

Chapter 788 Take The Shortcut

Hearing this, the worker wanted to say something, but he didn't dare, so he could only gaze at Alexis.

"Mr. Williams... We didn't want this to happen. We just didn't notice this..." The employee tried to explain.

However, such an explanation infuriated Alexis even more. "You are not required to explain anything to me. Fortunately, no one was wounded; however, if any of us were injured or killed as a result of this tree, how would you accept responsibility? You can't afford to injure anyone in this place."

It wasn't a threat, but rather a truth. Each of them came from a wealthy family, and even the Schmidts were afraid of harming them.

Alexis was seeking to convey the message that all life should be honored.

"Mr. Williams, we understand that you are all extremely important visitors. This time, it was all our responsibility; you may punish us as you see fit." The employee really apologized.

Alexis reasoned that the tree's quick fall could not have been an accident and that there must have been someone behind it.

Now that he saw how genuine the worker was, Alexis thought he was overthinking things and that it may have been an accident. It was natural for the workers to fail to notice a broken tree in such a big forest the first time which had been devastated by the storm.

"Is there another way to go to the camp? It's starting to become dark," Alexis inquired, his gaze fixed on the worker.

If they were going to wait until the tree was removed, Cowan and Abigail could have arrived by then.

"Yes, there are certain shortcuts, and I can show you the route. Mr. Schmidt merely took one," the worker said.

"Mr. Schmidt is a liar, isn't he? He didn't even notify us before taking a shortcut. It appears that we are not welcome here," Alexis purposefully said in a sarcastic tone of voice.

"I don't believe he did it on purpose, Mr. Williams. It's only that there are various shortcuts here; perhaps he didn't inform you because he was scared you'd get hurt. And you might, because you're unfamiliar with the forest." The employee attempted to explain.

His answer, however, did not make Alexis feel any better. He just waved his hand and pointed to the shortest cut to the worker.

"As a form of restitution, you show us the road."

When the worker saw where Alexis was pointing, he instantly shook his head. "That is the most dangerous shortcut, Mr. Williams. It's simple to get into trouble if you take it."

"So no one has ever taken it before?"

"There were some..."

"Did anyone perish?"

"No..."

"In that case, there is nothing to be worried about. We can go by ourselves if you don't have the guts. But if one of us falls or is injured, you're in tremendous danger." Alexis made a significant threat to the worker.

The worker dared not disobey after hearing this. He couldn't afford for any of them to be wounded.

"I'll show you the way." The worker agreed with a nod.

"Are we really going down this road, Westley?" Alexis inquired, his gaze fixated on Westley.

Westley cast him a look. "Didn't you already make a decision for us?"

"Then let's get going. We need to be there as quickly as possible." Alexis instantly started the motorcycle.

"Are we certain, Westley?" Gabrielle, who was sitting behind Westley, asked uncomfortably.

"Nothing is going to happen. I was just thinking of going this route. And now that we have someone to guide us, we shall be secure." Westley reassured her.

"We can stay here until they remove the tree if you're really scared. Anyway, it'll only take a quarter of an hour." Gabrielle was causing Westley concern.

He could take any danger if he was alone. It did matter since he had Gabrielle now.

"It's all right. Let's get underway." Gabrielle sat down and wrapped her arms around Westley's waist. She felt comfortable and at peace as long as she was with him.

"Sure?" Westley asked.

"I'm not scared of anything as long as I'm beside you. Let's go, or we won't be able to catch up with them,"

Gabrielle said calmly.

Westley started his motorcycle and rushed over. They followed the worker as he led the way.

This was the most unsafe shortcut. Even the worker who had been working in the forest for a long time was afraid to drive here, so he drove cautiously. Alexis eventually surpassed him.

"Mr. Williams, please drive carefully! It's quite risky!" Alexis was shouted at by the worker.

"You may drive slowly if you are scared. I've got the map in my head, so I'll be alright," Alexis said.

Everyone soon exceeded the worker. The worker was scared when he saw how fast they were driving and had to speed up to catch up with them.

He couldn't afford to be held responsible if any of them were hurt. In his memory, he vividly remembered Alexis's warning. Despite his increased speed, he was unable to catch up with them.

On the route, there were various splits. The worker was concerned that they might get separated.

They did, in fact. Each of the three bikes took a separate path.

Gabrielle and Westley chose the middle one. Because the trail was small, they followed alternative routes. It wasn't enough for all three motorcycles to ride together, so they split off.

"Are we going to be okay being separated, Westley?" Gabrielle asked as she looked into the depths of the woodland.

"It's all right. We'll be OK because Joseph double-checked the map. Besides, we picked the safest route, which won't be too steep," Westley said to her briefly.

"Okay, I trust you." Gabrielle comprehended it now.

"Hold on tight. We really need to get to the camp as soon as possible." Westley was picking up pace.

"Do you have any idea what Cowan and Abigail are up to?" Gabrielle shifted the subject.

"We'll find out what they're up to when we arrive at the camp." Westley did not believe they treated them like distinguished guests.

"Anyway, I don't believe it's good," Gabrielle grumbled.

"Don't overthink it. Please enjoy the hunting and leave the rest to me." Westley didn't want Gabrielle to be particularly worried.

"I understand, but I can't stop thinking about it." Westley had warned her not to overthink things, but she couldn't help but be concerned.

She prayed nothing awful would happen today.

Chapter 789 Accident

Gabrielle really felt that she was a jinx in everything because whatever she was worried about or whenever she was worried that something would happen, things happened.

Looking at the motorcycle that had come to a stop in front of her, Gabrielle's little face dropped. She looked at Westley uneasily and asked, "Honey, did the motorcycle break down?" In her heart, a sense of panic arose.

"It's not serious." Westley, who was checking the motorcycle, said this so as not to upset the other party.

However, contrary to his assurances, the situation was more serious than he had expected. The problem was not just with the gas.

"Honey, I am such a jinx." Of course, Gabrielle could sense how serious the situation was, and she couldn't help but blame herself.

"Don't be silly. You are not a jinx. You are my lucky star." Westley took Gabrielle directly into his arms and looked at her with a very calm expression.

"But..."

"It's lucky that you didn't get hurt. Were you scared just now?" Westley asked, not giving Gabrielle a chance to talk. His tone was full of concern.

Just now, the motorcycle collided with a stone that he failed to see, causing it to lose control and slide down the road. If it weren't for his good control, the motorcycle would have hit the big tree next to the road. Fortunately, he was able to stabilize it on time. Otherwise, both of them would undoubtedly be injured.

"I'm perfectly fine. Since I fell in the snow, it didn't hurt at all." Gabrielle rolled down from behind during the incident and fell on the snow. However, because the snow was so thick, it didn't hurt at all.

"As long as you are safe, nothing else matters. Just tell me if you feel pain anywhere, okay?" Westley looked at her and said seriously.

"I know, honey. I'm really fine. The snow is very thick. So, it really didn't hurt at all. It's not a big deal. Don't worry." Gabrielle smiled at Westley, implying that she was perfectly all right.

"This motorcycle can't be used anymore. I'll ask Alexis to come over." Westley immediately called Alexis and told him the situation here.

"Are you cold?" Westley asked Gabrielle as he tightened his arms around her waist after hanging up the phone.

"No, I'm not. I'm not cold with you by my side." Gabrielle instantly replied to him with sweet words. An overwhelming warm spread through Westley's heart upon hearing that. Thus, he lowered his head and gave a soft and light kiss on her lips.

"I'm sorry for putting you through this." Westley couldn't help but feel sorry for his little wife.

"I'm fine. You didn't mean for this to happen. Besides, we can stand in the snow forest like this and watch the scenery. This kind of opportunity is very rare. Let's appreciate this moment," Gabrielle said optimistically.

"You are always so optimistic." Westley felt extremely lucky to have a wife who was cheerful and filled him with positive energy.

"I'm not optimistic. I am just happy with you by my side. Don't you want me to be happy?" Gabrielle raised her eyebrows and asked him back.

"Of course, I want you to be happy. I hope you to be the happiest woman in the world." Westley knew that Gabrielle was messing with him, but he was willing to cooperate.

"By the way, Westley, do you think this was an accident?" Gabrielle asked Westley curiously, feeling that this was something more than an accident.

"Don't think too much. If there are problems with all motorcycles, someone must be behind this. But if it is just ours, this is just an accident. We picked the motorcycle randomly after all." Westley calmly analyzed the situation.

At that time, all of them got onto the motorcycles randomly, and there was no one who specified which motorcycle to get on. So, this should be just a pure accident.

"Is that so? Maybe I am thinking too much." Gabrielle was somewhat confused.

After all, it was too obvious that Cowan and Abigail were up to something. So she couldn't help but suspect them. Normally, she was not such a doubtful person.

But she still didn't feel like she could let her guard down.

"Nothing will happen. Don't think too much. Just wait for Alexis and the others to come over," Westley said as he tightened his grip on the woman in his arms.

He could understand why Gabrielle thought so. It happened to be their motorcycle that broke down, and they just offended Abigail.

"I thought too much. I shouldn't be so cranky." Gabrielle leaned against his chest and burst into laughter.

Not long after, Alexis, Joseph, and Jonas came over with their motorcycles and stopped in front of them.

"Westley, Gabrielle, are you two all right? What happened?" Alexis asked, looking sternly at the motorcycle that looked only a few inches away from hitting a tree.

"It hit a stone, and the motorcycle slipped all of a sudden. We almost hit the tree." Westley briefly explained the situation.

"Are the two of you all right?" Joseph took a look at the scene and found a big scratch on the snow, which was caused by the brake failure.

"We're fine. Fortunately, Westley steadied the motorcycle. Otherwise, both of us would have hit the big tree. In that case, the situation would be serious. But we got super lucky," Gabrielle replied calmly.

"It's okay as long as you guys are fine. Don't worry about the motorcycle. Just hand over to the workers here." Joseph was relieved to know that nothing serious had happened to Westley and Gabrielle.

As long as the two of them were safe, everything was fine.

At that time, when Alexis received a call from Westley saying that they had an accident, they were so worried about Westley and Gabrielle. They knew Cowan and Abigail were plotting something, so they were wondering whether it was the two of them who had caused the accident.

But now it seemed that it was just an accident.

"Are your motorcycles okay?" Gabrielle asked.

"Yes, they are all right. It seems this was just an accident. The workers are here. Let them take the motorcycle to the camp," Alexis said.

"This is the only way now." Gabrielle didn't object to his idea at all.

The two workers approached. Because the two of them came with one motorcycle respectively, it was enough to offer one to Westley and Gabrielle.

"Mr. Morris, I heard an accident happened. Are you and Mrs. Morris okay?" one of the workers asked.

"We are fine, but the motorcycle broke down. I will leave it to you," Westley responded flatly.

"It's good that you're safe. The paths are steep. You can drive one of our motorcycles. We will deal with this broken one," the worker said.

"Thank you then." Westley helped Gabrielle up the motorcycle.

"Mr. Morris, you can leave now. Call us if you need anything," the worker said.

"Okay." Without hesitation, Westley started the engine and drove away.

Alexis and the other two men hurriedly got on their motorcycles and followed them.

Chapter 790 Never Put Myself On Your Level

They quickly arrived at the first camp, which also served as the largest camp deep in the forest. Two members of the Schmidt family were already waiting for them at the camp's entrance.

"Are you all right on your way here, Mr. Morris?" Cowan inquired gently, pretending to be worried.

"We've been waiting for you for almost 10 minutes, but we weren't expecting you to arrive so slowly. You should have arrived at a normal speed. What occurred during the trip?" with a smile, Abigail said.

It appeared like the two of them were concerned, but in reality, they didn't care about them at all.

"I haven't scolded you yet, Mr. Schmidt and Miss Schmidt. As the host, you foolishly abandoned the visitors and fled first. What a disappointment! Can you accept responsibility if something happens to us on the way? Or did you do it on purpose?" Alexis said matter-of-factly.

The two Schmidt family members should have known what transpired on the way, but they remained oblivious and even feigned to care about them.

"We only wanted to take a small path. We haven't been here in a long time. Accidents of all types are unavoidable in the forest. If you're terrified of it, you may leave right now." Abigail folded her arms across her chest, displaying arrogance and unreasonableness.

When he saw Abigail like that, Alexis wanted he could reach out and strangle her.

"We're all right. When does the winter hunt start?" Westley said coldly. He was unconcerned with Abigail's look.

"We can get started right now. The vehicle is parked here. We need to go far into the woods. Take the gun and pack your belongings. Keep an eye on your equipment. We can go in if nothing else is unattended," Cowan said seriously.

Cowan had nothing to say because they were all fine. He directed the workmen to begin preparing immediately, and they were heading deep into the forest.

"Alexis, double-check your stuff and get ready to enter the jungle." Westley exhorted them, twisting his head.

"Got it, Westley." Alexis responded to him. They began to double-check their equipment.

Westley double-checked everything for Gabrielle, and he was certain that no matter how daring Cowan was, he would not jeopardize their lives.

Cowan clearly intended to teach them a lesson, but he wouldn't endanger their lives.

Westley wouldn't have accepted to go hunting in the forest otherwise. He would never be so careless with his life.

If what happened to them wasn't an accident, it was probably simply a minor warning from Cowan. It wasn't a major situation.

"We're ready to go if everyone is." Cowan took a look at his watch and said.

"All right, let's go." Westley slung Gabrielle's luggage over his shoulder.

They intended to leave together, regardless of what occurred, so that he could absolutely ensure Gabrielle's safety.

"A team of two persons can be formed, or you can act alone. You can be separated if you travel around 500 meters into the forest. Small animals will be available. Have you thoroughly read the map? If you are unable to contact each other, please proceed to the nearest camp. There is a small house where you may temporarily shelter from the wind and snow, and it has everyday supplies. It's not a problem for you to go into hiding for two or three days. By the way, the forest offers a beautiful natural setting. There have previously been reports of bears and tigers. It will be possible to have an accident at night if we can't reach the nearest camp due to the lack of connectivity." Cowan reminded them of this.

It seemed like advice at first, but it was also a warning. If they truly lost contact in this jungle, they were more likely to perish there. After all, the bear and tiger were not easy to deal with, and there might have been other dangerous monsters lurking about the forest.

This vast ancient woodland was reported to be home to a wide variety of wild creatures. As a result, they may become lost and devoured by wild creatures.

"Let's get together here before it gets dark." Cowan's words had little effect on Westley.

Despite the fact that he didn't know much about the woodland, he had ordered Jonas to thoroughly investigate it before he came in.

True, a few wild animals had harmed people, but the situation was never serious, and they were not dead.

Furthermore, it was a snowy winter. The majority of the animals were asleep and did not want to venture out in search of prey.

Chapter 790 Never Put Myself On Your Level

However, certain small animals, such as hare, pheasant, and wild boar, would come out for food, which was what they mostly pursued at this time.

They may get two or three animals if they were lucky. They couldn't catch one in a day if they weren't lucky. It was all up to chance.

"Sure, sir!" Abigail was startled by Alexis's roar.

"What's the matter with you? What's the point of yelling so loudly?" Patting her chest, Abigail said. She was hatching a scheme. She would teach Gabrielle a lesson if they walked into the depths of the forest and acted alone. Alexis's remarks, on the other hand, terrified her.

"It's referred to as morale. What do you think you know? Women, in fact, do not have the ability to go to the combat at all." Alexis's answer was disrespectful, and he embarrassed Abigail.

The humiliation irritated Abigail. What the heck happened? How could Alexis mock her with such words?

"What are you on about? It's simply hunting, not going to fight. You sound like you're up to something. What if you happen to be a man?" Alexis was responded furiously by Abigail.

"Abigail, don't be rude to the visitors. Mr. Williams is our visitor. Be courteous. Don't be such a jerk." Cowan abruptly halted Abigail.

"Don't put yourself on the same level as her, Mr. Williams. She's impatient, but not too horrible," Cowan quickly explained.

He would go to great lengths for his little sister.

"I'm not that closed-minded. Besides, I'm a serious person who would never put myself on the same level as a woman. Is this the path I'm taking?" Alexis adjusted his backpack and pointed to a path ahead of him.

The path's end could not be seen at all due to the thick treetop.

"Mr. Williams is correct. We'll go this route. Five hundred meters distant, there will be various diversions. Then we may split apart." Cowan spoke this with an unusual look on his face.

"Then let's get started and go hunting as soon as possible. I have a feeling we'll have a surplus today. Tonight we'll eat some wild food." Alexis was the first to walk forward, and he was ecstatic.

Chapter 791 Shoot A Wild Boar

When they came to a fork in the road, Gabrielle chose to walk with Westley.

The snow was heavier here and didn't seem to be removed very often. Every step they took on the snow caused their feet to sink. Gabrielle wondered if they'd be able to discover any prey in here.

This was most likely not the best time to go winter hunting.

"What's up?" Westley questioned with worry after noticing Gabrielle's unusual behavior.

"Westley, I'm okay. It's only that the snow is too deep. Is it possible to hunt something?" Gabrielle asked, concerned.

She had minimal hunting experience. It was reasonable for her to be concerned.

"Don't be worried. We'll find one. And even if there isn't anything to hunt, no one will hold it against you. Just think of it as a getaway." Westley didn't want to put too much pressure on Gabrielle. He was only hoping she had a wonderful time.

"Okay."

"Gabrielle, ease off." Westley took her hand in his and went on.

It didn't matter if Gabrielle had previous experience or not. He'd done it. It wasn't the first time he'd done it.

They found a dense bush to hide in, and all that was left for them to do was wait patiently for their victim.

"Hunting is similar to fishing. All we need to do is be patient, right?" Gabrielle spoke softly to Westley. She was highly interested in winter hunting and was looking forward to it.

"Yes, we truly do. So all you have to do now is stay with me and wait for the prey to emerge." Westley sat there, his keen eyes scanning the surroundings. Then he attentively listened to the sounds around him to determine which direction the prey would come from.

"Do you think we'll be able to acquire something today, honey?" Gabrielle had faith in Westley and felt he was capable. She simply lacked confidence in herself.

She'd never gone hunting before. Aside from the thrill, she lacked confidence and became suspicious and anxious.

"We certainly do. Nobody will chastise you for this if we don't get anything." Westley appeased her.

"Yes, I believe you can pull it off. Then I'll be the one to accompany you." Gabrielle was immediately enlightened.

Westley was comforted when he saw how happy she had become. "That's the gist of it. Don't put yourself under too much stress."

"Then let us stop chatting and wait for our prey to appear." Gabrielle was exuding confidence at the time. She gave Westley a serious look.

"Alright."

They remained silent and didn't say anything. Instead, they peered and intently listened to the sounds surrounding them.

There was no sound of any animal, only the two of them breathing and the mountain wind whizzing by.

They eventually heard some little squeaks after a long time. Gabrielle looked at Westley excitedly, her brows lifted in astonishment. "Listen, honey."

Of course, Westley heard the sound and correctly identified its source. He pulled out a small telescope and gazed to the left.

"What did you see, honey?" Gabrielle whispered in his ear for fear of scaring the animal away.

"It's a little black wild boar." Westley described his observations.

Gabrielle quickly grabbed the telescope and noticed a boar not far away, which piqued her interest.

"It is, in fact, a pig. I mistook it for a pheasant or something. I just heard the squeak." Gabrielle was overjoyed, but she purposely kept her voice quiet.

"The squeak you heard was not made by a wild boar, but by someone approaching us and treading on the snow," Westley asserted calmly. Then he took the telescope from Gabrielle and started looking around.

"Is someone coming? Is it possible that it is a colossal beast? They mentioned the possibility of bears or tigers." Gabrielle felt a little worried at the notion of this. In the vast snow forest, anything was possible. If it was just humans, it wouldn't be quite so bad. They may be the people that arrived with her and Westley. She was concerned that there may be wild creatures around.

"Don't be scared. It isn't a beast." Westley reassured her.

He had to be correct. It was human footsteps on the snow, not animal steps.

"It would be preferable if it were a human being. Did they also come upon the boar? As a result, they followed it here." Gabrielle

had a feeling. This hypothesis seemed reasonable and fair.

Although they went independently, the distance was short enough that if a pig appeared, they would most likely notice it.

"It all depends on who comes." Westley noticed a crimson shade behind a large tree. If he was correct, the individual would be Abigail. She was dressed in a blue and red winter suit, with crimson sleeves and cap that could be seen at a look.

"Did you notice who it is, Westley?" Gabrielle asked in hushed tones.

"There is somebody here. Don't make a sound." Westley imagined Abigail had come to get the young wild boar. This woman was driven by a great desire to win, to a frightening degree.

"Who is that? Alexis?" Gabrielle asked, her voice trembling.

Westley should have spotted the individual based on his reaction.

"No, it's not Alexis," Westley said calmly.

"If it isn't Alexis, it must be a member of the Schmidt family. Abigail?" Gabrielle had a fleeting glimpse of a scarlet figure. Abigail was dressed in red today, so she assumed it was her.

"Yep." Westley responded calmly to Gabrielle. He didn't think it was essential to lie, and he had no intention of doing so.

Abigail's ability to reach the location, whether for the boar or for them, was pretty astounding. In any case, there didn't appear to be any friendly motive.

"Should we still hunt it, or should we simply give it to Abigail?" Gabrielle looked at Westley, puzzled.

Abigail was a woman in any case. Any guy would be wise to let Abigail go hunting first.

But that was a different individual, not Westley. He would never be that kind with a lady like Abigail.

"Today is our first hunt. And it's meant to be yours." Westley was preparing to fire his rifle at the boar in front of Abigail.

"Get it, honey." Gabrielle caught her breath and peered nervously at the wild boar.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!" Westley was about to draw his rifle when he heard three gunshots in a succession.

"Westley, the boar is down!! You didn't do it, did you?" The thrill wouldn't last long, and Gabrielle noticed Westley put down his rifle.

He obviously did not shoot.