

Chapter 53

"Who exactly are you?" Arielle asked.

The man was in such a stupor that none of his words made sense. In the end, he started stripping off his clothes instead.

Arielle's eyes widened in shock as she stumbled backward and instinctively shielded her chest. "Why are you taking off your clothes? Don't you dare do anything funny! I'll fight back!"

Realizing that he might have frightened Arielle, the man immediately stopped in his tracks.

After a brief hesitation, he pulled up his sleeve to reveal a bandage over his shoulder and proceeded to pull it off.

One look at the wound and Arielle instantly recognized it as a knife wound.

The wound was deep as if the knife had cut to the bone.

Because of the stitches, the wound looked like a big, red, and angry centipede.

Due to the force of ripping the bandage off, the wound had reopened, and Arielle gasped as blood started seeping out of it.

It was at that moment that Arielle suddenly recalled an incident.

Back when she was living overseas, there was one night when she walked past a street after dinner.

To her horror, a group of men with machetes was beating up another man.

Incidents like those weren't an uncommon sight, and Arielle's initial thought was to walk away. However, when she saw the attackers start to slash the man with their machetes, she hurriedly ran over and fought them off.

No matter how good she was at fighting, she was still one lone woman up against a group of men. In the end, she escaped with the injured man in tow. They ran for almost ten blocks before they managed to shake his attackers off.

Once the coast was clear, she gave the man some money and even got a car to send him to the hospital.

The man's knife wound, if she recalled correctly, was right on his shoulder blade, just like the man in front of her now.

In that instant, everything came flooding back as she finally recognized the man.

"It's you?" Arielle asked in disbelief.

The man let out a deep sigh of relief despite his wound still bleeding. "I've looked for you everywhere overseas, but when one of my friends got missing, I had no choice but to come back here. Even then, I kept sending people to look for you, and just when I thought I had finally found you, I lost the lead again..."

Arielle suddenly recalled the phone call she had with Ashley. "What's your name?"

"Harvey! I'm Harvey Jupiter!"

Everything became clear in that instant, and Arielle's earlier concerns were gone.

She gazed deep into Harvey's eyes and smiled. "Who knew I'd accidentally save the CEO of Jayhawk Group. How are you doing now?"

Harvey nodded excitedly. "I'm good. Everything's good."

"I'm glad to hear that." Arielle pointed at his shoulder and added, "Your wound's bleeding again. You might want to get it checked out at the hospital. I should be going home now too."

"No problem!" Harvey replied confidently. "Don't worry about a small wound like this. What about you? Where are you living now? C-Can I get your contact number? I want to repay you."

Arielle groaned silently, feeling somewhat helpless. *Why does everyone like to repay others?*

She smiled faintly and shook her head. "I'm doing very well, thank you. And you don't have to repay me. I'm just happy that you're well and good. Right then, I should leave now. Bye!"


With a wave of her hand, Arielle turned and walked away.


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A few feet in, Arielle realized Harvey was still following behind.

She turned around and looked at him quizzically. "Is there anything else?"

"No... There's nothing else," Harvey mumbled while scratching his head. "It's late, and I'm worried to let you walk these streets alone. Can I walk you home? Don't worry. I promise not to bother you."

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No matter how well-intentioned Harvey was, Arielle still stood her ground and declined his offer. "It's not that you're bothering me, but you know I'm skilled enough to protect myself. You, on the other hand, shouldn't probably stay out so late. What if someone comes after you again?"

Harvey once again scratched his head while his face turned pink from embarrassment. "I had been ambushed the last time. Someone injected me with drugs which left me weak and powerless. Besides, I'm now back in my territory. I don't have to fear a repeat of that incident."

Harvey had such a determined look about him that Arielle knew he wasn't going to give up that easily. "All right then, you can send me to the neighborhood gate. I'll get a car home from there."

Happy as a pig in mud, Harvey nodded his head and grinned. "Okay!"

With Harvey quietly following behind Arielle, they soon walked to the gate. As luck would have it, there was a taxi parked there, which Arielle promptly boarded. Harvey paid the fare in advance and reminded the driver to drive safely.

The driver chuckled at how worried Harvey sounded. "Don't worry. I promise to send your girlfriend home safe and sound!"

"Not girlfriend...." Both Harvey and Arielle replied simultaneously.

Except one was frowning while the other was still

smiling happily.

The driver only saw Harvey's expression, which was enough to make him break into a laugh before driving off.

Youngsters these days don't often mean what they say. I wish they'd stop lying to themselves!

During the drive home, Arielle's face was illuminated by the soft glow of the passing street lamps, making her look even dreamier and more beautiful.

Yet all she had on her mind then was what Cindy had been doing in that villa.

Just as she was about to get lost in her thoughts, Ashley called her again.

"I've got it. The villa belongs to Matthias Ford."

"Matthias? Isn't that the man who manages Cindy's properties overseas?"

"That's right. I've also found out that Matthias had had many hotel rendezvous with Cindy and that the villa is a recent purchase."

Hotel rendezvous...oh my!

There was a glint in Arielle's eyes when she realized she had dug up dirt on Cindy.

Sure enough, falling in love did make people stupid. Even at that crucial moment, Cindy still

threw caution to the wind and visited Matthias. *Has she gone insane?*

Over the phone, Ashley continued, "Matthias is also the one who went to the countryside to investigate you and ordered people to hunt you down on the cruise."

Arielle's grip on her phone tightened as she felt her blood boiling. "I got it. I want to know more about Matthias. Continue your investigation on him. No matter how irrelevant it may be, give me every bit of information you can find on him."

Once Ashley had ended the call, Arielle's lips curled into a smile, but the look in her eyes remained cold and distant.

Back at the villa, Cindy had only just shut the door when a topless man scooped her up in a tight embrace.

Cindy yelped in shock. Before she could say anything else, Matthias had already pinned her against the wall.

"Cin..." he groaned as he started kissing her hungrily.

Cindy and Matthias kissed each other with such a burning passion that it didn't take long before they were both panting heavily.

At that rate, things were inevitably going to happen.


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Everything happened so fast that Cindy soon found herself stripped off of her clothes. Stunned, she hastily pushed Matthias away. "Slow down. Tell me what you've found out first."


Her words fell on deaf ears as Matthias carried her and made a beeline for the bedroom upstairs.

Soon, Cindy found herself being tossed onto the bed by Matthias, who was now eyeing her with hungry eyes.

"The night is precious. Let's do what we came here for, and then we can talk about other things."

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