.

"Deirdre." He sounded unprecedentedly anxious and stern. "I have to return to the company immediately."

"What happened?"

Tobey heaved a sigh in agitation. "One of the projects I'm handling is suddenly facing some issues, so I'll need to handle it. Moreover, I must leave immediately because I can't afford to lose time. I won't be able to get a bus ticket if it's late."

"Ah..." Even though Deirdre did not understand the situation very well, she knew that work was important. You should go quickly. Don't worry about me. Madame Russell can come and pick me up later."

Tobey heaved a deep sigh, his eyes still filled with affection. "Deirdre, everything I said to you before you rejected me is valid. I want to be with you to protect and treasure you. I'm doing it not only because of my mother and Madam McKinnon but it's more so for myself. You can give it proper consideration while I'm away. I'll be back in a few days. By then, I hope that you can give me an answer."

Deirdre's mind was turning sluggish. Tobey leaned over to kiss Deirdre's forehead before he left unwillingly.

He walked with swift footsteps that sounded like he was in a rush.

Deirdre was not disgusted by the remnant warmth on her forehead, but she was caught in a daze.

‘Is a person like me worthy of being protected and treasured? Will I be able to live a normal life?’

She felt her heart wrench in pain at the thought of Brendan.

Brendan had hurt her so much that she did not have the courage to get into a new relationship. However, she realized that she did not hate the idea of dating Tobey. It was possible that she was given a chance to break free from Brendan, so she could have a fresh start.

As she was thinking to herself, someone sat down next to her.

Deirdre was jolted back to reality. ‘Tobey? No... It can’t be. Tobey left in a rush earlier. If it really were him, he wouldn’t be so quiet. Moreover, the person has an unfamiliar smell.’

She felt uneasy for no apparent reason and couldn’t bear to listen to the musical performance anymore. She got up in preparation to leave before Madame Russell’s arrival.

She tripped on something unknown after taking two steps, lost her balance, and fell toward the floor. She was under the assumption that it would be painful, but someone’s arms caught her.

Deirdre opened her eyes but could not see anything. She could feel that she was saved by the person next to her, and it was a man.

“Thank.... Thank you...”

She was in an intimate position because she was almost wrapped in the man

arms. She struggled in an attempt to stand upright, but the man's grip on her arm was so strong that Deirdre was in pain.

"Sir? Please let go of me." Deirdre could not help panicking and struggling with all her might.

The man acted as if he was oblivious, and he was strenuously wiping her forehead with his sleeve. The rough edge of his sleeve rubbed on Deirdre's skin, and it was painful.

Deirdre felt suffocated and fear-stricken by his forceful action. All of a sudden, she felt a familiar feeling that sent shivers down her entire body and turned her face ghastly pale.

'Brendan? Is that him? He's here to take me!'

She widened her eyes and gave the man a slap with the back of her hand. The man was caught off guard, and his grip loosened.

On the other hand, Deirdre backed away continuously before her knees buckled, and she tumbled to the floor. Her face was pale, and she looked like she was terrified.

"Kyran." Meanwhile, a man's voice was heard from afar, followed by approaching footsteps. "Aren't you supposed to be backstage? Why are you here?"

The voice sounded familiar to Deirdre. She immediately remembered that it was the voice of the young developer who had come to see Madame Russell previously, and his name was Declan King.

Soon afterward, the man seemed to notice Deirdre and said in a surprised tone, "Is this... Ms. McKinnon from the Russells?"

Deirdre could not answer, but she could only glare at the area before her in fear. Who was the person Declan called out to earlier? Kyran? Who was that?

Declan came to understand the situation and chuckled softly. He said in an apologetic tone, "I'm very sorry, Ms. McKinnon. Did my friend scare you? He's a mute and can't express himself with speech. He always does something that causes misunderstandings. However, he is a nice person. Please don't take it to heart."

'Mute?' Deirdre was stunned. 'This man is mute? So... He's not Brendan?'

Deirdre calmed down gradually.

If that man were Brendan, he would have already exhausted all sorts of threatening measures to deal with her by now. How would he be so calm and composed that he did not even speak or respond after

she hit him?

"He..." Deirdre pointed at her forehead and furrowed her eyebrows deeply. "Wiped my forehead out of nowhere, and he was very rough."

She wanted an explanation.

Declan looked toward Kyran in frustration. The man shrugged and pointed at the dust on Deirdre's face.

with a frown.

“So that is the case.” Declan let out a muffled laugh. “You have something on your face, Ms. McKinnon. My friend was subconsciously trying to clean the stain for you and didn’t mean anything else. It’s possible. that his action was rough because he is trained in martial arts. He usually helps out with the heavy work backstage.”

Martial arts?

Deirdre was stunned and rubbed her forehead in a daze. It made sense to her now that she thought about it. She was in pain earlier from the button of his sleeve rubbing her skin.

The man was a mute, so he wiped her face without uttering a word, and she was in pain because of his shirt button.

She had such a strong reaction to the situation and was under the assumption that the man was...

“I’m sorry that I misunderstood.”

She was a blind person subjected to way too much discrimination. Her heart went out to the person before her who had almost the same disability as her.

“It’s fine. Blame it on my friend if you want. He’s always trying to do something with good intentions but turns out bad because he can’t speak ” Declan said smilingly, “Moreover, he was careless and hurt you, Ms. McKinnon. How about this? I shall be the host and buy you dinner as an apology, Ms. McKinnon?” “It’s fine.” Deirdre lowered her gaze. She did not enjoy interacting with outsiders anyhow. She was terrified earlier, yet she was still panic-stricken now.

“It was only a trivial matter... Moreover, it’s getting late, and I would like to go home.”
“Alright then “Declan did not insist and sounded like he was rather happy that Deirdre was

sensible enough not to cause more trouble for him. "Since you don't want it, I won't impose on you either. Erin,

send Ms. McKinnon to the door."

A woman walked over and helped Deirdre to walk to the door.

Deirdre could feel as if a gaze was constantly locked on to her along the way without looking away for a moment. She felt slightly uneasy and quickened her walking speed subconsciously.

Meanwhile, Declan patted Kyran's shoulder after Deirdre left. He said with piqued interest, "What's going on? Do you like her?"

Kyran shifted his gaze and took a seat without making a sound.

Declan was already used to his old friend's mannerisms. He took a seat with a cigarette in his mouth. "I haven't gotten around to watching the musical after all this time, so it's finally time for me to feast with my eyes today."

Deirdre had just arrived at the entrance when she bumped into Madame Russell, who came to pick her up. "What happened to Tobey, Deirdre? Why is he leaving all of a sudden? He didn't even pack up his things. and called me to pick you up."

Deirdre said, "I'm not too sure, either. However, Tobey said that something happened at work and that he

is needed."

"Yikes..." Madame Russell's expression was solemn. "I heard him speaking on the phone with an anxious tone. Do you think something bad has happened?"

"No." Deirdre comforted Madame Russell by saying. "Tobey sounded anxious because he was worried that he wouldn't be able to catch the last bus. There's no airport here. However, I believe the matter is not dire because Tobey said he will be back when he is done handling the matter"

"Great then." Madame Russell cracked a smile. She asked mysteriously while she held Deirdre's hand to walk home, "How was it? How was the performance?"

"It was rather impressive," Deirdre answered with her head lowered. In reality, she had only listened to the performance's first half.

"How about Tobey and you?"

"Huh?" Deirdre was caught off guard. "What about Tobey and me?"

Madame Russell smiled mischievously. "Tobey reminded me to take good care of you repeatedly when he called me before he left. He was having such a hard time parting with you that he wished to take you with him. I'm his mother, so I can most certainly tell how he feels. Tobey still has feelings for you."

Deirdre's head was in a chaotic mess. She said with her head lowered, "1. Madame Russell, please hold on first and let me think about it."

"Sure, sure, sure!" Madame Russell's eyes lit up, and she was beaming widely. She held Deirdre's hands tightly and said, "Think about it, think about it! Don't worry. I'll still be your family regardless, and so is Tobey! You don't need to feel burdened!"

Deirdre smiled with great effort as her heart was overwhelmed with emotions.

Too many events had transpired today, and she was having a hard time taking it in, especially the man who was like Brendan. His appearance was a crushing blow to Deirdre.

She began to wonder what she would do if Brendan discovered her whereabouts.

The drowning incident had not been flawlessly executed.

She could only calm herself with great effort after taking a shower. She lay on the bed and began to think that she could not continue doing this anymore. She would have to tidy up the yard sooner so she could leave at any moment when her mother had a complete resting spot.

Deirdre fell asleep soundly after drafting the plan.

The next morning, Madame Russell stuffed a box in her hand. Deirdre opened the box to discover that it was a phone with buttons.

“Tobey instructed me to get this for you so he can get in touch with you more conveniently. The buttons on this phone come with sound feedback, so you can dial numbers without seeing.”

Madame Russell taught her how to use the phone briefly, and Deirdre felt her heart sink ever so slightly.

Tobey had told her that he would be back in a few days before he left, but judging by the situation, it would take more than that.

Deirdre was using an old phone from the start, so she got familiar with the new phone soon enough. The phone rang when she was digging up the earth in the yard.

She picked it up, and Tobey's voice sounded at once. "Is that you, Deirdre?"

Tobey's voice sounded exhausted.

Deirdre hesitated for a moment before she said, "You sound tired, Tobey. Are you alright?"

I'm fine."

Tobey perked up himself with great effort, but in reality, the situation was direr than he described it to be. It felt as if someone targeted him.

However, he could not allow himself to put the negativity of his job on Deirdre. He said with his hand propping his head, "I headed to the company after traveling through the night, and I haven't had time to rest yet."

"You should rest earlier then, Tobey." Deirdre was anxious. "You didn't have much time from the start, so don't get delayed because of me."

"I know that I don't have much time either, but..." Tobey said with a vexed smile, "I'm so tired that I

thought about calling you all of a sudden. I wanted to listen to your voice because it is the only thing that will help me to relax now."