

Chapter 460 Being Suspected

Nobody dared refute Lance's words. After all, it was nothing to be ashamed of.

"That's totally fine! You don't have to eat rabbit meat if you don't want it. You can have chicken instead. It's pheasant and tastes amazing. Here, have the drumstick." Rose tore the leg off of the chicken and placed it on Gabrielle's bowl.

"Thank you, Rose." The chicken leg on her bowl made Gabrielle's stomach rumble.

However, it wasn't enough to whet her appetite. After all, they were confined in a dangerous place.

Gabrielle wanted to get out of there.

"If you don't like chicken, there's soup and vegetables." Looking at her hesitation, Rose laughed.

"I'm fine. Thank you so much." Gabrielle

gave Rose an awkward smile. She was trying hard to keep her composure.

"Just eat. These are what we usually eat here. It's your first time here. Have some more,"

Rose explained.

"Alright." Not a word escaped Gabrielle's lips after that. She wanted to leave as soon as lunch was over.

The others started drinking and sharing stories with each other.

Gabrielle thought Bain looked easy-going, but who knew what kind of person he really was.

Everyone in this place had a façade. No one dared to expose their true colors.

One could only assume that Bain must be the same way. Gabrielle couldn't bear to think about who he really was. There were kind and amiable people who were capable of killing. There were also ferocious-looking individuals who had kind hearts.

Gabrielle didn't want to think too much about it, she just needed to keep it low.

When Bryce woke up and she asked him what had happened, they could leave this place.

This place did not feel like home.

When they finished lunch, Bain turned to look at Rose and said, "Rose, show Miss Jones around. There are gardens and vegetable plots near the village. I'm sure Lance hasn't taken her there."

"No, I didn't. We just walked around," Lance replied calmly. He knew that Bain had something to talk with him and wanted Gabrielle to leave.

"Alright then. We're leaving." Rose stood up and was willing to be the guide.

Not a hint of objection was shown on her face. After all, Bain had once saved her life.

Even if she had to sacrifice her life, she wouldn't hesitate.

"Come, Gabrielle... I'll show you our vegetable garden," Rose looked at Gabrielle and said.

It was out of Gabrielle's expectations that a murderer on the run such as Bain

had the talent to tend to plants.

It was really strange. They knew how to grow vegetables?

"Lance, I'm leaving, you two have a nice talk." Gabrielle bid her goodbyes.

Rose led her to walk along the outside of the village. Without saying a word, Gabrielle followed Rose with her head down. Sometimes she looked at the trees, and sometimes she looked up at the sky, it seemed that she felt bored.

"Gabrielle, why are you here? Why did you come to the forest with Lance? This place isn't a place of relaxation. Did you really just come here for that Bryce guy? Is he really your brother?" Rose's tone was as light as the passing breeze. It was as if they were having a casual chat. However, every word of hers had some weight on it.

"Bryce really is my brother. I came here for him. The forest isn't as terrifying as you make it out to be." Gabrielle couldn't figure out Rose's intentions.

Everyone in this place was wearing a mask. No one knew what they were

thinking. Every word of theirs might be a trap.

Gabrielle had no idea who Bain was.

She didn't know much about Rose either.

"Really? Of course you'd say that. I've always thought that people who grew up privileged are innocent and naïve. I like playing with people like you," Rose said with a smile.

"Are you suspecting me of something?" It was clear to Gabrielle the moment she heard Rose's words. She was suspecting her.

Gabrielle had a clear background. She was an ordinary woman. However, her arrival with Lance was suspicious.

She looked like the typical 'girl next door'. It shouldn't have come as a surprise that Rose would accuse her of something. Especially when she came into the forest fearlessly.

Besides, Rose was a criminal and lived among criminals. For the sake of their own safety, they would doubt it.

"Why would I suspect you? It's just that

Bryce and you don't look like siblings. I'm just concerned for our safety. People like us live on the edge every day." The corners of Rose's lips rose with a faint smile.

"We really are siblings but I was adopted. I've been living with the Jones family for twenty years." Gabrielle had decided not to keep that information a secret. After all, she really was the adopted daughter of the Jones family.

"Ah... I see. You're not related by blood. I get it now. That's why you don't look alike. You like Bryce, don't you?" Rose smiled. Her doubts seemed to have disappeared.

"I used to like him. He dislikes me and thinks that it makes him sick that I liked him," Gabrielle replied. She sounded helpless.

Although she used to have feelings for Bryce, she was now Westley's wife. Gabrielle was loyal to her husband. Nothing and nobody could possibly destroy their relationship. 3

"I see. Unrequited love is sad, indeed," Rose sneered with disdain.

Gabrielle did not want to utter any more explanation.

She was worried that she would get in trouble if she said any more.

Sometimes, too much talking could cause trouble.

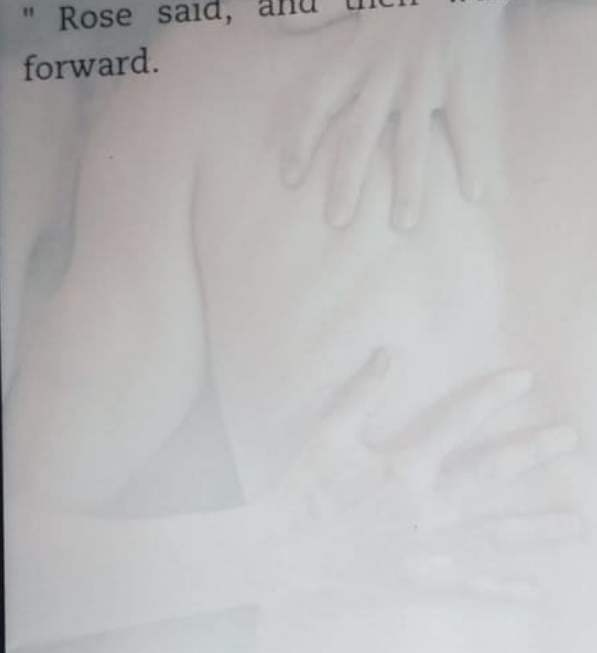
"I was wary of you because I was worried for the safety of our people. After all, there had been people who sneaked into this place with ulterior motives. Bain killed them all and fed them to the wolves in the forest. That's the price they had to pay," Rose said. The tone of her voice was as cold as ice.

Gabrielle had perfect knowledge that Rose's words were meant to warn her. She really had to keep a low profile. If she ever caused trouble, Gabrielle would pay with her life.

Those were the rules in this place.

"Rose, I only came here with Lance because I want to take Bryce home. We're leaving the moment he wakes up. We're not here for anything else," Gabrielle explained. She felt anxious.

"Sometimes, even if you don't mean to do anything, trouble just comes after you," Rose said, and then walked straight forward.



Chapter 461 Coming For Her

Gabrielle had a bad feeling Rose was implying something, so she hurried to her side. ①

"What do you mean, Rose? What trouble?" Gabrielle wanted to think Rose was giving her some sort of warning.

"It's nothing serious. A person like you who can't even stand the sight of chickens getting killed wouldn't be able to stir up trouble. Besides, it was Lance who brought you here. You two aren't actually blood-related? As in, not biological cousins, right?" Rose curiously eyed her.

Even though Rose looked uninterested in these things, she was still a girl. And girls usually liked to gossip. It was something they couldn't help.

"Yes, that's right. Is there a problem?" Gabrielle had a hard time following Rose's topics. Most of them were random and personal. She would ask

about one thing and bring up another.

"No problem at all. I just realized something." Rose smiled teasingly.

"What is it? I'm already confused enough as it is." Gabrielle stopped in her tracks.

There weren't many people she could talk to in this place. She only trusted Lance. As a woman, she thought Rose was also someone she could talk to about all sorts of things.

"The Lance I know isn't the type of person to take risks. He brought you here, a sheltered girl who can't even wield a weapon to Bangkok and hid in the forest. Even though he said he took you here to see your brother, I think there's more to this journey. He wouldn't risk his life for just a cousin. It's very obvious Lance adores you very much. He likes you to the point he's willing to do anything for you, even if he risks his own life." Rose smiled knowing smile.

Rose's words stunned Gabrielle. She didn't think Rose would be very observant.

Lance did in fact, like Gabrielle in the past. However, he suppressed his feelings and accepted the fact that they were only cousins.

She couldn't believe how sharp Rose was. Gabrielle hadn't been here that long and Rose seemed to notice so much about her.

"Did I surprise you, Gabrielle? I'm such a smartass, but it has nothing to do with my wits. If a person loves someone, it really shows," Rose firmly explained.

"He's my cousin. It won't be possible for us to have that kind of relationship. Let's move along." Gabrielle didn't want to talk about it anymore and continued to walk forward.

Rose knew she crossed the line with her question, so she dropped it quickly and caught up with Gabrielle.

"Gabrielle, you can see the vegetable field from here." Rose was fast to change the subject so she could clear the tensed atmosphere.

Lance sat, staring seriously at Bain. He was waiting for the boss to say

something and wondered what they could be talking about, but she was too far away.

"You called me because you have something to say right? Get straight to the point, Bain." Lance looked him in the eye.

"What's your relationship with Miss Jones?" Bain asked.

"My relationship with Gabrielle?"

Lance raised an eyebrow.

He didn't know why Bain would ask him this, but it was probably because he was curious about Gabrielle's identity.

She was new to this place and Lance brought her here on such short notice. If Bain didn't trust Gabrielle, that means he found Lance suspicious.

"What do you mean?" "Gabrielle is my cousin. She's like a sister to me. Didn't I tell you before? Or are you starting to doubt me?" Lance tilted his head.

He was carefully choosing his words. They were still in Bain's turf, so he had to keep Gabrielle from harm.

Seeing that Lance was getting tensed, Bain calmly smiled. "If I didn't trust you, why would I take Bryce in? I did it because you asked me. We help each other out, remember?"

"I know, but why the sudden question? You even asked Gabrielle to leave with Rose. Has she done something wrong? She is Bryce's sister. She came to Bangkok with me because I called and told her about him. She wouldn't have come with me if it wasn't an important matter." Lance defended Gabrielle.

"Have you heard of the Campbell Family in Italy?" Bain changed the subject.

"The Campbell Family, you say? I've heard rumors about their clan but I'm not really familiar with them. All I know is that they're supposedly the biggest foreign clan in Italy. Didn't you have a beef with them? I thought you already settled it. What's up with them now?" Lance's jaw tightened and he crossed his arms.

He felt the heaviness of the air when Bain brought up the Campbell Family. Everyone knew Bain was a very cunning

man, and he wouldn't have survived for so long if he wasn't capable.

"Yes, the small conflict between me and the Campbell Family was resolved long ago. We agreed not to interfere with each other's businesses. As long as we follow this condition, we can both live in peace, and they have no reason to come here again," Bain explained.

Bangkok was a big city and everyone was welcome to come. Even the Campbell Family. They knew the forest was Scarlet Scar's territory, and yet they still sent their men to this place. They weren't here for a vacation. They were after something.

Bain had heard they didn't specifically come for him or his men.

It made him skeptical. Bain didn't recruit anyone recently. The only thing he did was give shelter to Bryce. And because of that, Lance and Gabrielle came to the forest.

"You're telling me the people of Campbell Family came here with an unknown motive? Are they looking for a fight?" Lance had heard some bad

rumors about the Campbell Family.

"The clan was vicious and arrogant. If they raided the place, they would leave no stone unturned. As long as anyone targeted them and messed up their plans, they would fight back and destroy their enemies, leaving no one alive."

It wasn't just a myth, it was a fact.

With such a force, it was undeniable that this little village would be burned to the ground.

No wonder Bain would be bothered by this.

"Bain, did something happen between you and the Campbell Family? Have you offended them in some way?" Even though Lance was a bit clueless about the Campbell Family, he knew what kind of person Bain was. This man didn't seem to be someone who would enjoy being too cruel to others. He was more like an old administrator. He knew how to act appropriately depending on the situation. But of course, someone who had done something against the law couldn't completely be a good person. ①

Given Bain's history of business and transactions within different industries, it was no surprise he would encounter problems like this. ①

"The Campbell Family has no business with me this time. They were looking for someone else. Do you have any idea who could it be?" Bain asked Lance again, eyes narrowed.

Lance couldn't think of anyone that might be related to the Campbell Family, but he knew this was a serious matter.

"No, I don't. I've never met them since they're too far away. I had no chance of meeting them at all," Lance answered without hesitation.

"Even if you don't know them, your cousin might." A hint of disdain appeared in Bain's eyes. ②

"Bain, that's impossible. Gabrielle has never set foot in Italy since she was born. She couldn't have established that kind of connection, especially with such a dangerous clan. There's just no way." Lance was ready to protect Gabrielle at all costs. ④

Chapter 462

Accomplished Maniac

Bain didn't actually care how much Lance defended Gabrielle. He didn't care about either of them, period.

Gabrielle was Lance's cousin, not his. That was why Bain didn't concern himself about matters that involved her. Whether she lived or died, it was none of his business. What mattered to him were the lives of his people in the village.

"The Campbell Family's people are spread all over the world. We don't need to go to Italy for the sole purpose of knowing them, and I've heard that Miss Campbell's husband is from Antawood. His information has been almost completely expunged. But yes, he is indeed the future leader of the Campbell Family," Bain explained to Lance. His gaze was intense and calculating, never missing anything.

Miss Campbell ended up marrying a man from Antawood. He was simply incredible. What he did was honestly

Chapter 462 Accu... vianiac
quite a feat.

Bain steepled his fingers in front of him and rested his chin on top. He was thinking of something. Since Lance was also from Antawood, he might have some vital information what the Campbell Family wanted.

Of course, Bain knew it wasn't that simple. There was more to this than meets the eye.

"Gabrielle has nothing to do with it, Bain. I can guarantee that. She doesn't know anyone from the Campbell Family; she even has no idea that they exist. We're ordinary people and regular citizens of Antawood—we don't have the title nor the power to meet them. We just came here to see Bryce. The moment he wakes up, we'll go back. We won't cause you or your people any trouble," Lance said, holding out his hands to show that they had nothing but good intentions. Lance knew Gabrielle was dying to go home. ①

Bain was suspicious by nature; that was how he and his people managed to survive. He was sharp and he noticed even the smallest things. He didn't trust outsiders—at least, not easily. Those

who were allowed to enter the forest were either his friends or outlaws. They were of the same kind, more or less, which made Bain put his complete trust in them.

As for someone like Lance, who was neither his friend nor someone running away from authorities, he wouldn't have any connection to Bain if they didn't do business with each other.

Even though their interests aligned, Bain still refused to believe everything Lance said. Bain didn't trust the other man one hundred percent. He had some lingering doubts.

Bain gazed at him steadily and impassively. He leaned back against the chair and crossed his legs, quietly regarding Lance for a few beats. "Forget it, then. It's true that I've sabotaged the business and other ventures of the Campbell Family, but it's not without reason. Their people also hurt my men and destroyed our businesses. They will have to pay. If any of their people ever make the mistake of trespassing on the forest, I won't treat them nicely. Just so you know."

Bain dropped the threat so casually, as though he was just talking about the weather. He exuded callousness and ruthlessness. In that moment, it was clear why he was their leader.

It also made Lance realize how cruel Bain could be—the lengths he would go to for his people. He was dangerous and not someone anybody would dare mess up with.

"I see, Bain. I'll ask her about it." Lance stood up and was about to leave. Their conversation was going nowhere, and Lance knew that Bain wouldn't bend to their requests.

"I don't mean to scare you, Lance. What I said is true. We cannot afford to have any member of the Campbell Family in the forest. They crossed the line when they wounded my men. My people won't be so forgiving, which I'm sure you understand." Bain continued to speak in that flat tone of his. Lance was halfway out of his seat, and he stood up. He gave Bain a brief nod.

"I understand, Bain."

"That's it, then. Have some rest, Lance. I

hope Bryce will wake up earlier too, so you can leave sooner. It's dangerous for you to stay here." Bain dismissed Lance. He already said everything he wanted. And now, the ball was in Lance's court. It was up to him what he would do with the information Bain gave him.

The forest was Bain's territory. He took care of everyone living here and considered them as family. He would certainly never treat outsiders the same way. His generosity had a limit. If it wasn't for the fact that Lance could bring him some favors, Bain would have never let him in—not a chance.

The main reason Bain welcomed Lance and his companion was for money. Bain felt no shame in admitting that.

Bain would definitely not offend the Campbell Family because of it. Even he had to admit that it was just too dear a price. Bain prided himself for being level-headed; that was how he took control of things.

"Thanks for that, Bain. We do want to go back earlier, especially Gabrielle. I'll leave you to your business now." Lance left the red house. Thoughts were

swirling in his head as he walked.

Instead of returning to the place he temporarily lived, he went straight to the hospital to check on Bryce. He was the sole reason why he and Gabrielle were here in the first place.

According to what Doctor Maniac had said, Bryce could wake up in two days. Lance trusted the doctor. He was competent and, quite possibly, a genius too. As long as he promised to treat someone, he would do everything he could to accomplish it.

Once Bryce woke up, they would leave with him right away. This place was not good. Lance had come here alone before, and everything seemed fine back then. But now, it wasn't just him. There were also Gabrielle and Bryce, and Bryce would still be weak when he woke up. Lance had to take so many things into consideration, especially if either of them was forced to stay by Bain.

Lance thought about what Bain said. If anyone here had some sort of connection with the Campbell Family, would he be ready to kill them?

One of Lance's main concerns was Gabrielle. Bain was intentionally sending her away. Was that proof that Bain was starting to doubt her identity? Did Bain know more than he was letting on?

If it was true that Gabrielle knew people of the Campbell Family, Lance feared that he might not be able to take her away. He ran his hand over his face in frustration and anxiety.

He had mistakenly thought that it would be safe to take Gabrielle to the forest. Now, Lance realized that he only ended up leading her into this horrible trap. He shouldn't have brought her here. She might get killed in this place, and his conscience couldn't bear that. 4

He should find Gabrielle immediately and talk to her. He was now looking after two people who expected him to take them out of here safely.

Lance terribly regretted agreeing to bring Gabrielle here. If only he could turn back time. Was he out of his mind at the time he said yes? It was the mother of all bad ideas. Even if it wasn't someplace where criminals and outlaws sought shelter, taking a girl to a foreign country for this

type of business was reckless and stupid.
What was he thinking? 2

Lance groaned inwardly, but he stopped himself. It was too late to beat himself up. He shouldn't dwell on the what-ifs and instead, he should focus on solving their problems.

So far, he was waiting for Bryce to wake up—the earlier, the better. That way, they could get the hell out of here as soon as possible. Lance didn't want to linger a minute more if he could.

"Lance, you're here again." Doctor Maniac was sitting by the entrance of the hospital, eating the roasted chicken leg casually. He didn't smile or act friendly towards Lance. He simply greeted the other man indifferently.

Doctor Maniac was young and handsome. He was always more interested in his patients than other people, which wasn't really that surprising. People seldom saw him smiling or getting excited. He was all business most of the time.

"Doctor Maniac, how's Bryce?" After leaving Bain, Lance fell into depression,

thinking of his regrets and the safety of his companions. All he could think of right now was leaving. He would breathe easier if he was out of here.

Lance originally felt that people in the village didn't cross the line with bad intentions. He used to believe that they simply gathered here because they liked it. But now, he knew he was wrong. The villagers were far from the nice and good people he believed them to be. They were worse, and they were the villains in this story.

"Well, I've tried my best. If he doesn't wake up tonight, he'll recover tomorrow morning. He has a strong desire to live, so he'll make it. When he was sent here, he hadn't completely passed out yet. He's a really tough man, though. After getting beaten up badly, he's still alive. Anyway, he's lucky that I'm attending to him. If he was brought to another hospital, he might not have made it. Worse, his family might have needed to prepare for his funeral," Doctor Maniac jokingly said. Then, he took another bite of his food, which he finished up in just a few minutes.

"Okay. I'll go and check on him." Lance was so anxious that he nearly rushed in and slapped Bryce awake. So many things depended on him regaining consciousness.

Lance bubbled up with so much anxiety. He hated how things had gotten beyond his control. He was used to having most things go the way he wanted, which was why this business in the forest annoyed him. He didn't like the feeling of not being in control.

"Go ahead, Lance. And if you really want Bryce to wake up sooner, there may be a solution," Doctor Maniac suggested, giggling. There was a glint of wickedness and mischief in his eyes.

"There is? What is it?" Lance was skeptical, especially with how Doctor Maniac looked when he made the suggestion. Lance felt like he could come up with better ideas.

Chapter 463 Vicious Woman

Lance was looking forward to it. After all, if Bryce woke up earlier, they would be able to leave the damned place sooner. 1

He couldn't bear to stay in this awful place a second longer. All he wanted was to leave and never come back. And if he had to talk about business with Bain, he wouldn't want to come here personally.

Lance was willing to try Doctor Maniac's method. He was desperate. After all, Bryce had been unconscious for quite some time now. Lance was willing to try anything.

"Look for a spot where he doesn't have any bruising or injuries and hit him hard. That might wake him up." A deranged laughter burst out of Doctor Maniac's throat.

Lance rolled his eyes at his insanity. He turned on his heels and walked inside, ignoring the psychotic doctor.

'Is this man really a fucking doctor? How

could he suggest such a thing? Bryce is unconscious for fuck's sake!

Lance had thought of the same thing before.

"Don't be upset. I meant it. It might help. But the choice to do it is yours," Doctor Maniac exclaimed as he hurried to follow Lance. He was afraid that Lance would be upset.

"Aren't you supposed to be a doctor? You shouldn't joke about those things." Lance turned to look at him.

Bryce's injuries were severe. His body couldn't possibly stand the beating. If he really did wake up after it, he would probably die after regaining consciousness.

"I am a doctor. But my license was revoked by the International Medical Association. The people here aren't afraid of my treatments. I treat them my way. Besides, I'm the only doctor here." Doctor Maniac shrugged. He was ignorant of his attitude.

Those were his true colors.

He couldn't care less about what people

thought of him. He was happy despite practicing without a license.

Lance was rendered speechless. He knew that what Doctor Maniac said was true. He really was the only doctor in this wretched place. There was no one else people could possibly go to.

"Is there any way we could bring him back to consciousness earlier? We don't have much time left." Lance was in an awful mood.

He was afraid that they would stir up some trouble if they didn't leave this place soon.

"What's the rush? It's not like I'm going to experiment on him," Doctor Maniac calmly said.

He was a medical genius. His obsession with medicine led him to find a cure even for the terminally-ill. However, his medical prowess came at a cost. He experimented on humans.

Cadavers excited him more than any living human being could.

"Forget it. Let God decide when he wakes up. I'm going to find Gabrielle." Lance

couldn't stand speaking to the doctor anymore.

"Weren't you at Bain's for lunch? Why are you in such an awful mood? Did Bain say something?" Doctor Maniac's confinement in his hospital made him feel quite lonely. He never left the institution, let alone had lunch with Bain or anyone else for that matter. Social interactions were out of his expertise. He would rather spend time with the dead than the living. Everyone in the village was familiar with the doctor's temper. Because of this, they never invited him over for a meal.

He would only ever leave the hospital premises when he had to talk to Rose about medical supplies. She was the one responsible for the procurement. Rose was the only person that Doctor Maniac was quite familiar with. He never saw Bain that often either. They would only ever meet when Bain was injured. But even then, they got along with each other like strangers.

To make matters simpler, the entire village was a mere shelter. Bonds and friendships existed. However, none of

about one thing and bring up another.

"No problem at all. I just realized something." Rose smiled teasingly.

"What is it? I'm already confused enough as it is." Gabrielle stopped in her tracks.

There weren't many people she could talk to in this place. She only trusted Lance. As a woman, she thought Rose was also someone she could talk to about all sorts of things.

"The Lance I know isn't the type of person to take risks. He brought you here, a sheltered girl who can't even wield a weapon to Bangkok and hid in the forest. Even though he said he took you here to see your brother, I think there's more to this journey. He wouldn't risk his life for just a cousin. It's very obvious Lance adores you very much. He likes you to the point he's willing to do anything for you, even if he risks his own life." Rose smiled knowing smile.

Rose's words stunned Gabrielle. She didn't think Rose would be very observant.

Lance did in fact, like Gabrielle in the past. However, he suppressed his feelings and accepted the fact that they were only cousins.

She couldn't believe how sharp Rose was. Gabrielle hadn't been here that long and Rose seemed to notice so much about her.

"Did I surprise you, Gabrielle? I'm such a smartass, but it has nothing to do with my wits. If a person loves someone, it really shows," Rose firmly explained.

"He's my cousin. It won't be possible for us to have that kind of relationship. Let's move along." Gabrielle didn't want to talk about it anymore and continued to walk forward.

Rose knew she crossed the line with her question, so she dropped it quickly and caught up with Gabrielle.

"Gabrielle, you can see the vegetable field from here." Rose was fast to change the subject so she could clear the tensed atmosphere.

Lance sat, staring seriously at Bain. He was waiting for the boss to say

Campbell Family. After all, they were known all over the world. Nobody could possibly miss them.

Doctor Maniac had quite the following as well. A number of wealthy families tried to reach out to him and tried to hire him to be their family doctor. However, he disappeared before they could even get a hold of him.

He was also aware that Bain had some conflict with the Campbell Family but nobody knew why.

The only reason why Doctor Maniac moved to the village was because he liked the serenity that the place provided. Bain had built a small hospital for him to stay at without being disturbed. The rest had nothing to do with him. Doctor Maniac lived in his own bubble, treating patients and examining things in the laboratory whenever there was no one he had to treat.

Doctor Maniac was contented with living that way. He couldn't care less about other things. As far as he was concerned, he could stay in the village for the rest of his life.