

Chapter 191 Helpless

Rufus's POV:

"Ferrill, can you find out what kind of poison it is?" I asked in a low voice.

Ferrill stared at the test data on the report with distress. "Not right now. The poison was only found in close proximity to the wound. Blood samples from other parts of her body proved to be normal."

I frowned deeply. "So the poison invaded her body from the wound?"

"Yes." Ferrill nodded, pushing his glasses up the bridge of his nose. "Most likely from something that could be in close contact with the wound. Did Miss Todd interact with anyone else during this period of time?"

"No, she's been with me this whole time." From the time I rescued Sylvia in the forbidden forest to the poison that attacked her today, she had never left my sight, unless she had already been poisoned before she made it to the forbidden forest.

"What are the side effects of being poisoned with aphrodisiac?" I suddenly asked.

Ferrill glanced at me in surprise. "There are only a few kinds of aphrodisiac. As long as it is relieved in time, there shouldn't be any long term effects. Why do you ask? Has Miss Todd ever been poisoned with aphrodisiac?"

Ignoring his question, I asked him to leave.

Since the aphrodisiac wasn't the culprit, she must have been poisoned even earlier. The only thing that could've come in contact with her wound was her clothes.

On the day Sylvia was rescued, she was wearing the school uniform. But she needed to change her clothes because they had gotten tattered. I recalled asking Maya to discard of them.

Thinking about this, I sent for Maya. Fortunately, she hadn't gotten rid of the clothes just yet.

I immediately ordered her to have the clothes tested by the doctors.

Sure enough, the test results confirmed my suspicion, which made my heart sink to my stomach. The clothes were indeed stained with chronic poison. If she had worn it every day, the poison would've penetrate into her body through the skin, causing her to weaken slowly, until her heart stopped beating. She could've died.

After the poison invaded the body, even the most advanced medical equipment wouldn't be able to detect it.

If it weren't for the fact that her wound had come into contact with her clothes, the poison would not have attacked ahead of time. In that case, everyone would've chalked her death up to natural causes. No one would've suspected that it was actually murder.

What a smart and vicious means of killing.

"The toxin is unknown and it decomposed quickly. It can make the blood thicken, causing it to flow slowly, resulting in insufficient blood supply in the heart. Consequently, the functions of the organs would have gone out of control."

The doctors discussed the results with me. I listened calmly and expressionlessly.

"Her airway has already been severely convulsed. If things go on like this, I'm afraid there will be no way for her to recover—"

Hearing this, I kicked the chair away.

It flew and crashed against the wall. A hush fell over the room as all the doctors lowered their heads, trembling with fear.

I took a deep breath and smoothed my hair. "Give me the results in an hour."

"It will take some time to develop the antidote," Ferrill said hesitantly. An old doctor had nudged him forward, urging him to say something. He adjusted his glasses nervously and added, "We've never encountered such a poison before. Give us a little more time. We have no clue what's going on right now."

"No clue?" I echoed coldly. "Do you think she still has the time to wait for you to develop the antidote?" The temperature in the room dropped a hundred degrees and the doctors before me all shivered. They were all experts at the top of their respective medical professions, but now they were telling me that there was nothing they could do. What a joke!

I didn't have the patience to continue listening to their rambles, so I stormed out of the meeting room.

"Rufus, where are you going?" Omar asked worriedly. "What should we do?"

"Find out who's behind this," I answered curtly, walking towards the ward.

"Could it be Flora?" Omar speculated. "After all, only those who live together can find the opportunity to use such a poison..."

"I don't want to suspect her." I cut him short. "Sylvia trusts Flora."

"But what if it was really her?" Omar whispered anxiously.

"That's why I'm going to ask her myself," I answered in a low voice. "I've already sent for her."

Chapter 192 Some Clues

Flora's POV:

As soon as I walked out of the dormitory building, I saw a familiar figure standing under a tree from afar.

Warren had changed into sportswear, looking very athletic and handsome. He was not as embarrassed and disheveled as last night.

When he saw me come out, he jogged straight to me, carrying a delicate pink bag in his hand.

"What do you want?" I pursed my lips and asked grumpily. The atmosphere grew awkward as soon as I saw him.

"You weren't in the canteen this morning, so I brought you some food," he said, shuffling from one foot to the other nervously.

I turned my head away. I didn't want to talk to him. "I'm not hungry. Eat it yourself."

"Just eat it when you do get hungry. Today's class will be long." After saying that, Warren shoved the bag into my hands and abruptly ran away.

I watched him leave wordlessly, clutching the pink bag in my hands. Why did he run? Was I that scary? Brows furrowed, I opened the bag angrily.

The bag was surprisingly big and there were all kinds of desserts in it. They each looked so delicate and lovely in their little plastic boxes. It was as though each dessert was carefully and thoughtfully packed.

As a she-wolf with a strong character, of course I wouldn't allow myself to take his gift just like that. I put everything back inside the bag and reluctantly took it with me to the classroom, intending to return it to Warren when I saw him.

But little did I know that Harry would eat them all while I was in the bathroom.

When I saw the empty plastic boxes and Harry, who was burping loudly, I was too angry to say a word.

"Thank you, Flora," he said, licking the cake crumb off his fingers. "I asked you to bring me breakfast yesterday, but I didn't expect you'd actually bring me something to eat! Where did you buy these desserts anyway? They taste even better than those made by our family cook."

"Damn you!" I pinched Harry's cheek angrily. "I'm gonna kill you!"

Just then, Warren entered the classroom. When he passed by me, he glanced at the empty boxes.

Embarrassed, I buried my face in my hands. Before I could pluck up the courage to explain, Warren smiled and walked to his seat in the back of the classroom.

I pressed my fingers against my temple, feeling a little peeved.

He definitely misunderstood me now. Although it was just food, I always believed that I shouldn't take other people's things, or else I would owe them. Moreover, our relationship was in an awkward state right now.

But I didn't stew for too long. I soon realized that Sylvia was absent.

"Why isn't Sylvia here?" Harry leaned over and whispered.

"I don't know." I was confused, too.

Yesterday, when we talked on the phone, Sylvia said that she would only skip the morning exercises, but she was going to attend class.

Just as I was pulling out my phone to call Sylvia, Maya came over and whispered that something had happened to Sylvia.

My mind went completely blank. How could something have happened to her with Rufus by her side? I hurriedly followed Maya to the hospital. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the unconscious Sylvia lying in bed. She looked weak and pale as a ghost.

"What happened?" I cried, trembling. I reached for her hand and found that it was cold as ice. "She was fine yesterday..."

"She was poisoned."

A deep male voice sounded from behind me. When I turned around, I found Rufus by the doorway. His demeanor was cold, but the dark circles under his eyes betrayed his exhaustion.

"But how?" I didn't understand. How could anyone dare to hurt Sylvia when Rufus was with her?

"We found that her school uniform was laced with a chronic poison."

"School uniform?!" I was shocked. Suddenly, I remembered the affair between Lucy and her secret lover. So I relayed to Rufus that Sylvia and I had caught Lucy having sex with a man the other night.

"Since Lucy and Prince Richard confirmed their relationship, she had dropped out of school and moved into the royal palace," I explained. "That means she couldn't have gotten close to Sylvia, so the only possible suspect left is Lucy's secret lover." I pulled at my hair remorsefully. "But we didn't see his face, nor did we know who he was. What should we do now? If we go to confront Lucy now, without any evidence, it will only make things worse..."

While saying that, something dawned on me. "Wait a second. The school uniform Sylvia's been wearing is new; she lost her button so she applied for a new set of uniform later. She hasn't taken it off outside the school premises. How could Lucy or her lover have the chance to put poison on it?"

Rufus sneered. "Then there is only one possibility: that this has something to do with the teaching affairs office."

Chapter 193 Public Display Of Affection

Richard's POV:

Once a month, executives of the Royal Military School would hold a regular meeting.

Although they always just talked about nonsense, I had always listened to them carefully.

Today, however, I was inexplicably upset and restless. I took a sip of coffee absentmindedly and watched them quarrel with each other over the construction of a new swimming pool.

It was so petty and boring. I sneered internally.

"Prince Richard, what do you think?" the dean turned to me and squinted.

His vision was bad, but he forgot to wear glasses today, so he inadvertently stared at the vase beside me.

I coughed and answered with a polite smile. "It's up to you."

As soon as I said this, they continued to quarrel. In the end, they didn't reach an agreement.

As soon as the meeting was over, Lucy strode over in high heels. She was flanked by two maids, looking very high-profile.

"Honey, what brings you here?" I stood up in surprise and walked to the door to receive her.

"Miss Stevens got up early and made lunch for you herself," a maid behind Lucy announced loudly.

"Thank you so much, honey." I took her hand and planted a kiss on it. "Don't do it again, though. What if you cut yourself or something?"

Lucy lowered her head shyly. Her cheeks turned a bright crimson and she tittered. "It doesn't matter. I like cooking for you."

Hearing this, the others began to butter up to Lucy and me.

"How nice of Lady Lucy!"

"I envy your relationship. It makes me want to get married."

"Come on, stop breaking she-wolves's hearts. You've already been married—twice, in fact!"

"Prince Richard and Lady Lucy are the perfect match!"

Holding Lucy's hand, I put on a modest look. "I hope everyone can attend our wedding next month."

"We'll be there!" everyone echoed.

In order to give us some space, everyone filed out of the room.

As soon as the door was closed behind them, Lucy and I immediately pulled away from each other.

Lucy sat opposite me, her expression as cold as ice. But I didn't mind. I opened the lunch box in a good mood.

"Why were you so late?" I asked as I rummaged through the lunch box's contents.

Lucy snorted. "It was you who suddenly asked me to come over and act like we're in love. You should feel grateful that I came at all."

I didn't care about her attitude. I pierced a piece of beef with my fork and put it into my mouth. It tasted good. "You cooked this?"

"Did you actually buy that act?" Lucy looked at her beautiful nails casually. "I just bought it in a restaurant outside."

"Makes senses. I'd rather have the kitchen blown up than let you cook." I slowly chewed the meat in my

mouth and felt that I would rather marry a vase than the woman sitting before me. Nonetheless, she was useful to me, and that was enough for me.

Lucy glanced at me coldly without responding to my insult.

She had always been like this when we were alone. It seemed that she refused to get along with me. Sometimes, I really wondered why. I was a prince after all, so I could satisfy her in terms of both money and status. What else did she want?

I lost my appetite after a few bites. I put down the fork and reached for the napkin. "Did anyone see you order this food?"

"Don't worry. It was a hole-in-the-wall. No one saw me." Lucy stood up gracefully and straightened her dress. "Alright. I'm leaving."

"Why are you in such a hurry?" I couldn't help but feel a little unnerved. She didn't even bother to hide her disgust with me.

Suddenly, there was a heavy knock on the door, followed by a ruckus of noises.

"Prince Richard!" somebody called. "Prince Rufus broke into the school with a large group of men and they've surrounded the teaching affairs office."

Chapter 194 Surrounded

Richard's POV:

Upon hearing this, I rushed to the window and sure enough, many armed guards swarmed the grounds. They were Rufus's subordinates.

Rufus emerged from the crowd with a stone cold face. Then, he looked up at my direction. "Besiege this place. Don't let even a fly escape."

"Yes, sir!" the guards responded in a deafening roar.

Those who were trapped in the teaching affairs office were so scared that they couldn't even scream. They shrank back, not daring to move.

Utterly aghast, I rushed downstairs and out of the building. "Rufus! What the hell are you doing?"

He knew I was the one in charge of the school now. How could he bring his men here to embarrass me? Since he didn't bother to show me some respect, I refused to be polite with him.

"You crossed the line!" I roared, rushing over to him. "Explain yourself!"

However, Rufus's men stopped me before I could get close to him. "Prince Richard, calm down."

I kicked them away angrily. "Fuck off. Go and calm down yourself."

Rufus didn't even look at me. Instead, he took a torn, blood-stained school uniform from a nearby maid and asked in an ice cold voice, "Who's responsible for the new school uniforms?"

Rufus had made such a big scene that everyone was scared out of their minds. They lowered their heads and didn't dare to make a sound, lest they attract unnecessary attention.

I sneered unhappily. "Rufus, since when did you get involved in the school's affairs?"

"I'll ask you one more time," Rufus said in a dangerously low voice. "Who's responsible for new school uniforms?"

I couldn't help but feel a little surprised. This was my first time to see Rufus so emotional.

"What's making you so angry?" I asked indifferently, crossing my hands over my chest.

Rufus glanced at me flippantly then looked around at the terrified faces in front of him. "What's going on? You don't even dare to answer me?"

Everyone exchanged nervous glances before finally looking at Kyle, the director of teaching affairs office standing at the edge of the crowd.

All the color drained from Kyle's face. He stepped forward, his legs shaking like a leaf. "Why... what's the matter?"

"So, are you the one who's responsible?" Rufus strode over to Kyle, holding up the school uniform. A terrifyingly ominous aura emanated from his body.

"Yes," Kyle squeaked. His short golden hair was combed behind his ears, and his rose-scented perfume choked anyone who got close.

I covered my nose in disgust. Why did I feel as though it smelled so familiar?

Kyle slowly backed away, until he had hit the wall. There was no way out for him.

Rufus closed in on him and threw the uniform at his face. "The fabric of this school uniform has been tainted with poison."

Kyle's face grew even paler. He took the school uniform with trembling hands and asked, "What... How is this possible?"

Rufus sneered. "'How is this possible'? Are you asking really asking me that?"

"I... I don't understand what you're talking about." Kyle plucked up some semblance of courage and raised his voice.

"Anyone who wears this school uniform will be eroded by a chronic poison until they die of heart failure. As the one in charge of the new school uniforms, don't you know about this?" Rufus's face was dangerously cold, and his eyes were filled with horrible cruelty.

"I don't know anything about that. It's the factory's fault!" Kyle retorted loudly, throwing the school uniform in the ground. "You can't just frame anyone because you are a prince!"

"He's right, Rufus. Let's have a nice talk." I watched this scene unfold with much delight. I walked over to Rufus and picked up the school uniform from the ground. "Whose is this? Why do you have to make a fuss?"

When I saw the name on the uniform, I found that it was Sylvia's.

I sneered. "Rufus, if you don't have any evidence, you can't just come here and start a fight. Besides, Kyle and Sylvia have no enmity towards each other. There's no reason for him to poison her."

"There is a reason!"

Just then, a beautiful she-wolf suddenly emerged from the crowd and pointed at Lucy, who was standing behind me. "They wanted to hurt Sylvia in such a vicious way because we witnessed their love affair!"

Chapter 195 The Adulterer

Kyle's POV:

I swallowed the lump in my throat and broke out into a cold sweat. I did not expect this stupid she-wolf to have such a powerful backer.

But when I saw that Prince Richard was also behind me, I was still able to calm down.

As far as I knew, it was only Sylvia who had witnessed what happened that night. I thought that as long as I got rid of her somehow, no one would ever find out.

However, this she-wolf named Flora, who claimed to be Sylvia's roommate, stood up and exposed the love affair between me and Lucy.

Clenching my fists, my body was overcome by waves of coldness.

This was the worst case scenario-- that Sylvia had told somebody else about our secret.

I scolded her, "I have no idea what you're talking about. That's slander!"

"No one told me anything. I saw it with my own eyes! I was there!" Flora raised her voice.

My heart stopped.

Before I could keep her from saying any more, Flora continued, "They were making love out in public, in the woods of the school! Lucy also said that Kyle was the only one she ever loved and that she didn't want anyone else. Oh, and Kyle even boasted about kicking everyone out of school once he becomes dean!"

Not only were the teacher and senior executives present right now, but so was the dean of the school too. They all stared at me and Lucy in disbelief.

My face paled. The colors began to fade in my vision.

Hearing Flora say those things out loud made me feel dizzy and ashamed. I did say that myself.

"How can you say that about me? I've never even seen Kyle before. It's Richard I love with my whole heart. Don't try to sow discord between me and him!" Lucy's eyes were red as she pretended to be wronged.

When I came back to my senses, I scolded Flora again, "Did you know slandering a teacher is enough to get you expelled from this school? I will not tolerate such behavior, even when Prince Rufus is here."

Flora put her hands on her hips and raised an eyebrow. "What about you? You're a teacher who hurts his own students. You don't even deserve to be a teacher at all. If you still had any conscience left in you, you would have never done any of that. Not to mention how loudly you moaned that night. Even louder than Lucy! Oh! Lucy, clamp me tighter! Why can't I feel it? I'm already in!"

Flora made a mocking face as she imitated the conversation between me and Lucy that night. She exaggerated her tone and facial expressions, causing the crowd to burst into laughter.

"You!" I was so infuriated that I wanted to rush up and gag her, but Rufus stopped me.

"Yeah, you really aren't that skilled, I guess. You could only make some noise this way." Sticking out her tongue, Flora snorted in disgust. "I also saw a red mole on Lucy's inner thigh. Don't bother asking me how I saw it. The two of you were moving so much that it was actually harder to try not seeing! My only regret is that I couldn't see your face sooner. But now I know. It was our famous director of teaching affairs, Kyle."

As soon as Flora finished speaking, I was kicked to the ground. It was Richard. With shock and anger on his face, he then turned to Lucy and walked towards her.

I felt a buzzing in my head and couldn't say a word. I didn't know that there was another person present that night.

"No, it's not true..." I tried to speak, but my voice was weak. Just when I was about to argue my case, a man in black appeared.

He held a familiar-looking kraft paper bag. When I realized what it was, I immediately got up from the ground in panic.

"We followed your order to search the staff dormitory. This is what we found in Kyle's room." The man in black handed the paper bag to Rufus.

I rushed over and reached out in attempt to grab the bag away, but Rufus snatched it quicker than me. To my horror, he took a look at what was inside and brought it out.

Falling to the ground on my knees, I knew I was already doomed.

It was the remaining poison that I had failed to throw away. At this point, no matter what defense I could come up with, it would be no use.