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I thought to myself, ‘Ah, this feels like a natural cold compress. And the coolness it’s

transmitting to me feels so gentle.’

Even though our bodies were plastered tightly against each other, my clothes, dampened by

sweat, were in the way. My hands couldn’t help but reach down and start tearing them

away.

The unknown person seemed to have understood what I was trying to do. He reached out

his cool hands towards the hem of my shirt and lifted it. He tore my shirt away in a swift but

rough motion and pulled my pants down.

I was finally fully naked and in the embrace of this figure whose skin exuded coolness.

Every cell in my body rejoiced as they welcomed the refreshing feeling, and the restless

torment of hunger for coolness was relieved slowly but surely. It felt so gratifying that I

could’ve fallen asleep at any moment.

But the stiff object was still poking against my abdomen. That was the main thing

preventing me from falling asleep. So, I squirmed and wriggled to display my dissatisfaction.

I then heard a low and husky grunt, followed by the sound of rapid breathing. The figure

held onto me tightly, restraining me from any further movement.

At that moment, I didn’t have the strength to contend for control.

Unwillingly, I relaxed my

body and surrendered myself to him. The stiff object against my lower abdomen was still

where it was before, stiffly poking me. But I was too exhausted to do anything other than

just to get used to it slowly.

Right as I was about to fall asleep, I felt like I was flipped over. We were still entangled in a tight embrace, but the cool figure was now beneath me. Although the stiff object was uncomfortable, I didn't move. I drifted off to sleep as I continued to lie on the unknown figure.

I began dreaming. It seemed I was lying in a small boat, and it was floating peacefully on the surface of the sea as it swayed to the wind. The hard object at my lower abdomen was still rubbing against my skin. It seemed that after feeling it for so long, the sensation had eventually followed me into my dream.

It felt like I had slept for a long time before being awoken by the movement near my leg.

Something cold and slippery had encircled my leg and had started patting my calf. It felt like it was trying to comfort me, but instead, all it gave me was a tingly feeling.

Finally, I awoke from my slumber as I fluttered my tired eyelids open. Silky black hair hung before my eyes together with a pale and sturdy chest of a man. My face was buried into his hair while my head rested against his chest. I lifted my head in a daze and looked up. My eyes immediately met a pair of sharp, deep blue eyes.

Those eyes stared at me lazily and cozily.

Seeing him there blew my mind, and my body was momentarily petrified from the shock.

Dicken was lying on my bed, and my naked body was strewn onto his.

—Linda... you're... awake, — he muttered clumsily.

Dicken appeared to be in a good mood as he spoke in a deep voice.

__No! What is going on? How did this beast get into my room? Again!

What happened last night?

__Was I...'

I immediately bounced up from his body as I realized what had happened. However, I had

forgotten that his fishtail was still entangled around my legs. So, I lost my balance, and my head collided against the cabin ceiling before crashing back into his chest.

I ended up lying on him in the same position as before.

I frantically pushed myself away from him but to no avail. I hadn't anticipated how slick and slippery his skin was, causing me to have rubbed against his body several times during my flustered struggle.

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By the time I could react, the object enclosed within his scales had emerged and was erected towards me.

Dicken propped his face up on an elbow with a face filled with delight.

He was admiring my frantic and embarrassed reaction.

With a tug, his tail retracted its grip from my leg and proceeded to spank my buttocks. I

was being played and teased by this lewd creature while n*ked!

The spanking came as a surprise, causing me to roll off the bed and onto the cabin's

floorboards in pain. I tried my hardest to withstand the pain so I wouldn't yelp in pain.

“I can't scream. I can't let anyone find out that Dicken is in my room, especially while n*ked!

“But how could I let him stay here with me? I'm pretty sure I know what is going to happen next...”

I inched backward and moved away from him, then grabbed a nearby chair. With the four

legs of their chair pointed to him, I raised my voice to make myself appear assertive. —Get

out, if not I'll scream for help! You don't want to get a taste of bullets again, do you?—

Dicken did not respond.

I was worried that he didn't fully comprehend what I meant, so I swiftly pointed to the

window, as that was likely how he entered the room in the first place. Dicken raised a brow and looked at me before shifting his line of sight to the window like he was trying to figure out what I had said. Then, he made a finger gun with his webbed claws and shook his head with a mocking look on his face. Finally, he opened his mouth and started laughing. That was the first time I had heard laughter that sounded so cunning. Dicken was like someone plotting devious conspiracies while mockingly laughing at my ignorant self. I understood what he meant. He was conveying that guns would be ineffective to him. He must have thought that my threat was childish because he knew I couldn't do anything against him. Fear took over me, but I refused to give up. I gritted my teeth and spat out the words, —Don't get too cocky! I'm talking about real bullets here, not tranquilizer darts! — Dicken suddenly stopped smiling and got down from the bed. He curled his long tail in a position that allowed him to stand upright. In the next second, his figure cast a large shadow over me. I reflexively tightened my grip on the chair I was holding and positioned it in front of me like a shield. In an instant, Dicken knocked the chair out of my hands. My eyes couldn't even follow his movements. His strength was overpowering. He gradually approached me as I carefully took steps backward to maintain a distance from him until my back was against the door. He then extended his arms to trap me in place against the door. He inched his face closer, and I could feel his humid breath against my face as he said, —Linda...call me...Dicken...I am...your Dicken.— I shyly turned away, unwilling to meet his eyes.

Without a doubt, I knew what Dicken meant to this merman. It contained the same meaning as a verb related to love-making in Japanese. It carried the meaning of mating and courtship!

Asking me to call him Dicken was no different from asking me to admit that I was his mate. This was pretty much like asking him to have sex with me! It was too unbelievable!

As a beast, why would he care so much what I called him? I definitely couldn't call him that and allow him to have sex with me. Otherwise, whatever happened in the research room would happen again!

I gritted my teeth and spat, —No! Definitely not! —

Because I had recalled the things Dicken did to me on the island earlier, my cheeks went from warm to hot. In an instant, he reached out a claw and caressed my lips.

As he leaned against me, he spoke several words that he may have just learned. He said word after word slowly in a low voice, —Last night...you...took initiative...kiss me...—

I was horror-stricken from his words and was petrified. The fuzzy and fragmented memories from last night surfaced in my mind piece by piece —

clinging onto him in hunger, sucking on his tongue in unquenchable thirst... The memories were so humiliating that I could have passed out on the spot.

Just then, I could hear someone shouting from outside the cabin, —Everyone, look! There is a ship over there calling for help! —

—That's right! The ship is in distress! —

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I looked out the window toward the direction of the shouting. It was just like they said; the outline of a ship could be seen through the fog above the surface of the sea.

Red smoke was visibly diffusing from the direction of the ship. The red smoke is known to be the distress signal out at sea.

Due to the storm, something on the ship must have been out of order. The ship then released several lifeboats, and several people got onto it before rowing over to our boat.

A sailor shouted, —The lifeboat is coming and there are even elderly people. Let's release the ropes quickly! —

Those who live on the sea know full well the dangers it brings. Therefore, they were

empathetic towards those that had unfortunate encounters.

—Professor Laura is still asleep. Should we wake her up for permission?

She always told us to

mind our own business and not to stray off course,— someone asked.

—Don't! She definitely won't let us help these poor people. You've seen how cold and

heartless that woman is! There are about a dozen lives on that lifeboat!

If that woman is

awake, she will surely turn them away.—

I couldn't disagree with what he said.

Before I could speak, another person shouted, —So let's quickly save

these people while she's

still asleep! —

The crew collectively agreed to this decision.

The calls for help from the lifeboat grew louder and louder. Shortly after, the deck became

noisy from the voices of all those people. Among the dozen or so people who arrived on

deck, some were sobbing, and some expressed their gratitude. There

were even a few who

were engaged in prayer.

This scene reminded me of the scary experience I had at sea when I was a child. I

remembered how relieved my parents looked the moment they found me. But this train of

thought also reminded me of who my savior was.

Inadvertently, I looked at Dicken guiltily. But to my surprise, he was wearing an alert and

vigilant expression on his face.

‘Is he being on guard because of the crowd outside?’

This thought tempted me to go out and greet them just to spite him. At least it was safer to

be among them than alone with Dicken.

But Dicken had no intention of letting me go. When I moved my leg, he pushed me harder

against the door. His tail then wedged itself between my legs so that my body was stuck in

place.

Just like that, the pressure from his tail had stimulated my sensitive spot.

I had to clamp my

mouth shut just so that I wouldn't yelp out loud.

The situation now became more and more unbearable. The sound of people traversing past

my door made me feel increasingly ashamed.

I had wanted to throw a punch at his face, but I stopped myself when I saw a rare furrow in

his brows. He etched his face closer to the gap of the door and took a whiff. The vigilant

expression on his face then intensified, and his eyes sharpened into a glare.

It was as if he had sensed an enemy.

That was the first time I saw Dicken display expressions like this. A bad feeling rose from my

chest. ‘What on earth can make a furious beast like him become so defensive?’

—Don't... go out. — Dicken's eyes were fixated on the gap between the door and its frame. He

squinted as he looked through it and continued, —There's something...—

Out of curiosity, I turned my head and looked through the gap as well.

We could see an

elderly man with a slouched back looking exhausted through it. However, the long sleeve of

the shirt he was wearing caught my eye.

There's something hidden there!

Something cylindrical was sticking out of his sleeve. I was stunned when I made out what it

was.

The long sleeve concealed a handgun that he was holding!

==Why would an elderly man be carrying a gun, especially when he had just escaped danger at sea? ==

My intuition told me that these people could be...

I suddenly thought of an article that I had read in the newspaper. ==This was the same way

that vessels were taken over in pirate attacks! This is exactly the same as what I read in the article ! ==

The revelation made me break out in cold sweat.

==The sailors on our crew were deceived. These people were definitely pirates disguised as survivors ! ==

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I quickly thought of a countermeasure. Through the gap in the door, I noticed a sailor

named Henry was not too far from my cabin.

I knocked lightly on my door to try to attract Henry's attention. That way, I could secretly tell

him about the horrific revelation, and he could alert the military personnel on board.

But I had to be discreet. The outcome would be unimaginable if the pirates found out.

—Henry, Henry, could you come here for a bit?— I beckoned him softly.

As I did that, I was simultaneously observing the movements of the pirates in hopes that

they didn't notice anything unusual.

—Miss Linda?— Henry heard my voice and walked closer with a puzzled expression.

Right then, I saw the elderly man with a bent back suddenly straighten his spine and throw

something he was holding onto the floor.

In an instant, white smoke rose from the floor, and the people on deck were no longer

visible.

A pungent scent flooded my nostrils, and Dicken flung me onto the bed in a swift motion.

The smoke made me unable to open my eyes, and the sharp pain caused streams of tears to fall.

—F*ck! It's a gas bomb! — I couldn't help but curse.

I instinctively started rubbing my eyes as panic overtook me. —The people outside must have launched a surprise attack! —

I quickly sat up, but Dicken immediately pounced onto me, preventing me from getting up.

Just when I wanted to start thrashing in anger, his lips pressed against my eyelid, and he started licking the bottom of my eyelid repeatedly with that wet and slippery tongue of his.

This sort of intimate contact made me feel awkward, but I understood what he was trying to do. He was trying to neutralize the effects of the gas that had got into my eye. His saliva did have healing properties, after all.

I could only accept his help as I prioritized my safety. I tolerated the awkward situation and remained motionless as he licked at my eyes.

Suddenly, we heard a loud and alarming sound. Bang! Bang! Bang! Someone seemed to be kicking at my door, causing tremors across the cabin room.

I could hear the sound of bullets colliding with metal from the door. My body trembled at the sound as I instinctively covered my ears. But even then, it didn't do much to prevent me from hearing the sound of impact. I felt like breaking down.

On the other hand, Dicken acted without hesitation. He immediately pulled me into his embrace as his muscles tensed. He stood up with me in his arms as he released a low growl that only I could hear.

—Whoever is in there, come out now! You have ten minutes. For every minute of delay, one of the idiots out here will have the chance to visit God! —
The gruff shouting voice of a man reached my ears from behind the door.

The sounds of gunfire against my door had halted, and the smell of gunpowder emanated from it.

I pushed Dicken away and shakily put some clothes on.

I knew those pirates were not joking. The law meant nothing to them, so there was nothing they wouldn't do.

I clenched my fists tightly in fear. Although I was terrified, I could only obey and go along with their demands. If I didn't within the next ten minutes, the sailors would lose their lives.

—They saved these people out of empathy and the kindness of their hearts! How could this happen to them?—

—If you're smart enough, you shouldn't go out there, Dicken, — I said to him in a low voice. —

Unsurprisingly, they think I'm the only one in here. —

I anxiously walked toward the door, but Dicken's tail clung onto me before I could reach it. I

lost balance and fell backward onto his sturdy chest.

His arms tensed as he locked me into his embrace with my head resting against his chest.

His deep blue eyes bore into mine with a look of caution as he said, ||Linda...don't...go out.||

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I was petrified by Dicken's stare and couldn't move.

But the shouting voice outside immediately drew my attention. —To the idiot who's still in

there, if you don't come out now, I will blast the door open with dynamite! —

He then laughed sinisterly. —Or else, I will blast someone's head open! —

Shortly after, I could hear someone cock the safety of a gun, followed by the sound of

Henry's crying. He screamed in agony, —Stop! Help! Don't kill me! Miss Linda, please help

me! —

Henry's wailing felt like a stab through my heart. Now, I was much calmer than before. Every move I made would affect the lives of those outside my door. I must think of a plan where I can protect my life as well as theirs. If I walk out there meekly like just now, I'll just be feeding myself to the wolves. Dicken is ferocious. Asking for his help is my best option. I could feel my chest well up with courage. With the feeling of responsibility to save the sailors, I turned around and grabbed Dicken's arm. My forehead was right below his chin, and this was the first time I got close to Dicken of my own volition. The memories of how he violated me filled my thoughts yet again, but I tried my best to push them to a corner of my mind and suppress the embarrassment that came with it. I spoke to him slowly and softly, —Listen here, Dick... oh, no.— Realizing what I had almost said, I awkwardly stopped myself. I intentionally slowed down the pace of my words so that he could understand what I said next. —Mr. Merman, I need your help. I will walk out there soon, but I hope you can find a place to hide. Then, you can wait for an opportunity to fight the people with guns.— As I said that, I made a finger gun just like the one he made earlier and asked, —Do you know what I mean? Can you do it?— I then cast him a worried look. I didn't know how proficient he was in Japanese yet but hoped he was intelligent enough to comprehend what I was trying to say. Dicken's brows furrowed again like he was deep in thought. Before long, his lips parted open in a smirk, and he gave me a whimsical look before saying, —Call me... Dicken...— I —Assh*le! This creature is threatening me now of all times?— —Ten...nine...eight—

The countdown on the other side of the door had already started. I had no choice but to compromise to Dicken's demands.

I tilted my head away to avoid his eyes and shamefully uttered the several syllables, ||Di-ck?en.||

Immediately after, his claw tilted my chin upward to force me to look into his eyes as I was covered in his shadow.

His lips crashed onto mine. His kiss was so intense and rushed that in about two seconds, the weight on my lips had disappeared.

He released his grip on my body, and I instinctively leaned back against the door.

The figure that was before me just a second ago was also gone. I could only see something similar to a black bolt of lightning flashing to the window and disappearing through it. My eyes couldn't even catch onto his movements, and only the broken window served as proof of his trespass.

Just like that, Dicken concealed himself and was out of sight thanks to the thick fog outside.

—If he had wanted to escape from being a research subject, it seemed like an easy feat for him.

But why did he let himself be captured and trapped?' Although I had this question in my mind, I didn't have the time to ponder further on it.

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I took a deep breath and gathered my courage before opening the cabin door.

The moment I opened the door, a thought surfaced in my mind—Dicken will come to my aid.

Although I was abhorrent to everything Dicken had done to me and how he had almost destroyed my career as a researcher, I believed that he wouldn't leave me behind for some

unknown reason.

—What a hot woman! Now raise both your arms and behave! —

A rough and muscular man was standing in front of me. He was wearing a worn -out hat. He

looked at me with a deceitful and disgusting smirk.

He then aimed the opening of the gun barrel at my head.

Nobody would be calm at a time like this. So, unsurprisingly, the shirt on my back was

already drenched in sweat. I obediently raised my arms to show that I

had no intention of

rebellious against them.

I carefully walked out of the cabin and composed myself as I

said, —Calm down, I am just a

defenseless woman.—

The pirates on deck who pretended to be survivors had now done away with their disguises.

All of them were tanned and muscular . It looked like even the person who appeared like an

elderly man was just another pirate in disguise.

The pirates had already subdued all of the sailors in our crew. They knelt on the floor as

their hands and wrists were restrained with ropes.

However, there was a silver lining to the situation. Gary and the soldiers were not among

those who were restrained, which meant that they must've been hiding somewhere and

were preparing for a counterattack.

I was slightly relieved. I looked around the boat and hazarded a guess that they must've

been hiding in the cabins above deck. That was a strategic position as they could fire the

guns downward and take the pirates by surprise.

Just then, I felt the collar of my shirt tighten as the leader among the pirates tugged at it

forcefully.

||Miss Linda! || The few sailors who knew me exclaimed in fright.

Then, my stomach was punched fiercely, causing me to collapse onto the floorboards and

curl up while I clutched the point of impact on my abdomen. How could a woman like me

fight against such a muscular man bare-handed?
After that, a leg enclosed in heard leather boots stomped onto my body.
The muscular man
looming above me cackled in evil laughter as he said, ||To the guys up
there, do you think
you' re good at hiding? Can't you see that this woman is now in our
hands? If you don't
lower your weapons, I will make this woman suffer.—
__Oh, God! The pirates must have noticed Gary and the rest!
No! I'm still in their hands. If this goes on, we'll be at a disadvantage!'
As I was thinking, the sounds of guns being loaded could be heard from
the second floor.
The soldiers were having a standoff with the group of pirates.
I remained hopeful. There weren't that many pirates, and although they
had guns, they were
no match for those trained professionals. __Maybe I just need to stall a
little longer...'
But the impact of the punch earlier was too strong. __ That darn pirate!
He didn't go lightly
on me even though I __m a woman. I don't know how much longer I can
stand this.'

The pain in my abdomen was aggravating, and the boot was still holding
my body down
onto the floor.
I couldn't believe that Dicken was the first person I wanted to see at this
moment of
desperation. It was also the first time I truly yearned for his presence. So,
I tried to raise my
head and searched for his figure on the surface of the sea.
The fog was thick, so I could barely make out the sea surface. Needless
to say, I couldn't
spot Dicken at all.
I couldn't help but feel disappointed. __Maybe Dicken had left. With how
we had treated him
so far, there was no way he would help us. He had the choice to return
to his freedom in the
deep sea. He has no reason to involve himself in this life or death
situation.'

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He was a beast, after all. His acts of intimacy stemmed from his feral instincts and were not

based on emotions. It was perfectly logical for him to leave.

Although I had that train of thought, I still mentally cursed him in the back of my mind.

‘Despicable!’

I hadn’t expected to feel miserable. I clenched my fists in a fury. ‘That stupid beast! How

could he abandon me?!’

Just when I was lamenting his absence, I suddenly heard the sound of a strong wave

crashing against the hull of a boat. Seawater overflowed onto the deck and the boat started

rocking side to side.

The man stepping on me lost balance and fell onto the floor.

Withstanding the pain, I

crawled up and raised my head. Dicken’s tail clung to the boat’s mast as he propped his

body upright, overseeing the situation on the boat from above like a harbinger of death.

He roared fiercely before pouncing onto the pirate that had stepped on me. With a mighty

swing from his long tail, several of the pirates who were ready to fire their guns were

toppled over.

Then, he extended his razor-sharp claws and stared down at everyone present. In a split

second, he dug his claws into the lower back of a pirate and flung him forward onto his

abdomen.

Blood sprayed out from the wound, and Dicken was covered in it instantly. He then looked

at the situation around him once again. I was so shocked that no words could leave my lips.

I could only remain stunned as I sat on the floor. I felt the urge to gag as my body couldn’t

help but tremble at the scene.

Dicken’s brutality in this situation was more terrifying than what he had done to Alice. The

impression I had of Dicken had changed after witnessing that situation. The mess of thoughts in my mind put me in a trance, yet I couldn't shift my eyes away.

Covered in blood, Dicken stood up from the corpse supported by his tail.

He was slightly

more than two meters tall when standing upright and appeared like a king looking down on

his subjects on the deck.

Droplets of blood remained on his weapon-like claws. His deep blue eyes bore ferocity that

could make anyone quiver in fear. Like a devil that arose from hell, he could snatch the lives

of anyone he wished. Even bloodthirsty pirates wouldn't dare stand against him.

—Do not...touch...my...Linda.—

Dicken cast his gaze onto me before sweeping to the group of ruthless pirates. His lips

revealed a threatening smile as his throat released a deep sound resembling a growl.

This must have been the first time these pirates had encountered such a ferocious creature.

They couldn't help but take several steps back in terror. Even their grip on their guns and rifles weakened as their hands shook.

I was drenched in a cold sweat, but under the current circumstances, there was no way I

would stop Dicken's massacre. After all, the pirates have no respect for life or other people.

They don't even have mercy for children or the elderly. If I weaken my resolve here, then

more blood will be on their hands.'

However, I had no way of moving because I had no idea what I could do in that situation.

—Linda, get away from the merman and the pirates! Get into the cabin quickly! —

Gary's voice reached my ears from somewhere above me. I looked up in the direction of his

voice and saw that he and some of the soldiers had their guns trained on the pirates.

The tables had been turned, and now the pirates were at a disadvantage.

They had their

backs against each other in a group. Some of them aimed their guns at Gary and the soldiers, while the others aimed at Dicken instead. But at that moment, no one dared to be the first to open fire. I realized what the key to this situation was. —If someone opens fire, the restrained sailors will become live targets as they are defenseless. I can't just hide by myself and leave them behind like this!' I immediately crouched down to untie the ropes on one of the sailors, but on second thought, I realized it would consume too much time.

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I held onto one of the sailor's legs and dragged him under the eaves.

That way, he would be further away from the gunfire.

Suddenly, I heard the sound of someone wailing, — Miss Linda! Please help me! I'm having a heart attack! I feel like I'm about to die...—

I recognized that voice to be Henry's. I hurriedly looked for his figure among the group of sailors.

I found him curled up with a painful expression on his face.

—Wait for me! — I got to him immediately and dragged him under the eaves the same way I

dragged the other sailor. I intended to do CPR on him, but the moment I pressed my hands

onto his chest, a cold and metallic gun barrel was placed below my chin. Henry's face, which was originally twisted in pain and agony, was now malicious as if his

behavior of being in pain earlier was all an act.

I was dumbfounded. Henry's hands were not tied. He had been disguising himself all along because he was a spy for the pirates.

—What is going on?'

—Henry was the sailor who had followed me and Gary since we first left the mainland to do research. How could he be a pirate?'

Unless... these pirates had their eye on us since the very beginning of our voyage. And now they have decided to make their move.'

||Henry, what are you doing? ! ||

Gary's roar interrupted my train of thought. I looked at him and saw that his gun was trained toward Henry and me. My thoughts were all over the place. With Henry's gun aimed directly at my head, I could only stand up stiffly as one of his arms was around my neck. The gun barrel pressed firmly against my temple. He was obviously frightened by Dicken's brutality because I could feel his hands shaking. Even so, he bellowed, ||All of you, put down your guns, or else I will kill her! She must be very precious to you, Gary. And that beast, you... you listen to me! Your trainer is in my hands ! If you don't want your trainer to die then stay there obediently ! Hey ! Can you understand human language?||

Henry's shouting finally drew Dicken's attention away from the other pirates. He turned in the direction of Henry's voice and saw the state I was in. Within an instant, his expression changed. Several seconds ago, he looked confident as he knew the pirates were no match for him. But after seeing the situation I was in, that previous expression was replaced with terror?inducing murderous intent. He snarled as he said, ||Don't ...touch... her ...you... will... die.||

Dicken glared at Henry, and when Henry heard what Dicken had said, it wasn't only his hands that were trembling but also the rest of his body. Noticing that I was in a pinch, I frantically searched my mind for a way to break down Henry's mental defenses. Just then, the standoff between Dicken and Henry was interrupted by the sound of a gunshot from an unknown assailant on deck. The bullet had hit something in front of Dicken, so he instinctively bent his body into an attacking stance.

Henry was so shocked by the sound that the gun in his hand just slipped out from his grip.

‘Thank God for that!’

I immediately lifted my elbow and swung it back into his stomach as hard as I could before running forward.

But Henry was a man, and he had the advantage of physical strength. He reacted almost immediately and held onto my waist, pushing me face-down onto the floor.

I thrashed and struggled against him for a while until suddenly, he raised his wrist, and I saw a silver flash appear. I felt something embedding itself in my abdomen. Suddenly, sharp pain overtook my senses, and red blood started seeping out of my abdomen.

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This was also when the turbulent sounds of gunfire started on the deck. The unavoidable battle had begun.

I tried pressing against the wound on my abdomen, but the intense pain was enough to silence me. I could only lay on the floor as I raised my head with difficulty, watching the ongoing battle on deck.

The overwhelming fatigue was preventing my eyes from staying open. I saw Dicken zipping around as he avoided the flurry of bullets. It was obvious that the bullets slowed him down.

However, it could also be that he had no intention of attacking anyone and was just dodging the bullets as he stared in my direction.

Dicken wasn't scared of bullets. Rather, he was scared that I would be hurt further as Henry was still near me!

‘But how could he dodge every single bullet?. If this goes on, he will die!’

I felt my chest tighten. Even though I despised Dicken for violating me, I never once hoped for him to die, especially since he came back to save me even though he had the chance to escape.

I was so worried for him that I forgot about the predicament I was in. It was as if the pain from my wound wasn't that important anymore.

—I'm fine, Dicken. Don't worry about me. Focus on fighting or you might die! — I shouted at

him with all my strength as I gritted my teeth to bear the pain.

Henry realized what I was doing, and in the next second, he pulled out the dagger

embedded in my abdomen. Even though my eyesight was blurred from tears of pain, I could

tell that it was a military- issued dagger. Blood started flowing out of my wound in streams

as I lay there in pain.

‘Looks like Henry really wants me dead...’

As the blood drained from my body, so did my strength. I could only convulse and twitch in

pain while my body curled up.

Meanwhile, I could hear a pirate shout, —Get the chains! This monster is about to attack! Get

the chains and tie him up with it!—

I looked at Dicken with worry, but all I could see were several pirates holding a thick, metal

chain as they wrapped it around Dicken's body. Only his tail had some room to move as he

clawed at the metal chain. He kept snarling as he was in a deadlock with the pirates.

It was evident that Dicken had been shot. His blue – colored blood flowed down from his

body and formed several blue puddles on the deck. Even though he was hurt, he remained

in a deadlock with them and didn't seem to have any intention of attacking.

The large waves crashing against the boat had halted, and the fog had also dissipated.

It was then that the actual appearance of the ship that we had initially thought was in distress was revealed.

This ship had a unique appearance. Tattered strips of cloth hung from the boat, and worn plates of metal plastered its structure. The small ship looked like it could not withstand

another storm. However, on the third floor of the ship was a cannon. Several dozens of

pirates were standing on its deck with rifles in their hands. The amount of firepower and

manpower they had was overwhelming compared to ours.

I was staggered by the sudden turn of events and almost passed out. I never imagined that

the pirates we might face would be organized to this scale...

Henry placed the dagger next to my neck and arrogantly said, —Tell them to put down their

guns, Gary. You're no match to us. And looks like Linda can't hold on much longer.

Becoming a hostage is much better than being food for the sharks, isn't it?—

I didn't dare to be careless. I couldn't see Gary, so I didn't know whether he lowered his weapon.

I knew that Gary was still somewhat intelligent, so he wouldn't attack directly. Under the

current circumstances where the difference in strength was too significant, a confrontation

would only take more lives.

Being under the pirates' control seemed like an inevitable outcome.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 68

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet Chapter 68

Gary and Laura needed Dicken and me to remain alive.

The group of pirates didn't seem like they were just trying to rob us, else they wouldn't have

got Henry to spy on Gary and me for so long.

At the very least, Dicken and I were left alive. As long as we were alive, there would be a

chance to escape.

The pain and blood loss drained me unconscious. All I could feel was Henry still clutching to my body near the edge of the deck. As for the pirate ship, it had inched closer until it was just mere meters away from us. The pirates on the ship placed a small bridge made of steel between the decks of both vessels. Our boat trembled, and seawater splashed from the area of impact. I heard the sound of chains approaching closer from behind me, followed by the metallic scent of blood flooding my nostrils. I turned my head as much as I could to take a look. Unfortunately, as my eyesight was blurred from the pain I was enduring, I could only faintly see several pirates tugging the chains as they dragged Dicken across the bridge. They yelled in excitement like that was the most incredible loot of their endeavor. Pirates in chains now dragged the strong, fierce, and intelligent creature. Dicken looked like a wild animal being imprisoned in a circus. Nobody could actually stop him from escaping, but he was willing to put himself in that situation. My heart felt heavy. —I shouldn't have asked Dicken for help. No matter how similar he is to a human, he still isn't human at the end of the day. We're biologically different beings. I shouldn't have involved him in the despicable conflicts of humans.|| I was too stupid! Dicken was just a beast. The fact that he thought I was his mate was just a mistake, and asking him for help in that situation just made it worse. He was only sacrificing himself for me because he thought I was his mate. How could I do this as a biological? How could I use an intelligent creature like him? However, even if I could do it all over again, I probably would have done the same thing. After all, no one could resist relying on someone more powerful in the fact of danger, even if that someone had violated me before.

I felt conflicted and guilty, while my thoughts were a frantic mess. However, the pain in my body felt clearer as it overtook my senses and my mind. Even breathing felt like a difficult chore.

I knew that death was at my doorstep. My eyes couldn't help but roll upwards, and I couldn't concentrate anymore. I felt like I was floating further and further away from whatever was happening...

Suddenly, the boat started rocking intensely. I felt my body release from Henry's grip, causing me to collapse on the deck. When my head collided with the floorboards, the impact gave my mind a moment of clarity.

I could faintly see several pirates tugging hard at Dicken, who was wrapped tightly into a bundle with chains with my blurred vision. His body was mere inches away from me.

Perhaps undergoing danger with him had evoked a feeling of companionship with him. I

used the last of my strength to raise my fingers and tug at his tail.

—Stop wasting time and quickly throw this monster into the cargo hold below deck,—

commanded one of the pirates.

Dicken's figure disappeared from my side. Several people carried him away before I was lifted as well.

Shortly after, I was tossed into the darkness and fell into a pool of water.

The splash caused me to feel dizzy than before. The water swallowed me up as I continued sinking further into the darkness below.

The icy cold water stung my wound, and the pain cleared my head. Then, I felt my way

along the wall with great difficulty and pushed my body against it. It was only then that I

realized the water had only reached up to my waist.

When I lifted my head, all I saw were several people looking down at me from above.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 69

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet Chapter 69

—This chick is really feisty! It will be a shame if our brothers don't play with her.—

—Stop that. This woman is that monster's trainer. We need her here so that the monster

won't go crazy. After all, it looks like she won't be living much longer. So we might as well

feed her to the monster when the time comes.—

—You've got a good point. Let's go! There are still a few idiots on deck to handle! —

After that, the doorway to the cargo hold closed with a bang and entrapped me in darkness.

There was only a weak ray of light coming from a gap in the wall.

It took a while for my eyes to adjust to the darkness. I could faintly see a dark mass moving

about somewhere not far from where I was. The movement was accompanied by chains

rustling and knocking against the wall.

I immediately recognized that it was Dicken as he was still bound in chains. I didn't expect

the pirates to imprison us in the same place.

—Linda...Linda...—

Dicken was beckoning me. I was familiar with the sound of his voice.

It was dim, but I could see a dark shadow resembling a fishtail writhing about for a while

before a large splash sprayed water onto me. Then, suddenly, a large ripple formed from

where I was standing in just a few seconds.

Dicken's head gradually emerged from the water surface, followed by his torso. I could see

many streaks of scars on his chest left behind by the metal chains.

But the metal chains were gone. Dicken had broken free from the chains except for one

around his waist that was as thick as my arm. There was a padlock on that chain, but it

posed no difficulty to his movements. It looked more like an accessory on him.

I wanted to reach out and touch him, but I was too weak. I could only move my body a little but couldn't lift my arm. Dicken extended his wet claws to help support my wobbling body. He then bent down and cast his gaze onto the stab wound in my abdomen. I immediately understood what he wanted to do next. He was my last hope of living since he had the power to heal. So he really could save my life! When faced with intolerable pain and the fear of death, the feeling of embarrassment was nothing to me. Dicken was my final lifeline. Therefore, I didn't resist when Dicken started tearing off my blood-soaked clothes with his teeth. I even shakily extended my arms to accommodate his actions and exposed my abdomen for him to inspect. The scene looked like I was selling my body and soul to the devil in the desire of wealth. Dicken's claws extended to my back to steady my position. He then suspended himself in water with his tail while extending it between my legs. His tail pressed against my crotch as it pushed my body higher and higher until the upper half of my body was above the water surface. This position made me look like I was riding a giant python, and I had to clamp my legs around it for the sake of stability. It looked a lot like we were having s*x. Dicken retracted the claw on my back and shifted it to my hips instead as he steadied me against the wall. Dicken lowered his head to my ribs without a word, and I instinctively wrapped my arms around his neck to steady myself. I could feel his wet and slippery tongue slowly licking the place where the dagger had stabbed me. Then, his cool tongue entered my injured flesh and explored the interior of the

wound, leaving no area untouched.

—Mm...ah...—

I couldn't help but groan and tremble from the pain. I could only bite my lower lip to

prevent myself from wailing like a child.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 70

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet Chapter 70

Very quickly, the healing properties of Dicken's saliva started to take effect. The extreme

pain began to dissipate, and a tingling and ticklish feeling replaced it as the wound healed.

It wasn't uncomfortable. Rather, it was quite enjoyable.

Just like that, my body eventually relaxed, and my eyelids started to feel heavy as sleepiness

took over my mind. Dicken rocked my body rhythmically as if I was a baby being rocked to

sleep. Before long, I fell asleep peacefully with my arms around Dicken's neck.

When I finally woke up from my slumber, I felt like I had been sleeping for a long time.

For a moment, I thought I was in a dream because I had regained my strength and vigor.

The several hours of sleep felt like I had rested for days, all thanks to Dicken's mysterious

healing powers.

Dicken's head was buried into my abdomen as he was still healing me. I looked down and

saw his long eyelashes partially concealing his breathtaking eyes not forgetting his high

nose bridge and his chiseled jawline. But the shadows beneath his eyes veiled the contours

of his face. The way he looked right now was rather...gentle.

His gentleness made him seem like a charming man who could bewitch the minds of many.

As I was spacing out while staring at him, he suddenly lifted his head, and our eyes met.

My heart skipped a beat. I was so lost in thought that I perceived this despicable and lewd

creature as a gentle being.

“This must be a delusion caused by my injury! It has to be!”

I suddenly realized that I was in a shameful position. My shirt was wide open, and both my breasts were exposed.

I wanted to push Dicken away. The thought I had earlier combined with my position caused me to be extremely flustered.

He narrowed his eyes and looked at me like he had figured out what I was thinking.

Then, Dicken smiled. He seemed delighted that he had successfully seduced me and caused me to be flustered, so his smile widened further. His flirtatious smile appeared to be teasing me, especially since his mouth was covered in blood from my wound. He continued flicking his tongue in and out of my wound repeatedly. He would extend it into the wound before withdrawing his tongue back into his mouth. He was teasing me while blatantly displaying this s*xual innuendo.

“His tongue also licked my...”

I kept telling myself that Dicken was just tending to my injury, but the current situation made me panic. Embarrassing memories flooded back to me, causing my ears and cheeks to flush.

His tongue was obviously still treating my wound like before, but now it seemed like the meaning behind his actions had deviated. My entire body shivered. I wanted to push him away, but my arms were still weak after waking up. So when I moved his face, it appeared more like a caress instead.

Dicken followed the motion of my hand as he grabbed onto it. He turned his face and deeply kissed the center of my palm like he was pleased with what I had done.

I quickly retracted my hand like I had touched hot iron. Then, I stammered, —I’m much better now. You don’t need to help me anymore...—

Dicken cast his eyes down to my wound and said, —No After that, he bent his head down and resumed licking my wound.

—Ah, stop! Hey, don't be like this! —

I frantically pushed his head away, but his claws held my shoulders in place, preventing me from moving so much.

The tingly feeling from his wet tongue quickly penetrated my senses again, causing me to straighten my back. Unfortunately, my breasts were also raised in that position, and so the feeling of embarrassment overtook my mind again.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 71

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet Chapter 71

The scent of Dicken's unique fragrance entered my nostrils, hastening my breathing. My

body had been submerged in water for some time, so I should've been cold. But, instead,

my body was heating up as if I was being held above flames.

I gritted my teeth in uneasiness and inhaled a deep breath to suppress my rapid breathing

and to stabilize my heart rate.

I couldn't believe that my body was becoming increasingly sensitive to Dicken's touch.

Dicken's slight rocking movement had caused me to clamp my legs around his tail.

As I thought about how humiliating I looked, I shook my head and squirmed from his hold

onto me. Then, I grabbed his shoulders and shouted, —Dicken!

Dicken, I'm fine now. Can you please put me down?—

Calling him Dicken was definitely better than saying hey. The claws that were holding on

to my waist loosened their grip as he slowly put me down. My feet felt around the water

until they found the floor beneath to stand on.

I immediately closed my legs and buttoned my shirt in fear that he would take advantage of

what he saw.

Dicken didn't seem to notice what I did. Instead, he turned around and leaned against the wall before releasing a long sigh like he was finally relieved. Right after that, he bent down and started to inspect his own body. I followed his gaze and looked down to see several cavities in his abdomen as well as the metallic shine of bullets within them. A layer of membrane had formed in the exterior of the wounds.

I was in disbelief. Even something as lethal as bullets were not strong enough to fully penetrate his tough skin.

However, the bullets were half-embedded into his skin, so he couldn't properly heal himself.

It was either because of the unbearable pain or the discomfort of having bullets stuck in his skin that he extended a claw to tear open the membrane on one of the bullets. As the membrane was stopping his bleeding, blue-colored blood started oozing out of the wound after he tore it.

My heart tightened as I instantly grabbed ahold of his arm and shouted, —Stop tearing them!

You'll only cause the wound to widen! I...—

—I should help him. If he continued to pick the bullets out, it would only cause the wound to tear open wider. The best way is to suck out the bullets with my mouth. But this will be too awkward...

The position of the bullets is too low.'

I stared at the few bullet wounds on his abdomen, and one of them was right above the scales concealing his massive d*ck. I didn't dare to imagine how humiliating it would look if I sucked out the bullets.

Right as I was deliberating on what to do, Dicken raised his head and bore his deep eyes into mine. Then, he furrowed his brows and pleaded sincerely, —Linda...help me...—

His stare made me feel uncomfortable, and I looked down at his bullet wounds again. I tried

hard not to look at the region below, but my face still heated up instantly.

“Dicken had only gotten injured because he risked his life to save me. He even cared for my injuries before he cared for his own. So it’s only right that I help him, and this was something I could definitely do.”

Additionally, from another perspective, Dicken was my biggest hope of escaping from the pirates, so he needed to be well. Therefore, he was the best asset in facing the group of pirates.

“Toss aside the unnecessary thoughts, Linda! Just be a vet this time. This isn’t your first time

treating an animal’s wounds! ”

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Chapter 72

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet Chapter 72

—Okay... but don’t move. I’ll help you take the bullets out, — I said strictly, hoping it would hide my awkwardness.

I drew in a deep breath to stabilize my heartbeat, then rolled up my sleeves. Holding onto the wall behind Dicken, I knelt and inched closer to a wound on his abdomen.

Just when my lips touched his wound, Dicken’s abdomen started trembling. He placed his wet claws onto my shoulder as droplets of water from it slid into my collar, causing me to tremble as well.

“But how could I retreat now? I have to calm down and pretend to be an emotionless vet while sucking on his wounds.”

I sucked on it profusely, and Dicken’s abs tensed in tandem to my sucking. This caused the bullets to embed deeper into his flesh. I could only place my hands on his tough hips to hold him in position as my tongue reached into the wound to hook onto the shrapnel inside.

When I finally retrieved the shrapnel, I immediately turned to spit it out. I wiped some sweat away from my brows. Of course, that was just from one wound, but it

felt like I had undergone an extreme workout.

This wasn't just a challenge to the capacity of my lungs but also my mental endurance, and

this was only from the upper most wound, so there were still several more to extract.

I didn't dare to look up and see the expression on Dicken's face. My face was definitely

blushed in a bright shade of red. I immediately spat out the fresh blood from my mouth and

moved on to the next one.

Just like that, I proceeded to suck out the bullets and shrapnel from his wounds until there

was only one left. But, unfortunately, it was the one that was extremely close to his private

region.

I looked at that final wound with uneasiness and felt like backing out.

This was indeed the

greatest challenge to my mental endurance in my life. It felt like what I was about to do was

no different from giving him a blowjob.

I jolted in surprise when this thought surfaced in my mind. I desperately shook my head in

hopes that it would extinguish the thought.

Dicken's claws were still placed on my shoulder. He pressed down lightly, and the veins on

his abdomen popped out visibly. Then, in heavy breaths and a hoarse voice, he said, ||Help

me... ||

__F*ck! To hell with it ! __

I gritted my teeth. Then, I took a deep breath and closed my eyes before going for it. I

sucked on it hard, hoping that I could get the darn bullet out of him as quickly as possible.

Dicken then shifted his claws to the nape of my neck and pushed me closer to his abs. He

also arched his back to push his abs forward. Because of this, his tail

was plastered against my breasts. He then rubbed it against my upper body according to

the rhythm of my sucking.

The intricate scales rubbing against the sensitive skin on my breasts felt like a pair of hands

groping me.

My entire body started to feel tingly, but it took a lot of effort to get the bullet out halfway.

How could I give up now?

I could only arch my body forward to distance my body from the rubbing of his tail. But

then, Dicken's claws reached down to my back and pushed me back down.

It was then that my chin rested on something stiff.

I couldn't take it anymore and bit down on his wound angrily. Finally, I contained the bullet

along with a mouthful of blood in my mouth.

==This lewd creature! Is he doing this on purpose?! ==

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 73

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet Chapter 73

I was so flustered that I fell on my butt and coughed out Dicken's blood from my mouth.

I glanced at the region below Dicken's abs, and the stiff object that his scales originally

enclosed was now totally exposed. It stood energetically upright with its tip raised high

toward my face. It looked a lot like a loaded gun that was ready to fire.

That was the first time I had looked at Dicken's member while being clear-headed. As I

looked at it closely, the size of it was alarming. ==Such a large thing had...

==No! I need to stop thinking about that!'

I braced myself as the memories of being violated by him resurfaced in my mind

uncontrollably. Finally, I stood up in a frantic and scurried as far away from Dicken as I could.

But that vigorous tail of his followed suit like a python toying with a child.

The agile tail slid

in front of my legs and swung upward, breaking the water surface.

He lifted my entire body out of the water just like that.

—Ah! Let go of me! Screw off!—

I shouted at him in shock. But as Dicken retracted his tail, it brought my body closer to him.

Before I even finished shouting, my back had already bumped against Dicken's solid chest.

With both of his strong and muscular arms, he locked me in his embrace.

—Linda...— Dicken placed his cool lips against the sensitive skin in my neck. The tip of his nose

rubbed against my neck as he deeply inhaled my scent.

Then, with his deep and hoarse voice, he said, —Don't ..be scared...of me.—

If it weren't for his erect shaft poking against my butt, I would have believed him and

thought that his words were sincere. However, the current situation looked like a rapist

asking for permission under false pretenses.

Although I knew that Dicken wouldn't hurt me as he had even risked his life to save me, it

didn't change the fact that he had violated me countless times. It also didn't explain why he

would always be in heat when near me.

The fact that his shaft was erect and poking against me only proved one thing, that me not

being afraid of him is laughable.

Dicken's powerful muscles twitched against my back, alerting my nerves and causing me to

shiver.

—Stop touching me...— I suppressed my trembling voice and forced myself to speak calmly.

—Dicken, if you don't want me to be scared of you, then stop doing these kinds of things to

me.—

—Why...— Dicken's breathing paused for a moment. He then leaned into my ear lobe and bit

down on it in protest. —You are mine...you love...me...too...—

—That's bullsh*t! —

I retorted in a fury. I leaned my head away to escape his lips but one of his webbed claws

circles around my waist down into my pants...

In a surprise, I jolted and clamped my legs tightly in rejection. However, this served as no

obstacle to his hands exploring my crotch.

I was quivering as I closed my eyes. My entire body was frozen as the inescapable

stipulation caused blood to rush into my head.

Shortly after, I heard Dicken's lewd chuckle from behind me.

He admired my reaction as he said, —This is...the proof.—

Then, the other claw grabbed onto my hand and brought it backward.

Almost instantly, my

hand touched something hot near my butt.

Dicken's humid breath reached my ears when he said, —Me...too.—

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 74

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet Chapter 74

I was so furious that I could faint. I couldn't believe that Dicken thought this was love! He

took my physiological reactions as accepting his courtship. But he was a beast, and beasts

court each other by mating!

I could not let him get in heat in here. The group of pirates was right overhead, and they

could check on the situation down here anytime they wanted to.

I frantically retracted my hand from behind me and grabbed his hand out of my pants. Then,

while blushing, I argued, —It's not like that, Dicken. We're not the same species, I...—

As the words hung from my lips, I was suddenly at a loss as to how I should explain this to

him. He was a beast, so how could he possibly understand the intricacies of human society.

So finally, I changed my point and said, —I don't love you, I...this doesn't mean anything. Do

you understand?—

I argued with him as my face flushed.

Dicken fell silent for a few seconds after he heard what I said, like he was trying hard to

comprehend what I meant.

He took out the hand that was in my pants and lowered his tail that was lifting me up. But

the tip of his tail still encircled my calf as it dragged me against the wall and pushed me against it.

Dicken's large figure loomed over me, and I could only look up at his face. He then held onto my sides with his claws and completely enveloped me in his shadow.

Shaken in fear, I could only clutch onto the wall behind me as I forced myself to calm down.

Dicken lowered his head as his long, black hair hung down from it onto my shoulder. He was so close that the tips of our noses touched. His lips were mere millimeters away from touching my skin as he spoke in a low voice, —You...love...that man?— I was staggered by what he said. I thought he was angry and that I would have to undergo a series of violations again. But I hadn't expected him to ask me this strange question.

I was silent.

—You call...him...Gary.— Dicken finally pulled his face further away from mine. There was an expression I couldn't comprehend within his narrowed eyes. He maintained his stare and spoke slowly word by word, —Below...the boat...I saw...you two...together...every day.—

The volume of his voice was soft as he attempted to express what he meant with his newly learned Japanese. However, his words were as sharp as a sword being unsheathed as he spoke, dealing its last blow upon the last word.

He bore his sharp teeth as his face twisted into a dissatisfied expression.

—He looks like he's...jealous?—

I was overcome with bewilderment that I didn't know what to say.

—Does this mean he had already been following us ever since Gary and I started our voyage to look for merpeople? And he was spying on every move we made? So does it mean that we hadn't actually lured him with food, but he had willingly got himself caught to get onto the boat?—

I suddenly felt like the world turned upside down. I had always thought that humans were the most intelligent hunters in the world. So how did we fall into a trap set up by a beast?

I didn't put much thought into what he said as Gary and I didn't have that kind of relationship.

But my silence seemed to make Dicken misunderstand something. His eyes of deep blue seemed fiery at the moment as his face revealed an expression of disappointment and frustration. His face crept closer until his humid breath was right against my face. Finally, he forcefully asked me, — You are...mine? Or...his?—

Under his imposing gaze, I gulped nervously as I couldn't find the words to answer him, I

somewhat understood Dicken's train of thought. His intelligence likely had surpassed

humans, but he just didn't have the complicated emotions that humans did. His kind of

emotions was primitive and direct. Whatever he liked should be made his, whatever he

hated should be killed or destroyed. The complicated norms of human society didn't inhibit

him.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 75

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet Chapter 75

The simple question he asked was more complicated to answer than a thesis question.

I had no idea how to answer him. I didn't even think of developing that kind of relationship

with Gary, and never in my wildest dreams would I have expected a creature of a different

species to talk about love. Moreover, I am an independent and sentient being. How could I

belong to anyone?

__But if I explained it like that, Dicken may not understand me.'

If I said that I belonged to him, that would mean that I was willing to become his mate and

be his s*x partner whenever he wished.
But if I said that I belonged to Gary, the outcome would be unimaginable given Dicken's bloodthirsty nature.

—Damn it, I...—

After tormenting myself for so long on what to say, all that had escaped my lips were only a couple of meaningless words.

But Dicken seemed to have lost his patience. He leaned down until his lips touched my neck before bearing his teeth and biting me.

I could feel his teeth brushing past a vital artery in my neck. His throat released a hiss that was usually made before he went for a kill.

My adrenaline started rushing, and right then, Dicken inhaled before saying, —Linda...I'm hungry...—

An alarm went off in my head as extreme terror befell me.

I swore I was about to die from shock. The mental image of the pirate being gutted

suddenly popped into my mind. The muscular pirate fell into a pool of his blood in an

instant. Dicken looked like a devil who had risen from hell when he was covered in blood. I

couldn't help but shiver and gag when recalling that scene.

I was worried that my hesitation had angered Dicken and that he had changed his perception of me from a mate to food.

—Oh my god, how can I forget that he still has the brutal nature of a beast?

I just got through a life-or-death situation. I'm terrified of dying!

I would rather be his mate than lose my life...' —I...want to...eat you...—

Dicken had changed the tone of his voice, and now he sounded more sinister as he spoke.

He opened his mouth wide and went for my shoulder. His ivory white teeth glinted in the

darkness of the cargo hold as his throat released a murderous snarl. In fear, I exclaimed, —I

—m yours! I'm yours! Don't eat me, Dicken! I'm yours! —

My survival instincts made me repeat the words 'I'm yours' several times like it was a spell to keep death at bay. But it seemed like Dicken didn't hear me as his teeth were still brushing the artery in my neck. It was like he had already decided to start consuming me from there. He then made a sound different from the threatening one he had made earlier. It was only after a while that I realized what it was. He was laughing. I looked down at him carefully and saw that the corners of his lips were cracked wide open. His deep, blue eyes were giving me a once-over in a teasing and compelling fashion.

||You are mine...Linda.||

The scent he emitted entered my nose. I suddenly realized that I had underestimated Dicken's emotional intelligence. I was at the center of his palm. He had set the trap knowing that I would choose the option which would enable him to have in

'Damn it ! This f*cking beast !'

Before I could shout at him in protest, his lips had covered mine. His slippery tongue slid between my teeth and wedged itself against the roof of my mouth. Just like that, he forced my mouth wide open as he explored the interior of my mouth. It was just as he wished.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 76

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet Chapter 76

As we kissed, his tail bent its way upward from my legs, all the way up to my butt.

I felt like I was going crazy from all his teasing. Dicken seemed like a naturally lewd creature and a natural sex guru. I couldn't help but become physically aroused. His kissing took my breath away as my body sank into him as though I lacked a spine.

Finally, I could only let him slide his tongue out of my mouth and give him free rein to lick my neck before proceeding down to my breasts.

His tongue felt like it emitted electricity. Whenever he moved to a new region, I would tremble from the stimulation as it spread throughout my body. I reached my hand into his hair and tugged outward; I wanted him to be further away from my body.

I gritted my teeth to prevent myself from moaning out loud as I forcefully mustered out a few words. — Bast*rd! Don't do this here! —

It was only then that he slowly raised his head from my chest. Then, in hastened breath and

a dazed expression, he asked, —Then...where...can we...do it? —

I wanted to slap myself. I felt the need to punish myself for saying something that Dicken would easily misunderstand.

—That's not what I mean...— My voice was unexpectedly weak, which made me feel ashamed.

It sounded like a moan, and it felt no different than extending an invitation to Dicken.

As I expected, Dicken's eyes became dull like he was under a spell to continue these

intimate acts. His breathing was rapid, and the veins in his body became more prominent.

Even his eyes were affected by the blood rush as he looked like he was thirsting for more of

me. His eyes were filled with intense desire as he gulped.

I took a deep breath and admired his current state. I couldn't believe that Dicken had

changed his behavior because of me. He had learned self-control. He didn't just do

whatever he wanted or treat me like an object of sex compared to when he was in the research room.

Obviously, he had developed emotional expressions that were more similar to humans. He

was learning to speak, and he even risked his life to save me. ==Is this because he isn't in heat

anymore that's why he can control his sexual urges better now?'

==But no matter what, I can communicate with him better now and ensure that I won't be

violated, again. I'll think about the rest later ! =
I was worried that he couldn't hold out much longer , so I gave him an
offhand excuse. ||If
we can escape from these people, then I...will be yours. Do you
understand what I mean?||
It was hard to utter the promise that I would be his, but there was no
other way to keep this
beast in check with the situation before me. I had no idea what sort of
outcome this would
bring, but I had no other choice.
I gained a sense of optimism. =If I manage to escape to the shorelines of
the mainland, I can
choose not to venture out to sea again. He can't possibly chase me on
land, right?'
I thought my scheme would have been successful as I looked at Dicken
with feigned
sincerity. But I realized that I had underestimated this creature's
comprehension. He stared
at me craftily as his lips cracked open in a smile filled with dubiousness.
||I...understand...you|| He extended one of his long fingers and playfully
raised my chin like a
child causing mischief. Then, with his lips against my nose, he said, ||No
need...escape...you
can't...escape... they...will bring...us...back.||
||Back where? Are they bringing us back to the islands we embarked
from?|| I asked.
||No... || Dicken shook his head and narrowed his eyes. Then, his claws
extended behind me
and wrapped around my waist. He propped his tail against the wall as he
lifted me closer to
the crack in the wall.

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Chapter 77

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Through the crack in the wall, I looked across the surface of the sea and
saw only flocks of
birds flying over the horizon. They looked like gray clouds covering the
sea's surface as they
flew in the same direction the ship was heading.

The pirates had no reason to get the flock of birds to follow the ship as they sailed.

However, these birds typically follow the Earth's magnetic field as they migrate.

There was only one reason for this phenomenon: something causing another massive magnetic field on this ship. This magnetic field must be stronger than the natural one. Hence, the reason the birds mistook the ship's magnetic field for the natural one and changed their course.

I connected my deduction to what Dicken had said earlier and made a second deduction.

Dicken possessed supernatural abilities. In disbelief, I looked at his side profile. His

mysteriousness had far exceeded my imagination. I gulped as I asked, —This... This is because of you? Where are you taking us?—

Dicken fell silent. His gaze seemed to be trained somewhere further than the horizon as well

as the deepest depths of the ocean. The look in his eyes was hard to decipher, like he was

someplace other than the ship we were on.

After a long time, he finally answered in a low voice, —Lemenland...—

I thought I had misheard him when he said that. When I confirmed that I hadn't misheard it,

I couldn't help but shake.

I had heard of this place before, but more specifically, this place was from my dream.

It was the name of a group of islands found in legends. Nobody believed in its existence

other than me.

I had researched this, and I speculated that these islands were associated with ancient Greek

civilizations. It was a historical site left by ancient Greek civilizations. As I had never been

there, there was no way I could have proved my speculation.

Ever since I started researching merpeople, I visited a scientist specializing in investigations

for many years at sea named Dr. Willie.

He once wrote an article about how he had caught a merperson near a group of islands when he was on an investigative mission. He tried to communicate with the merperson, and he was successful. He even concluded that the merperson's language was derived from ancient Greek. When I visited Dr. Willie, I remember him telling me that the merperson addressed the group of islands as Lemenland. It was a mysterious group of islands. Nobody knew when the islands would reveal themselves or when they would disappear. When Dr. Willie had voyaged in search of the islands again, they had disappeared. The merperson and a member of the crew, as well as his precious video camera, were gone. It was as if it had never happened because he didn't have the footage in the video camera to prove it. So Willie's article was taken as a work of fabrication, and he couldn't live with his head held high anymore since then. Among the batch of students who visited him, I was the only one who believed his tale. The voyage instructions that I gave Gary were derived from Willie's experiences. I couldn't help but exclaim, — Lemenland! — In an unexpected turn of events, I found the islands. My entire body quivered in excitement. —God is finally blessing me! The exhilaration of it all made me forget about the situation I was currently in. It was only when Dicken crept closer to me that I regained awareness of my surroundings. Dicken watched my excitement with fascination like he was delighted with my reaction. Then, he reached out a claw and lovingly caressed my cheek. I wanted to evade him, but his lips were already lightly brushing against my cheek. Then, in his captivating deep voice, he warned, —You will like... Lemenland...be careful...don't

leave...my side... because...you're too...tempting.—

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Chapter 78

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I was thrilled upon hearing that sentence. But then, a sense of fear filled me when I finally understood what he meant.

—Dicken told me never to leave him when I arrived in Lemenland. Did he mean there were

other mermen on the island?!

I was so dazzled by the ecstasy that I had forgotten the terrible situation I was in entirely!

If Lemenland was the home for mermen, there must be more than one merman besides

Dicken. If all the mermen were as ferocious as Dicken, wouldn't I, the only human being

among them, become a piece of delicious food?

And if all the mermen had the same idea of mating with human beings as Dicken did...

God, am I mad?

No, it shouldn't be like this! Dicken was just different. He did that to me because he couldn't

find any mermaid species during the mating season.'

I tried hard to comfort myself with the thought, but my expression kept on changing as time passed.

Dicken stared at me with a faint look. It seemed like he was delighted with my dreadful

expression. He grinned and said, —Don't...be afraid...I...will protect... my...Linda.—

His lips lingered on my nose. He sounded like a pedophile trying to deceive an innocent

child. He slowly moved his lips down from my nose towards my lips.

Then, he placed his

webbed claw on my butt while I was still in a daze. His tail was still wrapped around my calf,

rubbing and twitching itself between my legs.

—B*stard, I don't need your protection. Stay away from me, you rascal! —

I couldn't help but feel rage. Dicken's words and dirty moves on me had made me angry. I instinctively covered both legs and pressed my knees against his tail to prevent it from moving upwards. Suddenly, I heard loud footsteps coming from above. Dicken stopped moving his tail instantly. Both of us shifted our gazes towards the door above. The cabin door opened suddenly. The next second, a guy tied up with ropes was thrown down like trash. He then fell into the water with a splash. —That should be enough for the beast for now! — After saying that, he closed the cabin door. The guy who had been thrown began to struggle, causing the water to splash around him. His upper body then emerged from the water. I fixed my eyes on him to have a closer look, —It's Gary! Oh gosh! He's still alive! — I subconsciously wanted to call out to him, but Dicken's webbed claws covered my mouth before I could make a sound. He quickly curled his tail around my legs and pulled me down the water. Then he pressed his upper body against me onto the corner of the wall. I was hidden in the dark by his huge body. It was as if he was afraid that Gary would find me and snatch me away from him. What was worst, he lowered his head and kissed my neck. Why now of all moments?! Damn it! I could only use my arms to block Dicken's head from moving lower from my neck. How could he do such a thing at such a time! A group of foolish pirates! Did they even have brains? How could they keep the three of us together in a cabin! They had no idea what terrible thing could possibly happen down here! I couldn't imagine how Gary and Dicken would behave if they found out about each other. I could only pray that Gary would overlook the situation here in the dim environment.

Thankfully, Gary did not see us in the corner, which made me relieved for a second.

He lowered his head and skillfully bit the rope with his teeth, and all it took were a few bites

to loosen all the cords on him. He indeed had the potential to be in the military.

Gary then stood up straight in the water and observed his surroundings vigilantly.

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Chapter 79

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I held my breath, trying my best not to make a noise that would attract Gary. But the last

thing I wished to see then happened.

As Gary's gaze swept across to the corner where Dicken and I were, he suddenly stopped

moving his gaze and stared at us. His facial expression switched in an instant. Gary was filled

with rage, and his face turned blue in anger. He then clenched his fist so tightly that the

veins on his arm were visibly seen, and the sound of his cracking bones could be heard.

In contrast to Gary's anger, Dicken was calm. He didn't seem to see Gary was staring from

behind. Dicken continued to hold my waist with his webbed claws and lick my neck

erotically with his long, wet tongue as if nobody else was around. He even made a loud

drooling sound on purpose!

He was retaliating against Gary for provoking him on the deck before. He wanted to prove

to Gary that I was Dicken's, that I was indeed his mate. At that moment, I felt like Dicken was

nothing but an ordinary beast, just like any other male animal in the world.

I was utterly ashamed by Dicken's actions in front of Gary. I desperately tried to submerge

myself in the water, but Dicken's mighty arms restricted my body movements. His webbed

claws became more and more presumptuous as he stroked my body. He even reached into my pants! He then lifted my legs and put them onto his waist. His huge genital was now pressing against my sensitive area as he started to rub back and forth around them erotically.

Such a b*stard! Pervert! He was trying to f*ck me right in front of Gary! I was highly embarrassed, so I placed my arms on Dicken's shoulders and pushed him hard, trying to stop him from his erotic behaviors. Dicken was a complete beast now. He was not ashamed at all. He wanted to prove that I belonged to him and that I was his mate in his own beastly way.

How could this be! I mustered up my strength as I struggled. Then, I saw Gary squat down to pull something out of his boots and rush at us.

As he got closer, I realized that he was holding a sharp military dagger, and he was coming right at us!

To be more precise, Gary was not attacking us. Rather, he was attacking Dicken. He rushed towards Dicken's tail that was out of the water.

I didn't even see Dicken turn around as he made a massive wave with his tail towards Gary.

I did not expect Gary to be so skilled as he successfully ran and escaped from the enormous waves in a flash. However, Gary lost his balance, then fell into the water. But as he fell in, he hugged Dicken's tail and pierced it with the dagger in his hand.

Dicken immediately bounced off of me and let out a long roar while slamming his tail hard.

This movement caused Gary to be thrown against the wall, making a loud crash.

Gary opened his mouth and crashed down into the water before he could even scream.

My heart was beating so fast that I thought it was about to come out of my throat. Just

when I thought Gary was about to die, he suddenly rose from the water and leaned against the wall. He was panting breathlessly, and his face was stained with blood. He was still holding the dagger that he held tightly in his hand. He then glared at Dicken, ready for another fight.

Everything that happened in this short period left me stunned. I was speechless. It was only

then that I could react. I grasped tightly on Dicken's arm and yelled, —Stop fighting ! Both of you! Stop it now! —

These men had gone mad. Didn't they know what situation we were in now? How could

they be fighting at this moment !

I was incredibly annoyed and angry. But I had to force myself to calm down and think of a

solution. I was the only person who could prevent this vicious fight.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 80

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I quickly got up from behind Dicken and stood between them regardless of my loosened

clothes. I pretended to sound calm and said, —Hey guys, listen to me.

The three of us should

be on the same side right now. So put your grudges aside until we have solved the problem

of the pirates above us! —

I got no response in return other than awkward silence.

The silence frightened me. I didn't know what would happen next.

I swallowed the lump in my throat and turned my gaze toward Gary. He leaned against the

corner of the wall with a deadly look in his eyes as he held the dagger.

He was unwilling to

accept that he was the weaker party in this fight.

It was only then that I realized Gary was severely injured. After the fight earlier on deck, he

should have known how reckless it was to fight against Dicken. There was a massive gap

between their strengths, which made me worry that Gary would go beyond his depth and start another attack all over again. But things were different for Dicken. It couldn't be more effortless for him to murder Gary in just a split second. And he had good reasons to kill Gary. One of them was me; he had regarded Gary as an opponent. Another was, Gary had attacked him with a tranquilizer gun more than once. I could not underestimate how long the beast would hold a grudge. Although Gary tried to infringe on me several times, he never wanted to take my life. I could not bear to see Gary die in front of me. Dicken suddenly lifted his fishtail from the water. It was clear that I was unable to control this situation. He obviously did not want to listen to me at all. His sharp tail fin looked just like a machete. He raised his tail in the air and aimed it at Gary's head. Gary could no longer run due to his severe injuries. He only managed to dodge the attack. A strong wave followed after and hit him against the wall. Dicken again struck his tail towards the direction where Gary was leaning, and I knew Gary would surely die immediately if the tail struck him this time!

—Wait a minute! — I jumped on Dicken's body amidst the hurry. I embraced Dicken tightly from behind and shouted, —Stop it! Dicken! Don't do it!— Dicken stopped.

A low and hoarse voice spread across his body and reached my ears, —Wh...Why?—

I was stunned. I did not expect Dicken to hear me and actually stop attacking.

The current situation caught me by surprise. I clutched tightly onto Dicken's waist instinctively and didn't let go of my arms. I was afraid that he would murder Gary as soon as I let go of him.

A shameful thought popped up in my mind in my panic. But this was probably the only way to calm Dicken down. So I took a deep breath, gritted my teeth and said, —Because...because...I am yours... I don't belong to Gary, so you don't need to kill him! —

Although I had already thought about saying this, I got goosebumps when they came out of my mouth. I was really thick-skinned to be able to say such a shameful sentence. I should have cut off my tongue!

But it worked! Dicken had begun to relax his muscles and withdraw his tail that was on top of Gary's head.

He slid his fishtail back from the water and slowly wrapped it around my legs skillfully like

before. He wrapped my body entirely and dragged me closer to him.

Dicken looked at me condescendingly and raised his eyebrows as an unmistakable

victorious look appeared on his face. His thin lips grinned in a flawless arc. He then said

something shocking.

—Prove...to me.—

—What? How?—

I stuttered. I was utterly stunned by his 180 -degree turn. I couldn't keep up with his pace at all.

As soon as I finished questioning, he held my chin with his webbed claw and lifted my face

so I could look up at him.

Then, he lowered his head and leaned closer to my face as if Gary wasn't there. He stuck out

his crimson red tongue from his lips and began to lick my cheeks. A pair of dark eyes stared

into mine deeply as if they were testing my sincerity.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 81

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I held my breath, and my whole body stiffened as I let him hold my face with his webbed

claw. The peculiar smell from Dicken began to spread in the air again.

I now believed in the mysterious power of mermen. His enchantment was so real that it immobilized me.

Of course, I was worried about my professor's life. But at that point, the threat against Gary didn't even concern me; I was too occupied trying to resist Dicken's deadly allurement.

I felt like he had enchanted me.

He had a mysterious, wild and untamed nature. Everything about him had been bewitching me from the beginning. I was like a curious child entering his trap step by step without even realizing it. I thought I had captured him all this time, but it was the opposite. I couldn't resist and fell deeper and deeper into his enticement every day. Even after being infringed on so many times by him, I was still addicted to the excitement he brought me.

My heart pounded rapidly, and my breath quickened.

I start to doubt myself. Was it Dicken's brutality and dominating personality that made me addicted? Or was I naturally a masochist? Because I couldn't help but want to kiss him even under his oppression.

Regardless of Gary staring at me nearby, I stretched out my arms unconsciously and placed them around Dicken's neck. Then, I pulled his neck towards me and leaned forward to kiss him.

My mind could no longer function the moment my lips touched his. Dicken stretched out his webbed claws and pressed hard against my back so that I would stick to him tightly. As if he was trying to insert my body into his flesh.

His heartbeat was speedy. It was beating so fast it made my chest tremble as well. The frequency of his heartbeat was like a man who had finally gone on a date after staying single for many years. He was so excited.

What was going on? All of this was abnormal. What had happened to me?

I was screaming in my heart, but I couldn't move a bit away from Dicken at the same time.

At that moment, Gary snarled depressively from behind, —I'm so sorry Linda. I _m going to

save you from this disgusting beast! I swear! —

Then he cursed viciously, —Linda, I will make the damn beast die tragically. Some day in the

future, I make him die in a very, very tragic way.—

Gary cursed like a dying man who had used all the strength he had left.

My heart sank upon

hearing his cruel curses. His words made my heart go cold, even colder than Dicken's body

temperature.

I was then awakened from the deep kiss and shuddered.

Dicken became intoxicated after tasting my lips, and it was as if he hadn't heard any of

Gary's words. With his eyelids half-closed, I could see how he was enjoying taking every inch

of my breath. He then pressed his lips harder on me, and his fishtail that was holding my

butt began to rub against them.

Dicken's rubbing made me feel like I had taken an aphrodisiac. Every cell in me became so

excited all at once. My body couldn't stop responding to Dicken's kisses and touches, and

my lower sensitive parts were longing for his tail to touch it more.

But deep down in my heart, I was humiliated. Gary was still staring at me.

I couldn't wait to

push this nasty beast away, but my body couldn't help but long for more of his touch. I then

wrapped my arms around his neck to support my body.

I started to lose my breath, and my head suddenly became dizzy. Out of nowhere, our

surroundings began to shake violently. My body was trapped under the water by Dicken's

tail, and the icy cold water awakened me completely.

The ship started to swing back and forth. It must be a huge storm at sea.

Was a storm really

coming?

My first reaction was to turn to Dicken and ask, —Did you do this?—

My body was then lifted out of the water by Dicken. A rare vigilant expression appeared on

his face as he looked out from the only small round window there, then his pupil narrowed.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 82

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The ship swayed more violently now, so I could only hold on tightly to Dicken and cling to

him as I could barely keep my head above water.

He carried my waist, lifted me, and brought me to the small window.

The sky outside turned dark entirely before I realized there was no storm outside as I had

imagined, but rather, the sea was covered with tons of seagulls.

The ocean was not the usual sea blue. Instead, it was glowing with a green light. I was

terrified as I looked carefully below the water.

A vast whirlpool appeared near the ship fore, and two luminous things were entangled in

the center of the whirlpool. Initially, I thought it was a giant jellyfish, but when I moved my

gaze towards the light, I quickly realized that I was being too naive.

That thing in the whirlpool was unimaginably huge. The two shiny basketball-like things that

I saw earlier were eyes!

—Oh my God, what the hell is that! Even a whale shark doesn't have such big eyes! So,

according to the size of the eyes, how big is the thing under the whirlpool?'

I was afraid that it was about the same size as this ship...

My breathing got shortened, and there was a ringing in my head. I clutched Dicken's arm

tightly and nervously asked in a trembling voice, —What...What is that...?—

—Our...enemy...— Dicken's eyes were as blue as the sea as he grinned and exhaled those few syllables. I

could see his sharp teeth gleaming amidst the dark. As if they were reflecting the danger of the enemy.

The merman's enemy...

==What kind of terrible creature could be the enemy of the ferocious merman? Why had there been no record of this enormous creature? There's only one possibility: a monster living in the deep sea, just like the species that appeared in the myths. But this kind of giant species would not usually float to the sea. What was it doing here?'

The reason it appeared was due to the presence of Dicken. The vast creature had sensed him! And it was looking for food!

I stared at the giant creature under the water, and every inch of my muscles tightened. I was indeed being taken into an unknown ancient world by Dicken...

I finally saw the full features of the vast creature beneath the waters. It had a monstrous mouth that occupied two-thirds of its entire body. There were three layers of sharp overcrowding teeth hidden in its mouth. It then stretched out its long, thin tail and waved it in the air. The tail was as long as an eel, and it had several long shiny tentacles on it.

I suddenly realized that I might have come across similar creatures before in the bathypelagic data at the research institute. Though I'd studied deep-sea creatures before, this creature could only be considered a similar one. It was probably the primitive pelican eel as the number of its sharp teeth had exceeded an average pelican eel. More importantly, its size was ten times bigger than any pelican eel in the record !

The vast creature underneath suddenly surfaced and crashed towards the ship's hull, creating a loud colliding sound. The hull swaged severely and tilted towards the left as if it was amid a tsunami. Even Dicken couldn't balance himself. He held tightly onto my waist,

and we both fell into the water.

The vigorous crashes did not stop. I fell into the water again, taking a few sips of water in the process before Dicken dragged me up from it. Even before I could stand firmly on the ground, I heard a cracking sound coming from the small round window of the cabin.

My gaze followed the loud noise, and I saw a long black shadow crawling in from the broken window like a snake. It came straight towards Dicken and me, and Dicken swept me three feet away from the dark shadow with his fishtail immediately.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 83

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Despite the first attack failing, the black shadow did not stop attacking. Instead, it aimed

directly at Dicken's face this time!

For a moment, I was terrified to death. My voice got stuck in my throat, and I couldn't even warn Dicken.

Dicken clutched tightly onto the snake-like object with his webbed claws, and a loud fractured sound followed immediately. The bones of the creepy creature were crushed within a second.

I could finally have a clearer view of the creature now. It was not a sea snake, and it didn't have a brain either. Instead, the creature looked exactly like a pelican eel. Its mouth

occupied most of its body size, and it had three layers of sharp teeth inside. The creature opened and shut its mouth weakly as it struggled.

It was only an inch away from Dicken's face a while ago. Dicken's handsome face would have probably been badly disfigured if it had bitten him.

My interest began to arouse as I looked at the strange, disgusting creature. I quickly flashed through every piece of information in my head to match this thing.

The creature looked like a sawtooth eel, but it was way too long. The visible body in the cabin was about a hundred and twenty inches. The tail was still shaking outside the window as if something was pulling the other end.

F*ck! I couldn't help but swear.

The image of the strange monster tail I saw earlier flashed in my mind.

The thing that looked like a sawtooth eel was only its tentacles!

At that moment, a few more tentacles crawled inside of the cabin, and I almost got bitten by one.

Fortunately, Dicken quickly slapped it against the wall with his mighty fishtail and dragged

the other two tentacles near me away.

Dicken's attack probably caused the pelican eel pain, but I realized the hull rocked even more violently now.

Sounds of footsteps and gunshots intertwined above the cabin, and a man's fearful voice

resounded, — Quickly let go of the merman under the cabin! Hurry up!!!

Keep it as far away

from this ship as possible! The monster is biting the cabin. It must be after the merman! The

motor will be ruined if the monster continues like this! —

—Understood! Quickly! The both of you, open up the cabin! Quick! —

Another man shouted.

Then, the sound of the cabin opening spread from above.

—Linda... — Dicken let out a deep cry and let go of the tentacles he was holding in his claws. I

was being protected in his arms, but my whole body followed his movement in the next

second, and we leaped from where we were. He led me to knock down the barely opened

cabin door.

Only then did I really see what was happening on the deck.

Dozens of tentacles as thick as boas were wrapped around the deck.

Each tip of the

tentacles had a mouth full of sharp teeth. They had their mouths opened wide and wanted

to bite every object around them. The strong pirates had no way to fight back, and they were all hiding away fearfully, even with guns in their hands. The bullets could barely hit the fast-moving tentacles. Several pirates had been bitten by the tentacles and dragged down from the ship miserably, and within the next minute, they were quickly sent to the huge mouth of the giant pelican eel.

“Oh my goodness, I’m not going to end up like them, right?” I was so terrified that I could not even move. So instead, I stared at the tentacles in horror.

This scene was beyond anything an average human could ever bear. I slowly recovered from the panic when Dicken carried me into another dark cabin and put me on the ground.

Dicken’s tail swept past me. He then stood on the edge of the deck and turned his head to look at me. His eyes shined brightly in the dark, and I suddenly felt that he had attracted my soul. A low, hoarse voice spread through the darkness and towards my ears,

—My...Linda...Stay...here...Wait for... my return.—

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet
Chapter 84

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet Chapter 84

Did Dicken plan to fight against the monster all alone under the sea?

—Hey, wait a minute! — I chased after him after realizing that it was a terrible decision. But

Dicken had already jumped into the sea.

His upper body was already submerged in the sea as I ran towards him, and he even swept

the cabin door with his tail in front of me, hindering me from following.

My legs couldn’t stop in time as I was running, so I slammed into the metal hatch directly.

My head went dizzy, and I fell to the ground in an instant.

Damn it, Dicken. I couldn’t help yelling in my heart.

I pressed my palm against the floor to support my body and shook my head. Only then did I

slowly gain consciousness from the dizziness. Then, I noticed several black long-handled objects were hanging on the wall in front of me. I became excited in a second. They were AV7 S! These were indeed life-saving in the situation we were in! I quickly mustered up my strength to get up from the ground, and then I carried one of the AV7 S in my arms. The cold touch of the gun made me feel secure. I only had experience using a tranquilizer gun, so I did not plan to fight the monster with the weapon. I Wasn't why I held the gun so tightly in my embrace, probably because I was no longer a powerless woman but a woman with a lethal weapon in hand. But the gun definitely calmed me down. I lowered my head and started groping to see if the gun was loaded. But instead, I found a small like engraved on the gun- U.S Army Springfield Armory. This sentence alarmed me, and I was stunned. I was familiar with these words. They appeared in my university military theory courses before. I was a serious student, and my memory was excellent. I'd made detailed notes on every lesson I attended so I could never misremember it. These letters were the famous military weapon manufacturer in the United States!

Can anyone tell me what was going on? The logo of an American military factory was spotted on pirate ship. Had they robbed an American military ship before?'

Or...

I couldn't help recall all the pirates' actions and motives earlier. They came with a clear purpose. Then, a sudden thought came up in my mind, and it terrified me. The pirates on this were not real pirates. They were American soldiers disguised as pirates. For some reason, they could not appear in their real identities.

This also explained why Henry was by Gary and my side from the very beginning. They were professional undercover agents!

How unfortunate was I? I thought it was a mere graduation project, but I had somehow gotten involved in a military conspiracy between the two countries.

What are the real motives behind Gary, Laura, and all these disguised American soldiers? I can only guess it's related to the mermen, but where are they heading?'

Was it the Lemenland that Dicken mentioned earlier? The merman island?

I was drowned in confusion. The unknown risk ahead made me grip the gun more tightly.

I then saw a shadow flashing from behind the cabin window at that moment. As I followed after, I saw Gary escape from the cabin below. He still seemed to be quick and agile, even if he was injured. He successfully avoided the pirates amidst the chaos and ran directly to the cabin on the second floor.

He must be thinking of saving those who were with us!

I subconsciously grabbed the gun and wanted to follow after him to help.

But as soon as I got to the door, I stopped.

My marksmanship and skills were incomparable to Gary. I would be a burden to him if I went out. Not only could I not help, but I may also lose my life at any time.

I had learned that from Henry. That was my biggest lesson so far that I shouldn't act without thinking. I did not want to be caught by the pirates again or be put into the mouth of the enormous pelican eel.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 85

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Right, don't act without thinking. Calm down, Linda!' I silently advised myself.

I took a deep breath and finally managed to calm myself down.

—Bang! —

Suddenly, the hull suffered another crash again and began to rock severely. I couldn't stand firm on my feet at all. I rolled around as the hull rocked and then hit against the wall.

I reacted immediately to the hit and held the wall to support myself and not fall. I looked out from the window and saw a giant shadow swim across the ship's bottom, causing a huge wave to surge above the sea. The vast wave was still reflecting the green fluorescence from the creature.

The thought of Dicken fighting against the monster made me chill. Where was Dicken?

I got nervous immediately, searching for him on the roaring sea. Suddenly, an agile and fit shadow jumped out from the sea. The long fishtail was like a sharp blade shining with black light. The tail curved as he jumped and appeared as a perfect arc on the sea. He then jumped over the giant pelican eel and slashed across its huge eyeball with his tail. He was as fast as lightning, and his tail was as sharp as a dagger.

A stream of green fluorescent liquid spurted from the eyeball of the pelican eel. It was like a water balloon being cut with its liquid oozing out.

The pain of losing an eyeball caused the pelican eel to surface in an instant. The monster stretched its body and was taller than the cabin now. The pelican eel opened wide its mouth full of sharp teeth and began to chase after Dicken, trying to bite him angrily.

This caused a huge wave to surge on the sea. The seawater flooded the cabin as the one-eyed pelican eel continued to search up and down in the ocean. However, I still couldn't find Dicken.

I could imagine how dangerous a position Dicken was in. After all, he was not facing mere sharks he had fought before. The size of the pelican eel was many times bigger than Dicken.

Dicken was not big enough to even stuff in between the pelican eel's teeth!

I clenched my fists and made up my mind secretly.

I tried my best to smash the window in front of me with the gun. To my joy, it was smashed entirely within a short period. I positioned the gun tip out of the window, tried to hold the frame, and started to search for the other eye of the pelican eel. May God bless me. I was hoping my experience using the tranquilizer gun before would help me in this situation.

I squinted to focus on the glowing green eye and pulled off the trigger. Then, as soon as the head of the vast pelican eel resurfaced, I fired a few shots towards it. An AV7 was not a joke. The bullets shot out immediately and hit the monster, causing a massive splash of water above its head.

I couldn't be sure if I shot it in the eye. But judging from the extensive struggling and rolling, I supposed the gun certainly hurt it deeply.

At that moment, I realized Dicken rose from the sea to cooperate with my shooting. He quickly grabbed one of the tentacles on the tail with his sharp webbed claw. Then, he jumped up and flipped onto the back of the enormous pelican eel, just like riding a horse.

He slid to the other eye, raised his right arm, and stabbed his sharp webbed claw into the eye all at once. Dicken dug out the green eyeball directly from its orbits in the next second.

Even just looking at what was happening, I could feel the pain in my eyes.

The giant pelican eel seemed unable to withstand such severe pain. It floated to the surface and struggled, exposing the most vulnerable part of itself, the abdomen. A rare opportunity presented itself. The most vulnerable part of the fish was the abdomen.

So, I quickly raised the AK47 and aimed at its abdomen. The thrilling scene earlier made my

hand shiver, but it prompted me to pull the trigger and start shooting wildly.

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Chapter 86

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The pelican eel knew the danger of exposing its abdomen, so it immediately submerged

back into the sea. A pool of blood then spread all over the ocean from its abdomen, and the

water turned turbid instantly.

The waves were roaring, and the water was cloudy. I couldn't see where Dicken was, so I

didn't dare to shoot anymore. I was afraid my poor shooting skills would accidentally injure

him.

I could only look at the sea nervously and observe what would happen next.

As I gazed down at sea, a dark shadow swept in from the cabin window.

It was the tentacle!

I was frightened and immediately raised my gun to attack it. It then opened up its mouth

full of sharp teeth and bit my weapon!

The speed was abnormally fast that I forgot to release the gun from my hand. So, my whole

body was dragged away violently by the tentacle.

I was then thrown into the sea before I could even scream.

The icy cold water drowned me rapidly, and the salty sea water entered my mouth and nose.

I choked several times, struggling to keep my head above the sea.

A colossal wave crashed against me again, and the tide raised me in the air. As the wave

faded, I had already been dragged a thousand inches away from the hull.

The dashing waves made me dizzy, and I had lost all sense of direction. I was utterly lost.

The seawater blurred my eyes. So, I couldn't see the enormous pelican eel, and I didn't know

where Dicken was.

I was doomed...

I wiped the water off my face and looked around for the direction of the ship. Then,

suddenly, I felt a force coming from behind, and I knew what it was even without looking back!

It must be the tentacle that just hit me brutally and dragged me into the sea!

I was terrified and screamed. Instinctively, I wanted to swim as quickly as possible, but a wave came, and I was forced a little further ahead. I was surprised to find that my swimming had improved.

I began swimming smoothly like a professional swimmer. My legs could join together like a mermaid, and they swayed like a fishtail. Which significantly improved my swimming speed.

I almost felt that I had surpassed the world champion in freestyle swimming.

Oh my God, what's going on? I was extremely shocked.

But I didn't have time to think further because the tentacle was still threatening me.

Surviving should be my priority. I swung my body quickly to swim towards the hull. Just as I

approached the mast, I tried to imitate Dicken. I tried to stretch out my legs and jumped out of the sea to grab the mast.

But, just as soon as I was about to touch the mast, my back was attacked by something.

What followed was a severe pain that went deep into my bones. I couldn't bear the pain and

howled. My hand was now further away from the mast.

I was dragged into the sea by that thing, and I was submerged in icy cold water. Just when

my head was about to be flooded, I yelled out of instinct, ||Dicken ! Dicken ! ||

All I could think of at this moment was Dicken. He was the only one who could save me...

Then, my voice faded as the seawater filled my mouth. My body was dragged deeper into

the ocean, and suffocation had taken over me. The water pressure made me feel like my

heart could stop beating at any time.

Suddenly, a tall black figure flashed from my right. Then, his long fishtail turned flexibly. It

seemed like he noticed me as he quickly approached me.

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Chapter 87

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I saw a pair of familiar, narrow eyes in the turbid water that made me feel secure and

relieved. The figure came to my side almost instantly.

He quickly stretched his sharp webbed claws to the thing that had bitten my back. He was

as fast as lightning. Everything happened too quickly. I could not see how he removed that

thing from me. I felt a sudden looseness in my back, and then my body was firmly wrapped

by his fishtail as he kept my body above the water.

After a while, my vision turned black, and I felt my mind go blank even though I could

breathe better now. I felt as if I was still under the sea, and I couldn't hear at all.

I probably hadn't gotten used to the water pressure. It would be more life-threatening if I

were to take a deep breath now. So I tried to breathe in little by little, allowing myself to

float like a log, hoping I would catch my breath as soon as possible. My vision gradually

returned as I regained consciousness, and I could see better. But what I saw was

disappointing.

The pirate ship was very far from me, and Dicken had disappeared from my sight.

The sea was still roaring, and sometimes I could see a black figure leap out of the water. I

supposed Dicken was still fighting against the sea monster.

I couldn't stop worrying about Dicken. I had no idea whether he was on the winning side or

the losing side. Although I simultaneously hated and was afraid of him, I did not want him

to be swallowed by the pelican eel either.

It was funny how worrying had surpassed my fear. I knew that I should have left the battlefield as quickly as possible and returned to the ship to stay with my species. But my eyes were attracted by the roaring sea, and I didn't want to look away from it.

My back was unbearably painful, and the pain stimulated my nerves. I had to hurry up and get back to the ship.

Just as I was about to swim towards the ship, the changing condition ahead of me left me stunned.

Numerous shining lights slowly appeared amidst the turbid sea. And a human outline was visible under each bright light. These silhouettes with lights quickly surrounded me.

It was...countless...mermaids.

I wasn't amazed at all upon seeing such a scene in an instant. Instead, I was consumed by fear.

I turned around immediately, wanting to swim away from them. But as soon as I turned, I

saw dozens of mermaids rising from the sea. They had blocked my way.

I was surrounded by mermaids!

Being under this kind of pressure suffocated me. Gradually, the image of the mermaids

surrounding me became more visible under the moonlight.

My jaw dropped in astonishment. The group of mermaids was as beautiful as Alice. They

had hour— glass figures with silky hair that draped over their porcelain skin, and their eyes

were shining like diamonds in the dark as they blinked.

Both men and women would be amazed at the current situation. It was nothing different

from being surrounded by a group of goddesses. They were beautiful!

It didn't take long before these mermaids swam to me, and they were very close to me.

They looked at me as if I was their prey, which made me terrified.

Then, one by one, they began to smile gracefully. It seemed like they meant no harm, but

this scene was bizarre.

If I were to describe the feeling, I felt like they were looking at a sacrificed tribute, a creature that had been put on the operating table waiting to be dissected and studied.

—You guys...—

I spit out the words with enormous difficulties, trying to communicate with them. But they disappeared from the sea all of a sudden as if it was arranged. The next second, my body was hovering above the sea. A few fair arms had lifted me from beneath the sea.

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Chapter 88

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The human societal equivalent of the treatment I received would be similar to a welcoming cheer as they regarded me similar to a celebrity. Even so, the suspicion I had made me terrified and tense.

My instincts caused me to struggle, and I tried to shout for Dicken. But before I could even utter a word, my mouth was covered by a webbed claw that extended from beneath the water. Both my legs were restrained as well, so I couldn't move at all. I felt like I was a hunted deer tied to a stick and was about to be cooked over a fire.

==Dear God, what are they doing...'

I was so nervous that I almost forgot to breathe. I opened my eyes wide as I scanned my surroundings. The cold sea breeze was harsh against my skin, causing me to shiver.

A large whirlpool then appeared on the sea surface to my left, and there was a dark shadow floating in its center. Just like a specter in the dark, the scene was strange.

The specter's head was the first to appear. Their strands of red hair were scattered in the water as their pale face gradually revealed themselves. They had deep blue eyes full of

yearning, similar to Dicken's, and I could see them clearly as they approached me.

When I had a good look at their face, I was astonished. If it weren't for the claw covering my mouth, I would have yelled in surprise.

This merperson looked too similar to the deceased Alice! Both of their faces were practically cast from the same mold! If it weren't for the difference in hair color, I would have thought that Alice had come back to life.

I thought that perhaps this could be Alice's twin sister. Suddenly, the merperson broke through the water surface and revealed their entire upper body. It was only then that I realized I was too naive. This was a merman, and a very fit one at that! I was mistaken because he had such a beautiful and alluring face.

By the time he was right in front of me, I was still shocked, and I simply stared at him with my mouth gaping wide. The shadow of his torso was large enough to loom over me as he tilted his head down to inspect my body. Then, he bent down and sniffed my body like I was a delicacy on a silver platter delivered to a culinary critic.

If it weren't for my experience, I would have thought this merman wanted to eat me in a situation like this. But after being violated by Dicken, I did not doubt what this merman intended to do.

Just like Dicken, he was determining whether I was fit enough to be his mate through my scent.

This fact perplexed me. If Dicken's mating behavior was not an isolated case, then

merpeople are definitely a strange and intriguing species.

Surprisingly, the mermen don't look for mermaids to mate and reproduce; rather, they look for human females as mates.

And this group of mermaids seems to be quite supportive of this as they look like they were

offering a tribute when they brought me to this merman.

==This is too weird!'

My mind was a mess, and I didn't even dare to believe my own inference.

But when I peeked at the merman's face, I suddenly felt my heart tighten.

The corner of his lips slowly lifted as his eyes stared at me unwaveringly.

He then smiled as a sign of his satisfaction toward me.

I had to admit, this merman's behavior was more gentlemanly than Dicken's. However, my heart sank when I noticed his throat. He was repeatedly gulping as his chest and heaved.

He placed a webbed claw onto my waist and lowered his head further as he took in my scent near my breasts.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 89

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet Chapter 89

If it weren't for someone covering my mouth, I would have cursed out loud.

I struggled vehemently, but the mermaids severely restricted the movements of my body.

The gears in my mind were spinning rapidly as a question occurred to me.

==What if I was just naturally this unlucky? Maybe my body was unique in some way that is

unnoticeable by humans. Maybe to merpeople, my scent, body shape, or some other

particular trait piques their interest, so they identify me as a potential mate? Oh my gosh! Is

there something wrong with me genetically? What is it about me that differs from other

humans?'

However, I had no time to ponder further upon this question because this merman had

started to grope me all over my body. He even leaned into my bare neck and started

sniffing there too.

I tried my best to lean away to prevent him from approaching my neck.
And at that
moment, a regrettable thought popped up in my mind. I was hoping that
Dicken would
come to save me.
Although falling into this merman's hands was no different from yielding
to Dicken, perhaps
this merman would be gentler compared to him.
Even so, my heart was desperately calling for Dicken.
If only I could make a sound, then I would have shouted for Dicken at the
top of my lungs.
But being restrained by the mermaids at the moment, the most I could
muster was just
muffled noises. I couldn't utter a single word, but I couldn't just
surrender myself to the
mermaids who were raising me to the merman like I was food ready to
be consumed.
I could clearly see him slicing my clothes open with a claw before
reaching into the slit. I had
no way to fight back. So, I clenched my fists and inadvertently dug my
nails into my palms
deep enough to draw blood as it dripped into the water.
I felt like I was about to collapse. No matter how terrifying a nightmare
can be, nothing
could compare to what I was going through at that moment. I was so
nervous that my body
started to shake, and the veins in my neck popped out. My eyes were
frantically searching
the surface of the sea, hoping to catch the sight of a black tail breaking
through the water
surface and dashing toward me, saving me from their hands.
Dicken had saved me from danger countless times, so I desperately
hoped it would be the
same this time.
But I couldn't catch a glimpse of him. Even the calm waters seemed
scary.
I couldn't help but worry that the pelican eel may have swallowed
Dicken, so I had no choice
but to be this merman's new toy.

The claw that tore open my clothes was now groping impatiently at my breasts. It then gradually slid down to my pants... In reluctance , I squeezed my eyes shut and bit my lower lip so hard that it bled. Tears were flowing out from the corners of my eyes uncontrollably as I sank deeper and deeper in despair.

Just then, I heard a swishing sound like a blade cutting through the water surface. The cool and salty seawater began splashing around me. I forced my eyelids open and saw a wave several meters tall right in front of me with a black figure riding it. The merman groping my body was instantly thrown several meters away with a webbed claw. His body arched as he flew backward before plunging into the water with a loud splash.

The mermaids restraining me seemed to have released me from their grip almost immediately as they let out a fearful gasp in unison. They then dived into the water within a few seconds and disappeared into the deep.

I was suddenly without support, so I dropped into the water. Before I could react, I saw Dicken glance at me from top to bottom as if he had just rediscovered a treasure he had lost ages ago. The rays of moonlight shone onto his muscular build as his long hair hung down to the water's surface. The features of his face were sharp and wild as they echoed primal vigilance and ferocity. His strong tail was submerged in the water, but it did not hide the way it gleamed in the moonlight, although it was black. That was because the black scales looked a lot like razor -sharp blades.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet
Chapter 90
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I sensed Dicken heavily panting like he had rushed here after going through a battle of life and death. He was surrounded by an air of hostility as well as a strong scent of blood.

Dicken was injured, and it wasn't just a scratch.

I could imagine winning a battle against such a ferocious pelican eel wouldn't have been easy.

My eyes searched his body for wounds. I swear it wasn't out of concern for him; it was just a habit of mine as a biologist. He seemed to have realized what I was trying to do and bent down, causing his long drenched hair to droop over me and block my line of sight.

In the darkness of the night, I felt something cold resting against my forehead — it was

Dicken's chin. With one claw supporting my neck, he pulled my head towards him and buried me into his broad chest.

Being this close to him, the metallic smell of blood became stronger. —Dicken, where are your injuries?— I couldn't help but ask.

Dicken didn't reply. His only response was a low growl coming from his chest. I wanted to question him further, but before I could, I heard a sharp neigh coming from somewhere not too far away.

I had never heard any creature make a sound like that.

Dicken released me and vigilantly looked at the red-haired merman. He then made the same sort of sound but in a deeper tone, a sound that was more easing to my ears, like a note from a cello.

But within the next second, I heard a rumbling thunder signaling the arrival of a storin and felt a wave of dizziness. I wondered if the frequency of this sound surpassed the range of what human ears could withstand. I even suspected that prolonged exposure to sounds like this could damage my hearing and my auditory nerves.

The sharp neighs were getting closer, and I couldn't help but cover my ears and turn towards the direction of the sounds. The red-haired merman did not escape but was poised above the water surface just like Dicken, and they both extended their claws by their sides.

The red-haired merman was in an attacking stance, ready to pounce at Dicken at any moment.

Based on how he had received Dicken's attack, this red-haired merman seemed to be no match for Dicken. However, it looked like he noticed Dicken was injured, so he didn't want

to give up the fight. He even glanced at my body lecherously with eyes full of s*xual desire,

and he seemed to think he could snatch me away from Dicken.

Although Dicken was injured, he didn't show any signs of fleeing. He lifted his tail from the

water and raised it in front of me, forming a barrier between the red-haired merman and me.

I happened to notice that the red-haired merman's tail was a notch shorter than Dicken's. It

could be that Dicken was older compared to him. After all, Dicken had once saved me when

I was a child.

If the social hierarchy of merpeople were similar to the power dynamics of the animal

kingdom, Dicken seemed to fit into a role similar to the leader of a pod.

But if he were

defeated, he would be replaced and forced to leave the island, which would be the worst

and most unfortunate outcome to befall him.

I must be a workaholic to be thinking of things like this in such a dangerous situation. But in

reality, I was terrified. I was too weak and had no power to prevent the mermen from

battling for the rights to a mate.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 91

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—Dicken, wait! You're hurt, don't be impulsive! —

Even though I knew there was no way I could stop him, I still inadvertently clutched his arm.

It was then that I noticed that the long hair cascading on his back had blood dripping from it. It must've been a severe wound considering it was bleeding like that. I hadn't noticed it before because the night was dark, and his hair had concealed the wound.

Suddenly, the pain from my wound caused by the pelican eel's bite flared up. It was either because I was reminded of it from seeing Dicken's wound or that I was only now able to react. Nonetheless, it was a sharp pain that was difficult to endure, like a dagger had stabbed straight into my spine. The stinging pain caused my back to arch forward as I dug my fingernails into my skin to endure it.

—What's going on? Why is it suddenly hurting so much?—

I gritted my teeth to withstand it, and I subconsciously desired Dicken's saliva to heal me.

But how could I ask for that in a situation like this? I couldn't distract him from the fight, or he would lose the upper hand.

Therefore, when Dicken turned around to look at me, I reflexively dived into the water, only exposing my head above it. My wound was submerged into the salty seawater, and my body twitched in pain from its contact. When my head broke through the water surface, I pretended like everything was fine.

I gritted my teeth to prevent myself from yelling in pain. Then, I stared into Dicken's eyes and pretended to be calm as I said, —Dicken, you're injured. The odds are not in your favor.

Could you try negotiating with that androgynous-looking guy instead?— I knew my words sounded absurd. The matter of negotiations didn't exist in the animal

kingdom, but I was hoping that these intelligent creatures could evolve and use a better means of conflict resolution.

I didn't want Dicken to lose his position at the top of the bunch among his species and be exiled because of me.

Even so, I knew that being a human, preventing them from fighting was an act against the laws of nature.

Dicken's eyes bore into mine as they seemed to conceal some sort of complex emotion.

After that, he placed a claw at the nape of my neck and gently lifted my head like he was holding a precious but fragile piece of treasure.

I cast him an uneasy look as I couldn't tell what he was thinking. Was he seriously

considering my suggestion, or was he thinking about how naive it is?

But I couldn't stand the painful sensation from my back any longer, nor could I further

control the twitching of my body. Afraid that my cover would be blown, I could only urge

Dicken as I said, ||Hey, did you hear what I said? Why aren't you answering me?||

Right when I finished my sentence, the red-haired merman reached the limit of his patience

and released a sharp neigh before advancing several meters toward us.

His tail made large

splashes on the water as he approached.

Although he was facing Dicken, his eyes were looking at me teasingly. He then extended an

arm and exposed his claws before seductively wiggling his pointer finger as if he was

beckoning me. He stuck out his tongue and licked his lips, and it was like he was treating

me as a prize of the battle.

F*ck!

I felt utterly disgusted as goosebumps rose across my skin. I felt like I was being teased by a

perverted and lustful person. Although I was disgusted, his eyes seemed to carry a spell

designed to charm those who look into it. My eyes couldn't leave him, and my breathing hastened uncontrollably.

‘Does this mean the eyes of mermen could charm their targets the same way Dicken's did?’

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Chapter 92

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Right then, Dicken's head popped into my line of sight and blocked me from seeing

anything else. The next thing I knew, his lips were sealed with mine.

The kiss was intense in frustration as Dicken's tongue pried my teeth apart, conquering the

interior of my mouth, causing my chest to start heaving.

The sudden kiss took my breath away, and as Dicken whisked away at my tongue, my

attention was finally drawn away from the red-haired merman.

Just as I was about to oppose Dicken and pull away from this ill-timed violation, he released

me. I didn't expect him to let go of me so quickly. He then narrowed his eyes when he

looked at me and turned to glare at the red-haired merman. He looked like an emperor

giving a silent warning to a naive

trespasser. It was as if he was saying, ‘This is my loot. You can't snatch her away from me!’

Dicken's face became more fierce, and his eyes appeared colder. He revealed his ivory teeth

which glinted in the moonlight. He was unleashing his murderous intent.

—I will...come back...Linda.—

Dicken's claw slid across my cheek gently, leaving a final trace of his damp warmth as he

spoke in a low voice.

His claws tenderly clutched my hand before lowering his head into it and inhaling deeply to

take in my scent. With his long eyelashes pointing downward, his face seemed to be cast

with a gentle shadow.

I caressed his contoured face, and my heart couldn't help but tighten as it throbbed with a

dull pain.

—Wait...for me...my Linda, — Dicken mumbled into my palm.

Seeing Dicken in this situation caused a feeling of uneasiness to rise in my chest. This kind

of uneasiness was foreign to me, and it felt closer to a state of panic. I was panic -stricken

and in a state of immobility from this feeling until Dicken let go of my hand and turned

away.

An impulse then overtook me, and I rushed forward wanting to grab onto him. However, my

arms met with nothing, and I was left staggering by myself.

‘What is up with you, Linda? It’s meaningless to worry about him.’

My thoughts were a mess.

In a daze, I watched as Dicken plunged into the sea, his black tail forming a magnificent arc

against the night sky as he moved. Then, a large wave appeared where he had plunged as

he disappeared into the deep.

The red-haired merman glanced at me with a smirk and followed Dicken into the depths of

the sea.

It was then that giant waves started forming, even though there was no wind. Just like a

tsunami, multiple curves of waves formed on the sea surface as they rolled in different

directions.

I tried to look for their silhouette in the water, but I was only pushed around by the waves

and couldn’t see any other signs of life. I was starting to think I was the only living being

there.

The stinging pain and chilly wind were tormenting me. My body was on the verge of

collapsing, and I realized I should not remain in the sea. If I were to submerge myself in

saltwater any longer, I would either die from excessive blood loss, from sharks attracted by

my blood, or from other marine predators.

Who knew if merpeople have other natural enemies as terrifying as the giant pelican eels.

Bearing this thought in mind, I couldn't help but worry for my safety. I looked around and realized the pirate ship was nowhere to be seen. Right when I was at a loss for what to do, I saw several beams of light shining through the dark.

My first reaction was fear because I thought it was the eyes of another monster similar to the pelican eels from before. But when I got a clearer look at it, I realized that the light was coming from an artificial source. The light pierced the darkness and illuminated the surroundings. Whoever was operating the light was obviously searching for something... or someone.

==It's a search and rescue boat! ==

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Chapter 93

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Seeing the rescue boat lifted my spirits immediately. With all the strength I had, I swam toward the direction of the light. The closer I got, the safer I felt because I could hear the bustling commotion of people on board. I was so relieved that even the stinging pain on my back felt like it had reduced in severity.

It was Gary and the others. They seemed to have defeated the pirates in the middle of all the chaos and seized control of the ship.

—Gary! I'm right here! It's my, Linda! —

I quickly made my way toward the boat, but I still couldn't fully comprehend the speed of my swimming. It was as if I had a small motor propeller attached to me. When I finally reached Gary and the rest, they were surprised to see me.

—Linda! Oh my god! It really is you! — Gary couldn't help but exclaim when he saw me. He then immediately extended his arm to pull me up from the water and enveloped me in an

embrace.

He was so excited to see me that his body was shaking. He wrapped his strong arms around me so tightly that I almost couldn't breathe.

—Alright, Gary. I am still alive. If you put in any more force, I might die from suffocation instead.—

I could only weakly complain so that he would release me. I was finally on the boat and could stand instead of swim in the water.

Gary then steered the boat in a different direction then sped toward the main ship. As the motor roared, I finally slumped down and relaxed.

Surprisingly, I found the boat very comfortable and craved sleep. It looked like being at sea for several months had its way of wearing me out.

The sailors next to me were kind enough to put a raincoat over me and lend me a hand

warmer. I felt their kindness as I received the items, and I was so touched that I was left speechless.

—It's great to see you again, Miss Linda. We're so glad to see you're safe. You're such a

strong person too, considering all that you've been through! — The sailors comforted me as they patted my shoulder.

With a worried expression, one of the sailors looked in the direction I came from and said,

—The waves over there were very turbulent earlier. It's not because of the sea monster, is it?

Goodness, how did you manage to escape that?—

I was stunned as I suddenly remembered what Dicken had told me before he left. I felt

myself falling into a trance-like state, and a feeling I could not describe started to rise in my chest.

I snapped back to reality when I felt another pat on my shoulder. I shook my head and

replied, —There wasn't anything over there. The sea monster wasn't there. It was just natural

waves caused by the wind.—

—That merman...—

—Where is he?—

I quickly looked around in search of his figure, but the surface of the sea was covered in a thick fog.

Other than ripples and the moonlight, I couldn't see anything else.

Then one of the sailors asked, —I was asking you whether that merman had escaped.—

It seemed like the sailor hadn't seen Dicken and was just asking his whereabouts. I looked

away from the water awkwardly and just muttered an excuse. —I don't know either. We'll see

what we should do once I discuss with the team.—

I tolerated the impulse to look around for Dicken and instead forced myself to look in the

direction this boat was heading. But then, Gary looked back at me and furrowed his brows.

He had a rather complicated look on his face.

So, I pretended not to notice his gaze and instead focused on the sea behind him.

That night, I followed Gary back onto the pirate ship. Thankfully, the ship was no longer

under the control of the pirates. During the battle with the pelican eels, the pirates suffered

heavy losses, and Gary took the opportunity to seize control of the ship along with his men.

The pirates weren't expecting the events to unfold that way. They never imagined pelican

eels to be out for their blood or end up as prisoners themselves. One could only explain

how these things happened by chalking it up to fate.

Gary and his men had tossed the pirates into the cabins below deck while the rest of us

found empty cabins to rest.

The Merman, My Man by Black Velvet

Chapter 94

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The wound on my back was rather severe. Luckily, Gary found a first aid kit on the ship. I had

wanted to treat the injury myself, but it was too inconvenient for me to reach it. I didn't want to ask Laura for help, so I had no choice but to ask Gary to help me. I laid face-down on the bed as it was not only convenient for Gary to apply the medicine, but it also prevented me from revealing too much skin. —Your clothes are stuck onto the wound. I'm going to lift your clothes up, so bear with it for a bit, — Gary said strictly. I nodded and buried my face into the pillow. I was aware of the situation of the wound on my back, so I bit the pillow and prepared myself mentally for what was to come. But the pain was so unbearable it felt like my flesh was being torn apart. It was so intolerable that my body involuntarily tensed up, and I clenched my fists. I couldn't help but yell, —Go easy on me! F*ck! — Gary's face darkened, but he didn't reply. He just hastened his movements and tore the clothes off my back. He then used a saline solution to clean my wound before wrapping it with bandages doused in medicine. The pain was so intense that my teeth became numb, and my mind went blank. I could only let Gary have free rein. After he had finished treating my wound, he let out a long sigh as he covered me with a blanket. After hesitating for a while, Gary finally said, || Linda, I'm sorry. That day in the cabin, it was because of me that you... || Gary's apology actually sounded quite sincere. Since I had known him, he always seemed like the type who loved joking around so that all the students would adore him. This was the first time that he had ever apologized to me genuinely. However, our relationship was not as innocent as just a professor and a student. He had cooperated with the government behind my back, and not to mention he had also

attempted to rape me. With that in mind, I felt very awkward and hid my face partially within the blanket.

||It's not like that, Gary. || I tried my best to sound like how I usually did. Then, I continued.

||You don't need to apologize to me. You've been my professor for three years now and you have helped me a lot during this time. There's no way I could sit still and do nothing. But...

as for whatever happened in that cabin, could you just pretend you never saw anything?

Just think of it as an atonement. Could you do that?||

Gary stared at me sympathetically. The expression on his face was odd like he had wanted

to say something but couldn't get the words out of his mouth.

The truth was, I could guess what he had wanted to say. It must have been too big of a

shock for him to see me giving myself to Dicken. So, he was apologizing because he

thought I gave my body to Dicken for Gary's sake.

In fact, he was not too far off the mark. But since he and I had a professor-student

relationship, I didn't want him to misunderstand anything.

I was worried he would think that I had given myself to a beast because I was fond of him.

==If he is thinking this way, then it'll be too awkward if I were to say anything!'

To break the awkward silence, I decided to change the topic. I pretended to be calm and

asked, —Where is this ship headed to? Since you've involved me in your schemes, I should

have the right to know this much, right? Will you please answer me, Gary?—

Gary took in a nervous breath and remained silent for a while before he finally said, —To a group of islands called Lemenland.—

I was stunned and couldn't help but blurt out in response, —What?—

—Legend has it that the islands are the place of rest for merpeople.

Have you heard of it

before?—

I furrowed my brows. There was no way they were headed there just to sightsee. I asked,
—What are you going there for?—
I recalled the American military emblem that I saw that day in the cabin. Alarmed, I pressed
him further, —Gary, are your plans in accordance with the Japanese government? Why were
there men from the American military disguised as pirates to attack your boat? And why has
Henry been tailing us since the beginning?||