

She Becomes Glamorous After The Engagement Annulment - Chapter 1049 - 1060

Rather than a laboratory, Peter's workplace was actually more like a research center.

As they went deeper into the facility, just on the way to the lounge alone, Nora observed that there were already about a few hundred people guarding the place. From the looks of it, Peter and the others were doing research on something extremely important.

There were also a lot of employees—at least a thousand of them—in the research center.

Therefore, the research center had its own employee dormitories and canteen.

The families of most of the people under surveillance also lived and worked there, so they couldn't leave even if they wanted to.

When they reached the lounge, Peter said, "Rest here. I'll bring you guys around and let you meet those people when lunchtime comes. I'll give them a heads-up first, too."

"Okay."

After sleeping the morning away, when lunchtime approached, the trio went to the canteen with Peter. There, Nora met the 23 people in question.

The group was both excited and nervous.

But some of them looked clearly uneasy.

"What's wrong?" Nora asked.

Peter answered, "For some of them, their family members aren't here, but would also like to leave with us."

Nora broke into a frown. After a moment of contemplation, she exchanged a look with Justin and then said, "How about this? Get their families' addresses and give them to me. I'll send people to pick them up."

Peter nodded and went to talk to the others.

After a while, he came back again. The boy, who still looked as troubled as before, asked, "Must we act tonight, Mom?"

“Yeah.”

For one, by taking action quickly, it was highly likely that they could get away before the people outside even realized what had happened.

For another, she wanted to go home earlier to sleep!

She couldn't possibly stay here just because of one or two people.

Peter said, “Actually, a few of them haven't made up their minds yet. After all, taking their families and children with them and leaving the country is a big decision. They are not sure whether their wives would agree to it.”

Nora thought for a moment and finally said, “Get them to give me their addresses. I'll send people to pick them up at 1 a.m. tonight...”

She raised her head and looked at Peter intently. “If they want to leave, then have their families display the national flag at the entrance of their homes. If it's inconvenient for them to display the flag, or if they don't have one at home, they can draw stars and stripes on a piece of paper and put that up instead.”

Her words took Peter by surprise.

Stars and stripes...

He suddenly smiled and said, “Okay, got it.”

In this instant, Peter suddenly felt immensely proud of having a mother like Nora.

He looked back and relayed Nora's instructions to the others.

Then, he collated everyone's addresses and handed them to Nora.

As Nora stared at the addresses, she lowered her gaze.

In the afternoon, when they returned to the hotel, she immediately dialed Karl's number. “We have a new mission.”

Karl immediately asked, “What is it?”

“Picking people up.”

Without any hesitation whatsoever, Karl answered, “No problem.”

After hanging up the phone, he gave out orders to Black Panther and Abbott. Both men immediately became excited. “Do we get to meet Black Cat this time?”

To chase after his idol, Abbott had joined Karl's team.

Unfortunately, Black Cat hadn't been in action much these recent years, so he hadn't managed to meet his idol yet. Black Panther said, "When Nora impersonated Black Cat back then, she did a pretty good job... Never mind, I'm going to meet the real Black Cat this time! I wonder who's more impressive, Nora or Black Cat?"

As Karl stared at them, the corners of his lips couldn't help but spasm.

Black Cat's identity was sensitive—after all, she had taken so many lives, so it went without saying that her identity must be kept a secret—so he hadn't told these two dummies the truth yet.

Upon hearing what they said, Karl cleared his throat and nodded. "Alright, get going now!"

At 4 a.m.

The hour right before daybreak was when people were the sleepest.

In spite of that, Nora opened her eyes punctually. When she sat up, Justin, who was beside her, also sat up.

After exchanging a look with each other, Nora went to wash up leisurely. She put her hair up into a ponytail and stretched as she remarked, "It's been a while since I last did anything taxing. I should go get some good exercise tonight."

"Yeah. How do you want to go about it?"

A dotting Justin asked.

Nora blinked and replied, "It'd be really boring if we just leave quietly by ourselves. We should make them pay for what they've done. After all, they kept Pete captive for so long. We shouldn't let them off the hook that easily, right?"

Justin smiled. "Got it."

Justin hadn't passed down his social connections to Pete yet. As for Pete himself, he was only fifteen years old, so he hadn't established his own connections yet. He was still in the phase of looking for reliable subordinates of his own.

Therefore, it was indeed rather hard for Pete to save his colleagues.

But to Nora and Justin, the same task was as easy as ABC.

The couple stepped out of the room and went next door to look for Mia. However, when they went over, they realized that she wasn't in the room.

"Oh, right. Mia said she would be with Pete tonight to help him with the logistical arrangements," said Nora.

"Yeah, okay."

The two then headed down leisurely.

The security guard at the lounge entrance had already fallen asleep. The middle-aged lady's head nodded forward again and again as she dozed. Nora and Justin, who had decided to openly leave through the door, then took out their cell phones and held them up to the scanner at the entrance, where the glass doors immediately opened.

The two stepped out.

The sky was dim and gray as daybreak slowly approached.

The two went to Pete's dormitory.

As soon as they arrived, they saw that Pete and the others had already assembled on the ground floor. All of them looked tired and weary. It was obvious that they hadn't slept the whole night because they were too nervous.

Nora yawned and signaled to Pete.

Pete immediately nodded and led the way in front. As he walked, he explained, "I've already scouted out the area nearby—there are no security cameras along this route. There's an iron gate in front, though, and the key is with the captain of the security officers."

Nora raised her brows. "If you had told me earlier, I'd have gone to retrieve it."

When Pete heard her, he let out a sneaky chuckle and fished out a key from his pocket. "I already swiped the key a long time ago and duplicated it."

Well done, thought Nora. As expected of her son, indeed.

In this instant, it occurred to Nora that Pete did have the ability to bring his colleagues out of the research center. It was just that he couldn't ensure their successful escape once they left.

When Justin saw the look of approval in Nora's eyes, he immediately poured cold water and said, "They must have realized what you were up to, right? That's why you panicked and got us here to clean up your mess."

Pete: "..."

Unfortunately, that was indeed what had happened. When he stole the key and duplicated it the other time, the captain of the security officers had sensed something amiss and had been tracing the culprit recently. The clues would probably lead him to Pete in another couple of days or so.

While he could certainly leave by himself, two days were too short a period for him to bring so many people with him.

He touched his nose and grumbled, "Cough, quit it, Dad."

Seeing the boy embarrassed, Justin was satisfied.

Ha, that little brat. Don't even think of showing off in front of Nora. You're still too young!

Nora glanced at the people behind them. When she realized that there were fewer than 20 people behind, Pete explained, "A few of them changed their minds at the last minute and decided to stay."

"Yeah, okay."

Nora didn't press for details.

With Pete familiar with the terrain, the group managed to reach the main entrance without any problems.

Pete stopped in his tracks. "Mom, Dad, I'm sure that there are surveillance cameras at the entrance. If I open the door, they will find out immediately. We only have 30 seconds before they get here. Are the people who are supposed to meet us already outside?"

"Yeah, they are."

"Alright, let's go, then!"

Pete did a tuck-and-roll and tried his best to hide his presence as he rushed over and opened the gate.

When the gate opened, everyone dashed toward it!

Outside.

Abbott, who had personally driven a truck over, craned his neck when he spotted them.

"Where's Black Cat?"

Chapter 1051: Get Them!

Peter stood beside the truck and watched as his colleagues got into the truck one by one. In the end, he looked at Mia and said, “Get in, Mia!”

Mia’s eyes were bright and shiny.

This was the first time that the girl, who had always been well-behaved since she was little, was involved in something this exciting. It was an extremely novel experience for her.

However, she couldn’t help but be worried about Pete’s safety. She wanted to say something, yet she didn’t dare to, so she merely nodded and grabbed the cargo bed of the truck. Just as she was about to prop herself up, a big and warm arm suddenly held her around the waist and held her up. With that, Mia got into the truck immediately.

Mia: “!!”

Her cheeks immediately turned as red as a tomato, and she felt as if her heart was pounding faster than usual.

She looked outside...

Just as she was about to speak, she noticed that the doors of the main entrance had opened, and security officers were rushing out of the building. They were about to surround them!

Some even raised their guns and pointed them at the truck’s tires. Once the tires were punctured, they wouldn’t be able to leave!

It was at this point that she saw Peter, who had been holding on to the cargo bed and planning to get in previously, suddenly jumping back down. He promptly shouted, “Go!”

Though Abbott didn’t manage to catch a glimpse of Black Cat, he knew very well that his mission was to pick these people up today. The man immediately started the truck.

When someone fired at the truck, Abbott quickly changed its speed and direction to prevent the bullet from striking the tires.

Those guys didn’t dare to go as far as to take lives—after all, they needed the researchers alive—so they didn’t fire at anyone. Just as more and more bullets were fired and it seemed that they wouldn’t be able to dodge them anymore, a commotion suddenly broke out in the distance where the security officers were!

Abbott immediately slammed his foot down on the gas pedal. The truck went charging out immediately and disappeared after rounding the corner.

When the captain of the security officers saw the truck disappear from his sight, he immediately knew that it was too late.

Despite that, he didn't panic.

Since he had decided to stay put, it went without saying that he had a plan.

Those guys might be able to escape the research center, but leaving for good? Not so easy!

He looked coldly at the trio who had stayed behind and said derisively, "Playing hero? Don't overestimate yourselves! Peter Hunt, you must be the one who stole my key, right?"

Peter nodded. "Yup."

The captain sneered. "I'll make you pay for that today! And give you a taste of what happens when you don't behave!"

Then, he took a step back and ordered, "Go, get them! Teach them a good lesson! I want Peter Hunt's legs broken!"

They certainly couldn't kill the researchers, but once their legs were broken, it would be even harder for them to escape, no?

As he gave the order, over 20 security officers rushed over and surrounded the trio.

However, Nora was looking at an overland vehicle nearby. They might have missed the truck just now, but look what they had here? Their escape route had just presented itself!

"I'll hold them here. Which one of you is going to steal the car?"

"I'll protect you, Mom. Dad can go steal the car."

Justin: "..."

A grumpy look had already come over his countenance. It wasn't easy for him to have a chance to team up with his wife. What was that kid butting in for?

He scoffed, "Nothing but an unnecessary move."

Peter stroked his chin.

He was simply speechless at the tyrant. Did he really have to be so possessive even at a time like this? Never mind, it wasn't like he had the guts to piss his father off too badly,

either. After all, he was still young. Should the tyrant really decide to make things difficult for him, he wouldn't be able to handle it.

Peter came around to the idea in no time. He said, "Dad, Mom, you guys hold 'em back. I'll go get the car."

"Okay."

Upon seeing the trio still leisurely discussing plans despite being surrounded, the captain was furious. Fools sure were fearless!

Did the three of them really think that he and his team were just your average, run-of-the-mill security officers?

Normal people would never be able to keep those people in the facility.

They were all elites who had been carefully selected!

With a sneer, the captain ordered, "Get them!"

Chapter 1052: Black Cat is Over Here!

Ten minutes later.

Security officers lay all over the ground as Nora and Justin stretched their arms and legs.

"Stretch a little more. You haven't exercised for too long. Take care not to hurt yourself," said Justin.

Peter who had driven over and was waiting for them to get into the car: "..."

Fine, compared to his father, he certainly still had a long way to go!

Nora did as Justin said.

He was right. Her life was becoming more and more relaxed and leisurely these days. All she did every day was sleep and go for strolls. She was completely leading the life of a retiree. Given all the activity today, there was indeed a need for her to cool down properly.

She stretched her arms and legs seriously.

The captain, who was on the floor, stared at them in shock. He stammered, “W-who are you?”

He already had a vague idea of their identities by then...

At his question, Nora hesitated for a moment and then suddenly said with a straight face, “We’re Americans.”

“...”

I know that, of course! The captain thought.

Annoyed, the captain retorted, “Do you have any idea who we are?! How dare you do this to me! I will tell the Queen about this! I don’t believe we can’t catch you guys if the UK goes all out!”

“...Oh, okay,” Nora replied.

The captain: “?”

After the two were done stretching, they got into the car. Peter sped into the distance at once.

Black Panther had personally gone to pick up the researchers’ families at the places specified by Nora. Whenever they spotted a house with the American flag hung on the door or window, they would knock out the hidden agents monitoring the occupants, rush into the houses, and then escort the researchers’ family members into the transportation vehicle.

To be honest, after Black Panther started working for Karl and began his career as an assassin, the man, who had grown up in Switzerland, had become someone who confounded right and wrong. He was someone who lived with his morals in the gray area.

But when he saw the star-spangled banners fluttering in the breeze, a feeling of patriotism suddenly arose in him.

However, he didn’t dwell too long on it. He quickly took his charges to Black Cat and met up with her instead.

Though the two teams were working separately, both ultimately raced toward the same destination.

When Black Panther arrived at the pier where they were supposed to meet up, he saw Abbott and a group of people there. They were craning their necks anxiously and looking into the distance.

“Where’s Black Cat?” Black Panther asked.

Abbott shook his head and replied, “Black Cat isn’t here yet. They are going to find us very soon, though. If Black Cat doesn’t get here soon, we won’t be able to get away anymore.”

Black Panther broke into a frown as well.

Neither of them knew that a certain security bureau was currently trying their hardest to find them via the traffic cameras on the roads.

However, someone hacked into the system at that moment...

In the cyber-security central bureau of the UK, Q and Y easily stopped the bureau from accessing the system.

In fact, they even blocked the satellite signal. As a result, the bureau could only use the most traditional method to search for them. Because of this, even though five minutes had already passed since Abbott and the others reached their destination, the bureau still hadn’t found their way over yet.

Screech!

While the group was waiting anxiously, a car stopped in front of them.

Peter, Nora, and Justin then got out of it.

Nora and Justin were both tapping away on their cell phones...

With cyber-security technology getting more and more advanced, even Q and Y couldn’t afford to look away from the UK’s cyber-security system for even a second if they wanted to stop them from finding their whereabouts. As soon as they stopped, the other party would be able to restore the system. Should that happen, it would only be a matter of mere seconds before their whereabouts are exposed.

The trio got out of the car and approached the group.

Black Panther panicked at once. He shouted, “Where’s Black Cat?! Do you know that the vehicle we’re about to use is absolute top-secret in the organization?! Only Boss and Black Cat are authorized to use it! Without Black Cat here, we won’t be able to leave at all! What have you people done? Did you abandon Black Cat and leave Black Cat there to bring up the rear?!”

An anxious Abbott also asked, “Yeah. Where’s Black Cat?”

Nora: “...”

The corners of her lips spasmed as she said, "Shut up."

Then, she closed the hacking program on her cell phone and opened a program that only Karl and she could access.

Abbott and Black Panther: "?????"

Chapter 1053: They Can't Be Together

Abbott and Black Panther stared at Nora in shock and astonishment.

Both of them were incredulous.

Honestly speaking, they had already found Nora very impressive when they realized that she was the Big Sister of the Quinn School of Martial Arts. Among all the women... no, among everybody they had ever met, including the men, she was the most impressive one ever.

In that case, how much more impressive could Black Cat possibly be?

Now that they suddenly realized that Nora was, in fact, Black Cat herself, even though the discovery was certainly surprising, it also made perfect sense to them.

At the same time, they also felt rather bad for looking down on Nora back then.

How could they have been so clueless?!

While the two men were plagued with guilt, Nora looked intently at her cell phone and wordlessly tapped the "Activate" button.

To hide their embarrassment, Abbott and Black Panther asked, "What's the emergency plan, Black Cat?"

"Yeah, this is the ocean. You'll have to cross the ocean if you want to go back to America. How are you guys going to get there?"

Abbott wasn't an American, so he didn't feel much of a sense of loyalty to the United States.

While the two were talking, they suddenly heard a whirring sound. Then, the coast started to shake a little. The next moment, a black, massive object suddenly emerged from the ocean.

Shocked, the two quickly looked over warily, whereupon they realized that it was actually a... submarine!!

On top of that, it was a huge one that could seat up to a hundred people!

Abbott and Black Panther were astounded. The two men stared at the behemoth in disbelief.

When did the organization get an ultimate weapon like this?!

With this around, they wouldn't have to fear even if they created a huge ruckus in the UK!

This was also Nora's first time seeing the submarine.

She and Karl had prepared this as their backup plan in the past.

At the bottom of it all, the assassin organization was still an illegal business. Moreover, Karl still had an official identity—a spy—in the United States.

The two had hit it off immediately and prepared the submarine. In case there ever came a day when they could no longer bear the pressure from foreign authorities, they could use the submarine and escape to anywhere in the world in it.

Energy supplies were also replenished regularly. At the very least, there was definitely enough to last till they got to the United States!

Nora stepped forward and unlocked the system with a scan of her thumb. The submarine's door opened and everyone went in one by one. After everyone had entered, Nora and Justin finally went in and closed the door.

As soon as the door closed, Justin put his cell phone away.

The submarine started sinking into the waters and began its journey to the United States.

The submarine featured a lot of advanced technology, including even a counter-reconnaissance system. This more or less gave them a veil of invisibility and prevented radars from detecting them.

The submarine started moving in the ocean.

Everyone inside also quietened down.

From the UK, it would take roughly a week for them to reach the United States. Everything outside in the vast ocean was covered in darkness, making the passengers rather scared and panicky.

When Black Panther sensed their apprehension and anxiety, he started to chat with them to pass the time.

He looked at Peter first. "Do you have a girlfriend?"

This boy was Black Cat's son!

When Peter was about to answer, his colleagues next to him said, "Oh, Peter's super popular with the girls in the lab! Even though he's still young, there are a lot of women throwing themselves at him!"

Black Panther immediately remarked jokingly, "Ooh, you lucky chap!"

Peter, however, glanced at Mia subconsciously—true enough, a flustered look appeared in the girl's eyes. Yet when he looked over, she hurriedly lowered her head to hide her emotions.

Peter heaved a sigh inwardly.

He had been diagnosed with mild autism when he was a child, but as the son of Justin Hunt, he was extremely prideful.

Among all the girls he had ever met, only Mia and Cherry were good enough in his eyes.

Cherry was his younger sister whom he doted on a lot.

As for Mia... Initially, he had found the girl weak and frail, so he couldn't bring himself to bully her at all, and he also started to subconsciously protect her. When he found out that she was his younger cousin, it became all the more natural for him to do so.

When had those changes in his feelings for her suddenly changed?

He couldn't quite recall anymore.

All he knew was that in his family where everyone was a big boss, Mia was the one who cared for him the most.

Yet, in spite of that, the two of them were not allowed to be together.

Chapter 1054: Welcome Home

Joel and Nora were recognized as siblings in the eyes of the law, but in terms of blood relations, they were actually cousins. Although this meant that Peter and Mia were already a generation apart in blood relations, they were ultimately still second cousins. Therefore, they still couldn't be together.

He knew that his parents didn't care about such things. If he and Mia made up their minds to be together, even if they didn't hold the actual wedding itself, his parents would still give them their blessings.

However, he knew that Mia loved kids, and people in consanguineous marriages easily produced children with deformities.

In that case, he'd rather suppress his feelings than end up causing Mia to regret her decision in the future.

She was only fifteen; she still had many more years ahead of her. Peter didn't want to hold her back and cause her to have to pay for her folly in her youth after she grew up.

As the group chatted, Nora answered a phone call.

The caller was from the UK. There was faint anger in the Queen's voice as she said, "Now Black Cat, that's not quite nice of you. How can you snatch away all of our researchers?!"

Nora answered calmly, "... We didn't 'snatch' them away—they came with me of their own accord."

"..."

The Queen was well aware of this, of course, but no way was she going to admit to it.

She scoffed and said in a stuck-up manner, "You made me a laughingstock by snatching them away! No, I won't take this lying down. You have to compensate me for my losses!"

By saying that, she was actually indirectly giving them the green light to leave.

Of course, even if she didn't, Nora wouldn't lack ways and means to take the researchers home, either. However, if she did, their journey home would certainly be a lot smoother.

"What kind of compensation do you want?" She asked.

"How about this? Have Alexander come over and keep Lucy company."

The little princess was extremely fond of Cherry and often flew over to the United States to visit since she was little. The Queen had always turned a blind eye to her actions because she thought that it would be nice if her daughter had a close friend.

She had only brought up Alexander because she knew that Peter would be going home to take over the Hunts' businesses. However, this meant that Alexander was free, wasn't he? That was why she wanted him to keep her daughter company. Maybe she would have a chance of luring him to stay in the UK with the title of an earl or something in the future, who knows...?

The more the Queen thought about it, the more she found it a good deal.

After all, Alexander was the next King of the Imperial League!

It would be fantastic if she could get him to stay in the UK!

The Queen asked, "Isn't he studying overseas right now? Have him come over and tutor Lucy a little and see if he can make her a star student. I'm not asking for too much, am I?"

"Not at all."

Nora didn't show the least bit of hesitation in selling her son out. However, she did set a condition. "But this means that you'll give our organization the green light whenever we save people from the UK in the future, right?"

The Queen: "!!!"

"How many more are you planning to save?!"

Nora said, "Everyone who wants to go back to their homeland."

The Queen was furious. "Don't push your luck, Nora!"

Nora coughed and said, "I'm not pushing it that badly, am I? Well, if you're not agreeable to it, then never mind."

Even if the Queen didn't give the green light, she would still be able to save the researchers anymore. Things would be a bit more troublesome and take up more of her sleep time, that's all.

The Queen: "..."

The lip corners of the Queen, who could tell the underlying meaning of her words, couldn't help but spasm a little.

A moment later, through gritted teeth, she finally said, "Fine, I agree to your condition! Have Alexander come over immediately!"

Then, she asked, "How's Justin doing lately?"

When the Queen had first realized that Nora was Black Cat, she felt troubled and was caught in a dilemma for a while. But after that, she decided to accept reality—after all, she had already come to see Black Cat as a close friend.

She had even poured out a lot of her secret woes to Black Cat previously, so she couldn't bear to suddenly lose her friend.

Therefore, from that point onward, she always went through Nora whenever she wanted to contact Justin.

The Queen had been in love with Justin and pestered him before, after all, so she decided to maintain a respectable distance from him.

Nora was very pleased with this.

Thus, whenever she asked after Justin during their chat, she didn't mind letting him speak with the Queen. She handed the cell phone to Justin.

"Hello?" Justin said.

"Hello, Justin. How have you been?"

"I'm doing pretty well. Still as loving a couple with my wife as always; no arguments whatsoever."

"..."

"Do you need anything else? Or do you want to hear about what we have been up to lately?"

"... Beep... beep... beep..."

Did he think that the Queen didn't have a temper or what? Who would want to listen to him show off how loving a couple he was with his wife?!

Justin raised his brows and returned the cell phone to Nora. Then, he asked, "Can you bear to part with Xander, though?"

"No," Nora answered, "But it's not certain who's ultimately going to go home with who just yet!"

Surprised, Justin asked, “What do you mean?”

“Well, Lucy’s pretty cute. Since her elder sister will be inheriting the throne, there’s not much point in her staying in the UK. She might as well come to the States, then.”

Justin: “????”

—

A few days later, the submarine finally arrived at a coastal area in the United States.

When the submarine emerged from the sea and docked, Morris’ men, whom Nora had contacted beforehand, were already waiting for them onshore. They would be escorting the researchers back to their hometowns.

United with their families, the researchers turned their heads back and gave Nora looks of gratitude.

“Any words for them, Mom?” Peter asked.

Nora: “?”

After a moment’s thought, she straightened her expression and only said one line: “Welcome home.”

Chapter 1055: You Care For Me the Most

Nora didn’t just stop at saving the researchers; she also told Peter to spread a piece of news:

Should people find themselves in similar situations abroad, they could approach Karl’s security agency for help to go back home. They would help to pick them up and send them home.

Peter did a great job at the task.

He was extremely popular among the international students, after all.

Now that Peter was back, he didn’t plan on leaving the country anymore. Instead, he took over the Hunt Corporation.

On the day that he officially became the head of the Hunt Corporation, his family held a handover ceremony at home. As a show of support, the Smiths all came over as well.

Ian could now walk by himself and didn't have to rely on a wheelchair anymore. With a walking stick in hand, he patted Peter on the shoulder and said, "You're even more capable than Grandpa! Back then, Grandpa only managed to take over the company in his twenties!"

Next to them, Alexander said jokingly, "He's so envious of you, though."

A smiling Ian asked, "Why?"

"Because you have such awesome grandchildren! And three of them at that!"

Ian: "..."

Peter: "..."

The lad had not only praised Peter but also himself. What a cocky little narcissist he was!

Peter looked at him with a smile. "You're heading to the UK tomorrow, right?"

"Yeah. What about it? Are you gonna miss me? Come on, we're brothers. Don't be a sissy and go crying your eyes out now!"

Alexander said dismissively.

"... I just wanted to tell you to bring that person home soon," replied Peter.

"That person? Who?"

Alexander was perplexed.

A mysterious smile graced Peter's lips and he said, "Nah, it's nothing important."

He mustn't give away his mom's intentions so casually.

Seeing his reaction, Alexander rolled his eyes and said, "Ugh, you're being cryptic again."

After saying that, he turned his head to the side, where he saw Mia dozing on the sofa beside them. He couldn't help but nod in her direction at Peter. Then, he walked over. Just as he was about to play a prank on Mia from the back, Peter caught hold of his outstretched arm.

"What are you doing?" asked Alexander.

Peter replied, "She hasn't been getting enough sleep because she's doing a lot of practice papers every day. Now that she can finally relax a little tonight, you shouldn't disturb her."

"I just wanted to tease her a little. What are you being so protective for?" Alexander said.

Protective?

Peter coughed and said, "Don't talk nonsense. Isn't she your younger cousin too?"

Alexander pursed his lips and said, "She is, but she's always been weak and frail since she was little, so she's really boring and no fun at all."

"... Lucy isn't," said Peter.

That little princess had been as strong and healthy as Cherry since she was little!

Alexander grinned and said, "I know. Wait for it; once I go over, I'm going to bully her."

Peter: "?"

Alexander raised his brows and said, "Once I bully her and make her cry, she'll go whining to the Queen. And once she does, the Queen will release me immediately, no?"

"..."

Peter gave him a smile that screamed "Good luck, pal".

However, Alexander, who didn't get it, turned and left instead.

After he left, Peter got ready to leave too. But just as he did, he noticed Mia's lashes quivering, which surprised him a little.

Since their return to the country, both of them had been in New York the whole time. However, Mia hadn't approached him even once. Even when the two families met for meals, she would always use the excuse of studying to skip the gatherings.

This was their first time meeting since their return.

"Are you awake?" He asked.

Mia opened her eyes. Suddenly, she lowered her head and asked, "Am I useless, Pete?"

Peter immediately understood what she was saying.

During the operation last time, she hadn't been able to help with anything at all. From the start to the end, all she did was escape obediently. This made Mia feel horribly disheartened.

She felt like she was an utter failure who was completely useless, and she felt like she wasn't worthy of liking Pete at all.

That was why she didn't even dare to bring herself to meet him recently.

On top of that, she was even harboring those feelings for him...

Mia was close to driving herself mad.

The more she tried to curb her feelings, the more she couldn't help but think of Peter.

It was to the extent that her heart would subconsciously start pounding a little faster whenever she heard his name...

Yet when she saw him, she couldn't help but be filled with trepidation and panic.

Just as her imagination was running wild, Peter slowly squatted down in front of her. He suddenly said, "Did you know, Mia? You actually played the key role in the incident the last time."

Mia was taken aback. "How so?"

Peter smiled and answered, "Only sending you the message would give me the biggest peace of mind—because I know that you will definitely pester Mom and Dad to save me."

In this world, you are the one who cares about everything I do the most.

It wasn't so much that his parents didn't care about him.

However, more so than that, they trusted in his capabilities, so they no longer spoiled him as much as they had when he was a child. Sometimes, what his parents wanted more was to train him and let him solve the problem on his own.

Moreover, his parents were already half-retired. It was Peter's personal desire to help the researchers leave, and he hadn't informed them about the situation beforehand, either. Furthermore, he had even been under the watchful eye of the security officers during the emergency. This had prevented him from filling in his parents about the situation. As a result, he could only use the secret code that he had established with Mia.

If he had hinted at the situation to his parents instead, they definitely wouldn't have reacted as anxiously as Mia—after all, the two of them knew what he was capable of all too well.

Mia bit her lip as she listened to Peter. Then, she gave him a smile.

Seeing that she had thought things through, Peter breathed a sigh of relief.

The two of them were only fifteen this year. Neither of them could say for sure how long their budding feelings during their adolescence would last in the face of reality. Therefore, neither of them was going to reveal anything at this point, either.

In fact, Peter had even thought that perhaps Mia would find a boyfriend after she grew up.

After chatting a little, the two separated.

Mia went to Tanya.

When she went over, Tanya was rather surprised. Her daughter had been down in the dumps since she returned from overseas a few days ago, but now it seemed that she had thought things through!

Amid everyone's well wishes and congratulations, Peter officially took over as the head of the Hunt Corporation.

There were quite a lot of guests today—after all, all of them had to show Peter their support.

Brenda was also here.

As always, the woman was clad in a red dress, making her a charming and alluring sight. People couldn't take their eyes off her at all.

Nora and Justin were currently surrounded by the latter's third uncle and his wife, who were also Brenda's parents.

Their daughter had been putting off marriage forever, making them terribly anxious. Didn't she know that they were looking forward to grandkids?!

"Hey, Nora. You're her sister-in-law, so I'm sure she'll listen to you if you talk to her. She's already thirty; if she continues to put off marriage, she won't be able to find a good man anymore!"

Brenda's mother dabbed at her eyes.

Brenda's father was also very troubled. "Wasn't that young hacker guy from some time back pretty nice? Why did they break up...? Also, I heard he's still single!"

Brenda's mother nodded. "I also heard that Solo is an orphan. He's pretty much all ready to be our son-in-law. Where are you going to find someone better than him?"

Nora: "..."

She also wanted to know why Solo and Brenda had broken up. Even though Solo had been persistently trying to court Brenda, the woman simply wouldn't stop hiding from him!

She thought for a moment and then said, "Alright, I'll talk to her when I have the time."

"Okay."

Brenda's mother didn't pester her any further.

Out of all the Hunts, she understood the best just how infamous Nora was for her indolence. She was reluctant to take on any kind of responsibilities and would rather spend that time sleeping instead.

Also, she never made promises to anyone easily.

Now that she had given her word that she would talk to Brenda, this meant that she would definitely try to help.

As for Nora herself, she also felt that it was about time she did something.

Before this, she hadn't wanted to interfere with Brenda and Solo's relationship because, for one, she felt that they were already adults—it wasn't like they were kids like Cherry and Pete—and everyone had the right to choose how they wanted to spend their lives. For another, the two of them might not want her to interfere, either.

But now, with Solo unable to improve the situation, as Brenda's sister-in-law, she had no choice but to do something.

She sighed silently.

When was trouble ever going to stop?

This was no doubt going to keep her from her beauty sleep again!

Both the host and the guests enjoyed themselves at the party. Soon, the party ended. As the host, Peter went to see the guests out while Nora and Justin slacked off behind the scenes.

Nora kept observing Brenda.

Solo was out on a mission today, so he hadn't attended the party. Though Brenda had a smile on, there was some forlornness in her eyes.

At this point, her cell phone rang.

She looked at it and hurriedly answered the phone call. The caller said something, upon which Brenda immediately replied, "Okay, I'm on my way."

Then, she hurriedly left.

Nora looked at her and then exchanged a look with Justin.

Both of them knew that the reason for Brenda's rejection of Solo probably lay right in this phone call.

They followed after her immediately.

Chapter 1057: Brenda Has a Secret Lover?

Brenda got into her car immediately after she left. The way she looked like she was in a huge hurry made her seem somewhat anxious, and she didn't notice that Nora and Justin were behind her.

Nora followed behind her in a car.

After some time, they arrived at a villa on the outskirts of New York.

Brenda stopped the car, got out, and started walking toward the villa. However, she had only taken a couple of steps when she stopped and returned to the car.

By the time she came out of the car again, she had already changed into another set of clothes.

The red gown was now a black dress, turning her from a vibrant and gorgeous woman into a dignified and self-composed one.

Her actions confused Nora. Brenda had even beaten red lights just to race all the way here, so why did she change her clothes after she arrived?

Also, what was this place?

After Brenda entered the villa, Justin finally said, "This is her villa."

Nora: "?"

Did this mean that Brenda had really found another man? Was she even keeping her secret lover here?

She broke into a frown.

To avoid disturbing Brenda, the two waited outside quietly.

After a good four to five hours—Nora even managed to take a nap during this time—Brenda finally came out of the villa in a different black dress. Her hair was damp, and it was obvious that she had just taken a bath.

Brenda got into her car and left.

Just as Nora and Justin were about to get out of their car and approach the villa to have a look around and see who exactly the villa was housing, a skinny figure suddenly rushed over to the villa.

It was... Solo?

So, apart from them, Solo was tailing Brenda, too?

Solo had an awful look on his countenance. He stared hard at the door of the villa, seemingly never having even considered the possibility that Brenda was keeping a lover here.

He then thought of how Brenda had come out of the villa looking like she had just taken a bath. On top of that, her cheeks were even rosy. It was obvious that she'd just done some exercise.

And she even changed her clothes...

No matter how he looked at it, it was the complete picture of someone committing adultery!

The corners of Nora's lips spasmed a little, and she finally got out of the car and walked up to Solo.

At the sound of footsteps coming from behind, Solo turned around. When he saw Nora, his eyes immediately reddened as though he had just seen someone whom he could depend on. He said, "Say, Anti, just what exactly am I doing wrong? Why is Brenny doing this to me?"

Nora: "..."

But before she could even say anything, Solo lost it. He said, "I don't believe this is happening. My eyes must be playing tricks on me. The woman who went in isn't Brenny, right? Although she makes dirty jokes all the time, she's actually never been a promiscuous woman. I was her first man, as well as her only one... She would never cast me aside!"

Solo clenched his fists.

"... Actually, you don't have to be like this. If you want to know what's going on, why don't you just knock on the door?"

Solo: "!!"

He knew that the truth would present itself before him the instant he knocked, of course. The problem was—he didn't dare to.

He was afraid that his guess would turn into reality.

He could never accept it if that happened—because after Brenda started ignoring him, he had thought of every possible reason under the sun except this one!

He trusted Brenda...

While he was in a dilemma, Nora went straight up to the door and pressed the doorbell.

Solo: "..."

Solo was also scared that he wanted to turn and flee, but a moment later, he heard a woman's voice coming from the door. "Who is it?"

Then, the door opened.

A middle-aged lady who looked to be in her fifties or sixties stood at the door and looked at them in trepidation. "Who are you looking for?"

Solo heaved a sigh of relief.

However, the next instant, he heard the middle-aged lady ask, "Are you looking for my son? He's already asleep..."

Her son...

Solo's mind instantly went blank.

So, Brenda was not only keeping a pretty boy secret lover but also taking care of his entire family?!

While he was lost in thought, Nora asked, “Oh, I saw Brenda leave this villa just now. May I know how she is related to your son?”

Solo tensed up at once and looked at the middle-aged lady nervously.

The lady smiled and answered, “Oh, Brenda? She’s my daughter-in-law!”

“ ... ”

“Daughter-in-law” ... and “My son is already asleep” ...

The combination of these words immediately turned Solo as pale as a sheet!

Was Brenda already ... married to someone else?

Chapter 1058: He’s Still Alive?!

Solo felt as if his mind had gone completely blank, and he felt a little unsteady on his feet.

He turned away in shock, not quite sure who or where he should be looking, or what he should do at this moment.

After a brief silence, Nora asked, “What’s your son’s name?”

The lady answered, “Oh, my son? He’s a really tall and handsome chap! His name is Marcus, and he’s a police officer. Do you guys know each other?”

Marcus?

Though Nora was puzzled, she did find the name somewhat familiar.

In contrast, it was Solo who suddenly understood what was going on. He stared at the lady in front of him in disbelief and then suddenly took a step back, his face turning even paler than before.

Nora, who detected his unusual reaction, looked at the lady again and asked, “Ma’am, has your son been staying here all along?”

“Yeah!” The lady smiled and said, “Shh, keep it down, my son is asleep. If you’re looking for my daughter-in-law, how about I give her a phone call for you?”

Nora nodded.

The lady then closed the door.

Nora looked at Solo, who explained, “Marcus... He is Brenda’s comrade who died protecting her back then, but isn’t he dead?”

Nora’s eyes narrowed at Solo’s words.

No wonder she had found his name so familiar just now. She’d heard about Brenda’s past where Solo had, due to a freak combination of factors, accidentally caused Marcus to die while saving Brenda.

This was also why it had been impossible between Solo and Brenda back then.

Later, Solo had made countless attempts to redeem himself, which ultimately made Brenda relent and change her mind. The pair had been about to get engaged when Brenda suddenly started to reject him again and insisted on breaking off the engagement...

So, had all that been because of Marcus’ return?

Nora looked at the villa again. Suddenly, the voice of the middle-aged lady from earlier reached their ears. “Oh, you’re awake, son?”

“Yeah. Who’s outside, Mom?” The other party’s voice belonged to a man.

“I don’t know, just a few passers-by. They are probably your wife’s friends. By the way, when are the two of you going to have kids? I can’t wait to have grandkids!”

“Well... it’s no hurry! Aren’t we already trying our best?”

“ ... ”

The rest of the conversation was too soft to be audible; it was likely that they had gone into another room.

Solo turned even paler. For a moment, he didn’t know whether he should feel guilty or scared.

Was it possible for the dead to come back to life?

Or... had Marcus been alive all along?

But Marcus had died in an explosion while trying to save Brenda, and his body had even been laid to rest. How could he possibly still be alive?

Nora and Justin exchanged a look.

Justin was currently tapping away on his cell phone. After a while, he passed the phone to her. During that short while, Justin had already hacked into the government network and was checking the information in the police system.

Marcus' status was verified as deceased.

Solo was still lost in thought. Nora looked at him and said, "Rather than puzzling over it here, let's just ask the person involved and find out what exactly is going on."

Since they were unsure about the situation with the man inside the villa, they couldn't possibly force their way in. Their only option now was to contact Brenda.

Nora called Brenda, who answered right away.

She sounded rather tired. "Hi, Nora. What's up?"

Nora asked, "What on earth is going on with Marcus?"

Brenda fell silent.

Nora looked at the villa. "We're outside the villa right now. If you don't explain what's going on, I can't promise you that Solo won't force his way in."

The moment she said that, Brenda immediately panicked and said, "Don't! I... I'll come back right away... no, wait, let's meet at the café at the entrance of the neighborhood instead."

"Okay."

After hanging up, Nora and Justin took the despondent Solo with them and went to the café.

As soon as they entered, they saw Brenda racing over in the car. She entered the café immediately after she parked.

Solo had already gotten up from his seat and was looking at her in shock. "What on earth is going on, Brenny? Is Marcus still alive?!"

A hesitant look formed in Brenda's eyes when she saw Solo.

A moment later, she lowered her gaze and suddenly said, "Come with me, guys."

Then, she headed straight toward the villa.

The group followed after her. Brenda took out a card key, swiped it at the entrance, and opened the door.

When Nora and the others saw how well she knew her way around the house, they couldn't help but exchange a look with one another. From the looks of it, Brenda often came over. It was likely she treated the villa as her home.

After Brenda entered, the middle-aged lady from earlier appeared. When she saw Brenda and the people behind her, she smiled and said, "You're back, Brenda? They must be your friends. Here, make yourselves at home! I'll get you guys some coffee."

Without giving them a chance to refuse, she went into the kitchen and began to boil some water.

Brenda pointed to the sofa and gestured for them to have a seat.

Then, she entered the kitchen and said, "Let me do it, Mom."

Solo's heart sank.

Brenda had called her "Mom"...

And she had even been so natural when she did it.

He clenched his fists.

However, the lady frowned and said, "Shoo, shoo. Go and keep the guests company instead. Mom can handle all these just fine."

She ushered Brenda out of the kitchen and then said with a smile, "I'll go up and wake Marcus. How can he continue sleeping when there are guests in the house? Geez! I'll get him to go get some nice little snacks or something!"

Brenda's expression turned a little nervous.

However, she didn't say anything. The lady then went up the stairs and pushed the door to the master bedroom open. She called out, "Hey, Marcus! Go out and get some snacks! We have guests in the house!"

A man's voice was then heard coming from the second floor. "Alright, Mom."

The lady then came back down and continued making coffee.

When Solo heard the voice from the upper floor, his expression turned even more awful. Moreover, it sounded like the voice had come from the master bedroom...

Solo got onto his feet to charge upstairs.

His fists clenched again and again, but he ultimately forced himself to resist the urge.

He didn't want to make things difficult for Brenda.

If Brenda really was already married, he didn't want to break up her family.

As though all the strength in him had suddenly left him, he sat back down on the sofa.

At this point, the lady had finished making the coffee and brought it over. She said, "You guys are Brenda's friends, right? You should talk some sense into her... She's already in her thirties. It's about time she considers having kids..."

Solo lowered his gaze.

At this point, the lady suddenly looked at the stairs and got up. "Why isn't Marcus here yet? I'll get him."

She then went up the stairs again.

However, a short while later, she suddenly screamed.

Brenda rushed up the stairs anxiously.

Nora and Justin followed closely behind her.

Solo was the only one who stayed where he was. However, after hesitating for a moment, he still decided to follow them upstairs.

When Nora arrived on the upper floor, she noticed that the door to the master bedroom was ajar. The lady's voice could be heard coming from within. "Marcus? Marcus! What happened?! Quick, get the doctor here!"

Nora rushed into the room immediately.

She was a doctor and could save the patient in times of emergency.

But when she went in, she saw the lady collapsed on the floor. Brenda was squatting beside her and pulling her arm. "Mom, it's okay, it's okay. Marcus is fine..."

"No, he's not! Doctor, doctor!"

The lady screamed.

Nora quickly stepped forward and said calmly, "I'm a doctor. What's wrong?"

As soon as she heard Nora, the lady grabbed her hand and said, "Please, save my son! Save my son!"

Nora's gaze followed the direction where she was pointing and looked at the bed.

The lady screamed, "Why isn't my son waking up? Why isn't he getting up?!"

Nora's expression instantly changed.

There was nobody on the bed at all.

Chapter 1060: So That's What Had Happened

Surprised, she looked at Brenda, who shook her head at her and then continued to comfort the middle-aged lady. She said, "Mom, why don't you go outside first? I'll wake him up. Don't worry, everything is okay..."

"What do you mean everything is okay?! Something must have happened! I'm not blind! Tell me, what exactly is going on with Marcus?!"

The lady gripped Brenda's hands tightly, her emotions gradually changing. She demanded, "Tell me, did you guys have an argument? Or is it because you're unwilling to have children with my son? Is that why he became like this? Brenda, how can you reject having children with him? You're too much!"

After speaking, she immediately started hitting and kicking Brenda!

Brenda held her tightly, not at all bothered even when the lady hit her a few times. It was Nora who couldn't stand to watch her actions any longer that knocked the lady out with a karate chop to the neck. Only then did the commotion stop.

The huge skirmish had already made Brenda all out of breath, and even her clothes and hair were in a total mess. She sighed and said, "I'll go take another bath."

Nora nodded.

After giving the lady some medicine to calm her down, she left the room.

The trio waited for Brenda downstairs.

After the incident just now, Solo had understood something. “So, she had taken a bath earlier because of this? It wasn’t because she was married!”

He paced back and forth as he said, “What on earth is going on, though? Why does she think that Marcus is alive? And who is that man who was talking in the room?”

While the trio was thinking, Brenda came down the stairs.

She toweled her damp hair and collapsed onto the sofa. She was so exhausted that she was close to collapsing.

The others didn’t urge her to hurry.

After Brenda caught her breath, she finally sighed and said, “That’s an AI system.”

“What?”

Solo was taken aback.

Brenda tossed a pair of spectacles to him and gestured for him to put them on. The moment Solo did, a figure appeared in front of him, giving Solo such a huge shock that he couldn’t help but take a step back.

In his vision, Marcus moved somewhat stiffly and unnaturally.

The figure said, “Hi, friend!”

It was Marcus’ voice.

Brenda rubbed her temples. “Marcus’ mom has been denying the fact that Marcus is already dead. I don’t know who tricked her, but they inserted a chip into her eyes that allowed her to see and even talk to Marcus. Her mental health is terrible, and we are not allowed to say that Marcus has already passed away... The chip isn’t very stable, though, and ‘Marcus’ would sometimes freeze and stop moving. When that happens, she panics and calls me. I was here just now to calm her down and reboot the system.”

Solo asked, “Then she was referring to you as her daughter-in-law because...?”

Brenda sighed and answered, “In her eyes, Marcus and I are married. That’s why she keeps calling me her daughter-in-law... She has also been dying for a grandchild.”

Brenda lowered her head.

However, Solo understood what was going on. He stepped forward and held Brenda’s hands. “So, this is why you’ve been rejecting me?”

Brenda nodded.

Solo, however, was close to tears. He said, "But I don't mind at all! I can support her and keep her company with you! I can even treat her like she's my mom!"

Brenda gave him a wry smile and said, "And then? What kind of identity are you going to use to stay by her side?"

Her question stumped Solo.

Brenda lowered her head and said, "I've never considered marriage at all in the past anyway, so let's just keep things this way. I'm pretty okay with how things stand now."

She then pointed at the door and added, "You can leave now. Don't ever look for me again."