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Did this belong to that young boy?

Bonnie furrowed her brows as she picked up the pendant and stuffed it into her pocket.

That boy had helped Luna and Joshua, after all. Besides, she remembered his face instantly. As soon as this was over, she would send one of her men to find him so she could return his pendant.

Meanwhile, on the stage...

Adrian and Michael were unnerved by the young boy's sudden statement, but Adrian was still unwilling to admit the truth. "How can we possibly believe a child's foolish claims?"

"In that case, would you like to listen to a certified coroner's conclusion?" Joshua curled his lips into a smirk and clicked on a video.

It was a video involving several coroners together. Besides determining that Granny Lynch had indeed ingested the bandage of her own accord, the coroners gave another conclusion: the DNA

extracted from the blood on the bandage belonged to Michael.

Michael and Adrian's faces turned an even paler shade of white.

"Do you have anything more to say about this? Don't worry; I've already investigated all of this."

Joshua clicked onto another folder and continued, "

According to my men's investigations, Michael wasn't at the hospital when Granny Lynch got murdered, but when he reappeared at the hospital an hour later, his clothes were stained with blood.

"When the nurse asked him about this, Michael claimed that his sutures had burst and stained his clothes. Unbeknownst to him, the nurse had stored his soiled clothes instead of disposing of them. We managed to find the clothes and compared the blood on them...and the blood belonged to Granny Lynch."

As soon as Joshua finished his sentence, the door was flung open.

A team of smartly dressed policemen strode into the room.

As soon as he caught sight of the policemen, Michael's face turned so pale that he looked almost transparent. He bit on his lip, turned to stare at Adrian, and said in a choked voice, "I 've already told you that I don't want to kill anyone, but you forced me to put on rubber gloves and kill Granny and frame Luna for murder instead! Guess what? Not only will I go to jail, but I might even be sentenced to death over that old hag's life...

"It's all your fault. It's all your fault..."

Adrian furrowed his brows and stared at Michael, who was slumped on the ground in defeat, sobbing. Then, a cold expression crossed his face. He made his way over to Michael and knelt in front of him.

Slap!

Adrian raised his hand and smacked Michael right across his face as the crowd watched on. "I can't believe you were the one who murdered Granny!

Michael Lynch, I shouldn't have trusted you!

"Granny provided for you from a young age and treated you like her own grandson! How dare you do something like this? I love you mother so much: how could I possibly have plotted her murder with you?"

With that, Adrian stood up, his chest rising and falling rapidly in anger. "Mr. police, please capture this heartless man and sentence him to a punishment he deserves! Otherwise, this would be an act of disloyalty to my ancestors and, most importantly, my mother!

As soon as he said this, Adrian exhaled, turned around, and made his way to Joshua. He grabbed hold of Joshua's hand sobbed, "Joshua, I'm sorry! Daddy has falsely accused you!"

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Not only was Luna shocked by Adrian's actions, but even Michael, whom the policemen were handcuffing in the distance, was rendered speechless by this.

He never thought that even after obeying Adrian's commands to kill the old hag for the family inheritance...his father would betray him.

Not only did Adrian slap him while he was about to be taken away by the police, but Adrian tried to display his loyalty to Joshua!

Michael glowered at Adrian and yelled, "How dare you feign innocence like this? Everything I did was according to your plans! If it weren't for you, I wou1dn't have killed Granny! Mr. Police, please lock him up! He's the mastermind behind this murder! Lock him up! "

Adrian scoffed, "What nonsense! "

"I'm not talking nonsense! " Michael was so outraged that he struggled free from the policeman's grasp, lunged toward Adrian, and started beating him up.

The stage erupted into chaos immediately.

Meanwhile, all the reporters beneath the stage sprang into action and started taking photos of the scene.

Adrian and Michael, father and son, turning on each other like this. This would be the perfect news headline!

The police went after Michael, but they had no choice but to take both Michael and Adrian away.

Ten minutes later, the room returned to peace once more.

Luna lowered her head and tidied Joshua's clothes, which had been tousled by Adrian's begging.

After having his clothes adjusted, Joshua reappeared on stage again and announced, "I'm so sorry you had to see this family drama unfold. Let me ask you this: does anyone still think that Luna and I were the ones who killed Granny? Does anyone still think I should give up Lynch Group's shares?"

The room fell into silence.

Finally, Bonnie stood up gracefully and said, "The police wouldn't have captured anyone if they didn't have concrete evidence like this. I don't know about any of you, but I don't believe that Joshua would plot to kill his own grandmother at all. What do you think?"

With Bonnie taking the lead, the guests in the room began to agree with her. Everyone started to praise Joshua's courage and intelligence, proving himself innocent despite Adrian and Michael's deceiving scheme.

The entire hall fell into peace once more. Meanwhile, in a small clinic outside Banyan City,

Aura stared fixedly at the TV screen. Her eyes were so wide that her eyeballs looked as though they would fall out at any moment.

How could this be? This was supposed to be Joshua and Luna's final public appearance ever!

How did they manage to escape just because of a bandage?

Michael was an utter failure!

All of a sudden, Aura's phone rang. She picked up the phone with shaky hands.

"Aura, I'm looking at the news in Banyan City right now," said a cold, female voice from the other end of the line. "Didn't you promise me that even if Luna didn't die, she'd be sentenced to a lifetime in jail? Is this your so-called perfect plan?"

Aura clutched her phone tightly and answered in a trembling voice, "Sis, I just... I didn't expect..."

"I didn't expect you'd be so useless either, "the woman said curtly. "Jim and Harvey are already in Banyan City searching for that woman now. You'd better be careful.

"If he finds out what a bad job you did in Banyan City If the Landry family decides to punish you for this, even I won't be able to save you then." With that, she let out a sigh.

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"Initially, I wanted to help you, since we're sisters, after all.

"As long as Luna died, the real heiress of the Landry family won't be able to return, but now...

"It's all my fault. I already knew how incompetent you were, yet I still let you take on such a challenging task. Now, you have no other way of getting out... If Joshua comes searching for you, you won't be able to hide from him in Banyan City.

"Even though I'm your sister, I 'm too far away, and I can't help you much..."

Aura bit her lip when she heard this. "Don't worry, Sis."

She narrowed her eyes and continued, "If I'm going to die, I'll drag Luna and her three rascals down with me! "

The woman on the other end of the line sniffed. "But Aura, I still want you to come home alive..."

Aura narrowed her eyes but did not reply. Instead, she hung up the phone.

When she hung up, the camera on the TV screen had shifted onto Joshua, who had one arm wrapped around Luna's shoulder tenderly. He was talking about hosting a memorial service for Granny Lynch.

The intimacy between Joshua and Luna made Aura feel as though thorns were pricking into her heart. She picked up something from the table and smashed it on the ground in anger. That b*tch!

How could that b*tch Luna find a way to surpass her every time? If it were not for Luna, she would not even become so jealous!

It was all Luna's fault!

Aura slumped down in the mess of shattered glass, panting.

The door was pushed open.

One of the clinic staff glared at her and snapped, "Do you know you just smashed five thousand dollars' worth of equipment? There are only five thousand dollars left in the prepaid account that Adrian left for us. Now, you've run out of money, and Adrian has been sent to jail."

The staff stormed into the room and tossed Aura's belongings out the door. "You should get out, too! You're not welcome here! "

The road outside the clinic was covered in mud.

Aura's entire body was stained with mud, which made her look extremely dirty. She bit down on her lip, wiped her face, and stood up unsteadily.

When she was rescued from the ocean, Adrian had taken all her cards, cash, and even her phone, claiming that he would hold onto them for safekeeping, but Aura knew that he had probably used all her money.

The only thing she had with her was an old, barely functional phone and a few clean clothing.

This clinic was located in a rural area, and there was nowhere for her to stay.

A soiled, barefooted Aura walked along the muddy roads, clutching her satchel close to her. For every step she took, she cursed Luna and Joshua in her heart.

After God knew how long, a car pulled up next to her. It was a van filled with white flowers, with a woman at the wheel.

She caught sight of Aura and, thinking she was a woman who did not have money to hail a taxi into the city, took pity on her and stopped her van. "Hey, are you going into the city? Do you want to come on board?"

Aura furrowed her brows and glanced at the tan-skinned, freckle-faced girl with a slightly disgusted expression.

However...

The sun was about to set, and she had no money either. If she did not take this opportunity to return to the city, she would have to spend the night outdoors.

With that, Aura narrowed her eyes and asked, "Where are you headed?"

The female driver smiled at her. "The grandmother of Joshua Lynch, CEO of Lynch Group, has passed away, and he's hosting a memorial service in her honor. I 'm bringing these flowers to the memorial service."

Aura paused for a moment, then curled her lips into a devious smile. She immediately pulled the door open and got into the van. "Well, in that case, thank you."

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Lynch Mansion.

Alfred, the butler, was instructing some of the servants to decorate the venue.

A van arrived to deliver white flowers for the service.

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A female driver wearing a cap and face mask got out of the driver's seat and handed the receipt of the goods to Alfred.

Alfred glanced at the invoice, then instructed the servants to confirm the order amount. As he was doing this, he frowned and glanced at the driver. "Why are you dressed like this?"

The driver lowered her voice and let out a small cough. "I have the flu, and I heard that there will be many people here at the memorial service, so I didn't want to spread it to anyone."

As soon as he heard this, Alfred took a small step back and maintained a safe distance from her.

The servants soon finished counting the vases of flowers. Alfred signed the receipt, handed the driver a payment slip, and directed her to the accounting department in the backyard.

Aura, dressed in a cap and face mask, turned and entered Lynch Mansion, clutching the payment slip.

The accounting department was located in the backyard.

Aura strode past the familiar living room, where the memorial service was held, and entered the backyard.

As soon as she stepped foot into the yard, she caught sight of Joshua and Luna.

She immediately ducked into a corner of the hallway and held her breath.

At this moment, Joshua was sitting Luna down in a chair and gently tickled her nose in a somewhat helpless fashion. "Since you're pregnant now, you shouldn't be out and about. You have to take care of yourself. You've already been so exhausted lately."

The medicine that Dr. Janet had given her to fake her illness so that they could obtain the antidote for Granny was more than damaging enough. At that time, Dr. Janet had advised Luna to take great care of her health after this.

However, before Luna got the chance to rest, Granny fell gravely ill, and she had spent numerous sleepless nights in the studio, helping the children make Granny a piece of jewelry before she passed.

Soon after that, Luna was brought into jail, where she discovered she was pregnant...

Joshua knew that Luna needed plenty of rest. However, Luna shook her head gently. "I want to pay my respects to Granny. It's like what you said: We can't turn back time to save the people who died, but the only thing we can do is pay respects to them in the form of a memorial service."

Joshua let out a sigh, then reached out his hand to gently stroke Luna's rosy lips. "We have Alfred and Lucas to take care of this, so you can relax. Lynch family has excellent butlers, and we don't need to put in so much effort for everything."

With that, he pressed a kiss onto Luna's forehead and said, "I 'll ask the driver to send you home in a while. I'll come home a bit later today."

Luna raised her eyebrows and glanced at the sky, which had already turned dark. "Do you still have other stuff to tend to?"

"Yes." Joshua chuckled. "But it's not pertaining to the memorial service."

Luna furrowed her brows and looked at him questioningly.

"Adrian has confessed everything: Aura was the one who had plotted this murder for him."

Luna's entire body froze when she heard this. "Aura is...still alive?"

"Yes." Joshua stood up and gazed at the calm lake ahead with a cold expression. "That day, when she jumped off the bridge, I was afraid she'd be rescued —since she's a good swimmer—and ordered my men to stand guard at sea. I forbade any ships to enter the waters near the bridge for 24 hours, but..."

Joshua let out a bitter smile. "Adrian used his status as my father to threaten the guards and save Aura. "

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"My father...has never fulfilled his responsibility of a father, and instead, always backstabbed me."

With that, he turned around and added, "Still, there is one piece of good news: he finally confessed the location where he had hidden Aura. I'm bringing my men to find her in a while."

Luna paused for a moment, then nodded. "Please be careful."

Joshua curled his lips and murmured a reply. Then, he helped Luna up from her chair and said, "You should go back home with the children and get some rest. I 'm guessing that Aura must've seen the news about Adrian's capture, and she must be trying to escape.

"However, that place is rural and desolate, and she can't have gone far. It's just that it might take some time to find her, so please don't wait for me."

Luna murmured in approval, then stood up and walked out of the yard with Joshua's help.

It was getting late.

After sending off the final florist's van, Alfred suddenly caught sight of a van that had yet to leave.

It had already been so long since he told the female driver where to get her payment, so why was she still here? Did she get lost?

Alfred passed on his tasks to a servant and left to find the driver himself.

This woman had been working with Lynch Mansion for a long time, and she frequently stopped by to deliver flowers. She must have been familiar with the layout of Lynch Mansion at this point, so how could she get lost?

As soon as he stepped foot into the hallway, he caught sight of the woman standing in the corner. He furrowed his brows and patted Aura's shoulder. "Hey, what are you doing here, looking so suspicious?"

Alfred's voice was loud, so Joshua and Luna, who had just been about to leave, heard this. Joshua frowned and immediately turned to glance alertly in their direction.

Alfred was standing in the corner, nagging a woman dressed entirely in black and wearing a cap and face mask. "You've already been here many times, so how can you not know where the accounting department is? Why didn't you retrieve your money? What are you doing, standing here like this?"

The woman lowered her head and replied in a hoarse voice, "I got lost. The décor today looks different than before..."

Alfred rolled his eyes at her, then turned to show her the way. "We just added some decorations for the memorial service today, but you're already confused by this?

"If it weren't for the fact that you've worked with us for a long time now, I would've thought you were a spy here to steal information!"

Aura's entire body froze when she heard this. After a moment, she let out an awkward laugh. "How can that be? Maybe I 'm a little confused from my flu, so I got lost..."

Alfred continued to reprimand her as he took her in the right direction, passing by Joshua and Luna.

"Sir, Ma'am, " he greeted obediently as he passed by. With that, he turned and glanced at the woman behind him with a frown. "Please remember these two people. They'll be the owners of Lynch Mansion from now on. This is Sir, and this is Ma'am."

A glimmer of malice flashed through Aura's eyes when she felt Joshua and Luna's proximity. She clenched her fists in anger.

If she had not overheard Joshua saying that he would send Luna home and come for her himself...she would take out her hedge trimming scissors, which she had used to kill the actual driver, and stab it into Luna's throat right this moment!

However, she had no choice but to bear this agony and greeted them in a low, hoarse voice, "Hello, Sir, Ma'am."

With that, she turned and followed Alfred to the backyard where the accounting department was.