

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 351

By eBooksCat

That insincere apology only made Luna laugh.

After a deep inhale, she lifted her gaze and glanced at the butler, Mr. Walter. "So, you're saying that you only know Mrs. Lynch used to be known as Luna Gibson and had no idea another woman who went by the name Luna existed in this world, am I right?"

The butler frowned slightly and remained silent.

"Of course he doesn't know! " Dennis laughed coldly. "If he knew Ms. Luna and Luna Gibson were two different people and did this on purpose, that means he's intentionally trying to cause trouble for you.

"Mr. Walter has worked as our butler for more than 20 years. He, at least, knows not to do something like this."

"I see." Luna sucked in a deep breath and quietly pressed the button on her necklace.

After a soft beep, she laughed lightly and continued, "So, according to the old Mr. Walter, if the butler knew from the start that I and Luna Gibson are two separate individuals, that means he did all this on purpose, no?"

The woman's words made the butler, who stood at the side, turn pale in an instant. He glanced at Alice in fear.

Alice narrowed her eyes slightly, walked toward Luna, and held her arm gently. "Ms. Luna, you're taking this too seriously. The butler looks to be at

least fifty or sixty. An old man like him might have a poor memory.

"Even if he heard your name before, he may have forgotten it already."

The butler stiffened and hurriedly nodded. "Yes, that's right. I'm old, and my memory is failing me! "

Luna narrowed her eyes slightly. She pulled her arm out of Alice's grip, her gaze faint and indifferent. " The butler has a poor memory, you say?"

As she spoke, her gaze drifted toward Dennis. "As the richest man in Sea City, why would the old Mr. Walter entrusted the family's affairs to an old man with a failing memory?"

Luna's words were like a rock thrown into the surface of a calm lake, and it caused a ripple in the crowd.

Everyone present had business dealings with the Walter family, and almost all of them had to be in touch with the butler. If the old butler's memory was failing him, what if one day he made the mistake with them as he did to Luna?

That would prove to be an apocalyptic disaster! The crowd exploded in a flurry.

Everyone started discussing amongst themselves. Their voices increased as time went by until it was exponentially noisy.

Joshua stood behind Luna with his arms crossed over his chest, a cold smile on his lips.

Fools.

The consequences of saying a butler was in charge of all the affairs of such a prominent family like the Walters were more serious than intentionally leaving out Luna's name!

The man glanced at Luna admiringly with that thought in mind,

As the sound of discussion in the hall grew louder and louder, Dennis frowned and coldly snapped, " Our butler's health and memory are in perfect condition! "

Then, he turned and glared at Alice coldly. "How well do you know our family, Mrs. Lynch? And you're starting a rumor that our butler has a poor memory?"

Dennis's admonishment threw Alice into a daze. When did her father ever treat her like that?

On the other hand...

She suppressed the dissatisfaction in her chest and lowered her head. "I was wrong. I thought the butler, Mr. Walter, was the same as my parents— suffering from a failing memory at his age. As it

turns out Mr. Walter is different from mediocre people like my parents.”

Luna frowned slightly.

Even though she did not have much affection left for her parents, hearing Alice dishonor them in public like that discomforted her.

Looking equally unhappy was Dennis Walter.

On the surface, Alice’s words seemed to be praising the old butler, but in reality, she was taunting him, her own father!

He waved his sleeves coldly. “Enough. The old butler took matters into his own hands and made a mistake with Ms. Luna’s name. He apologized, so there’s nothing left to see. Everyone, attend to your own business! ”

If the crowd continued to gather, he did not know what else would happen.

“Wait.”

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Luna sucked in a deep breath and looked at the email Nigel sent to her on her phone.

After she pressed the button on her necklace, Nigel had heard the entire conversation from her side.

The little boy had sent her the evidence.

Luna walked forward elegantly and stood in the middle of the crowd. "Mr. Walter, can I borrow a projector from you?"

Five minutes later, Luna connected her phone to the projector and clicked the document open.

"This is a set of statistics on a group of netizens that have been discrediting me in Banyan City. According to the IP address and source of the signal, the netizens are from an internet company registered abroad, and the legal owner of this company is the butler."

Instantly, the crowd exploded in a frenzy.

Dennis turned to look at the butler in surprise. The butler, on the other hand, pointed in Alice's direction discreetly and remained silent.

Dennis buried his face in his hands helplessly.

Alice and the butler did all that behind his back and without his approval. If he knew, he would not have sounded so convinced!

"But..." Hailey, who had remained silent all this while, frowned.

"The company is just under the

butler's name. All it does is accept business and ghostwrite about the intended target. It isn't necessary for the company to first get to know its target, right?"

Luna laughed lightly. "Yes, Ms. Walter mentioned an important point."

Then, she clicked on another document.

"After finding out the ghostwriters who discredited me are connected to the butler, I pulled all stops to investigate this company before I found the person in charge. After promising the person in charge better job prospects, he exposed a recording of his conversation with the butler."

Luna clicked on the recording elegantly.

"That's not enough. Hire more people. We must destroy Luna! Get them to keep searching the sentence 'Luna is a mistress'. When they discredit Luna, get them to praise Mrs. Lynch at the same time! "

Every sentence came out of the butler's mouth. The crowd was engulfed in a frenzy once again.

The butler knew he was done for after the recording played out.

Dennis turned pale as a ghost. The evidence was absolute.

Luna raised her eyes. "Butler Walter, what do you say now? Did your memory fail you and forgot about me, whom you specifically reminded the ghostwriters to destroy? Or, did you purposely mix up my and Mrs. Lynch's names to humiliate me?"

In truth, Nigel had long known about the butler before she got to the banquet. Luna merely kept quiet because she knew the butler was just a tool.

At that point, since the butler willingly took the fall for the mix-up with her name, she had no choice but to fulfill his wish.

"I..." The butler bit his lip and was about to say something when Alice, unable to hold it in, burst into tears.

"Uncle Walter, why did you do this?" She wiped at her tears and sobbed softly, "What good does it do you to cause a rumor that Luna intervened in my relationship with Joshua?"

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The butler was no innocent, simple-minded old man.

The butler's face fell as he listened to Alice's words. " Ms. Gibson, I didn't do all of this for you. I did them for my daughter, Yvonne! She's good friends with you, and if you're unhappy because of this woman, she'll be just as unhappy, too.

"As her father, it's only natural that I wouldn't want to see my daughter sad and moping around every day! Besides..."

He glared at Luna viciously, and a cold smile hung from his lips. "This woman used work as an excuse to stay beside Mr. Lynch, but in actuality, she harbors ill-intentions toward him! Why shouldn't I expose the actions of a woman who intentionally seduces a married man, showing the world how evil and calculating she is?"

The hatred in his eyes as he glared at Luna and spat those words far surpassed the hatred one would have for a mistress.

Luna narrowed her eyes slightly.

A moment later, her lips twisted into a smile as she laughed coldly. "The old butler cares so much about the Walter family! Those in the loop know that Mrs.

Lynch is your daughter's friend, but those that aren't would think Mrs. Lynch is your daughter instead! "

The butler scoffed coldly, "To me, Alice is just like my own daughter! "

"Stop it..." Alice wiped her tears and walked up to him, pulling at his sleeve. "I know you and Yvonne just want the best for me, but the truth isn't what you think at all..."

She then walked toward Joshua, raised her arm, and hooked it intimately through his. "Joshua and I have been close all along. We have two children together: a son and a daughter. Six years ago, I left Banyan City, and he waited for me throughout the past six years.

"What's more, in the past six years, he even took good care of my sister and family for my sake... How can another woman come between us, when we share such a tight bond?"

"Besides, Luna has only worked at the Lynch Group for a month. I believe Joshua; he's not someone who'll give up on a six-year-long relationship for a woman he's only known for a month."

Alice rubbed her head against Joshua's chest as she spoke. Joshua frowned and tried to resist her at first, but her eventual words struck his heartstrings. Not only did he cease to resist, but he even took the initiative and wrapped his arms around her.

Luna saw everything. She bit her lip as the frost in her chest grew colder by the minute.

Seeing Alice stand up for Joshua, Gwen, who stood at the side, still felt furious.

She rolled her eyes and approached them. "Alice, stop defending him. He announced in front of everyone that he's divorcing you. Could that be fake? This man is fickle and disloyal. He doesn't deserve your unwavering loyalty! "

The moment the words left Gwen's mouth, the attendees in the banquet hall started whispering amongst themselves.

"Gwennie, don't say that." Alice let go of Joshua and sucked in a deep breath. "Actually— "

"Actually, the old butler and Yvonne were the ones who planned and executed everything, but Alice chose to bear the burden of their mistakes, " interjected the man next to her before she could finish.

He pulled her into his chest, his voice cold and distant as he explained in her stead, "I only said I'd divorce her out of anger."

With that, the man's cold eyes swept over the butler's face, then drifted toward Dennis. "Uncle, the butler is your employee."

Dennis frowned.

He glared at the butler coldly. "How could you go behind my back to frame and discredit Luna in Banyan City? Because of you, everyone almost thought Joshua, my dear boy, is a piece of scum. Apologize to him right now! "

The butler hurriedly rushed to stand before Joshua. "

Mr. Lynch, I'm sorry..."

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Joshua shifted his gaze to Luna. "The one you should apologize to is her."

The butler paused, then approached Luna hesitantly.

"Ms. Luna, I— "

"I don't want your apology. " Luna raised her head proudly as her cold eyes swept across the butler's old and wizened face. "You dare say the rumors you spread about me, the way you discredited me, insulted me, all of these were done out of your own volition?"

"Of course." The butler raised his eyes and looked at Luna.
"Besides me and my daughter, could there be anyone else?"

Luna barked out a cold laugh and did not bother to answer his question nor accept his apology. She raised her eyes and looked at Joshua, who stood in the distance with his arm around Alice. "If Mr. Lynch has decided to let it go, then there's no point in me pursuing this matter any further.

"I'm not feeling very well, though. Forget I ever attended this banquet."

With that, she ignored the reactions of the crowd behind her as she lifted her skirt and left the hall.

Luna did not know what she was upset about. She was the victim, and the final winner after the rumors had been cleared, but she somehow felt like a clown. Like a deserter.

The sight of Joshua with his arms wrapped around Alice and how he lied for her kept replaying in her mind's eye.

Everyone keenly watched as she strode out and her tempo increasing as she went, growing more and more anxious.

The woman's high-heeled shoes tapped against the clear marble floor, producing clear clicks as she walked.

Joshua stood in place as he gazed at her retreating form. A tinge of pain seemingly sliced across his heart.

"Joshua."

A long while later, the farce ended and the crowd dispersed. Alice carefully extracted herself from Joshua's arms.

She bit her lip carefully, her eyes timid and innocent. "Thank you for helping me just now. I know you said that to comfort me. I won't take it seriously..."

Joshua lowered his eyes, raised his hand slowly, and caressed the face he had longed for six years. "You're right. We shouldn't give up on the relationship

we've built for so many years, just because of a woman I've known for a month."

He bent down and laid his hands on her shoulders gently, looking at her. Even though his actions were cold and distant, his gaze was sincere. "Let bygones be bygones. I won't look into it any further, and neither will Luna. Still, I hope you can trust me

more, and don't cause such troubles again. If you do it again...

"I won't protect you anymore."

With that, the man let go of her, turned, and headed to the private room on the second floor to look for Dennis.

Alice remained in place. Instinctively placing her hands on the spot where his hands rested on her shoulder just a moment ago, a gush of sweetness burst into her chest.

She knew it! Hard work paid off, after all!

The time and effort she spent for the past six years would not be obliterated in less than a months' time!

Raising her eyes, she looked at Dennis, who was drinking and stuck in a conversation with Joshua on the second floor.

A hint of self-satisfaction flickered across her eyes as she took out her phone and sent a message to Dennis.

(Get Joshua drunk.)

She wanted to stick a fork in it and get it done that night.

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She pouted in the direction of the door. "You heard him. He kept calling for me, using my old name."

Lucas paused but finally sighed, "Alright then."

He then walked her through the essential points she needed to remember, then turned and left. The door slammed shut behind him.

Alice and Joshua were the only two people left in the spacious presidential suite.

Alice locked the door in pure self-satisfaction. She then walked to the bed and stared down at him from her elevated position. He still muttered Luna Gibson's name non-stop.

"Joshua Lynch... After all these years, you're finally mine."

With that, she laughed in delight, turned, and headed into the bathroom.

That night was the most important night of her life. She wanted to take a nice, rose-petaled bath as a beautiful memory for herself.

Before entering the bathroom, she took out a pill from her bag and swallowed it. She was not

ovulating that night, but it was a valuable chance not to be missed!

She needed to get pregnant with Joshua's child. By then, even if her true identity was exposed, for the sake of their child, Joshua would still forgive her.

She saw with her own two eyes how much he loved children!

At the thought of that, Alice felt even more satisfied with herself.

She hummed happily and walked into the bathroom, laid down in the bathtub, and started to imagine what her future with Joshua would look like.

The night was still young; she needed to make the proper preparations. She waited for the effects of the medicine to kick in and waited for all the pieces to fall into place.

Joshua was drunk, anyway. He was in her grasp, no doubt about that.

The more she thought about it, the happier she felt, and the more agitated she grew. What she did not expect was that outside the bathroom, the man who was in bed a moment ago had sat upright in a daze.

“Water...” He reached out blindly but could not find anything resembling a cup or a bottle of water on the bedside table. With that, he stood up with shaky legs and opened the room door.

He was too drunk. He could not even walk properly, and he leaned against the wall for support with every step he took.

Somehow, he walked to the room beside his.

The drunk man smacked the door in his drunken stupor. “Open the door. Open the door! ”

At that moment, inside the room, Luna was talking to Nigel on the phone, dressed in her pajamas.

The mother and son were engrossed in their conversation when harsh knocks rang out on the door.

Luna recognized Joshua’s voice and chose to ignore him, but the knocks only grew louder, and the man’s voice sounded more and more anxious and agitated.

"Mommy, you better go take a look. Judging from his voice, he's drunk."

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On the other end of the phone, Nigel's voice was polite and obedient, "We'll talk again when you're free! "

Then, the little boy hung up the phone.

Luna had no choice but to head to the door and open it.

The moment the door opened, the man strode in immediately, and his body reeked of alcohol. In his intoxicated state, he fell onto Luna's bed in a heap. " Honey, I want water..."

The term of endearment made the woman who held the door handle stiffen sharply. He never...called her Honey before.

Hearing him call her that was one of the dreams she wrote down in her diary. Alas, that dream only came true six years later when he was drunk.

"I want water..." As he laid on the bed, the man opened his mouth and requested again. Luna had no choice but to close the door and pour him a glass of water.

She held out the cup of water that was carefully heated and approached him gently. "Here, drink this."

He nodded, climbed upright obediently, laid on the headboard of the bed, and emptied the glass of water. Then, he laid back down on the big bed and clumsily tugged at his necktie.

The banquet that night was a formal event. He even wore a suit and tie. At that moment, the tie seemed to be making him uncomfortable.

She sighed, walked to him, and bent down to undo his necktie. She placed it on the bedside table, then unbuttoned the two topmost buttons of his shirt, wanting to make it more comfortable for him.

Unexpectedly, when she reached out to unbutton the second button, his large hands locked onto her slim waist. "Honey... Luna Gibson..."

He repeated the same two phrases as he pulled her harshly into his chest. "I miss you so much..."

Luna frowned and struggled instinctively, but no matter how hard she tried, she could not break free from his grasp. Finally, all she could do was lay on his chest in defeat.

Feeling his warm breath and the steady beat of his heart, she laughed helplessly. "Joshua, which one is the real you?"

The cruel and vicious man was from six years ago, or the loyal and loving man in front of her eyes six years later?

A minute ago, he could say he wanted to divorce Alice and came all the way to Sea City to see Hailey, but he then said Alice was innocent, that it was all a lie.

His words... Which ones were true, and which were lies?

In the room next door, Alice finally finished her shower.

She blow-dried her hair, humming in a good mood, and walked out with a towel wrapped around her.

The room was empty.

The door to the suite was left wide open, while the man who should have been lying on the bed was nowhere to be seen.

"Oh, no! " Alice stomped her foot in fury, shrugged on some clothes, and called the hotel staff, "I need to find someone. Get me the CCTV recording for the topmost floor! "

After she was dressed, she ran out of the suite and headed straight to the surveillance room on the topmost floor.

In the surveillance room, a staff member was reeling the tapes of the CCTV recording. Finally, he pointed to the dazed man on the screen. "It looks like Mr.

Lynch left the room in his drunken stupor and went to the room next to yours."

The room next to hers?

Alice screwed her brows tightly together. "Who's staying there?"

"A woman named Luna." The hotel manager solemnly scanned through the guest register and

said, "She's his employee. What...would you like to do?"

Alice gritted her teeth harshly. "What else? Grab him!"

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That night, Joshua had a very long, very realistic dream where his Luna Gibson returned to him. She fed him water and listened as he called her Honey.

They even...

In his dream, he called her Luna Gibson, and she answered him every single time.

Not Alice's awkward and unnatural reply, but an incredibly natural and smooth reply.

The man closed his eyes and reminisced for a long time.

If only...this dream became reality.

A moment later, he opened his eyes and was met with the hotel room's luxurious décor. He was not the only one asleep on the huge, soft bed, however. There was also...Alice, dressed in nothing but her underwear.

She laid asleep in his arms like a little kitten.

On the ground beside the bed were piles of discarded tissues and their clothes.

Joshua rubbed the space between his eyebrows. Seeing the sight that greeted his eyes, it was impossible for him to not know what happened.

Was everything that happened last night true after all?

"You're awake?" Awakened by his movements, in his arms, Alice opened her eyes and raised her head to look at him. She blinked, her eyes still crusted with a layer of sleep. "You were so rough last night."

Joshua paused, then raised his hands and pulled her into his lap. "I was so happy last night."

It was no dream, after all. Last night...he finally found the feeling he missed so much from her.

"I was so happy, too." Alice laid in his arms and sounded delighted, but he failed to notice the spite- filled eyes of hers.

Last night...

In the room next door, Luna was still fast asleep. Joshua was so rough with her last night.

She had no idea what took over him, but he repeatedly called her Luna Gibson and forced her to reply. He even forced her to call him Honey.

The more she called him by that term of endearment, however, the more vicious he became.

Last night, she almost lost all strength to run back to her room. She slept all the way until 8am in the morning when the doorbell to her room rang.

The tired woman walked to the door sleepily. "Who is it?"

"It's me." Standing in the entrance was Alice in a set of fresh, clean clothes, and a bright smile on her face. "How did you sleep last night? Joshua and I just

came back from breakfast, and we brought you some food."

Luna instinctively looked behind her and saw Joshua standing not too far away.

He was dressed neatly, standing tall and handsome as he held his and Alice's breakfast in his hands.

Her heart skipped a beat, and she did not know whether it was from pain or discomfort.

She laughed lightly and took the food Alice handed her. "Mr. and Mrs. Lynch are definitely in a good mood this morning."

Alice smiled faintly. "Yeah, we reconciled last night.

This morning when I went to buy breakfast, I wanted to let him rest, but he insisted on accompanying me."

With that, the woman smiled. "We're very happy now, Luna. I hope you and Theo can get married and be as happy as us! "

Luna's cold eyes swept across Joshua's face.

He remained still with a plain expression, holding his breakfast in one hand and fiddling with his phone with the other.

She turned and glanced at Alice as she coldly chuckled. "I hope that both of you can remain happy forever, then, just like how you were last night."

With that, she slammed the door shut behind her without bothering to read Alice's expression.

Alice's slightly displeased voice drifted in from outside, "I bought breakfast for Ms. Luna out of the kindness of my heart, but how come she doesn't look happy?"

Then, the man's cold and deep voice replied, "Ignore her."

Luna rested her back on the door and clutched at her chest where her heart was.

Even after how intimate they were last night, he could still stand there so listlessly in front of her and flaunt his loving relationship with Alice. That man... Did he even have a heart?

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Luna and Joshua's original schedule for the day was to visit several jewelry companies in Sea City to conduct a survey.

The agreed time was 9am, but it was past loam and there were no signs of movement from Joshua.

As she sat in her room, Luna hesitated for a long while and wondered if she should approach him and ask. If they were not going out, she would not have to keep waiting.

"Joshua, thank you for accompanying me today, but it doesn't hurt so much anymore." Just as she walked to their door and before she could knock, Alice's soft whine drifted out from inside the room, "Didn't you come to Sea City for business? You should go."

"No, I'll cancel," the man's deep voice sounded extremely gentle. "Where else does it hurt? I'll massage it for you."

"Here, this spot still aches. It's all your fault..." "Okay, I'll massage it for you."

One sounded soft, gentle, and slightly whiny, like a call for attention. The other was deep and doting, with love and affection filling his voice.

Luna's hand that was about to knock on the door paused mid-air. A long while later, she scoffed and turned to leave.

At the entrance to the elevators, she ran into Lucas who just stepped out of an elevator.

"Ms. Luna, " Lucas stopped her. "Right. The director asked me to inform you that the survey is rescheduled for tomorrow. A few of the factory owners aren't ready to meet us. You don't have to wait for the director for work, so you can take a tour around the city."

Luna laughed coldly. "Alright."

Were the factory owners truly unprepared, or did Joshua want to stay in and accompany Alice?

Neither did she know, nor did she care to find out.

Luna walked out of the hotel and wandered the streets aimlessly.

She had lived in the city for more than ten years. Back then, she left this city without turning back once because of Joshua.

She finally returned with him, but...he was holding another woman in his arms.

How ironic.

She walked around the city for a long, long time as she visited all the schools she studied in throughout the day: elementary school,

junior high, high school, and her favorite restaurant, the small corner in the park.

She switched off her phone the entire time, and she only hailed a taxi and returned to the hotel after 10 p.m. at night.

After unlocking her room door with her key card, she unexpectedly discovered the lights in her room were lit. She frowned, raised her head, and saw the man who sat on the sofa in her room, immersed in his work.

"Mr. Lynch, don't you have your own room?" She turned and opened the door. "It's late. You should leave to avoid any unnecessary rumors."

At her words, the man who sat on the sofa smirked faintly.

He set down the documents in his hand with a cold smile and swept his eyes across at her. "I had something to say to you, but you never returned.

Alice is asleep. I didn't want to disrupt her sleep, so I came to your room to wait."

Luna laughed coldly and continued to stand at the entrance. "The two of you are so close. Since Mrs. Lynch is asleep, you should go to sleep, too. We can discuss work tomorrow morning after Mrs. Lynch is awake."

She seemed determined to chase him out of the room. Joshua frowned at the sight.

"Shut the door! "

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"Alice knew I came to see you."

Luna scoffed and closed the door. "Not too long ago, Mrs. Lynch had been calling me your mistress. Since when did she become so forgiving?"

Joshua frowned but did not reply.

He indicated for her to sit down on the sofa. "Because of certain reasons, the visit has been rescheduled for tomorrow."

He handed the documents to her. "These are the few of the main factories. You must understand the design and raw materials needed. Tomorrow, keep an eye out for the materials provided by the factories. And..."

He handed her a different document. "Take note of these few companies' style of design and target audience."

Seeing how invested he was to discuss business, Luna decided not to continue bringing in their private matters. She read through the document thoroughly, then marked the parts that required special attention. "I've taken note."

"We'll leave at 9 am tomorrow. We need to visit every single one of these companies by the end of the day," Joshua's voice was business-like and emotionless. "At night, we'll be having dinner

with one of our clients in Sea City, so don't forget to prepare a medication to neutralize the alcohol."

"Alright."

Luna bowed her head and continued studying the documents. "Is there anything else?" she asked carelessly.

"Yes." The man sitting opposite her changed into a different position, his gaze deep and heavy. "You've been to Sea City before, haven't you?"

She stiffened slightly.

A moment later, she smiled. "I've been overseas the whole time. Didn't you read my background information?"

"So, this is your first time here in Sea City?"

Luna tidied up the documents neatly. "Of course. "

Joshua hung an arm over the back of the sofa, his posture lazy and relaxed. "You walked through the entire city in just an afternoon's time, though. You looked confident and relaxed, and I couldn't tell it was your first time here."

The man's words made her pause abruptly.

She raised her head in alarm. "You sent someone to follow me?"

He did not deny it. "From how familiar you are with Sea City, you make me think you grew up here."

Last night after Luna was attacked by the crowd at the banquet, he was worried and asked Lucas and two other bodyguards to shadow her. At least, he could allow her to be attacked in the market, like when they were in Banyan City.

Unexpectedly, the video recording that the two bodyguards sent to him showed...

Luna, extremely familiar with every spot in the city.

"I was just wandering around." Luna felt slightly guilty. "I was bored last night, so I looked through a map of the city. That's why I seem familiar with the area."

Then, she suppressed the panic in her chest, lowered her head, and flipped open the documents once again. "This is my first time here in Sea City."

Joshua remained lying on the sofa wordlessly.

She did not dare raise her head to meet his eyes, at a loss as to whether he believed her or not.

The air between them was heavy and silent.

A moment later, he finally opened his mouth, his voice cold and deep, "Luna, what else are you hiding?"

She pursed her lips, then finally raised her head and smiled at him. "What are you trying to say, Mr. Lynch? Are you still wondering whether this is my first time in Sea City?"

"Yes, and no." Joshua's lips curved into a smile. " Last night at the banquet, the information you produced was sent to you from Ausland, am I right?" His eyes were burning as if he wanted to stare a hole through her. "From that little hacker in Ausland? "

Luna stiffened sharply.

She looked at Joshua, at a loss for words.

"How did you contact him? The date indicated on the documents was from last night, and he obviously only started collecting the information after you notified him." He stared at her, then finally locked his eyes onto the necklace that hung around her neck. "I remember that you, Nellie, and Neil all have that necklace. Can you take it off so I can take a look at it?"

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Luna froze. She never thought that Joshua would notice her necklace. She was always careful and refrained from talking to the necklace whenever he was around.

Last night, she had switched on the necklace's microphone so Nigel could hear everything during the cocktail party. She never thought Joshua would notice her action and harbor suspicions toward the necklace she wore.

Joshua knew his guess was right when he noticed Luna's surprised expression. He narrowed his eyes at her.

He observed Luna's every move last night; she did not touch her phone throughout the whole night. How, then, did she manage to stay in touch with the hacker?

Joshua was intrigued by this, so he checked the surveillance tapes of the cocktail party. The footage showed that apart from a small instance where Luna touched her necklace, she displayed no other suspicious behavior. This was why he suspected her necklace was no ordinary one.

When he noticed how dazed she was, Joshua reached out to grab her necklace. However, Luna immediately came to and pressed both of her hands against her chest. "Don't you dare touch me! "

She leaped off the couch and stepped away from him as her hands remained on her chest. "This necklace

belongs to me, Neil, and Nellie. Don't you dare try to take it from me! "

Joshua stood up and strode over to her. The closer he got, the more menacing his gaze grew. "Since it's just an ordinary necklace, what's wrong with me looking at it? I'm not going to take it from you. I just want to have a look."

Luna backed away from him frantically. She feared that Joshua would discover the necklace's secret function and, in turn, discover Nigel's existence.

Suddenly, she felt the coolness of the door that pressed against her back. Joshua extended his arms and placed them on either side of her, and he effectively trapped her to the door. There was nowhere else to escape.

He gazed at her with a penetrating stare. "What are you afraid of?"

She could feel his breath that fanned her skin. She bit down on her lip and took a deep breath. "I'm not afraid..."

She lifted her head to meet his gaze. "I just... I just don't want someone like you touching my stuff! "

Joshua narrowed his eyes. "Someone like me? " He gently lifted Luna's chin and stared straight into her eyes. "What do you mean, someone like me? What kind of person do you think I am?"

Luna let out a sigh. She seemed like she was about to say something but decided against it. She turned her head away from him. "I'm sure you know the answer."

Was Joshua that ignorant? Did he need her to tell him all his wrongdoings?

Joshua chuckled and tilted his head until his mouth hovered right next to her ear. "Do you think I 'm a hypocrite because I planned on divorcing Alice but changed my mind in the end?" he said in a cold voice.

Luna's breath caught in her throat. "Isn't that true?"

"Alice is my wife." Joshua let out another chuckle. " She abandoned everything she had just to marry me and became my wife for three years. She suffered hardships and difficulties. Even though my family treated her badly, she still tried desperately to bear me a child. Eventually, she got pregnant, but she almost died."

Luna's entire body stiffened upon hearing Joshua's words. It turned out he knew everything. He knew about everything she had gone through and sacrificed just to be with him.

Luna's lips curled up in a smirk. "Is this the reason you changed your mind about divorcing Alice? All because of what happened many years ago?"

"Yes." Joshua heaved a deep sigh. "I'll never be able to pay her back for everything she's done."

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Luna closed her eyes and snickered. If she was not familiar with him, she would have been tricked into thinking he was a faithful and devoted husband. She, unfortunately, knew him too well.

She would not have gotten into that accident if it was not for him.

If it were not for him, Aura would not have gotten pregnant with his child and stayed with him for so many years.

If he truly was that devoted of a husband, why did he declare to the public his intention of divorcing Alice? All of a sudden, he

changed his mind and tried to justify his actions as he brought up everything his wife, Luna Gibson, went through.

This deceitful, two-faced man disgusted Luna to the core!

Just as she thought of that, she suddenly felt a twinge of pain that shot up her neck. The next thing she saw was how Joshua dangled the necklace in front of her face with a hint of triumph in his smirk.

“Just as I thought.” There was a microchip embedded in the necklace, along with a tiny switch. Joshua fiddled around with the necklace and said to Luna with a smile, “Is this your way of contacting that mysterious hacker? Neil and Nellie both have this necklace too. Do all four of you contact each other through this?”

Joshua narrowed his eyes. He grew more curious about the person behind this necklace. Not only was that person a skilled hacker, but he maintained frequent contact with Luna, Neil, and Nellie. Who was he, and why did the three of them try so hard to protect his identity?

Was it Malcolm? It did not seem likely.

Malcolm was Joshua’s biggest competitor, so Joshua naturally knew almost everything about him.

Malcolm was not as adept at hacking as this mysterious person was.

"Give it back to me! " Luna rushed forward like a madwoman and tried to snatch the necklace back from him. However, Joshua did not like giving

things back. He dodged her effortlessly and said, " Why not tell me who this person is, then I'll give you your necklace back."

Luna bit down on her lip and gave another futile attempt. She wrapped her arms around Joshua's waist and tried to grab ahold of his arm in an attempt to seize the necklace from him. She was so agitated that she did not notice how intimate this position was. Her hand and chest kept bumping into his belt buckle as she tried to pluck the necklace from his hand.

Before long, Joshua's body started to stiffen. He lowered his gaze and shot her a cold glance. "Get your hand off me." His voice was steely and cold.

Luna bit her lip and glanced at the necklace before she finally released her grip on his arm.

Joshua frowned even more. "I meant the other one." Luna froze and looked down before she realized her other hand clutched his belt buckle. Flustered, her face turned red and she drew back her hand immediately. "Give me back my necklace..."

Joshua let out an exhale and stared at the tiny switch on the necklace through squinted eyes. "If I press this button right now, will I get to find out who the mysterious person is?"

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"Joshua Lynch! " Luna glared at him. "Don't make me hate you! "

Joshua's hand stiffened.

The distress and resentment in her eyes made him pause in his tracks, but this hesitation lasted for only a moment. A few seconds later, Joshua sneered.

He just wanted to find out who this hacker was that helped Luna all the while. He did not intend on doing anything bad to that mysterious hacker. Why would she hate him because of that?

Joshua pressed the button, but a childish voice rang out from the necklace, "Mommy! If you encounter any troubles, don't be sad! Nellie will always be here for you. Neil said that we should record our voices and keep them in this necklace so that it'll feel like we're always there next to you."

All of a sudden, Neil's voice rang out, "Even though we're not physically there with you anymore, you still have to take care of yourself. You're such a trusting person, and I'm always scared that you'll be bullied. Please remember to take your meals on time, and go to bed on time, too. Just because we're not there with you anymore doesn't mean you can disregard your health."

The last thing they heard was Neil and Nellie's unanimous voices, "Mommy, we love you."

The room fell into silence. After a few moments, the children's recording repeated. "Mommy! If you encounter any troubles, don't be sad! Nellie will always be here for you..."

Joshua froze upon hearing this. He lowered his head in shame.
"This..."

"Are you happy now?! " Luna cried out as tears streamed down her face. She snatched the necklace from his hand and put it back on. "I've lived with Neil and Nellie for six years! Separating us wasn't enough, and now you want to take away the messages they've recorded for me, too?"

Joshua lowered his gaze. Luna's familiar face hovered before him, but it was covered in tears. Her tears slid along the curve of her jawline and fell onto the rug beneath her.

"I 'm sorry." This was the first time Joshua felt that his actions had crossed a line.

Perhaps the only reason she touched her necklace last night was that she wanted to listen to the children's messages. She just wanted to listen to their voices, but he misinterpreted the entire situation.

Joshua closed his eyes. "I thought this necklace was "I don't know what hacker you're talking about. This necklace means the world to me because it's the only thing I have left that connects me to Neil and Nellie. If you want to know who gave me this necklace, I can tell you. It was Neil, but you don't believe me, do you?" She lifted her head and fixated her gaze on him.

Joshua let out a chuckle. "You're kidding me. How can Neil even know—"

"Do you even understand him?" interjected Luna before Joshua could finish his sentence. "Neil and Nellie have returned to Blue Bay Villa for a long time now, but have you ever tried to get to know them and learn what they like or what they're good at?"

"Your father was the one who discovered Nellie's talent and love for jewelry designing. What about Neil, then? Do you know anything about your son?" snapped Luna. "What do you do all day, besides obsessing over Alice?"

"You're a terrible father," Luna spat. "Of course, Alice is just as terrible a mother. I guess you both truly are made for each other."

Luna let out a sigh and pulled open the door behind him. "It's getting late now, Mr. Lynch. Please hurry back so you can go to bed with your wife."

Joshua frowned upon hearing her steely tone. He glanced at her with a somewhat complicated expression. "Luna."

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"Although you brought up Neil and Nellie, please remember that right now, you're just one of Lynch Group's designers. You have no right to comment on my private matters, much less the way I raise my children." Joshua's gaze was steely and hard. "I apologize for what happened just now. I overstepped a boundary, and I'm sorry for that, but I don't need you to teach me how to raise my children."

With that, Joshua turned around and left. Luna stood next to the door, motionless as she watched him strode off and disappear into his room. She watched the door close behind him and let out a scoff.

Meanwhile, back in his room, Joshua did not immediately make his way to the bedroom. The hotel room that Lucas had booked for him was a presidential suite and came with an attached study.

Instead of going to bed, Joshua went into the study and started doing work.

Back in her room, Alice laid in her bed as she scrolled through the photos on her phone. The hotel that Luna and Joshua were staying in was under the Walter family's belt. Although they never publicly announced the acquisition of the hotel, the Walters indeed owned it.

Before Luna's arrival, Alice had instructed the hotel manager to install pinhole cameras in Luna's room. At that moment, Alice went through the images the hidden cameras had captured.

Every single photo depicted Luna and Joshua together. There was one of Joshua staring at Luna's chest, another one of him pressing her up against the door with her hands clutched over her chest, and finally, one of Joshua extending his hand toward Luna...

A glint of envy and hatred flashed through Alice's eyes. She saved all the photos into her phone's photo album. "What is she doing now?"

"She seems to be looking for a towel. I think she's about to take a bath soon."

Alice squinted. "Did you install cameras in the bathroom as well?"

"Yes."

"Take pictures of her showering! " Alice stared at the photos on her screen and narrowed her eyes. "Take pictures of her showering, and sell the photos online under her name."

Luna's life would be a living hell!

As soon as Joshua left, Luna wanted to take a shower. She found a towel and was about to do so when a sobbing Anne called her.

"Luna, what am I supposed to do?"

Luna frowned. She stood in the bathroom and held the phone to her ear while she unbuttoned her shirt. "What's wrong?"

"John got into a fight. We came out on a short trip and decided to stay at a hotel. Just as we were about to go to bed, I felt that something wasn't right. I was concerned about how safe this hotel was, so I went

online and learned how to detect hidden cameras in a hotel room...and it turns out there were cameras in our room! John was so angry that he got into a fight with the owner..."

Luna frowned. "Did you call the cops?"

"We did, but this place is pretty rural. The police won't be here until a while, and John is still being beaten up..."

Luna let out a sigh and tried to think of a way to help Anne.

"Where are you? Let me ask Zach and Yuri to see if they can help.

" No matter what happened, she had to protect Anne and John.

Anne gave her an address, and Luna immediately contacted Zach and Yuri.

"Well, you came to the right people. We happen to have a lot of friends around that area! " Zach reassured her, "Don't worry, I'll take care of this! "

Luna hung up the phone and got in touch with Anne again. After half an hour, Anne called back to inform her that the police had arrived and John was sent to a clinic. "That was terrifying.

Fortunately, I was smart and tried to detect if there were any hidden cameras in our room. If we hadn't discovered them, God

knows what they would do with the photos and videos they take of me and John! "

Luna let out a sigh and continued to comfort her friend while she walked into her bathroom. Just as she was about to take off her clothes, she caught sight of her reflection in the mirror and frowned. " Hey, Anne, how did you manage to find the cameras?"

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Luna followed Anne's instructions and found the hidden cameras in her room as well. There was more than just one.

On top of the showerhead, in the bathroom mirror, on top of the television, on the coffee table, and in countless other locations. Luna counted all the cameras she had found and realized that there were more than ten!

She removed them from their hiding spots and placed them on the coffee table. She took some photos as evidence before she called the cops.

As soon as she got off the phone with the police, she heard someone knocking on her door. Luna frowned. "Who is it?"

"Ms. Luna." The voice coming from outside the door sounded timid. "I'm the owner of this hotel. My name is Andy Larson."

Luna paused. She recognized that name. Andy Larson was Gwen's father.

Many years ago, when she went to school with Gwen Larson, she recalled that Gwen's family ran a hotel. She never thought that the hotel she stayed in was the one Gwen's father owned.

Luna knew Andy's reason for visiting her at this hour. She set up her backup phone in the corner of the couch and started recording. With that, she let out a sigh and opened the door.

Andy and Gwen were standing outside her door, along with a man Luna did not know but somehow seemed familiar to her.

Andy immediately put on a big smile as soon as Luna opened the door. "Hello , Ms. Luna. I just received a complaint that someone had installed pinhole cameras in our hotel without us knowing, so I'm here with my daughter and son – in -law, checking every room. I 'in so sorry to bother you, but do you mind if we go in and take a look around?"

Luna narrowed her eyes. Someone installed pinhole cameras in their room without them knowing? Luna thought that the excuse was unbelievable. She curled her lips into a smile and flopped back onto the couch. "It's okay. You don't have to check my room anymore. I've removed all the cameras from their hiding places."

Luna pointed at the cameras on the coffee table. " The police will be arriving soon, and the reporters are on their way as well. We'll know soon enough if this was an accident or your hotel's wrongdoing. "

Andy's face lost its color when he heard that. Gwen immediately frowned. "Luna, please don't make this a much bigger deal than it is! My father already explained that it wasn't our fault. Someone is trying to frame us and tarnish our hotel's reputation by installing pinhole cameras in the rooms ! Why are you so stubborn?"

Gwen scoffed and continued, "Oh, I know the reason. You're still holding a grudge over what happened last night at the cocktail party, right? I bet you placed these cameras in the room yourself to frame us!"

Andy furrowed his brows. "Gwen, don't be ridiculous."

"Am I wrong? This woman is a b*tch! She tried to steal Alice's husband when she's in Banyan City!

Alice was my best friend in high school, and any enemy of hers is my enemy as well! She's a b*tch who steals other people's husbands, and she doesn't deserve to be treated kindly! "

Luna could not help but chuckle at that. "I guess what I told you last night didn't get into your brain at all."

Gwen froze. Last night, Luna told her about an incident that happened in high school, where she fought someone over a rumor.

Gwen frowned. "How did you know what happened to me in high school?"

Luna gave her a small smile. "Not only do I know what happened to you in high school, " she said as she pointed at the man who stood behind Gwen. "I also know that your husband was one of your classmates from the class next door in high school. "

Luna had thought this man was familiar when she first laid eyes on him a few minutes ago, but as soon as Andy mentioned he was his son-in-law, Luna remembered that Gwen used to have a crush on a boy. Unfortunately, that boy was not as innocent as he pretended to be.

"Gwen, there's something you don't know. When you were in high school, your husband was in love with Luna Gibson, but Luna never reciprocated because she knew that you liked him, and she

couldn't bear breaking your heart. This man, however, befriended you because he wanted to get close to Luna Gibson. " With that, Luna glanced at the man. "Am I right?"

The man said nothing in response and instead shifted his gaze guiltily.

Gwen's expression darkened, and she turned around to stare at her husband. "Ben, is she telling the truth?"

Ben did not answer, but his expression gave him away. "You b*stard! " Gwen immediately slapped him across his face. "You told me you had been in love with me since high school. Was all of that a lie?"

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Ben kept silent for a moment before he finally murmured, "Well, back in high school, you weren't as pretty as Luna Gibson..."

"You're wrong. In my opinion, Gwen was adorable back in high school." Luna crossed her arms at her chest. "Besides, even if she wasn't as pretty as Luna Gibson, you didn't have to lie about it."

Gwen was enraged by the sudden turn of events. She dragged her husband out of the room, and the both of them started arguing in the hallway. The door slammed shut with only Luna and Andy inside the room.

"Mr. Larson," Luna smirked. "If you want me to not make a big deal out of this and not leak this incident to the press, I can do so, but I have one condition."

Andy paused. "What condition?"

Gwen's angry voice grew louder by the minute. " Why didn't you tell me you used to like Luna Gibson? Luna even tried to convince me to give up on you. We even got into a fight because of this! It's only now that I finally realize the truth: she wanted me to give up on you because she didn't want me to get my heart broken! You pretended like you were interested in me when, in reality, you tried to get to her! "

All the noise and commotion that happened in the hallway slipped through the crack underneath the door and into Alice and Joshua's room. At that moment, they sat across from each other on the couch as they ate the food Lucas had bought for them.

Hearing the argument coming from outside, Joshua smirked and glanced at Alice. "Don't you want to see what's going on?"

Joshua thought she would want to check on the fighting couple since she was their topic of discussion. However, Alice's face was pale. She lowered her head and concentrated on eating. She pursed her lips and said, "I don't want to make the whole situation even more complicated."

In truth, she did not want to check on them because she did not want to have anything to do with Luna's friends. She feared she would expose herself. Since she had no idea what had happened

in Luna's nor Gwen's past, she did not want to mediate the couple's fight and risk letting Joshua realize something was wrong.

Alice continued eating with her head down while she silently prayed for the two people arguing outside to leave.

So many years have passed since high school. Why were they arguing about those things, and right outside her door, no less?

Joshua raised his eyebrows at her. "Well, your friend stood up for you last night, so why aren't you going to help her? Did you guys have a disagreement?"

Alice pursed her lips. "Not really. I just don't think it's appropriate for me to stick my nose in their personal business..."

"They've been fighting for ten minutes now." Joshua let out a sigh and put down his cutlery. Then, he strode over to the door and flung it open.

The scene in the hallway was shocking. Gwen had her husband pressed up against the wall. Her hands gripped onto his shirt collar as she yelled at him in such a position.

As soon as Joshua opened the door, the two people in the hallway froze and glanced at him. Alice had no choice but to come out of the room as well.

When Ben caught sight of Alice, his entire face lit up. It had been so many years since he last saw her, yet she was as gorgeous as ever!

Seeing Ben's expression change, Gwen grew even more furious and gave him a forceful kick on his shin. Then, she gave Alice a sheepish smile. "Sorry, Alice. I didn't know you and Mr. Lynch were staying in this room, so..."

Alice's face was expressionless. "I thought you were making a scene in front of my room on purpose."

Gwen smiled at her. "How can that be? I'm not that stupid." She let out a sigh before she continued, "We're here because Luna discovered some hidden cameras in her room, so my father, Ben, and I came over to apologize and make things right..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Joshua's brows furrowed. "You're saying that someone installed pinhole cameras in Luna's room?"

Gwen nodded. "Yes, but I'm not sure—"

Joshua immediately stormed over and flung open Luna's room door. "What happened?"

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Joshua's sudden appearance startled Luna, who was busy discussing with Andy in her room. However, she soon regained her composure and smiled. "It's all settled now. Someone installed

some pinhole cameras in my room, but Mr. Larson helped me remove all of them."

Luna pointed at the cameras on the coffee table. " They're all here now."

Joshua glanced at the cameras. He strode over, picked up a few of them, and held them in his palm. " There are so many of them. Whoever planted these in your room put in a lot of effort."

He was aware of the news that circulated online about pinhole cameras installed in hotel rooms. Most of them were installed to capture the tenants' private and intimate moments so they could be sold online. Because of that, the cameras would mainly be planted around the bed, couch, and in the toilet.

However, the cameras in Luna's room were a tremendous amount. It was blatant that whoever planted them wanted to observe whatever was happening in Luna's room from every angle imaginable.

"Did you call the cops?"

Luna smiled at Joshua. "I redacted my report."

Joshua raised his eyebrows at her. What did she mean, she redacted her report?

"I gave Ms. Luna a generous sum of money in compensation, so she's decided not to notify the authorities anymore. " Andy sighed and stood up. " Well, Ms. Luna, I've done whatever I could, and

the money has been transferred to your account. If there's nothing more, I'll be leaving now."

With that, he turned around and left the room without even waiting for Luna's response.

"Stop fighting! Go back to bed! " When he came out of the room and caught sight of the fighting couple, Andy glared at them.

Gwen and Ben exchanged glances and trailed behind Andy meekly.

Alice peeked through the crack in the door to make sure Joshua and Luna were not paying attention to her before she gave Andy a questioning wink.

Andy looked at her, shook his head, and turned around to leave.

Not long after Andy's figure disappeared from view, Alice received a text from him that read, (Ms. Walter, Luna isn't as naive as I thought. Not only did we not manage to get any footage of her in the shower, but she used this whole incident to threaten me... Please delete all the images and footage I've sent you. Even if you don't delete them, please don't circulate them anywhere. Otherwise, the whole Walter family business will be affected.]

Alice narrowed her eyes as she read the message. Then, a malicious smirk appeared on her face.

The entire Walter family business, affected?

That was just Luna. Even if the footage was leaked, there was no way Luna could trace it back to her, and even if she did, there was nothing she could do about it.

Alice deleted Andy's text from her phone and tucked it back into her pocket. She approached Luna's room, leaned against the doorframe, and asked with a smile, "Joshua, how's Ms. Luna? Is she okay?"

Joshua furrowed his brows. "She's fine."

Seeing that Alice had arrived, Luna let out a yawn and started clearing the table. She put all of the cameras she had found into a small box and shot Joshua a glance. "Mr. Lynch, it's getting late now. You should go back to your room and get some rest. Mrs. Lynch is waiting for you."

Joshua felt uneasy upon hearing Luna's words. He frowned and glanced at her meaningfully. "Are you going to settle just like this?"

"Yes." Luna curled her lips into a smile. "That's okay. It's not like they got any private pictures or video anyway."

Joshua let out a sigh before he turned to leave. When he reached the door, Alice linked arms with him with a smile. "Joshua, that sounds terrifying. Do you think there are any cameras in our room, too?"

Joshua narrowed his eyes. "No."

It was not the first time he had gone on a business trip. Every time he had to stay at a hotel, Lucas would always check the entire room beforehand.

Therefore, Joshua was not concerned about having cameras in his room at all.

This trip happened quite abruptly, so Lucas probably did not have any time to check both rooms, which was why the cameras in Luna's room were not discovered until moments ago.

When they went back to their suite, Alice immediately led Joshua toward the bedroom. However, he let go of her and said, "Go to bed without me." Alice frowned. "Joshua, it's past 10 at night now. You should get some rest, too. Is work that important?"

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Joshua murmured a response before he turned and walked into the study.

Alice remained motionless as she watched him enter the study and closed the door after him. She bit down on her lip.

She had been with him for quite some time, yet he still refused to go to bed with her. Even if he had mistaken Luna for her last night, he still did not want to go to bed with Alice. What was wrong with him? Was his heart made of stone?

She had done so much for him, yet he still treated her like a stranger!

It was most likely because of Luna! Luna was the only thing that stood in their way!

The only solution to that was to get rid of Luna.

Meanwhile, in the study, Joshua sat down, placed the cameras he had in his hand on the desk, and said to Lucas, "Check the signal source for these cameras and find out if any footage was taken. If there is, trace the location of the receiver."

"Yes. " Lucas nodded and tucked the cameras away. " Sir, where did you find these?"

Joshua furrowed his brows and answered in a disgruntled tone, "How dare you even ask me this? Why didn't you check Luna's room beforehand?"

Lucas froze in shock. "What do you mean? Were these cameras inside Luna's room?"

Joshua glanced at him. "Yes."

Lucas seemed baffled. "That... That's impossible ! I did a thorough check of Ms. Luna's room before letting her stay there. Every time you went on a business trip with any of the company's employees, I'd check every single room beforehand—I've never missed out on anyone. You should know by now that I'm not a sloppy worker ! "

Lucas lowered his gaze to look at the cameras. "I can't possibly miss on these. I already checked yesterday, and there was nothing."

Joshua stiffened at his explanation. "When did you check?"

"I checked the rooms yesterday when you and Ms. Luna were at the Walters' place. Do you...want to check the surveillance cameras in the hallway?"

Joshua closed his eyes. "There's no point. Do you truly believe the hotel owner when he said he wasn't involved in this? Since they're behind this, do you think they'll let us find anything through the surveillance tapes? Why not think back about what happened yesterday? Did you come across anyone or anything suspicious?"

Lucas remained silent for a moment, deep in thought. After a while, he pursed his lips. "Yesterday. I checked Ms. Luna's room before checking yours.

When I came out of your room, I saw Mrs. Lynch standing in front of Ms. Luna's room, clutching the door knob. I didn't know if she wanted to go in or if she just came out. When she saw me, she told me she thought Ms. Luna's room was yours..."

Joshua frowned. "Are you saying Alice was the one who planted the cameras?"

"No, no." Lucas immediately shook his head. "I just thought that was strange, that's all. Ms. Luna's room is just an ordinary one, and yours is a presidential suite. It's clearly written on the sign.

You only ever stay in presidential suites whenever you go on business trips. The butler told me that before Mrs. Lynch left, she'd always book the hotels for you herself. By that logic, she wouldn't be confused about which room you're staying in..."

Joshua rubbed his eyebrows. "Don't you think that Alice is different now? She doesn't seem to remember a lot of things from the past."

When she heard Gwen and Ben arguing out in the hallway, she did not seem concerned at all. In fact, she seemed reluctant to get involved. Even though she went out into the hallway in the end, she did not try to console them and instead got mad at them for making a scene.

Even if she experienced changes in personality due to the car accident, it would not explain how she treated her old friends from high school.

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Luna had a rough night. She kept having dreams then woke up from them before she fell back into another dream.

In her nightmares, Luna's photos were circulated all over the internet, and everyone judged and condemned her. Some even went so far as threatening to end her.

By the time Luna got woken up by a phone call in the early morning, she was drenched in cold sweat. She picked up the phone with a throbbing head. "Hello, who is this?"

"It's me, " Theo's voice rang out. "Nigel contacted me this morning and told me you were bullied in Sea City." Theo let out a sigh. "I still have some things to settle here at the art gallery, so I'll only be able to go over to Sea City in the afternoon."

Luna paused. "I'm fine. You don't have to come over."

"Of course I have to." Theo sighed again. "Nigel told me everything. He told me what happened at the cocktail party and the cameras you found in your room. It must be tough for you to be there all alone. Joshua and Alice are back together now, so he'll definitely stand on her side. If I 'm not there for you, who else is?"

Luna felt her heart skip a beat. She bit down on her lip and was speechless for a while.

It seemed that...in Sea City, the place she had lived in for 20 years, there was no one there she could rely on.

Luna finally heaved a deep sigh and said, "Alright then... Thank you." Luna was not as strong as she looked.

"Don't worry, you have me now, " Theo reassured her. The two talked for a little while more before they ended the call.

Luna set her phone aside and lifted her head to stare at the ceiling.

After a while, she heard someone knocking on her door. She opened it and came face-to-face with Alice.

Alice handed a bag of food over to Luna. "Joshua and I went out to buy breakfast, and we got you one, too."

Luna glanced behind her and saw Joshua standing by one of the windows in the hallway as he gazed at the scenery.

Luna pursed her lips and shoved the bag back into Alice's hands. "I'm not hungry." With that, she slammed the door in Alice's face.

Alice's voice rang out from the other side of the door, "Joshua, look at her! Why is she being like this? I bought her breakfast out of kindness, and she won't even look at it!"

Joshua replied coldly, "Well, if she doesn't want the food, I'll have it."

"You're the best, Joshua."

Listening to their conversation from inside her room, Luna suddenly felt like laughing.

Theo was right. Joshua would always be on Alice's side, but no one was on Luna's.

At 9pm, Lucas knocked on Luna's door. "Ms. Luna, it's time to go."

Luna put on her jacket, grabbed the materials Joshua had given her last night, and followed Lucas out of the door.

An RV was parked in front of the hotel. Luna flung the door open and discovered that there were three people sitting inside: Joshua, Alice, and another man Luna had never seen before.

Seeing Luna's arrival, Alice immediately grabbed Joshua. "Luna, this is one of the designers from Walter Group. His name is Gavin. Hailey Walter sent him to join us on our field trip to the suppliers." She gave Luna a gentle smile before she added, "Since the Walters have sent someone over to accompany us, they're probably feeling bad about what happened that day at the party."

"Yes." The man named Gavin pushed his glasses up on his nose and gave Luna a once-over. "Ms. Luna is such a charming woman. It's no wonder the misunderstanding happened."

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"The butler who messed up the guest list was already punished. The only reason I'm here is to give Ms. Luna a proper welcome here at Sea City." Gavin's expression made Luna feel uncomfortable.

There were two rows of seats inside the RV. Joshua and Alice were seated on one side, while Gavin occupied the other row of seats. Luna contemplated for a moment before she finally sat in the same row as Gavin.

Feeling uneasy, Luna deliberately chose the seat furthest from him, but Gavin was oblivious to this and instead approached her. "Ms. Luna, I heard you're one of the most gifted designers in the field of jewelry design. Is that so?"

The scent wafting off of Gavin made Luna a little unsettled. She immediately shifted an inch over to get away from him, but Gavin scooched over as well. Finally, Luna had no choice but to set down her documents on the seat between them to act as a physical barrier.

Gavin frowned and tried to pick the documents up.

"Stop, " warned Joshua just as Gavin was about to remove the documents from the seat. Joshua glanced at him, then slowly closed his eyes. "You're not allowed to touch any paperwork that belongs to Lynch Group."

Gavin's hand hovered in midair for a moment. Then, he drew his hand back somewhat sheepishly and said, "I apologize for that, Mr. Lynch."

Joshua shot him a glance and removed himself from Alice's grasp. He stood up and slowly walked over until he stood in front of Luna. "Get up."

Luna furrowed her brows. She did not understand what Joshua wanted to do, but she stood up anyway.

Joshua gracefully lowered himself into Luna's seat and pointed at his original spot next to Alice. "You sit there."

Luna suddenly realized that Joshua was trying to help her. Although she did not fancy the idea of sitting next to Alice, it was still better than being next to that creep, so she let out an exhale, picked up the documents, and plopped down next to Alice.

The entire car was silent.

Alice clenched her fists at the sudden change. She deliberately asked Gavin to tag along to make Luna uncomfortable ! However, she did not expect that Joshua, who usually hated interacting with strangers, would switch seats with Luna to help her! Throughout the journey, no one said a single word.

Joshua closed his eyes and pretended to be taking a nap, while Gavin was so scared that he did not dare say a word.

Alice kept sneaking glances at Luna out of the corner of her eye. Luna was busy scribbling some notes in the documents as if none of this had happened.

Around 10am, the RV arrived at one of the Walter Group's factories. As soon as the car stopped, Gavin leaped out of the vehicle and poised himself next to the door. He had one hand on the door handle while the other extended toward Luna, intending to help her out of the car. "Ms. Luna, please."

Luna frowned. She did not want to accept his offer, but out of nowhere, someone shoved her from behind. Luna lost her balance, and her entire body was thrust in Gavin's direction.

Gavin immediately grabbed her, and his hands wrapped around her waist. The scent of his body made Luna nauseous, and she tried to get away from him, but his grip on her was too tight. She twisted herself around and slapped him across his face. "Let go of me! "

Gavin immediately loosened his grip on her and backed away. He stared at Luna with a stunned expression, clutching his face.

Luna turned away and hastily wiped herself off with a tissue.

"I'm so sorry, " said Alice as she hopped off the RV with an apologetic look on her face. "I stumbled just now and accidentally bumped into Ms. Luna. " She glanced at Gavin. "What happened?"

Gavin, still clutching his face, scoffed. "Ms. Luna almost fell just now, and I grabbed her without even thinking twice, but she must've thought I was being handsy, so she slapped me." Alice frowned and glanced at Luna, who was still rubbing at her clothes with a tissue. "Ms. Luna, Gavin was just trying to do you a favor... Aren't you overreacting a little? Why don't you apologize to him?"

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Luna laughed at Alice's words and shot her a glance. "You want me to apologize?"

Alice deliberately bumped into her and made her fall right into Gavin's arms. He took advantage of her, yet she was supposed to apologize instead?

"Yes, you should apologize. " Alice pursed her lips and was about to say more when Joshua hung up his phone and got out of the car. He had been taking a phone call, so he did not notice what went down outside. He glanced at Gavin, who was rubbing his swollen face, then at Luna, who was cleaning herself with a tissue. "What's wrong?"

Alice immediately grabbed onto Joshua's arm. " When I was getting out of the car just now, I accidentally bumped into Luna, and she fell. Gavin grabbed her to break her fall, but she thinks Gavin was trying to take advantage of her."

With that, Alice pointed at Gavin's swollen cheek. " Look. She slapped him right across his face, and now she's trying to clean herself up... Aren't you being a little disrespectful, Luna? I asked her to apologize to Gavin, but she refused to..."

Joshua frowned at that. He shot Luna a glance. "Is that true?"

Luna paused and lifted her head, meeting Joshua's gaze directly. "Yes. Are you going to make me apologize to someone who just took advantage of me, Mr. Lynch?"

Gavin was displeased to hear that. He glanced at Luna and said somewhat bitterly, "I was trying to help you. What makes you think I was trying to be handsy?"

"He's right, " Alice piped in. "Joshua, the Walters sent Gavin over to give us a tour, but now, Luna has made the situation awkward. At best, people would think Ms. Luna is feisty and just trying to protect herself , but if word gets out, some might think the Lynch Group and the Walter Group have a rivalry ! This can be easily settled with an apology, but why is she so reluctant to do so? I don't understand."

Luna knew Alice was trying to coerce her into apologizing to that creep by talking about the impact of her actions on the company.

However, she still refused to do so. Luna narrowed her eyes and tossed the tissue into a nearby trash can. "I won't apologize."

Luna was not an arrogant person. She was willing to be Joshua's maid and employee, all for the sake of saving her child's life. However, she refused to apologize to Gavin because she knew that if she did so, he and Alice would take this win and try to irritate her even more.

Besides, Luna knew that Gavin's motive was not to take advantage of her. Instead, he and Alice would go out of their way to make her uncomfortable and upset her.

"Luna, it's just an apology. It's not like you'll lose anything." Alice rolled her eyes. "It's just a simple sorry, but if you don't do so, Joshua will have a hard time explaining this to the Walters..."

"Yes," Joshua interjected before Alice could finish her sentence. "It's just a simple sorry." He shot Luna a glance, then turned around to look at Alice. "Apologize to him."

Luna lifted her head to gaze at him. Her entire face was pale. He wanted her to apologize?

Luna knew Joshua could see through everything that happened. In the car, he noticed that Luna was unnerved by Gavin's presence and switched seats with her. This meant that he was aware of how uncomfortable Gavin made her.

All of a sudden, he wanted her to apologize to that creep, all because of what Alice had said?

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Luna glared at Joshua. "Does Mr. Lynch agree that my not apologizing will affect the business relations between Lynch Group and Walter Group?"

Even though the Walter Group did send Gavin over, he was just an ordinary employee! If the Walter Group was willing to give up on this collaboration because of him, this opportunity was not worth the time and effort at all!

Perhaps Alice did not understand that, but Joshua certainly did. However, he still stared at her and waited for her next move. It was blatant he wanted her to apologize.

"I'm here for an on-site investigation, not to stir up trouble." Joshua glanced at Luna, then at Alice. "Apologize to him now."

Alice was overcome with glee at his words. She linked arms with Joshua and stared at Luna smugly. "Come on now, Ms. Luna. Joshua has asked you twice. Aren't you going to do as he says? I know you two are close, but he's still your boss and the CEO of Lynch Group! Why are you still hesitating? You're not as good an employee as you think you are—"

"Alice," Joshua interjected before she could finish her sentence. He frowned and removed her arm from his. "I wanted you to apologize to Luna and Gavin."

Alice froze and gaped at Joshua, unable to believe what she heard. "Me? Apologize?"

Joshua shot her a glance. "Yes. You bumped into Luna and caused this whole misunderstanding. Gavin wasn't wrong for trying to help her, but neither is Luna. She's a woman and thought he was being handsy, so she stood up for herself. She's not wrong either."

Alice's face lost its color, and she could only hear a faint buzzing in her head. She stared blankly at Joshua and muttered, "Does that mean...it's my fault?"

Joshua cast her another glance but did not reply.

Alice was not the only one stunned by the sudden turn of events. Luna and Gavin were both shell-shocked as well. Who would have thought Joshua would ask his wife to apologize instead? However, upon second thought, they guessed it was reasonable since Alice was the reason this misunderstanding even occurred in the first place.

"Time is ticking," Joshua murmured as he peeked at his watch. "Alice, I didn't want you to come along on today's field trip since non-essential workers joining in would only delay the progress. If you're planning on wasting our time even more, then I'll ask Lucas to send you back to the hotel instead."

Alice gritted her teeth at Joshua's tone. Then, after a moment, she let out a sigh and strode over to Luna and Gavin. "I'm sorry. It was all my fault!"

Alice clenched her teeth and turned around, wiping a tear from her face. She then marched off in the direction of the factories. "I didn't even do it on purpose. Why did I have to apologize?"

Luna let out a snicker. That was not what Alice said when she insisted that Luna apologize.

"Alice." Joshua noticed her wavering voice and immediately frowned. He paused for a moment before he ran after her and put his arm around Alice's shoulder. He whispered something in her ear as if consoling her.

Watching Joshua and Alice's intimate actions, Luna could not help but feel a painful prick in her heart—as if someone stabbed her.

"Come on, Ms. Luna. Let's go in now." Gavin chuckled and started walking in their direction. He deliberately raised his voice as he continued, "Even though Mrs. Lynch made a mistake, Mr. Lynch is still willing to forgive and forget. I guess he still loves her more than anything."

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Luna knew Gavin said that to irk her. Although she was aware of his intentions, she could not help but still feel somewhat dejected at it.

He was right. Even though Joshua had forced Alice to apologize, that did not change anything. She was still the most important person to him.

Luna's chest tightened at the thought, but she merely let out a deep sigh and tried to push it out of her head.

Clutching the documents in her hands, Luna strode past Gavin and made her way toward the factory. She could hear Gavin let out a snort before he caught up to her quickly. "Ms. Luna, I hear you're still single. Don't you feel a little envious when you see Mr. and Mrs. Lynch being so intimate with each other? Don't worry, though. As long as you keep your eyes peeled, I'm sure you'll find love soon enough. Maybe you've already found it without even realizing! "

Luna did not even give him a second glance. She picked up her speed and hoped Gavin would give up chasing after her, but he followed closely behind. He chattered on and on, oblivious to the fact that Luna actively tried to avoid him.

Luna grew annoyed at that, but she did not want to make another scene. She knew that Gavin did it on purpose. Even if she snapped at him, Joshua would not help her for a second time. Therefore, Luna decided that the best course of action was to ignore Gavin as if he did not exist.

By the time they caught up to Joshua and Alice, they were already inside the workshop, observing the manufacturing process. Luna immediately got to work. She engaged the supervisor in conversation as she took notes of the materials and supplies the factory could offer them.

Whenever Luna was focused on work, she would become so immersed that nothing could get through to her. As usual, she was busy listening to the supervisor's explanations, so much so

that she did not notice the look of admiration on Joshua's face, as well as the seething resentment in Alice's eyes.

She also did not notice the piece of jade ore that zipped toward her nor the cries of warning from the workers.

"Heads up! "

Just as the jade ore was about to hit her, Joshua— who kept watch from afar—lunged forward and shoved her out of harm's way.

The ore struck Joshua's elbow with a loud thud.

"Joshua! " Alice immediately rushed forward and grabbed Joshua's arm. "Are you okay?"

Joshua frowned and glared at Luna. "Are you dumb? Didn't you hear them shouting? " He was scolding her, but there was a hint of concern in his voice.

As she got abruptly shoved, Luna lifted her head and took in the sight before her, slightly stunned. She caught sight of the jade ore on the ground, then glanced at Joshua, who was clutching his arm. She froze momentarily as she tried to piece together what had happened.

One of the workers sprinted over and picked the ore up from the ground. He apologized profusely, "I'm so sorry! This piece of rock fell out when we were unloading the entire pile just now. Again, I'm so sorry, Sir!"

Alice clenched her teeth. "What use is your apology? My husband is injured! " She glowered at Luna, then shifted her gaze onto the worker. "If the rock hit someone else, it wouldn't even matter so much, but this is my husband we're talking about! His arm is worth more than anyone else's! How should we settle this?"

The worker frowned at her with the ore still in his hands. He glanced at Luna and replied, "Well, the rock was originally headed toward this lady, but your husband got in the way... Although it's partly our fault, you shouldn't blame us entirely..."

Alice's face turned pale.

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Alice gritted her teeth and scowled at the worker, " Are you trying to shift the blame? Do you know I can fire you..." Before she could finish, however, Alice recalled that she was no longer Hailey Walter. She was in no place to fire anyone because the factory and all its employees belonged to the Walters.

She shot the supervisor a murderous glare and snarled, "You'd better take care of this! "

That startled the supervisor. For a moment, this woman sounded almost identical to Hailey Walter. " Yes, will do! "

As she secured the supervisor's guarantee, Alice turned around and glanced at Luna. "What are you waiting for? Joshua saved you. Why aren't you helping him?"

Luna paused, then realized she was right. She immediately walked over and grabbed hold of Joshua's other arm.

Although the injury did not break any of Joshua's bones, the wound still looked quite serious. Joshua was clutching his right arm as he grunted in pain, and Luna could not help but feel distraught at the sight. She could not understand why Joshua saved her, and she did not know why she felt so worried.

"Come with me." The supervisor led them out of the factory frantically. When they reached the clinic, the doctor took off Joshua's jacket for him. It was only after his jacket was removed that they discovered Joshua's entire sleeve was drenched in blood.

The doctor frowned and pulled up Joshua's sleeve, exposing the bloody wound. As soon as she saw the laceration, Alice let out a shriek, "Oh my God! "

She glanced at the injury before she turned and glared at Luna. "It's all your fault! " She was so furious that she raised her hand and headed toward Luna.

Before Alice could give Luna the slap she had intended to, Joshua stopped her. He raised his uninjured left hand to block her path and said, "It's just an accident. It's not Luna's fault."

Alice bit down on her lip. "Joshua, if she paid attention and got out of the way in time, none of this would've happened! "

Joshua curled his lips into a smile. "She's too slow. She won't be able to get out of the way in time." Although he was criticizing Luna, there was a hint of endearment in his tone.

Alice clenched her teeth and scowled at Luna. "If anything happens to Joshua's arm, I'll make you pay! "

Luna remained motionless and said nothing in return.

"Well, thank goodness no bones were broken," sighed the doctor. After performing a brief physical examination, he injected local anesthesia into Joshua's arm and started suturing his wound.

The supervisor watched on in panic and started to apologize profusely, "I'm so sorry, Mr. Lynch. It's all our fault. Don't worry. I'll look into this and punish whoever is responsible for this incident!"

Alice snorted in indignation. "Of course you will, but the person most responsible for this is Luna! " She glared at Luna and continued, "You must've done this on purpose! Although Joshua made me apologize to you just now, he comforted me instead of you. You were jealous, so you didn't get out of the way and let Joshua hurt himself on purpose! "

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The sudden accusation made Luna dumbfounded. She paused and sneered at Alice, "Why do you think I care?"

It was true she did not hear the worker's cries of warning, nor Joshua and Alice's words of caution. If she had heard them, why would she not get out of harm's way?

Luna let out a deep sigh and glanced at Alice. "Mrs. Lynch, are you suggesting that I was so certain Mr. Lynch would save me if I placed myself in harm's way?"

Alice's face turned pale at her words.

Luna continued with a smirk, "You were right, Mrs. Lynch. Although Mr. Lynch made you apologize to me just now, he still comforted you instead of me. This clearly shows that he deeply cares for you. If that's the case, why would he treat me differently? Why would I be so certain that Mr. Lynch would save me if I put myself in danger?"

"If I had made the wrong call, Mr. Lynch wouldn't have rescued me, and I'd be the one in here, getting stitches. Let me ask you this, Mrs. Lynch. If you were in my shoes, would you put yourself in danger out of jealousy?"

Alice's face was even whiter than the wall behind her. Then, after a moment, she bit down on her lip and argued, "You knew Joshua saw the rock flying toward you, and you knew that he'd save you because you're one of Lynch Group's star employees ! "

Since Alice could not use Luna and Joshua's relationship against her, she had no choice but to bring up Joshua's devotion toward his employees. " Joshua loves all his employees ! If any of them got hurt, he'd do anything to help them ! "

Luna stared at Alice and suddenly realized it was pointless in arguing with her. Alice was stubborn, and she was convinced Luna caused this accident on purpose.

"Ms. Luna is an outstanding employee , so it's only natural that Mr. Lynch would be willing to save her " The supervisor sighed. "She was so focused when

I was explaining the data to her just now. I've been working there for more than ten years now, but this is the first time I've ever come across someone this committed... "

Alice frowned at his explanation. " So what if she's committed? She— "

"Her commitment means she'll be an excellent worker who can help Lynch Group achieve more in its jewelry development, " interjected Joshua before Alice could finish her sentence. He came out of the treatment room with his arm wrapped in layers of bandage. The doctor had finished suturing his wound and had his injured arm in a sling.

Although he looked no different from a typical injured patient, the sling somehow gave Joshua an air of pride and pomposity instead of frailness.

"Luna was so engrossed in her work that she didn't hear any of our cries," he said as he stepped out of the room. He glanced at Alice and continued, "If I hadn't pushed her out of the way, the rock would've hit her spine. If that happened, you would have to do her job and take all the necessary notes instead."

Alice's expression darkened. "But..."

"There are no 'but's. Luna is an intelligent woman, and she'd never put herself in danger just to get back at you."

Alice scowled. She could not believe that Joshua was taking Luna's side! He even called her committed and intelligent!

Alice bit her lip nervously. "Joshua, I was just worried about you..."

"I know you're worried about me, but that doesn't mean you can talk about my employee like that." Joshua turned around and shot Luna a glance. "It's good that you're a focused worker, but the next time you're in a place where accidents tend to happen, please keep an eye out and protect yourself. I won't rescue you a second time."

With that, he strode out of the clinic without turning back. Alice frowned and sprinted after him. "Where are you going, Joshua?"

"I'm going back to the workshop. We haven't finished our work yet."

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"You're hurt..."

"Just because I'm hurt doesn't mean we should delay our progress."

The two voices grew further and further away. Luna stood motionless as she watched the two of them leave. There was an indescribable feeling in her heart.

After a while, the supervisor let out an awkward cough. "Ms. Luna, shall we...continue?"

Luna finally came to and picked up the documents in front of her before she turned to look at the supervisor. "Please continue..."

It was noon when they finished their on-site investigation. According to the plan, they were supposed to have lunch in the car as they made their way to the next destination to attend the symposium for the design schemes.

However, citing Joshua's injury as an excuse, Alice insisted on heading to a nearby restaurant for lunch instead. Luna wanted to head to their next destination as soon as possible, but since Gavin and Joshua did not object, Luna had no choice but to follow.

In the restaurant, Alice and Joshua sat on one side of the table, while Luna and Gavin were seated together on the other, much to Luna's disgust.

"Joshua, your arm is hurt. Let me feed you instead, "

said Alice in a syrupy tone as soon as their food was served.

Joshua frowned and glanced at his sling before he murmured in acceptance. Alice was delighted at that. She picked up his food,

gently blew on it to cool it, and brought the spoon up to Joshua's mouth as though feeding a child.

Joshua was visibly uncomfortable at that. His brows were furrowed throughout the entire process.

Sitting across from him, Luna lowered her head and ate her meal in silence, trying to block out Alice's simpering voice. She kept telling herself not to listen and not to care. She was just Joshua's ex-wife in the past, and the only reason she had returned was to get pregnant with Joshua's child. Therefore, it did not matter who he chose to be with. It was none of her business anymore.

However, the more she tried to convince herself, the more uneasy Luna became.

"Hey, eat slowly, " Gavin's voice rang out next to her ear.

Luna frowned. Before she could react, Gavin's fork appeared in her line of vision. He put down a chunk of steak on her plate and said, "Here, have some more, Ms. Luna. You should eat more—you're too skinny."

Luna lifted her head and met Gavin's sleazy gaze. All of a sudden, her stomach turned. She picked up the piece of meat and dropped it back on Gavin's plate. " It's okay. You can have it."

She was just about to continue eating when she suddenly realized that her fork had touched the same piece of steak Gavin's fork had. She felt as if she were about to vomit.

Luna hastily put down her cutlery and declared, "I'm full."

Joshua glanced at Luna's unfinished steak, then glanced at Alice's food, still untouched. "Alice, switch seats with Luna."

Alice's hand paused in mid-air. "Why? What's wrong?"

Joshua said indifferently, "Luna's finished with her meal, but you haven't eaten yet. Since she has nothing better to do, she can feed me instead."

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The entire table grew silent, apart from the sound of Gavin sipping his water.

Alice stared at Joshua with an expression of disbelief and horror, unable to trust her ears. Was Joshua suggesting that another woman feed him in front of his wife?

"I don't want to do that." Luna shot Joshua a dismissive look before she glanced at the frozen-in-shock Alice. She then lowered her head and picked up her phone, about to read the news.

Alice smiled. This was the first time she and Luna agreed on something. "Alright. Since Ms. Luna refuses to do so, I guess I should feed you."

"What right does she have to refuse?" Joshua tapped against the table with his left hand. "I injured myself because of her. I had to

get stitches! It's not too much to ask her to feed me in return, is it?"

Luna was still reluctant to do so, but she did not have much of a choice. She lifted her head to glare at him. "Mrs. Lynch is already feeding you, isn't she?"

"Yes, but she hasn't eaten yet. Since you're already done, why don't you take over so she can eat? I got injured because of you, and I now want you to feed me. Is that too much to ask?"

Luna paused for a moment, then came to a sudden realization. The only reason why Joshua wanted her to feed him was so Alice could take a break. Alice had not even taken a single bite of her food ever since they stepped foot in the restaurant. This was Joshua's way of expressing his concern toward Alice.

'Why hasn't he ever shown me that sort of concern before?' Luna could not help but think to herself.

Despite that, she scoffed and stood up anyway. She inched past Gavin and walked over to Alice. "Please switch seats with me, Mrs. Lynch."

Alice bit down on her lip and shot Joshua a helpless glance. "I'm not even hungry, Joshua. I'll eat after I've finished feeding you."

Joshua stared at Alice and let out a chuckle. "It's okay. You should eat. You haven't eaten all day, and I wouldn't want you to starve."

Alice had no choice but to relent. She gritted her teeth and glared at Luna before she got out of her chair and sat down next to Gavin. She picked up her cutlery and started eating somewhat rashly.

Luna let out a sigh before she picked up Joshua's fork and knife. Then, she stabbed a chunk of lettuce with the fork and brought it up to his mouth. "Open."

Luna's tone was cold and harsh, but she deliberately forked the food Joshua liked. Joshua smiled at her before he opened his mouth obediently.

Luna continued to feed him that way. She was not gentle at all, and her actions were firm and lacked feeling. Despite that, however, Joshua could not help but feel a tingle of warmth in his heart.

He recalled the nights where he held her against

him. At that time, she was tender and affectionate, a stark contrast to how she treated him at this table. She treated him so coldly as if she wanted nothing to

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do with him at all.

Joshua could not help but wonder which was the true Luna. What were her true feelings toward him?

Joshua did not realize that he was staring blankly at Luna, but Alice certainly noticed. Her motions became more and more aggressive.

"Ahem," Gavin gently cleared his throat when he noticed Alice's change in mood.

Joshua finally came to and hastily shifted his gaze from Luna. "Open," Luna ordered again as she brought another forkful of food up to his mouth.

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Joshua narrowed his eyes. "Is this how you treat someone who saved your life?"

Luna forced a smile and continued to feed him. "If something similar happens again in the future, I hope Mr. Lynch won't do this again. Firstly, I'm just an ordinary employee, and I don't need the CEO to protect me. Number two, even if I got hurt, you can just give me a few days' leave or even monetary compensation. I don't need anyone to rescue me."

Luna shot Alice a glare. "I'd rather get hurt than be misjudged for something that wasn't even my intention."

Alice's face was ashen at Luna's words. She frowned and was about to say something in defense when Joshua cast her a meaningful look that stopped her right in her tracks.

"I'd still save you if this happens again in the future." Joshua turned around and smiled at Luna. " Alice was right. A boss should always protect his employees, especially since you're one of our star workers." He observed Luna's expression for a while before he added, "Although I do wish my employees could show a little gratitude toward their boss. One way of doing that would be adopting a better attitude when feeding me."

Luna stiffened at his suggestion. After a moment, she heaved a deep sigh and brought the fork up to Joshua's mouth a little gentler.

Luna knew Joshua was right. Their relationship was that of a boss and his star employee. She should have displayed more gratitude towards him instead of behaving in such a way.

They soon finished their meal and quickly made their way to the next destination of their field trip. The on-site investigations that happened thereafter went by much quicker than in the morning. They did not have much to do apart from obtaining information about the latest jewelry design concepts and fashion trends.

Although there was no longer any risk of getting hurt, Luna received a different kind of shock that afternoon. She was perplexed and somewhat mortified by Alice's actions throughout the whole day.

Alice had touched one of the samples on display out of curiosity and flipped through the other company's design sketches. To

make things worse, she even scribbled a few doodles on the notice board that

hung outside the other company's design department.

Since she was the CEO's wife, Luna did not think it was appropriate for her to reprimand Alice in public. She had no choice but to apologize to the company they were visiting and tell her off in private.

Luna could not help but feel exasperated because of that. She knew Alice did it all on purpose. Anyone who had manners knew better than to commit mistakes like them. Therefore, the only explanation was that Alice did it purposely to get on Luna's nerves.

The field trip finally ended at 8pm that night. The owner of the last company they went to was an old friend of Joshua's, so it was natural he insisted on inviting all of them for dinner. Joshua did not reject his offer, so Luna, Alice, and Gavin tagged along as well.

As soon as they started eating, the owner of the company, Mr. Scott, raised his glass up for a toast. " Mr. Lynch, it's been a while since we last saw each other! "

"Mr. Scott," Alice interjected as soon as he finished his sentence. She chuckled and reached out her hand, stopping him from offering the glass of liquor to Joshua. "As you can see, Joshua has hurt his arm. I don't think he should be drinking."

Mr. Scott froze for a moment, then laughed. "Oh, well. Since Mr. Lynch can't drink, why not Mrs. Lynch accept my toast on his behalf?"

"I 'm sorry, Mr. Scott, but I can't." Alice smiled at him. "I 'm very lightweight. I'm afraid that if I drink too much, I might throw up and cause a scene." She pointed at Luna and said, "Why not let Ms. Luna accept Joshua's toast instead? She's the most important person here on this trip besides the two of us. She's one of Lynch Group's star employees.

Besides..."

Alice smirked. "She's the reason Joshua hurt his arm. She should drink on his behalf to repay her debt of gratitude."

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Hearing what Alice had said, Mr. Scott immediately set the glass down in front of Luna. "Here you go, Ms. Luna."

Luna frowned and glanced at the glass of liquor but made no move to pick it up. "I 'm just an ordinary employee. Isn't it inappropriate for me to accept a toast from you, Mr. Scott?" She glanced at Joshua before she added, "Besides, I don't tolerate alcohol that well. I'm afraid that I might do something stupid after I get drunk."

Seeing how Luna glanced meaningfully at Joshua, Alice tightened her grip on his arm. "I beg to differ, Ms. Luna. Mr. Lynch has risked

his life to save yours, so what makes you think you're just an ordinary employee? Besides..."

Alice glanced at the glass that clearly contained hard liquor and sneered. Then, she lied through her teeth, "It's just one glass. How could you get drunk from that?"

Luna smirked and looked at Joshua. "Mr. Lynch, are you sure you want me to accept this drink on your behalf?"

Joshua smiled and lifted his head to glance at Mr. Smith. "I don't think that's a good idea, Mr. Scott." He had witnessed Luna in her drunken state before, and it certainly was not pretty.

Mr. Scott refused to relent. "Mr. Lynch appears to take very good care of his female employees.

Although I guess that makes perfect sense. Mr. Lynch is even willing to put himself in harm's way for his employee." With that, he shot Luna a teasing look and added, "It appears that Ms. Luna truly is an outstanding employee. Otherwise, why would Mr. Lynch go to such lengths for you?"

Mr. Scott's words were borderline insulting. Luna frowned and stood up abruptly. "I'm going to the washroom."

"Luna," called out Alice curtly as soon as she realized Luna tried to flee the scene. "You've always insisted that nothing is going on between you and Joshua and that your relationship is just that of a boss and his employee. However, you refuse to take a drink for

Joshua, and you don't even try to explain anything when Mr. Scott has misunderstood you. "

Alice's brows furrowed as she continued, "Are you deliberately trying to make people think there's something going on between you and Joshua?"

Joshua's expression darkened upon hearing Alice's words. "Alice ! " he said sternly. He glanced at Luna, then turned around and glowered at Alice. "There's no need to explain anything to people who don't matter."

Mr. Scott was displeased to hear this. "Mr. Lynch, what do you mean by that? We' re about to become partners. How can you say something like that?"

Joshua's lips curled into a smirk. "Mr. Scott, do you truly think that just because Lynch Group is about to collaborate with you, this gives you the right to comment on my personal life?" He stood up and said, "If that's the case, I don't think we should sign that contract anymore."

With that, Joshua tugged on Alice's hand, about to head out the door.

Alice frowned and stopped Joshua from leaving, then turned to glare at Luna. "Luna, you cost Lynch Group a collaboration opportunity just because you refused a glass of liquor. Don't you feel ashamed?"

Luna narrowed her eyes. Although Mr. Scott was rude and disrespectful, the jewelry company he owned was one of the best in the market. Lynch Group had just branched into selling jewelry, so they definitely needed Mr. Scott's help on this. However...

To Joshua, Lynch Group's jewelry branch was just a tiny sliver of the businesses he owned, so it did not matter that much if they lost this partner at all. At the same time...

"It's okay." Luna let out a sigh, lifted her head, and met Joshua's gaze. "Please don't be offended, Mr. Lynch. Mr. Scott is just outspoken, that's all. It's only one glass. I'll drink it."

Luna picked up the glass and downed its contents in a single gulp. As she did so, the pained expression on her face made Joshua's heart lurch.

He recalled one incident that had happened many years ago. At that time, he and Luna Gibson had just gotten married, and she liked tagging along with him everywhere. One day, he finally gave in to her persuasion and agreed to bring her to a party he had been invited to.

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At that time, they had also encountered a potential client who insisted that Luna drink. As her husband, Joshua knew that Luna could not tolerate alcohol very well, so he got angry and wanted to leave the party.

However, Luna was afraid that the Lynch Group would lose a client because of her, so she stood up and downed the entire glass in that instant. Joshua could still remember the pained yet somehow determined expression on his ex-wife's face.

It looked exactly like the expression Luna wore.

Joshua frowned and immediately lowered his head to glance at Alice, who stood right next to him. She watched Luna somewhat triumphantly, with a hint of contempt in her eyes.

Joshua felt like an invisible hand had squeezed his heart. What happened to the Luna Gibson he had fallen in love with? Since when did she turn from the woman who willingly drank and suffered a whole night of vomiting for him into someone who coerced others into drinking against their will?

Luna finished her drink and slammed the empty glass down on the table forcefully. "How's that, Mr. Scott?"

Mr. Scott stared at Luna's face, which began to turn red, with a hint of amusement. Then, he let out a chuckle. "Ms. Luna finished that drink, but there's a catch. Since you made the situation so awkward just now, don't you think you should take another drink as punishment?"

Luna's lips twisted into a smirk. "Mr. Scott, I've told you that I'm very lightweight. If I end up doing something stupid while I'm drunk, will you take responsibility for my actions?"

Mr. Scott was delighted to hear that. He guffawed and replied, "Of course! It's my pleasure to take responsibility for a beautiful lady such as yourself!"

"That's great to hear." Luna smiled and took the glass Mr. Scott offered her.

"Luna." Joshua's brows furrowed. He said in a lowered voice, "You don't have to drink anymore."

If Luna had not accepted that first drink, they would have gotten out. The only reason he had stayed behind and agreed to continue working with Mr.

Scott was that he did not want Luna's sacrifice to go to waste. She had already fulfilled her promise, so why was she still drinking?

"It's okay. Mr. Scott said that if anything happens, he'll take responsibility." Luna smirked and downed the second glass.

Mr. Scott leered at Luna suggestively, his hand rubbing his chin. "I'm very curious as to what a charming lady like you would do when she's drunk."

As she became tipsy, she stood up and slurred, "Well, this is what a charming drunk lady does—" She staggered over to Alice and raised her hand.

The next instant, Luna's palm collided against Alice's face, producing a loud smack. The entire Apart from a drunken Luna,

everyone else in the room held their breath in fear of what would happen next.

Alice blinked a few times, seemingly trying to make sense of what had happened. Then, after a moment, she leaped out of her seat with a murderous expression on her face. "Are you crazy, Luna?" She raised her hand and was about to give Luna a slap when Luna seized her wrist.

Luna sneered at Alice, "Mrs. Lynch, this is what I'm like when I get drunk. Weren't you the one who insisted for me to drink?"

Mr. Scott's eyes widened in shock. "You..."

Luna smirked and cast him a cold glance. "Mr. Scott, you promised me that no matter what I did, you'd be responsible for my actions, " she said in a simpering tone.

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The restaurant fell in instant silence.

Mr. Scott's eyes widened. He did not know what to say at that moment.

He did give his word that he, no matter what, would be responsible for Luna's actions if she got drunk.

However, at that moment...

The person Luna hit was Joshua Lynch's wife!

Who was Joshua Lynch? He was the king of Banyan City!

Although he was in Sea City at that moment and he did not seem that baleful, that did not mean he could be bullied!

On one hand, Mr. Scott was frantic. He stuttered and could not form his sentences.

On the other side, Alice buried herself in Joshua's arms with teary eyes. "Joshua, it hurts! "

Joshua furrowed his brows. He lowered his head and carefully pried Alice's hand away from her face.

A red handprint was visibly imprinted on her petite face.

A hint of rage flashed across Joshua's eyes. Although he was somewhat dissatisfied that Alice kept urging Luna to drink...

Alice was his wife, no matter what!

He gently hugged Alice in his arms while he shot Lucas a glance coldly. "Go get some medication here."

Lucas, who was scared half to death by the side, came to his senses. He immediately left.

When Lucas left, Joshua lifted his eyes and looked at Luna coldly. "I might indulge you, but you need to know your limits as well! No matter how terrible Alice is, she's still my wife! You still have to treat her with respect! "

As the alcohol overwhelmed her, Luna looked at Joshua calmly with a blurry sight. "You didn't say a peep when Mrs. Lynch forced me to drink." Luna sneered coldly, "I've already said that I'd do things I shouldn't do when I'm drunk."

She glanced at Mr. Scott condescendingly then at Alice in Joshua's arms. "None of you cared what I said, or about the things that I shouldn't have done. Why is everyone pointing fingers at me now that I'm drunk and doing those things? Why do all of you get to say what's right or wrong?"

Then, Luna picked up the wine glass once more drunkenly and downed it. "Didn't you want me to drink? I'll drink! "

Luna downed one glass after the other under Joshua's angry gaze.

Under the influence of alcohol, she has lost all her sensibility. In the end, Luna sneered and walked over to Joshua. She looked at Alice, who was in his arms, coldly. She instinctively raised her hands once more...

She had long wanted to do that!

This woman assumed her identity and tortured her kids. She even doubted her constantly with the worst possible malice!

"Luna! "

Joshua grabbed her hand tightly. He looked at Luna coldly and swung her hand aside. "Enough! Being drunk doesn't give you the

excuse to do that! Even if you're drunk, I'll make sure you pay when you turn sober!"

"Pay?" sneered Luna as she repeated the word. After a while, she laughed and pointed at Alice. "

When she tortured Nellie and Neil, did she ever pay for that? How about when she made Neil and Nellie's stomachs uncomfortable, or when she got her friends to kidnap Neil and Nellie. Did she pay for it then? "Six-year-old children have been tortured by her in all ways, yet she hasn't paid for her crimes. Just because I slapped her once, I have to pay up?"

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"Joshua Lynch, how heartless are you?"

Joshua and Alice's faces simultaneously turned green at Luna's words.

He glared at Luna and said nothing.

Luna smiled as she picked up the wine glass once more. With the help of the alcohol, she sneered.

"Six years ago, you hurt Luna Gibson so much that she almost lost her life, but now you're putting up this act of loving Alice. Who are you pretending for?"

Luna managed to utterly aggravate Joshua. "What nonsense are you talking about?"

Alice gritted her teeth. She immediately got out of Joshua's arms while he was in a rage.

She could not let Luna continue talking ! Luna had to stop talking!

She was afraid that the next sentence Luna said would be confessing to Joshua that she was the real Luna Gibson.

That would be a real catastrophe then!

At that thought, Alice gritted her teeth, lifted her hand, and slapped Luna brutally on the face.

Her slap was vicious and heavy.

The drunken Luna lost her balance. She hit the chair behind her and fell to the ground with the chair.

Crash!

It hurt. Not only her face but also her body.

Her abdomen and arm hit the corner of the chair. It was so painful that tears fell. She felt that her face must have turned swollen.

She could taste iron in her mouth.

"Ms. Luna..."

Mr. Scott was absolutely scared half to death by the scene before him. He could barely form his sentences.

Luna struggled to get up. Before she could say another word, Alice raised her hand once more.

“Alice.”

Joshua furrowed his brows and held her wrist with his uninjured left hand. “She slapped you once, and you’ve returned the favor. That’s enough.”

Also, everyone could see that Alice’s slap was much more violent. She slapped with murderous intent!

Alice bit her lips and looked at Joshua aggrievedly. “Joshua, she’d slap me again if you don’t stop her.”

She wiped away her tears. “Is she your wife, or am I? Why are you protecting her?”

Her words made Joshua’s hand, which was holding onto hers, trembled a little.

Using this opportunity while Joshua was stunned, Alice immediately retracted her hand, aimed at Luna’s face, and raised it once again.

Slam!

The room door was rammed open.

Theo immediately rushed in with an ominous disposition as he cradled Luna, whose lips bled, in his arms.

Alice's slap missed.

"Idiot. Don't you know how to dodge it?"

Theo hugged Luna in his arms, heartbroken as he did. After grumbling a little in a low voice, he frigidly raised his head. "Joshua, is this how you and your wife treat your exceptional staff?"

Joshua furrowed his brows. He lifted his hand and protected Alice, placing her behind him. His gaze was cold and arrogant. "This is between us. This has nothing to do with you."

Theo smiled. "Nothing to do with me? I've already said that Luna is my girlfriend! "

Theo glared at Joshua. "You two brought her out on a business trip, then forced her to drink with Mr. Scott. Now that she's drunk, you bully her. I've never seen such bosses! "

"This is the working culture of the Lynch Group, huh?" he jeered. "Now, I've finally seen it all! "

"Go home..."

The drunken Luna was in Theo's arms. With teary eyes, she muttered intoxicatedly, "Joshua, I want to go home..."

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Theo's hand that held Luna stalled a little.

"Joshua, I want to go home..." Luna, in Theo's arms, subconsciously muttered once more.

She sounded wasted in her drunken state. What she said before, only Theo could hear, but what she muttered the next time, everyone heard it clearly.

Mr. Scott was stunned.

Alice's face started to turn pale, and she cautiously looked at Joshua at the corner of her eyes.

Joshua looked at Luna, and his gaze was deep. "She's drunk."

Theo furrowed his brows and hoisted Luna upward instantly. He shot Joshua a glare before he walked off with Luna in his arms.

Joshua's gaze remained in the direction where they left, brows tightly furrowed, even when they had left.

"It looks like Luna truly is drunk..." said Alice tentatively as she observed Joshua's reaction in fear.

Joshua flatly responded before looking elsewhere. He lowered his head and continued eating.

Looking at his perfectly handsome side profile, Alice smiled on the surface, but she inwardly gnashed her teeth.

That way, Luna's identity would be exposed sooner or later. She had to remove Luna from Joshua.

When they got out of the hotel, Luna kept yelling Joshua's name throughout the entire journey.

Theo did not know where her hotel was, so he simply brought her to an inn.

When they reached the room in the inn, Luna started hugging the toilet bowl and vomited into it.

The sight broke Theo's heart. He passed her some water. "Since you can't drink, why did you do it?"

Even if others force you to drink, you don't have to bring it upon yourself, right?"

Luna looked up in a daze, her eyes glazed with tears. "But, today is the first time I get to join in a business event with Joshua after our marriage. His business partner asked me to drink, so how could I not drink? I don't want to be a burden to him. I don't want him to think that I'm useless."

Luna then retched into the toilet bowl once more. Theo was baffled.

He looked at the woman in front of him and could not help but think back about what she said. The realization stunned him.

"You..." He reached out and touched Luna's back. He gently tapped her. "Luna Gibson?"

"Hmm/"

Luna lifted her head and looked at him with tears and confusion in her eyes.

Theo was thunderstruck.

Luna.

Luna Gibson.

Also, Neil, Nellie, and Nigel, who was overseas. How did he not think of the connection?

After half an hour later, the intoxicated Luna finally slept under the care of Theo.

Theo watched as she slept soundly. He took a deep breath, walked to the balcony, and took out his phone to call Nigel.

"I know all about your identities."

Luna did not return to her hotel.

Once he bade farewell to Mr. Scott, the first thing Joshua did when he returned to the hotel was to inquire about Luna's whereabouts.

He asked the concierge and checked the security footage.

Theo did not send her back.

Joshua furrowed his brows and looked at Lucas. " Even if we have to dig up the entire Sea City, we have to get her back! "

"Yes."

Lucas nodded. He was about to leave when Alice blocked him in his way.

"Joshua, we don't need to go to such lengths just to find her, right? Theo took her away—she's not missing, per se."

Alice took a deep breath. She walked over and tugged on Joshua's arm. "Furthermore, didn't Theo say it himself? He's her boyfriend. It's only normal that they went somewhere else to stay for the night after getting drunk." Joshua narrowed his eyes. "He's not her boyfriend."

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Joshua's low voice was aloof yet determined.

Alice gently chuckled. "Joshua, if Theo isn't her boyfriend, why did she not deny it vehemently when Theo claimed he was her boyfriend?"

Joshua furrowed his brows and looked at her. "Why did Luna not refuse you vehemently when you made her drink? Did she want to drink the alcohol?"

Alice's face turned a little pale. She wanted to say something else, but Joshua interrupted her.

He took a deep breath. "No matter what, I was the one who took Luna out on this business trip. She got drunk because of me. If anything is to happen to her tonight, I can't shed myself of the responsibility."

Then, Joshua swept Lucas a cold glance. "What are you still standing here for? Go and search! "

Lucas hesitated for a while before he left quickly. Alice inwardly gritted her teeth.

"Joshua, you treat your staff so well..."

"Not good enough." Joshua's voice was cold. "If I did, she wouldn't have to drink on my behalf, ending up in this state."

He shot Alice a flat stare. "I hope this incident tonight will be the last time that it happens. You have to remember that no matter what in the future, you can't gang up with outsiders to coerce our staff to drink."

Alice nodded obediently. She buried her head in Joshua's arms and rubbed against him affectionately. "I know what I did was wrong. It won't happen again..."

Joshua let out a sigh of relief. Then, he turned and went to the toilet.

Alice narrowed her eyes.

She texted Hailey, (Search the entire city for Luna. She's drunk tonight. Do her a favor by getting a few men to satisfy her.)

"She's here! "

"Go, get them! "

That midnight, Luna was startled awake. The moment she opened her eyes, all she saw was the dark skies and the moonlight.

At that moment, she was on Theo's back, who was running for his life. There were footsteps following closely behind, too.

She croaked, "Theo— "

"Stop talking." Theo's breath was unsteady as he was running.

"They're looking for you."

Luna was rather baffled. She furrowed her brows confusedly. "If Joshua's men are looking for me, why should we run away from them?"

She got drunk because of Joshua. She was a staff of Joshua's. Perhaps Joshua was just looking for her to make sure that she was safe?

"They brought a few escorts with them."

Theo's voice was filled with helplessness. "I don't know what the hell is Joshua thinking, but they knew that you were drunk, yet

they still brought five or six escorts over looking for you. It's all fishy to me."

Luna's brain blanked for a moment.

Five or six escorts.

She was an adult. Even if Theo did not explicitly say it out loud, she knew what they intended to do.

Joshua was trying to humiliate her that way while she was drunk!

A cold rage overwhelmed her. Her once intoxicated mind was instantly sobered.

Luna bit her lips. She reached out and grabbed Theo's shoulders.

"Why don't you put me down? I—I...can walk on my own."

"It's fine. We're almost to the main road already." Theo took a deep breath. "I contacted my friends to pick us up."

However, Theo did not expect that the moment they reached the main road, a black BMW stopped there, too.

Lucas got down from the car.

The footsteps behind them got closer. The group of people was almost catching up to them.

They were cornered from both directions.

Looking at Theo and Luna's pale face, Lucas leaned against the car door. "Why are you two running?" he chided.

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Why did he never realize that Luna's figure was so similar to that girl's...?

The two of them ran for a long time when a black BMW stopped right before them. "Get in! "

The person in the car was Gwen's boyfriend, Ben.

Luna furrowed her brows. Before she could say anything, Theo opened the car door and pulled Luna into the car. "This is the friend that I said will be picking us up."

Time was pressing and Luna had no time to ask too many questions, so she immediately got in the car.

Ben took them to a villa residence in the suburbs near Sea City.

"This is Gwen and mine's new home. There aren't many people staying in this small area, so it should be safe."

Once they got out of the car, Ben led Luna and Theo into the new villa with familiarity. "Gwen heard that someone was drunk, so she has prepared some soup to sober you all up."

It was then Ben swept Luna a cold glance. "I just didn't expect that the drunk friend Master Allen mentioned is you."

"I didn't think that the extremely reliable friend Theo referred to would be you, either," scoffed Luna.

She took a deep breath, turned, and was about to leave. "Thank you for helping us get out of this mess, Mr. Zeller, but I won't be visiting your home."

Although Gwen and Luna were desk partners in high school, she was no longer that to Gwen but was the mistress who stole Luna Gibson's husband.

The two times she met up with Gwen were unhappy incidents. Luna did not plan to disturb her anymore.

"We're already here." Theo furrowed his brows as he grabbed Luna's wrist. "Joshua's men are still looking for you, too. What if you head out now and they capture you? Why don't we head in first."

Luna hesitated for a while. In the end, she sighed and followed Theo and Ben into Gwen's house.

They were right.

Joshua's men wanted to do things to her while she was drunk.

Before dawn, if they caught her, even if she said she was not drunk, they still would not let her go that easily, would they?

Ben and Gwen's new home was a three-story villa.

Luna was just changing her shoes by the entrance when Gwen came rushing out from the kitchen in an apron. "Have you picked up Master Allen and his friend?"

"Yes."

Gwen greeted them passionately, "Master Allen's friend..."

When she saw Luna, her smile immediately vanished.

She glared at Luna coldly. "Why is this woman here?"

Ben turned around and took off his coat. "She is Master Allen's friend."

"Tsk, tsk," Gwen scoffed. "It looks like you're a pro, Ms. Luna. First, you seduce someone's husband and steal my high school best friend's husband, now you're targeting Master Allen?"

Luna paused for a while.

After a moment, she smiled gently and looked at Theo. "Now you know why I don't want to come? "

Theo did not expect that it would be this way when Luna and Gwen met.

He gently cleared his throat and protected Luna, placing her behind him. "Gwen, please don't say that. It'll hurt Luna."

Gwen harrumphed coldly, and she rolled her eyes at Luna. "Did she not know it would hurt others when she stole other people's husbands?"

Then, she raised her eyes and looked at Theo. " Master Allen, I respect you a lot as a painter. When you said that you wanted to look for my high school friend, Luna Gibson, I was willing to help you, too. That was why we became friends, but how dare you get yourself acquainted with Luna's love rival? If you're friends with her, I can't invite you into my house as a guest."

Theo turned around and held Luna's wrist. He smiled. "How sure are you that Alice is Luna Gibson?"

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Alice rolled her eyes. "Master Allen, are you trying to tell me that Alice and Luna Gibson aren't the same person, all because of this woman? How could I possibly not know the person that I sat next to during high school?"

Theo chuckled. "Tell me, then. Other than Alice's face, what else could she prove that she's Luna Gibson?"

Theo's words not only made Gwen furrow her brows, but Luna's entire body stiffened, too.

Looking at how sure Theo was...

It was like he already knew that Alice was not Luna Gibson. When Luna was on the phone with Nigel previously, he said that Theo

merely suspected her, but it seemed that he had become all too sure.

Could it be...

Luna subconsciously wanted to retract her hand. Theo merely furrowed his brows and gripped tighter. He turned to look at Luna. "I know everything."

Luna was thunderstruck. He knew everything? How could he know?

He...

"Other than her face, Alice's husband, Joshua is proof that she's Luna Gibson, " Gwen harrumphed coldly. "How could a husband not recognize his wife?"

Luna's heart skipped a beat at Gwen's words.

There were truly husbands in the world that could not recognize their own wives.

Theo smiled. "What if Joshua is wrong?"

Then, he crossed his arms at his chest and looked at Gwen. "When you met up with Alice, did you bring up anything about high school? How did she reply to you?"

Gwen was stunned.

This time after reuniting with Alice...

Alice told her that her brain was injured due to the accident six years ago, so she could no longer remember the past.

At that time, Gwen was still somewhat disappointed. She thought that Alice would have at least remembered her, but Alice did not remember her at all.

If Gwen did not tell Alice that she was her high school deskmate, Alice would not have even remembered who Gwen was.

At that thought, Gwen furrowed her brows. "What on earth are you trying to say?"

Theo chuckled gently. "Don't you feel that the aura of this woman behind me is quite similar to Luna Gibson?"

Luna closed her eyes helplessly.

Theo seemed to be dead set in revealing her identity. She was rooted where she stood; she did not know whether to stop him or just go with the flow.

Gwen was her desk partner in high school, and she was also her best friend. However, when they graduated from high school, they went their separate ways and stopped contacting each other.

She never expected that Gwen would angrily come after her and stood up for Alice after meeting with Alice, who pretended to be Luna Gibson, after not meeting for so many years.

Although Gwen was targeting her, Luna knew that Gwen still cared for her.

It was hard to conceal her emotions. She had suppressed her emotions for far too long. Every day, besides her three children, she could only confide in Anne.

Facing Gwen and Ben, both of whom were her good friends for many years, she suddenly did not know whether she should reveal her identity.

Gwen and Ben looked at each other, then they subconsciously looked at Luna at the same time.

After a while, Gwen looked at Luna's face with hesitation. "Y— You're...Luna Gibson?"

Luna could no longer hold back her tears at those words.

She turned around and forced her tears to stop. "I'm not."

"You are." Gwen bit her lip. "Back then, I only told Luna Gibson about how I liked Ben."

The more Gwen spoke, the more she was sure. "Ben also told me that night. Luna Gibson was the only person that knew he liked her."

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Gwen took a deep breath and pounced right at Luna, hugging her in her arms.

"I should've guessed it sooner! I should have! "

Luna could no longer hold back her tears. She raised her hand and patted Gwen's back. "Can you help me keep a secret?" she pleaded softly.

Gwen nodded as tears streamed down her face. " Mmh! Don't worry! Ben and I won't tell anyone! "

Then, Gwen looked at Luna's flawless face. "W— Why have you changed to a different face?"

Luna smiled. "Because I fell in love with someone I shouldn't have fallen in love with."

"Come in and have some tea."

Ben was rather excited, too. He poured the tea and got the three of them to come over.

That night, Luna and Gwen chatted for a long time. It was at three in the morning when Gwen could no longer take it that she went upstairs to sleep.

Luna and Theo were arranged in the guest room on the third floor.

Two separate rooms with two separate balconies.

Unable to sleep, Luna went to the balcony to look up at the stars. It was a coincidence that Theo was also there by the balcony.

The two of them were separated by a railing. After greeting each other, Luna could no longer hold back the question that baffled her the entire night.

“How did you know I was— ”

“You said it yourself.” Theo interrupted her before she finished. “You really can’t hold your liquor. You got drunk and started calling for Joshua.”

Luna shuddered. She knew that her alcohol tolerance was not great, so for the past few years, even if she had to drink, she would control her alcohol intake so she would not get drunk.

Other than Granny Lynch’s birthday banquet previously, this was the second time.

The last time, she was lucky that she did not slip up in her drunkenness. This time, her luck was not so great.

“Don’t simply take any alcohol in the future. ” Theo calmly looked up at the skies. “If it’s hard to say no, you can call me for help while drinking. They call me the thousand-drink guy.”

Looking at his side profile, Luna chuckled a little as she gazed at his side-profile before she, too, turned to look at the starry sky. “Thank you.”

If Theo did not appear that night, she did not know what would have happened. What would happen if she got drunk and her lies were exposed?

What if she got drunk and Joshua got those men to...

"No need to thank me." Allen smiled. "I should thank you instead. You helped me find the girl in the painting."

Then, he turned over to look at her. "I always thought that you were very mysterious. Today, not only did I know that you're mysterious, but you're also very strong and have been enduring silently.

You're also a good mother."

Luna closed her eyes and laughed a little. She said nothing.

The two of them stood there by the balcony in silence and gazed at the stars until dawn. Then, they returned to their respective rooms and went to bed.

Around ten in the morning, Luna was woken up by knocks on her door.

It was Gwen.

"Luna! " Gwen sounded extremely anxious outside the door.
"Please wake up! Joshua is here! "

Upon hearing Joshua's name, Luna immediately snapped awake from her dreams.

She immediately got down from the bed and opened the door.
"What's going on?"

"This morning, Joshua seemed to have gone crazy. He hired all of Sea City's biggest gang to search for you all over the city! He even offered a high price on you. Whoever could locate you, he'd give them one million in cash!

"I don't know who leaked the news that you and Master Allen are in my house. Joshua's here right now."

Gwen bit her lips, and her eyes reddened. "He's downstairs now. He captured Ben, forcing me to hand you over to him. He even said that if you're not going to appear, he'll beat Ben to death..."

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Luna felt as if she was doused with ice-cold water.

Gwen grabbed her hand, her voice filled with anxiety.

"Luna, w—why don't you...head down to have a look? Joshua doesn't look like he was joking. Ben..."

Luna looked at Gwen, but her voice sounded as if it came from another dimension.

She had thought of how Joshua might get angry at her for escaping, but she never would have thought that...

That he would be so extreme.

He hired the biggest gangs in Sea City and put a bounty on her. Then, he came to Gwen's house and threatened her with Ben's life.

Why was he so angry that she escaped last night? Was he so angry that he had to spend so much effort to get her back?

Luna bit her lips harshly.

After a while, she composed herself and grabbed Gwen's hand with her other hand.

"Don't worry. I'll..."

She looked at the reflection of herself on the glass in the corridor. Her hair was in a mess.

"I'll clean up and head down. Go down for now, and tell Joshua that I'll see him immediately. Ask him

not to do anything rash to Ben."

Gwen bit her lip as she looked up at Luna, her eyes filled with worries. "Will you be alright if he captures you?"

"I'll be fine." Luna smiled. "He's only doing this for Alice. He won't do anything to me. Don't worry."

Gwen took a deep breath when she heard Luna's answers. She turned and headed downstairs.

After she left, Luna carefully walked to the railings and sneakily peeped at the situation downstairs.

The living room was in dead silence.

The men in black seemed to have blocked all the light in the living room.

Joshua sat arrogantly on the sofa, emperor-like as he leaned back. His movements were languid while his eyes were cold and domineering.

In front of him was Ben, forced to the ground by a few men in black as he knelt.

His leg seemed to be injured. There was blood all over the floor.

It was a daunting sight to behold.

Luna gripped the railings so tightly that her knuckles turned white.

Joshua Lynch.

When that man wanted to be cruel, he could be so vicious that it was shocking.

Who would have thought that he made such a big deal out of it because she slapped Alice twice under the influence of alcohol?

He tried to stand up for his little, petite wife. He wanted to hire a few escorts to ruin her name, was it not?

Luna bit her lips. She grew ruthless and went straight back to her room.

She simply washed her face and let her hair down. Then, she used the make-up on Gwen's dressing table to put on some make-up.

Did Joshua not want her to do inappropriate things with the male escorts to avenge Alice?

She did not want him to have his way!

After getting everything ready, Luna hesitated for a while. In the end, she still took off her clothes.

Only in her lingerie, she put on a red trench coat. Luna looked at herself in the mirror, satisfied.

She showed off her long, slender legs from the slit of the trench coat. It was devilishly bewitching.

After three years of married life with Joshua back then, she knew what his kinks and likes were.

He used to love her pair of legs to death.

After getting everything ready, Luna took a deep breath and walked downstairs.

The atmosphere downstairs was eerily silent.

The further down she walked, the stronger the smell of blood was.

Upon hearing her footsteps, Joshua calmly looked in her direction. What he saw were her long, slender legs. She was in a red trench coat and red high heels. She was in heavy make-up, but it did not look vulgar at all. Instead, he was highly attracted to her.

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Joshua frowned harshly as he sized her up with a complicated gaze.

She had dark circles under her eyes. While it looked like she did not sleep well the night before, it seemed like she was not hurt.

Joshua let out an inconspicuous sigh of relief.

"Luna."

Gwen sat on the floor by the side as she held Ben tightly. She looked at Luna with reddened eyes.

Ben's leg still bled at that point.

Luna pursed her lips and calmly looked at Joshua.

"Mr. Lynch, you were looking for me, so I'm here now. You don't have to cause them any more trouble."

Then, she looked at the blood on the floor and furrowed her brows tightly. "Go see a doctor."

Gwen bit her lips and looked at Joshua fearfully.

Without Joshua's approval, she would not even dare to dress Ben's wounds.

Joshua calmly looked at Ben, who was pale due to blood loss, then at Gwen next to Ben. He slowly smiled. "Go straight to the hospital."

Gwen paused a little.

It was their home. If she was to take Ben to the hospital, would Joshua not be able to do whatever he

wanted to do then?

After a moment, she changed her thoughts. Even if Ben and she were at home, Joshua still had the power to do whatever he wanted to do in her house.

At that thought, she helped Ben up. "Let's go."

Zach immediately rushed over to help Ben and supported him on the other side. He and Gwen took Ben and left.

Seeing Zach, Luna subconsciously looked at the men behind Joshua.

Lucas was there. The other people from the night before were there, too.

Only Yuri was not there.

Luna felt as if something sharp pricked her brain. Last night, when she and Theo escaped, Yuri hit Lucas unconscious. He also stopped the others from going after her.

A bad feeling loomed over her.

Luna took a deep breath. She walked over and pried the bodyguards in black apart. She gracefully walked over to Joshua.

"Mr. Lynch, you went through so much effort just to look for me. Those who know would know that you're still angry at me. Those who don't will think that you've fallen in love with me."

Joshua glared at Luna with his deep gaze. "You know that I'm angry at you, too?"

It was one thing when she was taken away by Theo while intoxicated the night before.

However, when Lucas went to look for her, she was already sober.

Not only did she ignore Lucas' concerns to follow him back to the hotel, but she also ganged up with Yuri, hit Lucas unconscious, then escaped with Theo.

Theo ended up sending her here!

Sea City was a foreign place to her. She knew no one, while Theo had inappropriate intentions against her. Joshua did not sleep well the night before.

That morning, he spent a huge amount of money and human resources to get all the gangs in Sea City to look for her. Only then did he find out that Theo had brought her to Ben Zeller's house.

He has not much of an impression of Ben, but he clearly remembered that Ben's wife, Gwen Larson had spoken out against Luna a few times.

Even the pinhole camera incident in Luna's room previously. It had to do with Gwen and her father, Andy.

Joshua was worried for her. He immediately rushed over at first notice to capture Ben and forced Gwen to hand Luna over.

It turned out that not only was Luna ungrateful to him, but she also treated him coldly.

It was as if he was not there to help her, but to hurt her!

"What should I do to appease you, Mr. Lynch?"

Luna smiled a little. She swept a glance at the burly bodyguards. Then, she unbuttoned her trench coat.

Her trench coat fell to the floor. Luna's fair skin was exposed to the air.

Did Joshua not want her to do those inappropriate things with those escorts to humiliate her, so he could avenge Alice?

She refused to let him do so!

She laughed seductively and immediately sat on Joshua's lap. Her tone was rather mischievous. " Would you be appeased this way?"

They might have forced her to choose the escorts, but she chose Joshua instead!

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The atmosphere in the living room suddenly turned weird.

Joshua did not react in time to Luna's sudden movements. His body's instincts were much faster than the brain's reasoning.

He looked at her fair neck and those flaming red lips. He looked at her closer.

In the living room, not only Joshua studied her. Almost everyone else did as well.

The bodyguards were all stunned.

How bold of her to do that! Still...she had a great figure, too!

Noticing the bodyguards' gaze on Luna, Joshua furrowed his brows tightly as he growled, "Turn around! "

The bodyguards immediately obeyed and turned around in unison. No one dared to peep at Luna anymore.

Joshua angrily took the thin blanket on the sofa and covered Luna. "Have you gone nuts?"

When she still had her trench coat on, he could only make out her long legs.

He thought that she would have worn a pair of shorts or a short skirt underneath her coat.

At that moment, when he saw her...

"I 'm not crazy. " Luna smiled. She boldly bent down and gently kissed Joshua behind the ear. Her voice was seductive and sweet, with rising inflections. "Mr. Lynch, aren't you trying to destroy me? Didn't you want other people to defile me? Rather than letting other people do it then spreading the photos of other people and me together, I'd rather let you have it all."

Then, she went closer to his ears, and her hot breath fanned them. "After all, this isn't the first time you and I did it together, right?"

What on earth was she talking about? Joshua furrowed his brows.

He knew he should be sensible at that moment. He should ask her why she would shamelessly strip in front of so many people, seducing him.

He also should have asked her what she meant by defiling her and the photos.

However, his body told him otherwise. He was going crazy for her.

He reached out and clasped Luna's neck tightly. "Do you know what you're saying and what you're doing?" he hissed with a raspy, suppressed voice.

Luna smiled and raised her hand. She mimicked Joshua as she clasped her own neck, her red lips curved into a smile. "How about you, Mr. Lynch? Do you know what you're doing and saying now?"

They looked at each other.

One with an intense gaze, the other with a burning passion.

They were hooked.

Joshua immediately carried Luna in his arms and hugged her tightly in his arms. "Which floor?"

He asked her which room she slept in the night before.

Luna gently nibbled on his ear. "Third floor." The moment she bit his ear, Joshua shuddered.

The next second, he immediately lifted her up and strode upstairs.

Seeing Joshua leaving with Luna in his arms, one of the bodyguards furrowed his brows.

“Mr.— ”

Before he could even mutter Mr. Lynch, Lucas immediately glared at him.

The bodyguard’s head sank rather sheepishly. “But, Mrs. Lynch is still waiting for Mr. Lynch to go back to the hotel...”

Lucas harrumphed coldly. “You’ve no right to meddle in what Mr. Lynch is doing! ”

The bodyguard’s mouth gaped open, but he said nothing.

At an angle where no one could see, the bodyguard picked up his phone and secretly sent a message.

In the hotel...

Alice paced back and forth anxiously in her room. Joshua had abandoned her early that morning.

The entire night before, Joshua was in the study room and contacted Lucas remotely, looking for Luna.

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Joshua left Alice alone early in the morning and led a huge group to search for Luna.

He hired the gangs in Sea City to help him, all for that woman.

He even put a bounty on her head!

The news from the bodyguards was even more shocking, one after the other!

Each piece of news was enough for her to want to chop up that b*tch into a million pieces!

How could there be such a horrible b*tch in the world?

Joshua clearly made up his mind that she was Luna Gibson and that she was his wife, so why did Luna so despicably stick around?

Suddenly, her phone rang.

As she read the message on her phone, Alice's eyes widened.

A moment later, she angrily threw her phone to the side.

Slam!

The phone hit the wall.

The loud sound made the other person in the room cower uncontrollably.

After a long while, Hailey carefully raised her head and looked at Alice. "Miss, what happened?"

Alice angrily furrowed her brows as she sat on the sofa.

"Luna seduced Joshua. They're in bed now."

Hailey was so stunned that she forgot how to react.

After a moment, she bit her lips. "What should we do? Should we rush over and catch them red- handed?"

Alice coldly glared at her. "Why should we expose them?"

In truth, Alice knew all too well that Joshua's feelings for her were not always very stable.

The only reason why he wanted to remain as husband and wife and willing to indulge in her doings for so long was that he felt guilty toward Luna Gibson.

For the past six years, because of his guilt and love for Luna Gibson, he could not actively cut off the relationship.

However, if she were to expose him, that was equal to giving Joshua a perfect reason to break up.

She would never do such a stupid thing!

"But..." Hailey furrowed her brows. "How can you bear this?"

"Of course, I can't."

Alice furrowed her brows. She raised her eyes and looked at Hailey. "Do you still remember the photos I sent you a few days ago of Luna seducing Joshua? Select a few and publish them. Make sure that the

photos that you publish show everyone that Luna is seducing Joshua."

"Yes."

"Also." Alice furrowed her brows and looked into the distance. "Help me check and see which hospital Gwen took Ben to. I want to pay my two old friends a visit."

In the guest room on the third floor of the villa, Luna laid on the bed, exhausted as she quietly looked at the ceiling in a daze.

An hour ago, she was filled with gusto and wanted to send Joshua to hell.

An hour later, she was like a fish about to die and was sent to hell by Joshua, over and over again.

"What did you mean by the things you said just now?"

She flipped to the side. Joshua, in an undressed state, leaned against the head of the bed as he smoked with unkempt hair.

Luna did not even bother to look at him. "Why play dumb with me, Mr. Lynch? Don't you think I know why you got Lucas to take me back last night?"

Luna smiled indifferently. "Tell me, Joshua. Are you heartless or what? Even if we don't have any relationship between us, we're still considered old friends in bed, right? Why did you have to get five to six escorts to sleep with me just to avenge Alice?"

She then shot Joshua an aloof glare. "You sure do think highly of me."

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Luna's eyes seemed to smile as she spoke. Her tone was relaxed, too.

However, only she would know how much in despair she was and how cold her heart was.

Even if she knew Joshua's plans and arrangements, she could not confront Joshua directly. Nigel still waited for her to rescue him.

She could not let her momentary emotions spoil her entire plan!

With that in mind, Luna could only use this way of pretending to be relaxed to get closer to Joshua. She brushed the incident off casually.

After all, she had slept with him—everyone witnessed it downstairs. She guessed that Joshua could not possibly send her to those escorts anymore.

However, Luna did not expect that Joshua would continue to play dumb with her.

Joshua's eyes narrowed a little. He looked at her with a rather complicated gaze. "What are you talking about?"

Luna was stunned. She looked at Joshua, and she suddenly felt that pretending to be relaxed made it seem quite comical.

It turned out that when she tried her best to find a way for Joshua to excuse his actions, he chose to play dumb instead.

Indeed, playing dumb was a much better way than her crass tactics.

"Just forget about it." She yawned. "Mr. Lynch, I didn't sleep well last night. Can I continue sleeping for a little while?"

Joshua casually put out the cigarette in between his fingers. "Here? In Gwen and Ben Zeller's house?"

He calmly swept Luna a gaze. "Since when were you so friendly with them?"

When he heard that Luna was in their house that morning, he was still worried that Gwen and Ben might do something inappropriate to Luna.

However, not only did she appear in front of him in one piece, but she also decided to continue staying in Gwen's house after vigorous sex.

Her casual, lazy attitude was as if she and Gwen were long-time good friends.

Luna closed her eyes.

"It's because of Theo. Theo and Ben are friends. I have to respect them, so we shook on it and became friends."

"That simple?"

"Of course."

Luna rolled her eyes and got out of bed, still in her lingerie. Like previously, she put on her trench coat and headed outside.

"Since you don't want me to stay here, I'll follow you back, Mr. Lynch."

Seeing her walking to the door, Joshua furrowed his brows hard and called after her, "Come back."

Luna stopped in her tracks. She turned back and raised her eyebrow, looking at him.

Joshua threw Luna's clothes by the bedside over to her with a darkened expression. "Put them on."

Luna rolled her eyes.

She bent down, picked them up, and started putting on her clothes with her back facing Joshua.

Her slender waist did not have an ounce of fat. She was so delicate and beautiful that she looked like a statue.

When she faced her back toward him, Joshua noticed a thin, long scar on her back. He furrowed his brows slightly.

He never noticed that she had a scar like that.

"What happened...to your back?" Joshua decided to ask after a long while of hesitation.

Luna's hand paused a little as she buttoned up. The scar on her back was caused by the accident.

Because the wound was too deep, even with the best cosmetic surgery, there would still be a long thin scar.

When she was recuperating, she could not even lie down properly because of the wound on her back.

At the thought of those painful, helpless days at that moment, her heart would still grow cold.

When he noticed how she did not answer him, Joshua asked once more. Luna took a deep breath. She turned around and smiled at him. "I used to like climbing trees when I was young. I got this scar from falling down a tree."

She was clearly lying, but Joshua was too lazy to expose her for it.

After putting on her clothes, Luna stood by the door and spun around. "Can we go now?"

Joshua furrowed his brows. He took a glance at her thick and provocative make-up. "Go remove your make-up."

Luna rolled her eyes at him once more before she turned and headed into the bathroom.

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When he heard the sounds of water in the bathroom, Joshua closed his eyes and sighed.

At that moment, his phone rang.

It was news from Lucas downstairs.

"Sir, I've checked on it. Theo is currently in the police station, and he's accusing us of premeditated harm toward Luna. According to his statement, two groups were chasing after them, trapping him and Luna from the front and back. They had to fight for their lives to escape. He also said..."

Lucas was silent for a while. He cleared his throat gently.

"He also said that we brought five escorts and that we planned on using the escorts to defile Luna, then take a video of her with them to threaten her."

Lucas furrowed his brows. "No wonder he's an artist. What vivid imagination he has..."

With his brows furrowed a little, Joshua gripped his phone tighter.

He glanced at the bathroom. Luna's words a moment ago haunted his ears.

"Why did you have to get five to six escorts to sleep with me just to avenge Alice? You sure do think highly of me."

Joshua lifted his hands and rubbed the middle of his brows.

He somewhat understood why Luna was so crazy that day, stripping in public and boldly seducing him. It turned out...

Joshua closed his eyes and sighed. "Go investigate this."

Lucas, on the other end of the call, was silent for a while.

"Sir, you want to check into this matter? It's obvious that the painter is trying to slander us! We never even— "

"What if someone has been using our name?" Joshua coldly interrupted him.

"Theo isn't someone who likes to lie. Luna's not someone who'd be easily tricked by a lie, too."

If both of them were so sure about this, that proved that someone was indeed chasing after them the night before.

"..Yes," Lucas replied depressingly and hung up.

When Joshua kept his phone, Luna also finished removing her make-up and got out of the bathroom.

It was totally different from a moment ago. Luna's face was no longer caked with make-up, yet she was still so gorgeous that one could not take their eyes off of her.

Joshua looked at her for a while before giving her an indifferent glare. "Let's go."

Luna pursed her lips and immediately followed him closely, going downstairs.

Downstairs, Lucas was already gone.

Once the bodyguards downstairs noticed Joshua and Luna coming down, they could not help but lower their heads. They did not dare look at Luna.

Luna pursed her lips and gracefully followed Joshua into the car.

Once the car started, she tiredly let out a yawn and casually lowered her eyes.

She noticed that Joshua's right arm was bleeding. Blood seeped through the sleeve.

Luna hesitated a little. She suddenly thought of the incident at the factory the day before. If it were not for Joshua pushing her away in time, the rock would have shot firmly at her back.

The least she would suffer were injuries; the worst case was paralysis.

She looked at the bleeding wound and bit her lips.

What on earth was Joshua like as a person? He could heroically rescue her when she was in danger, yet he could also treat her in the most despicable way just because she hit the woman that he loves.

“Last night.”

Seeing her looking at his injuries, Joshua furrowed his brows a little. He cleared his throat. “Last night, I did indeed get Lucas to look for you.” Luna instantly felt suffocated at Joshua’s words.

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Luna turned around and looked out of the window. She did not dare meet Joshua’s gaze.

Joshua took a deep breath and looked at the back of her head.

“Last night, I...I was worried that Theo would do inappropriate things to you after he took you away while you were drunk, so I got Lucas to look for you.”

Luna almost laughed out loud.

She turned around and looked at Joshua coldly. “Mr. Lynch, are you trying to humor me? Because you were worried that Theo would do something to me, you got Lucas and five other escorts to chase after me to defile me and take pictures so you could stand up for Alice?”

Luna looked at him with cold hatred in her eyes. "Mr. Lynch, are you always that cruel to the women you have sexual relationships with?"

Joshua's eyes darkened.

He furrowed his brows. "I'm only trying to explain to you. I didn't hire any escorts last night. Lucas only took Zach, Yuri, and a few other bodyguards."

Joshua glared at Luna coldly. "Do you understand what I'm saying?"

Luna smiled.

"You don't have to explain yourself. Didn't I already give you an out just now? You, want to punish me?"

I've already paid you back on the bed just now. I've even given you an excuse, and I would've forgotten the incident last night entirely had you not brought it up."

Luna's smile was indifferent and cruel. "I don't even care about this matter anymore, even if I'm the victim. So, Mr. Lynch, you don't have to lie to protect your great image."

Joshua furrowed his brows even tighter.

He could not help but reach out and clutched Luna's neck. "Luna, has the water gone to your brain?"

His grip was so strong that Luna was in so much pain. Her brows knitted tightly with it.

She looked up and met Joshua's endless gaze. "Yes, I'm brainless. That's why I was stupid enough to appease you with my body even when you're scheming against me, to then find a way out for you! "

Her voice was frigidly cold. There was no trace of the warmth that she used to feel for him.

Joshua glared at Luna's petite, palm-sized face.

When she retorted at him, she was like a freshly plucked rose: red, striking, and thorny.

He looked at her red lips.

After a while, he dove in and fiercely kissed her.

His kiss was filled with rage. Luna instinctively tried to struggle, but how was she his match?

Even on normal days, she could not break free from his shackles, what more alone at that moment, when

she had not even had breakfast. Furthermore, she was ravaged by him also a moment ago.

Joshua's kiss was fierce and heavy. He bit her lips as if trying to punish her.

Blood and pain washed over Luna. She furrowed her brows and instinctively pushed him.

“Gasp! ”

When Luna pressed onto Joshua’s right arm, he frowned deeply. His face was slightly distorted as he let Luna go.

Luna was slightly stunned, and she subconsciously looked up.

His right arm bled even more.

The fresh red blood seeped into his white shirt in a sultry yet fragile way.

Joshua furrowed his brows. He looked at Luna curtly without saying anything.

Luna bit her lip before she then scooted away from him a little. She was almost pressed up against the car door.

She furrowed her brows and looked at the blood on his arm.

“Should you go to the hospital?” Luna saw it herself how heavily injured his arm was the day before. No matter what, he got injured because of her. Although he might be despicable, she should not have torn his wound open.

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However...

She had forgotten he got injured because of her back there.

She did not do it on purpose.

"No need." Joshua looked at her with darkened eyes. He then turned to the back compartment of the car and took a packet of tissues. He drew a piece of tissue out.

Luna furrowed her brows and watched his every move, blurting, "You should deal with it once you're back in the hotel. The tissue won't be able to wipe it off cleanly."

Joshua could not help but snicker at Luna's words. "There's no water in my brain."

He passed the tissue to her. "Wipe it off."

Luna paused a little, not understanding what he meant.

Seeing how she did not respond, Joshua furrowed his brows and turned around. He used the tissue and wiped Luna's mouth with force.

The white tissue was dyed red with fresh blood.

Only then did Luna remember that when he kissed her with force a moment ago, he bit her lips.

She pursed her lips and looked at him. She took the tissue and wiped off the remaining splotches of blood on her lips.

When she unintentionally touched the wound that Joshua bit open a moment ago, she furrowed her brows in pain.

"I was saying..."

When she was seriously wiping blood off her lips, Joshua's cold, magnetic voice rang out once more, "I didn't get Lucas to bring escorts to look for you. I'm not that petty. I won't ruin your life just because you slapped Alice."

Joshua eyed Luna bitterly. "Luna, am I such a cruel person to you?"

Luna lowered her head and ignored him. Was he not a cruel person?

Among all the people that she knew, he was the only one who was cruel.

Seeing her not responding, Joshua sighed once again.

"Theo went to the police station to file a report this morning. He said that I intended to destroy you while you were drunk. The Sea City police force is taking this matter seriously, and that's why he's still in the police station, giving a detailed statement.

The police aren't the only ones who'll investigate this matter. I'll investigate this for you, too."

Luna looked up at him. Joshua's eyes were deep. From his look...

She felt that he was not lying to her.

However, the pursuers last night clearly mentioned that Joshua was the one who sent them.

Not only did she hear it from Theo, but she also heard it herself that the pursuers mentioned Joshua's name.

If they were not his men, then who would be so bold as to impersonate him and chase after her all over Sea City?

Not long after, the car arrived at the hotel.

Exiting the elevator, Luna immediately took her key card and headed to her room.

She planned to have a good shower and collect her thoughts before she could properly analyze what Joshua said.

However, she did not expect that the moment she opened her door, Joshua immediately squeezed past her into her room and sat on the sofa.

She stood by the entrance. "Mr. Lynch, this is my room."

Joshua ignored her. He unbuttoned his shirt.

Luna furrowed her brows. "Joshua, what are you doing?"

He swept her a glance and undressed the bandage that was drenched with blood.

“Help me apply some medication.”

Luna was taken aback as she chewed on her lip. Hesitant, she then closed the door and walked to him.

She took the first aid kit and sat next to him. “ Shouldn’t Mrs. Lynch help you do this?” she scoffed as she searched for medication. Joshua laughed.

“You want me to take off my shirt and show her the marks you left on my body?”

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Luna instantly blushed.

She laid her eyes on the bite marks on Joshua’s left shoulder.

When they were deep in the throes of passion, she bit his shoulder harshly out of anger for the things he did the night before. It left a mark.

She did not know what went through her head back there. Perhaps she felt that since Joshua was willing to treat her that way all because of Alice, she was going to leave a mark on Joshua’s body for Alice to see!

However...

If the truth was as Joshua said, someone was impersonating him, hiring escorts to chase after her. She was at a huge loss.

Not only did she make the first move, letting Joshua eat her up, but she also left a mark on his body.

If Alice saw it and got angry, it would be huge trouble.

At that thought, Luna's eyes darkened. She carefully dressed his wounds as she murmured, "I was angry at that time..."

"Mmh." Joshua flatly smiled. "Just because of your momentary anger, you'll have to be in charge of applying medication for me for the next few days."

Luna nodded. "Okay."

He got injured because of her. It was only right that she took care of him.

Furthermore, if she truly misunderstood him, it would be wise to not let Alice see the bite marks on his shoulders to save her unnecessary troubles.

Rumble!

Not long after applying medication for her, a rumble rang out gently in the room.

Joshua furrowed his brows and looked at Luna.

Luna chuckled rather stiffly. "I barely had anything last night. I only drank, but I then puked a few rounds at the hotel. I haven't had any food up till now..."

Being hungry was not an embarrassment, was it?

Joshua chuckled gently. He picked the phone up and dialed Lucas. "Send us some food."

Lucas nodded. "Is it for you only? Or, for you and Mrs. Lynch?"

"It's for me and Luna. Send it over to Luna's room."

Lucas, on the other end of the call, was silent for a while. "Okay."

When Joshua hung up, Luna still dressed his wound with a clean bandage. As she concentrated on dressing his wound, she calmly asked, "You haven't had any food, too?"

"Yes."

Joshua's voice was calm. "I had a business meeting with the local gangs in Sea City this morning. Once I got the news, I immediately rushed to Ben's house. Do you think I'd have the time to eat?"

Luna pursed her lips and said nothing.

After a while, she took a deep breath. "Is Ben's leg...alright?"

She still remembered how Ben knelt on the floor when she got downstairs. The marble floor was covered in his blood.

"Nothing much." Joshua lightly furrowed his brows. "The local gang only cut him open a little."

Luna paused a little. "D—Did...you get them to do i bill

Joshua swept her a glance. He did not answer her question.

"I initially thought that you didn't get along well with Ben and his wife. I was afraid that they'd hurt you in their home, and that was why I rushed over to look for you. Who would've thought."

Joshua swept Luna a glance. "Not only were you not hurt, but you were also living comfortably in their home. I'm curious."

Joshua changed into a more comfortable position on the sofa. He fixed his gaze on Luna. "Gwen always had a conflict with you every time she met you. She's Alice's best friend. She'd want to beat you up on Alice's behalf every time she saw you."

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"Why did she choose to protect you this time?"

Luna turned her head aside; she did not dare to look at Joshua. "As I said, it's because of Theo."

Joshua's gaze was too aggressive.

His dangerous gaze made Luna feel as if her secret would be exposed the very next second.

"Do you think I 'd buy that?" Joshua sneered. "Theo is indeed an artist that Gwen and Ben like, but the main reason they like Theo is because of Alice.

Because Alice likes him, the two of them got to know Theo's work and like his art."

Joshua looked at Luna's face. He wanted to see what sort of person she was from her face.

"Ben and Gwen wouldn't have betrayed Alice because of Theo."

Luna bit her lips. She did not know how to answer at that moment, so she took a deep breath and turned to look at him. "You haven't told me. Did you get those men to hurt Ben?"

Joshua looked at her. His gaze was ice-cold and ambiguous. "What do you think?"

Luna wanted to say that she thought that Joshua was the one who ordered them to do so.

However, she wanted to see what sort of lie he could come up with, so she chuckled. "What I think is not the truth. It's just like how I thought you would not

get me to drink at an event like last night, but I still drank in the end, isn't it?"

Joshua's gaze fiercely stalled. After a moment, he turned his head away from her and averted his gaze.

"I didn't get those men to do it."

His tone was cold and indifferent. "Those people are the local gangs of Sea City. Ben is a local businessman and is also the son-in-law of Andy Larson. The Larsons had a feud with the gangs, so the gangs were just finding a reason to take it out on Ben."

He cleared his throat. "I got in touch with the gangs mainly to look for you and Theo. I didn't know that you two would be in Ben's house. I was also not clear that Ben and the local gangs had a feud going on."

With those few sentences, he cleared himself of any responsibility for Ben's injury.

Luna looked at him. After a while, he smiled. "Mr. Lynch, you sure are a tradesman. You have principles."

His principle was that at no time was he responsible for anything.

Joshua could hear the sarcasm in her tone.

He said nothing. He put on his shirt and leaned back on the sofa, scrolling through his phone.

The room fell in instant silence.

Luna also had nothing to do, so she sat on the other end of the sofa and started using her phone, too.

She tapped the Sea City local news notification. She initially wanted to see the changes of Sea City for the past few years, but the moment she clicked on it...

It was a photo of her and Joshua.

The location of the photo was the room where she was with Joshua at that moment.

The photos were of her, either lying on Joshua, or clutching her chest with her hands while looking at Joshua, or having both her hands around Joshua's neck.

The headline wrote, (Heiress of Larson Group, Gwen Larson Reveals That Joshua Lynch is a Wife- Cheating Playboy!]

The report even stated in detail that when Luna and Joshua were doing those actions in the photo, Joshua's wife, Alice, was next door.

Everyone on the internet berated them. Luna almost saw black.

Those photos. If she recalled correctly, those were the photos taken with the pinhole camera!

Gwen and her father set up the pinhole camera. However, Gwen already knew her identity the night before...

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Luna browsed through the news once more. The more she read them, the more suffocated she felt.

The news not only stated Gwen's name, but there was even a voice recording of her.

She played the voice recording with trembling hands.

At that instant, Gwen's calm and emotionless voice rang out throughout the room. "That's right, I'm the one who exposed them. I'm willing to bear legal responsibility for these photos that I published. As for whether Luna and Joshua are having an inappropriate affair, I'll hold a press conference tomorrow and explain everything to everyone clearly.

"Tomorrow, nine in the morning, in the small auditorium near Sea City's Ocean Ray High School, I'll hold a small press conference. I welcome all friends who are concerned about Luna interfering with Joshua's marriage to attend. I'll answer all of your questions."

The recording ended there.

Luna gasped as she held her phone tightly.

Gwen just reunited with her the night before. She knew that Luna was Luna Gibson from back then, so why...?

Also, the small auditorium near Ocean Ray High School. Ocean Ray was where she and Gwen attended. The small auditorium was once their most favorite place.

Back then, Gwen and she had a coming-of-age ceremony at that auditorium. After the ceremony, they each left for university and had never contacted each other ever since.

The small auditorium was the last place Luna and Gwen had crossed paths.

Alas, Gwen abruptly planned to hold a press conference at that auditorium, accusing her of being the mistress in Joshua and Alice's marriage...

Luna closed her eyes. Her heart was smashed to pieces.

Unfortunately for her, Joshua's sneers rang in her ears. "Didn't you say that you became friends with Ben and Gwen because of Theo?"

Joshua changed into a more comfortable position as he held his phone in one hand, scrolling through the news expressionlessly. "This is the friend that you mentioned?"

Luna bit her lip harshly and said nothing.

She had no more strength nor the mood to talk.

On one hand, she was emotionally exhausted, and on the other hand, she was famished.

She changed into a different posture and laid on the sofa listlessly as she helplessly curled up into a ball.

Joshua furrowed his brows and looked at her in front of him.

The sunlight shone through the curtains from behind her. The exceptionally bright sunlight shone

on her side profile, but it was as if she was hiding in the shadows.

She had a thin body and an emaciated face. Her lips were still bruised from the bite he bit her a moment ago. It was bright, yet sad.

She was like an injured small beast as she curled up on the sofa silently.

He looked at her. His eyes gradually darkened. Truthfully, he felt strange, too.

An hour ago, Gwen was still anxiously taking Ben to the hospital. How did she manage to shift her focus from Ben to Luna in a mere hour?

Moreover, when he brought men to Gwen's house, Gwen courageously blocked him at the entrance.

Although her eyes had fear in them, she still told him firmly that Luna was not at her place.

If it were not for those men hurting Ben, Gwen would continue to insist that Luna was not there.

Her reactions were proof of what Luna said a moment ago, that they had become friends.

However...

How could someone change in such a short time?

The two of them were quiet for a very long time until there was a knock on the door.

Outside the room, Lucas carried two sets of lunch and carefully entered the room.

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Perhaps realizing that the atmosphere was somewhat off, Lucas did not even say a single word. He put the lunch on the coffee table and ran off.

The door was shut once again.

Luna lifted her head and scanned the food on the table.

It was food that she usually liked, yet she had no mood for food at that moment.

Alas, she was far too hungry. She might be suffering emotionally, but that could not stop her hunger.

Luna took a deep breath and got up from the sofa. She went over to the coffee table and sat down to take the food out.

The aroma of the dishes awakened Luna's appetite, and she immediately picked up her utensils and ate hungrily.

Halfway through, she finally felt not so hungry anymore.

At the same time, she suddenly remembered that Joshua, next to her, also had not had any food.

She pursed her lips and subconsciously turned her head.

Joshua elegantly leaned back on the sofa. One hand was next to him, while the other was on the sofa. He looked at Luna flatly.

Seeing her looking at him, Joshua smiled a little, but his gaze was flat. "You go ahead first."

Luna did not react in time. She furrowed her brows and looked at him. "Didn't you say that you didn't have breakfast, too? Aren't you hungry?"

"Of course, I am."

Joshua looked at her as if he was looking at a mentally challenged person. Then, he looked at his own injured right arm. "Do you think I can feed myself right now?"

Luna paused a little before she remembered at last that he was injured.

He had such a deep gash on his arm; he would not be able to feed himself.

However...

"Why don't I get Lucas to come in—"

"No need." Joshua looked at her and chuckled lightly. "Didn't you do a great job of feeding me yesterday afternoon?"

Luna shuddered and blushed inexplicably.

She bit her lip and immediately lowered her head to continue eating.

After a moment, she put down her utensils and let out a long sigh.

She turned around.

Joshua still looked at her humorously.

Luna knew that she could not avoid it. She let out a long sigh of resignation before she picked up Joshua's utensils and carefully fed him.

Joshua ate slowly and gracefully.

Seeing him eat, Luna could not help but think back to the time when she and Joshua just got married.

They just got married not long ago, and Joshua was admitted into the hospital due to overworking.

At that time, seeing how haggard he looked, she insisted on making his meals, taking them to the hospital, and feeding him.

She was just like at that moment—gently and cautiously feeding him.

Back then, Aura even mocked her by the side, saying how she was already so motherly even though she just got married.

Later down the line, however...

When she nearly lost her life due to Aura and Joshua's schemes, when she laid on the hospital bed, putting all of her memories with Joshua aside, she realized that Aura's words were mocking her for her ignorance and stupidity.

"What are you thinking of?"

Seeing how she furrowed her brows tightly, Joshua's brows began to furrow together as well. He thought that she was still troubled over the photo incident. "I'll get Lucas to handle the photos. As for the press conference tomorrow morning, I have countless ways to stop her from holding it."

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