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"Miss Lily agreed to be here at 6.00PM, so I'm sure she'll be down soon," Elise replied. Alexander raised his wrist to look at the time. "Let's head over first, then." They walked over to the restaurant, with Elise following behind Alexander. All of a sudden, his footsteps came to a halt. "Oh. Please go to my car and bring the red wine over. It's the one that Lily wants—I left it on my passenger's seat." He handed his car keys to Elise as he spoke. Get new chapter update on novelheart.com

She took the keys and turned to head to the parking lot. After collecting the red wine, she went back to the restaurant. By then, Lily had already come down and was talking to Alexander. *They seem to be enjoying their conversation*, Elise thought as she watched them from a distance. "Mr. Griffith, Miss Lily.

Here's the red wine you asked for." Lily took a glance at the red wine. "How generous of you, Mr. Griffith," she uttered in fluent French. Elise was rather puzzled. *Does Lily speak French?* Alexander curled his lips into a smirk before he responded in French. He sounded just as fluent in the language as she was.

"As you like it, Miss Lily." Meanwhile, Elise stood by the side until Alexander turned to look at her. "Take a seat," he offered. She quickly rejected him. "It's fine, Mr. Griffith! I'll stand here, and you can let me know if you need anything." Alexander shot Elise a rather puzzled stare.

He then shifted his gaze to Lily as he recalled how he had intended to discuss some work-related stuff with her. "Miss Lily, I truly appreciate you traveling over to Athesea just to improve the work that we're doing together.

I believe our partnership will be a fruitful one." Before Alexander could go on, Lily interrupted him. "It wasn't necessary for me to travel here, Mr. Griffith. However..." She gave him a cryptic stare that seemed rather seductive. "There was something about this trip to Athesea that made me especially drawn to it. I believe we can talk about our work a while later—I'd prefer if I had some time to adjust to the time differences first.

Since you're the host, why don't you arrange for us to do some relaxing activities?" Alexander responded in a serious tone. "Is there anything in particular that you'd like to do,

Miss Lily?" She beamed at him. "I heard about this place called Glenwood Hills in Athesea, and that the hot springs there are pretty decent.

Why don't we visit the hot springs tomorrow?" Elise, who had been standing by the side, nearly choked when she heard what Lily said. This woman doesn't seem like she's here to talk about work. She looks like she's just here to seduce Alexander. "I'll get my assistant to arrange a trip to the hot springs if that's what you'd like, Miss Lily," Alexander uttered. Lily let out a shrill giggle. "Perfect. Let's relax at the hot springs tomorrow, Mr. Griffith!

We can bring Miss Sare along as well! She can help provide us with some suggestions if we happen to talk about work." Elise, who was taken aback by Lily's sudden show of concern, stared at Alexander helplessly. His face was devoid of emotions, and Elise couldn't seem to tell what was going on in his mind.

Well, I'm sure there isn't a single man on Earth who can reject a gorgeous, fair-skinned blonde like Lily, Elise thought as she shifted her attention back to Lily. Alexander's a regular man after all; it's only normal that he feels attracted to Lily. For some reason, an uneasy sensation formed in Elise's chest. Throughout the night, there was a hint of contempt in her eyes whenever she gazed at Lily. Despite this, Elise didn't notice the shift that occurred within her.

The next morning, Elise arrived early at the hotel to wait for Lily. Lily was a punctual woman, and she came down with her assistant at the time they agreed to meet. "I'm sorry to keep you waiting, Miss Sare." Elise smiled. "It's fine. I just arrived as well." Lily got in the car with Elise, and they traveled over to meet Alexander.

However, once they got there, they realized that it wasn't just Alexander who was in the car—Danny and Jack were there as well. Elise felt oddly self-conscious upon meeting the other two men, and she instinctively shied away from them. Jack had been rather moody the past few days, so he delayed his other jobs just so that he could step away for a short break to relax.

He had intended to go on a short trip with Danny, but Alexander dragged the both of them to go to the hot springs with him at the very last minute. Danny still thought about Elise every now and then. He thought of asking her along, but he also considered how it might be rather troublesome for a girl to visit the hot springs with him.

Both Danny and Jack didn't know that Alexander's trip to the hot springs was related to his business partnership, so both the brothers exchanged glances once they found out about

the truth. What a waste of our good time, they both thought. "Who are those two men? Do you know them, Miss Sare?"

Lily leaned in and whispered in Elise's ear. Elise glanced at Jack and Danny while she replied to Lily's question. "They are Jack and Danny, both from the Griffith Family." Lily raised an eyebrow as she smirked. "Are they Mr. Griffith's brothers?" "Yes," Elise replied dutifully. The smile on Lily's face broadened as she took a seat.

"I didn't expect his brothers to be of such high standards." Elise had no idea what Lily meant, and she didn't think much about the woman's words either. Their ride made its way toward Glenwood Hills, which was located up in the north about an hour away from the city.

Once they arrived at Glenwood Hills, Elise got out and gave Lily a brief introduction of the area. Alexander walked over with Danny and Jack following behind him. "What's she doing here?" Danny was the first to notice Elise, and it came as a pleasant surprise to him. "Who are you talking about?" Jack asked. Danny pointed at Elise. "Her! Elise!" "You must be blind!" Jack uttered after gazing in the direction of where Danny was pointing.

"That's not Elise." Once Jack finished speaking, Elise turned around to reveal a face that was completely foreign to Danny. "I thought it was Elise when I saw her from the back. It seems like they're just similar in size," Danny commented after processing his initial shock. Jack chuckled. "You talk as if you're possessed. Why are you so deeply in love with Elise?" Embarrassment spread across Danny's face as he gave Jack a light smack.

"That's nonsense, Jack. I just thought they looked alike." Jack chuckled without exposing his brother any further, and the both of them followed Alexander toward the hot springs. They then booked two separate hot springs since there were quite a number of them. Elise went along with Lily, while Alexander went with Danny and Jack.

Once they were there, Lily took her clothes off to reveal her stunning figure. She lowered herself into the water before she turned to look at Elise. "Aren't you coming in, Miss Sare?" Elise shook her head. She was worried that her makeup would fade if she went into the water. "No, Miss Lily. You go ahead."

Lily didn't insist any further and simply enjoyed her time in the hot springs. "Miss Sare," Lily uttered after a long while of silence. "Can I talk to you about Mr. Griffith?" Elise could tell that Lily was extremely interested in Alexander. "What would you like to know, Miss Lily?" Elise asked.

Lily's large, twinkling eyes landed upon Elise after hearing her words. "Well, based on what I heard before coming here, I understand that Mr. Griffith is currently single." "You seem to really care for Mr. Griffith, Miss Lily," Elise commented.

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Lily chuckled when she realized that she could no longer conceal her actual intentions. "It's true that I fancy Mr. Griffith, but I'm afraid I don't know him that well yet. I was hoping that you could tell me a little about Mr. Griffith's interests and hobbies, Miss Sare." Elise responded with a polite smile.

"You must be kidding, Miss Lily. I'm nothing more than a subordinate—I don't think I'm at liberty to discuss anything related to my boss's matters. If you don't have any other orders, I'll step outside now, Miss Lily. I'll come in once you're done." Right as Elise was about to leave, Lily called out to her once more.

"It seems like you're not willing to tell me anything about Mr. Griffith, Miss Sare. Regardless, I think it would be a shame if you were to just walk out without listening to the rest of what I'd like to say." "What else would you like to say, Miss Lily?" Elise tried to remain as patient as possible while Lily quietly scanned her from head to toe before speaking.

"Give me an amount! As long as it's something within my capabilities, I'll give you whatever you want. I can agree to keep it a secret—your boss will never know about this." There wasn't even a slight change in Elise's expression as she spoke. "Apart from our work, I don't think there's much to be said between both of us, Miss Lily.

I'm sorry, but I think I should leave now." This time, Elise no longer hesitated—she turned and strode right out of the room. Lily was left alone in the water, her expression one of fury as she glared at Elise's receding figure. Elise let out a sigh after she stepped away from the hot springs. Phew. I finally managed to get rid of Lily. She's a pretty exotic woman, though. Other women might think of it as shameful to speak of such matters, but Lily didn't seem reluctant to do it at all.

After stepping away from the hot springs, Elise walked to a garden opposite the area and sat down on one of the swings there. While sitting on the swing, Elise didn't notice the imminent threat creeping up behind her. She was casually swinging herself back and forth

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on the swing one moment, yet at the very next moment, a slippery, green object slithered over to her.

"Ahh...!" Elise screamed in terror. Her face was drained of color when she saw what the creature was. "A... s-snake..." If Elise had to pick one thing that she was the most terrified of in the world, her choice would always be the same. She was terrified of snakes, and there was a living, breathing snake just ten feet away from her at that moment.

Her entire body trembled with fear. Her first instinct was to run away from the threat, but her legs felt like they were drilled into the ground. "Don't come... Don't come here... Save me!" Elise couldn't care less about how she looked then as she shouted at the top of her lungs.

She shuffled a few steps backward when the snake raised its head. Elise hastily turned to run away, but her legs gave out, and she fell onto the ground with a loud smack. "Someone help me! Save me!" She continued to scream and shout as she watched the snake slither closer to her.

At that critical point, a rock struck directly at the snake's mid-area, where its heart was located. The snake curled up into a ball as it twitched and jerked in pain. "Are you okay?" Alexander walked over to Elise, his voice filled with concern. Before Elise knew what she was doing, she threw herself into his arms and clung to his neck.

Her entire body was shivering uncontrollably. Jack saw the incident from afar, and he hastily got the security workers to catch the snake. "I'm sorry, Mr. Griffith. You guys must have been really shocked." One of the security guards delivered his apology in a fearful tone. Alexander didn't respond to the guard and simply continued to pat Elise's back gently. "It's fine now, Miss Sare. Someone got rid of the snake."

However, Elise didn't seem to feel any better. She continued to cling tightly onto Alexander. He narrowed his eyes as he considered pushing her off of him, but he couldn't bring himself to do it in the end. Meanwhile, Jack gestured for the security guards to leave before he turned and looked at Alexander.

"I'll head over there, Alexander." Jack turned and walked off, leaving Elise and Alexander alone at the pavilion in the garden. After what felt like ages, Elise finally stuck her head out to check if the snake was still there. The uneasy feeling in her chest finally disappeared once she made sure that there weren't any snakes near her. "Alright.

You're safe now," Alexander uttered. Elise shifted her gaze upward to meet his eyes, and it was only then did she realize how close their bodies were to each other. She hastily backed away from him as blood rushed up to her cheeks. "I'm sorry, Mr. Griffith. That was embarrassing."

Alexander pulled his hands away from her. "I hadn't expected you to be so afraid of snakes, Miss Sare. The snake you saw earlier was just a regular garter snake, and it wasn't poisonous at all." Elise didn't even want to speak about the snake at all. "Well, if there isn't anything else you need me to do, I'll head back to the hot springs now."

Alexander nodded. "Go on. Please take good care of Miss Lily." Elise was on her way back when she recalled the rather unpleasant conversation that she had with Lily earlier. In the end, Elise decided to stop by the bar at the entrance of the hot springs. She ordered a drink for herself. A while later, Lily walked out of the hot springs with Alexander. Lily wore a smile that seemed to take up her entire face—there was no trace of anger from her conversation with Elise earlier.

"The hot spring was lovely, Mr. Griffith. I really enjoyed it. Miss Sare, in particular, was really thoughtful. You have a really capable assistant—it explains how you managed to dominate the markets for so many years, Mr. Griffith." Alexander, on the other hand, didn't smile as he responded to the woman.

"You're too nice, Miss Lily. I've told my assistant to prepare some of Athesea's most famous dishes for dinner tonight. We can head over for our meal now." "Sure. Thank you so much, Mr. Griffith," Lily replied with a smile. She took a few steps forward, leaving Alexander behind her.

Elise seized this opportunity to approach him. "I won't be joining you guys tonight, Mr. Griffith. I have other matters to handle, so I'll head home soon." "Alright. You can leave first," Alexander uttered while glancing at her. He didn't question her any further. After Elise got in the car that was heading back to the city, she couldn't seem to stop imagining scenarios of Alexander and Lily spending time with each other.

Since Lily is interested in Alexander, I wonder if they'll... She smacked herself on the head when she realized what she was thinking about. "What nonsense are you picturing in your head, Elise?" she whispered to herself. She tried her best to rid herself of all the wild thoughts running in her mind.

After she completed her makeup and got herself changed, she returned to Griffith Residence. She lay on the large bed and fixed her eyes on the ceiling above her. Images and scenes of her leaping into Alexander's arms emerged in her mind, and she could still smell his fresh, minty scent at the tip of her nose. She couldn't help but long for him at that moment. Elise rolled over, but she couldn't seem to get rid of the images of Alexander hugging her no matter how much she tried to do so.

What's up with you, Elise? Why can't you stop thinking about Alexander? ... The next day, Elise dragged herself out of bed, her eyebags nearly extending down to her chin. She hastily covered her eyebags with some foundation when she saw her haggard reflection in the mirror.

Once she walked out of the room and went downstairs, she found Alexander sitting on the couch in the hall. He had his legs crossed, and he seemed to be casually flipping through some documents. It was just a simple motion of flipping pages, yet he seemed to do it in an especially elegant manner.

"You're here," Alexander muttered as he lowered the documents he had been reading. "We'll be late if we don't get there in fifteen minutes. Let's leave now," he uttered after taking a look at his watch. He parted his long legs and headed toward the door, but Elise didn't follow him. He frowned a little as his footsteps came to a halt. "What is it? Why aren't you coming along?"

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"I just realized that I forgot to take something. Perhaps you don't have to send me to school today—I can go on my own," Elise replied hastily. Before she could continue speaking, Alexander walked over to her. His lanky figure towered over her, and she seemed tiny in front of him despite the fact that she was five foot five.

"I'll wait for you here," he uttered. She was about to say something else, but she could sense her heart pounding against her ribcage as she stood directly in front of him. She felt as if her heart was about to leap out of her throat, so she immediately turned around and hurried toward the stairs.

Thud thud! She sprinted up to her room and shut the door behind her with a loud bang. Her chest was heaving as she pressed a hand against it. Her insides felt like it had been attacked by waves of panic, and the odd feeling she had sensed in the past came back to her once more.

When she went downstairs again, she didn't even glance in Alexander's direction and simply took long strides past his figure. "Come on. I'm about to be late," she said. Alexander watched as Elise scampered away from him, and he curled his lips into a slight smirk before following behind her. For the first time, Elise didn't do her homework in the car.

Instead, she leaned against the car seat and pretended to sleep. Yet, the slight flutter of her eyelids betrayed her act. "Did you not sleep well last night?" Alexander asked. Elise instinctively opened her eyes before shifting her gaze to look out of the window. She looked as if she had something to hide.

"No. I had a pretty good sleep last night." Alexander glanced at Elise in the rearview mirror, but he no longer said anything. The car gradually came to a stop in front of the school gates. Before the car fully stopped, Elise hurriedly opened the door to slide out of the car. Alexander watched as her tiny figure disappeared in the crowd of students before he stepped on the gas and drove off. Once Elise reached the classroom, she started on her homework.

She forcefully shoved aside the odd thoughts and feelings that were emerging in her. However, she was only on the second question of her homework when she heard one of her classmates calling for her by the classroom door. "Someone's looking for you, Elise." She raised her head. Despite her confusion, she put down her pen and walked out, only to find Jamie leaning against the classroom door in a relaxed manner.

"I'm here, Boss!" He wore a cheeky expression on his face as he greeted Elise. Elise was obviously relieved to see him. "What are you doing here?" Jamie chuckled as he leaned closer to her. "Do I need a reason to come over and visit you, Boss?" "But do you have a reason to be here?"

Elise looked up into his eyes as she asked. Jamie avoided her gaze and looked at his surroundings instead. "Why don't we talk somewhere else, Boss?" Elise followed him along a walkway in school that led to a field at the back. Jamie only began to speak then. "Boss, the annual French Grand Prix is happening soon.

Are you interested in going over to watch the race?" Three years ago, Elise had obtained the title as the champion of the international racing competition, and she had set an impossible record that hadn't been broken since. After shocking the world with her performance, she completely disappeared from the public's eye, and there wasn't any trace of her in the rest of the international racing events.

Rumors claimed that new faces were emerging in the racing industry this year, so Jamie thought that he'd ask Elise if she was interested in watching. "Did you say that the French Grand Prix is happening soon? When is it?" Elise asked. "Next week! Although there hasn't been a single person who broke the record that you set, I heard that there's a seeded participant called White Wolf who has been winning a lot of races.

I also heard that there are a few newbies in the racing industry who have pretty sick drifting skills. I think it'd be interesting to watch," Jamie replied. Elise pressed her lips together as she contemplated Jamie's suggestion. If I go watch the French Grand Prix, I might be able to avoid Alexander for a while. I'll also be able to organize my messy thoughts and figure out all the feelings that I've been experiencing recently. "Do you want to go, Boss?"

Jamie asked again. "Alright, I'm down! You can help me book the flight tickets," Elise uttered with a nod. Jamie was surprised that Elise had come to such a quick decision, and he had to swallow the rest of the script that he had prepared in order to convince her to go. "Great, Boss! I'll do that immediately."

Elise lowered her gaze as she began to think about the trip. I'll just treat this trip to France as a break for me, and I'll watch the race just to relax a little. She was much happier after she made her decision, and the gloomy aura she gave off earlier had already disappeared when she returned to class. She continued working on her homework. "I'm heading over to the company to collect my script later, Elise. Do you want to go along with me?"

Samantha clung onto Elise's arm while eyeing her pleadingly. Elise gazed at her for a moment before she seemed to recall something. "Will you be going to Fenix Entertainment?" Samantha nodded rapidly. "Yeah! I've already signed a contract with the production team, and I'll be joining them for the shoot from next month onward. It's a minor role, but it's also my first ever production, so it's pretty important to me," she explained.

"Alright. I'll go with you then," Elise uttered as she slapped her textbook shut. Apart from accompanying her friend, Elise had something else that she wanted to do there. Once both of them arrived at Fenix Entertainment, Elise followed behind Samantha as they went up the stairs.

While Samantha went to collect her script, Elise strode over to Jack's office to find that it was completely empty. After contemplating for a short while, Elise decided to leave the copy of the music and lyrics that she had edited in Jack's room. After she put them on the table, she turned to leave. Elise had barely taken a few steps before Jack and Ronald walked in. "Say, Jack, aren't you going to accept the job when the script is so good?

This is one of the most trendy idol dramas right now. It might be a really good opportunity for you if you take the job." "Look, Ronald. First, you tell me to focus on learning about music, then you ask if I'm accepting an acting job. What exactly do you want me to do?" Jack interrupted Ronald before Ronald could continue. "I just thought of you when I saw the script! You have a pretty empty schedule right now, so why don't you try it out?

On top of that, we haven't heard from Noel so far, and we don't know when H will be able to come up with a new song for you. What would you do if H kept delaying the song?" Ronald explained himself. Jack was starting to get frustrated. "I can write the songs on my own! Give me some time, Ronald. I promise I'll write a song that you like." "And the script..." Ronald pursed his lips. Jack waved his arm to signal rejection.

"Just tell them I'm not interested! I haven't been thinking of acting since the start of this year." Ronald was caught in between—he could tell that Jack's mind was set, yet he thought that the script was too good of an opportunity to pass on. Ultimately, Ronald chose to support Jack.

"Alright. You can focus on your music for now!" "Don't worry. I'm sure I'll be able to succeed in the end if I persevere," Jack uttered. Ronald nodded. "I believe you." Both of them exchanged glances, and they saw the trust in each other's eyes. Although Ronald felt like it was a shame to let go of a good script, he wanted to support Jack's decision more than anything.

"I should leave now, then. Don't stress yourself out, alright? You can go back to your music producing now." Ronald stepped out, and Jack was left alone in his huge office. He glanced out the window, looking as if he was deep in thought. After a while, he turned and walked to the piano room. He hadn't realized the piece of A4 paper that had been placed under his laptop.

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At night, Elise sat down in front of her laptop and stared at her chat history with Alexander. After hesitating for a moment, she finally typed out the message she wanted to send him. 'Mr. Griffith, I'll be going overseas in a few days' time. We'll have to stop the Arisian classes for now, and I'll inform you once I'm back in the country.'

When Alexander received the message from Sare, he didn't get the chance to respond immediately as someone knocked on his door just then. Cameron hurried into the room moments later. "President Griffith, I've booked the flight tickets to France and the entrance tickets for the French Grand Prix.

Here you go." Alexander nodded. "You can leave them there." Cameron obediently placed the tickets by the side before he continued speaking. "The president knows that you're going to France, and he specially requested for you to visit an old friend on behalf of him while you're there. This is his friend's address—he told me to pass it to you." Cameron pulled out a piece of A4 paper that had a series of French words written on it.

Alexander frowned as he glanced at the French address. *I don't think I've ever heard Grandpa talk about his friend in France. Well, I guess I should follow his orders since he's my senior.* "Just let Grandpa know that I'll be sure to visit his friend," Alexander finally uttered. "Got it, President Griffith! I'll excuse myself now."

Once Cameron left the room, Alexander shifted his focus back to Elise's message on his screen. 'I happen to be busy too. We can get in touch once you're done with your business,' he replied. After sending the message, Alexander picked up the flight and entrance tickets that had been left on his table.

He held it tightly in his hands while he glanced out of the window to look at the night sky. Fragments of the past flashed across his mind, and he thought, *When will I be able to see you in an international competition again, Sue?* ... Three days later, Elise and Jamie boarded a flight to France.

Before they took off, Elise removed her makeup in the airport's bathroom and returned to her usual self. She looked fresher and livelier once she was done. "You're both pretty and cool when you're your usual self, Boss. I don't understand why you prefer making yourself look like a complete loser."

Jamie couldn't help but protest her actions. Elise merely smirked in response. "What do you know? This is my way of experiencing life. In other words, you're also saying that I have really impressive makeup skills, right?" Jamie had to agree with her. As Jamie thought about their trip to France, another question popped into his mind. "Boss, have you ever considered joining another international competition?" he muttered.

Elise didn't respond to his question this time. "Let the past be the past," she said with a smile. After approximately ten hours, their flight finally landed in Paris. It was already past midnight when they landed, and a gust of cold wind welcomed them the moment they stepped out of the airplane. Elise shuddered in response, and Jamie hastily took his jacket off to put it on her.

"I'm afraid you might catch a cold, Boss," he uttered. A surge of warmth filled Elise. "Thanks, brother," she replied. Jamie felt oddly bashful after hearing her words. "You don't need to be so polite with me, Boss." "Let's go to the hotel first! We can drop by the manor tomorrow," Elise suggested. Jamie didn't have much of an opinion, so he followed Elise to the hotel.

They each got a room for themselves. "Don't forget to lock your door, Boss. Try not to sleep too soundly! I'm worried for you since you're all alone," Jamie uttered as a reminder before they parted ways. "Alright. Don't worry. You should get some rest too. Goodnight," Elise replied in a reassuring tone.

They both retired to their rooms. After being on a ten-hour flight, Elise was completely exhausted. She took a shower and fell asleep the moment her head touched the pillow. Elise only woke up when it was nearly noon the next day. She checked her phone to find a text from Jamie.

'I have some matters to handle, Boss. You can go to the manor on your own. I'll see you at the race tomorrow!' She checked the time of the message to see that it was sent at 8.00AM. It had been almost four hours since Jamie texted her. 'Okay,' she replied through text. Before she knew it, Jamie had responded with a series of voice messages. "Why did you sleep for so long, Boss?" the first one said. "There's a restaurant in the hotel.

Don't forget to eat!" the second one said. "Don't starve yourself. You'll get gastric!" the third one said. Elise was speechless after listening to all his voice notes. 'Jamie, since when did you get so good at nagging?' she finally replied through text. Once she sent the message, she put her phone aside and freshened herself up before ordering some food up to her room.

That afternoon, Elise brought her luggage and hailed a cab to head to the manor in the tiny town of Provence. The manor was a piece of property she had purchased in France three years ago, and she had gotten professionals to care for it ever since.

She hadn't visited the place in the past three years, so stepping into the manor made her feel as if she was entering a whole new world. "Miss Sinclair!" Elise turned to the source of the familiar voice, and she curled her lips into a pretty smile when she saw an equally familiar figure. "Helen!"

Helen thought she had gotten the wrong person at first, but she finally trusted herself when she heard Elise's unmistakable voice. It's true! It's the person I've been missing for so long. "It really is you, Miss Sinclair! You're finally back." Helen was clearly getting emotional as she had been waiting for Elise's return for the past three years.

Now that Elise is really back, I can't be happier! "Are you guys doing okay?" Elise asked. Helen nodded rapidly. "Yes, of course! We're all great! The old woman has been asking for you, and everything's going well with Linus. Prince just gave birth to a whole lot of puppies. I'll update you about everything else once you come into the manor."

Both Helen and Elise held hands as they strolled into the manor. All of the maids hurried over to help Elisa carry her luggage. "Hello, Miss Sinclair!" "Welcome back, Miss Sinclair!" All of the maids took the initiative to greet Elise. While Elise was smiling back at them, a white dog wagged its tail while rushing over to her.

Joy spread across Elise's face as she knelt down to pat its head. "You're so big now!" she exclaimed. Helen smiled as she gazed at Elise. "I clean your room every day, and I've changed brand new sheets for you. You can rest for now. I'll tell the kitchen to prepare dinner," Helen uttered. Elise merely nodded in response.

"Okay. Thank you." After that, Elise lifted Prince, the dog, into her arms and strode toward the second floor where her room was. Once she was in the room, Prince flailed its paws as it wanted to be put down, so Elise lowered it before she walked toward the windows.

She opened a window and looked out to find stretches of lavender fields that painted the ground a sharp purple color. A warm smile found its way to Elise's face as she thought, *Everything looks just the way I remember it to be.*

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At the exact same moment, on the foot of another mountain in Provence was Alexander, a piece of paper in hand. He checked the address and made sure it was right before he pressed the doorbell of the manor. A maid opened the door and automatically spoke in French when she saw an unfamiliar face.

"Who are you looking for, sir?" Alexander responded with equally fluent French. "Is this where Mr. Burton lives?" The maid's eyes lit up when she heard his question. "You must be our beloved guest, Mr. Griffith!" The maid spoke in English this time. She led him in after he gave her a polite nod.

"Please get into the carriage, Mr. Griffith," one of the maids uttered politely. Alexander eyed her puzzledly. "Where exactly are we going?" "Mr. Burton ordered us to bring you over once you arrive. You'll know where we're headed once you're there," the maid explained. Alexander got into the carriage, and the coachman steered the horses onto a tiny pathway.

This gave Alexander the opportunity to enjoy the view outside the manor. It was a huge piece of land—he couldn't see the other end of the road even if he tried to. There were grape trellises along the way, and they were covered in green and purple grapes. There were sunflower fields that had their yellow faces pointed toward the sun.

What caught Alexander's eyes the most was the purple lavender fields that looked as gorgeous as a painting... "We're here, Mr. Griffith." The coachman halted the carriage in front of a castle. Alexander felt a surge of curiosity when he saw the castle before his eyes. Who exactly is Mr. Burton?

Why haven't I heard Grandpa talk about him in the past? Alexander got out of the carriage with his eyebrows raised. ... Elise was wheeling her bicycle with one hand while she held onto a kite with another. She was strolling in front of the castle while her precious dog, Prince, tottered along behind her.

"I'll bring Prince out to play with the kites, Helen. I'll be back in a while." The moment Elise finished speaking, Helen's voice came from inside the castle. "Remember not to run too fast, Miss Sinclair! Don't come back too late!" Elise hopped onto her bike and held onto her kite with one hand as she cycled onto a small pathway.

Alexander narrowed his eyes when he saw Elise's figure from behind. That girl seems rather familiar. He was about to say something when Elise turned to look directly at him. Alexander let out a rather exasperated sigh. I'm overthinking this! How could it be possible for Elise to show up here?

They just look alike, that's all. Elise, on the other hand, was utterly shocked when she saw Alexander. Her brain froze as she lost control of her limbs. Everything seemed to move in slow motion as she watched herself losing control of her bike. "Get out! Get out of the way!" she cried as her bike charged downhill.

While she was screaming, Alexander turned around to see the bike speeding directly toward him. At the very last second, Alexander leaped forward and caught Elise in his arms. Both of them rolled on the ground a few times before they stopped. Alexander felt an odd sense of familiarity as he held onto Elise.

He was about to say something when Elise shoved him aside and took a few steps back. "I-I'm sorry! It was an accident!" She intentionally looked sideways to hide her face as she scrambled to her feet. "I'm sorry for hitting you! I'm sorry!" After apologizing for the hundredth time, Elise hurried off to collect her bike before Alexander could respond to her.

He stared at the girl in front of him. All of this feels too familiar. If it weren't for her face... It's almost as if Elise had possessed this girl's body. "It's fine!" He managed to squeeze the words out of his lips. Elise was too afraid to stay for even an extra second, and she hastily picked her large bicycle up before walking away.

Prince, on the other hand, wagged its tail as it walked to Alexander. It rubbed its head against Alexander's leg in a sincere manner, as if it were thanking Alexander. He couldn't help but pat the dog's head when he saw the adorable creature. To his surprise, the dog ran off just moments later. "Are you okay, Mr. Griffith?"

the maid asked. "I'm fine. Let's go in." The maid led Alexander into the castle, and Elise was left dumbfounded as she watched this happen. It's already a shock for him to be here. I can't believe he's entering my castle. He can't be here to look for me, right? It doesn't seem like it! Elise pressed her lips together as she decided to observe the situation for a while longer.

Helen was the first to spot Alexander when he walked into the castle. "This is Mr. Burton's guest, Mr. Griffith." The maid introduced Alexander to Helen. Helen responded with a warm

smile. "So, you're Mr. Griffith! I've heard loads about you!" she uttered cheerfully. Alexander responded in a polite tone.

"Hello. Can I know if Mr. Burton is here?" "Yes, he is. You came from Athesea, didn't you, Mr. Griffith? Please wait here for a while. I'll get him to come now," Helen offered. She ordered the maids to prepare coffee while she hurried to the entrance to give Linus a call. At that moment, Elise sneaked out from somewhere and held onto Helen's arms.

"Who is he, Helen? What is he doing here?" "He's Linus' guest," Helen explained. "Linus told me about him a few days ago, saying that he had a friend who'd be arriving from a faraway country." Elise didn't know what to do at that point. She had to ensure that she wasn't exposed. "I think you guys should stop calling me Elise from now on, Helen! Why don't you call me the name I used to tell you guys about? Joy?"

Helen didn't bother to ask for a reason. "Sure, sure, my darling Joy!" she replied with a smile. "Please help me inform everyone else as well, Helen. Please tell them not to call me Elise for these few days and call me Joy instead. It's crucial that they do so!" Elise uttered. Helen found Elise's orders rather odd, but Helen had always been extremely compliant when it came to Elise.

She did everything that Elise wanted her to do. "Don't worry. I'll pass the message." After thanking Helen, Elise no longer had the mood to fly her kite. The main reason she traveled to France was to avoid Alexander for a while, yet fate was such a peculiar thing—they somehow ended up in the same place even in another country.

Linus noticed Alexander's unique and attractive aura once he walked in. "You must be Mr. Jonah's grandson, huh?" he uttered with a smile on his face. "And you must be Mr. Burton. I'm Alexander!

Nice to meet you," Alexander said in a humble tone. Linus let out a hearty laugh. "I've been hearing a lot about that old man's outstanding grandson. He told me he'd come over and introduce you to me personally. Why didn't the old man come along?"