

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 1521

Chapter 1521 A Misunderstanding

Shortly after, Dylan's men arrived and intimidated the assassin. As the latter was scurrying away, he bumped into Aaron, who rushed to the scene. Unfortunately, Aaron did not know that the man he ran into was the killer and missed the golden opportunity to get rid of him. In the end, the assassin escaped unscathed.

“Mission accomplished.” Upon leaving the crime scene for a distance, he dialed a number and hung up seconds later. In no time, a message popped up on his phone screen stating that a large sum had been credited into his account. With that, the assassin chucked his phone aside and sped off.

“Sannie...” Cold sweat broke out from Vinson's palms as he gazed at the pool of blood on the passenger seat and said in a trembling voice, “Don't be afraid. I'm taking you to the hospital now...”

“Don't worry.” Seeing that Vinson's eyes glistened with tears, Arielle stroked his face and comforted him, “I'm all right.”

He grabbed her hands and tried his best to stay composed. “Say no more... Reserve your energy.”

“Mr. Knightley, please come into our car. It can reach the hospital faster,” a man of Dylan's age approached Vinson and suggested.

Vinson knew that the man was sent by his father-in-law. Hence, he nodded in agreement before he carried Arielle and placed her in the backseat. At that moment, Aaron caught a glimpse of the scene when he got out of his car.

He hurried over and was shocked to see the crimson stain covering Arielle. At that instant, he felt like his heart was torn apart. He widened his eyes in disbelief and glared at Vinson angrily. “Did you even protect her?”

When Arielle saw how distressed Aaron was, she stammered with difficulty, “Don’t... get mad... at... him. He’s...” He’s your brother-in-law. However, she could not bring herself to finish the sentence.

How can she still cover up for him at this time? Aaron dropped the topic despite feeling displeased and downright furious.

“Prince Aaron, we’ve got to hurry to the hospital.” In other words, the middle-aged man was urging him not to waste any more time.

Aaron hurriedly retreated, and the car zoomed past him. Thereafter, he went to get his car and followed behind them.

Arielle had already gone into a coma when the people from the army were rushing her to the military hospital. Upon arrival, she was wheeled into the operation theater at once.

When Dylan got the news, he hesitated for a while before instructing his chauffeur to drive him to the hospital.

The moment he got to the military hospital, he saw Vinson sitting alone, devastated. His body was drenched in blood.

“Father, why are you here?” Aaron walked up to him and asked.

Without warning, Dylan slapped his son hard on the face.

“Didn’t I ask you to protect her? Why did she get injured? If anything bad happens to her, I’ll cut off all ties with you,” he spat the words out through his gritted teeth as he glowered at Aaron.

Aaron gaped in tremendous shock.

He could not believe a single word his father had just spoken to him, and neither could he accept the latter's radical reaction.

No matter how fond he is of Arielle, it's still absurd for him to break his relationship with me, his son, because of her!

“Father, she's just a doctor. Is this outrageous response necessary?” Disappointed, Aaron looked at his father with a pair of reddened eyes.

Why does he value Arielle so much? Does he have feelings for her?

As Dylan stared at the frustrated Aaron whose eyes had reddened, he fell silent.

What can I say?

“Father, you have fallen for Arielle, haven't you?” Aaron blurted. He could not stand the long silence anymore.

“What nonsense!” Dylan was fuming when he heard the speculation his son uttered. However, Aaron pressed on, “Then, what is it? Why must you sever relations with me because of one woman?”

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Chapter 1522 Brother And Sister

While Aaron aggressively demanded an answer, Dylan shut his eyes, unsure how he should respond to his son's relentless bombardment of difficult questions.

“Say it! Why—”

“That's because she's your stepsister! Your sister from another mother!”

Aaron's unfinished question died on his lips when he heard the answer.

Stunned, he stared blankly at his father. “What... What did you say?”

He was completely baffled. This is preposterous. How is that possible?

“Aaron, Arielle is your sister from a different mother. She's the child born to me by my beloved woman,” Dylan explained again with a frown, but his eyes never left Aaron's.

Actually, he had long wanted to tell Aaron about it but was deterred by the fact that his son might not be able to accept it. Hence, he was hoping to delay it until his relationship with Arielle improved. It had never once crossed his mind that the secret would come to light under such circumstances.

“No way! This is impossible!” Aaron paled at his words. He felt his world turned upside down as though he had fallen into a dark abyss, and his life was coming to an end soon. Utter despair and dejection washed over him, making his head throb continuously.

An instant heartache overcame Aaron.

The reality that was just relayed to him was far worse than discovering his own father developing feelings for Arielle.

How could Arielle be my sister? How ridiculous!

“This is true,” Dylan emphasized it once more, knowing that Aaron did not believe him the first time.

“They are all lies! I don’t believe you. Don’t you try to fool me!” Aaron responded dismissively before he went berserk and ran away.

Watching his back as he left, Dylan could not comprehend Aaron’s huge reaction. Isn’t it a wonderful thing to have an elder sister? There’s an additional person to love him henceforth. Why can’t he accept the fact that he has a sister?

Aaron felt so hopeless at that moment, like a stranded beast having no way to escape the grim truth of life. It had never once occurred to him that the only woman whom he wanted to pursue so badly was his stepsister. This is a joke. Why did this have to happen to me?

He sat in his car and buried his face in his palms, crying profusely. Tears kept streaming down from his eyes before they seeped between his fingers and flowed down to the floor.

“No way. This can’t be so. You’re definitely not my sister...” he bellowed as he drove out of the hospital at full speed.

He kept accelerating as if that was the only way to relieve his dissatisfaction, fury, and heart-wrenching despair that surged from the bottom of his heart.

Meanwhile, Dylan withdrew his gaze and walked toward Vinson, only to realize that Vinson’s arm was wounded. He tapped the latter’s shoulder and said in a low voice, “You’ve been shot on your arm. Let the doctor perform surgery and take the bullet out for you.”

After all, there were other operating theaters and emergency rooms available at the military hospital.

Upon hearing Dylan's words of concern, Vinson teared up again. "I'm sorry, Dad, for not taking good care of Sannie."

Although Dylan was mad at him for failing his husband duties, he could not reproach Vinson when he saw the gunshot wounds on the latter's arm.

Instead, he said, "You've done very well."

Judging from their injuries, Dylan could roughly imagine how dangerous the situation was at that time. Vinson had to drive and protect Arielle while dodging the bullets for her. Dylan could not complain, considering that Vinson had reduced the possible damage to its minimum.

Then, he beckoned a doctor to take Vinson to the operating theater. However, the latter was adamant that he was not going to move an inch until Arielle's surgery was completed successfully.

Dylan had no choice but to let him be.

He gazed at the door, fretting and wondering how Arielle's condition was.

Suddenly, the piercing ringing of his phone broke the silence. Dylan scanned the screen and answered the call. "What? What... did you just say?" He staggered a few steps back.

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Chapter 1523 Falling Off A Cliff

“Your Majesty, we’ve just received a call from the traffic police reporting that Prince Aaron lost control of his car while speeding and fell off a cliff. We’re unsure if he survived,” Sybil said in between sobs over the phone.

“Send more people to search for him. I don’t care if he’s alive or dead; I want him back,” instructed Dylan as he tried to hold himself together.

The torrent of grief overwhelmed him, laying him to waste. He had never expected that something so tragic would happen.

Fallen off a cliff? Is there even hope for him to come out alive? Had I known that he would not be able to accept Arielle as his stepsister, I would have sealed my lips forever and brought the secret with me to my grave.

“Dad, what’s going on?” Vinson overheard his conversation and approached him at once.

Dylan’s face looked so weary that it seemed like he had aged several years in an instant. With a heavy heart, he uttered, “Aaron fell off a cliff. We’re not sure whether he’s alive or dead...”

Vinson was dumbfounded as he did not know that the hurtful truth would impact Aaron so severely.

“Please stay here for Sannie. I’ll go help look for him,” Vinson said without a second thought.

Regardless of all the unhappy incidents that had happened between them, Aaron remained his brother-in-law, the biological brother of Arielle. As his closest kin, Vinson could not sit and wait, doing nothing.

However, Dylan stretched out his arm and blocked him. How can I let him go on a search for Aaron when Arielle is still battling her fate in the operating theater? Moreover, he still carries a bullet in his arm!

“No need.” Dylan waved dismissively. “I’ve sent my people to do so. You should stay here and watch over Sannie.”

Since Vinson was not able to persuade Dylan, he suggested Dylan go home instead and leave Arielle to him. He did that so that Dylan could wait for news about Aaron in the comfort of his own home. Additionally, he also promised to update Dylan by phone as soon as Arielle’s surgery ended.

Dylan was in a tight spot, worrying about both his son and daughter.

“Dad, I’ll be here for Sannie.”

Hearing that, Dylan acquiesced to Vinson’s decision, for he was extremely distressed about what had befallen Aaron.

Meanwhile, the queen mother and Celeste, the Queen of Turlen, received the sad news about Aaron.

Celeste fainted upon hearing that Aaron was possibly dead. Seeing that, Miranda quickly pinched her philtrum. Shortly after, Celeste returned to consciousness.

“Miranda, did I hear it wrongly? Aaron is fine, right?”

“Your Majesty...” Miranda was unable to continue, choking on her tears.

“How could it be? How could this happen to him?” Celeste wept.

At that moment, all of the past memories flooded her mind. Celeste was very regretful of the way she had treated Aaron over the years.

I shouldn't have channeled my hatred and anger toward Dylan to Aaron. My son was still so young, and he was such a well-mannered and thoughtful boy, but I... Celeste broke down in tears when she recalled the past.

Miranda consoled her, "Your Majesty, it's all in the past now. I'm sure His Royal Highness didn't take it to heart. You've got to be strong, Your Majesty. There's still hope that His Royal Highness is alive. What we ought to do now is to be hopeful and send more help to search for him."

"Is that so?" Celeste's mind was blank.

"Yes!" Miranda affirmed confidently, "I strongly believe that His Royal Highness is somewhere waiting for us to rescue him. Please stay strong, Your Majesty."

Celeste wiped the tears off her face. "Yes, you're right. My son is surely waiting for me to save him. I must go and save him."

Subsequently, she whipped out her phone and made a call.

Right then, the queen mother was rather disturbed. Arielle was sent for treatment at the military hospital? The doctors there are a league above those in other hospitals. At this rate, the chances of her recovering are quite high. Why didn't the person inform me about this?

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Chapter 1524 Falling In Love With His Sister

Though the queen mother was upset that the person did not update her about Arielle being sent to the military hospital, she did not call him up to ask for an explanation. At that time, what mattered to her the most was Aaron's safety. Upon investigating, she found out that Aaron was met with a mishap after speeding off from the military hospital.

Why was he driving so fast?

Suddenly, she recalled Dylan making a trip to the hospital too. Then, a thought flashed across her mind. Did a fight break out between the father and son duo because of Arielle? And Dylan won?

The queen mother became furious at her own assumption.

This is unacceptable! The father fell for his own daughter, whereas the younger brother developed feelings for his sister!

She was dying to expose Arielle as Dylan's daughter, but she could not afford the possible consequences.

After all, Maureen's death was... Hmm. It seems to me that there's only one way to end this mess completely, which is to... She narrowed her eyes as malicious intent brewed in her head.

Meanwhile, at the palace, Dylan hit the ceiling whenever he thought of Arielle's assassination attempt. Enraged by it, he called his subordinates to probe into the matter.

This isn't the first time she's been attacked. Who on earth wants her dead? Her identity here in Turlen is a doctor, who educates and shares her medical knowledge with others. I doubt she has stepped on anybody's toes. Why is someone targeting her? Could it be that they don't want her to teach in Turlen? But why wouldn't they want her to do that here? Her presence here in this country is a blessing to the medical industry. She's helping to improve the local medical standards. Why would people want to get rid of her?

A confused look crept up on Dylan's face.

Back at the military hospital, Arielle was finally out of the operating theater and sent into the ICU ward. Vinson's expression clouded over while he was in deep thought. They are placing her in the ICU ward. Does it mean that she's not out of the woods yet? Is she so severely injured that she's still battling immediate danger?

"Doctor, may I know where Dr. Moore's wounds are?" Vinson consulted Arielle's attending doctor. He realized that he was worried about her injury all this while without knowing exactly where she was shot.

The doctor got all worked up when he found out that the patient he was attending to was the famous Dr. Moore, who came to Turlen to teach medicine. Instantly, his expression turned serious.

Judging from how disheveled Vinson looked after staying up the entire night, the doctor assumed that he was someone close to Arielle. "The patient was shot twice; one bullet hit her lungs, whereas the other one scraped past her heart. Thankfully, it didn't go through her heart. Although we've retrieved the bullets, she still needs to be observed further at the ICU."

Vinson was in a turmoil of emotions when he heard Arielle's condition being explained to him, and his heart ached with unbearable guilt and deep remorse.

Why didn't I take good care of her? She was shot right next to me. How can I ever forgive myself for letting her go through such a life-threatening episode?

Seeing how devastated he was, the doctor tapped his shoulder and offered a word of comfort, “Don’t worry too much. I’m sure Dr. Moore will recover in no time.”

Arielle was a more competent doctor compared to him, and he had been dreaming of exhausting all of his contacts to get a chance to attend Arielle’s lecture. Unfortunately, he missed the opportunity due to a patient’s appointment. Finally, they met despite it happening under a less-than-ideal circumstance.

After saying so, the doctor furrowed his brows as the gunshot wound on Vinson’s arm caught his attention.

He asked in puzzlement, “You were shot too? Why didn’t you admit yourself for surgery to get the bullet out since you’ve been here at the hospital the entire time?” Feeling rather upset, he continued, “If you don’t know how to appreciate your own body, can you imagine how infuriated Dr. Moore will get when she wakes up to see you in such a bad shape?”

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Chapter 1525 Must Not Stay Alive

Vinson, who initially refused to get his wounds treated, changed his mind upon hearing the doctor's words. Immediately, he proactively requested surgery to retrieve the bullet.

Before getting himself admitted, he called Dylan and asked him to send more people to guard Arielle. Otherwise, he would not be able to rest easy.

After getting the updates about Arielle being transferred to the ICU ward, and Vinson undergoing surgery, Dylan immediately gave an order to his men at the military base.

An army soon arrived at the hospital to protect Arielle. Seeing so, Vinson heaved a sigh of relief and followed the doctor into the operating room.

The doctor examined him carefully and discovered that the bullet had gone straight into his bone. He sucked in a sharp breath, extremely impressed by Vinson's level of tolerance. How did he manage to keep a poker face and endure the pain like nothing had happened for so long?

Upon injecting the anesthesia in one smooth motion, the doctor proceeded to perform the surgery.

The process was not as long as the one Arielle went through. It was completed in just two hours.

Thereafter, Vinson rejected the idea of resting in the ward assigned by the doctor. He insisted that the nurse prepare a bed for him outside of the ICU, for he wanted to be nearer to Arielle.

He was resolute and unswerving, leaving the nurse with no choice but to do as he had requested. With that, the nurse set up a folded bed outside of the ICU ward and also gave him a new set of pillow and blanket.

As Vinson lay down with his eyes wide open, he kept thinking about Arielle and could not fall asleep at all.

Two days later, Arielle got transferred from the ICU ward to a regular room. In view of her positive recovery, Vinson's anxious heart was finally at ease. He quickly called and shared the great news with Dylan, who had been checking in on Arielle multiple times a day.

Dylan was instantly relieved when he heard the news.

He had been mentally exhausted in the recent two days.

With his daughter staying in the intensive care unit and his son yet to be found, Dylan's hair had turned gray at a rate that was visible to the naked eye.

“Sannie is still in a coma. You must take good care of yourself so that you're able to care for her needs better,” advised Dylan.

He was well aware of how much the couple loved each other. Hence, he was worried that Vinson would focus too much on Arielle and neglect his own well-being.

Vinson knew his good intentions, so he acknowledged Dylan's advice with a laconic reply.

Right when he was about to hang up, he recalled something. “Dad, have you been investigating Arielle's assassination attempt?”

After Dylan recalled all of the information he had gotten in the past few days, his gaze dimmed. “Nothing much was found. Many of my men are looking into it but

to no avail. It seems like all the evidence has been wiped clean, making it ultra difficult to find any clue.’‘

Vinson fell silent as a vicious glint flashed across his eyes. If I knew who did it, I’d make the person pay for it a hundredfold.

‘‘Aaron is still missing. I’ll visit Sannie when she’s awake.’‘ Dylan’s voice sounded distinctively different as if he had aged a decade.

Vinson’s heart sank at his words. It’s been two days since the accident. Yet, Aaron’s body is still nowhere to be seen. Is there still hope for him?

‘‘Leave Sannie to me. Aaron is the priority now.’‘ After a brief pause, Vinson added, ‘‘Please take good care of yourself. You don’t want Sannie to worry about you when she wakes up.’‘

Meanwhile, at the palace, the queen mother made a phone call when she found out that Arielle had been transferred to the regular ward.

‘‘After all these years, this is the first time I’m looking for you. I only have one request, and all you need to do is to help me accomplish just one thing.’‘ A layer of gentleness laced the queen mother’s voice. After hearing the other party speak over the phone, the queen mother’s expression changed. She uttered, ‘‘Arielle shall not live to see another day.’‘

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Chapter 1526 Unimaginable

Not many knew about the assassination attempt on Arielle, for the king had made sure the news did not spread. Despite that, Xavier managed to find out about that incident from Lana. When he caught wind of it, he immediately called Harvey. When he realized that Harvey did not know what happened either, they both called Vinson to question him.

“Why didn’t you tell me that there was an assassination attempt on Arielle?” Harvey angrily asked. Even though they’re married, I’m still their best friend, right? How could they keep this from me? Do they still think of me as their friend?

Vinson massaged his temples when he heard Harvey’s questions. He had been too preoccupied with his worries about Arielle that he had forgotten to inform Harvey about the matter.

“I was too worried about Sannie, and that’s why I forgot to tell you about it. Sannie’s been shot twice, and she was transferred to the ICU after her surgery. She was only transferred out to a normal ward today.”

Harvey fell silent for a while after hearing his explanation. Then, he asked, “What about you? Are you hurt?”

Vinson hummed softly in response to his friend’s concern. “I was shot once, but the bullet didn’t pierce my bone. It was stuck in it. I’ve already undergone surgery to remove it, so don’t worry.”

“Do you need me to do anything for you?”

The power they had was elsewhere. Even if Vinson needed their help, they would not be able to do much for him. Upon thinking about Arielle's constant close calls, Vinson clenched his fists.

“For now, no.” Vinson turned quiet for a beat after that. Then he continued, “The king is already looking into her assassination attempt, but the traces of the assassin have been thoroughly removed. We can't even begin finding who the one behind this is.”

A wave of helplessness washed over Harvey. The power they had was useless where Arielle was at. Even if he wanted to help them out, there was nothing he could do.

“Vin, this isn't the first time Arielle has gone through this. We can't pin all our hopes on the king because even he himself is...” Harvey trailed off. “We have to find a way to extend our power to this place. That's the only way we can stop feeling helpless when we encounter issues like these.”

Vinson nodded in agreement. Harvey was on the same page as him, for he once had the same idea as well. Initially, he planned to bring men over after returning to Chanaea with Arielle. However, he never expected to encounter assassins and have Arielle hurt again.

“I'll get you some visas in a few days. Bring a few people over. Smuggle them if you can and try to bring as many as possible,” Vinson told him in a low voice. He could sense that there would be no peace in the coming days.

“Of course.”

After ending the call, Harvey took out his necklace and glanced at it. The girl in the picture looked as sweet as ever. He wanted to look for the girl and take care of her, but no matter how hard he searched for her, his efforts were futile. Hence, over time, those thoughts of finding her faded.

It was up to fate whether or not he was going to cross paths with her again.

Meanwhile, the queen cried day and night in the palace. Two days before, she had asked her elder brother, Einbert, to search for Aaron. However, there was nothing but the wrecked car and the shocking bloodstains under the cliff.

Below the cliff was a raging river, and her brother had found a shoe on the riverbank. After checking things through, they confirmed that the shoe indeed belonged to Aaron. At that, the queen's heart sank into the abyss. What were the chances of her son still living?

She dared not imagine the answer.

For the past two nights, she had not had any shut-eye. Even a brief moment of closing her eyes would result in dreams of Aaron shouting for help, bloodied and miserable.

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Chapter 1527 Missing Arielle Much

Einbert told her that he had found out from his investigation that Aaron was only caught up in the accident after speeding off from the military hospital.

The queen shed even more tears when she thought of her brother's words. Her eyes dimmed as she wondered what had happened in the military hospital.

Why did Aaron go to the military hospital? What happened there? Why did he speed off from that place? The questions kept swirling in her mind, begging for her attention at all times.

Finally, unable to come up with an answer to those questions, the queen went to the queen mother. Even though she had not heeded to worldly matters for the past few days, Miranda had been paying attention to the moves of various people, and she knew that the queen mother was looking for Aaron as well.

Hence, she went to the queen mother in hopes of gaining new insight. After all, the queen mother was the one managing the country.

Before they arrived at their destination, someone informed the queen mother about the queen's arrival. The queen mother then asked Monisha to lead the queen in. The moment the queen appeared, Monisha hurried over to greet her.

"Is Mother busy?" the queen asked Monisha. As the latter looked at the queen's red-rimmed eyes, she replied, "She's not. She knew that you were coming, and she has been waiting for you."

The queen nodded and headed inward.

"Mother," the queen greeted upon seeing the queen mother.

Immediately, tears sprang to her eyes again.

“Don’t cry!” The queen mother held her hand and guided her to the couch by the side. As she looked at the younger woman with her profound and bright eyes, she comforted her, “Aaron will be fine. He’ll come back safe and sound.”

“Mother, I heard from Einbert that this only happened after Aaron sped off from the military hospital. Do you know why he went to the military hospital?”

Dylan had deliberately kept the news of Arielle’s injury a secret. Naturally, the queen did not know about it. After a long look at the woman, the queen mother sighed.

“There was an assassination attempt on Arielle, so she was hurt and was sent to the military hospital. Aaron probably went there to visit her.”

“What? He went to meet Arielle again?” A wave of dizziness hit the queen in her fury. “Why did he speed off from there then?”

The queen mother figured out that the queen would find out about the matter even if she was not the one to break the news, so she revealed, “Dylan was there too.”

At that very moment, the queen wished she could just pass out there and then.

She did not even need to think to decipher what had happened back then.

They must have fallen in love with the Chanaean woman, Arielle. Without a doubt, Aaron lost to his father. Unable to accept the blow to his ego, he then sped off from the hospital.

The queen gritted her teeth in rage. Ever since those few people failed their mission, she had not dared to make another move against Arielle for fear of exposing herself.

Yet, the halt in her plan ended up with her son going missing, and she truly regretted her hesitation. I should have continued to go after her. I should have killed her when she was still recovering back then. This wouldn't have happened then.

“Mother, I want Arielle dead!” the queen gritted out through clenched teeth. No matter what, she was not going to let Arielle off anymore.

“Just do it. Regardless of what happens, you have my support,” the queen mother told her with determination, not at all surprised by the queen's decision.

No woman would be able to tolerate something like that. That was why the queen mother was going to let the queen do anything she pleased.

The queen then rose to her feet and bowed to the queen mother in gratitude before leaving.

“Arielle, you were the one who forced me to do this!” the queen whispered under her breath as she looked intently into a distance.

Meanwhile, the military hospital was in chaos.

Half an hour later, the doctor came out and said to the anxious Vinson in a grim tone, “Sorry for your loss.”

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Chapter 1528 Death

News of Arielle's death traveled fast. The students in the school were in disbelief when they heard it. How can this be? Wasn't she about to go back to Chanaea? Why did she suddenly pass away?

"Sonia, do you know why Ms. Moore passed away?" Bella asked. Sonia was still in shock over Arielle's death as she wondered, How can this be true? She even asked me to meet her a month later. We were about to see each other again, so how she could just... No, this can't be right. How can Arielle be dead?

Immediately, Sonia called her father. "Father, have you heard the news about Dr. Moore's demise?" Sonia quietly asked as she bit her lip. At the same time, she prayed that Arielle would be fine. Unfortunately, the answer from her father was a disappointing one.

"Sonia," Lawrence started in a low tone. "Dr. Moore has indeed passed away. I just came back from the hospital."

Upon hearing her father's words, Sonia's eyes reddened, and tears rolled down her cheeks.

"Bella, Ms. Moore is..." Sonia trailed off.

Bella knew that Sonia and Arielle had been in frequent contact ever since Arielle performed surgery on Sonia's grandfather. She knew that the two women were on very good terms, but she never felt jealous about their friendship, for Sonia had never distanced herself from Bella even after getting close to Arielle.

After ruminating about the matter, Bella hugged her gently to give her a silent consolation.

In Bella's arms, Sonia began bawling.

It was Bella's first time seeing Sonia lose control of her emotions. Her heart ached, but she did not know how to console her friend other than softly pat her back.

"W-What did you say?" Dylan stammered out as he looked at Sybil. "S-Say it again. Say it one more time."

Sybil stared at Dylan with reddened eyes, not knowing how else to break the news to the king.

"Your Majesty, I've just received a call from Mr. Nightshire about the Princess. She..." Sybil choked out. "The Princess suddenly lost her heartbeat... The doctor tried resuscitating her for over half an hour, but... but they couldn't save her..."

The moment those words left Sybil's mouth, Dylan slumped onto the couch.

"No, that can't be!" Dylan bellowed as pangs of pain wrenched his heart. "Send me to the hospital. I have to see her with my own two eyes."

How could my daughter leave me behind like this? I refuse to believe that my dear daughter is gone just like that.

Naturally, he had to see his daughter one last time no matter how heartbreaking it was for him.

Hence, Sybil quickly asked his men to prepare the car and brought Dylan to the military hospital. Once they arrived, everyone—other than those still busy with their tasks—appeared when they heard that the king had come.

"Your Majesty!"

They all bowed to Dylan, and Dylan gave a wave to dismiss them as he only wanted to see his precious daughter.

Arielle was no civilian, so her body was kept in the ward she had been in previously.

The doctor led Dylan to Arielle's ward. When Dylan saw Vinson looking at him with bloodshot eyes, the last trace of hope in Dylan's heart dissipated.

He shakily walked over to Arielle's bed and looked at his daughter, who was covered with a white sheet. Then, he reached out to pull it away. He wanted to see his daughter one more time—one last time.

However, his hands kept trembling, and he did not manage to pull the sheet away even after a few tries.

At that, Vinson reached out to tug the sheet a little lower. In the next second, Arielle's face appeared.

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Chapter 1529 A Slap

When Dylan saw Arielle's face, he could not hold himself back anymore. All of a sudden, he staggered backward, but Vinson managed to catch him in time. After Dylan regained his balance, he turned to Vinson and slapped him.

“W-Why... Why didn't you take care of... take care of her?” Dylan roared in sorrow as he clutched his chest and glared at Vinson.

He had trusted Vinson so much and had believed that the latter would protect Arielle with his life, but in the end, what happened? Why didn't he protect her? Oh, my dear daughter...

At that thought, Dylan's tears kept streaming down his face. He was utterly devastated by the loss of his daughter.

Meanwhile, Vinson could only watch him sob in silence. He did not know what he could do to lessen the pain the old king was feeling.

“Please don't cry. She'll definitely be upset if she sees you in this state.” Vinson's cheek had turned red right after the slap, but he said no words of complaint about it. He knew that Dylan only did that because he loved Arielle wholeheartedly. If Arielle had meant nothing to him, he would not have cared whether she lived or died.

However, Dylan did not respond to him. He turned away to fix his gaze on Arielle instead. The longer he looked at her, the thinner the air around him seemed.

It had taken eons before they finally found each other, but it seemed like just the blink of an eye before they were separated by the line between life and death.

“What happened to her? Why did she suddenly—” Dylan choked out but could not even finish his sentence in the throes of his sorrow.

Sybil quietly wiped away his tears as he watched the scene. He, too, could not believe that the princess was gone just like that. The king had not even gotten the chance to announce her existence to the people before they lost her.

Sybil could only imagine how anguished the king must be.

Vinson’s eyes dimmed when he heard the king asking about the details of Arielle’s death. In a barely audible voice, he began, “The doctor said that it was due to complications of her gunshot wound.”

Dylan turned even more resentful upon hearing that.

I have to find out who the ones behind this are to avenge Arielle. I can’t let her just die in vain like this.

In the meantime, the queen mother and the queen, who were both in the palace, received news about Arielle’s death.

The queen mother was in the study when the news traveled into her ears.

Immediately, she put down the document she was reading and furrowed her brows.

The queen had just left the palace. Even if the queen wanted to end Arielle's life, she would still need time to make arrangements. Yet, Arielle had suddenly passed away. Moreover, the queen mother had yet to make any move.

Her expression darkened while she was in deep thought. The queen mother still remained wary and suspicious of the news. After all, she was a woman who had gone through ups and downs in life.

“Send someone to look into this and find out if she's really dead,” the queen mother told Monisha, who instantly began working on it.

After Monisha exited the room, the queen mother turned to look into the distance. Everything would be fine if Arielle is really dead, but if the news is fake, I'm going to make sure it becomes true.

Matthew, who had gone to the ward with Dylan, narrowed his eyes when he saw the scene.

Why is His Majesty so upset about Arielle's death? Who is she to him?

When he thought about how Arielle had held the king's arm and entered the venue during the king's birthday celebration, he furrowed his brows.

Could it be that those rumors were true? Is he that upset about Arielle's death because he has fallen for her? No, that's not right. Arielle's a capable girl. Even if the king were to fall in love with her, she would not reciprocate his feelings. But if she wasn't in love with him, why would she say those things to persuade me previously?

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Chapter 1530 She Is Dead

Harvey, too, was in absolute disbelief after hearing about the news of Arielle's death.

He had only called Vinson not too long ago and found out that Arielle had been transferred from the ICU into a normal ward. Hence, he could not wrap his mind around why she suddenly died.

He took out his phone and dialed Vinson's number. However, Vinson was occupied at that moment. Since he did not have the time to pick up calls, Vinson switched off his phone. As a result, Harvey failed to reach him, and his expression grew solemn,

Not only is Vinson not picking up the call, but he has even switched off his phone. Could it be that the news about Arielle is true? Has she really left us?

The possibility of that made tears well up in Harvey's eyes.

His love for Arielle was genuine. Although she ended up with his good friend, which broke his heart and made him go through a period of depression, he still went to her after hearing that she had been brought to Turlen.

Harvey simply could not accept the fact that Arielle was dead.

Nevertheless, there was nothing he could do but wait since Vinson did not answer his call.

Nico's first reaction to her rival's death was not joy but regret. After all, Arielle was an excellent doctor. Although Nico liked Arielle's bodyguard and wanted him for herself, she never wished for Arielle to die.

Therefore, she, like the others, was baffled by the news of Arielle's death. In an instant, she called her friends who were studying medicine under Arielle to authenticate the news. Subsequently, she found out that it was true—Arielle was dead.

As she sat on the chair in a daze, Nico found feelings of melancholy seeping into her chest.

“Nico, why are you sitting here?” Melissa asked her when she saw her daughter daydreaming. As she saw the tears in Nico's eyes, she worriedly asked, “What's the matter? Why are you crying?”

Melissa's heart was breaking while she looked at her daughter in concern. Her daughter was a carefree and suave young woman; she had never acted this way before. Therefore, Melissa was shocked to find her daughter in a moment of fragility.

On the other hand, Nico only realized that she was crying for her love rival after hearing her mother's words.

Although she did not intend to cry, she simply could not hold her tears back. Indeed, she was in low spirits because of Arielle.

“Mother, Dr. Moore's dead,” Nico told Melissa as she sniffled.

“What?” Melissa widened her eyes in shock. “Who did you hear that from? This is no trivial matter, so don't joke around like that!”

Despite her words, Melissa knew that her daughter was probably speaking the truth, for the latter had always been a straightforward and honest person.

“Everyone knows about it now. I've asked my friends from medical school, and they've confirmed the news with the elders in their families,” Nico told her in a sad tone.

Melissa felt that Arielle's death was a pity.

She truly liked the young woman, for she was wise and sophisticated beyond her age. Moreover, Arielle was experienced in the medical field. As such, Melissa could not believe that Arielle had passed on at such a young age.

Unlike Melissa, Sonia's mother was delighted when she heard that Arielle had died. After all, Arielle was the only one in Aaron's heart, and Sonia stood no chance with him.

She had told Sonia to snatch Aaron from Arielle, but Sonia had insisted on a fair competition with Arielle.

A fair competition with Arielle means giving up all her chances with Aaron! Now that Arielle's dead, Aaron will surely be with Sonia. Even though he's now missing, I'm sure he'll come back in one piece.