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Chapter 1740 Buzz Off

In the bathroom, while kneeling in front of the Duke, Linda slowly reached out to unbuckle his belt. "You know what to do. Just do it like how you did it all this while," the Duke ordered.

Although Linda was unwilling to please him, she couldn't bear to put Mark's life at risk. I'm sorry, Mark. Linda grabbed the Duke's thighs and froze.

Seeing that she had stopped doing what she was supposed to do, the Duke asked, "Do you want Mark to die?" Left without a choice, Linda pleased him.

Mark had just bought dinner for Linda. He was walking into the room with a smile on his face. When he heard the sound of moving water in the bathroom, he tiptoed toward the bathroom, thinking about scaring her.

However, when he arrived at the entrance of the bathroom, he saw Linda kneeling on the floo

His glistening eyes widened with fury, and he clenched his fists. At that moment, he wanted to take the Duke down with him.

Perhaps it was his intense gaze because Linda noticed his presence. She froze on the spot the moment she saw him.

The Duke was enjoying the moment with his eyes closed. After sensing that Linda had stopped, he opened his eyes and saw her staring at the entrance. He turned to look in the same direction and saw Mark staring at the two of them.

"Buzz off!" the Duke bellowed.

Instead of leaving, Mark dropped to his knees and begged, "Your Grace, please give Linda to me. In return, I'm willing to serve you till I die."

The Duke was infuriated. Since he doesn't want to leave. I shall just let him watch the woman he likes pleasuring another man.

With that in mind, he barked at Linda, "Remember what I said."

Linda knew what he was talking about. However, she didn't want Mark to see her in that state. "Mark, leave. Even if His Grace is willing to let you have me, I won't leave with you. Who do you think you are? Do you think I would ever fall for you?"

Mark was utterly heartbroken when he heard those harsh words. Still, he stayed on his knees.

Linda had no choice but to stand up and slammed the door shut. Since he's not willing to leave, I'll just let him listen from the outside. Once he has thought things through, he'll leave on his own.

The Duke was furious at her action, and he immediately pulled her in.

She tried her best not to let out a moan, but the more she did that, the rougher the Duke got.

Mark was clenching his fists as he listened to Linda's moans. He was dying to rush in and kill the Duke. Yet, he didn't dare to do so because his younger siblings were at the Duke's mercy. If he failed to kill the Duke then and there, he wouldn't be able to bear the consequences.

Meanwhile, the Duke wasn't keen on letting Mark listen to the sound of them having sex. He whipped out his phone and made a call. Within minutes, some men came and brought Mark away.

After a while, the Duke put on his pants and glanced at the worn-out woman on the floor. "Treat this as a lesson. If something similar happens again in the future, you know what I can do."

With that, he left.

Linda, on the other hand, just knelt there and stared blankly into thin air. I shouldn't have gotten close to Mark!

When the Duke arrived downstairs, he told his men to let go of Mark. While staring at Mark with his emotionless eyes, the Duke said, "You're the first person who dares to lay hands on a woman I've slept with!" After saying that, the Duke whipped out a gun with a silencer and fired once directly at Mark's leg. "Treat this as a lesson. Remember this, no one's allowed to touch what's mine."

Mark fell to his knees, and blood was spilling out of his calf. The Duke merely glanced at him before getting into his car and leaving the scene.

Mark forced himself to stand up and limped back into the hotel. After taking the elevator upstairs, he glanced at his room and Linda's room before walking into Linda's room without hesitation.

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The sound jolted Linda back to her senses. With no time to wear her slippers, she dashed out of the bathroom. When she saw Mark lying on the ground holding his leg, she felt as if someone had stabbed her in her heart.

At the same time, it cemented her resolve to break up. "I'll call for an ambulance so that you'll be taken to the hospital." Suppressing her urge to go to his side, she picked up the phone by the bed and made the call.

Mark didn't stop Linda, for he knew that only by recovering could he become stronger.

"Linda—"

"Mark, let's break up. We really are incompatible with each other," Linda interrupted him as she came up to his side after putting on her clothes. "I'm sure you know I got together with you because the Duke kicked me out. Back then, I assumed he had abandoned me, but little did I expect that wasn't the case at all. Mark, I loved the Duke for five years. During those five years, incidents like what happened in the bathroom happened plenty of times." While Linda was speaking, she swept her hair to the side before looking out the window. "You're just a tool to keep me company while I'm lonely. The Duke is the man I truly love."

"I know. I agree to the breakup." Mark looked at her. "Can I kiss you one last time? From today onward, we will go our separate ways and I'll definitely—"

Before he could say "not bother you anymore," Linda wrapped her hands around his neck and sealed his lips with a kiss. In response, he held her tightly in his embrace and kissed her passionately, as if he was condensing the kisses for the rest of eternity into a single moment.

It wasn't until the paramedics knocked on the door that Mark finally let her go. Staring at her swollen lips, he declared in a raspy voice, "From now on, we are strangers to each other."

No sooner had Mark spoken than he got to his feet and limped out the door. Before closing the door behind him, he gave Linda one last reluctant look.

Back inside the room, Linda leaned against the door and covered her face, sobbing.

She had thought that her feelings for the Duke were love. However, she now realized that Mark was the one she truly desired and he, too, loved her back.

Outside, Mark walked out of the shadows and re-approached the door. Despite hearing the sobs from inside, he suppressed the urge to go back in and turned to leave instead.

"Linda, I'll make sure that you are by my side for eternity," Mark murmured under his breath before the paramedics carried him downstairs.

That night, someone was fated to be sleepless.

The next day, the Duke ordered Linda to move to his place. With regard to the women whom he had slept with before, he wouldn't allow any other man to touch them even if they had fallen out of favor with him.

If they were in Lightspring, she would have been elated by his invitation to move into his house. However, after tasting what true love was, she had no desire to stay there, and all she could think of was being together with her one true love.

Unfortunately, she knew that it was nothing but wishful thinking.

One week later, Mark was discharged from the hospital. The first thing he did was to see the Duke. Upon learning of Mark's arrival, the Duke called Linda out and held her in his embrace in front of Mark.

"What do you want?" the Duke asked flatly while lying on the couch with Linda by his side.

Desperately restraining his urge to look at Linda and to avoid the gut-wrenching scene, Mark lowered his head and apologized, "I admit my mistake. I shouldn't have coveted Linda and am willing to make amends."

Having heard his words, the Duke looked up at Mark.

If he hadn't laid a finger on Linda, I would definitely have put him to good use, taking his abilities into consideration. Nonetheless, now that he has apologized and is willing to redeem himself, I'll give him this opportunity.

"You should go here..."

Before he left, Mark gave the Duke an intense look before turning to leave.

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Chapter 1742 Save Me

One week later, Lorraine woke up in her apartment and prepared to go for a jog. The moment she opened the door, a white piece of paper fell by her feet, eliciting a curious frown from her. What's this? Who put it here?

Leaning against the door, she scanned the surroundings outside but didn't notice anything. She picked up the paper, and upon reading its contents, she hurried back into her house.

"Boss, there's news about the queen mother," Lorraine shouted as she strode to Arielle's door.

Arielle, who had just woken up, came out upon hearing the words.

"News about the queen mother? From whom?" Arielle asked with narrowed eyes.

Lorraine showed her the paper. After going through the contents, she asked with a frown, "Where did this piece of paper come from?"

Lorraine pointed at the door. "It was sandwiched by the door. I saw it fell down when I opened the door to go for my morning jog."

Clenching the piece of paper, Arielle narrowed her eyes at it. Who sent this? What is their purpose for telling me the queen mother's location? How do they know that the queen mother isn't dead and where she's hiding?

Arielle's mind was filled with questions.

"Boss, should we head to the location to verify it?" Lorraine gave Arielle an eager look.

"Do you intend to go?" Arielle asked with raised brows.

Lorraine nodded, for she was already bored to death there. Given that there was an opportunity to go out and get some air, she naturally wanted to seize it.

"Go ahead, then." When she saw Lorraine turn around and return to her room right away, Arielle shook her head. She really is excited.

Walking to the door, Arielle looked at Lorraine, who was in the midst of changing. She instructed, "All you need to do is to confirm her presence there. Don't do anything hasty and always ensure your own safety."

Lorraine acknowledged Arielle's concern entirely.

"Don't worry. I'll be careful." With that, she headed out.

At the same moment, Vinson emerged from the room.

"Sannie, what do you plan to do now that we have found the location of the market for the organ trade?"

Torsten was still in their hands instead of being handed to Aaron. After the recent interrogation, they managed to force the location out of him. As a result, Vinson had sent his men to verify the location at once and had just received confirmation of its authenticity.

"We can let Aaron handle it. After all, it will be an achievement for him if he successfully deals with it." After giving it some thought, Arielle decided Aaron should step in. After all, he was the king, and that was his duty.

If she were to take on the task, the most she could do was destroy the market and shattered their network. However, given how massive the web of relationships was, Aaron was in a better position to resolve the matter for good.

Upon hearing her suggestion, Vinson concurred with a nod.

"In that case, let's go back to our home country," Vinson suggested as he pulled her into his arms.

Even though he didn't voice it out, he was cognizant that she was worried about them and missing them too. After what happened to Dylan, he knew that life was unpredictable and wanted to go home and spend time with her.

Arielle fell into a dilemma at the mention of going home, as she had just received news about Nancy. Until Nancy was thrown into prison, there was no way her mind would be put at ease even if she went home.

"Vinson, why don't we leave after the queen mother is caught? I want to see her face justice with my own eyes." Arielle would only feel that her revenge for her father was complete once Nancy was punished by the law.

Before Vinson could reply, the phone in their room rang. Dashing to pick up the phone, Arielle felt a sense of dread when she saw who was calling.

She slid to answer immediately. "Save me!"

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Chapter 1743 Lack Of Vigilance

"What's wrong? Where are you now?" Arielle had hardly spoken when the call ended abruptly. When she tried calling back, she couldn't get through at all.

"Vinson, we'll talk about going home when we're free, all right?" Arielle put her phone in her pocket. "Someone has brought us news about the queen mother. Hence, Lorraine went to check it out. She just called me for help, and I need to go save her now."

Just when she was preparing to leave, Vinson stopped her.

"I'll go with you." With that, both of them loaded a gun each and set off in their car.

Arielle had already committed the location revealed by the paper to memory. Nevertheless, she wasn't sure if Lorraine was still there. Hence, while Vinson was driving, she took out her phone to hack Lorraine's phone so as to determine her location.

"Vinson, this is the location of her phone. Let's search for her there," Arielle informed Vinson while staring at the information she had obtained.

After giving her a nod, Vinson spun the car around and changed directions.

As the road ended in an alley, both of them exchanged glances before stopping their car. With their backs against each other, they walked in carefully.

"Lorraine?"

"Lorraine?"

Arielle shouted a few times, but no one answered.

"Sannie, I think that's her phone!" All of a sudden, Vinson saw a blood-stained phone in the bushes by the wall.

Arielle hurried over to retrieve the phone before giving Vinson a nod. With a stern expression, she replied, "It is her phone!"

The blood on her phone caused her heart to sink, as she had reached a dead end with regard to Lorraine's tracks.

"Vinson, I should have stopped her and personally came to verify the information." It was the first time in her life that Arielle had felt a sense of remorse. If anything were to happen to Lorraine, she wouldn't be able to forgive herself for the rest of her life.

When he saw how Arielle was blaming herself, Vinson reassured her, "No news might be good news now. Let's go and check the queen mother's location to see if she's there. Perhaps the gueen mother noticed Lorraine and took action against her."

Arielle nodded as a vicious glint flashed across her piercing eyes. Once I get my hands on her, I'll make sure that she suffers a fate worse than death.

Both of them then returned to the car with Lorraine's phone. While Vinson was driving, Arielle wiped the phone clean in absolute silence.

Truth be told, Lorraine was just a driver she hired and not their subordinate. In spite of that, the former was willing to put herself in danger for Arielle's sake. As a result, the doubts Arielle harbored about Lorraine's loyalty were no more.

When both of them arrived at the address of the apartment, they saw the entire place crawling with armed guards. It was as if there was someone especially important inside.

After exchanging a quick glance, both of them split up.

As the agile Arielle moved rapidly, her figure quickly disappeared. A few minutes later, she emerged outside a room, with her body hanging off the wall and hidden by the surrounding greenery.

"Monisha, are you still not able to get in touch with them?" Nancy's hoarse voice rang out from the room.

"Ever since you disappeared, the king holds absolute authority. Their power has significantly been curtailed by the king hampering their attempts to help you despite their desire to do so," Monisha answered.

"Aaron, he truly deserves to die! I shouldn't have spared him and made him king. He should have died together with Dylan," Nancy hissed upon hearing Monisha's report.

Infuriated by the exchange, Arielle took out her silver-plated needles and attempted to shoot them at Nancy's body.

"Who goes there?"

Arielle's hand froze momentarily before she put away her needles.

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Chapter 1744 Unexpected Discovery

Upon hearing the sound from outside, Nancy ordered Monisha, "Go and check it out!" Soon, Monisha returned and reported that the guards saw a figure flash past. Suspecting that someone had infiltrated the compound, they had begun a search. The moment she heard the news, Arielle left in a flash. Having avoided the heavy patrols, she finally hid in the forest behind the compound.

All of a sudden, she felt a tap on her shoulder. Her expression tensed up as she whipped out her silver-plated needles to attack. "Sannie, it's me."

Only when Vinson's voice rang out did she pull back. If he hadn't said something in the nick of time, he would have been at the receiving end of her needles.

"I thought I was discovered," Arielle whispered. Looking at him from the corner of her eye, she asked in a concerned tone, "Did you manage to locate Lorraine?"

Vinson shook his head. "No." He paused briefly. "But I did find something else."

"What is it?"

Vinson whispered the answer into her ear, causing her eyes to widen in shock.

"Drugs?"

Vinson nodded with a grim expression.

Arielle's expression drastically darkened, for drugs were something she utterly detested.

Every year, there were plenty of police officers who lost their lives in the war against drugs.

"The information is correct. The queen mother is indeed inside." After sharing their discoveries, both of them prepared to leave. They had to think of another plan since Lorraine was nowhere to be found.

Meanwhile, in a basement somewhere, Lorraine's blood-covered body was being strung up. With her hair strewn all over, she looked pathetically messy.

Nearby, the Duke was sitting on a chair with his legs crossed. Staring at Lorraine, he questioned in an indifferent tone, "Who sent you here?"

If it wasn't because he had contraband stored there, he wouldn't have gotten his men to capture Lorraine. After all, he felt sentimental over the fact that she had worked for him before. Unfortunately, she had seen something that she shouldn't have.

Staring at the Duke, Lorraine said plainly, "No one sent me. I just came here by mistake. It's up to you whether you believe it or not."

"I would advise you not to be so stubborn. I'm sure you're aware of my methods once I find out that you're spying for someone."

The Duke's emotionless tone sent a shiver down Lorraine's spine.

"No one sent me, really," Lorraine repeated, staring at him. "I came here entirely by accident."

Faced with her refusal to confess, the Duke got to his feet. He glanced at her and said, "Since you're unwilling to talk, I'll investigate it myself." With that, he turned and left.

Watching his leaving silhouette, Lorraine took a deep breath.

She did not expect Nancy to be there, let alone encounter the contraband storage. If it wasn't because of her curiosity to find out more after discovering the clues, she wouldn't have been caught in the first place.

"Your Grace, what should we do with her?" Linda, who was following the Duke out, asked.

"Keep her like that for the time being. We'll deal with her once the investigations are concluded," the Duke replied. In truth, his intention was to recruit Lorraine because of her exceptional capabilities.

After grunting softly in acknowledgment, Linda looked up instinctively when she heard the sound of footsteps. The sight of the approaching figure sparked a glint in her eyes and her heart began to pound furiously.

Mark snuck a greedy glance at Linda before turning his attention to the Duke and reported, "Your Grace, I have sent out a batch of goods and the payment for it has also been received."

Meanwhile, Arielle—going back where she came from—suddenly pointed in front and asked, "Vinson, look, what do you think that is?"

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Chapter 1745 Traces Of Blood

Trailing the trajectory of Arielle's vision, Vinson narrowed his eyes when he saw the traces of blood on the floor. There's blood on Lorraine's phone, and there's blood here. It can only mean...

As he exchanged glances with Arielle, the same thought popped into both their minds. Is this a clue that Lorraine left behind for us? "Vinson, Lorraine might be trying to tell us something," Arielle suggested.

Vinson nodded to indicate his agreement. "Let's follow the trail," Arielle suggested amidst her concern for Lorraine.

"Sannie, security here is really tight, and there's no place to hide in broad daylight. I think we should make our move at night instead." Vinson held her back.

Arielle could see the logic behind Vinson's words. Despite that, she was worried that by being late, she would put Lorraine in danger. After Arielle voiced her concerns, Vinson fell silent.

Even though the situation was unpredictable, he couldn't allow all three to have their safety threatened. "You should head back to the car. I'll take a look around. If her life isn't in danger, we'll return at night to rescue her," Vinson proposed.

Although both of them were formidable fighters, it was still risky to go against such heavy security. A single mistake might land all three of them in trouble.

Cognizant that Vinson was worried about her safety and of the fact that this was the only way, Arielle nodded. "All right. Be careful."

Vinson gave her hair a tousle before disappearing from the site.

After he was gone, Arielle narrowed her eyes in thought. Instead of going back to the car, she returned to her previous position to see if she could find out anything more from Nancy.

Meanwhile, the Duke was impressed with Mark's capabilities. If the latter hadn't coveted someone he shouldn't have, his future prospects would've been significantly brighter.

Nevertheless, the Duke still needed Mark this time because he hadn't brought enough men over—it made no sense to deny an extra pair of hands. By the time the matter was settled, he would then give Mark's fate some proper thought.

"I still need you to deliver another batch of goods. This batch is of extreme importance, and any mistakes will not be tolerated," the Duke instructed with a stern expression.

"I'll take extra precautions and deliver the goods safely to their destination," Mark replied at once.

"There's no hurry. You can send them two days later. For now, go and investigate what Vinson and Arielle are up to." The mention of the two elicited a bloodthirsty smile from the Duke's lips.

"Is that all you need? Am I to check anything else?" Mark asked.

"Just do as you see fit." With that, the Duke walked ahead with Linda following closely behind. After just taking a few steps, she turned around to look. When her eyes were met by Mark's passionate gaze, she quickly turned her head away.

As Mark watched their leaving silhouettes, his eyes were filled with longing and desire for Linda. His fists were so tightly clenched that throbbing veins surfaced on the back of his palm.

Linda, wait for me! Mark declared in his mind as he followed them at a steady pace. It wasn't until both of them entered the study that he stopped in his tracks and left the apartment.

Once they were in the study, the Duke gave Linda some instructions before heading off to Nancy's room.

"Your Majesty, isn't it time for you to fulfill your end of our bargain?" the Duke asked while leaning against the door.

Nancy's heart sank at the words. It was just a matter of time before she had to come to terms with it. Regardless of how unwilling she was, there was no way for her to reject him. After all, her life was at stake.

"I'll hand it to you as soon as possible," Nancy replied in a solemn tone.

Whatever the Duke wanted was currently under the custody of Nancy's die-hard followers. Without her permission, no one was going to get their hands on it.

Who is the man speaking? What sort of deal does he have with the queen mother?