Chapter 1651 You Deserve It

At that moment, the royal guards and attendants were all dismissed by Nancy.

She then looked at the towering figure of Matthew with a hint of melancholy in her eyes.

"Matthew, the stuff that you saw... It isn't like that—" Nancy explained, but Matthew was having none of it.

He interrupted her with a grim voice, "Your Majesty, those matters have nothing to do with me. If that's what you want to talk about, you can save it. My wife has recently fallen ill, so I need to return to her side."

No sooner had he spoken than he turned around to leave. However, Nancy suddenly hugged him from behind.

"Matthew, haven't you always wanted me to be yours? I'll give myself to you. All of it as long you don't stay angry at me, all right?" Despite her age, Nancy had managed to maintain a stunning figure. Even when she was speaking, she would rub herself against Matthew's back on purpose.

If it was any time before, Matthew would have easily succumbed to her seduction, as he had loved her since he was young. But the thought of what she had done filled him with so much rage that overwhelmed any lust he harbored.

"Please mind yourself!"

He had hardly finished before he pried her hands open and stormed out.

"Matthew, it's me, Nancy. Your Nancy..." When Matthew stopped in his tracks abruptly, Nancy wrapped her arms around his waist again. Nuzzling her face in his back, she purred, "Do you really want to abandon me? Didn't you swear that you would always love me and do whatever I say come what may?"

Her words suddenly brought them back to forty years ago. Back then, he was just a fifteen-year-old boy going on sixteen, while Nancy was already twenty. Nevertheless, he had already developed feelings for her and wanted her to wait for him to grow older so that he could marry her.

However, she didn't take his words seriously and chose to obey her parents by marrying the prince back then.

News of her marriage filled him with despair and made him lose hope in life.

When she returned to her parents' home one day, he, filled with the idealism of youth, pushed her against a corner and looked at her teary-eyed. It was then that he declared his eternal love for her and willingness to fulfill any of her wishes regardless of whether she had gotten married and however much time had passed.

After leaving those words with her, he fled.

Contrary to his expectation, she hadn't forgotten what he said all those years ago.

Do I still mean something to her?

Sensing Matthew's wavering emotions, Nancy circled to his front and threw herself into his arms, hugging him tightly. "Matthew..."

Her voice tugged at his heartstrings the exact same way it did back then.

"Nan—" Just when he wanted to push her away, Nancy wrapped her hand behind his head and lifted her heels to seal his mouth with a kiss.

When the long desired sensation struck him suddenly, Matthew's unwavering steadfastness was thrown into disarray. Kissing her back passionately, he tore off her clothes before pinning her down on the couch.

That particular scene was caught by someone who had returned to see Nancy.

"You did this to yourselves!" After taking a picture, the person kept the phone and left without any hesitation.

Chapter 1652 Stay With Me For A Night

"Matthew..." Nancy called out as Matthew was getting dressed.

Matthew regretted his inability to restrain himself.

"Matthew..." Nancy circled her hands around the man's waist. "Don't go. Could you stay and accompany me for the night?"

Matthew's body stiffened in response. He wanted to reject her and told her that it had all been a terrible mistake. However, he thought it was too cruel to say that to her right after bedding her.

"I have something on," Matthew said and shrugged Nancy off. He put on his clothes in silence and hurried out of the room.

Nancy narrowed her eyes as she looked at the man. Monisha came back right then and noticed the look on the queen mother's face. She immediately recalled the cold, hard look on Matthew's face just now and started to put two and two together.

Monisha said nothing and served Nancy as the latter took a bath. After the queen mother came out of the shower, Monisha looked at her and said in a small voice, "General Matthew looked really cold and distant when he left."

Nancy narrowed her eyes slightly after listening to her.

Is he regretting that we slept together?

Her lips curled into a cold snicker. "Don't he dare dream about cutting ties with me after having bedded me!"

Then, she remembered Matthew's reaction when the photos went public. Her eyes flashed with a cold glint. Since he has decided to be so heartless, don't blame me for doing the same.

Then, she whispered into Monisha's ears. The latter's expression was visibly taken aback before she nodded and headed out of the room.

Meanwhile, Monisha has returned Aaron's phone after releasing him.

Aaron turned on his phone and noticed the multiple missed calls and text messages from Alicia.

Alicia: Aaron, what's the matter with you? Why are you grounded?

Alicia: His Majesty has passed away. You must be really upset. I wish I could be by your side right now.

Alicia: I miss you... I miss you so much.

Alicia: I can't get hold of any news on you. How are you doing? Are you hurt?

There were over hundreds of missed calls and text messages. Aaron did not know how to describe his feelings, except that he really wanted to protect the naïve and innocent girl who was worried sick about him.

After texting her, Aaron called his chauffeur and ordered him to fetch Alicia from his grandpa's place to Paelsford Manor. At that moment, he wanted nothing more than to see her.

The chauffeur was quick. Alicia was already in his room when Aaron came out of the shower.

She has lost weight.

It was the first thought that came into his mind when he saw Alicia. He furrowed his brows slightly, baffled by the sheer amount of weight that she had lost in just a few days' time.

"Aaron..." Alicia dashed into his embrace before he could say anything. He felt her tears against his chest.

Aaron lifted his hand and hesitated for a moment. Then, he gently patted her on her back and said, "I'm all right."

Alicia removed herself from his embrace and caressed his face. Her eyes were misty and red as she looked at him, "You look so weary, and you've become thinner."

Tears streamed down her face.

Alicia felt her heart wrench at the sight. She could not bear to see him hurt.

"I would say the same for you," Aaron said as he wiped the tears streaming down her cheeks. "Did you not eat well? You have to eat to your heart's content now. I don't want to hug skeleton to sleep!"

Alicia panicked for a moment when she heard him. For a split second, she really thought that Aaron did not like her as she was all thin and bony. She clutched tightly to Aaron's hand in anxiousness.

Chapter 1653 Revenge

"I'm going to eat and gain some weight," Alicia mumbled, tears brimming in her eyes.

She realized that she had been quick to shed a tear recently. It was as if her body was trying to rid itself of the decades of tears that she never shed.

"I shall wait as you put on weight and become all chubby," Aaron said indulgingly as he pinched her chin. "I'm going to the church. Are you going to stay here or are you heading back to the apartment?"

He had actually asked his chauffeur to bring Alicia here because he wanted to see her. Now that Aaron had seen her, it was time for him to leave.

"I'll head back to the apartment to wait for you." Alicia eyed Aaron with her reddened eyes and said, "Condolences to you and your family."

The chauffeur was waiting right outside the door. Alicia turned around to leave right after. She had not seen Aaron for a long time, and she wished she could stay and be in his company for a little while more. Hence, she kept looking back on her shoulders with every couple of steps she took.

Aaron was completely disarmed by her adorable little gestures. He strode forward as he eyed her poignant manner. Unable to restrain himself further, he reached out to grab her arm and planted a kiss on her lips.

Alicia was initially taken aback, but she soon closed her eyes and reciprocated his kiss. Aaron had been confined for one whole week—a week that had felt like a miserable year. She desperately wanted to surrender herself to him, feeling his

warmth wrapped around her body. Only then would she be sure that the man was indeed right in front of her, and that she was not dreaming.

Her hands glided over his body, fueling the desire that was burning in him.

"Alicia!" Aaron parted from her lips and eyed her with his deep-set eyes as he said in a hoarse voice, "Quit playing around."

The chauffeur was still waiting for her right outside the door, and he had to go to the church to mourn the king later.

"Aaron, I want it," she said as she wrapped her hands around his arm and tipped her toes as she planted another kiss on his lips.

Their culture did not refrain junior members of the family to refrain from engaging in intimacy upon the passing of senior members of the family. Hence, Aaron did not restrain himself and carried the seductive little minx off into his room without hesitation.

After the passionate exchange, Alicia still found it difficult to part with Aaron. However, she understood that the man had to leave right then. She turned around and climbed on top of him as she kissed him on the lips. "I'm going to wait for you at the apartment."

Then, she put on her clothes and left.

When Aaron was all dressed up and went out the door, the chauffeur had already left with her. He went to the church in a car that the queen mother had arranged.

Celeste had arrived at the church at the same time. Her eyes turned red at the sight of Aaron.

"You've grown thinner." Celeste sobbed as she eyed her son.

Aaron noticed that a white strand of hair had appeared on Celeste's hair and felt a sharp sting in his heart.

Mother must have been worried sick when I was confined.

"I have worried you, Mother," he said.

Celeste caressed Aaron's cheeks and said nothing. It was only natural for a mother to be worried about her child.

"Go and take a look at your father," she merely said.

Aaron nodded and headed toward the casket.

Upon spotting his father lying motionless in the casket, Aaron felt a great sense of despair and guilt wash over him.

If I had not been hasty and listened to Grandma, Father would not have...

Aaron felt nothing but burning wrath for the queen mother right then. That wretched woman had made me an unfilial and disloyal son.

Father, I will avenge you. Aaron eyed Dylan and swore a vow right then.

Celeste went back to the palace after seeing Aaron. There were a lot of things that required her attention following Dylan's death.

A dark shadow swished past the heavily guarded church right after she left. Aaron's eyes darkened when he registered the face of the intruder.

Chapter 1654 Do You Have A Death Wish

"Who asked you to come here? Do you have a death wish?" Aaron snapped at the intruder.

Doesn't she know that she's a wanted criminal? Does she wish to die?

Arielle was visibly taken aback. Just a few days ago, Aaron was just looking at her with pure hatred. Why does he sound like he cares about me now?

She looked at Aaron and asked, "Are you worried about me, Aaron?"

Aaron grimaced. "Who cares about you?"

He just did not wish to see his father's favorite daughter harmed as he did not give a dime about Arielle.

"Aaron, it doesn't matter whether you care to admit it or not, but you are always my little brother and that remains forever," Arielle said before heading toward the casket.

Tears brimmed in Arielle's eyes as soon as she spotted Dylan lying to rest in the casket.

Her heart wrenched at the sight. Dylan was forever gone before she could spend more time with him.

"Dad, I will avenge you. I will not let those who have harmed you go unaccounted," Arielle said as she wept.

Meanwhile, Aaron was still reeling in from the shock after hearing the words by Arielle.

She said that I am always her little brother and that remains forever whether I care to admit it or not. What could she possibly mean by that? Does she mean that she is willing to recognize me as her brother?

He eyed Arielle who was standing before him as bitterness swelled in his heart. But, all I ever wanted was...

"Aaron, I know you wish to avenge Dad. However, you don't have any real power in your hands. Hence, you should act with caution, and do not confront her hastily," Arielle said.

Needless to say, Aaron knew exactly who Arielle was referring to.

"That is my business. You need not meddle in them. Get lost! I don't want to see you!" Aaron shot daggers at Arielle and warned her in a low voice.

Arielle was baffled by his sudden temper and wished that she could punch him in the face.

"Listen to me. Do not lose the war while trying to win a mere battle," Arielle said before she left the church.

Aaron stared blankly in the direction in which her shadow disappeared into the darkness for a moment before turning to look at the casket in front of him.

"Father, I will protect her on your behalf."

Meanwhile, Melissa rushed back home from Lisa's place after knowing that Matthew had gone home. When she was back in their room, she noticed that Matthew was already in the shower. It was the first time that he headed right for the shower after getting home. She chuckled and sat by the bedside as she clutched

a book in her hand to pass the time as she waited for Matthew to get out of the shower.

Matthew was afraid that Nancy's scent would linger on his clothing. Hence, he chucked his clothes right into the washing machine right after taking them off. He wrapped himself in a towel and came out of the shower after he was done.

Melissa lifted her head when she heard the sound of the door creaking open. She was her usual poise and elegant self. Matthew felt a crippling sense of guilt at the sight of her calm and gentle face.

How could I cheat on her?

"Hurry up and get dressed. Otherwise, you're going to catch a cold," Melissa said as she got up to fetch some pajamas for her husband.

Melissa headed to the bathroom right after. She wanted to put his soiled clothes into the washing machine.

Matthew reached out to take her hand before she could head into the bathroom. She turned around and looked at her husband and asked, "What's the matter?"

"I've put the clothes in the washing machine," Matthew explained. Then, he led her to the bed and asked, "How are you feeling? Any better?"

Melissa felt her heart skip a beat.

Chapter 1655 The Funeral

"Why did you put the clothes in the washing machine today?" Melissa asked. She had always hand-washed Matthew's laundry.

The general knew he had roused Melissa's suspicion. However, he did not see any other way out of the situation. If he had not put the clothes into the washing machine and his wife found out about his affair, it would only serve to complicate the matter.

"Just put the clothes into the washing machine in the future," Matthew said. Then, he circled her into his embrace and said softly, "I'm worried about your health. I mean for you to accompany me for the decades to come."

Melissa burrowed herself in his embrace and was moved by his sweet talk.

Even if they had been married for years, Melissa felt like the love between them was just blooming.

"I will take care of myself so that I may continue to be by your side forever," Melissa said.

Matthew embraced her and said nothing. However, he made a vow to never betray her ever again.

After a week, Dylan's funeral procession began as scheduled.

Dylan's subjects who could make it to his funeral procession came to send the king off for one last time from all over the nation. Those who did not manage to come mourned the king in their homes.

On the day of the funeral, Arielle and Vinson disguised themselves and followed Lawrence to send Dylan off.

They could only watch the funeral procession from afar. There were fresh flowers placed on Dylan's casket that was carried by over twenty men. Arielle was disheartened as her father's casket was finally laid to rest in the royal mausoleum. It hit her that she would never get to see him ever again.

Even though she was terribly upset by the notion and wanted to cry, there were no tears in her eyes. She had shed all of them in the past few days.

After they headed back home, Vinson noticed that Arielle was standing by the window with folded arms, painting a forlorn figure. He approached her and hugged her from behind as he said, "Just cry if you want to."

Arielle leaned back and shook her head gently. There were no tears left to cry. Even if she was really upset, she could not find it in her to shed another tear.

"Sannie, leave Dylan's matters to me. You'd better head back to the country first." At the thought of the queen mother's national arrest order, Vinson's eyes darkened. He was afraid that they would somehow make a blunder.

Even if they had been disguising themselves when they went out these few days, they still encountered a couple of dangerous situations. Needless to say, it was all orders by the queen mother.

"I want to avenge my parents!" Arielle said. She knew that Vinson was worried about her safety. She turned around and looked at him. "We can't run forever. I want her to personally clear the accusation of me being a spy and for her to guarantee my safety."

Vinson knew that she already had a plan in her mind after listening to Arielle. However, he still felt the need to remind her that her safety should always come first. After all, the queen mother was so vicious that she could even sacrifice her own son to achieve her goals.

The day after Dylan's funeral ceremony, Aaron's coronation was announced by the royal family. From then on, he was no longer the Prince Aaron of Turlen. Aaron would be crowned the King of Turlen. The future of Turlen now lay on the shoulders of the young king.

"Your Majesty, since Prince Aaron has been crowned as the king, is it not time you renounce your powers to the new king, so that he may lead the country from now on?" Lawrence asked Nancy.

Aaron was surprised that Lawrence was being so direct. He shot a look at Nancy, curious to hear what his grandma had to say. Would she treat him the same as she had treated his father?

The queen mother's face darkened when she heard Lawrence. She turned to look at Aaron and asked, "Aaron, is this what you think too?"

Chapter 1656 Underestimated Him

She had completely underestimated Aaron. Given that he had not confronted her since the news of him killing his father broke, Nancy had assumed that the boy had accepted reality and pledged his loyalty to her. She did not expect him to be waiting for her there. He had even gotten the politicians to be on his side. When did he become so close to them?

How could I not have realized that? Her heart sank as thoughts ran through her mind. Have I helped a vicious ingrate?

Aaron shook his head in reply to the queen mother's question. When Nancy saw that, she thought that Aaron was not after power and felt slightly guilty for her wild guesses earlier on. She smiled and was about to say something when Aaron spoke first. "Grandma, I'm not after power, but I'm the king after all, right?"

When he saw the queen mother's expression darkening, a sense of excitement arose in him. However, he tried to suppress his feelings and put on a calm front while saying placidly, "As a king, if I don't possess power and control, how am I going to lead my country to prosperity and improve my citizens' lives?"

Taking a pause, he continued, "Grandma, I'm sure you don't wish to see me becoming a useless king who failed to do anything for his people, right?" After Aaron finished speaking, he fixed his gaze on Nancy.

Even though his initial plan was to lie low for a period of time before pitting himself against Nancy, he had decided to go with the flow since there was someone lending him a helping hand.

I have underestimated him instead!

Nancy looked at Aaron with a darkened expression and said, "I would like to hand over the reins to you, but you're too young and inexperienced. I'm worried that you wouldn't make good decisions for the country."

"Your Majesty, even though His Majesty is still young, we will be guiding and supporting him. If there's something that he's doing incorrectly, we would let him know at once," Lawrence replied immediately.

Nancy stared at Lawrence somberly, and it suddenly dawned on her that the man had been siding with Dylan. After Dylan died, he started leaning toward Aaron. Since when has he started taking sides? Hasn't he always been neutral?

She completely regretted not getting Lawrence to work for her when she had the chance to.

Seeing that everyone was speaking up for Aaron, Nancy looked toward Matthew, hoping that he would speak a few words in her favor. She was sure that he would understand what she meant.

However, the queen mother was soon disappointed. The moment Matthew caught her eye, he lowered his head at once. When she saw that, anger welled up in her chest.

"Her Majesty did not say that she wouldn't hand over the power to His Majesty. Her only concern is that the king is still young. Since all of you are willing to support him, I am sure Her Majesty would be open to handing over the reins to him."

Just then, a follower of the queen mother spoke. His family had only prospered after he started serving Nancy; as such, he had to ensure that she continued to hold power and authority. The man knew that he had to come up with a solution quickly under current circumstances.

He paused and looked toward Nancy before suggesting, "Your Majesty, maybe you could get His Majesty to do something that's beneficial to the citizens. You can

assess his capabilities through the task, and if he manages to complete it successfully, you can then hand over the reins to him gradually."

The rest of Nancy's followers agreed immediately. "That's right. After all, His Majesty had just ascended the throne, and there would be no going back if he does something that harms the country. It's a good idea to test him with a task first and hand over the reins to him after he proves himself."

"Yup! That should be the way to go."

"Indeed. For the sake of our country, you can't just give him the power all at once..."

After hearing the comments of her followers, Nancy said with a grim expression, "I will think about it and give my reply tomorrow."

Chapter 1657 Succession

After the meeting, Nancy headed back to the palace. She could feel herself marinating in resentment when she thought about what happened earlier and hurled her glass on the ground furiously. Monisha, who seemed to have gotten used to that, instructed the servants to clean up the glass shards at once.

Meanwhile, she stepped forward and started massaging Nancy's shoulders.

"Your Majesty, there's no need for you to be so angry. This could be an opportunity instead. His Majesty is still young, impulsive and conceited. Therefore, he must be quite eager to achieve something. Since that's the case, you should just let him do whatever he wants. If he fails, that would give you a perfect excuse to take back the reins. Don't you think?"

Initially, Nancy wasn't intending to hand the power over to Aaron. After all, she had been in charge for so long, and Dylan's passing was a perfect opportunity for her to take over his power. However, she did not expect that someone would suggest that she hand over the reins to Aaron after just a few days. that would defeat the purpose of her murdering her own son.

However, Monisha had a point too. With that, Nancy decided to hand some tasks to Aaron and see what he was able to achieve.

While Celeste was still staying at her original wing in the palace, Aaron would have to move from Paelsford Manor to the grand hall where Dylan stayed previously as he had succeeded the throne.

However, Dylan's room had to be renovated before Aaron could move in. Hence, Aaron would continue to stay at Paelsford Manor during the renovation.

After he returned to Paelsford Manor, he lit a cigarette and stood by the window. He recalled the day when he knew that he had been deceived by Nancy. He was so furious that he almost wanted to expose her true colors on the spot.

However, Dylan kept shaking his head at him. Aaron understood that his father wanted him to stay calm and lie low. That was the reason why he had been tolerating Nancy all those while.

Now, since someone was offering him a golden ticket, he wanted to take it.

Even if it was just an insignificant responsibility, he was determined to perform well. The boy was set on building his influence and avenging his father.

Soon, Aaron's succession to the throne was reported all over the news and the entire country knew that Prince Aaron would become the new king of Turlen. The citizens were excited to have a new king and were looking forward to him leading the country to prosperity and giving all of them better lives.

Alicia, who was in school, had also seen the news of Aaron's succession. She was happy and sad for him at the same time as he had only become king due to his father's passing. She knew that if Aaron had a choice, he would rather have his father by his side and remain a prince forever.

However, it was still an event that was worth celebrating. After school ended that day, Alicia took out her phone and rang Aaron.

Aaron stared at the caller ID while the phone rang. After a moment of contemplation, he put out his cigarette and answered.

"Congratulations, Aaron!" Alicia's chirpy voice sounded from the other end of the line. "Thanks," Aaron briefly acknowledged it with a slight smile on his face.

"Do you want to come over to the apartment later? We should celebrate," Alicia asked excitedly.

Aaron thought about it for a few seconds before agreeing. After hanging up, he opened an unread message on his phone. When he saw the message, his expression darkened.

Meanwhile, Alicia headed to the grocery store immediately after speaking to Aaron. She had just finished preparing the final dish when Aaron arrived later that evening.

Chapter 1658 He Does Not Deserve Her Love

The moment Alicia saw him, she beamed sweetly as she stepped forward to take his jacket from him and hang it on the hanger. Next, she took out a pair of slippers and placed them by his feet. At that very moment, she looked like a loving wife welcoming her husband back from work.

Under the soft glow from the dim light, Aaron started thinking. The young lady is busy serving me, delicious homecooked dishes... Unequivocally, these are what others define as infinite happiness, aren't they?

After their meal, Alicia snuggled into Aaron's arms. There was blissfulness amid satisfaction in the smile on her face.

Grabbing Aaron's warm palms, her lips curled up when she murmured, "Aaron, it's a blessing to have you by my side! How nice if I could have meals with you and lie in your arms every day. My happiness at these moments is beyond description."

Aaron cast his head down to look at her and heaved a silent sigh. I might be able to grant her wish before this, but it's impossible now.

He could only grab the opportunity to accompany her for a few nights by staying over while the grand hall was still under renovation. After everything was ready, the palace would be his permanent residence.

Nonetheless, he did not mention a single word about that while gazing at the young lady in his arms, listening attentively to her as she described her ideal life. Fine, I would rather keep mum from her for the time being. At least, she can stay cheerful for a few more days.

After quite a while, there was still no response from Aaron. Thus, Alicia turned to lie on top of him before querying, "Aaron, do you feel happy when you're together with me?

Narrowing his eyes, Aaron gazed at the young lady leaning close to him. She's getting more and more daring now and will snuggle up to me so intimately. Well, she treats me like her boyfriend now.

"Come on. Tell me. Do you feel happy by my side?" Alicia asked coquettishly, wrapping her arms around his waist. Pressing one side of her cheeks on his chest, she mumbled, "I want to make you happy, so there'll at least be a spot for me in your heart."

Even though she was in Aaron's arms at the moment, she could not help feeling a sense of indecipherable uncertainty. It was as though he might leave at any moment and would not appear in her life again. She was seized by fear and could not fathom why she had such a feeling.

Snippets of those moments they spent together flashed across his mind as he sensed the sheer anticipation in her muffled voice. Hence, he responded briefly with a soft hum. The next second, he emphasized earnestly in case she did not hear him, "Of course! I am happy!"

In actuality, Alicia only asked the question spontaneously without anticipating a reply from Aaron. After all, they were not an official couple. Never had she expected that he would give her a reassuring reply. In an instant, tears trickled down from the sides of her eyes. Shortly after, the front part of his shirt was dampened by her tears.

Sensing that, Aaron stretched out his hands to scoop her up. Inevitably, his heart ached a bit as he caught sight of tears all over her face.

He stretched out his hand to wipe off her tears as he asked in a low, charismatic voice, "Why're you crying?"

"Aaron, I love you so much. Don't leave me, okay? I promise that I'll never go against your wishes..." Alicia pleaded with Aaron, wrapping her hand around his neck tightly. When her tears dropped on his neck, he could feel the burning sensation scorching his frigid heart. Oh my! It never crosses my mind that she loves me so deeply. However, what's so good about me? How do I deserve her love?

He felt like pushing her away, but he could not resist the warmth and homely feeling that she brought him.

"Okay!" he replied softly. Whipped up by his response, Alicia embraced him instantly, kissing him fervently. As her passion turned him on, he turned swiftly, placing her beneath him...

Chapter 1659 Follow Her Closely

Initially, Arielle thought Nancy would stall for time to hinder Aaron's succession to the throne. Surprisingly, the latter made an official announcement about that the following day after her father's funeral.

Even though Aaron's succession to the throne was built on the tragic fate of her father, she still intended to congratulate him.

Recalling Aaron's aloofness toward her, she changed her mind about calling him and sent him a congratulatory message instead. Soon, half an hour passed, but she did not receive any reply from him. Knowing that he paid no heed to her, she let out a sigh before putting her phone down. Since he disregards me, I'd better stop bothering him.

At the moment, the arrest warrant was bugging her. She knew that she had to gear up so that Nancy would retract the nationwide arrest warrant. Without hesitation, she took out her laptop to send a few emails and waited patiently for a reply.

In the meantime, Linda glowered coldly at the man in front of her in a hotel. "How did you manage to know my whereabouts?"

To prevent him from clinging to her, she stayed in Lightspring for a few days intentionally before heading toward Turlen. Nobody else knew about her current location, not even the Duke. Furthermore, she was only in the country for barely one month. It never occurred to her that he would be able to locate her whereabouts so soon.

Mark looked at her with a grin. His effort finally paid off after trying to track her down for more than one month. "I've been dropping by hotels and inns every day, trying my luck by asking around if anyone had seen you."

Too bad the hotels were particular with their guests' confidentiality, and he failed to bribe any staff for information. He even regretted that he had never learned to hack. Otherwise, it would be easy as snapping fingers for him to track her down.

Catching sight of his gleeful smile, Linda asked coldly, "How long have you been looking for me?"

"Not long either," Mark replied candidly. At the sight of the somberness on her face, he touched the back of his head and added, "I've been tracking you down since the first day I reached this country."

It never crossed Lina's mind that he would spend such a long time looking for her. Right that instant, she felt a surge of indescribable feelings from within her.

"What a fool!" she mocked. On the heels of that, she headed back toward her room. Mark followed closely behind her, worrying that she would be gone again. Meanwhile, Linda, who was ahead of him, twitched her lips slightly before she was suddenly out of sight the next second.

Seeing that Linda had entered her room, Mark turned and went downstairs. He was there to double confirm her room number before checking into the one next to hers.

Linda stepped out of the room upon hearing Mark's footsteps. When she noticed he was nowhere to be seen, she snorted and slammed the door before turning and making her way toward the bathroom.

Little did Linda realize that Mark headed to the front counter right away to book a room next to hers. As something popped into his mind, he went to the supermarket and bought a lot of her favorite snacks. Moments later, he dropped by the hotel he checked in previously to retrieve his luggage and check out before returning to the one Linda was staying in again.

He thought of sending the things to Linda at once but changed his mind after realizing that he had been to various places the whole day. He took a shower to get

rid of his sweat odor and get changed before knocking on Linda's door with the snacks.

Linda had just taken her shower when she heard someone knocking on the door. Therefore, she answered it with a towel wrapped around her body. Astounded, Mark could only look away hastily and dared not spare her any glance.

"T-These are for you..." he stammered as he handed the snacks to her before walking back to his room hurriedly and closing the door.

Linda could not help feeling amused at his hastiness. As a smile broke out on her face, her usual indifference faded away.

Meanwhile, Ira tiptoed into her room after noticing the light in Arielle and Vinson's room was turned off. She opened the window and jumped out of it swiftly.

Chapter 1660 Feed The Shark

Underneath the moonlight, Arielle and Vinson exchanged looks before piping up in unison, "Follow her!"

With that, they followed behind her silently. When they saw her heading toward the palace, there was a hint of sternness in their eyes. Nonetheless, they continued trailing behind her quietly.

Oblivious to the duo following behind her closely, Ira fell into deep thought. She told herself it would be her last mission, and she had decided to focus on being Arielle's chauffeur after that.

Even though Arielle was suspicious of Ira's identity previously, she gave her enough space. Although they were her employers, she and Vinson had never treated Ira differently. In other words, they were willing to share what they had with her. Consequently, the latter could finally feel a sense of security after risking her life throughout the years. In fact, she liked the peaceful life so much!

Shortly after, Ira stood somewhere not far away from the main entrance of the palace. After much hesitation, she finally advanced toward it, tightening her grip on the flash drive. Nevertheless, she had only moved a pace before someone grabbed her arm.

In a split second, there was a flicker of ferocity in her eyes. When she was about to retaliate, a familiar voice sounded. "Ira, who the h*ll are you? What's your ulterior motive for approaching us?"

Ira was dumbstruck. Just as she was about to say something, the grip on her arm loosened. She turned around, only to find Arielle and Vinson looking intently at her.

Ira could not help feeling a sense of guilt. She had seemingly approached Arielle and Vinson after knowing they were closely acquainted with Lawrence. Hence, she was convinced he would not sense anything amiss and capture her when she was by their side. If so, she would be able to accomplish the mission assigned to her.

After giving herself away, Ira cast her eyes down and murmured in embarrassment, "I didn't betray you."

Deep down, Arielle heaved a sigh. If she had done so, didn't she know she wouldn't be standing right in front of us again?

Throwing a glance at the palace somewhere in front of them, Arielle asked, "Why are you here?"

Ira cast her eyes down. She did not plan to hand over the thing in her hand to them. As someone of her word, she vowed she would not leak anything on the mission assigned to her.

"I'm sorry I can't tell you," Ira responded resolutely.

Flashing her a meaningful look, Arielle cut the crap. "Leave now. You don't have to go back to the condominium either."

With that, she turned and left with Vinson.

Gazing at their retreating figures, Ira dismissed her initial idea to head for the palace and meet the person in charge. She trailed behind them silently instead.

Nobody uttered any words along the way.

Back in the condominium, Arielle and Vinson were about to head back to their room. Even so, Ira—to be precise, Lorraine, stood in their way.

Next, she removed her wig and makeup right in front of Arielle. The moment her original looks came into view, there was a change in Arielle's countenance.

"Who are you? Why did you abduct Sonia?" She stared at the woman right in front of her coldly. My goodness! How could I let someone who abducted Sonia stay by my side?

Right after Arielle mentioned Sonia, Lorraine revealed her true identity to the former and elucidated, "I never intended to abduct her. It was merely an accident. My main aim was to retrieve the bag that she had wrongly taken. It's never my intention to inflict any harm on her, but those foolish men we assigned had the gall to think of forcing themselves on her. Anyway, I'd thrown them into the sea to feed the shark."

Arielle trusted her more when she recalled the findings from their previous investigation.

"The item in your hand now is very important to the queen mother, isn't it?" she asked.

Lorraine's eyes widened in an instant.