

## Chapter 23

Rickard came the next day.

Hesper had not slept the entire night. She only managed to fall asleep in the morning for a short while before someone kicked open the door strenuously.

The man removed her blanket crudely, his anger still not vented. "Wake up! How do you still have the nerve to sleep?"

Hesper opened her eyes in a daze, and there was still drowsy confusion in her eyes. She could only see the people before her clearly after a few seconds.

It was Rickard and Juniper.

He held her hand in an intimate manner that made him seem like he was defending her.

Hence, the moment Hesper had been anticipating felt like a joke. She felt bitterness in her throat but forcefully kept up her appearance and refused to show her emotion. "What's going on?"

Rickard said through clenched teeth, "How do you still have the nerve to ask me what's going on? You

vilified Juniper, and now that the truth has been revealed, you're supposed to apologize to her and beg for her forgiveness." 1

Hesper wondered if she misheard him.

"What?"

He was actually asking her to apologize to Juniper.

Rickard enunciated his words clearly and said in an especially cold manner, "Think about Juniper's status and think about yourself. Do you think that you can vilify the heiress of the Wights so casually? Moreover, you're the one at fault in this incident, so it isn't considered unfair for you to apologize to her."

Hesper raised her head and burst out laughing incredulously. "Heh-heh..."

Look, this is my wonderful husband who only ever doubts me and hurts me. 1

"Don't even think about trying to make me apologize!"

"Hesper, follow my order or face the consequences!"

Rickard was infuriated as well. Juniper was tremendously aggrieved because of this incident, and all he wanted was for Hesper to apologize so they could let bygones be bygones. Why couldn't she do it?

Juniper lowered her gaze and pretended as if she was aggrieved. “Rickard, if she doesn’t want to do it, forget it. Maybe my presence just bothers her. Enduring a little grievance is okay with me.”

“No, she must apologize to you.”

Rickard was very determined, and he took a step forward to clutch Hesper’s wrist.

It felt as if the pain came from deep within her bones. Hesper’s face turned pale from the pain, but she still looked at him without blinking her eyes.

“Rickard, you and I are married. I risked my life to bear your child. Instead of forcing me to apologize as soon as you came, why haven’t you asked me what I wanted to tell you yesterday?”

Rickard remembered Benji's remark about Hesper insisting on him visiting the hospital. Her remark had sounded serious, which was very rare for her.

However, he had been too busy comforting Juniper that he had no time to attend to the matter.

Now that he was here, he had plenty of time.

He pulled a long face and said, “We can discuss what you wanted to tell me yesterday after you're done apologizing.”

“Heh.” Hesper laughed in a self-mocking manner, her eyes glistening with tears. “It’s fine. So, you just want me to apologize, right? I’ll do it then.”

She struggled free from Rickard’s grip, wiped away her tears, and stared straight at Juniper. “Come here so I can apologize to you.”

Juniper did not wish to get close to her, but Hesper’s apology was the result of her feigning her grievance and flirting with Rickard for a long time the previous night. It would be suspicious for her to reject the apology now.

Juniper forced a smile. “Hesper, you can apologize from there. I can hear you.”

“How would that be all right?”

Hesper cracked a faint smile, but her gaze was as cold as ice. “Since Rickard has instructed me to apologize to you, I have to do it with 100% sincerity. Why? Don’t you want my apology?”

“It’s fine, go ahead.”

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