

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 151

By eBooksCat

The moment the words left his mouth, the entire room fell silent.

Everyone's gazes flitted dumbly to Luna and Joshua.

The meaning behind his words was obvious. Luna just said the last man she slept with was ugly, dirty, and sick, and Joshua oh-so suddenly asked her what sickness he had...

Director Wilson took a step back in shock. "Mr. Lynch, you... You must be joking, right?"

Everyone in the entire Banyan City knew Joshua Lynch was a clean and upright man, loyal to his ex-wife Luna Gibson.

When she was still alive, he never attended any drinking events where women were present because he was worried she would get the wrong ideas. After she passed away, he drank so much to the point his stomach bled. Plus, to protect her sister, he remained engaged with Aura for many years.

At the birthday party two days ago, he even announced that he got word Luna Gibson was still alive, so he wanted to break off the engagement with Aura and look for Luna Gibson.

The past few days, the entire internet had been discussing his deep-seated love and loyalty for his ex-wife, yet all of a sudden, this man would admit in

front of so many people that he slept with this woman?

Was he sure he was not joking?

"I'm not joking." Joshua raised his lips in a faint smile and pulled Luna into a hug. "I heard someone was trying to make a move on my woman just now?"

His woman.

The moment these two words left his mouth, the air in the entire room exploded.

Everyone looked as if they had just seen a ghost.

They wanted to discuss this piece of news with each other so badly, but they dared not to as they struggled to keep their urge at bay.

The various changes in Director Wilson's expression were even more fun to watch as it shifted from anger, to confusion, then to horror.

A short moment later, he finally found his voice, "Mr. Lynch, that's not what I meant... I was just...just cracking a joke with Ms. Luna..."

"You should just leave your jokes for your wife." With that, he raised his lips in a faint smile and said toward the man behind him. "This is your staff? I `m surprised."

Standing outside the door, Jude's expression was dark like the sky before a storm.

He frowned. "I'll deal with him."

"Okay."

Nodding lightly, Joshua lowered his eyes and glanced at Luna. "Do you want to stay here and

continue playing games with Director Wilson, " he spoke, his tone vaguely threatening, "or do you want to leave with me?"

Luna went mum. She did not want to choose either one of them, but Joshua had announced in such a high-profile manner to the group of people that she was his woman. She could not go against him and embarrass him in front of everyone.

The words she said had already angered him. If she made him angry again, she did not know what he would do next.

After all, with her current status, she was not even a servant in his household anymore. He could do anything he wanted to her.

At the thought, she could only smile flirtatiously and leaned into him, drawing circles on his chest. "Of course I'd choose to leave with you, Dear."

With that, she glanced at Director Wilson coldly. "I don't want to play games with a fat pig at all."

Director Wilson's face flushed until it took on a similar color as a piece of pig's liver. Seeing his face flush with anger but at the same time knowing full well he could not do anything about it, Luna felt pleased.

She smirked as she looked at Joshua. "Dear, let's go."

With that, she raised her head and looked at him but realized he was already staring at her.

Their gaze met.

She looked taken aback and slightly confused, while his gaze was hot and fiery.

Luna pursed her lips, but just when she was about to avert her gaze, he swept her into his arms and strode out of the room.

Joshua carried her out of the bar and threw her into his car, exerting a fair bit of strength when he threw her.

Luna was thrown onto the leather seat, and though she was not injured, his movements were not gentle at all. She still, more or less, felt the impact.

She struggled to climb upright in the backseat of the car, but before she could, Joshua had leaned over.
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The car door slammed shut with a bang, closing them off from the outside world.

Luna felt like her head had exploded.

She exerted all of her strength and struggled against Joshua. "Let go of me! "

"Didn't you say I was sick?" He turned vicious, locking her down securely. "If I didn't spread my sickness to you today, how could I live up to the defamatory labels you stuck on my back?"

He managed to know it all that night, but what if he did not?

Would she take it a step further, making up tales about him while flirting with other men?

At the thought of the scene that greeted his eyes, his gaze turned cold as he pressed her hands to the top of her head.

Luna gritted her teeth and wanted to put up a fight, but her rational mind told her she should not.

She should cooperate with him; Nigel's illness needed her to provide a cure...

At that thought, she made up her mind as she abruptly lifted her lips in a light, airy laugh. "What's wrong, Mr. Lynch? Can't you control yourself anymore?"

The man on top of her stiffened.

She took this opportunity and turned, raised her hands to circle his neck, and planted a kiss on his Adam's apple. "Are you not going to consider my previous suggestion?" She purposely pulled her tone high and purred seductively like a cat.

Joshua's eyes turned cold in an instant.

"Get out!" In the next moment, he pulled her hands away and opened the door. "Get out!"

She did not expect he would react that way.

From their years living as husband and wife, she knew him well—he was obviously aroused.

She was just going with the flow and making a request. Why did he...

"If you still don't get out," his low, warning tone rang in her ears, "I'll ask Director Wilson to come over."

Luna's face turned white.

The affection she held for him because he helped her get rid of Director Wilson disappeared completely.

She pursed her lips, straightened her clothes, and strode out of the car, slamming the door shut powerfully.

She grew angrier at the thought after taking two steps away. She turned and glared at the car behind her. Regardless of whether it was six years ago or at that moment, he had not changed his bad habit of being a fake hypocrite!

At this thought, she turned and glared at the car behind her again before she left, huffing angrily as she did.

After she was gone, a dark figure walked out of the pillar in the parking lot. Jude pulled open the car door elegantly and sat himself down. "Should I bring you for a cold shower?"

The interior of the car was dark, and none of the lights were on. Joshua sat in the darkness, his voice still hoarse as if he tried his best to suppress his emotions, "Let's go."

"What for?" Jude forced a bottle of mineral water into his hands. "The woman just now is quite pretty, and she has a nice body, too. She was still cursing you after she left the car."

Joshua twisted the cap and opened the bottle of water. "That won't kill me."

It had been six years since Luna Gibson left him, yet he was still alive.

"Hah."

Jude shrugged. "Since you're so self-restrained, what happened last night?"

Joshua's hand that held the bottle trembled slightly. Last night...

In his state of drunken obliviousness, he had mistaken her for Luna Gibson.

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Luna's anger still sizzled in the pit of her stomach as she stepped out of the taxi. It was by chance that she saw Neil sitting near the flower bed at the entrance to their housing area, seemingly talking on the phone.

She frowned and approached him. "Why aren't you home?"

The little boy shrugged. "Godmother and her boyfriend are acting all sweet and lovey-dovey. I don't want to be the third wheel."

With that, he glanced at Luna silently. "Mommy, do you want to go upstairs and be the third wheel?"

Luna was mum for a moment before she cleared her throat. "How long have they been up there?"

"Around half an hour."

Neil sighed. "Mommy, do you think we can still spend the night at Godmother's house tonight? I saw her crying in her boyfriend's arms just now, and both of them were laughing and crying."

He switched to a more comfortable position and swung his short little legs in the air. "Are dating adults so emotional?"

Luna rolled her eyes at him. "You won't understand."

Anne and John had just gotten together and they almost broke up, but the misunderstanding was solved. Dating couples were more emotional, and Luna could understand that.

Alas... Luna was reminded of her own situation.

When she was with Joshua, she never experienced such drastic emotional changes like this. They never argued.

More accurately, he found it below him to argue with her.

He would retract his claws and follow her opinion when he was in a good mood, but would leave her in the large, empty house to reflect on her mistakes when he brooded.

"I genuinely don't understand the emotions of dating adults," Neil sighed. "I'm tired, though. I really am, Mommy. I still have to attend kindergarten tomorrow with that group of childish little kids.

"It's almost nine at night now. I have to have at least eight hours of quality sleep every night! "

Luna rubbed the spot between her eyebrows helplessly.

Her son was astonishingly similar to Joshua in the aspects that he should not be, such a high-class habit such as this one.

She sucked in a deep breath. "Wel... Should we go to our original apartment, the one that was burned down?"

Neil frowned. "It's ruined."

"It's at least better than staying in a hotel, don't you think?"

The little boy pondered this suggestion for a moment. "Well, that's true."

He did not like staying at hotels. He always felt like scents of previous visitors still lingered in the room, making him uncomfortable.

Even though the apartment was burned and ruined, it was still home to him.

At that thought, the little guy jumped up from the ground. "Let's go, then! "

The burned apartment did not even contain their daily necessities.

Before they made their way to the apartment, Luna brought Neil to the mall for some shopping. When they were busy selecting and buying items, she noticed the new emblazoned across the big screen.

(Sources from Aura Gibson's agency states that after the engagement was canceled, Aura didn't allow her spirits to fall but instead tried her best to build a new path for herself. At the moment, she's enrolled in an Australian university, studying to become a director Luna tightened her hands that were wrapped around the handle of her shopping cart, her knuckles turning white.

Joshua...sent Aura to study overseas in Australia? No doubt about it then—he truly adored her.

Even if she made such a dreadful mistake, even if she almost killed his daughter a few times, he could still forgive her, even willingly paying to send her abroad to study.

Luna did not know, however, was how Aura slammed her fists furiously against metal doors of the psychiatric hospital.

"Let me out! I'm not sick! "

In the burnt-down apartment, Luna and Neil spent much time tidying up the place, and it was 10 p.m. when they were done.

When the clock rang signaling it was 10pm, Neil immediately climbed into bed. "Mommy, I'm going to sleep now! "

Luna, who was still busy cleaning the living room, smiled, stretched, and climbed into bed as well.

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"Finally, I can sleep with Mommy again."

Laying on the bed, Neil hugged his mother's arm and rubbed his little head against her. "Since we came back, I haven't been close to you at all. You're with Nellie every day, and it's hard for me to even hold you, Mommy."

Neil's words made Luna feel slightly guilty. After all, Nellie was her treasure, but so were Neil and Nigel.

She was always worried about Nigel's illness and Nellie's safety, but she somehow neglected the smart and obedient Neil.

At that thought, she raised her hand and ruffled his hair. "After your brother's illness is cured, Mommy will spend every day with the three of you."

Neil pouted. "Mommy, you mean four."

Luna paused, smiling helplessly. "Right, four."

She had to conceive Joshua's child again to save Nigel.

"You may want to be with us every day, Mommy, but we might not want you to." Neil smiled at her cheekily and hugged her arm. "After Nigel recovers, he'll definitely want to continue being a hacker, learning everything about computers and programming."

As for Nellie, she'll surely want to work as a jewelry designer. She'll be very, very busy."

Luna laughed lightly. "What about you?"

"I don't know what I want to be in the future yet. If you're nice to me, Mommy, I might consider helping you raise the kid."

As she gazed at the boy's serious expression, Luna's giggle spilled through her lips.

She raised her hand and ruffled his hair again. "Neil, I've never felt worried with you here."

Even though Neil had made the wrong decision in the past by asking Nellie to reunite with Joshua, she had to admit that Neil was the sibling more capable of taking care of her and his siblings compared to the eternally quiet Nigel and the somewhat childish and disobedient Nellie.

He was so young yet could take up the responsibility of caring for the entire family.

She did not know who he got his strong sense of responsibility from, but she knew it was not from Joshua.

Joshua...

He was the most irresponsible man she had ever met throughout her life.

Luna sighed softly at the thought as she held Neil's tiny body in her arms. "Got to sleep."

She slept soundly through the night.

Early the next morning, Luna was awakened by the fragrance of fresh food.

She opened her eyes, and the sounds of tinkering pots and pans drifted into her ears from the kitchen. Neil was preparing breakfast.

As the fragrance rushed into her nostrils, her gluttonous side was revealed.

She hurriedly climbed down the bed, washed herself, then sat obediently at the dining table like a child.

The real child, Neil, brought the freshly—prepared breakfast and placed it carefully in front of her. “Did you sleep well last night?”

“Very well.” Luna sucked in a deep breath. “It’s been a long time since I’ve eaten breakfast you prepared.”

Neil laughed. “Now you don’t have to go to Blue Bay Villa anymore, and since we’re living together, I can cook for you every day.”

Looking at the little guy acting so serious and mature, Luna smiled helplessly. “Am I the adult here, or is it you?”

“I’m a man, ” said Neil as he turned resolutely and headed to the kitchen to fetch his breakfast. “Men have to take care of women. No matter how old he is, he has to take care of women.”

Luna’s hand that held her spoon trembled slightly. She was reminded of Joshua.

He...had never taken care of her. Right...

Perhaps it was not that he did not know how to take care of others; perhaps it was that he did not take care of her.

She inhaled deeply at the thought and tried to scatter the messy, unnecessary thoughts in her mind before she ate.

They had only taken a few bites when the doorbell started ringing anxiously.

Luna frowned.

The apartment was set on fire two weeks ago and had been empty since. How come someone would come knocking the moment she and Neil spent the night here?
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"I'll go and open the door." The frowning Neil put down his fork and spoon, his small body jumping down from his chair and strode to the door.

"Who is it?"

"It's me, " came a little girl's child-like voice outside the door.
"Neil, it's me, Nellie! I went to Godmother's house, and she said the two of you didn't go back last night, so I came here. I didn't expect to find you and Mommy here! Quick, open the door! "

Hearing his sister's voice, Neil grew excited. He immediately opened the door and spread his arms open. "Nellie! "

Outside the door stood Nellie, dressed in her usual princess-style dress, and Lily.

She saw her brother spreading his arms open in her direction, but she did not hug him.

She sniffed. "Something smells so good! "

The little girl walked past Neil and strode into the apartment. "Are you guys eating breakfast? Did you prepare some for me?"

"No." Neil returned to the dining table as he sulked and sat down to resume his breakfast.

The little girl sat pitifully at the other end of the dining table, resting her face in her hands. A pair of big, clear eyes stared at Neil's breakfast unblinkingly. "It must be delicious, right?"

Neil and Luna exchanged helpless glances.

A moment later, the little guy went to the kitchen and fetched a plate to divide a portion of his food and placed it in front of his sister. "Go on. Don't say I tortured you."

"Haha! " Nellie lifted her fork and spoon excitedly, " Neil, you're the best! "

With that, she lifted her plate and started digging in.

Seeing her scarf down her food, Neil frowned. "That idiot Ly... That man didn't prepare breakfast for you?"

"He did," Nellie pouted. "but I don't like it. Mommy's not there, so I wanted Lily to prepare breakfast for me, but the servants said Lily isn't familiar with the kitchen, so they refused to let her enter the kitchen.

"They said the breakfast they made was delicious and wanted me to take a bite.

I tried some, found it terrible, and didn't continue eating. Granddad asked Lily to take me outside to eat something I loved.

"I considered it for a long while, but I couldn't think of anything that I particularly liked."

The little girl shoved a spoonful of eggs into her mouth. "So I thought I won't eat but instead use this chance to come and visit the two of you."

With that, the little girl pursed her lips and scoffed, " But I didn't expect to catch the two of you eating some delicious food without me! "

Neil laughed helplessly. "All we have are some simple ingredients. They're nothing compared to the ingredients you have at home."

After all, the ingredients for their breakfast came from their rush through the mall last night.

Nellie shrugged, "That's true, but I still think your cooking is much better than theirs! " She then carefully studied Luna's reaction. "And Mommy's cooking is definitely much, much better than theirs! "

Luna smiled softly, not saying a single word.

Neil had prepared a huge breakfast for her. She looked at the plate before her daughter and shook her head helplessly, using her spoon and distributing some to her children's plates.

"Mommy, you're the best! " Nellie smiled at her mother politely. "You're much better than Daddy! He not only didn't accompany me as I ate breakfast, but I can't even find him! I asked the servants, but they all said he hurt his stomach from drinking too much last night and accidentally knocked into his wound, so he's still at South City Hospital. I don't know if it's true or not."

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Nellie pursed her lips. "Mommy, a long time has passed since Daddy saved you from the fire, right? his wounds healed a long time ago, right? He couldn't have knocked into his wounds so easily, to the extent where he would have to be admitted into the hospital, right?"

As she said these words, the little girl studied Luna's expressions through the corners of her eyes. "I think the servants are saying that on purpose as an excuse for Daddy to not eat breakfast with me."

Luna frowned as she placed her empty plate on the table. "Maybe."

She then stretched lazily, turned, and sat on the sofa to play with her phone. It seemed like the news that Joshua was admitted into the hospital did not affect her much.

Nellie furrowed her brows as she bit her lip silently.

In truth, she did not come to them because she did not have breakfast at home. She thought that Mommy would be nervous knowing that Daddy was in the hospital. After all, every time Daddy was admitted into the hospital, Mommy would be very anxious.

It seemed, however...

"Just eat." Neil glanced at his sister carelessly. "Don't poke your adult into adult matters."

Nellie bit her lip before she lowered her head in disappointment and continued eating her breakfast. She did not stay for long after that.

Even though Joshua was in the hospital, Adrian was still waiting for her to return from her breakfast. She could not waste too much time outside.

Looking at Nellie's retreating back, Neil pursed his lips silently and muttered, "Shallow girl; always attracted by his appearance and forgetting her true purpose."

Luna smiled. "Don't blame her. Joshua is quite nice to her, actually."

"I don't think so." Neil collected the dirty dishes and brought them to the kitchen.

Amid the flow of water, the little boy washed the dishes and coldly remarked, "If he truly is nice to Nellie, he'd get Aura Gibson arrested, not send her to study abroad in Australia."

Luna's hand that held her phone trembled. It seemed she was not the only one to have seen the news last night in the mall.

At the thought of Joshua and Aura...she somehow grew angry and agitated.

The moment broke when Luna's phone rang. She frowned and took a look—it was Anne.

"Luna, guess who I saw at the hospital?" From the other end of the phone, Anne's voice sounded low and mysterious.

Luna's brows furrowed as she switched into a more comfortable position and asked, "A male celebrity?"

"Sadly, no," Anne sighed. "I met your mother! Early this morning, John received news that his manager was fired because

he made Director Wilson lose face in front of Joshua. Director Wilson hired people to beat him up.

“John brought me along to visit his manager, where I then saw your mother! ”

Luna was confused. “Are you sure you saw my mother?” She did not remember showing Anne her mother’s photos.

“Of course! ” Anne rolled her eyes on the other end of the phone. “Aura is a celebrity, after all. She appeared in a reality show where she brought her family along for a trip. She brought your mother, so I’m sure it’s her! ”

She then lowered her voice. “I saw the paramedics lifting her out of the ambulance on the stretcher and pushing her into the emergency room. Are... Are you sure you don’t want to come and take a look?”

Anne’s words pierced through Luna’s heart.

She pursed her lips. “Give me the address. I’ll go right now.”

The call ended as she then received the address Anne texted her.

South City Hospital.

The same hospital where Joshua was.
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After hanging up the phone, Luna waited for Neil

and Nellie to finish their breakfast before they left to send Neil to his kindergarten. Lily then brought Nellie back to Blue Bay Villa.

Standing on the roadside, she watched as the car Nellie rode in drove into the distance. She slowly exhaled before she raised a hand and hailed a taxi. "To South City Hospital."

Luna could ignore Joshua, but she could not ignore Natasha.

Even though Natasha misunderstood her like everyone else, she could not pretend she did not know and not visit her.

After all, she provided her life.

Once, Natasha was her closest confidant, even closer than Aura, but...

Under Aura's misleading words, she grew farther and farther apart from her family. Only when she completely lost them did she realize how silly she once was.

Natasha had always been fairly healthy, but with her suddenly admitted to the hospital, she guessed that it must be related to Aura. The incidents that happened that night could not possibly be kept completely a secret.

With Aura suddenly sent off to Australia to study, Natasha and her vigilant mind would surely know

something had happened.

As Aura's family member, it would not be difficult if she truly wanted to investigate the happenings at the banquet that night. After all, no matter how powerful Joshua was, he could not control everyone's tongues.

She closed her eyes.

Did Natasha suddenly fall sick and was admitted into hospital because she found out Aura wanted to hurt Nellie?

At this thought, a trace of warmth burst into Luna's chest.

At least her mother still cared about her and her children, right?

She then grew slightly upset.

When Luna planned for the birthday banquet, she considered the fact that she did not want Nellie to get hurt, did not want Neil's identity to be exposed, and most of all, did not want people to know she returned to the country because of Nigel's illness.

No matter how much she fussed over the matter, she unfortunately forgot another, most important person—her mother.

She forgot to consider her mother's feelings.

Luna had a challenging obstacle. She was afraid Natasha would not want to see her.

She did not look at all like Luna Gibson of the past; she was just a stranger to her mother, Natasha.

A stranger who exposed to the public that her daughter wanted to hurt her other daughter's child, resulting in her daughter having no choice but to leave the country.

Natasha would not accept someone like her visiting. She would think she was just bragging, to show off her successful plan.

In truth, Luna was just expressing her concern, but no one would believe that.

Luna sighed.

She might have been able to find a perfect excuse if she still had plenty of time, making her visit to Natasha sounding like a logical, rational move, but the taxi had already stopped at the entrance to South City Hospital.

She sighed. Accepting her faith, Luna paid the driver and raised her legs to enter the hospital.

Luna did not expect to bump into Lucas the moment she stepped in.

In the hall, she asked the nurse for Natasha's ward number and stood in front of the elevators. She had just taken her place when Lucas walked over and stood beside her with a bag of food in his hands.

"Luna?"

Even though Luna tried her best to pretend she did not see him while trying to mask her presence, Lucas still spotted her.

"Luna, why are you here at the hospital so early in the morning? Are you here to visit Sir?" he spoke as he lowered his head, looking at the fruits and cakes in her hand.

"Look at you. You'll need to bring gifts when you visit other people, but you don't have to bring gifts when you're visiting Sir. Someone like him has everything he needs."

Luna did not want to explain herself to him, so she let her legs carry her into the elevator as she pressed the button for the 18th floor.

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Lucas squeezed into the elevator as well.

When the elevator doors opened, Lucas realized he forgot to press the button for his intended destination, thus he instinctively lifted his hand toward the 18th-floor button.

Unexpectedly, it was already lit up.

Only one other person could have pressed the button.

Lucas laughed lightly as he took the fruit and cakes out of Luna's hands. "I'll hold them for you. You're very thoughtful, Luna. I thought you didn't know which floor Sir was on, and I didn't expect you'd know it on your own!"

Luna frowned as she fought with Lucas for control of her own gifts. "These aren't Joshua."

She had confirmed at the counter that Natasha stayed on the 18th floor. She did not know where Joshua was staying, and she did not want to know either!

"You're not here to visit Sir?" Lucas rolled his eyes at her, thinking she was just stubborn. "Then who are you visiting so early in the morning? Do you have other friends and family here in Banyan City besides Dr. Zimmer? I thought you'd been staying overseas all this while?"

Luna was at a loss on how to answer Lucas' series of questions.

With a ding, the elevators opened.

Before Luna could react, Lucas held the presents she prepared for Natasha and strode toward the ward at the end of the corridor.

“Come on! ” He strode down the corridor and turned, waving his hand behind him at Luna.

She had no choice but to follow him.

Lucas had taken her gifts with him, and she had no plausible reason to explain why she did not visit him. Even though she hated Joshua, she could not afford to get on his bad side before she could secure her pregnancy.

She sighed and rushed to keep up with Lucas. “Sir, Luna is here to visit you! ” Lucas opened the

door and set the gifts on the window sill, laughing lightly. “She’s quite interesting. She was shy to

admit she’s here to see you and even went as far as to tell me she’s not.

“If she didn’t come here to see you this early in the morning, who else could it be?

Besides Anne Zimmer, she doesn’t have other friends! ”

Anne frowned as she walked in the door and heard Lucas’ words.

Did everyone become so proud and full of themselves after spending a long time with Joshua?

Why would she have no friends in Banyan City? Why was she lying?

Joshua was not the only one staying here in this hospital!

“Continue standing in the doorway. Are you afraid people don’t know you’re here to visit me? ” As he laid at the head of the bed,

Joshua furrowed his eyebrows slightly at the pair of long legs standing at the entrance. "Come in."

Luna pursed her lips as she walked in carefully. "Mr. Lynch, I heard you're injured."

She sucked in a deep breath and tried her best to make her gaze look concerned. "Are you alright?"

Joshua glanced at her. "I'm fine."

"That's good." Luna laughed lightly. "Since you're injured, maybe you should drink less in the future, especially in situations like last night."

Joshua frowned before his lips twisted into a cold smile. "What about the situation last night?"

"It'll make people misunderstand."

Luna curled her lips up into a smile and aimed it in his direction. "It'll make people misunderstand that you hurt your stomach because you drank too much."

Her tone was cool and calm, with hints of seduction mixed in between.

Joshua smiled. "So what if they misunderstood?"

"Nothing, of course." She glanced at him, her face almost expressionless. "You arranged the event yesterday, yet you got drunk and had to be admitted to hospital. I find that funny."
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The pressure in the hospital ward lowered considerably.

Joshua's cool, dark eyes glared at Luna who stood at the doorway.

Lucas knew the following conversation was not suitable for his eyes, so he turned and left, not forgetting to close the door behind him as he did.

With the door closed, Joshua and Luna were left in the closed space of the hospital ward. The air was empty except for the voice of the news anchor reading out the news about Banyan City on the television.

The two of them stared at each other for a long time before finally, Joshua leaned on the headboard, his eyes cold and distant. "You're here early in the morning and purposely brought out last night's events. It seems you're very disappointed, yes?"

Luna's entire body shuddered slightly.

She laughed lightly. "Firstly, Mr. Lynch, I didn't come to the hospital to visit you. Lucas was the one who misunderstood me and pulled me here.

Secondly, I am indeed very disappointed about last night's events. As a man, I look down on you for giving up halfway through. Finally..."

She looked at him, and a condescending smile graced her features. "If you'd like to continue, I'm always ready. After all, it's not like we haven't done it before."

His expression darkened.

At that moment, the morning news finished the traffic report as the female news anchor's beautiful voice rang through the ward,

“In the past few days, during his interview, Mr. Joshua Lynch said he’d continue waiting for his ex-wife to return.

“He also hopes that his ex-wife, Luna Gibson, would understand his sincerity in waiting for her return after she sees this news report.”

It was particularly ironic to hear a news report when they were both in such a state.

Luna’s lips curled up in a taunting smile. All these years, he built himself an image as a loyal, doting husband. If it was not because Luna knew him too well, she almost believed him.

Time and time again, he had expressed his impulsive desire for the current Luna, yet he acted as if all he could think of and all he missed was the old Luna Gibson.

Disgusted, she smirked coldly at the thought. “I see; it’s because you still love your ex—wife deeply. Your love for her is as deep as the seven seas.”

Her taunt and ridicule were obvious in her tone.

Joshua narrowed his eyes, grabbed the remote control, and threw it at the television.

With a bang, the news stopped.

“Get out, ” he opened his mouth, voice freezing cold like a January snowstorm.

Luna laughed lightly. “I didn’t come here to visit you in the first place, so thank you for letting me go.”

With that, she smiled faintly and walked toward his bedside, raised her hand, and took the fruits and gifts from the top of the bedside cabinet. "Goodbye."

Joshua squinted as he eyed her leaving form, holding the gifts in her hands, and eyes as long as a frozen lake.

Luna clutched the gifts and walked to Natasha's hospital ward. The news about Aura studying abroad in Australia repeated on television.

Standing at the doorway, Luna looked at Natasha, her eyes fixed on the television as the nurse fed her patiently, and she felt a prick of residual jealousy.

In the end, Aura was still the one her mother carried in her heart.

Even though she knew about the things Aura did to Nellie, she was still worried about Aura...

"Are you here to see the patient?"

She did not know how much time had passed when a nurse's voice pulled her out of her thoughts.

The nurse's voice made Natasha look toward them.

"Ms. Luna?" She frowned and hesitated for a second but still forced a smile onto her face. "Come in."

Luna pursed her lips, sighed, and entered the room as she placed the fruits and health supplements on the bedside cabinet.

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"Ms. Luna, I didn't expect you to come visit me." Natasha smiled awkwardly in Luna's direction. "I know about everything that happened at the birthday party."

She looked at Luna solemnly. "I should be thanking you. Even though my older daughter is so irresponsible, refusing to come back all these years, I'm grateful that you've been taking care of Nellie for so long."

Luna pursed her lips as she offered a polite smile. "I used to be Ms. Nellie's servant, and this is what I should do."

"Sigh." Natasha then made up an excuse and diverted the nurse out of the ward. After the nurse left, she signaled at Luna to close the door. "As a mother, I hold responsibility, too."

"I never expected Aura would do something like this to Nellie... It's my fault. I failed to properly educate her."

With that, she raised her eyes and looked into Luna's eyes. "But there must be a misunderstanding about Aura wanting to harm Nellie."

Her words made Luna's heart sink deep into the pit of her chest.

Since she knew about the birthday party, then she must know that the evidence Luna produced could explain everything.

Alas, Natasha's current attitude showed that she did not believe those pieces of evidence at all—she only believed Aura.

Luna smiled bitterly in her mind.

She was Natasha's daughter as well, but Natasha believed without a doubt that she left Joshua all those years ago because she had an affair.

"Ms. Luna." Seeing Luna's solemn expression, Natasha frowned and thought it was because she was not polite enough, so she tried her best to make herself sound more humble, "Don't misunderstand, I'm not saying I don't believe you."

"You did it for Nellie, and I'm sure it wasn't easy to find all those pieces of evidence either, but all that..."

Natasha measured her words carefully. "I know my daughter best. If my elder daughter did all these things to my younger daughter, I could understand, but my younger daughter isn't like that at all, so..."

Luna's heart froze completely.

Natasha said that if she was the one who purposely tried to harm Aura's child, she could understand why.

Understand what?

That her mother believed Luna was someone who would do something like that and that Aura would not, right?

Luna then realized she should not have come. Six years had passed; everything had changed.

Her mother who loved her and trusted her the most was just Aura's mother alone from then on.

"Mrs. Gibson."

Sucking in a deep breath, Luna raised her eyes and looked into Natasha's, trying her best to make her voice cold and emotionless, "I know it's hard for you to accept your daughter's actions. After all, every daughter is her parents' treasure. Nellie is like a daughter to me—she's my treasure, too."

"Your treasure did something unacceptable to my treasure, and what you should do is educate and discipline her, not say that she's innocent. Besides..."

Luna raised her eyes and looked at Natasha coldly. " Ms. Gibson didn't get punished at all, am I right?

She's even studying abroad in Australia right now,

learning professional knowledge about how to be a director. Since she doesn't even have to pay a price for her mistakes, why are you so adamant in clearing her name?"

Natasha pursed her lips as she looked at Luna deeply. Within a few seconds, she stuttered, "Aura didn't leave the country... She's still in Banyan City."

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Luna frowned and gave a feeble smile. "How's that possible?"

She saw the news broadcast in the supermarket when she was there with Neil last night, and it showed that Aura had boarded the plane and even displayed a photo of her posing in front of her university in Ausland. That meant she could not possibly be in Banyan City anymore.

"It's true." Natasha sighed. She lifted her head as her red-rimmed eyes stared straight at Luna. "Actually... Joshua isn't as good a person as he pretends to be. He faked the news about Aura going abroad. Even the images and footage of her boarding the plane and arriving at her university were staged."

Natasha broke at that moment as tears trickled from her eyes, and she dabbed her cheeks with tissue paper. She let out another sigh before she continued, "He's imprisoned Aura, truth be told. She's now locked up somewhere with people guarding her day and night. She can't escape."

Luna's brow furrowed upon hearing this ; she could not believe what she had heard. "That's impossible."

Joshua's unwavering faith and devotion toward Aura was something Luna had known as far back as six years ago. According to what Luna knew about Joshua, he definitely would have chosen to send Aura abroad instead of punishing her after discovering what she had done. What Natasha indicated sounded ludicrous, and Luna did not believe that Joshua would imprison Aura.

"It's true ! " Natasha sobbed as she clung to Luna's arm. "Ms. Luna, Aura is truly imprisoned somewhere right now—she told me that herself. She somehow found a way to get in contact with me without the guards knowing and told me that herself, but when I tried to contact her again, I couldn't get through at all."

Her grip on Luna's arm tightened as she became more and more agitated. "You must know where she is, don't you? You're the one who claimed that Aura tried to get rid of Nellie, and you're the one who brought out the evidence. You must know what Joshua is planning to do to Aura! "

Natasha gazed into Luna's eyes, her face etched with distress and even a hint of anticipation. "I'm not asking you to free Aura. All I'm hoping is that you... you can help me get to the bottom of this. Help me find out who's trying to frame her. I know my daughter the best, and I know she'd never do anything like this—not in a million years! "

Luna's lips twisted into a smirk as she removed Natasha's grip on her arm. "There's no such thing as Aura being framed, Mrs. Gibson."

"What about Luna? " Natasha raised her head to fix her gaze on Luna. "What if my eldest daughter is trying to frame her sister? What if Luna got Nellie to deliberately provoke Aura? That's even

likely. I know that Luna hasn't returned yet, but what if she's doing this to frame Aura and get rid of her so she can get Joshua back?"

Luna closed her eyes at that. "Mrs. Gibson, Luna Gibson is also your daughter. Why are you so adamant that she's trying to frame her own sister? Why do you believe your daughter Aura, but you don't have a single shred of trust in Luna at all?"

Natasha's face paled when she heard Luna's pointed question. After a moment's hesitation, she lowered her head and replied, "I don't trust Luna because... because of what she did in the past. I don't think I can ever trust her again, after what she did."

"She claimed to have loved Joshua, that he was the only person she loved, yet in the end, she left with another man. She even faked a car accident.

Everyone was so worried about her ! She gave birth to her and Joshua's children, but the only thing she did was send the kids back, and she didn't even bother bringing the children back herself. She's an irresponsible, cold-hearted liar... I don't trust someone like her, " Natasha spat.

Luna felt like her entire heart had been submerged in ice.

"Ms. Luna." Natasha heaved a sigh and handed Luna a slip of paper. "These are the IP addresses that Aura contacted me with after she got imprisoned. I've sought the help of several IT professionals, but they told me that these addresses were forged. However, I know that a really experienced hacker can figure out the real address through the forged sequences. Please Natasha bit her bottom lip and proceeded to pull out two bank cards. "I know that since you're working at Blue Bay Villa as a maid, you're probably in need of money. You can take all the money in this card... " As she spoke, Natasha slipped one of the cards into

Luna's hand. "This card contains all my life savings. Please, take it and help me find Aura."

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"I'm not a local from Banyan City, and I don't know anyone apart from you and the Lynch family..." Luna tried to protest.

Before she could finish, however, Natasha shoved the other card into her hand and said, "Take this card as well... There's a lot of money in this one, too. You can have both cards, as long as you help me find evidence that Aura was framed."

Luna lowered her gaze to look at the two cards Natasha had given her. She could recognize both of them. One of them was Natasha's personal account which contained all her life savings; Luna herself had helped Natasha set up the account. The other one, however, was a card she had given Natasha just before she got married to Joshua. The card contained all of Luna's own savings and assets. At that time, Luna knew it was rough for her parents to raise her till adulthood, yet because she was getting married so young, she did not know how to repay them, so she accumulated all her savings into an account and decided to gift the card to her mother.

Little did Luna know that many years later, this card would make its way back to her. She couldn't believe that, in a twist of fate, she would one day stand before her mother with a new face and identity and that her mother would offer her this money to help clear Aura's name.

"Mrs. Gibson, what if even after I investigated, the evidence still points to Aura being guilty?"

Natasha froze. It was obvious she never expected that Luna would ask her this question.

After a moment's hesitation, she let out a sigh and answered, "Well, in that case... I have no choice but to accept the truth." After finishing her sentence, Natasha closed her eyes.

"I have only two daughters. It's one thing to be disappointed by my eldest, but if the other one turned out the same... " Natasha lamented, but she trailed off before she could finish.

Gazing at Natasha's sunken and languish face, Luna bit down on her bottom lip. She did not know how to describe her feelings at that moment. It was a maelstrom of feelings rioting in her simultaneously.

Luna felt painfully disappointed that her own mother did not trust her at all, yet at the same time , she knew she could not blame Natasha for feeling that way. It must have been unbearably agonizing for Natasha to have to come to terms with her daughter's betrayal. Perhaps, in the past, Natasha had struggled to believe that Luna would do something like that, just like how she struggled to believe otherwise in Aura.

"Alright, I'll help you, " Luna finally said after a long silence. She heaved a sigh and stuffed the two cards back into Natasha's hand. "I don't want your money. If in the end, I managed to find evidence that suggested Aura was guilty, all I ask of you is that you try to step into your eldest daughter's shoes. It probably hasn't been easy for her all these years. "

With that, Luna got up and left the room.

Natasha chewed on her lip nervously. She frowned as she watched Luna's retreating figure get further and further away. She could not put her finger on it, but that woman, who shared the same name as her eldest daughter, felt vaguely familiar to her.

After coming out of the hospital, Luna immediately sent Nigel the IP addresses that Natasha had given her.

"What's going on?" Nigel asked as he turned on his computer and began working on cracking the fake IP addresses.

"I want you to help me find the location of the real address. Aura might be imprisoned there. Your grandmother asked me to help track Aura down and prove her innocence," Luna replied.

Nigel fell into silence on the other end of the line. "Did you agree?" he eventually asked.

"Yes," Luna murmured. She heaved a sigh before continuing, "I wanted to do one last thing for my mother." She wanted to let Natasha know that Aura was not as innocent as she seemed.
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Luna arrived home from the hospital. As soon as she sat down, however, she received a call from Nigel.

"Mommy, I've managed to confirm the address. The IP address that Aura used to contact Grandma seems to be coming from a hospital. I've sent you the location of the hospital," said Nigel over the phone.

Luna glanced at the address Nigel sent. It seemed to be a mental institution located on the outskirts of Banyan City.

'Is it true that Aura hasn't been sent abroad to Ausland?' Luna thought to herself. 'Since she was still in Banyan City, why did Joshua fake the news that she went abroad? He even went to the extent of forging photographs and footage of Aura landing in Ausland. Was it simply because he wanted to find an excuse for her sudden disappearance? Why did he imprison her then, and in a mental institution, no less?'

More and more questions surfaced in her mind. 'Did Joshua imprison Aura because he wanted her to pay the price of trying to hurt his child? If so, why did he not report her to the police or just punish her instead? Why did he choose to imprison her? What is this man up to?'

"Everything points to the possibility that my father found out what my Aunt Aura did, and is trying to teach her a lesson," said Nigel. On the other end of the line, Nigel's brows tightly together as he frowned, fingers fluttering across his keyboard.

After a while, he added, "I just hacked into the hospital's backend system. According to the system records, Aura was taken away and imprisoned the night of Granny Lynch's birthday party. If my calculations are correct, Aura was sent into the hospital almost immediately after the party ended."

Luna frowned at that. If Joshua had sent Aura into the mental institution as soon as Granny Lynch's birthday party ended, then he must have made up his mind to do so during the party itself.

Luna shut her eyes and tried to recall Joshua's actions the night of the party. She could picture his stony, determined face as clearly as if he stood right before her.

The night of the party, everything he did and all the words he said were in Aura's favor. Why did he act that way if, all the while, he had planned to imprison her?

'This man truly is an enigma,' Luna thought to herself.

"It doesn't matter what happened anymore. Since Aura is still in Banyan City, we still have a chance to make her pay for what she did," said Luna resolutely.

Nigel let out a sigh. "Mommy, what should we do next?"

Luna paused for a moment to think before she replied, "Are visitors allowed? Can we visit her?"

"I don't think so," answered Nigel as his slender fingers flew deftly across the keyboard. He managed to hack into the hospital's security system and studied one of the surveillance tapes. "It looks like all the entrances to Aura's ward are guarded—even the windows. The guards don't look like hospital staff, either. In fact, they seem like Joshua's own men. Judging from this, you might not be able to visit her, but it's not entirely impossible... "

"What do you mean?"

"If you went with Joshua, you'd probably be able to see her then," Nigel answered.

There was silence.

Nigel frowned as he continued to pan the security camera at different angles. "I know why you want to visit her, Mommy. You want to get her to come clean about what she did, don't you?"

Luna stiffened at his words, but it was a split second later that she smiled a forced smile. "You're right."

Natasha so blindly trusted Aura that she even believed someone was trying to frame her daughter. Well, whoever started the trouble should be the one to end it. Hence, Luna wanted to make Natasha see her precious daughter for what she really was: a two-faced liar. To do so, however, she had to get Aura to come clean about everything herself. That was the best evidence she could ever get her hands on.

Initially, Luna was led to believe that Aura was in Ausland, so her mission had to be put on hold indefinitely. However, as it turned out Aura was in Banyan City, things would be much easier.

"Mom." Nigel let out another sigh before he continued, "If you want to visit Aura, you...have to find Joshua." He was not sure how she would react to this, since he knew that his mother's hatred for Joshua ran deeper than the blood in her veins.

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Nigel could remember the times when Luna woke up crying in the middle of the night. Every time that happened, he would get up and put his arm around her in an attempt to comfort her.

His mother had been through so much just to bring the three of them into this world. She had gone through so much hardship to change her appearance and assume a new identity. All of this was so she could start a new life, but because of him and Nellie, she had to get close to that man again—the man who brought all of this down on her in the first place.

"Mommy." Nigel paused and took a deep breath before he finally said, "I love you."

He would never say anything that would disappoint her again.

Luna never expected to hear a heartfelt confession like that from her usually shy and temperate son.

She chuckled in response. "I know. The three of you are the best things to ever happen to me, and I'll do whatever it takes to keep you by my side."

With that, she hung up the phone and plopped down on the couch. She stared up at the ceiling above her, deep in thought.

Joshua Lynch... What other tricks did that man have up his sleeve?

Luna remained in the same position on the couch until evening. When the time came to pick up Neil from kindergarten, she hurriedly went downstairs.

Coincidentally, she bumped into Joshua at the kindergarten gates.

It was five in the evening, so the sun was still up in the sky, casting a yellow glow over the streets.

Joshua stood at the gates to the kindergarten amidst the crowd of parents. He was a tall and slender man with an air of indifference and arrogance about him, so he easily stood out from the rest.

The rest of the parents seemed to deliberately steer clear of him. Some of them even tried to take pictures of him surreptitiously.

"That's Mr. Lynch! But why is he here? This is just a n ordinary kindergarten."

"I heard that his ex-wife's daughter recently returned to the family. My guess is that the little princess is attending school here."

"Why would she be attending school here? Wouldn't she be at some prestigious kindergarten? Why would he send her daughter to some ordinary preschool like this?"

"This is exciting! I can brag to other people that my child went to school with Joshua Lynch's daughter..."

Luna could hear the low murmurs of the other parents as they shared gossip among one another. She frowned and sat down in a corner by herself.

She had dropped Nellie off at Blue Bay Villa this morning herself, so how did Nellie end up attending school at the same kindergarten as Neil?

Luna guessed that it had probably been Neil's idea. She sighed and made up her mind to talk to Neil about that when they got home.

All of a sudden, the parents stopped whispering among one another, and silence fell.

She lifted her head in confusion, and her eyes met Joshua's. His intense gaze seemed to pierce right through her skin and bones, all the way down to her heart.

He curled his lips into a smirk. "We meet again, Ms. Luna."

Joshua took a few steps in her direction and stopped in front of her. He was so tall that he loomed over her like a towering tree.

Luna took a deep breath and met his gaze. She gave him a small smile in return. "What a coincidence, Mr. Lynch. Are you here to pick up your daughter?"

"It's not a coincidence. I came here for you," Joshua replied, his eyes still fixed on her.

"You came here for me? " Luna furrowed her brows skeptically, unable to believe what she had just heard. "You ordered for me to leave your house this morning, yet now you came to the kindergarten just to look for me?"

"Why is that so hard to believe? " Joshua narrowed his eyes a little. "If it weren't for you, my daughter wouldn't have insisted on coming to school with your son."

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Luna's breath caught in her throat. Her guess was right; Nellie had started attending school at the same kindergarten that Neil went to.

"Mr. Lynch, I believe you're mistaken," began Luna. "Nellie's insistence on attending school with Neil must've been because they're very close with each other. I don't think it has anything to do with me. I've never even mentioned this idea to her."

She gave a slight smirk and added, "Mr. Lynch, I have a piece of advice for you: Instead of trying to blame your problems on other people, why not actually sit down and have a conversation with your daughter to find out what she really wants? Nellie and Neil are close friends, and it's normal for them to want to attend school together."

Joshua's eyes narrowed as he heard Luna's response. This woman was a piece of work. Not only did she suddenly quit her job at Blue Bay Villa, but she acted so uncouthly and impolite to him all at this moment, too.

When Joshua did not reply, Luna frowned and tried to sidle past him. She did not want to talk to him any longer, so instead, she would find another spot to wait.

However, when she moved to the left, Joshua stepped in front of her, blocking her way. When she moved to the right, he did the same. She reluctantly lifted her head to stare at him. "Mr. Lynch, you're in my way."

He narrowed his eyes at her and said, "Well, if it weren't for you, I wouldn't even be here anyway. It was difficult for me to give in to my daughter and send her to a preschool like this because of you, so what's so hard about me being in your way?" Joshua was obviously infuriated about his daughter's insistence, yet at the same time, he knew he could not change her mind, so he decided to take out his anger on Luna.

Luna shot him a glance of helplessness. She did not understand why this man acted like a child.

She relented and slid back into her original spot, leaning against the wall while Joshua remained poised in front of her. After a while, he took out a stick of cigarette and proceeded to light it.

"Ms. Luna, you must've been paid quite generously when you were abroad. Why didn't you choose a better school for Neil? Why come to a place like this?" asked Joshua.

Luna rolled her eyes at him. "What's wrong with this school?"

Anne was the one who picked out this school for Neil. Although it was not a prestigious school, it certainly was not a bad one either. The children who went to school here came from ordinary families, so there would not be too much unnecessary drama or rules to adhere to. The teachers were patient and friendly, and they did not teach glamorous sports like horseback riding or archery. Instead, they were committed to creating a comfortable learning environment for the children. In Luna's opinion, those were enough.

Neil was an intelligent boy. She did not want to send him to a reputable school where all they did was restrict and conform him to society's standards. She wanted her son to grow up in a place where he could make friends and have fun.

As for Nellie, however, she never expected Nellie to attend the same kindergarten. Luna knew Nellie was a spoiled child and maybe a regular preschool like this was not meant for her, but she disagreed with Joshua's opinion. This school was ordinary, but it was not a bad one.

Luna's response to his question made Joshua snicker. "If Neil were my son, I wouldn't send him here."

Luna frowned. "Well, thank God Neil isn't your son, then."

He could not put his finger on it, but that response somehow made him uneasy. He fixed his gaze on her, but just as he was about to retort, the school bell rang. Immediately, the crowd of parents surged forward toward the gates like a pack of sardines.

Luna did not like the feeling of being squished up against the crowd of people, and it did not help that Joshua still blocked her way, so she remained motionless.

The children came out of the kindergarten in a single file line. One by one, Luna counted them. One, two...

By the time she reached the 20th child, there was still no sign of Neil or Nellie. She began to panic. Neil's class only had 25 students.

Eventually, the 24th child came out of the school building, but it was not Neil either. Luna bit her lip and wound her way around Joshua, storming toward the gate. "Teacher, where's Neil and Nellie?"

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The kindergarten teacher was startled by Luna's sudden reaction. She froze for a moment before she slowly pointed in the direction of the nurse's office. "Nellie got injured just now, and Neil is currently with her at the nurse's office."

As soon as she finished her sentence, Joshua immediately stomped off in the direction the teacher had pointed. Luna had no choice but to trail along behind him. The two adults stormed into the nurse's office in a flurry of panic.

Inside the nurse's office, Neil asked, "Which flavor do you like more: original or garlic?" He was perched on the examination bed as he munched on a chicken drumstick.

"They're both yummy!" replied Nellie with her mouth full. She was clutching another chicken drumstick in her hand.

"Alright, then let's sneak out to order some more tomorrow," beamed Neil. He reached out an oily hand to pinch Nellie's cheek. "Tomorrow, we'll pretend that I got hurt, and you can accompany me to the nurse's office again."

"Okay!" Nellie nodded in enthusiasm. She paused for a moment as if suddenly recalling something. "Neil, Mommy never lets us eat fried chicken. She says it's junk food. Today is the first time I've ever had junk food, and it's the yummiest thing I've ever eaten!" she exclaimed.

Neil raised his eyebrows in agreement. "I agree, it's delicious! Nigel did say that fried chicken isn't healthy, though, so we can't have too much of it." After he finished his sentence, Neil immediately lifted the necklace he was wearing and spoke into it, "Isn't that right, Nigel?"

Nigel's stern voice came from the necklace, "Mommy's here."

Neil's eyes widened upon hearing this. He immediately hopped off the bed and hid the fried chicken. "Quick, Nellie! Pretend like you're sick!"

Slam!

The door to the nurse's office slammed open just as Nellie climbed onto the bed.

Joshua stormed into the room, followed closely behind by a flustered Luna and an even more flustered school nurse. "Mr. Lynch and Ms. Luna, please calm down..." the nurse cried out in desperation.

"Nellie!" Joshua exclaimed as he rushed to the bedside. "What happened?"

"Daddy..." Nellie looked up at him and pouted, showing him her bandaged hand. "I accidentally cut myself with a knife during class... It hurts!"

Joshua gave her a helpless look as he glanced at her bandaged hand. He picked her up and immediately shot a glare at the teacher who had followed them into the nurse's office. "How irresponsible are you guys? My daughter ended up getting hurt on her first day of school."

The teacher replied, wringing her hands, "She just got a small cut on her hand..."

"A small cut?" he snarled. "Look at the way her hand is bandaged. You call this a small cut?"

"My daughter hasn't gotten hurt, not even once ever since she returned to my side, but she got injured on her first day of kindergarten." He scowled at Luna.

What kind of school is this? Why did you even choose this place? I'm taking Nellie to the hospital right this second to get an X-ray, and if she suffers a fracture, I'm holding you responsible, Luna. This kindergarten is so irresponsible, I'll close this place down in an instant."

Joshua was just about to storm out of the room when Nellie suddenly cried out, "Daddy!" She was alarmed that her father would be holding Ms. Luna responsible for her incident, and more so by the fact that he would close the school down because of this.

"I'm... I'm fine!" Nellie declared as she ripped off the bandage to reveal her perfectly intact and un wounded hand. "I'm not hurt!"

Joshua frowned and lifted her hand to check. He looked all over and discovered that his daughter was indeed not hurt. Immediately, a dark look crossed his face. "What happened?"

Neil silently watched it all happen, but as Nellie had confessed, he decided there was no point trying to hide anymore. He brought out the chicken drumsticks that he had hidden underneath the bed and explained, "We wanted to eat fried chicken, so we pretended that Nellie was hurt to distract the nurse and ordered food delivery without her noticing."

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Joshua and Luna both froze as they heard Neil's confession. Even the teacher who stood behind them gaped at the sudden turn of events.

Who would have thought something like that would happen? Luna rubbed her brows in exasperation, thinking to herself, 'What kind of scheming children did I give birth to? Haven't I told them countless times that they shouldn't eat junk food like this?'

"It's all my fault, Daddy, " sulked Nellie. "Class was really boring, and the lunch I had wasn't yummy at all. I overheard another kid talking about eating fried chicken with his mommy and daddy, so I wanted fried chicken too, but..."

Disappointment clouded Nellie's gaze. "I knew that you wouldn't let me have fried chicken because it's not healthy, so I asked Neil to help..."

The anger on Joshua's face dissipated. After a moment's hesitation, he heaved a deep sigh and stared at his daughter. "You're such a mischievous girl, " he said in a tender voice.

"This was all just a misunderstanding, Mr. Lynch, " the teacher shot Joshua a nervous glance. "You're... not going to close our school down because of this, right?"

This was the first time this kindergarten had enrolled a student as important as the daughter of the famous Joshua Lynch. All of the teachers were afraid that something terrible would happen, so as soon as Nellie injured herself, they immediately panicked and tried to fulfill her every request. It was because of this that the two children were able to distract the nurse and teachers, ordering fried chicken without their knowing.

"He won't," Joshua did not respond to the teacher's question, so Luna piped up instead. She heaved a sigh of relief and smiled at the teacher and nurse. "Thanks for your help. Everything's fine. You guys can go now."

The teacher and the nurse both glanced at Joshua apprehensively, but they figured that since Luna came together with Joshua, she must have meant it when she said everything was fine, so they nodded and quickly left the room.

After the teachers left, Luna immediately turned around and gave Neil a disapproving glare. "Neil, what were you thinking?"

Neil replied meekly, "Nellie wanted fried chicken..." He lowered his head dejectedly and added, "I wanted fried chicken, too..."

"You guys can have it," Joshua's low voice rang. He turned around, his gaze skimming across Luna and landing on Neil. "The reason why you kids aren't allowed to have junk food, including fried chicken, is because they're very high in calories. Secondly, the sanitation of outside foods can be questionable. If you two want to have fried chicken, I'll ask the chef to prepare some for you."

"Okay!" Nellie's face lit up upon hearing her father's words. "Daddy, I want... I want Neil and Aunty to come home with us and have fried chicken, too. Can they?"

Joshua frowned and gave Luna a cold stare. A smirk played on the corner of his mouth as he replied, "Of course they can." He reached his hand out toward Neil. "Come on."

He had no intention of talking to or interacting with Luna at all.

Neil acknowledged Joshua's outstretched hand with a scowl and raised his head to give him a haughty look. Neil still held a grudge against Joshua for losing the evidence of Aura trying to get rid of

Nellie, so he ignored Joshua's hand and grabbed Luna's instead.

"The only reason we're going is Nellie!" he said to Luna.

Luna's brow furrowed in response. She had not made up her mind to accept Joshua's invitation yet, but she recalled what Nigel had told her earlier that afternoon. The only way she could see Aura in person was through Joshua.

Luna let out a sigh and grabbed Neil's hand. She had no choice but to go along with it

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By the time Joshua, Luna, Neil, and Nellie came out of the kindergarten, the crowd of parents waiting outside had dispersed.

Lucas, obediently waiting outside, froze momentarily in shock when he saw the two adults and two children emerging out of the building.

'Why are Joshua and Luna together again? They had just parted ways last night and even fought this morning.' Lucas thought to himself, flummoxed at the sight. He could still picture the solemn look on Joshua's face when he returned to the ward this morning. Did they somehow manage to make up in just a few hours?

Joshua hoisted Nellie into his arms and slid into the backseat.

Neil, seemingly trying to avoid Joshua, opened the passenger side door in a swift motion and sat in the front passenger seat.

Luna paused. After a moment's hesitation, however, she opened the car door and got into the backseat. Joshua was on the left while Luna was on the right, with Nellie wedged in between them.

"Thank you, Daddy! " Nellie gazed at her father with an awestruck look in her eyes. "I wouldn't have lied if I had known you'd let me have fried chicken! "

Joshua squinted at her and cupped her tiny hand with his large one. "In the future, you should be

honest with me about anything you want. Don't lie to me."

Nellie lowered her head in shame and muttered, "

Okay..."

"Most importantly, you shouldn't lie about getting hurt, understand?"

"Then...what if I do get hurt?"

Joshua stared at her little finger painted in bright red nail polish. "Well, in that case, Daddy will be very sad." After a pause, he added, "I'll make sure whoever hurt you gets taught a lesson." There was a hint of tenderness in his low voice.

Nellie pursed her lips in approval. She snuck a glance at Luna and said, "See, Aunty, my Daddy is the best."

Luna narrowed her eyes upon hearing this but said nothing else.

Joshua acted like he was the best father in the world. Who was he kidding? If he truly cared about Nellie, if he would handle those who hurt his daughter, then what about Aura?

Ever since Nellie was born, Aura had been the first and only person who seemingly wanted Nellie's life at all costs, yet this man—who kept trying to act like a good father—did nothing apart from imprisoning her.

At the thought of Aura, Luna could not help but let out a sigh. She lifted her head to sneak a surreptitious glance at Joshua. She still could not figure out what this man planned to do to Aura.

The car soon arrived at Blue Bay Villa.

"Sir, little princess!" Lily came forward to greet them with a smile as soon as the car stopped. "How was school today?"

The car door opened, and Luna stepped out.

Lily's smile froze on her face upon seeing her. "Ms. Luna, what are you doing here?"

"Daddy wants to treat Neil and Aunty to some fried chicken!" Nellie exclaimed, grinning as she hopped off the car. "Lily, do you know how to make fried chicken?"

Lily picked her up and answered, "Of course I do!"

She turned to look at Joshua and Luna and asked tentatively, "Sir, are you sure...that you want to have fried chicken with guests over?"

Joshua had alighted the car gracefully and unbuttoned his cuff sleeves when he heard that. "What do you mean?"

Lily took a deep breath and replied, "You have a guest; it's your father. He's been waiting in the living room for about an hour now. He said..." She gave Luna a sideways glance before she continued, "

He said he wants to talk to you about Ms. Luna."
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Luna was astonished to hear Lily's words. Why would Adrian Lynch want to talk to Joshua about her? Was she not just a resigned maid to the Lynch family? What was there to talk about?

Joshua was just as surprised. He shot Luna a disapproving frown and turned back to look at Lily. "Ask the chefs to prepare fried chicken," he ordered.

Lily nodded after a moment's hesitation. She linked hands with the two children, and the trio entered the house together. Lucas also left to park the car in the garage.

Joshua and Luna were the only two people left standing in front of Blue Bay Villa, though Joshua did not seem to be in a rush. He took out a pack of cigarettes from his pocket and proceeded to light one. Then, he leaned casually against the pillar and took a drag on his cigarette. The smoke made his unsmiling face look even colder and unapproachable.

Joshua fixated his steely gaze on Luna and sneered, "I guess you decided to target my father instead since you couldn't get any confidential information out of me, huh? What did Malcolm Quinn offer you in return for doing his dirty work, so much so that you're willing to be a pawn?"

Luna initially frowned at his words, but she smirked a split second later. Joshua must have thought she was the one who led Adrian here over the pretense of having a conversation about her. He

even thought that Luna kept trying to get close to him so she could

extract confidential information for Malcolm.

'He thinks too highly of himself and too lowly of Malcolm,' Luna mused to herself. 'Although Malcolm is his biggest competitor and had never managed to outsmart him, that doesn't mean Malcolm would resort to dirty measures like this. Malcolm isn't a despicable rogue like Joshua thinks.'

The fact that Joshua's mind immediately jumped to this conclusion, proves how much more despicable he truly is.'

Luna snickered as a cold glint flashed in her eyes. "You insist that I' in a spy sent by Malcolm Quinn. Let me ask you this, Mr. Lynch: I've been with you for almost two months now, and if I truly am a spy, wouldn't the Quinn Group have gotten their hands on the Lynch Group's confidential business information already?"

Joshua snorted, "Just because they don't have access now doesn't mean they won't in the future. Maybe Malcolm Quinn is just biding his time." He let out a puff of cigarette smoke. The smoke obscured most of his face like a thick fog, but his piercing eyes still stared straight at Luna.

"I don't care who sent you or what your motives are. I've warned you, Luna. You can hurt me all you want, but I draw the line at family. You used Nellie and my father as chess pieces in your game to get close to me, but I won't let this happen a second time." He put out the rest of his cigarette. "Let's go in."

With long strides, Joshua's tall figure disappeared into the villa.

Luna's brow furrowed and remained motionless for a moment, but she followed him nonetheless. No matter how much hatred

she harbored for this man, she knew what she had to do. She had to restrain herself to persevere.

She had always been very good at that, and this day was no exception.

The two entered Blue Bay Villa.

“Joshua.” Adrian, who had been sitting on the couch, stood up as soon as he saw his son entering. “ I want to talk to you about that girl, Luna...” Before he could finish his sentence, Adrian caught a glimpse of Luna, and his words seemed to be stuck in his throat.

After a pause, he gave an awkward smile and said, “Ms. Luna is here as well.” Luna smiled politely and nodded in response.

“Hello, Mr. Lynch.”

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“Lily mentioned that you’ve been waiting for over an hour now?” Joshua took off his jacket and handed it over to a servant. He lowered himself onto the couch and planted his arm gracefully on the leather armrest. “You wanted to talk to me?”

“I do, ” Adrian replied. He glanced at Luna and smiled. “It’s okay, we’ll talk next time.”

“I probably won’t even be interested in hearing about it next time, ” said Joshua as he crossed one slender leg over the other. “Tell me now.”

Joshua had never really been fond of his father, much less had a close relationship with him. The way he talked to his father at that moment felt no different from talking to a subordinate.

Adrian never expected that Joshua would behave like that; he did not even bother to show any respect toward him. Adrian remained silent for a moment before giving a wry smile. "Alright, I'll just come right out and say it."

He glanced at Luna and cleared his throat. "It's about Ms. Luna. I'm sure you know that I'm a jewelry designer, and Nellie has displayed great talent in jewelry designing as well. However, I'll be leaving in a few days to take care of some stuff, and I don't want Nellie's talent to go to waste. I didn't think anyone in Banyan City would be qualified to teach her, except..."

Adrian pointed at Luna. "Except for Ms. Luna," He continued, "At the beginning, I, like everyone else, thought that Ms. Luna was just an ordinary maid.

However, when I discovered her real profession and capabilities, I was shocked and ashamed that I hadn't managed to see her for what she truly is: a genius."

Adrian fixated his stare on Luna. "Ms. Luna's gift and aptitude in jewelry design are just what Nellie needs. She'd be the perfect teacher for Nellie."

Joshua chuckled upon hearing his father's words. He raised an eyebrow and swept his gaze over Luna's face. "You expect me to believe that my father isn't in on this with you?"

Joshua had not spoken more than a few sentences with Adrian ever since the latter returned to the Lynch family, yet just a mere few days before his leaving, Adrian suddenly brought up the prospect of Luna becoming Nellie's teacher. Joshua could not help but feel that his suspicions were correct: Adrian was part of Luna's scheme, and he was trying to find an excuse to let Luna remain close to Joshua.

Luna frowned. She had a bad feeling about this.

She had been an exceptionally skilled jewelry designer in the past, but before she returned to Banyan City, she made sure that Malcolm had altered her personal information. In her resume, she was portrayed as an amateur who did not have many achievements, and her qualifications would not allow her to teach a prodigy like Nellie. Besides, the experience listed in her resume was nothing to boast about; there were plenty of people in Banyan City who had more impressive portfolios than hers.

Saying that there was no one else more qualified than her was a blatant lie.

Luna pursed her lips and shot Adrian a questioning look. What was this man trying to do?

"Daddy! " All of a sudden, Nellie appeared. "Can you come upstairs for a bit? Me and Neil want to talk to you! "

Joshua murmured in response and got up from his seat. "Excuse me, I'll need to go take a look."

"Go ahead! " Adrian waved his hand at Joshua nonchalantly. "I wanted to have a quick talk with Ms. Luna anyway."

Joshua frowned upon hearing this. He gave Luna another cold glance before heading up the stairs.

After he left, Adrian and Luna were the only two people who remained in the living room.

"Ms. Luna," Adrian began as he took a deep breath and sat down across from her. "Or should I say...

Moon?"

Adrian poured himself a cup of tea and took a sip. "The famous Moon, who just recently announced that she'd be leaving the jewelry design industry forever. Who would've thought that I'd run into the legendary Moon herself, working as a maid in my son's home?"

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Alarm bells rang in Luna's head. "I have no idea what you're talking about," she immediately denied.

"You know exactly what I'm talking about." Adrian shifted his position and leaned back gracefully against the couch. "Ms. Luna, please don't forget. I was once a jewelry designer myself before Joshua's mother passed away. Besides, I have a lot of connections in this industry."

He curled his lips into a smile before he continued, "I've read through your résumé. You tried to conceal your true identity, so I'm sure the last thing you want is for me to expose you here."

Luna frowned. After the initial wave of shock passed, she now felt strangely calm. She looked at Adrian warily and said in a low voice, "How did you know?"

Why was Adrian investigating her?

"In case you're wondering, I wasn't investigating you on purpose." Adrian let out a small laugh. "I know that Nellie is the true identity of the famous jewelry designer known as Y, and because of this, I did a lot of research about her past designs. I discovered that Moon used to be her teacher, and after asking around, I managed to get my hands on some information about Moon through one of my connections in Europe."

Adrian glanced at Luna and added, "Now I know the real reason why Ms. Luna came all the way to become a maid at Blue Bay

Villa. You didn't want to see Nellie's talent go to waste, didn't you?"

Luna frowned at his words, but as she contemplated for a moment, she confirmed that Adrian had yet to discover her true identity. He merely thought that she was a determined jewelry designer who had returned from abroad because she was unwilling to let go of an exceptionally gifted student.

Luna felt a surge of relief at this realization. She let out a deep breath and said, "You're right, Nellie's talent is truly remarkable. I've never come across anyone as gifted as her, but I've already tendered my resignation at Blue Bay Villa. I'm not going to be teaching her anymore."

It was true that Nellie's talent for jewelry design was unparalleled and beyond comparison, but there was not much that Luna could teach her. As long as Nellie continued to realize and develop her potential, she could one day become an outstanding designer.

Adrian heaved a deep sigh. "I don't want you to give up on Nellie just like this. She's only six years old, and she has limitless potential, so she'll need a good teacher to guide her. However, I know that a master like you shouldn't be holed up here as a teacher and servant. That wouldn't be right at all, which is why

He stared right into Luna's eyes. "I want to offer you a job at the Lynch Group's jewelry branch. You can work and coach Nellie at the same time."

Luna halted at the suggestion. "Mr. Lynch, this sounds like an excellent idea, but..." She gave him a bitter smile. "Joshua would never agree to this."

Joshua was wary and hostile toward her the entire afternoon. He even attributed Nellie's sudden insistence in attending Neil's school, as well as Adrian's suggestion of letting Luna become

Nellie's teacher, to her doing. Therefore, she did not think that Joshua would agree to this decision.

"Ms. Luna, I'll take care of Joshua. All that matters is whether or not you want to take up my offer," insisted the smiling Adrian.

Luna frowned and lifted her head to glance at him. After a moment's hesitation, she let out an exhale. " Alright, I'll take it."

Taking up a position at Joshua's company had always been a part of her plan. Even though it was a little different from what she initially devised, it would suffice.

"Alright, " Adrian said, letting out a sigh of relief. "Ms. Luna, please wait here for a moment. I '11 go up to talk to him." Immediately, he got up and disappeared up the stairs.

The living room was empty apart from Luna. She closed her eyes and leaned back against the couch, but as she grew tired and bored, she got up and headed into the kitchen.

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In the kitchen, Lily was preparing fried chicken with the other servants.

"Ms. Luna, " Lily greeted with a smile when she noticed Luna entering. "Fried chicken is so oily and unhealthy. I don't understand why children like it so much."

Luna frowned and glanced at the food. Lily was right; it did look quite oily.

Luna recalled that there were some leftover ingredients in the fridge from when she made mushroom soup last time. She took a deep breath, put on an apron, and started preparing mushroom soup.

"Ms. Luna." It was rare that the both of them could talk in private like this, so Lily heaved a deep sigh and began, "Actually, Mr. Quinn..."

"Shh." Luna frowned and stopped her from continuing. "You're the new maid here at Blue Bay Villa, and if someone discovers the relationship between you and Malcolm, they'll think that you're spying for him," muttered Luna under her breath as she prepared the ingredients skillfully.

Lily froze at her response. Her face turned pale.

"Do you... not want to talk about him?" Lily asked. She had worked as a maid for the Quinns in the past, so she had witnessed firsthand the devotion that Malcolm displayed toward Luna. When Luna was still abroad, she was not too close with Malcolm, but they still maintained a friendly relationship.

However, ever since Luna returned to Banyan City, she did not keep in touch with him that often anymore. Whenever Lily recalled the way Malcolm stared longingly at the phone, she could not help but feel sympathetic toward him. This man was so faithful and committed toward Luna, yet she refused to even bring him up in conversation.

"It's not that I don't want to talk about him," Luna explained with a frown. She lowered her voice and continued, "I just don't think this is the right place to be talking about him."

Luna changed the topic immediately after she finished her sentence. "How much fried chicken did you make? Don't cook too much. It's high in fat and calories, so we should let them have enough for only one meal."

Lily paused and turned away from Luna. "Alright, noted."

The two women continued working in silence for a while. Luna tried to move past Lily, but all of a sudden, a drop of sizzling oil splashed out from the pot that Lily held and onto the back of Luna's hand.

"Ouch !" Luna cried out in pain. She lowered her head immediately and discovered that a blister had developed on the back of her right hand.

"Ms. Luna!" Lily quickly turned off the stove and grabbed hold of Luna's hand. She held Luna's hand under running tap water, all the while apologizing profusely. "How could you be so clumsy?"

Luna frowned and shot Lily a glance. "Let this be a one-time occurrence."

Lily froze at her words. "What do you mean?"

"You're upset at me because I didn't want to talk about Malcolm with you, but this is it. I won't allow you to take out your anger on me a second time."

Lily's face turned white immediately. "Ms. Luna, I don't... I don't know what you're talking about."

"I'm not stupid. I know my way around a kitchen, and I'm sure you do, too. This is a rookie mistake. The only plausible explanation is that you did it on purpose."

Lily's hand stiffened. After a split second, she lifted her hand to look at Luna. "Mr. Quinn has sacrificed so much for you. He truly is in love with you."

"So this is the reason you hurt me?" Luna sneered and turned off the tap. "How do you think Malcolm will feel if he finds out you did this for him? Do you think he'd be touched?"

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"Delicious fried chicken! "

The fried chicken was served ten minutes later, and Nellie hopped around in glee. Neil was just as elated, but he still snuck an apprehensive glance at Luna. " Mommy..."

"You can eat, " said Luna with a small smile. She was already seated at the dining table.

"Here you go, Sirs. Have a taste of this mushroom soup," said Lily enthusiastically as she set down bowls of soup in front of everyone at the table. "Ms. Luna was afraid that fried chicken alone would be too heavy, so she made this mushroom soup herself! "

Adrian picked up a spoonful of soup and took a sip. " Not bad."

Joshua, however, sat in silence. He caught a glimpse of Luna, who had been trying to keep her right hand under the table and out of sight. "What's wrong with your hand?"

Luna shot him an impassive glance. "Nothing. I `m just not hungry."

"Not hungry, or did you injure yourself?" Joshua's dark eyes seemed to see right through her. "Lift your hand."

Luna frowned. She did not want to do as he said, but everyone was staring at her at this point. She let out a sigh and reluctantly lifted her hand from under the table.

Her right hand was wrapped in a bandage.

Nellie was so shocked that she dropped her chicken drumstick. "What happened, Aunty?"

Neil immediately leaped off his seat, rushed to Luna's side, and grabbed hold of her wrist. "Are you hurt?"

Seeing her children's reactions, Luna felt a tingle of warmth in her heart. She shook her head in response. "I'm fine. A drop of hot oil accidentally splashed onto me, that's all."

"Accidentally?" Joshua gave her a steely glance, then turned to glance at Lily. "It's not the first time the both of you entered a kitchen. How can two handy cooks make a rookie mistake like this?"

His gaze made Lily uneasy. She lowered her head and tried to avoid looking at him.

A smirk played on the corner of Joshua's mouth. He demanded immediately, "Tell me what happened!"

Lily was so startled by his booming voice that she almost got onto her knees. "I... I..." she stammered.

"It was my fault," answered Luna. She gently set her injured hand down on the table and raised her bowl with the other one to take a sip. "I got some water on my hand when I was making the soup, but I forgot about it. I saw that Lily was having some trouble, so I tried to help, but the water on my hand dripped into the pot, and the hot oil splattered onto me."

Luna glanced at Lily. "She's a timid girl, and she felt guilty about my injury, thinking it wouldn't have

happened if I didn't try to help her. Don't be so harsh on her."

Upon hearing these words, Lily immediately lifted her head to stare at Luna with a bewildered look on her face.

Adrian believed Luna's response. "Alright, just be careful next time. Ms. Luna, you're no longer a maid here at Blue Bay Villa, so you don't have to take part in chores like this anymore."

Luna nodded and gave him a smile. "I won't."

After hearing Luna's explanation, Joshua said nothing to indicate whether he believed her or not. He just gave Lily a cold glance and continued eating his meal.

Since Luna had injured her right hand, all throughout the meal, she could only use her left hand clumsily. Fortunately, Neil soon finished his meal and moved to sit next to her, so that he could feed her.

"Mommy, you used to feed me in the past, so now it's my turn to feed you instead."

Luna chuckled. "How does it feel to be feeding your own mother?"

Neil gave a small laugh. "It feels nice."

"Hey, I want to do this, too!" Nellie exclaimed and wanted to join in, but she bit her lip soon after she realized that it was not appropriate for her to do so. Luna was just her Aunty to everyone else, after all. Therefore, she turned around and looked at Joshua expectantly. "Daddy, will you let me feed you?"

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Joshua frowned upon hearing this and sternly replied, "We'll see in the future."

"Okay..." Nellie lowered her head in disappointment.

Adrian could not take the sight of that, though. "Come, Nellie, I'll let you feed me instead!"

Nellie's face lit up. She picked up her bowl and sat in front of Adrian. "Open your mouth, Granddad!"

Adrian grinned at her and opened his mouth obediently.

A moment later, Luna had finished eating, so Neil joined Nellie in feeding their grandfather together. Adrian initially wanted to object to this, but he could not resist denying Nellie and seeing her crestfallen expression, so he let them do whatever they wanted.

Luna had finished her meal, so she left the table and sat down on the couch. She whipped out her phone and was about to check the news when she suddenly felt the cushion next to her sink. Joshua had lowered his tall and slender body onto the seat next to her.

"Give me your hand," he ordered in a low voice.

Luna immediately extended her right hand out to him as if she was on autopilot.

It felt like electricity surged in her the minute her hand brushed against Joshua's rough and broad palm. She tried to pull her hand back, but his grip on her was tight already.

"Don't move." Joshua held her hand in his while the other one reached out to open a first aid kit. He removed the bandage from the back of her hand to reveal a swollen, red wound. The blister had burst, and her skin was trailing blood.

With a frown, he took out some medicinal ointment and proceeded to apply it to the wound. The cooling sensation of the ointment seemed to soothe Luna's pain.

It took her a moment before she could find her voice again. "Thank you," she uttered tentatively.

"If it hurts so much, why didn't you punish her? Instead, you chose to stand up for her," questioned Joshua with his head lowered as he continued to apply the ointment onto Luna's skin.

Luna contemplated for a moment before she realized he was talking about Lily. "You figured it out?" she asked him.

"Of course." Joshua let out a snicker. "I know you won't make such a careless mistake." Even though Luna had worked at Blue Bay Villa for quite some time, she had never committed a mistake.

Luna shrugged in response. "She didn't mean any harm." Lily was merely angry at Luna because she had not contacted Malcolm as much as she should.

"Just because she didn't mean any harm, you chose to forgive her even though she did something wrong? How do you even know if she meant no harm, or if she was just pretending?" There was a hint of sympathy in Joshua's stern voice. "You'd rather be in pain than let someone who hurt you pay the price?"

Foolish woman."

Joshua's low and gravelly voice made Luna feel as if someone had struck a blow to her heart. After a moment, she lifted her head to look at him. "Mr. Lynch, I wanted to ask you something."

She took a deep breath and looked straight into his eyes. "Were you sad when Nellie got hurt?"

Joshua nodded. "Of course."

"Then..." Luna gave a wry smile. "Why did you rather suffer alone than let someone who almost killed her pay the price? You said I'm a foolish woman, and I agree."

She lifted her gaze. Joshua's stunned face was reflected in her clear eyes. "What about you, Mr. Lynch? Are you a stupid man, then?"

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Joshua stared back at Luna in silence.

After a while, he shot her a glance and answered impassively, "I have my plans."

"Mr. Lynch." Luna let out a deep breath. "I know that you're probably showing Ms. Gibson mercy because you have a close relationship with her.

You've known her for a long time, and it's understandable you're finding it difficult to punish her for what she's done. However, she did do something wrong, and she deserves to pay the price for it. If you can't bear to do anything to her, you can pass all the evidence to the police, and they can take care of it."

Luna's gaze never wavered from Joshua as she tried to suppress the rage in her heart, continuing slowly, " Attempted murder isn't a death sentence. If she gets convicted, she only has to spend a few years in prison. Perhaps by the time she gets released, Nellie would've already grown up and can protect herself. She won't face the same threat that she's facing now anymore."

Luna heaved a sigh and frowned at Joshua. "Why are you so unwilling to do so?"

Joshua's brow furrowed more and more as he listened to Luna. His movements also became rougher as he continued applying the ointment onto her. Luna was in pain due to his aggressive motions, but she still managed to finish her sentence. "Why are you showing Aura so much mercy, even though

she doesn't deserve it? Is it because she's far more important to you than your daughter?"

Clang!

Joshua immediately let go of Aura's hand and flung the bottle of ointment back into the first aid kit. The aluminum container crashed against the edge of the kit and produced a harsh noise.

"I guess you're not in pain anymore," scoffed Joshua as he shot her a glare and got up from his seat.

Only half of Luna's wound was smeared with ointment; the rest of the burnt skin was still exposed. Lily, who had been observing from a distance, immediately approached Luna cautiously. She wanted to make up for her mistake by treating the rest of Luna's injury.

"There's no need, " said Joshua as he glanced at Lily. "Put the first aid kit back where it belongs."

Lily shot Luna a troubled look. Luna immediately shook her head at Lily, picked up the roll of bandage, and proceeded to wrap her wound again.

Joshua grew even more enraged at the sight of Luna's unfazed expression. "Butler, please send Ms. Luna and Neil off!" As soon as he barked his order, Joshua immediately disappeared upstairs.

Luna watched his retreating figure with a smirk on her face and knew she scored a weak point.

Otherwise, he would not have become so angry all of a sudden and even resorted to sending his guests off early.

At the thought of this, Luna swiveled around to look at Nellie.

Nellie, initially happy as she munched on her fried chicken, was so startled by this sudden turn of events that her jaw dropped, and she seemed to have forgotten how to chew.

Adrian frowned and glanced at Luna. "Ms. Luna, I..."

The butler immediately rushed over. "Ms. Luna, I'm so sorry, but..."

"Don't be." She smiled at him and waved in Neil's direction. "Come, let's go home now."

Neil nodded, retrieved his jacket obediently, and ran to Luna's side. He grabbed hold of Luna's left hand. "Let's go, Mommy!"

"Mr. Lynch doesn't seem to be in a good mood,"

said Luna as she looked at Adrian. "I don't think you should push the idea of me working at Lynch

Group." She did not even wait for Adrian's response before she turned around and left hand-in-hand with Neil.

Adrian knitted his brows and turned to look at Nellie. "Don't worry, you can continue enjoying your food. I'm heading upstairs to see what's going on with your father." He heaved a sigh and disappeared up the stairs.

Outside Blue Bay Villa...

Neil led Luna to the side of the road, but instead of pausing to hail a taxi, he turned and pulled her into a nearby pharmacy.

"Do you have any ointment for burns?"

Neil instructed his mother to wait at the entrance and entered the pharmacy himself.

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Luna stood outside the pharmacy and looked through the glass door at Neil as she sighed helplessly. It was difficult at times for her to believe that her three angels—Nigel, Neil, and Nellie—were Joshua's children. That man did not deserve to have such obedient children.

"Mommy." Luna had spaced out, and by the time she snapped out of her daze, Neil had gotten out of the pharmacy with a tube of medicinal ointment at hand.

He grabbed hold of Luna's hand. "Let's go home. I'll help you apply the medicine!" He stayed silent for a moment before he lifted his head to look at her. "Don't be too bothered about that scumbag. We can still achieve what we want even without him!"

Luna sighed and clutched his hand tightly. "I believe you."

As long as her children were with her, she believed she could overcome every obstacle that came her way.

Perhaps it was a tiring day that as soon as she got home and applied the ointment onto her wound, Luna immediately laid down on her bed and fell into a deep slumber.

The moon shone brightly in the night sky.

After making sure that Luna was indeed asleep, Neil climbed out of bed gently. Then, with the help of the

phone's flashlight, he carefully opened Luna's bandage.

He smeared another layer of ointment onto her scalded skin. He knew there was a lot on his mother's mind because of what had happened, and she was probably distracted. He was afraid that she had not applied the proper amount and that her wound would take ages to heal, so he got up and applied it for her.

As he was doing so, Neil silently promised he would make that scumbag pay for what he had done to his mother.

"Joshua..." Luna murmured in her sleep just as Neil had almost finished treating her wound. Her voice was slurred, but Neil could still make out what she was saying.

"Joshua, why did you leave me... Why are you treating me like this..."

Neil's heart sank at her murmurs, and he could not understand why Joshua had left his mother. Was Aura such a good person to the extent that Joshua was willing to give up Luna because of her?

After a moment, Neil let out a sigh and said earnestly, "I'm sorry, Mommy."

It probably would have been so much easier for Luna to forget about that scumbag if she had not brought his children into this world. Instead, however, the three of them were like signposts that constantly reminded her of her past, of how much she used to love Joshua, and reminded her of the pain that man inflicted upon her.

"Nigel, I want to track Aura down." Neil finished what he was doing and went out onto the balcony to call Nigel.

The pale moonlight illuminated Neil's troubled expression. "I want to...find out what they did in the past."

On the other end of the line, Nigel remained silent. Then, after a moment, he said, "I thought Mommy didn't want us to dwell on the past."

Neil gripped the phone so tightly that his knuckles turned white. "She doesn't want to dwell on the past, but I do. Mommy used to not have anyone to rely on, and that's why Joshua and Aura betrayed her, but she has us now. I want to make them pay for what they've done."

"The reason Mommy returned this time is also because she wants to take revenge."

"No." Neil let out a sigh. "I don't want revenge. All I want is for them to admit their mistake."

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When Luna woke up the next day, Neil had already headed to kindergarten on his own.

He had prepared breakfast for her before he left and left a note that read, (Mommy, by the time you read this, I've already left for school. Please remember to take your meals and keep your wound dry. Also, I've left this for you.)

Underneath the note was a pregnancy test kit.

Luna perched on the side of the bed as she read the note. She glanced at the plate of food as well as the pregnancy test kit on the table. Her eyes started to tear up. Her children's thoughtfulness over her tugged at her heartstrings.

She hesitated for a moment before getting up and heading into the bathroom, taking the pregnancy test with her.

Only one line. She was not pregnant, after all.

Luna let out a wry smile and tossed the pregnancy test into the trash can. She should have known that it would not be so easy. Her life had never been easy.

After she washed up, Luna sat down at the dining table. She ate her breakfast while mulling over what to do next when, all of a sudden, the doorbell rang.

Thinking it was Anne, Luna went to get the door with half a slice of toast still hanging from her mouth.

"Ms. Luna!" rang a loud male voice as soon as she opened the door. Luna immediately jolted in shock.

"Good day!" beamed a man dressed in a black suit smilingly as he handed her his name card. "My name is Wesley Fisher, and I'm the head of human resources at the jewelry branch under Lynch Group. I received instructions from Mr. Lynch himself to inform you that you've been accepted into the internship program at the department of design under Lynch Group's jewelry branch."

Luna's face twitched at his announcement. "Internship?"

"Yes." Wesley gave her an earnest smile. "Please be assured that although this is an internship program, your pay and benefits will be no different from that of a full-time designer."

"Your abilities impressed Mr. Lynch. He said that although you're still a beginner, you displayed very promising potential, and he believes that you'll be able to make a name for yourself in the future," Wesley added.

Luna squinted. It was obvious that Joshua did this on purpose.

When Luna was forging her new resume, she deliberately left out the fact that she was the real Moon. Despite that, it was still mentioned in her new resume that she had been in this industry for some years. She clearly did not need an internship; Joshua offered her the design intern position because he thought it was the best way to humiliate her.

This man was indeed clever. Joshua knew that because of Adrian, he had to let Luna work at his company. At the same time, he did not want to offer her a permanent position, so he accepted her into the internship program. This was a smart move, because if she refused, he had an excuse for Adrian, and at the same time, she would be humiliated.

"Ms. Luna," Wesley reminded her when he noticed that she had not replied.

Luna immediately came back to her senses. "Alright, let me just pick up a few things first." She stuffed the rest of the toast into her mouth. "Please wait for a moment."

She turned around and disappeared into the house.

Wesley was stunned. Joshua had ordered him to offer Luna an internship position, and he even instructed him on what to do should she refuse.

What Wesley never expected was that Luna would accept the job without a moment's hesitation. He immediately took out his phone and messaged Lucas.

[Mr. Bean, Luna accepted the job... What should we do?]

Lucas' response came almost instantly, [Then bring her here.]

"Let's go." Luna had finished getting ready just as Wesley read Lucas' text. She had layered a light blue knitted cardigan over a white shirt and pants and had on a pastel yellow backpack. Her outfit looked bright and cheery.

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Luna's outfit indeed looked like something a young design intern would wear.

Wesley froze at the sight. For a split second, he could not believe that this woman was the same one who had answered the door a few minutes ago.

"Today will be my first day of work, right?" Luna did not seem to notice his bewilderment. Instead, she walked down the steps and continued with an air of nonchalance, "Can you please explain the working hours to me? I might have to get off work early because I need to pick up my son from school."

Following behind her, Wesley was so shocked by her statement that he was tongue-tied. "You...have a son?" This woman did not look a day over 20. How could she have a son already?

"Of course." Luna chuckled. "My son is best friends with Mr. Lynch's daughter."

Wesley came to a sudden realization. No wonder this woman, who lived in such an ordinary residential area, seemed to be friends with Mr. Lynch. It was all because of her son.

The two left Luna's building together and got into Wesley's car. Throughout the journey, Wesley tried to explain the company's policies to Luna.

Luna stared out the window and did not seem to be paying much attention, much to Wesley's displeasure. "Luna, why aren't you listening? Some of these policies are different from other companies. If you break the rules, your salary will be cut!" Luna curled her lips into a smile. "I'm listening."

She still remembered all of the policies that Wesley went through. Many years ago, she had been the one to draw up those guidelines with Joshua, including the benefits provided for female employees such as maternity leaves.

Once, she laid in Joshua's arms and looked up at him with a grin. "Don't tell anyone that all of this was my idea, so that everyone will think you're a caring boss!"

At that time, Joshua had given her a small smile. "Of course I'll tell everyone, because my employees deserve to know that you're the caring one."

Luna had believed him. She thought he would let everyone know that Joshua Lynch's wife was a kind, considerate lady.

However, the reality was that she was met with coldness and disrespect from Joshua's employees when she showed up at his company. Some of them even went so far as to spike her coffee.

However, while Luna's presence was met with contempt, Aura, who had been working as Joshua's assistant at that time, was treated with respect and appreciation. Aura had tried to comfort

Luna by telling her it was simply because she was more approachable.

Luna eventually found out that the reason Joshua's employees had treated her so harshly was that Aura had told them she was a trophy wife who merely took credit for things she had not done. Aura had lied to all of them, saying that the lenient guidelines and benefits provided were all Joshua's ideas.

All of these memories were still fresh in Luna's mind as if they had happened just yesterday.

Luna let out a sigh. In a twist of fate, she had become one of Lynch Group's many employees. It felt strange and unbelievable.

The car soon arrived at Lynch Group Tower.

"Ms. Luna, we've arrived. You can get down now."

"Ms. Luna! "

As soon as the car stopped, two tall, muscular bodyguards immediately came forward to open the car door.

Wesley frowned at this sight. "Zach, Yuri, why the sudden enthusiasm? You guys even opened the door for me."

"We didn't open the door for you; we did it for Ms. Luna!" said Zach, ignoring Wesley as he headed toward Luna instead. "Hello, Ms. Luna. My name is Zach, and this is Yuri. We're Neil's brothers. As long as you are here at Lynch Group, we'll protect you and keep you safe! "

Luna was at a loss for words. She stared at the two burly men in front of her.

"Neil's...brothers?"

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"It's... a long story." Zach scratched his head, embarrassed. "I know that it might seem a bit hard to believe, but we're both good people. We've always obeyed every single one of Boss' commands. We know that you're related to our boss, so we'll surely try our best to take care of you! "

Luna froze in astonishment. It took a long while before she finally forced out, "Thank you..."

She followed Wesley into the building and gave herself a small knock on the head. Since when did Neil have two burly 'brothers' like Zach and Yuri?

"Ms. Luna not only knows our boss, Mr. Lynch personally, but seems to be close with our security guards, too," remarked Wesley pointedly as they got into the elevator. He pressed a button for one of the floors and added, "You should've joined us earlier. If you did, you probably would have held a permanent position by now, instead of working as an intern."

There was a hint of sarcasm in Wesley's tone. Luna gave him a faint smile. "I'm happy to be working as an intern. I get paid the same amount, but the workload is lighter. It sounds good to me."

"I'm sure that Mr. Fisher's work must be very consuming. Besides having to work, you also have to deal with a lot of your colleagues' problems. It sounds very tiring."

Wesley's expression changed upon hearing this. He glared at Luna and said nothing in response.

The design department was located on the 18th floor.

The elevator stopped at the fifth floor, and a beautiful lady walked in holding a cup of hot coffee.

"Mr. Fisher," she greeted, giving Wesley a polite smile. "I was in the CEO's office just now and bumped into Lucas. Apparently, Mr. Lynch has employed a new female worker?" Her voice was very sweet and pleasant.

Wesley pursed his lips in Luna's direction. "This is her. Let me introduce you. She's the new intern working in the design department. Her name is Luna."

Wesley turned to Luna and resumed, "Luna, this is Mr. Lynch's new assistant, Courtney Johnson."

Courtney gave Luna a once-over and beamed at her. "Hello, nice to meet you. You can call me Courtney."

Luna lifted her head to greet the woman, but when her gaze fell onto Courtney's face, she froze.

Courtney looked a lot like how Luna used to be before she underwent her surgery. Luna felt as if she were staring at her past self.

She used to have features like Courtney's: a charming smile and clear eyes as riveting as hers. It was a shame that...

Luna glanced at her reflection in the elevator mirror. It was a shame that her new face was much prettier than her old one. Still...

"Luna." Wesley's voice pulled Luna back to reality. Unfortunately, when Luna came to, Courtney had already got off the elevator.

Wesley shot her a disdainful glance. "I know that you're friends with Mr. Lynch, but that doesn't excuse your rude behavior. Courtney was introducing herself to you. Couldn't you have at least answered her?"

Luna paused and let out a dry laugh. "I'm sorry, I forgot."

She was not lying. Seeing Courtney's face had brought up so many memories of the past, good ones and bad ones alike.

"I don't understand why you're so haughty," said Wesley as he rolled his eyes. "Just because you know Mr. Lynch doesn't mean you can treat people like this. Mr. Lynch is very strict and particular about things like this. Besides, the reason why Courtney got employed as the CEO's assistant is that she looks a lot like his ex-wife! You have to be careful when you come across her again in the future. You never know if she'll turn out to be the new Mrs. Lynch."

Luna curled her lips into a smile. "Don't be silly."

Courtney resembled the old Luna only in appearance. Besides, many years ago, Joshua had looked at that exact face with eyes full of contempt. What made anyone think he would want to marry another woman who looked like Luna?

"What do you mean?"

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Wesley rolled his eyes. "Mr. Lynch claims that his ex-wife isn't dead and that he's still waiting for her to return, but it's been so many years now. I think it's safe to say that she isn't coming back anymore."

He continued, "If in a couple more years Mr. Lynch gets tired of waiting for her and wants to remarry, Courtney will be his first choice for sure! "

Luna's lips twisted into a smile and said nothing in response. She could not understand why Wesley was so confident in his prediction, yet at the same time, it was not too far-fetched either.

Even if Joshua changed his mind and wanted to marry someone who looked like the past Luna, it was none of her business anymore. The only thing she had in mind was to get pregnant and give birth to Joshua's child so she could cure Nigel.

While Luna was deep in thought, the elevator arrived on the 18th floor.

Wesley cleared his throat and led Luna into the department. "Hello, everyone, I'd like to introduce you to a new member of our company," he announced.

"This is Luna. Our CEO, Mr. Lynch, hired her to be a design intern and assistant. If there's anything you need, feel free to ask her for help!" Wesley patted Luna's shoulder gently. "Please get to know your colleagues."

With that, he turned around and walked out, leaving Luna to fend for herself.

Shannon McCartney, the department head, gave Luna a dismissive glance and led her to an empty desk. "You can sit here," she ordered, tossing a stack of documents onto the desk that sent a cloud of dust flying through the air.

"These are the proposals that the CEO sent back to us for amendments. I want you to run up to his office and resubmit them to him." She gave Luna a smirk before leaving. "Don't mess this up."

There was a girl sitting next to Luna's desk, who appeared to be a university student. She nudged her glasses and whispered to her, "Luna, please be careful. This proposal has been sent back to us

five times now, and every single person who submitted it ended up getting scolded by the CEO. Shannon sent you because she's trying to make things difficult for you."

Luna gave her a small smile. "Do you happen to have some tissue?"

The girl paused and handed her a packet of tissue papers.

"Thank you." Luna wiped the desk clean. Instead of heading up to resubmit the proposal, however, she sat down in her chair. After finding a comfortable position, she opened the file to take a look.

After skimming through a few pages, Luna could not help but frown. The work was so bad that even if Joshua had nothing against her, she would still get into trouble because of this.

Luna immediately borrowed a pen and paper from a nearby colleague and scribbled some stuff on the piece of paper. Then, she got up as she held the file in her hand. "Where's the CEO's office?"

The girl at the desk next to her gave a pause before answering, "It's...on the top floor."

"Thank you." Luna let out a sigh before turning around to leave.

"What did she write, Bonnie?" another colleague asked the university student next to Luna's desk.

Bonnie pursed her lips. "I'm not sure, but...she seems good."

However, if Luna truly was talented, why did she accept the position of an intern? Why did she let Shannon bully her like that? Bonnie was a little perplexed.

With the proposal in hand, Luna soon reached the top floor of the building. When she arrived, she caught a glimpse of Courtney inside Joshua's office.

Through the glass windows, Luna saw Joshua sitting in his chair as he read some documents while Courtney stood next to him, offering him a cup of coffee.

From afar, the two did not look like a boss and an assistant. In fact, they looked like a married couple.

Luna's heart leaped into her throat at the sight. It was not that she felt something was going on between Joshua and Courtney, but this scene reminded her so much of herself.

Many, many years ago, she had dreamed of doing the exact same thing, of becoming a power couple that everyone looked up to. However, Joshua never gave her the chance to do so.

Yet, six years later, he allowed another woman to get close to him. A woman that resembled the old Luna so much that it was uncanny.

Maybe, the problem was not with Luna's appearance at all. Joshua did not hate her looks —he hated her person.
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Perhaps Luna's gaze was too intense.

Joshua, from his office, looked up and noticed her eyes.

Their gazes met.

Her gaze shifted from dazed to startled, while his changed from shock to aloofness.

They looked at each other for a long time before Courtney realized that something was off.

She looked up and saw Luna.

"That is Luna, " Courtney introduced to Joshua. " When I was in the elevator just now, I saw Mr. Fisher leading her to the department of design to report."

She then smiled gently. "Ms. Luna is very gorgeous. Her beauty mesmerized me in the elevator just now."

Courtney's words made Joshua furrow his brows. He shifted his gaze from Luna and turned to look at Courtney.

"You still haven't explained yourself. I instructed Lucas to get me a new male secretary."

How did the male secretary become a female in a day's time? She even looked like Luna Gibson, no less.

Courtney must have known very well everything that happened.

Courtney's face turned a little pale. She lowered her head. "Mr. Lynch, I'll do my very best as your secretary. I — "

"Who sent you here?" Joshua moved his chair back a little as he distanced himself a little from Courtney.

His legs crossed elegantly. "My father? My grandmother? Someone else?"

Joshua had an astute observation.

Courtney could barely keep herself longer. "I..." Knock, knock, knock!

She just muttered a syllable when a few knocks came from the office door. Noticing it was Luna outside as she gazed through the glass panels, Courtney immediately took the opportunity.

"Mr. Lynch, I'll go get it!" Courtney immediately rushed to the door and opened it.

Luna was about to knock once more when the door opened abruptly, her hand still mid-air.

"Luna." Courtney smiled passionately. "Are you here to report on your job? Come in! President Lynch has been waiting for you for a long time! "

Luna paused at how friendly Courtney behaved, not knowing what to say at that moment.

She subconsciously looked at Joshua in the office.

Joshua furrowed his brows somewhat displeasedly. " Come in." He then cast a final cold glance at Courtney, his eyes filled with warning. "Go back and think about what I said."

Courtney's body stiffened. She immediately turned and left.

With the office door shut, the atmosphere in the room was even more suppressed.

Luna thought that it was because of her. Thus, she smiled and strode over. She placed the design sketches that she held to her form a moment ago on the table.

"Mr. Lynch, these are the proposals that the Design Director got me to send here. Please take a look at it and let me know if there are any problems."

Joshua stretched his hand out and took the documents, but he did not open them.

He placed his large hand on the pile of documents. He looked at Luna sharply. "You actually came?"

"Of course." Luna smiled flatly. "I work well under pressure."
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Joshua found it comical.

"I thought that you didn't want to serve anybody anymore when you quit your job as my servant at Blue Bay Villa, yet here you are, at my company's department of design, serving my employees?"

Luna smiled without saying a word. "This is Mr. Lynch's request, so it's natural that I had to obey."

"You'll do whatever I say?"

"Of course." Luna smiled. She looked up at Joshua, her eyes rather seductive. "When Mr. Lynch told me not to move, not once have I moved. Do you still remember, Mr. Lynch?" she spoke meaningfully.

Joshua's eyes narrowed as he looked into her beguiling eyes.

He could not seem to resist her seduction. Courtney had a similar face to Luna Gibson, more so than Luna, yet he barely reacted to her.

Unable to avert himself from Luna's gaze, he lowered his head, irritated. He randomly flipped through the proposals as he glanced through.

“Have you gone through them?” he questioned as he skimmed through the proposals with furrowed brows.

Luna knew she struck a chord when she noticed how haggard he behaved. Since he started talking about work, she did not slack off. “I’ve gone through them just now.”

Joshua furrowed his brows lightly. “Tell me your thoughts.”

“It’s nothing much.”

Luna spoke her opinion as she stood in front of him.

Joshua frowned. “Do you know who the people who came up with these design proposals are?”

The Lynch Group’s department of jewelry design might not be as famous as the designers abroad, but every single designer was carefully selected. All of them were equally important.

It could be said that every employee of the Lynch Group was the cream of the crop, yet their designs— they, the best of the bunch—were nothing much in the eyes of Luna, an ordinary person?

“I know, but, ” said Luna smilingly, “education doesn’t equal skills and ability, does it? A person’s ability, strength, and potential can’t be evaluated by rigid standards.

“It should be evaluated on a case -to -case basis, to each specific situation. I’m sure you know about this too, Mr. Lynch?”

Luna’s expression was earnest as she commented, smiling. Her confident gaze and expressions took Joshua aback.

Once...

There was once a woman who stood in front of him with a similar gaze and confidence, saying the same words.

Back then, after saying those words, that woman would smile and look at him. 'Hubby, you're the president of a group. You can't just look at their educational background.'

"Mr. Lynch, as the president of the Lynch Group, you can't just look at someone's education background," said Luna at last and looked up.

The moment she looked up, she met with Joshua's deep, endless gaze.

She was in a daze that instant and realized her mistake. She had said something similar to Joshua before.

Thus, Luna cleared her throat. She smiled. "Mr. Lynch, do you think what I said makes sense?"

Joshua came to his senses. He looked at her with a deep gaze. "It does."

"Of course, I saw this on Luna Gibson's Twitter. She once posted something like that before."

Joshua furrowed brows relaxed a little. He aloofly lifted his cup of coffee and took a sip.

He smiled mockingly. "I almost forgot how you used to imitate Luna Gibson to get close to me." Then, Joshua put the cup down. His gaze turned cold. "It seems that you've done your research to become Malcolm Quinn's corporate spy."

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"Too bad I still failed."

Luna looked at Joshua with a small smile. "I overestimated your love for your ex-wife. I used to hear others talk about how much you loved Luna Gibson, but it was only after I got close to you did I realize..."

Luna looked at him with a cold gaze. "You don't love her as much as the rumors say."

Joshua furrowed his brows. His tone was frigid. "Just because you have served me for a few days, you think you have the right to question me?"

"Of course." Luna smiled gracefully. "I've once served Mr. Lynch. I'll admit that I look nothing like Luna Gibson, but you still did the unspeakable to me, didn't you, Mr. Lynch?"

Her words instantly brought Joshua back to that wild night.

Joshua's expressions darkened. He frowned hard.

That night...she looked so much like Luna Gibson. Too much alike.

If it were not for her face, he would even think that they were the same person, but the truth was...

Joshua smiled a little. "What I did when I was drunk isn't worth you recalling it."

Joshua lowered his gaze as he looked at the design proposals once again. "Since you think that the

proposals aren't good enough, what suggestions do you have?"

"I have some."

Seeing how Joshua had changed to a different topic, Luna smiled coldly. She continued discussing work with him.

She took out a piece of A4 paper that she requested from Bonnie before and placed it on the table.

“These are my thoughts.”

Joshua furrowed his brows. He picked up the paper and compared them in detail with the design proposals.

Hints of surprise flashed across his eyes.

His father was right—Luna was indeed a gifted woman. Her revisions to the design proposal hit the nail on the head and instantly made the otherwise mediocre work shine.

“Luna is talented and skilled. I hope you can put aside your judgment of her and hire her. You won’t regret it. Also, aren’t you trying to find Luna Gibson?”

“I’ve heard rumors that Luna is somehow connected to Luna Gibson.”

Adrian’s words the night before still rang in Joshua’s ears. He furrowed his brows and hid the delight in his eyes.

After a while, he calmly lifted his head and elegantly placed the paper down.

“It’s not bad.”

“It’s just some of my personal opinions.”

Luna lowered her head and smiled gently. “I’m nothing compared to your staff with a great education background.”

Her words were so humble that Joshua could say nothing of it.

He furrowed his brows and elegantly picked up the pen by the side. He took another piece of blank paper and copied the contents on the paper Luna gave him.

Although Luna loathed him to the bones, she had to admit that Joshua's actions at that moment were very heartwarming.

He knew she was a newcomer to the department of design; it was not right of her to give her ideas.

Thus, he copied her suggestions on another paper with his own handwriting. That way, it would save her some trouble. He could also let the people in the design department know that this was his instructions.

She had to give it to him; he was smart when it came to work.

However...

Luna noticed the pen that Joshua was using. It was a rather old pen, and there was a bite mark at the tip of the pen, too.

This was the pen that she gave him for one of his birthdays.

She was still a student back then who did not have much money. She saved up for a few months to buy him that pen.

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It was that one night after work that Luna, out of sheer hunger, groggily got up and unwrapped the box of snacks to munch on.

It turned out that she accidentally unwrapped the gift that she gave Joshua and took a bite on the pen.

She initially thought Joshua would despise the pen, but she did not expect that Joshua would put the pen in his shirt pocket. "A pen with a bite mark. It's quite special. Thank you."

He was gentle and kind back then, and she fell hard for him.

From then onward, she would chase after his every step, not caring if anyone objected. She had to marry him.

Luna knew he never liked her once. She thought that she could melt his cold heart with her fervent passion.

Alas, he remained aloof to her feelings.

Luna was perplexed. Only she and he knew the origin of this pen. That meant if he threw this pen away, no one would realize that his love for his ex-wife was fake.

Why had he kept this pen all along? He even used it...

"Ms. Luna." Joshua's voice suddenly brought her back to the present.

Rattled and dazed, she immediately retracted her gaze. "Mr. Lynch, have you finished writing?"

"Yes." Joshua inserted the piece of paper into the file. He swept a glance at the pen. "You like my pen?"

She had eyed the pen for a long time.

Luna nodded. She smiled rather embarrassingly. "I didn't expect your pen would have a bite mark on it."

Mr. Lynch glanced at the tiny dent on his pen. "This isn't a bite mark. I accidentally hit it against something."

Luna's heart instantly turned cold. "I see." She chuckled gently, but her smile did not reach her eyes.

"I won't bother Mr. Lynch anymore." Luna picked up the files, turned, and left. The office door was shut once again.

Joshua looked at her leaving and squinted.

He lowered his head, wanting to continue writing when he saw the piece of A4 paper on his table.

Luna's writing was neat and pretty. The handwriting...

Joshua furrowed his brows and picked up the paper, positive that this was Luna's handwriting.

The writing, however, felt awfully familiar.

Suddenly, a thought came to him. He immediately picked up his phone and called Lucas.

"Head back to Blue Bay Villa. On the topmost shelf in my study, get me Luna Gibson's diary."

Lucas was a little stunned and confused. "Sir, why do you want to see her diary out of the blue?"

Truth be told, Lucas did not want to enter Joshua's study. Many of the things in his study have to do with Luna Gibson, and Lucas found it depressing.

Previously, he found it depressing because he knew Luna Gibson was dead. At that moment, he found it depressing because he found out she was not dead.

Although she did not die, she forced Joshua to suppress his heart. He could only wait for her to come back.

“Get me the diary. Also, get me a handwriting expert.”

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 185

Everyone secretly eyed Luna from the corner of their eyes when she returned to the design department, trying to see the disappointment on her face after their president reprimanded her.

However, there were none.

Luna calmly carried the pile of documents back to her desk.

Bonnie, next to Luna, pushed up her glasses as she looked at Luna carefully. “Did the proposal go through?”

Looking at Luna, she did not look like she got scolded.

It was worth mentioning that a few designers had gone to the president's office and came back with a scolding before Luna went.

Some with a fragile ego went in with full confidence only to come back in tears.

According to rumors, Joshua, the president, would never lose his temper. He would only use his deadly cold glares. It was so terrifying they would automatically admit to their mistakes.

Every lady who went to the president's office swore that they would never head back there again.

However, Luna looked...

Was it because the proposal had been approved, and that was why Luna looked so calm?

"No, " Luna flatly replied, then she poured herself some tea. "The president said that there are quite some issues with it."

Bonnie paused for a while. She subconsciously said with a suppressed voice, "You...didn't get scolded?"

"Why should I get scolded? I did nothing wrong."

Luna picked up the teacup and took a sip. She stood up and was about to head to the director's office.

When Shannon saw Luna enter her office, she stopped what she was doing.

"What did the president say?"

Luna opened the document and placed Joshua's written note that he copied from her in front of Shannon.

"From Mr. Lynch."

Shannon furrowed her brows. The moment she glanced at the paper, her face changed into a palette of colors.

On one hand, this was the first time the president has proposed such perfect solutions.

Although Joshua was the president and he had a great mind for business, jewelry design was a very niche profession. Joshua might be able to see whether the design proposal was good or not, but he could not care for every detail so professionally while giving his points on them.

This time, however, not only were Joshua's suggestions well-rounded. but they were also detailed and pinpointed the mistakes exactly.

On the other hand...

This was the first time Joshua had given any department in the entire office a handwritten note!

As the president of the group, he always had someone to record and take note of his suggestions. To be able to receive a handwritten note from him...

Luna was the first to do so!

Shannon lifted her head as she looked at Luna in shock before she had another glance.

Finally, she could no longer take it. "Luna, why would the president give you a handwritten note? What relationship do you have with him?"

"An ordinary working relationship. He's my boss." Luna smiled a little. "The president thinks I'm a little bad at communication. He's afraid I won't be able to express myself clearly, so he wrote his suggestions on a piece of paper."

Then, Luna raised her eyes and looked at Shannon. "Is there a problem?"

"N —No! No problem at all! " Shannon took a deep breath and patted Luna on the shoulder.

"If that's the case, you'll be in charge of reporting to the president in the future! "

Then, Shannon waved at one of the staff outside. " Frame this piece of paper and put it on the wall! "

Shannon had worked in the company for so long, and this was the first time she saw the president's handwritten note!

This was definitely the first time! It was an honor to the design department!

Stunned, Luna was transfixed on the same spot as she looked at Shannon and the other staff getting busy framing the piece of A4 paper.

After a while, she helplessly shook her head and smiled.

What on earth was going on?

The suggestions that Joshua copied onto the piece of paper clearly stated the inadequacies of the designers.
Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 186

However, not only was Shannon not embarrassed by it, but she was proud?

Luna finally understood why such a simple jewelry design proposal needed to be amended at least five times and more.

It seemed that the designers in the design department...had no heart in designing.

"You're amazing." Once Luna returned to her desk, Bonnie smiled and passed Luna a piece of gum.

"You're the only one in our department that never got scolded by the president nor intimidated half to death. You even brought

back a piece of paper with the president's handwriting! It looks like you won't be an intern for much longer! "

Luna did not know whether to laugh or cry. She stuffed the piece of gum into her mouth. "You're joking."

"I `m not! Our president is famous for being strict. No one would dare to approach him. The president of other companies would have the opportunity to be in a relationship with their female employees, but our president? He only has eyes for his ex-wife. The HR department has constantly tried to find employees that look like his ex-wife to appease him."

Upon Bonnie's words, Luna could not help but furrowed her brows. She suddenly thought of Courtney who looked similar to Luna Gibson.

The scene where Courtney was in Joshua's office appeared on her mind once again. They looked like husband and wife.

The image inexplicably annoyed Luna.

"Do you still have any gum? Give me another piece. "

Bonnie pursed her lips. She passed the gum to Luna. " This is the last piece. I don't have much to begin with. Courtney, the new secretary, gave me these few pieces this morning."

Speechless, Luna returned the unopened piece of gum to Bonnie before she spat out the one in her mouth.

Looking at Bonnie's surprised look, Luna calmly smiled. "I'm sorry. I almost forgot that I `m allergic to chewing gum."

In the office on the top floor, Lynch Group.

Equipped with a magnifying glass and professional vernier calipers, two gray-haired experts were comparing the handwriting on a piece of A4 paper against a diary.

They came up with a conclusion in the end.

“Mr. Lynch, I understand that you’re trying to find your ex-wife. I know you must be anxious about it, too.”

One of the experts took his spectacles off and sighed heavily. “But, I have to tell you seriously: the handwriting on these two are made by two different people. The way and habits of writing are completely different. It can’t be done by the same person.” Joshua frowned hard at his words.

Actually, when Lucas brought Luna Gibson’s diary over a moment ago, Joshua had already realized that the two handwritings were completely different.

He did not know why when he saw Luna’s handwriting, he immediately thought of Luna Gibson.

“I don’t think so.”

Another expert raised his head. He wiped off the sweat on his forehead.

“Although the handwriting might look different, whether it be from the stroke or other habits, it’s obvious that the handwriting on the piece of paper is deliberately avoiding all the habits of the writing on the diary, so her words looked especially awkward. However, everyone writes in a somewhat similar way, whether it be the strokes or the way they end each letter. One can find a huge number of similarities when putting two random handwriting together.”

He picked up the piece of paper which Luna wrote on. "So, why is this person deliberately trying to avoid all the similarities with the handwriting on the diary?"

Joshua paused for a while. He furrowed his brows. "So...we'll be able to get some answers as long as we get her to write similarly to the handwriting on the diary?"

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Luna was suddenly asked to copy a document of more than 10,000 words by hand.

She was startled when she received the document. It was not a document related to jewelry design or the rules of the design department.

They were the company's rules and regulations, and there were at least 20,000 words.

Shannon dropped the document in front of her, gave her some instructions, and left.

"Hand it in before you leave for the day."

"Wow." Bonnie pushed her glasses and calculated. " You have about twenty thousand words. Besides lunch break, you have another five hours left. You have to write at least sixty words per minute."

It was an impossible task! Bonnie kept her phone away.

"Strange. You did nothing wrong today, and the president didn't even scold you. Why is the director making things difficult for you?"

Luna calmly searched for a pen and paper to start writing. "Perhaps it was the president who asked me to do this." She smiled flatly.

When she came out of Shannon's room a moment ago, she was still treated respectfully, yet all too abruptly, Shannon said nothing but ordered her to copy the rules and regulations. Luna did not believe no one instructed her to do so.

"You're going to copy all of them?" Bonnie pursed her lips. "That's too much work! "

"It's fine." Luna held onto the pen and wrote quickly. "Since I'm here to work, I'll do whatever the boss asks of me. Isn't that the way it's supposed to be?"

Luna did not understand what Joshua was trying to do, but the opportunity to stay and work was not easy to come by. Luna would not give up so easily.

Soon, she realized a problem. She had been writing so fast that she would forget the previous habits that she tried to avoid.

Luna rubbed the middle of her brow in annoyance.

She did not want to expose herself to the similarities with Luna Gibson.

Before she came back, she had tried to change her writing habits over and over again so Joshua would only think she was trying to imitate Luna Gibson, not so he would think that she was related to her instead.

She also changed the way she wrote, but she had been writing in her own way for more than ten years. A habit like that would not be able to change in a short time.

Luna sighed and helplessly rubbed the middle of her brows.

Perhaps Joshua would not be so detailed as to realize this? He must be only wanting to make life difficult for her at that moment. Luna doubted that he

suspected her of any relations to Luna Gibson. After all, Joshua seemed to think that she was Malcolm's corporate spy, that she was only trying to imitate Luna Gibson.

At that thought, Luna took a deep breath and disregarded her concerns about her handwriting.

She gripped the pen and wrote quickly. She did not head out for lunch, so Bonnie brought lunch back for her instead.

"How much have you written?" While Luna was eating, Bonnie had a glance at her writing. "You have such pretty handwriting."

Bonnie munched on the sandwich while sighing lightly. "What on earth is the upper management thinking? I was just starting to think that they liked you, but now they're just making things difficult for you."

Luna smiled a little. She threw the trash into the bin and picked up the pen once more.

Her colleagues had a meeting that afternoon, but she skipped it.

Finally, before the end of the day, she has completed copying the twenty-thousand-word document.

She took the draft and knocked on Shannon's door. Shannon did not even look up. She coldly swept Luna a glance. "Send it to the president's office yourself."

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Then, Shannon looked at Luna with a condescending smile. "Here I thought that we have an absolutely stellar staff that can make the president hand write his own suggestions; turns out that he's just playing with you. He's making you pay up."

Shannon sipped her tea as she remarked. "If I were you, I would've just resigned and gone home immediately at noon. He's obviously trying to find fault with you. How are you still bearing it? Don't you have any pride in yourself? Don't you know no shame?"

Luna wanted to leave, but she stopped in her tracks.

She turned around and swept a cold glance at Shannon. "Just because someone is making things difficult for me and I follow along, I'm shameless?"

Shannon changed into a more comfortable position as she spun her pen with her hand. She looked at Luna rather lazily and condescendingly. "What else is it, then?"

"You tell me." Luna took the documents which she had copied by hand with a fiery gaze. "Mr. Lynch had sent back your design proposal five times now, so why are you still working on it after the sixth?"

According to you, if you have so much pride in yourself, you should've thrown the design proposal in Joshua's face and tell him you quit."

Luna left immediately with the documents in her arms, leaving a stunned Shannon in a daze.

As she got to the main entrance of the design department, she heard a loud sound coming from Shannon's office. It was the sound of the teacup smashing onto the floor.

Luna smiled aloofly and went upstairs.

Joshua was still having a meeting in his office. The moment Luna arrived upstairs, Lucas stopped her.

"Luna, sit over there for a while. Mr. Lynch's meeting will probably run for another half an hour or so."

Luna thought for a while before heading over to the side to have a seat.

If she were to return to the design department, Shannon and her colleagues would probably mock and deride her. Luna would rather sit there and wait.

At least the sofa in the guest room of the president's office was soft and comfortable.

Luna sat on the sofa and rubbed her sore shoulders and arms. She had written for the entire day, and it was exhausting.

She had not gone through such a tough job for the hand for such a long time.

"Ms. Luna." Suddenly, a sweet voice rang in her ear. Luna furrowed her brows and looked in the direction in which the voice came from.

Courtney, whom she saw this morning, was standing in front of her in a short skirt and a blazer.

The afternoon sun shone on her face, giving Luna as if Luna was meeting herself from the past.

"Can I sit?" asked Courtney gently with a smile on her face. Luna furrowed her brows and gave Courtney some space.

"You're here to look for Joshua as well?" "Yes, I'm here to see President Lynch."

Courtney smiled at Luna and leaned in closer. "This is only your first day, yet you have to report once in the morning and once more before the end of the day?"

Luna inconspicuously leaned back a little. "I have no choice. I made the president unhappy this morning, so I'm being punished."

She flatly pointed at the pile of documents on the coffee table. "I was told to finish copying the company's rules and regulations before the end of the day. I'm here to let Joshua have a look, to pacify him a little."

Pausing for a moment, her eyes suddenly flashed a hint of coldness.

As Joshua's secretary, she knew that Joshua hired two handwriting experts that morning to determine and identify some handwriting.

She happened to enter to send coffee in just as the experts were leaving.

She clearly heard the expert say, "If it's going to be challenging, you can get this person to finish writing within a certain time limit. If under duress, the anxious mind will make one forget their deliberately changed habits."

Therefore...

Courtney narrowed her eyes. The person whose handwriting the president wanted to identify was Luna's?

“Ah!” Courtney suddenly exclaimed.

She did not know why, but she spilled the cup of coffee by the side of the table. The brown liquid splashed all over the floor.

Lucas, who saw the commotion from far, quickly took his phone out to arrange for the cleaners to come. When the cleaners arrived with their buckets and mops. Courtney suddenly turned to Luna and said...

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“Can I have a look?” Courtney pointed at the documents on the table and asked politely.

Luna paused for a while. After a moment, she picked the teacup up and took a sip. “Go ahead.” Her handwriting did not look good, but it was not ugly either.

The company's rules and regulations were not some corporate confidential documents, so Courtney

could have a look however she liked.

“Thank you!” Courtney smiled, picked up the documents, and leafed through them.

“Wow, your handwriting is pretty!” Courtney flipped through as she took out the documents from the folders, pretending to be mesmerized by Luna's handwriting.

Luna furrowed her brows and looked at Courtney, not saying anything.

When the cleaners carried the bucket past Courtney, her hands jolted and dropped every single piece of paper that had Luna's handwriting into the bucket.

The writings on the white paper were instantly smeared with dirty water.

The cleaners and Courtney jumped, and the cleaners immediately took the papers out but noticed that the writings were smeared.

Courtney immediately cried out loud, "Luna, I'm so sorry! What should I do? Should I help you talk to

President Lynch and ask for mercy?"

Courtney looked at Luna with reddened eyes. "I look like his ex-wife; perhaps it might help you when asking him for forgiveness."

Luna calmly placed the teacup down and looked at Courtney with a dull gaze.

"Okay." Luna stretched lazily. "Later, you'll head in straight away to talk to Joshua about this and say that it's your fault. I'll be waiting for you outside. If you can let him forget about it, I won't make things difficult for you, but if he doesn't let this matter go and asks me to copy once more tomorrow..."

Luna smiled calmly and pointed at the surveillance above. "I'll want to properly analyze the surveillance with President Lynch. We'll see if your actions just now were an accident or if it was done on purpose."

Courtney's face instantly turned pale.

She bit her lips aggrievedly. "It was an accident! Why would I do it on purpose?"

"It's hard to say." Luna changed into another comfortable position on the sofa.

Women understood their own kind the best, and they usually could pinpoint the problems out at once.

After Aura Gibson had manipulated and tricked her for many years, Luna was also a pro at this.

Luna knew what Courtney wanted to do from the moment she spilled her coffee. The only reason why she did not stop Courtney was that she did not truly want Joshua to see her handwriting.

Actively stopping him from looking at her handwriting was one matter, but being set up was a different matter.

If Courtney wanted to play little tricks, she was more than happy to oblige.

Just when the two of them were in a stand-off, one being aggrieved while the other looking relaxed, Lucas furrowed his brows and announced from the distance, "The president has finished his meeting.

"Who's going to see him first? Or, are both of you heading in together?"

"She'll go first." "She first!" Luna and Courtney said in unison.

Then, Luna looked at Courtney aloofly. "Do you want me to go first? If I go first and Joshua asks me about the documents, I '11 say that I'm not sure about it, and we'll have to check the security footage."

Upon Luna's words, Courtney's face instantly turned pale.

In the end, she stood up anxiously and entered Joshua's office.

The moment Courtney pushed the office door open, Luna, who was still leaning on the sofa, calmly reminded her, "Don't forget to plead on my behalf to Mr. Lynch! "

Courtney gripped the door handles tight. She paused for a while.

Slam!

She slammed the door harshly as she entered.

Luna, leaning on the sofa, looked at the two of them talking in the office while sipping tea.

Clearly, even if Courtney did look like Luna Gibson, she still had no power against Joshua.

Luna sighed.

Looking at Courtney facing the frigid Joshua, she thought back about how she was with Joshua.

There was once back then when he treated her so coldly and frigidly, too.

The scene before her was like a mirror, and she could see herself clearly. She saw how stupid and naive she was back then.

Ten minutes later, Courtney came out of the office with reddened eyes. She did not even glance at Luna before rubbing her eyes and running toward the elevator in big steps.

Seeing her disappointed figure, Luna felt a little pity toward her. Courtney was like the past her.

The present would like to hug herself from the past and tell her that everything would be fine.

"Luna." Lucas' voice immediately pulled Luna back to the present.

Returning to her senses, she took those few pieces of wet paper from the cleaners, turned, and headed into the office.

The documents which had been smeared and covered in dirty water were placed on Joshua's desk.

Luna raised her eyes and smiled at Joshua. "Mr. Lynch, this is the result of my hard work. You can have a look at it. I truly copied from the first word until the last word, but your good secretary threw them into the bucket."

Joshua furrowed his brows and looked at the documents on his desk. He did not flip through it.

He changed into a more comfortable position and leaned back on his chair. He looked at Luna coldly. "Besides this, is there nothing else you'd like to say to me?"

"None." Luna shook her head calmly.

After a while, she smiled. "If I must say something..."

She raised her eyes and looked at Joshua. Her eyes were burning passionately. "What would you like to hear, Mr. Lynch? I can satisfy you whether in bed or out of bed."

Joshua furrowed his brows tightly.

After a while, he smiled. "Am I hallucinating? You've been deliberately saying things like that to me after that night. Do you want to experience that night over again?"

Luna shook her head. "I don't think once is enough for me, Mr. Lynch. I find one of your previous suggestions quite good. Why don't you keep me? "

Joshua swept a cold glance at Luna. "I have a wife." "Are you talking about your ex-wife, Luna Gibson?" "She's not my ex-wife—we never had a divorce."

"But she still won't come back."

"How do you know she's not coming back?"

Luna smiled. "Everyone told you already. If she wanted to come back, she would've long returned. If she doesn't want to, it doesn't matter how long you wait for her. Unless..."

Luna's eyes moved a little. "Unless you make good with me and be loving to me. Perhaps she might see this and come back faster due to jealousy."

Then, Luna smiled mischievously. "What do you think of this suggestion, Mr. Lynch?"

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Luna did it all on purpose.

Joshua was full of lies. He kept saying that he wanted Luna Gibson to come back, but he just wanted her to be gone for good, did he not?

What she said could give him a perfect excuse to put down the pretense.

The atmosphere in the office was silent for a few seconds, and it was after a while that Joshua smiled flatly. "It's a way to go."

Luna Gibson was only angry at him. She did not, not love him. If she did not want to return no matter what he did, then Luna's suggestion was the way to go. If he needed to find a woman to put on an act together, Luna at least did not disgust him.

Moreover, the incident that night was indeed his fault. He treated Luna as a substitute for Luna Gibson. He was irresponsible to her.

Since she wanted to resume this identity and stay by his side to steal corporate secrets, he would give her this chance.

This was to treat it as a...repayment for that night.

At that thought, Joshua sighed. He lifted his eyes and looked at Luna deeply. "But I have a request."

Luna smiled, but her smile did not reach her eyes. "Do tell, Mr. Lynch."

"We have to put on an act."

Luna's expressions were rather distorted. "An act? "

"Mmh." Joshua looked at her flatly. His eyes were so deep that it was endless.

"If the plan is to lure my wife out to see me, we only need to put on an act in front of others. Privately, you and I are just friends."

Luna furrowed her brows hard.

They had reached this point already. Why was Joshua still pretending to be a gentleman? Nonetheless, it was better than nothing.

To be by his side in this identity was much better than being his maid.

She took a deep breath, smiled, and looked at him.

“Okay.”

Seeing her smile, Joshua lowered his eyes and continued the work in his hands.

“I’ll get Lucas to send someone to fetch you and Neil to stay at Blue Bay Villa. I’ll also announce that you’re my new girlfriend outside. Get ready.”

Perhaps Luna Gibson would not show herself because his ex-fiancée was Aura Gibson?

If he were to change it to Luna, she should react to it at least.

Luna looked up and asked calmly, “Will it be on TV? ”

“Yes.” Joshua swept her a glance. “If I’m not going to spread it out far and wide so that Luna Gibson will see, why am I cooperating with you then?”

“Then, please play it on repeat at the mental asylum.” Luna smiled and looked at him. “If Mr. Lynch won’t heed my advice on how to punish Aura, I’m sure you’d be able to agree to such a simple request, right?”

Joshua’s hand paused a little while he flipped through the documents. He looked at her as his eyes turned rather cold. “How did you know?”

The news to the outside world was that Aura was studying in Ausland.

"This is a problem for you to think about, Mr. Lynch." Luna gracefully turned and opened the door. "Are all your guards that trustworthy?"

If no one was an inside-man to Aura, how could she have possibly asked Natasha for help three times?

Upon hearing Luna's words, Joshua frowned hard at Luna's words, and it was after she left that he picked up the phone and got Lucas to enter.

"Change the guards guarding Aura."

Lucas was stunned. "Did they do something wrong?" "You can consider it so."

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Joshua calmly leafed through the documents. "After changing them, let it be known that we need two among the previous guards who looked after Aura to help out again. Keep an eye on the two who applied first. Then, do a background check on them."

Lucas paused for a while; he understood what Joshua was trying to do. He took a deep breath and was about to turn and leave.

"Hold on." Joshua pointed at the documents entirely soaked with dirty water. "Get someone to dry them, then get the experts to compare the writing once more."

Lucas was taken aback. "It's already in such a...bad state. I doubt the experts can do anything about it, can they?"

Joshua flatly looked at Lucas. "They'll know how to."

Whether it was hallucinations or whatever it was, Joshua felt that though the writings were smeared, they...looked even similar to Luna Gibson's handwriting.

"Courtney, stop crying."

When Luna returned to the design department and entered, she saw a group of designers surrounding Courtney with Shannon taking the lead, comforting Courtney.

With the spotlight on her, Courtney, like a princess,

whimpered as she wiped her tears, "I genuinely didn't do it on purpose. The president wants me to apologize to Luna, so here I am. When is she coming back?"

Shannon sighed. She wiped Courtney's tears away while grumbling, "Wait a little longer. That woman is very manipulative. She hasn't been back for a long time. She must be out there, seducing the president."

Her words made Courtney cry even louder.

Courtney was crying so badly she had to gasp for air. "It's also my first day here at work. I've been working very hard and did nothing wrong. I only thought that she looked pretty. The president isn't the only one who likes her—I like her, too! That was why I went over to sit next to her. I was too nervous, and that's why I spilled my cup of coffee and ruined her work. I swear I didn't mean to do it. I don't know why the president would be so angry..."

Courtney sobbed as she wiped her tears, "Do you guys think she'll forgive me?"

"No, she won't." A cold woman's voice suddenly rang through.

Everyone immediately looked up.

Luna's slender and tall figure slowly sauntered into the office. "Girl, your acting skills aren't bad. You could cry on cue. If you were to enter into the entertainment world, you'd probably go far."

Luna's frigid voice coupled with her aloof aura made her look distant yet graceful.

Everyone was stunned.

Courtney was stunned, too, but she came to her senses after a while.

"Luna, I didn't do it on purpose. Honest." She sniffled as she stood up. "You're too pretty. I accidentally did it because I was too nervous when I was next to you. Can you forgive me? The president wants me to apologize to you and get your forgiveness. Otherwise, I'll..."

The more she spoke, the more aggrieved she was. She could not help but cry out loud, "Otherwise, I'll have to be reviewed at the company conference tomorrow, and if I make another mistake, they'll fire me! But, I didn't make such a serious mistake like you. I only did it by accident..."

Courtney's pitiful look broke Shannon's heart, and the latter glared at Luna. "She didn't do it on purpose. Why are you not forgiving her? How long are you planning to drag this out? Courtney is my junior. If you want to continue working under the Lynch Group as a designer, you'll forgive her right now! Otherwise, I'll make it hard for you, too! "

Luna raised her eyebrows.

She gracefully sat down at her desk. She lazily placed her long legs on her desk then picked up a document by the side and flipped through it. She sneered and said, "Wow, so you're threatening me with my work? No wonder the Lynch Group's jewelry has no stunning designs all these years. It turns out you spent all your energy on things like this."
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Luna's words made Shannon's face turn blue.

Shannon could no longer maintain her elegant and graceful look. She immediately scolded Luna, "Who the hell do you think you are? How dare you lecture me? Do you know anything about jewelry or design? How dare you comment on our design department? You're nothing but an intern. What do you know? Do you think you're the famed jewelry designer Moon? Do you think your words hold any weight?"

Luna cocked her brows slightly, rather surprised when she heard her previous alias brought up.

"Luna." Courtney sniffled and walked over humbly from the distance. She said with reddened eyes, "Can you forgive me? If you don't forgive me, I won't be able to answer to the president."

"Sure, I'll forgive you," sneered Luna and pointed at Shannon. "You get her to prostrate herself three hundred times in front of me."

Shannon's eyes widened in fury. "Dream on!" "You guys can dream on too, then."

Luna lowered her gaze and looked at the time before packing her things. "I'm done for the day. Bye!"

Luna then sashayed away, leaving the group of designers glaring at her.

Bonnie, who watched the whole thing go down, immediately chased after Luna, who waited at the bus stop for a bus.

"You're amazing! " Bonnie ran a little over and tapped Luna on the shoulder. "You're the first person I've met that could make them shut up! "

Luna looked at the bus in the distance. "Is that so? "

"Yeah." Bonnie sighed. "Shannon has a bond with President Lynch's grandmother. She was the one that got Shannon this job, so Shannon has been lording over everyone ever since. Shannon thinks that President Lynch is filial, that he won't say no to his grandmother, so she gets more and more arrogant. She doesn't even respect his previous fiancée, Aura Gibson! "

Then, Bonnie carefully looked at Luna's face. "Do you know Aura? She is President Lynch's previous fiancée, and she— "

"The bus is here, " Luna flatly interrupted. "I'll be heading out now."

Bonnie's words were stuck in her throat. When she came to her senses, Luna was already on the bus, and she could only watch as the bus left with clenched fists.

She could tell Luna had something to do with Joshua Lynch. As long as she got closer to her, she would be able to find out where Aura hid herself sooner or later.

Bonnie closed her eyes. A man's figure appeared on her mind.

"Don't worry, Brother. I'll avenge you..."

When Luna was at the kindergarten, the kids were already queuing up to leave.

Neil was at the back of the group as he held Nellie's hand. The siblings walked out together.

"Aunty! " "Mommy! "

They ran and buried themselves in Luna's arms.

Lily initially wanted to secretly pick Nellie up and leave, but when she saw Nellie in Luna's arms, she sighed and slowly walked over.

"Little Princess, Mr. Lynch wants you to go home earlier tonight."

Then, she looked up. "Ms. Luna, I have to properly apologize to you. I'm sorry...about the incident last night."

Luna paused a little before recalling the incident where she burnt her hand. The injury was indeed quite serious. Neil had been looking after her the entire night before and applied medication on her injuries, though it no longer hurt.

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It only hurt a little when Luna had to copy the documents during the daytime.

"Mr. Lynch punished me yesterday. Mr. Quinn yelled at me today, too." Lily lifted her head. "I know my fault."

Luna paused for a while before she gently patted Lily's shoulders. "I know you have no ill intentions. Don't mind them; I understand. I'll pay more attention to this problem in the future. I'll also keep in touch with Malcolm more frequently."

Lily was stunned, not expecting Luna would react in such a way. She was so stunned that she was suddenly lost for words.

Nellie sighed as she gently pecked Luna on the cheeks. Then, she turned and grabbed Lily's hand. "Lily, let's go!"

Seeing Lily taking Nellie away, Neil slightly furrowed his brows. "Why are you being so nice to her?"

"Who doesn't make mistakes?" Luna sighed as she grabbed Neil's hand. "She took great care of the three of you when we were overseas all those years. I'm not going to be petty with her."

Luna held Neil's hand as they headed to the bus stop, telling about her day as they did, about Zach and Yuri, and about her new colleague, Bonnie Lane.

"Mommy, you're too trusting," came a child's grim voice abruptly.

Luna paused for a while before realizing it came from the necklace around her neck.

Nigel made the necklaces for everyone when he first got to it. Later on, because Luna and Nigel were in a cold stand-off over coming back to the country, she took it off.

After the Ferris Wheel incident, Luna put it back on. "Why am I too trusting?" Luna furrowed her brows.

"I've checked up on Bonnie's background." Nigel, on the other end of the line, leaned against the bed in the patient ward. The afternoon sun shined lazily on him.

"She graduated and majored in Mass Communications. She's no designer intern, but a... reporter. Yes, she's a reporter that has always covered negative news about Aura Gibson. After the incident with Aura, she suddenly resigned from her job at the

newspaper publishing company and assumed another identity, becoming an intern in the Lynch Group's design department."

Nigel's voice was very low. "At first, I thought that she's friends with Aura, deliberately publishing bad publicity on Aura, to help push up Aura's fame. I then realized that she just despises Aura to the core. She's pretty objective when she covers other people, but she's feisty when it comes to Aura."

Nigel softened his voice. "Mommy, perhaps you could get close to her. I think there must be some deeper connection between her and Aura, but you have to be careful. She doesn't seem friendly."

Luna paused for a while and felt as if her brain was going to explode. How was that possible?

Bonnie's obedient look inexplicably appeared on her mind.

However, Nigel's research would not be wrong, too.

She brought Neil home with a mind full of questions. The two of them just went up when they saw someone sitting by their front door.

Upon seeing them, Natasha immediately got up. "Ms. Luna. I heard that you're working in the Lynch Group."

Her haggard face broke Luna's heart.

Luna pursed her lips. "Why are you here?" she asked as she opened the door. "Let's go in first. Have you been waiting here for long?"

"There's no need." Natasha subconsciously took a step back. "I'm not that acquainted with you yet. I only wanted to ask you if you have any news about my daughter."

Luna's hand on the doorknob paused a little.

'Actually, I am also your daughter,' Luna thought to herself.
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"Ma'am, let's head inside and talk." Neil noticed how ugly Luna's expression turned into, thus he approached Natasha and smilingly tugged at her sleeves. "There are a lot of people in our small community, and neighbors will talk. It'll be better to talk inside! "

Natasha furrowed her brows and wanted to refuse Neil until she had a good look at his face.

That face...

She inexplicably thought of when Luna Gibson was young. This boy's aura, smell, and those huge starlit eyes were the same as Luna Gibson's when she was young.

All thoughts flew out the window when Natasha looked at him.

After a while, Natasha sighed and let Neil lead her in.

The house's exterior was no different than the others. What Natasha did not expect was that the interior, decorated simply and cleanly, had charred walls and ceilings with burnt marks.

Even if it was repainted, it could not fully cover the burnt marks.

Natasha paused for a while. "Your house..."

"Ms. Aura sent someone to burn them down." Neil led Natasha to the sofa before he sat opposite her. "My Mommy and Nellie were still here the day the house was set ablaze. If they weren't rescued in time, they would've died."

Neil's eyes were huge and sparkling, utterly endearing, but his words stirred Natasha.

"Impossible. Aura is Nellie's auntie, and she wouldn't do such things. Someone must've tricked you! "

She looked at the black spots in the room once again and confirmed her beliefs. "Impossible."

"Tea." Luna served freshly made tea from the kitchen. "Today is my first day at the Lynch Group. I don't have much contact with Joshua yet."

Luna took a deep breath and tried to suppress her emotions. "So, I won't be able to find out so quickly about Aura."

She put the teacup in front of Natasha. "Aunty Natasha, have some tea."

She made Natasha's favorite earl grey tea, but Natasha barely paid any attention to it as she remained seated on the sofa with a deep frown. " When will you be able to get news of Aura? You're also a mother; you should know how it feels when your kid is missing. When I think of Aura, I can't sleep or eat."

Luna's smile was plastered on her face.

As she gazed at the steaming earl grey tea, she could not hold back her question. "Back then...when Luna Gibson went missing, were you like that, too?"

Luna looked at Natasha closely, trying to find hints of reminiscence on Natasha's face. However, Natasha shook her head.

"Yes, Luna Gibson is also my daughter, but...in my heart, she could never compare to Aura. Aura is kind and gentle. She has secretly done so much for Luna, yet Luna never thanked her once.

"Also..." Natasha sighed. "Aura was the first one who met Joshua Lynch, truth be told. Aura was kind enough to not fight with her sister, but Luna excluded her constantly."

Luna stood in the same spot, her entire body tense. "Did...Aura told you all that?" She could not believe it. Her own mother, whom she respected so much,

would say such things about her.

"Not all of it. I saw it with my own eyes, too."

Then, Natasha sighed. "Although Luna is also my daughter, she's so...different."

Luna heard her heart slowly cracking into pieces.

She took a deep breath and suppressed her emotions. "I understand. I don't have any news about Aura at the moment. Once I do, I '11 notify you at once. Neil, please send Aunty Natasha off."

Neil looked at Luna's terribly pale face, and his heart broke.

He jumped down from the sofa and quickly ran to the door to open it. "Aunty Natasha, please leave."

Natasha furrowed her brows as she eyed the adorable-looking Neil.

Truthfully, she did not really want to leave. "Didn't you just passionately invite me in? Why are you getting rid of me now?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 195

Luna eyed Natasha coldly. "Didn't you refuse to come in just now?"

Natasha was at a loss for words.

Not long after, she sighed, picked her handbag up, and left.

Slam!

The door was shut.

The moment Natasha left, Luna could no longer hold back her tears as they streamed down her face.

She always prioritized family relationships. She blamed herself for not contacting her family when she was overseas.

Even before, she knew Natasha would misunderstand her, and she blamed it on them being apart for a long time.

When she heard Natasha say she was not upset at all after she went missing, however, Luna's eyes were opened. No one liked her from the start.

No one.

Her family, her lover... They only loved Aura.

"Mommy, you still have the three of us. " Luna did not know when it was that Nia1 stood behind her.

He reached out and grabbed Luna's finger, his voice weak but determined, "We'll always be your shield."

Once she turned around to hug Neil, Luna shut her eyes and cried silently.

That night, she slept under the care of Neil. Neil once said that men were born to take care of women.

He was so mature that Luna did not want to continue being vulnerable.

The next morning, when Luna just woke up, Lucas brought men over and knocked on her door.

"Ms. Luna. " Lucas, who always called her by name, was suddenly polite to her. "Mr. Lynch's car is downstairs. Why don't you and Young Master Neil with Mr. Lynch now? We'll get people to pack your things up and send them to Blue Bay Villa."

Luna hesitated a little. "Okay."

She turned to look at Neil, whose expression was unreadable. He smiled at Luna brightly before he looked up at Lucas. "What about Nellie?"

"She's waiting for you all in the car, too."

"That's great! " Neil exhaled deeply. He picked up his jacket and bag. Then, he pulled Luna along and headed out. "Let's go, Mommy! "

Walking behind Neil, she looked at her son's adorable head. She could not help but ask in a soft voice, "Why are you not asking me what's going on?"

She initially wanted to talk to Neil about the matters with Joshua once she returned home the night before, but Natasha's appearance completely messed up her thoughts.

She never thought that Neil would not be hostile toward Joshua's sudden arrival.

"Nigel told me everything," said Neil in a half-whisper. "Just do what you want to do, Mommy. If it's nothing too dangerous, we'll always support you."

His words warmed her heart to the core.

Luna pursed her lips and grabbed Neil's hand tightly.

Joshua's car was parked downstairs quietly as they got down. A luxurious car appearing in a normal part of the neighborhood made the neighbors come out to have a look.

"My brother!" Seeing Luna and Neil walking over from the distance, Nellie excitedly got down from the car and ran over to them quickly.

After such a long time, she could finally call Neil her brother openly!

She pounced on the helpless Neil as she embraced him tightly.

He helplessly sighed. "Okay, okay. We see each other every day. Why are you so excited?"

"Oh..." Nellie pouted. She forced herself in between Luna and Neil, holding their hands as they walked to the car.

Joshua, who was sitting in the backseat, furrowed his brows at this scene. He suddenly had a feeling.

Why did Nellie also look like Luna's child?
Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 196

Neil, Nellie, and Luna got into the car.

Neil sat at the front passenger seat while Luna and Nellie got in the back, sitting next to Joshua.

Joshua elegantly leaned against the leather seat with a faint smile. "I suddenly realized that Nellie looks a little like you, too."

Luna's body suddenly stiffened, and Nellie's expressions changed slightly as well.

"All beautiful women look alike." Neil, in the passenger seat in front, buckled his seat belt and leaned back elegantly.

"Beautiful people all look alike, but the ugly ones are ugly in their ways."

Neil's nonchalant words made Lucas almost laugh out loud.

Luna and Nellie were also relieved.

Joshua, on the other hand, chuckled a little. "That's true, but..."

Joshua casually swept a glance at Luna. "Nellie still looks like my wife, Luna Gibson."

Luna recollected herself and smiled at him. "Of course."

She looked completely different from her past self, after all.

"Nellie, did that boy who gave you the lollipop in the morning look for you again in the afternoon?"

The atmosphere in the car gradually became awkward, so Neil calmly started gossiping.

Nellie shook her head a little. "No. He wants me to be his girlfriend. I didn't say yes."

Joshua and Luna furrowed their brows at the same time upon those words.

They seemed to have forgotten their past topic as they lowered their gaze and looked at Nellie in unison.

"A boy pursued you with a lollipop?"

"How could you have a boyfriend in kindergarten?"

Nellie suddenly felt a huge pressure on her. She glared at Neil grumpily via the rearview mirror before she slowly explained to Joshua and Luna.

"Well, I..."

The journey from Luna's house to the kindergarten was at least more than 10 minutes. During that time, Nellie kept explaining about the incident yesterday in an attempt to pacify Joshua and Luna.

Neil, on the other hand, lazily leaned back at the passenger seat in front and enjoyed the sun.

He would occasionally joke around with Lucas. "The weather today is great."

Lucas helplessly shrugged. "You know how to find things for them to talk about."

Neil winked at Lucas. "Isn't this better than discussing who Nellie looks like more?"

Soon, the car stopped in front of the kindergarten.

Nellie promised Joshua and Luna multiple times she would not let any boy have any chances of pursuing her, and Neil promised he would take good care of Nellie. Only then did they get down from the car and head into the kindergarten.

Once the car door was shut, Luna looked at the back of the two entering the kindergarten and sighed a long sigh. "How worrying."

Joshua raised his eyebrows. "You know, Nellie is my daughter, " he sneered. "To those that don't know this, they might think that Nellie is yours instead."

Luna's eyes dimmed. Then, she laughed gently. "I've taken care of Nellie for so long. We have a bond."

Then, she turned her head and looked out of the window, saying nothing anymore.

"When we reach the company, I'll let everyone know that you're with me." Joshua calmly swept her a glance. "I'm giving you a chance to steal corporate confidential data, but whether you can do that is up to your own abilities. Of course, you have to put on a good act with me. Perhaps, when all things are done, I might even reveal some information to you."

Luna inwardly sneered at his words. The Lynch Group's corporate secrets might be worth millions to him, but to her, it was nothing.

The only thing she missed from him was actually... She thought back about the other night.

Luna silently recomposed her thoughts and forced herself to stop thinking about them.

"Thank you, Mr. Lynch." She smiled. "I 'll put on a great act." The car arrived at Lynch Group Tower.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 197

Luna thought that when Joshua wanted to announce her identity in front of everyone, it would be done during the company conference in the morning or at another venue.

What she did not expect was that those from the upper management would arrange themselves at Lynch Group Tower once the car stopped.

All of the staff and executives lined on two sides by the entrance, opening a path in the middle.

Looking out from the car, the two sides of the red carpet were people in black.

This was the first time Luna saw such a huge ensemble.

She turned back and looked at Joshua in a daze.

"This is how we welcome important guests to the group, " said Joshua calmly in a low voice. "You're the first woman of mine to enjoy this."

Luna was speechless.

It did not need to be that formal, did it?

At that moment, someone knocked on the car door.

Courtney stood outside with a smile. She was in a pink long dress, her long hair freshly curled with a crystal hairpin to top it off. She looked as exquisite as a fairy tale princess.

She smiled and knocked on the car door. "President Lynch, are you getting out of the car now? Has our guest arrived?"

Joshua swiftly opened the car door. Once the car door opened, Courtney smiled and looked into the car. "Is our guest..."

She stopped midway in her sentence, and the smile on her face froze because behind Joshua was Luna, who made her incredibly unhappy the day before.

Courtney pursed her lips and recollected herself before she turned to smile at Joshua. "Did you bump into Ms. Luna on the way, and you kindly give her a ride after that?"

Courtney then shot Luna a cold gaze. "Ms. Luna, although you know the president, we have guests today. What are you still staying in the car for? If our guests see you, they'd think that the women of Lynch Group are of your quality."

Luna chuckled gently. "Okay, I'll get out then."

Just as she was about to get out of the car, Joshua held her back.

He calmly got out of the car and stood next to Courtney, towering over her with his height. Courtney could not help but blush as her heart started to race.

To stand so closely next to him, she was satisfied! Courtney shyly bit her lip. "President, you..."

The next second, Joshua reached out his long arms and immediately lifted Luna in his arms, much to Courtney's bewilderment.

Bonnie and Shannon among the crowd were just as shocked —so were the other staff and executives of the Lynch Group.

Even Luna was so stunned that she could not say anything, nor did she dare struggle. She could only whisper in Joshua's ears, "What are you trying to do?"

"This is how you should be treated as my woman."

Joshua smiled and chuckled in a low voice. He carried her and walked past the group, entering the building.

Luna, who suddenly lost her balance, instinctively hugged Joshua's neck, her chest pressed against his. She could feel the rhythm of his heartbeat and breathing.

Also... There was that pheromone scent she had been obsessed with for almost ten years.

She lifted her head and eyed his angular jawline.

The surrounding staff gasped. Luna had never been so much in the limelight.

She hugged Joshua's neck tightly, unable to comprehend whether she felt pain or misery more.

Back then, she longed for him to treat her so domineeringly yet gentle.

Luna Gibson loved him for so many years but got nothing from him. Luna, at that moment, only took two months to get everything she wished for.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 198

Everyone watched as Joshua carried Luna across the lobby and into the elevator, going up to the President's office on the top floor.

Everything felt surreal to Luna the moment her feet landed on the ground. It was like a dream, but a much crueler one.

After all, in the dream, Joshua was carrying Luna Gibson, but in reality, Joshua was carrying the current Luna.

"Do I need to give you some time to reminisce?"

Joshua's low and cold voice pulled Luna back to reality, and she abruptly came to her senses as she met his cold eyes.

She smiled awkwardly. "I'm just a little taken aback. We're just putting on an act, but I didn't expect it to be such a huge one."

Joshua's eyes dimmed a little. He did it on purpose.

Since he was putting on an act with Luna to get Luna Gibson's attention so she would return to him as soon as possible, he had to truly make her jealous.

After Luna Gibson left back then, he went through her computer, diary, and social media. He saw how she said she liked being under the limelight, and she also liked him carrying her proudly as he walked through the crowd.

That was why he deliberately arranged for it that day.

He even got people to take photos to post them on the internet, especially foreign websites. He hoped Luna Gibson would see it. She must have seen it. She cared about him so much; she would definitely be jealous.

At that thought, he calmly lifted his head and looked at Luna. "You must know that no matter how big an act we put, the relationship we have is fake."

Luna paused for a while before she smiled. "Of course. I know that it's fake."

Was any part of Joshua real?

"You can go back to work." He lowered his gaze and flipped through the documents in his hands. "If your colleagues ask about this, do you know how to answer?"

"I do."

When Luna got back to the design department, the group of designers huddled together to gossip about her in half-whispers.

Upon seeing her return, Bonnie cleared her throat. The crowd instantly dispersed.

One of the colleagues boldly came over and asked, "Luna, what relationship do you have with President Lynch?"

"The one you just saw." Luna swiftly arranged the things on her desk. With a smile on her face, she added, "He carried me to work. What do you think?"

"But," that person paused for a while. "All these years, President Lynch has always been deeply in love with his wife. His love for his wife is as deep as the ocean. Aren't you afraid that President Lynch

will treat you as a...substitute?"

Upon those words, everyone's interest was piqued. They tried to listen as closely as possible.

Everyone seemed to hold their breath, afraid they would miss out on the gossip of the century.

Luna nonchalantly shrugged. "I don't care whether I'm a substitute or not."

"But, being a substitute is a miserable thing." Luna's female colleague next to her sighed and said, "Luna, it's not worth it."

"Heh." Luna calmly lifted her eyes and looked at her. "Weren't you guys talking about Courtney yesterday? Didn't you all think she'd be Luna Gibson's substitute because she looked like her? So why is it that you think it's an utmost honor if it was her, but if it were me, you find it pathetic and that it's not worth it?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 199

Luna's words silenced the entire design department. Her colleague's expressions turned ugly, too.

She was indeed coaxing and praising Courtney yesterday together with Shannon. After all, Courtney was the Design Director's junior, and they were close to each other.

Luna came out of nowhere; no one knew who she was or what background she had. A person like that was a threat to them!

"I never thought that someone would be proud to be a substitute." Shannon leaned against the door to her office as she shot Luna a condescending glance. "No wonder you're so arrogant. You have the support of someone that we can't afford to offend."

"You know you can't offend him, too?" Luna smiled.

"Furthermore, Joshua never once said that I'm anybody's substitute, right? What if I were to say that Joshua actually likes me?"

"You're lying! " One of the staff agitatedly pointed at Luna and scolded, "The love President Lynch has for his ex-wife is real! He loved her deeply. He only has her in his heart! "

Luna could not help but chuckle loudly at her words.

Joshua loved Luna Gibson deeply, and that he only had her in his heart, huh?

Luna, as the person in question, did not believe those words one bit.

She tucked her hair behind her ear and smiled

faintly. "How do you know that his feelings for his ex-wife are real? She has left him for six years, and he has been engaged to her sister, Aura Gibson for the past five years. Have you all forgotten about this? He said this was his way to take care of his ex-wife's sister? Is that so?"

Luna lowered her gaze and tidied her desk while she aloofly spoke, "There's a lot of ways to take care of her. They don't have to get engaged. The so-called taking care is just his way to maintain an image of him being deeply in love."

"Is that so? "Suddenly, a low voice came from the entrance of the design department.

That man's low voice punctured through the noise of the crowd and immediately into Luna's ears.

She suddenly tensed.

She knew she should not say such things, but she was annoyed at how her colleagues kept saying that Joshua was deeply in love with his ex-wife and how he only had Luna Gibson in his heart.

Listening to these lies more than once or twice was more than enough, so she boldly retorted, only to let Joshua hear what she said.

The entire design department was suddenly in pin -drop silence.

Luna braced herself and looked at Joshua's angry face. She frantically waved her hands. "Hello, President Lynch."

The glare in his eyes was so sharp that they could kill! Joshua walked over to Luna and kept his gaze as he suppressed the anger in his heart.

"Just because I didn't inform you that I was going to carry you to work, you got so angry that you say that I used to like Aura Gibson?"

There was tenderness in his tone and eyes. On the surface, it seemed like a boyfriend coaxing his angry girlfriend.

However, only Luna knew that beneath that facade was a raging wild storm.

She smiled a little. "I'm...not that angry anymore."

"I initially wanted to ask you to have lunch together." Joshua's expression was calm—his tender tone had hints of danger in them.

"Since you're still angry, though, let's head to my office. I'll cheer you up."

Stunned, Luna instinctively wanted to refuse, but Joshua's reaction was much quicker.

He immediately picked her up. "She'll be taking the morning off."
Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 200

Slam!

The office door was kicked shut as Luna's back was brutally slammed against the cold door.

Joshua strangled Luna with a cold gaze. "Who the hell gave you the courage to spread rumors about me outside?"

Luna could barely breathe as the air in her lungs decreased. Struggling, she hoarsely spoke, "I'm only saying what I'm thinking."

Joshua glared at her, his gaze growing even colder. "You think that I got engaged to Aura because I like her?"

"What else is it, then?" Luna lifted her head with a determined gaze. "I've said it before. There are many ways to take care of someone, and it's not necessarily getting engaged with them."

When she was overseas, she had once found many excuses for his behavior. She tried to find ways to determine that her judgment was wrong. She wanted to find a reason for him!

She used to have hope, no matter how little, hoping that he did not do those things, that he had no relationship with Aura, and that he still loved her.

Alas, she had to face the cruel reality!

The reality was that he conspired with Aura. They were in it together.

Not only did he cheat on her behind her back, but they also planned the accident and her so-called affair.

They even used a will to justify their abnormal relationship.

It was disgusting! Utterly disgusting!

Everything Joshua did was despicable and infuriating. He still had the guts to tell everyone he loved Luna Gibson the most, that his relationship with Aura was just because he was taking care of her.

Such a terrible lie, yet countless people believed them.

Luna did not buy a single word!

Joshua choked her as his fingers gripped tighter. His voice got lower and colder, too. "You're so determined that Aura and I got engaged because I like her? You and I are a couple now. Does that mean I have inappropriate thoughts for you, too?"

"What do you think?" Luna found it comical as she gazed into his heated glare.

He was exposed; that was why he got angry over it.

She lifted her ice-cold gaze. "Mr. Lynch, if you don't have any inappropriate thoughts toward me, there are so many other women on this earth. Why did you pick me?"

Luna's pink lips kept moving, saying words that would aggravate Joshua.

Joshua narrowed his eyes. The anger in his chest flared up. He glared at her lips with a darkened gaze.

"It's all because of —mpfh! "

Luna's lips were seized violently before she could finish.

Joshua's kisses were mixed with annoyance and rage. He fiercely swallowed her voice and breath with his kiss.

Luna instinctively struggled and tried to refuse his kiss, but the disparity of power was too huge.

She was no match for Joshua, so she could only let him kiss her, taking away all her sensibility.

Her mind went blank. What remained was his raging- storm-like attack.

After a long while... "President."

Suddenly, knocks came from the door, and both of them stopped in unison.

"Y—Your father is here. He's waiting for you downstairs."

Luna immediately pushed Joshua away, the latter shutting his eyes as he let out a long breath.

When he opened his eyes, his endless gaze resumed its clarity.

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