

Read She Becomes Glamorous After The Engagement Annulment

Chapter 859 Why Is Brenda Ignoring Solo!

“Jack?”

Nora, who was behind the few of them, uttered in surprise.

It was no wonder that she was surprised. After all, Jack’s bright and sunny image was simply too out of line with Barbarian. Moreover, Nora had fought with Barbarian before back in New York, so she knew that he could not possibly be Barbarian...

While she was thinking, Aaron rushed over. Together with Brenda, they cautiously grabbed Jack’s arms, held them behind him, and arrested him!

Jack, who looked rather flustered, exclaimed, “What’s the matter? What happened? Sh*t! You can’t just arrest me without a reason!”

Both Brenda and Aaron also felt that things were going too smoothly and the two looked at each other. While Aaron held Jack down, Brenda cautiously circled the room. However, she did not see Peter at all!

At the sight, Nora took the initiative to question Jack. She asked, “Why are you here,

Jack?”

Jack, who was bent over due to being bound, answered, “Professor Peter wanted me to clean his room. What’s the matter with you

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guys?”

In university, many postgraduate students working under the professors also doubled as their assistants in their personal life. In fact, a fair number of professors even got their postgraduate students to pick up their children from school for them. Therefore, situations like what Jack was claiming did exist.

However, he had a very flustered look in his eyes, so it was obvious at a glance that he was lying

Aaron immediately held him down even more forcefully, which made Jack feel as if his arm was going to break. He shouted, “You can’t treat me like this! I’m a student of Staav University! What gives you the right to treat me like this?”

Aaron’s expression darkened even further when he said that.

Nora said, “If you don’t tell the truth, I’m afraid we won’t be able to help you, Jack.”

Jack pressed his lips together when he heard her.

Nora nodded to Aaron.

Aaron slowly let go of Jack, but nevertheless continued to point his handgun at him warily.

If Jack was Barbarian, even if all three and a half humans present teamed up—Solo could only be regarded as half a person here—they still wouldn’t be his match.

Therefore, Aaron and Brenda did not dare to let down their guard one bit.

Jack stood up straight and shook his arm, which had become numb from being held down. Only then did the young man, who was close to tears, say, “I was doing Professor Peter’s work for him... He said that he should have

been taking care of this by himself, so he didn't want me to tell anyone about it.”

As soon as he said that, the rest understood.

Why, Jack had been the one handling all the work—including verifying the professors' attendance—in the group chat since the morning, not Peter!

Aaron broke into a huge frown and asked, “Where's Peter?”

Jack shrugged. “I don't know. Why would the director ever tell me where he's going?”

Aaron looked at Brenda.

Brenda suddenly took a step forward and attacked Jack, which scared him so badly that he immediately retreated. Even so, he did not manage to dodge her attack. There was no sign of an act in his actions.

Brenda said, “He's not Barbarian.”

Only then did the fierce and menacing look on Aaron's face ease. The way he looked just now was as if Barbarian had killed his father.

Nevertheless, he was furious. “When did you start handling these affairs for him? And when was the last time you saw him?”

Although Jack was displeased at being punched for some inexplicable reason, he nevertheless answered Aaron's questions honestly. He replied, “At ten o'clock last night. When I left this place, I told him that I would come over at six this morning to continue helping him with his work.”

Aaron asked, “Didn't you see him when you came here this morning?”

“No.” Jack replied, “He was already gone when I came. He usually gets up at 5:30 for morning runs and then he takes his breakfast after it. I was also wondering why he isn’t back yet and was just about to call him.”

Aaron noticed something suspicious. “How did you get in if Peter wasn’t here?”

Jack was confused. “I have the password to Professor Peter’s room. I come here every morning to clean up when he goes for his morning run. Is something the matter?”

His explanation was flawless.

There was no problem with Jack’s answers.

Nora also frowned.

After circling around the room, Brenda finally took a deep breath and said, “Peter has been murdered.”

Both Aaron and Jack looked at her in shock.

Jack blurted out, “How can that be?!”

Brenda took out a poker card. “This is Barbarian’s calling card. He leaves a poker card like this behind whenever he appears. Here’s the question, though: Where is Peter’s body?”

She looked straight at Aaron. “Retrieve the surveillance footage.”

Aaron nodded.

The night before, they had spent the whole time keeping a watch on the staff dormitory. There was no way anyone could enter the room without them knowing. There must be something wrong in here.

Soon, Aaron retrieved the surveillance footage and started checking it on his cell phone.

Everything had gone well the night before. Except for a few students, no one had gone to Peter's room. There was no trace of Barbarian having ever entered.

After going through it once, Brenda said, "Barbarian typically kills at night between ten and four. Let's slow down the video and watch the footage for those six hours again."

"Okay."

Aaron replayed the video.

They had sped through the video at twenty times the original speed just now. This time, they slowed it down and watched it carefully.

Nora suddenly noticed something amiss. She was about to speak when Solo suddenly tugged at her sleeve. Nora immediately understood and closed her mouth.

Solo was intending to display his professional expertise.

It was just like how Nora hadn't offered to unlock the door for them just now—because there was Solo.

Sure enough, Solo said, "Look at the part at five minutes past midnight."

Brenda was taken aback.

Aaron's fingers also paused slightly but he still reversed the video to the part at five minutes past midnight.

Solo pointed to the video and said, "The time flow here is not quite right. A hacker has likely covered up something here. Look here..."

A very professional Solo pointed out something odd, “The reflection of the moon outside the window was at this position at 11 pm. It should have changed its direction after midnight but this part here stayed the same the whole time and never changed.”

Aaron and Brenda were stunned for a moment and they both looked at Solo.

Solo continued. “This shows that their hacker has masked the part after midnight with the footage from 11 pm, so as to prevent you guys from noticing anything unusual.”

Aaron hurriedly asked, “Is there any way to restore the surveillance footage at twelve o’clock?”

Solo shook his head. “That’s where they were really brilliant. The surveillance footage after twelve o’clock has been fully masked, which means that the camera was turned off at midnight. Therefore, even if you discover something amiss, you won’t be able to find the original video anymore—because it was never recorded.”

If the video was never recorded, then even if they had a master hacker on their side, it would still be impossible for them to recover it.

After all, how was one supposed to recover something that had never existed?

Solo subconsciously said, “The guy is very cautious. It feels like he knows that you have hackers on your side, so he is guarding against that.”

Hackers...

As soon as Solo said that, Brenda suddenly looked at Nora.

Nora also narrowed her eyes.

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Between Q and Y, only her identity had been publicly announced, so the other party did not know that Y was Justin. Besides, even Nora couldn't say for sure whether Justin was here or not, let alone the other party?

Therefore, she was the one whom they were guarding against!

In other words, Barbarian was already aware that Nora was here.

Nora frowned.

Once again, she was acutely feeling just how tough the enemy was. Barbarian's overwhelmingly powerful fighting abilities coupled with Spacey, whose hacking skills might be comparable to hers... Could she really beat a combination like that and get the V16?

While Nora was thinking, Brenda had already sorted out her thoughts. She looked straight at Aaron and said slowly, "The most important thing for us now is to find Peter's body as soon as possible, so that we can prove that I am speaking the truth, or else the president is going to kick us out tomorrow! In addition, the students and professors are all intellectuals with minds of their own. They will never let us confine them here for ten days or half a month!"

Aaron nodded but said anxiously, "But where is the body? We don't have any clues at all."

Brenda said, "The whole campus was closed off last night, so they definitely can't transport the body out. The body must still be within school premises!"

Aaron nodded again. "Okay, I'll send someone to look for it right away. Even if we must turn the whole school upside down, we will find the body."

After that, Aaron made a phone call and dispatched his men to look for the body.

But after he hung up the phone, he saw an extremely grave look on Brenda's face.

“What's wrong?” Aaron asked.

A grim-faced Brenda replied, “We have been investigating suspicious people the whole time since yesterday, but even until now, we still haven't found any clues. Barbarian is a living, breathing person. We've also reminded the students to be careful if they spot any strangers. Although the school is big, the student population is dense, yet no one has spotted any strangers even until now. Do you know what this means?”

Aaron shook his head.

Before Brenda could speak, Nora replied on her behalf. She said, “Barbarian is either a student or a teacher in the school.”

Her one-liner was akin to a thunderous explosion in their ears.

Everyone looked at her in stunned disbelief.

Brenda nodded. She said, “Yes, Nora is right. I always thought that Barbarian was all brawn and no brains but it's only now that I've realized that he is actually very clever. No wonder he instantly disappeared the moment we found even a tiny lead on him all these years.”

Nora, however, said, “There is another possibility, though.”

Brenda looked at her. “What is it?”

In a low voice, Nora slowly answered, “Someone is helping Barbarian.”

Spacey, the genius with the high IQ.

When Solo said just now that the other party had hackers on their side, she'd immediately thought of Spacey.

If Barbarian wasn't blindly acting in a reckless and foolhardy manner at the moment, then this meant that the highly intelligent Spacey must be giving him advice and guidance!

Spacey's IQ genes had been improved, so he must be highly intelligent.

As for Barbarian, his physical fitness had been improved, so he was extremely strong. The two, teaming up, made for an even more terrifying enemy than Barbarian alone.

Brenda nodded solemnly.

After the two spoke, the room suddenly fell into silence.

After a while, Brenda recovered and said, "Alright, Nora, we are going to continue with the case. You guys can go now!"

Solo, however, said, "Brenny, I'm not leaving, I can stay and help you. Look at how much help I was to you just now, you..."

Before he could finish, though, Brenda cut him off. She said, "What can you even help with? Do you think you'll be of help to us just by mouthing off some nonsense? Hurry up and leave, I don't want to see you! You're just a pretty boy who only knows how to freeload. Go away!"

Solo paled when he heard her.

He didn't expect Brenda to say such things just to drive him away.

He gave her a resigned smile and said, “Brenny, I’m a hacker. I solved the technical problems for you just now. If someone hacks into the system again tonight, at least I’ll be able to find out. Why are you-“.

“Hacker? I don’t know what you’re talking about, you are just a programmer. Please don’t pester me anymore, okay? Go away!”

Brenda pointed at the door and yelled at him.

Solo was stunned again.

He wanted to say something but Nora had already turned around. She said dispassionately, “Let’s go.”

Solo was not afraid of Brenda, but he was afraid of Nora. That big boss wasn’t very even-tempered. Although he still had a lot to say to Brenda, when he glanced at Nora from the back, he chose to follow after Nora. Even after Solo stepped out, he was perplexed. “Does Brenny hate me that much? But why?”

Nora looked behind her at the people in the room. Suddenly, she said, “Leave this place.”

Solo was taken aback. “Anti, are you also not on my side anymore? Do you also think I’m a good-for-nothing? There is obviously a misunderstanding between Brenny and me, we have to resolve it and talk things out properly! We love each other, I’m not willing to just let go of her like that! Besides, you saw just now that I can really be of help to her. Although my computer skills are not as good as yours, I’m still a well-known hacker...”

Nora was about to interrupt him when Aaron suddenly came out of the room.

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He stared at Solo and suddenly said, “When you said that your name was Solo, I didn’t think much about it. Are you the hacker Solo?”

“Yes, yes, that’s right!” Solo nodded. “I’m Solo the hacker! I can be of help to you, really! Go and tell Captain Brenda to let me stay!” Solo had completely forgotten that he was currently wanted by Interpol.

As soon as he said that though, Aaron laughed and said, “So, you are Solo! What a coincidence!”

“Yes, what a coincidence, right? There can’t be a bigger coincidence than this! Although I’m not as strong or muscular as you, I’m still useful, right?” Solo vaguely found the value of his existence. “So, you...”

Aaron suddenly stepped forward, grabbed Solo’s arms, and held them behind him!

Solo: “?”

Just as he was at a total loss, Aaron cast his eyes down and said coldly, “We were looking for you all over the world, but to think you present yourself right on our doorstep!”

Solo was taken aback. Then, he shouted nervously, “Hey bro, I didn’t do anything bad. This is just a misunderstanding! A misunderstanding, I say... Brenny, come out and save me!”

Despite his shouts, Brenda didn’t step out of the room. Aaron let out a low scoff and said, “I thought you and Captain Brenda were just having a petty lover’s quarrel, I didn’t expect this at all. I finally understand why she’s ignoring you now...”

Solo was not at all anxious about being arrested anymore. On the contrary, he asked, “What have you understood? Hurry and tell me! I’m at a total loss!

Why is she asking to break up when nothing happened? What am I doing wrong?”

Chapter 860 How To Make Up For It

Despite being a well-known hacker, Solo didn't really take the fact that Interpol was after him seriously.

After all, all these years, he had only undertaken private commissions and most of the money he earned was legal. He had only run to America because—first, he wanted to visit Nora, and second, he found being targeted by Interpol very troublesome.

But even if he was caught, he would be released from jail after just two or three months. Moreover, if he took the initiative to cooperate with Interpol, he could even join them, start out on a clean slate, and become a white hat.

The Interpol had even invited Solo to join them before, but he had declined.

Now that he knew that Brenda was an Interpol officer, he started having thoughts of joining them. That was why he had kept displaying his professionalism just now

That was why Solo was not afraid at all, despite Aaron subduing him, and was even asking him what was going on.

Aaron didn't hold back at all, which made Solo's shoulders hurt terribly. However, none of it could compare with his desire to know what on earth was going on with Brenda.

Aaron stared at Solo, the deep hatred in his eyes almost overflowing.

He sneered, “Fine, if Captain Brenda won't tell you the truth, then I'll do it. The two of you will never be together because...”

“Aaron!”

Before Aaron could finish, Brenda’s frosty voice came over, preventing him from saying the rest of what he wanted to say.

The woman, who stood tall and straight, came out of the room and her gaze fell on Solo. Her pretty face was tense and frosty as she slowly said, “Don’t waste your breath telling him unnecessary things!”

She took a step forward. She clenched her fists tightly, stared at Solo, and said, “You and I have been walking two different paths from the start. I’ve told you a long time ago to stay away from me but you keep sending yourself up to my doorstep again and again. In that case, I might as well accept this achievement that you’re offering me! Aaron!”

Aaron stood up straight. “Present!”

Brenda lowered her eyes and kept quiet for a long while.

Solo was also staring at Brenda, his eyes full of incredulity. However, he quickly reacted and said, “Captain Brenda, I know I may have done some things that violate international law, but I don’t think I’ve done any huge wrongdoings, right? Seeing that I am repentant and have also offered to help you, why don’t you consider recruiting me into the team?”

Brenda’s fists were shaking a little.

Next to her, Aaron also sneered. His eyes were all red and all his muscles seemed to be bulging as though he would kill Solo with a punch the very next moment.

Before he could speak, Brenda said, “Detain him for now, then get the local police to take over. Our main priority now is to arrest Barbarian!”

“Captain Brenda!” Aaron yelled furiously.

Brenda was shaking all over. “Do as I say! We will do everything according to the system!”

Aaron looked at Solo. The way he was gritting his teeth in fury confused Solo and put him at a loss. Regardless, after a short pause, Aaron replied, “... Yes, ma’am!”

At last, Solo couldn’t help but say, “No, you two, I’m asking to join you guys here. Also, aren’t I just a tiny little criminal? Do you really need to gnash your teeth so hard? You make it seem like I’m some kind of heinous murderer. I...”

“Shut up!”

Brenda suddenly glared at him and let out a low shout, which shut Solo up.

Only then did Brenda look at Aaron. “Take him to a solitary cell and keep him there.”

“Yes, ma’am.”

Aaron left with Solo.

Nora, who was standing at the side, glanced at Brenda.

Brenda took a deep breath.

Nora walked up to her and suddenly asked, “Just what exactly is going on?”

Brenda’s eyes were all red and there were faint tears in her eyes.

She lowered her eyes and suddenly smiled. “You know something, Nora? Some people with certain abilities may not have done anything wrong, but their abilities are, in themselves, a mistake...”

After leaving behind those words, Brenda turned around abruptly and said, “I’m going to look for Peter’s body. If I can’t find it today, I’m afraid we’ll really be turned away tomorrow. I’ll leave for now!”

With that, she left.

Nora’s jaw tensed up as she stared at her from the back.

However, she didn’t go after Brenda but followed Aaron instead.

Solo was a hacker, so he was physically very weak and posed no threat to her at all. Yet Brenda hadn’t escorted Solo in person but gotten Aaron to do it, instead...

This showed that Brenda had actually been covering up for Solo all this time!

She was giving Solo the chance to escape.

After all, for Solo to successfully dodge the pursuit of so many police officers all these years, he must have had his ways too.

It was just that after she walked over, she found that Solo had kept his head down and followed Aaron the whole time, showing no intention of resisting whatsoever.

Halfway, when Aaron passed by the washrooms, he suddenly paused. He looked at Solo and said, “I’m going to the washroom for a while. Stay here and don’t run, you hear

me ?”

Solo looked at him blankly. “Okay.”

Aaron glanced at him again before he finally entered the washroom.

Nora hurried over and grabbed Solo’s arm. “Let’s go.”

However, Solo stood still and shook his head. “I’m not leaving.”

Nora didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. “Aaron left you out here to give you the chance to run!”

“I know.”

Solo let out a quiet sigh. As though a confused child, he lowered his head and said, “That’s why I can’t leave. I want to know why on earth Brenny is ignoring me. Surely I have to find out why, right?!”

Nora: “...”

To be honest, Nora had roughly guessed what the reason might be but she only had a vague idea as to what might have happened, so she would have to investigate to get the specifics. She said, “I’ll check what happened for you.”

“Even so, I’m still not leaving.”

Solo squatted on the ground stubbornly and hugged his knees.

Nora could only bend down as well, her patience close to running out.

“What’s up with you?”

Solo sighed. “If I go, Brenny and I won’t ever have a chance of reconciling. I have to stay!”

It was only when Nora heard this that she suddenly realized what he meant.

Solo wasn’t stupid. Otherwise, he would not have gotten so many things done for her so quickly all these years. He knew and understood everything deep down.

He knew very well that he would become a fugitive if he ran away. Brenda didn't want to arrest him, but at the same time, Brenda was completely pushing him away.

He looked at Nora blankly. "Even if I've really done something wrong, I have to know what it is. Surely I have to find out whether there's any possibility of making it up to her? I don't want to give up Brenny just like that."

Solo's crimes would only put him in jail for two or three months at most.

Nothing much would really happen to him.

Seeing that he was being so stubborn, Nora sighed quietly and said, "Fine."

But as soon as she said that, Aaron's voice came from the washroom entrance. "You can never make up for the mistakes you've made!"

Solo hurriedly turned around and looked at Aaron. "What on earth is going on? What did I do wrong? What did I do?"

Aaron clenched his jaw.

He looked at Solo savagely. "What you've done wrong? You owe us a life!"

Solo was stunned but he quickly came back to his senses. "I... I didn't. I've never killed anyone, I've never taken such commissions!

I..."

Before he could finish, Aaron asked, "Do you remember someone named Marcus?"

Solo paused for a while before he suddenly realized who he was talking about. "Yeah, I remember him. Isn't he a hacker? He even provoked me and said that he was a better hacker than me..."

After saying that, Solo asked, “But what does it have to do with him?”

Aaron lowered his eyes. “He was my and Captain Brenda’s partner!”

Solo was taken aback.

Aaron continued to speak. “Marcus, Captain Brenda, and I—the three of us were close friends and we always worked together whenever we handled cases. Marcus was in love with Captain Brenda, so he always worked hard to coordinate with her during operations. Marcus was very capable. The higher-ups once talked to him about having him lead a team but Marcus never agreed. Instead, he willingly worked under Captain Brenda—not because he admired her abilities, but because he wanted to protect her!”

Aaron clenched his fists, his whole body shaking. There was hatred and resentment in his eyes as he stared at Solo.

His appearance caused a foreboding feeling to suddenly arise in Solo.
“W-where is he?”

Aaron lowered his eyes. “He’s dead!”

Solo’s heart sank. “B-but I wasn’t the one who caused his death. What does it have to do with me? I—”

Before he could finish, Aaron suddenly looked at him. “He was not convinced of your hacking skills, so he once publicly clamored that he wanted to pit his skills against yours,

right?”

Solo nodded. “Yes, but I ignored him.”

Aaron sneered and lowered his head.

He suddenly asked, “Three months ago, did you take a commission to hack into someone’s cell phone?”

Solo nodded. “Yeah, how did you know?”

Solo had always been taking private commissions from others but he had never done anything terrible like murder. Additionally, the people commissioning him were required to inform him of what they intended to do post-commission.

He didn’t allow them to make use of him to do bad things.

When he thought of that, he suddenly looked at Aaron. “That phone... Was Marcus’?”

Aaron lowered his eyes. “No, it was Captain Brenda’s.”

His reply made Solo’s eyes widen abruptly. He suddenly thought back to three months ago when someone had sent him an email, saying that his girlfriend had betrayed him. She had cheated on him with many people at the same time and was a scumbag. Therefore, he’d offered Solo \$3,000 to pinpoint the girl’s GPS location.

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\$3,000 was just peanuts to him, but he hated such women the most, so he’d accepted the simple commission.

He checked the cell phone number given by the other party, whereupon he found that the girl was indeed an unfaithful woman and a player—because the cell phone’s GPS location was often in places like nightclubs.

After Solo sent the GPS coordinates to his client, his client had replied, “She’s too much! How dare she be a town bike! She cuckolded me for so many years but I didn’t even realize! Man, I’m pissed!”

With the mentality of someone watching a show, Solo had replied, “Just break up. She’s not worth it.”

But his client then sent a message begging him for help. “Can you help me hack into my girlfriend’s cell phone for ten minutes? I want to lock her in the toilet and scare her a little as punishment.”

For Solo, a small request like that was not even worth mentioning.

He agreed immediately. In fact, he’d even felt that he was punishing evil and promoting good.

But he didn’t understand how could she have been Brenda?

While he was in a daze, Aaron sneered and spoke again. “That day, after much difficulty, Captain Brenda, Marcus, and I finally managed to get hold of Barbarian’s whereabouts. In order not to alert the enemy, Captain Brenda went in to scout the place first. We agreed that she would give us a signal in five minutes but we suddenly lost contact with her! Marcus was worried about Captain Brenda, so he rushed in at once... He thought that the signal source he had set up was inadequate, causing Captain Brenda to be unable to send us the signal... But we had never thought that the reason why she hadn’t come out was just because of a hacker’s little prank!! Marcus, in order to save Captain Brenda, was brutally killed by Barbarian.”

At this point, Aaron suddenly raised his fist and slammed it in Solo’s face!

Nora didn’t do anything. Instead, she watched the two fixedly.

Solo didn’t duck either. It seemed like he had never imagined that things could have turned out like that...

He’d only hacked into someone’s phone for ten minutes and prevented them from using it. How did it involve someone’s death?

On top of that, out of everyone it could have been, that person was Brenda!

He even remembered that he had had a few conversations with the owner of the cell phone back then.

Using an unknown number, he had sent the other party text messages and scolded her, saying that she should repent and that her boyfriend was still waiting for her.

The girl had replied: 'Are you nuts?'

At that time, he'd harassed the girl by sending her a ton of text messages because he wanted her to change her mind and return to her boyfriend.

In fact...

After hacking her cell phone for ten minutes, when he returned control of the phone to the girl, he had even left a message on the screen: 'Hahaha! You must have been scared silly, right? You deserved it!'

Solo staggered a couple of steps backward.

He thought of how those big mocking words would have suddenly appeared on the phone as Brenda came out dragging the body of her comrade who had died tragically. When he thought of how he was the one who had sent that message to her...

Solo suddenly clutched his chest.

No wonder... no wonder Brenda had said that there was no misunderstanding between them.

Yeah, there certainly wasn't any misunderstanding.

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There was only hatred and a feud between them!

That was why Interpol, who had always ignored him, had started to come after him when the charges were not even serious. Even if he was caught, he would only serve two or three months in prison.

Solo's nose was broken, warm liquid slowly trickled down.

He suddenly didn't know what to do anymore.

Aaron pointed to the outside. "Leave! We investigated after the incident and found out that it was just a hacker's prank and that you indeed don't have anything to do with Barbarian..."

"Yes, you are innocent and you were deceived, but no matter how many excuses I make up for you, it can't erase the fact that you caused Marcus' death! So, you get it now, right? Captain Brenda will never forgive you because the moment she sees you, she thinks of the text message, those short ten minutes, and Marcus' tragic death! Get lost! I'm not interested in detaining you. Stay away from us in the future!"

Aaron really wanted to beat up Solo and kill him, but of all people, Captain Brenda had fallen in love with him.

Marcus' only wish when he had been alive was for Captain Brenda to find someone she loved... Now that she had, Aaron couldn't really kill Solo to avenge him.

Solo, however, remained where he was. He murmured to himself, "W-what can I do to make up for it?"

"Make up for it?" Aaron sneered, "Only if you can bring Marcus back to life!"

How could the dead possibly come back to life, though?

Solo remained where he was, stunned to the spot.

He didn't know how he should explain himself, let alone what he should do... All of this was thanks to his stupidity and self-righteousness!

Regardless, he couldn't reconcile himself with it. He still wanted to grasp something, so he asked, "What can I do now?"

Aaron lowered his eyes. "The only thing you can do now is to leave Captain Brenda. When Marcus died, she was out of it for whole 6 months. It's also for the sake of taking revenge for Marcus that we are so focused on arresting Barbarian now, but your existence will only keep reminding Captain Brenda how tragic Marcus' death was! You being with her will only bring her pain!"

After saying that, Aaron looked down and checked the time. Then, he walked past him and said, "I won't arrest you—because you don't deserve to go to prison for reformation."

With that, Aaron left, leaving behind only Nora and Solo.

Nora looked at Solo. For a while there, she didn't quite know how she should comfort him.

She suddenly understood Brenda's feelings very well. From her perspective, Solo might not be the murderer—in fact, he had even been deceived—but how could Brenda possibly bring herself to face him with peace of mind?

During the past few months, Brenda probably didn't just hate Barbarian, but also the person who had hacked her cell phone, right?

If Solo hadn't hacked her phone at that time, they wouldn't have lost contact and Marcus wouldn't have rushed in to save her...

So, how could Brenda possibly bring herself to be with Solo?

Solo didn't do anything wrong.

His only mistake was that he had trusted the wrong person.

Brenda also didn't do anything wrong.

She couldn't let down Marcus. She couldn't get into a relationship with the person who had indirectly caused his death. She couldn't cross that hurdle in her heart.

Therefore, when Nora asked Brenda what was going on, Brenda had told her that there was no misunderstanding. All this time, there had never been any misunderstanding between her and Solo.

Yeah, there certainly wasn't any.

All there was between the two of them was a dead knot!

Marcus' death was like a thorn forever stuck between the two. Even if Brenda chose to be with him, she would probably live in guilt for the rest of her life.

Nora sighed. She patted Solo's shoulder and said, "Why don't you leave the school for now?"

"... Okay."

With his head down, a wilted Solo followed behind Nora and left the school.

Nora personally walked Solo out of the school gates. She watched Solo enter the hotel outside the school. After he packed his modest luggage—which was just a backpack—he got into a cab and left.

Only then did Nora turn around. As soon as she did, though, she saw a flash of Brenda not far away.

Nora smiled wryly.

Actually, Brenda couldn't get over Solo either, right?

She walked over slowly and came up to Brenda. She said, “He’s gone. Don’t look anymore.”

“Yeah, okay.”

Brenda turned around. On the face of the stubborn woman was a strong and resilient expression.

Nora asked, “Can’t bear to part with him?”

Brenda’s lips curled into a wry smile. “Yeah, I can’t.”

She paused for a while and then said, “It wasn’t easy for me to finally fall for a man, yet I’m letting him go just like that. But don’t worry, Nora, I’m not someone who can’t think straight once I fall in love. I don’t have time to mope around now. My priority now is to catch Barbarian! And avenge Marcus!”

Nora was a little surprised to hear this. “Avenge Marcus?”

“Yeah.” Brenda seemed to have lost the frivolity that was usually around her. She said straightforwardly, “I know Justin isn’t dead.”

Nora was taken aback. “When did you realize?”

Brenda looked at her. “I thought of it when I saw you here at Staav University.”

Brenda looked ahead of her. “Justin’s death came out of nowhere. He is the Big Brother of the Irvin School of Martial Arts. He may not be able to beat Barbarian in terms of pure strength but the Irvin School of Martial Arts is the most skilled at scheming and playing tricks, so Justin should be great at escaping. Later, when I saw that you weren’t very sad, I initially thought it

was because you and Justin didn't love each other that much. However, the three children were also smiling happily every day. To outsiders, the children are still young, so they must not know what death really means, but I know what Pete is like. Although he is young, his IQ is equivalent to that of a fifteen-year-old, so it's impossible that he wouldn't understand. Then, when I saw you here, I knew right away that there must be something up with you and Justin.”

Brenda was a police officer great at noticing details. It was not surprising that she would detect such things.

Now that things had come to this, Nora didn't want to hide it from her anymore, either. Thus, she nodded and said, “Yeah, he didn't die.”

Brenda heaved a sigh of relief. “I won't ask what the two of you are doing, but if you ever deal with Barbarian again, you can count me in. There's an irreconcilable feud between us!”

“Okay.”

The two chatted while searching for Peter's body in the school.

The rest of the policemen had already searched everywhere but it was as though Peter had disappeared into thin air, and they simply couldn't find any clues. In fact, for some reason, some students even said that they had seen Peter buying breakfast in the cafeteria in the morning.

Brenda found this puzzling. “That's impossible. Are they sure that the person they saw was Peter?”

Aaron was even more incredulous. “Yes, they are sure that the person they saw was Peter. After I asked them about it carefully, they told me that Peter always wears a baseball cap and carries a towel with him when he goes running every morning. After that, while covered in sweat, he goes to the

cafeteria to buy breakfast and brings it back to his dorm room. I've checked the surveillance cameras in the cafeteria- 'Peter' had his back to the cameras the whole time and he didn't show his face at all. He only created an illusion to make everyone think that Peter had gone for breakfast, when in fact, the person buying breakfast at that time was the murderer!"

Brenda's brows drew together tightly. "Barbarian's modus operandi is very strange this time. He used to kill in a direct and brutal manner all the time but he's simply being too strange right now. Not only did he kill Peter and leave us without any clues, but he even pretended to be Peter after that... What on earth is he trying to do?"

While Brenda was thinking, Aaron also remarked, "If it weren't for the poker cards in the room, I would have thought that Barbarian really isn't the one behind it all this time! How could someone like him, who has always been simple-minded and straightforward, possibly come up with such a complex plan? What the hell is he planning?"

Nora, who was next to him, suddenly said, "I know what he's planning now."

Aaron was taken aback. "What is it?"

Nora looked out the window. "There you go, his objective has come..."

Following what she said, someone pushed open the door to the office they were in.

A few professors and students walked in. As soon as they did, they began to accuse and criticize Brenda and Aaron.

"Officer, what on earth is the matter with you guys? Do you have any idea how urgent our projects are? We agreed to your request when you wanted us

to cooperate with you yesterday. There's absolutely no way we're doing that again tonight!"

"Yeah, we're staff and students here at Staav University, not prisoners! We can choose to disobey your orders! We demand freedom!"

"We are all students and professors. Instead of investigating Professor Mayer's death and going after his murderer, you're staying here and doing so many meaningless things... On top of that, you're even claiming that Professor Peter has been killed? How can that be? If Professor Peter has really been killed, then produce some evidence for it!"

"Is it okay to lie just to prove that your judgment is correct? Professor Peter just posted on Instagram, yet you're saying that he's dead? This is ridiculous!"

"Yeah, do you think Staav University's staff and students are pushovers? We have a School of Law here! I'm a law student myself. Officer, I'd like to talk to you about human rights and freedom now..."

"Officer, you have no right to imprison so many of us. We have our right to freedom. You can't lock up nearly ten thousand teachers and students in the school with you just because of a murderer! I'm going out now... I have something on at home!"

"I'm going out too! I've run out of tissues, I need to go to the supermarket!"

"I'm going out too, I'm going out too..."

The people's voices got louder and louder.

Seeing their behavior, Nora lowered her eyes and said slowly, "You see that? Now, this is exactly what he's after."

She looked at Brenda. “Barbarian came here to look for something and he’s not leaving until he finds it, but your presence here has seriously affected his ability to judge the situation and his objective. That’s why he’s doing this—he wants to incite the students and professors into driving you guys away.”

Aaron: “!”

He clenched his fists furiously. “Damn! That son of a bitch!”

Brenda was much calmer. She lowered her eyes and looked at Epson, who was leading the crowd. She said, “The president and I have already agreed that I will leave tomorrow if there’s still no murder tonight. However, in the meantime, all of you must still obey our orders! We represent the school’s decision!”

Epson scoffed and asked, “You represent the school’s decision? Therefore, we should just waste another night here? Captain Brenda, if no murder happens by tomorrow and the police leaves, then what happens to our lost time tonight? Who is going to compensate us for it? Who is going to take responsibility for our lost time?!”

Brenda took a deep breath. “I will!”

Epson demanded aggressively, “And how are you going to take responsibility for it?” Brenda sneered, “If nothing happens by tomorrow morning, then I am willing to be punished! I will take off this uniform I’m wearing!”

“Okay! Don’t forget what you said!” Having achieved his goal, Epson said cheerfully, “I hope you won’t break your promise tomorrow!”

“Don’t worry, I never go back on my word!”

Brenda retorted stubbornly.

Epson scoffed, “Then we’ll wait until tomorrow!”

After Epson left with the students, Aaron couldn’t help but ask anxiously, “What do we do if we still don’t find Peter’s body by tomorrow? Captain Brenda, are you really going to hold yourself responsible for this?”

Captain Brenda had once said that she would never take off her uniform until she caught Barbarian and took her revenge!

Upon hearing what he said, Brenda looked at Nora.

Nora nodded slightly.

Brenda lowered her eyes and said, “We may not be able to find Peter, but isn’t Barbarian going to continue killing tonight anyway?”

With Nora—in other words, Q—here, no hacker would be able to breach her firewall and infiltrate the staff dormitories!

And if the staff dormitories were unsafe, Barbarian wouldn’t be able to attack them anymore. With that, he could only set his sights on the laboratory!

Barbarian was a highly psychotic murderer. Once he started a killing spree, he must kill five people before he stopped. This was his principle and dedication.

With that in mind, Brenda looked coldly at Epson’s back in the distance. It seemed that she would have to smoke the enemy out tonight!

That night, a curfew was imposed on the staff dormitories. Brenda also requested that the professors remain in their rooms and not go out after 8 pm.

The professors had a lot to gripe about it.

They all looked at Brenda.

“Are you treating us as prisoners? This is too much!”

“We are your targets of protection, not your targets of surveillance! The police are too much!”

“What makes you think you can stop us from going out after eight o’clock? Never mind that you’re stopping us from carrying out our experiments at night, but you’re even starting to dictate what we can and cannot do tonight? This is too much!”

The professors protested but the iron-fisted Brenda still forced them to stay in their rooms. When the professors were asked to return to their rooms, they dished out tough talk. “Just you wait! I’m definitely going to report you tomorrow! You people shouldn’t be here at all!”

Brenda had already become immune to such words by now. She replied, “Okay, if nothing goes wrong tonight as well, I’ll get out of here by myself tomorrow.”

Her reply shut up all the professors.

Seeing that they weren’t talking anymore, Brenda left.

More than a dozen SWAT officers were protecting the staff dormitories.

Aaron said, “With this, even a housefly can forget about getting in there, right?”

Brenda stroked her chin. “Yeah, under such circumstances, it is impossible for Barbarian to head there again! Aaron, get our men to follow me to the laboratory building!”

Aaron followed behind her. He looked at Nora curiously and asked, “Captain Brenda, are that student’s skills good enough? Barbarian has a hacker with him, so surely we can’t rely on a student here, right...?”

Brenda: “...”

She said to Aaron, “Don’t worry.”

Aaron then asked, “By the way, Captain Brenda, didn’t you work with Anti when you went to the US? I remember Anti once revealed that she’s Q, and Marcus also used to admire the hackers Q and Y the most. Is Q really that amazing?”

II

11

Nora listened to their conversation and followed behind the two with a smile as they walked to the laboratory building together.

She had already encrypted the surveillance camera system at the staff dormitories. No hacker—including even Y—would be able to breach it.

Thus, Nora wanted to go with Brenda to arrest Barbarian.

Brenda was worried about her, though. “Are you really going to the lab?”

Nora nodded. “Yeah.”

Brenda was still very worried. “You’re weak and powerless, so you have to keep yourself well-hidden, okay? Don’t let Barbarian catch you!”

Nora wanted to laugh when she heard the words “weak and powerless.”

She said quietly, “Don’t worry, no matter what, I’m still capable of protecting myself.”

Although she couldn’t beat Barbarian in a fight, she wasn’t someone to be trifled with, either.

While Nora was on the way to the laboratory, Brenda, who was ultimately still worried about her, handed her a small button and said in a low voice, “Nora, if anything goes wrong, press this button immediately. We will rush in right away!”

“Okay.”

Nora placed the button in her pocket and went to the upper floors. When she entered Epson’s laboratory, she happened to run into Oscar, who’d just had dinner and come over to work. Upon seeing her, Oscar grabbed her wrist and asked, “Why are you here?”

Nora: “?”

Oscar looked around. “The SWAT team has surrounded the area. Judging from how they look, they are dead certain that Barbarian will attack us tonight. Why did you come today when you weren’t here yesterday? Aren’t you just throwing yourself into danger?”

Nora: “?!?”

Since when did she become so close with Oscar?

Oscar, however, looked around and stuffed a pepper spray into Nora’s hands. “Take this, I bought it at the supermarket today. If a bad guy really comes, we can at least use this for self-defense!”

Nora: “...”

The pepper spray was probably useless on Barbarian but she thanked Oscar anyway. Then, she entered the lab with her.

Epson happened to spot the two of them. He walked over at once and began to mock Nora. “What are you doing here? Didn’t you quit this project? Did you come to grovel because you heard that we are completing the project tonight?”

Nora was surprised. “The project will be completed tonight?”

Epson said smugly, “Yes, we’ll be able to complete the project tonight! We’re left with just the last step now!”

Nora: “...”

Chapter 863 What Anti Looks Like

Nora stared at his data.

Although she only caught a flash of the data that had just been uploaded, she still got a clear look at it—Epson’s experiment was the same as the one she had done in the past. Its final outcome would only be a failure.

She lowered her eyes and kept quiet.

Many of Epson’s students swarmed toward them.

Everyone had painstakingly worked day and night for a month and now it was finally time to get the fruit of their labor. This was the moment that mattered the most to them.

Epson pressed the data consolidation button.

Epson’s students said, “Lisa, you have never seen an experiment like this back in America, right? You’ll bear witness to a miracle today!”

“Yeah, you are so lucky! Even though you didn’t do anything, you still gained Professor Epsom’s trust. It’s really a blessing for you to be able to take part in an experiment like this!”

“Yeah! I bet even Professor Anti wasn’t this nice to you, right? Moreover, Staav University is much better than the NYU School of Medicine! At the very least, Anti is the only internationally well-known doctor there, whereas Staav University has many! Professor Epsom is just one of the many professors here! You should have a better understanding of how great Staav University is by now, right?”

Amidst their sarcastic, envious, or admonishing remarks, Nora didn’t utter even a word.

“Look, it’ll be done real soon!”

Distracted, everyone stopped focusing on Nora.

At this point, someone tugged on Nora’s arm.

Nora turned her head to see that Oscar had come up beside her. She lowered her voice and said, “Why don’t you apologize to Professor Epsom later for showing disrespect towards him? Professor Epsom may make himself out to be magnanimous and say that he will forgive you but he’s actually very petty. Once the project succeeds, he will definitely go around saying that he’s better than Professor Anti, and you are going to be the evidence that he’ll use. Be careful not to let him make use of you.”

After speaking, Oscar sighed. “You are ultimately just an exchange student, so you have to go back sooner or later. If you offend Anti, your studies won’t go smoothly in the future.”

Nora: “...”

Oscar had given her so many kind warnings that she didn't quite know what to do anymore.

Oscar explained, "Actually, I secretly really like Professor Anti because she's so cool, but I can't say that out loud. Even if Professor Epson succeeds in his experiment, I'm still not going to think that he's really better than Professor Anti. It would be nice if I could meet Professor Anti even just once in this lifetime."

Then, Oscar sighed and added, "Unfortunately, there is probably no hope for that anymore because Professor Anti only took one postgraduate student under her wing. I really wonder who it is that's so lucky..." Nora: "..."

"You'll meet her for sure," she said.

After all, they had already met.

However, Oscar lowered her voice again and asked, "By the way, you must have already told Professor Anti that Professor Epson is carrying out this experiment, right?"

"... Yeah, she knows about it."

Oscar then asked, "T-then can you pass a message to Professor Anti for me?"

"Sure."

Oscar sighed. "Actually, I admire her very much. A one-time failure doesn't mean anything-after all, Professor Anti doesn't specialize in pharmaceuticals; her forte is her surgical skill."

Now, Nora couldn't concur with that. She coughed and said, "Anti... Professor Anti is actually even more skilled in her pharmaceutical knowledge than her surgical skills."

“Really?”

Oscar was a little surprised. Although she did not quite understand why Nora would suddenly say something like that, she nevertheless said, “Well, that doesn’t matter. Even if Professor Anti is more skilled in pharmaceutical knowledge, I still believe this is just a one-time failure for her. I heard that many of the pills that Professor Anti created have already spread to Switzerland... She is still very awesome, no matter what. Now that Epson has beat her in something for once, he will definitely spread talk about how incompetent Professor Anti is. Do tell Professor Anti not to take it to heart...”

“He won’t have the chance,” Nora replied.

Her reply took Oscar by surprise. “What do you mean?”

Nora’s lip corners curled into a smile. “I’m saying that Professor Epson won’t have the chance to do that.”

Immediately after she spoke, one of the students at the computer with the experiment data exclaimed, “It has stopped! It reached 100%! The result... The result will be out in a moment!”

“It’s out!”

The next moment following their shouts, however, everyone suddenly fell silent.

Oscar hurriedly tugged on Nora’s arm. “For the sake of the credits for Professor Epson’s class, just congratulate him...”

Before she could finish, though, she heard someone exclaim in shock, “How... how can this be?”

“Yeah, why did it fail?”

Oscar: “??”

“No, this is impossible!” Epson let out a low bark. He hurriedly looked at the computer and said furiously, “Something must have gone wrong! Yes, that must be it! There’s no way it would fail! Re-upload it! Re-upload all data!”

“Roger!”

All the students nodded and re-uploaded all the data.

Epson then clicked the Consolidate button.

But five minutes later, the lab was still filled with silence, indicating that it was still unsuccessful!

Epson still refused to believe it. He said, “Someone among you must have made a mistake in the data! Go and get it checked again, pronto! And upload it again within half an hour!”

“Roger!”

Following Professor Epson’s order, all the students once again threw themselves into the intense experiment.

Only Nora and Oscar stood in the corner by the side, one looking like she was waiting for some kind of result and the other looking a little lost-after all, at Oscar’s current level of knowledge, she couldn’t fully understand the experiment yet.

Another hour passed.

They uploaded the data once more but it still failed!

Epson stared at his computer in disbelief. The students started to talk among themselves at this point.

“What’s going on?”

“Yeah, it’s so weird. What’s going on?”

“... It suddenly occurred to me that someone had once said that Anti has tried this idea before, but it unfortunately failed. Therefore, this particular hypothesis doesn’t work... We were too confident and got careless!”

As soon as the student said that, though, Epson looked at her furiously.

“How can that be? This is the only possible way! How can it fail? This doesn’t make sense, something must have gone wrong somewhere! But where? Where does the problem lie?”

“This... Every line of data is extremely accurate, we have already confirmed it a dozen times and there really isn’t any problem. How could this have happened? What should we do?”

“Yeah, the data is too strange!”

While everyone was deep in thought, a low voice reached them.

“It’s the third set, it can’t be integrated with the rest of the data. This problem is unsolvable.”

Everyone was contemplating the issue seriously, so when they heard this, they all looked at the computer.

Sure enough, everyone discovered the problem.

“How did it turn out like that?!”

“It really is impossible to integrate this part into the rest of the data. In other words, our hypothesis was wrong from the beginning!”

“Have we been doing pointless work this whole month?”

“Professor Anti once said that this method will never work, but we simply refused to believe it and insisted on wasting a month to verify it...”

Amid everyone kicking themselves over their actions, Epson held his head.

“How can this happen? How?! This is impossible... I’m definitely better than Anti...”

Seeing his reaction, the students hurriedly comforted him. “Professor Epson, y-you have done your best.”

“Go away! Even if I’ve done my best, I still can’t accept this! This is a matter of academic dignity!”

Epson’s eyes were fixed on the screen.

No one realized that Nora was the one who had pointed out the problem just now.

Oscar, who was standing beside Nora all this time, stared at her in shock. It wasn’t until then that she finally recovered and asked in astonishment, “How did you know that there is a problem with the third set of data?”

“... Well, I have experienced this failure before,” replied Nora.

Oscar was stunned. A moment later, though, she suddenly realized something and said, “I see! Did you also participate in Anti’s experiment back at the NYU School of Medicine? That’s why you knew from the start that this experiment would never succeed!”

“... You can say that,” Nora said.

She had indeed been involved in her own experiment from the very beginning.

But the moment she said that, a besotted look instead came over Oscar's countenance. "Professor Anti is simply too amazing! As soon as she started the experiment, she noticed the problem and ended it. Gosh, I really wish I could meet her!"

After speaking, she lowered her head and took out her cell phone. "What are you doing?" Nora asked.

Oscar replied, "I'm going to search for photos of Anti... I want to see what she looks like!"