Chapter 1261 Terminating The Contract

She had an idea after scanning her surroundings.

"What's so great about being the female lead? Can you bully others just because you've got some backing?"

She intentionally raised her voice, so that everyone present could hear her loud and clear.

The extras stood rooted to their spots. Subsequently, they started exchanging whispers. Some even whipped out their phones to record a live video of what was seemingly an episode of "the female lead's bodyguard humiliates the supporting actress".

Vinson removed his face mask and turned to the crowd.

Though the extras could not recognize him, they could tell from the aura he exuded that the man was nothing short of ordinary.

As a third-tier actress, Annabelle knew who he was exactly.

He was the one whom she had been dreaming about day and night.

Why is the CEO of Nightshire Group here as a bodyguard? Why is he showing up next to that woman?

Vinson stared at Annabelle.

He had been wary about her, wondering what her hidden agenda was and if she was up to something fishy.

Little did he know that she wanted to hurt Arielle.

"Bully you? Are you even worth it?" he questioned in a cold tone. Then, he took out his phone and wanted to call the police.

Arielle took a glance at Sam, who had been pushed aside. Considering the need to continue the shoot, she was well aware that calling the police would blow up the matter. Thus, she grabbed the corner of Vinson's shirt and gestured for him not to do so.

Upon understanding Arielle's intention, Vinson kept his phone reluctantly and withdrew his other hand from Annabelle's neck.

"I'm so sorry, Mr. Nightshire, I didn't know..." It took only a few moments to humble an arrogant fox.

"You got it wrong," uttered Vinson.

Annabelle knew what he meant.

"I'm sorry, Ms. Moore. I..."

Annabelle apologized to Arielle profusely. However, one could tell that she was not sincere in her act.

So, she's Vinson's girl. There's no wonder she could get the role of the lead actress. Even without this movie, I'm certain that she will get another golden opportunity to shine, and then another one... What gives? Just because of her pretty face?

As Annabelle got up, she stole a glance at Arielle.

Despite her hatred toward the latter, Annabelle had to admit that Arielle looked really gorgeous.

Due to the series of mishaps, Arielle had completely forgotten about her injury until the stinging pain snapped her back into her senses. This looks like a poisonous wound!

She turned around and checked it out via the mirror at the gym. Just as she had expected, there was no blood on the open wound, but it looked ghastly.

Even though she did not know what Annabelle had envenomed, the poison seemed to be very strong and somewhat corrosive!

I must get it treated as soon as possible.

"Vinson, let's go home. Something is wrong with the wound."

No matter how skilled Arielle was in medicine, she did not want to underestimate the impact of the corrosive poison. If the wound is left for too long, the chances of it resulting in a permanent scar are very high. I can tackle this evil woman another time. My main priority now is to get myself treated.

She would have never in a million years thought that Annabelle would actually do something so vicious to ruin a person's look. She knew that Annabelle was jealous of her. Unbeknownst to her, Annabelle even carried poisons around to the shoot! How wicked!

Vinson turned to Sam, looking sullen.

"Sam, terminate her contract right away."

After saying so, he carried Arielle up while the crowd made way for their exit.

"Noted, Mr. Nightshire." Sam chased after them anxiously.

Chapter 1262 Applying Medicine

Even if Vinson said nothing, Sam would have done the same to terminate Annabelle's contract.

After getting into the car, Vinson sped all the way home. He did not go to the Nightshire residence, but Maple Mansion.

When they got to the mansion, the wound on Arielle's neck had started to spread.

Seeing her reddened wound, Vinson clenched his fists. He started blaming himself for failing to protect Arielle and causing her to go through such a traumatic experience.

"Can you help me apply some medicine?"

She interrupted his thoughts and handed him the first aid kit.

Vinson let out a sigh and sat down. Then, he applied the medicine gently to her neck

Thereafter, Arielle needed some rest.

So, Vinson came up with an excuse and left the room. Though he did not utter a word, Arielle knew exactly what he was up to.

At night, he would join her in the bedroom to accompany her, just like the past few nights.

The small but well-equipped room had become their love nest for those few days.

Due to Arielle's injury, Vinson slept through the night.

The next day, the morning sun seeped in through gaps between the tree branches outside and shone on Arielle's window.

When Arielle woke up, she felt so refreshed; a feeling she never had before.

With that, she knew that the poison in her body was almost cleared out of her systems.

The first thing she did was gaze at the man sleeping next to her. It was early, so Vinson was still fast asleep. He seems to be in a deep sleep. I guess all the happenings recently must have tired him out. He's been following my schedules and doing all the things he has never done before. He's even willing to be my bodyguard.

"I appreciate all you have done very much," she muttered softly while pinching his cheeks.

Then, she got out of bed quietly.

She wanted to do something to surprise Vinson.

So, she headed to the kitchen.

Since it was way before breakfast, the housekeeper had not started working in the kitchen. Thankfully, the ingredients were plentiful, and she had all that she needed to make Vinson a big breakfast.

It was one of the very few things that Arielle could actually do for Vinson.

Skimming through the ingredients, Arielle picked out some eggs, milk, bread, and vegetables. She had decided to prepare a sandwich, some eggs and heat up the milk.

It had been days since Vinson last had home-cooked food.

Shortly after preparing the materials, Arielle lit the stove. Within moments, a lovely aroma filled the kitchen as well as the entire place.

Vinson, who had a great sense of smell, was awakened by the smell of delicious food.

He habitually looked to the side to check on Arielle as soon as he opened his eyes, but she was not there.

Panicked, many thoughts ran through his mind as he thought hard about where Arielle could have gone so early in the morning.

Immediately, he sobered up, got dressed, and went out the door to look for Arielle.

The smell of food led him to the kitchen, and he found who he was looking for there.

"Sannie, you're injured."

A tinge of frustration laced his tone.

Why is she cooking for me when she's not well?

Chapter 1263 Targeted By Everyone

Arielle was stunned.

It's just a small wound on my neck. Though it's poisonous, it isn't fatal. Moreover, it has already scarred. I even avoided frying by selecting a simple Ustranasion recipe.

She kept her thoughts to herself and smiled.

"It's okay. I just wanted to make you breakfast." As she spoke, Arielle presented her sandwich, eggs, and a glass of warm milk. "Thank you for keeping me company these few days."

Staring at the woman with a bright and sweet smile, Vinson could not hold it in anymore. He stretched out his arms and hugged her gently.

In the beginning, he was very cautious, worried that he might hurt Arielle. When he finally had her in his embrace, he tightened his grip affectionately.

Meanwhile, Annabelle found herself in a dire situation.

She assumed that she would only be expelled from the current movie. Little did she know, news about all the bad things she did went viral.

As if that was not enough, her presence was needed at the company to be issued a termination notice!

When she exited the company, she encountered a fate worse than death. There was a large group of reporters waiting for her. It seemed like everything was pre-planned to go against her. I'm sure Vinson has got a lot to do with this!

Though she was raging inwardly, there was nothing she could do.

After all, she had committed all those things.

"Ms. Anter, is it true that you've been alleged for attempting to disfigure Ms. Moore? You've been sued?"

"Ms. Anter, do you have anything to say about this?"

"Ms. Anter, did you really disfigure Ms. Moore at a recent shoot? Is this your first time doing something like that?"

The reporters bombarded her with a series of tough questions. Each word slashed her heart into a million pieces. Turning livid, she wished she could land a tight slap across each of the reporters' faces.

Seeing her keeping silent, the reporters standing next to her continued to press her buttons.

The more they annoyed her with words, the more infuriated she became. Do these people have a death wish? I really don't know what will happen if I can't suppress my anger.

Upon noticing the commotion, the security guards rushed over to block the reporters. They had no idea that Annabelle had been terminated by the company.

No matter how hard she tried to avert the reporters, they continued to attack her with never-ending questions and comments. Their intention was to lure her to say something. They could not care less about how Annabelle might have felt at that moment.

"Please excuse me. I'll explain the whole situation to everyone soon," she yelled at the top of her lungs, with the hopes that the reporters would stop pestering her.

She did not know what else to do.

The reporters tailed her every step.

Suddenly, Annabelle went ballistic and bellowed, "Get one step closer to me, and I'll beat you to a pulp!"

Her unexpected threat did not scare the reporters off. Conversely, they became even more intrigued as though they had gotten what they came looking for.

The crazier Annabelle acted, the juicier the news would be.

"Ms. Anter, are you feeling guilty? Disfiguring a fellow actress, being a sugar baby, and humiliating others, are these allegations true? What was on your mind when you decided to harm Ms. Moore?"

"Get lost!"

Faced with the predator-like paparazzi who ceaselessly attacked her words and questions, a dangerous thought flashed through Annabelle's mind. She lifted her bag and was about to strike the person in front of her. Luckily, the security guard stopped her before she could do it.

Chapter 1264 Karma Bites

"Please calm down, Ms. Anter."

"Calm down? How do you expect me to calm down? I've lost everything. And you want me to stay composed?"

Fury ignited in Annabelle.

A bespectacled man squeezed his way through the crowd. He had a pair of big eyes and long hair.

With a professional camera and microphone in his hands, he said timidly, "Ms. Anter, I was a fan of yours."

"So, do you have a question too?"

Totally enraged, Annabelle glared at the man as though warning him to zip his mouth, or else she would strike him.

The reporter was stunned by her scowled expression.

Although he looked just like any Tom, Dick, and Harry, he had a sister who was as beautiful as a fairy.

Unfortunately, she was disfigured at that one time she became an extra in a show alongside Annabelle.

At first, his family assumed that it was an accident. However, when the news went viral online, he saw his sister's name was revealed.

Shaking his head, he took a few steps backward while reaching into his bag. Subsequently, he took out a pile of pungent excretion and tossed it on Annabelle.

"I don't have any questions to ask. I just wanted to say that the most disgusting thing I've ever done was to adore you!"

Annabelle screamed in horror.

Some netizens nearby were thoroughly enjoying the fiasco. Long before the paparazzi started posting their questions, the netizens had already begun streaming online. The moment when the man threw things at Annabelle nearly broke the Internet and sent all the viewers into a frenzy.

Didi: "Serves her right!"

Bano: "What goes around comes around."

Didi: "She's never a good actress, to begin with, and she dares to disfigure others using corrosive poison? This ending suits her well."

Koorry: "I'm a fan of Annabelle, and I've always thought that she's a kind-hearted angel. Who knows she is actually an evil witch! I'm never going to like her ever again."

Zeze: "I was one of her fans too, and that's the worst decision I had ever made. I must admit that I was blind!"

Koorry: "Karma bites. She asks for it. If she had no intention of harming others, she might stand a chance to progress further in her career and be a top actress. Now? All her efforts are in vain. Serves her right!"

L00L00: "What did our goddess Arielle do for you to be so cruel to her? You're so ruthless!"

AK46: "Poor goddess Arielle!"

Annabelle had never expected things to turn out this way. Within a few hours, she became the talk of the town, the one that everybody loathed, the laughing stock. The continuous pestering from the paparazzi overwhelmed her to a point that it almost made her go insane.

Meanwhile, Arielle and Vinson just finished their hearty breakfast. Vinson refused to let Arielle do the dishes, so he did the dishes. Watch his towering guy caring for her, a warm and fuzzy feeling crept up on Arielle.

Upon admiring Vinson for quite a while, she took up her phone and checked her messages. What greeted her was a series of news and comments about Annabelle. At first, she was reluctant to click on any of them. But when she thought about how she was also entangled in the incident, she clicked on it to read the news. Annabelle was in a complete mess being chased and interrogated by the paparazzi. Seeing how disheveled she was at her worst moment, Arielle's lips curved upward. Needless to say, this must be Vinson's doing. He always makes my heart full.

She did not feel sorry for Annabelle because these were the consequences of her actions. As the saying goes, "one reaps what one sows".

## Chapter 1265 An Argument

Vinson came out from the kitchen and saw how delighted Arielle was. "What are you reading that makes you so happy?" he asked while hugging her from behind.

She waved her phone at him. "This!"

"She won't appear in front of you anymore." He took a quick glance at her phone screen and cringed. That d\*mned woman! How brazen of her to lay her fingers on Arielle!

Arielle expected that ending for Annabelle. She had been totally excommunicated from the entertainment industry. Henceforth, she would never have a chance to show up before Arielle again.

"Vinson, I'll go over to the Mill residence in a while. You can resume work at the office," she spoke after putting down the phone.

Initially, Vinson planned to keep her company for two more days until she was fully recovered. Contrary to his plan, she already wanted to get out of the hospital to see the Mills.

Vinson got up and sat beside her. He looked her in the eyes and said sternly, "Don't go to the Mill residence."

Arielle was slightly taken aback. "Why? Didn't we already talk about this? I must take part in the most important occasion of the Mill family."

"Yes, we did talk about this. But, that's all in the past, and things are different now. I'm not letting you go."

Arielle became upset, but she tried to hold it all in because she wanted to know why Vinson changed his mind. He was very supportive of me when I last told him that I wanted to join the Mills. Why did he suddenly stop me?

"Vinson, there's nothing you can do about it even if you disagree. I must go to the Mill residence." Previously, Arielle wanted the medical manuscripts from the Mill family to gain an extra advantage for herself. Later on, it became a priority to her when she thought about the possible consequences if the manuscripts were to land on those with an ulterior motive.

Vinson pulled a long face and kept silent. On the other hand, Arielle was fuming inside. Both of them gave each other the cold shoulder for a while before he finally compromised.

"I'm just worried about you. See, you're injured. How can I let you go alone?" Seeing how worked up Arielle was, Vinson had no idea what to do with her.

"This is just a minor wound. Don't worry." She knew that he cared about her a lot. Thus, her unhappiness disappeared. She held his hands coquettishly and said, "I know you're concerned about my safety but I'm Arielle Moore. You can rest assured that I'll be just fine."

Vinson knew that there was nothing he could do to change her mind. Had he insisted otherwise, the conflict between them would just continue. It's not worth it to risk hurting our relationship because of this one incident. Furthermore, that's the precious part about Arielle that I love.

"Okay, I'll let you go if you must. However, you ought to promise me one thing." Vinson held her hands and said solemnly, "You must take good care of yourself when you are at the Mill residence. Regardless of what happens, safety first. I don't want you to get hurt."

"Yup, no worries. I'll definitely stay safe and protect myself. No injuries or whatsoever, I promise." Then, she cheekily pecked him on the cheek. Vinson

seized the opportunity and moved in for a big smooch around her neck. With that, the couple made up with each other.

"Bring Sasha along. It's safer than you going to the Mills on your own."

Arielle knew that Vinson would continue to bug her if she said no. Hence, she agreed right away. Sasha is a skilled fighter. I'll have one thing less to worry about when she's with me.

## Chapter 1266 Selection Of The Head Of The Family

Arielle brought Sasha along to the Mill residence. At first, Vinson wanted to personally send them there but was rejected by Arielle. She refused to be treated like a princess. With that, Vinson watched her leave before heading to his company.

When he was on his way to work, he thought about that one time he stood up for Arielle at the shooting set. It suddenly dawned on him that the incident might impact Arielle negatively. Therefore, he requested his subordinate to silence all viral comments on the internet, leaving no room for the netizens to suspect that he was behind all these.

The big picture that the netizens had gathered was that it was Annabelle who had offended Arielle and brought all the disaster upon herself.

Arielle was ten minutes late when she arrived at the Mill residence. When the butler ushered her into the house, everyone stared at her in disbelief.

All those who were competing for the head of the house position were either old enough to be Arielle's father or grandfather.

Scanning across the hall, one could not spot any youngster. The handful of young people were all from families of doctors and medical experts. Each one of them had watched and learned from their elders since young. They all possessed impeccable knowledge and skills in medicine. They were very surprised to see Arielle, wondering if she was the all-rounder goddess that everyone talked about on the Internet. People knew her by her renowned titles as the chairwoman of Sann Group and the owner of Maureen's Kitchen. Even those who only nerded out on medicine had heard about her.

What brings her here? Is she joining in the selection to become the head of the Mills? Does she actually know medicine?

Although everyone present had a million questions they were dying to ask, they kept their cool and remained silent.

Queenie and Donovan almost jumped out of their skins when they saw Arielle. Queenie was exceptionally jealous of her archenemy whom she did not expect to see at her own home. She knew that Donovan liked Arielle. She side-eyed him and saw that there was a twinkle in his eyes. Instantly, she became livid.

"Why are you here? Do you know where is this place? Who allowed you to come in?" Queenie turned green in envy as she clasped her hands on the handles of the wheelchair.

Arielle looked in the direction of the angry voice and saw Queenie staring daggers at her. If her glares were a weapon, I would have died a million times.

"The head of the Mill family invited me here. So, I can come and go as I like. Why? Does my presence make you feel uncomfortable, Ms. Queenie?"

Speaking confidently, Arielle took her seat. She tried not to pick on Queenie so much, for the sake of the Mills.

"We're selecting the head of the Mills. Aren't you ashamed to showcase the little that you know about medicine? It's better for you to go operate a restaurant or be that little superstar in your own right. You don't belong here," Queenie bellowed while suppressing her murderous intent.

Donovan was disgusted at Queenie's odious character despite not showing any expression on his face. When Queenie was not looking, he stole glances at Arielle, only to realize that she had become even more alluring than before. Donovan could not take his eyes off of her at all.

However, Arielle was revolted by the look in his eyes, and she averted his gaze almost instantly. Queenie caught her reflex action and knew what was going on. Swiftly, she looked up and saw Donovan keeping his gaze fixated on Arielle. The dreamy look on his face angered her to the maximum.

### Chapter 1267 Determined To Win

Queenie loved Donovan deeply, but the latter had feelings for Arielle in the past. This was why Queenie would easily get jealous and mad at Arielle. Although Donovan had clarified that he no longer liked Arielle, Queenie still felt uneasy about it. Who knows if he's telling me the truth? I'm not a ringworm in his guts, so I can't read his mind.

She was fearful that the old flame in Donovan would be reignited. So, she decided to send him away deliberately. "Darling, please take me to my brother."

"Aren't you participating in the selection of the head of the family? Why are you going to your brother's now?" Donovan asked softly. Deep down, he was hoping to stay back, so that he could see Arielle longer.

"Something came up, and I need to see him now. Send me there now, will you?" Queenie held his hand and requested coquettishly. Left with no choice, Donovan wheeled her out of the hall, and to Cornelius' study.

Upon reaching, Queenie came up with an excuse to shoo Donovan away and scored some private time with Cornelius.

"Cor, that b\*tch, Arielle, is here to compete for the position as the head of the family. I don't want to see her at all. Can you remove her name from the list?" Queenie went straight to the point, acting like a spoiled brat.

As a doting brother, Cornelius felt very sorry for what his sister had to go through. The accident cost her both her legs and repaid her with a lifetime in a wheelchair. Anyhow, he was conscious that none of these should give her any right to be willful and unreasonable.

"Queenie, you are now an adult who is married. How could you be so outrageous in your speech?"

"Cor..." She felt wronged.

"Queenie, you shouldn't call Ms. Moore names. Also, she is qualified to join the selection for the head of the Mills. So, I won't cancel her name. Aren't you in the running for the title too? It's a fair selection where everyone competes based on ability. All the best to you!"

"Cor, who's your sister? Me or Arielle? Why aren't you helping me? Do you not love me anymore?" Queenie was nearly in tears.

Cor is well aware of the long history between Arielle and I. Yet, he still lets her participate in the selection. Am I not important to him anymore?

Hearing Queenie's irrational accusation, Cornelius's heart sank. However, he was resolute not to go back on his original intention.

"Ms. Moore is a skillful medical practitioner, and I admire her capabilities. I won't take her name off the list. There's no need for me to do so, either. Stop targeting Ms. Moore. Once you get to know her better, you will realize that she's worthy of your friendship." Cornelius tousled Queenie's hair.

He had always wished for his sister to be friend Arielle. However, this remained an extreme challenge when both ladies would not show any grace to the other party.

In her anger, Queenie refused to listen to any advice. She shrugged Cornelius' hand away. "Since you want her in, she can stay. But let me tell you, she can dream of attaining the position as the head of the Mills. Over my dead body!" She left furiously after declaring those words.

As Cornelius watched his sister leave, his heart ached. He also felt helpless at the same time.

Queenie returned to the hall. When she saw Arielle, Cornelius' words started replaying in her mind. She was once again reminded not to underestimate Arielle since her brother admired her skills too. Thus, Queenie became warier of her.

"You'd better watch out, Arielle. I'm determined to be the head of the Mills," taunted Queenie while glowering at her rival.

Arielle shot a glance at Queenie discreetly.

How many of those present are determined to win the title? I bet all of them do.

Chapter 1268 Mount Blackcloud

As Arielle said nothing, Queenie grew increasingly furious.

Anyone would be upset to get ignored, especially when Arielle was her love rival.

Gritting her teeth, she said, "Are you feeling smug? Even if Cor values your medical skills, there's no way you would become the head of the family. Dream on!"

Arielle shot Queenie a glare like she was a fool before getting up to head to another seat.

"Hey..."

Before Queenie could fly into a fit of rage, Cornelius came out.

As Queenie wanted to join the selection to be the head of the family, she tamped her irritation down.

"Thank you for making time to join the selection for the new leader. Now, we shall begin the selection. There are three areas of assessment, and you'll be graded in each area. Three days later, the candidate with the highest average score will be elected as the leader of the Mill family," Cornelius announced as he stood in the middle of the hall, clad in his plain clothes.

After explaining the details of the selection, he revealed the first mission.

"Your first mission is to find herbs in the mountains. Before the sun sets, the person who finds the most herbs will receive the highest score."

After a brief pause, he added, "There might be beasts in the mountains, so it is a dangerous mission. Those who are afraid can quit now."

"The mountain? Which mountain?"

Many candidates weren't local, so they didn't know the place well.

"Could it be Mount Blackcloud in the suburbs of Jadeborough that people rarely go to?" a local asked

In the suburbs, there was a mountain known as Mount Blackcloud, which was closed to the public all year long. Everyone wondered if Cornelius was talking about this undeveloped mountain.

"Yes, it's Mount Blackcloud."

Many were shocked to hear his answer.

As Mount Blackcloud was undeveloped, there was a chance of the contestants running into wild beasts.

Two contestants who did not dare to risk their lives immediately quit.

However, most of them chose to stay.

It was the twenty-first century, so they assumed they wouldn't run into wild beasts that would take their lives.

Cornelius then told everyone to sign an agreement stating that the Mills wouldn't be held responsible if they ran into danger.

After everyone finished signing the agreement, Cornelius asked Salvador to distribute the maps that he prepared earlier to everyone.

While Salvador was busy distributing the maps, Cornelius continued, "As the goal of this test is to select a leader, we must regard it seriously. To prevent any cheating, all contestants aren't allowed to bring their phones along. Of course, for your safety, the Mill family will prepare a tracking device for everyone. If you run into trouble, you can seek help by sending out a distress signal with the device."

Most of the contestants were medical experts and didn't expect that the Mill family would confiscate their phones. Despite their reluctance, they could understand the Mills' decision.

It was easy to search for information online, so people might be tempted to cheat. Getting elected as the head of the family was too huge a temptation, after all. Thus, everyone handed in their phones obediently amidst their grumblings.

Before Arielle handed her phone, she texted Vinson to tell him about the rules and that she had to hand her phone to the organizer. She reminded him to stay calm if he couldn't contact her, for she would get in touch with him once she came back.

After receiving her text, Vinson typed out a reply quickly: Be careful. It would be great if you could get the medical manuscripts, but it doesn't matter even if you don't. Your safety is of utmost importance.

A blissful smile emerged on Arielle's face after she sensed his concern through the text

Chapter 1269 Followed

After handing her phone to Salvador, Arielle gave Sasha some brief instructions and waited patiently to head to the venue.

Donovan had been keeping an eye on her secretly. At the sight of the wide smile on her face, he felt his heart skip a beat. He had a sudden desire to pull her into his arms.

I thought I loathed Arielle, but it turns out that I've never forgotten her!

Queenie didn't know they had to head to Mount Blackcloud, and she glanced at her feet before turning to Cornelius. "Cor, it is hard for me to enter the mountain alone. Can Don keep me company?"

Cornelius shot her a conflicted look in response. Contestants were supposed to complete the mission alone, but Queenie was an exception. The mountain was steep and treacherous, and she couldn't head in alone.

"Mr. Mill, please allow Mr. Baxter to keep Ms. Queenie company. We understand that she needs help."

Most contestants were reasonable enough. There were a few who were against Donovan keeping Queenie company, but most had agreed. Thus, they had to keep their dissatisfaction to themselves.

As no one stood out to express their disapproval, Cornelius nodded and agreed to it.

"Queenie can't walk, so if something happens, give me a call immediately instead of trying to cheat. After the test ends, we'll check your phone. If we find out that you cheated, I'll disqualify Queenie at once."

Queenie's expression darkened. "Cor, do you seriously think I'll cheat?"

He's my brother! How could he say that in front of Arielle? Furious, she harrumphed icily and wheeled herself away.

After Donovan was expelled from Maxwell University, his future was ruined, so he had no choice but to stick to the Mill family.

He immediately stopped staring at Arielle and went after Queenie, who was in her wheelchair.

An hour later, everyone arrived at Mount Blackcloud.

The large mountain spanned a wide area. Upon arrival, the contestants headed in immediately.

As there were many routes, everyone soon went on different paths.

Although there were many medical experts, Queenie only feared Arielle.

After all, Cornelius recognized Arielle's medical skills, so she knew the latter must be very capable for someone like her brother to acknowledge her.

After Queenie found out that Arielle was capable of handling a pacemaker placement surgery independently, her intimidation of Arielle increased significantly.

"Darling, I've been to Mount Blackcloud a few times, so I'm familiar with the area. Just keep an eye on Arielle. I can't let her become the next head of the Mill family!" Queenie gritted through her teeth.

As Donovan wanted the Mills' medical manuscripts, it was only natural that he obeyed Queenie. Tamping down his dislike for her, he pressed a kiss to her forehead. "Be careful, then. Your safety is of utmost importance."

Queenie's eyes crinkled up in happiness after she received his kiss. "I know. Don't you worry. Go keep an eye on her, but make sure she doesn't notice you."

Nodding, Donovan reminded her to be careful yet again before going in the direction Arielle went.

Meanwhile, Arielle took a desolate path into the woods.

After hearing Cornelius say that they would be heading to Mount Blackcloud to get the herbs, she decided to head into the depths of the mountain.

The deeper she went, the more herbs she would find.

Chapter 1270 Ulterior Motives

Alas, she didn't realize she was being followed.

Not far away, Donovan stepped out from behind a tree. He squinted his eyes at Arielle's distant figure before going after her.

When Arielle went deeper into the mountain, she was surrounded by tall trees that formed a thick canopy above her. There were also weeds and strange plants all around.

As poisonous bugs, snakes, and rats would flit by her feet, Arielle felt as though she were in an indigenous forest.

Although she was a woman, she was unbothered by her treacherous surroundings. Back then, she had tagged along with the Wilhelms and trekked deep into the mountains to seek knowledge from ancient Chanaean medicine experts. Thus, she was used to it.

The herbs she had prepared earlier came in handy at that moment. She applied them all over her body and tossed them to the ground so that the animals would stay away from her.

Behind her, Donovan saw everything, and a hint of rage flashed across his eyes.

Arielle observed her surroundings and immediately started digging when she found the herbs she wanted.

Two hours later, her bag was half full of herbs.

"Eh?"

Suddenly, her eyes lit up as she strode forward swiftly. She came to a stop before a rotten tree and bent down to confirm her guess.

"Two reishi mushrooms! This is an amazing find!" Arielle blurted out.

Carefully, she plucked the reishi mushrooms off the rotten trunk and kept them in her bag.

The thick reishi mushrooms were at their maximum medicinal value now.

Arielle's side profile was undeniably attractive under the sunlight. Utterly captivated, Donovan revealed himself and went toward Arielle, Queenie's reminder all forgotten.

Yesterday at the set, news of Arielle saying she wanted to catch her husband cheating on her had spread like wildfire.

The netizens went crazy trying to figure out who her husband was and why he would cheat on their goddess.

No one had an inkling of who her husband was, but Donovan was in the know.

It was deemed normal for someone as wealthy as Vinson to cheat on his wife since having one woman wasn't enough for a man of his status.

Clearly, Vinson has grown tired of Arielle and cheated on her. That's great, for I can take the advantage to pursue her. I assumed that I used to target her because I loathed her. Never in my wildest dreams did I know that it was because I loved her. Arielle only had eyes for Vinson, but now that he has cheated on her, my chance has arrived.

"Arielle!"

Arielle had just kept her herbs and was about to continue on her journey when someone called her name.

She looked up instinctively and realized it was Donovan. At once, her expression turned dark.

"Why are you here? Shouldn't you be with Queenie?"

Why isn't Donovan with Queenie? Why did he come to me instead?

"Arielle, I was worried about you, so I came after you."

Although Arielle sounded rude, Donovan's voice remained gentle.

Hearing that, Arielle frowned in disgust.

"Worried about me? Are you crazy? Why are you worried about me instead of your wife?"

Instead of worrying about Queenie, who is in a wheelchair, he is concerned about me, a healthy person. Obviously, he has ulterior motives! He's a sly fox full of tricks.

"I love you, Arielle. Vinson cheated on you, and he has obviously gotten sick of you and no longer loves you. I know I did the wrong thing back then. Trust me. I will treat you better than Vinson and shower you with all my love!"