

N Destiny 2441

Chapter 2441

They had just popped out of the cave when they heard sudden gunshots echoing in the darkness.

“They’re here. Move! Quickly!” Roy hissed urgently. Everyone immediately headed south. Zacharias reached out to take Shirley’s hand and intended to lead her away. Alas, she took her bodyguarding job seriously as she covered his six. “Don’t worry about me. I can handle this.”

“Miss Lloyd, just go! If you don’t go, how can Mr. Flintstone leave?” Freddie pointed out, knowing just what Zacharias was thinking.

“He’s right,” Zacharias spoke up immediately. Shirley could only turn to Nixon, “Mr. Nixon, you and the others cover our rear. I’ll lead him to our rendezvous point.”

“Go ahead, Miss Lloyd. We’ll take care of these people, Nixon said. She swiftly led Zacharias toward the east under the cover of night. The trees and rocky paths alongside the sandy beach made for a challenging route.

Alas, Shirley stepped on a rock in her hurry and slipped. Fortunately, Zacharias managed to reach out and grab her waist before she could fall. “Be careful.”

She nodded and also held onto him. “Let’s move quickly.”

The gunfire from behind was getting closer. Judging from the gunshots, they were being boxed in. Since they only had a few men protecting them, Shirley and Zacharias had no choice but to make a break toward the east. Even though they would end up looking like utter barbarians, they couldn’t afford to waste even a single second.

They finally spotted the three helicopters at their rendezvous point under the moonlight. These helicopters were situated in a rather secluded area. So, they hadn’t been discovered by the enemy forces yet. Moreover, the enemies couldn’t monitor everything happening on the island as they had jammed all signals within the island.

“The helicopters are here. Get on board,” Shirley said to the man behind her.

“Let’s go together.” Zacharias reached for her hand and was determined not to leave her behind.

However, she had someone else she couldn’t leave behind-Richard. She took Zacharias’ hand. “All right. Let’s go.”

Then, she and Zacharias boarded one of the helicopters. She swiftly pulled something from a hidden compartment and fastened it around Zacharias’ wrist before securing the other end to the frame of the seat.

“Shirley, what are you doing?” Zacharias panicked as he saw her actions. Shirley swiftly delivered a punch to his neck, causing his eyes to widen in shock before he slumped against his seat, succumbing to unconsciousness.

Everyone else felt a sting in their necks just witnessing her swift and brutal action.

“What are you waiting for? Get him out of here!” Shirley urged as she exited the helicopter while handing the key to the handcuffs to Freddie. “Free him once you’re safe.”

“What about you, Miss Lloyd?”

“My father is still here. I can’t leave him. Hurry! Go!” Shirley turned and swiftly dashed into the darkness.

At that moment, everyone understood one thing -Zacharias’ life was the priority, and they had to ensure his safety at all costs.

The helicopter rose into the night sky before disappearing quickly.

Shirley stood by the shoreline and watched as the helicopter vanished into the distance. She heaved a sigh of relief as she prayed for his safety above all else.

Suddenly, two mercenaries emerged from the woods, and each of them was carrying a rocket launcher on their shoulders. They were ready to launch an attack on Zacharias' helicopter.

Shirley's pupils contracted sharply as she drew her gun and fired two precise bullets, hitting the targets' in a textbook headshot.

She lay low in the grass and was prepared to intercept anyone attempting to pursue Zacharias.

At that moment, Richard, who had been undercover among the group, had already dealt with six individuals. As he took down the seventh, he was spotted by a mercenary who had mistakenly stumbled upon him while he was doing the deed. The mercenary exclaimed in terror, "There's a traitor! Everyone, be on alert! There's a traitor!"

Then, he dashed away in panic. Richard swiftly drew his dagger before heading in a particular direction—the direction leading to the office of the highest authority. Inside, an intense discussion was underway. Just moments ago, they received the news of Zacharias' escape via helicopter. Four men of substantial power were debating the next course of action.

"Who could have breached this place and saved Zacharias? Why haven't they dealt with him yet?"

Chapter 2442

"We've shut down all tracking devices and cut off all the signals. So, we can't contact the outside world ourselves. Even if someone has made it here, we won't be able to identify them immediately."

"Mr. Webb, how did you allow such a big flaw to occur? We trusted you so much, and what did you do with our trust? You've made such a fatal mistake! Does your son's life mean nothing to you?"

Zain's face turned panicked instantly as he rushed to explain, "I assure you that my arrangement is flawless. I gained Zacharias' complete trust in this matter. So, I know for a fact that he doesn't have a single contingency plan."

"Mr. Webb, none of us will survive this, especially now that your involvement has been exposed as well. You've got all that leverage against Zacharias, and what have you done with it besides sending us to our doom?"

“Give me another chance. I’ll make a new plan to eliminate Zacharias. I swear I’ll get it right this time.”

“Do you really think Zacharias will trust you after this?”

Zain collapsed into a chair while sweating profusely. Of course, Zacharias would never trust him again.

Meanwhile, Richard found himself standing outside the door of this office after neutralizing four bodyguards along the way. Then, he rummaged through the bodies and picked up a security card from one of the guards before swiping it to gain entry.

The heavy door swung open before revealing the identities of the four men in the meeting directly in front of him. Richard was holding a gun in his hand and was somewhat astonished; these were people he knew and had some rapport with.

“R-Richard, what are you doing here?” One of them pointed at him in disbelief.

Richard closed the door, and his gaze was chilly as it swept over the four men. “It seems that the masterminds behind the assassination attempt on Mr. Flintstone are the lot of you!”

“Richard, it’s a misunderstanding! We were just called here for a meeting-”

“Richard, put the gun down. We’re on the same side...” one of them tried to approach Richard after speaking.

Richard’s gun immediately aimed at the person’s knee and fired a shot. The loud bang promptly sent shivers down the spines of the other three men. Richard’s face was cold and merciless, akin to a raging tiger standing there as he blocked their escape route.

“Richard, calm down! We were forced into this. Please! Help us get out of here!”

“Yeah! We were coerced. We’re friends, aren’t we? Are you saying that you can’t trust me?”

Richard sneered, "My duty is to eliminate scum like you."

"Richard, let us out immediately. Everyone on this island belongs to us. If you don't want to die, release us now!"

"If I feared death, I wouldn't have lived till today." Richard snorted disdainfully. His reputation was well-known domestically and internationally. Everyone was well aware of just how he operated.

"Did you save Zacharias? How could you possibly come here? Where did you get the information?" Zain bombarded Richard with questions, both horrified and curious.

Richard didn't want to answer that question because the one who had convinced him to come here was his daughter. Honestly, he was glad he caved and made this trip.

Meanwhile, Shirley doubled back to rendezvous with Nixon after dealing with a few mercenaries. Gunshots rang out ahead, and the sound prompted her to duck down swiftly. Soon, she witnessed Nixon in a skirmish with a mercenary while their men were also engaged in combat. Hence, she seized the opportunity and shot the enemy in the chest. Nixon was injured as he fell to his knees. He instinctively turned toward the bushes and was surprised to see Shirley. Then, he couldn't help but ask in worry, "Miss Lloyd, why did you return? Why didn't you leave?"

"My father and the others are on this island. I can't leave," Shirley replied while helping him up. "Have you seen my father?"

Chapter 2443

Their movements were somewhat concealed under the cover of night. As a result, it naturally made it difficult for the enemy to track them down.

Shirley was concerned for her father. She settled Nixon and the others in a safe place before setting off to find him. "Mr. Nixon, stay put. I'll lead these enemy forces away."

"What?! Miss Lloyd, please don't take any unnecessary risks. How can we explain it to Mr. Lloyd if something happens to you?" Nixon yelled after her.

Of course, Shirley feared death. Still, she dreaded losing someone dear more than losing her own life. Hence, she wasn't about to change her mind to rescue her father. Even if she didn't make it in time, she could at least confirm if he was alive or dead.

Her heart was filled with anxiety at this moment. She wouldn't stop advancing into the enemy territory unless she received credible news about her father's condition.

"Let's go together," Nixon said as he clutched his injured shoulder, pushing himself to his feet.

"No. I'll go. You all stay hidden here," Shirley replied sternly. She was about to stand up when she suddenly heard a familiar sound in the sky. She instinctively raised her head and saw fighter jets breaking through the clouds as they streaked down like meteors, one after another

"Mr. Nixon, look! Our reinforcements are here." Shirley pointed as she recognized the scene all too well—those were her father's men.

"Mrs. Lloyd indeed sought help immediately." Nixon sighed while appreciating the depth of their marital bond.

Shirley's confidence soared. So, she turned to Nixon. "Mr. Nixon, wait for reinforcements to arrive. I'll go ahead."

"Miss Lloyd, please be careful!" Nixon hurriedly cautioned her.

Shirley nodded and darted into the nearby bushes. It was impossible to conceal the fact that jets were approaching the area. So, not only did she see the fighter jets streaking down, but the enemy forces also caught sight of them. Fear and apprehension flashed in their eyes, and they started retreating immediately.

Shirley followed from a distance while trailing a few of the retreating enemies. She wanted to find out where they were heading. She hoped her father might be among them.

Finally, she spotted a brightly lit small base where many mercenaries were rushing in. Shirley chose a different direction and climbed over a wall. Just as she made it from the first floor to the second, she overheard a conversation between two smokers.

“We’re leaving without getting paid? Did we do this for nothing?”

“You’re still thinking about money at this point? We should prioritize escaping with our lives. Haven’t you seen who’s coming? That’s the special forces! Anyone who encounters them ends up dead!”

“Zacharias escaped. Can we still get paid?”

“We need to hurry to the docks, grab a boat, and get out fast. If we don’t make it... Forget about the money; we’ll lose our lives.”

“Okay. I’ll follow your lead.”

The two quickly left the corridor. Shirley then continued upstairs. She had a feeling her father might be here, and those villains who framed Zacharias were also present.

At this moment, the mercenaries were all scrambling toward the docks. Thus, the building was relatively deserted.

Richard blocked the doorway, and his gaze was sharp as a knife. He was stopping the four of them. Nevertheless, each of these four individuals was a cunning old fox as their eyes were flickering with thoughts of fleeing the scene.

“Richard, if you let us go, we’ll make sure a large sum of money gets deposited into your account. It’ll be an unimaginable figure.”

*I have no interest in your dirty money.” Richard remained unmoved.

“Richard, we can do it the easy way or the hard way.”

They observed the mercenaries pouring out toward the docks while standing by the floor-to-ceiling window. They exchanged looks and were unsure of what was happening outside. Why were their men heading toward the docks?

Nonetheless, they speculated that Zacharias' reinforcements had arrived. If that were the case, they needed to escape this room quickly.

Suddenly, Richard and the four men could hear someone banging on the door. It was accompanied by a loud commotion. "Come in," one of the old men called out.

The person outside immediately swiped a card to enter. Alas, Richard promptly shot and destroyed the circuit, turning the entire room into an enclosed space.

The outsiders, who heard the gunshot, realized there was trouble brewing within the room. They were here to collect their debts, and their employers were inside. So, they had to rescue those old coots for the sake of their empty wallets.

Chapter 2444

The sounds of pounding and gunshots echoed from outside as the men tried various ways to break through the door.

Richard's face was grave as he stood guard at the door with a gun in hand.

"Richard, you can't hold them off forever. Those outside are after money, not lives. We're the ones offering money. They won't give up on us so easily."

"I believe you won't kill us either. If you do, you'll bear the blame."

The loud commotion grew increasingly rowdy as the sturdy steel door began to creak, causing the adjacent walls to tremble.

"Stay alert, everyone. Our rescuers are here." These individuals were audacious and had long disregarded the law.

Shirley also heard the sounds of multiple people ramming the door. So, she moved toward the source of the noise and intended to open a door. Just as she was about to do so, she heard a voice screaming at the top of their lungs, "Hurry! Open that door! The ministers are trapped inside, and we need to rescue them if we want to get paid!"

"Is anyone else in there?"

"I don't know. Judging from the gunshot earlier the ministers are being held hostage. So, I'm sure there are enemies inside."

Shirley speculated that Richard might be the hostage-taker. His objective wasn't just to save Zacharias but also to expose the identities of those crooks orchestrating Zacharias' attempted murder behind the scenes. It was his duty.

She clutched her fists tightly and knew she had to rescue her father. Even though reinforcements had arrived, they couldn't immediately breach the area, and time was of the essence.

She immediately ran upstairs and arrived at the top floor, where she noticed two thugs attempting to break in through the skylight. They were preparing their tools and were completely unaware of her presence.

When they went to get their guns, Shirley swiftly dealt with them. She grabbed the window-breaking tool with one hand and coiled the rope around her hand a few times. Then, she landed gracefully on the glass panel with a leap before balancing on her tiptoes.

Sure enough, she saw her father pointing his gun at four individuals through the glass. Richard also caught sight of her. He was surprised and thrilled that she had managed to find him.

He watched as his daughter used an iron spike to carve a circle on the glass. Then, she leaped, and her foot landed precisely at the center of the circle.

This wasn't ordinary glass. So, one had to be skilled in order to break through the glass. Otherwise, they would be just wasting their time and effort.

Richard watched approvingly as his daughter executed her plan. The glass finally shattered after receiving six powerful stomps from her. Shirley protected her face as she rolled and landed on the ground.

“Shirley, are you okay?” Richard asked her.

Shirley rose to her feet swiftly. “I’m fine, Dad.”

“There are six people outside,” Shirley reported, then turned her gaze toward the four individuals. Her eyes bore into them like they were trash. If she could, she would take them out one by one. These were the people behind the assassination attempt and the very ones she despised.

“Richard, you’ve indeed raised a great daughter!” teased one of the men.

Shirley instantly pointed her gun at the person. “Say another word, and I’ll kill you right now.”

“You wouldn’t dare to kill me. Your father-”

The person’s smug words were interrupted as Shirley shot his shoulder. She sneered, “I’ll do what my dad wouldn’t.”

Richard looked on approvingly. There was no doubt about it. Shirley was definitely his daughter.

Now, none of the four dared to speak out of turn. Shirley noticed a nearby box. She kicked it open to find a set of handcuffs inside. She grabbed four and approached the individuals.

“You dare...” one of them started to say.

She grabbed his shoulder, pressed her foot on his back, and pinned him to the ground before promptly cuffing him.

The second person tried to resist and raised a fist to strike her. She simply snorted and landed a punch on his face, which disoriented him. In the next moment, she kicked him against the wall and handcuffed him as well.

The third person was terrified. So, he didn't bother struggling. Instead, he meekly extended his hands and allowed Shirley to cuff him.

Chapter 2445

The fourth person knew better than to fight against Shirley. So, he darted toward the window and was prepared to jump out for survival. Although it was high, he had a premonition that death was imminent. Alas, how could Shirley possibly allow him to flee?

She tripped him with one foot and swiftly handcuffed him to the nearby furniture. "I won't give you an easy death."

Richard looked at his daughter with pride. It seemed that his daughter had been practicing a great deal lately as her execution seemed more efficient.

"You little brat, how dare you treat us like this--"

Shirley sneered, "I'm already being kind by treating you this way. I will hand you over to Zacharias and let him deal with you personally."

"You--"

The four people were terrified, and their faces turned stark white with fear.

Then, Shirley picked up the gun from the ground and said to Richard, "Dad, your subordinates have arrived. They will surround this place soon."

Shirley's words made the handcuffed officials turn as white as a ghost. Their flawless plan ended up becoming proof of their misdeeds.

Bang! Bang! The sound of people trying to force the door open outside continued to echo across the meeting room. Judging from the shaking walls and the falling plaster, it seemed that the mercenaries were about to break in.

Shirley immediately stood next to her father, intending to face the mercenaries, who were about to break in alongside her father.

Finally, the iron door caved in with a loud bang. The two mercenaries who had just broken in couldn't react in time and were promptly dealt with by Richard and Shirley.

Just then, one of them suddenly let go of the gun in his hand, and it slid on the smooth floor. It was about to fall into the hands of a minister when Richard rolled over quickly. Just as the minister was about to pick it up, Richard kicked the gun toward his daughter. Shirley crouched down and briskly provided cover for her father.

Soon, there was a spray of bullets coming from the door. So, Shirley reached down to pick up the gun from the ground. She held a gun in each hand with a confident and heroic posture. Then, she accurately hit each dodging mercenary on the head.

At this moment, a bomb was suddenly tossed in. Shirley and Richard exchanged a glance, and he shouted, "Cheri, don't move!"

After that, he kicked the bomb and sent it flying out of the broken window. It exploded in the air, and they successfully averted the disaster.

Just then, there was movement at the window. It seemed that the enemy hoped to hit them with another spray of bullets. Shirley immediately said to her father, "Dad, leave that side to me."

"Be careful, Cheri," Richard said in a deep voice.

As Shirley approached the sight, she saw a mercenary coming toward the window in a parabolic trajectory. The intense gunfire forced her to roll away in a series of movements. Nonetheless, the moment the man landed, she pounced out from the base of the wall. Then, she didn't hesitate to kick

his wrist just as he was about to land, causing the AK-47 in his hand to fly out of his grasp. The next moment, she immediately removed the rifle from his vicinity by kicking it through the shattered window.

The man's face twisted into a sinister scowl as he immediately drew two knives from his waist and started to attack Shirley.

A dangerous close-quarters combat began. Shirley's body was agile and nimble as she evaded the attacks smoothly, rendering the brute force of the mercenary useless. Although he was trained and thought he could easily handle a female opponent, there was no denying the fact that he had underestimated her.

When the man saw Shirley being forced to the wall, he chuckled mirthlessly, "Nowhere to hide, huh?"

Shirley smirked. "It's my turn."

As the man raised the two knives to stab her, she used the opening to strike at his most vulnerable area. She didn't bother holding back the strength she used in her kick. The man screamed in agony as he swung the knife down. Alas, the girl had disappeared from his line of sight during his inattention. The next moment, she had somehow stolen one of his knives. He could only look on in shock as his throat was slit, spending his last moments as a eunuch.

Richard, who had just been sweating in anxiety on the side, breathed a sigh of relief. Although he knew his daughter was skilled and often sparred with his subordinates, facing such a fierce enemy was an entirely different matter. So, he felt himself uncoiling from his burst of anxiety after witnessing his daughter's capabilities first-hand.

Chapter 2446

Indeed, the battlefield proved to be the best place to test his daughter. His training had not been in vain, and he believed his daughter could protect herself well.

Moreover, the ferociousness she displayed when taking lives resembled himself in his younger days—swift, ruthless, and without a hint of hesitation.

The several ministers on the side were sweating profusely, as they witnessed the scene playing before them. They had once considered sending people to kidnap and deal with Shirley to hinder Zacharias. They truly didn't expect that she would turn out to be such a formidable opponent.

Shirley's performance today exceeded her usual standards. Why? Because there was a fierce determination in her that was fueled by the thought of these people attempting to harm Zacharias. They were her enemies, and what they did was unforgivable. Therefore, they would have to pay the price for their actions.

Meanwhile, the gunfire outside continued relentlessly. When she noticed this, she couldn't help but say to her father, "Dad, I'll go over from the rooftop."

"Cheri-" Richard wanted to stop her from going alone.

Alas, she had already grabbed the rope she had brought down with her. Then, she swung from the window and climbed up the rope.

He could only hold his ground to prevent the enemy from breaking in because these four individuals had to survive this ordeal. He had to ensure that they would be tried in court. If they died, there wouldn't be a day of peace as the enemies hiding in the shadows would fail to be eradicated.

Shirley arrived at the rooftop, picked up an AK-47 lying on the ground, and shoved the door open confidently. She was like a fearless Valkyrie straight out of a game.

The number of mercenaries had increased from six to over a dozen. They were all here for the money. Some had seized the opportunity to flee with their lives. Nonetheless, others were determined to get the money even at the cost of their lives. They had to rescue the captured ministers.

As soon as Shirley descended the stairs, she encountered a mercenary. Both opened fire almost simultaneously. A bullet grazed her shoulder, leaving a bloody trail. Her aim struck true as the other paid with his life.

She glanced at the bloodstain on her shoulder, gritted her teeth, and continued walking. Someone had rushed over after hearing gunshots. So, she slipped into a corner and ambushed them, taking down two individuals instantly.

At that moment, Shirley heard the sound of the main force arriving downstairs, and she immediately breathed a sigh of relief-the reinforcements had finally arrived.

The mercenaries naturally heard it and soon became restless like ants on a hot pan. They were preparing to escape.

Unfortunately, they had to go up the rooftop if they wanted to flee, and Shirley had already predicted their decision. So, she quickly made her way to the rooftop, chose an optimal shooting position, and started sniping the remaining mercenaries. Her actions and perfect aim forced those hired guns into a desperate situation. On the other hand, the special forces had already arrived at Richard's position upstairs.

A decisive battle against the enemy was nearing its end.

As the last one was gunned down, the entire building was cleared of potential enemies. Richard watched his daughter appear before noticing the wound on her shoulder. He rushed toward her. "Where are you injured? Let me have a look."

"Dad, it's just a graze from a bullet. It's no big deal," Shirley said with a faint smile.

Richard breathed a sigh of relief and gave her a thumbs up. "Your performance today was excellent, but don't tell your mother."

She instantly beamed brightly, "Don't worry! I won't let Mom know about all this."

"Mr. Lloyd, the helicopter is at the entrance. You should leave first!"

“Cheri, you go on ahead. I think Zacharias is probably losing his mind with worry. I’ll stay behind to escort these people into a jail cell,” Richard said as he was concerned about these four individuals. He wasn’t about to let these scum leave his sight.

“Okay, Dad.” Shirley nodded. The events of tonight had come to an end, and it was time for her to check on the unconscious man. Nevertheless, she was hoping that he wouldn’t be too mad that she had knocked him out.

Shirley boarded the helicopter and looked down from the aircraft at the island shrouded in darkness. The island seemed to emit an aura of death and carried an ominous vibe. Zacharias was brought into the hospital. The punch from Shirley had knocked him out cold. He only managed to wake up and regain his bearings as the lights in the emergency room turned on.

The first thing he said upon waking up was, “Cheri!”

He sat up abruptly. When he saw the bewildered doctor beside him, he immediately pushed himself off the hospital bed, pulled the door open, and went out. When he saw Freddie outside, he demanded harshly, “Where is she?”

Chapter 2447

“Miss Lloyd is still on the island.”

“Get me there. Now.” Zacharias anxiously grabbed Freddie’s hand. “Arrange a helicopter for me.”

“Mr. Flintstone, the situation on the island is unclear, and the situation is not under control. You cannot return to the island at this time.” Freddie advised firmly.

“Fine. I’ll get there by myself.” After that, Zacharias promptly dashed out of the hospital.

“Mr. Flintstone! Mr. Flintstone...” Freddie immediately chased after him.

Just then, Freddie’s phone started ringing. He whisked it out, looked at the screen, and was pleasantly surprised. “Mr. Flintstone, Miss Lloyd is calling!”

Zacharias immediately spun on his heel upon hearing Freddie's words before snatching Freddie's phone and answering it eagerly, "Hello, Cheri! Is it you?"

"It's me! I'm fine. Don't worry." Shirley's voice came through.

Zacharias instantly breathed a sigh of relief. "It's good as long as you're okay. Where are you?"

"I'm on the helicopter, heading toward the First Military Hospital."

"Are you injured?" Zacharias' heart clenched at the thought.

"It's just superficial wounds."

"Okay. I'll wait for you." He suppressed his almost frantic emotions while waiting for her to arrive.

"Okay." She hung up the phone.

Zacharias handed the phone back to Freddie. It was only then that he realized that his neck was still sore. He rubbed it gently as he recalled Shirley's actions that had knocked him out cold. He closed his eyes as a surge of anger rushed through his veins.

His frustration was not because she hit him but because she sent him away. He was upset because she had gone to such lengths alone and without backup.

An hour later, a helicopter landed on the helipad outside the hospital. Shirley stepped down from the helicopter, and the man, who had been eagerly waiting for her, rushed toward her.

The wind tousled her hair, causing her to look rather disheveled. Still, her face remained as beautiful as a rose. Although she looked like a mess, she was as gorgeous as ever. The man opened his arms and didn't hesitate to embrace her tightly.

“Ouch!” Shirley immediately exclaimed in pain as he had accidentally tugged on her injury while hugging her.

She hadn’t felt any pain from the wound throughout her flight. Yet, her pain receptors started working overtime the moment she was right before this man.

It seemed that it was true that one tended to display a certain amount of vulnerability only before the person they trusted and loved.

Zacharias immediately released her. Only then did he realize that there was a wet spot on her shoulder. He tentatively reached out to touch it, and his hand came away from her black sweater stained with blood.

“My shoulder was grazed by a bullet,” Shirley said softly. Zacharias held her hand. “Let’s go to the emergency room.”

Shirley removed her sweater and revealed the injured area inside the private emergency room. The scorching bullet had left her with some burns. As she took a closer look, she learned that the wound was actually quite deep.

Zacharias’ heart instantly ached, and his eyes moistened at the sight. It had to have been several hours since she got this wound. Yet, she had been fighting with this injury all this while.

A nurse approached Shirley to help her clean the wound. Nonetheless, Zacharias swiftly took the antiseptic solution from the nurse’s hands. Then, he gently poured some onto the wound, causing Shirley’s eyebrows to twitch slightly. She was displaying an extraordinary pain tolerance.

“If it hurts, just say so,” Zacharias said in a hoarse voice. He wished he could transfer this wound to himself.

“I’m not that delicate,” said Shirley as she raised her head proudly.

He continued cleaning her wound seriously. She felt a little guilty and murmured, "Does your neck still hurt?"

"How dare you hit me. You've got quite the nerve. I'll punish you to stay by my side for the rest of your life, and you're not allowed to leave." Zacharias snorted.

Chapter 2448

The bandaging was finally done, but Shirley's clothes were already stained with blood, so she couldn't wear them anymore. The man removed the cardigan he was wearing and put it on her. She instantly warmed up under the thick and warm material, but the man was only wearing a thin, white button-down underneath.

This night seemed slow and long, and after Shirley returned to the Flintstone Residence with Zacharias and informed her mother that she was home safely, she rested in his embrace, feeling exhausted. Forgetting how her hands were stained with blood while killing a person this evening, she drifted off to sleep peacefully.

On the other hand, Zacharias was sleepless. Propping himself with one arm, he stared at the girl in his arms with a mix of emotions in his chest-self-blame, heartbrokenness, and a strong feeling of love. She loved him more than her life. Lowering his head, he planted a kiss on her forehead. I love you more than my life, too.

When sunlight once again poured over the land the next day, the world seemed so beautiful and peaceful. Dressed in her night robe, Shirley was at the staircase landing on the second floor when the delicious smell of breakfast drifted to her nose, and she went downstairs, following the trail of the aroma. Then, she found Zacharias cooking in the kitchen because the cook wasn't on duty today. After approaching him, she hugged him around the waist from behind and rested her head on his shoulder.

Zacharias spun around and kissed her on the top of her head. "Why don't you head over to the dining table first? Breakfast will be ready soon."

A smile spread across her face. "It's my honor to have breakfast made by you."

"As long as you like it, I'll prepare breakfast for you all my life," he replied, turning his head back. However, Shirley shook her head. "It's enough every once in a while. You have more important matters to attend to."

As she was fully aware of the responsibilities and missions he had, she wouldn't take up his time. Besides loving her, he needed to love his country more.

After breakfast, she received a call from her mother. This afternoon, they were invited to lunch at the White House, and she would be attending with Zacharias. "We're going to my granduncle's place for lunch today," she said to Zacharias after hanging up.

Zacharias nodded. "Okay. I didn't even get to meet your father last night. It's great that I can use this opportunity to meet him now."

"We're not going to talk about work when we're there. We'll just enjoy our lunch together."

Sure. We can also discuss our marriage with your family," he added, placing his hands around her waist. "Are you willing to be Mrs. Flintstone?"

Lifting her head, she asked, "Are there any benefits to being Mrs. Flintstone?"

Squinting his eyes, he thought about it and lowered his head, asking, "I'll love you my whole life. Is that considered a benefit?"

She nodded. "Yes, it is!"

Avoiding her injured shoulder, he held her around her waist, leaned in, and took her lips. Naturally, she returned the kiss.

"Ahem!" An out-of-place voice echoed just then, and Freddie showed up with an urgent document in his hand. "Mr. Zacharias, your signature is required for this urgent document."

"Looks like you're giving up on your bonus this month, Zacharias grumbled. Chuckling, Shirley whacked him gently. "You're not allowed to cut his bonus. He's just doing his job.

Feeling grateful, Freddie thought, Thankfully, Miss Lloyd is sensible!

At the grand lobby of the White House, Shirley and Zacharias saw that her parents had arrived before them. Judging from her mother's face as she spoke to her grandaunt, Shirley knew that her mother had no idea about anything that happened last night. A tacit agreement had already been established between her and her father a long time ago; as long as it was anything dangerous, they would hide it from her mother to avoid making her worried.

"Zach, come and join us for a cup of tea upstairs!" Richard invited.

Given the situation, he didn't address him according to his status but treated him as his son-in-law. In response, Zacharias gave him a nod and went upstairs with him after meeting Shirley's eyes for a second. While the men were discussing work, Shirley stayed by her mother's side for a casual conversation.

"What a perfect match Shirley and Zach are! I think they're a match made in heaven." As the First Lady, Ruka was very friendly.

Chapter 2449

"Looks like I have good judgment, and Shirley is a lucky girl." Angela approved of Zacharias.

On the other hand, Shirley was a little embarrassed. The entire country had heard about the rumor between her and Zacharias a long time ago, and today, while scrolling her phone out of boredom in the car, she found out that the Internet already regarded her as Zacharias' wife and even gave her the title of Mrs. Flintstone. Moreover, there was also a video clip of her walking into an evening banquet while holding Zacharias' arm. Even when she watched it again, she felt that she and Zacharias looked great together.

"I was so worried last night that I could barely sleep because I thought that something bad had cropped up on the island," Angela said, turning to her daughter. "Your dad said that they only apprehended a few criminals. Nothing else happened, right?"

Shirley nodded. "Yes, he's right that nothing happened." Nonetheless, the injury on her shoulder was still fresh. Feeling a little guilty for lying, she shifted her shoulder to the side discreetly and tried to maintain a natural appearance,

“That’s great. It’s Christmas tomorrow. Let’s spend it happily by having a meal together and welcoming the new year.”

Before lunch, the three men came downstairs, appearing more at ease since they had finished their discussion. At the dining table, Zacharias and Shirley sat together, and the former offered drinks to his future parents-in-law, showing respect to them like they were his elders.

“I think it’s better not to delay Zach and Shirley’s wedding any longer. After this, he will need her to accompany him to all the functions he’ll be attending,” Ren said, starting the conversation. As the elder and president, it made full sense that he took charge of this matter.

“Uncle Ren, why don’t you pick a date for them?” suggested Richard.

“Let’s hold the wedding two weeks from now. It will be a private wedding without being too lavish. I’m sorry to Shirley about this,” Ren said.

After hearing this, Shirley immediately exclaimed, “No, that’s fine. This is exactly what I want. We should keep it as private as possible.”

“Shirley, we shouldn’t keep it so low-profile either,” Zacharias said with a smile, worried that she would feel neglected.

“Let’s ask Josef out for dinner tonight and set the date,” Richard suggested.

“We won’t be joining tonight. Please go ahead,” Ren said with a chuckle, as he had other matters to attend to.

“Okay, Mr. Lloyd,” Zacharias immediately agreed. “I’ll prepare the food and drinks at home tonight. Please come to my place for dinner.”

Richard nodded. “Great. Both families will meet, then.”

After lunch, Zacharias had to leave because of work, and Shirley stayed with her mother until evening to attend the dinner at the Flintstone Residence. In the evening, the dining table at the Flintstones was covered with food for a banquet. Josef was excited to finally live to the day of his son's wedding.

As they often met each other in the political scene, they got along quite well and chatted like family when they sat together. In the end, they decided to hold a private wedding ceremony in two weeks. The invitations would be sent out the next day, and the guests were all their internal staff.

Naturally, Richard immediately informed his two best friends, asking them to make time and bring their families to attend his daughter's wedding.

At night, Shirley's phone rang. It was a call from Willow, who was far away. "Hello, Willow," she answered, picking up the phone.

"I would have never guessed you'd get married first. Congratulations!" Willow said, sending her blessings.

"I didn't think it would turn out this way either! When I met you the last time, I didn't even have a boyfriend yet!"

"Fate works in mysterious ways. It catches up to you while you are unaware," Willow said with a sigh.

Shirley agreed with what she said. When she first met Zacharias, the last thing she imagined was becoming this man's wife one day. Recalling their first meeting, she would have never dared to imagine such a thing happening. "Willow, you have to attend my wedding, okay?"

"I most certainly will!" Willow promised.

At night, Shirley swept her long hair to one side as the man gently examined her injury. "Should we postpone the wedding?" he asked in a heartbroken voice. "Your injury has yet to heal."

Chapter 2450

Shirley shook her head. "No, let's not do that. I want to marry you."

Zacharias leaned down and nibbled her neck. "I can't wait to marry you and make you my wife."

Shirley spun around and looked deep into his eyes, which were as calm as the sea. His eyes accepted everything that she was, and they were filled with love and enchantment. Zacharias planted a kiss on her forehead, filling her with satisfaction.

Meanwhile, after Richard informed everyone else of the wedding, he gave Arthur a call. He was always abroad, and both of their schedules were full, so it wasn't easy for them to meet often. "Hey Artie, how are you?"

"I'm good. Are you calling to inform me of the good news, Richard?"

"My daughter is getting married in two weeks, and I would like to invite you to the wedding."

"I'm sorry, Richard. The vice president of Lauchrist is coming in a few days, and I can't leave because I'll be taking him around. May I ask that my son attend it in my stead? Once our discussion is over, I'll come over right away," Arthur said, sounding apologetic.

Richard laughed heartily. "That's fine. You don't have to feel apologetic. We can meet up any time. It's been a while since I saw your son, and this will be a good opportunity to meet him again."

"I'll make sure he arrives on time. Once I'm finished with work, I'll come and meet you immediately for some drinks."

"Don't forget to bring your wife along, alright? I haven't seen her for such a long time as well."

"Sure! It's time we meet and have a good catch-up!" Arthur agreed with a laugh.

The good friends chatted on the phone for about fifteen minutes. Shortly after, in the faraway Weiss Estate located in Flor, someone received a call from the other side of the world. A certain young master on vacation there answered the phone. "Hi, Dad."

“Attend the Lloyd Family’s wedding on my behalf.”

“Who’s getting married?”

“Richard’s daughter is getting married in two weeks. Go over right away and don’t be late. Your mother and I will join you afterward.”

“I got it. I’ll head over ahead of time, Dad.” A yacht stood still in the middle of the sea. Laying on the deck was a man in a white shirt, sunnies, and casual beach shorts. The sunlight poured over his sculptured face and fair skin, which gave him a regal glow. “Head back to the port,” he instructed the bodyguard on duty.

Then, he rose to his feet, standing tall at six feet two. The first three buttons on his shirt were casually left unbuttoned, which unintentionally revealed his chest muscles, and his long legs were especially toned and strong.

After holding the reins of Weiss Empire for three years, he had developed a strong and dominant aura, and every move he made was suave and elegant. The young master of the Weiss Family, Ezekiel Weiss, was the only son in his family and had grown up to be a muscular hunk. At the age of twenty-seven, he was at his peak, bright and blazing like the sun at 10.00AM.

The next day, a private jet flew into Zoravia’s airspace. The cabin crew onboard carefully attended to the young master. There were quite a few admirers among them, and even though they tried to display their charm, no one could catch the attention of the young master on the leather seat.

It was a long-haul flight, but their chances were limited. If they were lucky enough to grab his attention, they could have a share of his wealth and wouldn’t have to worry about their livelihood anymore, even if they couldn’t marry him. In addition, anyone would be willing to date such a man for free.