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Alexander's expression darkened as he replied, "Danny called to inform me that you had fainted, so I immediately came over." Elise rubbed her temples and she recalled the situation that led up to her losing consciousness. Shortly after that, she explained, "My blood sugar must have dipped, so that's why I fainted." It was the same diagnosis that the doctor gave, but he noticed that she was clearly paler than usual. "You should take a good rest if you're not feeling well. I'll help to obtain a medical certificate for you so that you don't have to attend school tomorrow."

"That's not necessary." Elise instantly rejected Alexander's offer. "It's close to our final exam. I don't want to disrupt my studies." She had provided an extremely logical explanation, but he refused to accept her objections. "Your final exam is not as important as your health! Besides, it's just for one day. If you have any trouble with your schoolwork, I'll get Danny to tutor you once he's back. I'll get him to bring your homework back too." "But—" "There are no buts about it. I've instructed Mrs. Lester to prepare some chicken soup for you. Let's head home now."

From his words, Elise suddenly realized that they were still in the school's medical center, so she hastily rose from the bed. However, she had accidentally strained her wounded arm and instantly furrowed her brows as she instinctively reached out to place a hand over her arm. "What's wrong? Did you hurt your arm?" Alexander asked as he made a move to check on her condition. She hurriedly stopped him in response. "N-Nothing's wrong. My arm just feels stiff after such a long nap." Meanwhile, he didn't suspect that there was something amiss and mentioned, "I'll help you to get out of bed."

Elise held him for support as she got out of bed. It was only then when she felt the pain had significantly subsided. "I'm fine. Let's go home." Alexander grunted in affirmation and immediately led her out of the medical center. However, he suddenly reached into his pocket and turned to her. "I left my keys inside the room. I'll head back to grab it. Why don't you wait for me here?" Elise agreed and he subsequently detoured to get his keys. He returned to the room and found his keys by the bedside table. Just as he was about to leave, his eyes suddenly noticed something while his gaze lingered.

There was a prominent bloodstain on the originally white bedsheet, which caused his expression to instantly darken. He didn't make his way out to join Elise, but stopped to have a word with the doctor. "Doctor, was my fiancée injured?" The doctor had discovered a

wound on Elise's arm when he conducted his medical examination. Despite that, he noticed that she had already attended to the wound, so he wasn't extremely fussed about it and merely assumed that it was an ordinary injury. As such, he replied frankly, "Her arm was injured, but the wound had already been dressed. Being her fiance, weren't you aware of it?"

At that point, Alexander's expression was thunderous. *She didn't tell me that she was injured! I don't even know when she sustained that injury!* He suddenly realized that he wasn't exactly the greatest fiancé. "Thanks, doctor." As he said that, he reached for his wallet, took out a stack of notes, and handed it to the doctor. "You've done a great job." With that, Alexander walked out of the room. As soon as Elise noticed him walking toward her, she recollected herself and feigned that everyone was alright despite the intense pain that she felt on her arm.

In addition to that, she went forward to ask him, "Have you found the keys?" Alexander nodded. "Let's go home." Subsequently, the two of them entered the car whereby both of them were lost in their own thoughts and didn't speak a word to each other throughout the entire journey to the Griffith Residence. Upon their arrival, Elise immediately opened the door and alighted from the car to enter the house whereas Alexander remained seated in the car. He trained his eyes on her back as she walked inside. Then, he heaved a deep sigh and dialed Cameron's number. "Get me some medication for wounds. Get more of it and send it to my house." Cameron thought that Alexander had hurt himself and instantly probed with concern, "What's going on, Mr. Duncan?"

"Which part of your body did you injure? Is it bad? I'll be there right away!" This was the first time ever that Alexander found Cameron being loquacious, but he answered Cameron's questions nonetheless, "I'm fine. Just get everything ready and send it to me as soon as possible." After hanging up the phone, Alexander then left the car. Elise went into her room and she immediately locked the door after that.

Then, she located the first aid kit in her room and took out some pain relief medications. Without any hesitation, she immediately swallowed them; it was as if by her doing so, the pain could somehow slightly subside. She wasn't exactly sure of the reason, but the gunshot wound that she had sustained this time felt much more intense than before to the point where she was close to breaking down. It wasn't until there was a knock at the door when she realized how long she had been in the room. She reflexively opened her eyes and asked, "Who's there?"

"It's me!" The two simple words were paired in a familiar voice. Instantly, Elise rose to her feet and saw her reflection in the mirror. After making sure that she looked perfectly alright, she proceeded to unlock the door. "Do you need anything?" She asked Alexander who stood

by the door. At that moment, he was carrying a big hand in his hands and walked right into the room without uttering a single word.

His sudden action was enough to cause Elise to feel anxious, but shortly after that, he abruptly asked, "Did you injure your arm?" At this moment, Elise was stunned by his question. *How did he know?!* However, Alexander didn't wait for her response and continued with his words, "Here are some medications to apply on your wound. There are two boxes of pain relief inside as well. They're quite effective." "H-How did you know about it?" He honestly replied, "I saw the bloodstains on the bed sheet. You must have been quite badly injured. So, let me help you to dress the wound."

"No, thanks. I'm alright." Elise subconsciously blurted out those words in that moment without even realizing it. Then, she realized it moments after that and felt that her reaction was uncalled for. Then, she tried to explain, "No, that's fine since it's just a minor wound. I've dressed it myself, so it's not a big deal." At that moment, Alexander clearly sensed her abnormality and she seemed to be avoiding something.

"Give me your hand and let me take a look at it." Although Alexander had a no-nonsense attitude, Elise was well aware that he would be able to recognize her wound as one sustained from a gunshot as soon as he saw it. That would render all of her previous efforts futile. "I-I... There's no need for that. Look, I've properly dressed the wound and it's fine." She made a gesture and rolled up her sleeves to show him the bandage that she had put on. The wound was nicely bandaged and it looked alright. Meanwhile, Alexander intently scrutinized her arm with a frown.

"When did you injure yourself? Why didn't you tell me?" Elise had no choice but to respond, "It's just a minor wound, so it's not a big deal at all. I'll be fine in a couple of days' time." As soon as she had finished her words, Alexander reached out and took her into his arms. Their bodies were intertwined with each other and she could even hear his heartbeat by the side of her ears. "Is it because you don't trust me?" Alexander's voice gradually rang out. "As your fiancé, I was the last person to learn about your injury. Do you know how terrible I felt?" At that moment, Elise bit on her lower lip.

"I'm sorry—" She had just started to say something when he interjected, "There's no need to apologize. I'm the one who failed. I haven't done enough to give you the confidence to have the utmost trust in me. Can you promise me that from now on, you won't keep anything from me?" She lifted her eyes to meet his intense gaze. At that moment, he sounded extremely sincere, which had left her at a loss on what to do next.

She was hiding a secret from him and it was one that she couldn't bring herself to mention. "Alexander, I—" Before she could finish her sentence, his warm lips swooped in and stopped her from saying anything else with a single action. He slowly explored as he deepened the kiss by taking in her wondrous lips. It was as if he was about to mold her into himself. It rendered her mind completely blank, but she instinctively responded by returning the kiss.

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When it felt like she was responding to his kisses, it caused happiness to bloom in his heart. All he wanted at that moment was to hug her, kiss her and never let her go. After what felt like an eternity whereby Elise felt that she had almost suffocated, Alexander finally released her from his embrace.

Both of them were out of breath as they stared deep into each other's eyes and saw their own reflections. "You—" "You—" They had said both words in unison before looking at each other with a smile. Alexander then reached out to caress her head and added, "Take good care of your injury."

Let me know if you need anything. Please remember that you are mine forever. Since we have chosen each other and are now engaged, I hope that we can share both the good and bad times together as well as becoming each other's most trusted person." Elise peered into his eyes before the lines between her brows slowly eased. Then, she firmly nodded. "You should rest early then. I shall make my move." Then, he released her from his embrace and exited the room. After Alexander left, Elise subconsciously pinched herself. It hurt, which meant that everything that had happened earlier was genuine.

She looked at her reflection in the mirror again and found that she was blushing; it was a reaction whenever a girl was in love. Deep down in her heart, she knew that she had fallen for him. She had fallen head over heels in love with the man. The next day, Elise glanced at the rising sun outside the window and her mood was much better today. However, when she arrived at school, she noticed that there was a few hostile gazes from her peers. Feeling puzzled, she looked at herself and found that there was nothing unusual.

She initially thought that she was being overly sensitive, but unexpectedly, as she continued to head toward her classroom, she noticed that the gazes became more intense. There were even some people who whispered among themselves while they looked at her. "Danny, do you know what they are talking about?" Elise couldn't help but ask as soon as she stepped

into the classroom. Nevertheless, Danny, who had been engrossed in his studies nowadays, had no idea what the other students were discussing about. Hence, he answered, "I don't know."

Wait a minute; Boss, didn't Alexander request for a leave of absence on your behalf today? Why are you here at school?" She casually replied, "I'm actually alright. Rather than staying at home and doing nothing, I would rather come to school and learn something, so at least I won't waste my time." "Boss, you are such a sensible person. I have to learn from you." "Have you heard about it? Elise is pregnant!" "Oh, God! Are you serious? Whose child is it?" "Haven't you seen the diamond ring on her hand? I reckon that she's being kept by someone!"

"She is so young, yet she has done something like that? She is not even 18, right? How could she have done such a thing? As far as I can remember, according to the school rules, a student like this will be expelled." The few girls continued to gossip softly among themselves, but a second later, a loud *thud* rang in the air. It was Danny who suddenly kicked the door open. "What nonsense are you guys saying?" The crowd dispersed the moment they saw Danny, but he was already pissed off and attempted to chase after them. "Hey, explain yourselves!"

Don't you have anything else better to do other than spreading unproven rumors?" he shouted. Then, he suddenly noticed that Elise was standing behind him. It was only at that moment when he returned to his senses and advised, "Boss, don't listen to their nonsense. They are saying all this because they are jealous." Elise found it ridiculous as well. She had merely passed out, but people had spread rumors of her pregnancy. *This is bizarre.* However, her concern was not on the incident itself, but rather to look through the superficial aspects and focus on the reasoning.

This incident isn't as simple as it seems, so I'm actually curious to know who the culprit behind this is. "I'm fine." These two simple words didn't reveal her true emotions. Yet, Danny was worried. "Boss, I'll warn them not to spread nonsense. Rest assured, I won't allow the rumors to continue spreading." However, she interrupted, "There's no need to do so. The truth will speak for itself and time will prove everything." With that, Elise turned on her heels to enter the classroom. She surveyed everyone and in response, they quietly withdrew their gazes.

Then, she took a deep breath to calm herself before she returned to her seat. Since Elise was under the weather after the first period, she retched for a moment at one side, but it was enough to cause an uproar in the class. "Didn't I tell you that she must be pregnant?"

Didn't you see how she retched earlier? It's said that a woman will suffer morning sickness during the early stages of her pregnancy." "Tsk tsk, I've been deceived by her looks.

I used to think that she's quite a lovely person, but it turns out that I was blind." Jacinda pompously raised her chin to cryptically suggest, "There's always people who pretend to be nice, but they are in fact rotten to their bones. Elise is not even 18, right? Now that she has done something like this, I reckon the school won't continue to retain her." "I don't think that will be the case. Her results are excellent and all the subject teachers treasure her. Rather, I think she won't be expelled even after she has done something like this since there's a high chance for her to enroll in a top university."

Upon hearing this, Jacinda became restless. *Ashlyn said that the only reason for me being here is to destroy Elise's life. If Elise is really pregnant, according to the school rules, she certainly will be expelled.* Her gaze darkened as she arrived at a decision. Elise had no idea what the students had in mind. However, she had been retching for a few consecutive days. Her behavior was rather obvious and almost everyone in her class saw what she did, which resulted in everyone believing that she was really pregnant. Initially, Jacinda made a wild guess, but Elise's reaction was enough to prove her speculation.

When she noticed that the right timing had arrived, she took the initiative to run to the homeroom teacher to report that Elise was pregnant. As a matter of fact, the homeroom teacher had already heard about the rumors circulating in school, but he chose to believe Elise and ignored the rumors. However, when one of the students personally came to him to report the incident, he couldn't continue to turn a blind eye.

Therefore, Elise was called to the office, where Jacinda was at the same time. Upon seeing Jacinda, it dawned on Elise who the culprit behind the rumors was. Then, Elise cast a deep gaze at Jacinda and uttered, "So, it's you!" Although Jacinda was baffled by what Elise said, she showed no signs of backing down as she believed that Elise would be doomed this time. "I don't understand what you are saying, but I'm aware that you are pregnant. You should be expelled in compliance with the school rules."

Elise gave such a slight smile that it didn't reach her eyes before she retorted, "Are you sure about that?" Jacinda coldly snorted and remained silent, but the homeroom teacher beside them was in a dilemma. Firstly, Elise was the student with the highest chance in their school to enter a top university. Secondly, she also had a tricky background because the Griffith Family had enrolled her in this school. Given these two points, he was reluctant to get to the bottom of this incident.

However, as the homeroom teacher, he couldn't just ignore the problem now that a student had reported the incident to him. "Miss Sinclair, the reason why I called you over today is that I have something I wish to ask. All you have to do is to honestly answer me." A meek Elise approached him.

"Mr. Harris, what's the matter?" The homeroom teacher cleared his throat. He had already heard about the rumors, but since it involved a girl's reputation and privacy, it was tough for him to broach the subject. "The thing is that a student told me that you are pregnant. Is this true?"