She Becomes Glamorous After The Engagement Annulment Chapter 911 - 920

When Nora heard this, she lowered her eyes.
Caleb spoke again, "He has never trusted me completely, so I didn't find out her identity. However, since he said that, I think you should be careful."
"Actually, you don't have to trust anyone, even if it's me."
At this point, Caleb coughed again. "Although I don't have a long life, who knows if I'll want the gene serum again someday?"
Nora asked, "How is your health?"
"I won't die for a month, at least."
Caleb replied with a smile as if he was not sensitive to this topic at all.
Nora was silent for a long time before saying, "Rest well."
" Okay."
Nora wanted to hang up the phone, but seeing that he was a little hesitant, she asked, "Why?"
"Yes?"
"Is there nothing else?"

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"..." Caleb was silent for a moment before he coughed and said, "You... nothing. I'm hanging

up."
"Okay."

After hanging up, Nora felt that Caleb still had some things to say. She frowned and decided to drive to the hospital.

Caleb had helped her block Barbarian's attack last time. Bones in his entire body had cracked, and he was still recuperating.

In the VIP ward.

When Nora arrived, Caleb was already asleep.

When the nurse saw her, she said softly, "Mr. Gray's injuries are recovering very quickly, but his wounds still hurt. Besides, he was given general anesthesia during the surgery. He can't be given any more sedatives now, so it hurts every time we change the dressing."

Hearing this, Nora frowned. "Then, he endured

it?"

"Not really." The caregiver smiled. "Whenever this happens, Mr. Gray takes out his earphones and wears them. Hearing the music makes his body feel relaxed. He was also very cooperative when changing the dressing. The doctor asked him what music he was listening to that was so effective, but Mr. Gray did not say anything. We just joked that it was his anesthesia."

IS SO

Listening to music to relieve pain?

This was also a solution.

Nora did not take it seriously. She put on her scrubs and entered the intensive care unit. After checking Caleb's various indicators, she then looked at the person on the bed.

Caleb lay there with a faint smile on his lips.

He still had the Bluetooth earpiece in his ear. One of them fell down and landed beside the infusion tube.

Nora was worried that he would move in his sleep and accidentally press on his earpiece, so she took it out for him. Just as she was about to place it on the table, her ear twitched. When the nurse said that listening to music could relieve the pain, Nora was very curious.

After all, this was a medical study. If it was really so effective, she could forget about using anesthesia for mild pain in the future.

She did not plan to invade someone else's privacy herself.

After all, the things he heard most likely belonged to him and could comfort him.

However, she really did not eavesdrop. She was blaming her good hearing!

The moment she held the earpiece, the voice from inside reached her ears.

When Nora heard that voice, she was stunned.

She looked at the bed again. Caleb was still sleeping

Nora felt that she might have heard wrongly.

Otherwise, why would she hear her voice through his earpiece?

She frowned and brought the earpiece closer to her ear.

Her cold and deep voice was clearly heard from inside.

"... That is why I have no desire. I observe its wonders and its frequent desires."

These two come from the same source and have different names. The same title is profound, mysterious beyond belief, and the door to all wonders..."

Now, she was certain that it was indeed her voice reading the sacred text of morals. Nora: "..."

She frowned and looked at Caleb.

Seeing that the man was still sleeping, she quietly put the earpiece back.

After leaving, she was still frowning.

The nurse said, "Ms. Smith, why don't you wake Mr. Gray up? He has been looking forward to you visiting him. You finally came, but he fell asleep. When he wakes up, he'll definitely be angry."

After saying that, the nurse could not help but look at Nora and advise something beyond her responsibilities as a nurse, "No matter how busy you are, you should come and see him more."

The first thing Caleb asked when he woke up every day was, "Has Ms. Smith been here?"

Every time she said no, Caleb would be very disappointed.

His eyelids would droop and his lips would be pursed tightly, making the nurse's heart ache.

A weak, good-looking man gave others a protective instinct.

The nurse felt that it was all Ms. Smith's fault for not coming often.

Nora did not understand the nurse's feelings and only glanced at her calmly. This glance immediately made the nurse realize that she had said too much. She immediately lowered her head. "I'm sorry, Ms. Smith. I was too talkative."

Nora retracted her gaze and did not argue with her.

The nurse explained carefully, "I poured some soup for Mr. Gray today. He asked if you had come over. When I said no, he got distracted and even got scalded from the hot soup, so I just... I shouldn't have said so much."

Nora looked into the ward again and was in deep thought.

She instructed, "Take good care of him. Contact me if anything happens."

Caleb's family was not here. Moreover, Caleb was injured because of her. Nora could not possibly leave him behind.

The nurse nodded, "Okay."

After Nora left, Caleb's ears in the ward slowly turned red. He opened his eyes. When the nurse saw him, she pushed the door open and entered. "Mr. Gray, you're awake? What a coincidence. Ms. Smith just left!"

Caleb stared at the ceiling and nodded.

The nurse poured him a cup of water. "Your girlfriend is really beautiful. She must be very busy too, right?"

Girlfriend...

Caleb's gaze softened. He took a sip of water and lowered his long eyelashes, not denying it.

The nurse continued to ramble. "She must be very busy. Otherwise, why wouldn't she come to see you for so long... But you must like her a lot..."

_

Nora wore a mask and returned to King's place.

She entered the living room and sat on the sofa. When he heard that she was back, Justin put down the document in his hand and went downstairs to see her.

Because there were many more people from Switzerland in the villa, the two of them were wearing masks very carefully.

They sat opposite each other. The scene was very strange, but it was inexplicably harmonious.

Seeing that Nora remained silent, Justin asked, "What are you thinking about?"

Nora: "Caleb."

The man sitting opposite her had a dark expression on his face. "Huh?"

Nora told him about her voice reading in Caleb's earpiece.

Justin's tone was instantly filled with jealousy. He pursed his lips and suddenly asked, "Didn't you notice anything?"

She Becomes Glamorous After The Engagement Annulment Chapter 912

Nora's expression was serious. "I understand."

Justin was delighted. He was about to say that she should stay away from Caleb when he saw the woman sit up straight and slowly say, "I didn't expect my voice to have such an ability."

Justin: "?"

Nora looked at him. "I always felt that my voice was not good."

The girl's voice was crisp and pleasant, but low and cold. As she often slept, it was a little hoarse. It was not considered pleasant in the orthodox sense.

However, her voice gave people a sense of security.

When she spoke in a low voice, she would make others feel that she is especially gentle.

Justin watched as she smiled. "So it can actually be used for hypnosis. Cherry usually doesn't sleep well. It looks like I'll have to read some stories to her every night."

Justin, "????"

Was that the point?

Didn't Caleb like her?

However, since Nora did not notice, he might as well not say anything. He coughed and was about to say something when Nora spoke again, "However, he used my voice without my permission. This isn't good, right?"

Justin nodded. "It's indeed not good. It's a little..."

Before he could say the word perverted, he saw Nora nod. "He has to pay my copyright fee."

Why didn't he realize in the past that she was a little money-grubber?!

The corners of Justin's mouth twitched. He saw that Nora had already forgotten about this matter. She looked at Justin and told him what Trueman had said about Queenie.

Justin frowned. "What are you thinking?"

Nora said, "The gene serum is with Queenie now. Since he said that, I suspect that they're trying to drive a wedge between us. They want me to take out the gene serum... so that it'll be easier for them to rob us."

In all of Switzerland, the only person Nora trusted was Queenie.

It was also the safest to leave the gene serum there.

Ignoring the existence of Barbarian's heaven-defying martial strength, just based on the ability of the mysterious organization Justin had mentioned, once V16 was taken out, it would probably not be safe anywhere.

Trueman was unable to invade Queenie's villa. Was he using this method to make her bring the serum out herself?

Justin laughed softly. "Yes, then now..."

"I believe in Queenie."

Nora lowered her eyes and said calmly, "It's like how I trust you. I trust her too."

She looked up again, her eyes hardening. "So, whoever she is, I trust her."

At night.

After Nora fell asleep, Sean entered Justin's room.

Justin said, "Investigate Queenie."

Sean was stunned. The Imperial League had always accepted this new power of the financial group. Only with more and more enterprises and wealthy people would the Imperial League keep a low profile.

Queenie was the CEO of the fastest-growing company in recent years.

The Imperial League had previously investigated the internal structure of their company. It would never accept any company that was involved with drugs. Over the past two years, Queenie had been sending applications to the Imperial League, and they were prepared to accept her. Why was he suddenly investigating her? Sean was confused, so he asked cautiously, "To what extent?"

Justin, "Everything."

Although Sean was shocked, he still lowered his head respectfully. "Yes."

After Sean left, Justin leaned back in his chair and stared at the pictures of Queenie's face on the desk.

He hoped that she deserved all of Nora's trust.

The next day, everyone woke up very early.

It was because they had an appointment with the Queen at the Schmidt villa.

When Queenie heard that King would be coming, she welcomed the idea very much.

Justin also had his own agenda. He wanted to understand this aunt from all sides and see what kind of mysterious person she was.

A group of people arrived at the Schmidt's.

Lawrence looked at Nora following beside Justin and only felt an indescribable feeling. Boss was too brazen. He dared to bring his mistress to see his wife...

Was it because she was wearing a mask that Ms. Smith would not recognize her?

In order to not be recognized, Lawrence and Sean, Justin's right-hand men, would also wear masks at events.

And thus, four masked people entered the Schmidt Villa.

Because the Queen had recommended them, Justin and the Queen first gathered at the entrance before entering together.

The gate of the villa opened. The place was enormous, enough for them to park more than a hundred cars.

As they were guests, the Queen and King could not bring too many bodyguards in. As such, they each chose ten people to follow them in when they were outside the door. The others waited outside.

King and the Queen got out of the car and naturally walked in front.

Queenie came personally to welcome them. On the way, the Queen explained to King, "Mdm. Schmidt is a little arrogant. Don't take offense."

King was very strange, and so was Mdm. Schmidt.

The Queen was really worried that Mars would hit the Earth when the two of them met.

However, it was obvious that the Queen was overthinking

As soon as they met, Queenie's gaze avoided the Queen and landed on King. "This is Mr. King, right?"

Her eyes were sizing him up and she was getting more and more satisfied.

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Yes, her son-in-law's figure looked good. Nora was lucky!

King narrowed his eyes and said politely, "Hello, Mdm. Schmidt."

This was Nora's aunt. She was also his elder.

Of course, he had to retract his arrogance.

Their eyes met and the atmosphere was filled with joy.

The Queen: "?"

Why did she feel that the atmosphere between the two of them was a little off?

What was wrong with her gaze as she looked at her son-in-law?!

She Becomes Glamorous After The Engagement Annulment Chapter 913

The Queen was only momentarily surprised before she realized King's thoughts.

After all, she was Nora's aunt. Furthermore, Queenie's attitude toward Nora was completely nurtured as if she was her daughter. She had already said that the company's future belonged to Nora. She completely treated Nora as her biological daughter.

Therefore, King was more polite to her because he knew this.

At the thought of this, the Queen felt a little sour. Did he really like Nora that way? When she thought of that arrogant woman, the Queen instantly felt angry. Why were all the outstanding men in the world so blind to have taken a liking to her?

The Queen looked behind Queenie and asked, "Where's Ms. Smith?"

Queenie smiled. "She's not up yet. You know that my Nora is a sleeping god."

Nora, who was following Justin and had just yawned: "??"

The Queen pursed her lips again.

See, she had to sleep at such an important time. Did she not even care about King? But perhaps she knew King's identity. The Queen secretly swore that she would definitely ignore her today. She did not beg Queenie anymore, so she could showcase her nobility. She could not act like she was in a hurry to build a relationship with them. As soon as the Queen thought of this, the little one behind her rushed over like an arrow.

Before she could stop her, she heard Princess Lucy say to Cherry, who was following behind Queenie, "Cherry, I'm here to meet you again! Do you welcome me?" Cherry: "Very..."

Before the word "much" could leave her mouth, Xander pursed his lips. "Tsk, why are you here again? How long are you planning to stay at our house this time?"

The last time Lucy went to New York, she stayed at the Hunts' house for a whole week. In the end, it was the nanny who carried her and took her away despite the little princess's cries. Xander felt that she was too noisy. The Queen: "!!"

Her expression darkened. Her daughter was a noble princess no matter where she went, but this brat was despising her? Lucy had to have a backbone.

However, the next moment, she saw her daughter lean closer to Xander. "Xander, I brought Cherry her favorite gift! Can I stay here for five days?"

Xander stuck out a finger. "One day at most."

Her daughter shook Xander. "Then, then four days!"

"No, one day."

"But I want to stay at your house. If you don't let me, I'll-I'll..."

The Queen thought that her daughter had finally flipped out.

Yes, that's right!

Bring out your dignity as a royal princess! Say, if you're not allowed to stay, you'll send troops and capture them!

Anyway, as the Queen, she could not say such things. She would leave the unruly and willful things to her daughter! Then, she would come forward and make peace...

Just as the Queen thought of this, she heard her daughter shout, "I'll cry!"

The Queen: ...!!!

Little princess, couldn't she be a little more ambitious?!

Xander was clearly stunned by her words. "Don't cry. I hate it when girls cry."

"Then, I won't cry."

The little princess immediately wiped her tears and asked quietly, "Then can I stay for three... two days?"

The Oueen: "..."

In the past, her daughter had been Cherry's lapdog. Why was she now being Xander's lapdog?

The Queen was furious. She could not gain anything from Nora. Why could her child not gain anything from Nora's child, either?

Even as royalty, why were they so lowly?!!! "Are you not feeling well? You don't look too

good."

Queenie's calm words immediately made the Queen put away her gritted teeth and become elegant again. She smiled and said, "No, I just think the children get along quite well."

Queenie ignored the Queen's thoughts and only glanced at Black Cat standing behind King. She raised her eyebrows.

The Queen immediately moved closer to Black Cat without a trace and blocked Queenie's vision. "Mdm. Schmidt, shall we take a look at your castle first?"

Black Cat was Nora's love rival!

She could not let Queenie hurt her.

Queenie nodded. "It just so happens that Nora is sleeping. It's not convenient for us to disturb her. I'll show you around first."

With that, she glanced at Black Cat meaningfully.

The guards could not follow her the entire time. This was to let Nora hurry back to her room and change her clothes to receive the guests. After all, the two people who came today were also old friends of Nora.

Nora nodded and fell two steps behind. Just as she was about to slip away, her arm was suddenly grabbed.

She looked up and saw the Queen looking at her. She lowered her voice and said, "This is the Schmidt's territory. Don't go anywhere. If the Schmidts find out that King is looking at you in a different light, that tigress will definitely not forgive you! Follow behind me, I'll protect you."

Nora: "..."

She grimaced. "I need to use the bathroom."

The Queen glanced ahead and gritted her teeth. "Alright, I'll accompany you."

Nora: "??"

That was not what she meant!

Barbarian, who was standing behind the Queen, looked at her deeply with caution in his eyes. The security guards were very responsible. Nora lowered her eyes. "No need. I don't like to go to the toilet with other people." The Queen: "?"

After finally shaking off the Queen, Nora skillfully walked through the manor and quickly returned to her room. She changed into a set of daily clothes and took off her mask before walking out of the room.

Up ahead, Queenie had already learned that Nora was "awake." Therefore, she brought the group of people back to the living room.

Nora pretended to have just come downstairs and greeted them one by one.

The Queen looked at Nora and then at King. She did not know if Nora really did not recognize King or if she was pretending not to know him. Anyway, she pretended to be seeing him for the first time.

She raised her eyebrows and subconsciously looked behind her.

Why wasn't Black Cat out of the toilet?

Was she... having diarrhea?

At this moment, King began taking out the gifts he had prepared.

Lawrence had prepared all the gifts. The gifts for Cherry and the others in front were all normal. Cherry, who had received a Barbie doll, tilted her head and sized up King carefully. Her dark eyes were shining, but she did not speak.

Justin knew that the little fellow had recognized him.

However, the little fellow was very smart. Seeing that Nora did not acknowledge him, she did not say anything, either. Pete and Xander also looked at each other and blinked.

Finally, it was Nora's turn.

Justin smiled. "I also prepared a gift for Ms. Smith. I wonder if you'd like it."

After saying that, he waved his hand. Lawrence, who was wearing a mask, instantly stepped forward and handed a box with a bird print on it to Nora.

Justin: "?"

"?: :Sean

Nora did not think too much about it and only reached out to receive it.

When the Queen saw this from the side, she pursed her lips and suddenly smiled. "This bird print suits Ms. Smith very well."

Hearing this, Lawrence felt a chill run down his spine. However, he insisted on not bending over. He was different from Boss. He could not encourage Boss to cheat. Ms. Smith!

This was the only hint he could give her!

He hoped that she could understand!

She had been cuckolded! There were a bunch of cuckolds all above her head!!

She Becomes Glamorous After The Engagement Annulment Chapter 914

Nora: "?"

What was up with the meaningful looks in the eyes of these people in front of her?

Even Queenie, who was standing at the side, broke into a frown.

Wrapping paper with a bird print on it?

What was wrong with Justin's subordinate? Was he cursing Nora to the fate of being cuckolded?

Regardless, Nora still took the gift from him. She was about to hand it to someone beside her when the Queen, who was all smiles, said, "Aren't you going to open it and have a look, Ms. Smith? Mr. King must have put a lot of thought into picking out a gift for you."

The Queen was hoping for some drama.

Nora glanced at her. "At the Schmidts, we prefer to open our gifts in private."

The Queen glanced at King. "I don't think Mr. King would mind, Ms. Smith. Why don't you let me have a look?"

Now that King had a close female friend, he definitely wouldn't put that much effort into his gift for her.

The Queen was waiting to laugh at Nora.

Upon hearing what she said, Nora glanced at Justin. Seeing that he wasn't objecting, she also became a little curious. She opened the box, revealing a piece of jade inside.

A piece of white jade lay quietly in the box. She hadn't even picked it up yet, but she felt as if she could already feel the warmth coming from it.

Nora's hypersomnia was due to anemia, and her hands and feet were often cold. Jade was said to possess healing properties, so carrying some on herself was a great idea.

Moreover, the piece of jade also looked to be of extremely high quality...

At the side, Lawrence explained, "Boss spent millions on the raw gemstone, He even cut and polished it himself. He kept it on himself the entire time after that."

So, after he bought the raw gemstone, he'd personally cut and polished it himself, and even brought it about with him everywhere...

Although it wasn't really a well-known piece of jewelry, it was the thought that counted-and he'd certainly put a lot of effort into it.

Nora's lips curled into a smile. She slipped the jade pendant onto a chain and put it around her neck. "I love it, thank you."

"You're welcome." Justin's deep voice was also tinged with joy. The two looked at each other.

The people around them: "?"

Why were they suddenly feeling stuffed to the brim when they hadn't even eaten yet?

The Queen was so mad that she couldn't even keep her face straight. She looked at Justin sarcastically and scoffed, "Mr. King sure is thoughtful, although, I can't help but wonder how many jade pendants you could have made with one raw gemstone? After all, don't forget that you have another female friend elsewhere whom you're close to, Mr. King!"

Lawrence looked at Nora eagerly when he heard her.

She hadn't caught the hint from the gift box's bird-print wrapping paper. As his boss' loyal simp... ah, ptooey, loyal subordinate, he couldn't possibly betray his boss either, so it wasn't appropriate for him to be so explicit about it. Now that the Queen had said it, Lawrence mentally shouted eagerly, "Ms. Smith, do you get it now? Do something about Boss quickly!"

Unexpectedly...

Nora stood where she was and merely looked at King with a smile. "Oh? You have a female friend you're close to?"

King chuckled and replied, "Well, I suppose you can say that. I fell in love with her at first sight."

The Queen: "?" Wait a minute, is it really okay for you to be so direct, King?!

Isn't the person in front of you your fiancée?! Yet when she looked back at Nora, she saw a small smile on her usually cold face??

The pair's actions left the Queen and Lawrence utterly dumbfounded.

After much analysis of the situation, the two finally came to a conclusion: Nora didn't know who King was at all!

That must be it.

There was no other explanation!

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No wonder King had brought Black Cat to the Schmidts' so openly. He was practically bullying Nora.

Suddenly, the Queen didn't feel so hostile toward Nora anymore. In fact, she even found her a little pitiful.

So what even if she'd bore the man three children? He had still abandoned her so soon all the same and even played her like a fool.

The Queen's eyes suddenly turned kindly, and she even looked at Nora with a slightly pitying look in her eyes. At the sight, a baffled look came over Nora's face.

But she had never been one to think too deeply into such things.

The group then changed the subject and started talking about the current world economic situation and its future trends.

With regard to such topics, the people in front of Justin at the moment were all business partners, so he spoke freely.

As King, he had a very clear idea of future trends-in fact, he could even single-handedly steer things in any direction... His suggestions and ideas were of infinite help to an enterprise's development.

The Queen became engrossed in what he was saying.

The British Royal Family also had its own little treasury, alright? She also wanted to make money. On the other hand, Queenie was a little absent-minded and didn't show much interest.

Justin's eyes darkened as he spoke.

For Queenie to lead NTT and turn it into the powerful enterprise that it currently was in Switzerland, she must have been highly perceptive to changes in the economy in the past. So, why did it feel like she wasn't very motivated anymore? Were those NTT policies really made by her?

At the side, Nora was also falling asleep.

The Queen kept feeling like something was missing, but King usually wouldn't give her a crash course. One could say that the one he was giving today was all thanks to Queenie.

King was obviously trying to give Queenie a hand so that she could join the Imperial League after her business reached greater heights. The Queen tried her best to memorize the few development trends that, according to King, were the most likely to make money in the future. How she wished that she could take out a small notebook and write it all down. Though she kept feeling like something was missing and not quite right, Justin simply spoke so well that she couldn't help but be utterly engrossed in what he was saying.

This continued until Justin finally stopped. Even then, the Queen still hadn't had enough, and she gazed at him with admiration in her eyes. The worship of someone was the foundation of love.

The Queen had fallen for Justin precisely because of his keen insight into the economy. Many years ago, after hearing just a few words from him, the Queen had established a small company and made millions of dollars!

Noon gradually approached.

Nora suggested, "Let's have lunch?"

After speaking, she said to the butler, "Uncle John, why don't you go and prepare a sumptuous lunch for the bodyguards too?"

John, the butler, looked at Barbarian and the others at once. He said, "Please come with me, everyone."

Barbarian stood still.

The captain of the bodyguards looked at the Queen.

The Queen waved and said, "Go ahead. We're at the Schmidts; no one would dare to harm me here."

One could say that she was showing courtesy to Queenie by saying that.

Only then did the captain of the bodyguards leave.

However, Barbarian continued to stand still.

Nora looked at him. "Isn't he going to eat?"

The Queen smiled and replied, "He's a stubborn one. Since he has committed to protecting me, he won't stop until I return to the hotel."

After speaking, she looked at Barbarian and said, "You can go ahead too! There are so many skilled people here today, you don't have to be here."

Had it been before, Barbarian definitely wouldn't leave.

After all, the incident with the fire had only just taken place. But today... He glanced at Nora and then bowed respectfully to the Queen. Then, he turned and followed after the guards.

Nora and Justin exchanged a look.

The V16 was right here at the Schmidts'. They'd asked the Queen to bring Barbarian here just so they could set up a trap to catch him!

If Barbarian didn't leave but stayed here to watch over the Queen instead, how was he going to steal the V16?

Now that he was gone, Nora turned around and led the few of them to the dining room.

However, as the Queen looked at Barbarian and the bodyguards from the back, she finally realized what she had overlooked. She suddenly looked at Queenie and asked, "Mdm. Schmidt, how many bathrooms do you have here?"

"... Is something the matter?" asked Queenie. "I have a bodyguard named Black Cat. She said she was going to the bathroom, but why isn't she back yet? Surely she didn't fall into the potty, did she? I'll go and look for her." The Queen made a move to head out after she spoke. Black Cat hadn't been assassinated, had she? Otherwise, why was she in the bathroom for over an hour?

Nora's legs went limp and she almost stumbled.

Nora: "???"

No, really, why was the Queen constantly paying attention to a tiny little bodyguard? This didn't make sense.

She Becomes Glamorous After The Engagement Annulment Chapter 915

Nora frowned and said, "You probably don't have to look for her."

The Queen was puzzled. "Why?"

"... I'll ask the butler to look for her, you don't have to go yourself," replied Nora.

The Queen thought for a moment. It was indeed lunchtime, so it wasn't a good time to leave and search for someone. She nodded and said, "Alright. That bodyguard is a little bad at finding her way around, so you have to get the butler to bring her to me."

"... Okay."

At last, the Queen breathed a sigh of relief and the few of them went to the dining room with the children.

Queenie, as the hostess, took the head seat.

Nora sat to her left. By right, the three little ones should be sitting with her while the guests—Justin, the Queen, and Princess Lucysat opposite to them. The Queen glanced at Nora and said with a smile, "Mr. King, Lucy is rather naughty, so let's have her sit at the side instead."

With the three of them sitting together, if Lucy sat at the side, then the Queen would end up sitting next to Justin.

The mere thought of sitting side by side with King in front of Nora secretly thrilled her.

Was she cuckolding Nora by doing this?

Well, it was that woman's fault for always adopting such a cocky attitude and ignoring everybody-including even the royalty's authority-anyway...

With that in mind, the Queen pulled out the chair. She was about to sit when Cherry blinked and suddenly said, "Princess Lucy, I wanna sit with you!" The Queen: "?" She immediately looked at Lucy, hoping to stop her daughter from replying. Unfortunately, without even a second thought, Lucy immediately shouted excitedly, "I wanna sit with you too!"

Cherry immediately jumped off her chair, went around the five-meter-long dining table, and ran up to King, who was seated on the other side. The little fellow looked up at him and, in her young and tender voice, said, "Handsome... uncle, can we switch seats? I wanna sit next to Lucy, yeah!"

Justin looked at his daughter whom he hadn't seen for a month and then stretched out his hand and ruffled her hair.

His daughter's hair was as fine, soft, and delicate as ever, which stirred his heart. In particular, the little fellow's sly appearance as she blinked with her big dark eyes made him chuckle out loud.

Justin asked softly, "Don't you want to sit with... me?"

Cherry pouted when she heard him.

Of course she wanted to sit with her handsome daddy.

Little Cherry loved her handsome daddy the most, alright?

But when compared with Mommy, she'd better give her handsome father to Mommy instead!

Thus, even though Cherry was in a huge dilemma, she nevertheless nodded and replied, "... I wanna sit with Lucy even more!"

At once, the five-year-old Princess Lucy waved her little paws excitedly and automatically switched positions with the Queen. This way, she would be next to Cherry!

In a lively and adorable manner, she also said, "I also want to sit with Cherry!"

Justin stood up and walked around the dining table to the seat that originally belonged to Cherry-in other words, the seat beside Nora. He turned his head sideways to Nora and asked, "Ms. Smith, you don't mind if I sit here, right?"

The man's voice was low and deep, and his voice carried a bit of mirth when he spoke, making it sound extraordinarily seductive.

Nora nodded. "I don't."

"Okay."

However, the man didn't take the seat. Instead, he pulled out the chair for Nora in a very gentlemanly manner first.

An unceremonious Nora immediately sat down.

The Queen: "!!!"

As she looked at the sumptuous spread laid out all over the table, she suddenly felt like she had lost her appetite!

Is it really okay for you guys to show off how deeply in love you guys are in front of me?

She walked to the edge huffily and pushed away the servant who was about to pull the chair out for her. Instead, she pulled the chair out by herself and planted her bottom on it.

To be honest, the Queen's admiration for Justin was only in her heart. She had been madly in love with him in the past, but due to her status and her duty as the Queen, there was no way she could abandon her people and elope with Justin. Of course, Justin had never returned her feelings, either.

Thus, she had suppressed her love for him at the bottom of her heart all these years. She was fine as long as Justin didn't have a wife, but who knew that he would find himself one so soon? And on top of that, it was even Nora Smith, the person she detested the most?

But when it came down to it, there wasn't any great feud or enmity between the Queen and Nora, though.

The two of them were husband and wife... So what made her think she had the right to be jealous of them?

The Oueen took a vicious bite from her steak.

Mm, the steak was grilled just right. It melted in her mouth and was delicious.

Next to her, Lucy was delighted. She kept wanting to talk to Cherry, but the girl looked like she was close to tears as she looked at her father, mother, and two elder brothers seated opposite her.

Boohoo.

She really wanted to sit on the opposite side instead...

Right at this point...

"Cherry, I'll switch places with you."

"Come over here. Let's switch places."

Pete and Xander, the two sister-doting maniacs, spoke in unison.

An excited Cherry immediately jumped off her chair again and ran to the two of them.

Pete and Xander looked at her.

Cherry ran over and stopped in between the two. However, when she took a step toward Pete, she suddenly felt a chilling breeze coming from the other side.

After a short internal struggle, the little fellow gave Pete an ingratiating smile and then took a step toward Xander. But when she did that, she felt a chilling breeze coming from Pete's side.

Cherry: "??!"

She didn't even know where to put her little foot-which was still off the groundanymore!

In a dilemma, she pressed her chubby little hands together and lowered her head.

She'd wished for a brother when she didn't have one in the past, but why did she suddenly have two now?

Or how about the two brothers talk it out between themselves? Please stop making things difficult for a poor little girl like her!

She Becomes Glamorous After The Engagement Annulment Chapter 916

But make it quick, alright? She wasn't going to be able to keep the one-legged pose for much longer!

Thus, Pete and Xander locked gazes with each other, sparks flying from both boys' eyes.

At this moment, a weak but life-saving voice reached them.

"I'd like to sit with Cherry, so if her two brothers want to sit over here instead, then how about we both switch?"

Cherry's eyes lit up at once, and she looked excitedly at Lucy opposite her. Her little foot in the air stepped onto her other foot that she was standing on, and she even scratched the top of her foot with it.

Wow!

The little princess was practically her savior today!

In the end, Cherry and Princess Lucy sat next to Justin, with Cherry sitting close to Justin with an excited look on her face. Seeing how happy she was, the silly Princess Lucy also smiled cheerfully along with her, though she didn't understand at all why she was so happy. Xander and Pete were the only ones sitting beside the Queen with sullen looks on their little faces. The Queen: "..."

Excuse me, just how unpopular was she?!

Was it simply that unbearable to sit on the same side as her?!

Also! How come even her own daughter had abandoned her and gone looking for Cherry instead?!

She suddenly felt like taking back her gift!

The Queen viciously devoured another piece of steak.

The meal went on with each of them harboring their own thoughts.

Although Justin and Nora didn't speak, the two seemed to have a tacit understanding that no one else could intrude on. For example, at the start of the meal, Justin immediately passed Nora the salt shaker while she passed him the pepper shaker.

After passing the condiment shakers, the two looked at each other and exchanged a smile. Then, they both lowered their heads and added some condiments to their food with the shaker the other had passed to them.

The Queen: "Burp."

Was she already full after only two pieces of steak?

The corners of her lips spasmed and she couldn't help but start musing. Nora must have recognized King and realized that he was Justin, right? Well, that made sense. After all, because of her own strong feelings for Justin, even she had found King very familiar the first time she met him. Later on, she tried to confirm again and again whether the two were one and the same.

Nora was, at the very least, Justin's fiancée after all, so how could she possibly fail to recognize him?

So, that whole act just now where she pretended that she didn't know him was really just a farce!

She was the only one silly enough to be kept in the dark.

The Queen huffily speared another piece of steak.

One could say that both the host and the guests had thoroughly enjoyed the meal—with the exception of the Queen, who was pulling a long face.

After dinner, the few of them returned to the living room for some tea and conversation. The Queen, however, looked to the outside: why wasn't Black Cat back yet?

While the few of them were having lunch, the people outside didn't stay idle either. While Barbarian and the Queen's guards were enjoying their specially-prepared lunch outside, John, the butler, happened to run into the servant in charge of housekeeping in the castle when he was cheerfully stepping out of the door.

The butler asked, "Have you finished cleaning?"

"Yes, apart from Ma'am's study, I've already cleaned all the other rooms."

Following the servant's response, John smiled and replied, "Well done. No one is allowed to enter Ma'am's study."

The servant also smiled and said, "Oh, by the way, the refrigerator in Ma'am's bedroom is new. I saw that she has put some facial masks and drinks inside. I cleaned that too just now."

John then said, "I appreciate the efforts. We still have guests, though. After they leave, in the living room and in the lobby..."

The conversation between the two went farther and farther away and their voices gradually became inaudible.

Barbarian's eyes were lowered.

Soon, he finished his meal. He raised his head and looked around. "Black Cat hasn't come back yet?"

The captain of the guards replied, "No, not yet. Maybe she's lost her way. Don't bother with her."

The guard next to him also said, "Yeah, she stole Her Majesty's attention the moment she came. Last night, Her Majesty even sang her praises several times and subtly complained that we aren't capable enough... So, just let her be! She won't starve to death anyway."

However, Barbarian said, "I'll look for her."

The captain of the guards sneered, "Barbarian, I'd advise you not to be a busybody." But Barbarian, with a warning in his voice, said, "Her Majesty is very concerned about her."

After he spoke, he went straight out the door.

After he left, the captain of the guards let out a contemptuous laugh. The guard next to him also curled his lips and remarked, "He's just a bodyguard who isn't even on the official payroll. Pleasing Her Majesty is about the only thing he can do!"

As the strongest bodyguard among them, Barbarian wasn't part of the Queen's royal guards.

However, he had always followed the Queen's orders to a tee and conducted himself according to her preferences.

Therefore, since the Queen valued Black Cat, it was completely normal for him to go and look for her. It did not arouse the captain and the other guards' suspicion at all.

When Barbarian stepped out, he found that while the Schmidt castle's defenses against external threats might be on point, and the entire manor was no different from a solid fortress that didn't allow even a fly into the premises, the supervision inside was comparably a little lax.

Instead of looking for Black Cat, he took the opportunity while no one was looking to grab the wall with both hands and quickly climb to the second floor.

He didn't go to the study.

Everything stored in the study was confidential, and there would be safes and so on in there.

Most people would think that the study was the best place to hide the V16, but he went straight to Queenie's bedroom instead.

The V16 needed to be refrigerated for it to be kept fresh.

If a refrigerator was suddenly placed in the study, it would stick out like a sore thumb and come across as very strange. But if one was placed in the bedroom instead, they could put facial masks and drinks inside, which would not seem at all obtrusive.

After all, many types of facial masks did require refrigeration.

Queenie's move was pretty good and was also very misleading

But Barbarian was no longer the person, who only had brute force and not an ounce of intelligence, he used to be!!

She Becomes Glamorous After The Engagement Annulment Chapter 917

Barbarian cautiously avoided wave after wave of the Schmidts' security guards.

Due to the V16, the Schmidts had hired a lot more security guards and ramped up the security in the castle even further. Barbarian even spotted some mercenary groups in there. Those people were some of the most nefarious and vicious people around. For Queenie to hire them as security personnel to protect Nora and the others, one could say that she had certainly invested a lot.

It was just a shame that Barbarian was unrivaled when it came to physical fitness and acuity.

In addition, compared to the exterior castle grounds, they did not patrol the inner premises as carefully.

He bypassed all of them and went straight to the door to the bedroom.

Then, he pushed open the door.

But right at this moment, a sharp ring of an alarm suddenly sounded in the earphone Barbarian was wearing on his right ear.

It was the alarm that the Queen was to activate when she met with danger.

The Queen was calling for him.

Barbarian stopped in his tracks.

He broke into a frown and turned to leave. But a cold and steady voice then came from his left earphone.

"Where are you going?"

Barbarian replied, "Her Majesty is in danger." With that, Barbarian left the master bedroom. Without the slightest bit of hesitation, he rushed to the stairs and got ready to go down.

But the cold and steady voice in the earphone said, "Are you out of your mind? The V16 is right in front of you!"

However, Barbarian's response was still the same: "Her Majesty is in danger."

As he rushed down the stairs swiftly, he said, "A refrigerator has indeed been added to Queenie Schmidt's bedroom. You can go over there first. Once you get the V16, inject it into yourself immediately. Once Her Majesty is safe, I will come and save you."

After saying that, Barbarian left without hesitation.

Barbarian couldn't just leave the Queen in danger. Because the Queen was the only source of warmth in his life.

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He could still remember the time when he'd first escaped from the basement ten years ago. Exhausted, he didn't know where he was, and he'd ended up running around aimlessly in the palace.

The teenage boy had just wanted to find a way out at that time.

And then, he tripped and fell.

Behind him, members of the mysterious organization rushed over. When they were about to catch him, a lovely voice reached them. "Who are you?"

The Queen had still been a princess then.

She was the new heir to the throne. She had a large number of security officers around her, but even when the people chasing after Barbarian saw the princess's guards, they still came over calmly, regardless. A group of royal guards had already subdued Barbarian, who was out of strength after fighting his way out of the basement. Someone said, "Your Highness, it's obvious at a glance that this isn't a good man. Her Majesty had warned that there could be hitmen in the palace. He is highly likely a hitman. We should kill him to avoid potential trouble!"

Barbarian did not refute him.

Because he had seen the speaker before.

He was a low-ranking leader in the mysterious organization. His purpose in saying what he did was to guide public opinion.

Barbarian had always been ineloquent and simple-minded. He couldn't think of a way to explain himself, so he simply closed his eyes in resignation.

He was frustrated.

He didn't want to die just like that.

After he finally forced open the door to the basement with much difficulty, all five surviving children inside had escaped and fled in all directions. He didn't know where the others had gone.

But he wanted to see what the world outside was like.

Was he going to die here now?

He hadn't been administered the V16 yet, though. So, he would still die the day he turned thirty years old.

While Barbarian's imagination was running wild, he heard the princess' voice. "He doesn't look like a bad person to me."

"Your Highness, bad guys won't write the words "I'm a bad guy" on their faces. He has a murderous aura all around him, and there is even blood on him. He must be a hitman"

"Hold your tongue!" The woman spoke arrogantly and willfully. She said, "If I don't think he is a bad person, then he is not one. Alright, the few of you, help him up. I will take him away to seek medical treatment, and then I will personally ask him what's going on!"

Barbarian was taken to the princess' quarters.

After that, the princess summoned a doctor to give him a medical examination. His wounds were healing quickly, and his strength was also recovering rapidly.

The people from the mysterious organization stood guard outside the door.

When Barbarian slowly opened his eyes, he saw the blue-eyed young girl with a head of curly blond hair behind her walking toward him.

Before he could speak, the princess shushed him and put her finger on his lips. Then, she whispered, "Did you offend Father? Is that why they want to kill you? Don't worry, with me around, no one will kill you!"

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The princess was wearing a white fluffy dress while he was covered in blood. It had been a few days since he last took a bath and his body was covered with dirt, stains, and even blood. It was a hot summer day, and even he thought that he reeked.

Yet it was as if the princess didn't feel it at all.

Her pure eyes and clean temperament made Barbarian understand for the first time after he left the basement what it meant to be ashamed of oneself, and he shrank away from her.

In the basement, he had been the most powerful person there. In order to obtain the follow-up gene serums, he had even been let out by the organization to kill for them before.

His gene improvements were on his physical body, but at this moment, he felt a sense of inferiority that came from his very soul.

How he wished he could stuff himself into the sea and soak in there for seven days and seven nights to wash away all his sins.

Before Barbarian could think too deeply into these things, he had already rushed over from the upper floor to the main hall. It stood to reason that everyone in the Schmidts' castle was very cautious. Moreover, the Queen had always trusted the Schmidts; that was why she'd dared to dismiss all the people around her during the meal.

Barbarian could not think of anyone who might harm the Queen.

Could it be that the people who'd set fire to the hotel the other time had come to the Schmidts' too?

While Barbarian was thinking about it, he saw the Queen standing where she was, well and intact. She was glaring at Nora furiously.

Barbarian: "??"

He walked over with a bewildered look on his face, upon which he saw the Queen with her hands on her hips. The Queen often did this in private, but when in front of others, she'd always paid attention to her manners.

Despite that, she said angrily to Barbarian, "Barbarian, beat her up!"

Barbarian: "??"

After lunch, Queenie wanted to take an afternoon nap, so she left the first floor to the three youngsters and the children. Justin made an excuse and said that he would take the four children to play in the garden at the back, but in truth, he went to the master bedroom on the upper floor to catch Barbarian. Nora and the Queen were the only ones left in the hall.

Nora wanted to head to the upper floor, so she didn't want to be stuck here because of the Queen. As a result, the two had had a little dispute just now.

It went like this:

The Queen asked, "Have your butlers found Black Cat or not?"

Nora: "?"

She frowned and said, "I'll go personally and look for her, okay?"

She got up to leave, but the Queen grabbed her arm and said, "You can't! I get it now, Nora. You already know who King is, right? Then you must also know that King has special feelings for Black Cat. Is Black Cat still not showing up because you've done something to her?! Black Cat saved my life. Hand her over to me!"

Nora: "??!"

The corners of her lips spasmed. Someone had told her just now that Barbarian had made his move, so she was in a hurry to head upstairs and meet up with Justin to catch him. Because of this, she couldn't be bothered to explain and she threatened, "If you still don't let go, I'm going to hit you."

The Queen got mad. She said, "Don't you dare think that I'll be afraid of you just because you can fight a little. I may not know martial arts, but the people around me do!"

Thus, she'd pressed the emergency call button. After Barbarian ran over, she looked at Nora and shouted, "Barbarian, beat her up!"

Nora: "??!"

She looked at Barbarian, stunned.

Barbarian, aren't you supposed to be stealing the V16 from the master bedroom upstairs right now?

Why are you here?

While she was thinking about it, a siren suddenly started wailing in the master bedroom upstairs!!

Nora's pupils shrank! The V16 had been stolen! But if Barbarian was here, who was the one stealing the V16 upstairs?!

She Becomes Glamorous After The Engagement Annulment Chapter 918

The Queen was also stunned when the siren went off. She looked at Nora immediately and asked, "What's going on?"

Nora didn't bother with her. She merely glanced at Barbarian, hesitated a little, and then ran upstairs.

Barbarian followed behind the Queen with a hint of baffled surprise in his red eyes.

He hadn't stolen anything, so why did the siren go off upstairs?

He wanted to go and take a look, but he then thought of how dangerous the Schmidts' castle was at the moment. He had to protect the Queen. As soon as the thought formed, he stopped in his tracks.

However, the Queen said, "Let's go up and have a look too!"

Surely Black Cat hadn't mistakenly trespassed into someplace, right?

She had to save her!

She mustn't let Black Cat fall into Nora's clutches. Only then did Barbarian follow them upstairs.

Nora was already at the door to the master bedroom. The door had been opened and inside was a complete mess. Obviously, a round of attacks had been launched here just now.

A figure stood there with her hands raised and her back to them, not daring to move.

Because!

The room had been installed with a motion-sensor attack system, infrared sensors, thermal sensors, and more. The moment she moved even a little, the machine guns would turn her into swiss cheese.

All of this had been prepared for Barbarian.

Barbarian had a lot of physical strength, and neither Nora nor Justin could beat him in a fight. But no matter how strong he was, he was still human.

Firearms would surely be capable of killing him, one way or another.

Therefore, Nora had set up all these things in the room. The moment someone took the V16, the mechanisms would activate and the intruder would become trapped within.

Barbarian hadn't fallen for it, but it had trapped a person inside at the moment.

At this moment, Justin, Queenie, and the others also hurried over. They stood outside the door and looked in. The room was surrounded by steel plates that had sealed off the interior of the room.

The surrounding machine guns were all ready and waiting to fire.

A row of bullets had already left behind their traces on the wall. They were supposed to intimidate Barbarian after he obtained the V16, so that he either stayed in the room quietly or waited to be shot dead if he dared to move!

"Turn around!"

In Nora's hand was a controller with which she could manually operate the machine guns.

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The woman trapped inside was visibly shaking. When she heard Nora's voice, she cried and said, "I... I don't dare to..."

That voice...!

It was Rene!

Nora's pupils shrank and she asked, "Why are you here?"

Fear filled Rene's voice even further. She was shaking so hard that it was as if she couldn't even stand anymore. She stammered, "I... I saw someone coming up, so I followed after them... T-the man opened Ma'am's fridge, so I shouted that there was a thief. He ran away after that... I wanted to chase after him, but as soon as I entered the room, I triggered the sensors..."

Rene started sobbing out loud.

In a low voice, she said, "M-Ms. Smith, I... I'm scared... What's going on?" As she spoke, everyone looked at the refrigerator. Its door had been opened...

Nora narrowed her eyes. She was about to speak when the Queen said, "Is there a thief? What's the matter with all of you? No, wait. Ms. Smith, what are you doing with all these mechanisms in the master bedroom? Doesn't it scare you when you sleep here?"

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The Queen didn't know about the V16, so she was very puzzled. "Hurry up and put away those guns. Look at how you've trapped one of your babysitters inside..."

Yes, that was right. Rene had been working as Cherry's babysitter at the Schmidts' ever since she was brought there.

She was also wearing the uniform that the Schmidts' servants wore. Everything seemed to make sense...

Nora glanced at Barbarian again. However, she saw that his eyes were narrowed and he was starting to emanate a murderous aura. He looked just like a wolf about to go on a rampage.

Had Barbarian been inside, she wouldn't be afraid of anything at all, of course.

But now that Barbarian was outside... This meant that Nora couldn't release Rene, because...

She slowly said, "You can drop the act, Spacey."

As soon as she spoke, Rene jolted again. Her head turned around in astonishment and she looked at Nora in disbelief. Confused, she asked, "M-Ms. Smith, wh... what are you talking about?"

Nora did not enter the room. Anyone who entered the room at this point would die.

She stood at the door and said calmly and slowly, "How much longer are you going to keep up that pretense?"

However, Rene still looked as timid as before. She said, "I, I'm not putting up any sort of pretense, Ms. Smith. Are you suspecting that I stole something? I didn't... I came here only to take care of Cherry... No, that's not right. I came here to look for Liam. Ms. Smith, is Liam here? Can you give him back to me?" "So that he can continue being your puppet and do things for you?" Rene bit her lip, but when she saw the firm look in Nora's eyes, she suddenly dropped the pretense. "When did you find out?" "When Liam died."

Nora went on. "Many have told me that Spacey from the mysterious organization is very smart, but Liam's actions at that time were obviously too rash."

Back then, she'd entered the laboratory to refine the V16 immediately after obtaining it. Liam had then gone straight to the laboratory and snatched it from her... All of this seemed to make a lot of sense. After all, if she hadn't already been on guard long ago, Liam would have taken away the real V16 at that time! However, Liam had appeared too impetuous that time.

In particular, his death had been due to a bomb that Barbarian had installed.

In the past, Barbarian had always forced his way through situations with brute force. It was only after he started working with Spacey that he began to develop his own thoughts and ideas when handling things. In that case, there was no way he would give up Spacey so easily!

Rene was now a completely different person from her usual timid self. Her head was still lowered and her grimy hair was straggled all over her, but the look in her eyes changed from an innocent and timid one to a sinister and baleful one in an instant.

She was just like someone who had climbed all the way up from hell. She looked at Nora ominously and said, "That's it? We may be in Switzerland, but the Schmidts can't pass a sentence on to others so casually!"

"Of course not."

Nora spoke again. She sneered and said, "At that time, I was only suspicious of you. Then, your adoptive parents came and forcibly took you away. You instantly became one of the weak, the most pitiful person around. This undoubtedly diminished your suspiciousness ... After all, no one would suspect the weak! But... Are you really? Or should I ask: is your family background really that pitiful? Is it really true that your adoptive parents killed each other in a fight?"

"Of course not!"

As soon as Nora finished speaking, Brenda came over. The moment she came up to Nora, she threw a stack of documents to her. "Nora, I've looked into the case that you asked me to. Her adoptive parents did kill each other, but based on traces left behind at the crime scene, I've found evidence proving that the two did not resent each other; rather, they were forced to kill each other! And it was you, Rene, who forced them to do it!"

Rene immediately retorted angrily, "Didn't they deserve that? Should I have stopped myself from fighting back and gotten violated by my adoptive father instead? I just want to lead my life properly. Is there anything wrong with that?!"

"There's nothing wrong with wanting to lead a good life and protecting yourself." Brenda's flaming red lips were extraordinarily alluring, but her back, as she stood there, was straight and upright as she asked, "But is that really what you're doing?"

Rene bit her lip. "What do you mean by that?!"

Brenda cast her eyes down. "I've already checked your background. During the last ten years, you haven't only been adopted by one family but three. However, without exception, all of those couples have died!"

Her words shocked everyone there.

Three families?

Even Nora raised her eyebrows.

However, Brenda did not elaborate. She only said, "Of course, since your offenses were committed in Switzerland, the Swiss authorities will naturally be the ones to handle your case. As an Interpol officer, I am only arresting you because you are involved in an international biogenetic drug case! But no matter which case it is, you won't be able to escape the death sentence!"

The death sentence...

Upon hearing what she said, Rene suddenly burst into laughter. She said furiously, "You can't kill me! Because I have already injected myself with both of the V16 serums! Your only option is to distill out the V16 from my blood now. You can only keep me alive and have me become your gene blood bank! Kill me, and you will lose everything!"

With both the V16s in her, an overdose would result in an excess of the serum in her blood.

However, they couldn't draw out all her blood at once either, because part of it must have already been absorbed into her body!

If they wanted to extract a single dosage of the V16, they would have to wait for the unabsorbed serum in her body to slowly penetrate her blood along with the regeneration of her blood. This would take at least several months, or maybe even years!

Barbarian's pupils shrank and he looked at Spacey in disbelief. She had injected all of the two serums into herself?!

She Becomes Glamorous After The Engagement Annulment Chapter 919

Barbarian was infuriated.

He and Spacey had already agreed that they would each take one gene serum after they got their hands on them!

He demanded furiously, "How can you be so selfish?"

As soon as he spoke, the Queen, who was watching the show at the side, was stunned.

The Queen looked at him in surprise. "Barbarian, what are you saying?"

Wasn't this just a case of a babysitter of the Schmidts stealing from her employer? How did it become related to Barbarian?

The moment the Queen spoke, Barbarian looked at her, though he didn't speak right away.

The trapped Rene... no, Spacey sneered, "Selfish? You're the selfish one! If you hadn't left just now, we would each have had one gene serum! Without you, I definitely wouldn't have been able to escape, so of course I had to give myself a Plan B!"

Barbarian's brows drew together. "You said that the two of us are in this together! That we would never abandon or give up on each other no matter what!"

"Ha!" Spacey, who was completely different from her timid demeanor before, raised her head and laughed. "You abandoned me first! For the sake of your Queen, you abandoned me! But look at what happened? Your Queen didn't need you at all! She's standing there well and intact while I'm trapped here!"

Spacey stared at Barbarian angrily. "The Queen has always been the only one in your heart! You never cared about me!"

Barbarian was taken aback. "What nonsense are you saying?"

"Am I wrong?!" Spacey stared at Barbarian resentfully. "We had already agreed that we would come to the Schmidts today to steal the V16, but for your Queen's sake, you gave up on our plan. You forced me into this!"

Barbarian was rendered speechless in an instant.

However, the Queen, who was standing next to Barbarian, was stunned. She slowly turned her head to Barbarian and asked, "Barbarian, what is she talking about? The two of you are in this together? Are you short of money? Why are you stealing from others with her?"

The Queen knew nothing about Barbarian's past.

All she knew was that after she saved him back then, she had discovered that Barbarian showed immense talent in martial arts. Thus, she had found someone to teach him martial arts and trained him into her strongest personal protection officer and bodyguard.

Barbarian had also asked for leave and gone out mid-way before. Sometimes, when she stayed in the country and didn't leave the palace, such that she was absolutely safe, he would ask for half a month's leave. The Queen had always just thought that Barbarian was going out to handle his personal affairs. In fact, the Queen had even once teased Barbarian by asking him if he'd found a girlfriend and was going out on dates with her...

Never would she have ever thought that Barbarian would steal from the Schmidts with that babysitter!

Faced with the Queen's "naive" question, Barbarian found himself at a loss for words.

The Queen looked at Spacey again. She pointed at her and asked Barbarian, "Is she the girlfriend you've found outside? Barbarian, why is your girlfriend forcing you to steal? Is the salary I pay you not enough? I've given you a house before too. If you need anything else, you can just tell me. There is no need for you to steal..."

The Queen rambled endlessly, but her actions were the only source of warmth at this moment.

Faced with the Queen like that, Barbarian didn't know how to explain what he had done...

He didn't speak, but Brenda spoke for him. She said, "Your Majesty, you may have misunderstood something. Do you know that this man next to you is an international serial killer?!"

As soon as she spoke, the Queen frowned. "Who are you? Why are you slandering Barbarian? He was just stealing something. How does that make him a murderer?!"

She stood in front of Barbarian and protected him. She looked straight at Nora and Queenie and lifted her chin arrogantly. "Mdm. Schmidt, Ms. Smith. We do have some ties between us, right? I know you're unhappy that they stole from you, so how about this, how much does it cost? The British Royal Family will provide full compensation! But don't you dare accuse my subject of being a murderer and whatnot!"

Her bad-ass manner of protecting her own put everyone present at a loss for words for a while.

Barbarian also clenched his fists tightly. Once again, he felt ashamed of himself.

Nora was a woman of few words, but Queenie didn't wish for conflict with the British Royal Family.

After all, the Queen represented an entire country. Be it the Schmidts or the Imperial League, neither of them would want to become enemies with a country just because of a misunderstanding.

Queenie explained, "Your Majesty, have you heard of the mysterious organization?"

The Queen's pupils shrank. "Yes, I have. What about it?"

The people after the Queen's life at the hotel the other time were from that exact organization!

The Queen had always known that.

Queenie pointed at Barbarian. "He used to be a member of the mysterious organization."

The Queen was shocked. "What did you say?"

Queenie went on. "Also, you should know what the mysterious organization does, right?"

The Queen's brows drew together. "No, I actually don't."

A resigned Queenie could only explain to the Queen the purpose of the mysterious organization's existence, as well as their cruel practices.

Two minutes later, when Queenie was done, the Queen frowned and said, "If that's the case, then Barbarian is also a victim! He shouldn't be arrested! Besides, he has already betrayed the mysterious organization!"

"But he is an international murderer!" Nora said coldly.

"A murderer? Do you have any evidence? If so, you can get in touch with the UK government and request our cooperation in handing over Barbarian instead of arresting him here! Without evidence, I will never hand over Barbarian!"

The Queen was rather attached to Barbarian.

It was a very fascinating emotion.

It was much like a fondness for something that had been around for a long time. After more than ten years, she had long since become accustomed to Barbarian protecting and watching out for her. She stepped in front of Barbarian and shielded him, just like what Barbarian had done for her every time she met with danger. She even felt that all of this was a conspiracy that the others had devised.

After all

The Queen looked at Nora. "The V16 or whatever it's called is with you, right? Are you trying to use this as an excuse to get rid of Barbarian? This way, no one would fight with you for it anymore! But for you to spin lies like this, you're too much!"

At this point, the masked Justin said solemnly, "Your Majesty, they are not spinning lies."

His words made the Queen suddenly look at him.

In this instant, she suddenly realized that Justin was also aware of all this. Therefore, it wasn't just Nora who had set up this trap for her; it was also Justin!

The Queen felt betrayed.

She was here at the Schmidts just for a visit as a guest, but the group of them had all been plotting against her.

The smile on her face disappeared completely, and she revealed a cold and resolute side of herself. She said, "So, you're also part of this, King? Hah. Do you really think that we, the British, are that easy to bully, though? I've already said it: Barbarian is mine. If you don't have any conclusive evidence, then you can forget about taking him away from me! Since I've brought him to the Schmidts, then I will walk out of this place with him safe and well! This stands true even if... I must become enemies with the Schmidts and the Imperial League! We, the British, are not afraid!"

She had pride.

As a Queen, she had never been afraid of anyone.

Justin sighed. "He is not a good man."

Despite that, the Queen still said firmly, "He's not a good man? Barbarian has always been very kind when he protects me. He never kills the innocent indiscriminately, and he has never come to me with even a bit of blood on him! He doesn't like to talk, but I know that he is a kind person!"

A kind person...

Her words stunned Barbarian, whom she was protecting behind herself.

To be honest, the reason why he cleaned himself thoroughly every time he killed someone was exactly the Queen's trust in him.

The Queen had blue eyes as pure as clear water.

Though the Queen was arrogant and always behaved like she was high up in the air, she had the purest heart despite her noble status. Therefore, Barbarian was most afraid of the Queen finding out about his activities...

Thus, he had never left any traces outside that pointed to him being the Queen's bodyguard, fearing that the matter would be brought to the Queen's attention.

But as he looked at the Queen, who was standing in front of him and leaving her back exposed to him with confidence, he suddenly felt that he was not worthy.

He was not worthy of being shielded by such a good Queen.

He was not worthy of having the Queen become enemies with the Schmidts and the Imperial League because of him!

Just as Barbarian was about to speak, Brenda curled her lips and said, "You're the Queen, right? Why are you so muddleheaded? Fortunately, my sister-in-law knows what you're like, so she told me to bring all the evidence here!"

After she spoke, Brenda fished out a stack of paper evidence from her bag and stretched out her hand to hand them to the Queen. She said, "These are all the people Barbarian has killed over the years! He-".

Before she could finish, though, Barbarian suddenly moved! He charged out from behind the Queen at high speed and threw a punch at Brenda.

Brenda took two steps back abruptly and the documents in her hands fell and scattered all over the floor.

The Oueen looked at the floor...

At the side, both Nora and Justin thought that Barbarian was planning to take Brenda hostage because he was at his wits' end, so they subconsciously stood in front of Brenda to protect her and waited for Barbarian to attack.

Unexpectedly, Barbarian did not rush over. Instead, he stopped in front of the Queen.

He stood on the so-called evidence and blocked the Queen's line of sight. "Don't look!"

His voice was filled with panic, just like a child begging for help. He was afraid of the Queen seeing the evidence, he was afraid of seeing disappointment in the Queen's eyes...

His tone made the Queen's heart wrench, and she withdrew her gaze. "Okay, I won't look..."

Barbarian breathed a sigh of relief.

But right after he let out the sigh of relief, the Queen asked, "Then tell me, are they telling the truth? Did you... really kill a lot of people?"

Barbarian clenched his jaw.

The Queen looked at him fixedly. "You have never lied to me. So, tell me that none of this is true. Don't worry, I will protect you." Barbarian's expression blanked out for a moment.

He suddenly thought of their first meeting more than ten years ago.

"You can live here with peace of mind! I will protect you!"

The young princess said to the boy who had just escaped from confinement with injuries all over him. The boy curled up and tried his best to shrink himself so that his dirty body wouldn't touch the princess' pure and clean dress. He was afraid of soiling the angel.

The princess, however, sat beside him, not caring in the least. Her skirt pressed against his bare feet, and it became stained. Her big blue eyes looked at him as she said, "Oh, but you have to promise me that you'll never lie to me."

She Becomes Glamorous After The Engagement Annulment Chapter 920

Barbarian looked at the Oueen.

Time flew. More than ten years had passed.

The Queen had aged and she now had fine lines at the corners of her eyes. However, those blue eyes of hers had never changed.

Barbarian swallowed.

The Queen spoke again. "Barbarian, say something. I will believe everything you say."

But Barbarian couldn't.

He had gone through so much since he was a child. He had been in the basement since he was born and was injected with gene serums every once in a while...

The body modification gene serum had really hurt like hell... He didn't remember the pain he felt when he was a baby, but he remembered all the pain he felt after he turned five years old.

Each gene serum injection had felt as if it was melting his flesh and reconstructing it. No one could understand what that bone-splintering pain felt like.

At that time, Barbarian didn't understand.

Because that was how life was until the day when he was taken out to kill for the first time when he was ten years old. His powerful body and physical abilities had astonished the others.

It was also only then that Barbarian found out that people outside were living such blissful and happy lives.

A ten-year-old child attended school, acted like a spoiled child in the arms of their parents, and was lovingly doted on by their parents.

Hatred had slowly built up in Barbarian's heart at that time.

All Barbarian held toward the world was malice. All the beauty in the world had never once been part of his life, so what did it matter even if he destroyed the world?

Therefore, he had never once shown any mercy when he killed. In fact, he only felt happy when he was killing; when he saw his victims shaking like leaves and begging for mercy on their knees.

See? So what even if he had never attended school? So what even if he had suffered abuse as a child?

The way people were so terrified in front of him and the way they soiled themselves in their last moments looked even more unseemly than he had been back then!

Inside this sick mindset of his, the only person who still allowed him to retain a trace of reason within was his princess. Whenever he took leave to go out to kill, the princess never asked him what he was planning to do. She would always happily let him leave. And every time he came back after killing someone, the princess would look at him with a teasing look in her eyes.

The princess had said that it was time he found a girlfriend.

But he didn't know what kind of person he should look for as a girlfriend.

It was at this time that Spacey had contacted him.

He and Spacey were the same.

They had both grown up in the basement. Thus, he'd thought at that time that Spacey must be his girlfriend. The two then teamed up and started to fight for the V16 together.

Barbarian never once felt that he'd done anything wrong.

Yet he realized that he couldn't say even a word at this moment, as he faced the Queen's questioning.

Because he didn't want to see disappointment in the Queen's eyes. He only liked how the Queen sang his praises whenever she saw his progress in combat training.

Thus, even though he'd opened his mouth, he didn't know how to answer her.

However, the Queen figured it out through his reaction, and the look in her eyes gradually turned solemn...

She looked at Barbarian and suddenly cast her eyes down. She asked, "Have you... ever killed a citizen of the UK?"

She was not someone with overflowing compassion. In her eyes, only the people of the UK were her subjects. She left the responsibility of managing the people in the rest of the countries to the international authorities; they weren't part of her responsibilities.

But if Barbarian had killed citizens of the UK... then the Queen couldn't let him off!!

When Barbarian heard her, he opened his mouth again, though, he didn't know what to say...

He had.

Once, after going on a killing spree outside, he happened to run into a royal guard who saw him covered in blood while he was on his way back to the palace. In order to cover up his misdeeds, he had killed him.

Seeing his silence, the light in the Queen's eyes dimmed even further—she understood his answer.

She slowly cast her eyes down...

At this point, Spacey's voice suddenly came from the room. "You see that, Barbarian? The Queen's kindness toward you is not unconditional either! Once you cross her boundaries, she would still kill you all the same! I am the only one in this world who's like you! So, hurry and kill them and save me! I can synthesize the other V16 from my blood for you!"

Spacey was doing all this because she was worried that Barbarian would defect at the last moment, so she was trying to build a Plan B for herself!

But Barbarian didn't seem to have heard her at all. He stared at the Queen in dumbfounded silence. Only one thought was running through his head: "She's become disappointed in me." He felt like his world was about to collapse around him!

At the sight, Spacey bit her lip-she knew that she couldn't count on Barbarian anymore. She looked straight at Nora again and said, "It still goes back to the same thing-even if you arrest me, you still have to feed me well and keep me in a good mood! Or else I'll kill myself! If I die, you can forget about ever getting the V16 again!"

But even after she spoke, she didn't see any reaction from Nora and the others.

Nora, in particular, was extraordinarily calm. Spacey wanted to speak again, but intense drowsiness suddenly came over her. She shook her head, suddenly finding herself unsteady on her feet.

She stumbled a little, whereupon she heard an impassive Nora say, "Oh, I forgot to tell you something. The substance inside those bottles isn't the V16 but two doses of sleeping pills."

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Spacey: "?"

Her eyes suddenly widened. It was then that she finally realized something.

She was right. So many traps and mechanisms had been set up in this place. It was obvious that they had set this up in order to catch Barbarian, so how could the real V16 possibly be here?

As soon as the thought formed, Spacey's eyes closed and she passed out. She fell to the ground with a thud.

But no one looked at her. Instead, they turned to look at Barbarian.

Barbarian had killed Brenda's best friend... Seeing him in a daze, Brenda couldn't hold herself back anymore. She suddenly brandished her pistol and fired right at Barbarian!

Bang!

The moment that the gunshot rang out, Barbarian's sixth sense allowed his body to react faster than his brain. He did a tuck-and-roll on the spot and dodged the bullet from Brenda.

The next moment, Barbarian smashed through the glass window, fleeing through it!

Gunshots from the Interpol officers lying in wait on the ground floor rang out. Brenda also went out in pursuit of him.

Nora and Justin exchanged a look. The couple went down the stairs in unison but saw that Barbarian had already escaped. Brenda, who was stamping her foot in frustration, cursed, "Shit!"

Up against a skilled expert like him, unless they carried out a large-scale bombardment of the Schmidts' property, they were going to have a really hard time catching him. The traps had originally been prepared for Barbarian... But unfortunately, they hadn't come into play. Instead, they only captured a weak, though relatively intelligent, Spacey.

In the end, all Brenda could do was detain Spacey.

As Nora watched the officers bring the unconscious Spacey into the police car, she asked, "What will happen to her?"

Brenda answered, "The death sentence."

Nora was taken aback.

Barbarian may have been brainwashed into killing but she, on the other hand, was born wicked. Her evolution involves brain improvements. No one ever taught her to kill, yet after she escaped from the basement and was adopted by her first adoptive family, she deliberately seduced her adoptive father, causing a conflict between her adoptive parents. In the end, the two couldn't resolve their conflict, and they even hurt her physically. She then set up a trap to kill the two of them. Unfortunately, after she killed her mother, her father regained his senses. He wanted to shoot her dead to avenge his wife, but the police broke into the scene at this point

—their security guard had reported the father for raping her. When everyone went in, they saw that her clothes were disheveled in a mess and that the man was trying to shoot and kill her. The police tried to dissuade him, but it was to no avail, so they could only shoot and kill him..."

Nora was stunned by the story.

The Queen was also fascinated by the story. She remarked in surprise, "That woman's thoughts are so unfathomable!" Brenda nodded. "At that time, everyone believed her account to be the truth and they erased the traces that she had once been adopted. Later, she was adopted by another family. But in the end, her adoptive parents both died within half a year again. Everyone lamented her bad luck and some even said things like she is too pretty and that she has all grown up, so it was no wonder that her adoptive fathers would take a fancy to her, and so on. Thus, after the second incident, she deliberately made herself dirty and unkempt, knowing that everyone thought that she had suffered trauma during the first two incidents. It was only after the third time she killed her adoptive parents... that it finally caught our attention! You can say that we now have both witnesses and material evidence. Not only has she killed six people in a row, but she's also involved in a major case like the transnational biogenetic experiment. She won't be able to escape the death penalty."

Everyone nodded.

After Brenda left with Spacey, the despondent Queen also left with Princess Lucy.

Barbarian's betrayal... made her feel terrible.

Only Nora, Justin, and the rest remained at the Schmidts'.

As she watched the Queen's car leave, Nora suddenly asked, "Isn't she in love with you? Why does it seem like she's in love with Barbarian instead?"

Justin, who suddenly felt impending doom, thought for a moment and answered cautiously, "...I don't know."

Nora didn't press further either. Instead, she changed the topic and asked, "How is it with Barbarian?"

Justin breathed a sigh of relief and answered, "They are still tailing him."

When Barbarian escaped, in addition to the police, the Schmidts' security officers had also gone after him. In spite of that, he had still escaped, though he ultimately did still take a gunshot.

Justin's men were also going after him.

Nora nodded.

Justin said, "Don't worry, I will never allow Barbarian to fight with Xander for the gene serum!"

They weren't saints.

There were only two gene serums. They couldn't give them to just anyone.

Nora nodded.

"Daddy!"

Now that there weren't any outsiders around, Cherry let out an excited yell and ran over.

Justin bent over and picked her up. With his voice gentle and low, he asked, "Miss me?" "Of course! Cherry thinks of Daddy every day!" Pete and Xander also came over.

The family of five gathered happily.

In the distance, as Queenie watched them, a hint of a happy smile appeared on the corner of her lips.

At the side, John suggested, "Why don't you join them, Ma'am?"

But Queenie shook her head and replied, "I'm tired. I'll just let the family of five reunite instead! An old woman like me shouldn't bother them."

John looked at her hesitantly before he finally said in a small voice, "You're only in your thirties..."

As soon as he spoke, Queenie's chilly gaze suddenly swept over him.

John shut his mouth immediately. "I've spoken out of turn, Ma'am."

Queenie lowered her eyes and entered the living room. She casually picked up a glass of red wine from the table and went up the stairs swirling the wine in the glass. This time, though, she did not enter the bedroom but looked at the room that had been sealed for a long time.

She cast her eyes down. Suddenly, she stepped forward and opened the door.