

A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 771

Unexpectedly, just when the villagers were getting ready to retreat, the men in black went ahead and took Henrick's men head-on.

"Who are you people?" inquired Henrick after being forced into a corner by those men.

"Your worst nightmare!" answered one of the men in black before slamming his fist into Henrick's face, knocking the man's lights out.

"They're for us!" shouted Nigel in joy, reigniting his fellow villagers' will to continue fighting.

With the unexpected help, the villagers were able to fend off Henrick's bodyguards within minutes.

Nigel then let out a sigh of relief before approaching the men in black to express his gratitude. Suddenly, the men lined up in two rows and saluted to Arielle in unison, so naturally, the villagers all turned around to look at the slender woman behind them.

With just one look, Nigel instantly recognized who the lady was. "Arielle? You're Henrick's daughter, aren't

you?"

Arielle nodded in response before stepping aside to show Teddy hiding behind her. The boy then ran toward his father and hugged the man's legs. "Dad!"

After pulling his son behind him, the man shifted his focus back onto Arielle and questioned cautiously, “These men... Were you the one who sent them to help us?” “Yes.”

With that, the villagers were filled with bafflement while Nigel inquired curiously, “But why?”

Teddy then quickly answered his father before Arielle could. “It was Sannie who asked us to sign the papers. She has been trying to help us all this while.”

“What?” The answer only served to baffle Nigel even further.

Smiling faintly at the man, Arielle explained herself. “I’ve cut all ties with Henrick, so he’s no longer my father and vice versa. What the man did was unforgivable. I’ll make sure that he pays it and that you’ll get your due.”

Teddy nodded fervently in agreement with Arielle. “Sannie’s a good person, Daddy. You can trust her. She’s with Robin.”

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At that point, it was already apparent to the boy’s father what kind of person Arielle was.

“Never have I expected to receive help from a young lady like you,” stated the man with a bitter smile. The village chief, anxious to know what they should do next, stepped forward with his questions. “Arielle, before you came, we planned to take whatever valuables those men have in their houses and sell them off to pay for our wages. What do you think we should do now?”

“You can’t just take their stuff; that’s illegal. If you do that, Henrick will take legal action against you. No reason is going to justify breaking the law.”

“What should we do then?” inquired Nigel anxiously.

Then, Arielle calmly took out a stack of documents and explained, “Don’t worry. All you have to do is sign your names on these papers, and I’ll do the rest.”

“Sign my name?” Suddenly, Nigel smacked down on his own leg. “So it was you all along! You’re the one who’s been secretly helping us!”

“That’s right. You don’t have to break the law. Just come over here and sign your names on these papers.” Immediately, the villagers hurried over and before long, every piece of the documents had a name signed on them.

After signing himself, Nigel rubbed the back of his head embarrassedly. “I should’ve listened to my boy and signed this earlier. Henrick wouldn’t have been able to take advantage of us for so long if I did.”

“Don’t be too hard on yourself. Henrick is the one at fault here, not you.” Arielle comforted the man as she went through the papers. After that, she stood up and asked for the villagers’ attention. “Signing these papers means that you’ve entrusted me to collect your due wages, so give me some time, and I will bring you news soon.”

When Nigel remembered how Rube tried to help them, he gritted his teeth and fell to his knees before Arielle.

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Shocked, Arielle was about to help Nigel up when the boy also knelt before her.

Behind them, the village head and the other villagers followed suit.

Unsure of how to respond to such a grand gesture, Arielle pleaded for them to get up.

“Arielle, we can never thank you enough for what you’ve done for us. This is the least we can do,” explained the village head before bowing down to her.

The others, too, bowed down to express their gratitude

Watching the villagers humble themselves like that, Arielle could not even begin to imagine what they had gone through

These people must’ve suffered greatly because of the despicable things that Henrick and his mother had done. This ends now. They deserve justice, and I will give it to them!

After much pleading, the villagers eventually agreed to stand up.

It was not until they had left that Arielle realized what a mess the funeral had turned into.

Malorie’s cremation urn was supposed to be on the table, but it somehow ended up on the ground. Her ashes were all over the floor, and there were even multiple footprints on it.

Suddenly, a long shadow was cast over Arielle, who instinctively turned around only to see an all too familiar face looking down at her.

The face belonged to a man in a dashing black suit, exuding pure confidence and majesty.

It was none other than Vinson Nightshire himself.

The man then walked over to Arielle's side and stared at Malorie's ashes as Arielle did. "I don't think Mrs. Southall had ever imagined that she would end up like this. Not only was her son unwilling to pay for her treatment, but he was also unable to give her a decent funeral."

"I can't say that she didn't have it coming after all the horrible things she's done. I'm going to go take a look inside. Surely there are a lot of things in there that belonged to my mother."

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"Okay. I'll see if anybody else wants a piece of Henrick."

After nodding in response, Arielle stepped on Malorie's ashes and made her way into Henrick's old house.

Vinson watched the woman enter the building before turning to his bodyguards. "Feed the ashes to the chicken. I don't want them to spoil my shoes. As for Henrick, throw him into the trunk and make sure he stays there. We're taking him back to Jadeborough."

"Yes, sir!" responded the bodyguards before taking action.

Vinson was circling the house when he heard Arielle calling out to her men, so he quickly headed to the source with a few men.

On the other side, Arielle managed to find the room where Henrick kept all the valuable antiques, and it was filled to the brim.

She knew the man well enough to know that he would never spend a dime on antiques.

I'm sure all these belonged to either my mother or the Moore family. After all this time, these antiques will finally return to their rightful owners.

"Pack these all up and take them with us," ordered Arielle before she heard Vinson's voice just outside.

"I've found a surprise, Sannie," informed the man before pausing for a second. "Or should I say two surprises?"

"What do you mean?" Puzzlement was written all over Arielle's face.

Vinson then stepped forward to hold Arielle's hand. "You're going to love it. Trust me. Now let's go check it out."

"Okay," responded Arielle with a smile before letting Vinson lead the way.

It did not matter to her where they were going because she was sure that the man would keep her safe. Arielle had absolute faith in Vinson and would follow him anywhere without any questions asked.

Vinson stopped when they both reached a barn with an open door. "This is it."

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The inside of the barn was so dark that Arielle could not see anything at all. However, she could hear something coming from the inside, and it sounded like a person trying to shout while being gagged.

Arielle widened her eyes in an instant when she finally figured out what the surprises were.

From the look in Arielle's eyes, Vinson could tell that she already knew what he had in store for her. "So what do you think?"

Arielle nodded in appreciation. "Let's go check them out."

Taking the lead, Arielle entered the barn and was immediately greeted with the musty smell of grains.

Vinson then offered Arielle a face mask, but she turned it down and proceeded farther into the barn.

The barn was dimly lit since it had only one window, but Arielle could still make out two figures tied separately to two pillars.

Without turning on the light, she approached the two captives.

Cindy was filled with hope when she vaguely heard someone asking Vinson for money. Even though she was gagged, she tried her best to shout, hoping to attract somebody's attention.

Just when she and Matthias were sinking in despair,

they heard someone kicking down the barn door.

Somebody's finally here to rescue us! We're saved!

Cindy tried even harder to shout while Matthias stomped his feet repeatedly to get their supposed rescuer's attention.

After much effort, the two finally heard footsteps closing in on them and thought that help had arrived.

"Mmm! Mmm!" Still

gagged, Cindy tried to articulate the words "save me" to no avail.

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From Cindy's point of view, she could not see the person approaching them at all, but it was very clear for Matthias.

When their supposed rescuer turned out to be Arielle, Matthias immediately stopped struggling.

Knowing what Arielle was capable of, the man wondered if it was any better to face her instead of Henrick. However, he quickly came to a conclusion.

It can't get any worse than this. It won't be long before my body gives up on me if I continue to be imprisoned like this, not to mention that maniac's daily whipping. With Arielle, I might stand a chance to live and see another day.

While Matthias's mind was still racing, Arielle had already walked up to Cindy, who quickly lifted her head expectantly to take a good look at her supposed rescuer.

Disappointingly, Cindy realized that it was Arielle standing before her with a condescending sneer.

Like a fire being put out, the hope in Cindy's eyes slowly diminished until there was nothing left of it.

How can it be? Why does it have to be Arielle? Why?

After taking her sweet time savoring the confused look on Cindy's face, Arielle lifted her hand to remove the gag from the woman's mouth.

Finally able to speak properly, Cindy inquired curiously, "Why are you here, Arielle?"

Besides Henrick, Arielle was the person Cindy hated the most. She would rather die than let Arielle see what a miserable state she was in then.

Arielle then smiled devilishly at the woman in response. "And here I thought you've had enough of the pigsty, but it seems like I'm mistaken. Let's get you back there, shall we?"

With a wave of her hand, Arielle gestured for two bodyguards to step forward.

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The Deal

Cindy's face was filled with horror as soon as Arielle mentioned the pigsty. "How did you know? Have you always known?"

Without answering the woman's question, Arielle ordered the bodyguards to move Cindy to the pigsty.

“No! Stop it! I don’t want to go back there.” Kicking her legs, Cindy struggled like a madwoman trying to escape her captors but to no avail.

It did not take Vinson’s bodyguards long to get Cindy completely under their control.

“So you don’t want to go back there?” Arielle then nodded understandingly. “That’s not a problem, but you have to promise me something.”

Cindy would do anything to stay out of the pigsty, for she could still remember how she was forced to sleep with pigs and be fed with pig fodder.

“Name it!” demanded Cindy with gritted teeth.

“It’s simple, really. All you have to do is tell me how you and Henrick got my mother killed, and I’ll let you go.”

Cindy’s face quickly turned pale but remained adamant. “As if! What makes you think we’re the ones responsible for your mother’s death?”

As much as she wanted to leave that barn, Cindy knew that she would be sent to prison even if Arielle did let her go. Worse than that, her life could be in danger if word got out. This is a terrible deal, and I’m not going to agree to it!

Without responding to the woman, Arielle scoffed and took a step back before snapping her fingers.

Immediately afterward, the two bodyguards lifted Cindy and started to head out with the woman.

“Let me go! Let me go now! If you dare leave me in the pigsty like your father did, I swear you’ll pay for it when I get out! Do you hear me?”

“Perfectly,” answered Arielle coldly as she stared at the woman, unfazed by the threat.

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Although the last thing Cindy wanted was to go back to the foul-smelling sty, she was unwilling to give what Arielle wanted either.

Still gagged and bound to a pillar, Matthias seemed even more agitated as he made all kinds of noises to attract attention.

“Wait,” commanded Arielle when Matthias finally got her attention.

Immediately, the bodyguards stopped in their tracks as ordered.

Before Arielle could reach Matthias, Vinson swiftly rushed over to remove the gag in the man’s mouth before turning to look softly at Arielle. “I’ll handle this. There’s no reason to get your hands dirty over a man like him.”

In response, Arielle smiled warmly at the gentleman before setting her icy-cold glare back on Matthias. “It seems like you have something to say... tell me.”

After taking deep breaths to ease the pain, Matthias explained himself. “Ms. Moore, I admit that what Cin and I did was wrong. If you let us go, I promise you that you’ll never have to see us ever again.”

Compared to Cindy, Matthias was more calm and reasonable, for he knew well what kind of situation he was in.

“Is that really the best you can do? Tell me. Do you take me for an idiot? I have no doubt that you can keep your promise by staying far away from me, but what about Cindy? That woman’s convinced that I killed her daughter. You think she’s going to just leave me alone?”

“What do you want me to do then?”

Arielle tucked her hair behind her ear calmly before answering, “Like I said, I’ll let both of you go as soon as Cindy tells me the truth.”

“That’s it?”

“That’s it.”

Matthias then turned to Cindy and pleaded, “Just tell her what she wants to know, Cin. Please! You know well that we’re not getting out of this if you don’t give her what she wants.”

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Matthias was so anxious that he could die.

If he knew what happened back then, he would have told Arielle everything in Cindy’s place.

Biting her lower lip, Cindy looked at her lover with bloodshot eyes. “You think I don’t know how bad things look for us right now? But I just can’t do it.”

If I tell Arielle the truth, I’ll spend the rest of my life in prison. Even if she decides to let me go, those guys will come knocking. I don’t really have a choice here.

Arielle shrugged in response. "I guess you two couldn't come to an agreement, huh? Then

I have no choice but to send Cindy back to the pigsty."

"No! Please don't!" Cindy could feel her stomach turning when she remembered how the rats and cockroaches crawled over her face in the sty.

What followed was the sound of Cindy vomiting her guts out.

"Please, Cin. Just tell Arielle what she needs to hear. Staying in prison is a hundred times better than rotting away in this godforsaken place!" begged Matthias, who was already drenched in sweat.

"But..." Cindy knew that her life would be ruined if she was sent to jail.

"Think about it, Cin! Do you really want to spend the rest of your life in the pigsty? Living your life like a pig?"

After a moment of internal conflict, Cindy finally gave in. "I'll do it! I'll tell you everything you want to know. Just don't send me back to that disgusting hole!"

"You have my word. Now start talking," demanded Arielle after pulling up a chair.

One of the bodyguards then kicked Cindy behind the knee and forced her to kneel before Arielle.

With her teeth clenched, Cindy started revealing the truth to the woman.

"Back then, Maureen was both beautiful and brilliant. She had lifted our family to new heights single handedly. As for me, her sister, I had a

lways lived in her shadow. I became invisible to everyone whenever she was around. Heck, many people didn't even know that I existed because that was just how overshadowed I was by your mother. I hated it. I hated it so much! So, I decided to get back at her by ruining her relationship with Henrick. That coward was terrified that your mother would find out about him and me, but I was dying to let her know the truth. I wanted to see how she would react after finding out that her husband had slept with me, so I texted her and told her everything."

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"You told my mother the truth yourself? inquired Arielle curiously.

"Yes," answered Cindy with a bitter smile and eyes full of regret. "However, I never expected her to give.

Henrick and me her blessings after hearing about our affair. That crazy woman even divorced Henrick just so I could be with him."

"You don't deserve a sister like her. How could you hurt

someone who had been nothing but kind to you?" Vinson scowled frustratingly at the woman kneeling before Arielle.

"Kind to me?" asked Cindy rhetorically before cackling in disbelief. "Do you actually think that was what I wanted? Her kindness? The only reason I slept with Henrick was just so that I could get back at her. Unfortunately, it turned out that she never cared for the man at all. Henrick was worthless to her. Your mother gave me a worthless man! Is that what you consider kindness?"

Vinson

shook his head. “You were too blinded by your jealousy and hatred toward your sister. You’re never going to be satisfied with whatever she did for you.”

“You think you know me so well, don’t you?”

“Go on. Tell me how you killed my mother,” instructed Arielle coldly.

After chuckling to herself, Cindy continued, “I knew something was off. Someone as proud as Maureen would never let me have the man she loved. That woman didn’t even flinch when she divorced Henrick.

So, I started digging, and as expected, I found out that she was looking for a man. I was sure that was the man whom her heart belonged to, so I tried to expose her.”

“And?”

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Cindy closed her eyes and took a deep breath. “I managed to contact some people.

Their leader was a graceful old woman, who also seems to be his elder. She said that he

had a fiancée already, and she didn’t want him and

Maureen to be involved with each other anymore. We were

on the same page about getting rid of Maureen, and then

we told Henrick about this. He couldn’t stand Maureen’s arrogance as well. That was why he joined us.”

Arielle narrowed her eyes. “What happened next?”

Cindy reminisced and said, “It was one bright sunny day. Henrick agreed to divorce her, but he wished she would give us her blessings. We invited her for a meal in a hotel, and she agreed to come.”

Vinson said coldly, “I guess she didn’t know it was a trap.”

Cindy sneered. “You’re right. She came without her bodyguards. I guess she didn’t want the public to know. She brought over the household registry with her, perhaps she wanted to divorce him right after the meal. Henrick and I drugged her food, but she somehow figured that out, and she defeated all my subordinates before making her escape...”.

Arielle clenched her fists tightly, suppressing her urge to strangle Cindy.

Cindy continued saying, “She was an idiot. She could have survived if she ran away and disappeared. But instead, she returned to the manor to look for you. Fortunately, the old woman arrived in time with her subordinates at the manor.”

Speaking of this, a hint of terror flashed across in Cindy’s expression as if she had thought of something scary.

“Keep talking!” Arielle urged.

Cindy’s lips curled into a mocking smile. “She was not their opponent at all. They took her down right away. The old woman then suggested faking her suicide. She helped Henrick and me to move Maureen back to Jadeborough. They made us push her down from the thirty–eighth floor.”

Arielle was trembling upon hearing that.

Poor Mom!

Cindy was already losing it at this point. She raised her chin at Cindy. “Do you want to know what she said before they pushed her down?”

“What?”

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“She told us to... spare your life.”

Arielle’s eyes reddened as a tear rolled down her cheeks.

Cindy laughed wildly at the sight of Arielle crying. “Henrick pitied her. He told us not to kill you, saying that you’re his daughter after all. But then, how could I let you get away with this? I didn’t want to alert him by killing you, and that was why I found someone else to kidnap you instead.”

Cindy then shook her head and continued saying, “Now that I think of it, I should’ve just killed you instead. I’m sure Henrick suspected me of kidnapping you, but he didn’t make a police report, nor did he take revenge on me. Perhaps he wanted to get rid of you as well.”

She seemed to be enjoying Arielle’s expression as she continued saying with a sympathetic expression, “How pity... Your mom died, and your dad wished he could have died with her too. You’re still alive but your family doesn’t even care for you. What a pity...”

Cindy was waiting for Arielle to react with either an angry or a heartbroken expression.

To her surprise, Arielle curled her lips and slowly formed a smile.

Cindy's face fell.

“What are you laughing at? How can you still laugh after hearing this?”

“Because you're an idiot.”

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Cindy was mad. “What are you implying?”

Arielle was about to explain when Vinson took out the paternity test report and tossed it in front of Cindy.

With just one glance at the report, Arielle already knew what it was. She asked with confusion, “Why did you bring this with you?”

Vinson nodded. “I thought those villagers would not listen to you because they thought you're Henrick's daughter, so I brought this over just in case. I didn't know I'd be using this right now instead of with the villagers.”

Arielle smiled upon hearing that. It felt great to embarrass Cindy.

Cindy was still pinned in place, and she couldn't see the report clearly.

Vinson ordered, “Take this to her.”

“Yes, sir!” The bodyguard immediately picked up the paternity test report and showed it to Cindy.

Cindy bent down a little in confusion. After scanning through the report, her pupils dilated in shock. “No way!”

Arielle explained faintly, “The report is from the Rocher Private Hospital, and it’s accurate for sure. Cindy, you and Henrick are the pitiful ones, not me. My mom had been keeping you two in the dark, and you’re still living in her shadows even after she died. Isn’t that pathetic?”

“No way! This is impossible!” Cindy screamed her heart out.

“Otherwise, why would my mom marry someone like Henrick? Was it because he had poor hygiene or because he was capable of killing her?”

Cindy was already trembling all over upon hearing that.

She was still making fun of Arielle before this, and yet Arielle’s words were like a huge slap across her face.

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“No...”

As if she had suffered from a great blow, Cindy suddenly felt a surge of liquid rise in her throat, and she spat out a mouthful of blood.

Matthias, who was tied to the pillar, immediately asked Arielle, “Can you let us go already now that Cin has told you everything?”

Arielle raised her eyebrows. "I still have questions."

Cindy was heaving in pain. "I've told you everything. What else do you want to know?"

Arielle crouched down in front of her. "I want to know who's that man and that old woman you've mentioned."

There were other culprits behind this. Now that she had taken care of Henrick and Cindy, she would have to target the other two next.

"I—I don't know..." Cindy shook her head in panic. "I only know that they're powerful... With just one leap, they can jump onto the manor's wall. They aren't humans!"

Arielle frowned. "What on earth are you talking about?"

"I'm telling you the truth! She made it obvious that she looked down on Maureen. As the Moores were on par with the four most prominent families in Jadeborough back then, it must mean that their status was at least beyond the Moores to be acting like this. How could I know who they are when they deliberately hid their identities from me? I can only say that they aren't humans at all. M—Maybe they're even ghosts..."

Arielle's expression darkened. "Cindy, you must be out of your mind."

"Think what you want then!"

Noticing Cindy's determined look, Arielle was confused.

Is Cindy telling the truth? Is it even possible for someone to jump onto the manor's wall with just one leap? It's at least two meters tall!

However, Arielle was too immersed in her thoughts to notice the look in Vinson's eyes.

He got reminded of the rumors Susanne told him about

Turlen.

Could the rumors be true?

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If the rumors about Turlen's ancestry being out of the ordinary were true, perhaps he should keep this a secret from Arielle.

This was his way to protect her.

Vinson had decided to investigate more about Turlen before telling Arielle about this.

Meanwhile, Arielle had interrogated Cindy again but to no avail.

Matthias was concerned about Cindy's situation as he urged again, "Arielle, please let us go now. Cindy told you everything she knows, and I can assure you that she has told you the truth!"

Arielle didn't react to that as she took in even the slightest change in Cindy's expression.

The Wilhelms had only picked up ancient Chanaean medicine in the past decade.

Growing up with two of the top psychologists in the world, Arielle was skillful in reading one's micro-expressions.

She analyzed Cindy's micro-expressions with her knowledge in behavioral psychology, and she could finally conclude that Cindy was indeed not hiding anything from her.

"All right then." Arielle nodded. "I'll keep true to my words. Untie Matthias now."

Matthias' eyes lit up upon hearing that, and he quickly untied himself with the help of the bodyguards around him.

Once he was freed, he immediately ran over to Cindy and hugged her.

"Cin, are you okay?"

There were traces of blood on her lips as she leaned against Matthias. She shook her head weakly.

"I'm fine..."

"Let's go! She has agreed to let us go."

Cindy was still in a daze, and she regained some energy upon hearing this.

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"Can we really leave now?"

"We can. She has freed me."

Cindy was surprised. She wondered why Arielle agreed to let her go after learning that she was involved in her mother's death.

However, she figured she should just leave this awful place as soon as possible.

“Let’s go.” Cindy stood up, and with Matthias supporting her, they walked toward the exit together like a bittersweet couple.

“Wait a minute,” said Arielle.

Cindy and Matthias stopped in their tracks.

Cindy turned around and shot Arielle a fierce glare. “Are you going back on your own words now?”

“Nope.” Arielle shrugged. “I did say I will let you go, but I didn’t say I’d let the both of you go.”

Matthias was so mad that the veins on his forehead were bulging. He gritted his teeth. “Arielle, what do you want?”

Arielle smiled faintly. “Cindy only answered one question, so I can only let one of you go. For the sake of fairness, I’ll allow you to make your own choice in this.”

Cindy and Matthias yelled in unison, “You tricked us!”

Arielle replied innocently, “I did not trick you. It was a deal. Since she only answered one question, it’s only fair to let one of you go. I don’t have much time to waste. You’d better make your choice now.”

“How dare you trick us with a play on words?” Matthias pointed his finger at Arielle’s nose, and he

looked so mad as if he wanted to skin her alive.

Vinson stepped forward and slapped Matthias’s hand away. “If you dare point another finger at her, none of you will be leaving today. You should make your choice now if you don’t want that to happen.”

Matthias mulled over this, knowing that Arielle would only let one of them go.

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Matthias began to rack his brain as he came up with a final decision.

He was the one managing all of Cindy’s assets overseas, and he had a wider social network than her too. It seemed more convenient for him to leave first and find someone to come and rescue Cindy later on.

Moreover, his injuries were more severe, and he needed treatment as soon as possible.

After a long while of contemplation, he believed that he should leave first.

Matthias said, “Cin, let me leave this place first.”

Cindy's expression darkened right after hearing that. "Matthias, I was wrong about you! How can you only think of yourself at times like this?"

"It's not like that. Cin, trust me. Just let me leave first." Matthias wanted to explain more but he didn't want Arielle to know that he was planning to have someone else rescue Cindy after this.

However, Cindy was too selfish to think of that. She refused to think that Matthias was doing this for her sake.

She had to leave this place, and she could never allow Matthias to snatch this opportunity away from her.

Cindy sneered at Matthias as she put a distance between them. She then looked at Arielle. "I was the one who answered your question. Shouldn't I be the one leaving this place instead?"

"Cin!" Matthias shouted in pain, "How can you not trust me when we've been together for this long?"

"Trust you?" Cindy gave him a mocking look as she sneered, "You've taken away my opportunity to leave this place, and you're asking for me to trust you? You must think that you're so kind-hearted and wise, don't you?"

"I..." Matthias' eyes turned red. "Don't you trust our relationship? Can't you feel how much I love you?"

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“Love? Hahaha!” Cindy scoffed. “We’ve been using each other, and you call it love? Are you kidding me?”

“Use?” Matthias frowned.

“Are you saying that you’ve been using me all this while?”

“That’s right. You and Henrick are the same. I’m just using you guys to get what I want. What an idiot!”

“Cin... Cindy, do you have to do this to me?”

Cindy was done talking to Matthias. She wanted to leave this place, and she told

Arielle straight away, “We’ve made our decision. I’m the one leaving!”

Arielle was entertained at the unexpected escalation of events between the two.

Cindy was nothing but a wicked woman!

“Speaking of this...” Arielle said faintly, “If you chose to let me stay behind and grow up in the manor, I think I would have gotten rid of you already by now.”

Cindy’s expression stiffened. She didn’t say anything in response but asked, “Can I leave now?”

Arielle nodded. “Sure.”

Cindy turned around and ran out of this place as if she was afraid Arielle would change her mind again.

She had been running ahead of her without sparing another glance at Matthias.

Matthias felt as if his heart had been stabbed by a knife over that betrayal.

He collapsed to the ground instantly as if his energy had been drained out, not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

“Cindy Moore... T—This is just great! I must have been blinded all this while!”

Arielle snorted. “Matthias, how do you feel to be betrayed by her?”

Matthias was still trembling in anger. “I’d kill her if it happens again.”

“What a coincidence.” Arielle snapped her fingers. “Here comes your chance to kill her.”

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Stunned, Matthias asked, “What are you insinuating?”

Just as Matthias spoke, Cindy cries rang out from outside.

“Let go of me! Are you crazy? She was the one who released me and now, why have you captured me again? Release me at once!” Cindy let out an ear-piercing shriek.

Matthias looked on in shock as Cindy was dragged back

forcefully by the bodyguards.

Trembling in anger, Cindy questioned Arielle, “What’s the meaning of this? Didn’t you agree to release me? How could you renege on your word?”

Arielle was taller than Cindy. Folding her arms, she sneered, “I did agree to let you off.”

“Then why...”

“But I didn’t say that I wouldn’t recapture you once I did.”

“Arielle!” Cindy pointed at Arielle angrily and began cursing at her.

Vinson’s expression darkened in response.

Having served Vinson for a long time, the two bodyguards knowingly stepped forward and gave Cindy a forceful slap each.

As the bodyguards weren’t ordinary men, they smacked Cindy into a daze with blood oozing out the corner of her mouth. The impact was so powerful that she was thrown onto the ground with a loud thud, causing her to cry out in pain.

However, all she heard was Vinson’s mocking voice. “Only two kinds of people in the world are allowed to scold her. The first hasn’t been born while the second are all dead. Tell me, which kind do you belong to?”

Looking up subconsciously, Cindy’s gaze met with Vinson’s. When she saw the murderous intent in his eyes, she was seized by fear.

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She had seen Vinson a few times before, and he would always have a frosty expression on his face. However, it was never that terrifying before.

She felt as if his domineering aura was enough to crush her to bits.

Amidst her fear, Cindy finally remembered Matthias.

“Matthias...” She looked teary-eyed at him. However, Matthias’ expression was indifferent and showed no pity at all.

“Matthias ?”

Cindy was taken aback.

Matthias scoffed, “Cindy, you only have yourself to blame for falling into such dire circumstances.”

Cindy was devastated by his words.

At that moment, it dawned upon her that Matthias was no longer hers.

However, all her assets overseas were held in his name. Back then, she let Matthias manage all her assets to avoid being discovered by Henrick. Consequently, the money no longer belonged to her if Matthias didn’t approve of any transaction.

As a sudden sense of horror enveloped her, she subconsciously walked up to Matthias to hold his hand. However, he swept it off instead.

“Cindy, from now on, we will go separate ways!”

Just as he spoke, he raised his hand and slapped her with all his might.

Although the slap hit Cindy physically, it was also a symbolic one for him. It had served to wake him up from his blind devotion to her.

Holding her face in pain, Cindy's cheeks were already badly swollen. However, she had no time to be concerned about it. Instead, she glared at Matthias in disbelief. "How dare you hit me?"

All this while, I was the center of Matthias' world. But now, he has raised his hand against me?

Gritting his teeth, Matthias replied, "I would have killed you if I could."

"You..." Despite opening her mouth, no words came out.

At that moment, Matthias walked up to Arielle.

However, he was blocked by Vinson who stepped in between them.