

## Billionaire's Accidental Wife by C.ELLICA

Chapter 90 Edinburgh, Scotland Detective Timon Rodrigues woke from some of the deepest sleep he'd ever had. It was like he had been drugged, or maybe he was, and he was just thankful that he was used to such hangovers since his college days, though today, he awoke with a huge headache he had never had before. Added to his misery was the sunshine pouring through the bedroom window of his apartment as his eyes struggled against the bright light as he uttered a series of profanities. On the nightstand, his mobile phone was ringing and vibrating in the dreadful circular dance that phones do when they're on hard surfaces. He reached over and grabbed it, "F\*\*k! B\*\*\*\*y headache," glancing at the caller ID to see who'd awoken him at such an early hour or too late. Whoever was calling him was doing so from a number he didn't recognize. "Hello... this is Rodrigues," he responded groggily. The voice on the other line sounded extremely fatigued. "Sir, this is... Jess. I've been calling you since forever. It's me, Jess. Y-you've been worlong all night, sir?" The sound of Jess's voice woke him up a little

"Yes."

"Um- I'm actually on my way home. I didn't want to call from an office line at this time of the morning. A few too many ears around, if you know what I mean." Clever lad. He had asked Jess not to let anyone know what he was investigating, and so far, the young cop had done well. "So, what did you get for me, Jess?" "A couple of things," he answered promptly. "First, Richmond's private jet left early in the morning with his uncle, a butler, and a woman with two bodyguards."

"That means he probably left the country in haste," Timon added, "What else did you get?"

"There are a few people here and there that I ask with, regarding his cousin, but for the most part, I'd heard that his uncle Alfonso had been on the move again. I need to see more of this family. Richmonds had been in the treasure hunting business, but it was stopped five years ago when his grandfather, Anthony, was diagnosed with lung cancer. But now that the old man is gone, Alfonso was on it again. I heard it's the Buddha... This man is a loner. I guess when you live most of your life in foreign countries looking for ancient relics, you can't have much of a social life."

Timon rubbed his face. "So Alfonso had no real associates other than Javier? No ladylove? Nothing?" "Daughter, I mean, step-daughter. The model. Chelsea, heard the name?" The voice on the other line paused. "Can't say I blame him for the family thing, though. The man is crazy, a religious zealot since given a second life." "What do you mean?"

"Well, several years back, when Alfonso was in the treasure business, he was in a motorcycle accident. His mistress was on the back She died on the spot He only had a few broken limbs and legs and bruises That's gotta mess with your mind for a long time."

This was new information. What happened in the accident?"

less was glad he at least had something to share after working all night "Apparently, they were on their way to the movies and passed through a brisk intersection. Some moron shot right through a red light and smacked into the bike"

Timon mulled over the story "How was Alfonso?"

"Just one of those usual things. He was in a coma for ten days. Broken limbs and legs. The car barely missed hitting his left leg but hit the mistress square on. The report said Alfonso was thrown about fifteen feet, the mistress was killed almost instantly and the man almost died. Since his recovery, he had been into miracles and religious beliefs, etc. It was "sort of an insane cause."

"Ugh. That's rough"

"Yeah, he has been limping since then but is alive and well, and was involved in Russian mobs or something." Jess went on after yawning "At any rate, Alfonso (finished his treasure hunting business when Anthony stopped, but I guess it's for a show. He had been working discreetly ever since and disappeared for a few years, as I'm sure you know what happened next."

He did, in fact "So, there's no one else connected to this guy?"

"Elizabeth Grunt and Javier Richmond, he had an underground den here in Scotland"

Timon's mind snapped awake instantly. "You have the address of that den." His voice had lost its scratchy sound

"True, I got it here somewhere." There was a silent moment as the cop on the other end of the line was busy looking through what Timon imagined to be a small pile of papers in the passenger seat. A few seconds later, Jess came back on, "You ready? Timon wrote down the address quickly with a pen and notepad from the nightstand." Anything else I need to know?

"Yes. I really think that Javier had anything to do with what's been going on, though Dave Brown is still missing, yeah? "Yes, I'd checked with my guys. He is still missing." Timon replied. "Of course." The young cop's manner of voice made it sound like it was a regular thing. Jess continued, "From what I can tell, Javier is presumably your best bet."

"Probably." He conceded while getting out of bed and heading toward the privy. After a short shower, he would be on his way to the underground den of Javier.

"Should I get a unit out there to Javier's place?" Jess broke into Timon's thoughts. "No I'm already on my way there. Just get some sleep." "Alright. Sorry I couldn't find anything else, sir"

"You did great, Jess Thanks" Timon hit the end button on his phone while he turned on the water, then texted Shawn Richmond for the update He was now one hundred thousand pounds richer All he needed to do was to update the billionaire He showered quickly and threw on some clothes, barely drying off A few minutes later, he was out the door and in his car, flying down the street toward the interstate

Ben had gotten up early and made an enormous pancake breakfast for his visitors Skimping on no thought of gluttony, he made bacon, eggs, a bowl of fresh fruit, coffee, hot chocolate syrup, and homemade sausage to accompany the pancakes

Catherine and Shawn had almost taken the time to chew the flavorful nourishment They'd been incredibly hungry, not having eaten a meal since the previous day's lunch. Eddie and his two men had slept well on the couch, and they insisted that Catherine and Shawn take the guest bedroom

It was at eight o'clock in the morning, after two hours and a ten-minute flight. Shawn's private jet landed at the nearest airport to Leba, Gdansk They boarded a train to Leba, and would arrive after six hours and twenty-five minutes,

The highway from Gdansk was a rolling and twisty stretch of road, bending in and around the high mountains. During the warmer months, motorcycle enthusiasts visit often the area in search of the fantastic mountain views and curvy asphalt that make for impressive transportation Autumn in the area also provides some of the most vibrant colours in the country, with borders of red, orange, and sandy spiking the colour expanse of the woodland

Ben, Catherine, Eddie, his two men, and Shawn had arrived in the mountainous region only thirty minutes before two in the afternoon, and the sun was shining brightly in the mid afternoon sky Most of the drive so far had been spent in silence, the three companions were either too tired to talk or still in a post-breakfast coma. After looking out the window at the passing countryside for a while, Catherine broke the quiet "Wow, the view is beautiful."

"But you are more beautiful, wifey" Shawn grinned, losing her hands

Ben continued telling them through what the locals called, "an instagrammable view." With the amazing views, the passengers on the train could understand why "I wonder why more people don't visit this area," Catherine remarked.

"They do get a fair share of visitors coming through here, but it certainly doesn't get a lot of the publicity it gets, or even as much as the ones in the nearby cities Can't say that the locals' mind that, though." Ben looked over at her in the front seat "I kind of like the quiet up here. Too many people coming and going might take away from the beauty of the place." "I guess," she said, returning to staring out across the rolling valleys from their high vantage point.

In the back seat of the window, Shawn had been checking his voicemail messages for the last few minutes and his email. Odd, he thought, that Detective Timon had called several times trying to get a hold of him. He should have gotten the hint. Reading his latest messages, Shawn smiled. He was on the right path, and Dave would be rescued soon.

Catherine noticed the perplexed look on Shawn's face "You play?"

"Yeah," Shawn slid his phone closed, "just checking my messages don't worry about Dave I believe he will be rescued soon enough" He whispered in her ears

Catherine turned wide-eyed. "Really? That's good to hear"

"But are you sure everything's alright?" "Everything is fine. A detective called a few times. He said he wanted to ask me some more questions." Shawn stared at his phone. "I'm not sure what's going on." Catherine turned around Was it the same guy you talked to the other day"

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"Yeah"

Eddie had a serious look on his face "I wonder if they heard anything from the people that took Dave." There seemed to be a connection between his Mexican accent and his grave tone when he made the statement. "Maybe," Shawn contemplated "Or he still thinks I had some part in his disappearance." Ben listened patiently to the conversation He understood exactly what Shawn was saying, and it made sense the thought that the police were probably looking for Dave now caused him to smile

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"I know," Shawn said, with resolve. "But, for the time being. I guess I'm the most logical suspect to the cops," Shawn added, clearly not trusting himself to share anything, especially if Eddie's men were listening.

Ben was becoming increasingly more nervous. Maybe it was paranoia from the thought that they could be aiding fugitives. Catherine had turned back around to face the front of the window seat. She ended the conversation by saying. "Well, I don't think you as a suspect make any sense." She added, reading Shawn's sentiments,

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Chapter 91 Upon arriving at the train station, it would take them another fifteen minutes to arrive at their destination with a rental of two SUVs, Shawn, Ben, and Catherine on the first one, and Eddie and his men on the second one

Shaw) appreciated the enthusiasm she had for him. He decided not to continue the conversation Detective Rodrigues had more than likely thought of how to rescue Dave before anyone else Loolang up in the front seat, Shawn saw that Ben was noticeably uncomfortable he leaned forward and put his hand on the driver's shoulder "Uncle Ben, are you OK? What's the matter with you?"

Ben was busy checking both mirrors. The two red Toyota Hilux that he'd thought were following them had gotten closer behind Eddie and were only a few car lengths behind. Shawn didn't need a response. The old man's eyes told him precisely what was going on. Just as he was turning around, he saw a black barrel held by a gloved hand extend out of the passenger side of the vehicle. It was aimed directly at them.

Immediately, his mind cleared of all other thoughts, and his years of training kicked in. "Get down!" He shouted at Catherine, who had certainly not seen the threat in the car behind. To make sure she heeded, Shawn grabbed her head and shoved it downward.

"The hell, Shawn. What the f\*\*k are you doing?" Catherine glared at him, furious at the gruff attitude. Then she saw him pulling the gun out of his coat. She got a glimpse in the side mirror just as the glass exploded. The sudden blast brought a scream from her mouth. "S\*\*t, I need a f\*\*\*\*\*g gun."

"Stay down! Wire!" He screamed again. This time, she did as told while another round of bullets thudded against the back windshield of their car. Then, two hit the back window, sending a spider web across its surface.

Ben didn't say anything. His priority was on the curvy road ahead while Eddie in the second vehicle fired a shot at the two Toyota Hilux firing at them. Eddie swerved the SUV back and forth across the lanes, copying Ben, trying to give the attackers an impossible mark. Bikers taking a bathroom break on the sidewalk screamed and grabbed their cell phones, most likely calling the cops.

Ten minutes later, with the chase speeding up, the four vehicles were reaching speeds that were certainly unsafe on the hazardous, tight twists of the mountain road. Guard rails ran along the side of the highway, but they hardly seemed enough to stop a few tonnes of metal from blasting through and into the rift beyond.

Shawn rolled down his window and bent his body sideways, and Catherine did the same. "What are you doing? Stay low, Catherine."

She ignored him and fired at the goons, bracing her back against the front of part of the door.

With two arms extended, she squeezed off a salvo of bullets at the pursuers, bringing a few through the hood and another grouping into the windshield. "D\*\*\*\*\*d, take that! She

grumbled under her breath, which made Shawn raise his brows and Ben chuckled. The driver of the car slowed down slightly and repeated the maneuvers Ben and Eddie had used a few seconds before, rather than keeping the car steady. "You got them, girl!" Ben yelled as Catherine climbed back into the seat, ejecting the empty clip and replacing it with practiced ease. "No," her breathing hadn't changed much. Shawn has no sooner spoken than the clattering sound of more bullets hitting the windows interrupted him.

Catherine's face remained creased as she never stopped firing at the car behind, passing Eddie's car while one of the pursuers went flying over the guardrails to the Tift beyond. "Take that!" She yelled back. She thought how a year ago when in danger, she would go to her quiet place so that she could switch on the more evolved parts of her brain, her logic, creative perspective ability, and empathy for these always act as her divinity rod, her pathfinder, and always see her home safe, comfortable, and as well as possible in whatever the circumstances were but now it was all, light and fight until her last breath. She would never be a weak person ever again.

Ben chuckled again, "Good grace, reminds me not to mess with your wife, Shawn."

Shawn, however, nodded in delight as he slid across the bench seat to the other side and lowered the window. With quick accuracy, he released the clip from his gun, replaced it with a full one, then braced himself again and leaned out into the wind. The shots he blasted this time were at the second gunman, shattering the mirror at his waist. Shawn had hit his thigh. Presently, the attacker crouched over, grasping his now bleeding leg.

Pulling himself back into the cab, Shawn shouted at Ben. "Ben, I've got an idea!"

"Do I want to hear it?" Another volley of bullets pounded the SUV, one missing Catherine and Ben by a sheer hairbreadth, goring the windshield. The old man reacted by wobbling the SUV to the right. "When I tell you, hit on the brakes and let them hit us!"

"What is it? Are you f\*\*\*\*\*g crazy, Shawn?" Her beady eyes were wide with doubt. "Just do it," Shawn insisted.

"Alright," Ben mumbled. Then he put forward his voice, "But you're paying this rental, yeah? This is after my name. The owner will hunt me!"

Without conceding the statement, Shawn reached back out the driver's side rear window again, this time only peppering a few bullets at the car. He whirled his head around to stare at the alley ahead, the wind blowing hard in his face. Ben drove the car around a sharp corner, r\*\*\*\*\*g over into the other lane. The force almost pulled Shawn out of the window. The road straightened briefly, but another car reached about eighty yards ahead.

"F\*\*k it, Ben, just before you get to that curb, hit the brakes!" Shawn shouted, it was a futile mission but only he could ever see one step at a time, and though there was a

forming picture in the inward eye of both goal and destination, it remained ever onward one step at a time. Ben didn't say anything. He didn't need to Shawn arched his body out of the opening again and undertook a few more bullets

"Hang on, girl, hold tight!" Ben should back. He looked over at Catherine, who was bracing herself for the crash & Shawn held his breath Ben slammed on the brakes, and Eddie whirled on the side, reacting to Shawn's signal and striking out more bullets in the Hilux's back They braced themselves against the back of the seat as the car shortly lost momentum

The driver of the pursuing Hilux did not expect the arrogant truck and veered instantly to avoid the stopping SUV

Immediately. Shawn tuned out the window and unleashed a barrage of ammunition into the uncovered and now off balance gunman of the passing car. Crimson liquid erupted from the goon's neck as he slumped back through the window, grasping pointlessly at the injuries

Unexpectedly, another gunshot resounded from the front seat of the Hilux Shawn saw the bullet hit the driver in the shoulder, followed by an assault of Eddie's men and himself resulting in the assailant jerking the steering wheel left as it flew down the embankment

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Chapter 92 Naturally, Dave didn't sleep well in cars in truth, travelling on airplanes, automobiles, and even the few train made it impossible for him to get any sort of natural rest, unlike his sister Catherine who loves to travel Nonetheless, for the last hour, he'd slept like a f\*\*\*\*\*g log in the back seat of the dark Range Rover. Covered with dark bruises and a broken nose and shoulder, unfortunately, the map was over Yesterday, when he thought he could outsmart Alfonso and Javier and he told them that it was in Thailand, whatever it was that they were looking for, but the old man debated himself if Dave was telling the truth, but after receiving an email from Catherine that said "Thailand," the lie that he had brewed had been altered drastically, and he told Alfonso that it was in fact in Leba, Poland, which made the old man so mad that he ordered his goons to torture him again Not that he could blame Alfonso, after all, he had been tricking them into thinking that he loved exactly what he was doing, but in reality, he relied solely on Catherine. He was able to send her an email discreetly +

"Wake up, we've arrived " Dave was taken aback by the harsh voice,

During his unconsciousness, he hoped that the man was merely a fabrication of his imagination. When he woke up, he realized he wasn't "Where is 'here?" he wondered, half asleep

"We're on our way to Leba." From the front passenger seat, Javier warned him, "You better be correct " The guy in charge of the show, it seems, preferred to be driven

whenever feasible. Or maybe he just wanted to keep an eye on the prisoner because he wasn't sure about the guard in the back with Dave. And to know that it was only by chance that he was able to leave early because his underground den had been raided by the authorities, followed by some investigation into a certain detective Rodrigues, whom he thought was dead, but he was lucky that he wasn't there in the den but at Alfonso's mansion when the police raided their underground haven.

"Oh, yes. All right," he pretended to forget. "Is there a brunch place around here? Right now, I could use some scattered, smothered, honey glazed pancakes with bacon. I'm b\*\*\*\*y starving."

The acknowledgment he earned was a chocolate cereal bar slamming into his chest from the front of the vehicle.

"Thank you, this will do," Dave said sarcastically, nodding up.

The light was shining brightly in the early morning sky outside the truck, rising over the mountains. He was relieved that the windows were at least tinted.

The hired gun in the SUV parked in a spot on an open field that climbed uphill and into a forest that stretched thousands of feet higher.

"Move faster now, young boy," Javier said again as he opened the back door.

Dave unlocked his own door, going into a world that was significantly different from the one he'd left behind in the city. The hills of the mountainside were studded with the brilliant colours of autumn all around them. Except for the white and green vehicles of whichever wardens were on duty, there were no other cars in the parking lot at this time of day. A small

breeze blew over the gathering, making the air slightly cooler than usual. The temperature was also reduced by several degrees due to the elevation. Dave was relieved that he had put on his jacket the morning he had been taken.

As the entourage went over the grass from the parking area, a solitary cloud wisped through the sky high above them. Short Guard wore a black book bag over one shoulder. "What's the deal with the bag?" Dave inquired. "It's a f\*\*\*\*\*g laptop and this is not your business."

The stocky man in the grey french coat remained silent. He just kept going forward, his gaze fixed on the road.

Four enormous chambers sat at the trailhead of the woods ahead, possibly only a hundred feet from the parking area. The iron bars had been placed around the rocks to prevent graffiti artists and vandals from destroying the site's integrity.



Dave shook his head as he remembered his studies from the night before, understanding that the number four appeared again with these four stones. Apparently, the number four played a role in the solution. Perhaps it was a coincidence; there was no way to tell for certain at the time. He only hoped there was something, anything, to be found at that location. If he was wrong about the boulders holding an answer to the puzzle, it was clear what these murderers would do.

As the small group approached the caged chamber, Javier whispered something in Russian to the person with the backpack, who nodded and placed the bag at Dave's feet. He turned around and skulked back toward the car, his head down. "Whither is he going?" Dave inquired, perplexed.

"To keep an eye on the car," was the straightforward response. "Now, Dave, tell me how many chambers in this area are going to show us anything?"

For apes, scholars, and tourists alike had been perplexed by the many chambers of some land. Luckily, Catherine had provided him with enough information. What they were looking at was unlike anything they had ever seen in a history book. Every boulder had snakelike lines carved into it. Along with the linear lines, there were circles and ovals scattered across the soft soapstone surfaces in what appeared to be random patterns. Among the other designs, there were all types of animal tracks and even human feet drawn on the rocks.

"We should look for a clue or something, something where there is a keyhole, perhaps? Believe your boss, the old man, had a key, yeah?"

Javier ignored him.

Dave rolled his eyes and looked at the picture of a beautiful landscape.

The view from the top of the mountain was absolutely breathtaking. When he'd first heard from Catherine that Asian visitors had made this chamber and some odd runic occurrences on the hefty rocks, he'd been skeptical. Surely, primitive people like the original natives were unable to document such elaborate sophisticated symbols. Yet, looking at it now, he had his mind changed. Maybe Catherine was right; this was made to confuse someone.

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Chapter 93 Dave had pretended to spend dreadful minutes scouring over the details of the runes in the chambers, analyzing them and taking photographs, doing something Javier had expected him to do, even something so mundane as watching a set of runic symbols that didn't even make sense. He feigned to spend time analyzing it and trying to compare the picture of the tablet from Catherine's email, which he privately printed, to other ancient runes and symbols scattered all over the chamber. However, nothing

could be found that was even remotely similar to keys or some land of clue or a map It was like looking at a lost kid at a Peppa Pig concert show

of course, Dave had intended to return to London to study the runes further, maybe do some research and paint the chamber of spookiness. He'd even hoped that there was a link between the images and his sister's ongoing search for the lost Buddha. How she had been caught up in a whirlwind of other life' problems and troubles, discoveries that took precedence, she'd been unable to come back, beyond him. Maybe marrying Shawn Richmond was indeed a curse, not that Jane hadn't warned his sister, and even Chelsea, his girlfriend, believed that Shawn did nothing but give Catherine heartache Now, he stood on the ancient site again, wondering what it all meant and how pverything connected.

"Hey, man. Do you happen to have a digital camera, Javier?" He finally inquired, shaking loose his thoughts He knew that he was pretending to analyze these ruins, but his artist's eyes could not take back the beautiful scenery, and he might as well paint the outside landscape il they weren't going to kill him tomorrow

jvier nodded toward the laptop bag that was sitting at his feet "Everything you need is in there. Just make sure to return pverything to where it was "

"Sure." Dave acknowledged the response by squatting down and unzipping the laptop pack Inside, he found a small digital camera, a nolepad, pen, paper, and a laptop with an internet card lying next to it Grinning, he thought about how to take this with him if givet a chance " Hm, not bad for someone like you guys."

Boil the guard and Javier gave him a puzzled look, apparently not lilong the mockery "Killjoy! Never mind," he mumbled back

Dave yanked the camera and played with a lew of the buttons to get the settings the way he wanted them Fifteen minutes later, he was finishing up taking pictures of the last chamber Javier and the remaining guard had walked around the area with him, keeping a thorough eye on his every action. At one point, the smaller guy asked, "Hey, boy! Why do you need so many pictures?"

Dave sighed "Are you that stupid? Are you going to let me do what I do or noi?"

The man answered back by moving his coat to the side to expose the pistol undemeath. Dave rolled his eyes. Of course, even with bruises and broken shoulders, his sarcasm was on show

Indifferent, he continued speaking to his two captors, "Hey buddy, look, many treasure hunters and some renowned professionals over hundreds of years haven't been able to figure out what these chambers even mean, or the meaning behind these complicated symbols from looldng at them. How will i do it with just a few images. We have a much

better chance of achieving this goal if we use the latest technology Taking shots from every possible angle should help Trust me, I'm an artist I have artistic eyes "

Javier let his suit fall back to where it had been covering the gun, apparently convinced with the reasons when the smaller guy did not He motioned for him to go behind their backs instead."

"Wait Javier . did you guys happen to bring an extra USB for documentation?" He asked. They'd thought of everything else up until this point that he was just hampering time "It's in the lap bag," the biggest guard muttered, sprawling for the first time since leaving Alfonso's estate

With that, Dave waddled quickly back over to where he'd left the laptop pack on the ground First, he took the laptop out and laid it on top of the nearest stone with a flat area. He then dug around in the inner pockets of the bag until he found the cord he was looking for a few minutes later, he was busy transferring the photographs over to the computer

"Now what are you doing?" Javier demanded as he watched over Brown's shoulder

Dave answered directly. "I am putting all of these pictures on one mesh Do I have to explain this to you or will you let me work" He asked, and Javier creased his brows. "If I can look at them all alone, maybe I can make more sense of the whole diagram than if we just look at them individually"

"Fine then, do it but make it quick I have no time to wait " Javier approved

Nodding. Dave finished setting up the pictures so he could see all of them on the screen "This may take a while, you can wait if you must, I need this You need answers I'll work on my thing" he remarked while giving them an annoyed glance. Then he started shuffling the pictures around with the mouse

Skepticism crawled into his mind, as he meticulously surveyed the runic symbols on the screen What if they were in the wrong place? Well, he wouldn't be surprised, because what he understood from Catherine's email was that the real chamber was in Thailand and what he had here was a fake one to confuse the enemy. It was entirely possible that the runic on the chambers were not drawings of a map or any kind at all But looking at it, he felt like it was indeed a map The four niches of the chambers had been symmetrical, the runic symbols had been nothing but some mundane drawing that, if combined, could lead to some kind of image It was like it was some kind of painting that was drawn together to produce a map No, this had to be the place. There was nowhere else that would fit the clue's description. Looking at it closely, he was able to discern that it was an image of a diamond wedding ring,

Minutes went by with zero distinction of anything even vaguely common. When something on the screen finally caught his eye, he was about to go back over to the steel cages for another look when his pause caught the attention of his watchers.

"What is it?" Javier prodded and went to his side.

"Give me a second," he retorted, working a few more pictures around. Then, "Wow. Now,

that's interesting.

"What?" Javier was anxious. "What do you see?"

"I really don't comprehend how so many people could have omitted this before, including myvell. I presume it was because of the randomness of the pallets and drawing."

"Missed wwe?" The blonde asked.

"Okay." Dave Beyani, "The Asian dudes who made this hand built a political scheme identical to what we have today. They were travelers, who, well, and you know, loved golds and crops. They were also advanced enough that their leaders became the heads of the tribe who traveled cross the seas a little differently. But they were trapped here when their ship had been demolished by the local white nien." The blank looks from his audience told Brown they were not convinced what this had to do with anything, so he sped up his finding.

"However, there were some important discrepancies. At that time, and with various other peoples, together they traveled and exchanged goods. Even today, the people of the country are divided up into a caste network. Rich and poor, preachers and cheats, sovereignty and prunts are all instances of CIV factions. The Asians, however, were in merchants, brow! merchants, and were thought to be just a slave. Soo, they made chambers to lure those who love some ventures and wess, and treasure hunters to confuse them." Their eyes were still slightly watching while he talked. "Clearly the Asians in this are copied the same scheme. Most likely for us they couldn't go back home."

"So, what does any of this have to do with what we are looking for?"

"Everything." We are looking at an enormous key. This, my friend, is the clue. This is a f\*\*\*\*g wedding ring." Duve was brimming with enthusiasm. "See, this." He adyed at the images, enlarged them for the exhibit, and added "It's pretty friggin' cool, yeah?"

"I still don't understand what all of this means," Javier said, growing more apprehensive as the minutes went on.

Sighting, Dave pointed at the teen again. "It's so simple. Look here. The key to the whole thing is this one, which is the opposite of the ordinary way to put a mystery together."

“So what is the ring the smaller guy inquired

“It’s right here” The ungued Luis finger touched on was a drawing that looked like a hole in the inner of the ring or a loop within a loop “Well is that? Why is it so important?”

“Because there aren’t really any voids that look like it, for starters, we need to uncover this ring I believe it is the key. But the other thing you’ll notice when I start arranging the photos around this double circle is that a pattern begins developing. See?” As Dave placed the different pictures in the order he believed they were meant to be in, Javier started noticing the trend. The diagrams of the realures and human gaits began flowing outside, alternately every other space formed a massive ring.

After all the portraits had been arranged on the screen, the whole scene made sense. The double loop was in the midst of everything, and the successive aspects pursued after, laboring their way further and further from the middle. He dabbed the center of the coil with his

finger. “This is where we have to go next.”

“And where, exactly, is that?” Javier was still not convinced.

Dave replied with an issue of his own, “When you look at any map, region, etc., what is the thing that stands out the most?

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The two massive men glanced at each other dubiously. “Ugh. Do I have to do all the work here? Sighing again, Brown proceeded. “I know when I look at a map, the thing that always jumps out at me is the capital of a country or state. Right?”

A nod told him that they were following along so far.

“Right. Usually, it is noted with a star, or sometimes it even looks like a dot within a circle, identical to what you are seeing right here.”

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“So, you are saying that this symbol exemplifies the capital of what planet, f\*\*\*\*g earth?” At least the smaller guy was trying.

Thailand, Dave thought. The capital of Thailand. All they need to find is a ring and go to Thailand.

Javier nodded his head and added. “Maybe that’s where everything started?”

Dave turned wide eyed, Javier he sawit He smirked "Thailand We are going to Thailand."

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Chapter 94 The Toyota Hilux looked like it had been on a mission on a safari in the Duba desert Coin sized bullet holes littered the back window, with a few more dolging the windshield

Shawn looked at Catherine with a quizzical face from the back seat "So when were you planning on telling us about this little gem of information that you can use a gun and shool like a f\*\*\*\*\*g asussin, wifey?"

She returned the glare with a smile and an exaggerated roll of her eyes "Didn't I mention that I was trained by Javier's men before my lucky escape already told you, the ugly b\*\*\*\*\*d trained me well enough for his bidding Actually, he ordered ine to assassinate you, and I didn't follow his orders Now I'm their largel and that sort of Information was on a need-to loow basis."

"Oh, hell yeah I guess it's right that you were an expert. I knew it, just the way you hold that gun with ease Heck, you shoot better than the" Ben cut in. "It might be handy to have another gun around Seems like you are pretty good with more than I do, right Shawn?" The old man teased

Catherine raised an eyebrow and gained at the driver. "Thank you. Ben You are such a darling, unlike my so-called husband here, who pissed the hell out of me, just because I can shoot better than him."

"Catherine "Shawn frowned and sat beside her, looking at her body and checking for any Wounds, satisfied with what he saw

"Yeah, yeah!" She rolled her ryes, her adrenalitie still running like a nerve-wracking o\*\*\*\*\*m. She smirked and raised her brows "Bul, what bothered me is that those aren't Javier's men They look so. Aslan to me"

"That I notice too It's not that I mind you helping out, but I think those guys are the same from the cafe bark in Scotland The one who took a sulcide leap from the f\*\*\*\*\*g window, right?" Shawn explained. "And I think they were the Thais. "He added and looked at the broken windows on the passenger seat. While Eddie's Hilux followed them A moment Laler, he continued and caressed her hands against his, "I just don't like surprises, Catherine. It's better to know what I'm dealing with. So I want you to tell me everything, OK?"

"I understand," she replied. "Don't worry No more surprises."

"Are you sure about that?" He looked dubious "Come on, I'm pretty sure she squinted her eyes at him

Shawn averted his eyes from the passing countryside for a moment before returning to the conversation "How long have you been with Javier

She turned around and faced forward while she answered him. "I've only been there since Elizabeth He rescued me from her when she betrayed him over a year ago. He recruited me just before I almost gave up It sounded like a good opportunity It's fast-paced, with a lot of travel and power He taught me how to fight Shawn. He made me feel like I could defend myself, and he gave me a confidence I never had before."

"One that can become very dangerous," he added, his jealousy eating him up from within until he felt like a zombie corpse, feasting on the hive-mind. It was easier to see than one might expect It definitely had no cloak of invisibility "It's a confidence that can get you killed, Catherine"

"I'm aware of the dangers, Shawn But I have no choice, I either cooperate with them or I'll get assaulted by his men and be killed But I do appreciate the concern," Catherine curled her head back around to face him "I'm a big girl and a well-trained girl at that I can take care of myself, pretty boy"

His face blushed a bright red. "I'm sure you can But it's a fine line that you walk all the time when you aren't different um then, w-why you didn't kill me when Javier ask you to

"Are you seriously asking me that right now, Shawn?" "Yes,"

"Well, the thing is, you know," she swallowed a lump, "I can't just do that, y you are my husband. I care about you You were supposed to be the father of my child"

He watched her intently He knew that he was expecting something more, and Ben knew it as soon as he heard his fake cough

"Good to hear that, because you know I will scorch hell to bring you back to me, and nothing can ever change that," he replied "But I got tired of looking over my shoulder just to keep you safe, sweetheart. If that confidence and new expertise can help you be safe, then I won't argue anymore I was just wondering if there was a barrel aimed at me from the shadows and you keeping such information from me isn't helping, so tell me everything".

Catherine wanted to smile but she didn't "That's all you have to blow, Ok? Not that you being an expert in the bed department was no better," she said defiantly Shawn let out a laugh and turned his head back to the window while Ben chuckled with him. "Give it time, you will appreciate it more sooner than later," Shawn smirked and winked at her.

The next few minutes passed in silence. Trees blurred by as Ben guided the car through the twisting highway. "It's just up ahead," he finally broke the silence. "I doubt anyone is here at this time of day, except for another Thai, but I guess they are all that we had."

As the pickup rounded a curve going up a slight hill, a dark Range Rover came into view from their back, so he motioned to Ben to slow down and stop as it passed them then stop overhead. Then two stumpy-looking Aussians in brown cheap trench coats and long haircuts were taken off from the backseat in front of the grill and relieved themselves.

With quiet calm, Shaw

said, "Ben, they're here, probably waiting for us."

"What?" Ben's demeanor was not as composed. "Are you sure it's them? They don't look Asian to me." A while later, Shawn grumbled under his breath. "F\*\*k! It's Javier, and it's not Thai. Catherine sleeps on my shoulder now." He motioned in haste as she covered her face with her hair and pretended to sleep on his shoulder like what lovers would do." He grumbled and put on his sunglasses, "Take it easy Ben, let's hope Javier couldn't recognize you. Just drive now and don't do anything brash. Let's just keep going, like we're going to the traveler's center."

Understanding the situation, Ben continued past the dark Range Rover the man standing in front of it had noticed them, but once they had passed, he paid that to mind.

After the pickup rounded the next curve, Shawn again spoke evenly. "Due's back there with two other guys still." He multered, which made Catherine open her eyes and looked at the rearview mirror. "They're looking at the chambers and it looks like they brought some backup." "What should we do?" Catherine and Ben thought out loud, simultaneously.

"Turn around up there," Shawn said, pointing at gravel turnout next to the road. Ben did what Shawn asked and pulled the truck off to the side of the little street. "Okay." He continued as he loaded another clip into his gun. "We're only going to have one chance at this. Ben, here's what I want you to do."

## **Billionaire's Accidental Wife by C.ELLICA**

### **Chapter 95**

Ten minutes later, Ben guided the pickup back up the street toward where the Range Rover was parked. As they slowly rounded the curve, they saw Javier escorting Dave out from the tunnel where the chamber had been located, while the two gigantic Russians who had been over by the caged boulders before were nearly back to their vehicle with their gun and laptop bag.

Ben just hoped that his massive brown cowboy hat and the stupid sunglasses would hide his face from Javier, not that the man could recognize him. After all, it had been a



decade since they had seen each other Wallang casually toward the group, Javier's men were completely unaware of any possible threat

From a distance, Catherine held down her sentiments as she saw Dave accompanied by Javier and an enormous Russian mob-kind of man, possibly in his mid to upper thirties, and a tree trunk of a man, shorter, but much thicker

"I see them," Shawn confined what she was thinking as she held her shawl tighter to hide her face from them, as travelers would do

No acknowledgment came from the back as they approached where the two men were now standing together in the parking lot They looked surprised as Ben slowed the pickup to a stop right behind them "Excuse me, mate, um," he mumbled in what was clearly a deeper southern London accent he normally hated. "Don't happen to know where the potato festival is? I believe it is somewhere nearby"

From a distance, Dave stood absolutely still, recognizing the faces of his sister and Shawn in the pickup truck. Javier was far away and on the phone making a call Where was Eddie? Shawn was there, then Eddie had to be close by

The two muscular lookouts looked skeptically at the tall man, who was apparently in charge of the lookout No one said a word. Eventually, the man simply shook his head

"I think we might have taken a wrong turn," Beni went on, trying to stay cool. He reached down and pulled up a sheet of paper "These directions are a little vague."

The other man from behind the two shook each other's heads. The two Russian men standing on the asphalt were glaring at the paper in Beni's hand when, unexpectedly, the loud pop of a pistol flared from the path of the pickup bed four more shots followed almost instantly. The short, flat-topped man at the front of the entourage collapsed backwards, three bullet holes grouped in the center of his chest. "The surprise on the faces of the others disappeared shortly as the bigger, suited man jerked his weapon from its holster and dropped the laptop bag he'd been carrying While Dave stood in shock

Another two shots were fired from around the front of the truck, one striking the big man in the arm He seemed unaffected as a volley returned from his black firearm, drilling holes into the side of the truck

Ben ducked down below the window just seconds before a bullet zipped over his head

Catherine risked popping around the grill of the pickup to squeeze off a few more shots at the tall guard as Shawn did the same. The man noticed her too late as she looked around in the chest and stumbled backward into the open passenger door of the big SUV

"F\*\*k! It's Catherine." The Man grumbled as he motioned for Javier to lay low

Javier then ran and grabbed Dave as soon as the bullets started flying and were holding him around the neck as a human shield, gun extended toward his assailants

"S\*\*t!" Dave added, "What the hell is happening

Without an answer, Javier pushed him towards the Range Rover

Upon seeing his associates taken down, Javier fired off three quick shots at the driver of the pickup truck, whom he now recognized as his uncle Ben "B\*\*\*\*d" He grumbled

The bullets thudded into the door as the old man behind the wheel stayed down to avoid the storm of bullets.

Immediately, the bigger man turned toward the pick-up where the initial shots had been blasted and launched retribution, sending more rounds pinging into the metal. As he backed up toward the front of the SUV, he sent two bullets at Catherine, who jerked back behind the cover of the pickup's engine

Shawn saw he'd taken down one of the three men, but was not sure if Catherine had been able to take down one of the others. Shots were whumping into the side of the pickup, and there was no way he could risk a glance over the edge. He looked in the direction of the rear window of the truck and saw that Ben was out of sight. "Catherine, take cover. I'll check on Ben."

She nodded and fired more as she trembled with adrenaline. She knew her fear was natural and there to keep her alive and happy, yet where it had been weaponized and fashioned into a cage, one was honor-bound to break free any moment.

For a split second, Shawn worried that Ben had been shot. Then, the truck lurched forward and turned into a position where the rear was facing the back of the f\*\*\*\*e Rover, now about twenty feet away. He just hoped that the old man was able to keep himself safe away from the bombardment of bullets. When looking at Catherine, her fears are triggered by real threats and by memories of threats. As a mundane human, he finds it difficult to unlearn fears. When we realized that he was scared, he had to ask himself how real the threat was or if he had begun to generalize fear and seek evidence to cement it rather than challenging it. But Shawn breathed in the fear, so he could remain well balanced and with a good perspective. He knew he must always remain willing to ask himself these difficult questions, home in on his true emotions, and see people as they really were. When assaulted, people tend to get caught up in their own desperate needs to be alive no matter what.

Shawn lifted his head narrowly over the tail end gate and caught a peek of Javier shoving Dave into the backseat of the dark Range. While Eddie and his two men

assaulted the rest of the Russians. Amazingly, the shorter henchman was slowly getting up and crawling into the opposite door

After pushing Dave into the vehicle, Javier slammed the door and, leaning around the back quarter panel, squeezed off four more rounds. Five more of the bullets thumped harmlessly against the tailgate, but one found its way into the back left tire of the last pick-up. Instantly,

the rubber gushed white air from the wound. Shawn felt the truck droop and loved precisely what had transpired. He heard the Hilux rev to life and squeal its tires. He took another look over the edge of the pick-up and watched as the four men in the SUV tore past the pickup. He fired off his remaining few bullets at the tires of the escaping Range, but the shots missed. "S\*\*t!" He mumbled. Catherine also sent her remaining clip at the accelerating automobile, but it vanished over the highland as the click-clang sound of her gun signaled it was empty.

"F\*\*k, we almost had him."

Lowering her head in disappointment, she saw Shawn sigh in frustration as well, as he realized he might have just missed his one chance at getting his brother-in-law back.

Catherine stood quietly nearby with her hands in her coat pockets, watching the two men and trembling with fear. They almost got Dave, but he was gone again, and to make matters worse, Javier was with her. "F\*\*k!" she thought to herself.

A while later, Shawn and Ben had been working on changing the flat tire out for the spare that was attached to the undercarriage while one of Eddie's men was severely wounded, screaming from the pain. "Sir, I'm going to take him to the nearby hospital, just turn off your mobile phone so I can trace you wherever you are," Eddie said and received a nod from Shawn and the Hilux disappeared from their view.

The labor was sluggish, though, due to the weak jack that they were using to lift the heavy vehicle off the dirt. Unfortunately, it was all they had.

Swapping out the old tire for the stinky doughnut has taken longer than it should have. Ben was lowering the back end of the vehicle down, nearly finished with the task.

At this point, Shawn had strolled back over to the parking area where the shootout had occurred earlier.

"Shawn... you OK? Where are you going?" Catherine asked pointedly.

He nodded. "I'm fine. However, the only way that we are going to get another chance at saving Dave is to press on and figure this whole thing out." The failure in his behavior had shifted to untangle. "Maybe we can figure out the symbols in these chambers and catch up to them. Dave must know something, right?"

She raised her brows and nodded her head “Do you think Dave solved it?” Her eyes were fixated with interest. There was nothing to solve because they knew it was somewhere in Thailand. But where exactly in Thailand?

“He must have. Maybe he knew where to go next, otherwise, Javier wouldn’t escape.” Shawn forced a grin “That scoundrel shows up here this morning and unravels a dilemma that has been unsolvable for years.” He shook his head, “Yo, they wouldn’t have been leaving it. Dave hadn’t put it all together. How he did it, though, is a whole other matter.” She had joined him, and the two of them were walking in the path of the caged chambers when his eyes caught sight of something lying near the curb next to the concrete parking boundary. The area was where the Range had been perched during the confrontation.

Interested, he stepped over to look at what had caught his awareness.

“What is it?” she asked, pursuing him closely.

## **Billionaire’s Accidental Wife by C.ELLICA**

Chapter 96 “Looks like a camera and a laptop bag,” he mumbled, lunging down and picking up the small raven case, which corroborated his feelings. “Hm, it had likely been dropped during all the violence.” Hurling the camera case over, Shawn assessed it more closely, then opened the zipper and removed the digital device. “F\*\*k. It. Dave must have taken pictures of the chambers.”

“Why would he do that?” Catherine asked from his side. Meanwhile, Ben had finished up with the tire and was loading up the meager equipment in the huge metal crate in the front of the vehicle bed. “Did you guys find something?” He cried out across the lot.

“Yeah,” Shawn retorted his question. He returned to her question, “I’m not sure why they would need pictures.” His mind was racing, marveling at what Dave was up to.

He pressed the power button on the camera and turned the chooser so they could view the pictures. Shawn’s eyes surveyed the pictures. All of them were of the four chambers from different views and positions. None of them made any point. Every one of the spectacles appeared to be nothing more than spontaneous silhouettes and lines and runic symbols.

Ben had caught up to them and was curiously looking over their shoulders at the pictures on the little LCD screen.

“Doesn’t make much sense to me,” he stated. “I’ve been to this place numerous times and can’t make skulls or letters of it.”

Shawn nodded, looking at the last picture. “Whatever it all means, Dave worked it out, and he must have done it quickly.”

Several minutes flew while the three stood there astonished. The afternoon orange sunlight peeked over the treetops of the cliffs to the west, sending beams of soothing warmth onto the group. A crow Cowed loudly from a nearby branch while other birds transmitted their dialogues under the cover of the orange brilliant leaves The three flipped back through the pictures again, trying to understand what it could have been that Dave had seen that would have given him something, anything that suggested the Way

Catherine snapped out of her stupor by saying, "I wonder if he used a computer" "You mean, like a laptop?" Shawn attempted to follow her train of thought "Yeah... the goons carried a laptop earlier Remember?"

"Maybe the situation all along has been that everyone who has attempted to conclude what the runes mean has just been looking at them as they are 11 he had a laptop, Dave could have substituted the images onto it and shuffled them around all on one screen. He contemplated the idea "Ben, where could we find a computer nearby?"

"There's a vulage about twenty minutes from here I'm sure we can find some shops there."

"Good come Let's do it," Shawn uid, luming to head back to the vehicle

Upon arriving back at the hobbled car, he opened the front door for her "Good thinking, wifey," he mumbled with a smile

She smirked and blew hum aldss. "Whatever bul thanks." Her eyes were cheerful

"So now you want me to yeah)

"I always want you " He winked back

She blushed "I think you're beginning to get the hang of this," he jested and closed the door for her alter she had gotten in

As Shawn climbed into the backseat, Ren tued the ignition, I just hope we can put this together as quickly as Dave did"

Meanwhile, Javier had halted at a gas station near a small mountain village that appeared to have been forgotten by time Having to fill up was something too frequent with the giant SUV's his employer had provided They could go anywhere in the world as long as that "anywhere" was within close range of a fuel pump

The Russians took turns relieving themselves in the outdoor restroom while the other guards watched the prisoner He was appointed to make sure the convenience shop janitor didn't take much notice of the unusual circumstance

However, the man behind the counter inside was an older gentleman with a six-day-old scruff! of gray on his face Even if the geezer lred anything, it wouldn't do much good However, it's better to be thorough than foolish. They'd been caught entirely off guard by Shawn Richmond earlier, and Catherine was with him "The b\*\*\*\*y b\*\*\*\*\*d" He thought to timeli

And seemingly, he'd brought help. That could not be allowed to happen again

He glanced around again, shall paranoid after the gunfight on the mountain. There was no way that Shawti Richmond laew whixh path they were headed at the moment But if Richmond had been able to find them before, it was logical the man could do it again

Javier hadn't checked in with Alfonso for a while now. With ordinary clients, something like that would not be a difficulty, but the old man was known to be intolerably impatient An Momous deal of money and aid had been invested in this project, and outcomes were anticipated sooner than was reasonable

He thought now was as good a time as any, he thought and grabbed the phone out of his pants pocket to make the call it only rang twice before the voice of the older man on the other end answered with a curt, "Javier? Any news? What is our status

Javier believed the man sitting in his large leather seat at his considerable desk staring at the phone, waiting for the call

"We are making improvements, sir Brown is tar cleverer than we anticipated." His answer was as explicit as the issue. "Our next objective is the nearest airport, about twenty miles from the city we are going to Thailand, sir"

"Why was not surprised by that news? Where exactly in Thailand

"Bangkok sir" "Are you out of your mind Bangkok is huge Where in Bangkok Javier answered back, "We will figure it oul soon, sir," but he was a little startled by this statement

The older man retorted as if he were talking to a child, of course. You need my help. Wait there, 1'11 arrange a jet. Look for some cheap motel to avoid attracting attention and wait for my signal to go to the airport "Copy that, sir," javier added "Wait, is the boy specific about what it was that might be found there?" "Yes sir, a ring that looks like a wedding ring or some and we were looking for a d\*\*n ring, the possible key to the real chamber"

"F\*\*k A ring? Why on earth is that are you sure?" "Yes sir Only that the ring was where we should be able to find the next piece of the puzzle" "What puzzle?" "The exact location of the real chamber, sir," Javier said with a sigh

"OK, do it. Is the boy being cooperative?"

“Yes, for the moment He has not given us any problems. We should be at the motel in a hall hour or so.” Javier waited a few seconds, trying to determine whether or not he should tell his employer about the shootout that had occurred earlier.

Before he could begin again, Alfonso cut in “I have some qualms, Javier.”

This was a surprising statement “Such as?”

The voice commented coldly. “Your methods are getting sloppy, boy. Make certain to keep it low away from the authorities.”

“What do you mean, sir?”

“First, the wife of Shawn Richmond, then the raid on your den? There are too many body bags lying on your track I must motivate you to be more discreet, next time.”

Javier clenched his teeth to control his anger. “I will do what I suppose is essential to finalize the task, sir”

“Understood just make sure you complete it.” Then he added, “But it cannot be done in a way that will bring out awareness to our objective or to me. Do I make myself clear

“Perfectly, sir ” There would be no telling the man on the phone about what had happened earlier that morning “One last thing, Javier,” the voice in the earpiece postponed his thoughts. “Yes,” he answered back, irritably, Javier took pride in being very good at what he did. Now,

this naive old man had the gall to imply that he was unprepared “I assure you, str, the situation is entirely under control. Will there be anything else?” History was sharp “Not at all But do not go awty at me, savier If at any time I need to bring in someone else, I will not hesitate”

LLLL

With that, the call was disconnect He thought to himself, “What a foolish old man ” The alluent always felt that with money came power They push people around like pawns on a chessboard. “I am no p\*\*n,” he said quietly, she slid ihe phone back into his pockel Javier peered down the road against the glare of the sun and adjusted has sunglasses on his

## **Billionaire’s Accidental Wife by C.ELLICA**

### **Chapter 97**

Shawn felt terrible for Ben’s condition, he was getting weaker and had been in a shootout that nearly killed hun, but the man was overjoyed to be back in his so-called

adventurous life Their rental vehicle, on the other hand, had been severely damaged beyond recognition. The car had been essentially destroyed in the two firefights it had been involved in thus far Shawn couldn't figure out how the engine had kept running

"Aw, Shawn, I really appreciate it But don't worry, you can easily afford hundreds of them, and the owner won't mind i knew him back in the day, he was a darling "Ben had responded to Shawn's apology with a wide grin and a hand pass

The gang exited the truck and climbed the short set of stairs inside the old-looking brick building The computer business center appeared to be in line with the town's aesthetic

Catherine advised purchasing a new computer, but there were none available in the little town However, even the majority of the other buildings in the little main area were remarkably similar The building was ancient to the bones, which made Catherine smile at how wonderful and terrifying it was

There was a time, long ago, when the area was thriving People used to flock to the area in search of fortune in the early settlement in the 1900s. Nonetheless, the gold and copper vein discovered locally did not endure long The gold dome above the town hall, coated with metal from a local mine, was a permanent monument to the city's past

Arriving at the computer shops that looked like some sort of museum and after going through the 2000's security sensors, the chamber opened up to reveal a considerably larger space than seemed from the outside A spiral staircase to their right led up to a second story where many of the books looked to be located

This was no ordinary computer store, but rather a public semi-library that was both modern and traditional

There was an open area on the ground floor in front of the long librarian's checkout counter. At one end, several old window PCs were set up behind the main desk, through enormous wooden doors, was a vast area with at least rows of reference books. Every ten feet, a big window glanced into the reference room, possibly to monitor patrons while they worked

A section for periodicals beyond the staircase had dozens of publications and newspapers. A few unoccupied couches that appeared to be as old as the structure sat peacefully in front of the bookcases.

"May I help you with something?" inquired an enormous ginger red-haired librarian, perhaps in her upper forties, standing behind a computer Behind the wire-filmed glasses, her face appeared nice and honest.

Ben said, "Yes, Ma'am. We only need a minute or two on one of your PCs."



"Help yourself," she said, smiling "Right over there," she said, pointing to the computer area before returning to pounding at the keys on her own computer. The three visitors rushed over to the computer closest to the door. Its screen, like the other six computers stationed in the

little area, we already turned on and running on Windows 7 Shawn took the camera out of its black hard case and placed it beside the monitor He recognized they'd need something from the lady behind the enormous counter at that point.

"Malam," he gently interrupted her "Do you happen to have a USA cable for a camera or something in a type port?" Her eyes were lifted just above the glasses on the tip of her nose The woman was still smiling as if her face had become permanently frozen in that position but nodded." certainly, for a man like yourself," she said with a winkedihat inade Benchuckle and Catherine joined in

She clicked her mouse a few times, presumably to save what was on the screen She shifted her gaze away from the monitor and moved a few feet to her right She had moved the required cord from a drawer on the long counter in a matter of seconds "Oh, dear. Here you go," she remarked as she took a step toward the visitors. "Just make sure you return it to me, sweet."

Shawn nodded as he surveyed their surroundings It's not like they'd be able to flee the building without her noticing She was the only one present

"Thank you," Catherine replied. They had to have looked odd arriving at the library amid the day on a weekday Even though the librarian was still smiling, she had to be thinking something was off about the group that had just passed through her door

"You're welcome," the friendly voice mumbled She returned to her computer and resumed her work they couldn't have appeared to be much of a threat Shawn had connected the camera to the computer and was retrieving the pictures they had seen earlier

"So Shawn, what do you think? W-what now?" Catherine inquired and sat beside him

"I'm going to display all of these pictures and see whether they make any sense when combined if they don't make sense...at all" he has already begun lining up the photographs from left to right,"..then we move them around till they do" "Like putting together a jigsaw puzzle?" Ben asked Shawn proceeded to organize the images as Ben stood behind them, staring between their heads. When he was done, the overall layout was even more perplexing than when they were gazing at the actual stones, 11 that was even possible "This is nonsense. I see nothing."

"I have to say, "Ben began, 'I don't see how you're going to make sense of this."

There was no response Shawn had to admit that he had a glimmer of hope that once the pictures were on the computer, everything would fall into place. Unfortunately, it still appeared to be a confusing mess of nonsensical drawings of odd symmetric symbols, lines, and lines, curves, and circles

After a few moments of looking, he began arranging the images on the screen Another issue that arose was that viewing the stones as whole units did not work Shawn was essentially breaking up the two chambers into chunks to separate the symbols "This is foolish," Catherine added as he slid the pictures around for a few more minutes before coming to a halt, perplexed

"I really don't know what to do," he finally admitted "Everything is very confusing." He started over, shifting the digital photo squares around on the computer, looking for anything

that could help

Catherine leaned in closer, attempting to help, but she was out of her league

Ben appeared perplexed as well "I'm sorry, bud. It's a hundred-year-old enigma, you know"

Shawn ignored the remark and continued working He moved away from the computer, annoyed, after ten more minutes of trying "I see why no one has been able to grasp these runic drawings. It makes me wonder whether whoever drew this was simply an ancient graffiti artist who left a bunch of worthless art on some stupid walls in a stupid wall for stupidity's

He sighed deeply and ran his hands through his hair, briefly holding them on the back of his sandy-colored head before lowering them to his side.

Catherine sat blankly at her computer, hoping she could do something else

Ben's gaze was now roaming, searching around the old library as if the answer could be found in the old brick walls. His head came to a halt as he stared at a gigantic painting affixed to a column that rose all the way to the ceiling A Leba warrior stood on a mountaintop overlooking a valley in the image His gaze was fixed on a scene of gorgeous, green mountains in the distance, with a flaming sunrise in the background

A bow and quiver of arrows were draped across the native's back His arms were muscular and defined by the colorful strips of linen wrapped firmly around his biceps.

But it wasn't the beauty of the image or the native's remarkable body that drew Ben's attention. It was something smaller and more hidden A tattoo was on the young brave's arm The mark would most likely go unnoticed by the casual observer Ben, at that

moment, the middle-aged park man's eyes were opened by the small tattoo in the picture

"Shawn," he interrupted his friend's depressed thoughts "I believe you should come to look at this."

Shawn strolled over to see what had piqued the man's interest and he pointed up at the painting

"Did you notice this all?"

"Where?" He inquired.

"That," he said, pointing to the pages, "add it all together in one huge image, does it look familiar to you."

Shawn nodded and continued staring at the picture, not quite understanding what Ben had thought was so significant. Catherine joined them in their examination of the scene on the column

"Take a look at this," he finally remarked after giving his buddy a minute. "...this is like a huge picture of a ring, the same ring your grandfather sent to me, see that."

Shawn's expression indicated that he was still struggling to connect the dots

"Don't you see it?" Ben seems to believe the answer was self evident. "It is the f\*\*\*\*\*g ring with a massive hole or a loop inside." Ben added as Shawn took the velvet box from his pants.

## **Billionaire's Accidental Wife by C.ELLICA**

Chapter 98 "Oh yes, it's a f\*\*\*\*\*g ring," Shawn grumbled with a smile. "So what the hell does it mean?" Ben responded, "Well, this is, I believe, the key. And yeah, but that's only half of the puzzle. None of it makes sense unless we know where all of these Asians lived and where they were in Thailand. We identified it as Thailand. We have the ring. We have the tablet. And now... Where to go?"

The mood that had, for a moment, been upbeat turned sour again. Again, silence took over the group as they stared at the screen, understanding part of what they were looking at, but not enough to know where to go next. Catherine broke the hush after a few minutes of thought. Her arm extended out as she pointed at something on the screen. "What does that symbol mean?"

Shawn and Ben looked as her finger indicated a drawing that looked like a circle within a circle on one of the rocks. "The two circles?" She clarified. "What did they use that

for?" The two men looked at each other skeptically. It was one of the few things left on the screen that they could not decipher.

"Because," she went on, "to me, it looks like something you would see on a map, like a city marker, or maybe even a state capital. Did the Thai use anything like that back then?"

Both guys stared at the screen in disbelief. "Unbelievable," they said in tandem.

"Of course," Ben said exuberantly. All this time, it was right here in front of us. I can't believe we missed that." Shawn's face also lit up. He grabbed the mouse and started moving some of the photos around.

Catherine was lost again. "Hello? Are you going to tell me what's going on?"

"Pretty sure you figured out the clue," Ben answered with a grin. "I did?"

"Yeah," Shawn added, moving the image of the double orbit to the middle of the screen. "The answer was so reasonable all along. I don't know how so many people could have missed it for such a long time."

"Missed what?" She was becoming uncomfortable. Finally, Ben gave her an answer: "The capital of Thailand." "Bangkok?" "Mmm-hmm, yes." Shawn hummed, as he arranged some of the pictures around the centerpiece. Ben added, "This is getting better and better. If I'm not mistaken, in 1782, King Rama I established Bangkok as the new capital city of the Ayutthaya Kingdom, since the Burmese had deconstructed the prominent temples located in Ayutthaya, the previous capital

city. Bangkok was also in a more secure area-the Chao Phraya River to the west and the swampy Sea of Mud protecting against invaders on all sides." "And?" Catherine murmured and listened to the old man's story..

Ben continued, "After declaring Bangkok as the new capital, King Rama I ordered the transportation of all images of Buddha from the ruined temples throughout the kingdom to Bangkok Residents of the Ayutthaya Kingdom brought the Golden Buddha, still covered in terra-cotta and colored glass, to Bangkok through the Chao Phraya River." "I think I heard that before." Shawn agreed. "Continue, Ben."

The old man smiled. "Sure... the Buddha spent over 100 years in Wat Chotanaram, the prominent temple of Bangkok In 1935, the Thais transferred the Golden Buddha to its current home in Wat Traimit. The temple owners kept the statue under a simple tin roof, which was regarded as a pagoda of minor significance. Since it was still covered in terra-cotta and colored glass, temple worshipers considered the Buddha just as important as the other hundreds of images of Buddha across the country. But no one knew if it was the real one.

At the time, the world still did not know the statue's true value. If they did, they would have placed the Buddha as the main idol of Wat Traimit. We would not discover the real material of this statue until 20 years later. But it was believed that yes, it was real, but rumors started flowing like a river, that it had been transported to Europe." "So, wait a minute, after all this time. Was it real?" "I think so. I don't know. That ring could answer though." Ben pointed at the ring on Shawn's hand

"So this is the place that we are going next? Bangkok?" Looking at each other, the two men responded with a nod. "It would seem so," Shawn replied. "And what are we looking for when we get there?" A look of concern crept back onto the thirty-something-year-old's face. I have no idea. We'll try to figure that out when we get there."

She looked at Ben, but he responded with a questioning shrug, his arms flung out to his side "So we're going to drive to this place and hope that the next clue will just jump out at us?"

"We don't have a choice," Shawn affirmed. Then he added, "But it seems to be working so far. " His boyish smile was contagious. "Of course, you don't have to go with us..." She gave them both a chastising look and whispered, "Are you freaking' kidding me? Sorry, boys, but, as I said at Ben's place, you're stuck with me, Shawn." "No use in trying to get rid of her at this point, Shawn." Ben shrugged again. He knew his friend was right. And, after all, she had actually been helpful a couple of times so far. Inside, though, old feelings crept into his mind. Over the past few days, he had found himself glancing at her more often when she wasn't looking. There was certainly a magnet there, but he kept reminding himself not to allow such thoughts. Not yet, though. "Shawn?"

Ben interrupted his thoughts. "You okay?" "Yap, I'm sorry. Just trying to piece things together." "We should probably get going. We need to travel to the nearest airport, but for now, let's go to lodging and wait for Eddie and his men. Another hour from here at least." Shawn nodded, agreeing to the plan. He detached the camera from the computer and returned the borrowed cord to the pleasant lady behind the desk. "Thanks again for your help," he offered as they walked through the metal detectors.

The librarian simply smiled as she wound the cable back to its original circle shape. "You're very welcome."

As the three made their way back out the large doors and down the steps of the brick building, Shawn murmured to Catherine's ears, "I could use a little alone time with you in the inn..." He winked and she turned scarlet.

## **Billionaire's Accidental Wife by C.ELLICA**

Thirty minutes later, the group had found a lodging place near the town's park. It was a bed and breakfast inn that had a small main hall, and simple but clean rooms, for which the couple was grateful. While they waited for Eddie and his men to arrive, Ben found a small cafe nearby and ordered something for them. Inside the cafe bar, they noticed how gloomy and chilled the place was, with soft lounge music and a more ambient atmosphere. The overall view has a solid, incandescent, out-of-the-way polish style and a small, well-stocked wine cellar in the middle.

After a simple dinner, they went out of the cafe and Shawn took their things out of the car while Ben went to relieve himself. Shawn leaned in again on Catherine and planted a quick kiss on her lips before closing the car door: On the way out of the parking lot, he told her about what he intended to do with her in their room. Her cheeks flushed. "Seriously? Do you still think about that? Aren't we supposed to be resting and sleeping for the next flight?"

1 -107-1-1-1 "Come on, wife, it's not like I can sleep beside you without you making me hard all the f\*\*\*\*\*g time," Shawn added a wink that made her blush even more as he helped her to get her things out of the car and then held her hand as they walked up the steps and to the front door of the main hall.

When they reached the reception waiting area, Ben told them to go ahead and rest early. Then the two agreed to go to their room. After arriving on the second floor, Shawn unlocked the door and showed her around your small but gorgeous room, and then welcomed her into the queen-sized bed. "I'm sure you'd like to have a bath after our travels today, and I'd like to help you if you don't mind." His words made Catherine chuckled, "Oh my God, Shawn, are you seriously trying to make a pass on me?"

He smiled and nodded.

"I never thought you had it in you, I might as well remember this moment, the playboy billionaire trying to flirt with his wife."

"What is wrong with that? You looked ready to be eaten."

"Oh, Jesus..." She rolled her eyes. "Whatever, but I need a bath."

Shawn only knew the sound of her voice. Soft, sensual, sexual, husky, with a detection of a new English accent. "I'll go and freshen up. Thankfully, I found a nearby shop that actually sells clothes," Catherine muttered as she surveyed the room, "By the way, I got you a pair of pants and a shirt." She added, began to take off her coat and his shirt, followed by her jeans and went to the small but clean bathroom. He showed her into the enormous bathroom, and there before her eyes was a garden tub with a built-in spa to the right and a shower to the left. Hmm... take her pick?

It makes his mouth water for the taste of her, makes his body melt for her hands to touch him.

He wanted her mouth on his, to taste her kiss, to feel her lips as they traveled the length of his body. He smirked and watched her back, "Thanks, wife..." Shawn added, took his coat, and sat at the foot of the bed. He was dying to feast his eyes on her warm, naked body. His body was tingling inside as he made his way up to the bed. Catherine smiled at herself. This was never the Shawn she had come to know for years. Shawn was a serious flirt, but he was never the one to initiate it. After all, he had a woman waiting for him like he was just changing his clothes, but Shawn now was silly, a tease, and amazingly gentlemanly towards her. At this point, Catherine wouldn't care if he got into the shower with her, as long as he never left her side again. Yep, she was picking up the tub... A while later, Shawn appeared on the side of the bathroom door and shouted, "Wife, does it have a bubble bath?" "Yes," She shouted back as he opened the door, and he found her almost naked on the side of the bath.

"I love what I'm seeing now." He said and turned to open a cabinet containing an array of bubble bath scents and fizzy bath tablets. "My goodness, Shawn, stop staring." "And why now? I'm clearly enjoying this side of you, naked as a baby." She rolled her eyes as she turned to tell him of her decision to use the tub, he grabbed her face in his hands and pulled her to his lips: "I miss these fancy lips." He murmured as he kissed her passionately. Shawn had such an addictive kiss and she had already started wondering how hard it was going to be to leave him to go back to her ordinary, boring life again. Right now, Catherine doesn't want to think about that; she just wants to enjoy being in his arms. When Shawn pulled away from her, he stepped over to the tub, turned on the water, and got it ready for her. Wow!! She had never had anybody, well, save for herself, draw her a bath. This was impressive. Shawn was extraordinary. It was then that he noticed a couple of candles placed strategically around the tub, and she watched as he pulled a lighter from the drawer near the sink and lit them one by one. Shawn winked at her. As he turned back around to face her, Catherine slowly started taking off her bra. While he slipped his shirt over his head, she reached around her back to undo her bra, she slowly slid it forward and slipped his arms out of the loops, he began to undress her as well. She watched as he lifted his shirt over his head and exposed his gorgeous chest to her, and then mesmerized as she watched him unbutton and unzip his pants and dropped them to the floor before teasing her by taking off his underwear..

Shawn groaned as she followed suit and slowly and teasingly removed her thong to reveal her shaved haven. "You know how to tease a man, I see."

"Come on, you started this." She smiled, and she motioned for him to check the water. He did exactly that and turned to check the temperature of the water and add the bubble bath. She was rewarded with a fantastic view of his behind. Catherine walked up behind him and pressed her body against him while reaching around his waist to hold him and lay her head down on his back. Skin on skin... "You are so warm," she

murmured under her breath.

"And so you do... But you need to loosen up and relax. Come on."

With the temperature of the water perfect and the bubbles starting to form, he turned on the jets and gently helped her into the tub, and then climbed in behind her.

They settled themselves into the warm water and he pulled her into his arms as she laid her head back against him. Catherine felt his hands as they moved up her body from her waist to her b\*\*\*\*s and started drawing small circles around her nipples as she moaned.

Catherine ran her hands up and down his legs, alternately squeezing them when he pulled a bit on her nipples to let him know that he was doing something that she liked.

As they sat in the tub with the jets pulsating around them, she could feel her body starting to relax. She closed her eyes and gave in to the moment, happy to be in his arms, just him and his warm, beautiful kisses on her neck.

She felt him shift behind her and then she felt his hands reaching for her folds...reaching to touch it, trying to angle himself so that he could play with her bud. And then he found it and nestled his fingers on her bud, played with it, rolled it between his fingers, and then gently tapped it as he felt her body begin to writhe underneath him as her o\*\*\*\*m began to grow. "Shawn, Oh God..." As he continued to rub her c\*\*t, Catherine raised her legs and propped them on the sides of the tub to open herself up more to him. "Enjoying, wife?"

She moaned in response, unable to take her excitement from her voice as she began to move against his amazing fingers.

When he heard her start moaning softly again, he reached down and slid a finger into her sweet opening. Feeling her o\*\*\*\*m coming nearer, Shawn starts to slide his finger in and out, and then inserts another one, as the o\*\*\*\*m suddenly takes over her body. "Shawn, more... oh, I'm coming."

As her back arched and her buttocks came off the bottom of the tub trying to force her folds into his hand, Shawn's lips were suddenly on hers and she gave in to the rush of multiple o\*\*\*\*s that he was creating within her. With a sudden desire to return the favor to her husband, she asked him to step out of the tub with her and followed her into the bed, where he agreed with a growl under his breath, kissing her at the same time. "Your wish is my command, sweetheart."

Trying not to rush, they both step out of the wonderful jet streams of water and, leaving wet footprints behind, make their way into the room. Catherine lay down on the bed, and he gently laid himself down on top of her, pressing his body into hers and kissing her lips.

She could feel his body reacting to her, and without thinking twice about it, she rolled him over so that she was now on top and slowly kissed her way from his lips to his neck, his shoulders, and then his chest. "Wife, you don't need to do this..." He groaned.



With a small smile, she answered back, "I have to... I need to make this even."

"Oh, really now?"

"Yes, boss."

Hearing that, Shawn smiled. "How I miss those words from your lips." He halted when she ended up below his navel. "F\*\*k!"

For days, she has been waiting to do this, and now the moment of truth has come.

Catherine gently takes one of his chests in her hand and places her mouth on his nipple and licks, listening to her gentle cries of ecstasy. "Hell, wife!"

"This is payback, Mr. Richmond." She smirked, halted whatever she was doing, and smirked at him. "Enjoy the moment, Shawn? Close your eyes." She demanded.

He followed.

Catherine loved the feel of her broad chest in her hands and the sounds of his moan, and she loved the way he growled his breath.