

Chapter 24

Rickard beckoned Juniper to go ahead.

Juniper had no other choice but to make her way to Hesper's side, though she was 12 times more vigilant than usual. "Speak your mind, Hesper."

Hesper stared at Juniper for a few seconds before she leaned forward ever so slightly and whispered into Juniper's ear. "You know what you and Sophia did. If you insist on forcing me to apologize to you, aren't you worried that karma will strike? Or that I won't let you off but haunt you in death?"

In addition to her own guilty conscience, Juniper was startled by Hesper's cruel, vile remark. She backed away two steps instantly.

Rickard stretched out his arms to catch her and scolded Hesper in a stern voice, "What did you do, Hesper?"

"I didn't do anything. Don't you want me to apologize?" Hesper raised her head and smiled at him innocently, but her beautiful face appeared broken. She laughed aloud and said, "What? Is Ms. Wight still not satisfied with my apology? If you're not, I can

continue.”

“It’s fine!” Juniper interrupted Hesper in a haste, feeling uneasy. “Rickard, I suddenly remembered that I have something to attend to at home. Will you please send me home?”

“Hold on.” Rickard turned his head to look toward Hesper. A tinge of hesitation appeared on his face before he finally asked impatiently for the sake of her injury, “What did you want to say to me yesterday when you insisted I come?” 1

Hesper had already shut her eyes in disgust and said in an estranged voice, “It’s fine. It’s not important anymore.”

“Suit yourself!”

Rickard was infuriated by her ‘it’s not important anymore’ remark. If he knew that this would happen, he would not have bothered to ask her. He turned around and left, holding Juniper’s hand.

When the door closed, Hesper slowly opened her eyes.

She looked at the ceiling helplessly, her eyes moist with tears.

What would be the point in telling him?

Rickard’s stance was already obvious.

It was always Juniper whom he protected and cared for.

He claimed that he would uphold justice for her, but it was just a casual remark. She was the only person who took him seriously like a fool.

In the next few days, Rickard did not show up, just as she predicted.

It was as if the severely-injured person was not his titular wife but someone who had no place in his life.

Lying alone in the hospital room, she became more convinced that she should leave.

“Hesper, you should stay in the hospital for a while more since your injuries have yet to heal fully.”

As Julian passed her a slice of cut fruit, he advised her by saying, “The Duvals will spare no effort in dealing with you once you're discharged. You might even find yourself in trouble. Why don't you let your body recuperate before you plan your next step.”

“I understand what you're saying, but I miss my child.”

Hesper's eyes were filled with longing and affection.

She lost count of the days she had left the baby. She

wondered if he was eating and sleeping well, if Madam Duval and Sophia were venting their anger toward her on him.

She had to go home so she could check on the baby and set her mind at ease. 2

Noticing how concerned she was, Julian heaved a deep sigh. "You're going to leave sooner or later, Hesper. If you can't bring the kid with you, it'll do you no good to have such a hard time parting with him. My advice to you is to figure it out as soon as possible."

Hesper lowered her head and expressed her dejection. "I know..."

She knew that she would have to make the choice sooner or later.

She wanted to see her baby for a while more before the day came, even if it was just for a little longer...