

Chapter 183 A Selfish Trick

Gabrielle was anxious. Several horrible scenarios ran through her head. What if Holly was caught by some human traffickers? What if they forced her into prostitution? Or worse, what if they harvested her organs for money?

It's not so uncommon after all. Every year, 2 million people go missing, most of them children and beautiful girls like Holly.

Even if she didn't stumble upon shady businesses, a person with evil intentions could easily take her away.

What was more, she disappeared from a small town in the middle of nowhere. It wouldn't be so easy to find who could've kidnapped her. These scary thoughts made Gabrielle's head spin.

She and Holly didn't get along very well, but her disappearance would be the talk of the century.

"What if something bad happened to

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her?" Gabrielle asked, turning to Westley.

"Let's look for Holly first. She's still injured. She couldn't have gotten too far.

"Westley quietly spoke.

He wondered why Holly would go out with while nursing an injury.

Did someone really snatch her?

He didn't take Holly to be so stupid to go with a stranger.

"I'm afraid that she might've asked someone for a lift. There aren't much CCTVs in this countryside. Catching her on video would have been difficult. Let's look for her together," Gabrielle offered. She didn't hate Holly enough to just leave her alone.

"I want to help you, too." Mia raised her hand. Holly was a huge annoyance, and she really didn't want to look for her at all. In her mind, she wished that Holly would disappear and not ever come back. But Gabrielle offered to help look for her, and Mia couldn't just act like she was narrow-minded.

"No. Just stay at home. It would be troublesome for us if anything happens

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to you too," Westley flatly refused their request.

One missing girl was already a problem.

"I understand." Gabrielle looked at Mia then at Westley. "Please bring her back. If you get any new clues, tell us as soon as possi—hold on."

Gabrielle's eyes lit up. "Is Holly familiar with this town?"

"Kind of. She's been here several times. What do you want to ask?" Westley answered, getting ready to go.

"No, you can go now. We'll wait for you here." Gabrielle stopped herself, but there was a suspicion growing in her chest. ①

The three men went out, leaving Gabrielle, Mia, and Miley at home. They sat on the sofa in the living room, looking worried.

"Grandma, don't worry. Holly will come back. They'll find her for sure." Gabrielle brushing the old woman's arm to assure her.

It would be bad for heart if she worried

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too much.

"I know, Gabrielle, but..." Miley's voice trembled. "If something bad happens to Holly, I would never be able to face the Edwards family." The old woman blamed herself.

"Grandma, it's not your fault! Holly's an adult. She went out of the room by herself." Mia suspected that Holly planned on leaving without saying anything to attract everyone's attention.

It didn't make sense for an injured person to leave without even a cellphone. The most rational thing to do was stay at home.

She knew how shady people could be, but Holly wasn't far off from it. That girl always seemed to harbor bad intentions.

"We can't say that for sure." Miley was very particular about the conflicts between the families involved. If something happened to the younger generation, it would bring out a lot of past issues.

What was more, it would further strain the Collins's and the Edwards's relationship with each other. Helena died

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because of Westley. If something terrible happened to Holly this time, Miley would truly be unable to handle it.

"Grandma, please rest first," Gabrielle said, pulling her carefully. The old woman's melancholic expression made her sad as well.

"Let's get you to your room. I'll call you when we get any news."

"Okay..." Miley nodded. She was really tired from the series of horrible things happening around.

Gabrielle stood up and took her hand. "Thank you." Miley gave a small smile.

"Oh, right, Gabrielle. I've cooked the noodles for you. They are in the kitchen and it's good to eat now. You haven't eaten the whole day, have you? You must be starving."

"Mm, I'll eat them in a while." The young woman smiled. "Let's go first." Gabrielle was grateful. In truth, her stomach was aching from hunger.

After taking her grandmother to the bedroom, Gabrielle came back and sat beside Mia.

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"Gabrielle, isn't it fishy? Holly must've done this on purpose," Mia said, folding her arms. "That attention seeker! She sure doesn't want to be ignored. After all, she wanted to go fishing with us, NS Mr. Morris shot her down." Mia went on, "She's so troublesome! Just because things didn't go like she wanted, she's burdening us with this." ①

"Although it seems ridiculous, I can't deny the possibility." Gabrielle sighed and Mia looked at her with wide eyes.

Holly was a known schemer. She wouldn't do anything reckless.

Unless she planned on doing it perfectly.

"If it's like that, then there's nothing to worry about." Gabrielle's lips turned up. "Holly won't put herself in such a dangerous position.

"That's exactly what I think. The guys went into town to find her, but I think she's hiding somewhere close." Mia stuck her nose in the air. "Hmp! I hate her so much. When I find her, I will definitely teach her a lesson!" Mia disliked manipulative people with a passion. ④

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Holly was no exception.

"She couldn't have gone far by herself. But she might've asked around for someone to help her." Gabrielle sneered, all the worry she had before melting away.

"Do you want to look for her?"

Mia asked.

"Later. I'm famished." Gabrielle answered coldly. She stood up and started walking toward the kitchen. "Holly won't die so easily anyway." ❖

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Chapter 184 Holly's Trick

Gabrielle went to the kitchen and saw that there were two bowls of noodles on the counter. She guessed that one of them was for Holly. It was when Miley finished cooking and came out to ask Holly to eat the noodles that she found out that Holly was missing.

Since she was nowhere to be found yet, Gabrielle took out the two bowls of noodles and put one in front of Mia for her to eat.

"Are you really in the mood to eat noodles, Gabrielle? Is this for me?" Mia asked her as she first looked at the bowl of noodles in front of her, then at Gabrielle.

Even at this critical moment, she was still in the mood to eat the noodles.

"Wait, you mean I should look for her on an empty stomach? I'm not that great. I can't abandon my meal just because of her. By the way, we both know how Holly can be. She might just be playing her trick. Just let her stay outside for a

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while. We'll go to look for her when we are done eating the noodles." As she said this, she stirred the noodles, and the aroma was particularly inviting.

"You know this place is quite wide. Are you sure that we will be able to find her at once?" Mia was a little curious and all of a sudden, she felt that Gabrielle was shining.

"Well, I have a way to find her. Don't bother your head about that right now. This is the scallion noodles cooked by grandma. It's the most delicious noodles I've ever tasted. Try it and see," Gabrielle urged her to eat as she began to gulp down the food in her bowl.

Mia was a bit skeptical, but once she tasted it, she fell in love with the noodles right away. They finished their food in a good mood.

"So tell me, Gabrielle, what are you going to do?" Mia asked her as she burped with satisfaction.

"Well, I plan to borrow a dog from our neighbor." She had seen a shepherd dog in their neighbor's house before and felt that using the dog in their search would make their work a whole lot easier.

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Immediately she said this, Mia understood what she was going to do and followed her out immediately.

They didn't know how the relationship between Miley and her neighbors was, and for this reason, they stood outside the neighbors' yard uneasily.

"Woof, woof, woof..."

The shepherd dog barked loudly inside, which got them scared.

"Don't bark, Black! Be polite." A boy spoke in a bid to calm the dog.

At that moment, the dog stopped barking. A boy of about twelve or thirteen years old walked out of the inner room and looked at them in front of the wooden door.

"Good day, sisters. What can I do for you? Is Miley okay? Does she need any help?" he asked them in a calm tone. The boy was quite handsome and was also very polite. The way he spoke showed that he was well brought up.

"Wow! You know who we are?" Gabrielle exclaimed. She was surprised and excited at the same time.

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"Yes, I have met you in the yard before. I know Miley's grandsons, so you should be their friends. What do you need me to do for you?" he asked again. The boy was polite.

"Does this dog listen to your every command?" Gabrielle asked him. As she looked at the big shepherd dog, she was a little afraid of it.

"Yes. I was the one who raised her. Do you want to borrow Black for something?" The boy was very smart. He knew that she and Mia came here to borrow Black as soon as he heard her ask about the dog.

"Yes, I'd like to. A friend of mine might have lost her way in the mountain behind, but she didn't go with her cell phone. I'm very worried about her and I thought that I could borrow Black to look for her. Can you do that for us? It will also be better if you come with us. I will give you a gift as my gratitude to you," Gabrielle said to him with a broad smile on her face.

"Of course, you can. Just wait here for me for a few minutes. I'm going to get the permission of my family and also let

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them know where I'm going." As soon as he said this, the boy ran back to his room and soon came out with a rope holding Black's neck.

"Thank you very much, handsome boy. I appreciate your very kind gesture."

"There's no problem about that, sister. My name is Tucker."

"Hello, Tucker! My name is Gabrielle."

"And I'm Mia."

The three of them, together with the dog walked towards Miley's farmhouse. They were afraid that the dog would disturb Miley and because of that, Gabrielle went into the room alone to take Holly's phone and coat which were on the sofa. Then she went outside with it and put the coat in front of Black and made her smell it.

"Woof, woof, woof..." As soon as Black was done smelling it, she cried out excitedly.

Gabrielle and Mia took a brief look at each other and smiled broadly. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, it was a correct and practical way to have turned to Black for

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help. Everyone was worried sick that Holly could have been kidnapped before, and they had never thought that it was just a trick being played out by her, so they had to hurry to look for her somewhere else before she got hurt. ②

"Gabrielle, Mia! It seems Black should know where your friend is," Tucker said gleefully as he looked at them

"Well, let Black bring us to find our friend. We are afraid that something bad might happen to her if she got lost for a very long time," Gabrielle said with a calm aura around her.

"It seems that we are right, Gabrielle. I believe that Holly hasn't gone far at all. She might just be at the back of the mountain. After all, that place is so big that it won't be easy to find in the mountain." Mia hated this woman called Holly even more. She felt that she would be sensible enough not to cause such big trouble. She would be bound to come back by herself if there was heavy rain today. 'I still don't understand why a woman as learned as she is would behave in such a foolish way,' Mia thought as she sucked her teeth angrily.

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Under Black's lead, the three of them entered the mountain from behind. The forest had been well preserved without excessive logging, and as a result of this, there were many bushes and dense leaves.

After they had walked along a small mountain road for about twenty minutes, they saw a natural mountain lake. The lake was not that big. It was only about half as big as a playground.

"Woof, woof, woof..." Black barked towards the opposite direction of the lake.

The three of them stretched their eyes and looked over. They saw a person sitting on a rock right across the lake.

Well, wasn't that the Holly that they were looking for?

It was obvious that the most dangerous place was the safest place. This stupid woman found such a suitable place to play the trick of disappearing! ②

Since they had found her, Gabrielle had to fulfill her wish. Everyone was worried about her, and her grandmother was about to be pissed off.

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While everyone in the house was worried sick about her, this woman was sitting on a big rock by the lakeside and enjoying the scenery effortlessly.

"Tucker, I want to ask Black for a favor, can I do that?"

"Sure, you can."

As soon as Black barked, Holly heard the voice, but she didn't see anyone. Only the mountain wind blew, which made Holly feel a little uneasy all of a sudden.

Although she had been to this mountain before, she was in the mountains and old forests.

She felt cold after sitting here for a long time, especially when she heard some unknown sound that she could not decipher.

At that moment, she felt some kind of regret that she had come to the mountain alone. 'What was I even thinking when I thought about this? Hasn't Westley found out that I have disappeared from the house? Or are they still fishing by the river? How long would I have to wait here before he comes to

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find me?' Holly asked herself endless questions without getting answers to any. 8

If they didn't go back until it was dark, would she sit here alone until it became dark too?

"Woo... Woo..."

All of a sudden, she was awoken from her reverie by a strange voice again. She was so afraid about it that she was trembling visibly.

Maybe it was the sound of the wind. After all, the wind here was strong, so the sound of it would be very loud.

'It must be the mountain wind!

Holly, don't think too much about it. It's nothing,' she tried to calm herself.

"Woo..."

This voice was like a woman's low cry. It did not sound like the mountain wind at all, which made Holly scared again. She looked around her and didn't see anything sinister.

'Is there now a ghost in the mountain? But it's daytime now. It won't come out.'

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