

## **An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 826**

### Chapter 826

When Dustin finally opened his eyes again, he was in the hospital.

It seems that the toxin within him had finally stabilized. But things still weren't looking up for

him.

"You're awake, dear?" a surprised voice sounded beside him.

When Dustin turned around, he found Natasha sitting by his bedside. Worry was evident on her beautiful face.

"Natasha, why are you here?" Dustin was shocked.

"I heard from Nelson that you fainted. Of course, I had to come over to check on you. What's the matter? Are you feeling uncomfortable anywhere?" Natasha asked, concerned.

"I'm fine. I guess I was just exhausted, so I dozed off." Dustin pretended to be relaxed.

"Exhausted? Poisoned, more like," Nelson muttered.

"Shut up!" Dustin glared at him.

"Poisoned? What happened?" Natasha asked, furrowing her brow.

"It's just a little poison. It isn't serious. I'll be fine after taking some medications." Dustin chuckled. "Are you sure?" Natasha was doubtful.

"What? Don't you trust my medical skills? I can't say that I can bring the dead back to life. But I'm confident I have what it takes to treat illnesses and remedy poisonings." Dustin looked confident. "You've got a point there." Natasha sighed in relief.

Ever since she got to know Dustin, he could handle all sorts of complex illnesses. A little poison shouldn't be of too much concern.

“Alright, don’t worry about me. You should take better care of yourself! Look at you. I haven’t seen you in a few days, and you’re already starting to look exhausted.” Dustin changed the topic.

“I look exhausted? Do I?”

Natasha immediately pulled out a compact mirror to have a look at herself. Women were always very concerned about how they looked.

“Nelson ...”

Right then, a pregnant lady walked in with a little girl who looked around five years old.

“Why are you here?” Nelson obviously hadn’t expected to see them.

“Daddy!” the little girl cried happily and jumped into Nelson’s arms.

“Oh! My Sweet darling!” Nelson beamed and picked up the little girl, kissing her cheek.

“Nelson, you’ve been in the hospital for the entire day. You haven’t had anything to eat yet, have you? I brought you all something to eat.” As Cecilia spoke, she gave him a lunchbox.

“Why did you go through all that trouble? I’m a grown man. I won’t starve just because I’ve skipped

1/2

a meal.”

Though Nelson complained, he couldn’t seem to hide the wide smile on his face.

“You’re a big guy and can handle skipping a meal. But we can’t let Mr. Rhys go hungry,” Cecilia

retorted.

“Oh, that’s true! I nearly forgot about Sir Rhys!”

Nelson knocked his head and quickly turned to smile apologetically at Dustin. "Sir Rhys, I'd like to introduce you to my wife, Cecilia, and my daughter, Haley."

"Hello, Cecilia." Dustin nodded at her with a smile.

"Mr. Rhys, I've prepared a simple meal. I hope it'll suit your taste," she said shyly.

Dustin might be young, but he was still her husband's boss.

"Uncle Dustin, my mom makes the best food! Quick! Try it!" Haley urged, excitement showing on

her face.

"Is that so? Then I'll have to give it a taste!"

Dustin smiled and took the lunchbox. Then, he took a big bite of the food.

"It really is delicious!" he praised.

"See, I wasn't lying, right?" Haley giggled as she looked up at Dustin, appearing very proud of

herself.

"Mr. Rhys, I have a request. I hope you'll be able to grant it," Cecilia said hesitantly.

"Please go ahead, Cecilia."

Dustin put down the food and looked at her with a serious expression.

"It's Haley's birthday tomorrow. I'd like to request a day off for Nelson so he can take her to a theme park for some fun," she said carefully.

"I'd thought it was something serious. Of course, that wouldn't be a problem!" Dustin agreed with a

smile.

“Yay! We’re going to the theme park tomorrow!” Haley cheered excitedly when she heard Dustin’s reply.

She didn’t forget to thank him sincerely too. “Thank you, Uncle Dustin! I wish you the best of luck and happiness and that you can rest in peace.”

“Rest in peace?” Natasha was first taken aback for a moment before she burst into laughter.

The child was too entertaining!

“What nonsense are you spouting? I think you mean to wish him a good and peaceful rest!” Nelson shot her a look and quickly corrected her.

“I’m so sorry, Mr. Rhys! She didn’t mean what she said. Please don’t take it to heart,” Cecilia immediately apologized.

She worried he might be offended to hear something like that when he was hospitalized.

“That’s alright. She means no harm.” Dustin smiled warmly, not offended in the least.

“Uncle Dustin, it’s my birthday tomorrow. Will you join us to celebrate my birthday?” Haley cocked her head and asked innocently.

“Sure! I’ll be there!” Dustin ruffled her hair affectionately and agreed with a smile.

“Awesome!” Haley jumped with joy.

“Haley, you invited Uncle Dustin. What about me?” Natasha teased.

“You’re welcome to join, pretty lady!” Haley nodded enthusiastically.

“You’re such an adorable child! I’ve got a gift for you!”

As Natasha spoke, she pulled out an intricate crystal necklace and placed it in Haley’s hand.

Then, she asked her with a smile, “Do you like it?”

“I do! Thank you, pretty lady!”

Haley quickly planted a kiss on Natasha's cheek, making her giggle.

"Miss Harmon, the necklace is too expensive for Haley! You should keep it!" Nelson was shocked.

"I can't take back a gift that I've given her! Besides, it's just a necklace. It isn't worth much." Natasha patted Haley on the head.

"Well, thank you then, Miss Harmon." Nelson smiled politely at her.

The crystal necklace was worth millions, and she gave it out so easily. Nelson was impressed by her generosity.

"Haley, do you know if it's a younger brother or a younger sister in Mommy's tummy?" Natasha asked jokingly.

"Um..." Haley scratched her head. In the end, she said, "It doesn't matter. I'll love him or her a lot either way."

The adults smiled at each other when they heard that. They were amazed at how clever the child

was.

"When will you be having a baby too, pretty lady?" Haley asked earnestly.

"Me?" Natasha was caught off guard.

She shot Dustin a gaze before chuckling. "Well, I can't have a baby by myself. You'll have to ask Uncle Dustin about that. See if he agrees to it."

"Uncle Dustin, why won't you have a baby with her?" Haley turned to look at Dustin.

"Well ..." Dustin found himself momentarily speechless. He looked at her awkwardly.

He wasn't affected by her wishing him to rest in peace. But now, she threw him such a tough question to answer?

"Do you not want a baby with the pretty lady because you don't like her?" Haley asked again. "Hmm?" Natasha looked at Dustin with her arms crossed.

"I do! Of course, I do like her," Dustin said with a nervous smile.

"Are kids these days all so mature?" he wondered.

"Well, if you like her, then why won't you have a baby with her?" Haley asked.

"We're not married yet. We'll have a baby after we get married," Dustin forced an answer.

"And when will you get married?" Haley seemed relentless.

Dustin was stumped.

"Can we please change the conversation, kiddo? I'm begging you!" Dustin silently pleaded in his

head.

Chapter 828

"Alright, Haley. Don't make things difficult for Uncle Dustin. Look, his forehead is already dripping with sweat." Natasha couldn't help but laugh, trying to save Dustin from embarrassment.

Only he would get bullied by a child so badly.

"Uncle Dustin, you're sweating? Let me wipe your forehead." Haley took out a couple of tissues and began to dab at Dustin's forehead.

"Haley, it's getting dark. You should head back with Mom," Nelson interjected.

"But I still want to talk to Uncle Dustin." Haley seemed reluctant to go.

"It's your birthday tomorrow, right? We can talk more tomorrow," Dustin hurriedly added.

"Really?" Haley's face lit up with joy.

"Of course." Dustin nodded seriously.

"Pinky promise," Haley said while sticking out her pinky finger.

"I promise." Dustin smiled and hooked his pinky with hers.

"Uncle Dustin, I want to tell you a secret." After linking pinkies, Haley leaned close to Dustin's ear.

She whispered, "Dad keeps coughing a lot these days. He must be sick. Could you take good care of him for me?"

"Of course." Dustin nodded with a smile.

"Here, this is a transformer I just bought. I want to give it to you." Haley took out a toy and thrust it to Dustin.

"If you're in trouble, you can use it to transform into Mister Strong. Take care of my father and maintain world peace."

Dustin broke into laughter. "Okay. I'll transform into Mister Strong and take care of your father." This little girl was such a funny kid.

"Then it's a deal. Bye!" Haley waved. Then, she followed her mother and left happily.

"Nelson, I really can't imagine how your daughter is so cute when you're so tough and brawny." Dustin was envious.

"Heh, she got it from her mother." Nelson laughed, looking proud.

Although his little girl was a chatterbox, she was a considerate angel.

"It looks like your wife is going to give birth any time now. For now, you don't have to personally see the gang's matters. Spend more time with your wife and child. Pregnant women need extra care," Dustin reminded him.

"Thanks, Sir Rhys. I'll do that." Nelson nodded with a smile.

While the two were speaking, a beautiful woman suddenly walked in.

When Dustin raised his head, his expression froze.

1/2

It was none other than Dahlia!

"What are you doing here?" Natasha raised an eyebrow as her smile disappeared.

"I heard Dustin was sick, so I came to see him." Dahlia plopped a fruit basket on the table.

"Naturally, I should be the one to take care of him when he's sick. You don't need to worry about him," Natasha said lightly.

"Ms. Harmon, you were born with a silver spoon in your mouth. You've never gotten your hands dirty. So, you may not know how to take care of someone properly," Dahlia replied coldly.

"Hmph, even if I'm useless, I'm still better than a certain ungrateful someone," Natasha retorted sarcastically.

Dahlia frowned slightly. She didn't have the patience to continue bickering, so she walked straight to the bed.

She hesitated for a moment before saying, "Dustin, how are you? Where are you hurt?"

"Thanks for the concern, Ms. Nicholson, but I'm fine," Dustin said indifferently.

"Good" Dahlia sighed in relief before continuing, "I wanted to talk to you about what happened that night."

"What's there to talk about? It's all in the past." Dustin remained unmoved.

Chapter 829



"That night, I was too impulsive and unintentionally hit you. I should apologize." Dahlia bit her lip.

Changing the topic, she continued, "Nonetheless, everything I do is for your own good. Mr. Killian comes from a prominent background. If you hit him, you'd only cause trouble for yourself."

"Gavin does have some status, but that doesn't mean I fear him," Dustin said indifferently.

"Dustin, Mr. Killian isn't as ordinary as you think. You can't afford to offend someone as important as him!" Dahlia warned.

Gavin was a successful young man from an influential family. He also has a high rank and even commanded a massive troop.

With just one order, he could command the entire troop to go against someone.

To offend someone like that was equivalent to digging one's own grave.

"You can think whatever you want. If you think I can't afford to offend him, then so be it." Dustin didn't want to explain himself.

He knew that no matter what he said, Dahlia wouldn't believe him.

"What? You're still mad at me?" Dahlia frowned.

"Why would I be? You have no ties to me. There's no need to get mad," Dustin said expressionlessly.

"No ties? What do you mean by that? Are you going to keep treating me as an outsider?" Dahlia said with a cold expression.

"Duh." Dustin shrugged.

"Dustin, don't you have a conscience?!" Dahlia was getting angry.

"All I did was slap you. If you're still upset, then slap me in return. If one slap isn't enough, then give me two. If two isn't enough, then give me ten. I'll stand still and let you vent your anger until you're satisfied. Would that work?"

Yes, she had indeed lost control and hit him. But she'd already apologized.

Did he have to hold a grudge and refuse to let go?

Not to mention, because of the mess Dustin caused, she had to make compromises for everyone's sake. She had to persuade Gavin and apologize to him.

Only then did Gavin's anger die down, and he stopped pursuing the matter.

If she hadn't done that, Dustin would be in hot water!

Everything she did was in hopes that he would be fine.

She didn't understand where she had gone wrong.

"Dahlia, it seems like you still don't understand the big picture. It's not the slap I care about. It's how you've never trusted me," Dustin said solemnly,

1/2

He added, "You were like this back then, and you're still like this now. No matter how many things happen, you never change."

"How do you expect me to trust you? I saw it with my own eyes. Could that have been fake?"

Dahlia raised her eyebrows in anger.

She'd already lowered herself to apologize. Must he try to rip her of her dignity?

"Whatever. Pretend I never said anything." Dustin shook his head, looking disappointed.

As he thought, she was still the same.

"You are impossible to reason with!" Dahlia gritted her teeth. She was so mad that she just turned around and left.

When she reached the door, she stopped abruptly.

She took a deep breath and said coldly, "Dustin, today is my mother's birthday. I'm throwing her a banquet in the Lunos Hotel. I hope you'll come. If you don't, then we'll never see each other again!"

With that, she walked out.

That was her final warning. The last glimmer of hope between them.

Whether they stayed together and walked away from each other was up to Dustin.

"Your little girlfriend seems really angry. What, you're not going to try to talk her down?" Natasha teased with a smirk.

"Let her be mad. It has nothing to do with me." Dustin rolled his eyes. He didn't have the patience

to deal with that.

"Hmph, at least you have some backbone!" Natasha nodded with satisfaction.

If he desperately tried to appease her just after getting slapped two days ago, then he really didn't have a single shred of dignity.

"Sir Rhys, there's good news!"

At that moment, Felix-the guildmaster of the Charging Tiger Guild-suddenly ran over. He was

overjoyed.

"What good news?" Dustin was surprised.

"We found him ... We found Sir Paul's killer!"

## Chapter 830

"You found him?" Dustin's expression turned grim. "Who was it?!"

"An assassin from Shadowlayer. He'd laid low in the Hill family for many years. Today, when Sir Paul had his guard down, he drugged and killed him!" Felix reported.

"It was the Shadowlayer again?" Dustin frowned slightly. "Where's the murderer? Were you able to track him down?"

"According to our investigation, he's hiding in a house at the foot of Mount Shinefield," Felix answered.

"Gather all the elite warriors in the gang and head to Mount Shinefield for a manhunt! We can't let him get away!" Dustin ordered.

"Yes, sir!" Felix said. He turned around and left.

Twenty minutes later, Dustin led over a hundred elite members of the Kirin Gang. They charged their way up Mount Shinefield.

In order to not spook the target, they didn't notify anyone else. This operation was kept under close wraps.

When they got to Mount Shinefield, the sky was almost completely dark.

Yesterday, Mount Shinefield was bustling with excitement because of the Knighthood Society tournament.

Yet, it seemed very deserted tonight.

Gazing at the horizon, the entire mountain was pitch black. It looked like a deep abyss, ready to swallow its victims.

Dim moonlight fell on the ground, casting blinking light.

"Dear, I think something's not right here," Natasha suddenly said after everyone got down from the car.

"What's not right?" Dustin swept his gaze over the surroundings. He began to survey it carefully. "It's too quiet." Natasha shook her head. "A mountain should be teeming with animals, but if you listen closely, you can't hear a single sound."

Her intuition was telling her that something was amiss.

"Ms. Harmon, it's already dark. The animals have to rest too, right? What's strange about it?" Nelson said, unconcerned.

"Don't you know that many animals are nocturnal?" Natasha frowned slightly.

"Really?" Nelson was dumbfounded. He never graduated middle school, so he really hadn't known.

"Wait." Suddenly, Dustin's eyes widened.

He noticed a faint glimmer of light in the dark forest. It was so subtle that an ordinary person wouldn't have noticed it.

1/2

However, he was certain that it was a reflection of a gun's scope!

"Watch out!" Sensing something was amiss, he immediately pushed Natasha to the ground. As Dustin reacted, a spark flashed in the dark forest, followed closely by a gunshot.

One armor-piercing bullet after another suddenly shot out from the darkness. They narrowly missed Dustin's body. It ended up hitting the car instead.

With a loud boom, there was another explosion.

The entire car was riddled with holes. The sheer impact was causing it to sway from side to side.

Nelson was momentarily stunned. He then let out a furious roar, "This is an ambush! Those f\*ckers!"

As soon as he finished speaking, more gunshots were fired. Elite members of the Kirin Gang were shot dead one after another.

The human body was as delicate as a piece of paper in the face of the terrifying armor-piercing bullets. A light touch could rip right through them

If they were shot in the torso, at least they'd die instantly without suffering.

However, if they were hit in the arms or legs, their limbs would just break. Then, they'd die of blood loss after a long bout of agony.

In the span of a few seconds, over a dozen Kirin Gang members fell.

Wails and cries filled the air.

Not just that, after the gunshots were fired, two rows of cars suddenly switched on their headlights along both sides of the roads.

They were all black Jeeps that were growling like beasts. They began to surround them.

The people in the cars were firing bullets nonstop.

"Sir Rhys, we were tricked! This is a trap!"

Watching his brothers die one after another, Nelson flew into a rage.