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"I... Luna and I share the same father." Jim let out a sheepish grin and did not dare to meet Joshua's gaze. "So it's not impossible that our children...look very alike."

Luke, standing next to them, guffawed when he heard this." Don't all babies look the same? Besides, how old is Nellie? How can she remember what she used to look like as a baby?"

With that, he patted Jim's shoulder and said, "You seem to be a little nervous, aren't you?"

Jim pursed his lips and let out a slight cough. "No, I'm not."

Joshua could not help furrowing his brows when he noticed the look on Jim's face. He could not help but feel that Jim was hiding something from him.

All of a sudden, one of the servants came out and told them, "Sirs, Ms. Larson said that since she hasn't seen Ms. Luna in a long time, she wants to spend some time catching up with her, but as soon as Ms. Luna sees Mr. Lynch, she'll lose control of her emotions. Therefore..."

The servant paused and continued, "Ms. Larson hopes that the three of you can leave."

The three men exchanged glances and did not know how to reply to this.

Luke curled his lips into a smile and pulled open the car door. "Come on, you two; we're not welcome here. Let me bring you guys to a nice place."

Joshua and Jim exchanged a look and finally got into the car with Luke.

On the second-floor balcony, Gwen watched the car fade into the distance and let out a sigh of relief as she turned to glance at Luna. "Alright. If you want to cry, you can do so now."

Luna sniffed, wrapped her arms around Gwen's shoulder, and burst into tears.

The pain and helplessness over losing her child were finally released when she saw her best friend.

"Luna, you still have a long way to go. I know your child won't want to see you like this either," Gwen said as she held onto Luna. "Promise me that during this one month, you will take care of yourself, and by the time you come out of your maternity break, you'll be a new person, okay?

"I'll be here with you."

With that, Gwen took out her phone and video-called Bonnie and Anne. "We'll all be here for you!"

Luna wiped her tears away and smiled. "Okay, I promise I will try to get better."

With Gwen and Jim's help, Luna started to regain both her physical and mental health.

Every day, Joshua and Luke would drive to Luna's home and watch the two women walk around in the yard, chatting.

Luke would tease Joshua for neglecting his work over a woman, whereas Joshua would taunt him for insisting on coming over to sneak a peek at Gwen even after claiming he would give up on her...

The days went by.

Just as Luna was starting to come out of her misery, one day, an uninvited guest arrived at her home.

This morning, just as Gwen had finished preparing breakfast for Luna, an extravagant-loo king RV pulled up in front of their door.

The first two people who got out of the car were two servants.

One of them opened an umbrella, whereas the other reached into the car and helped a woman out of the vehicle, fanning her at the same time.

Heather, wearing a luxurious dress, got out of the car elegantly with a baby girl in her arms.

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As soon as she got out of the car, Heather frowned and remarked, "This place is so rural that even the air stinks."

The servant standing next to her immediately understood what she was saying and quickly sprayed some pregnancy and infant-friend Iy disinfectant and perfume in the air to both purify and deodorize the air around them.

This setup looked extremely extravagant.

Not only did the servant spray the perfume on Heather and the baby, but even around the yard as well as the guards and servants waiting at the door.

When Gwen placed the last dish on the table underneath the umbrella in the yard, she could not help frowning as she caught sight of this scene.

She strode out the gate and shot Heather a displeased look. "Who on earth are you?"

Heather furrowed her brows and swept her glance over Gwen, who wore simple-looking clothes and an apron. A contemptuous smirk played on her lips. "You're just a maid, so what business is it of yours to ask me who I am?"

As she said this, she handed the baby over to a nearby servant, lifted her skirt hem, and entered the yard, circling past Gwen. "My dear Luna, your sister Heather is here."

Luna, who was wearing a white dress and had just come downstairs from freshening up, saw Heather standing in the middle of the yard.

After a long time of not seeing her, not only did Heather look more radiant than before, but she even gained a little weight. On top of that, the previously light-luxury items she had been wearing in the past were replaced by expensive goods.

It seemed that Heather had been living well these few months.

When Luna saw Heather, she, too, had caught sight of Luna.

Compared to nine months ago, Luna looked more haggard and skinnier, and her previously skintight dress hung from her body limply, and her face was as pale as a ghost.

Heather could not help curling her lips into a smile when she saw this.

She quickly strode over to Luna, grabbed hold of her hands, and pretended to complain to her like a sister would, "This place you live in is so far away from the city that we took twenty minutes to arrive here. Initially, Malcolm didn't want me and Riley to come to this odd place, worried that she and I'd catch something here.

"However, I thought it would be best to come here to give you and Mother your invitation cards myself. After all, this is my and Malcolm's wedding, as well as Riley's welcoming party. It's going to be a grand occasion."

With that, she took out a few gold-laminated invitation cards from her pocket. "Luna, this party is set to be held at Starhill Hotel in three days, so you have to come."

She blinked at Luna as she grasped Luna's hands. "Do you still remember the Starhill Hotel? That's the hotel where you and Malcolm almost got engaged."

Heather let out a sigh as she continued, "I had wanted to change venues, but Malcolm said that since Starhill Hotel is the biggest, most luxurious hotel in Merchant City, he insisted on having our wedding and Riley's party there..."

Finally, Heather blinked again and stared intently at Luna. "You don't mind that, do you, Luna? After all, that was the place you and Malcolm..."

Luna curled her lips into a smirk, removed her hand from Heather's, and shot her a cold glance. "I didn't think you knew that the Starhill Hotel was the place where Malcolm and I almost got engaged. Aren't you concerned that it'll be a bad omen to host your wedding there? After all, that's the place where our engagement party had gotten out of control."

With that, she tossed the invitations into the trash can and turned to sit down underneath the umbrella. "Ms. Heather, thank you for your invitation, but since this rural place makes you so uncomfortable, you should leave soon.

"After all, I wouldn't want you to blame this place for making you sick in case the wedding can't go on as planned in three days."

Heather narrowed her eyes in malice when she heard this.

She bit her lip, turned to glance at the servant holding the baby, and smiled. "Lorraine, bring Riley over for my sister Luna to see.

"Even though she has lost her baby, mine is still alive, so let her take a look at my precious Riley." If your child is still alive, Luna, she'd be as old as Riley now.

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Luna's hand, which had been holding her cutlery, stiffened when she heard this.

She lifted her head to stare at Heather, pale-faced.

Before she could even speak, the servant named Lorraine brought the child over to Luna. "Ms. Luna..."

Luna gritted her teeth and turned her head away, refusing to look at the baby. "How dare you, Heather!"

Gwen suddenly realized that the woman, dressed head-to- toe in luxury items, who had come to stir up trouble was none other than the Landry family's fake daughter, Heather!

She narrowed her brows, stormed up, and shoved Lorraine away from Luna. "Get away from her!"

Luna had just managed to get over her grief of losing a child, but Heather just had to show her a baby girl that had been born the same time as Luna's.

What was she trying to do, if not to bring up Luna's bad memories?

Gwen had not used much strength when pushing Lorraine away at all. All she wanted to do was to get her further away from Luna, but for some reason, Lorraine fell onto the ground.

Heather quickly squatted to help Lorraine up and stared at Luna and Gwen with an upset expression as she bit her lip. "What are you trying to do?"

With that, she reached out and gently pinched the baby girl's leg.

This baby had just turned a month old, so how could she possibly bear the pain of being pinched like this? "Waa!" the baby's cries rang out through the entire yard.

Heather quickly took the baby from Lorraine and stared at Luna with a tearful expression. "Luna, I know you're jealous of my baby Riley for being able to be born safe and sound, but you can't let your servant treat her like this! She's Malcolm's daughter, after all!

"Malcolm saved you and your three children in the past, and you have to give him credit for that. How can you let your servant try to kill Malcolm's child just like that?"

Luna frowned and was about to explain when she suddenly caught sight of the man outside the yard.

Charles, dressed in a grey suit, had just gotten out of his car and was walking hurriedly toward them.

Heather had seen Charles coming since the beginning, which was why she had instructed Lorraine to feign falling.

With Charles heading toward them, she could not let slip this opportunity.

<u>She pinched Riley's leg nonstop as she held her in her arms. The baby started crying even louder than before.</u>

Heather started sobbing as well. "Luna, I didn't come here to stir up trouble with you at all. The reason I brought Riley with me was to give you the invitation and, on top of that, let Mother meet her as well.

<u>"Even though I'm not Mother's biological daughter, I still think of her as my birth mother, and the first thing I want to do is to share this good news with her..."</u>

Heather wiped her tears away as she cried, "I didn't come here to cause you any trouble!"

Gwen could not help scoffing when she heard this. "Not here to cause trouble?"

She shielded Luna behind her and continued, "The first thing you do when arriving is complain about the air, and even spray disinfectant and perfume everywhere. On top of that, you deliberately chose to hold the wedding and the baby's party at the same place where Luna and Malcolm had their engagement party.

"But now, you even stuck your disgusting baby in Luna's face, insisting on showing her!

"If this isn't foul play, then I don't know what is!" As soon as he heard this, Charles furrowed his brows and glanced at Heather. "Is that so, Heather?"

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Heather bit her lip and said with an upset look as she tried to coax the baby in her arms, "Father, can't you smell the air? Doesn't it stink to you?

"Even though Luna can take it, but I, as a person who had been taking care of herself at home, can't stand this smell at all.

"As for the disinfectant and perfume, rural places like this have plenty of germs and viruses. Riley has just turned a month old, and her immune system is still weak, so is it wrong of me to ask my servant to disinfect the air?

"On top of that, I know the disinfectant smells terrible, so I let them spray some perfume to freshen it up. Is that wrong of me?

"Besides, Starhill Hotel is the best hotel in Merchant City, and Malcolm insists on giving me only the best. Should I reject his offer just because Luna has been there in the past?

"Finally, how outrageous it is to accuse me of trying to provoke Luna. I had just given birth, and as my sister, Luna, should be the one who comes to visit me at mine and Malcolm's home.

"However, knowing that she's still recovering and that Mother is staying here as well, I decided to come to visit her with Riley myself.

"I can't believe that all my good intentions became so malicious coming out of this servant's mouth!"

The more she said, the more upset Heather got, and finally, she could not stop her tears from falling. "I knew that I shouldn't have come, and I shouldn't have given Luna an invitation card. Since we are family, I thought she'd choose to reconcile with me...

"But I guess she's still angry at me for getting together with Malcolm."

She bit her lip and added, "It's all my fault. I shouldn't have been so shameless to think that Luna would want to attend our wedding!"

With that, Heather walked towards Rosalyn's room, sobbing as she held the baby in her arms. "Since Luna doesn't want me here, then I won't stay any longer. I'll bring Riley to see Mother now.

"Don't worry, I'll leave after visiting Mother, and I won't stay here to cause you any misery!"

Charles remained motionless, frowning as he watched Heather leaving with the child.

After a moment, he turned around and shot Luna a displeased look. "How can you treat Heather like that?

"Luna, didn't you say that you wouldn't get jealous of Heather being together with Malcolm? Well, what are you doing now?"

With that, he even glanced coldIy at Gwen, who had been shielding Luna behind her back. "Even though this servant is doing this for your good, what gives you the right to stick your nose into your masters' conversation?"

Gwen widened her eyes in shock upon hearing this.

Servant?

Had this man gone blind?

She had simply changed in older clothes so that it would ease her while doing chores, but to them, she looked like a servant?

"Gwen isn't a servant; she's my classmate from Sea City and one of my closest friends." Luna, who had been quiet all this while, let out an exhale and walked in front of Gwen, shielding her behind her back. "Is Heather your only daughter in your eyes, Mr. Landry?"

Charles frowned, staring at Luna. "What are you trying to say?"

"Well, if you treat me like you would a daughter, Mr. Landry, then you should know that the person I least want to see now is Heather and her child.

"Both our children were born on the same day, but before I can even get over the grief of losing my child, Heather has brought her daughter over to show off and brag about her to me."

She lifted her head to stare at Charles coldly. "If you were me, Mr. Landry, would you like being treated like this?"

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As soon as she said this, Charles suddenly realized that he had no way of answering Luna's questions.

He turned his head away, refusing to meet Luna's clear, sharp gaze.

Charles raised his clenched fists and let out a slight cough. He stared at the scenery in the yard, tilting his head away from Luna, and said slowly, "Luna, I know you are still absorbed in the grief of losing your baby, but your child's death has nothing to do with Heather at all.

"Heather's intention of bringing the child over to visit you and Mother was out of kindness.."

With that, he turned to stare at Luna. "The way you and your friend treated her, as well as how you pushed the servant holding Riley. Don't you think it was hurtful to do so."

"Was it?" Luna turned around, sat down underneath the umbrella, and started eating her breakfast with Gwen. " Well, if you think it was hurtful of me to do so, then don't you think what she did hurt me as well?"

Charles furrowed his brows and replied, "Luna, if you think of this from her point of view, you'll realize that she didn't mean any harm at all..."

Luna scoffed. "Then has anyone ever thought of this from my point of view? Have you?"

Charles froze.

He did not expect that not only did Luna manage to get over her grief in a month, but had even become so snarky.

<u>Perhaps she had always been this snarky, but she had never shown this side of her to anyone from the Landry family at all.</u>

Charles' mind was a little confused, and for a moment, he did not know what to say.

Suddenly, his gaze landed on the trash can next to him.

Inside the trash can lay the gold-laminated invitation cards Heather had brought.

These were the invitations to Heather and Malcolm's wedding.

Charles let out an exhale, strode over, and took out the invitation cards from the trash can.

Thankfully, there was not much garbage in the trash can, so the invitation cards were still clean.

After wiping the invitation cards clean with his sleeve, Charles gently placed them on Luna's table and said, "Since you've already gotten over your grief...you should attend Heather and Malcolm's wedding in three days.

"As a member of the Landry family, and considering that you had previously been engaged to Malcolm...

"If you don't go, the public will think that some inner conflict happened among us, and this will cause unwanted trouble."

<u>Luna took a sip of milk from her glass, a contemptuous smile playing on her lips. She</u> <u>glanced in the direction Heather had left with the baby and said, smirking, "Do you think we've always been a harmonious family, Mr. Landry?"</u>

The color drained from Charles' face.

Even though he did not reply, it was clear what his answer was.

Luna lowered her head and gently stirred her oatmeal with a spoon. "If we have never been harmonious since the start, why are we worried about the public gossiping about this?"

She curled her lips into a smirk and continued without even lifting her head, "I don't like sugarcoating things, and neither do I like pretending.

"I won't go to their wedding."

Charles narrowed his eyes upon hearing this. "Luna!"

He glared at the cool-faced woman before him and snapped, "You've been staying here for almost a year, looking after your body and taking no notice of what is going on within our family.

"Do you know that during this time, Landry Group has been attacked by Lynch Group so frequently that we have no other choice to survive apart from collaborating with the Quinn Group? We have to work together to fight this monstrosity named Joshua Lynch!

"All this time, I knew that you were pregnant and that the baby in your belly was of special identity, so I didn't force you to do anything for our family, but what about Heather?

"She was pregnant as well, but she still stood by my side at the Landry Group's worst and helped me take care of things despite being heavily pregnant.

"You and she are different, but even then, I never once complained or blamed you for this."

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"After all, if you didn't have the heart to manage the family's business, you wouldn't be good at it anyway, but now, I just need you to put on an act and attend Malcolm and Heather's wedding and give them your blessings. Are you even unwilling to do just that?"

The more Charles spoke, the angrier he got. "I must've spoiled you too much!"

Luna curled her lips into a smirk. "Since Heather and I are so different and you are so disappointed in me, Mr. Landry... Why did you even insist that I return to the family? Why did you force me to swear that I'd never see Joshua again?"

She elegantly set down her cutlery and continued, "I thought that you had done all that because you truly liked me and wanted to treat me like a real daughter, but I guess..."

She sneered. "I guess the reason you wanted me to come back...was because my identity at that time was both Joshua Lynch's ex-wife and Malcolm Quinn's fiancée, huh?

"At that time, I was truly useful to the Landry family, but now that I have lost my value, you think I'm useless, don't you, Mr. Landry?"

Charles could feel his blood pressure rising as soon as he heard this. His entire face turned scarlet with anger. "Luna! How dare you even say that? You're my biological daughter, and no matter what you do, I'll still want you to return to the family and return to your roots!"

However, during this year, apart from taking care of Rosalyn and the baby that belonged to her and Joshua, Luna had not done anything else for the family.

In contrast, Heather, the adopted daughter, had helped take care of Landry Group's affairs after numerous times of the company almost collapsing due to Joshua's attacks.

The contrast between the two daughters was too striking to ignore.

It was impossible for Charles not to compare the two of them, and it was impossible for him not to be biased toward one of them.

Inside the small room in the corner of the yard, Heather watched the two of them arguing through the glass window.

One of them was so angry that his face turned red, while the other gripped her cutlery tightly in her hand out of fury.

"It looks like a very intense fight out there."

With that, she turned around and gazed at the woman on the bed as she held the baby in her arms.

Rosalyn had already been in a vegetative state for more than eight months, but there was not much change in her looks or frame at all.

Her face still looked rosy, and her expression was relaxed and kind.

From a distance, it seemed as though Rosalyn had fallen asleep instead of being stuck in a vegetative state.

Heather let out a sigh and said in a gentle voice as she stared at Rosalyn's face. "Do you hear that? Your husband and your biological daughter are fighting."

She lowered her head and started fidd ling with Riley's tiny hand. "Are you scared, Rosalyn? Do you want to know why they're fighting? Well, let me tell you. They're fighting because of me...

"Your husband Charles has lost his son and daughter after you fell into a vegetative state, and the only person there to take care and comfort him is me, the adopted child.

"How can I not use this opportunity to get on his good side and make him hate Luna?

"Today, I told him that I wanted Luna to attend my wedding, and now, he's fighting with Luna over that! Hahaha!"

She cackled for a long time before finally putting on a straight face and adding, "By the way, can you hear the sounds of this baby in my arms?

"It's a little girl who had just turned one month old. Everyone thinks this is me and Malcolm's daughter, but the truth is, she isn't."

Heather lowered her head to touch Riley's small hand against Rosalyn's skin gently. "This is Joshua and Luna's daughter.

"Malcolm said that this is a valuable chess piece for our game and told me to treat her well.

"Maybe one day, we can use one of this child's fingers or toes to threaten Joshua and force him to beg for our mercy..."

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