

Chapter 1446 Escape

A pair of large, sooty hands descended on the box hiding her. Janet's pupils contracted and her heart threatened to leap from her throat. She gripped her backpack straps tightly, swallowing in terror, and remained motionless

"Boss, need to use the toilet."

Suddenly a voice, impish in tone, from one of the lackeys outside interrupted the hand's movement

The filthy hands withdrew from her box under Janet's nervous scrutiny

Another lackey chimed in, his voice dripping with sycophancy, "Boss, I have to go too. Only ten more boxes left. Let's take a break and finish the job later."

Quickly following was the sound of a scuffle

Through a crevice between the crates, Janet saw a burly man, draped in an ostentatious gold necklace, giving his underlings a few good kicks while berating them, "Knew you were trying to slack off. If there's less cargo, I'll skin you alive!"

Unfazed by the beating, the lackey approached his boss, plastering a grin on his face. "Boss, no one would dare mess with your goods. Me and the boys will take a leak, grab a smoke to freshen up, and be right back

Won't delay a thing."

Exasperated by the lackey's prattling, the boss waved him off. "Alright, get on with it but make it quick."

The underlings showered him with more flattery before whistling their way out

As the echoes of their footfalls dissipated, Janet exhaled a sigh of relief

Once she was certain that only the burly man remained outside, behind the truck's door, peeking out to assess the scene outside

A desolate, decrepit courtyard lay before her, enclosed by a half-ruined wall. Overgrown flora sprouted in every nook and cranny, with wild vines snaking up fractured lintels and windows. Weeds ran rampant on the ground, amidst scattered debris

At that moment, the burly man was stationed

This was her golden opportunity to escape

Biting her lip, Janet held her breath and

A bead of sweat traced a path from her forehead

Seeing the man remained oblivious to her

Not too far from there stood the courtyard's gate

Upon spotting the half-open gate and hearing the faint distant noise, a glimmer sparked in Janet's eyes

As long as she could make it through that gate and reach a place teeming with people, she would be safe!

Janet's heart pounded against her chest, a mixture of nervousness while clutching her backpack strap, ready to bolt through the gate

She cautiously inched towards the gate, the gleam in her eyes intensifying with each step

She was almost there!

Freedom from this hellish place was within her grasp!

"Stop right there!" A frigid, harsh voice echoed through the deserted courtyard. "Where do you think you're off to?"

The cold, menacing voice brought Janet's escape to a halt. Her pupils contracted, her slender hand gripping the backpack strap trembled slightly, fear triggering a fresh wave of sweat in her palm, causing her entire body to shake involuntarily

Terrified, she twisted her head to confront the intimidating man, fear rendering her speechless

The burly man flicked his cigarette butt on the ground, crushing it under his foot. He then directed his gaze at the visibly frightened woman, his voice gruff. "Who are you? Why are you here? Why haven't I seen you around before?"

Swallowing hard, Janet stuttered nervously, "I... I came with my brother

I was searching for the restroom, got lost, and ended up here."

"Got lost?" The burly man eyed Janet with suspicion before conducting a quick scan of the yet-to-be-unloaded goods on the ground. Everything seemed in order, so he dismissed her with a wave of his hand.

"Scram if you value your life!"

While the burly man found the woman's presence odd, he placed high as the goods were intact, he preferred not to invite further trouble

Relieved, Janet expressed her gratitude to the man and took off

In a stroke of bad luck, just then, the underlings who had left for the restroom returned, crossing paths with Janet

“Wait!”

Suddenly, someone stopped her