Chapter 1631 Fifty Billion

Vinson told Arielle about his conversation on their way home. Arielle was grateful to Lawrence as, without his appearance, there would not be many who would follow a king who had nothing.

"I forgot to ask Harvey if he had finished spending the money in the card I gave him the last time." Arielle smacked her forehead ruefully. "We'll give him another if he has. Lobbying requires expenditure regardless of who he's trying to bribe."

I've been so busy lately that I had completely forgotten about that.

"It's not too late to ask." Vinson grinned at her self-inflicted punishment. "You can give him a call now."

Before the words were out of Vinson's mouth, Arielle had dug her phone out and was already making the call.

As Harvey was still in the shower in the Wynter residence, Sonia picked up Harvey's ringing phone and froze when she saw the name on the screen.

Sannie? Who is that?

Harvey emerged from the bathroom and saw Sonia standing motionless with his phone in her hand. "Why aren't you picking up?"

He walked over to her as he spoke and took the phone from her hand. His heart clenched when he saw the name. Oh, cr*p!

After not speaking to her on the phone for so long, he had forgotten the nickname he secretly assigned to Arielle's number. As if his luck could not get any worse, Sonia saw it the first time Arielle called.

With the phone ringing incessantly, he could not yet explain matters to Sonia. Instead, he opted to answer the call first. "Hello."

"Have you finished using the money in the ATM card we gave you, Harvey?" Arielle's voice came from the other end. "Let me know if you have, and I'll give you another. It's been a busy period; I'd forgotten to ask you." Sonia was so surprised to hear the voice that her lips parted as she sank onto the side of the bed without a word. With her head bowed, she kept her gaze on her feet.

Harvey froze at Arielle's mention of the card that Vinson had given him. How could I possibly finish spending what's on that card?

"Are you joking, Arielle?" Harvey said incredulously. "I won't even be able to finish spending it over two years."

"Huh?"

It was Arielle's turn to be dumbfounded.

Two years?

"Is there a lot in there?" Arielle asked tentatively.

A lot? What I meant by spending it over the next two years is squandering it away, as opposed to how I've been spending purposefully.

"You don't know how much is in there?"

"I don't," Arielle answered in confusion.

Does she trust me so much that she would hand it to me without even knowing the amount inside?

Harvey was at a loss for words at that moment.

"There's fifty billion in there," he said hoarsely after some time. "I'd spent close to about a billion thus far."

Fifty billion.

Her father had given her the card before even reconciling with her. Suddenly, Arielle felt the corners of her eyes getting wet.

"I know now. You hold on to it and carry on using the money to curry favor." At that, Arielle hung up.

"Do you think my father was naïve, Vinson? He gave me such a large amount of money before I even called him 'Dad."

As the conversation had been on loudspeaker, Vinson understood her concern. "Dylan thinks he owes you and is trying to make it up to you," he said gently as he held Arielle's hand.

Arielle nodded as she gazed out the car window, a warm, fuzzy feeling creeping up her heart. It's wonderful to experience a father's love.

"Stop the car!" Arielle screamed all of a sudden, her expression turning into a panicked one.

Chapter 1632 A Robbery

Back at the Wynter residence, Harvey stared at his phone after being hung up on before quickly changing the nickname of "Sannie" on his phone to "Arielle." Then, he walked over to Sonia, who was still staring at her feet. He then sat beside her.

"I can explain, Sonia," he said at once after sitting down.

Over the time they had spent together, he taught Sonia Chanaean while Sonia taught him Turlenese. That was why he felt a sense of panic when Sonia saw the contact name.

Sonia shook her head. "There's no need to explain. I understand."

Arielle is a fantastic girl. It's natural for Harvey to fall for her, though it makes me slightly uneasy. I just wish I had met Harvey a little earlier. That way, he wouldn't have fallen for Arielle and experienced unrequited love. I do not envy Arielle. If I were a man, I would also fall in love with her. It's just a shame that I could never live up to Arielle in his eyes.

"I admit that I used to like Arielle. Now, however, you are the only one I want. Only you." Harvey turned Sonia's face toward his and gazed deep into her eyes. "I love you, Sonia."

Sonia did not even blame him. At his words, her heart swelled with happiness.

"I know," she murmured, her voice soft and meek as she gazed at Harvey. "I love you too."

Harvey had been good to her during their time together. She could tell there was nothing but love in his eyes when he looked at her.

Though Sonia had felt obligated to work things out with Harvey for the child in her belly, she found that she was falling for him as they spent more time together.

An indescribable feeling welled up in Harvey's chest at Sonia's response. He held the woman before him tightly in his arms and felt her happiness warm his heart.

At that moment, Vinson pulled over to the sidewalk at Arielle's request.

Before he could ask her what was going on, Arielle was already running forward.

When he caught up to Arielle, Vinson saw five to six imposing-looking men lying in heaps on the ground. Behind her stood a man slightly shorter than them.

He knew what happened upon a glance at their bruised and battered faces.

"Thank you!" the man crouching behind Arielle squeaked.

He did not expect to run into a Chanaean girl who was that skilled in combat.

Arielle glanced at him without speaking before her gaze flicked back to the men she had beaten. "Get lost!"

The men exchanged glances at her voice, surprised that they were so easily let off the hook. In an instant, they scrambled to their feet and bolted.

Arielle turned to the man behind her only after they left. "Why did they ambush you?"

The man slumped his shoulders. "They might have wanted this," he said softly as he wiggled the bag he hugged tightly to his chest.

Arielle frowned. "They were trying to rob you?"

The man nodded.

"What are you doing here?" I wouldn't have bothered if he wasn't Chanaean. Mind your own business, as they say.

"Earning a living!"

A month's wages in Turlen was equivalent to three in Chanaea. Arielle nodded empathetically and was about to depart when her eyes narrowed as they fixated on him.

Chapter 1633 Afraid She Will Fall For You

"What is it?" He started to panic when he saw her staring at him like that.

Did she notice anything? That can't be, can it? I don't think I've exposed myself or anything, so why is she looking at me funny?

He even checked his appearance and saw that his disguise was just fine.

"It's nothing. Did you manage to get yourself a job?" Arielle asked.

He shook his head. "I've only been here for a few days, so I haven't found a job yet."

Arielle's lips curled into a smile. "Can you drive?"

The man nodded excitedly. "Yes, I can!"

Arielle exchanged glances with Vinson before telling the man, "Then you can be my chauffeur from now on. As for your wage..."

"I'll take whatever you offer! I have been wandering the streets for a few days trying to look for a job, so you offering me a job and a place to stay is all I could ask for!" the man replied while awkwardly scratching the back of his head.

Arielle nodded and brought him back to his current place to collect his luggage before arranging for him to stay in the room that Xavier had stayed in before.

"Did you notice something?" Vinson asked with his arm wrapped around Arielle in bed after they bathed.

"Let's see what tricks that person has up their sleeve. Haven't you realized that that person's the one behind everything that happened today?" Arielle said with a smile.

"But I don't want another guy staying here. Let's send him to a hotel tomorrow," Vinson suggested.

He didn't want any other guys being around Arielle, even if they were nothing compared to him.

Arielle chuckled and looked up at him as she asked, "What's the matter? Are you jealous?"

Vinson gave her a quick peck on the lips and whispered, "Yeah, I am. I want to keep you all to myself so that no men can get anywhere near you."

He knew that such thoughts were a little extreme, but he wasn't afraid to be completely honest with her about his true feelings.

Wow, I didn't know he felt that way! Arielle caressed his cheek and whispered back, "It doesn't matter how many men are around me. You're the only one that I love, Vinson."

Those words had barely left her mouth when Vinson grabbed the back of her head and pulled her in for a kiss.

As his kiss was a lot more passionate and intense than usual, it wasn't long before their clothes ended up on the floor.

After they were done making love to each other, Arielle buried her face in his chest and whispered, "That person is actually a girl, by the way."

"A girl?" Vinson exclaimed in shock.

What the... I couldn't tell at all! Her disguise sure is a good one if it managed to fool me! Still, why would she want to keep a girl around? That's just asking for trouble! We still haven't taken care of that issue with Nico...

"Why would you let her stay with us if you knew she's a girl?" he asked with a stressful frown.

"What's the matter? Are you afraid she'll fall for you? Don't worry; I won't even let her get close to you!" Arielle replied with a confident snort.

I won't let another woman lay a finger on my man!

Vinson chuckled at how adorable she looked and pulled her into his embrace.

Two weeks later, in the palace, the look on Nancy's face turned gloomy after getting a phone call.

Chapter 1634 Compensation

"Since when did this happen?" she asked solemnly. It was unclear what the other person said on the phone, but Nancy's expression only seemed to worsen even more after hearing it.

"Understood. Use whatever means necessary to keep them on my side!" she said before hanging up.

The woman had been keeping an eye out ever since Aaron told her that the king was investigating the corruption and bribery. She wasn't expecting Dylan to seize that opportunity and win her people over. What on Earth are you trying to do, Dylan? Do you desire power that badly?

As Dylan was her only son whom she had raised herself, the thought of him forsaking their relationship made her rather uncomfortable.

Of course, Dylan was completely oblivious to her feelings as he was in a great mood after hearing the news from Sybil. Wow, Lawrence sure is impressive! I can't believe he managed to get about half of them over to my side in just two weeks!

"Give Lawrence this card and have him bribe as many of them as possible," Dylan said while handing Sybil a bank card. Sybil headed over to the Wynter residence immediately after receiving the bank card.

As he had been serving Dylan since he started with nothing and stayed by his side until he achieved success, Sybil felt glad that he didn't let the old king down.

Upon arrival at the Wynter residence, Sybil met up with Lawrence and explained his reasons for coming over.

"I have no use for this bank card at the moment. Don't worry; I'll be sure to ask His Majesty for it when I need more money." Lawrence refused the offer because Harvey already had a bank card from Dylan, and it was enough to last them a few years.

Thinking Lawrence had refused the card because he wanted to contribute to Dylan on his own, Sybil put it away. The two chatted for a bit before Sybil headed back to the palace and returned the card to Dylan.

"I think General Lawrence wants to do his part, Your Majesty. I think you shouldn't stop him, or he might think you no longer need him," Sybil said as he handed Dylan the card.

Is this really for the better? I don't feel comfortable using my subordinates' money to do my bidding... Dylan frowned at the thought of that.

"If you feel bad for General Lawrence, you could compensate him after you've gained control. I'm sure he'd be happy with that arrangement too, Your Majesty," Sybil said.

Dylan leaned against his chair as he pondered Sybil's suggestion.

After giving it some thought, he agreed with Sybil's statement and put the bank card away. "All right, then. I'll compensate him in the future."

Feeling happy that Dylan had agreed with his point, Sybil smiled as he said, "Your Majesty, Morrison has gathered some evidence on those who accepted bribes. When shall we produce the evidence?"

Dylan broke into a smile upon hearing that. "That will have to wait. We don't want to alert anyone unnecessarily." The evidence is most useful when presented at the most critical moment!

Sybil nodded and left the room shortly after.

Meanwhile, Alicia occasionally stayed over at that house ever since Aaron provided her with the keys and address. She even redecorated the dark and gloomy-looking room.

Chapter 1635 Hungry For You

Aaron was surprised when he came over and saw the huge changes.

"Oh, Aaron, you came! What do you think of the decor? Does it look good?" Alicia asked with a bright smile on her face.

She treated the house like it belonged to them both and redecorated the entire place all by herself. The mere thought of staying there with him filled her heart with happiness.

"Yeah," Aaron mumbled.

The smile on Alicia's face was frozen in place when she heard his cold response.

She then walked up to him and asked softly, "Do you not like the decor? If you don't, I could—"

Noticing the disappointment in her voice, he pulled her into his embrace as he said, "I do! I like it very much, Alicia. It makes this place look really warm and cozy."

This place makes me feel at home even more than my mother's place.

Alicia looked up at him after hearing that. "Really?"

"Yup!"

Having received his reassurance, she went back to smiling brightly again.

"Are you hungry? I'll go make you something to eat, okay?" Alicia was about to head over to the kitchen when he grabbed her arm and whispered, "Yes, but it's you that I'm hungry for!"

The next thing Alicia knew, he had wrapped his hands around her cheeks and sealed her lips with his.

Nancy's phone rang, and her eyes went wide with surprise when she saw the caller ID. She immediately closed the door to her study and answered the call in her most gentle voice possible, "Why are you calling me at this hour?"

"You said someone has been sending you pictures and videos a while back, right? Well, I found a hacker who can help delete them all from his network."

She was overjoyed when she heard what the guy said. Although the guy had strengthened her firewall to the point where no one could possibly hack into it, she still felt uneasy as the person still had her pictures and videos. As such, she was greatly relieved to hear that she could have them all deleted.

The two of them chatted for a little while longer before ending the call.

A few days later, the same guy called her again and said he was unable to track the person down, let alone hack the network. He then told her to contact him immediately the next time she received more pictures and videos. According to him, that would help a lot with tracking the person down.

Naturally, the woman agreed to it without any hesitation.

Dylan summoned Aaron over to the palace that day.

As Aaron had been to the palace quite often lately, it wasn't long before he gained the trust of Dylan and Sybil.

"His Majesty is waiting in the study, Your Royal Highness," Sybil said while bowing. Aaron nodded and headed over to the study, only to see Morrison, Lawrence, Matthew, and a few other officials inside.

Since Aaron would be the future king, they all bowed at him after he greeted Dylan.

"I've summoned you all here today to announce my decision to go on the offensive. We will make our move three days later and undermine the queen mother!" Dylan declared.

What? So soon?

Aaron was shocked when he heard that but maintained a calm expression so as to not show it.

After leaving the study, he drove toward the university with his phone in hand. He hesitated for quite a while before punching in a number and making the call.

Chapter 1636 Stealing Glances

"They'll be making a move three days later to undermine you," Aaron said with an emotionless look on his face.

Nancy's expression turned gloomy when she found out about Dylan's plan.

"I understand. Continue to keep a close eye on him and keep me updated if anything happens," she instructed.

"Will do."

Aaron then hung up the phone and sped toward the university so he could see Alicia.

He made a beeline for the apartment right after parking the car. For some reason, the sight of her shoes at the door filled his heart with a warm sensation.

"Welcome home!"

Alicia, who was busy cooking in the kitchen, quickly put the stove on low heat when she heard the door open. She then ran out of the kitchen and smiled happily when she saw that it was Aaron.

Aaron froze when he saw her greeting him happily with a spatula in hand. For a brief moment, he felt like she was a housewife welcoming her husband home from work.

Alicia wasn't sure what he was thinking about, but she felt happy being able to see him every day. She walked up to him and helped take his coat as she said, "What are you doing just standing there? Hurry up and go wash your hands! The food will be ready soon!"

Recalling that she was still cooking something on the stove, she then ran back into the kitchen. For some reason, Aaron's lips curled into a smile when he saw her like that.

With a grin on his face, he then made his way into the kitchen and stood there watching her cook.

Well... I suppose a calm and peaceful life like this is pretty nice too.

Alicia smiled when she saw him in the kitchen. She plated the final dish and served it up while Aaron washed his hands at the sink. The two of them looked just like a newly-married couple, much to Alicia's delight, as this was exactly the kind of life she was looking forward to.

After dinner, they were snuggled up on the couch to watch some television. Alicia had been stealing glances at him from time to time but would always retract her gaze whenever he looked her way. She thought he didn't notice her staring, but he proved her wrong when he said, "You know, you could just stare at me all you want. There's no need for you to sneak peeks like that."

Alicia burned bright red after being exposed like that.

"W-Who said I was sneaking peeks at you?" she stammered while blushing like crazy. Deep down inside, she was actually overjoyed as him being aware of her sneaking peeks meant he was paying attention to her.

"Right, of course you weren't!" Aaron said with a chuckle.

Whoa... This is the first time I've seen him smile! I never knew he would look so good when he smiles! Alicia was so captivated that she froze and stared dreamily at him.

Noticing her reaction, Aaron leaned in close and gave her a kiss on the lips.

That caught Alicia off guard, but she soon went along with it and wrapped her arms around his neck.

The two of them were making out rather passionately when Aaron's phone started ringing on the couch. Not wanting to be interrupted, he declined the call without any hesitation. However, the phone started ringing again when he was about to take things a step further.

He let go of Alicia and frowned deeply as he reached for his phone, but the look of frustration soon turned gloomy when he saw the caller ID.

Chapter 1637 Betrayal

Alicia adjusted her clothes that were almost falling off when she saw him staring at his phone with a gloomy expression.

"You go on and take that call. I'll wait for you in the room," she said while making her way to the bedroom. Aaron stared at the phone as it continued to ring and answered the call at the very last second.

"I told you I'd make you reveal your identity sooner or later, Ari. Who would've thought you'd call me before that?" Aaron said coldly with a slight grin.

Alicia, who had just entered the room, felt her heart ache when she heard that name. She then closed the door, lay down on the bed, and silently processed her thoughts.

Meanwhile, Aaron lit a cigarette and made his way toward the window. He looked rather lonely as he stood there staring at the night sky outside.

Arielle felt her heart sink a little when she heard his tone. He seems to really hate me...

"Aaron, let's put our differences aside for the time being. I need to talk to you about Father," she said coldly.

"Father?" A devilish smile formed on Aaron's face as he continued, "What's wrong with Father? He seems fine to me!"

Arielle felt her anger burning up after hearing that and recalling the information she had received. "Aaron, you can just voice out any dissatisfaction you have toward Father. Why did you have to betray him like that?"

She already knew about him taking Nancy's side before she came, but she had assumed he wouldn't actually betray his own father. Unfortunately, Arielle was wrong about him.

I can't believe Aaron would go and tell her about Dylan's plan to undermine her! How could he betray his own father like it's the most natural thing in the world?

The light in Aaron's eyes dimmed slightly. "I don't know what you're talking about!"

Why does she know about me betraying Father? It's unlikely for Grandma to leak that information, so how did Arielle find out about it?

"There's no need to play dumb with me, Aaron. You know exactly what I'm talking about! The queen mother has Father under her control for over twenty years now. Life has been incredibly rough for him, so how could you stab him in the back like this? You're his only son, remember?" Arielle said while pacing back and forth in her room.

She couldn't figure out why Aaron would do such a thing, but she didn't want him to go down the wrong path. On top of that, she didn't want Dylan's only son to betray him.

Aaron felt his anger rising after hearing her lecture him. I wouldn't have done this if it weren't for them deceiving me together! Anyone else can criticize me all they want, but those two have no right to do so!

"Are you done? I'll be hanging up now!" he said coldly before ending the call.

I've already made my choice, so I'm not going to regret it now! They're the ones who deceived me first, so I have nothing to regret anyway!

With that in mind, Aaron put out his cigarette and made his way toward the bedroom.

Alicia quickly wiped her tears dry and pretended to be asleep when she heard his footsteps approaching.

Upon entering the bedroom, Aaron trod lightly when he heard the faint sound of her steady breathing. After washing up in the bathroom, he gently climbed into bed and held her in his arms as he drifted off to sleep.

"Should we tell your father about Aaron?" Vinson asked when he saw the helpless look on Arielle's face.

Chapter 1638 Imprisoned

Arielle shook her head. "Let's not tell my dad about it yet." She had hoped to talk Aaron out of it if possible and would only tell her father if he refused to listen.

Her main reason for doing so was because she believed Aaron was not inherently evil, so she wanted to give him a chance. The second reason was that she didn't want her father to feel upset about his only son betraying him.

Regardless, her main priority at the moment was to help Dylan change his plans to avoid Nancy's counterattack. The problem, however, was how she should warn Dylan without arousing his suspicion, as she didn't want him alerting Aaron.

A day soon went by, but Arielle had yet to figure out a solution to said problem. Right as she was racking her brain trying to come up with something, news about Aaron being imprisoned reached her ears.

"What's going on? Why did he get locked up?" Arielle mumbled to herself with a confused frown.

I haven't even told Dylan anything, so why is Aaron imprisoned? Who was it that locked him up? Was it Dylan? Could it be that he somehow found out about Aaron's betrayal and locked him up out of anger? I should give Sybil a call to confirm the situation! If that really is the case, then I might be able to beg Dylan to let him go! He is my brother, after all!

With that in mind, Arielle whipped out her phone and punched in Sybil's number.

However, she couldn't get through to Sybil no matter how many times she tried. With no other choice, Arielle tried calling Dylan instead, only to realize that Dylan was unreachable as well.

Oh, no... Could something terrible have happened to them?

"Calm down. We'll head over to the palace and find out what happened, okay?" Vinson suggested when he saw how worried she looked.

Arielle nodded and quickly packed her stuff before heading out with him.

The one driving the car was the girl that Arielle had rescued the other day. Because they wanted to know what her motives were for getting close to them, they decided to not expose her true gender just yet. As such, she still didn't know that they were already aware of her being female.

Plenty of guards could be seen standing at the entrance of the palace when they arrived outside its gates.

Both Vinson and Arielle frowned when the guards refused to let them in, even though Arielle produced the pass she had obtained from Dylan. What? Even the pass doesn't work? Could it be that something bad really has happened?

After exchanging glances with Vinson, Arielle walked up to the guard closest to them and asked, "What happened? Why won't you let me in?"

As the guard had just been transferred over, he had no idea who Arielle and Vinson were. "What happened is none of your concern! You should leave if you don't have any official business here! Stop causing a scene here, or I'll have you both arrested!"

Arielle narrowed her eyes and glared coldly at the guard in response.

"W-What do you think you're doing?" the guard stammered in fear. It was the first time he had been intimidated by a woman's gaze.

The tension only dissipated when Vinson grabbed her by the arm and snapped her out of it. Arielle then retracted her gaze and followed him back to the car.

Surprised that the two of them had returned so soon, the cross-dressing girl quickly returned to her seat and breathed a sigh of relief. Phew! Thank goodness I didn't go far, or they would've caught me for sure!

Still worried about her father, Arielle pulled out her phone to spy on Nancy. A few minutes later, she bolted upright and shouted with tears flowing down her face, "Take us back to the palace entrance! Turn the car around now!"

Chapter 1639 Kill In Cold Blood

The girl was about to do as instructed, but Vinson stopped her by grabbing the steering wheel.

"Stop the car! Stop the car, d*mn it! I need to get off now!"

Seeing as Vinson wasn't going to let the girl pull over, Arielle reached for the door handle and prepared to jump out of the car.

Vinson quickly pulled her into his arms and asked worriedly, "What's gotten into you, Sannie? Tell me what the problem is, and we'll solve it together."

"Vinson, my dad is gone... I have no father now..." Arielle sobbed while pounding against his chest. His shirt was soon wet from her tears that refused to stop.

"W-What do you mean?" Vinson asked.

"My dad is dead... He's dead, you hear me? I have no father anymore..." Arielle sobbed in despair.

I just reunited with my dad a while back, so why is he...

"Vinson, I need to go to the palace and find out how my dad died!" she muttered angrily while wiping her tears dry.

Despite being caught off guard by Dylan's death, Vinson managed to remain calm and stopped Arielle when he heard what she said.

"Calm down, Sannie! I know Dylan's death is incredibly suspicious, but the palace entrance is swarming with guards right now. There's nothing we can do even if we head there now."

Arielle, on the other hand, was so shaken up by the news of Dylan's death that she couldn't possibly remain calm.

"That's my dad, Vinson! He's my biological father! Would you be able to remain calm if it were your mom that died instead?" she lashed out at him without even thinking about how hurtful that was.

Vinson didn't hold it against her as he knew she wasn't thinking straight at the time. "Even if that day does come, I'd still remain calm. It's the only way I'd be able to find out who the murderer is."

"I'm sorry, Vinson. I—"

"I understand, so there's no need to apologize." Vinson gently patted her on the back while she bawled her eyes out in his embrace.

Feeling a lot better after crying, Arielle glanced at him with reddened eyes as she said, "You heard it too. The queen mother said she locked Aaron up because he killed my dad, but I don't believe her! Aaron may have betrayed my dad by taking her side, but he'd never kill him!"

I've known Aaron for a really long time, so I know he's not the one who killed my dad. But, why would the queen mother imprison Aaron if he didn't do it? Who could've possibly killed my dad? Could the killer be the queen mother herself? No, that can't be right! As cruel as she may be, there's no way she'd actually murder her only son! Who could've done it?

All sorts of questions raced through Arielle's mind as she tried to make sense of the situation.

Meanwhile, the look on Nancy's face changed the moment she heard her secretary's report.

"She's a spy from an enemy country! I want her taken care of immediately!" she ordered coldly with her fists tightly clenched.

Chapter 1640 Murder Decree

The only person with a visa who had come looking for Dylan is Arielle. Now that she is here, there is no reason not to act.

"A spy?" The secretary straightened up immediately. To think there was a spy in their country! "What should we do?" he asked, gazing at Nancy.

The latter shot him a stern glance before answering coldly, "Take her down on the spot."

In other words, they were to kill their target without going through an interrogation process.

Although the secretary didn't understand why Nancy had decided on such, he still did as ordered. As soon as she left, he went to the palace entrance to retrieve its surveillance footage and sent Arielle's images to various groups, thus launching a murder decree.

Arielle wasn't aware that Nancy had already framed her as a national spy and ordered a hunt. Suppressing her despair temporarily, she headed to the Wynter residence with Vinson.

Sonia and Harvey were thrilled to hear that the two were coming, and they stood at the door to welcome them. But upon noticing Arielle's swollen eyes, Harvey glanced at Vinson with a frown. What happened? What's with her eyes?

The man said nothing despite feeling doubtful, although he was certain that it wasn't Vinson's fault. He understood the latter well enough to know that.

"What's wrong, Arielle? What happened?" Sonia's chest tightened as she saw the way Arielle looked after crying and went up to hold her hand.

Arielle patted the former's hand in response while staring at the floor in desolation. "My dad's passed away, Sonia. I don't have a father anymore."

Harvey was stupefied to hear that.

"What did you say? Your dad... He's gone? When did this happen? How did he die? And why hasn't there been any news about this?" he questioned, gazing straight into her eyes.

"Did the news not get out?" Arielle asked in return, but before waiting for Harvey's response, she hastily removed her arm from Sonia's grasp, took out her phone, and began to search for any news regarding Dylan. However, as Harvey had mentioned, there was not a single piece of news about the man who had just died.

What is the queen mother thinking? Why didn't she announce his death?

At this point, Arielle wasn't just upset anymore, and she felt an entire mix of different emotions overwhelm her.

"Why is she keeping my dad's death a secret, Vinson? What is she up to?" she asked, turning to Vinson with reddened eyes. Yet, the man shook his head lightly. He, too, had no idea what Nancy was thinking.

As they spoke, Lawrence walked toward them with a grim expression and felt extremely conflicted upon seeing Harvey.

He had decided to let Harvey marry Sonia because of what the younger man had said to him about helping Dylan reclaim his power, only to be caught off guard completely after receiving the news about Dylan's sudden death.

"Harvey, the plan has failed. His Majesty... is gone." The last four words came out of Lawrence's mouth with much struggle.

"The palace has been trying so hard to keep the king's death a secret. How did you find out about it, General Lawrence?" Arielle jumped in, not waiting for Harvey to speak.

She wanted to know how Lawrence had received the news so she could obtain more information.

Lawrence pinned his gaze on her, feeling suspicious about her identity.