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Elise grumbled, "Yeah, because I had to wait for you. The nerve of you to mock me." Alexander chuckled. "So this is my fault?" Elise shot him a glare. "Of course it is!" Alexander quickly stopped her from talking by filling her lunchbox up with more food. "Thanks for the wait. Have some more." Elise ignored him and only put her cutlery down after finishing her dinner. At this moment, Alexander's phone rang. It was his alarm, actually. Since it was Wednesday, it was time for his Arisian class with Sare. "Um, I might be home late. I have something to do. I'll get the driver to take you home if you want." "It's fine, just go ahead. I'll go home by myself." "Be careful then. Call me if you need anything." He went back to his desk, booted up his PC, and tried to contact Sare. Elise's phone started beeping, and she took her phone out. When she saw his message, she realized it was time for her class, so she glanced at him and kept her phone. "I'll be going home now." She got up. "See you later."

"Sure." Then, he called his employee. "Tell the driver to send Elise home." "Thanks." She went out of the office and texted Alexander, 'Class is delayed by half an hour tonight. Talk to you later.' Alexander gave her an OK emoji and closed his laptop, then went through his documents. Right after she arrived home, she went to her room, closed the door, and booted her PC up. It had been a while since Alexander started learning Arisian from her.

He was a fast learner and managed to grasp a lot of the concepts with just a few pointers. The class went by in a flash. Just when she was about to go offline, he texted, 'They sent me an email. I need your help with it.' Elise texted, 'Send it to my email.' A minute later, Elise got a new email. She logged into her account and skimmed through it before telling him its gist. 'They said the first phase went well. They're planning on sending a rep to Athesea next week to talk about the second phase and its plans.'

Alexander didn't reply immediately. In fact, he was taking his own sweet time, but she wasn't in a hurry. Elise stretched her arm and went downstairs to get herself a glass of milk. When she came out of the kitchen, she bumped into Jack, who just came back. Jack wasn't looking too well and seemed tired. He seldom came back home because of his work, but he had been coming home a lot over the last couple of days. "Still up?"

he asked. "I was thirsty, so I came out to get some milk." Jack went upstairs without saying another word. After he was gone, she remembered the song he wrote, and she rummaged through her pocket. *Oh, it's still there*. Then, she went upstairs and glanced at Alexander's reply. 'Tell me the time, and I need you there to translate if it's fine with you.' Elise looked at the date. It was a Saturday, so she agreed to it. *Hey, money is money.* 'Sure.' She turned her PC off and took out the unfinished song to finish modifying it. It took her forever to get out of bed the next day.

The modification had gone on late into the night, but luckily, she finished it, and she even added some lyrics into it, turning it into a new song. When she came down, Matthew was waiting for her in the living room. "Morning, Elise," he greeted her with a smile. Ever since he confessed to her, Elise had been avoiding him. If it weren't because of Jonah telling them to take turns sending her to school, she wouldn't even talk to him. "Good morning," Elise greeted back, but obviously, she was being distant. However, Matthew ignored it and pulled out a chair for her.

"Here, dig in." She sat down and finished her breakfast quickly. Elise then took her bag and left, while Matthew quickly followed her. They said nothing to each other the whole way. Elise was doing her math questions, while Matthew was trying to find a chance to talk. However, Elise was ignoring him, so he pursed his lips and thought for a while before calling her name. After a pause, he said, "Sorry. I might have been rash back then."

Elise smiled at him politely. "It's in the past now. It's fine." Matthew continued, "I'm sorry, Elise. I never thought I'd cause you so much trouble. I know you're concentrating on your studies so you're not in a hurry to get a boyfriend. Or maybe you just don't like me, but either way, can we go back to how we used to be? Just pretend it never happened, alright?" Elise heaved a sigh of relief after hearing that, but that also proved that Alexander was right.

He is trying to get closer to me because he wants something else. "Sure." After a pause, she added, "The company needs all the manpower it has right now. If you're busy, you don't have to send me to school." Matthew didn't take that offer. "Grandpa told us we must send you to school no matter how busy we are." Dammit. Jonah was the only reason she couldn't refuse him. Fine. Since Grandpa Griffith wants this, there's no point in arguing.

She got out of the car and went into the school, but someone suddenly tapped on her shoulder. When Elise turned around, she saw Samantha and Riley behind her. "You were in your head. We noticed you spacing out," Riley said. Elise smiled. "I was just thinking about the solution for that question yesterday.

Thanks to you, I finally found the solution." Riley smacked her head in fake annoyance. "Man, you top students are always thinking about homework, huh?" Samantha sighed. "That's why they're top students and we're not." Elise put her hands on their shoulders. "Just kidding. I just wanted to motivate you two."

Samantha and Riley looked at each other before pouncing on Elise and went toward their classroom. Unbeknownst to them, Mikayla was standing not far away. When she saw the girls looking so happy together, she felt jealous for some reason.

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"Oh right! Elise, I need to tell you something." Samantha suddenly held Elise's hand and lowered her voice. "Fenix Entertainment was recruiting actors for a new drama set in the ancient era, so I sent in my application. But you know what? They told me to go for the audition this afternoon. I was going to ask Riley to come with me but she has some personal matters to settle, so can you come with me instead?" Samantha was looking at her expectantly.

Since it was just a self-study session that afternoon, Elise agreed. "Sure. I'll take the afternoon off then." That delighted Samantha. "Alright. See you later." After they had lunch, Samantha grabbed Elise and took a cab to Fenix Entertainment. Elise thought the company sounded familiar, but when she came to the front door, she realized that it was Jack's agency. Just when she was immersed in her thoughts, Samantha grabbed her arm and snapped her out of it.

"Hurry up, Elise. It's starting in twenty minutes. We don't want to be late." They went into the elevator. There was already a guy wearing a cap in there when they came in. When he saw them, the guy lowered his cap. Elise thought he looked familiar, but she couldn't remember who he was. It wasn't after she got out and saw the posters on the corridor did she realize who the man was. Hey, that's the new best actor—Ernest. "Hi, may I know where's the audition for Truest Love?"

Samantha asked a crew member. The crew member pointed to the right. "Walk down this corridor to the end. It's in the last room." "Thanks." Samantha took Elise and went down the corridor. There were a lot of people auditioning. When Samantha took her number, it was

around fifty, so they had to wait for a few hours. "I would have come a bit later if I knew it would drag on this long." Elise calmed her down by saying, "It's fine.

That means you can be more prepared. Read your script." Samantha looked at the script she just got. "Let's go there then. You can help me out." They went to the less crowded balcony, and Samantha combed through the script. At the same time, Jack was playing some games on the couch in the room next door while his manager was scrolling through some data, looking worried. "Jack, your numbers have plummeted.

You dropped out of the top five on Trending and the popularity ranking. You used to be in the top three. Even your songs dropped out of the top twenty on the search list." Jack answered calmly, "It's normal, Ronald. That's how it is with the entertainment industry. We should just accept it." Ronald didn't like it that Jack was being so unmotivated. "Oh, what do you know? The most important thing for a celebrity is their value.

Sure, your fanbase is sturdy, but you're losing them quickly. All the newbies are starting to gain a lot of ground. If you don't work hard, you'll be a nobody in two years, tops." He kept pacing back and forth. "Have you been coming up with a new song like I asked you to?" Jack answered nonchalantly, "Sure. I'm doing it right now, so don't push me. I'm gonna lose this match at this rate." Ronald stopped pacing. "I can't just count on you. I must call Noel and ask him to write some new songs for you. And interact with your fans on Twitter when you have time.

Keep them interested." Jack went on playing his game in silence, but after Ronald went out, he put his phone down and put on a serious look. Then, he logged into his Twitter account to read through his fans' comments. Finally, he drafted one tweet, but in the end, he deleted it. "Forget it. I'll just leave it like this." He got up and went out of the room. Every time the company's employees saw him, they would greet him respectfully.

"Hi, Jack." Jack nodded and went past them calmly. It was then he noticed Elise from the corner of his eye. She was on the balcony, of course. "This line is hard, Elise." Samantha had a deep frown on her forehead. Elise took a look and said, "Hm, break this into parts and memorize them that way. That might work better." Samantha did as Elise said. When she said the lines again, it sounded much smoother. "Fancy seeing you here," Jack blurted, shocking Samantha and Elise.

When Samantha saw who it was, she jumped with delight. "Y-You're Jack!" She sounded excited, while Jack reacted to it calmly. He was used to getting recognized, so he just

smiled and said, "Hello." Samantha was already gushing with delight. "Oh my god. I actually got to meet you. Um..." She took her phone out. "Can I get a photo with you?"

Jack nodded. "Sure." Samantha was already buzzing. She went up to him at once, pointed her phone's camera at both of them and snapped their photos before posting them on her social media accounts. Elise looked at him. "I'm here with my friend. She has an audition." "How did it go?" he asked. "It hasn't started yet," she answered gently. "It might take a while." Just when they were chatting, Ronald came over, looking happy. "Oh, there you are, Jack." He looked at the girls and nodded at them with a smile. Jack then told Elise, "I'll have to go. Good luck to your friend."

He then left with Ronald. "What made you so happy?" Jack asked. Ronald answered jovially, "I just called Noel, and you know what he said?" Jack arched his eyebrow. Before he could ask, Ronald told him the answer, "He said he's going to get a new composer for you. Do you know who it is? It's H! Yes, that famous one!"

Jack wasn't interested in the answer until H was mentioned. "H? The composer who only wrote three songs but still managed to top the charts for a year? The one who's still the talk of the town even after her retirement? Are you sure it's the same H?" Ronald knew Jack would be skeptical, so he nodded quickly.

"Yes, that's right. Noel said he's friends with H, so if he can convince H, the leading track of your new album will be composed by H herself! The whole nation's going to know you when that happens. H's popularity alone will jack your album up to insane heights." "But I thought H had retired a long time ago. Is she making a comeback?" Jack had his own doubts, and Ronald shared that doubt too. However, he thought,

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"Don't worry! Noel said that the odds are in our favor, so all we have to do now is wait. I believe we'll hear good news soon." The anticipation Jack felt earlier had completely disappeared since he didn't get a firm answer. H is so mysterious. None of the major media sites have managed to dig out any information about her even after so many years. How could he possibly resurface just because of me? That's completely impossible. Jack had completely lost all hope by the time he followed Ronald into the elevator. "By the way, do you know those two girls from earlier?" Ronald couldn't help but ask.

"I do," Jack uttered with a grunt. Ronald recalled the glimpse of Elise and Samantha that he had caught earlier. "Both of them have some potential, especially the taller girl. Her body proportions are perfect—it's almost as if she's made to be in the entertainment industry.

Her face doesn't look that great, but she might be able to get into this industry if she does some minor plastic surgery." Jack knew that Ronald was referring to Elise. "That's Elise, the girl that I said I used to fancy," Jack uttered without any hesitation. "I might have overstepped my boundaries, then."

Ronald immediately sealed his lips tight. ... On the other hand, it was Samantha's turn for the audition. Elise waited in the corridor for about 30 minutes before Samantha came out of the room. "How was it?" Elise asked in a concerned tone. Samantha simply shook her head. "No idea. The director told me to go back and wait for their announcement." "It's fine. Let's go back for now, then." Elise attempted to comfort her.

Right when the two girls got back to school, Samantha received a call from the director's team. "Ah, Elise! I was chosen! The director wants me to report to them next week. It's only a supporting role, but the director said that my role is relatively important, so I'll have to film for nearly a month!"

Samantha was euphoric, and happiness was written all over her face as she spoke. "Congratulations. You're getting to do what you enjoy!" Elise was happy for her friend as well. "In celebration of this great news, I've decided that we're going to go for a karaoke session tonight!" Samantha chirped.

Elise didn't want to dampen her friend's spirits, and she didn't have much to do that night, so she agreed to go. "Let's ask Mikayla and Riley to come along! We can go as a group of four." Samantha thought that it was a good idea, so she gave Riley a call while Elise dropped Mikayla a text. Elise gave Jonah a call after she was done inviting Mikayla for that night. "I'm going out for some fun with my friends, Grandpa.

I'll be coming home a little later tonight." Jonah's voice was full of care for the young girl. "Alright! Send me your location, and I'll get the driver to pick you up later." Elise told him the address before they ended the call. ... All four of them thoroughly enjoyed themselves that night at Luxor Karaoke. Halfway through the night, Elise went to the bathroom. *Clunk!*

Someone's lipstick fell right beside Elise's leg, and Elise instinctively bent down to pick it up. The owner of the lipstick was a gorgeous and well-dressed woman, and the woman uttered a polite 'thank you' before she took the lipstick from Elise's hands. Elise didn't seem to mind the woman's haughty attitude.

She continued staring at her reflection in the mirror, fixing her clothes and her makeup before she turned to leave. At that very moment, she heard the woman making a call. "Alexander, darling!" the woman uttered. For some reason, the first person that popped into Elise's head was Alexander Griffith.

However, after some thought, Elise realized how unlikely that would be. She therefore ignored the woman and strode out of the bathroom. Luxor Karaoke was a large place, and its corridors were rather long and windy. Furthermore, each of their rooms were about the same size, and Elise couldn't identify the room that she had been in earlier.

She had made an entire round, and she was about to give Samantha a call when something caught her attention at the corner of her eye. It was an extremely familiar figure. "Alexander..." Elise muttered. He didn't hear her at all. All of a sudden, the woman who had been in the bathroom earlier appeared and hurried over to Alexander.

She planted a gentle kiss on his cheek before she slipped her arm into his. Alexander didn't look like he had any intentions of pushing her away. At that very moment, Elise felt a strong

force coming from behind her, and her entire body was flung forward. She pushed the door open and stumbled into the karaoke room before falling face-first onto the ground.

Everyone in the room turned to look at her. "Yo, does this place provide women that will send themselves directly to your doorstep?" A man's voice came from inside the room. Elise was utterly embarrassed at that point—she wished she could dig a hole and stick her head into it.

She hung her head low to pretend as if she didn't see anything that was happening in the room. "I think you might have gotten the wrong room, gorgeous." The same man's voice sounded as he strode toward Elise. Elise finally lifted her head—she knew she couldn't avoid him for much longer. The man's footsteps came to a halt as he stared at Elise. His Adam's apple moved up and down for a moment before he spoke in a completely different tone. "

Where the f*ck did you come from?! Get the f*ck out of here now!" he growled. The man's tone of voice and his attitude were the complete opposite of how he first sounded and acted. Elise was too flustered to explain herself, and she hastily scrambled to her feet without turning to look in Alexander's direction.

To her surprise, Alexander's voice filled the room the very next second. "What are you doing here?" She had no choice but to turn and smile at Alexander since he had recognized her. "What a coincidence! You're here too?" The man beside her interrupted their conversation. "Do you know her, Mr. Griffith?"

Alexander didn't answer the man but simply gazed at Elise quietly. The woman beside him spoke up instead. "She was the lady I bumped into in the bathroom earlier. She helped me pick my lipstick up. Do you know her, Alexander?" Alexander pursed his lips as he continued to look at Elise.

"She's Miss Elise Sinclair, one of the main shareholders of Griffith Group," he uttered slowly. "It seems like Miss Sinclair is here for work. Since Mr. Smith from Smith Enterprise is here today, we should go through some details regarding our partnership."

Alexander's intentions were clear—he was indicating that he was there for work, and he was indirectly hinting Elise not to misunderstand anything. However, he didn't notice that he was explaining himself.

The moment Theodore heard that Elise was one of the main shareholders of Griffith Group, he instantly wiped off the disdainful expression on his face. "I see, Miss Sinclair. Well, that was a unique entrance you made."

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Elise's cheeks turned beet red. She wanted to explain herself, but she ended up going along with Alexander's words since she didn't know what else to say. "Yeah. Since I'm here, let's confirm some of the details regarding our partnership, Mr. Smith."

Tiffany Smith, who was sitting beside Alexander, didn't seem pleased by Elise's suggestion. "You agreed to sing a few songs with me today, Alexander! Since we're out for some fun, let's not talk about work-related matters, okay?"

"That's right! Let's not talk about work as it's pretty rare for us to spend our leisure time together. Since Miss Sinclair is here, let's all have a few drinks together! We'll enjoy ourselves, just for tonight!" Theodore said with a wide grin. However, Alexander merely smirked after hearing their words. Get new chapter update on novelheart.com

"I'm sure you know that Miss Sinclair owns the largest portion of Griffith Group's shares now, Mr. Smith. Whatever Miss Sinclair says should take precedence. Since she's here today, I don't think it would be right for me to use work as an excuse to enjoy myself." Theodore quickly understood what Alexander meant.

"All of us are really busy with work in the daytime, Miss Sinclair. It's such a rare opportunity for us to relax a little! Why don't we have a few drinks before we start our discussion? We can talk about our companies' partnership a while later." Theodore chuckled and glanced at Elise before he reached over and held onto her arm.

He led her to a spot beside Alexander. Elise was about to protest, but Theodore didn't give her the chance to say anything. He simply called for the waiter and ordered a few more bottles of alcohol. Elise shot Alexander a glance, only to see him gazing at her with a rather enigmatic look in his eyes.

Something seemed to click in her mind at that very moment. "Mr. Smith, don't you think we should settle our contract before having our drinks? We'd be able to enjoy even more that way!" Ultimately, Theodore was too impatient to listen to Elise's constant talk about their partnership and the contract. He finally gave in.

"Miss Sinclair. Will we get to enjoy our drinks and music once we sign this contract?" She nodded. "Of course! We can only say that we've formed a partnership once we sign the contracts, right? I'll only feel safer once we document our agreement in black and white." "Fine, Miss Sinclair! Hand me the contract.

We've pretty much discussed all of the details with your company, so I'm sure the contract will look fine to me. We can sign it now," Theodore uttered impatiently. Elise hadn't expected Theodore to be so compliant. After sending Alexander a glance, she pulled a contract out of her office bag and handed it over to Theodore. Get new chapter update on novelheart.com

"Take a look at this, Mr. Smith." Theodore directly flipped to the last page of the contract and scribbled his signature on it. "There! We're done now, aren't we, Miss Sinclair?" The smile on Elise's face blossomed like a flower. "Of course, Mr. Smith! Cheers." She held a glass up and clinked it against Theodore's before she finished her entire drink.

A grin spread across Theodore's face. "You're an independent woman indeed, Miss Sinclair. I respect you for that." He finished his drink before he turned to glance at Alexander. "Miss Sinclair is no regular woman, huh, Mr. Griffith? I hesitated for a long while as I was uncertain if I wanted to sign the contract, yet it only took her a few sentences to convince me to sign the papers.

She's a special lady indeed." "You must be joking, Mr. Smith. Of course, Miss Sinclair is the central figure of Griffith Group, but I'm sure it was her sincerity that made you so willing to sign the contract," Alexander replied politely. Theodore chuckled once more. "It's more than that!

To be honest, one reason I agreed to this is because of my precious sister. Her feelings toward you are so obvious that even I, as her brother, couldn't bear to stand around and

watch her! I had to do something!" Tiffany seemed rather embarrassed by his words. "What are you talking about, Theodore?!"

Theodore hastily stopped himself from saying anything else. "Alright! I won't make any further comments! You know yourself best." When Tiffany shifted her gaze toward Alexander, her cheeks were as red as a tomato. Her large, shining eyes were fixed upon Alexander's side profile as she spoke.

"You don't need to listen to my brother, Alexander. You've always occupied a large space in my heart." Alexander narrowed his eyes. "Are you saying that I've gained weight, Miss Smith? You make me sound as if I'm taking up all of the space in there." He spoke in a rather playful tone, and it managed to resolve the awkward atmosphere that had built up in the room.

"I guess you could think of it that way," Tiffany said with a soft giggle. I don't think I'm needed here, Elise thought. At that moment, she received a call from Samantha, which gave her the perfect reason to excuse herself. "I have other matters to handle, Mr. Griffith. I should leave now."

Theodore stopped her the moment she finished speaking. "I'd feel rather offended if you left, Miss Sinclair. You're asking to leave when you just sat down! Did you just come here to sign the contract? Are you ignoring me now that the paperwork is done?" "You've misunderstood me, Mr. Smith.

That's not what I meant to do at all." Elise hastily attempted to clear her name. He interrupted her words. "If that's not what you meant to do, then you shouldn't be in a rush to leave. Let's have a couple more drinks." Elise had no choice at this point. She gave Alexander a pleading stare hoping that he would intervene, but he merely smirked at her without saying anything.

In the end, Elise could only send Samantha a text explaining the situation she was caught in. Minutes later, Samantha showed up with Riley and Mikayla beside her. The three of them rushed into the room. "Are you okay, Elise?!" Samantha cried. The sight of three young and pretty ladies made Theodore's eyes widen.

"Could these girls be your friends, Miss Smith?" he asked with a broad smile on his face. Samantha simply strode toward Elise before grabbing her arm. "Let's leave now, Elise." Elise

felt a weight lift off her shoulders as she took the first few steps to head out of the room. However, Theodore stopped them before that could happen.

"Since you ladies are here, why don't you guys just join our room? It's more fun than just a few of you girls being together in a room—all of us would enjoy more company!" Without any hesitation, Samantha stepped forward to protect Elise. "We're not interested in joining you guys!

You look like someone with bad intentions!" Elise felt the urge to give Samantha a thumbs up. It was the first time anyone had ever criticized Theodore for having bad intentions, and for some odd reason, he found himself attracted to Samantha's personality. "Hey, young lady. We're all out here for some fun.

Do you have to make me sound so bad? Since we got the chance to bump into one another, why don't we exchange our phone numbers?" Samantha's face darkened as she felt she was being teased by the man. "I'm not interested in exchanging numbers. Let's go, Elise."

Theodore was about to stop them again, but Alexander called him just in time. "Let's have a drink now, Mr. Smith." Theodore didn't wish to reject Alexander in front of everyone—he had no choice but to lift his cup for a drink with Alexander. By the time Elise and the rest of them left, only the three of them were left in the room.

Initially, Tiffany's plan had been to spend some quality time with Alexander. However, after the incident with Elise, Alexander only seemed colder toward Tiffany than before. Tiffany had had no choice but to ask her brother for help. All along, Theodore understood Tiffany's intentions—he had been delaying the partnership with Griffith Group precisely because he wanted to create more opportunities for his sister. However, he hadn't expected to sign the contract after talking to Elise for just a few minutes.

Theodore couldn't tell what was going through Alexander's mind, so he tried his luck with an invitation to drink. "Mr. Griffith, we managed to sign the contract tonight, but we haven't gotten a chance to enjoy ourselves yet. Why don't we switch to another spot for more drinks? Tiffany can have a few more drinks with you—how does that sound?"

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Alexander got to his feet. "I don't think I'll be able to join today, Mr. Smith. I have some personal matters to handle. We can make plans to drink some other day." Alexander had made himself clear, and Theodore quickly understood the message—Alexander wasn't interested in Tiffany at all! Theodore wasn't a petty man, and he didn't attempt to coerce Alexander into anything since he had gotten a clear answer.

"No worries, Mr. Griffith. I'm sure we'll have tons of opportunities to meet again in the future." Tiffany stomped her foot, feeling annoyed. "Why don't you spend a little more time with me, Alexander?" But Alexander merely pulled himself away from her. "I have other matters to handle, Miss Smith. I'll excuse myself now."

Alexander strode out of the room, leaving the two siblings behind. They exchanged glances with each other before Theodore spoke up. "Did you realize how Alexander's gaze shifted the moment Miss Sinclair entered the room? He didn't look away from her at all." Tiffany didn't agree with her brother.

"You've got it all wrong, Theodore! That woman is hideous. How could Alexander ever fall for a girl like her? You're offending Alexander by saying that." Upon hearing his sister, Theodore didn't make any further comments. From a male's perspective, I think it's extremely obvious that there's something special about the way Alexander looks at Elise.

But Tiffany will probably get annoyed at me if I say anything, so I should just keep my mouth shut. "Well, Alexander doesn't seem too interested in you. Perhaps you can find a new target?" Theodore asked meekly. "No. I think Alexander's the perfect fit for me," Tiffany replied in a firm tone. "I have to be with him.

I don't care how you do it, Theodore, but you need to make sure that we date each other in the end." She's truly fallen head over heels for a man this time, Theodore thought. The most I can do as her brother is to try to bring the two of them together. ... After Samantha successfully brought Elise back into their karaoke room, Elise had lost all interest in singing.

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All Elise could think of then was how Alexander and Tiffany looked as they stood together earlier—the same scene kept replaying in Elise's mind and refused to leave her alone. It was nearly midnight when the four of them finished singing their songs. "How are you and Elise going home, Mikayla?"

Samantha asked once they all stepped out of the karaoke center. Mikayla glanced at her phone. "My driver's picking me up in a bit. You guys can go ahead first." "What about you, Elise?" Samantha asked. Elise was just about to speak when a blaring car horn interrupted their conversation. Elise turned around to find Alexander's car stopped by the side of the road. "My ride's here, so I'll leave now," she uttered while waving at the other three of them.

Her ride sped past her three friends after she hopped into the car. Neither one of them said anything after Elise got into the car, and things seemed rather awkward between them for a while. Elise bit on her lower lip before she decided to break the silence. "Were you waiting for me?" Alexander responded to her question while staring straight and steering the car. "No. I ended about the same time as you did."

He was clearly lying—he simply didn't want Elise to know the truth. "You seem pretty close to Miss Smith. Did you guys know each other before this?" she asked. Alexander raised an eyebrow and stole a glance at Elise in the rearview mirror. For some reason, Elise felt the need to justify her question.

"Don't misunderstand my intentions. I was just asking a random question. You don't have to answer me if you don't want to." Alexander shifted his focus back onto the road. "She was my junior at university, so I have known her since then." "Oh..." Elise mumbled and fell silent once she got her answer.

She hadn't realized the hint of jealousy in her as she posed him the question. "Thank you for tonight. Theodore wouldn't have agreed to sign the contract if it weren't for you. I'm surprised—you can be pretty smart in critical situations, huh?" Alexander wasn't stingy with his compliments, and his words made Elise blush.

"I was just going along with what you said. I hadn't expected to actually help in getting the partnership contract signed," Elise muttered. All along, Alexander understood why Theodore had been taking his time to sign the contract. Alexander didn't want to expose his intentions, so Elise's presence made things much easier for him.

Alexander narrowed his eyes. "One way or another, I couldn't have done this without you. I owe you one. You can just let me know if you need any help in the future." "Alright," Elise replied with a smile. The car sped along the highway, and Elise glanced out the window as the night view of the city zoomed past them. Her spirits seemed to be lifted after that.

Once she got home, Elise removed her makeup and took a shower. When she came out of the bathroom, her hair was still dripping wet. She was drying her hair with a towel when she heard the sound of a notification from her laptop. She walked over, and her laptop screen lit up.

She read the email that had been sent from Alexander. 'Miss Sare, the representatives from Aris will arrive at Athesea tomorrow. I'll send my assistant to go along with you, and I need you to greet them at the airport.' Elise immediately sat upright. The clicking sounds of her keyboard came to a halt after she responded with an 'okay'.

After drying her hair, Elise returned to her room and went to sleep. She woke up early the next morning and dressed herself in the usual, worn-out clothes that she often wore. Her outfit was as unpresentable as it always was, and she simply greeted Jonah before heading out of the house.

After hailing a cab, she first stopped at a public washroom. Elise then went in and changed her entire outfit before heading to the airport. "There you are, Miss Sare!" Cameron rushed over to greet Elise once she arrived. "How long do we have until the representatives arrive?" Elise asked. Cameron glanced at the time.

"About 30 minutes." "Let's go in now, then. We shouldn't keep them waiting," Elise urged. Both of them stood by the gates at the airport, but nearly two hours went by before the other party's plane finally landed at the airport. Cameron held a piece of cardboard up and waved it around. Soon enough, a pale-skinned, blue-eyed blonde strolled over to them.

"Were you guys expecting me?" The woman's fluent Arisian came as a pleasant surprise to Elise. "Hello, Miss Lily. You're finally here," she uttered with a smile. Lily gave Elise a perfunctory handshake. "My team is coming out in a while. We can leave without waiting for them." Elise understood Lily's orders, so she led the foreigner toward the exit.

"Why didn't Mr. Griffith come today?" Lily asked curiously. "He's rather occupied with some other matters at work, but he will come over to greet you personally later. I'll escort you to

check-in at the hotel first," Elise replied politely. Lily chuckled wholeheartedly. "Please remind Mr. Griffith to bring the red wine he promised me. I've been craving it."

Elise had no idea what red wine Lily was referring to, but she responded appropriately anyway. "Don't worry, Miss Lily. I'll make sure to pass the message to him." Soon after Elise and Lily arrived at the hotel, Cameron led Lily's staff over. Elise helped all of them to check-in at the hotel, and she had just turned to leave the counter when Lily stopped her.

"Don't forget to ask for two room keys," Lily ordered. Elise didn't understand why Lily needed two room keys, but she acceded to her request and asked for an extra access card anyway. Once Elise delivered the access cards to the room, she took the elevator down and pulled her phone out to send Alexander a text.

The content of the message was precisely what Lily had ordered her to remind Alexander. Elise didn't leave the area after that and simply stayed at the coffee house in the hotel to have a cup of coffee.

About two hours later, Alexander arrived at the hotel. "Mr. Griffith!" Elise beamed as she greeted Alexander. He gave her a slight nod. "Is Miss Lily downstairs yet?" he asked.