

# **Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 251**

## **By eBooksCat**

After leaving the coffee shop, Luna went to the fresh market for grocery shopping.

Anne was not good at cooking, so since they lived together, naturally Luna was the one in charge of grocery shopping and cooking.

Holding the groceries in hand, Luna stood at the door. She reached for her keys when she heard Anne's shy voice drifting in from inside the house.

"Luna is coming home soon, John, don't..."

"In a way, she's almost like our cupid, she won't mind..."

"She's in a bad mood recently, things have been rough for her, we shouldn't irritate her."

"Then we should make it fast, before she comes back Luna frowned.

Bad timing.

Placing the groceries at the entrance, she huffed out a long breath and turned and left.

The sky darkened, and Banyan City was lit up in an array of bright neon lights.

Luna wandered alone on the streets for a long, long time.

Unconsciously, she walked to the entrance of an art gallery.

She took a glance at the display board at the entrance:  
Renowned Artist Theo Allen's Art Exhibition: Banyan City Stop.

Theo Allen was an artist she admired when she was still a student.

Once, a childish Luna scribbled in her diary: Life- long bucket list: attend Theo Allen's art exhibition at least once.

Many years had passed since, now after all that she went through, standing here and looking at his art exhibition again, strangely she felt nothing.

But she still bought a ticket and went in. After, this was once her dream.

There were not many people in the exhibition hall.

Walking along the corridor, she looked at the various pieces of art that accompanied her through her teenage years, memories of herself when she was young and frivolous appearing before her eyes.

She laughed self-deprecatingly.

"Joshua, thank you, I'm very glad to have the chance to attend Theo Allen's art exhibition."

"I'm happy I could help you fulfill your wish."

Sometime later, a familiar woman's voice pulled Luna's wandering thoughts back to the present.

She looked in the direction of the voice.

In the distance stood Alice Gibson in a long white dress, she had her arm hooked through Joshua's, and was slowly heading in her direction.

They looked so intimate, like the perfect pair.

Suddenly, Luna understood why the woman's voice sounded so familiar to her.

Because that was what she used to sound like.

Not only did this woman look exactly like her before surgery, but even her voice also sounded exactly the same.

Aura's words this afternoon rang in her ears again. " So he quietly switched me and your biological sister. I became the second daughter of the Gibson family, while your biological daughter was sent to an orphanage."

She could not help but frown.

Could Alice be her sister that was sent to the orphanage?

If she was, then everything made sense...

" `Luna?"

When she was still stuck in a daze, Alice and Joshua had already appeared in front of her.

Alice had her arm hooked through Joshua's, the two of them looked extremely intimate. "What a coincidence, who thought we would see you here."

Luna recovered from her daze and smiled faintly at her. "Yes, what a coincidence indeed. You like Mr. Allen's paintings too?"

Alice looked at Luna with a smile on her face. "Yes, I do. Joshua knew I liked Mr. Allen, so the moment I came back, he paid a hefty fee and invited Mr. Allen

over to Banyan City and organized this exhibition."

Then, she even rubbed her head on Joshua's chest in a display of affection. "My husband is the best! "

Looking at Alice wearing Luna's old face and acting all lovey-dovey with Joshua, Luna felt a whirlpool of mixed emotions in her chest.

She did not know whether to be happy, because Joshua finally liked the old Luna Gibson.

Or to be sad, because the Luna Gibson he now liked was nothing but an imposter.

Or maybe, right now, Joshua was just putting on an act.

With this thought, Luna's lips curled up in a faint smile. "Then I must thank Mrs. Lynch, because of you, we finally have the chance to admire Mr. Allen's art right here in Banyan City."  
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With that, she pointed at a painting behind her. " Mrs. Lynch, do you know the name of this painting?"

Alice rolled her eyes.

What was this woman doing, was she testing her?

She replied carelessly, "This painting is named 'The Act', it's used to critique people who intentionally put on an act in front of others to boast."

Luna smiled. "This painting is perfect for you."

Alice paused then realized Luna was using the painting to make fun of her!

She was accusing her of putting on an act!

Anger boiled in her chest. She tugged at Joshua's arm. "Honey, she's saying we don't love each other. Kiss me and prove it to her! "

Joshua stiffened slightly, his arm still in her grip.

Running into Luna in this situation already made him feel awkward, and now Alice wanted him to act all lovey-dovey in front of her?

And... kiss her?

He frowned. "Stop making a scene."

Since Alice returned to his side, he did consider kissing her.

But every time he almost did, somehow, his body instinctively rejected her.

He even consulted a psychiatrist because of this.

The psychiatrist said it could be because they had been apart for too long. Even though they loved each other mentally, but physically they were strangers.

He could not even kiss her in private, how could he do it here in public?

"I'm not making a scene."

Alice was determined to take this opportunity to force Joshua to kiss her in front of Luna. "You don't love me anymore, do you?"

He frowned and looked at her helplessly. "I don't have to prove my love for you in front of outsiders, do I?"

The word 'outsiders' made Luna's heart feel as if it had been squeezed.

But his explanation was not enough to satisfy Alice. She bit her lip. "I want you to!"

Then, she grasped the opportunity, stood up on her tiptoes and circled her arms around his neck, pouting her lips in his direction...

Standing opposite the two of them, Luna looked on, her heart felt as if it was being torn into pieces by an invisible hand.

Alice looked like her in the past.

In the eyes of the public, he was a kind and loving husband, fulfilling his wife's every whim.

But in reality, he did not even want to give her a kiss.

Looking as their lips inched closer and closer, Luna knew she should look away.

But she could not help it, she stood there doggedly, her eyes focused on them.

The ache in her heart intensified, growing more and more uncomfortable, but still, she couldn't move her eyes away from them.

Just when their lips almost touched, Joshua's phone rang.

The moment the ringtone was heard, Joshua instinctively pushed Alice away and turned to answer the phone.

Looking at his turned back, Alice bit her lip furiously. So close, so, so close!

She was so close to kissing his lips!

"It looks like your act has failed, Mrs. Lynch."

Luna hooked her lips up in a smile, threw her a cold glance, and turned to leave. "You should discuss it with Mr. Lynch beforehand before acting out a skit in front of me."

Her taunts and ridicule made Alice bite her lip harshly.

Raising her head, she looked at the CCTV camera above her, an evil glint shining in her eyes.

The next second, when Luna walked into the CCTV camera's blind spot, Alice rushed forward Caught off guard, Luna was knocked into the wall.

Right when she was about to lose balance and fall, Luna instinctively placed her hand on the wall to steady herself.

Theo Allen's most famous painting, 'The Kite and The Girl' hung on the wall. "Shrick — — "

Luna's fingers pierced a hole in Theo Allen's world- renowned masterpiece.

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"Oh my god..."

Right when Luna's finger pierced through the painting, Alice exclaimed in shock, "This is Mr. Allen's favorite painting! Luna, even if you hate me, you don't have to go so far as to destroy this painting just because I like it?"

There were not many people in the exhibition hall at night, and the spot where they stood was darkly lit, so initially, no one noticed the ruckus going on between them.

With Alice's shout, everyone turned their attention to them.

Before Luna could regain her footing, the crowd's critical stares and words of reproach were heard.

"Why did you come to an art exhibition if you didn't appreciate art?"

"Apparently, someone once offered Master Allen ten million dollars to buy this piece of art but he refused! "

"Oh my god, can she afford to compensate him?"

"Jealous women are so crazy, destroying it just because someone else liked it?"

The rumble of the crowd's discussion was heard clearly.

Luna smiled wryly.

She drowned out the voices behind her and turned to look at the hole on the painting she accidentally made with her finger.

All along, she thought Alice was a quiet opportunist, someone who never wore their emotions on their face.



After all, to pour her time and effort into learning everything about someone else, and disguise herself as that person required a lot of patience and determination.

But she was wrong.

Alice Gibson was much more despicable than she thought.

“Miss.”

Behind her, the cold voice of the exhibition manager rang out, “You will have to suffer the consequences for destroying Master Allen’s painting. I’ll give you three options, firstly, monetary compensation, second, replace the painting with a brand new one and lastly, legal action. Which one would you prefer?”

Luna turned and glanced at the manager. “What if I told you there’s a hidden truth behind destroying the painting?”

Alice laughed lightly, “Ms. Luna destroyed this painting intentionally because she didn’t like me, what hidden truth can there be?”

Then, she turned and looked at the manager, acting high and righteous, “But since she put it that way, we should take a look at the CCTV recording. What if she’s indeed innocent?”

The manager considered it for a second. “Please follow me.”

The group of them went to the surveillance room.

“Manager, because of our mistake while displaying the paintings, the location where this painting was displayed...”

The staff member in the surveillance room bit his lip and said, “Is not within the camera’s radius.”

“Is this how you work?!”

The manager was about to explode with anger when the staff member hurriedly opened his mouth to make up for his mistake. “But when I was looking through the recording just now, I noticed someone was standing in the spot where he would’ve clearly seen everything that happened! And according to the CCTV recording, when the incident occurred, his eyes were fixed in the direction of the painting! As long as we can get him to testify...”

The manager frowned, “So bring him here right now, quick!”

Their conversation made Alice’s brows screw tightly together.

When she was pushing Luna...

She made sure there were no CCTVs and no witnesses!

How could it be...

She paused and stepped forward. “It’s hardly fair to rely on a witness’ testimony. Humans are not machines, they can’t be 100% fair, what if that person is Luna’s friend, then we would get tricked, wouldn’t we?”

The manager paused and looked at the person on the CCTV recording.

“This person wouldn’t lie.”

He laughed lightly and pointed at the person on the recording. “Mrs. Lynch, this is Mr. Lynch, right?”

Alice stiffened and immediately looked over — The person on the screen was indeed Joshua.

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In a corner of the second floor, he was talking on the phone.

And the direction his eyes were looking in... was the direction in which she pushed Luna!

In an instant, Alice's face turned pale as a ghost.

"Mr. Lynch is our sponsor, and he's your husband, he would definitely remain fair and just."

With that, the manager immediately ordered a subordinate. "Go and invite Mr. Lynch here! "

Alice's expression turned immeasurably ugly. She was regretting her decision deeply.

Joshua saw her reaching out and pushing Luna.

She just returned to his side, he still had his reservations about her, if he realized she was not as kind and gentle as she pretended to be...

Would he be suspicious of her?

"Ms. Luna."

The manager looked at her calmly. "Whether you intentionally destroyed this painting or you were framed, we will know the truth once Mr. Lynch is here."

Luna stood on the spot; her hands clenched tightly into fists at her sides.

Alice had framed her for destroying Mr. Allen's painting, initially, she planned to prove her innocence with the CCTV recording and the testimony of witnesses.

But she did not expect the painting would be located in a blind spot.

And what's more, she did not expect Joshua would be the only witness.

She closed her eyes.

Would he... tell the truth to help her? "Mr. Lynch, this way please."

Following the staff member's voice that was filled with flattery, the tall and elegant man entered the surveillance room.

In the room, he glanced at Alice and Luna and understood what was going on.

He elegantly took out a cheque book and wrote a check for ten million dollars. "Give this to Mr. Allen, if it's insufficient he can contact my secretary for extra compensation. I'll reimburse him for this painting."

Once the words left his mouth, the crowd was enveloped in a frenzy.

The manager frowned. "Mr. Lynch, we asked you here to testify..."

The man raised his cold eyes and swept them over the manager. "I said, I am reimbursing Mr. Allen for this painting."

The manager wanted to say more but immediately shut up when he came into contact with the man's ice-cold gaze.

He could not afford to get on Mr. Lynch's bad side!

From the beginning, all he wanted was someone to compensate for the loss of the painting.

Now that Joshua was willing to pay, they did not need to fixate on the perpetrator of the act.

And so he hurriedly lowered his head. "... Uhm, Mr. Lynch, thank you for coming."

Joshua snorted carelessly in reply and slowly walked to Alice.

Facing his razor-sharp gaze that felt as if he could see right through her, Alice instinctively lowered her head, not daring to meet his gaze.

Sighing softly, the man gently reached out an arm and wrapped it around Alice's waist. "Let's go."

Then, he held her and walked right past Luna.

From beginning to end, he did not even throw a glance her way.

Standing in her spot, Luna looked at his retreating back, her heart aching in pain.

She should've expected that he would protect Alice.

She did not even know she thought for a second that he might tell the truth and prove her innocence.

"Mr. Lynch."

When Joshua was about to walk out of the door with his arm wrapped about Alice's waist, a man's clear voice rang out behind him.

The crowd looked in the direction where the voice came from.  
"Master Allen?"

The man waved emotionlessly at the crowd then laughed lightly as he looked at Joshua's retreating back, "Your wife destroyed my painting, besides monetary compensation, doesn't she owe me an apology?"

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Joshua paused in his tracks.

He turned back, a cold expression on his face, looked at the man behind him and said, "Master Allen, I think you might be mistaken..."

Beside him, the manager hurriedly rushed to Theo's side. "The person who destroyed your painting is Ms. Luna and not Mrs. Lynch."

Theo smiled faintly, turned and threw a gentle glance in Luna's direction. "Why didn't you say that you were framed? Just because he paid ten million in compensation for you?"

Luna turned pale.

She lifted her eyes and looked at Theo, then turned and glanced at Joshua.

The man's face was cold and expressionless. "That's because no one will stand on my side."

A moment later, she raised her head and stared at Joshua, saying word by word, "There's no CCTV recording, and the only witness chose to remain silent, no matter what I say, no one will believe me."

“Why would no one believe you?”

Theo laughed lightly, strode to Luna, and looked at Joshua with clear, calm eyes. “Mr. Lynch, as the only witness, shouldn’t you explain clearly who was the one who destroyed the painting? I value this painting very much; monetary compensation alone isn’t sufficient.”

Joshua’s hand that was wrapped around Alice’s waist tightened slightly. “Is that important?”

“Of course it is.”

Theo raised his head, an unyielding glint flashing in his gentle eyes as he looked at Joshua.

The two men stared at each other in confrontation.

In an instant, the atmosphere in the surveillance room turned tense.

After a long while, Joshua curled his lips in a smile. “ Actually...”

He turned and looked at Luna. “I didn’t see who was the one who actually destroyed your painting.”

The manager paused. “But the staff said...”

“There’s no rule that says just because I was standing there and my eyes were looking in that direction, that I definitely saw it, right?”

A cold look passed through his handsome face. “ Even if I was staring in that direction, I was dozing off.”

Joshua’s words once again caused an uproar amongst the crowd.

Luna stood in her spot, her heart sinking lower and lower into the pits of her stomach.

She knew Joshua had definitely seen everything.

If he did not, he would not try to cover the truth so deliberately.

But he chose to lie, for Alice.

Closing her eyes, she felt the last fragment of hope she had been holding onto for him smash into pieces and disappear.

"I'm willing to pay the compensation because this matter involves both parties, one of them is my wife, and the other is a staff member working for me in the Lynch Group."

Joshua's cold voice silenced the low rumble of discussion in the room.

"As a husband or a superior, I have the responsibility to end this silly affair."

He looked at Theo coldly. "Are you satisfied with my explanation?"

Theo smiled. "Of course I am."

Then, Theo turned and looked at the pale-faced Luna, "I heard Ms. Luna is a fan of my art, would you accompany me to go see that painting again?"

Luna's head snapped up, and was greeted with his warm, clear eyes.

She paused and nodded. "Alright! "



Theo was around the same age as Joshua, a young and successful artist.

When he just made a name for himself, Luna was already his fan.

He was her idol.

Now, her idol was standing in front of her, extending an invitation her way, how could she reject him? "Let's go."

Theo laughed lightly, reached out, and held Luna's hand.

Being held by an unfamiliar man, instinctively, Luna wanted to struggle. But she did not. She did not know what overcame her, instead, she flipped her palm over and gripped his hand tightly.

He did not expect her to hold his hand tightly, he paused, then laughed lightly, "Let's go."

After they left, the manager started to disperse the crowd. "Everyone, the issue is solved, there's nothing more to see here."

"Joshua, let's go."

Alice hooked her arm through Joshua's, her voice soft and gentle. Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 256

Joshua lifted his gaze and glanced in the direction where Luna and Theo had walked off from, their hands still intertwined. They had known each other for just a few minutes, yet they held hands like a couple would!

Joshua could not help but frown at the sight.

"Joshua... Did you really not see anything?" asked Alice tentatively as they made their way down the stairs, her hand still clutching his arm.

Joshua stared blankly ahead. "What do you think?"

Alice bit her lip and remained silent. After a moment, she said, "Actually, I— "

"I know, " Joshua gently interrupted her. "I know that you're trying to take revenge on Luna for kidnapping your kids, but this will be the first and last time, Alice."

He let out a deep sigh before continuing, "If you're still holding a grudge against her, you shouldn't have asked me to let her out. Now that we've released her, you shouldn't be trying to take revenge on her." His voice was low and solemn.

Alice chewed her lip nervously. "Alright, I won't let this happen again."

She would be more careful next time.

Joshua could tell she was upset. He sighed and gently patted her hand. "I know that you're still the kind and thoughtful woman I used to know, so don't do this ever again."

The two then walked out of the art gallery and were met with fresh air. Joshua lifted his head to gaze at the city lights that blinked in the distance. "I'll ask Lucas to send you home."

Alice paused for a moment and said with a tone of slight displeasure, "Do you have to work overtime tonight?"

"Yes, " murmured Joshua as he rubbed his eyebrows with an air of exhaustion. "I have a meeting tonight with some foreign companies."

"You've been working overtime for two nights in a row now, " Alice protested. She bit her bottom lip and tugged his arm in an attempt to coax him. "We haven't managed to spend time together ever since I returned..."

"It's not like we're ever going to be separated again in the future, so why are you so worried?" Joshua stroked her hair gently before he gestured at someone in the distance.

Lucas drove the car over. "Let's go, Mrs. Lynch."

Alice was reluctant to leave, but she had no other choice. She got into the car and said to Joshua, "Try to come home as soon as you can, darling."

Joshua nodded and waved at her. "Sleep early tonight."

Lucas started the car and drove off, leaving Joshua standing at the entrance of the art gallery as he stared off in the direction of the retreating vehicle. There was a twinge of sadness in his heart.

The Luna he knew would not have done what she did.

No matter how much hatred she harbored, she would not have ruined someone's artwork to get revenge against someone else. Moreover, Theo Allen was her favorite artist, and 'The Girl with the Kite' was his most famous painting.

Joshua was confused. This woman had turned from a kind, compassionate art fanatic into a revenge-seeking maniac. Could six years change someone that much? "I've loved all of your

paintings ever since the first one. I'm such a huge fan!" A familiar voice pulled Joshua back to reality.

Joshua tilted his head and caught sight of the woman in a flowing white dress walking side by side with Theo.

The strands of her long hair fluttered with the gentle night breeze. The dim street lights illuminated the awestruck look in her eyes. "I've always wanted to become as talented an artist as you."

Her expression amused Theo. "It's my pleasure to have a fan like you." He glanced at his watch and said to Luna, "It's getting late now. Why don't I give you a ride home?"

Luna wanted to decline his offer, but when she turned around, she caught a glimpse of the tall silhouette that stood under a street light. It was Joshua.

He stood there motionless, his shadow long, slender, and somewhat melancholic. Although she could not make out his face, she could feel his gaze on her.

She turned back to face Theo and gave him a polite smile. "I'd appreciate that, thank you."

Theo took her to his car, and the two departed in the direction of Anne's house.

With an air of displeasure, Joshua lit a cigarette. Then, after taking a few puffs, he put it out and got into his own car. He started the engine and left in the same direction as Theo's car.

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"I'm just curious, " mused Luna as she sat in the passenger seat and gazed out at the road in front of her. "How did you know I wasn't the one who ruined your painting?"

Theo smiled in response as his hands gripped the steering wheel. "What if I told you, I believe that Moon isn't that kind of person?"

Luna froze momentarily at his reply before a chuckle escaped her lips. "Mr. Allen is familiar with me?"

"I used to be interested in jewelry design as well, and I tried it for a while, but I eventually gave up because it was too hard. During that time, I did a lot of research on my own, so I was acquainted with your work. To say that Moon is a household name in the field of jewelry design won't be an exaggeration."

Luna was surprised to hear that, but after pondering over it for a few moments, she thought it made sense. If not for the fact that he recognized her as Moon, Theo probably would not have rescued her back there, much less offered to send her home.

Her lips curled into a faint smile. "What a small world."

"I did a lot of self-studying when I was young, thankfully. If I hadn't, I would've missed out on the opportunity to acquaint myself with a master

today." Theo's voice was soft and gentle as he continued, "Although, that wasn't the only reason I knew you didn't ruin my painting."

Luna tilted her head to look at him.

"The painting that you ruined just now wasn't the real one."

There was a hint of a smile playing on Theo's lips. "I have some strange hobbies; one of them is displaying knock-offs of my own artwork and placing them in surveillance camera blind spots.

However, these paintings have cameras embedded inside them because I enjoy watching people's true reactions and opinions toward my artwork."

Luna paused for a moment before realization dawned on her. "Does that mean...you witnessed the whole process?"

"I guess you can say so." Theo stopped the car. "

We're here."

Luna turned around and realized that they had arrived at Anne's doorstep. She unfastened her seatbelt and got out of the car. "Thank you for the ride. Unfortunately, I can't invite you upstairs for a chat since I live with a friend."

Theo got out of the driver's seat as well. He handed her a name card along with a small, beautifully wrapped box. "I hope to get to know you better, Ms. Luna."

Luna hesitated for a moment but took the card from him nonetheless. "It'd be my pleasure."

Theo chuckled and pushed the box into Luna's hand. "Here. You can take it home and have a look first. If you don't like it, you can return it to me." With that, he got into the car and gave her a wave. "Good Luna stood motionless as she watched Theo's car depart. She let out a deep sigh of relief and shoved both the card and the box into her handbag before heading up the stairs.

The stairwell was dark. As soon as Luna entered, she was immediately pulled into the landing on one side. She did not have any time to react, much less scream for help.

The man who had dragged her into the landing did not do anything to her. Instead, he leaned against the door and lit a cigarette.

Luna managed to make out his face with the dim light of the cigarette. "Joshua?"

Joshua took a deep puff of his cigarette, his face expressionless. "You've barely known the man for an hour, yet you let him send you home and even accepted a gift from him?"

Luna's breath caught in her throat. "Were you following me?"

Joshua did not answer her. Instead, he shot her a cold glance. "Are you feeling lonely now because I left you and the children are back where they rightfully belong? Is that why you're so desperate?"

Luna gave him an incredulous look. "What does this have to do with you? Let me tell you, Joshua Lynch, the only relationship I have with you right now is that of CEO and employee. Does the Lynch Group pride itself on invading its employees' privacy?"

Joshua paused. After a moment, he took another puff of his cigarette. "I just wanted to give you a word of caution: don't trust everyone you meet."

Within hours of meeting, Theo had held Luna's hand in public, drove her home, and even gave her a gift. Joshua's gut feeling told him that this man probably had ulterior motives toward her. He could not be trusted!

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"Don't trust everyone you meet..." Luna echoed then smirked. "That sounds like a piece of good advice. Unfortunately, there are a lot of good liars out there. Some of them are so skilled that even though the situation called for the truth, they can still lie through their teeth and claim they didn't see anything."

Luna lifted her head and gave Joshua a defiant look. "Do you agree with me, Mr. Lynch?"

Joshua's expression darkened. He remained silent for a long while before he finally confessed, "I'm sorry for what happened just now, but I have my reasons. Alice—"

"I know what your reasons are. It's because you can't bear to let your oh-so-perfect wife admit she did something wrong, isn't it?" Luna interjected, her suppressed rage finally taking over. "I genuinely can't understand you, Joshua."

"Luna Gibson sacrificed so much for you in your marriage, but did you give her anything in return? Every night, she waited for you to get off work until past midnight. She was unhappy and your family mistreated her, but she didn't say a single word about it to you to not upset you. She had a bright

future ahead of her, but because of you, she gave up on the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study abroad. What did you give her in return? You didn't even give her so much as a glance. Yet now, six years later, you act like a perfect husband to Alice. You give her all your love and protection, and you're even willing to go against your principles and lie for her." Luna turned her face to the side to hide her disappointed expression. "I really can't understand you."

"You're right. Alice was indeed at fault for what happened today." Joshua let out a deep sigh. "Neil and Nellie refuse to acknowledge her as their mother. The reason why she tried to frame you is



that she's jealous of you. She's jealous that the children seem to love you more than her."

Luna sniffed and snickered at him. "They'll never love her. " Luna knew that her children would never acknowledge another woman as their mother.

" She's still their birth mother , " said Joshua as he sighed again. " She and I will work together to try to regain their trust again. What happened today at the art gallery won't happen a second time."

Luna turned around and gave him a cold stare. "How do you know it won't happen again? What if it does? Will you lie for her again, just like how you did today?"

Joshua furrowed his brows in annoyance. "Don't be unreasonable. I already said this won't happen a second time."

"Well, you better hope it doesn't." Luna scoffed and circled him, but he immediately grabbed her arm. " Stay away from Theo Allen."

Luna flung his hand away. "He's an artist I've admired for a long time, and I'm his favorite jewelry designer. Whatever happens between the two of us is none of your business! Why don't you go home and lecture your wife instead?"

Without a second glance, Luna strode out of the landing and entered the elevator. Just as the elevator doors closed, she caught a glimpse of Joshua, still standing motionless on the landing. She sniffed, a little amused at the irony of the whole situation.

The elevator arrived at her floor. When Luna entered the apartment, she saw that Anne was already asleep. She had left some food for Luna on the dining table.

Luna microwaved the food and sat down for her dinner. As she ate, she opened the gift that Theo had given her before he left. It was a USB flash drive.

Luna frowned. Immediately, she picked up her bowl and went into her room. She inserted the flash drive into her computer.

The flash drive contained a video file that looked like footage caught from a surveillance camera. Luna played the video, and her eyes widened in shock as she watched.  
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It was surveillance footage of Alice trying to frame her! The camera had caught everything from an excellent angle with Alice's face in full view and even managed to record the sound.

Luna stared at her computer screen dazedly before she suddenly recalled what Theo had said earlier.

'I display knock-offs of my own artwork and place them in surveillance camera blind spots. However, these paintings have cameras embedded inside them

"Luna, Luna! "

The next morning, Luna was woken up by Anne's continuous knocking. She rubbed her eyes and crawled out of bed. "What's wrong?"

Last night, as soon as she finished watching the footage, Luna sent the video to Nigel. Nigel had called her in an attempt to console her, and the phone call had lasted a few hours. As a result, Luna had gone to sleep at 2 a.m.

She was woken up at 7 a.m.

"Someone's here for you! It's a guy called Theo. He says he's here to have breakfast with you and drive you to work! "

Luna immediately jolted awake and leaped off the bed. "Theo?"

"Yeah, " replied Anne from the other side of the door. "I think he's an artist or something."

Luna quickly washed up and groomed herself. When she finally emerged from her room, Theo, in all white, sat on the couch as he talked with John. When he caught sight of Luna, Theo smiled and stood up. " Good morning."

"Good morning," muttered Luna, somewhat embarrassed.

Her lateness did not seem to bother him, however. He glanced at his watch. "If I remember correctly, the Lynch Group's punch-in time is 8:30 am. It's 7:20 am now, and the Lynch Group Tower is about thirty minutes away, which gives us forty minutes left to have breakfast together."

As soon as he finished, Theo stood up in a graceful motion. "Come on, let's go."

Luna hesitated, but after a moment, she bade Anne farewell and followed him.

A while later, they were seated at a café near the Lynch Group Tower. Luna sipped her oatmeal and said to Theo, "I had no idea you were going to pick me up for work..." She gave him an awkward smile. "I just..."

"You don't think our relationship is at that stage yet? " The corners of Theo's mouth turned up in a gentle smile. "It's okay. You'll get used to this soon."

Luna pondered for a moment before she looked up at him solemnly. "I have a fiancé."

Theo chuckled. "What does me trying to get to know you have anything to do with your fiancé?"

Luna was dumbstruck at his response. Not knowing what else to say, she continued eating her breakfast instead.

"Your friend and her boyfriend have a really good thing going, " said Theo nonchalantly. "He mentioned to me that you went home last night, but you left the food in front of the door and left. It must be inconvenient having her boyfriend hanging around all the time, isn't it?"

Luna kept silent, but she nodded after a moment. She had been considering moving out to live on her own since the house that had burnt down obviously could not be inhabited anymore. Besides, it would not be easy trying to get pregnant with Joshua's child. Luna knew she could not stay with Anne and be a third-wheel forever.

Theo took out a pamphlet from his bag and handed it to her. "I've been living here for quite a while now—it's a pretty good place. Why don't you take a look at this? If you like it, we can be neighbors."

Luna flipped through the pamphlet. Theo was right; it looked like an excellent good place to live. The location was strategic, just a stone's throw away

from both the Lynch Group Tower and Blue Bay Villa, and the facilities looked superb. The rent was a little above average, but Luna had enough savings.

"Thank you, I '11 consider it." She thanked Theo and slipped the pamphlet into her handbag. However, just as she lifted her gaze,

she caught sight of the two people coming in through the entrance.

Luna rolled her eyes. 'What an unfortunate coincidence,' she thought. She did not expect to run into Joshua and Alice on a breakfast date like this.

Theo saw that she was gazing in the direction of the café entrance and turned around. He chuckled and waved at Joshua. "Mr. Lynch, fancy running into you here." Joshua was busy ordering with Alice at the counter, so he did not even notice Theo or Luna.

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Joshua turned around when he heard Theo's voice. As soon as his gaze met Luna's and Theo's, his expression darkened.

Alice, too, caught sight of them. She pursed her lips in indignation and said to Joshua pointedly, "Look at that. Luna and Theo Allen had just met yesterday, yet they're already here on a breakfast date. Tsk."

Joshua could not help but frown at Alice's tone. After a moment, he strode to where the duo sat and plopped down in the empty seat right next to Luna. "Let's share a table."

Alice had no choice but to hastily follow, but she noticed that the only available seat left was next to Theo. She sat down reluctantly.

As soon as she sat down, Alice realized that something did not seem right. The café was not that crowded at all, and there were unoccupied tables all over the place. They did not need to share a table with Luna and Theo at all. Besides, even if they had to, Joshua should have sat next to her instead of with Luna.

Theo picked up his glass of oat milk and took a sip. "What an interesting combination here at this table," he said meaningfully.

Luna could not stand having Joshua mere inches away from her, so she slurped the rest of her oatmeal until her bowl was empty. "Alright, I'm done. Mr. Lynch, will you excuse me, please?"

"Why are you in such a hurry?" asked Joshua as he glanced at the time. "There's still half an hour left. Besides, even if you were late, at least your boss was with you, so why are you so impatient?"

The waiter served Joshua and Alice's meals. Joshua proceeded to eat his breakfast slowly and gracefully.

Luna smirked as she watched him chew. "Mr. Lynch, what you're saying is that I should sit here and watch you eat, that only after you're finished am I allowed to go to work. Is that correct?"

"Sounds about right."

"You...! "

"Luna, " Theo interjected with a polite smile. "Mr. Lynch has already given you a free pass. Even if you were late to work, you wouldn't get into trouble anyway, so why are you in such a rush?"

Theo propped his chin up in his hands and gave Luna a tender look. "In the future, when you move here, we won't have to come out for breakfast anymore. I'm a pretty good cook. Would you like to try my cooking sometime?"

Luna glanced at Joshua, who was eating with a sunken expression on his face, and replied, "Sure. I'm not a bad cook myself—we can take turns making breakfast."

Thud!

As soon as Luna finished her sentence, Joshua slammed his glass forcefully against the table. The bottom of the glass collided with the marble

tabletop and produced a deafening noise that immediately turned heads.

Alice jumped in shock. She bit her lip and asked, "What's wrong, Joshua? Do you not like the food?"

Joshua murmured in response, his face still sullen.

"Shall we go someplace else?" Alice asked nervously. She did not want to stay and watch Joshua and Luna sitting together.

Theo watched this scene unfold with a somewhat amused expression, rubbing his chin. "If Mr. Lynch doesn't like having outside food, why didn't you cook for him instead? Unless...you don't know how to cook, Mrs. Lynch?"

Alice's face paled at this. She gave Theo a cold glare. "What do you mean, I don't know how to cook? I just didn't feel like it!"

Joshua let out a strained smile. All of a sudden, a familiar voice echoed in his head.

'I love making you breakfast. It makes me feel so accomplished!'

Joshua grimaced at the thought. It turned out his beloved Luna had indeed changed after all these years.

Luna glanced at Alice. "Mrs. Lynch, don't you think making your husband breakfast gives you a sense of accomplishment?"

Upon hearing this, Joshua immediately lifted his head. The morning light streamed through the window and landed right on Luna's face, giving her silhouette a halo of warm golden light that tugged at Joshua's heartstrings.

Her voice, her face, everything was different from the Luna he had known six years ago, but the way she said this, the glint in her clear eyes, and the adoring tone...was just the way he remembered!

In this instant, Joshua could not help but wonder if he was seeing things.

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Alice rolled her eyes. What was there to feel accomplished about in making breakfast?

Just as Alice was about to retort, however, she caught sight of the way Joshua stared at Luna. Alarm bells immediately rang in her head. Luna must have said that on purpose!

Alice smiled. "I used to think that way. Although it's a small action, making breakfast for my family gave me the greatest sense of fulfillment ever. " She let out a sigh before she continued wistfully, " Unfortunately... I discovered that I couldn't even protect the people I love. I was such a failure. Ever since then, no matter what I did, I couldn't feel accomplished or fulfilled anymore."

Upon hearing these words, Joshua immediately turned his attention back to her. She was right. Joshua knew that he could not even begin to imagine what Alice had gone through in these six years apart.

Although she had changed and she was no longer the woman he fell in love with, Joshua felt that he should not have doubted her,



much less fooled by another woman's words even if just for a split second.

Joshua sighed and glanced at Alice. "It's all in the past now." He silently made up his mind that no matter what it took, he would help her regain her old self again.

Joshua put down his cutlery and stood up. "Let's go."

His tender gaze made Alice feel triumphant. She grabbed his arm and leaned her head on his shoulder. "Should I go to the Human Resources department first?"

Joshua gave her a gentle smile. "Yes, I'll take you there." With that, the two turned and left.

Before he walked out of the door, however, Joshua turned around and glanced at Luna. "I want to see you in my office at ten in the morning."

Theo watched as Joshua and Alice's figures retreated. He chuckled. "Well, that was a short encounter." He glanced at his watch. "We still have 20 minutes to spare."

Theo lifted his head to stare at Luna. "Why do you seem to care so much about your boss?"

Luna laughed. "Aren't employees supposed to care about their bosses?"

Theo propped his chin up. "I guess that makes sense."

Luna did not want to be the topic of discussion, so she lifted her gaze to meet Theo's and diverted the conversation. "I'm a huge fan of yours, and I've always been on the lookout for your

whereabouts. I know that you don't usually stay in any place for long, so what made you decide to rent a house in Banyan City?"

Theo lowered his head and stirred the contents of his bowl with his spoon. "Do you want to know that badly?"

"It's okay if you don't want to tell me."

"No, I don't mind." Theo let out a strained laugh. "Do you remember the painting that Alice tried to accuse you of ruining? Well, that painting is called *The Girl with the Kite*, and it was based on a scene I stumbled upon a long time ago when I passed by a school. The girl was wearing a white dress and chasing a kite. She looked so beautiful under the sun that I was mesmerized and painted the scene as soon as I got home. However, when I tried to track the girl down, I couldn't find her anymore."

He continued, "Many years later, this painting became my most well-known artwork. The more attention it gained, the more I wanted to find this girl and thank her in person. Finally, five years ago, I managed to find out her name. It was Luna Gibson."

Clang!

As soon as Theo finished his sentence, the spoon in Luna's hand dropped and clanked against the edge of her bowl. She froze for a moment before she hastily picked up the spoon and shot Theo a nervous glance. "Are you sure that's her?" "Yes, I'm positive." Theo gave a small yawn and gazed into Luna's eyes. "However, when I returned to Banyan City five years ago to track her down, I discovered that she had been dead for a year."

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"I even went to visit her grave. When I heard that she was still alive, I immediately came back to Banyan City to investigate. A

few days ago, Joshua's assistant contacted me and told me he wanted to host an art show for me because of Alice."

Luna bit her lip. "So... The reason you stayed in Banyan City is that you wanted to thank Alice in person?"

Luna doubted that because ever since Theo had met Alice, he showed no indication of wanting to initiate a conversation with her.

"I wanted to confirm something first, " said Theo as he brought his glass up to his lips and took a sip. " When I found out that Luna Gibson had died five years ago, I was in grief, so I researched everything about her and even went to look at her social media profiles, including her blog. I don't believe the woman that's with Joshua now is the real Luna Gibson. Although she claims to go by Alice now, from my knowledge of her, she wasn't as superficial and deceiving as Alice."

Theo's statement greatly shocked Luna, so much so that she was at a loss for words. She picked up her glass to take a sip as well. Then, after a moment, she composed herself and finally said, "People change."

"I know that, so that's why I'm still investigating her." Theo glanced at Luna. "Aren't you wondering who this Alice really is?"

Luna paused and smiled at him. "Of course I am."

Aura's words still lingered in her mind. Maybe Aura had told her the truth about Alice being Luna's real sister because she had finally succumbed to her conscience. That, or maybe Aura was just messing with her. Maybe Alice had no relation to her at all, and she was just a random person who happened to resemble Luna. No matter which one it was, Luna was determined to get to the bottom of it.

Theo stared at her and grinned. "Well, I guess we've discovered a common interest now."

Luna pursed her lips. "That's one way of putting it. "

Luna had suspected that Theo was interested in her, but as he had explained his intentions of moving back to Banyan City, she no longer believed that was true. Instead, he was merely getting close to her because of Alice.

He was an artist, and although he was determined to investigate Alice , he had no means of getting close to either Joshua or her. Therefore, Luna was his only link. She was an employee at Lynch Group who used to date Joshua, and he had witnessed Alice trying to frame her through his camera last night. Obviously, Luna was Theo's only way of getting close to the Lynches.

Although she understood Theo's true motives for befriending her, she did not mind it at all. She knew that if she were in his shoes, she would do the same. She and Theo were on the same side, in a way.

As she thought of this, Luna lifted her head to look at Theo. "What if in the end, you find out that Alice isn't the real Luna Gibson? What would you do then?"

Theo pondered for a moment before he finally said, " Well, I'd leave Banyan City and go in search of the real Luna Gibson."

Luna was surprised by his answer. "Don't you want to expose her?"

"Why should I?" Theo chuckled. "If I, a total stranger, could unravel the truth and find out that Alice is an imposter, then what about Joshua? He's been married to Luna Gibson for more than three years, but if he was fooled, then it serves him right. I f that

happens, I won't expose her because I don't think he deserves to know the truth."

Luna's heart sank upon hearing Theo's response. He was right.

This man sitting right in front of her was a total stranger, yet even he could tell that Alice was not the real Luna Gibson. How, then, could Joshua be so oblivious?

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8:29 a.m. Luna stepped foot in the design department with a minute to spare.

As soon as she entered, Shannon winked at her. "Someone's waiting for you in your office. He's been waiting for a while now."

Luna furrowed her brows in confusion and pushed the door open. Joshua's lean and slender body perched on her office chair, his gaze focused on the drafts and sketches strewn all over her desk.

When he heard her coming in, Joshua glanced at the time and snickered. "Came to the office with only one minute to spare. How obsessed are you with that man?"

Luna paused before she offered a polite smile. She strode to Joshua's side and snatched the draft he was holding. "Firstly, I wasn't late. Secondly, I didn't break any company policies. Besides, who I choose to befriend and have breakfast with is my personal business, right, Mr. Lynch?"

Joshua could not help but frown at Luna's harsh attitude. "What did I tell you last night? I told you he can't be trusted, and you should stay away from him!"

Joshua could not believe the audacity of this woman. He had given her a friendly warning just the night before, yet she still hung out with Theo and even had plans to move in together!

"You met him just last night, right? Tsk. You've known him for less than 25 hours, yet you've already gone on a breakfast date and even plan to move in with him. I never knew you were so desperate, Luna."

Luna burst out in laughter as she saw how flustered Joshua was. "I've always been this way, Mr. Lynch. How could you have never noticed?" As she said this, she started cleaning up her messy desk. "Mr. Lynch, you're the CEO of Lynch Group, so you probably know better than anyone that the office is only meant for business. If you want to discuss personal issues, then I'm afraid I'll have to ask you to leave, Mr. Lynch."

Joshua squinted at her. "No, I'm here to talk business." He handed her a folder and said, "There's a jewelry exhibition in Sea City next month. I want you to come up with a design draft before next week and finalize it within another two weeks."

Luna flipped through the folder and said incredulously, "You want me to come up with sketches for an entire series within a week?"

She let out an exasperated laugh. "I'm not sure if you're aware, Joshua, but inspiration won't come with a snap of the finger. I need time to come up with ideas. I can't possibly create so many designs in a week, much less exquisite ones. Are you insane?"

Joshua merely gazed at her impassively. "Are you not capable of taking up this project?"

He tapped his slender fingers against the desk and remarked with an air of indignation, "Well, I guess you're not as good as they say you are. Perhaps you can't do it because you're too busy running around with that artist?"

Luna knew Joshua was trying to get on her nerves. " This is an impossible task! "

"I believe you can do it, " said Joshua as he leaned against the chair and glanced at her. "I have a suggestion. If you manage to finish this job within a week, I '11 give you a day off, and you can take Neil and Nellie out for a day trip. How does that sound?"

Luna's face immediately lit up at his offer. All this while, Joshua had forbidden Neil and Nellie to contact her, and he would not let her anywhere near Blue Bay Villa.

The two children had never been apart from their mother all these years, and as they had not seen Luna in such a long time, they were definitely miserable. It would be wonderful if the three could spend some time together again, even if just for a day.

Luna let out a sigh and snapped the folder shut. " Alright, I'll try my best."

"Great. I look forward to hearing from you." Joshua smirked and left the office.

Just as the door swung shut behind him, however, he turned around to glance at Luna. She was sitting at the desk, immersed in the folder's contents and busy making notes in the margins. It was obvious she was jumping at the chance to see Neil and Nellie.

Joshua sighed and left.

"Why do you think she's so attached to Nellie and Neil? They're not even her children."

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Joshua asked with a frown.

"Well, it's either she has ulterior motives or that she's a saint," said Jude as he leaned back against the couch in Joshua's office. "Although, from what I know about her, I don't think it's the latter."

Joshua was sitting in his office chair as he gazed off into the distance. "Maybe she has ulterior motives..."

If that was it, what was she after?

Jude shifted into a more comfortable position on the couch and shot Joshua a glance. "You know, I'm not that bad-looking myself, but why are all the women always after you?"

Joshua picked up his cup and took a sip of his coffee. "What are you trying to say?"

"The eldest daughter of the Walters, Hailey has gone missing." Jude yawned and gave a stretch. He raised his eyebrows at Joshua before he continued, "Mr.

Walter wanted me to ask you if you'd seen her lately."

"Nope." Joshua furrowed his brows. "I haven't seen her in a long time." Joshua recalled that the last time he saw her was at his and Luna's wedding.

"I haven't seen her in a long time either, and I think it's been six or seven years, too. I heard that she's obsessed with plastic surgery. Apparently,

nowadays, she's either at the hospital getting yet another surgery or on her way there."

Jude continued, "Both your families had an arranged marriage long before the two of you were born. I know that she's always



wanted to marry you, and word has it that she hasn't settled down yet. Now that she's disappeared, I thought that she'd be with you or something."

Joshua gave him a slight smirk. "Well, if she comes to me, I'll let you know." All of a sudden, he seemed to recall something. He lifted his head and glanced at Jude. "Hey, why don't you come over for dinner tonight? You didn't even get to attend my wedding all those years ago, so why don't you come over tonight and get to know Alice and the kids?"

Jude waved his hand dismissively. "Sorry, I can't make it tonight. Maybe some other time."

Night fell. The entire city seemed to settle down as the sky grew darker and darker. The Lynch Group Tower, however, still bustled with activity.

When Alice called for the third time that night, Joshua finally let out a sigh and put down the documents he was reading.

Joshua took the elevator down. When he arrived at the ground floor, he overheard a conversation between two employees from the design department.

"I don't know what's up with her lately. She didn't come in for work for days on end, but now that she's back, she's been working like a mad woman."

"Thank God I was quick on my feet. I told her that I had to go home because I had some personal issues to deal with. Otherwise, we'll have to stay here and work until God knows what time..."

The two voices grew further away. Joshua frowned upon hearing their complaints and immediately turned around. He got into the elevator and pressed the button for the 18th floor.

The entire floor was deserted when he got there. The only noise he could hear was the faint rustling of paper and the sound of a pencil scratching from a corner of the department.

Joshua followed the noises and arrived at Luna's office, the only bright place on the otherwise dark and deserted floor. He could see her through the glass window. Luna was sitting in front of an easel, her gaze focused on the sketch in front of her. She was so engrossed in her drawing that she did not even notice him watching her.

The dim light from her desk lamp cast shadows on her side profile. The determined and focused expression on her face was so attractive that she looked like she had just stepped out of a painting.

She looked so beautiful in the dim light that Joshua felt like his heart skipped a beat. This scene reminded him so much of his wife. Many years ago, he had watched Luna draw and design her sketches in a similar fashion.

This woman in front of him resembled the Luna he loved so much; down to the glint in her eyes and the unconscious habit she had of chewing the end of her pencil. Joshua could not help but continue to stare at her in awe.

After a while, he glanced at the time and decided to approach her before a familiar figure appeared at the end of the hallway all of a sudden.

Theo, dressed in all white, strode over with a takeout bag in his hand as he gently knocked on Luna's office door. "Director Luna, it's time for dinner." Theo's voice was low and gentle.

Luna perked up at his words. "Hey, why are you here?"

"I didn't want you to starve, so I brought some dinner." Theo walked toward her, all smiles as he set the paper bag on the table and opened the takeout boxes. "I'll give you two options: You can eat and finish your work later, or you can eat and let me take you to my place afterward."

Luna knew what Theo was trying to say. They had agreed beforehand that she would go over to his place and look around before deciding if she wanted to move to that area.

She sighed and started clearing her things. "Alright, I choose the second one."

This whole conversation was misinterpreted by the man standing outside her door. Joshua could not help but clench his fists at her decision.

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"How did you know I was working late tonight?" asked Luna as she munched on the food Theo had brought for her.

Theo chuckled. "What if I told you I'd been waiting for you outside since 5 pm?"

Luna almost choked on her food. "Really?"

"Of course not, silly." Theo leaned against the chair and stretched. "When I was at your friend's place this morning, I asked for her number, too. I called her just now, and she told me you weren't home yet, so I guessed that you were probably still working."

Luna felt relieved upon hearing Theo's explanation.

Otherwise, she did not know how to react if Theo had indeed waited for her for more than three hours.

She stuffed the rest of the food into her mouth as quickly as she could. "Let's go."

Theo chuckled again and helped her clean up the food containers. "Let's go. The landlord is waiting for us."

Luna nodded and followed him out of the office. Joshua had been watching everything from his position in a dark corner of the office with none of them knowing. He watched with a somewhat displeased look on his face as the two walked to the elevator.

As Theo got on the elevator, he abruptly turned around and glanced in Joshua's direction, seemingly looking straight at him.

The elevator doors closed, and the two descended. A split second later, Joshua's phone rang. It was Alice again, asking him to come home.

Joshua muted the call in frustration and got into the elevator. When he came out of the building, he caught sight of Theo's car that seemed to head in the opposite direction of Anne's house.

Was Luna genuinely going home with Theo? That woman had no shame!

Joshua squinted as he clenched his fists even tighter.

The phone in his pocket started ringing again. This time, however, it was Nellie calling.

"Daddy, what time are you coming home? That crazy lady said that we're not allowed to eat without you. Neil and I are starving!"

Joshua froze. "Alice isn't letting you eat dinner?"

"Yeah! She said that we're bad children, so she's trying to teach us some manners." Nellie pouted as she said it. "That crazy lady isn't letting us have any snacks either. She says it's bad for us! The last thing I ate was the apple that my teacher gave me at kindergarten, but it's been more than six hours now. I'm going to starve to death! "

"Alright, alright. I'm coming home now." Joshua hung up the phone and glanced in the direction that Theo's car had left. Then, after a moment, he turned around and got into his car.

In the end, Luna was just an employee of his. It did not matter who she chose to go home with. It was none of his business, anyway.

Half an hour later , Joshua's car stopped in front of Blue Bay Villa.

"Joshua, you're home! " Alice came out of the house and greeted him with a cheerful smile. "The kids and I have been waiting for you."

Joshua glanced at her, then looked toward the house. He caught sight of two small heads huddled together, watching them from a window of the second floor.

Joshua paused, then put his arm around Alice's shoulder and led her back to the house. "My working hours are very inconsistent. I'd come home on time on some days, but I '11 also have days when I'll work late. In the future, you and the kids can have dinner first if you're hungry. You don't have to wait for me."

"No. How can I let that happen? " Alice pursed her lips and grabbed Joshua's hand, grinning. "I have to teach the children manners. I can't have them growing up and becoming rude people. I wouldn't want them embarrassing you in the future ! " She paused and remarked, "Luna took great care of Neil and Nellie, but I don't think she ever taught them proper manners. I

can't blame her, though. She's never been exposed to etiquette like this since she doesn't come from a noble or distinguished family. "

Joshua could not help but frown at her words. He had grown up in a noble and distinguished family that placed a lot of emphasis on proper manners and etiquette. As such, he hated it when people tried to educate their children that way.

He had discussed this with her when he first got together with Luna. He had told her that he wished for their children to be brought up like ordinary folks and not be confined to rules and restrictions like those he had grown up with.

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He still remembered what Luna had told him in the past.

'If we have kids, I'll teach them to be true to themselves. They should act courteous in public, but when they're at home, they can do whatever they want.'

It was apparent that Alice had forgotten her promise. It seemed that six years truly could change a person, so much so that Joshua could not recognize her anymore.

He sighed and led Alice into the house.

"Daddy! "

"Welcome home, Daddy! We know you've had a long day at work!

"As soon as they set foot in the house, they came face-to-face with Neil and Nellie. The two children stood to either side of the door and bowed at Joshua, smiling.

Joshua immediately scowled at this sight. He took a closer look at his two children standing before him. Nellie's face was red and tearful, while Neil's face was etched with impatience. It was

obvious that the two children had been forced to do this against their will.

Joshua let go of Alice and shot her a cold glance. "Is this the so-called manners that you're trying to teach them?"

Alice froze. She could tell that Joshua was displeased.

She narrowed her eyes in annoyance. She had instructed the children to compliment their father when he got home from work, but she never told them to wait by the door and bow at him!

The looks on Neil and Nellie's faces clearly conveyed to Joshua that they were miserable and that Alice was the one who put them up to this.

Alice smiled nervously. "No, of course not. They must've learned this from television. They must've thought that you'd like being welcomed home this way."

She glanced at Neil and Nellie. "Your father has had to endure this for the whole day at work, so you don't have to do this now. He doesn't like being treated like this."

Joshua felt a surge of relief upon hearing Alice's words. Just as he was about to say something, however, Neil interjected sulkily, "You were the one who told us to do this. You said that we should be respectful to Mr. Lynch and that this will make him happy, so why is he so angry now?"

Alice glared at him. "What on earth are you talking about? When did I say that?"

"This afternoon." Nellie blinked at the two adults innocently. "You told us that as children, we have to learn to please adults so that they'll like us."

Alice furrowed her brows. "I never said that! "

"Hmph! I knew this would happen !" Nellie shot her brother a look. "Neil, play the recording for Daddy! "

Neil nodded and took a voice recorder pen out of his pocket and played the recording. Alice's voice rang out: 'When your father comes home later on, you have to compliment him and be respectful to him. This will make him happy. Children have to learn to please adults so that they'll like you.'

It was exactly as Nellie had described.

Alice's face turned pale in an instant. She thought that she had gotten away with it, but she did not expect that the two children had recorded every conversation in secret!

After hearing the recording, Joshua's brow knitted much tighter together. He turned around and looked at Alice. "The kids are still young, yet you're telling them things like this. Is this what you should be teaching children?"

Alice bit her lip nervously. She had no way of denying anymore since the children had brought out evidence. She remained silent for a long while before suddenly bursting into sobs. "Joshua, I'm sorry..."

Ever since I returned, you've been working overtime every night. Sometimes you don't even come home at all. You leave at the crack of dawn and come back late at night, leaving the three of us at home. I thought..." Alice wiped away the tears that streamed down her face. "I thought that maybe you didn't like us, and that's why you didn't seem to want to stay home..."

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As soon as Alice started crying, Joshua could not help but feel sorry for her. He sighed and pulled her into his arms. "No, please don't think that. I'm just... really busy with work lately."

He lifted his head to wipe away the tears from under her eyes. "It's okay. I'm home now."

With her head down, a triumphant glint flashed across Alice's eyes. She nodded meekly and said, "That's okay. If you're busy, you should do work. All I needed to know is that you don't hate the kids or me, that's all."

Joshua gently patted her back to comfort her. "How could I hate you?"

He let go of Alice and bent down to hoist Nellie into his arms. "Come on, let's eat."

"Okay!" Alice replied. She watched as Joshua headed to the dining room with Nellie in his arms before she turned around to glower at Neil. "You recorded me? You're not so stupid after all."

Neil grinned at her. "Well, I learned from the best, though you managed to outsmart us in the end. I guess I underestimated you." With that, he turned around and swaggered off in the direction his father had left.

Alice narrowed her eyes. She wanted so badly to punish these two rascals, but she was afraid that it would arouse Joshua's suspicion. How dare they trick her!

"Neil, Nellie," Joshua called. "In the future, you can eat dinner whenever you feel like it. You shouldn't have to wait for me." He glanced at them before he added, "Children shouldn't have to please adults."

"Okay !" Nellie lowered her head and started stuffing herself with food. She gulped down her food without even bothering to chew it thoroughly.

Joshua pitied the sight ; it seemed she was awfully ravenous. Finally, he sighed and said, "If it's not time for dinner yet, you can ask Mommy and Daddy for some fruits or dessert. You're growing now. You need to eat more so you can grow strong and healthy."

"Ms. Alice said that children shouldn't have snacks— not even fruits or dessert. Otherwise, we'll make it a habit and will be too full for our regular meals." Neil pursed his lips in indignation. "Who should I listen to, then? Ms. Alice or Mr. Lynch? Since you two have opposing opinions, why don't you fight it out and then tell us who we should obey?"

Alice could not help but roll her eyes at this. She chuckled and said, "Of course you should listen to your father. He's the head of this family."

Neil glanced at her. "This means we should only listen to him from now on, and we don't have to do everything you tell us to, right?"

Alice's face turned pale.

Joshua frowned and cast her a glance. "You still have to listen to your mother."

"Oh." Neil pursed his lips again. "Well, then, I guess I don't have to listen to her since she's not even my mother."

Alice's face lost its color completely.

“Neil.” Joshua frowned at him. “Come to my study later after dinner.”

“Okay.” Neil gave him a childish grin. “Is Mr. Lynch planning to give me a lecture?”

Joshua shot him a glare. He placed some more food on Nellie’s plate but did not say anything further.

After dinner, Neil sauntered into Joshua’s study and plopped down on the sofa. “What do you want to say to me, Mr. Lynch?”

Joshua could not help but frown at his son’s sloppiness. “Sit properly! ”

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Neil rolled his eyes and leaned against the couch lazily. Joshua sighed. “It’s all Luna’s fault. She’s spoiled you.”

“This has nothing to do with Mommy. Fine, I `ll sit properly. ” Neil could not stand hearing anyone talk bad about his mother, so he immediately sat up. “ Alright. What did you want to talk to me about?”

“Alice is your mother. ” Joshua gave Neil a solemn look. “She’s carried you and Nellie in her womb for ten months and even suffered a car accident during her pregnancy. Life hasn’t been easy on her. I know you both have spent a lot of time with Luna and that she raised you, but it doesn’t mean you can act disrespectfully toward Alice. She’s your birth mother. Both of you are smart kids, so I `m sure you understand why she wasn’t there for you, but now that she’s back, you have to treat her with the respect she deserves.”

Neil rolled his eyes. Of course, they would respect their mother, but Alice was not their birth mother— Luna was!

"Answer me," insisted Joshua coldly when Neil did not respond.

Neil pursed his lips. "There always has to be an adjustment period, right, Mr. Lynch? I know you want us to respect Ms. Alice, but we don't think she cares very much about us. In that case, why should we respect and care about her?"

"She doesn't let us eat anything outside of our regular meals, and she doesn't let us eat dinner on time. Now, she's teaching us that as children, we should learn to please adults. Let me ask you, Mr. Lynch: Would you want a mother like that if you're a kid?"

Joshua's expression grew wistful upon hearing Neil's words. He, too, was not a person who liked to be restricted by rules. When he was younger, he hated being told what to do and being lectured by adults. Neil and Nellie reminded Joshua so much of himself...

Joshua sighed. "You're right. I admit that Alice was wrong there. I'll talk to her..."

Neil pursed his lips and replied, "Sure, go ahead, talk to her. If she learns how to be as good a mother as my Mommy someday, then we'll respect her!"

Neil was very confident that Alice would never be half as good a mother as Luna was. Like Aura, Alice was just another woman who wanted to take Joshua for herself. To them, Joshua's children were obstacles that they had to get rid of.

When Nellie first arrived at Blue Bay Villa, Aura desperately tried to get her killed. She dared to do so because she thought that Joshua would forgive her easily since she had been with him for so many years. However, she was proven wrong.

Alice was smart enough not to make the same mistake. She did not dare do anything bad to the two children and even made a

deal with them to release Luna, afraid of being exposed more than anything. However, Neil knew that as soon as she got the chance, Alice would find a way to get rid of them as well!

Joshua let out a sneer. He lifted his gaze and shot Neil a cold glance. "Is Luna that amazing of a mother? You two seem to love her very much."

"Of course!" Neil rolled his eyes at him again. "Mommy is the kindest person in the world!"

"The kindest person in the world, huh..." Joshua echoed. The memory of Luna leaving the office with Theo popped up in his mind, and it made him smirk. "I guess you're right. The kindest person in the world would go home with a man she barely knows."

Joshua's strange statement made Neil frown. He stared at Joshua with wide eyes. "Stop talking nonsense!"

"Nonsense?" Joshua had watched with his own eyes as Luna got into Theo's car and the vehicle headed in the direction of Theo's house. Unless he was hallucinating, there was no way all of that was fake.

Joshua glanced at the little boy sitting in front of him with an incredulous expression on his face and smirked. "Don't you have a phone? If you don't

believe me, just call her and ask her where she is."

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Neil glanced at Joshua with a puzzled look. "I thought you told us not to contact her."

Joshua sneered. "Since when do you even listen to me? Do you think I never noticed the new signal- jamming device you placed in the house?"

Neil immediately lowered his head in shame. When Luna got released from jail, Joshua had ordered them not to contact her and even warned them that he would be able to track their cellular signals to detect if they talked to her behind his back.

Neil had no choice but to ask Nigel for help and installed a signal jammer within the house.

Whenever the device was switched on, the signal they used to contact their mother could not be detected.

However, Neil never expected that Joshua would discover the device.

"Okay, so... Shall I call her?" said Neil meekly, somewhat ashamed that his plan had been exposed. He turned around and tried to slip out of the room.

"Stop." Joshua stopped him sternly before he could leave. "You can call her right here."

Neil pulled a face and retreated to the couch. He dialed Luna's number and waited for the call to be picked up.

Joshua sat on a chair across from him. "Put her on speakers," he ordered.

Neil jolted in shock. "I don't think that's..."

"Why? What's wrong with that? " Joshua raised his eyebrows skeptically. "Don't you want to prove to me that your 'mother'

Luna isn't a promiscuous woman who goes home with every man she meets?"

Neil rolled his eyes at him; he had no choice but to do as Joshua instructed. Luna picked up the phone almost immediately.

"Hello? " Her voice rang out from the other end of the line. She sounded like she was in a good mood. " Neil, why are you calling at this time? Has Joshua gone to bed already?"

Neil glanced at the scowling man sitting across from him. "Yes, he's asleep."

"Alright, thank God. Otherwise, you'll get caught." Luna sighed and tried to tease him. "I know that he treats Nellie well, but Nellie's a girl, and you're a boy. If you get caught, Mommy's afraid he'll beat you! "

Usually, when Luna teased him like this, Neil would always counter by saying that he would not get caught and beaten. At that moment, however, he did not dare say anything like that in front of Joshua.

Instead, he let out an awkward laugh and quickly changed the subject. "Mommy, where are you now?"

Neil could hear a crunching sound from the other end. Luna seemed to be munching on some fruits. Luna answered, her voice somewhat muffled, "I'm at your godmom's place. We're eating a fruit platter right now."

Anne's voice immediately rang out, "Hi, Neil! Aunt Anne misses you! "

Neil let out a sigh of relief as soon as he heard that. He lifted his gaze and shot Joshua a look that seemed to say, 'I told you so.'

The corner of Joshua's mouth turned up in a smile. Somehow, he, too, felt relieved to know Luna was with Anne instead of spending the night with Theo.

Neil pursed his lips. "Mommy, have you met anyone interesting lately?"

"Yes, I did! " Luna got up and went into her room. She laid on her bed and started chatting with her son, "Didn't I tell you this yesterday? I got to meet the artist I love, Theo Allen, in person! I've been staying with Anne for a while now, but I'm thinking of finding a place of my own so as not to inconvenience her. It just so happens that Theo rented a house in Banyan City, and he offered to let me have a look around his place. I went over just now, and I think it looks quite nice, so I'm planning to

rent it! I'll send you my new address as soon as I settle in."

The truth uncovered itself. Neil did not feel the need to prove anything to Joshua anymore, so he quickly hung up the phone after a few more minutes of conversation. As soon as he hung up, he gave Joshua a smug look.

"Did you hear that, Mr. Lynch? Mommy went to Theo's house to look around. It's not what you thought it was at all! " With that, Neil turned around and sauntered out of the room triumphantly.

Joshua remained motionless in his chair as he watched the child leave, unable to fight off the smile on his face. It turned out everything was just a simple misunderstanding.

"Joshua." As soon as Neil left, the door was pushed open again. Alice came in with a faint smile on her face as she held a cup of coffee.

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Alice placed the cup on the table and wrapped her arms around Joshua's shoulders. She gently let out a soft exhale next to his ear. "I thought you said you don't have work to do tonight?"

Joshua's brows furrowed. This interaction was normal for every couple, but somehow, her behavior annoyed and even repulsed him. Perhaps it was because they had been apart for too long, or perhaps something had changed.

Joshua contemplated for a moment before finally removing her arms from his shoulder. Alice gaped at him in shock. Joshua did not seem to notice this and instead picked up the cup and took a sip.

After a few more drinks, he regained his composure. "Alice, you should go to bed now. I wanted to finish up some work..."

Alice frowned and shot him an exasperated look. "Joshua, do you think your work is more important than me? Ever since I returned, you've never even spent any quality time with me! I thought we used to be very close. Why did you change?"

Joshua immediately frowned. He squinted and looked up at her. "Do you really think we used to be...close?"

Alice was aware that she had said something wrong. She immediately shifted her gaze elsewhere and bit her lip. "I meant...I felt close to you."

Joshua narrowed his eyes. "I didn't treat you well at all."

Joshua was aware that to the public, he and Luna appeared to be a very happy couple. At that time, Luna had insisted on marrying him, much to everyone's disapproval. He had also defied his parent's arranged marriage with Hailey Walter and insisted on marrying Luna instead. However, Joshua knew that he did not fulfill his responsibility as a husband at all.

He thought he would never fall in love with Luna, so he spent countless nights away from home and focused most of his energy on work instead of her. It was not until she left that he realized his mistake and discovered his true feelings for her. He had spent the last six years shadowed in his guilt of mistreating Luna, but it was at this moment he found out that Alice did not seem to remember all of that at all. Instead, she thought their marriage was a happy one.

Joshua did not know how to go about this. He was not sure if she was lying to herself or that he put too much blame on himself. He rubbed his brows. The guilt and regret he felt in his heart reached a crescendo, and he turned around and lifted Alice into his arms.

Alice paused, but she immediately coiled her arms around his neck seductively. "Joshua..."

Joshua carried her all the way back to their bedroom and laid her down on the bed.

Alice gazed up at the ceiling, her chest rising and falling as she panted rapidly. This was the night that she would become Joshua Lynch's woman. This was

the night she had waited for!

The dim lights created a romantic atmosphere. Joshua gently tilted Alice's chin upward and forced himself to kiss her.

It felt no different than before. Just as they were about to take things to the next level, he stopped abruptly.

"What's wrong?" Alice asked, her gaze clouded with lust.

"Why don't you take a shower first?"

Alice froze. Although she was reluctant to do so, she still got up from the bed and headed into the bathroom.

Joshua watched as the glass fogged over with water vapor, outlining the faint silhouette of a woman. He closed his eyes.

He still could not do it. Was there something wrong with him? Everything seemed fine when he was with Luna...

Joshua sighed and forced himself to overcome the anxiety and worries swirling in his mind. He knew that life had not been easy on Alice—she had suffered and sacrificed so much for him all these years. He could not take all of this for granted. He had to treat her the way she deserved. At the thought of that, Joshua's brow furrowed, and he tugged on the sheets.

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As soon as he turned around, Joshua caught a glimpse of the bloodstain on the sheets where Alice laid down moments ago.

Joshua let out a sigh of relief and left a note on the bed. With that, he left the bedroom.

Meanwhile, in the bathroom, Alice discovered that she was on her period. She was so frustrated that she felt like hitting her head against the wall.

She could not believe the impeccable timing. She had planned to seduce Joshua so that she could officially become his wife, but her sudden menstruation ruined her plans.

Alice cleaned herself up and rummaged around the medicine cabinet until she found her birth control pill. She swallowed the pill in one gulp. She was willing to do whatever it took to get Joshua to sleep with her!

Alice came out of the bathroom with a smile, but Joshua was nowhere to be found. Instead, there was a bowl of steaming hot soup on the nightstand, along with a pack of tampons.

A maid was busy changing the bedsheets. When she saw Alice emerge from the bathroom, the maid went up to her and handed her Joshua's note. "Mr. Lynch left this for you."

Alice frowned and opened the note. Joshua's handwriting read, (I'll be sleeping in the guest bedroom tonight. Take care of yourself. There's no

rush. We still have the rest of our lives to spend together.]

Alice crumpled the paper in anger. The rest of their lives! Joshua always used that as an excuse to reject her.

She had returned to Blue Bay Villa for quite some time, yet she could not even get so much as a kiss from him!

Alice was already busy dealing with Luna and the two children. She finally had the opportunity to seal the deal with Joshua, but he ended up finding out about her period.

After the maid left, Alice closed the bedroom door. She laid down on the bed and took out her phone. "Mr. Walter, I need your help."

"I found a new place. I'm moving tonight." Luna decided to notify Anne of her move during breakfast.

Clang! Anne's fork immediately slid out of her hand and fell onto the table. She hastily picked it up and asked, "What? You're moving so soon?"

"Yeah. The rental isn't cheap. I want to move as soon as I can since I've paid this month's rent."

Anne sulked. "I didn't think you'd be able to find a new place so quickly..."

"I had a lot of help from Theo." Luna shrugged. "He has connections."

Anne pursed her lips. "I think it's a little strange that you guys barely know each other, yet he's already

helping you out so much. What's he up to?" Luna chuckled. "He's not a bad guy."

"I didn't say he was." Anne sighed. "By the way, Luna, do you know the eldest daughter of the Walters from Sea City? I think her name is Hailey."

Luna froze. "Yes, I know her." Hailey Walter was the girl with whom Joshua was to marry many years ago. They used to think that it was just the parents' meddling, but to their surprise, Hailey had taken this arranged marriage seriously and insisted on marrying Joshua as soon as she graduated.

At that time, Joshua had no intention of getting married to Hailey, much to his parent's dismay. When they were dating, Luna was head over heels in love with Joshua, and she suggested that Joshua marry her instead.

Luna thought he would brush this off, but he took her to the Ministry of Registration and got their marriage certificate the next day. Luna thought this was the beginning of her fairytale love story, but she was wrong.

She still remembered what Joshua had told her when they were getting married...

"I can't promise that I'll fall in love with you, but I can promise you one thing: I will never betray you. You'll always be safe with me."

Every time Luna recalled his words, she could not help but feel repulsed. He promised to never betray her and that he would always keep her safe.

What lies!

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"Nothing much." Anne pursed her lips. "As you know, our hospital has the best plastic surgery department in all of Banyan City. Recently, a lot of people have come by to ask if any of us had seen Hailey. They think she might've stopped by our hospital."

She continued, "Anyway, I heard that this Hailey girl has been obsessed with plastic surgery ever since her fiancé dumped her. Their marriage was apparently arranged, but he didn't want to marry her."

Luna calmly stuffed a forkful of food into her mouth. "This fiancé of hers is none other than Joshua Lynch."

Anne's jaw dropped. "Does that mean...the one who stole her fiancé was..."

"It was me." Luna gave Anne a smile. "Surprising, isn't it?"

Anne still gaped at her. "Surprising, indeed."

Luna finished her food and set down her cutlery. She got up, grabbed her coat, and said to Anne while she put it on, "Like me,

Ms. Walter is just another poor girl who fell head over heels for the wrong person. She and I both sacrificed too much for that idiot Joshua. I pity her.”

Luna’s words baffled Anne so much that she did not know how to respond. After a while, she finally said, “Luna, do you think maybe...Ms. Walter used your face as inspiration for her plastic surgery?”

Luna shook her head. “Anyone familiar with me and Joshua would know that we were never happy together. No one in their right mind would think Joshua is in love with me. Since he doesn’t love me, why would she want to look like me?” With that, Luna picked up her bag and left.

Anne pursed her lips and mulled over what Luna had said. Anne knew that Luna was right, but she could not help but think something was wrong.

Everyone in Banyan City knew that though years passed, Joshua was still loyal to his ex-wife.

When Luna arrived at the office, it was just past 7am. The entire office was deserted. She turned on the lights, picked up the sketches from last night, and continued working on them with her door closed.

An hour later, the office bustled with activity as people came in for work.

“Did you guys see the news? I never thought Luna would do something like this...”

“That painting was priceless! How could she ruin it just like that? I guess it’s true that women can do anything out of jealousy.”

"I heard that the reason Mr. Lynch started dating Luna is to put on a show and trick Mrs. Lynch into coming home. Now that she's back, Mr. Lynch dumped Luna. Of course she'd be jealous of her!"

"That doesn't mean she can do something like this out of spite! Doesn't she know how to respect other people's artwork?"

Although her door was closed, Luna could still overhear the whispers and murmurs coming from outside. She frowned and swiftly opened the door.

Upon seeing Luna, the employees fell silent immediately.

"Besides..." Shannon had her back to Luna, so she did not see her. She continued in a gleeful tone, "After this scandal happened, Mr. Lynch assigned Luna an impossible task yesterday. It's clear he's just trying to make her life miserable! Of course, she made him lose ten million dollars to compensate for the ruined painting, so he had to get back at her somehow!"

"You seem to know more about Joshua than himself," commented Luna with a smirk.

Shannon jolted in shock upon hearing Luna's voice. She immediately turned around and gave Luna an awkward smile. "Director Luna, you're...here. We didn't know you're here."

Luna gave Shannon a sideways glance. "If you did, would you still talk bad about me so openly?" She fixated her gaze on Shannon's pale face. "What painting are you talking about?"

Shannon bit her lip and handed Luna her phone. "Here. See for yourself."



Luna frowned as she looked at the screen. The news headline read, (When Jealousy Turns into Vandalism: Woman Ruins Priceless Painting Out of Envy.)

There was a video under the headline. It seemed to be a video recording taken from a bystander's perspective. In the video, Alice was crying and accusing Luna of ruining Theo's painting.

All of a sudden, the image cut to the surveillance room. Finally, Joshua's face appeared on the screen. " I didn't see anything."

Luna chuckled after scanning through the article. She knew who it was that leaked this incident to the press.

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Luna shrugged and gave Shannon her phone back. " Get back to work. You shouldn't be looking at stuff like this during office hours."

Shannon's jaw dropped. "Director Luna, don't you... want to explain anything?"

Luna glanced at her. "Why do I need to explain anything to you? Maybe I should put it this way: None of you will believe me even if I explained, so why should I waste my energy?" With that, she turned around and went back into her office with a small smile.

To be honest, Luna did not care that Alice had gone to the press. She did not care if everyone who saw that article ended up misunderstanding her and thought she was a selfish, jealous woman. Long gone was the Luna who cared about the opinions of others, who strived to please everyone she met.

All she wanted to do was finish her sketches in time so she could take Neil and Nellie on an outing as Joshua promised.

It was another busy day. When it was time to get off from work, Luna's assistant knocked on her door. " Director Luna, someone is here to see you."

Luna glanced at the time —it was 5pm. She smiled faintly, thinking it was Theo who came to pick her up from work. She instructed her assistant, "Alright, let him in."

Someone pushed the door open a moment later, but it was not Theo as Luna had expected.

It was Granny Lynch. She entered the room with the help of two servants and sat down on the couch grouchily. She had a hostile expression and appeared to be furious about something. "Well, well. If I hadn't seen the news today, I wouldn't have found out that you're working here!"

The corners of Luna's mouth turned up in a small smile. "Ma'am, you fired me from my position at Blue Bay Villa because Aura gave you something in return. Are you trying to get me fired from Lynch Group now? Whose gift did you accept this time?

Alice's?"

Granny Lynch grew even more livid at the mention of Alice's name. "How dare you even mention my granddaughter-in-law! You think I don't know what you did?"

Granny Lynch leaned against the sofa and knocked her walking cane against the floor. "You ruined the artwork painted by Alice's favorite artist, all because you were jealous of her ! Alice came to see me today because of this, so upset that she cried! How could you? That's her favorite artist. She's been a fan since she was a teenager, but you ruined her favorite painting just like that!"

The more she scolded Luna, the more worked up Granny Lynch got. She wanted so badly to knock Luna on the head with her

walking cane. "When Joshua and Aura were together, you sabotaged their relationship. Now that Joshua's real wife and Nellie's birth mother has returned, you're trying to break this family apart again! "

Granny Lynch lifted her hand and pointed at the door. "Get out! Lynch Group doesn't need an employee like you! Either you get out now, or I find Joshua right this instant and get you fired! "

This amused Luna. She adjusted her position and leaned against the back of her chair, her gaze never wavering from Granny Lynch. "Alright, go find Joshua, then. Let's see if he's willing to fire an employee as hardworking as I am."

Luna's smug attitude enraged Granny Lynch even more. She had never felt this disrespected before in her life.

Granny Lynch got up and walked toward Luna. " Hardworking? Lynch Group has enough hardworking employees as it is! " With that, she picked up one of the sketches strewn on the desk, one that Luna had just finished mere moments ago, and proceeded to tear it in half.

Luna watched as the paper got torn into two right before her eyes. Granny Lynch, however, did not think that one was enough. She extended her hand toward Luna's desk, wanting to grab another piece of paper.

"Enough ! " Luna yelled, outraged. She could not stand watching hours of her hard work turned into scraps. She grabbed Granny Lynch's hand and snatched the two pieces of paper away from her.

"How dare you stop me ! " Granny Lynch glared at Luna with deranged eyes. "You ruined someone's artwork. What's wrong with me ruining one of yours?" She reached out to grab another one of Luna's sketches.

Luna clasped her hands around Granny Lynch's wrists. She had been trying to suppress her anger, but she could no longer take it anymore. Luna hated it when people touched her sketches!

Luna did not know what Alice had said to Granny Lynch that made her so worked up, but Luna could not stand by and watch her hard work ruined in mere seconds. It was one thing for Granny Lynch to touch her sketches but another thing entirely for her to tear them up. No matter how mild-mannered a person was, they were bound to snap.

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Luna's grip on Granny Lynch was extremely tight as she glared at Granny Lynch. "The painting I ruined was a replica. It wasn't even the real one, but even if it was, you have no right to lecture me on this! "

"Director Luna... "There was a sudden knock on the door, and Courtney entered. "Mr. Lynch wants you to " Courtney stopped in her tracks as she took in the scene before her. The two women seemed to be caught in some sort of wrestle. Courtney's gaze fell on Luna's angry expression and the way she gripped Granny Lynch's wrists.

Although caught off-guard, Courtney soon came to her senses. She immediately rushed forward. " Director Luna, please let go of Granny Lynch. She's the CEO's grandmother! "

As soon as she said this, Granny Lynch frowned and let out a shriek. "Ouch! It hurts! I think I have a fracture! She's squeezing my hands so hard. I think my bones are broken! "

Granny Lynch's screams instantly caught the attention of everyone else outside the room. The employees crowded around at Luna's door, trying to sneak a peek at whatever went on inside.

Courtney immediately went along with it. She held onto Granny Lynch and asked with a pained expression, "Granny, are you okay? Why don't I bring you to the hospital?"

"No need..." Granny Lynch said, her eyes welling up

with tears. "I want to see my grandson. He must do something about this! I `m just a frail old lady. How can she do this to me?"

Courtney clenched her teeth and nodded. "Alright, I `ll bring you to him right this instant! " With that, she left with Granny Lynch.

Luna remained motionless and let out a huge sigh of relief.

With the office door still open, the rest of the employees peered in, their faces etched with curiosity.

"Get back to work! " Luna glowered at them and slammed the door shut.

She slumped back into her chair and stared at the torn paper on her desk, her mind brimming with rage and frustration.

She had spent an entire afternoon working on that drawing. This project was already on a very tight schedule, and with her sketch ruined, she would have to start over again.

Luna's chest felt tight. Disappointment, hopelessness, frustration. All kinds of emotions swirled in her head. Luna buried her face in her hands and let out a sigh.

"What happened, Director Luna?" Suddenly, the door was pushed open, and Luna heard a familiar voice. It was Theo.

Luna sighed and pointed at the torn sketch on her desk. "This happened."

Theo was an artist, so he could understand the frustration Luna felt. He furrowed his brows and tried to piece the two separate halves of paper back together. "Why not let me help you? I'll be your assistant and help you sketch this again."

Luna could not help but smile at Theo's earnest expression. "You're too expensive. I can't afford to have you as my assistant."

She brushed herself off and stood up. "Never mind— I'll worry about this tomorrow." It was already past 5pm , and she had already made plans with Theo to move into her new place that night.

Theo glanced at her and smiled. "Alright. Maybe moving into your new home will make you feel better."

Luna cleared her things, and the two left her office together. Before they could walk out of the department, however, they ran into Courtney.

Courtney shot Luna a cold glance and said, "Luna, Mr. Lynch wants to see you in his office right now."

Luna frowned and tried to circle past her. "Nope. It's past office hours now. I'll talk to him tomorrow."

Courtney immediately grabbed Luna's arm. "It won't take long. Besides, you might not even have to come to work tomorrow. Ma'am found out that Joshua paid the artist ten million dollars to compensate for the painting you ruined, and now she's furious. She wants you to pay for the compensation yourself."

Theo raised his eyebrows upon hearing this. "This again? Why not I go with you, Luna, and explain everything?"

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Courtney led Luna and Theo to Joshua's office. When they arrived, Granny Lynch was perched on the couch as she made a scene.

"Joshua, I'm a frail old lady, and my bones aren't as strong as they used to be anymore. That Luna girl gripped me so hard just now. I thought my bones were about to break!

"That painting was worth ten million dollars! That's not a small amount. How could you pay for it just like that? Don't you know I can buy a full set of

Moon's jewelry with that amount of money?" Theo and Luna could hear Granny Lynch's shrieks even from outside the door.

Theo listened to this with a solemn expression. After a moment, however, he glanced at Luna, slightly amused. "Turns out Granny Lynch is also a fan of your work."

Luna scoffed but said nothing in response.

Courtney gently knocked on the door before entering the room. "President Lynch, Director Luna is here."

Joshua sat in his office chair as he rubbed his eyebrows, seemingly frustrated with all this commotion. "Let her in."

The door was pushed open, and two people walked in. Joshua frowned and lifted his head. He locked eyes with Theo, and the two men stared at each other. One man's gaze was filled with hostility, while the other was calm and gentle with a slight hint of arrogance. However, a split second later, their eye contact broke.

"You b\*tch!" Granny Lynch scowled at Luna, but just as she was about to say more, she caught sight of the man standing next to Luna. She frowned and glared at Theo. "Who the hell are you?"

"I'm her friend." Theo gave a small smile and sat down next to Granny Lynch. "I believe you had a misunderstanding with my friend."

Granny Lynch's fury seemed to be doused by this polite young man in front of her. "Are you here to settle our dispute?"

"I guess you can say that."

Granny Lynch snorted in indignation. "Alright then. Your friend here was jealous of my granddaughter-in-law and ruined her favorite artist's painting out of

spite! She even made my grandson pay for the compensation! It cost ten million dollars! "

Granny Lynch took out her phone and showed Theo the same news article Luna had seen on Shannon's phone. "Look at this. It's making headlines! "

Theo smiled at her. "Alright, Granny. What would you like Luna to do now?"

"I want her to pay my grandson back, resign immediately, and apologize to my granddaughter-in-law! " Granny Lynch immediately barked out three conditions. She glanced at Joshua coldly and added, " I don't even know what spell this woman put on my grandson. He's not willing to agree to any of my conditions! "

Joshua frowned at her. "I told you that this whole incident isn't what you think it is."

"What do you mean, it isn't what I think it is?! " Granny Lynch brandished her phone at Joshua and retorted, "The evidence is right here! Besides, you were the witness, weren't you?"



"I can't believe this! You saw everything with your own eyes, yet you're claiming you didn't! Why are you lying for this woman? What kind of spell did she put you under? Ten million dollars! You paid ten million dollars for her!

"If I had known this would happen, I wouldn't have just fired here from Blue Bay Villa. I should have sent her out of Banyan City and out of this country! This family is being torn apart because of her! "

Granny Lynch's accusations finally got on Joshua's nerves. His brows furrowed, and he immediately yelled, "You're the one tearing this family apart! "

If it were not for Granny Lynch, none of this would have happened! If Granny Lynch had not given Luna so much pressure on bearing children many years ago, Luna would not have gotten so desperate and depressed.

Granny Lynch never expected that Joshua would yell at her like this. She stared at him in rage for a few moments before she turned around and glared at Luna. "It's all your fault ! Joshua has never defied me like this before! "

Luna was amused by Granny Lynch's words.  
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Luna knew Granny Lynch was lying to herself.

"Mr. Lynch never defied you, you say? Many years ago, you wanted him to marry Hailey Walter , yet he ended up marrying Luna Gibson instead. After she died, you wanted him to retake Hailey as a second wife, but he got engaged with Aura Gibson. You gave him and Aura your blessing, but in the end, they broke up." Luna stared at Granny Lynch impassively. "Mr. Lynch has been defying you all his life. Since when did he listen to you?"

Luna thought her statement would shut Granny Lynch up and that she could finally get back at Granny Lynch for ruining her sketch. To her surprise, however, Granny Lynch chuckled.

"None of the stuff you said was true. In fact, it wasn't me who wanted Joshua to marry Hailey Walter at all—it was his father's wish. I'm afraid you have no idea how much Joshua respects me." Granny Lynch continued smugly, "Many years ago, when he was married to Luna Gibson, I told him that I wanted great-grandchildren, but Luna didn't want any.

Joshua told me himself that he'd do as I wished.

"Luna Gibson couldn't get pregnant no matter how many times she tried, so I forced her to try traditional remedies some witch doctors prescribed. The witch doctors cast spells on her and even made her eat dirt and ashes as part of the treatment. Luna Gibson thought all of this happened behind Joshua's back when in reality, Joshua knew and even permitted me to do so."

Granny Lynch sighed. "I never expected the remedies to work, but it turned out they did; Luna Gibson managed to get pregnant in the end. No, wait. I shouldn't call her by that name anymore.

She's Alice now. I like this name. She doesn't have to share a name with a b\*tch like you anymore."

Luna's heart grew colder at Granny Lynch's words. She stared at Granny Lynch blankly, her chest rising and falling as she struggled to catch her breath.

All the bad memories locked away in Luna's mind began to resurface. She remembered Granny Lynch berating her and all the torturous regimens she had to endure. She could still recall the feeling of swallowing dirt and ashes as though it had happened yesterday.

At that time, the dirt and ashes she had to consume as part of the traditional remedy damaged the inner lining of her stomach. Luna had spent countless nights tossing and turning, unable to sleep due to the pain. She was even afraid of telling all this to Joshua, lest he becomes upset, and sneaked out on her own to buy medicine for the pain. She never dared to complain about any of this to anyone.

Luna never thought that her traumatic experience would one day become some form of bragging right for Granny Lynch, that she would use that as a token of showing off how submissive her grandson was.

Luna felt as though a knife was stabbed into her heart, and it bled profusely. She took a step back away from Granny Lynch, her face pale. Her back collided against the door abruptly, and she felt a twinge of pain shoot down her body.

"Granny," Joshua interjected with a frown. "That's all in the past now. Please don't bring it up."

Everything that Granny Lynch had mentioned, Joshua only found out after it was too late. Luna had never told any of this to him, and at that time, Granny Lynch had simply brushed everything off. She did not tell him that Luna had been forced to eat dirt and ashes.

Joshua only discovered the truth after Luna left. As soon as he found out, he immediately stormed over to Lynch Mansion to confront Granny, but it was too late.

When Luna died, Joshua spent a whole night sitting in front of her grave in hopes to gain her forgiveness. He was ashamed that he had not fulfilled his responsibility of protecting and looking out for her.

Every time Joshua thought of this, guilt and shame clouded his heart. He had promised to be a good husband to Luna, but he failed. To Joshua, this incident was a scar that would never fade. He never thought that Granny Lynch would bring this up so many years later!

"Granny," Theo immediately piped in as he sensed the atmosphere growing awkward. He let out a chuckle and said, "You mentioned that you want Luna to pay Joshua back for the compensation, right?"

"Right!" Granny Lynch scoffed. "If she can pay ten million dollars upfront, I'll consider letting her stay at Lynch Group." Granny Lynch was adamant that

Luna could not afford to pay ten million dollars, much less upfront.

Theo chuckled again and took out a check from his pocket. "Would this suffice?"

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Granny Lynch took the check from Theo and glanced at it. Her expression changed to that of a confused one. Why was Joshua's name signed at the bottom?

Theo smiled. "The reason I'm here today, besides picking up Luna from work, is that I wanted to return this check to Joshua."

Granny Lynch frowned as she tried to make sense of what was happening. Then, after a moment, her eyes widened, and she looked back at Theo. "Is this the check that Joshua paid Mr. Allen with? Are you..."

"I'm Theo Allen." Theo grinned at her. "I also want to explain to you, Granny, that the real painting worth ten million dollars is still

in my study. I'd never display it publicly. The painting ruined that day was a fake one."

He glanced at Granny Lynch's astonished face and continued, "As soon as he found out the painting was ruined, Mr. Lynch immediately issued me a check as compensation. However, I knew I couldn't take it, so I decided to return it to him."

Granny Lynch was so shocked that she said nothing in response.

"Now that I've returned the money, Luna shouldn't have to resign anymore. Do you still have any issues with this?"

Granny Lynch lowered her gaze to look at the check, speechless for a moment.

"Alright then..." muttered Granny Lynch, biting her lip. "She doesn't have to resign anymore, but she still has to apologize to my granddaughter-in-law!"

Although the painting was a fake one, she still ruined it in an attempt to upset Alice! Also, she injured me just now, so she should apologize to me as well! "

"Apologize?" Luna crossed her arms in front of her chest. "The painting I ruined belongs to Theo. If anything, I should apologize to him and not Alice. Besides..."

Luna turned her head and glared at Granny Lynch. "I didn't injure you just now, and even if I did, it was because you ruined my design sketch. In that case, shouldn't you be the one to apologize?"

Joshua immediately froze at Luna's words. "Granny ruined your sketch?"

"She tore it in half," answered Theo with a smile. "Luna spent a whole afternoon working on that drawing."

Theo's reply made Joshua's brows furrow. He did not answer but glanced at Luna instead. "Hey, I'm asking you."

Luna rolled her eyes at him. "Yes, your grandmother tore my sketch in half. Although I did grab her just now, I didn't injure her. Even if I did, I don't think I'm wrong to do so since she provoked me in the first place. I won't apologize to her."

Granny Lynch's face turned pale instantly.

Joshua rubbed his eyebrows in frustration and shot Granny Lynch a glance. "Apologize to her."

Granny Lynch felt defeated, but she perked up as soon as she heard Joshua say that. "Did you hear that? He wants you to apologize!" she snarled at Luna. "It's just a drawing, but you injured the CEO's grandmother just now, so you have to apologize immediately!"

Joshua could not stand any of that anymore. "Granny, I want you to apologize!" he bellowed. "How many times have I told you to stay out of my business? Luna is working for me now! You tearing up her sketch is no different from tearing up a piece of contract in my office!"

Granny Lynch knew she was in the wrong, but she pursed her lips begrudgingly. "That's different; every contract of yours is worth millions of dollars. How can you compare this to her drawings? It's not like she's Moon."

Theo snorted in laughter. "What makes you think she isn't?"

Looking at Granny Lynch's bewildered expression, Theo let out a chuckle. "I guess you didn't know this, huh? Well, Luna is the legendary Moon herself. It's a n honor for Lynch Group to have her working here, but she's not getting the respect she deserves."

Granny Lynch's face lost its color. She glanced at Luna dazedly, then looked back at Joshua. "That's... impossible! "

Ever since she found out that Moon was the most talented and distinguished designer in the field of jewelry design, Granny Lynch had tried to track down Moon's products, hoping to purchase some for her collection.

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Unfortunately, because Moon had officially retired, all her jewelry pieces had been marked up to exorbitant prices. It was almost impossible to get her hands on any of them since they were so expensive.

Theo claimed that the woman standing in front of her was Moon herself. Naturally, Granny Lynch could not believe that.

"Why is it impossible? "The corner of Theo's lips turned up into a smirk. "Why would a famous artist such as myself be friends with her if I didn't know she was Moon?"

Granny Lynch's face turned an even paler shade of white. She glanced at Theo and said, her voice trembling, "Then...the drawing I tore..."

"That sketch is worth millions, at least."

The blood drained from Granny Lynch's face. Seeing that Joshua did not deny anything, she could confirm that Theo was indeed telling the truth.

Joshua glanced at his grandmother's stricken face and picked up the phone. He dialed a number and said to the person on the other line, "Come into my office and send Granny home."

As soon as he hung up, Courtney entered the room and helped Granny Lynch up from her seat. "Come on, Granny, let's go home."

Granny Lynch knew Joshua was trying to help her get out of this sticky situation, so she immediately went along with it. "Alright, alright. I'll be off then. I won't interfere anymore."

Initially, Alice had approached Granny Lynch for help. She even offered to gift Granny a set of Moon's jewelry in return, but the series of events had taken an unexpected turn. Not only did Granny Lynch fail to stick up for Alice, but she even offended Moon herself without knowing.

Joshua scowled as he watched his grandmother leave the room. "Please don't meddle again in the future."

"It's all your wife's fault. She's the one who sent me here," Granny Lynch murmured. She tucked the check that Theo had given her into her pocket and quickly fled the scene.

"My apologies." As soon as the door was closed, Joshua let out a sigh and turned to Luna. "This is all Granny's fault—I apologize for that. I'll give you an extension of two days for you to complete the project."

Luna smirked. "There's also another problem." She took out her phone and pulled up the article that Shannon had showed her this morning. Within a day, the report had acquired more than ten million views.

"I spoke to some of my friends who are familiar with news like this. They told me that an article can't garner so many views in a



day without people promoting it behind the scenes. I hope that Mr. Lynch can look into this matter, not just to prove my innocence, but also for your wife's sake.

"Of course, even if you don't want to investigate, I have my own means of proving myself. I have a surveillance tape from that night that I can release to the press any time I want."

Luna tucked her phone back into her pocket and continued, "I'll give you two hours to get rid of whoever is behind this. If you fail to do so, I'll take care of it on my own. Unfortunately, if that happens, Mrs. Lynch would become the laughing stock, not me. We don't want that to happen, do we?"

With that, Luna turned around and strode out of the room.

"Please take care of this, Mr. Lynch." Theo leaped out of his seat and smiled at Joshua before sprinting after her.

"Shall we eat dinner now, or do you want to move your stuff first?"

"Let's get dinner first..."

Joshua watched as the two figures retreated, and their voices grew further away until he could not hear them anymore. He frowned and thought for a moment before finally lowering his head to peer at his computer screen.

He had been immersed in work the entire day. If it were not for Granny Lynch's appearance, he would not have found out about that article.

He leaned back against his chair and stared at the headline, and Granny Lynch's voice still lingered in his mind, "It's all your wife's fault. She's the one who sent me here."

Joshua narrowed his eyes as he thought of this.

Then, all of a sudden, his phone rang. It was Alice.

"Joshua, isn't it time to get off work? What time are you coming home?"

Joshua's expression darkened as he switched off his computer.  
"I'm coming home right now."

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"Sir, I have good news. Someone is involved in the promotion of that news article," Lucas' voice rang out through the phone.

Joshua frowned at the report. "Did you manage to find out who it was?"

"I can't seem to track him down. The spammers were hired by a foreign company, and some Andrew Walter owns it, but there's no information about

this person at all. I think it might be an alias."

Joshua's brows furrowed even tighter together. "Keep looking."

Joshua hung up the phone, and his grip on the steering wheel grew tighter. How much had Alice changed within the last six years? Was there anything else about her that he had yet to find out?

The car soon arrived at Blue Bay Villa.

"Joshua! " Alice had been waiting at the front door, and as soon as Joshua's car stopped, she approached him with a smile and draped a coat over his shoulders. "It's a bit chilly outside, isn't it?"

Joshua glanced at her. "Yes, it is. Autumn is coming."

"I'll go out tomorrow to buy you some warmer clothing." Alice slipped her arm through his, and they both headed toward the house together. "I asked the servants to prepare some snacks for Neil and Nellie. I called you home before they even became hungry. I'm genuinely trying hard to be a

good mother to them," said Alice in a gentle voice.

Joshua frowned upon hearing this. "Have you seen the news today?"

Alice's eyes widened. "What news are you talking about?"

Joshua smiled at her. "The one with you and Luna in it."

"Oh, that's the one you meant. Well, I saw it, but I don't know who's behind it. I wonder who thought it was a good idea to send the security footage to the press.

"When I went over to visit Granny today, she mentioned it to me as well and got so worked up when she found out. She wanted to go over to Lynch Group Tower and confront Luna, but I stopped her." Alice gave Joshua a feeble smile. "Old people always believe news like this."

Alice was so kind and understanding that, for a moment, Joshua forgot about Luna's threat. "Let's go in."

Joshua and Alice entered the house arm-in-arm.

This time, however, the two children were nowhere to be found. Joshua immediately glanced at the stairs.

"I thought you didn't want them to welcome you home. You're not angry, are you?"

Joshua froze, but after a moment, he shook his head.

As the two made their way to the dining room, Alice shouted in the direction of the second floor, "Neil, Nellie, it's time for dinner!"

By the time they were seated in front of the table, the two children were still nowhere to be found.

Alice sent Lily upstairs to check on them.

A few minutes later, two heads appeared above the second-floor railing. Neil pursed his lips and declared, "I'm not hungry."

Nellie, too, pouted and said, "Me neither. I don't want to eat."

With that, the two children disappeared once more. Joshua could not help but frown at this.

"See, this is why I didn't want to let them have snacks." Alice sighed. "Children don't have any self-control. If you let them have too many snacks, they end up being too full for their regular meals."

She batted her eyes at Joshua. "Why don't I go back to banning them from eating snacks tomorrow?"

Joshua did not answer. After a long pause, he let out a sigh. "I'll go talk to them later."

The smile on Alice's face stiffened. She had no choice but to relent. "Alright, then." With that, she instructed for dinner to be served.

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This was Alice and Joshua's first meal together alone. Alice could not hide her excitement and kept offering Joshua more food during their meal. Joshua had wanted to talk to her about what happened on this day, but seeing how enthusiastic she was, he could not bear to bring it up.

After he finished his food, Joshua set down his cutlery. "Alice, I have something to tell you."

Alice was in the middle of clearing the table as she handed the dirty plates to a servant and smiled at him. "Can't it wait? What's so urgent that you have to bring it up right here?"

"There was a surveillance camera in the art gallery that day." Joshua gave her a meaningful look. "The painting Luna ruined was a fake one. However, there was a pinhole camera embedded in the painting."

Alice's hands stiffened at that. Then, after a moment, she let out a strained laugh. "How's that possible..."

Theo was there on the day Luna ruined the painting. If he did have surveillance footage of the entire incident, why did he not provide it as evidence?

"That's all I want to say." Joshua stared at her. "We used to be honest with each other in the past. You used to tell me everything. It was because of our shared honesty that I could trust you, and I was willing to help you and support you in everything."

"Now, I don't know who you've become anymore."

With that, Joshua stood up and turned around to leave.

Alice clenched her teeth. "Where do you think you're going?"

Joshua paused mid-step, but after a moment, he continued walking. "Since you're not truthful to me, I don't think I'm obliged to tell you everything either."

Alice's expression darkened as she watched the man's retreating figure. Finally, she stormed upstairs and into her room. She pulled open the bottom drawer of her nightstand and took out a phone. "Mr. Walter, stop everything, " she snapped into the phone.

Alice knew Joshua would not lie to her about this. However, if Luna had surveillance footage of what truly happened that night, all her plans would be ruined. She could not take this risk.

Joshua drove his car all the way to Swan Lake Residences.

This was the place where Theo and Luna's new house was located. Last night, after he heard Luna mentioning her move, Joshua had ordered Lucas to track down where Theo lived.

When he arrived at the building, Joshua saw a moving van pulling away, leaving Luna and Theo standing on the front steps. Luna held a duffel bag while Theo had her suitcase with him. Together, they entered the building and disappeared from Joshua's sight.

Joshua frowned and contemplated for a moment before he got out of his car and followed them.

"There's a farmer's market nearby. I'll bring you there tomorrow to have a look, " said Theo to Luna as they got out of the elevator. He wheeled Luna's suitcase along until they arrived at her front door. Then, with a smile , he left the suitcase next to her and turned to leave. "Alright then, I'll let you unpack in peace now. I'll see you tomorrow."

"Alright."

Although Luna and Theo would be living near each other, they were not exactly next-door neighbors. The units at Swan Lake Residences were studio apartments, and there were six or seven units on each floor. Luna lived three doors away from Theo.

When Luna went to sign the contract, the landlord had told her that the two units between Theo and her were empty. He was curious as to why Luna did not want to live next to him.

Luna had a reason for this arrangement. She was afraid that if Neil and Nellie were to come over in the future, they would make too much noise and end up disturbing Theo. Besides, Luna wanted to keep a respectful distance from him. Therefore, she decided that it was best to live a few doors down from him instead.

Theo seemed to understand that, so he did not insist on coming in but instead went back to his unit. Luna let out a sigh of relief, reached for her keys, and unlocked the door.

Just as her door swung open, she heard footsteps behind her, followed by the sound of her suitcase being pushed. Thinking it was Theo, Luna let out a laugh and said, "I thought you wanted to go home."

She pushed the door open and stepped aside. The person behind her wheeled her suitcase into the dark house. The entire place was pitch black, so Luna fumbled around in the dark until she found the light switch and flipped it on.

Just as the lights came on, the door behind her slammed shut with a loud thud. She furrowed her brows in mild irritation. She turned around and said, "Theo, didn't you say..."

Luna's voice trailed off as she finally laid eyes on the man standing before her. Joshua plopped onto the couch in a swift and graceful motion, shooting her a cold glance. "Why do you look so disappointed to see me?"

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"You?"

Luna said nothing else when she realized it was Joshua who entered.

She shut the door to the room and leaned against the door. She looked at him coldly. "It's late. What are you doing here instead of being with the missus, Mr. Lynch?"

It did not faze her that Joshua managed to locate her.

After all, with his power in Banyan City, locating her whereabouts was a piece of cake.

Joshua leaned back on the sofa and was rather pleased.

He saw how she reacted. When Luna did not recognize who it was that entered, she thought it was Theo instead and got angry.

However, when Luna realized it was Joshua, her hostility immediately vanished. She was even quite relieved.

Her reaction proved that he was a trustworthy person in her heart.

Far more than Theo, at least. "I'm here to apologize."

Apologize? Luna furrowed her brows. "About how your grandmother destroyed my design sketches?"



She took a deep breath. "You've already repaid me with a two-day grace period."

Then, she coldly swept Joshua a glance. "Are there any other matters?"

Joshua switched into an even more comfortable position on the sofa.

He looked at her with his deep gaze. "I've already settled the news. As of half an hour ago, news about that day had vanished completely from the internet."

Luna momentarily paused before she recalled how she had warned Joshua to deal with the issue back at the office. Otherwise, she would expose the surveillance footage.

At that thought, she chuckled self-deprecatingly. "Here I was, wondering if Mrs. Lynch would get angry since you left her home alone. It looks like she won't because, after all, you came out because of her. No need to fret, Mr. Lynch. As long as you agree to my demands, I won't expose the footage."

Joshua furrowed his brows at her aloofness. "Alice doesn't know I'm here."

Luna furrowed her brows. "You're planning to sacrifice for her secretly? Or do you want me to let Mrs. Lynch know how great you're treating her?"

"Luna!" Joshua could not take any of Luna's peculiar behavior.

He glared at Luna angrily. "Must you talk to me like that? Even if we're no longer in a relationship like we once were, we're still considered work colleagues and friends, aren't we? Do you have to talk to me like that?"

Luna stared at him, her clear eyes glazed with frost.

After a long time, she looked at her face and enunciated, "Who said anything about being friends?"

He was not worthy of being her friend; he never treated her sincerely from the beginning. Was he worthy of being her friend?

"Leave."

She took a step back and immediately opened the room door.

"Leave."

Luna was initially in a good mood from moving house that day. Just when she was moving the final bits and pieces, she received Nellie's call.

That phone call made her heart sink to the bottom.

Even Theo could see that something was off with Luna. He did not enter and helped her unpack, yet Joshua dared to tell her to her face that she had an attitude?

Did she need to treat him well?

"Luna! "

Luna asking him to leave made Joshua completely aggravated.

He knew that Alice was the one at fault, so he came full of sincerity to apologize to Luna!

However, not only did Luna imply that he was not worthy of being her friend, but she also asked him to leave!

Luna was the first woman who dared to so arrogantly ask Joshua to leave in his entire life.

He strode toward her and kicked the door shut.

The next second, he clasped Luna's neck and pinned her to the door.

"You're getting more and more arrogant."  
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"You're the arrogant one right now! "

Luna gritted her teeth and glared at him. "You intrude into my house while I'm not paying attention. What right do you have to call me arrogant?"

Her detest and hostility toward him were written all over her face.

Joshua hated Luna like that.

He hated the mockery and indifference in her eyes. He hated that she did not have any regard for him.

He could not help but constrict his grip on her neck even tighter.

"I wanted to properly apologize to you today and also discuss Neil and Nellie."

Neil and Nellie. Luna's heart lurched as Joshua mentioned those two names.

She closed her eyes as her voice trembled, "Don't you dare mention Neil and Nellie. You're not worthy of them."

He clutched Luna even tighter.

Joshua was strong; so strong that he could have snapped Luna's neck in two.

Luna bore through the pain. She forced herself to breathe and continued, "I received Nellie's call tonight. She cried on the phone, sobbing at how uncomfortable her stomach is."

The next second, he let go of Luna and coldly looked away. "She didn't even have dinner, so that's why her stomach would be uncomfortable."

When he let her go, Luna slumped onto the ground and leaned against the door feebly.

In the end, she sat up with her back against the door.

"Is that so?"

She looked up. There were tears at the corner of her eyes due to the shortness of breath a moment ago, but her gaze was with silent fury.

"While Nellie was still in the womb, her brothers took away her nutrients, so she has been small and skinny ever since birth. The doctors said that her body was too weak, that she might not live for more than a month. I cared for her daily and tried to give her a chance to live however I can. Although she grew up frail, I never let her get seriously ill in the six years she was with me! Not once has she ever had

an uncomfortable stomach, nor has she ever called me crying like this."

Joshua shuddered at Luna's words.

His fiery rage slowly dissipated at Luna's cold words.

He looked at Luna calmly. "Perhaps she misses you too much, and she's only pretending."

"Joshua."

Luna wiped the tears away from her face. "You're just not willing to admit that you and Mrs. Lynch didn't take good care of my daughter. You forbade them to have any snacks, fruits, or milk. You forced them to eat according to the time the adults eat. No. It wasn't eating on time—it was to wait for you to come back before eating. If you don't come back, they'll have to starve."

Joshua furrowed his brows.

He installed a signal jammer back home. He knew Neil and Nellie were communicating with Luna, but he turned a blind eye to it.

However, he did not expect that the two of them would tell all these to her.

"I've already gotten Alice to change yesterday. Isn't it different already today?"

"Yes! It is different from yesterday! "

Luna glared at Joshua angrily. "Today, you fed them snacks that are difficult for children to digest. It was only when they could no longer have any that you stopped! Their stomachs suffered so much, and that was why they went upstairs, yet you dare accuse them of not having dinner in front of me! If I didn't let Lily prepare some medication for them in time, they would've spent the night at the hospital, do you know that?"

Then, tears fell from Luna.

Six years had passed—she had left Joshua for six years. Other than the day she found out that Nigel has leukemia, that day was the one that haunted her the most.

She underwent plastic surgery after she gave birth to wipe off anything that had to do with Luna Gibson.

The surgery was so painful that she could barely sleep at night, yet she did not drop a single tear over it.

Even if Luna was strong, hearing how her kids were sick or suffering would make her like any other woman: helpless, regretful, and beat herself up.

She hated herself for not getting pregnant with Joshua's child the last time. She hated herself for not being able to protect her children properly.

They were her little angels; they should not have suffered like that!

Joshua was rooted where he stood as he gazed at the weeping Luna, filled with a maelstrom of emotions instantly.

He took a deep breath and was about to leave. "I'll go back and check up on them right now."

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Luna lifted her head and looked at Joshua. She sneered, "How pretentious. They've already gone to bed after medication. What's the use of you going back now? Are you going to wake them up and then reprimand them for telling me this? It's true. You've long said to not let Neil and Nellie contact me. You don't want me to be in touch with them! However, you also said that you'd take good care of them. Is this how you take good care of them?"

Every word was like a sharp blade that stabbed into Joshua.

He furrowed his brows and tried his best to explain himself. "I knew nothing of this! When I `m home, they told me that they didn't want any dinner. I didn't know what happened to them!" he said with helplessness and anger. "You don't have to push all the blame to me and get angry with me! "

He then lowered his head and looked at Luna as he tried to remain calm. "First, I don't know if this is true or not; the kids might be exaggerating. Alice is their mother, and she wouldn't treat them that way. Even if she did, that must be because of her mentality and differences in education. No one would torture their children for no reason."

Luna looked up and looked at Joshua loathingly. "No one? You're one of them."

Her defiant ways made Joshua even more infuriated. He did not want to treat her too badly, but he could not stand her irrational, harsh words.

Eyeing her red lips, he truly wanted to bite them so she could no longer accuse him.

He did just that.

Joshua bent down. He pressed onto her arm with one hand while he placed the other palm on the door as he brutally kissed her.

Luna widened her eyes at the sudden kiss. She did not expect that Joshua would kiss her, let alone under such circumstances.

Luna's brain went blank. After a while, she came to her senses. She went berserk as she struggled. She punched and kicked, using all possible ways to resist him and insult him.

However, the disparity of strength between them was too huge. She could not even push him away.

Luna was pinned to the door tightly. In the end, her body could barely even move a single centimeter, but she still struggled.

“Joshua, you scumbag! Let me go! Leave! ”

Every time his mouth was away from her’s, Luna could spit out some angry words.

She did not know whether her lip was too bewitching, or that her scolds were too harsh, or her tears were too crystalline.

Joshua seemed to be enchanted. He kissed her over and over again as he swallowed her words.

Luna’s voice turned hoarse after some time, yet she still resisted with whatever length she had left.

She yelled at him with a hoarse voice, “Joshua, you pervert! ”  
Pervert.

Joshua’s eyes darkened at that word. He looked at her face. “Do you know what a true pervert does?”

His gaze was somewhat dangerous.

Luna pursed her lips and cowered backward.

“Don’t touch me! Go and look for your wife! What the hell are you doing here?”

Joshua squinted his eyes. In his gaze, he only saw her red lips.

The lights were dimly lit. “Joshua...”



The moment he threw her on the sofa, Luna immediately knew what would happen. She closed her eyes as she inwardly resisted. Her reason told her that she had to submit to Joshua for Nigel's sickness. However, her heart told her that he was not worthy of her. He was a scumbag!  
Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 284

Forget about that.

Luna closed her eyes and told herself to take it all in as a mere dream.

In her dream, he was still the Joshua she was once head over heels for.

She told herself to treat it as facing adversity for Nigel's sake.

Luna mocked, "You already have Mrs. Lynch. Isn't that enough?"

Joshua's eyes darkened. Flustered yet enraged, he bit her lower lip harshly. "I was busy for the past few days, and she's been unavailable these few days. Are you happy with the answer?"

Luna chuckled in his ear. "So you only came to find me because she's unavailable?"

Joshua's eyes darkened. Wordlessly, he hugged her tightly and buried his head in her neck tiredly.

He had no answer to that question.

Perhaps he was no longer that close to Alice anymore during their six years apart. Perhaps he only loved the version of Luna Gibson six years ago, not the present Alice.

No matter what, his reasoning told him that he had to be close to Alice sexually whenever he faced her, but his body always resisted unconsciously.

Luna, on the other hand...

Reason told him that he could not get close to her nor have any sexual relationships with her, but he could not control his body.

After a period of long silence, Luna took a deep breath and flatly called out his name, "Joshua."

Joshua said nothing. The only thing that replied to her was his even, regular breathing. He fell asleep.

Like countless nights six years back, he hugged her and fell asleep, breathing her scent from her neck.

Luna sighed and carefully pried his hands apart. She got out of his arms.

The lights in the room were dim.

Under the dim lights, she watched as Joshua slept silently in exhaustion. Her eyes were filled with abhor.

He dared sleep so soundly in front of her.

There was a knife in the kitchen. As long as she picked up the knife and swiftly slashed down, she could avenge the Luna Gibson six years ago who almost lost her and her babies' lives.

There would be an end to the endless torture she suffered all these years.

In the end, she let out a long sigh. She took a thin blanket from her luggage and put it over Joshua.

Then, Luna got up and returned to her bedroom. Nigel was not cured yet.

Joshua could not just die like that.

That night, because Joshua slept on the sofa, Luna did not sleep well.

Joshua, on the other hand, slept all too well.

Ever since Alice returned to his side, he pretended to be busy working overtime to avoid some issues. With that, he never slept soundly for the past few nights.

The next morning, Joshua was woken up from his sweet dreams by the ringing of his phone.

On the other end of the call was Alice who sounded aggrieved, "Joshua, where were you last night?"

Joshua stretched lazily on the sofa. "What's going on?"

"I've been looking for you for the entire night. You weren't in your study nor in the guest room. I thought you might be working late at the office, so I rushed over to the office in the middle of the night, but you weren't there either. Where did you go?"

Joshua did not answer her question. "Is there anything?"

"Hmm." Alice sniffled once or twice aggrievedly. "Have a look at the internet. Didn't you say that as long as all the news defaming Luna on the internet is removed, Luna won't make the

surveillance video public? Someone posted the surveillance footage of the art gallery that day anonymously around ten last night! The PR company I found couldn't get rid of the video. It's now getting more than three times the views of yesterday's story!"

Alice sobbed a little at the other end of the call. " Everyone is berating me now! Joshua, what should I do?"

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Joshua rubbed the middle of his brows as a splitting headache tormented him.

He did not have any alcohol the night before, but he felt dizzy as if it was a hangover.

Alice panicked when Joshua said not a word to her. " Joshua, are you still angry at me? I genuinely know what I did wrong. Jealousy blinded me. I saw how Luna could work together with you at Lynch Group, so I became resentful and jealous. I've been reflecting after leaving with you last night, and I was wrong. I shouldn't have hired a PR company to further boost the news just because someone broke the news. I already got them to stop around eight. You must've seen it too, but around ten, someone posted the surveillance footage of that day anonymously. The video is making rounds now, and more and more people are rebuking me. What should I do?"

Joshua furrowed his brows. "I'll check on it."

"Hmm." Alice sniffled a little as she croaked, "Let me know how it goes. If it's Luna, I'll be willing to apologize to her in person."

"Hmm." Joshua paused for a while. Just when Alice was about to hang up the call, he called after her, " Where are Neil and Nellie?"

That took Alice by mild surprise.

“T—They should...should be at kindergarten?”

“Is that so?”

Joshua lifted his head and looked at the calendar on Luna’s coffee table. It clearly stated that it was a Sunday.

Neil and Nellie’s kindergarten always had one day off per week on a Sunday so that the kids could be closer to their parents.

Alice, as their parent, was already in Banyan City for almost a week, yet she knew nothing of that. It was hard to imagine that this was a mother who said she loved her kids.

Joshua furrowed his brows. The scene of Luna leaning by the door and admonishing him last night appeared in his mind.

“Don’t bother with the kids’ food today. Let Lily handle them.”

Alice, at the other end of the phone call, paused for a while. She instantly understood. The two rascals must have ratted her out to Joshua.

They might be young, but they were smart!

Although Alice was rather dissatisfied, she still sounded gentle, “Why? Are they unhappy with their mother? I’m just looking after them...”

Joshua wanted to say something else when the bedroom door in the distance opened.

He furrowed his brows and ended the topic. “Just let Lily handle it today. Leave it to her. We’ll talk more when I get back.”

Joshua hung up the phone and looked in the direction of the bedroom.

Luna was still in her pajamas. She crossed her arms at her chest. "You're up. Why are you still not leaving? Are you waiting for me to cook breakfast for you?"

The morning sun shone on her face and made Luna's face seemingly glow.

Her slightly tousled hair made her face seem even smaller.

Her face was as huge as a palm, yet those beautiful black eyes were filled with hatred toward him.

Joshua furrowed his brows. "Luna, don't forget that I'm still your boss. Don't ask me to leave like that."

He hated when people do that. The night before, she kept provoking him, that was why he completely lost it. He...

Luna rolled her eyes. "What? You think you can boss me around again just because you put your pants on? Why didn't you recall I'm your employee yesterday night when you were being inappropriate to me?"

Joshua frowned.

The incident the night before.

The memory seemed so surreal to him.

Sure enough, if there was a first time, there would be a second time as well. The last time, he could use the excuse that he was drunk, so he mistook her for Luna Gibson.  
Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 286

What was Joshua's new excuse? He was not drunk.

He was well aware the entire time that she was Luna and not Luna Gibson.

However...

Ding, dong! The doorbell abruptly rang.

Accompanied by the doorbell was Theo's concerned voice. "How are you? Are you feeling better? I brought you some breakfast. Come and have some."

Theo still remembered how Luna felt depressed due to Nellie's call.

"Luna?"

Joshua furrowed his brows. He was about to get up and open the door, but Luna held him back.

"Don't embarrass me! It might not be embarrassing for you, but it is for me! "

She bit her lip and pushed Joshua into the bedroom.

"If you dare come out, I'll immediately publicize the footage of Alice at the art gallery! "

Luna then closed the bedroom door. She also placed Joshua's shoes behind her luggage.

With all that done, Luna took a deep breath and opened the door.

"You're up?" Theo chuckled gently. He entered the Luna could not stop him in time. She could only follow him sheepishly.

"You're up early."

"I get up early every day, so I can bring you breakfast every day in the future."

Theo chuckled lightly. He immediately noticed the blanket and its wrinkles on the sofa.

"You slept on the sofa last night?"

Luna paused for a while before she immediately nodded. "The bedroom is still pretty much in a mess. I haven't tidied them up, so I slept on the sofa."

Theo calmly responded. He placed the breakfast on the coffee table. "You have some breakfast then. I'll go help you tidy up your messy bedroom."

Theo got up and headed to the bedroom, but Luna immediately pulled him back. "There's no need to trouble you. Why don't you...have some breakfast with me? Eating alone is quite boring."

Theo hesitated a little. He looked at the closed bedroom door, then the pair of men's shoes behind the luggage.

In the end, he laughed a little. He sat opposite Luna on the sofa.

"Okay, I'll sit and accompany you."

Luna inwardly sighed in relief. She smiled and ate breakfast while she chatted with Theo.

Joshua silently listened to their conversation from At first, he was very keen on what their topics were, but as they started to talk about their art and design sketches, he lost interest.



He turned around and sat on the bed, carefully looking around at Luna's bedroom.

Her bedroom was not as messy as how she told Theo—it was extremely clean and tidy.

Luna was a hardworking woman. She tidied up her bedroom while he was asleep the night before.

A violet bedspread and a white ceramic desk.

On her desk was a photo of her and Nellie. Below the photo was a photo album.

He curiously went over and flipped the photo album open.

There was not a single photo of Luna and the two kids.

There were only photos with her and Nellie, her and Neil, as well as Nellie and Neil.

There were a lot of photos of Neil.

Also...

Joshua furrowed his brows. He carefully looked at Neil's photo. Half of the photos were of Neil making weird faces. The other half was of him being mature, completely different from Neil at that moment.

Joshua smiled a little.

This boy had two types of faces.

However, when he flipped to the photos behind, he could not smile anymore.

The back of the photo album had many photos of Neil in a striped hospital gown, lying on the bed with a pale face.

Some were of him forcing a smile while he was on a drip.

Some were of him holding Nellie's hand with a helpless smile.

Joshua's heart sank.

Did Neil have any serious illness?  
Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 287

"Put that down! "

Just when Joshua was staring at the photo album in a daze, he suddenly heard a woman's voice from behind him.

The next second, Luna immediately rushed forward and snatched the photo album from Joshua's arms. " Who gave you the permission to touch my things?! "

This photo album was a birthday gift from Nigel. He spent his days in the hospital ever since they found out he had leukemia.

Although Nigel was young, he was aware of life and death. He was afraid that he might die one day and that Luna might miss him, so he secretly made this photo album for her.

"There are no photos where Neil and I are together in this album. If I were to die one day, treat me and Neil as the same person."

Nigel's words back then still rang in her ears.

Seeing how nervous she looked, Joshua furrowed his brows. "Neil has had a serious illness?"

"No." Luna turned around and carefully kept the album away.  
"Only the small flu."

"He stayed in the hospital for a few months because of the small flu?" Joshua's voice was getting colder. "I checked the dates on the bed. It was at least three to four months."

Joshua glared coldly at her. "Why does he have to stay in the hospital for so long if it's just the flu? "

Luna was stumped.

She turned back and glared at Joshua. "He had the flu almost every month for three to four months. Is that a good enough explanation for you?"

"Sure." Joshua changed into a more comfortable position on the bed. He looked at the ceiling and sneered, "Someone scolded me for not taking good care of the kids. She also said that she'd not let her kids suffer. Now you say that Neil had to go to the hospital every month because of the flu?"

Luna ignored him. "Theo said that he's coming to pick me up and fetch me to work later. Go quickly while he's not here yet."

Joshua was still lying on the bed looking at the ceiling. "Why do you make it sound like we're having an affair?"

Luna's body stiffened. She turned around and glared at Joshua coldly. "Aren't we?"

Back then, he got together with Aura behind her back. At that moment, she and Joshua got together behind Alice's back.

It seemed to have come full circle. She finally became the person she hated the most.

Joshua said nothing.

After a while, Joshua passed his phone to her. "Have a look."

Luna curiously took the phone from him.

On the phone was the surveillance footage of Alice purposely pushing her in the art gallery, wrecking Theo's painting.

It was the same footage as the one Theo gave to her the other day.

Luna furrowed her brows. "Uh..."

She lifted her head. "You think I'm the one who posted this?"

"It wasn't you." Joshua changed into another comfortable position. He put both hands behind his head.

"Someone posted this anonymously around ten last night. You were still with me then."

When she heard how he could casually mention the incident the night before, Luna blushed a little.

She gently coughed and returned the phone to Joshua.

"Since you know it wasn't me, what are you trying to say?"

"Other than you and Theo, who else knows about this footage, or has the means to be able to get them?"

Luna furrowed her brows. "I don't think there's anyone else."

Theo presented the counterfeit art piece secretly. Even the art gallery manager did not know about this.

Theo gave the video to no one else but her.  
Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 288

The only other person Luna showed the video to was Nigel.

Nigel was a mature kid, and he would not have

simply posted the video. Other than him, there was no one else.

"I'll give you a day to properly think of it. Best if you could give me a list of those who'd be able to obtain the footage. I want to investigate them one by one."

Luna felt that it was strange. "If you think that the news is bad, why don't you just block it?"

Joshua looked at her coldly. "This footage will affect Alice. I have to check the source of it and prevent that person from posting it again, so Alice doesn't have to suffer."

Luna found it comical at his pretense of caring for Alice.

He slept with her the night before, yet he could worry about Alice on her bed at that moment,

thinking of how to settle problems on Alice's behalf.

What a great man.

Suddenly, the doorbell rang once more.

Theo's clear and gentle voice came through. "Luna, are you ready? We should go."

"Coming, " Luna simply responded before she eyed Joshua once more.

Then, she resignedly pulled out a spare key and threw it at him. "Wait for five minutes before you leave. When you leave, lock the door."

After instructing Joshua, she took a deep breath, took her coat and bag, and left.

At the corridor outside, Theo leaned against the wall with his arms crossed around his chest.

"Done giving out instructions?" Luna was stunned. "What?"

"Nothing." Theo gently held her by the shoulders and led her into the elevator. "I'll send you to work."

It was not too far from Swan Lake Residences to her office, but neither was it near, either. It was at least half an hour.

Luna was distracted. She only chatted with Theo for less than ten minutes when they ran out of things to talk about.

During the twelfth minute, Theo turned on the radio.

"Last night at ten, an anonymous account posted the video footage of the incident at the art gallery in the city. In the video, Joshua Lynch's wife, Ms. Alice Gibson, crazily rushed over behind Ms. Luna and pushed her toward The Kite and The Girl painting.

"Last night, friends on the internet still felt pity for Ms. Alice because her favorite painting was wrecked, but today, they realized that it was she who ruined the painting!

"No wonder Mr. Lynch was so aggressively trying to pay. He said that he saw nothing. Turns out he was just trying to muddle the situation, all to protect his Upon hearing the news on the radio, Theo could not help but scoff, "This is the only way to treat a

manipulative person like Alice! Post the video and clear the situation! "

Then, he gave Luna a huge thumbs up. "Nice job! "

Luna helplessly turned and looked at the scenery out of the window. "I didn't post the video. I only found out about it this morning."

She lifted her head and looked at Theo. "Besides me, who else did you give the video to?"

Theo scratched his head. He thought for a long time before he recalled one other person.

"I gave it to Alice." Luna instantly tensed.

She turned to look at Theo in shock. "What do you mean? You gave Alice the...surveillance footage?"

"Mmh."

Theo furrowed his brows. "I saw how Alice bullied you yesterday, how she slandered you, and how she got Granny Lynch to make things difficult for you, so... I registered a new email and sent her the email. I warned her to tone her bullying down. It doesn't mean that we don't have the evidence to bring her down."

Then, Theo pursed his lips. "I don't think she'd do this, would she? The news are all pointing their fingers at her. She didn't need to post the video just to get scolded, right?"

Luna narrowed her eyes and glanced out of the window.

After a while, she smiled. "Perhaps to others, it might be impossible, but for Alice , she could do it no matter how absurd it sounds."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 289

"Luna"

After saying goodbye to Theo, Luna just entered Lynch Group Tower when someone stopped her.

It was no other than the person who shared the exact face as her previous self, Mrs. Lynch.

The lobby of the office was filled with people.

Due to the news the day before, plus the incident of the video that day, everyone in the office seemed to know about Luna and Alice.

Everyone was on stake-out. Some peeped in secret, while some were bolder that they immediately took their phone out and started filming.

Luna disliked the feeling of being placed under the spotlight.

She furrowed her brows and looked at Alice coldly. " Just say what you want to say."

Thud!

Alice immediately knelt in front of Luna without any warning, and gasps echoed in the entire lobby.

Alice was also Joshua's wife, no less!

The boss' wife knelt before Luna, a mere staff of the office!



Luna took a step back and rubbed the middle of her brows. What she said in the car previously was right—Alice was a strange one. Alice posted the video herself, and it caused people on the internet to deride her.

At that moment, she stopped Luna at the lobby of the office and knelt to her?

Luna wanted to take a few steps back, but there was too much of a crowd. She only took two steps back before she could no longer retreat.

In the end, Luna helplessly furrowed her brows and looked at Alice on the floor.

“Mrs. Lynch, what are you playing at?”

“Please forgive me. ” Alice looked up at Luna with tears in the corner of her eyes. “I was wrong the other day. I shouldn’t have gotten jealous of you just because you could work with Joshua every day.”

Alice’s words caused an uproar. Did that mean that Alice openly admitted the contents in the video were true?

Luna frowned. She knew Alice would not come just to apologize.

“Joshua hasn’t been back home for the past few nights. He said that he was working late, but every time I came to the office in the middle of the night, I couldn’t find him anywhere.”

Alice sniffled, and tears started to fall. “I know that he must’ve gone to look for you to discuss the latest jewelry design sketches. Although I was like you, we’re not from a jewelry designing background.

Even though I've learned design for a very long time, I don't have your achievements. I know I'm stupid, too stupid that Joshua wouldn't let me work

with you in the design department."

Alice knelt on the floor and looked at Luna with her watery eyes. "Please forgive a wife's worries. I don't have much sense of security."

Alice only used a few sentences to find a perfect excuse to justify her actions for pushing Luna.

Yes, she did push Luna on purpose to hurt her, but she had her reasons.

Who asked Luna to be with Joshua all the time?

Who asked Joshua to go look for Luna in the middle of the night?

The crowd who were on looking sighed.

"We can't blame Mrs. Lynch for this. What normal woman wouldn't mind her husband looking for another woman in the middle of the night?"

"Yes, a single woman should pay attention to this. Even if they were busy working, they shouldn't take up a husband's time."

"Perhaps they weren't only busy working."

The crowd started discussing among themselves.

"Stop finding excuses for me." Upon hearing the comments, Alice had a painful expression. "What I did was still wrong. It's my fault that this happened; Ms. Luna is innocent. I love my husband too

much, and that was why I suspected them. They're merely employers and staff. This is all my fault. Even if Ms. Luna posted the video online which made people on the internet cyber-bully me, I deserved it..."

Then, Alice lifted her head and looked at Luna. "Ms. Luna, can you forgive me? I promise I won't come in between you and Joshua's work. No matter how late Joshua goes to look for you, I won't make any noise. I won't try to hurt you anymore. I only beg for your forgiveness."

On the surface, Alice's words might seem to be clearing off the relationship between Luna and Joshua.

In truth, she was just putting herself as the victim.

Society would take pity on the weak, especially housewives like her who have been coldly abandoned by their husbands.

She wanted to blackmail Luna emotionally and forced Luna to forgive her. At that thought, Luna's gaze turned cold.  
Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 290

Luna lowered her gaze and looked at Alice on the floor.

"What great acting you have, Mrs. Lynch."

Alice lifted her head and looked at Luna with tears in her eyes.  
"You're still not willing to forgive me, is it?"

"She just pushed you! It was only a painting! "

"Her husband even paid for the painting, and it's not your money. Why can't you forgive her?"

“Also, which ordinary woman would work with another husband so late into the night? Who are you lying to?”

“The legitimate wife was merely teaching the mistress a lesson. Now that the wife is begging for forgiveness, the mistress refused to forgive her?”

“What kind of world is this?”

“Before Mrs. Lynch came back to the country, didn’t they announce their relationship? I’m sure they hooked up before then.”

Alice turned to look at the crowd who was bad- mouthing Joshua with teary eyes. “Don’t you dare talk nonsense. My husband treats me well. I know clearly how much he loves me. He just got carried away for a moment.”

Standing in the same spot, Luna looked at the scene playing out and laughed.

Alice was not there to apologize so early in the morning; she came to cause more trouble.

“Mrs. Lynch, if you like acting so much, you can stay and continue acting. I won’t play along.”

Luna was about to pass through the crowd and leave, but everyone blocked her way.

“The mistress has a guilty conscience! She’s trying to run away! ”

“Don’t let her leave! ”

“She can leave, but only if she forgives Mrs. Lynch! ”

The crowd who did not understand the situation said unreasonable things to Luna.

She could not push past through the crowd.

Something was not right. These people must have been...placed here by Alice.

Subconsciously, Luna turned to look at Alice.

Alice was still on her knees, but there was a hint of malice in her smile. "Luna, forgive me, please."

Luna narrowed her eyes. Obviously, if she did not forgive Alice, she would not be able to walk out from the crowd.

However, if she were to forgive Alice, she was forced to admit she was the mistress who came in between Joshua and Alice.

As she stood in the same spot, Luna was silent for a long time. In the end, she looked in the direction of the entrance and smiled.

"Are you thinking that I'd be at your mercy since Joshua isn't here?"

Alice blinked her watery eyes. "Ms. Luna, I only hope you'll forgive me."

Luna sneered. She immediately picked up the phone and dialed. "I'm being trapped by a group of people in the lobby."

Upon her words, the man at the other end of the call immediately responded, "Roger that! "

Two minutes later, Zach and Yuri brought bodyguards from outside and quickly rushed over.

Under the leadership of the tall and burly Zach and Yuri, they quickly broke the group apart and opened up a path.

"Ms. Luna." Zach bowed at Luna respectfully. "I'm sorry we came late."

"No, it's fine."

Luna lowered her gaze and looked at Alice, who still knelt on the ground and looked shocked. "Listen carefully.

"First, I didn't leak the video out. I also didn't get the people on the internet to bully you. You should know clearly what happened.

"Second, even if you apologized, I won't forgive you. Stop your emotional blackmails.

"Lastly," Luna sneered, "you said that Joshua hasn't been back home for many nights. What does that have to do with me? Don't you dare pin it on me and try to get me to admit it!"

Then, Luna left under the protection of Zach and Yuri. They went up the elevator coolly.

Everyone in the lobby turned quiet.

They were looking at Alice on the floor and dared say nothing.

Two men helped Alice up to her feet. "Why did you not stop them?" she fumed.

The men said rather guiltily, "We could still take the woman, but those bodyguards..."

Zach and Yuri were tall and burly. The men were no match for them.

"Bunch of useless trash!" Alice coldly scolded just when Zach and Yuri led the group of bodyguards walking past her.

She stopped them. "As the bodyguards of the Lynch group, why did you listen to a mere designer, but not me, the president's wife?"

Zach and Yuri looked at each other and smiled. " We'll only listen to our boss."

"Who's your boss? Joshua Lynch?" "Neil Gibson."

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