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At that thought, her tears fell again. She pulled off her hairband, letting her long hair fall into her face and hide it from view, then opened the door and left. She ran to the top of the rocky hill via a shortcut, stumbling on exposed rocks and nearly falling because of her blurred vision.

Yet, no matter how much she cried, she couldn't let out the pain she felt. It must've all been one big joke from God. She hated her actions even more now, feeling guilty whenever she thought of Annie. Even now, she could clearly remember Annie's excited voice on the phone.

"Angie, do you know what the man I'm going to be engaged to looks like? Oh my, he looks so handsome. He's the most handsome man I've ever seen! I'm very satisfied with this arrangement."

"Angie, we're getting engaged tomorrow. Would you be able to come?"

Angela closed her eyes in pain and leaned against a rock. Her mind was swirling as Annie's voice and memories of the blossoming relationship between her and Richard replayed in her mind. She felt that she was to blame for everything. After all, she shouldn't have become interested in this man, nor seduced him in different ways. This was all her fault.

Angela cried as the wind blew against her face. The mountaintop was windy, not to mention she was sitting in a deserted area. The chilly wind of early winter made her face cold and pale. She hugged her knees, feeling like her heart was covered in snow too.

All she wanted was to go back to the first time she had met Richard and do everything over again. This way, she could prevent herself from being entangled in a love triangle. She would not look twice at him, instead giving her blessings to Annie and feeling happy for

her since she had found such a great man. As the cold air surrounded her, he suppressed her sobs and felt herself breaking down all over again.

At that moment, Richard entered the base via the main entrance. He had been planning to go to the meeting room, but his feet intuitively took him toward his room instead. When he arrived, he did not knock but opened the door immediately. Since Angela loved sleeping on his couch so much, she might already be asleep and he did not want to wake her.

But when he entered, he discovered that there was no one on the couch or the room itself. Angela had already left, making him feel a stab of

disappointment. Just as he was about to leave, he immediately zeroed in on the balled-up pieces of tissue on the table, as well as another on the floor. He walked over at once and picked them up to take a closer look.

They were all wet, but it didn't seem to be from wiping up spilled water. In fact, the tissues were wet in the middle and dry around the edges, as if someone had used them to wipe their tears.

His heart quickened. What happened to her? He immediately turned and walked out, going toward her room and knocking on the door. No one answered, which meant she wasn't there. When he returned to the meeting room to ask Trevor and the rest, they all said that she had never been there.

"What has happened to Miss Meyers, Richard?"

"She has vanished. Go look for her," Richard ordered in a low voice, for the damp pieces of tissue paper made him extremely worried. All four of them immediately put their work aside and exited the base, going in different directions to find Angela.

He thought deeply for a while, mentally going through the places she always frequented -beside the waterfall, the top of the rocky mountain, and around the field. He eventually settled on the second option as if his intuition was leading him toward it.

Angela had been sitting in the cold wind for half an hour, her face now pale and hair tousled. Even her red lips had lost their color, which made her look really weak. Her body shivered with the cold, but she refused to go back. She just wanted to stay here.

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Richard ran along the winding path toward the top of the mountain, and when he arrived and saw the slim figure sitting in the cold, his breathing staggered. Almost immediately, he pulled off his coat and approached her while holding it.

Angela, whose senses had been dulled by faintness, emotional distress, and also the howling wind around them, could not sense him behind her until the warm coat wrapped around her shoulders.

Only then did she turn around in surprise as her swollen eyes made contact with his worried ones. His heart squeezed forcefully at the sight, and he carried her from the rocks aggressively.

"Richard, let me go." She struggled violently against his hold, trying to push him away.

He was afraid that she might hurt herself like this, so he had no choice but to put her down on the edge of a nearby rock. While he stood looking down at her, she looked back at him from her position.

"What happened to you?" he asked in a low tone, looking at her with his dark eyes.

Angela took a deep breath. She choked somewhat as she said, "Richard, let me ask you this-is your fiancée my cousin, Annie?"

How did she know? Richard thought as his heart throbbed again, his pupils dilating.

Squinting his eyes, he asked rhetorically,

"Who told you that?"

"I'm the one asking questions. How long are you going to hide it from me? Why didn't you tell me sooner that Annie is the one whom you are engaged with? If you had told me sooner,

we wouldn't have made this mistake... I wouldn't have..." Angela's voice was hoarse as she cried while tears streamed down her face.

However, before she could finish her sentence, Richard pulled her into his embrace and pressed her head against his chest.

Sobbing in his arms, Angela raised her fists and hit him on the chest helplessly.

Richard soothed her back and spoke in a deep voice, "We had done nothing wrong."

Hearing his words, Angela reflectively started shivering. That's right! Oh, she was relieved when she found out that this situation was still reversible. As long as they returned to their own lives and stopped meeting up, it would be as if nothing had ever happened.

Suddenly, Angela took a step back and pushed him away, creating an arm's length distance between them. She raised her head and looked at Richard seriously. Although her eyes were red and puffy with tears running down, her voice was firm. "Richard, from now onwards, there is nothing between us."

Hearing her words, Richard furrowed his brows. Is she trying to break up with me?

Taking a deep breath, Angela continued, "You can't cancel the engagement. Annie loves you very much. So, you should keep your promise and make her your wife."

Listening to Angela's words, Richard stared at her deeply. Something sparked in his usual cold eyes-it was anger and distress. Distress as to the words she said

and angry because of her attitude.

It was Angela who came on to him first; she wanted to be his girlfriend. Now, it was also her who tried to break up with him.

After finishing her words, Angela noticed that Richard was silent and did not answer. All he did was only stare at her intently.

But she was not afraid of this sight of him and even pushed him for an answer. "Hurry up and promise me that you not hurt Annie," she demanded. will

Once again, Richard glowered at her. "Are you done talking? Is it my turn now?"

Breathing heavily, Angela looked at his tense facial expression. She had a bad feeling in her gut that he wasn't going to listen to her.

However, she still wanted to hear what he had to say, "Yes, it's your turn now," she said.

"First things first, I don't want to break up with you."

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His first sentence made Angela's heart tremble.

"What do you mean by that? We haven't even been on a proper date before. What is there to break up?" At that point, her emotions shot through the roof.

"Secondly, I will call off the engagement," Richard continued speaking.

Angela's face turned pale as she looked at him. At this moment, she wished she could die on the spot.

"You..." Suddenly, her whole body swayed as if she was going to faint.

But before her body landed on the ground, she was held by a pair of strong arms. The next moment, she was back in Richard's warm embrace. Out of instinct, she immediately pushed him away. She would rather hold on to the cold stone beside her as support than be hugged by him.

The chilly wind messed up her long hair and spread it all over her face. Her face was overly pale compared to the darkness

of her hair. It was as if she was so fragile that the wind could sweep her away.

"Let's talk inside. It's cold out here." Richard sighed.

"Leave by yourself then! I want to stay here a little longer," Angela replied as she didn't want to walk alongside him.

"Angela, who told you about this matter?" Richard squinted his eyes and asked.

"It was Ariel. She overheard the conversation between you and your grandpa when you were on the phone. You were planning on being unmarried for the rest of your life, is that so?"

she raised her head and confronted him. Recalling the moment when he had a phone call at the parterre, Richard wasn't too happy about it. He indeed sensed that someone was behind him, but he did not expect that it was Ariel. He ignored the presence as he thought it was someone from the base.

"What else did she say?' Richard trusted that Ariel must have said something else to Angela, as both girls had always been at each other's throats. Once Ariel got hold of this matter, she would surely use it against Angela.

"It doesn't matter anymore if she had said any other things. The most important. part is that we are over. I'm sorry, Richard. 1 was a sc*mbag for seducing you. I'm sorry that I offended you by not knowing any better." Angela lowered her head as she reflected on herself, thinking. she had committed the crime of the year.

But from Richard's perspective, it was heartbreaking to see her in this state. Never did he expect that she would draw. back this much after finding out about this matter. Furthermore, she even blamed herself for the whole thing and degraded her own morale.

Suppressing the urge to hold her, Richard.

gripped his knuckles as his face twitched slightly, watching her slim figure wavering because of the wind..

At that moment, the afternoon sky became gloomy, like it was going to rain anytime soon.

As they were still at a stand-off, it started to rain eventually. The rain droplets made a heavy dripping sound as they hit the stones.

"Let's go back," Richard said in a low voice. He was not going to let her stay here any longer.

It was also frustrating for Angela that even the weather was picking on her. Just as she was going to vent her frustration by letting herself soak in the rain, a pair of arms locked themselves by her waist. Richard tucked her hair back to reveal her petite face and kissed her cold lips with a mix of and dominance.

In the midst of the rain, he kissed her.

The kiss made Angela dumbstruck as she was mind blown by his action. His kiss was more aggressive than the last time. Out of embarrassment, she tried to push him away but was only being pulled closer by Richard until she had no place to hide.

After some time, Richard finally let go of her. The rain made his dark eyes even darker while gulping sounds came from his throat, and even his breath was uneven.

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