"Young Master Mason, do you have any orders?"

"Where's Jan?"

"Huh? Hasn't Miss Jackson come back yet?" The servants looked at one another with puzzled looks on their faces.

Janet left the house in the evening and since it was midnight now, the servants thought that she had gone to bed.

However, for some reason, she had yet to return; she did not even give a call.

Mason inhaled deeply, suppressing the wrath inside him. "Did she say anything before she left?" His voice was terrifyingly cold.

The young lady's whereabouts had always been a mystery. If she did not want anyone to know where she was, nobody could find her, so searching for her now might not produce any results.

The servants were stunned for a few seconds before looking at one another and shaking their heads in unison.

Mason gritted his teeth when he saw them shaking their heads vigorously.

Just as he was about to blow a gasket, a servant suddenly stepped forward and said in a small voice, "Miss Jackson was with Sean before she left, so maybe he knows better about this."

Sean? In other words, she left after she examined the bullets? Mason frowned, his straight brows deeply furrowed as he thought, Could it be that Sean told her about something, such as me seeing a woman's body, which made her jealous so she's ignoring me? Or perhaps she has found out the identity of that person through the bullets, but she intentionally hid it from me and went to look for the other party to settle scores on my behalf?

Nevertheless, both deductions were not outcomes he wished to see.

I won't just sit by and watch any of them happen—no matter if it is Jan ignoring me out of jealousy or trying to avenge me after she discovered something from the bullets. In fact, the latter is worse because Jan is no match for that cunning woman. Mason had so many things going on in his mind at the same time that his head nearly exploded! It's all Rose's fault—if it were not because of her, I, the most powerful person in Asia, wouldn't have experienced such exasperation! If something were to happen to my relationship with Jan, I definitely won't let her go!

Meanwhile at the Royal Garden, Janet's phone kept ringing in the room. She did not end the call nor did she switch off the phone; she just left it there to ring non-stop.

"Janet, are you really not going to pick up the phone?" Desire reminded her from one side.

Janet did not even glance at the phone while a cold smile played on her lips.

Only when the phone stopped ringing did she pick the phone up. She tapped open the call log and glanced at it nonchalantly.

Just as she had expected—they were all calls from Mason.

Janet frowned. He called me so late at night, probably because he realized that I am not at the Lowry Residence. Hmph, you can call me as many times as you want!

She put down her phone, picked up the glass and took a sip of the wine.

At one in the morning in the Lowry Residence, the man had been sitting on the couch as he waited for her for an hour. All the servants, who were standing off to one side, lacked the courage to make any sound as they could feel the cold aura emanating from Mason.

Sean, on the other hand, was even more horrified. Cold sweat kept dripping down his back and forehead, but he dared not wipe it away. "Young Master Mason, if we really can't find Miss Jackson, should we contact Rose and ask for her help to find her?"

The Lowry Family had sent their men to go look for Janet an hour ago but to no avail.

However, Rose might have a way to locate her; after all, her hacking skills were comparable to Mason's.

Perhaps she was able to locate Janet.

Hearing that, Mason pursed his lips. He's suggesting that I beg for Rose's help? I can't do that! If it weren't for Rose, Jan wouldn't have disappeared in the first place!

As Mason did not agree to it, nobody dared to say anything.

After falling silent for some time, he started to hesitate. If I really bow down to Rose, it would be akin to being humiliated by a woman, which would make me lose my pride.

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Nevertheless, my dignity is nothing in the face of Jan's life. If my conflict with Rose were to cause Jan to be injured, I won't ever forgive myself for the rest of my life. Analyzing the pros and cons of the situation made Mason feel as if his head was about to explode.

After a while and lots of contemplation, he finally made up his mind. He waved at Sean and gave an order. "Convey—"

Before the man managed to finish his sentence, his phone suddenly rang.

Upon seeing the caller ID displayed on the screen, his frozen expression eased slightly and a hint of delight flashed across his eyes. He immediately picked up the call. "Babe." Mason's voice was gentle when he called her name.

Janet took a sip of wine while holding her phone and asked in a soft voice, "What's the matter?"

Mason was used to her cold character. His pink thin lips parted as he murmured, "You didn't pick up my calls earlier, so I thought something might have happened to you."

His voice held traces of worry and gentleness, forming a stark contrast from the tone he had when he was giving orders earlier.

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief upon hearing his gentle tone—they nearly thought that they would not be getting any rest tonight.

"I didn't notice it earlier. Why did you call me?" Janet had an indifferent tone.

"Why did you go out? Why didn't you tell me?" His eyelids fluttered as he felt that the girl on the other end of the line seemed more distant than usual.

"I forgot to tell you that I won't be going home tonight," she answered and fell silent, waiting for the man to reply.

Mason was a little surprised to hear that and he was momentarily at a loss for words.

Ever since she had moved to the Lowry Residence, she had never stayed out before, so why was she so cold toward him today and even chose to spend a night outside?

Mason, who had just started to feel a little relieved, became anxious again. His thin lips parted. "Jan, did you find something?" In fact, what he wanted to ask her was if she had found out that he had seen a woman's body when he was searching the villa before this.

Janet raised a brow and smiled, "What do you mean?"

If I don't tell her the truth now, Jan will probably refuse to come back and I will not be able to have her anymore. Mason thought that he could no longer hide it from her any longer so he carefully admitted, "When I was on my previous mission, I accidentally saw a woman's body."

Janet initially thought that he had realized that she had found out about his identity, but it turned out to be something insignificant.

"Okay," she muttered. Then, she continued, "You don't need to report to me about such a small matter."

Hearing that, Mason's heart sank and his charming eyes turned icy as he asked coldly, "Jan, what do you mean?"

Janet raised her brow, a hint of amusement in her tone. "Are you being fierce with me now?" If he has the courage to be fierce to me today, doesn't that mean that he would have the courage to hold a knife to my throat tomorrow? I think he is getting cocky now!

When the man heard her tone, he instantly panicked and explained, "Babe, I'm not."

He did not know why Jan's attitude toward him changed so much in just a day. I wonder what's with her?

"Alright; I was just kidding. I'll go back tonight." With that, she directly hung up the call.

Mason's heart was in his mouth when he heard the beeping sound on the phone.

Other than that incident, what else did I do that made her angry? Or am I being overly sensitive? Mason was completely puzzled.

On the other end, Janet quickly hung up the call for fear that she would spill the beans about the incident earlier. "Ask Lara to prepare a few more masks for me—those that have never been worn before." Janet gave some orders to Desire as she put on her jacket.

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Mason has been giving me so much trouble all this while, so how can I end this special relationship he has with 'Rose' with a simple explanation? Moreover, even though he knew that I was J'Adore previously, he pulled a prank on me on purpose. I can't let this slide easily.

"Sure!" Desire looked at Janet and urged, "Janet, don't take it too far, though." If these two bosses are to really break up, it will cause a lot of hassle!

It was two in the morning when Janet returned to the Lowry Residence. For fear that she would startle the people inside, she silently returned to her room through the window.

There seemed to be a man lying in her room amidst the darkness.

She approached him and got a clear view of him—it was the familiar face of the man who she loved yet hated. A cold yet wry smile appeared at the corner of her lips.

She had made such loud movements, yet it did not wake the man up. These days, he must have been exhausted from racking his brain to think of a way to deal with her. She let out a light snort, her actions full of arrogance.

She then saw the man frown, which made her wonder what was on his mind.

She naturally lay down beside him and shut her eyes, though she felt frustrated inside.

At that exact moment, the man turned over.

Janet, who thought that he had been woken up, immediately got up from the bed and secretly left the room.

Upon hearing the quiet sound of the door being closed, the man who was sound asleep frowned and reached out his hand to feel the spot beside him—it felt warm.

He instantly got up, opened the door and headed outside.

When he saw the figure in the hallway, he immediately called out to her. "Babe."

The girl's footsteps came to a halt and she turned to him, her face impassive. "You're awake."

Mason nodded. "Babe, are you still mad at me?" His voice sounded pitiful.

"Why would I be mad at you?" Her voice was deadpan and she even wore a wry smile. "Who you like to look at has got nothing to do with me."

Hearing that, Mason was flustered. He lifted his feet in an attempt to step forward to explain the situation to her.

However, before he had barely taken two steps, Janet stopped him. "Don't come near me. I don't want to talk to you right now." As she was speaking, she even took a few steps back.

Feeling worried that she might really leave home and never come back, he obediently remained at his spot. "Alright; I won't go any closer but please don't leave me. If it concerns you so much, I will avoid all other women in the future."

Upon seeing his response, she couldn't help but to inwardly feel glad, but her face gave nothing away. "Alright, alright. You go and get some rest. I'll go to bed in a while."

The man did not know how to respond, but staying silent would definitely be the right move now. So, he nodded meekly in response. Just as Janet was about to take her leave, he quietly cursed, "Rose, I won't let you get away!" It's all that woman's fault! Otherwise, there wouldn't have been so many misunderstandings between us and I would have been in my dreams with my girl in my arms.

Mason gritted his teeth. This was all Rose's fault and he wanted to make sure that she would never be able to step foot in Sandfort City again!

Janet had wanted to head downstairs to have something to eat but when she heard the string of curses that blasted down the hallway, she smirked and strode over to where Mason was standing instead. She stopped next to him, making a point to shoot him an icy glare, then brushed past him and went into the bedroom, thereafter locking the door.

Mason blinked.

What did I say this time?

He stood at the same spot, looking confused as he stared at the door that was firmly shut in his face. He was clueless as to what he said to warrant such treatment.

Back in the bedroom, the corner of Janet's lips tugged into a smirk as she pulled out her phone and made a call.

"Rose here. Tell your boss that I want to see him at the teahouse tomorrow at six in the evening. He has to show up alone and don't think about bringing anything! Remember, I have eyes everywhere in Sandfort City."

With that, she hung up before the person on the other end could respond.

A sinister glee rose within her as she clutched her phone.

She reveled at the thought of seeing that man's thunderous expression.

On the other end, the man who worked in Black Rain's communications office stared at his phone in bewilderment.

Rose? Rose wants to see the boss? Why would Rose want to see the boss all of a sudden?

After all, both of them were rivals and there was absolutely no reason for them to meet. He wondered if there would be a fight and if so, did that mean that Rose was going to take the chance to eradicate Black Rain altogether?

The messenger could not comprehend her intentions so he quickly made a call to Sean to inform him of this.

Meanwhile, Mason was in his study when Sean came in to relay the details of the messenger's phone call to him. "Mr. Lowry, Rose requests a meeting with you at the teahouse tomorrow at six in the evening."

Mason had his eyes closed while he rubbed the spot above his brow, but when he heard Rose's name, his eyes flew open and flashed dangerously. "Rose?" he repeated.

Rose? Why would she want to meet me alone all of a sudden?

Upon seeing the rage that burned in Mason's eyes, Sean pointed out, "She asks that you meet her alone and says she has eyes all over Sandfort City."

Mason clenched his fists slightly after hearing Sean's words.

Hmph! I'm the most powerful person in Asia—why should I show up just because some lowly author asks me to? And who does she think she is to threaten me to not bring anything along?

Mason's thin lips tipped up at the corners to form a devious smile.

"Mr. Lowry, in light of all this, why don't I turn her down on your behalf?" Sean could tell that Mason was less than interested in meeting Rose, and he decided that it would be far more sensible to reject her ridiculous request.

In turn, Mason said nothing and nodded instead.

Sean nodded and spun to head out of the study,

However, just before he could close the door behind him, Mason called out flatly, "Wait."

Sean turned around to look at the man—who was visibly angry as he sat behind his desk—and felt a chill run up his spine. He regarded Mason with respect as he asked, "Mr. Lowry, is there anything else I can help you with?"

Mason cleared his throat in response and was hesitant as he said, "I'll meet her."

He wanted to see what that cunning woman was up to!

"Yes, sir," Sean answered but he appeared pensive as he hovered by the doorway. "Should I tell Miss Jackson about this?"

Upon hearing this, Mason fell silent and after a pause he replied witheringly, "I'll tell her myself."

"Very well, sir." Sean's reply was followed by the soft clicking sound of the door closing shut.

What the hell is Rose up to?

Jan has been ignoring me all this while out of jealousy. If she finds out that I'm meeting up with another woman alone, will she run away from home and never come back?

A painful ringing seemed to reverberate through Mason's headspace as he thought about this, and he winced as the headache seized him.

It was Wednesday the next day, and it was a school day, too.

Janet climbed out of bed and washed up, then got ready to head downstairs for breakfast.

When she arrived downstairs, Janet saw that the man was seated in the dining room, looking as though he had been waiting for her for some time.

"Good morning," Janet greeted flatly, her face devoid of any expression.

Mason, on the other hand, was surprised at this unexpected interaction. A small smile played on his lips as he replied, "Good morning, Babe."

As he said this, he shifted the bench to make room for her.

Looking at her side profile, his lips parted but just as he was about to speak, Sean strolled into the dining room.

He bowed and greeted Mason with reverence. "Mr. Lowry, the soldiers who were injured are recovering well. They shall resume training tomorrow."

Upon hearing this, Mason nodded.

At this, Sean backed away slowly.

He cast a brief glance at Janet before leaving the room.

The two of them are still fighting, I see.

He pursed his lips in mild amusement, then turned on his heels to march out of the room.

Mason watched Sean leave, then cleared his throat and picked up from where he had left off. "Babe," he called.

Janet did not look up at him, and instead hummed in response as she chewed on her toast.

Mason hesitated and after a pause, he said, "I'm seeing Rose at six in the evening and I'd like to know how you feel about it."

She stopped chewing for a moment.

Mason frowned, thinking that she was jealous. However, she merely asked, "Is that so? Are you meeting her alone?"

He nodded. "I am."

He added somberly, "I swear, there's nothing going on between Rose and myself. If there is, I'll chop off my—"

She listened as he swore earnestly and she couldn't help but smile. She reached up and covered his mouth with her hand, swiftly cutting him off in a deadpan voice, "Don't swear such silly oaths. I believe you."

He was shocked as he took her hand in his.

Janet was finally speaking to him after giving him the cold shoulder for the past one day.

He held onto her soft hand and placed a light kiss on it, his eyes darkening with emotion. "I love you, Babe."

She could feel the slight moisture on her palm and she drew her hand back slightly. "I know," she answered lightly.

The chill in her voice reminded him to not push his luck.

He smiled and moved his lips away from her hand.

She finished off the last of her toast and strode over to the sofa, thereafter taking her backpack before turning to say, "I'm hanging out with a couple of friends tonight, so I won't be back till late. You can go to bed first; you don't have to wait up for me."

Mason looked at her gorgeous side profile and made a noise of agreement. "Stay safe, Jan," he murmured in a low voice.

At Woodsbury University, Janet had only just stepped into the medical science lecture hall when she heard the chatter that seemed to center on some plagiarism that took place during the examination.

"I heard that the person who got full marks during the test apparently plagiarized Lady Rose's writing."

"What? She copied Lady Rose's work for her essay?"

"Yeah; I saw the exposé on Reddit!"

"The whistleblower didn't say who it was but she did point out that it's the same person who got full marks on the test. Who else is there in our course?"

"Do you think she means Janet?"

"Probably. I mean, she's the only person in the entire faculty who got full marks."

"No; it can't be. She got full marks—what use is there for her to plagiarize someone else's work?"

"Exactly! She got full marks on two other modules as well. She can't have plagiarized."

Abby was in her seat, incredulous at the gossip that was taking place around her. "Are you guys for real? It's impossible that Janet cheated. She scored full marks on her essay for the college entrance exams as well, so why in the world would she plagiarize Lady Rose's work in the first place?"

Sharon came to Janet's defense as well. "Precisely! Besides, Janet has never read any of Rose's books. You can't go around accusing her just because she's the only person who got full marks."

"We're just stating facts and we're merely talking about whatever was posted on Reddit. If you guys have a problem with this, why don't you take it up with the whistleblower?"