

## Chapter 151 The Snake Encounter

It was obvious that Holly just wanted to get Westley's attention by lying that she sprained her ankle. Clearly, she didn't strain her ankle or get hurt in any way. She could go around the mountain by herself without needing anyone to watch over her.

But then, there was another force of reluctance in Holly's heart. She didn't want to accept defeat, especially when she saw that Gabrielle had climbed the mountain and had gone very far ahead. She didn't want to look like a weakling who couldn't defeat an ordinary adopted daughter.

"What do you mean, Westley?" Austin asked. He took a brief look at Holly's back before looking at Westley intently.

"All I'm trying to say is that as a man, you should know what your responsibility is and take charge! You should be able to protect the woman that you came with. The topography of the

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Isido Mount is very intricate as we all know. If we are not careful enough, a slight accident could be irreversible," Westley reminded Austin with a stern look on his face.

"Although you're my senior cousin, Westley, I won't take it lightly with you if you criticize me. You don't have the right to do such a thing to me. I know what my responsibility is right here and now, which is to take care of Holly. But you know that she is in love with you. Are you expecting me to follow her around? Or are you going to push her away from you so that you can let me take care of her?" Austin asked. He was furious and he made sure that Westley knew.

"Have you gone crazy, Austin? I'm asking you. I'm a married man for heaven's sake. I have never had any responsibility towards Holly in the past, so why should I now? If she has a crush on me, that's her business and not mine. If I have to respond positively to everyone who has a crush on me, what kind of husband does that make me? I can't possibly be a good man to my wife," Westley said as he sneered at Austin. 4

"You are an evil man and you also

behave like a big fool. You forced Gabrielle to marry you, didn't you? We all know that she never wanted to marry you." Austin clenched his fists tightly as if he wanted to punch Westley at any time.

"I never forced her to marry me. I gave her a choice and she finally chose to be with me. I know you love Gabrielle, but I need you to know that as long as I don't divorce Gabrielle, she will always remain your sister-in-law. The Morris family doesn't allow any kind of immoral relationship within the family. If you want to defend Gabrielle, it depends on whether you can challenge the authority of the Morris family or not," Westley told him ruthlessly. ②

He just wanted this cousin of his to know who he was and also know his boundaries as regards his wife.

"Don't think that I'm afraid of you, Westley. I know what to do and I don't need you to tell me," Austin yelled at him angrily. He was mad at himself for not being able to take Gabrielle from him.

He had seen countless times that

Gabrielle was not happy to stay with Westley and her so-called husband was not interested in keeping her, neither did he want to take care of her.

"You can open your mouth and say that you're not afraid of me, I know that. But the Foster Family is afraid of me. You know that the Foster Group is now fused with the Morris Group, so you should better think twice before you react. I don't want our relationship as brothers in this family to be destroyed, and in the same way, I don't want my aunt trapped in this dilemma," Westley explained to him. He cared about the whole situation. He wanted Austin to know the kind of situation he was in and how to act accordingly.

"You! How dare..."

Austin shouted as he gritted his teeth in anger. He was unable to utter another word.

He felt that what Westley was saying was right. The Foster family as it were, was now half attached to the Morris Group. And since Westley was the CEO of the Morris Group, he could remove the Foster Group anytime or any day he felt

dissatisfied with them.

If this should happen, Austin and his mother would be the ones to suffer for it. It would affect his own home and also his mother's home. Both of them were very important to him.

For this reason, he had to think twice so that he wouldn't dare to ruin the solid relationship between the two families.

"As you're thinking about what I've said, try to catch up with Holly and keep an eye on her. I have to go and look for my wife." As soon as he said these words, he turned around and moved away.

There were several ways to get up to the mountain. Westley knew that Holly had chosen the main one and for this reason, he decided not to go through that way so that he wouldn't have to collide with her again. He chose another path.

Although Westley didn't like climbing the mountain, he had climbed the mountain on several occasions because Zaid and Miley had built their house right at the foot of Isido Mount. As a result of this, he knew his way around the place very well.

So it was a piece of cake for him to find a path to go up the mountain since he knew his way around.

On the other hand, Gabrielle climbed up the mountain so fast in the beginning. She not only left Westley far behind, but also Mia. After a while, she stopped and waited for Mia because she also felt tired.

"How could you have climbed up so fast, Gabrielle. My legs are broken into shreds. Are you tired?" Mia complained as she walked slowly towards her. She was trying to catch her breath. She discovered that Gabrielle wasn't any match for her.

Gabrielle wiped the sweat off her brows and looked at Mia with a smirk on her face. She said to Mia, "Yes, I'm tired. Just a little though. Let's have a rest, shall we?"

"I told you to slow down while running so that you won't be too tired or hurt your legs. Now that you have stopped all of a sudden, your muscles would be easily damaged. Mr. Morris would be worried sick about you by now," Mia teased her. She always looked for an opportunity to talk about Westley to

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Gabrielle.

Only Gabrielle saw when Holly fell into Westley's arms, pretending that she had sprained her ankle, but Mia didn't because she had her back turned to them then.

Gabrielle was happy that Mia didn't see such a scenario because if she did, she would have teased her with it.

"Do you think he worries about anything? Of course not. He doesn't even have the time to worry his head about me," Gabrielle said sarcastically. "Besides, I can take care of myself," she added with a smile.

'He must be still busy with Holly,' she thought to herself silently. She didn't know if Holly's sprain was serious or not. If it was serious, he might have to carry her down the mountain.

The more she thought about how Holly fell into his arms, the more upset she felt.

'Gabrielle, don't think about it anymore. By the way, your marriage with Westley is just a sham. You are not supposed to care about who he hugs and who he

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carries. It is none of your business really!' she tried to reassure herself as she thought deeply.

"Oh, your words are sharp and acidic like vinegar," Mia said as she looked at her with an evil smile.

"Tell me the truth, are you jealous?" Mia peered at her closely still smiling.

"Of course not! Why should I be?"

I don't like being jealous. If you want to continue to climb the mountain, stop talking nonsense before I squeeze your little mouth!" Gabrielle rolled her eyes at Mia and stood up. She continued to climb up the stairs.

Just when she had taken a few steps, she saw some beautiful wildflowers nearby. She wanted to take photos at a close distance, so she walked over carefully with her mobile phone.

But as she moved closer, all of a sudden, she found a thumb-sized cyan snake under the flower branch sticking out its tongue at her, which made her frightened and unable to move.

One of the things she feared most in her



life were snakes. Whether dead or alive, she just didn't like seeing them. She was so scared to see the snake that her legs trembled and she couldn't move an inch.

"What's wrong with you, Gabrielle? Are you okay?" Mia asked immediately when she found out that she was looking at something in fear.

"Mia, snake! There's a snake here! There's a snake! What do you think I should do?" She was so petrified that she couldn't make herself run away. She just stood where she was and was at a loss for what to do.

'What do I do now? Will I die here?' she asked herself as she shook silently. All she could think about was whether she would be bitten by a snake.

"Are you afraid of snakes, Gabrielle?" As Mia looked at her trembling body, she could tell that Gabrielle was afraid. She didn't even need to give her an answer.

"Well, I'm very afraid of snakes. My legs can't move now even if I want to. Will I be bitten? What do we do right now?" she was almost on the verge of crying. She was so scared that her voice was trembling. ①

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"Stay there! Don't move!" A man's voice bellowed from the path in front of Gabrielle.

## Chapter 152 The Savior

The atmosphere was tensed. Fear ruled as Gabrielle was scared to her bones. She couldn't think straight as she wondered what to do about the snake in front of her. When she heard someone telling her not to move, she looked to where the voice had come from, only to find Westley standing in front of her. She was surprised.

He was like her knight in shining armor who had come to save her all of a sudden. Although she was angry at him, all the anger and fear that she felt before then vanished into thin air immediately she saw him.

She knew that as long as Westley was around her, she could feel at ease knowing fully well that he was going to protect her.

"Westley, I..." Her words were incoherent. She was too scared to speak freely. She looked at him and then back at the snake with fear in her eyes.

"Shhh! Try as much as possible not to

make any sound. Now, close your eyes," Westley told her calmly. He knew that she was afraid, for which reason, he had asked her not to speak or look at it. In this way, he could eliminate her fear partially.

In reality, it was a harmless little snake that wasn't poisonous, but those who were scared of snakes would be frightened out of their wits when they encountered snakes regardless of whether they were poisonous or not. ①

Without a second thought, Gabrielle closed her eyes, took a deep breath, and listened carefully to what was going on around her. She did her best to remain calm.

First, she heard the sound of footsteps coming towards her. The feet stepped on the branches and leaves. After a while, she heard the footsteps not too far away, still in front of her. Then everywhere became calm and only the gentle breeze blew her ears.

"You can open your eyes now. I've driven the snake away. It's no..."

Before Westley could finish his statement, Gabrielle had jumped on his

body and held him tightly like an octopus. She held him so tight that her feet and hands were all entangled with his body. ①

"I've already driven the snake away, Gabrielle. It's all right. You're safe now," he said as he reassured her. Westley almost had trouble breathing because he was held so tightly by his wife, but at the same time, he could feel her body trembling badly as she held onto him.

She was so afraid that her whole body shook visibly. 'Was the snake Gabrielle's adversary?' Westley reasoned silently.

"Really? Are you sure?" Gabrielle asked him. She laid her head on his shoulder and looked around carefully. She was relieved when she found that there was no snake anywhere around her.

"It seems like you drove them away. Thank you very much. But wait a minute, aren't you afraid of snakes?" she asked as she gazed at him in surprise.

The warmth of her breath swept over Westley's ear in that instant, which made him unnecessarily angry. ①

The influence that Gabrielle was having

on him was increasing by the day. He felt this was not good for him in any way. ③

Although she knew that her husband had driven the snake away, she still held on to him in fear. She was unwilling to let go of him anytime soon.

"I'm not afraid. By the way, it's not a poisonous snake and so there's nothing to be afraid of," he told her. He wanted to ask her to come down, but he could feel that she was still shaking all over. It showed that she was really frightened by the snake and so he tried to hold her in his arms so that he could calm her down.

He also held her in his arms so that she wouldn't slip off. The way they stood was so embarrassing.

They didn't notice that they were no longer alone. The people around them were so jealous.

Holly and Austin saw both of them immediately they came over. Although they were both angry, they did their best to hold back their anger. ①

In the eyes of others, the relationship between this couple was very affectionate. ③

Holly was so angry that it showed in her eyes. 'How could Gabrielle be this shameless in public?' she thought as she shook her head in dismay. She didn't expect that Gabrielle would ask Westley to hold her in such a manner. Holly wanted to rush up to where they were and pull them apart. 'What rubbish!' Holly sneered. ③

"What's wrong with you, Gabrielle? Are you okay?" Austin asked her calmly. He was much more rational than Holly. He tried his best to calm himself down and also hide the jealousy and anger within him. He didn't want to be seen as an irrational human being.

He believed that Gabrielle wasn't a senseless woman and would never be one, let alone throwing herself on Westley's body.

There must be some sort of misunderstanding between them for her to be this close to Westley. He didn't believe his cousin to be a gentleman, but he believed that Gabrielle wasn't that shallow.

"Austin, you are here." When Gabrielle saw Austin, she became unsettled. She

wanted to get off Westley's body, but he held her so tightly that she could not get off. ①

"Westley, they are all watching us. Can you please put me down first? Please?" ①

She whispered into his ear.

"So you want to abandon me after getting out of trouble. It's not suitable for you to bite the hands that fed you," Westley told her with a mocking smile. He wouldn't be so obedient to her by agreeing with what she said. By the way, her body was still shaking profusely. He didn't want to let her go, or else she would fall to the ground. ②

"I didn't bite the hands that fed me, Westley. You helped me when I needed it and I appreciate it. But can you please put me down first?" she said to him pleadingly. What Gabrielle had said was from the bottom of her heart. She wasn't mincing words.

Westley wouldn't believe what she said. Gabrielle was just an ungrateful woman. She wouldn't remember the moment he was nice to her right now. But when he wasn't nice to her, she would make a fuss about it.



'What an annoying woman!' he thought to himself. ①

"Well, why you are so afraid that Austin would misunderstand you? I'm your husband and you are my wife, Gabrielle! No one would dare oppose us even if we have done something more intimate than this," Westley said in a bossy manner. ⑦

Well, he was a domineering president. It wasn't a new thing to her.

But when Gabrielle thought of the intimate things, she would think about some indescribable scenes in her head. As she thought about this, her face became red.

'You weren't such a lewd woman before, Gabrielle. But you seemed to have changed so much after you married Westley,' she thought to herself silently.

"Let go of me first, Westley," she begged him again. She was hung on his shoulder, and they were still standing in the middle of the wildflowers, with an indescribable feeling.

Meanwhile, Mia, who was standing

beside them all through, had already caught the sweet moment on camera. She planned to make it as a poster for their wedding in the future. ❁

This time, Westley didn't argue with her. He carried Gabrielle to the main road while she looked shyly. When he got to a leveled ground, he put her down. They both stood in front of the people.

"Are you okay, Gabrielle? What happened?" Austin asked anxiously as he looked at her all over.

"I'm fine, Brother Austin. It's just that... I was about to take the photos of some wildflowers up the mountain, but then I saw a snake," Gabrielle explained to him in a low voice. Although her explanation seemed to be invalid, it was nothing but the truth.

Anyone who saw her and Westley holding each other the way they were some seconds ago would think that they had done something indescribable and private.

"Gabrielle, I know you are afraid of snakes the most. Are you okay? Hope the snake didn't bite you?" Austin knew what she liked and also knew what she



was afraid of.

"No, it didn't bite me. I'm okay. All thanks to Westley, he helped me drive away the snake and... Carry me out. My legs are still trembling right now. I don't know if I can go down the mountain by myself," Gabrielle said with embarrassment written all over her face.

"It's okay. I can carry you down," Austin told her without thinking twice. ②

He didn't say this to argue with Westley. He was just used to doing everything and anything for her. And so carrying her down the mountain wasn't a big deal to him.

"I can carry you, Gabrielle. Your lovely husband is here, and so you don't need to be a burden to others," Westley said to her as he wrapped his arms around her shoulders. ⑬



## Chapter 153 A Great Husband

Austin and Westley had been together since childhood. However, their relationship wasn't good. Westley would often bully Austin and take anything that the latter liked. As such, Austin was glaring at him. ③

Westley was a crafty and spiteful person. As such, Austin realized that the man in front of him offended him on purpose.

Although they were at odds against each other, Austin still hoped that Westley wouldn't fall in love with the woman he adored—Gabrielle.

Even though Helena was already dead, Westley was still in love with her. ①

"You don't have to carry me, Austin. I can walk after a short rest. The snake just now scared me. It's a good thing that Westley was there. Otherwise, I have no idea what to do," Gabrielle explained while trying to break the troublesome atmosphere. ①

The two men in front of her weren't fond of one another. Even if Gabrielle weren't involved, Austin and Westley would remain enemies.

However, her presence actually sparked a more intense rivalry for the two men, which worsened their relationship even faster. She never expected that things would turn out that way.

"Well, if Mr. Morris isn't here, I'll be the one to save the damsel in distress. Luckily, he's here." Mia also realized how awkward their situation was becoming.

Gabrielle didn't start the resentment between Austin and Westley. She merely rekindled a rivalry that began a long time ago.

Someone might get hurt if the situation continued.

"Since Gabrielle is my wife, it's only natural that I save her. Nonetheless, please don't wander this dangerous mountain alone. Fortunately, the snake wasn't poisonous. Otherwise, it'll be futile to wait for me to save you," Westley warned Gabrielle in a stern tone.

When she heard his remark, she realized that he pretended to be a caring husband to enrage Austin even more.

After a quick thought, she decided to cooperate with Westley. At least in that, she could control what might happen if the two men lost their tempers.

"I understand. Thank you again for saving me. I stay close to you from now," she replied and obediently nodded.

"Good. Don't leave my side, okay? Are you able to walk now? Can we continue the hike?" Westley asked in a gentle tone.

"May I rest for now and walk later?" Her legs were still trembling. She couldn't walk down the mountain, let alone climb it. But since they were almost at the top, she decided to continue hiking after a short rest.

"We can go down the mountain if you're exhausted." Westley wasn't interested in reaching the mountain top. He had already climbed the Isido Mount more than ten times. As such, the view didn't excite him anymore.

"But we're almost at the top. I want to

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climb and look at the scenery from up there." Her eyes, full of expectations, stared at the mountaintop.

"Why don't I accompany you to the peak of Isido Mount, Gabrielle? The scenery is beautiful. You can even see the whole Antawood from there," Austin offered with a smile. 7

Meanwhile, Westley remained quiet as he glanced at Austin. Then, his sharp eyes stared at Gabrielle, indicating that she should decide what would happen next.

It was up to her to follow Austin or Westley.

The situation was troublesome.

Immediately, her mind went blank. She felt terrible for widening the wedge between the men in front of her.

"I'm sorry, Brother Austin. I can't climb until I rest properly," she declined Austin's offer with a polite smile. Refusing Westley's suggestion would give him a reason to punish her later.

"Gabrielle, I—"

"Mr. Foster, I want to go to the mountain peak now. Can you accompany me?" Mia interjected before Austin could retort. She cooperated with Gabrielle as she realized what the latter was thinking.

Austin and Westley would continue to bicker if they stayed together during the hike.

"Let me come with you, Miss Robinson," Holly said as if declaring her presence.

She remained quiet while the two men were fighting for Gabrielle. However, Holly was already furious deep inside.

At that moment, she realized that Westley paid no attention to her.

Although he had no feelings for Gabrielle, he gave so much attention to her this time. As such, Holly felt enraged.

She was aware that he was only pretending to be a loving husband to Gabrielle to anger Austin.

Nonetheless, Holly still didn't like the situation. Moreover, Westley carried Gabrielle just then. Jealousy made Holly furious.





As such, she had to find a way to calm down. When Mia said she wanted to reach the mountain peak first, Holly used it as an excuse to get some fresh air.

"Miss Edwards, are your feet well rested now? I noticed that you're already exhausted. You don't have to continue climbing if that's the case. You better head to the pavilion and rest with Grandma Miley." Mia realized what Holly was thinking.

The man she adored was giving attention to another woman. It was unbearable for anyone.

Usually, Mia hated people who were affectionate to their partners in public. However, she hoped that Gabrielle's romantic life would be successful.

On the other hand, Holly was tolerant enough of flirting in public.

As such, Mia knew that Gabrielle would lose against Holly's schemes.

Fortunately, Westley was protecting Gabrielle. Otherwise, Holly would have killed her already.

Holly seemed like a gentle and kind



woman. However, she was actually cunning and vile.

Mia offered to continue hiking with Holly so that she could see what the latter would do.

"It's okay. Miss Robinson and I can climb the mountain together. Meanwhile, Westley can accompany Gabrielle while she rests." Holly faked a generous smile.

When Mia noticed it, she felt disgusted at how great Holly was at faking her attitude.

"In that case, let's continue hiking, Miss Edwards. Maybe Gabrielle will get better after spending time with Mr. Morris. He's such a great husband for saving her." Mia purposely praised Westley's relationship with Gabrielle to mock Holly.

Although Mia's words angered her, Holly remained calm and faked a smile. "Indeed. It's no surprise for a responsible man like Westley to be a great husband."



## Chapter 154 I Am Your Savior

Holly's eyes were full of appreciation as she praised Westley. Mia noticed it as she had already met different kinds of people in the elite society over the years. It was easy for her to figure out what someone was thinking just by looking at their eyes.

It seemed that Holly loved Westley so much that she was willing to make him her husband. Her face was obviously flirting whenever she talked to him.

However, he couldn't be her husband. Even if Westley weren't married to Gabrielle, he still wouldn't marry Holly either. Mia already realized that Westley never liked Holly at all.

"Certainly, Mr. Morris is a good person because he saved Gabrielle earlier. However, only she can determine if he's a good husband or not," Mia answered in an ambiguous tone.

Nonetheless, everyone else understood



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what she meant.

"Well, let's start to walk, Miss Robinson." Holly was eager to reach the peak of the mountain. As such, she urged Mia to accompany her.

"Sure. We can leave them for now and go to the top first." There was no need for Mia to stay there as she already got what she wanted.

As such, Holly and Mia resumed hiking. On the other hand, Westley, Austin, and Gabrielle were left behind in an awkward atmosphere.

It seemed better for Gabrielle when there were more people there. Unfortunately, only the three of them remained after Mia and Holly went up. She wanted to leave immediately and reach the top of the mountain with the two women who went first.

"Brother Austin, Mia and Holly are both girls, and they went up with no one else. I'm worried about them. Maybe you should follow them and make sure nothing bad happens. Otherwise, I can't take responsibility," she requested Austin with a worried face. After all, Austin and Westley would snap at each



other again if they remained together.

"I'm sure they're safe, Gabrielle. You said you want to each the peak, right? Let me accompany you." ⑥

"There's no need for that, Brother Austin. I will climb later. You better follow them first. We don't want anything to happen to them, right?" she urged in a pleading tone. ①

When he noticed Westley's stern expression, Austin wanted to say something but decided to keep his mouth shut. Instead, he turned around and climbed the mountain.

Finally, a sigh of relief escaped Gabrielle's breath. With Austin gone, she didn't have to worry about the fight between the two men.

"Why are you so adamant in sending Austin away, Gabrielle? Do you want to be alone with me? Or are you afraid that I'll push Austin down the mountain?" Westley asked in a cold tone as he stared at her relaxed expression. ③

A surprised expression painted her face as she stared at him. 'He realized that I told Austin to go away because I was

afraid that he might throw Austin down the mountain. Surprisingly, he knows me so well.' ①

Since Westley already realized what she did, she had no reason to avoid him.

"Why can't you make peace with Austin, Westley? Although he is your cousin, why do you always fight with him?" Gabrielle was never interested in Westley affairs. Moreover, it wasn't within her rights. Nonetheless, Austin was her friend, and she wanted for them to get along well.

"How dare you meddle with my affair, Gabrielle? Don't think that you can control me just because of our contract. Keep in mind that you're not really my wife." Westley glared at her with callous eyes. ⑤

"I'm just—" Gabrielle looked at him awkwardly as the words failed to escape her mouth. "I know I don't have to right to snoop in your business. It was never my intention. However, I'm not comfortable causing a fight between you and Austin."

"You caused my conflict with him?" Westley scoffed with derision. "You think

too much of yourself, Gabrielle. Austin and I have been arguing since childhood. I'm not messing with him because of you." ⑤

A hint of disappointment flashed across her face when she heard that it wasn't because of her. At that moment, she became sure that Westley was merely pretending to be a good husband.

It seemed that he was doing it to infuriate Austin.

What a petty person!

"What do you look like that? Are you upset about what I said?" he asked when he noticed her frown.

Immediately, she shook her head in embarrassment. "I'm not upset. It's great that I'm not the reason that you two are fighting with each other. Otherwise, it's troubling for me."

Her tone was obviously lying.

"Gabrielle, lying is a sin," he said as he meaningfully stared into her eyes. ③

It was never her intention to lie. The things she hated most were deception

and betrayal. As such, she promised herself to be always truthful.

Unfortunately, Gabrielle realized that she couldn't stay honest with herself whenever Westley was around. ①

"No. I'm not lying!"

Annoyed, she glared at him with a hint of grievance.

At that moment, she wished that she never told Austin to leave them behind. It was better if she climbed first so that she wouldn't have to deal with Westley's troublesome attitude. She should've let Austin and Westley argue with each other.

"So, what are you planning to do? Are you still interested in reaching the peak?" Westley asked.

"It's fine. I can hike alone." When she tried to stand up, her legs weren't trembling anymore. It seemed that her fear had passed.

As Gabrielle walked past him, Westley felt disappointed with himself. He should have talked to her in a much kinder way. ⑩





"Gabrielle, is this how you treat your savior? That snake would've bitten you if it weren't for me." He tried to catch up to her.

Although she was short, Gabrielle was quite a fast walker. She even accelerated when Westley caught up with her. It seemed that she didn't want to talk to him anymore.

"Gabrielle, why are you ignoring me? Stop walking so fast! You'll strain your legs!" He noticed that she was too mad to reply to him. As such, he decided to enrage her even more.

"You told me that I wouldn't die from the snake's bite because it wasn't poisonous. Moreover, I don't care if I break my legs. I'm not going to let you carry me down the mountain," she replied in a stubborn voice.

At that moment, he wanted to pinch her furious face. However, she turned around and continued walking because his hands reached her face.

It seemed that she wanted to avoid him at all cost. She had a ridiculous temper.

"I suggest you listen to me, Gabrielle.

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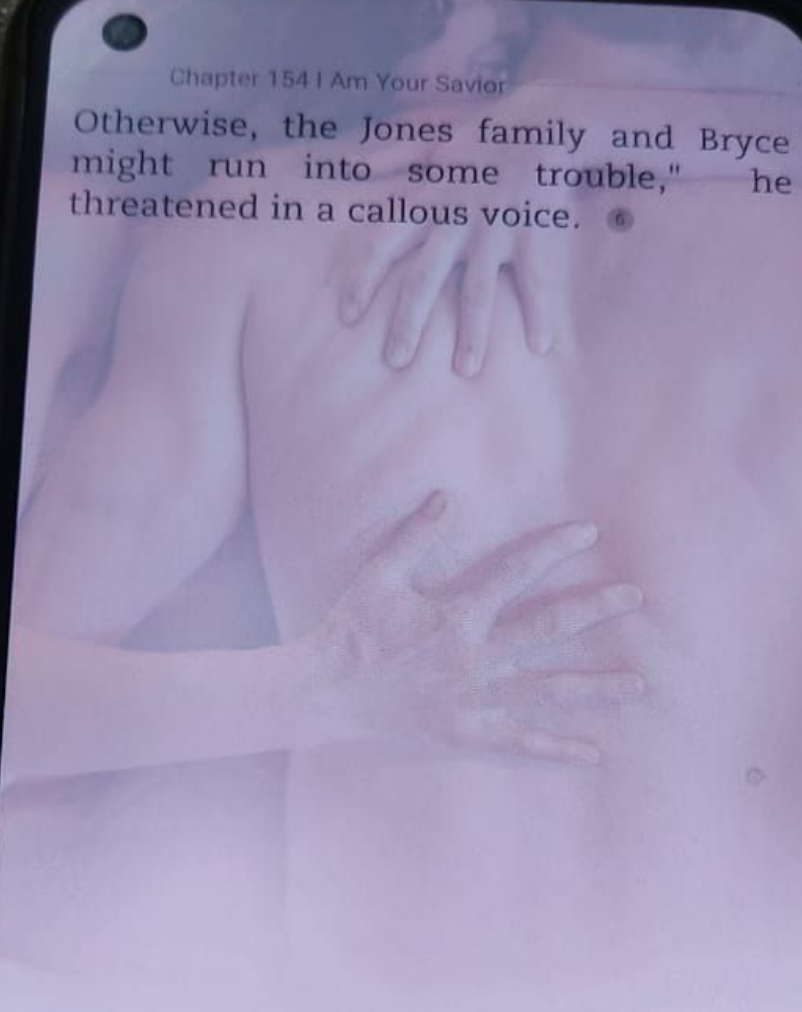
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Otherwise, the Jones family and Bryce might run into some trouble," he threatened in a callous voice. 6



## Chapter 155 Deserted

Hearing Westley mention Bryce and the Jones family, Gabrielle stopped in her tracks. She swiftly turned around to face him, staring right at him with angry eyes.

"What do you mean?" Gabrielle asked, gritting her teeth.

"You know what I mean," Westley smirked. "Now, be a good girl and try not to piss me off so much, understand? You know what happens when you do." The man took a step closer.

The air was oppressive, and they stood on the trail with seething tension.

Gabrielle continued to glare at him, but Westley was as calm as ever. She couldn't put a finger on what he was thinking.

His eyes were like black holes wanting to devour her.

The rage in Gabrielle's heart was almost uncontrollable. She wanted to shout at

him, but she tried her best to calm herself. Finally, after taking a couple of deep breaths, she spoke.

"Westley, you've found my brother, haven't you?" If Lance can find out, then you could've easily found Bryce too. He's in Switzerland, isn't he? Tell me!"

Westley squinted his eyes and gave Gabrielle a cold smile.

"You give me too much credit, Gabrielle." He chuckled. "Hmm, true, I could easily hunt down anyone I want, but where's the fun in that? Since they started this game, then I should play along, right? I'm a very patient guy. But if you keep provoking me, however..." Westley lifted Gabrielle's chin up with a finger. "I decide when it's game over. Got that?"

'Of course, ' Gabrielle thought. 'He's been pulling the strings right from the start.'

Out of nowhere, a heavy gust of mountain wind blew past them, making Gabrielle feel cold all over. Sure enough, Westley had already known where Bryce and Nellie were, but he didn't plan on ending things so quickly. Instead, it seemed he that just wanted to invite more people to participate in the game.

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Gabrielle, for example.

As well as the Jones family.

They'd all become Westley's chess pieces without realizing it. The moment Gabrielle crossed him, her brother and the whole Jones family would be done for.

Bryce and Nellie didn't think of the consequences when they started this whole affair, but Westley had taken them all in the palm of his hand. Like a predator hunting for sport, he could easily kill anyone he wanted, especially when he was in a foul mood.

This man was far more terrifying than Gabrielle had thought. He really was Hades Incarnate. Why on earth did Bryce decide to challenge him? ②

If Gabrielle knew Westley would be like this, she wouldn't have married him.

"Do you even have a heart?" she asked in a quiet, trembling voice.

"Are you trying to pick a fight?" Westley's nonchalant expression slightly falters, but Gabrielle didn't seem to notice.



"I'm not stupid enough to do that," Gabrielle replied, unconsciously eyeing the edge of the trail. If anything happened, she was afraid Westley would push her down the col.

"You're asking me if I have a heart." Westley flashed a knowing smile. "Why, if I didn't, what will you do? Will you teach me about love?"

The change in Westley's tone made her feel somewhat embarrassed. "Forget it!" Gabriel said.

"You never take me seriously." She turned around and started walking.

Love? As if Westley ever could.

"Hey!" Westley called from behind. "Don't leave me hanging here!"

Gabrielle ignored him, but Westley caught up to her, pulling her by the shoulder. "God! I hate it when people don't finish what they start!" In a flash of panic, she furiously jerked her shoulder. Westley's hand fell, but he didn't seem to mind it. Instead, he looked at Gabrielle with great interest.

"Tell me." Gabrielle slowly raised her

head.

With the gentle sun above them, Westley could see his wife's face clearly. No doubt, he thought she was beautiful. Gabrielle might be a bit stubborn and rebellious, but she had the features of a delicate little angel.

"Do you know why Bryce and Nellie eloped?" Gabrielle's voice cut through Westley's thoughts. "It's because they love each other. Your engagement to Nellie was strictly business, and no woman would ever want that," Gabrielle said, clenching her fists. "She didn't love you, and a marriage without love would bear no happiness." ④

"True love, Jesus!" Westley sneered at the young woman's words.

Gabrielle's heart sank, looking at Westley in great disappointment. Her words only fell on deaf ears.

"What do you know of other people's love affairs, Gabrielle? How sure are you that they love each other?" Westley asked in a low voice. "More importantly, what do you know about my previous engagement?" He asked these series of questions calmly, almost in a sarcastic,

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mocking tone. Gabrielle was hit with a sudden realization.

He was right. She didn't know much about the relationship between Bryce and Nellie even up until their elopement.

In fact, she didn't know much about Nellie at all. And her brother... did she ever understand Bryce? Although they had lived together for twenty years, they had never been as open to each other as other siblings were.

And then, when Bryce found out that she had feelings for him, he distanced himself from her. He even thought that Gabrielle was disgusting.

By love or by duty, she wanted to protect Bryce, even going as far as marrying the devilish Westley. Now, she was paying the price for her brother's faults. ①

"See?" Westley reached for a lock of Gabrielle's hair. He twirled it around his finger, looking at his wife scornfully. "This is why you shouldn't talk about things you don't understand."

"I..." Gabrielle opened her mouth, but she was speechless. It was as if there was a lump on her throat, making it hard for



her to speak.

"Holly, Holly!"

Austin's raspy voice echoed from above. He was heard shrieking in a panic, and Westley strode past Gabrielle in an instant. ①

Gabrielle was left alone. She looked at the ground, listening to Westley's footsteps disappear into the distance.

Just now, she seemed to hear that Austin screaming for help. "Holly..." Gabrielle suddenly blurted out. "Oh no..."

Gabrielle picked up her pace to catch up to the top. Something must've happened to Holly. Even so, she felt a little upset that Westley left her all alone.

Thinking back on what happened, Gabrielle thought he must've been angry. A sigh escaped from Gabrielle's lips. She realized she said things she shouldn't have.



## Chapter 156 Accidental Fall

Holly accidentally slipped into a col which was about four or five meters' depth. She landed with a thud and looked above sadly as she got bruises on her face.

Anyone jumped from such a height would be severely injured.

Gabrielle was distressed. Fortunately, Holly didn't roll down from the cliff or fall into a deeper col where retrieving her alive would be an impossible task.

"Westley! Westley, it hurts a lot. I think my foot is fractured," Holly screamed in pain.

Judging by the sense of fear from Holly's voice, Gabrielle could tell that she was in a severe pain. Though the col wasn't as deep as others, it was easy to get hurt, because of the large number of stones.

"Holly, please don't move. Try to stay calm there. I'll find a solution to save you." Westley leaned over the edge and



looked down at Holly and tried to comfort her, hoping that she wouldn't be too intense, which would hurt her more.

"Westley, I will stay, but I'm scared..."

"Don't be scared. It's not deep. Stay calm. I can help you." Westley tried to comfort her as a friend.

No matter whatever impression Holly held on him, Westley always regarded her as an acquaintance and the cousin of Helena. Without any doubt Westley decided to save her.

"Holly, stay there. Can you feel your legs?" Although Austin wasn't fond of Holly, he was worried about her when she fell into the hole because he was the one who accompanied her all the way up here.

"I think my leg is broken. I'm just afraid." Holly was terrified.

Once a woman dressed up as a weak, it was easy to seduce men's desire to protect her.

But Westley and Austin wasn't bothered. All they wanted was to not get into trouble.



After all, if something happened to Holly, they could never get rid of it.

"Don't be afraid. I will save you and return you safely to the hospital to heal your leg." Westley was observing the height and surroundings of the hole.

"I'll go down," Austin said. He sensed that there was a conflict between Westley and Gabrielle, and both of them were reluctant to talk to each other.

Without a proper communication, it didn't felt right to let Westley down first. Although Austin didn't like him, he didn't want Gabrielle and Westley to have conflicts because of Holly.

Austin liked Gabrielle. If anything happened to Westley, he knew Gabrielle wouldn't be happy. Austin wanted her to be happy. ①

"Austin, you shouldn't come down here. You just hurt your hand, didn't you? If you come down, we both won't be able to reach up." Holly stopped him as soon as she heard that Austin was the one to come down to save her. ⑤

Austin paused and looked at his right



arm. When he was trying to protect Holly from slipping away from his hands, his arm was pressed hard on a sharp stone. Because of the excruciating pain from the injury caused by the sharp stone, his strength wasn't sufficient to save Holly from slipping.

"Austin, are you hurt?" Gabrielle frowned and she looked at Austin worried.

Austin looked at her with a calm face. "I'm fine, Gabrielle. It is just a minor injury."

"I'll climb down and help her." Gabrielle was concerned about Austin's injury. Westley was annoyed at them and went down the path beside.

He remembered that there was a small hole beside the hole, so he planned to go through it.

Gabrielle felt guilty and restless looking at Westley's ignorance. Gabrielle felt that Westley was angry towards her as if she had done something wrong to him.

"Gabrielle, what's wrong with you and Mr. Morris? You two just showed affection in public. What happened all of a sudden? Is there any conflict between



you two?" Mia whispered to Gabrielle.

'Did I have conflict with Westley?

It wasn't exactly a conflict. We just had a disagreement.

I will not admit that I had a conflict with him,' Gabrielle thought.

"How did Holly fall down? The road is wide enough." Gabrielle quickly averted the topic.

"I am not sure. I particularly don't like this woman. I was trying to keep space between us since the moment I started climbing either by going ahead or behind her. I just wanted to enjoy the flowers. She kept pestering about you and your relationship with Westley. I didn't want to share my good friend's affairs with her. Austin was the one who accompanied her. Isn't it odd? She fell into such a shallow hole when we were about to reach the top of the mountain."

"Mia, don't say that." Gabrielle was scared while thinking about falling into a deep pit or from the mountain. Even if it was Holly, she didn't want her to fall down the mountain and lose her life. She wasn't that vicious.

"Why not? I'm telling the truth. She happened to fall into such a shallow hole. It wasn't that deep, just about four or five meters' depth, just deep enough to injure people and not get killed." Mia's intention about people's mind was always quite precise. Although it sounded frightening, there was absolutely no malice in her words.

"Mia, don't think too much. No one wants to hurt themselves." It didn't occur to Gabrielle that Holly fell down on purpose. After all, she was a proud woman when it came to her beauty and why would she intentionally hurt her face?

"You are too naive. Do you know what is Battered-Body Trick? And now your husband had fallen for her trick." Mia pinched Gabrielle's face.

This silly girl was not as cunning as Holly. She was too naive to trick others.

"I..."

"Mr. Morris didn't go in, did he? How about we call the police and ask the rescue team to go into the mountain to help you, Miss Edwards? If you stay there



long, your injury will become more complicated. Didn't you mention that your leg might be broken? If you don't get the treatment soon, you may never be able to stand up. And your face seems to have a few wounds, isn't it? If they leave scars accidentally after the wounds have been treated, you will no longer stay beautiful like now."

Mia shouted that on purpose.

No matter how strong Holly's mind was, she couldn't resist what Mia said. Her words felt like stabbing a knife into her heart.

On the other hand, she would never allow anyone to call the police. Once they called the police, her image would be destroyed. ①

She just returned, and her studio business had just started. Her public image was still being maintained. It wouldn't be good for her if such a thing was exposed to the public.

'Sure enough, Gabrielle's friends are all uneducated people, so Mia could not be a good woman,' thought Holly. ③

"No, don't call the police. I am sure



Chapter 156 Accidental Fall

Westley will help me out of this place."  
Holly accentuated Westley's name on  
purpose. ①



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