

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 411

By eBookscat

Hailey's face instantly turned pale. Her face lost all of its colors.

She glanced at Alice rather anxiously. Alice pretended that she did not notice her gaze. She lowered her head and ate calmly.

Hailey then turned to look at Old Mr. Walter.

Although Old Mr. Walter was unhappy, he was still her father on the surface.

He cleared his throat and swept Hailey a cold glance. "Hailey, what Mr. Lynch is saying, is it true?"

Hailey's face was much paler than the wall behind her.

She bit her lips. "This is all not true! "

Then, she reached her hand out and pointed at Luna. "She's trying to accuse me! She has been jealous of me being the heiress of the Walters since birth, so she deliberately used all these to frame me! "

Luna could not help but furrowed her brows at Hailey's words.

She found it comical. She has said nothing from the start. If Joshua said nothing, she did not even know that all these coincidences were under the orders of someone else.

However, Hailey dared to turn it around and say that she was framing her?

Luna gracefully put her utensils down. She calmly glanced at Hailey.

"Ms. Hailey, I suggest you think before you speak. First, I am not from Sea City. Your achievements in Sea City have nothing to do with me. I am only here for a couple of days. In the past few days, other than meeting you briefly at the reception previously, I have never seen you before. Why should I be jealous of someone who I have barely met, let alone frame?"

Hailey's expressions suddenly turned ugly.

She harrumphed coldly and crossed her arms around her chest. She looked at Luna condescendingly. "A brief encounter with me is enough for you to be jealous of me for your entire life! If it was not because of jealousy, why would you want to frame me?"

Luna rubbed the middle of her brows. "I'll admit that I do not have a social status like yours, coming from a noble family, but no matter how noble your family, it is just a mere facade.

"I came from a humble background, but I worked hard to become the best jewelry designer in Europe. Now that I'm back in Banyan City, I'm the principal Design Director of Lynch Group."

Then, Luna raised her eyebrows and swept Hailey a cold glance. "As for you, Ms. Hailey. I have heard of your news. All these years, other than cosmetic surgeries, it seems like you have done nothing much?"

Alice and Hailey's faces instantly turned pale at her words.

Old Mr. Walter had a rather ugly expression too.

Luna slightly frowned. She knew that she had crossed the line a little.

Thus, she laughed gently, "Ms. Hailey, I don't mean anything by it. I'm only trying to say that you're not worthy for me to be jealous about nor enough for me to frame you.

"Also."

Luna took a deep breath. "This is also the first time I'm hearing this from Mr. Lynch. If you said that you are being framed, the person that framed you should be Mr. Lynch and not me."

Then, she picked up her utensils and continued eating with no regard for anybody.

Joshua narrowed his eyes at Luna's calm reaction. After a while, he lifted his head and looked at Old Mr. Walter and Hailey. "Luna does not know about this. I alone got someone to investigate this, including the incident this morning."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 412

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Joshua gently knocked the table with one hand. "When Ms. Gwen wanted to expose Ms. Hailey during the press conference, I also stopped her. I did this because of the relationship between the Lynches and the Walters. I'm willing to save the Walter family some face in front of the Sea City public."

Then, Joshua raised his eyebrows. "Of course, if Ms. Hailey thinks that I'm framing her, I could only reveal all this evidence to the media. I'll let the public be the judge."

Joshua looked at Hailey with an extremely sharp gaze. "Let them judge for themselves whether I am framing Ms. Hailey or is she targeting my staff?"

The entire dining room was in dead silence upon his words.

Old Mr. Walter looked at Alice, who was eating with her head lowered. Then, he looked at Hailey, whose face was miserably pale.

He harrumphed coldly and slammed the table fiercely. "You unworthy daughter, kneel! "

Hailey was stunned. She immediately got up and knelt on the ground. Old Mr. Walter was so furious his face was flushed. He pointed at Hailey on the ground with a trembling hand. "I have already told you earlier that some things are not meant to be! You insist on having them! Now that you have them, you started to act all high and mighty. Just because you think that you have the Walter family to support you, you do whatever you want in Sea City. Is that it?"

On the surface, Old Mr. Walter was reprimanding Hailey, but in fact, he was directing it at Alice who was eating with her head lowered.

Alice buried her head and kept eating non-stop. However, looking over from Gwen's angle, one could still see that her face was miserably pale.

"Starting from today, you are no longer my child. You have no relationships with the Walter family!" Old Mr. Walter rebuked coldly.

Hailey, who was kneeling on the ground, looked at Old Mr. Walter in shock. "Master...what nonsense are you talking about? I..."

Although she was not the real Hailey, she was assuming the role of Hailey at that moment.

If Old Mr. Walter was cutting off ties with her, that meant...

That meant that Alice would not be able to return to the Walter family in the future!

Old Mr. Walter harrumphed coldly, "You're the one talking nonsense! You have done so many terrible things. Mr. Lynch is willing to let me deal with you personally. He has given you more than enough respect already!

"You are not allowed to have this meal! Go up and pack. The butler will send you out of the country.

You're not allowed to come back for the next five years! Since you like to do whatever you want to do in Sea City, I'll make sure you won't come back in the next five years! "

Hailey was stunned for a very long time.

After a while, she subconsciously looked at Alice.

Alice has already finished her meal. She was playing with her phone as if this had nothing to do with her.

Hailey took a deep breath, slowly got up, and headed upstairs.

Seeing her leave, Old Mr. Walter exhaled deeply. He turned and smiled at Joshua. "Joshua, are you satisfied with this?"

Joshua smiled a little. He turned and looked at Luna. " Are you satisfied?"

Luna did not expect that he would leave such a difficult problem to her. She was in a daze for a few seconds before she looked at Old Mr. Walter. "Old Mr. Walter, I have a question I can't seem to figure out."

"Tell me."

"My friend and I asked around in Sea City yesterday. Everyone said that only with your permission could they lock people up in the Walter family prison in the backyard. Even your wife could not simply lock anyone up. Does that mean that you have a part in the kidnapping of Gwen's father, Andy?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 413

The atmosphere in the dining room turned silent.

Old Mr. Walter's expressions were somewhat ugly. He looked at Luna coldly and said in an unfriendly

tone, "How concerned you are of the Walter family, Ms. Luna. You are right. Previously, only with my permission could they use the prison."

Then, he inconspicuously swept a glance at Alice, whose head was buried extremely low.

His voice was quite cold, "But it's different now. The Walter family prison is not only under my command, but my daughter's too."

Old Mr. Walter stroked his beard. "After all, I only have that one daughter. She will be taking over everything in the future, so I gave her the power to the prison. However, I did not expect that she would misuse the freedom I gave her to do such things. "

Luna has long expected this response from Old Mr. Walter.

Thus, she smiled. "Then the news from the outside world is indeed lagging behind."

Luna lowered her eyes, picked up the teacup, and took a sip. "Mr. Walter, you should update the news to prevent further unnecessary misunderstandings."

Then, she swept a glance at Gwen, who was pale in the face. "The incident where Andy was kidnapped and locked up in prison, although Ms. Hailey was the one that did it, from the outside, since only you have

the authority to lock people up, so this was done by you."

Luna's voice was calm, but every word was spoken with weight.

"The Larson family have been family friends with the Walter family. Mr. Larson has done so many things for you too. You should clear your name and clarify your innocence, so as not to hurt the feelings of others who do things for you too."

Luna's words shocked everybody there.

Gwen subconsciously turned to look at Luna, her eyes were filled with gratitude.

Joshua smiled a little.

Luna's intention was obvious.

She was paving a way for Andy and Gwen so that they could continue surviving in Sea City in the future.

At least, after she pointed this matter out to Old Mr. Walter, he has to apologize to Andy no matter what for the sake of his respect.

Also, Old Mr. Walter could not make things difficult for Andy for the time being. If not, others would think that he was taking it out on them because of Hailey.

Joshua narrowed his eyes and looked at Luna's petite, exquisite face.

This woman has exceeded his expectations of her time and time again.

He thought that Luna would mention the prison incident just to blame Old Mr. Walter.

He never would have thought that she was looking out for Gwen and Andy.

However, Gwen and she were rivals just a few days ago. Just because Theo brought her to Gwen and Ben's house to spend the night, the two of them had become such good friends?

One did not care about her father's survival, only wanting to clear Luna's name during the press conference.

The other gave up the opportunity to blame the person who hurt her, just to make sure that Gwen would not be bullied in Sea City in the future.

At that thought, Joshua turned to look at Alice.

Initially, at this table, Alice should be the one who should be closest to Gwen.

However, why did Luna and Gwen become good friends instead in the end, while Alice became the outsider?

Everything that Luna was saying and doing at that moment only seemed to be logical if it was Alice doing them.

However...

Alice only buried her head and ate non-stop.

Noticing his gaze, Alice looked up and smiled prettily. "Why are you not eating but looking at me?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 414

Joshua smiled. "I thought that you would have said something."

Alice shuddered a little.

After a moment, she lifted her head, smiled, and looked at Luna. "If Joshua did not say it, I wouldn't have known that Ms. Hailey had done so many things."

Then, she weighed her words before saying with a smile, "Perhaps Ms. Hailey is jealous of Ms. Luna's talent? After all, Luna is an exceptional jewelry designer. The Walter family is also in the jewelry business. Why would Ms. Hailey want to get rid of such a talented designer like Luna?"

Her indifferent statement did not mention her previous best friend, Gwen.

Joshua furrowed his brows tightly. His Luna Gibson in the past was not a person like that. She was a kindhearted and gentle woman. She would always care about other people's feelings.

For example, according to Luna Gibson in the past, the words that Luna said on behalf of the Larson family, she would say them too.

However, at that moment, not only did Alice not help the Larson family, but when he asked her to say a word or two, she only said unhelpful things.

Was it time that changed her, or...

The meal ended with Old Mr. Walter apologizing politely to Gwen.

After the meal, Luna took the initiative to visit Gwen's father with her.

Joshua had some work to do. He arranged a few bodyguards to wait for Alice outside and left first.

After everyone left, only Alice and Old Mr. Walter were left in the dining room.

"I told you to not be too greedy."

Old Mr. Walter lit a cigarette and swept Alice a cold glance. "Ever since you had the surgery to change into this face, I have warned you that if you are

going to assume another person's identity, you have to forget that your past that you are the heiress to the Walter family!

"Look at what happened. You think that just because you are in Sea City, you are in your territory. You used all your power to deal with Luna! "

Then, he harrumphed coldly, "If it were not for the scapegoat to take your blame, how would you have planned to handle this?"

Alice shrugged. She reached her slender finger out and gently fiddled with the glass on the table. "I never would have thought

that Joshua would value her so much. He actually even investigated this incident.”

He even managed to investigate Gavin, whom she hired to harass Luna.

How much did Joshua value Luna?

“If you don’t want others to know about your wrongdoings, don’t do them! ”

Old Mr. Walter glared at her coldly. “I’ve already said just now. I’m going to send you overseas to study for five years. In five years’ time, if you can truly become the real Mrs. Lynch, I ’11 treat it as if you are not my daughter. However, if someone were to expose you, I’ll resume your identity as my daughter after five years when you come back.”

Alice lazily responded.

Old Mr. Walter sighed resentfully, “For the next five years, the Walter family no longer has an heiress.

You cannot do bad things in her name! ”

“I know.”

Alice swept an annoyed glance at Old Mr. Walter. “I’ll be better in the future. I ’m only being arrogant now because no matter what I do, I have a scapegoat to blame it on.”

Then, she sneered, “That puppet. I got her to take my place just to be a scapegoat. She still foolishly thinks that she would live a good life as the heiress of the Walter family. How pathetic.”

Hailey, who was upstairs, just got the news that Joshua had left. She was about to anxiously head down. Just when she was at the railings of the second floor, she heard Alice's cold voice coming from below.

Hailey subconsciously took a few steps back.

Her heart sank in disappointment and in despair.

In the end, she directly went back to her room, picked up her phone, and dialed a number.

"Mr. Lynch, I have something to tell you."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 415

When he received Hailey's call, Joshua was sitting in the car having a simple international meeting.

He did not know why but since the afternoon the day before, Lynch Group has been constantly hacked by foreign hackers.

All of them were skillful hackers. Even Joshua would need some time to solve them.

After the hackers infiltrated past the Lynch Group's firewall, they went straight for the Lynch Group's core data. It was as if they were determined to make Lynch Group go bankrupt at all costs.

At the same time, Malcolm Quinn of the Quinn Group also began to take advantage of the opportunity.

In less than two days, the Lynch Group was being attacked from front and back.

Joshua's instincts told him that these things had something to do with Luna.

First, Malcolm and Luna are good friends and future fiancés.

Also, the hacker... he might very possibly be the one that had always been helping Luna.

However, the defamations of Luna on the internet were done by Hailey of the Walter family. Why would Malcolm and the hacker target the Lynch Group?

Just when Joshua was still confused, Hailey called him.

He initially did not want to pick it up. After a moment of hesitation, he still picked it up, in the end.

"Mr. Lynch, I have something to tell you." On the other end of the call, Hailey's voice was trembling and it sounded like she was crying.

Joshua furrowed his brows. He replied calmly, "Tell me."

He never had ever liked Hailey.

"Can you help me? I don't want to go away..." Hailey was crying. "Actually, I'm not the real heiress of the Walter family. I'm not Hailey Walters! The real Hailey is someone else. She is..."

"Hailey, who are you talking with on the phone?" Before Hailey could finish her sentence, Old Mr.

Walter's cold voice rang out.

Thud!

The call was dropped.

What the hell was this father-daughter duo doing? In order to keep Hailey from going overseas, were they trying to ask for pity?

Joshua took a deep breath. Before he could give it closer thought, another call for help came from the data center in his computer.

Joshua squinted his eyes. He took his computer over and caught himself in another round of tough battle.

Luna accompanied Gwen to the hospital. Although the injury on Ben's leg did not affect his bones or tendons, the gash was deep. He would not be able to walk for a month.

Luna sat on the chair and looked at Gwen gently feeding Ben porridge. She could not help but feel emotional. "Even when we were in school back then, I had already thought that you two are a great match."

Ben chuckled gently. "When we were in school, the person I liked was you, but you always persuaded me to consider Gwen. At that time, I always thought that she was rather foolish. Now it looks like..."

Ben looked at Gwen tenderly. "Luna's judgment is much better than mine. If I were to pursue Gwen in high school, I would have been happier much earlier."

Gwen blushed at his words.

She gave him a scornful glare, then fed him porridge gently.

"Tsk, tsk." Luna helplessly rubbed the middle of her brows. "Get a room, you two."

Gwen blushed. "Luna, what do you plan to do next?"

"No plans." Luna shrugged. "It will still be the same from the beginning. Get pregnant and cure Nigel."

Then we'll see about it."

Gwen sighed, "When I heard the news that you married Joshua, Ben and I were still happy for you. We thought that you had married a great man. Who would have thought..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Gwen's phone rang. She furrowed her brows and picked up. "Dad, what's going on?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 416

Andy, on the other end of the line, said something when Gwen's face instantly turned pale.

After a while, she hung up. She looked at Luna closely. "Hailey Walter is dead. She jumped off a building."

Luna felt every ounce of her muscle stiffened. Hailey Walter... was dead?

She killed herself?

Luna retreated a few steps back.

More than an hour ago, Hailey was still having lunch with them. How did she just... die like that?

"Perhaps she felt shameful and did not want to go overseas?"

Gwen sighed, "Hailey is a proud lady. She would not be able to withstand such humiliation."

Luna thought it was unbelievable.

In the dining room a moment ago, Hailey seemed to have accepted Old Mr. Walter's arrangement. She even went up to pack her bags, why so suddenly...

Hailey's memorial service was done in a simple manner. It did not feel in line with the amount of grief Old Mr. Walter felt of losing his beloved daughter.

The Walters explained that because this happened

too suddenly and it was also a little embarrassing, so they decided to do it in a simple manner.

Luna followed Joshua and Alice to pay their respects. "How dare you still come! "

Upon seeing Luna, Old Mr. Walter's emotions erupted in rage. He reached out and pointed at Luna's face angrily.

"If it were not for you, my daughter would not have jumped! Luna, you owe the Walters a life! "

Luna lowered her head. "My deepest condolences."

Although she did not think that she was wrong in this matter, the dead deserved some respect. She was not willing to have a head-on confrontation with Old Mr. Walter at Hailey's memorial service.

"Condolences? How could I possibly accept them from you! "

Old Mr. Walter glared at Luna angrily. "What Hailey did to you was just a small matter! How dare you get Joshua to make things difficult for her, forcing me to send her out of the country."

In a full-blown rage, Old Mr. Walter shrugged off his servants who were supporting him. He immediately rushed to Luna and grabbed her by her shirt's collar, shaking her violently.

"She jumped because she was not willing to go out of the country. She found it humiliating! Why

couldn't you just bear with whatever she did? If you would have bear through it, she would not have died! You killed her! "

Luna was shaken by Old Mr. Walter. She was dizzy. Deep down in her heart, she was telling herself to not be petty with a grieving old man.

However, the nonsense he was saying made Luna infuriated time and again.

What did he mean that if she were to bear it, Hailey would not have died?

If she were to bear it, she would have died herself! Just because Hailey was weak, why was she to be blamed?

Seeing how Luna had no response, Old Mr. Walter got even more aggravated.

He angrily raised his hand and slapped Luna fiercely.

"Uncle Dennis, that is enough. " Just when Old Mr. Walter's hand was almost by Luna's face, Joshua calmly stepped forward and immediately grabbed Old Mr. Walter's hand.

"We are all very sorry for Hailey's death, but how much this has to do with Luna, I'm sure you are clear about it too. In other words, just because you didn't look after your daughter, how could you blame Luna for that?

Then, Joshua flung Old Mr. Walter's hand away. " But, I do remember something. Before Hailey's death, she called me. She said she wanted to tell me something, but she was interrupted by you, Uncle Dennis. "According to the time of her death and her call with me, she jumped down in less than ten minutes after the call with me. What happened in between?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 417

Old Mr. Walter's face instantly turned terribly pale. Alice's expressions did not look too good either.

After a while, Old Mr. Walter wiped away his tears. " Joshua, what do you mean by that? Do you think I would hurt my own daughter?"

Joshua's gaze was flat. "I said nothing of those sorts. I only want to know, since before Hailey jumped, you saw her and talked to her. As her father, did you notice her mood swings? Or perhaps you didn't even notice her emotions?"

Old Mr. Walter's expressions turned uglier upon Joshua's words.

"W-What... what are you trying to say?"

"What I mean is," Joshua smiled and said, "Hailey's mental health is too weak. Perhaps you did not pay attention to her mental well-being. The last person Hailey saw before she jumped was you, Uncle Dennis. That meant that you were the only possible person to stop her from jumping. You can't blame anyone else."

Joshua smiled aloofly. "That's all I want to say. We are here to pay our respects. Not argue with each other."

Then, under the stunned gaze of everybody, Joshua turned around and pulled Luna away.

Watching the both of them leaving, Old Mr. Walter gritted his teeth hard.

No wonder Alice treated Luna as her main rival. Joshua's favoritism toward her was too obvious.

At that thought, he turned to look at Alice, who was nearby.

Alice inconspicuously shook her head at him. Then, she smiled and approached him.

"Uncle Dennis, don't be angry at Joshua. He is just trying to protect his staff."

Joshua dragged Luna out of the memorial service and directly into the car.

In the backseat, Joshua closed the car door and furrowed his brows tightly.

"I `m sorry. " Luna moved her body toward the car door a little. "I was just quite shocked that a person suddenly died, so I followed you to pay my respects. I never would have thought..."

"It's not your fault."

Before Luna could finish her sentence, Joshua calmly interrupted. "Hailey's death is not that simple."

Luna paused a little. She subconsciously raised her eyes and looked at him. "What do you mean?"

Joshua swept her a glance. "As I said just now, Hailey called me before she died. She said that she had something important to tell me, but before she could tell me, Old Mr. Walter interrupted her. Then, she hung up the phone. At first, I thought that they

were putting on an act, they wanted to let Hailey stay in Sea City. I never would have thought..."

Joshua's eyes narrowed a little. "The Walters are hiding something from us. I deliberately mentioned the call to Old Mr. Walter. If Hailey's death had nothing to do with the call, he would not have avoided it."

Luna was so stunned she was rendered speechless.

After a while, she turned and looked out of the window. "Perhaps, you are just overthinking this? No one would... kill their own daughter. No matter what their children do, a parent would not be able to kill their own flesh and blood."

Perhaps, Luna might not understand the feeling a parent has for their children previously, but after giving birth to Nigel, Neil, and Nellie, she was sure that no parents on this earth would be that cruel.

Joshua smiled. He looked at her mockingly. "You've never had any children, how would you know that parents would not be able to kill their own children?"

Luna furrowed her brows. She instinctively retorted, "How would you know whether I had children or not? I..."

She was halfway through her sentence when she suddenly remembered her current identity.

Thus, Luna cleared her throat and turned her head aside. "It's true. I never had any children."

Joshua squinted his eyes and looked at her suspiciously for a long time at her reaction.

After a while, Joshua sneered, "There might be another possibility."

"What is it?"

"This might not be the real Hailey Walter."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 418

Luna's eyes widened. She looked at him confusedly. "What do you mean?"

"What I mean is," Joshua squinted his eyes and said, "The person who died was just an imposter. The real Hailey Walter is still out there somewhere. This woman is totally different from the Hailey I knew, so much so that she seems like an entirely different person altogether."

Not only her looks. Her character too.

Hailey back then would treat Luna Gibson as her rival. Every time she saw Luna Gibson, her eyes would be filled with loathing and resentment.

However, this time, Hailey and Alice became friends. Even much closer than Gwen, who was once Luna's best friend.

Luna furrowed her brows. "If the one that just died was not the real Hailey, then... where is the real Hailey? Why is she hiding?"

Joshua frowned hard at her question.

After a while, he furrowed his brows and looked at Luna. "I'll investigate this, but I brought you here because I need you to do something."

Luna calmed herself down, turned over, and looked at Joshua.
"What is it?"

Joshua passed her some documents.

"Lynch Group's database is under attack by a foreign hacker. The Quinn Group is taking advantage of this, attacking us too. The Lynch Group is being attacked from all sides."

Luna paused a little. She picked up the documents and flipped through them. It was a risk assessment report.

Although she could not understand the tactics that the hacker and Quinn Group were using, but...

The amount of loss Lynch Group incurred made her stunned. She almost dropped the documents in her hand.

"I deduce that the hacker should be the one that has been always helping you."

Luna's face turned pale. He meant Nigel. "Malcolm took advantage of this situation. The Lynch Group suffered a huge blow because of him."

Luna's hand trembled a little. Malcolm listened to Nigel the most.

So...

Luna slapped her forehead. "If I said that I didn't know about these two things, would you believe me?"

"Now you know about them. " Joshua swept her an indifferent glance. "I'm giving you the opportunity to get them to stop. If not, when I return to Banyan City tomorrow, they wouldn't be so smug anymore. I have the ability to do it."

Joshua was not sitting at Lynch Group at that moment, there were many problems he could not handle personally. That was why they had the chance to attack.

Luna rubbed the middle of her brows.

At that moment, it was seemingly impossible to say that those things had nothing to do with her.

Luna sighed, "Okay."

For the past few days, she had been busy on her business trip in Sea City. She forgot to keep in touch with her three children.

How dare those three brats create such a huge mess while she was not paying attention to them!

"Uncle Theo told Nigel that you were bullied, that was why we did it."

The first thing Luna did when she returned to the hotel was to call Neil. Neil, on the other end of the line, said with bravado, "Since that scumbag Joshua brought you on the business trip, he should be taking good care of you. Not only did you encounter so many dangerous situations, but you also almost lost your life. We had to teach him a lesson."

Luna rubbed the middle of her brows. "Get Uncle Malcolm to stop immediately."

The Quinn Group and the Lynch Group were always in a stand-off, but due to their greatness, they

usually only have minimal friction with each other.

In this sort of large-scale battle between them, although Malcolm had the upper hand, it was impossible for him to come out of it unscathed.

Malcolm had already sacrificed a lot for her. She did not want Malcolm to affect the Quinn Group's business because of her.

"Uncle Malcolm won't listen to me." Neil pursed his lips. "Mommy, do you still remember Aura? Once Aura was sent out of the country, I got Uncle Malcolm to help teach her a lesson. Guess what he found out? He found out that Aura is being protected by someone strong. That person works for the Lynch family!"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 419

Luna's heart sank to the bottom.

The people that were protecting Aura were people from the Lynch family.

Back then, Aura had tried to harm Neil and Nellie many times.

If it were not for Neil sacrificing himself and going along with Aura, they would not have been able to gather evidence of Aura trying to harm them.

Joshua knew all about this.

However, on the surface, he wanted Aura to pay the price, but actually, he secretly sent men to protect her?

Luna felt a little dizzy.

This...

“So, Mommy, Uncle Malcolm would go up against that scumbag Joshua not only because of you being bullied in Sea City. He also wants to seek justice for Nellie and me.”

Luna bit her lips.

Joshua’s words in the car a moment ago rang in her ears.

“I’m giving you the opportunity to get them to stop. If not, when I return to Banyan City tomorrow, they wouldn’t be so smug anymore. I have the ability to do it.”

Luna truly believed that Joshua has the skills to do it too.

She has witnessed firsthand his tactics and methods.

After exchanging a few more words with Neil, Luna took a deep breath and dialed Malcolm.

This was the first time she called Malcolm after Granny Lynch’s birthday banquet.

She did not want him to get involved with her current affairs.

Back then, Malcolm rescued her up from the sea when she was heavily injured. He treated her and helped her give birth to her three children. He even paid for her cosmetic surgeries.

She owed Malcolm too much. Thus, she did not want to trouble Malcolm on the matter of finding a cure for Nigel.

She also did not want Malcolm to go up against Joshua in the business trading world because of her.

It was not that she did not believe in Malcolm’s abilities. It was only that she has already owed Malcolm way too much.

Not long after, the call was picked up. "Luna, don't try to persuade me."

Malcolm's voice on the other end of the call was frigid, "I have already made up my mind. This time, no matter what, I have to make Joshua pay. He has owed you and your kids too much. Since six years ago up till now. None of you have the power to make him pay, but I do."

She bit her lips. "Malcolm, you can so easily let Joshua lose a few hundred million dollars because he is in Sea City right now. When he returns back to his base at Banyan City, you won't have it so easy. A few hundred million is enough of a punishment for him. Please hear me out. Stop this."

Malcolm laughed, "You think I'm no match for Joshua Lynch? At most, we end up going down together. Even if I incur losses, Joshua would lose out even more."

Luna rubbed the middle of her brows. "I know what you are angry about, but the incidents in Sea City were done by Hailey. Now that Hailey is dead, everything is settled. You should stop dwelling on it. As for the people protecting Aura overseas..."

Luna took a deep breath. "Can you send me all the information that proves those people are from the Lynch family? I will ask Joshua in person."

Malcolm on the other end of the line was silent for a while.

After a while, he laughed bitterly, "Why do you still care so much about Joshua?"

Luna stopped breathing.

“Joshua is not as terrifying as you think, I am also not as weak as you think.”

“If you don’t let me go up against him once head-on, I will never be happy about it.”

“Malcolm. ” Luna took a deep breath. “I understand that you and Joshua had always been business rivals. If you want to go up against him, I have no issue with that, but you can’t do it just because of me and my children. That is why, you can fight with him all you want in the future, but this time, please stop.

Just send me the evidence.”

Then, Luna immediately hung up.

At the other end of the line, Malcolm closed his eyes depressingly, listening to the disconnected tone.

Six years.

It has been six years. He still could not get into her heart.

He was always an outsider to her. Malcolm closed his eyes and chuckled bitterly. In the end, he picked up his phone and dialed his secretary. “Stop the attack against the Lynch Group.”

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn’t Easy chapter 420

In the evening, Luna received the information from Malcolm. It was detailed. It showed in detail the information of every single person who was protecting Aura.

Luna could recognize a few of them. She has even met some of them before.

They were indeed Joshua's men.

Her heart grew colder as she flipped through the documents.

All these men were once Joshua's cronies. How would these men dare to protect Aura without Joshua's orders?

At that thought, she switched off her computer, reached her hand out, and clutched her forehead.

She has already known Joshua for many years. She once thought that she knew him well.

Six years ago, the things that Joshua had done to her for Aura was a huge sudden blow to her, sending her to the pits of hell.

Six years later, once again, she thought she knew him. She returned to him, wanting to take something from him so that she could cure Nigel.

However, she realized that she still did not know him well enough. He was probably the only person that she could never fully understand in her life.

"Luna."

Suddenly, there was a knock on her door. It was Gwen.

Luna shook her head, shrugging all the complicated thoughts away.

She was going to leave Sea City with Joshua the next day. Her business trip has come to an end.

After this, she did not know when she would be able to meet Gwen again. She should properly bid Gwen and Ben farewell.

She collected her emotions, got up, and followed Gwen out.

Because Ben's leg was injured, so the farewell celebration that night was only Gwen and Luna.

Gwen took Luna to the food stand that they used to frequent back in high school.

There were many people there that evening. It was rather lively.

Gwen poured some wine. She smiled at Luna bitterly. "You and I have been friends for so many years. I almost sold you out. I blame myself terribly. I will drink to you."

Luna helplessly picked up her glass of fruit juice. " Don't drink too much. Furthermore, you never sold me out. You were risking your father's life to help me, don't blame yourself."

Gwen pursed her lips. She wanted to say something else but stopped herself.

She picked up her glass of wine and downed it in one go.

Actually, before the press conference that morning, she received Joshua's message that her father was safe. That was only why she dared to tell the truth of how Luna was not the mistress.

Also...

The incident where Hailey respectfully called Alice Ms. Hailey.

She still did not dare to tell Luna about that. Initially, she wanted to tell Luna, but Hailey's death that day was a huge blow to her.

If she were to tell Luna, would she be the next one to get killed?

At that thought, Gwen bit her lips hard. She raised her glass once more and downed the wine.

That meal, Gwen drank a lot.

Initially, Luna thought that Gwen was just sad because they were parting ways, but later on, she realized that Gwen seemed to have something on her mind.

"Luna. I'm sorry."

On the way back, Gwen kept repeating this.

Luna helplessly hugged her. "What is there to be sorry about?"

"I have been keeping things from you." Gwen closed her eyes. She cried and laughed at the same time.

When Luna sent Gwen back to her house, at the entrance, the intoxicated Gwen turned around and stuffed a letter into Luna's hands.

"A... love letter from me. Open it when you're back in Banyan City."

Luna did not know whether to laugh or cry. She kept the letter and sent Gwen to the entrance of her house.

Once she made sure that Gwen had returned home, Luna let out a long sigh and got in the taxi.

"Your friend is very drunk, " The taxi driver chuckled lightly, "miss, the hotel that you're going to is quite far from here. If you're bored, you can sleep for a while. You look tired."

Luna shook her head. "I'm fine."

However, Luna did not know why the moment she said that, grogginess washed over her. She leaned back in the backseat dizzily and closed her eyes.

The taxi driver smiled maliciously and went the opposite direction from the hotel.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 421

Luna slept for a long time. She seemed to be unable to wake up from her dream.

She dreamt that she was dragged down from the car by someone while being unconscious.

She could not open her eyes, but she could feel that her legs were being dragged on the ground. They were bleeding and they hurt a lot.

The sound of men talking rang out in her ears. She could not hear what they were saying but she clearly heard things like raping then killing.

She wanted to open her eyes, but could not no matter what.

In the end, she woke up by cold water being splashed on her.

She opened her eyes and realized that everything was not an illusion nor a dream.

At that moment, she was in an abandoned factory. The air smelled of rust, gas, and mold.

Her hands and legs were being tied up by a rope. She was tied onto a chair and could not move.

The lighting in the factory was dim.

A few burly men stood in front of her, sneering at her.

Behind them, a middle-aged man was sitting arrogantly on a chair. He was holding an opened letter. He took a picture of the contents of the letter.

After sending the contents of the letter as a message, the middle-aged man smiled. He burnt the letter away and looked at Luna.

"Do you know who I am?"

Luna bit her lips. She bore through the pain on her legs and forced herself to calm down. "Yes. You're the gang leader of Sea City's largest gang, Liam Clark."

Liam was quite surprised that she knew his name because the party that hired him told him that she was a woman from Banyan City.

"You're a treacherous, murdering maniac. As long as you want to do it, no one would be able to catch you, but you are not for hire, never doing things for others."

Then, Luna forced herself to look at Liam courageously. "I have no grudge with you. Have you made an exception and started doing things for other people?"

Liam was impressed at Luna's cold, arrogant gaze.

He touched his chin. "I 'm not making an exception. I'm just repaying the favor."

Luna bit her lips. Her mind was moving fast.

When she was still studying, Liam was already a famous person. He has been the gang leader for many years. The person who had done him a favor and helped him should not be after he became famous, but before.

In the end, Luna narrowed her eyes and filtered through in her mind. Old Mr. Walter has once helped Liam out when he was down. The reason why the Walters could monopolize the business trade in Sea City had to do with Liam.

At that thought, Luna bit her lips. "Old Mr. Walter is trying to exchange a life for his daughter's death, is that it?"

Liam narrowed his eyes. "You know quite a lot."

Then, he turned to his men by the side and waved his large hands. "Do it. The earlier we get rid of this woman who knows too much the better."

Liam's men looked at each other, then they smiled and said something in Liam's ears.

Liam smiled. "That's fine. As long as you have fun."

Once they got his approval, Liam's men took strong alcoholic drinks out of nowhere and force fed Luna.

Luna could not take alcohol. She instinctively tried to struggle and avoid, but she was tied. There was nowhere for her to hide.

Soon after, her entire body was as wet, as if she was just fished out from the barrel of wine.

Her face and body were covered in alcohol.

The alcohol stung her freshly cut wound on her leg. After dumping all the alcohol on her, the men surrounded her. They pinched her face and caressed her head. "Hide, go on, I dare you!"

Luna bit her lips and closed her eyes.

She was afraid that she might not survive the night.

The necklace on her neck was not switched on. Nigel would not know about this.

Gwen was drunk.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 422

Theo has not been in contact with her since that morning.

Joshua...

Even at that moment, she was still thinking about Joshua.

He would not even know about this. Also, even if he knew, he would not save her.

At that thought, tears fell uncontrollably.

She did not want to die. At least, not before finding a cure for Nigel. She did not want to die!

However, what could she do at that moment?

Liam was repaying a favor. He did not want money. What else could she use to bargain with him?

There was nothing.

Luna helplessly closed her eyes. Perhaps, this was fated...

Bang!

Just when the men were about to touch Luna with their dirty hands, a loud sound came from the outside of the abandoned factory.

Liam suddenly stood up. "Everyone, stop!"

The men immediately stopped what they were doing. "Boss, what is it?"

"That sound... something is not right! "

Liam furrowed his brows. He wanted to say something else when a black Hummer crashed into the abandoned factory.

The driver was no other than the gang leader of Sea City's second-largest gang, Luke Jones!

Next to him in the passenger seat was Joshua with a cold gaze.

Once the black Hummer crashed into the abandoned factory, dozens of men followed and swarmed into the abandoned factory.

Liam was stunned. He came to a realization that he was being ambushed by another gang!

He wanted to immediately call forth his men, but he realized that when his men were force -feeding Luna alcohol, they drank some too.

At that moment, all of them were pretty drunk. The only sober one there was him!

“Liam, are you still trying to put up a fight?”

The black Hummer came to a stop and Luke came down from the car. He sneered at Liam.

“Did you think that just because you were dealing with a woman, you did not need to bring so many men with you? You never expected that we would be waiting in the dark, right?”

Liam furrowed his brows. He glared at him coldly. “ How did you know I was here?”

Luke sneered, “Mr. Lynch can’t contact his friend, so he thought that something must have happened to her.

“His friend just offended the Walter family today, while you are the Walters’ b*tch. Of course, I had to come looking for you.”

Liam squinted his eyes and subconsciously glanced over at Joshua.

Joshua did not even bother about the fight between the two gangs.

He walked over to Luna with a complicated gaze.

Seeing how she was injured and shivering after being drenched in alcohol. A hint of heartbreak flashed across his eyes.

He took his jacket off and gently put it on Luna. He carefully cut off the rope on her body.

“Joshua...”

Luna has been force fed too much alcohol. She was already dizzy. She grabbed onto his arm intoxicatedly. “Didn’t you say that you

won't make me drink any more. You said that I did not have to drink on your behalf anymore. Why did you not keep your word? I hate you."

Her voice was hazy.

Joshua pursed his lips and tightly hugged her in his arms. "Yes, I broke my promise."

Luna leaned on his arm and gently muttered, "How long would it take for you to fall in love with me?"

Joshua shuddered a little.

Suddenly, he had a flashback to the year that he just got married to Luna Gibson.

That year, they just got married. She insisted on seeing the outside world with him and foolishly drank on his behalf.

Later on, she also hugged his arm that way drunkenly and asked him the same question, "How long would it take for you to fall in love with me?"

Her demeanor, the tone of her voice was almost the same as Luna, who was in his arms at that moment.

Joshua took a deep breath. He gently touched her lips. "How great would it be if you were her..."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 423

The abandoned factor was in total chaos.

Luke was getting his men to tie Liam up while he turned around to look at Joshua who was carrying Luna.

Joshua's tall figure headed toward the entrance of the factory slowly.

Luke furrowed his brows. "Joshua, are you just leaving like that?"

Joshua stopped in his tracks. "Is there anything else?"

"Say," Luke laughed a little. He lit a cigarette in his mouth and said in a thuggish manner, "You did me a huge favor by letting me capture Liam. Aren't you going to ask me for anything else?"

"No need." Joshua took a deep breath. He lowered his head and looked at Luna, who was shivering in his arms. "I came here just for her."

Then, he continued heading toward the exit.

Seeing him leaving, Luke took a deep puff of the cigarette. He turned to look at one of his men next to him. "He said just now that she is his employee, right?"

His men nodded. "Yes." "He has a wife?"

"Yes, they have been married for many years."

"Tsk." Luke exhaled a ring of smoke and smiled. "Interesting."

Joshua sent Luna to the hospital.

"It's nothing serious. She has just been force-fed alcohol, so she's intoxicated. She caught a cold from being drenched by the alcohol. The cuts on her legs are quite inflamed due to the alcohol too."

The doctor gave her a whole body check—up. "I'll put her on some IV drips. She'll be fine once she wakes up."

Then, the doctor looked at Joshua with rebuke. " There is no harm in having fun, but don't overdo it. If anything were to happen to her, you would have to take care of her for the rest of your life! "

Joshua pursed his lips. He lowered his head and chuckled, "If anything were to happen to her..."

"Joshua, is Luna alright?"

A woman's voice interrupted their conversation. Joshua looked up.

Alice was standing in front of him in a red trench coat and long black boots. Her face was perfectly made up, even the curls of her lashes were flawlessly curled.

It was obvious that she deliberately put on make-up before coming over.

Joshua sneered a little.

When he could not get in touch with Luna, Alice kept saying that perhaps Luna and Gwen had a drink too much, that was why she was not answering her call.

Alice even came up with a lot of excuses for Luna.

It was until Lucas went to Gwen's house and found out that Gwen was so drunk she passed out, only then did he realize how serious and out of control the situation was.

At that moment, Alice already knew that something had happened to Luna, yet she still dressed up before coming over.

Although he knew that Alice and Luna never had a good relationship, at that moment, every action that Alice did disgusted him.

"It's nothing much." Seeing how Joshua did not answer Alice's question, the doctor cleared his throat and explained it to Alice to soothe the

awkward atmosphere. "She has just been force -fed alcohol. She will be fine once she wakes up."

Alice subconsciously looked at Luna, who was lying on the bed, behind the doctor.

The man's jacket on Luna was an eyesore to her.

"J-Just... like that? She's not injured anywhere else?" The doctor shook his head. "No."

"You seem to be eager for Luna to have more injuries."

Joshua coldly glanced at Alice. His tone was cold, " Because of your overly optimistic view, you have stopped me from looking for her many times. She almost got ruined, yet you still show no ounce of guilt. On the contrary, you hope that she would be even more injured."

Joshua sneered, "Alice, even if you don't like Luna, she has never once hurt you, right?"

Alice was a little stunned. She bit her lips rather aggrievedly. "Joshua, you misunderstood my intentions. I'm just worried for her..."

Then, Alice wiped away tears from her reddened eyes. "I'm from Sea City. I have heard of how vicious Liam Clark is. When you said that Luna was taken away by Liam, I was worried for her..."

She sniffled her nose and said in a trembling tone, "Liam is a person who could do anything to her. I just worried that the doctors did not do a thorough check-up on her."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 424

"I was afraid that Luna might have any hidden injuries."

The doctor sighed at Alice's words, "I truly did a thorough check. She only has these injuries, but..."

The doctor touched his chin. "It's quite strange that the cruel Liam would only hurt her this much."

Alice nodded. "Hmm, I find it strange too."

Liam had already kidnapped Luna for such a long time, how was she only injured like that?

According to his usual efficiency, by the time Joshua got his men over, Luna should be dead.

Alice was in a good mood at the thought of Luna's death, that was why she deliberately dressed up and rushed over.

She was expecting to see a dead body. Who would have thought...

Upon hearing the doctor's words, Joshua's expressions relaxed a little.

He calmly glanced at Luna, who was still under an IV drip. Then, he looked at the time.

"It's almost one-thirty in the morning. Alice, go back and rest first. I'll stay here to look after her. We'll head back to Banyan City first thing in the morning."

Alice bit her lips. She reached out and held Joshua's arm.

"Joshua, you have done so much. Why don't I stay here and look after Luna? You go back and rest. You're right. Because I was too optimistic back then and stopped you from looking for her, that caused her to almost get killed. I'm feeling quite guilty. Let me stay back and take care of her, to make amends. "

Joshua paused a little.

Make amends.

Guilt.

Hearing those words being said by Alice, he felt rather relieved.

Even though Alice was completely different from Luna Gibson six years ago, she still had a kind heart.

However, he said, "You should go back and rest." "No, Joshua..."

"Why don't I take care of Luna? " When Joshua and Alice were arguing, a bright male voice rang through.

Joshua and Alice turned and looked.

Theo, who was in white, had his hand on the door handle. He looked at Joshua and Alice with mockery in his eyes. "Why don't you two go back and continue the argument. Luna needs to rest in peace. I can look after her alone and it would be enough."

Joshua's expressions immediately darkened at Theo's appearance.

"Why are you here?"

"After such a huge incident, how could I not come?"

Theo furrowed his brows and sneered. He entered the room and sat down on the chair by the side. "I'll look after her."

Since Theo was insistent, Alice immediately smiled and tugged on Joshua's arm. "Joshua, why don't we go back then. You still have a lot of work waiting for you back at Banyan City tomorrow. You need proper rest."

Joshua furrowed his brow and looked at Theo closely before turning around and leaving with Alice.

The Walters' mansion.

Old Mr. Walter was on a phone call. He was trembling furiously.

Liam Clark was taken down. Luke Jones and Joshua Lynch joined forces to take him down.

If Liam fell, that meant the downfall of the Walter family!

He gritted his teeth hard.

If it were not for his useless daughter offending Joshua, the Walter family would not have ended up that way!

He angrily lifted his phone up, about to throw it to the ground when a photo was sent at that moment.

The photo was of a letter.

He furrowed his brows and tapped the photo. (Luna, I'm telling you this in confidence. The Hailey that just died is not the real heiress of the Walter family. Alice is. X, Gwen]

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 425

Luna slept through the entire night.

In her dreams, she dreamt that she was humiliated by many men. She dreamt that her dead body was disposed of in the wilderness.

She dreamt that Joshua and Alice drove over her dead body and happily returned to Banyan City.

She woke up from her nightmare screaming in fear. "Did you have a nightmare?"

When she came to her senses, Theo's voice rang out gently in her ears.

Luna opened her eyes. She was in a foreign environment. White walls and beds and it smelled of disinfectant.

She rubbed the middle of her brows and got up from the bed. "I'm at..."

"The hospital, " Theo replied while pouring her some water. "You were attacked and kidnapped last night. Later on, you were rescued and sent to the hospital."

Then, he passed Luna a glass of warm water. "Do you remember anything?"

Luna accepted the glass of water. She thought for a while. "A little bit."

Last night...

After sending Gwen back home, she fell asleep in the taxi.

Later on...

She subconsciously lowered her head, wanting to check her own body.

Theo gently pressed into her arms. "You're fine. They only forced and drenched you in alcohol. They did not do any substantial harm to you."

Then, Theo sighed, "But if the person that rescued you came a little bit later... it would be hard to say then."

Luna bit her lips. She was drunk on alcohol, but while dazed, she still remembered bits and pieces. "Last night... was Joshua the one that rescued me?" Theo nodded. "It's him."

"We're in Sea City. He's from Banyan City, how could he go up against Sea City's largest gang?"

"He got the second-largest gang for help."

Theo chuckled a little, "He's a businessman after all. He is very smart. After he was sure that Liam Clark kidnapped you, he immediately went to Jones Gang alone to look for Luke Jones. He told Luke that he has a way to bring Liam down."

Then, Theo could not help but sigh relievedly, "This was a great move. On one hand, Luke brought Liam down. The largest gang had no leader anymore, so Jones Gang could directly become Sea City's greatest gang."

"On the other hand, Liam has owed the Walter family a favor. All these years, thanks to Liam's help,

they could remain invincible in Sea City for so many years.

"Now that Liam has fallen, the Walter family has lost their support. Even if Joshua does not target the Walter family, they would be not as great as before. This is the start of their downfall.

"Lastly, Luke gained a lot from this matter, but he still owes Joshua a huge favor. When the Jones Gang became Sea City's greatest gang, Joshua could freely roam Sea City."

Then, Theo could not help but sigh emotionally, " Joshua killed three birds with one stone. I even suspected that he planned all these in advance, if

not, this man's ability to adapt is terrifying."

Luna closed her eyes. "Perhaps, he has already planned this from the beginning."

Theo pursed his lips. "I... I don't think so. I was just saying."

Luna's gaze was flat. "During the inspection a few days ago, Joshua had a document that was the acquisition plan of the Walter family's jewelry line.

"Back then, I was still thinking, the Walter family's jewelry line is doing so well, how could it be so easily acquired? If last night's incident was the downfall of the Walter family..."

She lifted her eyes and fixed her gaze on Theo. "Tell me, now that they are no longer the leading enterprise of Sea City, do you think the Walter family will choose to sell off their jewelry line?"

Theo was silent.

He was only just casually saying, he never would have thought that he managed to guess Lynch Group's confidential business tactics. Theo took a deep breath. "Joshua is a businessman. It's only normal that he would do this."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 426

"But I don't think he would do that. Doing that would make you a target. If he missed, you might die in the hands of Liam."

Luna laughed self-deprecatingly, "Even if I die in the hands of Liam, he won't care."

Theo was once again silent for a moment.

"I think Joshua cares for you more than you think. "

At least, when he saw Joshua and Alice bickering over who to stay back to take care of Luna, Theo saw sincere concern in Joshua's eyes.

"That's because you don't understand him."

Luna turned to look out of the window. Her voice sounded far away, "He never once cared if I lived or died."

Before breakfast, Theo got the doctor to do a routine check-up on Luna.

Once they made sure that Luna was alright, Theo brought her to have some breakfast before sending her back to the hotel.

When they reached the hotel, they bumped into Lucas.

"Luna, I was just about to look for you," Lucas smiled and said, "Mr. Lynch said the work here is done for now. He wants you to pack up. We'll leave for Banyan City at ten."

Luna nodded, turned, and entered her room to start packing.

Outside her room, Theo was joking around with Lucas. "Can I tag along? I'm also going back to Banyan City."

Lucas' voice was filled with displeasure, "No! "

Luna packed and smiled helplessly. Once she finished packing, she felt as if something was missing.

However, she could not seem to recall.

"Could it be a souvenir that your friend gave to you or something?" Theo asked while leaning against the door with his hands crossed around his chest.

Luna slapped her head. She came to a realization. She could not find the so-called love letter that Gwen gave to her!

Thus, Luna opened her luggage up once more to look for it, but she still could not find it.

Finally, when Lucas was urging her to get into the car, only then did she remember the letter...

Liam seemed to have burned the letter when he kidnapped her.

Luna sighed and got in the car with regret.

Because of the incident the night before, this time going back to Banyan City, he intentionally got Luna to sit in the passenger seat in front.

He and Alice sat behind.

Once the door was shut, Alice grumbled unhappily, " There's another car, why do we all have to squeeze together. The car behind is being used to put our luggage. The driver is one of our men. He won't kidnap Luna."

Joshua looked at her flatly, saying nothing.

Luna was in the passenger seat giving Gwen a call.

The call did not go through the first time, the second time too.

She furrowed her brows and looked at the time. It was almost ten in the morning.

Even if Gwen was hungover, she should be up by then.

Thus, Luna found Ben's phone number and called him. She wanted to ask him about Gwen.

However, the moment the call went through, it was immediately hung up.

Luna furrowed her brows in suspicion. However, she did not give it much thought. Perhaps there was no signal or something.

Luna took a deep breath and fell asleep on the passenger seat.

When the car was on the highway driving toward Banyan City, Joshua's phone rang.

He furrowed his brow and picked the call up. Then, his expressions darkened and turned serious gradually. After a while, he hung up. His voice was cold and serious. "Something happened to Gwen."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 427

When Luna rushed to the hospital, Gwen was still in the emergency room.

Outside the emergency room was Andy with a tear- streaked face and Luke with a cold expression.

Ben, the person who ought to be there the most, did not even appear.

Coming out of the elevator, Luna rushed over manically. "Uncle Andy, is Gwen alright?"

Andy grabbed her hand and only cried. He was sobbing so hard he could not say anything.

"My men rescued her."

Luke furrowed his brows and glanced at Luna. He was busy taking Liam down at the abandoned factory the night before, he only had a hurried glance at Luna, not noticing her looks.

Looking at her in person at that moment, he realized that this woman indeed had what it took to make a man fall head over heels for her.

Luna bit her lips. She immediately let go of Andy's hands. She lifted her head and looked at Luke. "How is Gwennie?"

"Not too good." Luke frowned a little. "This morning my men found out that a bunch of Liam's cronies went to the Walter mansion. When they came back, not only did they not try to find a way to rescue Liam, but they immediately targeted the Larsons.

"I owe Joshua a favor. I also know that the Larson family has some connections with Joshua, so I got people to secretly follow them. However, our gang was too busy today. My men were distracted, so the group of my men that followed the cronies lost them halfway."

"When they found them. " Luke turned his face to the side. He did not dare to look at Andy's crying face. "When my men entered, the lady was tortured and beaten until she passed out. A few men were smoking as if they had just done the deed."

Luna felt as if something exploded in her head.

She could not hear what Joshua and Luke said after that.

"When my men entered, the lady was tortured and beaten until she passed out."

"A few men were smoking as if they had just done the deed."

These two sentences kept ringing in Luna's ears.

Luna retreated backward, her face miserably pale. She clenched both her fists tightly.

A few men were smoking as if they had just done the deed.

That meant that Gwen has been...

Luna closed her eyes. Her heart was filled with despair. No wonder only Luke and Andy were here. Ben, her husband, was not there.

He must have thought that Gwen was dirty and impure. She was not worthy of him anymore.

Just when Gwen needed him the most, he avoided her because of these reasons.

Luna closed her eyes.

A day ago, Luna was telling Gwen that she was fated to be with Ben.

A day later, the person that she was fated to be with abandoned her.

"Luna, don't be too sad. Gwen has been rescued, right?"

Seeing how unstable Luna was and how she was about to fall, Alice pretended to hold onto Luna. "She'll be fine. It will only be a short period of dark history, that's all. As long as Ben won't mind, Gwen's life will still be the same."

Alice has long noticed that Ben was not there. Upon hearing what Luke said, she was even sure that Ben had abandoned Gwen, so she deliberately said what she said.

Upon her words, Andy's expressions turned uglier. Luna's body stiffened too.

"Don't worry." Alice became even more smug. She held onto Luna, helping her sit on the bench by the corridor. "God favors the worthy. Gwen will be fine. Ben and she have been in love for so many years.

Their love is strong. He will not abandon her." Then, Alice looked around. "Where is he?" Luna bit her lips hard.

Everyone there knew about Ben's change of attitude toward Gwen.

The act that Alice was putting on disgusted everyone there. She did it intentionally.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 428

Seeing how no one responded, Alice got even bolder.

She furrowed her brows and looked at Andy. "Uncle Andy, where is Ben?"

Andy lifted his head. He looked at her. His lips quivered but he could not find his words.

Joshua furrowed his brows and looked at Alice. His voice was cold. "Alice, stop talking."

Only then did Alice exercise a little restraint. "I'm only concerned. After all, such a huge thing happened to Gwen, it's not right that Ben is not here."

Luna leaned back on the chair. Her mind kept replaying the scene where she was drinking with Gwen the night before.

From the beginning, Luna was the one that offended the Walter family. She was the one who made Hailey jump off the building and the one who aggravated Old Mr. Walter.

Why did they want to do that to Gwen then? Gwen did not even do anything.

She did not even mention the Walter family's name during the press conference.

Even if she was Gwen's friend, they did not have to capture her and treat her that way, right?

Luna could not figure it out. She was baffled.

After a long time, the door of the emergency room was opened.

Gwen, who was covered in injuries, was pushed out by the doctors.

"She is not in any danger anymore. It's basically superficial injuries. There are no internal injuries of the organs or tendons."

The doctor adjusted his spectacles. "But, she suffered a concussion as a result of a blow to the brain. She might lose some of her most recent memories."

Luna bit her lips and immediately flung herself by the side of Gwen's bed.

Gwen was lying on the bed. The blood has been cleaned off her face. However, the bruises and a swollen, red handprint could be seen clearly.

Luna bit her lips while holding back the pain that churned through her heart. She reached out and pried open Gwen's sleeve and collar.

As expected.

Her arm, neck, and chest were covered in large patches of bruises and strangle marks.

It was as if they truly wanted her dead. Every injury was so serious it was as if they wanted to break Gwen's bones.

Luna sobbed, "Gwennie, I'm so sorry..."

If she was not rescued by Joshua the night before, perhaps Gwen would not have had to suffer this.

If she did not reconcile with Gwen when she came back to Sea City this time but she maintained her distance instead, perhaps Gwen would not have ended up this way.

The more Luna thought, the more she blamed herself and the more disappointed she got.

In the end, Gwen slowly reached her hand out and gently put Luna's hair behind her ear. "I'm fine.

What are you crying for? You look the ugliest when you cry."

Just by these two sentences, Luna could no longer hold back her emotions.

Her tears fell like a flood. Luna grabbed Gwen's wrist. "Gwennie..."

Luna cried until even the doctor next to her was a little moved, "It's only superficial injuries. She'll be well within a month. Don't be so sad."

In the end, the doctor helped Luna up from the side of the bed. "We have to send the patient back to the ward."

Luna bit her lips. She was about to say something when the elevator in the distance opened.

A travel-worn Ben came out from the elevator.

"Ben! "

Andy's eyes sparkled immediately.

"I knew you wouldn't abandon Gwennie! "

Upon hearing her father calling after Ben, Gwen pushed her body up feebly, wanting to sit up. "Ben..."

Ben furrowed his brows and slowly walked over to the pale Gwen. "Are you alright?"

Gwen looked at him. Her eyes were filled with hope and tenderness. "I'm fine. Ben, thank you for coming. I knew that you would..."

"If you're alright , " Ben coldly interrupted her. He took out the divorce papers from his pocket and placed them in front of Gwen.

"Sign them."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 429

Looking at the divorce papers, Gwen was instantly stunned.

Luna could not help it but she was infuriated. "Ben, what do you mean by this? Gwen had just gone through such an unfortunate incident. Now is the time where she needs you the most. What are you doing?"

Ben's eyes were flat. "Isn't it obvious enough?"

He swept Luna a cold glance, then he looked at Gwen. "I'm a traditional man. When she was rescued by others, other men had already slept with her. Don't tell me that you don't know this? Also, there was more than one man! "

Ben gritted his teeth. "Thankfully I have never brought Gwen back to see my parents. If not, I will never be able to live with my head held up high! "

Then, he glared at Gwen coldly. "Sign them! "

Luna was so furious her breathing rhythm was in a mess.

She clenched her fists tightly. "Ben Zeller, how can you be so heartless! "

"I `m heartless?" Ben sneered. He swept Luna a cold glance. "You should ask this yourself ! If Gwen had never become friends with you, if she never helped you, no one would seek revenge against her. Would she have to go through such an incident? If she did not go through this, would I need to divorce her? We

were planning to have a child next year! Luna, you're the one who destroyed Gwen. You destroyed me and our future happy family! "

His words were harsh and cold. Every word was as sharp as a knife, stabbing Luna's heart violently.

Luna bit her lips but said nothing.

She had no way of retorting. If it were not for her...

Gwen would never have ended up like this. She had to bear some responsibility for Gwen. She owed it to her.

"This is your excuse to dump your wife?" Luke, by the side, could no longer take it. He crossed his arms across his chest and looked at Ben coldly. "As a man, you can't even protect your wife. That's fine. You even abandoned her the moment she got injured? You call yourself a man?"

Ben furrowed his brows. At that moment only did he notice that besides Andy and Luna, there was another man in the room.

He recognized that man.

The boss of the Jones Gang. He was the one that captured Liam Clark.

From that day onward, Jones Gang was the greatest gang in Sea City. Luke has also become a famous public figure.

Ben knew that he could not afford to offend Luke.

Thus, he turned and glared at Gwen curtly. "Are you going to sign them or not?"

Gwen's face was miserably pale.

She timidly picked up the pen. "I..." "I'll sign them."

Luna was stunned. She immediately turned around and grabbed Gwen's arm. "Gwen, you..."

Gwen looked at Luna with a pale face and smiled. " Since he has already decided, it's pointless for me to continue pestering him. I would rather we split up amicably."

Then, she took the pen and seriously signed her name on the divorce papers.

With her last stroke, Ben immediately snatched the papers away as if he was afraid Gwen would regret her decisions.

"I'm going to go back and pack. The Larsons bought the mansion, so I won't take any advantage of you. But the car is mine. I'm taking it!"

Then, Ben turned and stormed off.

Seeing how heartless he was, Gwen could not help but close her eyes. Two lines of tears streamed down her face.

Seeing her that way, Luna was extremely heartbroken.

She did not know what she should say at that moment to make Gwen less sad.

"Tsk, which trash bin did you find that man from?" Luke crossed his arms around his chest and laughed out loud coldly.

Gwen said nothing. Her eyes remain closed.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 430

Luna bit her lips. She turned to look at Luke. "She's sad enough, please stop your sarcasm."

Luke snickered, "It's already not worth it being sad over a scumbag, why should she care about other people's sarcastic remarks?"

Luna furrowed her brows.

She was grateful for Luke sending men to rescue Gwen, but Luke's words were...harsh on the ears.

"Luna."

After a while, Gwen said while her eyes still remained shut, "Can all of you please leave, I want to be alone."

Luna bit her lips. "But..."

"Please leave," Gwen chuckled bitterly, "I'm already ashamed and sad enough. Please give me some space to be alone."

Luna took a deep breath. She walked over to Gwen and covered her with the blanket. She said in a soft tone, "I'm sorry."

Then, Luna turned and left the room.

Behind her, Gwen started crying again because of Luna's apology.

Coming out from the patient's ward, Luna was dispirited.

After making sure that Gwen was safe, Joshua took Lucas and left. He said that he had something to deal with.

Alice was the only one sitting on the bench by the corridor.

Seeing Luna coming out, Alice immediately welcomed her with a smile. "Luna, is Gwen alright? "

Luna nodded her head depressingly.

"I saw Ben leaving with the divorce papers." Alice helped Luna to the bench. Her eyes were filled with delight, but her voice sounded remorseful. "The two of them are such a match, how could they get a divorce over such a small thing."

Luna closed her eyes. "I'm not in a good mood. I don't want to argue with you. Mrs. Lynch, I know that you want to thrive in schadenfreude, but it's best you stay away from me."

Alice laughed out loud, "Why? Gwen's the one who is having a divorce, not you. Why are you in a bad mood? I think you should be happy now. If Joshua did not rescue you last night, you might end up like Gwen."

Luna swept her a cold glance.

Alice did not back down. On the contrary, she got more aggressive. "It would be better if you were the one who was ruined today. Ben and Gwen would not get a divorce then. You... anyway you're still single, and it's not like you have never slept with other people's husbands. This for you should be a piece of cake, right? Joshua really shouldn't have rescued you

last night. He should have rescued Gwen instead."

Then, Alice sighed, "Gwen sure is unlucky. If she did not know your true identity, at most she would just follow me around, beating and scolding you. It's too bad that you had to tell her your true identity. Your relationship with her has gotten better, but look at what happened? Luna, just admit it, you're bad luck. You're the one that caused Gwen to get hurt."

Alice kept provoking Luna non-stop. Luna could finally no longer take it.

She lifted her head and glared at Alice angrily.

Alice laughed arrogantly, "What? Have I mentioned something triggering? Are you angry? I dare you to hit me. Have you forgotten the last time you hit me, you..."

Slap!

Before Alice could finish her sentence, Luna gritted her teeth and violently slapped Alice.

Alice was instantly shocked by the slap.

The next second, Alice stood up angrily. "Great. How dare you slap me! "

Alice raised her hand and slapped Luna.

Perhaps Luna was too sad, her reaction was rather slow.

Although she did try to avoid the slap, she could not avoid it fully. She still received the slap squarely.

Seeing how she could not avoid it, Alice harrumphed coldly. She raised her hand once more.

"That's enough."

Right when Alice was about to slap Luna another time, a large hand grabbed her wrist.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 431

Luna and Alice raised their heads simultaneously.

The person who was holding Alice's hand wasn't anyone else but Joshua who had left not too long ago.

Seeing him here, Alice immediately retracted her hand and dove into his arms, sobbing like a baby, " Joshua, I knew Luna was in a bad mood, so I tried comforting her. But, who knew she would slap me instead! "

As she spoke, she pointed to her red and puffy face. " See! I was furious, so I slapped her too, but she still wanted to slap me so I..."

Joshua held onto her gingerly, raised his eyes and looked at the palm print on Luna's face. "I know you're in a bad mood, but still you can't go around hurting people."

Luna raised her eyes and looked at him coldly without speaking.

Joshua sucked in a deep breath, saying coolly, "I went to the police station just now and took care of everything. The one who kidnapped Gwen is Liam Clark's subordinate. The Old Mr. Walter is the mastermind, the police have already summoned him for questioning."

Hearing the man's words, Alice, who was snuggled in his arms, stiffened immediately.

She hurriedly disentangled herself from his arms. "Old Mr. Walter... has been captured by the police?"

Joshua hummed in reply, "When I left, he was in the police station recording his statement. He fully admitted to kidnapping Gwen."

The man lifted his eyes and glanced in the direction of Gwen's hospital ward. "Even though it was bad that he ordered Liam to kidnap Luna, in the end, Luna wasn't hurt so I didn't report this to the police.

"Firstly, Old Mr. Walter is an old friend of my father's. Secondly, once Liam Clark is out of the picture, the Walter family will soon fall. That's enough punishment for him."

With that, Joshua could not help but sigh, "But now, he's crossed the line. Gwen Larson is Andy Larson's only daughter and Andy has been working for the Walter family all these years. But because Gwen spoke out for Luna, Old Mr. Water can ignore Andy's staunch loyalty all these years and order his men to do this to her..."

He lowered his eyes and shook his head. "Maybe Hailey's death was too big of a blow to him? In his current mental state, perhaps making him confess and be punished by the law is a way of protecting him. Otherwise, who can guarantee that he won't do such appalling things again in the future."

Alice gritted her teeth harshly.

Last night when after Old Mr. Walter's plan to harm Luna failed, Alice called him secretly, asking him not to act rashly.

Even if the Walter family fell, they still had her. In the future, once she and Joshua were back to

being a loving couple, she would somehow find a way to stealthily help the Water family rise to power again.

She remembered he promised he would do so.

And now, just one day later, why would he start taking action against Gwen?

Anyone with brains would know now wasn't the time to stand out and cause trouble again, especially since the enemy had found out about weakness last night.

Why would Old Mr. Walter do this at such a crucial time like this?

Luna lowered her head. "I still don't understand... Why would Old Mr. Walter..."

"Because he wanted to kill her and silence her forever."

Before Luna could finish her sentence, Luna was coldly interrupted.

The person who spoke was Luke Jones, who was currently standing at the entrance to Gwen's hospital ward. The man swept his gaze across at Luna faintly. "I know Liam and his men too well. If their aim is revenge or they just wanted to destroy someone, they would employ more cruel methods that will keep her alive and yet make her wish for death. But they were

determined to kill her. If my men didn't get there in time, she would be dead by the time they finished what they had planned."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 432

With that, the man shrugged and approached them. " So, Gwen knows something about the Walter family, doesn't she?"

The moment the words left his mouth, both Luna and Alice paled simultaneously.

Alice knew something, but she was not too sure...

Meanwhile, Luna was thinking about the 'love letter' Gwen gave her last night.

She vaguely remembered, last night Liam got her letter, took a photo of it and sent it to someone, then burned the letter.

She did not know the contents of the letter.

But instinct told her... if the Walter family wanted to kill Gwen to silence her, it must be related to the letter!

At this thought, she jumped up as if crazed, then rushed Gwen's hospital ward and pushed the door open. "Gwen! "

She bolted in and grabbed Gwen's hand. "Do you remember? I gave you a letter last time. Do you remember what was written in the letter?"

Gwen looked at her, confused. "What letter?" Luna stiffened immediately.

She bit her lip. "We went out drinking last night, you got drunk, and I sent you home. Then, you gave me a letter and asked me

to open it only after I got back to Banyan City... What did you write in the letter?"

If the Walter family did this to Gwen because they wanted to silence her by killing her, then the only way to prevent her from becoming a target again was to expose this secret to the world!

That's why Luna kept the door to Gwen's hospital ward open on purpose, questioning Gwen in front of Joshua, Alice, and Luke.

But she was surprised Gwen forgot everything.

She looked at Luna with a face full of confusion. "Did I...drink with you yesterday?"

Luna bit her lip, insisting on reminding her. "Then is there any secret you would like to tell me? About... the Walter family?"

Gwen laughed, "The Walter family is the richest family in Sea City, the top of the top. How could I possibly be privy to their secret?"

With that, she threw a glance at Luna as if Luna was a monster of some sort. "Are you sick, why are you saying nonsense?"

Luna frowned and was about to continue her questioning when Andy, who was standing beside her, sighed, "Ms. Luna, did you forget? Just now, the doctor said Gwen's head was hit by a strong blow, she suffered a concussion and lost some short-term memories..."

Then, the old man sighed, "She doesn't remember anything of what you said, please stop asking."

The light in Luna's eyes dimmed.

She glanced at Gwen again, a sea of emotions and words were trapped in her chest, struggling to escape, but she could not utter a single word.

"Luna, please leave. I need some peace and quiet."

Gwen's eyes swept across at Luna faintly. "And don't stay in the corridor, I heard every word of your conversation in the hallway. It's too noisy."

Luna paled.

The ward was enveloped in silence.

A moment later, Luna sucked in a deep breath, turned, and exited the ward.

Joshua and Alice were still standing in the corridor.

She walked toward them and bowed to Joshua respectfully. "President Lynch. I would like to take a few days off and spend more time here in Sea City. Is that possible?" Joshua's gaze was cool and emotionless. "What if I say no?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 433

Luna bit her lip, raised her eyes stubbornly, and looked straight at Joshua. "Why?"

Since something like this happened to Gwen, she would still worry even if she went back to Banyan City, it was impossible for her to concentrate on work.

Joshua's gaze remained emotionless. "Even if you want to stay here in Sea City, what can you do for Gwen? Continue to feel

guilty and blame yourself, keep reminding her of what happened, so you can both be sad together?"

The man's words made Luna take a step back involuntarily.

She stared at him in disbelief, opened her mouth, wanting to say something, but not a single word came forth.

Joshua frowned, his voice calm but cold. "Firstly, you can't take back what has happened to her. The most important thing now is to stop her from seeing the people who are related to this incident, so her mental and physical wounds can start healing. You should know, all of these happened to her because of you. Even if she doesn't blame you, can you guarantee that she won't be reminded of this incident every time she sees you?"

Luna's heart ached dully as if it was punched by a heavy object.

Joshua could not bear seeing her pale face and hurt expression.

But he frowned and continued. "Secondly, since she doesn't remember the reason why Walter wanted to kill her, you shouldn't force her to remember. Even if she does remember, can you stay by her side and protect her constantly? Forgetting is the best form of protection for her. And finally."

The man sucked in a deep breath. "Luke Jones owes me a favor. If I ask him to protect Gwen and her father here in Sea City, he can do it."

With that, Joshua lowered his eyes and looked at Luna, her complexion pale and sallow from her emotional turmoil. "If you stay here, not only will you make it difficult for Gwen to forget her traumatic memories and sadness, you'll also make yourself feel more and more guilty, more and more ashamed.

That's why you have to follow me back to Banyan City."

Luna looked at him, he seemed so far away from her. His voice seemed to drift over from another distant world.

She had to admit, his words were calm and reasonable.

But also cold and unfeeling.

He reiterated coldly the fact that she got Gwen involved, that she failed to protect her.

Her incapability, her weakness, and the harm she brought her friends.

In a split second, her well of emotions surged up in her chest.

She looked at Joshua and was about to say something but she swallowed back the words at the tip of her tongue.

She stared at him, and suddenly coughed up a mouthful of blood, then her vision turned black.

The second she fainted, Joshua tore his arm out of Alice's grasp and rushed forward.

She landed in his arms in a soft heap.

Beside them, Alice watched as Joshua held Luna and flattened her lips. "Joshua, put her on a chair, I '11 ask Joshua to get the doctor."

"No need."

The man heaved Luna up in his hands in a bridal- style hug. "She's just We should go back to the hotel now."

Alice frowned. "We're not returning to Banyan City today?"

He lowered his head and looked at the woman in his arms.
"Tomorrow."

She did not want to leave Gwen so badly... Maybe he should give her another days' time.

He carried her and strode toward the direction of the elevators.

Looking at his retreating back, Alice stomped her foot in anger and rushed to follow him. "Her mental strength is so weak..."

The elevator doors opened and Joshua walked inside with Luna in his arms.

Alice hurried in too. "You didn't say anything out of line, why is she so vulnerable..."

Joshua knitted his brows together slightly.

The Luna Gibson from six years ago would never make such sarcastic remarks about a woman who just fainted.

But now...

He had almost gotten used to her being mean. He did not like her like this.

But he could only tolerate her and accept her for who she was now.

Because she once threw away everything she had in Sea City and married him without a single word of complaint. She gave him two children, endured incomprehensible and unbearable pain.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 434

Even if she turned into someone he did not like at all, he could not abandon and leave her.

This was his responsibility as a husband and as a father.

But he really did not understand. "I remember, you and Gwen were desk-mates and best friends throughout your three years of high school. When this happened to her, I thought you would have the same reaction as Luna."

Alice paused violently.

A second later, she turned and looked at the buttons on the elevator. "We weren't really friends, just desk

-mates. Besides, we never kept in touch after high school. To me, Gwen is just an old classmate I haven't seen for years."

Joshua narrowed his eyes. "But Gwen even argued with Luna for you."

"That's because she knew I married well and wanted to heighten her social position," Alice said lightly, "Later on she realized I don't care about our ancient friendship and immediately became friends with Luna. Just days ago she was arguing with her, calling her a mistress, and now they've become fast friends, even willing to die for each other. How fickle. No wonder she was..."

"Alice."

She was interrupted by Joshua before she could finish her sentence.

The man frowned and was about to say something but the elevator had already reached the ground floor.

Alice bolted out of the elevator and found Lucas who was standing in the entrance, waiting beside their car.

“Go and help Joshua! ”

Lucas paused, then jogged to Joshua’s side. “Sir, let me.”

Joshua frowned, looked at Lucas’s outstretched arms, and walked past him, striding toward the direction of their car.

Lucas’ empty hands paused awkwardly in mid -air. Alice rolled her eyes at him silently.

But she did not enter the car.

She crossed her arms over her chest and glanced at Luna who lay unconscious in the backseat. “Since we’re not returning to Banyan City today, you guys go on ahead. I ‘ll visit some of my old friends here in Sea City.”

Joshua raised his lips in a cold smile. “Do you still have old friends here in Sea City who you can contact?”

This was his response to her comments about Gwen just now in the elevator.

Alice paled instantly.

“At least I still have some family in the city.”

Then, she looked at him coolly. “Would you like to join me?”

He hooked his lips in a taunting sneer and closed the car door.

The car drove away into the distance.

Alice remained where she stood until the car was nothing but a black dot in the distance, then breathed out a long sigh in relief and walked to the side of the road, "To the police station."

At the police station. Alice saw Old Mr. Walter.

"Why were you so careless?"

The moment she saw him, she gritted her teeth and fired off at the old man. "You should've acted later! We hadn't even reached Banyan City yet and were immediately summoned back with a mere phone call from Luke Jones. Do you know..."

"Gwen Larson knows you're my daughter."

Alice was interrupted by Old Mr. Walter before she could finish her sentence.

Alice paused.

"So what if she knows? Many in the Walter family already know."

"But she wrote a letter, wanting to tell Luna."

The old man narrowed his eyes. "Now that Liam is gone, as Joshua Lynch's wife, you're our only hidden card. If your identity is exposed, we would be left with nothing."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 435

Luna lay unconscious in the hotel until 3 a.m. in the afternoon.

She got a call from Neil at 3 p.m. in the afternoon.

The little guy's voice drifted in from the other end of the phone. He sounded fairly excited. "Mommy, how far away are you? Nellie and I really miss you! "

Hearing her son's voice, Luna's heart softened and melted.

She held onto her phone for a few seconds in silence, then finally lowered her voice and answered, " Mommy... can't come back today. I'm still in Sea City."

On the other end of the phone, the little guy paused, then his voice turned calm in an instant. "Is there a problem?"

"One of Mommy's friends was involved in an accident."

The little guy on the other end of the phone was very understanding.

He pursed his lips. "I understand. I'll explain the situation to Nellie properly, she'll understand and won't get angry at you or make a fuss about it. You can stay there and take care of your friend, just tell me when you'll be back and Nellie and I will be ready to welcome you home. If there's anything you need the three of us to help you with, just let us know.

We'll always be your strongest and unwavering backup."

At her son's words, she couldn't hold in her tears any further and started crying.

Since she found out about the incident with Gwen, she had been filled with guilt and self-blame.

Most of the people around her blamed her for it.

Even Joshua said directly to her face that it was her fault such a chilling incident happened to Gwen.

When she faced problems and difficulties, her children were the only ones who cared about her as a person, and not about the issue at hand.

Finally, once her tears started flowing, the dam holding back her tears broke and they poured out of her in gushes.

Luna held onto her phone with one hand and covered her mouth with the other, forcing herself to keep her sobs silent.

Neil listened to her quietly on his end of the phone.

A long while later, when Luna cried so much she felt slightly dizzy, Neil sighed quietly, "Mommy. Pour yourself a cup of water."

Luna sniffed, got up from the bed and poured herself a glass of water.

With a glass of water in her belly, she finally calmed down a little, her emotions stabilizing.

The woman sucked in a deep breath and wiped the remaining tears off her face. "I've embarrassed myself in front of you."

Neil laughed, "You're my Mommy, however embarrassing you are, you don't have to worry about embarrassing yourself in front of me. After all, you've even seen me naked! "

Luna laughed through her tears at his words.

A moment later, she finally sucked in a deep breath again. "Don't tell your brother and sister about this. I might be able to go back to Banyan City tomorrow."

Neil was silent for a while. "Then what about your friend... you don't plan to resolve the issue?"

Luna frowned and smiled bitterly. "Joshua doesn't allow me to continue staying here in Sea City. And he's right. Even if I stay, I can't do much except remind my friend of her traumatic memories."

On the other end of the phone, Neil was silent for a moment.

"So... your friend's 'accident' was related to you, Mommy?"

"She was hurt because of me." Luna closed her eyes. "I need to go now. Take good care of your sister and wait for me to come home."

Then, as if she suddenly remembered something. " Right, Nigel and Malcolm Quinn's plan... has it come to a stop?"

"Yeah, they stopped it."

Neil paused. "Nigel said he suddenly lost your signal last night, so he attacked and hacked into Sea City's surveillance system, then he finally found you. He said he saw something that made him feel Joshua deserves to be forgiven. So he convinced Uncle Malcolm and stopped their attack on the Lynch Group."

Neil's words made Luna's chest fall into the pit of her stomach.

Last night Nigel attacked and hacked into Sea City's surveillance system and found her...

Did that mean he actually saw a part of what happened to her last night?

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 436

She did not dare to think any further, all she could do was bite her lip and ask Neil softly, "Did your brother say anything else?"

"No."

Neil frowned. "Mommy, is anything wrong?"

"No, nothing." Luna sucked in a deep breath then chatted mindlessly with him for a while and hurriedly ended the call.

Placing her phone down, Luna took a long while to calm herself down. Then, she finally mustered her courage and pressed the button to switch on the necklace she used to communicate with Nigel.

"Mommy. " The moment the signal was connected, Nigel's solemn voice drifted in from the other side. " I already sent an email to the police in Sea City, detailing the various illegal activities the Walter family was involved in all these years. Don't worry, the people who hurt Aunt Gwen will be punished accordingly."

Luna's hand that was holding the necklace trembled slightly.

"Nigel..."

"I know everything." The little guy sucked in a deep breath. "The necklace I gave you is installed with a program that enables it to be activated from afar.

When I couldn't detect your signal last night, I attacked and hacked into Sea City's surveillance

system. After I ensured you were fine and you were somewhere your signal could be detected, I activated the program. The sound monitoring was always switched on, since you were saved by

Joshua last night all the way till your phone call with Neil just now. I know everything.”

Luna felt as if she was going to faint, her vision turning black for an instant.

She sucked in a deep breath. “Don’t tell Neil and Nellie.”

“I know, I know what to do.”

In a hospital ward on the other side of the ocean, Nigel sighed deeply, his voice low and solemn, “ Mommy, you don’t have to blame yourself so much. No one can tell what evil thoughts and schemes are hidden up another person’s sleeve. The Walter family is the main reason why this happened to Aunt Gwen, you’re not wrong for reuniting with her.”

Then, the little guy sucked in a deep breath. “ Besides, I agree with Joshua. You should return to Banyan City. In the next few days, all of the Walter family’s evil deeds will be exposed one by one. Old Mr. Walter will get what he deserves.” Luna was silent for a moment.

Using the Walter family’s criminal record against them was indeed the best strategy.

If he was indicted for plotting Gwen’s murder, then everything that happened to her would just become the talk of the town, an after-meal conversation piece.

But still she frowned. “Nigel... are you sure you can do it?”

Even if the Walter family lost their backing and fell, they were still the former richest family in Sea City.

Even a starved camel was bigger than a horse.

Nigel was just a child, with him alone, it could not be easy to defeat Old Mr. Walter.

"Of course, I won't be working alone."

On the other end of the phone, the little guy laughed faintly, "I'm not the only one collecting evidence of the Walter family's criminal activities."

"Who else is working with you?"

"Joshua Lynch," Nigel sighed, "he must be more resourceful than I am. All I can do is track down the information on the internet, but he relies on his network of informants. His men worked together with men from the Jones Gang. They're currently cooperating with everyone who is in contact with and who has bad blood with the Walter family, to try and gather more evidence of their criminal activities."

Luna's whole body stiffened immediately.

She was reminded of Joshua's cold and indifferent expression that appeared in front of her eyes the moment before she fainted.

Why... why would he do something like this?

After all, the Walter family and the Lynch family were close family friends. Joshua's father, Adrian Lynch had been close friends with Old Mr. Walter for many years.

Besides, Gwen... seemed to have no connection to Joshua at all.

He did not have to send his father's old friend into jail for Gwen.

"I don't think he's doing this for Gwen."

As if he could predict Luna's confusion, on the other end of the phone, Nigel remained quiet for a moment. "Mommy, have you ever considered it? That Joshua Lynch might be doing this for you."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 437

Luna was silent for a moment, then she laughed.

"Nigel, how could he be doing this for me? To him, I'm just small fry, completely negligible."

On the other end of the phone, Nigel remained quiet for a short while.

He wanted to tell her...

Through the CCTV recording that he hacked into last night, he saw Joshua's expression that was full of anxiety and heartache as he carried Luna.

That afternoon, he had been staring at the scene on his computer for the whole afternoon.

In the afternoon, he contacted Malcolm, discussed with Malcolm and decided to stop the attack on the Lynch Group.

From the screenshots that he captured, in every shot, Joshua's anxiety and guilt could not possibly be an act.

Because there was no way he could know his son was watching them from afar.

He did not even know he had another son, Nigel.

So his eyes, and his act of rushing out of the abandoned factory with Luna in his arms, they were all genuine.

Sometimes, even Nigel would wonder... what exactly was going through Joshua Lynch's mind?

Six years ago, he was the one who harmed Mommy, forcing her into the situation she was in today.

Now, six years later, he treated Alice, the imposter who was posing as Mommy like she was his treasure, even indulging the evil deeds that she did.

To Mommy herself, even though he was cold and strictly professional on the surface.

But his feelings and attitude toward Mommy had long since surpassed that of a President to his employee.

With this thought, Nigel sucked in a deep breath and said solemnly, "Then, Mommy, if Joshua likes you for who you are now, are you willing to be with... "

Before he could finish his sentence, there was a knock on Luna's door.

She frowned, bid goodbye to Nigel in a low voice and ended the call.

After organizing her emotions, she stood up and opened the room door.

Outside, stood the weary Joshua.

His tall and sturdy figure acted like a wall blocking the entrance, Luna took a step back instinctively.

"It looks like you've been awake for a while." He swept his gaze across her face faintly. "You don't want me to go in?"

Luna frowned, then leaned to the side and allowed him in.

He sat down on the sofa elegantly, his gaze calm and emotionless. "Do you feel better now?"

Luna closed the room door, glanced at him coldly and said, "Mr. Lynch, are you here to me and make me faint again?"

"You're so weak." He snorted coldly, then threw a document in front of her.

Luna frowned and picked up the document. It was a purchase agreement.

Joshua was willing to buy the Larson Group owned by Andy Larson, with a price that was 30% higher

than market value?

She frowned, then raised her eyes and looked at him. "What is the meaning of this?"

"Gwen Larson is Andy Larson's only daughter. Now that she's in this current condition, Andy Larson is no longer interested in running his company. That's why I acquired the Larson Group. On one hand, to help him recover his funds, and on the other hand, this way, the company that he has spent years building won't be under-valued because of a temporary family emergency."

With that, he lifted the teapot from the coffee table and poured himself a cup of tea, speaking elegantly as he drank. "I've already entrusted Gwen to Luke. In the future, regardless of

whether it's the Walter family, or anyone else in Sea City, no one can harm Gwen like this again.

"This is considered a chance for Luke to redeem himself. People like him are the most trustworthy, you don't have to worry."

Luna bit her lip.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 438

She held the document tightly in her hands. "You... why are you helping Gwen and the Larson family?"

It stood to reason that he had no contact with them at all.

Acquiring the Larson Group for a price that WHS 30% higher than market value was definitely not a good move to the Lynch Group.

The Larson Group did not hold that much potential. If it did, Andy Larson would not blindly look up to Old Mr. Walter all these years and follow his every order.

Joshua raised his eyes emotionlessly. "If I didn't do this, would you leave Sea City with me with peace of mind?"

Luna's heart squeezed into a tight ball of muscle at his words.

She remembered what Nigel said to her from the other end of the phone.

Could it be that Joshua had been doing all these... for her?

No, that was impossible.

She bit her lip harshly, that was impossible.

He must have read her mind, he glanced at her faintly again. "If you think this isn't a good enough reason, the other reason is."

He set the cup down lightly on the coffee table. "I need an old Group in Sea City, one with experience

and a reliable network, as groundwork for my expansion into Sea City. The Walter family is obviously useful, but everyone knows they were brought down by Luke and I, so I'm too lazy to clean up their mess."

With that, the man's deep, endless gaze looked at Luna faintly, "My ambition is to take down the entire Sea City."

Luna let out a deep breath in relief. There was a hint of disbelief.

She knew it.

It was impossible that Joshua... did all of this for her.

If he wanted to conquer Sea City's business sector, then it made sense that he went around collecting evidence on Old Mr. Walter's criminal activity.

He needed to expand his business in Sea City. As long as Old Mr. Walter was still in prison, it would be difficult for the Walter Group to rise again. That's why he needed to collect evidence, to make sure Old Mr. Walter remained in prison.

With this thought in mind, she raised her eyes and glanced at Joshua. "Now I know why they say no businessman is honest."

Joshua raised his lips and laughed softly, "I'll take this as a compliment." With that, the man stood up. "So, don't carry such delusions that I'm doing all this for you. I did all this for myself."

He lifted his legs, but paused when he was at the door. "Luke will transfer Gwen to another hospital today, to somewhere no one can find her. So if you

would like to visit her, tonight is your last chance. You'll be following me back to Banyan City first thing tomorrow morning."

Leaving these words behind, he lifted his foot and left.

The door slammed shut behind him with a bang.

Luna looked in the direction he left and was caught in a daze for a long while before recovering her wits.

Sucking in a deep breath, she tapped the necklace hanging around her neck. "Nigel, did you hear that?"

Even though she had switched off the necklace just now, Nigel could activate it from afar.

According to her understanding of the little guy, he would definitely not lay back and quietly wait for her to contact him.

The moment the words left her mouth, the little guy's voice drifted out of her necklace. He sounded slightly depressed. "I did..."

Luna raised her lips and laughed self-deprecatingly, "So, don't be like Nellie and still think there's any hint of a possibility between us. It's impossible for us."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 439

After ending the call with Nigel, Luna hesitated in her room for a long while but finally mustered her courage and went to the hospital.

Joshua was right.

Luke did indeed protect Gwen very well. Even when she wanted to meet Gwen, his subordinates guarding the door had to report to their superiors and onward, before they finally obtained Luke's permission and allowed her into the ward.

When Luna arrived at Gwen's hospital ward, Gwen was climbing down the hospital with her father, Andy's help.

Seeing Luna arrive, Gwen's pupils shrunk slightly, then she raised her eyes and smiled at her softly. "You're just in time."

She smiled and sat in the wheelchair. "Luke Jones said I'll be transferred to another hospital tomorrow. I want to make a trip home, to pack up some of my stuff and bring it over there."

With that, Gwen looked at Luna calmly. "Since you're here, please accompany me home. I don't want my father to still be taking care of me when I'm already an adult."

Luna pursed her lips, walked toward her silently, and took the wheelchair that Andy was pushing. "Alright."

She pushed Gwen out of the hospital ward, entered the elevator and headed downstairs.

A black Cayenne was parked downstairs.

In front of the Cayenne, Luke leaned on the car bonnet elegantly, smoking a cigarette. Seeing them arrive, the man extinguished the cigarette in his hands, walked to the wheelchair and heaved Gwen up into his arms, placing her in the backseat. Then, he folded up the wheelchair skillfully.

Luna stood on the spot, looked at his smooth and skillful actions, her lips could not help but raise into a smile. "I never expected Leader Jones would do something like this personally."

Luke closed the booth and swept his cold gaze across at Luna. "I was born unlucky. I've done all sorts of jobs before I joined a gang."

With that, he stood up directly and entered the car, climbing into the driver's seat.

It looked like he was prepared to be their driver.

Luna was surprised. Someone like him... would escort Gwen personally?

Looking at the man from behind as he drove, Luna completely believed Joshua's words, that Luke would protect Gwen as best as he could.

The journey was quiet.

When Luna arrived at the villa with Gwen, the villa was quiet.

Luna thought Gwen just returned to pack some clothes and some personal items, but unexpectedly...

When she was almost done packing her luggage, she carefully placed her and Ben's wedding album into the suitcase. Looking at Gwen's gentle movements, Luna's heart ached slightly.

In her heart... Gwen must still be missing Ben, right?

That made sense. Since high school till now, for more than ten years, Gwen had been having feelings for Ben. It wasn't so easy to forget a relationship with more than ten years' history.

Just like her feelings for Joshua...

At this thought, she sucked in a deep breath, reached out and grabbed Gwen's hand. "One day, all of this will become history."

Gwen closed her eyes, nodded silently, not saying a single word.

A long while later, when Luna wheeled Gwen out of the villa, a car was parked at the entrance to the villa.

It was Ben's car.

The car door opened and Ben walked out, together with a... a beautiful young woman.

Luna's eyes widened in shock.

Gwen's eyes were filled with disbelief too.

The woman walked toward Ben with gentle footsteps and hooked her arm through Ben's. "Why do you want to come back here? It's so late already."

Ben planted a soft kiss on the woman's cheek. "I remember there are still some valuable items here. We should take them first, before that woman comes home."

With that, the two of them turned and saw Luna who was standing at the entrance to the villa. And Gwen, sitting in the wheelchair in front of Luna.

Ben's entire body stiffened slightly. Gwen turned pale as a ghost.

The woman lifted her eyebrows condescendingly. "Dear, who are they?"

Ben frowned. "My ex-wife, and her friend." The woman glanced at Gwen, dragging out her words. "So she is the woman who has been sullied by a few men. The one who can never be clean again. She isn't very pretty either. They'll take anyone they can get, won't they?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 440

Luna's hands held onto the wheelchair handles tightly.

Gwen raised her head and fixed her eyes on Ben as if she did not hear the woman's words. Her voice was cold and distant, without an ounce of warmth. "Who is she?"

Ben frowned but did not say anything.

Gwen raised her voice, but the chill in her tone persisted, "Ben Zeller, who is she?!"

"I am Ben's girlfriend." The woman laughed lightly, leaning her entire body on him, "But don't misunderstand, he didn't cheat on you. We just confirmed our relationship today. That's all because yo--"

Gwen closed her eyes. "Ben Zeller, are you mute?"

Only then did Ben frown, his voice displaying his displeasure. "Isn't it the same, whether I'm the one who says it or Clover says it? Clover is my girlfriend, we only decided to be together this afternoon. We already finalized our divorce this morning, you have no right to interfere in my private affairs."

Gwen started laughing coldly, but as she laughed, her tears started to fall.

Luna's hands clenched into fists.

Ben pursed his lips, dragged the woman named Clover behind him and strode into the villa. When he walked past Gwen, she reached out instinctively and held onto his wrist.

He shrugged her off coldly. "Gwen Larson, we are divorced now. You are no longer worthy of me."

With that, he raised his legs and left. Gwen's hand hung in mid-air.

"Ben Zeller!" When he walked past Luna, she sucked in a deep breath, forcing the two words out of her lips.

Ben frowned but before he could turn to look at her, Luna's fist had landed square on his face.

Luna funneled all of her energy into this punch.

Ben was knocked backward by the impact, blood seeping out of his nostrils.

"You're strong." Beside them, Luke chuckled coldly as he watched on. Then, he reached out his long arm and dragged Gwen's wheelchair to the side.

Subsequently, he folded his arms across his chest and leaned on the wall and watched the scene unfold in front of him.

Gwen frowned and glared at Luke anxiously. "Aren't you going to help?"

Luke laughed lightly, "Who should I help? Your ex— husband or your friend?"

Gwen paused violently, for a second, loss for an answer.

On the other side, Ben finally recovered from the pain. He glared at Luna furiously. "Are you out of your mind?"

"You're the one who's out of his mind!" Luna gritted her teeth harshly. The anger and heartache that had accumulated throughout the day exploded in an instant. She did not know where the strength that allowed her to punch Ben until his nose bled came from.

But she knew Ben Zeller definitely deserved it!

She clenched her hands tightly into fists, glaring at Ben viciously. "Gwen has loved you for so many years! You're just a student from a poor village,

she's the only daughter of the Larson Group. She overcame all the hurdles and obstacles in her way and married you, but now, after something like this happened to her, are you even a man!?"

As she spoke, another punch landed squarely on his jaw.

Ben was knocked a few steps backward from the impact. The woman who was named Clover was so intimidated by Luna that she hid herself far, far away.

Ben wiped at the blood seeping out of his nose, feeling slightly dizzy. But still, he scoffed coldly, "Luna, are you sure you want to fight me?"

He was still a man after all. Even though he was feeling slightly dizzy from the impact of her punches, a slim and petite woman like Luna was no match for him!

He wiped the blood from the corners of his lips, raised his hand and swiped in her direction, a gust of wind accompanied his raised hand.

Instinctively, Luna wanted to duck, but he was too fast for her.

She bit her lip, covering her face with her hands and braced herself for the impact of his slap when Ben's wrist was locked by someone. A man's low, familiar voice rang in her ears. "Hitting a woman is not something to be proud of."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 441

Hearing the man's voice, Luna, who was already prepared to be hit, paused slightly.

Joshua?

When she retracted her hands and looked in the direction of the voice...

Standing in front of her, the towering man was holding Ben's wrist in his first.

The veins on Ben's forehead protruded violently, it was obvious he was using all his strength, trying his best to plant his fist on Luna's face.

But Joshua firmly controlled him with just a single hand. As if effortless.

Luna was stunned for a second.

"Luna! Come here!" Gwen's voice rang out behind her. She paused, and hurriedly stepped back to stand beside Gwen.

Gwen held her hand, massaging it, and said, confused, "When did Joshua arrive?"

"He has been following us since we left the hospital." Beside them, Luke still had his arms crossed over his chest as he leaned on the wall, his gaze flitting toward Luna. "He must've been worried something would happen to her."

He stretched lazily. "If I didn't know Joshua was married, I would think he's pursuing her. Last night when we went in to save her, he didn't even bother

negotiating with me, everything was acceptable as long as I saved her."

As he spoke, the man chuckled, "And yet he's a businessman. Doesn't he know his enemy can easily catch hold of his Achilles heel when he does things without regard for anything else."

Luke could almost confirm now that Joshua's Achilles heel was...

He looked at Luna again. She was pretty, but not enough to move cities. Not to the extent where Joshua would be willing to disregard everything for her, was she?

Luna's face paled at the man's words.

Gwen glared at Luke in rebuke. "Pursuing her? Don't talk nonsense! Not even when the end of the world is upon us."

Luna repeated her last sentence. "Yes, he would never have feelings for me, not even when the end of the world is upon us."

Back then, she stayed beside him every day, taking care of him meticulously. And yet he never had feelings for her, not even slightly. In the end, he even discarded her.

Back then, it was Aura, and now it was Alice.

He was actually a fickle-minded man, easily falling out of love.

She believed he was only so nice to Alice now because he was touched that she 'gave him two children '.

When he grew tired of her...

He would discard Alice ruthlessly, just like how he discarded her back then.

Even in a different body, she still failed to touch his heart.

"Mr. Lynch, this is between me, Luna and Gwen, it has nothing to do with you! " In the distance, Ben could not overpower Joshua, so he shrugged his hand off harshly.

He glanced at Gwen coldly as he took the tissue Clover passed to him and wiped at the bloodstains on his face. "You should've told me earlier if you

don't want to get a divorce. This morning, you signed the papers so readily, I thought you were really a woman who knows her value. Who knew at night you would come here and stop me, and even ask your friend to punch me?"

Gwen's frown deepened. "I didn't know you would come here." With that, she sucked in a deep breath and shifted her gaze to Luna. "Can you hand me my suitcase?"

Luna nodded and dragged the suitcase over. Gwen laughed bitterly and unzipped the suitcase.

Besides the wedding album that Luna just saw, the inner pocket of the suitcase was filled with her and Ben's wedding photos. With trembling hands, Gwen took out the photos one by one and threw them onto the ground.

"Today, I kept telling myself, you're a traditional man. Your mindset tells you that you can't accept such a wife. It doesn't matter, even if we get divorced, I will still cherish the memories you gave me. But now..." The woman closed her eyes, tears falling from the corners of her eyes. "I was wrong. I'm the only one who has been treasuring these memories."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 442

"You divorced me this morning, in the afternoon you've already found a girlfriend, and now at night you bring your new girlfriend to your old home. Ben Zeller. You're not worth the time that I spent crushing on you."

With that, she sucked in a deep breath, turned and looked at Luke who was holding his lighter, getting ready to light himself a cigarette and watch the show. "Can I borrow a light please?"

Luke shrugged, walked over and bent down, held his lighter, and ripped out Gwen's prettiest solo portrait, then lit the rest of the photos on fire.

Finally, he handed the photo he ripped out to Gwen. "For commemorative purposes."

Gwen shook her head. "Just burn it."

She did not need to commemorate something like this.

Luke raised his lips in a faint smile, looked at Gwen with a mild interest in his eyes and slipped the photo into his pocket.

The photos were lit aflame.

Amidst the roaring fire, Ben laughed coldly, "Even if you didn't burn them, I would."

Gwen closed her eyes tightly, but remained silent.

When there was nothing left of the photos but a pile of ashes, she held Luna's hand. "Let's go."

Luna nodded and helped her into the chair with Luke's assistance. Beside them, Ben snorted, turned and got ready to leave. But he had just taken a few steps away when he was stopped by Joshua.

He frowned. "What else do you want, Mr. Lynch? "

Joshua laughed coldly, then called out behind him, " Zach, Yuri! "

The two tall and burly bodyguards immediately rushed to him. "Mr. Lynch! "

"Did the two of you see how he tried to hit Luna just now?"

"Yes, we did! "

"I 'll leave him up to you." With that, he turned and boarded a car that was parked in the near distance.

Seeing him board the car, Luna suddenly realized the car Joshua was in... had indeed been following them all the way from the hospital. She even noticed this car at the entrance of the hotel and downstairs, outside the hospital.

She thought it was just a coincidence.

But in fact... so it turned out he had been following her since the moment she walked out of the door?

Luna sent Gwen back to the hospital. It was already past 10 p.m. at night after everything was settled.

She released a long sigh of relief after stepping out of the hospital. Everything that happened today seemed like a dream. So cruel that they did not seem like reality.

She always thought, compared to herself, Gwen was lucky and happy. She was happily married to Ben, whom she once had a crush on, and they seemed to love each other. This was more than what Luna could ever hope for.

But a sudden accident... turned Gwen into a pitiful woman like her.

"Is she okay?" Suddenly, Joshua's voice rang out beside her ears.

Luna pulled herself together, then realized the black car was still parked beneath the hospital.

He sat in the passenger seat with the windows open, looking at her with emotionlessly eyes.

"She cried again, but she's sleeping now, she's fine." Joshua nodded. "Get in. I'll bring you supper."

Luna rubbed her flattened stomach. She did not have a proper meal at all today.

Joshua brought her to a little restaurant nearby. After settling down in a little private room, she glanced at his right hand that was still hanging from his neck in a sling. "Do you still need me to feed you?"

"No." He shook his head, and lifted his spoon with his left hand, "I practiced for a bit, I can manage." With that, he threw a glance at her. "Did you lose faith in marriage? After seeing what happened between Gwen and Ben."

"I've lost interest in marriage a long time ago."

"You haven't been divorced, why would you lose interest in marriage?" Luna laughed, "I've been divorced before. My ex-husband was an a**hole."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 443

Joshua's hands that were holding his fork and spoon paused slightly. Finally, he laughed lightly, "Because you're a divorcee and your ex-husband is a jerk, that's why you secretly kidnapped Neil and Nellie and raised them as your own?"

Luna raised her glass and harshly gulped down a mouthful of warm water, then shifted her eyes to Joshua. "You can say that."

Joshua raised his glass as well. "Why didn't you have any children when you were with your ex-husband?"

"He doesn't deserve to have children." Placing her glass down, Luna lifted her cutlery and continued eating. "He had an affair when I needed him the most, and even wanted to kill me to please his side piece. What do you think, does he deserve to have children?"

If she was not already pregnant back then, she really did not want to have his children.

He did not deserve them.

Even after she gave birth to them, Luna staunchly believed the three children belonged to her and her alone.

They had nothing to do with Joshua.

When she said these words, her eyes were fixed straight on Joshua.

Her gaze made him feel confused. As if he was the man who discarded her and hurt her.

He twisted his brows and turned to face away from her. "Then? You let him off the hook just like that?"

Luna curled her lips up in a cold smirk. "I don't plan to let him off the hook. But he's too powerful, I don't have the means to exact revenge yet."

Joshua nodded faintly. "If you need any help, you can come to me anytime."

Looking at him like this, Luna smiled in a taunting sneer, "Sure."

Both of them nursed their own thoughts and worries as they ate.

When they returned to the hotel, Luna immediately spotted Alice who was waiting at the entrance to the hotel. Under the dim yellow glow of the streetlights, her slim and petite figure stood at the entrance, looking especially lonely and pitiful.

When they drew closer, Luna realized she seemed to have cried, her eyes red and puffy.

The car rolled to a stop in front of the hotel.

Joshua got down first. The woman immediately rushed into his arms, her eyes soft and teary, her voice thick and nasally, as if she had been crying. "Joshua, you're finally back! I had a nightmare!"

Joshua laughed at her innocent and silly ways, "Even if you had a nightmare, you don't have to stand here waiting in front of the hotel in your pajamas."

He pinched her nose delicately, then slung his arm around her and they both walked into the hotel together.

The moment the doors slid open, he instinctively turned and looked back.

The car was still parked in its original spot, silent and unmoving. Luna never left the car.

"You're not leaving?"

In the driver's seat, Lucas turned and glanced at her helplessly. "Sir and Madam should be back in their room by now."

Only then did Luna recover her wits. She glanced at Luna with emotionless eyes. "Do you have a cigarette? I need one."

Lucas threw her an odd glance in rebuke. "You smoke?"

"No." Luna heaved out a long sigh, "But I sort of feel like smoking."

The next day, Luna was awakened by Lucas's shouts.

Because of the incident with Gwen, the few meetings in Banyan City that Joshua had scheduled for yesterday afternoon were all delayed.

That was why they had to return to Banyan City as early as possible today. They still had an extensive number of issues to take care of.

Sitting in the passenger seat on the drive back to Banyan City, Luna gazed deeply at the cityscape. This had been her home for zo years. After she left today, she did not know when was the next time she would return.

"According to our reporter on the ground, Dennis Walter of the Walter Group has been accused by many companies of using illegal methods to build a competitive business edge for themselves. If the accusations are indeed true to fact, Mr. Walter might be sentenced to life imprisonment."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 444

The radio kept replaying the news surrounding the Walter family that happened in the past few days. " Before the accusations against the Mr. Dennis Walter were raised, the only heir to the Walter Group, Ms. Hailey Walter committed suicide by jumping off a building. The Walter Group is now an empire that has lost its king and is about to overrun..."

Luna closed her eyes. She wondered whether Gwen had heard about this piece of news. If she did, at

least she would feel slightly comforted, right?

At this thought, she took out her phone, intending to check Gwen had sent her any new messages, but instead saw the new status update posted by Ben.

`Inspecting my injuries at the police station, the Larson family, you better watch out! I will be requesting compensation! `

The accompanying pictures were of his injured arm and swollen cheeks as a result of their scuffle the other day.

Luna knew his injuries must have been Zach and Yuri's handiwork. She stared at her phone for a long while, then finally liked the two pictures posted by Ben.

"Lucas, please switch off the radio." Right then, Alice's slightly weak voice drifted over from the backseat. "I want to take a nap."

Then, Joshua sounded concerned when he said, " Why do you look so pale, are you sick?"

Luna rolled her eyes at the sounds of them being lovey-dovey and intimate, shifting her gaze to the scenery outside the window.

Lucas hurriedly switched off the radio that was still reporting the news on the Walter family. In the backseat, Alice closed her eyes and gritted her teeth silently, wrapped up in Joshua's arms.

This was all Luna's fault!

She had a fool-proof plan. When she completed her plastic surgery and turned into an exact replica of Luna, she would go to Banyan City and seek out Joshua, becoming the love of his life.

But she never expected that by the time she returned home, Joshua would already have Luna by his side, and his two little bastard children.

If it was not because of Luna and her two kids, she and Joshua would be head over heels for each other right now.

But then what happened?

Even till now, Joshua still treated her with cool detachment. Even though he never indicated that he wanted to abandon her, he never looked at her with the flaming heat and desire that he had for Luna.

In this trip back to Sea City, since it was her strong- hold, she thought she could destroy Luna once at all.

But unexpectedly, not only did she lose a puppet that she could use as her double, even Liam was defeated and now her father was about to be incriminated and sent to prison! The entire Walter family was about to break apart!

At this thought, Alice gritted her teeth in fury and hatred.

It was all Luna's fault!

All of this would not have happened, if it was not for her! The Walter family would not fall! No, Walter was still standing. They still had her, she was their last trump card. As long as she got rid of Luna and the two little bastards, and regained her position in Joshua's heart, it was only a matter of time before the Walter family regained their past glory.

At this thought, she was determined.

No matter what, she had to destroy Luna, the thorn in her side!

Their journey lasted throughout the entire morning, and in the afternoon, they finally arrived back at Banyan City.

Luna slept all the way through. When she awoke, she noticed there was a message from Gwen on her phone. Luke had already transferred her to a new hospital. Gwen sent her photos of the new hospital. The environment was perfect, with peach blossoms growing in full bloom in the yard. After replying to Gwen's message, she lay in the passenger seat and stretched lazily. "Lucas, you can just drop me off at the Swan Lake Residences when you pass by the area."

That morning, Neil and Nellie had already sent her a message, informing her they would be waiting for her at the Swan Lake Residences.

“Luna.”

The moment her words left her mouth, Alice, who was sitting in the backseat suddenly said, “Neil and Nellie are still staying with you, right? Please call them and ask them to wait downstairs. We’ll pick them up when you get off. I haven’t seen the children in a long time, I miss them. It would be nice to have them come home and stay with us for a few days.”

She glimpsed at Luna’s pale expression through the rearview mirror. “You haven’t given birth yet, so you don’t understand how much a mother will miss her children after being apart from them for a long time.” As she spoke, she even shifted her eyes to Joshua for a short glimpse. “Dear, you miss them too, right? The four of us have been apart for so long, it’s time we reunite as a family, don’t you think so?”

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn’t Easy chapter 445

The air in the car turned silent. Luna’s whole body stiffened.

She had not seen both Neil and Nellie for days. This was the longest time she had spent apart from them since she gave birth to them six years ago.

She missed them dearly.

From the calls they shared this morning and yesterday in the afternoon, she knew the children missed her dearly too.

The fire in her heart that was burning with excitement at the thought of meeting her children was cruelly extinguished by Alice's cold words, instead turning cold and frosty.

Alice was doing this on purpose. She did not have any feelings for Neil and Nellie. She was just trying to get to her, to get to the children.

"Joshua?" Noticing Joshua's continued silence, Alice even called out to him softly.

Only then did he blink and recover his wits. He coughed slightly, raised his eyes and looked at Luna from the back as she sat in the passenger seat. "We'll do as Alice says."

No matter what, Alice was still their mother. Even though she had not lived with the children throughout the six years of their lives, after all, blood was thicker than water. Besides, Alice and the children were never close. This was one of the rare times she initiated a reunion with the children, there was no reason for him to reject her.

Luna's hands clenched into fists by her side, her nails cutting deep crescents into her palms. She bit her lip, holding on to the delusional idea that she might be able to spend some time with her children.

"What about at night... can I have an afternoon with them..."

She wanted to hold them and hug them tightly in her arms. Cook them a sumptuous lunch and just spend an afternoon with them. This was her most humble and lowly wish as a mother.

But Alice was determined to rob her of such an opportunity.

"But I really miss the babies." To make Joshua agree, she even used a term of endearment like 'babies' to describe Neil and Neillie. "Joshua, don't tell me you don't miss them?"

Joshua's blinking eyes paused suddenly. Of course, he did. Before they left for Sea City, he had arranged for Lily to stay in Luna's apartment at the Swan Lake Residences to take care of the two children's daily life and at the same time... to send him some photos.

His phone was filled with photos that Lily sent him. They were his precious treasure. He even cherished the photos of him two little children so much, what more their physical presence.

He frowned. "Why not do it this way. Alice and I are their birth parents, while Luna is their foster mother, all of us love the children. We have been apart for too long, neither can bear to be apart from them any longer. Why not Luna go and bring them down later, and follow us back to Blue Bay Villa."

The man's words made both Alice and Luna pause slightly.

"No."

"I don't think that's a good idea."

Both women opened their mouths simultaneously. Deadly silence once again enveloped the car.

Finally, Alice took a glimpse at her phone then laughed lightly as she said, "Then we'll just do as Joshua says. We are a family after all, we shouldn't argue over a minor disagreement like this, don't you think?"

Luna bit her lip harshly. She wanted to reject it. Fervently so. But at the moment, in everyone's eyes, she was just their foster mother. She did not have a say in these matters.

Sucking in a deep breath, she closed her eyes in despair. "We'll do as he says then."

"Luna is so kind." Alice lay in Joshua's arms, her lips lifting in a self-satisfied smile. On the screen of the phone in her hands, a message from a servant at the Blue Bay Villa was displayed.

"Adrian Lynch and Granny Lynch are already waiting in the Villa."

Very soon, the car arrived at the Swan Lake Residences.

Luna climbed out of the car with a weary heart and headed upstairs.

"Welcome home, Mommy!"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 446

"Mommy! I miss you so much!" Nellie said.

She took her keys, and the moment she opened the door to the apartment, the two children rushed out like two little tornadoes.

Neil and Nellie each hugged one of her legs, chattering away in excitement.

"Mommy, I knew you would come back at this hour, but Neil insisted you would come back later! "

"Mommy, in the past few days that you weren't home, I asked Lily to teach me how to make coffee! I made your favorite Arabica coffee! "

"Mommy, I have it all planned out, you can't go anywhere this afternoon. Just stay at home, read me stories and build Legos with Neil!"

"Mommy..."

Luna lowered her eyes, looked at the two black little heads in front of her, the words were at the tip of her tongue, but she just could not spit them out.

Behind her, Lily stood in the living room, looking at her with a smile on her face. "Ms. Luna, they purposely took a day off from school to wait for you. Since this morning, they were particularly excited, decorating the house as if it was the holiday season."

Only then did Luna notice the decorations hanging in the living room. Colorful banners were strung across the walls, their longing for written clearly across the banners in sloppy, childish writing.

Glued to the middle of the wall were a row of flowers that were shaped into words: Welcome home, Mommy!

Looking at the festive decorations in the room, Luna's heart was warm yet in pain, as if it had been burned by something hot.

She suppressed her tears of agitation and knelt down, "Neil, Nellie. Joshua's car is still downstairs."

Immediately, there was a change in Neil's expression. Meanwhile, Nellie cocked her head to the side and looked at her mother in confusion. "What's Daddy doing downstairs?"

"He's waiting for us to go down." The woman held out her hand gently and ruffled the little girl's hair. "He misses the two of you too. And... Alice is here. She also wants to see the two of you. So,

let's go downstairs, and follow them back to Blue Bay Villa, okay?"

The little girl's expression fell in an instant. She shook her head fervently, "No, no, no! Alice is so, so fierce! I don't like her! I don't want to go home! "

Luna closed her eyes, her heart aching in her chest. How she wished they did not have to go home. If possible, she wanted to bring Neil and Nellie with her and leave Banyan City, go abroad to reunite with Nigel. Then their family could finally live happily together.

But...

She bit her lip, holding Nellie's hand and said quietly, "Come on, be a good girl."

The little girl's eyes were bright with tears, she did not want to leave but had no choice in the matter. " But..."

"No buts."

Neil sighed, "If Mommy had a choice, she wouldn't agree to this. Let's go. Mr. Lynch and Ms. Gibson are not a danger to us."

With that, the little guy held his sister's hand. "Lily, please bring me my jacket and my book bag."

Lily paused, then hurriedly nodded, and rushed into the room, packing the two children's belongings.

"Mommy, don't forget, you owe us one." Neil put on his jacket and said in a whine, "We wanted to spend the whole day with you. You have to compensate us in the future! "

Luna nodded vigorously. "Okay! "

Ten minutes later, the three of them walked downstairs together. Lily followed behind them, dragging their suitcases.

"Neil, my little baby! " Seeing them come downstairs, Alice flung her arms wide open and rushed up to Neil, then knelt down and hugged him. "Mommy missed you so much! "

Neil frowned slightly and placed his lips next to her ear. "Ms. Gibson, aren't you tired of acting?"

Alice narrowed her eyes slightly, then lowered her voice, "In terms of acting, your mother's acting skills are far superior to mine, no?"

Neil snorted and pushed her away, then strode forward with his short, stubby legs and climbed into the car. The little guy sat down in the backseat, then leaned back elegantly on the leather seat, finally side-eyeing Joshua lazily. "Mr. Lynch, long time no see."

Joshua could not help but lift his lips in a smile at the little boy's antics. "Indeed, long time no see." "I remember, before you left, you wanted to divorce Ms. Alice." As he spoke, the little guy glanced at Joshua out of the corners of his eyes. "Tell me, why did you change your mind after a trip to Sea City?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 447

Joshua raised his eyebrows.

He never expected this would be the first question his son would ask him after spending days apart from each other.

He glanced at his son out of the corners of his eyes. " You seem reluctant to see your Mommy and I reconcile with each other?"

Neil paused. He turned his head, looked at Joshua solemnly, then lifted two fingers.

"Firstly, I never accepted Ms. Alice Gibson. To me, she was never my Mommy. My Mommy is Luna.

Secondly, my likes or dislikes, are they important to you, Mr. Lynch? If you really considered our thoughts and feelings, then you would not force my sister and I to do the things we do not want to do, for example, taking us back to Blue Bay Villa now. Finally, I don't care about you and Alice, I just wanted to find out why your attitude toward her

took a 180 degree turn after returning from Sea City."

Before they left, they were already separated, and had even announced they would set a date and sign the divorce papers. But not long after they arrived in Sea City, they reconciled and were as loving as ever. And, from the looks of it, they had even grown more intimate with each other than before.

Joshua narrowed his eyes slightly. What caused the change in his attitude toward Alice? It had to be the night after the banquet. That night, he was drunk,

and that was the first time he was intimate with Alice after they reunited. He found the feeling he had back then when he was with Luna Gibson. His memories of that night were fuzzy. But the way she called him dear, time and time again, made him reluctant to divorce her.

Even if Alice had turned into the woman that she was right now. But still, she was still the woman who once gave up everything

for him, the woman who he missed and yearned for for six whole years.

The next morning after he woke up, he looked at Alice who lay in bed beside him, and suddenly, he did not want to divorce her anymore.

It was all his fault. If back then, she was not with him, then she would not have to go through all of this, and would not turn into the woman she was right now.

He was the one who turned her, took away her kindness and innocence.

If now, he discarded her again with a fling of his hand, then she would have nothing. That's why he chose to patiently bear with everything that she did, and remain married to her. He believed deep down; she was still as kind as always. If he tried hard enough, she would turn into the Luna Gibson who she once was.

But he could not explain all these to his son.

And so, the man sucked in a deep breath and laughed lightly, "It must be love that changed my mind, made me decide not divorce her."

Even though the children did not understand the concept of love, in their memories, they remembered, it must be love that kept their parents together, right?

The moment the words left Joshua's mouth; Neil snorted dismissively, "Your love... comes and goes so easily."

Joshua was slightly irritated. "Neil, I have loved your Mommy for years."

What did he mean when he said it came and went so easily?

The little guy rolled his eyes, then waved to his sister standing outside who was hesitating between which car to ride in. "Get in!"

Nellie paused, then ran over to him with her stubby little legs. After the little girl entered the car, Neil locked the door immediately. "It will be just the three of us in this car."

Then, he closed his eyes and leaned back on the seat. "I'm going to take a nap, wake me when we're there."

Nellie nodded seriously. "Okay, sleep tight, Neil!"

With that, the little girl turned and looked out the window, not at all intending to address her father.

The man frowned. In the past, Nellie was the closest to him. But now...

He coughed slightly, "Nellie."

The little girl did not even bother to turn back, "Anything, Mr. Lynch?"

Joshua looked at her stubborn little head from the back. "You seem to be angry at me?"

"I would never dare get angry at Daddy." There was a chill in the little girl's sweet voice, "Mr. Lynch doesn't even allow Mommy to spend time alone with us. You're so domineering, I would never dare talk to you so casually."

Joshua was silent.

Alice was the one who came up with the idea of taking the children home, so she could bond with them. Initially, he wanted to take this opportunity to make the children grow closer to Alice.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 448

At the same time, he did miss them a lot, it had been a long time since he last saw them. That's why he suggested bringing everyone to Blue Bay Villa so they could all reunite.

But it seemed like...

He only succeeded in making both the children and Luna mad at him?

The cars drove on.

A short while later, the line of cars stopped in front of Blue Bay Villa.

When Luna stepped out of the car where Yuri and Zach kept the luggage, Alice had already stepped out too.

Standing outside Joshua's car, she hung a fake smile on her face. "Nellie, come here, Mommy will carry you into the house! "

Nellie rolled her eyes, walked past her, and headed to the door with her short, stubby legs.

Neil, on the other hand, rushed into her arms with a smile on his face. "If Nellie doesn't want you to carry her, then carry me instead! I'm not very heavy either, just slightly heavier than Nellie."

Alice heaved him up into her arms, her expression ugly, taking a step forward with incredible effort.

Neil conveniently slung his arm around her neck. "Ms. Alice, come on, I am your precious little baby, it'll be bad if I fall on the group and get hurt!"

Alice's expression turned uglier and uglier.

Beside them, the more she watched them, the more Luna wanted to laugh. Actually, Neil was not very heavy. When they were living abroad, she could carry both Neil and Nellie together at the same time.

Even though Neil was not heavy, but to someone who was not used to carrying children, it would take a lot of energy for her to do so.

Only mothers could handle some things effortlessly.

Joshua could not bear to see the way Alice carried Neil so awkwardly.

"I'll do it." The man lifted his legs and stepped forward, took Neil from her and carried him in his arms. Alice took the opportunity and hooked her arm through his, turning her head and glanced at Luna. "Ms. Luna, go on in."

With that, she headed in the direction of the entrance together with Joshua. Looking at the two adults and the child, the scene looked surprisingly harmonious.

"Mommy." At that moment, a small hand grabbed onto hers gently. It was Nellie, who was already at the door just now. The little girl was worried Luna would feel uncomfortable, so she ran out again and held her hand. "Neil wanted to punish that woman. But who knew Daddy would be so protective of her."

Nellie pursed her lips and held her mother's hand.

Let's go in."

Only then did Luna retract her thoughts, lifted her lips in a faint smile and entered the door holding

Nellie's hand.

"Neil, Nellie! " The moment everyone entered the house, the agitated voices of Adrian Lynch and Granny Lynch rang out in the living room.

"I heard the two of you would be returning home today, but I thought you would only come home at night, I didn't expect you to be home at this hour! "

Granny Lynch pulled at both children agitatedly. "I miss the two of you so much! "

Neil frowned, smiling even though he was unhappy. "Hello, Great-Granny."

Hearing her brother address their great- grandmother, Nellie had no choice but to smile and greet the old lady. "Great-Granny, you look even younger now! "

Hearing the two children's sweet words, the old lady's smile was so wide they could almost see down her throat.

Joshua took off his jacket and sat down on the couch. Looking on as the two old folk and the two children greeted each other happily, a sudden gush of warmth burst into his heart.

Back then when they just got married, Luna Gibson said that she wished they could have children while Granny was still alive, to let her enjoy the happiness of having four generations of the family living together.

Back then, he was impressed with her kindness. After all, from the beginning, the Lynch family actually neither welcomed nor liked her. And yet, she treated every one of them as her own family.

At this thought, he raised his eyes and glanced at Alice, then waved at her with a smile. "Come here."

Alice was surprised by his sudden display of affection, and hurried over.

He wrapped an arm around her shoulders gently and heaved out a long sigh, "Do you remember what you once said?"

Alice paused slightly. "Of... of course I remember."

With that, she was afraid Joshua would bring up the past again, and hurriedly turned and looked at Luna who was standing at the side. "Ms. Luna, take a seat."

Luna stood in the distance and looked at the scene before her, the family she lost, and a sense of melancholy burst in her chest.

Alice's words brought her harshly back to reality, instinctively looking in their direction. But the moment she turned her head, she saw Adrian's furious face instead. He stalked toward her, infuriated. "How dare you come to our house again! "

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 449

"Slap — —!"

Before everyone could react, the sound of a loud slap echoed throughout the living room.

Luna's head was knocked to the side from the impact, the sweet, iron-like taste of blood filled her mouth, and blood dripped down the corners of her lips.

"Mommy! " "Mommy ——!"

Sitting on both sides of the old lady, the two children instinctively jumped up from the couch and flew to Luna's side.

One of them held her hand carefully, stepping in front of her, trying to protect her, while the other calmly took some tissues from the table beside them and handed them to Luna.

The sight of the two children protecting her made Joshua frown. Beside him, Alice snorted deep down in her chest, but on the surface, worry filled her expression, "Neil, quick, bring your sister here." Then, she glanced at the little gentleman who was handing Luna tissues.

"This is between your Grandpa and Aunty Luna. It's a matter for adults, don't poke your nose where it doesn't belong."

Neil glared at her coldly, then suddenly turned and started taking care of their mother together with Nellie.

Then, Alice acted like a calm, level-headed adult and said, "Adrian, what are you doing, you scared the children."

Adrian snorted coldly, "What am I doing? Doesn't she know what she did?"

Luna took the tissues Neil offered her and wiped the blood from the corners of her lips, smiling coldly as she said, "Master Lynch, you're an old man, and yet the way you vent your emotions is by hitting a woman? This is the first time I'm experiencing something like this! "

Adrian's face was filled with fury. "Do you know why I slapped you?"

He glared at her viciously. "I've known Dennis Walter for more than 30 years! I know full well what kind of a man he is! If he had a choice, he would not act against a woman! "

He fixed his eyes on Luna, so angry flames were about to burst out of his eyes. "Tell me, how did you kill Hailey?!"

Luna paused. Then, she tugged at her lips, and laughed coldly, "So, you think I was the one who killed Hailey, that's why Dennis Walter would do those things to me, and was finally captured?"

Adrian glared at her, his eyes almost popping out of his skull in fury. "Is that not the truth? You killed his only daughter, is that not the truth?"

Luna looked at him coldly, her gaze as chilly as the ancient glaciers. "Oh? I killed Hailey Walter?"

She changed into a comfortable position and sat directly down on the couch. Neil and Nellie sat down too, one on her left and the other on her right.

The little girl held her arm out in front of her, fiercely keeping her gaze locked on Adrian as if she would not only use her body to block him if he decided to hurt Luna again but also rush forward and bite him. Neil, on the other hand, adopted the same position as his mother, crossing his arms across his chest and looking at Adrian.

His gaze did not seem as if he was looking at his own grandfather, but instead as if he was looking at a long-lost enemy.

The scene in front of him further stoked the flames in Adrian's chest. The blood of the Lynch family flowed through the veins of both of these children, but now, when he and Luna were at loggerheads, not only did the two children take her side, they even looked at him as if he was their enemy?

He frowned and glared at Joshua. "Discipline your children! They belong to our family, the Lynch family, and not Luna's family!"

Joshua raised his teacup calmly, took a sip of the warm tea, and said, "I can't. My relationship with these children is like the one I share with you. In the past six years of their lives, I had never once helped them or taken care of them, that's why they won't listen to me."

He glanced at Adrian with faint, emotionless eyes. "Just like how I refuse to listen to most of the things that you say."

With that, he elegantly placed the now empty cup on the coffee table. "You said it too, they belong to the Lynch family."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 450

"Then you should know, Luna raised them for six years. I would advise you to be nicer to Luna, otherwise, the children might not acknowledge you as their grandfather anymore."

Adrian's face turned purple.

On this side, Luna glanced at his expression with an elegant yet emotionless look, a careless smile lifting her lips. "Mr. Lynch, you said I killed Hailey, do you have any proof? Deciding whether someone killed someone else or not, don't you need to speak based on the available evidence?" She rested an ankle on her knee, her voice cold and distant, "Hailey committed suicide by jumping off a building. Did I point a knife at her and force her to jump, or did I push her? If I remember correctly, when Hailey committed suicide, I was accompanying my friend as she visited

her ex-husband in the hospital. There are CCTVs in the hallways and elevators in the hospital, I have a perfect alibi.”

Adrian snorted, “Don’t think I don’t know, before she jumped because of you, she was forced to leave Sea City and move abroad! She grew up in wealth and luxury, with the good graces of God, and because of a woman like you, she was forcefully separated from her father, and had to leave the city she lived in since she was a child, how could she take it!”

Luna laughed coldly, “Unreasonable, this word is used to describe people like you, am I right, Mr. Lynch?”

She sucked in a deep breath, and said faintly, “Then do you know why she was forced to leave Sea City? If you’ve never heard of the things she did to me, let me repeat them for you. I went to Sea City for work, however, at the welcoming banquet, Ms. Walter intentionally caused trouble for me. She gave me an invitation and yet purposely deleted my name from the guest list. When we visited the factories for survey purposes, she deliberately arranged for two wretched men to accompany me, harassing me orally throughout, even forcefully making physical contact with me, trying to take advantage of me time and time again. In the shop, an accident happened where it should not have happened, a huge mineral flew in my direction. If Mr. Lynch did not block them for me, I would be lying in a hospital bed right now. Of course, this is not the main incident.”

She sucked in a deep breath, raised her eyes, and looked at the purple-faced Adrian, “That night, Mrs. Lynch and Ms. Walter arranged for the other men to get me drunk. While I lay drunk in the hotel, she sent six or seven male escorts into my room, who tried to take advantage of me while I was drunk. Finally, she used my friend’s father’s life to threaten my friend, forcing her to publicly announce that I am the mistress who destroyed Mr. Joshua Lynch’s marriage.”

Saying all of this out in a single breath, Luna raised her eyes and looked at Adrian with cold eyes. "Mr. Lynch, if Ms. Walter is not your friend's daughter, if the person she harmed was a member of your

family, tell me, would you still choose to let her off the hook? After all the things that she did, if I reported her to the police, she would definitely be handed a more severe punishment than merely being forced to leave Sea City."

Luna's gaze was cold and stern. "Since the Walter family and you are family friends, Mr. Joshua Lynch asked me to compromise. In the end, little Ms. Walter couldn't take it, and committed suicide. Do you think that is my fault?"

Adrian's expression. His hands clenched into tight fists at his side.

"You're lying! Hailey wouldn't do things like that! "

He gritted his teeth harshly. "Hailey is a cute little girl, she's docile and obedient, the only thing she insisted on was wanting to marry Joshua! She's gentle and understanding, all these years, she would only lose her wits if the matter was related to Joshua. But she had long since lost interest in Joshua, even if she was still interested in him, the person she would want to deal with is definitely not you! I don't believe she would do something like this, not at all! "

With that, he glanced at Joshua. "Joshua, what do you say?"

With a turn of his head, Adrian was stunned. Standing beside Joshua, Alice's eyes were filled with tears of agitation. Her teary eyes...

Looked exactly the same as Hailey's all those years ago

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 451

Adria could hardly believe his own eyes.

He clearly remembered, a few years ago, he once visited the Walter family in Sea City. He got drunk and started to feel sorry for Hailey.

In his heart, Hailey was always the best candidate to be Joshua's wife. As his father, he thought even if he never loved and cared about his son, he would listen to him, listen to their family, and marry Hailey who had been intended to him since they were children.

Instead, Adrian never expected Joshua to reject the marriage once and for all. He even married Luna Gibson who also grew up in Sea City, just to rebel against his family.

In the end, even when Luna Gibson went missing, he still rejected Hailey adamantly. To not be involved with Hailey in any possible manner, he was even willing to get engaged to Aura, Luna's younger sister.

Back then, he was drunk, scolding Joshua as he comforted Hailey, telling her she deserves someone better. That day, Hailey cried, touched by his words.

Her gaze that night left a deep impression on Adrian. Her eyes looked exactly the same as Alice who was standing right in front of him as if they were... one and the same...

Seeing Adrian stare at herself, Alice paused, then glanced at Adrian with grateful eyes and hurriedly lowered her head.

Adrian stood in his spot, caught in a daze for a long moment before he recovered his wits.

He shook his head.

He must have been so angry his mind was muddled! Hailey was dead. Besides, when she was alive, the person she hated the most was Luna, the woman who married Joshua back then.

Alice Gibson was in fact Luna Gibson, just with a change of names.

At this thought, he sucked in a deep breath, turned, and continued looking at Joshua. "Joshua, say something! "

Joshua curled his lips up in a cold and detached smile. "Do you want to know the truth?"

He lifted his head, his gaze faint and emotionless. "If there's a woman I hate the most in this world, then that woman would definitely be Hailey Walter."

At his words, Alice, who was sitting right beside him, felt as if all the joints in her body were starting to stiffen. She could not believe her own ears.

Dazedly, she looked at Joshua's face, all harsh lines and sharp edges, feeling as if her own voice drifted from a distant, faraway world. "Wh.. why?"

She had been madly in love with Joshua for years. She knew he did not return her feelings. But she never expected... Joshua would use the word 'hate'. She bit her lower lip harshly, her hands curling into fists beside her. She wanted an answer,

The man frowned slightly. He thought this question would come from Adrian, but unexpectedly, it was Alice, who was sitting beside him, who brought up the question first. But it made no

difference, whoever asked him, his answer would remain the same. "Because she can do anything to achieve her goal."

His voice was soft and casual. "That's true, before we were born, both families had already agreed on our marriage. But in reality, since I was a child, I rejected this political marriage. The good relationship between the older generation has nothing to do with me, I don't have to sacrifice my life just for the happiness of the older generation. Initially, the Walter family already agreed to cancel the engagement, even Granny agreed. Just when I thought I had finally left this engagement behind, once, accidentally, I went to Sea City and met with Hailey. Since then, our engagement was brought up again. Even though they knew I was unwilling to do so, my family and the Walter family forced me to marry her."

As he spoke, he suddenly snorted, "To marry me, she tried all possible means. Father, this is the obedient and docile girl that you mentioned?"

Adrian's expression turned ugly.

He was right.

Back then, to marry Joshua, Hailey did in fact employ some tricks. "She only did it for her own happiness, her actions were harmless."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 452

Joshua laughed, "Back then, to marry me, she could employ such tricks, and now, she could also employ other tricks, to deal with Luna."

With his left hand, he elegantly unfastened the buttons of his shirt. The bandages on his right arm made the old lady cry out in dismay, "Joshua, what, what happened?"

"It was Hailey's fault." He raised his eyes in cold detachment and glanced at Adrian, "Everything that Luna said, is evidence of her crimes that I managed to find. Initially, I thought, since she's already dead, then these pieces of evidence should not be exposed. But if father, you insist that she is a good girl and Luna was the one who framed her... I don't mind exposing to the world the dirty deeds of a dead woman..."

Adrian's complexion was pale, with a hint of grey. Unconsciously, he took a step backward, standing shakily as if he was about to fall at any minute. "That's impossible... Hailey is a nice girl..."

"Adrian!" Alice rushed forward and hurriedly steadied him. She held onto him, then turned and glanced at Joshua coldly. "Joshua, she's already

dead, why do you have to destroy the image your father has of her? How can you hit your own father with such a blow?"

Then, she bit her lip harshly. "Hailey was just in love with you, she likes you, so she used a few tricks to try and marry you, isn't that normal? No matter how

wrong her actions were, you don't need to hate someone who loves you, right?"

Joshua frowned slightly. A moment later, he laughed lightly, "Alice, actually I always wanted to ask you. You're so close to Hailey now... Did you forget what Hailey did to you when we just got married?"

With one sentence, Alice's complexion turned pale as a ghost.

Back then, when Joshua and Luna Gibson just got married...

She once drove a car and knocked into Luna on purpose.

Back then, Luna Gibson and Joshua just got married. While Luna was waiting for Joshua at the entrance to the hotel, Hailey seized the opportunity when there was a large amount of traffic at the intersection and the roads were in a mess and drove her car into the direction where Luna was standing.

But back then, Luna reacted quickly and rolled away in time.

Later on, this incident was suppressed, firstly because the traffic situation on the day of the accident was indeed in a mess, and secondly because she did not actually harm Luna.

But she was warned by Joshua, never to step foot in Banyan City again.

Back then when she did that, it was only because she was angry that Luna Gibson could marry Joshua, and claim everything that she wanted as her own.

All those years ago, she could not have guessed that later on Luna Gibson would be involved in an accident and go missing, nor could she have guessed that one day, she would receive plastic surgery to wear the face of the woman she hated, just to obtain Joshua's love.

At this thought, she bit her lip. "Of course I remember. But that night, the traffic was a mess,

and Hailey only spun the steering wheel because she was trying to avoid an oncoming car. I'm no longer fussing about what happened so many years ago, so you don't have to mention it too."

With that, Alice was afraid Joshua would continue talking about the incident from all those years ago, so she hurriedly helped Adrian up the stairs, his entire body trembling fervently. "Adrian,

let's find you a room. You shouldn't get angry, as long as to you, Hailey is a nice girl, then I'm sure she's definitely a nice girl! "

With that, she helped him climb up the stairs.

Looking at their retreating backs, Granny Lynch frowned slightly, then turned and looked at Joshua in confusion. "Your wife... when did she grow so close to your father? Didn't they used to not interact with each other at all?"

"I have no idea." Joshua looked at them from behind, his gaze darkening slightly.

Just like what Granny Lynch said, the two of them never interacted at all. It could even be said that today was only their second meeting.

Their meeting was at her and Joshua's wedding all those years ago.

Now, Alice no longer afforded anyone the same kindness and understanding that she used to have, except Hailey whom she was particularly tolerant of.

Not only that, she was even very close to her, but treating her old friend, Gwen, like a stranger.

And now, she seemed so close to Adrian, who she had just met for the second time today.

. . In the six years that she was missing, what actually happened to her?

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 453

"Are you okay?"

After Alice helped Adrian upstairs, Joshua looked at Luna who sported a red, puffy palm print on her cheek, his brows screwed tightly together.

“What bad can it be?”

Luna raised her lips coldly, took the ice cubes that Neil handed her, and held them gently against her swollen cheek. “It won’t kill me.”

With that, she glanced at him, her eyes faint. “Mr. and Mrs. Lynch exerted yourselves to get me to bring the two children back to your home because you wanted me to become your father’s punching bag.”

Joshua’s eyes darkened. “I did not know my father and grandmother would be here...”

Beside him, Granny Lynch rolled her eyes. “What do you mean you did not know?”

The old lady pursed her lips. “Before you came home, I asked the butler to inform you! Joshua, why

do you care what an employee like her thinks? Even if you asked her here to be slapped by your father to vent his anger, so what? Doesn’t she at least deserve a slap for the things that she did?”

The moment her words left her mouth, the entire living room instantly grew quiet. His expression ice- cold, Joshua ordered the servants to summon the butler.

“Granny Lynch did in fact ask me to inform you. but I was worried I would disturb you while you were discussing business, and informed Ma’am.”

With that, the butler glanced at Joshua in confusion. "Did she not tell you?"

The living room was once again enveloped in silence.

Helplessly, Joshua massaged his aching temples with his long fingers. "Get back to your work."

No wonder, since the start Alice kept insisting on bringing the two children back to the villa. And later, at the Swan Lake Residences, she suddenly changed her mind and wanted to bring Luna along to his home.

Not to mention Alice, any servant working for the Lynch household knew of the friendship between Adrian Lynch and Dennis Walter.

Alice intentionally instigated Luna to come to the villa when Adrian was in the house... actually, it was all for this moment, was it not?

At this thought, Joshua finally had an answer to the question of why Alice was so attentive to this father.

He heaved out a long sigh, helplessness creeping in between his brows, "Neil."

He raised his eyes faintly and looked at the little guy who was sitting beside Luna. "Bring your Mommy to you and your sister's room."

Neil frowned and looked at him, confused.

"Didn't you have a lot to say to her? Don't tell me you want to do that in the living room for all of us to hear?"

Hearing the man's words, Neil was stunned for a moment. A second later, he finally understood, Joshua was giving him and his sister a chance to spend time alone with Luna!

And so, the little guy jumped up from the couch excitedly, dragged Luna behind him with one hand and his sister in the other. "Let's go!"

Luna laughed at the agitated expression on his face, then turned and glanced at Joshua.

He nodded at her, indicating to her to leave with Neil.

Only then did she suck in a deep breath, hold the hand of each child, and lifted her legs, and headed upstairs to the children's room on the first floor.

The sound of the door to the children's room being closed drifted downstairs.

Only Joshua and Granny Lynch were left in the living room.

The old lady glared at Joshua coldly. "Why did you allow the kids to leave with her? So what if she misses the kids, I miss them too! "

Joshua raised his eyes and looked at the old lady in front of him with faint eyes. "Weren't you living happily enough even before you knew you had great- grandchildren?"

With that, he glanced in the direction of the first floor.

"To us, the two children are unexpected surprises, but to her...they're a family whom she can't live without, built over the past six years."

He did not know why Luna took him and Luna Gibson's two children. Maybe, like what she said, because she met a useless man and gave up on marriage, that was why she took the children and raised them as her own. But, since he and Alice decided to forgive her for her transgressions all those years ago, now they should also understand the love they had for each other after spending every day together for the last years.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 454

Granny Lynch rolled her eyes.

"Those that didn't know would think Luna was the one who gave birth to the children."

Joshua lifted his lips slightly in a wry smile. "Granny, you can't just say things like that."

Six years ago, the only woman in his life was Luna Gibson. Where could he have met Luna?

The old lady pursed her lips. "Was I wrong? You care more about Luna than your own father. Alice on the other hand, in the past they didn't seem close, but now she acts like she's his daughter!"

With that, she could not help it and glared at him. "Go upstairs and take a look at your father!"

Joshua raised his teacup again and drained the cup, then placed the cup down elegantly and headed upstairs.

When he reached the first floor, Alice was just shutting the door to the guest bedroom behind her.

Seeing him come upstairs, she laughed lightly, " Adrian is asleep. Don't worry, I've comforted him, he won't lose his temper at you anymore."

Joshua narrowed his eyes. "I need to talk to you."

With that he turned and entered the study. Alice followed him in.

"You knew my father and grandmother were here, that's why you deliberately asked Luna to come over, am I right?"

After closing the door behind them, Joshua asked her directly.

"You know full well how close my father is to Dennis Walter, close enough that he'll lose his mind when he sees Luna, and you brought her over at a time like this... I thought our trip to Sea City this time would make you stop acting out, make you realize there's no reason for conflict between the two of you. But unexpectedly, I was wrong."

Alice gritted her teeth harshly, her fingernails digging deep into the flesh of her palms.

A moment later, she bit her lip, raised her eyes, and looked at Joshua, "Joshua, I don't know what you're talking about. All I was thinking about was that Adrian and Granny miss the children, while Luna is their foster mother and she hasn't seen them in quite some time. That's why I suggested this..."

With that, she reached out and hugged Joshua from behind, a hint of a sob in her voice, "It's my fault, I never considered the bad blood between Adrian and Luna. I can go and apologize to them... don't think of me as such an evil woman, okay?"

Joshua stiffened immediately. A moment later, his tone softened, "You... you are generally a very careful and meticulous person, how could you have missed this?"

A flash of a smirk crossed her lips, satisfied that her trickery had successfully fooled Joshua. But still, she rubbed her forehead and pressed her cheek to his back, her tone was slightly unhappy, as if she was wronged and felt dissatisfied. "How am I careful and meticulous? If I was, I would not have missed all the evil things that Hailey did, I also would have predicted she would commit suicide because she didn't want to leave the country..."

Joshua's heart skipped a beat at her remorseful tone. A moment later, he sighed and held her gently, "I misunderstood you."

No matter how careful and meticulous she was, when faced with her best friend's suicide, it was only normal that she lost her rational mind.

"Joshua." Seizing the opportunity when he was being gentle to her, Alice decided to take things one step further. "We're finally home." The more she spoke, the shyer and more bashful she sounded, "I... I want to sleep with you tonight. You wouldn't reject me, would you?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 455

Luna had no idea how Alice convinced Adrian, but at night when they were eating dinner in Blue Bay Villa, he was much calmer when he saw her.

There were no signs of his blatant fury from the afternoon, he even took the initiative and apologized to Luna.

"Ms. Luna, I acted impulsively. Alice explained the whole situation to me, I realized you were right, Hailey was the one at fault. That's why."

The middle-aged man looked at his palm print that was imprinted onto her cheek from his slap, and sighed deeply, "I would like to apologize. I'm sorry."

Luna was quite shocked. Even though she did not have a good impression of him, even though he was her elder. She smiled slightly at him and allowed the issue to pass just like that.

Maybe because Sebastian and Alice had been away for too long and it so happened the whole family was present that day, the butler ordered the chef to prepare a sumptuous feast for dinner.

Adrian was fairly excited, he kept asking Joshua to drink with, downing glass after glass of alcohol. In the end, there was no one else at the table except Joshua, his father, and Alice, who took care of him from the side.

After 10 p.m. that night.

Adrian finally got prepared to leave, sufficiently

drunk on the food and wine. At that moment, Joshua was so drunk, he was barely conscious.

"He is still my son, after all, his tolerance for alcohol is much lower than mine!" Adrian burst out

laughing and ordered his bodyguards to help him as he stumbled out of the door. He raised his eyes and glanced at Alice. "Bring him upstairs. I did what you asked."

Alice nodded and smiled in his direction. "Thank you, Adrian."

After he left, she laughed, satisfied that her evil plan had come to fruition and helped Joshua up the stairs.

In their bedroom.

She lay him down on the bed, then started unfastening his shirt buttons. She could not let go of this invaluable opportunity!

But unexpectedly, the moment she unfastened two of his buttons, his big hand locked onto her wrist.

His eyes were shut tight, his mind fuzzy from the alcohol but he was still exceptionally conscious of his surroundings.

"Who are you? You're not Luna Gibson, you're not my wife... go... away!" He flung her hand aside. Caught off guard, she lost her balance and fell on the carpet in a heap. She lay on the carpet and gritted her teeth from the searing pain.

She could not believe it! He could not make himself sleep with her when he was sober. And now that he was dead drunk, he still rejected her!?

So she sucked in a deep breath, endured the scorching pain, dragged herself up from the floor, once again climbing on top of Joshua, her hands tearing his collar open. She was just about to kiss him when

His big hands caught her wrist deftly and flung her aside.

"Get out!"

His eyes were closed, his voice thick and hoarse from the alcohol, he sounded confused. "You're not Luna Gibson! You're not my wife! Stay away from me..."

Alice climbed up from the floor again. She kept her eyes trained on the drunk, flushed man on the bed. The same thing happened last time when he got drunk at the banquet in Sea City.

Even drunk, he could push her away from him deftly and refused to sleep with her. The plots shown on TV where the characters slept together in a drunken, confused mess were all fake!

Even drunk, Joshua still retained a glimmer of reason. What's more, his senses were more acute compared to when he was sober, more honest. He could directly point out that Alice was not Luna Gibson.

She stood and looked at him, her teeth grinding so hard together they almost broke. Could it be that this time, she once again had to watch as Luna reaped the benefits of her hard work?

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 456

Alice closed her eyes and weighed her options.

Joshua rarely got drunk, much less to such an extent. It was an opportunity of a lifetime. She could not afford to let it slip away.

The night of the party, Joshua had slept with Luna, but he had no memory of that at all when he woke up the next morning. He thought he had slept with Alice instead, which was why he changed his mind about the divorce and even started to treat her better than he did prior to that.

Alice contemplated for a few moments before she finally made a bold decision: she would call Luna over and send her right into his arms.

Besides, even if Joshua found out he had slept with Luna, he would not admit to that at all and, instead, treat Alice even better due to his guilt. It was the perfect opportunity for Alice to drive a wedge between them.

She let out a sigh and gingerly picked up Joshua's phone. Then, she composed a disappearing message to Luna and sent it to her.

Disappearing messages was a special text messaging function on Joshua's phone. The message would automatically be deleted after the recipient had read it, and Joshua used it often whenever he wanted to conduct business in secret. That way, he would not be caught, and no one else would be able to obtain his trade secrets even if they managed to get ahold of his phone. This messaging function existed only on Joshua's phone.

Meanwhile, Luna was in the children's room as she cleared up Neil and Nellie's toys. She had just managed to get them to fall asleep not too long ago.

Maybe it was because it had been a while since she last came to Blue Bay Villa, but the children's room was terribly messy. Nellie's design sketches and Neil's toys were strewn everywhere.

Luna gathered the sketches from the floor and paused to admire Nellie's designs. It was undeniable that Nellie had inherited Luna's talent and love for jewelry design. Although Nellie's sketches were still somewhat childish, they contained a few elements of her own design and creativity. That impressed Luna.

After picking up the rest of the toys, Luna gave Nellie's sketches another look and could not help but add a few elements to spice up the designs. Just as she did, her phone chimed.

It was a text message from Joshua. [Come to the study.]

Luna froze at the text. She glanced at the time and realized that it was 10:30pm. Why did he want to see her so late at night?

(It's late now. We can talk tomorrow instead.)

She received a reply almost immediately. (No, this can't wait till tomorrow. Come now. I have something urgent to tell you.)]

Luna paused. Although she was reluctant to do so, she had no choice but to obey Joshua's orders. He was her boss, after all.

She sighed and draped a jacket over her nightgown, then left the children's room.

As soon as Luna walked out of the children's room, she ran into Alice, who just came out of Joshua's study. The two women made eye contact with each other.

Alice froze when she saw Luna, then immediately let out a snicker. With that, she turned around and disappeared into the master bedroom, slamming the door forcefully behind her.

Luna pursed her lips. What was it this time?

She guessed that Joshua had probably fought with Alice, and this was why he had summoned her over to discuss work.

Luna felt a little exasperated by that. She did not want to get caught in a married couple's fight.

Luna heaved a sigh and knocked gently on the study room door. There was no response. She frowned and knocked again, but no one answered as well.

Finally, she sighed and pushed the door open. " President Lynch, you..."

Before she could finish, someone darted out from behind the door and wrapped his arms around her. The door slammed shut behind her with a loud thud.

The pungent smell of alcohol lingered in the air. Luna could tell who it was without even turning around. She frowned and lowered her voice as she asked, "Are you drunk?"

"Luna Gibson, " Joshua murmured as he gently grazed her earlobe. "I missed you so much... "

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 457

Luna spent the whole night in the study with Joshua. He finally drifted off to sleep around 4am.

Luna felt a little exhausted and uncomfortable after that. However, she was afraid that the children

would wake up and discover she was gone, so she tiptoed out of the study and back into the children's room.

As she gently opened the master bedroom door and walked out, Alice glanced in the direction Luna had left with an expression of envy and resentment.

She went into the study, dragged a drunken Joshua back into the master bedroom, and gingerly lowered him onto their bed. Then, she drew a few fake hickeys all over her body with makeup, removed her clothes, and slipped herself in between Joshua's arms.

The first thing Joshua saw when he opened his eyes the next morning was Alice's sleeping face. She laid next to him, stark naked, with a few dark red hickeys scattered all over her chest and arms.

Joshua's expression darkened. What happened last night?

"Are you awake, Joshua?" As if sensing his gaze, Alice slowly opened her eyes. When she realized he was staring at her naked body, she immediately blushed and tried to cover herself. "What are you looking at?"

Joshua did not know how to feel about it. He turned his head away from her and asked, "Aren't you tired? Don't you want to sleep a little longer?"

Although he was utterly wasted, he still vaguely remembered that they had been up almost the entire night, or at least, until 3 or 4 am.

Joshua's energy levels were different from his wife's. Ever since they had gotten married, Joshua knew that Luna Gibson's stamina was much weaker than his. Every time they spent the night together, he would be fine the next day, but Luna always had to sleep in until past noon to regain her energy.

Since they had been up almost the entire night, he thought Alice would want to sleep a little longer. To his surprise, however, Alice chuckled. "No need. I don't feel tired."

A gleam of surprise flashed through Joshua's eyes. "Really? You don't feel tired at all?"

"Nope. I'm fine." Alice could see the confusion in his eyes, so she immediately lowered her head bashfully. "I'm feeling a little sore from last night, but otherwise, I'm fine. I don't need to sleep that long."

With that, she got out of bed and put on her nightgown. "I'll go downstairs and make everybody breakfast."

Joshua's lips curled up in a smile. "Since when did you become such a devoted wife?"

Alice grinned at him. "I've always been a devoted wife."

There was another reason why Alice wanted to cook breakfast for everybody. She knew that Luna would be exhausted from last night and thus would have no energy to prepare breakfast. Therefore, Alice wanted to take up this responsibility and show everyone

how virtuous and devoted a wife she was.

Alice could not help but let out a chuckle as she thought of this. Then, she turned around and disappeared out the door.

Joshua propped himself up against the headboard and watched her leave with a frown.

Not only did Luna Gibson's personality change, but her stamina did as well. How was that possible?

It was 8am. Luna was sound asleep in the children's room when all of a sudden, someone knocked on the door.

Neil glanced at Luna, still fast asleep, and frowned. Then, he leaped off the bed and flung the door open.

It was Alice, with an apron on and a bandana wrapped around her head, looking like a proper housewife.

When she realized it was Neil who had opened the door, Alice snickered and said in a gentle voice, " Neil, where's Nellie and Aunty Luna? Mommy made some delicious breakfast. Come eat it while it's still hot."

Neil furrowed his brows and shot her a dubious glance. "Since when do you know how to cook?"

Alice smiled at him. "I've always known how to cook. Why don't you try out my cooking for yourself?"

Neil glanced at Nellie, who was working on one of her design sketches, and said, "Alright. Let's go downstairs, Nellie." With that, he slammed the door shut. However, Alice was faster than he was, and she stopped the door from closing fully. She peered into the room and caught sight of Luna, who was still sleeping. "Why don't you invite Aunty Luna along as well?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 458

"It's already 8am. It's about time she wakes up and has breakfast."

Neil frowned at Alice's words and immediately stretched his arms out to block Alice's path. "No. Mommy's still sleeping. We can't wake her."

Of course, Alice did not listen to him at all. She stood next to the door and shouted at the top of her lungs, "Luna! Luna! It's 8am now, time to get up! I've made you breakfast! You're supposed to head to the company with Joshua at 9am for your meeting!

Luna! "

Alice's voice was deafening, and she finally managed to wake Luna up from her slumber. The latter jolted awake and glanced at the time—it was 8am. She had only managed to sleep three hours.

Despite that, however, she knew that Alice was right. She had to go to work, so she crawled out of bed and muttered, "Thank you. I'll be down in a while."

Seeing that Luna was awake, a hint of triumph flashed across Alice's eyes. She chuckled and stared at Luna with a gentle expression as she said, "I've made you breakfast. You should eat it while it's still hot. Why don't we go downstairs now?"

Luna paused for a moment, then nodded at her. " Thank you." With that, she let out a yawn and slowly trudged towards the bathroom.

"We're all waiting for you to have breakfast. You'd better come downstairs soon! " Alice reminded her before she turned and disappeared down the stairs.

Neil stood in front of the bathroom door and stared at Luna with his arms crossed. "Why are you so tired today? Didn't you fall asleep around the same time as we did?"

Nellie gazed at Luna's dark eye circles with an expression of concern. "Mommy, why don't you get some more rest? Neil and I can go downstairs for breakfast first."

Luna glanced at her two children and smiled. "It's okay. It's about time I wake up anyway since I have to work today. " With that, she let out another yawn and started washing up.

By the time the three of them came downstairs, everyone was already seated in the dining room. To their surprise, however, Joshua and Alice were not the only ones there. Adrian and Granny Lynch were present as well.

Granny Lynch glanced at Luna, who still looked exhausted, from her seat in the corner and said pointedly, "Tsk! You're just a guest who happened to be staying here for the night, but you don't have any manners at all! How could you make everyone wait like this? Don't you know you're just an ordinary employee working at Lynch Group? Who do you think you are? The mistress of the house?"

Luna frowned at that but said nothing in response. Her mind was foggy from the lack of sleep, so she did not feel like getting into an argument with Granny Lynch. Instead, she ignored her and plopped down in a chair without replying.

Alice had prepared a lavish breakfast that day, and all of them were Joshua's favorite dishes.

"Alice is quite the cook," Adrian commented as he munched on the food. He glanced at Alice and curled his lips into a contented smile. "She's such a devoted wife. I can't believe she got up so early in the morning and went to all this trouble to cook us breakfast! "

Alice grinned at Adrian in return. "No, no. It's no trouble at all. It's the least I can do as Joshua's wife." As soon as she said this, she shot Joshua a meaningful glance. "Don't you think so, Joshua?"

Joshua smiled at her. "Don't be so modest. My dad complimented you, so you should just accept it."

Joshua felt a little touched by Alice's gesture. They had been up almost the entire night, yet she still got up early in the morning to prepare such a hearty feast.

It was the first time in their many years of marriage that she had done something like this.

Neil could not stand watching Joshua and Alice display their affection in front of everyone, so he pursed his lips and tried to change the topic. "Mr. Lynch, I'd like to apply for a day's leave on behalf of Ms. Luna. She didn't manage to get any sleep last night."

Joshua frowned at that and turned around to look at Luna.

She looked exhausted, with two rings of dark circles underneath her eyes. She indeed looked like she had not gotten much sleep.

A hint of displeasure clouded Joshua's eyes. "Luna, this isn't your first day of work. Today is your first day back at the company after coming home from the business trip. Aren't you aware that you have a lot to do today? Why didn't you get any sleep?"

Joshua peered at Luna's weary face with a slightly annoyed expression. "What were you up to last night?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 459

What was she up to last night?

Luna bit down on her lip and cast Joshua a displeased look. "What else do you think I was up to last night, Mr. Lynch?"

Although he was drunk last night, he still managed to text her and invited her over, so why did he play dumb?

Joshua shot her a cold glance and replied curtly, "How would I know?"

Last night after dinner, he reminded Luna to sleep early and rest since they had a long day ahead the following day. They had a meeting scheduled to discuss the information collected over the business trip and finalize some plans.

Why did she ignore his reminders?

Besides, Luna had slept in the children's room last night with the kids. Naturally, the kids would have gone to bed early, and there was no place for her to work, so she could not have been up all night working.

Joshua could not understand why she did not get much sleep last night. Was she up all night talking to Theo? Joshua's expression darkened as he pondered that possibility.

Last night, he had overheard Neil and Luna's conversation after dinner. Neil had been asking her about Theo. At that time, Luna had gently ruffled Neil's hair and told him, "Why don't you ask him yourself? We'll call him later as soon as we go back to your room."

Did she spend the whole night talking to Theo?

Joshua sneered, "I always thought Ms. Luna is an efficient and professional worker. You knew very well that we have a very important meeting scheduled today, but you still stayed up all night, and now you're exhausted." His dark eyes swept across Luna's face with an air of contempt. "I guess I was wrong about you."

Luna rubbed her brows in exasperation. Her head throbbed, and she started to feel a little uncomfortable. Even a single look at the platters of food before her made her want to retch.

Luna heaved a deep sigh and put down her cutlery. "Don't worry. I won't take any leave of absence today. I know what I'm supposed to do, and it wasn't entirely my fault that I didn't manage to get any sleep last night." She glared at Joshua and

continued, "There's just one thing I want to say. Mr. Lynch: you have no right to reprimand me for not getting any rest."

Then, Luna stood up and said, "Thank you, Mrs. Lynch, for preparing such a hearty breakfast.

Unfortunately, I don't have much of an appetite

now, so I won't be eating. I 'in going to work now."

With that, she turned around and disappeared up the stairs. A few moments later, she reappeared again with the stack of documents she had brought to Sea City in her arms and breezed out the door without looking back.

Just as she stepped out of the door, Luna caught a glimpse of Joshua putting some food onto Alice's plate in an intimate manner. The sight made Luna feel as though someone had struck her heart with a hammer.

"Luna, don't you want to get some food?" Lucas could tell she was unwell, so he insisted on driving her to work. "You don't look too well. Are you sure you want to head straight to work?"

Luna leaned against the seat and closed her eyes. "

Yes, I'm sure."

Suddenly, her phone chimed with a message. It was a long text from Neil, first criticizing Joshua for his attitude, then reminding her to get some food as soon as she arrived at Lynch Group Tower. Neil did not want her to pass out due to hunger.

Luna stared at Neil's text message for a long time. She could feel her heart beat in her chest.

The only people who cared about her were her three kids. As for Joshua...

Luna convinced herself that what happened last night was just a price she had to pay in order to cure Nigel.

The car soon arrived at Lynch Group Tower. Luna let out a sigh, got out of the car, and quickly made her way upstairs.

Lucas watched her leave and immediately took out his phone to call Joshua. "Sir, Luna doesn't look too well. You—"

"I know, " Joshua cut him off before he could finish.

Then, he hung up the phone without saying another word.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 460

Lucas sighed.

When 9am rolled around, Luna had already finished looking over the materials for the meeting.

"Shannon, notify everyone that we're having a department meeting soon. I want to explain everything I've gathered in Sea City."

Shannon nodded in response. However, just as she was about to leave Luna's office, she paused and peered at Luna. "Director Luna, are you sure you don't want to take a break?"

Everyone could tell that Luna was not feeling well. Her face was as pale as the wall behind her.

Luna curled her lips into a smile. "Work is more important."

Shannon frowned and gave her a peculiar look. She knew workaholics existed, but Luna was on a whole new level.

Shannon walked out of Luna's office, but after a moment, she decided that something was wrong and stopped at her door. "Director Luna, why don't I pour you a cup of coffee?"

Luna shook her head. "No need." The scent of coffee always made her feel like throwing up whenever she was exhausted.

Shannon sighed and left, but not before she closed the door behind her.

However, a few minutes later, Luna's door was pushed open again. Luna, thinking it was Shannon again, did not even lift her head. "Shannon, if you have so much spare time on your hands, you should focus it on work instead of asking me questions every three seconds. Have you notified everyone of the meeting?"

There was no response.

Luna furrowed her brows in confusion and lifted her head.

To her surprise, it was Joshua who stood at her door. He had one hand tucked in his pocket, and the other was holding a paper bag of food. He curled his lips into a smirk and asked, "Did you want me to help you notify everyone of the meeting?"

Luna frowned and lowered her head again to focus on her work. "Mr. Lynch, are you here to do a spot check and make sure I'm not slacking off? Don't worry; I've been doing work since the moment I stepped foot into the office. You're not paying me in vain."

With a frown, Joshua took in her thin frame and the weary look on her face. He strode over and set the food down on her desk. "I apologize for the way I behaved this morning, but Luna, can you just tell me why you spent the whole night up instead of getting rest? Were you not aware that you had work the next day?"

Luna's hand froze right in the middle of writing a sentence. It was ironic that Joshua would ask her that question when he was the reason she did not manage to get any sleep. Not only did he refuse to admit what had happened, but he even blamed her for being tired?

That made Luna a little disgusted. He knew full well that he was the reason she had stayed up all night, yet he pretended not to know and acted like a considerate boss instead.

How could she tell him the truth, lest he took it the wrong way and think she blamed him?

Luna closed her eyes and let out a sigh, trying to suppress her emotions. She closed the file in her hand and replied, "I wouldn't mind if it was anyone else who asked me this, but you..." She shot him a cold glance and sneered, "You have no right."

With that, she picked up the file and sauntered right out of her office.

Joshua watched her retreating figure and could not help but narrow his eyes. That woman was extremely stubborn.

He sighed and looked at the untouched food on the desk. He had bought Luna some breakfast out of kindness, but she did not even give it a second glance. Joshua suddenly felt a little irritated by this.

He felt as though he was the one being ignored instead.

Just as he was about to leave, he heard a loud thud coming from outside the office. Shannon's voice rang out almost immediately, "Director Luna!

Director Luna has fainted! "

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 461

When Luna finally came to, she discovered she was in a hospital. Anne sat next to her bedside, her face etched with worry and concern.

"What are you doing here?" Luna rubbed her brows and tried to prop herself up.

Anne immediately helped her up and gently laid Luna down against the headboard. "John and I just came back from our trip today. I received a call from Joshua saying you fainted and rushed over immediately. I didn't even have time to go home

yet! " With that, Anne glanced at Luna with a somewhat displeased look. "I thought it was just a business trip to Sea City. What happened? Why did you faint?"

Luna gave her a wry smile. "It has nothing to do with the trip."

Anne sighed. "I know." She glanced at the door to make sure no one was eavesdropping, then lowered her voice and said, "The doctor told me that you didn't get much sleep last night and didn't eat breakfast this morning. That's why you fainted.

What happened? Was it Joshua?"

Luna paused for a moment, then slowly nodded.

"D*mn! " Anne rolled her eyes at that. "How could he let you come into work this morning?"

Luna rubbed her eyebrows again. "He was drunk last night, so he had no recollection at all of what happened. He blamed me for not getting enough sleep last night. I was so angry that I... "

"You were so angry at him that you decided to get back at him at your own expense?" Anne shot her a somewhat exasperated glance, then reached out to hold Luna's hand. "Luna, no matter what, your health should be a priority. Don't forget what made you return to Banyan City in the first place."

Luna nodded; she did not forget. The only reason she had returned to Banyan City was so she could get pregnant with Joshua's child...and save Nigel.

Therefore, it was important that she took care of her health so that the baby would be born healthy as well.

Luna let out a sigh. "Alright , I promise I won't do this again."

She was so agitated by how Joshua and Alice acted that morning that she could not think straight, which resulted in her rash behavior.

Anne sighed again. After a moment, she seemed to recall something and immediately took out her phone to show Luna a picture. "Do you remember what I told you about someone coming to our hospital and asking for Hailey's whereabouts? Guess what? When I was on my trip, I ran into one of my colleagues who had resigned. We happened to bring up Hailey Walter, and she told me that Hailey underwent plastic surgery at our hospital two years ago!"

Anne passed the phone over to Luna and continued, " The surgery Hailey underwent was a small one, but it was successful. My colleague even took a photo of her! "

Luna frowned and was about to tell Anne about Hailey's death when she caught sight of the photo on the screen. Her eyes widened.

Luna picked up the phone and asked in disbelief, " Are you...sure this is Hailey?"

Anne rolled her eyes. "Yes, I'm sure. My ex- colleague remembered everything. She said that when Hailey underwent surgery, she kept talking about her family, the Walters... It's definitely her! "

Anne glanced at the photo again and remarked, " Although I must say, Hailey does look a little like Alice in this photo." Then, after a moment, she changed her mind. "No, no. I mean, she looks a little like what you used to look like."

Luna gripped the phone tightly and was speechless for a moment. The woman in the photo resembled the Hailey Walter that Luna remembered from six years ago, but it was obvious that her facial features had been altered. She resembled Hailey yet, at the same time, looked a lot like Alice, too.

One thing was certain: she looked nothing like the Hailey Walter who had supposedly passed away.

Luna bit down on her lip, and her hand started to tremble.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 462

Luna knew that plastic surgery could drastically change a person's appearance. However, the photo she had at hand looked absolutely nothing like the Hailey Walter she had seen a few days ago.

Luna had undergone plastic surgery before, so she knew that it took a lot of time and effort to change one's appearance into a totally different person, which meant that...

If the person in that photo was indeed Hailey Walter, then the woman who had died was an imposter.

Luna bit down on her lip and suddenly recalled what Joshua had said to her in the car.

"This might not be the real Hailey Walter."

"The person who died was just an imposter. The real Hailey Walter is still out there somewhere."

"This woman is totally different from the Hailey I knew, so much so that she seems like an entirely different person altogether."

Luna broke out in cold sweats as soon as she thought of that.

If the woman who died was not the real Hailey, then she could not have ended herself simply because she did not want to leave Sea City. If that was the case, what then was the cause of her death?

This brought up another question: Why did the Walters get someone to impersonate Hailey? And where did the real Hailey go?

Luna tried to remember everything she knew about Hailey.

If the Hailey she had met was fake, that meant the hatred Old Mr. Walter harbored for her was fake as well.

Luna recalled the night she was kidnapped by Liam and what happened with Gwen, and could not stop herself from feeling terrified.

Terror, panic, and confusion filled her entire mind. The color drained from Luna's face.

"Are you okay, Luna?" asked the frowning Anne when she noticed the change in Luna's face.

Luna bit down on her lip and stared at Anne. "Let me ask you something. Suppose a person finds someone to impersonate herself and manages to convince her entire family to play along

with her act, and finally kill the impersonator. What do you think is her reason for doing all this?"

Anne shrugged in response. "I 'd say it's probably because she already has a new identity. Why are you asking this?"

Luna closed her eyes and let out a sigh. She wanted to tell Anne what she was thinking but finally decided against it.

Some things just were not meant to be shared.

Luna did not want to drag her friend into all this. She returned the phone to Anne and sighed. "Delete this photo, and pretend none of this ever happened."

Anne frowned and was about to say something when someone pushed the door open.

Joshua stood at the door to the ward and towered over them.

"I see you're awake now." He glanced at Luna and strode into the room. He set down a bag of fruits, as well as a nutritional meal packed in a lunchbox on the table and turned to glance at Anne. "What did the doctor say?"

Anne paused for a moment, then smiled at him. "The doctor said she's too tired. She didn't get much sleep last night and didn't eat breakfast this morning. Plus, she overexerted herself this morning at work, so she fainted due to exhaustion."

Joshua snickered. "Too tired?"

Anne snorted in indignation. "Of course! Mr. Lynch, do I need to remind you what you did that caused her to be exhausted?"

Joshua was amused by that. He did not recall anything that Luna did which required her to exert herself, whether in Sea City or Banyan City.

However, he did not feel like arguing with Anne, so he sat down and opened the lunchbox instead. He handed the lunchbox over to Anne and said, "Feed her."

Anne furrowed her brows. "Mr. Lynch, don't you think you should feed her instead?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 464

As soon as Luna said that, she heaved a deep sigh and tilted her head away from Joshua, signaling she did not want to continue the topic any further.

Instead, she said, "I remember when we were in Sea City, you said something about Hailey Walter. You suspect the woman who died isn't the real Hailey and, instead, was an imposter."

Joshua nodded. "Yes, I did say that to you."

He had also sent people to find evidence to support his suspicions. However, his men did not manage to find anything. The Walters were the most influential family in Sea City, so it was natural they would have done anything to cover their tracks.

Luna let out a sigh and glanced at him. "I believe you now."

"What?" Joshua "Why are you bringing this up all of a sudden?"

Luna narrowed his eyes and was about to say something when she heard a knock on her door. A moment later, Alice's voice rang out, "Luna, are you in there? I heard you passed out. I was

so worried that I rushed over from Blue Bay Villa as soon as I heard. I made you some soup as well. Can I come in?"

A vein popped out on Luna's forehead as soon as she heard Alice's voice. Then, she glanced at Joshua subconsciously.

Joshua stood up, his face expressionless, and flung the door open.

"Joshua?" Alice stared at the man before her in disbelief. "Did... Did you come here because you were worried about Luna as well? Joshua, you're the boss in the world! "

"Tsk! Why is he visiting that b*tch?" All of a sudden, a woman's voice laced with contempt rang out.

Luna was familiar with that voice. It belonged to her birth mother...Natasha.

"Joshua, your mother-in-law was harsh, but she means well. You're an important person, so you should be working now. I know you're a good boss, but she's just an ordinary employee at your company. You shouldn't have to visit her in the hospital..." Luna recognized that voice as well. It belonged to her father, Joseph.

Luna leaned against the headboard and closed her eyes.

She knew Alice had brought her parents along on purpose.

She also deliberately planned her visit so that she would run into Joshua at the hospital. As for her motives...

Luna guessed that Alice had probably wanted to make her feel weak and humiliated in front of her loved ones.

As soon as she reached that conclusion, Luna sighed and closed her eyes.

Meanwhile, Joshua stood still at the door. He glanced at Natasha and Joseph before asking, "Why are you here?"

Natasha rolled her eyes at him. "Why? Do you not want us to intrude on your alone time with this b*tch?" With that, she glowered at Luna and added, "If we hadn't come today, we wouldn't have found out how much that b*tch means to you!"

"Joshua, please don't forget everything our daughter Alice has done for you! She even bore you two beautiful children! If you so much as lay a finger on her, we won't forgive you!"

Joshua smirked upon seeing how agitated Natasha was. "Well, then... The two of you came because you knew I'd be here, is that correct?" He shot Alice a glance before he added, "You brought your parents along... This isn't just a regular visit, is it?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 463

Joshua and Luna immediately froze as soon as they heard that. Luna frowned and was about to say something when Joshua scoffed, "Why should I feed her?"

Anne rolled her eyes at him. "Do you have short-term memory loss, Mr. Lynch? Why can't you remember what you did? You—"

"Anne," Luna interrupted her before she could finish. She leaned against the headboard and gave Anne a feeble smile. "Didn't you say you came here as soon as you could and didn't even have time to go home? Well, I'm fine now, so you should go home."

Anne pursed her lips. She knew that Luna did not want her to bring up what Joshua had done. She sighed and glanced at Luna dejectedly. "Alright, take care, then."

With that, she shot Joshua a glare before she turned and left the room, slamming the door behind her.

Joshua and Luna were left alone in the ward.

Luna sighed, picked up the lunchbox Anne had set down on the bedside table, and ate. She propped the lunchbox up with one hand and held the spoon in the other, blowing gently on the soup before taking a sip.

Joshua could not help but notice the way she ate bore a surprising resemblance to his ex-wife. Maybe kind women just have a lot in common.

Luna was starving, so it did not take her long to finish the entire soup. She set down the empty lunchbox on the table and glanced at Joshua somewhat disdainfully. "Why are you visiting me here, Mr. Lynch? Don't you have work to do, or are you here to take me back and resume the meeting? "

Joshua looked at her meaningfully and chuckled. " What if I told you that's exactly why I'm here?"

"Well, in that case, I refuse to go with you." Luna yawned. "Anne was right. My health is my utmost priority right now. I shouldn't have tried to prove you wrong this morning by skipping breakfast and heading straight to work."

Joshua narrowed his eyes. "You finally admit that you were trying to prove me wrong, huh?" He crossed his legs gracefully and fixated his deep gaze on Luna. "No matter what happens, the last thing I want is for you to disregard your health."

Luna chuckled. "That doesn't seem like something a boss should say to an employee."

Joshua paused. After a moment, he asked in a low voice, "You think our relationship is only that of a boss and employee?"

The meaningful look on Joshua's face and his tone made Luna's heart skip a beat. She had to admit that though years had passed, Joshua still managed to steal her heart sometimes.

Maybe loving him was not something she could not stop doing after all.

However, Luna was too naive when she was young.

Since she knew what kind of person Joshua truly was, she would not be fooled anymore.

Luna curled her lips into a sneer. "What do you think our relationship is, Mr. Lynch?"

The room fell into silence.

Finally, Joshua let out a sigh and replied, "I thought we were friends."

Luna could not help but chuckled at that. She desperately wanted to tell him, 'I refuse to be friends with scumbags like you.' However, she stopped herself from blurting it out and instead said, "Well, it's my honor to be your friend, Mr. Lynch."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 465

Tears welled up in Alice's eyes. She bit down on her lip and shot Natasha and Joseph a disconcerted glance. "I already told you

guys to let me come alone. Now, look at what you've done. Joshua has misinterpreted my intentions! "

Alice sniffed and handed the thermal food container to Joshua. "I made some soup for Luna. Since you think my parents and I have ulterior motives for visiting her, then we'll leave right now! "

With that, Alice turned around. Just as she was about to leave, however, Joshua frowned and grabbed her wrist.

"Since you don't have any ulterior motives for visiting Luna, why are you leaving now? I'm sorry I misinterpreted and misunderstood you, " said Joshua, his gaze fixated on Alice.

Luna's heart turned cold as soon as she heard that.

In all the years she had known Joshua, whether as his wife or as her new identity, she had never heard him speak to anyone so tenderly.

Joshua had also misunderstood Luna this morning, but he never admitted his mistake, even though Luna had fainted and was subsequently hospitalized because of it.

However, he was willing to apologize to Alice.

Joshua was willing to apologize to both Aura and Alice, but not to Luna.

"Alright, I'll forgive you! " Alice beamed at him, hooked her arm through his, and entered Luna's ward together.

Natasha and Joseph shared a glance before they entered the room behind them.

Alice walked over to Luna and opened the food container. "Luna, I made you some soup. Why don't you try it?"

Luna frowned. She was about to turn down Alice's offer, but the latter had placed the bowl in her hand.

Luna contemplated for a moment before she took it. Alice probably would not dare to spike her soup in front of so many people.

Besides, the only thing she had eaten for the whole day was the soup Joshua had brought earlier.

Therefore, Luna was still a little hungry.

Seeing that Luna had taken the bowl from her, Alice immediately added, "Luna, quick, eat it while it's still hot. I went to so much trouble just to make this for you! "

"Well, if that's the case, thank you, Mrs. Lynch." Luna picked up a spoon and took a small sip.

A familiar taste surrounded Luna's taste buds, and her mind immediately went blank.

This soup...

It was Natasha's cooking!

Growing up, Natasha would make her this exact bowl of soup every time Luna fell sick.

This was the taste that Luna had craved for many years. When she was abroad, Luna longed to taste her mother's cooking again one day.

Now that she had finally gotten that wish, Luna suddenly felt an urge to cry. However, she knew she could not cry in front of everyone like that, so she sniffed and lifted her head, stifling her tears.

As soon as she raised her head, Luna came face-to-face with Alice —the woman who looked exactly like how she used to look.

At that moment, Alice's lips were curled into a triumphant smirk, laced with a hint of contempt. "How is it? Does it taste good? I made it myself, you know."

Luna bit down on her lip. She knew that Alice could not have made this herself.

Luna turned around and glanced at Natasha, who stood at the side. Natasha just so happened to be looking at her, and their eyes met.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 466

Natasha scoffed and tilted her head away, her eyes full of contempt. "What a waste of good soup!"

Alice sighed and grabbed Natasha's hand. "Mom, please don't say things like this. The whole reason why Luna is in the hospital right now is because of work. She put in too much effort into work and overexerted herself, so making her soup is the least I can do."

With that, she shot Luna a disdainful glance. "Am I right, Luna?"

Luna bit down on her lip but did not say a word. She felt like someone churned her heart with a knife.

She finally got to taste her mother's cooking but could not display her delight for fear of exposing herself.

Her birth mother stood right before her. However, not only did she ignore her, but she was also showing her affection toward someone else—an imposter.

Alice caught sight of the anguish in Luna's eyes and smirked. She had planned all that on purpose.

Alice had visited Natasha in the morning and found out that Luna Gibson loved drinking Natasha's soup whenever she was sick. Therefore, Alice convinced Natasha to make the soup and brought her parents along to visit Luna.

She wanted to make Luna miserable. She longed to see the agony in Luna's face when she realized she had no one to turn to.

Since Luna had destroyed her home and landed her father in prison, Alice was determined to let Luna have a taste of her own medicine. She wanted Luna to feel the same pain she went through.

Not only that, but Alice planned to turn Natasha and Joseph, Luna's birth parents, against her!

The worst suffering a person could feel was the pain of having their loved ones turn against them.

Alice wanted Luna to realize that she should not have returned to Banyan City in the first place. Since she had given up being Luna Gibson, she should not have returned!

As soon as she thought of that, Alice could not help but smirked. "Luna, do you have anything you want to eat? I can make you some food. Although I'm not a good cook, my mom can help."

She gently held Natasha's hand in hers before adding, "Isn't that right, Mom?"

Natasha smiled at Alice fondly, then shot Luna a cold glare. "I'll be glad to teach you how to cook, but I think it's a waste for her to be eating this... She doesn't deserve it!"

Joseph nodded in agreement. "That's right. Alice, you're too kind. This woman started out as a maid at Blue Bay Villa, then went to work at Lynch Group. Everyone knows what she's after! Only you would still want to be friends with her, despite knowing what her true motives are..."

Joshua could not help but frown when he heard that.

He glanced at Luna, who was still holding the unfinished soup, and said, "Finish it quick."

Luna sniffed, lowered her head, and continued drinking the rest of her soup. Beads of tears fell into the bowl, and Luna could taste the saltiness of her tears mixed into her soup.

Fortunately, no one paid attention to her at all, apart from Joshua. Therefore, no one noticed she had cried.

After Luna finished the soup, she grabbed a piece of tissue and wiped her tears away as she pretended to be dabbing some sweat on her face.

Meanwhile, Joshua gracefully picked the bowl up and placed it back inside the food container. He handed the container over to Alice and said, "Thank you for cooking. I'm sure Luna appreciates it. She's finished the soup, and I think you all should go home now. She needs to rest."

Alice glanced at him. "Joshua, aren't you coming home with us? It's already noon. Shall we bring my parents out for a good meal?"

Joshua noticed that Luna was still surreptitiously wiping away her tears and smiled at Alice. "Maybe next time. Your parents are going to be staying in Banyan City for a while, aren't they? There's always next time. I have some work stuff that I need to go over with Luna, so you guys should go get lunch without me."

Alice pursed her lips in indignation. Then, after she tried to convince Joshua to no avail, she finally left along with Natasha and Joseph.

As soon as the three of them left, Joshua closed the door and strode over to Luna. He handed the box of tissues on the table over to her and said, "What's wrong? Why are you so upset by what they said? It's not like their opinions matter anyway."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 467

Luna took the tissue from Joshua and wiped the tears from her face. "I don't care what they think," she sobbed softly.

It was not the first time Natasha and Joseph had misunderstood her.

"I just..." Luna sniffed and tilted her head up to stop the tears from falling. "I just miss my mother."

Joshua's entire body stiffened. He frowned and turned around to look at her. "You miss your mother?"

"Yes." Luna nodded. "Whenever I got sick, my mother would always make me chicken soup. She said chicken soup is good for our body, so I'd get well quicker if I drank a lot of it. When I was

a kid, I didn't like drinking chicken soup, and she'd always spend a long time convincing me to drink it. I ended up liking it as I grew up, but I couldn't drink it anymore." With that, she heaved a deep sigh and added, "Drinking the soup that Mrs. Lynch cooked for me just now...reminded me of my past. I couldn't help crying a little. I'm sorry you had to see that, Mr. Lynch."

Joshua frowned. He fixated his penetrating gaze on Luna's face as if trying to figure out if she was honest.

Luna sighed again and placed the tissue box aside, then lifted her head to look at Joshua. "That's okay. We don't have to talk about this anymore. Mr. Lynch, you mentioned that you had some work stuff you wanted to go over with me, didn't you? Let's talk about it now."

Joshua's brows furrowed. He knew that Luna was trying to get rid of him.

Luna knew full well that he only used work as an excuse to reject Alice's invitation. That was why she said that to him to make him leave if there were no work-related issues to discuss with her.

However, there was indeed something he wanted to discuss with Luna. "Quinn Group, as well as the hacker, stopped attacking Lynch Group since yesterday. Does this have anything to do with you?"

Luna paused. She had forgotten about that matter, but since Joshua had brought it up, Luna realized there was something she had wanted to tell him but had not had a chance to do so.

Luna sighed and replied, "Do you mind coming with me to Swan Lake Residences? I have something I need to tell you."

The information that Malcolm had sent her was on her laptop. When she went home yesterday morning, she had left the laptop

in her apartment. Therefore, she needed Joshua to come with her so she could show him the contents.

Joshua glanced at her pale face. "Can the hospital even discharge you in this state?"

"I'm fine." Luna smiled at him. "I ate two bowls of soup, and they even gave me an IV drip. I won't faint anymore."

Luna's eyes became crescent-shaped slits when she smiled, and it gave her face a soft and gentle look.

Joshua was temporarily mesmerized by her smile. He could not put his finger on it, but somehow, every time he caught sight of Luna's smiling eyes, he would be reminded of Luna Gibson.

Luna Gibson had the same tender look in her eyes. Joshua's heart always softened whenever he saw that, and it made him feel like pulling her into his arms.

However, there was no longer any trace of this soft glimmer in Alice's eyes. Maybe it was because her personality had changed.

Luna noticed how Joshua stared at her blankly, so she frowned and repeated, "Mr. Lynch, can we go now?"

Joshua finally came to and nodded in response. Then, he strode over to the ward next door to summon a nurse.

The nurse sent Luna down to the hospital entrance and helped her into Joshua's car. Lucas sat in the driver's seat. He turned around to glance at Luna and took in her sickly look. "Are you sure you don't want to rest a little longer?"

Luna shook her head and closed her eyes, leaning against the seat.

Joshua sat down next to her and cast her a glance. “

Let’s go.”

Lucas immediately started the car.

Swan Lake Residences was quite a distance away from the hospital, so Luna got to rest for a while. Her head felt heavy, and when they pulled up in front of Swan Lake Residences, she had already fallen asleep.

“Sir...” said Lucas in a low voice. “Should we wake her?”

Joshua glanced at the thin, sallow woman next to him and sighed. “Let her sleep a little longer. ” He contemplated for a moment before he finally took off his jacket and draped it over her.

Time then trickled by.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn’t Easy chapter 468

By the time Luna finally woke up, it was already evening.

She could smell the faint, distinctive scent that belonged to Joshua and hear the click-clack of someone’s fingers on the keyboard.

Luna frowned and opened her eyes with some difficulty.

The first thing she saw was Joshua’s sharp and chiseled side profile. He was doing some work in the car, his laptop propped up in front of him.

He had a pair of defined eyebrows, long lashes, and perfectly shaped lips. Luna had to admit that even though Joshua was a scumbag, he was certainly a handsome one.

No wonder Alice was willing to give up her old identity and pretend to be Luna Gibson just to gain his love and affection.

Luna stared blankly at Joshua, deep in thought, when he suddenly smirked. "What are you looking at?"

His low voice made Luna jolt in shock. When she finally came to, Joshua had already turned his head around and was looking at her. "Did you get enough sleep?"

Luna froze for a moment, then nodded. "Yes, I did. "

"Four hours, " Joshua remarked as he lowered his head to glance at his watch. He curled his lips into a smirk. "What a pig." With that, he closed his laptop and said, "Didn't you say you have something to talk to me about over here?"

Luna's mind went blank for a moment before she finally recalled that she had fallen asleep while they were on their way to Swan Lake Residences. She let out a sigh and sat up.

The jacket that was draped over her slid onto the floor. It was then she realized that Joshua had put his jacket over her while she slept.

Joshua glanced at the jacket on the floor and raised his eyebrows. Before he could say anything, however, Luna quickly picked up the jacket. "I'll return it to you as soon as I wash it." Then, she hastily got out of the car.

Joshua chuckled when he saw how frantic she was and got out of the car himself. Then, they got into the elevator and ascended to Luna's floor together.

Luna clutched Joshua's jacket tightly in her hands while Joshua stood slightly behind her. Even though her back was facing him,

Luna could still feel his penetrating gaze on her. She immediately straightened up when she realized that.

The atmosphere in the elevator was so quiet that it bordered on suffocating. Fortunately, the silence did not last too long. The elevator soon arrived at Luna's floor.

"Luna?" a startled voice rang out as soon as the doors opened.

Luna immediately lifted her head. Theo stood in front of the elevator and stared at her in disbelief. "Aren't you supposed to be in Sea City? Are you home already?"

Luna, too, seemed to be in shock. "When did you come back?"

It was Theo who had taken care of her the night she was kidnapped. She had wanted Theo to come with them when they returned to Banyan City, but he told her that he still had some stuff to take care of, so he had to remain in Sea City for a while longer.

That was only two days ago. When did he arrive in Banyan City?

"I came back this morning." Theo let out a cough. "How about you? Why did you come home so soon? I heard something happened to Gwen, so I assumed you would stay in Sea City for a few more days."

Luna paused, then glanced toward the elevator. Joshua was still there, his expression as cold and stony as always.

She smiled at Theo but did not say anything more. "Work has been busy lately, so I came back early."

Theo suddenly noticed that Joshua was standing behind her. He paused and said, "Well, then, if you're busy, we can talk next time." With that, he circled her and entered the elevator.

The doors slid shut.

Joshua's brows furrowed as he watched the elevator descend again. "You and Theo...haven't stayed in touch ever since you left Sea City?"

Luna shot him a puzzled glance and fished around for her keys. "Didn't you hear that?"

Joshua narrowed his eyes. That meant that she was not up all night talking to Theo.

Did he...misunderstand her?

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 469

Luna opened the door. When she turned around and noticed that Joshua was staring blankly at her, she frowned. "Come in."

Joshua fixated his steely gaze on her. "Last night..."

"Stop," Luna interrupted him. "Joshua, I don't care whether or not you remember what happened last night, but it doesn't matter anymore. I don't feel like talking about this with you any further." With that, she sat down on the sofa and picked up her laptop. "I have something else to discuss with you."

Joshua narrowed his eyes, entered the apartment, and closed the door behind him.

"I'm assuming these are your men, right?" Luna pulled up all the information that Malcolm had sent her and showed the photos to Joshua.

Joshua's brows furrowed. "Yes, you're right."

However, Joshua had not seen these men in a while since Adrian had requested them to help him ever since he returned to Blue Bay Villa. Adrian's reason was that he needed them to help him take care of some stuff. Since he was his father, Joshua did not question him any further and instead appointed these men over to him almost immediately.

Joshua did not expect that Luna would get her hands on these men's photos, much less interrogate him about them. Nevertheless, he glanced at the screen once more to make sure he had identified the men in the pictures correctly. "What's wrong? What did they do?"

Luna let out a sigh, then lifted her head to stare at Joshua. "You should know by now that before I came back to Banyan City, I lived overseas with the children. I raised them all by myself. Malcolm is my friend, and he's close with Neil and Nellie as well.

Naturally, he found out that Aura had almost gotten them killed in the past."

Joshua gazed at her, his brows still furrowed, but did not say a word.

"The reason why Malcolm is targeting you is that he wants to avenge Neil and Nellie."

Joshua raised his eyebrows skeptically. "He's targeting me because he wants to avenge my children?"

Luna nodded. "Yes, that's right. He discovered that these men have been protecting and looking out for Aura in secret."

Joshua's entire body stiffened. He glanced at Luna incredulously and chuckled. "How is this possible?"

He had listened to Alice's suggestion and sent Aura abroad so that she would have to get by on her own. That woman had almost killed his children. Joshua did not care whether she was alive or dead.

"This is the truth." Luna snickered, then showed him the photos of the bodyguards protecting Aura, as well as a few of them getting into a fight with Malcolm's men.

"The country where you sent Aura to just so happened to be Malcolm's territory. He wanted to

punish her to avenge Neil and Nellie, but these men in the photos stopped him. Didn't you admit these were your men just now, Mr. Lynch?" She swiped through the rest of the photos on the screen.

Joshua frowned. Adrian had told him that he needed the men to take care of some stuff... Was this what he meant?

Luna saw that Joshua's expression had darkened and curled her lips into a contemptuous smirk. "I guess you don't care as much about your children as you claim to, Mr. Lynch.

"You said you had sent Aura abroad to get by on her own, but in reality, you assigned your men to guard her in secret so that she'd live a comfortable life. Do you call this a punishment? It seems more like a holiday to me."

Luna shifted into a more comfortable position and stared at Joshua coldly. "Malcolm was furious when he found out you were secretly protecting Aura. That's why he's been targeting you lately. He's willing to risk offending you to get revenge for Neil and Nellie. However, I don't think this is necessary at all."

Luna heaved a deep sigh, then raised her eyebrows and continued, "If you think your ex-fiancée is more important than Neil and Nellie's lives, Mr. Lynch, why don't you pass them back to me? I '11 take them back abroad and resume our lives as we lived in the past. From today onward, you and I won't have anything to do with each other anymore. How does that sound?"

Joshua paused for a moment, then chuckled.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 470

Joshua shifted into a more comfortable position and leaned against the sofa. "You went to all this trouble just to ask me for the children back?" he said lazily. "Don't forget that even though Neil and Nellie call you Mommy, Alice and I are still their birth parents, after all."

The room fell silent.

Finally, Luna let out a sigh and chuckled. "If even their birth parents don't seem to care about them, why should we force the children to continue living with their parents?"

Joshua raised his eyebrows, turned his head around, and fixated his deep, penetrating gaze on Luna.

Then, just as Luna began to feel uneasy from his stare, Joshua replied, "I still care about Neil and Nellie. I never sent these men over to guard Aura."

"How do you explain the photos, then?" Luna clenched her teeth. She could feel her fury beginning to rise within her. He dared to shift the blame?

Did Joshua genuinely think he could do whatever he wanted to the children since he was their birth father?

"If you don't even care about your children's survival, you don't deserve to be parents at all! "

Joshua curled his lips into a smirk, gracefully picked up his phone, and dialed a number. "Come upstairs."

Five minutes later, Lucas burst through the door. "

Sir, you were looking for me?"

Joshua lounged on the sofa lazily and tilted his chin toward the laptop screen. "Take a look at that."

Lucas walked towards them with a puzzled expression and peered at the laptop screen. "Hey, isn't this Kaleb and the rest of the gang?"

Lucas picked up the mouse and scrolled through the rest of the photos. "They seem to be somewhere abroad. Didn't you assign them over to your father a while ago? Did he send them abroad?" Lucas scratched his head, baffled, then turned around to shoot Joshua a confused look. "You're showing me their photos... Did they do something wrong?"

Luna immediately frowned at that. She glanced at Lucas in disbelief and asked dazedly, "You're saying

. Who's in charge of these men now?"

Lucas gave her a strange look. "Of course, it's Adrian who's in charge of them now. " Then, he stared at Luna bewilderedly. "What's wrong?"

Luna bit down on her lip and froze, momentarily stunned.

Aura's bodyguards...were Adrian's doing? Joshua had nothing to do with them?

Joshua caught sight of Luna's expression and smirked. He then glanced at Lucas and ordered, "You can go back downstairs now."

Lucas stared at him in confusion. "Sir..."

Before he could finish, however, Joshua shot him a stern look, and he immediately clamped his mouth shut as he then left the room. Before he did, he closed the door carefully behind him. The entire room fell silent.

Luna could feel her face burning while Joshua was still poised on the sofa, his dark eyes fixated on her.

Luna felt as if every inch of her skin was burning. Then, after a long pause, she finally spat out the words, "Why is Master Lynch protecting Aura?"

"I'm not sure, but I'll have to look into this. Luna. " Joshua paused and crossed his legs gracefully on top of each other. "Do you think I deserve to be Neil and Nellie's parents now?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 471

The entire atmosphere in the room was so awkward that it bordered on suffocating.

Luna let out a sigh and glanced at Joshua. "I admit that I misunderstood you, but..." She lifted her head to look at him. "I don't think it's entirely my fault. After all, these men were once under you, weren't they?"

Joshua nodded. "Yes, that's true, but that's not what I'm talking about, Luna." His gaze never wavered from her face. "You're Neil and Nellie's adoptive mother. I'm glad that you care so much about them, but you must remember that ultimately, they belong to Alice and me. Therefore, you have no right to say we don't deserve to be parents."

Joshua then smirked and continued, "Take this misunderstanding, for example. I wasn't the one who sent these men over to protect Aura, but even if I did, what gives you and Malcolm the right to target me on behalf of my children?"

Luna froze at that. She felt as though every joint in her body stiffened, and her blood had turned into ice.

Joshua's words felt like sharp needles that pricked into her heart.

Neil and Nellie were her children. She carried them in her womb for ten months. However, no one knew that, and at that moment, Joshua looked down on her.

"You have no right to say we don't deserve to be parents."

He was right. No one knew that Luna was Neil and Nellie's birth mother. To everyone else, she was just an adoptive mother who had kidnapped someone else's children. What right did she have to criticize the children's birth parents?

Luna's expression darkened, and the blood drained from her face.

Joshua could not help but frown when he saw the disappointment and sorrow on Luna's face. He sighed and said, "I know you're just worried about them, so I'll let you off the hook for today. However, there won't be a next time."

Luna closed her eyes and nodded bitterly.

Seeing how upset she was, Joshua did not feel like continuing the conversation any further. Instead, he balled up his fist and coughed somewhat awkwardly into it. "I've looked over the materials you prepared this morning. Although you weren't feeling well, your work was structured and well-organized.

You're an outstanding worker. As your boss, I hope that you'll be able to focus most of your energy on your work for the time being."

He lifted his head to glance at Luna. "Neil and Nellie will be staying at Blue Bay Villa for the time being. If you miss them, you can come over to visit."

Luna's entire body stiffened. She bit down on her lip and was about to say something but ultimately decided against it. Instead, she gave him a bitter smile. "Alright."

There was nothing she could do about it since Joshua had made up his mind.

Even if she continued to argue with him, he still had the last word because he thought he and Alice were Neil and Nellie's birth parents.

Joshua never expected that Luna would agree without hesitation. He remained silent for a moment, then stood up. "I've postponed your meeting today to tomorrow. Get some sleep today. I don't want to see you faint again in the future."

With that, he turned and left, slamming the door behind him.

Luna sat on the sofa as she gazed at the closed door, but her mind was millions of miles away.

When he came out of Swan Lake Residences, Joshua did not go home first thing. Instead, he asked Lucas to arrange a dinner with Adrian at the most high -end restaurant in Banyan City.

"I never thought you'd invite me out for dinner."

When Joshua and Adrian finally met up in one of the restaurant's private booths, Adrian seemed to be in a good mood. He picked up the wine glass and took a small sip. "You're finally starting to act like how a son should."

Joshua let out a chuckle. "Don't patronize me." He tossed the photos of the bodyguards onto the table and said, "If I remember correctly, you asked me if I could assign some of my men over to you, claiming that you wanted them to help you take care of some stuff."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 472

"Do you have any idea what they've been doing abroad?"

Adrian frowned and picked up the photos from the table. He recognized the men in the pictures—they were the bodyguards that he had asked Joshua for. However...

"I'm not sure." Adrian put the photos down. "According to my understanding, since you've assigned these men over to me, I should have the final say over what I do with them." He shifted into a more comfortable position, leaned back against his seat, and stared at Joshua coldly. "My friend needed some help, so I sent your men to help him. What's the problem with that?"

Joshua poured himself a glass of wine and gently swirled the glass. There was an air of aloofness and pomposity about him. "Which friend of yours?"

Dennis Walter?"

Adrian glowered at him but did not respond.

"It appears my guess is right. " Joshua sneered. "Let me ask you this, Master Lynch. Do you know why Dennis needed these men?"

Adrian paused and lifted his head to stare at Joshua.

Joshua gracefully tipped the wine glass over and took a small sip. "He sent them to protect Aura."

Adrian furrowed his brows. Although he did not understand why Dennis wanted to guard Aura, he

still snickered. "Isn't Aura your ex-fiancée? What's wrong with him protecting her, then?"

"Master Lynch, you have no idea what's been happening in your family, have you? If you had tried harder, you probably would've found out the reason why Aura was sent abroad and forbidden from returning. " Joshua set down the wine glass with a clink. He continued with a stony expression, "Dad, you claim to love and care about Neil and Nellie very much, but do you know that Aura almost killed them in the past?"

Adrian's expression fell as soon as he heard that. He genuinely had no idea any of that happened.

"Then... " Adrian shot Joshua a confused look. "Why did Mr. Walter send my men over to protect her?"

"Maybe Aura has connections with the Walters, or maybe it was the Walters who had ordered Aura to kill my children." Joshua chuckled and put down the wine glass. "Do you truly have no knowledge of any of this, Dad?"

Adrian's expression darkened. He had spent the last few years traveling, never staying long in any particular place or country. As for Dennis, Adrian had been friends with him for a long time, ever since they were young, but they were not as close as they used to be anymore. Therefore, he had no idea what Dennis had been up to lately.

"My assumptions were right, " Joshua sneered. " Aura almost killed me and Luna Gibson's children, and now, it appears she has connections with the Walters. Dennis even borrowed some of my men to protect and guard Aura in secret."

Adrian's face was ashen at the explanation.

Joshua raised his glass and gently clinked it against Adrian's. "Well, since you have zero idea what's been happening, then I don't think you should get involved in the feud between the Walters and me anymore. Don't try to make things difficult for Luna on behalf of the Walters anymore. She's the one who raised Neil and Nellie as her own. As for you, you're just their grandfather, but aside from that, you don't care about them at all."

Joshua tipped his glass over and drained its contents. Then, he set it down on the table and stood up. " That's all I have to say to you. Please enjoy your meal, Master Lynch."

Adrian chewed on his lip as he watched Joshua leave. "The whole point of this conversation is for you to vent your anger toward me because I slapped Luna last night, isn't it?" He scoffed and added, "Have you fallen for Luna?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 473

Joshua stopped in his tracks and chided, "Just because I'm sticking up for Luna, you think I've fallen for her?" He curled his lips into a contemptuous smirk and added, "How about you, Dad? You're very protective of Hailey as well. Does that mean you're in love with her?"

Adrian grew furious the moment he heard Joshua's words. He slammed his fists against the table and roared, "How dare you even say that, Joshua? I've been friends with Dennis for such a long time now. Hailey is like a daughter to me! Besides, she's dead now—how dare you even say such disrespectful things?"

Joshua chuckled. "No one is certain whether she's truly dead or not, but..." He turned around and glanced at Adrian. "I learned this from you, Dad."

Adrian was so enraged that he began struggling to breathe. "You b*stard! How dare you even talk to your father like this?"

"If I'm a b*stard, what are you, Master Lynch?" snapped Joshua before he turned and left the room, slamming the door behind him.

Adrian flipped the table over in a fury, not caring that he had spilled the food.

Swan Lake Residences.

Luna sat on the sofa as she drew some sketches on her easel while listening to her three children chatter through her earpiece.

"The food that Lily cooked for us tonight was delicious ! Although her cooking isn't as good as Mommy's, it wasn't bad at all ! "

chirped Nellie in a childish voice as if giving Luna a brief recap of her day. "Much better than what Alice made."

Neil snickered. "I think even I'm better at cooking than Alice is. " Then, suddenly, he seemed to recall something and added, "Nigel, do you know that Lily taught me how to cook a few new dishes? I'll make them for you as soon as you get better."

As soon as Neil said this, Luna heard Nigel's chuckle ring out from the other end. "Why do you have to wait until I get better?"

Neil giggled. "I'm scared my cooking might make your condition get worse."

Luna let out an exasperated sigh. "Are you trying to tell us you're good at cooking, or are you bad at it? "

Neil contemplated for a moment before he finally replied, "I guess I'm a pretty good cook, but you might get an upset stomach after eating my food."

Luna was speechless. She shook her head feebly and shifted into a more comfortable position before she resumed her sketches. "It's already 9 at night now, and you guys should sleep soon. I'm not going to be

by your side anymore, so in the future, you and Nellie have to take care of each other and sleep early every night."

Everyone fell silent at her words. Then, after a long pause, Neil sighed and asked, sounding upset, "

Mommy, did you really promise Joshua that you won't come find us anymore?"

Luna nodded. "Yes, but I promised him the same thing in the past, didn't I? Don't worry, everything will be fine."

"Everything is different now! " huffed Nellie. "A nasty woman is going to be taking care of us now!"

Luna opened her mouth to comfort her children, but she did not know what to say.

"That woman will definitely make our lives difficult every time Daddy isn't home! " Nellie continued to complain.

Neil frowned at her words. "Nellie, don't say things like this in front of Mommy. It's not like she had a choice."

"But— " "I'll think of something," Nigel sighed and interjected just as Neil and Nellie were about to get into a squabble. "Wait for my good news."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 474

Neil and Nellie quieted down as soon as they heard Nigel's words.

Luna, too, let out a deep sigh. "I'll try to think of something as well." She then comforted the two children before she hung up, somewhat exhausted.

Nellie was right. Even if Alice did not dare to treat them like how she did when she kidnapped them, she would still go out of her way to make their lives at Blue Bay Villa miserable.

She would not dare do anything to them when Joshua was around, but what would happen if Joshua was away from home?

Luna pondered over that for a while, then finally had no choice but to call Joshua.

"Is there something wrong?" Joshua did not seem to be in a good mood. There was a hint of irritation in his tone when he picked up his phone.

Luna frowned and tried to get straight to the point. "I remember you told me before that Mrs. Lynch has been learning jewelry design on her own, is that right?"

Joshua leaned against the leather seat of his car and closed his eyes, trying to suppress his emotions. "Yes. Why do you mention this?"

Luna bit down on her lip. "Well, I could use an extra pair of hands now. Instead of hiring someone new to help me, why don't we ask Mrs. Lynch to work at the company? She's your wife, so her priority will definitely be the Lynch Group's profits. Besides, it'd be good for her to start from the bottom if she wants to join Lynch Group.

"When this project comes to an end, I'll give her all the credit, and she'll be able to use her achievement to prove everyone who thought she's just a trophy wife wrong. Then, in the future, you can transfer her to whichever department you want and put her skills to good use."

That was the only way Luna could think of to protect her children. Although she could no longer stay by their side, she could at least try to keep Alice tied up at work so she would not be able to make things difficult for Neil and Nellie at home.

This project would take at least two or three months to complete. That was not a short period... She would definitely be able to get pregnant with Joshua's child in this time span, right?

Even if she could not get pregnant, Luna could use her separation from Neil and Nellie as an excuse to bring them out of Blue Bay Villa.

"You'll be giving Alice all the credit for your work? " asked Joshua, the grip on his phone tightening as he did. "This doesn't sound fair to you."

This jewelry project was not a small one. Joshua had wanted to use this project to revive Lynch Group's jewelry design branch, so it required very skilled planning and execution from start to finish.

However, he was confident that Luna had the expertise to pull this off. Moreover, if she managed to execute this project successfully, Luna's net worth would grow exponentially.

How could she be willing to give up such an opportunity?

"Well, I wanted to make this up to Alice for kidnapping her children. " Luna smiled. "Why don't you discuss with Mrs. Lynch tonight? Then, if she wants to take this job offer, she can start tomorrow, and I'll put her in charge of the most effortless task."

"Why?" Joshua did not answer her and instead asked her a question in return. "Considering the relationship you have with Alice, why are you so willing to let her take credit for one of the Lynch Group's most important projects?"

Luna gripped her phone tightly. "Why do you think I'm doing this, Mr. Lynch?"

After a long pause, Joshua smirked. "Do you think that if you don't occupy Alice's time, she'll try to make things difficult for Neil and Nellie at home?"

Luna's breath caught in her throat as soon as she heard that.

Joshua was too astute. She could not hide anything from him at all.

Luna bit down on her lip and said, "Maybe you think I'm worrying unnecessarily, but..."

"I refuse to send Alice over to work for you."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 475

The glimmer of hope in Luna's eyes dimmed as she heard Joshua's response. Her hand started to shake.

Luna let out an exhale and tried to compose herself so as not to let Joshua hear how devastated she was. " Mr. Lynch, even if you think I'm just worrying too much, I still have my reasons for doing this."

"Since I'm willing to give Mrs. Lynch all the credit for my hard work, isn't that a bonus for both of you? If that happens, she can work for Lynch Group without fearing anyone's opinion..."

Joshua leaned against his car seat and chuckled. "If I want to let my wife work for me, I wouldn't even care what any of my employees think."

Luna's hand stiffened.

Joshua continued in a low voice, "She's my wife; she can take over any job position as long as I see fit. She doesn't need to take credit for your work to do so."

Luna felt as though something had hit her.

He was right.

As long as Joshua wanted to, he could offer Alice any position he wanted in the company. He would even let her become CEO if that was what he wanted, and no one else had a say in that.

Suddenly, Luna recalled an incident from when she and Joshua had just gotten married.

At that time, Luna desperately wanted to work at Lynch Group and become Joshua's trusted sidekick. She tried to support him in his family life as well as his career.

However, Joshua had refused to take her in, claiming that it would spark many rumors and gossip about her within the company. He would not offer her a job unless she truly had the skills and expertise to excel in it.

He even told her that a good CEO would not offer anyone a job simply because they were close to him. Instead, they would have to evaluate and ensure that said person was indeed a good match for the company and job requirements before hiring them.

At that time, Luna had believed him and tried to improve herself in every aspect so she would one day be able to help him in his career.

Luna was so naive that she genuinely believed Joshua was a fair and impartial CEO.

"Alright then... Never mind." Luna sighed and hung up the phone without even saying goodbye. She understood what Joshua meant, so she no longer bothered to change his mind.

Luna put her phone aside and tried to fall asleep, but she tossed and turned the entire night. She was up all night as she thought of other ways of helping Neil and Nellie so that they would be free of Alice's wrath. She even listed all of them down but crossed them out in the end.

Luna knew there was no way of protecting Neil and Nellie apart from saving them herself.

She eventually drifted off into an uneasy slumber.

However, at daybreak, Luna was awoken by a bad dream.

In her nightmare, Alice had poisoned Neil and Nellie, causing them to grow thinner each day. By the time they returned to Luna's side, they were so malnourished that they died soon after.

When Luna opened her eyes, she discovered her pillow was drenched in tears.

She sat up and hugged the pillow close to her, gazing out at the dimly lit sky, and could not help feeling a little dazed.

She wanted to escape this place along with her children, but she knew that she could not do so, not before she got pregnant with Joshua's child.

She had to save Nigel.

Even if she had to fight until her last breath, she would never give up on Nigel.

8am.

Luna pushed open her office door, looking exhausted.

"You're five minutes away from being late, " a cold voice rang out as soon as Luna pushed the door open.

Luna frowned, lifted her head, and glanced in the direction of the voice.

Alice sat in her office chair, wearing a red outfit and a steely expression on her face. Alice caught sight of Luna and shrugged. "I'll be taking this office."

She then tossed all the documents on the desk in Luna's direction. "Get all this stuff out of my sight."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 476

"This will be my office now."

Luna froze. After a long while, she widened her eyes in delight. "Are you here to work?"

Alice shot her an irritated glare. "Of course!"

Alice did not know why Joshua had suddenly insisted on sending her to work in Luna's department, and as her assistant, no less! She slept so soundly that morning when, all of a sudden, Joshua woke her and demanded she go to work. Of course, she was frustrated by that, but she did not dare protest.

What ruffled Alice's feathers the most was Joshua's instructions. He had informed her beforehand that no matter what, she would have to obey Luna's orders.

The worst part was that Joshua did not allow her to take credit for Luna's work after the project was completed.

Alice could not understand any of this. She was the CEO's wife, for God's sake! How could she work as a lowly assistant, and for Luna, no less?

Although her official job title was as an assistant, Alice knew that her responsibilities were to take care of everything Luna did not want to or did not have the time to. She could not even be late or leave work early. No matter how late it was, as long as Luna was still in the office, Alice also had to be there.

Alice grew more and more frustrated when she thought of it. She angrily hurled the rest of the items

on Luna's desk onto the floor. "Get rid of all these useless things ! I don't want to see them anywhere near me! "

Luna felt her mood lift when she registered how infuriated Alice was. She smiled, kneeled onto the ground, and picked up the documents Alice had strewn all over the floor. "What position did Mr. Lynch assign you to do?"

Alice rolled her eyes in indignation. "Your assistant." Assistant?

Shannon, who had hovered outside the door all this while, could not take it anymore. She walked in and helped Luna pick up her things, saying pointedly, " From the way you're acting, I would've thought you were here to take over as project director. Instead, it turns out you're nothing but a lowly assistant."

Luna lowered her gaze and continued to pick up the rest of her stuff. "Be careful what you say."

Luna was secretly overjoyed that Alice would be working with her. Luna thought that it was better for Alice to be spending most of her time at the company instead of at home with the kids so she could keep an eye on her.

"Director Luna, you' re too kind. " Shannon tidied up the documents and could not help but added, "This is the first time I've ever come across such a bad- tempered assistant. I can't believe an assistant would dare to throw the director's documents all over the floor."

Alice immediately scowled, "What did you just say?" She stood up and strode over to them in her high heels. "Don't forget I'm the CEO's wife! The Lynch Group belongs to my husband and me. I could get you fired as easy as that! "

Shannon instinctively frowned when she heard Alice's arrogant tone. Although she was angry, she kept her mouth shut and did not say anything else. She finished picking up the documents from the floor and quickly left the room.

Luna stacked the documents back into a neat pile and smiled at Alice. "Do you want this office? If you do, you can have it. I'll sit outside instead."

Alice rolled her eyes and got up from her chair. "It's not like I want this stupid office anyway."

When she stood up, Alice caught sight of a framed photo on Luna's desk. It was a picture of her and Neil, but he looked paler and sicker in the photo than in real life.

Alice narrowed her eyes and picked up the photo. "Neil looks good in this."

As soon as Luna caught sight of what she was holding, her eyes widened. "Put down that photo."

"Why should I?" Alice sneered, then forcefully smashed the photo down onto the ground. A split second later, she stepped on the photograph, her pointy heels puncturing right into the smiling faces.

She clamped a hand onto her mouth, feigning surprise. "Oh, no! I accidentally dropped your photo frame, and now it's broken!"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 477

Luna immediately lunged forward and shoved Alice aside.

The glass frame was smashed into smithereens, and there was a gaping hole in Luna's face in the photo where Alice had stepped on with her high heel.

Thankfully, Nigel's half of the picture was still intact.

This was the last photo Luna had taken with Nigel before she came back to Banyan City. Every time she felt tired and burnt out, she would look at the photo, and it would magically give her the motivation to persevere.

However...

Luna frowned and picked up the remaining shreds of the photo. The broken shards of glass cut into her finger, but she did not seem to feel any pain. She wiped the blood off and gingerly put the photo into her pocket.

"Director Luna..." The rest of the employees were gathered around her door with worried faces and contemplated whether to help her or not.

Alice automatically sneered when she saw how devastated Luna was. "It's just a photo of you and Neil. Why are you so upset about it, Luna? It's not like you can't take another one with him. Neil is at Blue Bay Villa right now! If you want, I'll let him take plenty more pictures with you. Stop acting so pitifully! "

Luna lifted her head and glowered at Alice, her eyes seething with rage. "Get out! "

Alice scowled, "How dare you talk to me like that? Let me tell you this. Even though I'm just an assistant, I'm still Joshua's wife, after all. I— "

“Even though you’re Joshua’s wife, you’re still an assistant!” roared Luna. “Get out!”

Alice had crossed a line.

Luna allowed Alice to throw her things around the room and let her claim her office as her own because she could not care less about them; it was just an office and a few documents. Luna was willing to endure all these as long as Alice would come to work, instead of staying at home and bullying Neil and Nellie, but then...

“Luna, you’re going to regret this! How dare you talk to me like that?” Alice glared at her and continued, “Do you know what I’m going to do as soon as I go home? I’ll—”

“What are you going to do?” a steely voice suddenly rang out from behind her.

Alice was momentarily flustered, but after a moment, she turned around and leaped into Joshua’s arms, tears welling up in her eyes. “Joshua... Luna bullied me! She asked me to get out!

“You sent me here to work, and I arrived early in the morning. I didn’t know what to do, so I came into Luna’s office to wait for her, but I accidentally dropped her picture frame on the ground, and now she wants me to get out...” Alice wiped her tears daintily. “It’s just a photo of her and Neil. I can’t believe she...”

Joshua furrowed his brows and removed himself from Alice’s embrace. “I heard everything.”

Alice’s entire body stiffened. “Joshua...”

Joshua shot her a cold glance. “You broke Luna’s stuff on purpose and used your title as Mrs. Lynch to threaten her... You promised

me this morning when we left home that you'd work hard. Was this what you meant by that?"

The color drained from Alice's face. "Joshua, I..."

Lucas, who had been standing by the door, sighed and said, "Ma'am, if only you'd keep your mouth shut... Sir came down specially to check on you. He said that this was the first time you showed willingness to help out the company, but as soon as we arrived, we saw you stirring up trouble in Luna's office..."

Alice bit down on her bottom lip hard. Had Joshua been there for that long already?

"Luna."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 478

Joshua strode over to Luna and extended his hand toward her. "Give me the photo."

Luna frowned and backed away instead of complying. She knew that Joshua probably wanted to help her piece the photo back together again to make up for what Alice had done, but...

This was a photo of her and Nigel.

Even though Joshua had seen it before, he never paid much attention to it. If she gave it to him, and he restored it for her...

Luna was afraid that Joshua would discover the boy in the photo was not Neil as he had thought.

Joshua did not know of Nigel's existence. As soon as he discovered Neil and Nellie's true identities, he immediately took them away from her.

She could not lose Nigel to him, too.

"I just want to help you." Joshua frowned and took a step toward her.

Luna immediately shook her head. "There's no need. I can do it myself..."

"Luna!" Joshua's brows furrowed. "Do you want me to snatch it away from you?"

Luna paused, then lifted her head to stare at him.

A flurry of emotions was etched in Joshua's dark eyes. Luna bit down on her lip and remained silent. Finally, after a long while, she had no choice but to hand the photo over to him.

The photo was stained red with Luna's blood. It was a picture of Neil and Luna smiling at the camera.

However, a gaping hole had punctured through Luna's face.

Joshua could not help but notice that the boy in the photo looked slightly different from the Neil he knew. Just like the picture he had seen in Luna's apartment, the boy in the picture looked pale, sickly, and appeared to be far more mature and reserved than Neil.

Joshua narrowed his eyes.

He could not help but feel that the boy in the photo was not Neil at all but another child instead.

However, a split second later, he dismissed the thought.

How could that be possible? Neil and Nellie were twins. How could there be another child that looked identical to Neil?

Joshua sighed and tucked the photo away. "If you value this picture that much, I'll find someone to fix it for you," offered Joshua. Then, his gaze fell on Luna's injured finger. "Are you okay?"

Luna paused, then withdrew her bleeding hand. "Yes, I'm fine."

Joshua gave her another meaningful look and was about to say something but ultimately decided against it. Then, he strode out of the office.

As soon as he stepped out of the room, however, he stopped. "Lucas."

"Yes, Sir," Lucas answered respectfully.

"Find a first aid kit and take care of Luna's wound for her. Then, help me find someone who can restore photos."

"Yes, Sir."

Joshua swiveled around to glance at Alice. "Come to my office."

Alice wrung her hands and followed him in silence. She did not expect that Joshua would suddenly turn up at the design department just to check on her! If she had known he would come, she would not have behaved the way she did!

The two entered the elevator and arrived at Joshua's office on the top floor. Joshua closed the door and sat down in his office chair. He then fixated his steely gaze on Alice. "Why did you cause Luna trouble? Are you upset at me for making you come to work?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 479

"No... Of course not." Alice bit down on her lip and stared at Joshua with a pitiful expression. "I wasn't upset with you. On the contrary, I'm thrilled to be able to work at Lynch Group. I know that the reason you wanted me to come in to work is that you didn't want me to feel bored at home, and also because you wanted me to get used to this place so that we can work together in the future, but..."

Joshua narrowed his eyes. "But what?"

Alice sighed and glanced at Joshua. "I was scared that if I start from the bottom, the rest of the employees will look down on me. Even though I'm the CEO's wife, I still have to start from the bottom to climb to the top..." Alice wiped her tears and continued, "Joshua, you know that I was born into an ordinary family in Sea City. My family isn't wealthy, and I've always felt insecure about that..."

Joshua's brows furrowed upon hearing that. He gazed at her red-rimmed eyes and heaved a deep sigh. "You're right. Working with someone as skilled as Luna might've been too challenging for a moment, then finally said, "I'll ask her to assign you some easier tasks."

He lifted his head and fixated his deep gaze on Alice. "I can understand why you acted the way you did just now. You lashed out at Luna because you wanted to make everyone else respect you and gain your dignity back. However..."

Joshua narrowed his eyes. "Did you really break Luna's photo frame by accident?"

Luna had so many items on her desk; why did Alice just so happen to break the photo frame? Why did she step on the photo, puncturing a hole right through Luna's face?

Joshua was not stupid. He knew that it was not just a simple accident.

Alice knew this as well, so she took a deep breath and admitted the truth, "I did it on purpose."

Joshua raised his brows at her.

"I was jealous of Luna because she had so many memories with Neil, but I had none. Luna can display a picture of her and Neil on her desk, but what about me? I don't have anything at all. Neil still refuses to call me Mommy, much less take a photo with me." With that, Alice lifted her head to look at him as if she was genuine.

"I know it wasn't right of me to do that, but I couldn't stop myself. Neil is my son. I can't stand seeing how close he is to Luna."

"You have to know that you were missing from Neil's life for a long time, " remarked Joshua as he gently tapped his slender fingers against his desk. " Besides, even though Neil has returned to your side now, you never fulfilled your responsibility as a mother to him."

Alice bit down on her lip. "That's because I didn't have a chance to do so. I..." Before she could finish, however, someone knocked on the door.

Lucas' voice rang out from the other side, "President Lynch, the photo restoration specialist is here."

Joshua murmured a reply and turned around to glance at Alice. "Get back to work. Remember, even though Neil isn't close with you, it's not Luna's fault. It's yours. Please don't ever bring personal grudges into your work in the future."

Alice bit down on her lip and muttered in response. Then, she turned around and left the room.

Just as she was about to leave, however, Joshua suddenly recalled something and stopped her. "Are you sure you gave birth to only two children at the time?"

Alice's heart leaped into her throat.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 480

Alice turned around and shot Joshua a puzzled look. "Didn't I...birth two children?"

Was one of the children adopted?

Joshua let out a bitter chuckle as soon as he saw her baffled expression. He was wrong, after all.

Alice shot him another confused glance before she finally left the room.

At the design department.

Luna's finger was wrapped in a bandage. At that moment, she stood outside her office as she instructed Shannon and the rest to find an empty desk for Alice.

Seeing that Alice had returned, Luna glanced at her and said, "Since you don't like my office, I've requested the staff to find a nice, spacious desk for you. You don't have to do anything in the meantime, so just try to figure out what goes on in the design department every day and get to know the rest of your colleagues."

Alice rolled her eyes, turned around, and plopped down in the seat. Then, she gave Luna a wry smile. "Thank you so much for looking after me, Director Luna."

Luna frowned and shot her a glance but said nothing in response. Instead, she turned around and entered her office.

To her surprise, Alice immediately got up and followed her into the room. She closed the door behind her and said coldly, "Luna."

Luna turned around and raised her eyebrows questioningly. "Is something the matter?"

"Neil and Nellie. One of them is adopted, right?" Luna frowned. "Why are you suddenly asking me this?"

"Just tell me yes or no." Alice exhaled and lowered her voice before saying, "Just now, when I was in Joshua's office, he asked me if I was sure I had given birth to two children."

Luna's breath caught in her throat as soon as she heard that.

Joshua would never ask a question like that out of the blue. Plus, he had taken her photo away...

Luna had a bad feeling about it. She bit down on her lip and stared at Alice. "What did you answer him?"

"I said I was sure, of course." Alice rolled her eyes. "Tell me: Did you or did you not adopt one of them? I always thought both Neil and Nellie belonged to you, but if one of them was adopted, you better tell me who it is!"

She narrowed her eyes angrily and added, "If Joshua finds out I'm not the real Luna Gibson, I'll make you and your children's lives a living hell!"

Luna heaved a deep sigh. "They're both my children.

Don't worry."

"That's good, then!" Alice rolled her eyes at Luna before she left the room, closing the door behind her.

Luna sat back down in her office chair and stared blankly in the direction of the door.

Joshua must have realized something. Otherwise, he would not have asked Alice a question like that.

Luna wrapped her arms around herself when, all of a sudden, she felt a chill run down her entire body.

If Joshua found out about Nigel's existence...

Luna did not even dare imagine what would happen next.

If Joshua found out about Nigel, she would have nothing to fight for anymore.

Luna continued to feel dazed the entire morning. She was terrified that Joshua would summon her into his office and demand to know why she had kept one of her children secret.

After what seemed like forever, she made it to noon. Luna let out a sigh and started packing her things to head to lunch. All of a sudden, she received a call from Joshua.

"Come to my office," Joshua's steely voice rang out from the other end of the line. "I've asked a photo restoration specialist to fix the picture for you, but I have something to ask you."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 481

Although Luna had zero intentions to look for Joshua, she still went upstairs and knocked on his room door.

"Enter, " came Joshua's emotionless voice from the room.

Luna took a deep breath, pushed the door open, and entered.
"Mr. Lynch."

Joshua flatly glanced at her before he gestured with his hands.
"Take a seat."

"I won't be sitting. " Luna took a deep breath, her gaze calm. "It's lunchtime. Please try to make this short, Mr. Lynch."

Of course, she only said that in fear Joshua had realized the whole Nigel problem, yet he still wanted to keep her in suspense.

At that point, she no longer had the power to change anything.

If Joshua truly realized Nigel's existence, she only hoped that he would be done with it quickly instead of prolonging it.

To Joshua, however, it seemed like she was throwing a tantrum.

He gazed at her with his deep eyes. "Are you still angry about the incident this morning?"

Indeed, Alice had crossed the line that morning, and he had only lightly chided her for it.

After all, it was his company and Alice was his wife. He had to spare her some embarrassment.

Luna lifted her head and looked at him. "Didn't you say that the photo has been repaired? Is there anything else?"

Joshua furrowed her brows. He did not further harp on her attitude problem and passed her the repaired photo.

Luna accepted it with both hands slightly trembling. There was no longer any trace of damage on the place where Alice's high heels once stepped on.

Moreover, to make the photo look better, the photo restoration specialist even treated Nigel's face in the photo. That way, Nigel's face has a tint of rosiness on his face, and he looked even more like Neil.

Luna held the photo and felt emotions bubbling in her chest. Nigel looked like this before, and he once was an active, carefree, and healthy boy like Neil.

Once he got sick, everything changed.

"I do have something to ask you about the photo."

Joshua sat down on his chair. "When I stayed over at your place at Swan Lake Residences the last time, I also saw a heavy photo album with Neil in a similar hospital gown. After looking at the album, I even brought Neil over to the hospital for a check-up. The results showed that he has no sickness at all, so I believed you that he was only staying in the hospital because of the flu."

Then, Joshua got up and took the photo from Luna. He pointed at the wristband Nigel was wearing in the photo.

"If he only had the flu, why is he in the hematology department?"

Luna's breath stopped.

She bit her lips and subconsciously glanced at the photo.

The wristband on Nigel's wrist did indeed say the hematology department.

Previously, when they unintentionally took this photo, Nigel learned how to Photoshop to get rid of those words.

Back then, Neil and Nellie even praised his thoroughness.

Alas, the hematology department was right there, blatantly shown in the photo.

"The photo restoration specialist was the one who restored it."

Joshua seemed to have seen through her confusion. Joshua's gaze was calm. "He said that this photo has signs of it being Photoshopped, so I got him to try to restore it. That was when I saw these unbelievable words."

Then, Joshua looked at Luna closely with his deep gaze. He seemingly wanted to read her mind. "Why did you send Neil to the hematology department, even though you said that he only caught the small flu?"

Luna closed her eyes.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 482

After a long while, Luna took a deep breath and smiled.

"I just made a big deal out of it, really."

Joshua raised his eyebrows wordlessly as he studied her expression.

Luna chuckled lightly. "Neil once had a nosebleed from the flu. I saw how many leukemia patients were eventually diagnosed

because of unstoppable bleeding from the nose, and I, worried that he'd end up like that, sent him straight to the hematology department to have a check-up. In the end, it was determined that he only had the flu. It was just a scare."

Luna pretended to shrug relaxedly. "Many people get admitted into the hospital due to the flu in the winter, so the doctor made us stay in the hematology department."

Joshua squinted his eyes. "That's all?"

"Of course. It's that simple." Luna chuckled lightly. She snatched the photo from Joshua, turned around, and left.

Joshua remained seated in the same spot as he squinted at Luna's leaving form.

The photo restoration specialist's questions rang in his ears...

"Why was the department's name the only thing Photoshopped? Were they trying to hide something?"

Joshua closed his eyes shut depressingly.

If it was like what Luna said, that it was just some misunderstanding, there was no need to Photoshop off the hematology department. If anyone were to ask about it, she could have just casually explained it.

The complete opposite happened.

Joshua opened his eyes. He picked up Neil's last health check-up report once again and flipped through it.

What on earth were Luna and Neil hiding?

During lunch, Luna casually ordered something to eat in distraction.

After lunch, she initially wanted to return to the office to take a nap. However, she did not expect that the moment she entered the design department, she bumped into Natasha and Joseph Gibson.

At that moment, the husband and wife duo were sitting next to Alice on each side, watching her eagerly eat the food that they brought for her.

"Alice, how does it taste? These are all your favorite foods."

"We barely paid attention to you back then, Alice. It's so rare of you to not only not bear us any grudges, but you also got Mr. Lynch to help us."

"What do you want to eat tomorrow, Alice? Let us know, and we'll make them for you."

Luna slightly furrowed her eyebrows as she listened to Natasha and Joseph currying favors.

Alice, at that moment, was using her past face and identity. Seeing how eager Natasha and Joseph were toward her, Luna had mixed feelings.

At that moment, Alice looked up and immediately noticed Luna by the entrance.

Thus, she smiled and greeted loudly, "Hello, Director Luna! Have you had lunch? Why don't you come over and join us? Come have a taste of my parents' cooking! "

Luna furrowed her brows.

Before she could say anything, however, Natasha harrumphed coldly, "She's not worthy of our food. "

"Yes, yes, Alice. Your mother specially prepared this for you."

"Mom, Dad..." Alice smiled halfheartedly and looked at Luna. Then, she looked at Natasha and Joseph.

"You might not know this, but Luna, though with parents, never cared much for her from a young age. They don't even like her. She has a younger sister at home, but her parents only had her younger sister in their eyes. They never once paid attention to her.

Although her mother knew what she liked to eat, she rarely made it for her. Such a poor thing, right?"

Natasha rolled her eyes at Luna upon Alice's words. " She must've brought it upon herself. Perhaps her parents weren't wrong, too. A b*tch like her deserved it ! "

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 483

Luna secretly clenched her fists.

Alice mocked her by saying—right at Joseph's and Natasha's faces—that her parents barely cared about her, but the couple kept agreeing with her, saying that Luna deserved her parents not liking her.

The scene felt awfully comical and ironic to her.

She took a deep breath, walked past them, and headed straight to her office.

The moment her hand touched the doorknob, Alice laughed a little from behind. "Ms. Luna, are you not joining us? My mom made a lot of good food, and they used to be my favorite. I can't even finish them! "

Her words were like a sharp knife that stabbed Luna's heart violently.

Back when she was still Luna Gibson, Natasha and Joseph played favoritism. No matter what, they would always let Aura pick first.

Even meals.

Other than when she was sick, Natasha would rarely make the food she liked when she wanted them.

It was only when Aura could not return from overseas did this husband-and -wife pair realized that they still had another daughter.

Alas, they showered their love and attention to a person who assumed her identity.

Luna took a deep breath and scoffed with her back facing Alice, "Since your parents so thoughtfully prepared the food for you, you should just enjoy it. Don't let them down."

She finally turned the doorknob and entered her office.

Alice slightly squinted her eyes as she gazed at Luna's back and smiled rather smugly. Although Luna might seem calm and collected, her stiffened back sold her out when she spoke.

As she took a bite of her food, Alice turned to grin at Natasha. "Mom, can you bring food to the office more often?"

Natasha was surprised and delighted to hear her request. "Of course! I'm genuinely sorry that I used to only care about Aura and neglected your feelings... I'm really happy that you're willing to eat the food I make! "

Natasha then walked to Alice and held her in a tight embrace, though it was met with a vague indistinct detest in Alice's eyes.

After a while, Alice lifted her head and looked at Natasha. "Mom, don't be too happy just yet. We'll spend a lot of time together..."

She then glanced at Luna's office door. "There are more things for you to be happy about."

Work started to get busy.

For the next half of the month, Luna was as busy as a bee. The first thing she did the moment she opened her eyes was work. When she closed her eyes to rest for the night, all she thought of was the design sketches.

Joshua ordered her to complete the designing of an entire series of jewelry within a month and spend another three months realizing the designs to fruition while working with the factory.

He wanted to debut the series of jewelry in Banyan City in four months' time...

Time was short, and she had a lot to do.

In just half a month, her design sketches started to take shape. In the next half of the month, she needed to fine-tune the details.

However, Luna did not expect that someone would voice out while she was sharing her hard work for the past half a month with her staff.

"Director Luna." It was Courtney Johnson, Joshua's previous secretary. Because of how much she looked like Luna Gibson, she was assigned to be Joshua's personal secretary.

Later on, when Alice returned, she felt that she was no match for Alice, so she asked to be transferred to the design department, working as an assistant for her senior, Shannon.

At that moment, Courtney took her phone out and showed a design sketch on her phone.

"This went viral last night. It's a rough draft of a genius jewelry designer by the name of Mo Sam, and he's only seventeen. He came up with quite a few great jewelry designs.

"He posted the rough draft last night using his private account. He wanted to use this to entice others. He said that he'll be finishing the rough draft into a full-fledged design sketch, hoping that investors would be interested in him."

Then, she furrowed her brows and looked at Luna, who was sitting at the main seat in the meeting.

"The rough draft that Mo posted online is the exact same as yours, Director Luna."

The entire conference room was instantly quiet.

Courtney then scorned, "I've been in the design department for quite some time already, and for the past half a month, you've been coming in early and working overtime. I could see how hard you worked, but after half a month, you showed us someone else's rough draft? It only takes about half a day to copy the entire thing, right?"

"What nonsense are you talking about?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 484

Shannon glared at her and snatched Courtney's phone.

She looked at Luna's first draft projected on the huge screen before studying Mo Sam's draft.

She went silent.

It was too...similar. Almost exactly the same.

At the same time, the others in the conference room started searching on their phones for Mo Sam, the talented genius.

The moment they saw it, everyone was silent.

Luna accepted the phone from her assistant, Arianna next to her. She furrowed her brows tightly.

The draft was the exact same as her design sketch. Even the details were the same.

She had been a designer for so many years. The number of times she encountered plagiarism was quite a number, too.

Nonetheless, this was the first time that the plagiarized draft was published one day before her, and in such a public manner to boot.

She squinted her eyes. Mo Sam's intentions were clear. He wanted to steal the copyright to her designs right from the beginning at the draft stage.

"Director Luna, what is happening?"

Just when everyone was discussing among themselves in hush tones, Alice, from a distance, blinked her huge eyes and asked innocently, "You've been working so hard, and we're all witnesses to that. Why would your draft be the same as a seventeen-year-old genius?"

Luna slightly furrowed her brows. Her instinct told her that this matter was related to Alice.

She thought it was strange at first, too. Alice would not be happy unless she upset Luna every day. Other than getting Natasha and Joseph to bring her food, how could Alice not have done anything for the past half month?

It turned out she was waiting for Luna all along.

Plagiarism.

It was indeed where it hurt the most for the designer.

Luna squinted, scrutinizing Alice as she did. "Mrs. Lynch, why do you think that is?"

Alice paused for a while before a smile broke out on her face. "I don't think there could be such a coincidence in this world, right? Between you and the talented genius, one of you must have copied the other."

She looked at Luna and blinked. "Director Luna, do you think what I said is right?"

Luna narrowed her eyes a little, saying nothing. "However..."

Courtney, by the side, furrowed her brows. "Mo Sam has been living in Europa since young, and he's still in Europa. He doesn't even have any relatives here in

Banyan City. How could he have copied Director Luna's design? On the contrary, he posted his drafts online, so copying them would be easy..."

Upon hearing Courtney's words, the entire conference room was in silence.

Everyone looked at Luna cautiously.

Amid the dead silence, Luna smiled and put the phone down. She stood up graciously.

"I know what you all mean. With all the proof right in front of your eyes, you think that I copied this prodigy's work, yes?"

No one said anything, but that meant they agreed tacitly.

Luna smiled. "Since everyone thinks that way, I could only get Mr. Lynch to help bring justice."

Luna's voice was tranquil as she spoke, "The designer posted the drafts last night, so I'd have to check all those that entered my office and had touched my designs previously starting from last night.

"Perhaps none of you know this, but to prevent anybody else from tinkering with my designs, I've added a few small surveillance cameras near where I work."

Then, Luna turned to look at Alice. "It'd be pointless to only destroy the office's surveillance. I'll find out who did this."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 485

Joshua was looking at Nellie's most recent sketches when Luna called him.

He had to admit that Nellie was talented, but talent was not enough. If Nellie did not have such good guidance from Luna, she would not have been able to design such exceptional sketches at such a tender age of six.

However, even if Nellie's designs were pretty, she still lacked a certain charm compared to Luna's.

When his phone rang, he swept a glance at the name on his phone. He picked up the call in a rather pleasant mood. "Are you done with the meeting?"

Nellie said—"

"Mr. Lynch," Luna sounded extremely serious. " Please come to the design department immediately."

Joshua's brows knitted together the instant he picked up on her urgency. "What happened?" he spoke in a low tone.

"Something happened." Luna took a deep breath. "My designs have been plagiarized."

Joshua shuddered a little.

After a while, he turned off his computer. "I'll come down now."

Joshua hung up and went downstairs.

The conference room in the design department downstairs was noisy. The moment Joshua entered,

Alice immediately welcomed him.

She grabbed his arm and laid her head on his chest. " Joshua, you're here."

Joshua furrowed his brows almost indistinctly. Then, he looked at Luna. "What's going on?"

Luna took a deep breath and roughly recounted how her designs and Mo Sam's designs were similar.

"The problem now is that the design sketch that I've been working overtime for the past half a month might be plagiarizing someone else's work."

Joshua sneered. "Impossible."

Joshua had seen Luna's designs previously; from the conception all the way to the rough draft. Not only had he seen it, but he had also given her some of his suggestions.

This designer, called Mo Sam... How much talent did he have to come up with the same design as Luna?

"I think so, too. That's why I called you here for your help, Mr. Lynch."

Luna took a deep breath. She turned to look at Arianna. "Bring me my laptop from my office."

Arianna nodded and immediately left.

A few minutes later, Luna's laptop was placed on the conference room table.

"As I said just now, I've secretly installed a few hidden cameras in my office. Regarding this designer, Mo Sam, the lines on his drafts are almost the same as mine. I believe that he copied mine. If it was, someone must've taken a photo of it. I want to see who did it."

Then, she swept Alice a cold glance and looked at Courtney, too. "I want to see who entered my office and took my photos."

She immediately clicked on the recording of the hidden cameras. Nigel was the one that prepared all these hidden cameras for her, just to prevent things like this from happening.

At that time, Luna thought that Nigel was worrying too much. After all, she was in Joshua's company, and no one would dare to cause trouble.

She grew grateful for Nigel's thoughtfulness already. The video from the cameras started to play.

Luna fast-forwarded it, and after going through a few days' worth of footage, the suspect finally appeared.

It was a middle-aged man. When everyone was having a lunch break, he snuck into Luna's office, found her drafts, and took a photo of every draft carefully. However, the camera did not capture his face. The entire conference room was deathly quiet.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 486

Everyone eyed the screen, wanting to catch a good look at this person's face.

How could it be him?

Luna sat on her chair as her entire body stiffened. It was as if she was frozen on the spot.

She did not need to have a closer at the footage like the others to know who the middle-aged man was.

"It's Mrs. Lynch's father, Joseph Gibson! "

Shannon was the first to recognize the man in the footage.

She slapped her thighs. "Mr. Gibson has been coming over with his wife to bring food for Mrs. Lynch! Also, he's been extremely unhappy with Director Luna! "

Shannon subconsciously glanced at Arianna, who was by the side. "I even heard him badmouthing Director Luna. You heard it too, right?"

Arianna immediately nodded. "Yes! Mr. Gibson has always been bad -mouthing Director Luna, calling her a b*tch or something like that."

Joshua's brows knitted tightly together as he turned to look at Alice.

He could bear with the couples' hostility toward Luna, and he also could deal with them constantly speculating Luna's identity. This time, however, Luna's work had to do with the future of the Lynch

Group in the jewelry industry!

If news were to spread about plagiarism just on the rough draft, Lynch Group would no longer be able to survive in the industry!

"Uh..." Alice's face turned miserably pale. Plastering an innocent expression, she lifted her head and looked at Joshua. "Joshua, I...had no idea about this."

Then, she started to wipe her tears. "I've always been asking Mom and Dad to treat Luna friendlier.

You two have no relationship, but they won't listen to me. They'd even do such a thing to hurt the Lynch Group because of this misunderstanding..."

Crying and sniffing, Alice turned to look at Shannon. "How would we usually settle this?"

Shannon furrowed her brows. "Most of the time, they'd be arrested and brought to court. This is a malicious theft and a disclosure of confidential data, so imprisonment is involved."

Alice bit her lips. She raised her head and looked at Joshua with teary eyes. "Joshua, although Joseph Gibson is my father, he's made such a grave mistake. I'm his daughter, but I'm also the wife of the Lynch Group's president. I can't let my own family do such a thing, so..."

Alice swept a glance at Luna's pale face before she seemed to drop a hefty ultimatum as she turned to Joshua and said, "I support in dealing with this matter fairly. Make a police report and arrest him."

Luna closed her eyes.

Before seeing the surveillance footage, she always

thought that Alice was trying to make things difficult for her with the infringement of copyrights, but the moment she saw Joseph appearing in the video, she instantly understood.

Alice's intention was not plagiarism, but on Joseph Gibson.

Luna took a deep breath, raised her head, and looked at Alice's face closely.

This was the same face she had six years ago.

Before Aura left, she said that she was Joseph's child with another mistress.

Luna still had another younger sister from the same parents.

All this while, Luna thought that Alice should be that sister. Otherwise, how could someone in this world have such a similar face as hers?

At that moment, Luna was looking at Alice's face closely. She wanted to see who on earth she was.

If Alice was her sister, then she had completely lost her mind and heart in trying to deal with her.

If Alice was not her sister, then...

Luna closed her eyes. "Don't make a police report first. I want to see him."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 487

Alice pretended to be worried. "Joshua, I think you should...still make a police report."

She clutched her chest, and her eyes reddened. "I'm heartbroken that my own father would do such a thing. If I knew earlier that he'd do this, I would've stopped him."

Alice then looked at Luna meaningfully. "You know that Director Luna always had problems with me. "

Sniffing, she then shakily added, "When the plagiarism incident first came to light, Director Luna had been eyeing me suspiciously."

Alice looked at Joshua with teary eyes. "I `m afraid that Director Luna wants to meet with my father alone so she can force my father to drag people who had nothing to do with this incident into this."

Finally, Alice took a deep breath. "I still think we should let the cops handle this right away. What do you think?"

Joshua said nothing.

Taking a seat, he eyed Alice with his deep, endless eyes before looking at Luna.

In the end, he said flatly, "Alice is right. Before we clarify this matter, no one should see Joseph Gibson alone, whether it be Luna or Alice."

Joshua waved his hand at Lucas. "Let the police handle this."

At that moment, Luna's heart wrenched tightly.

Although she was displeased with Natasha and Joseph playing favoritism and their reaction toward her death, they were still her biological parents.

Although she had said many times that she wanted to cut off ties with them and not care about them anymore, the fact remained that she lived with her parents for zo years, calling them her parents throughout those times.

If Joseph ended up imprisoned, he would be in for many years for leaking such a huge piece of confidential information.

He was a scumbag, having a mistress behind Natasha's back for so many years. He deserved to go to prison.

Still, what would happen to Natasha after that?

Luna shut her eyes. The second Lucas was about to exit the door, she called after him.

She lifted her head and looked at Joshua. "Mr. Lynch, is there no way around this?"

Joshua raised his eyebrows and looked at her in surprise. "Luna, Joseph stole your design. If he's not brought to justice, there'd be no way to prove that Mo Sam stole your designs. Without proof that he stole your designs, that means that you'd be the one who could be plagiarizing his work. You won't be able to continue making a living in the jewelry world in the future."

Joshua succinctly clarified the impact of this incident to Luna.

Luna bit her lips. "I know, but..."

Luna began to sniffle. "Joseph Gibson is still Alice's father and your father-in-law, after all. W—We...can think of another way to prove that Mo Sam stole my designs."

Joshua looked at Luna. His sharp eyes seemed to be able to pierce through her soul, reading her deepest, darkest secrets.

Luna looked away, not daring to meet his gaze. "I only feel that—"

"This isn't how you should act toward someone who violated yours and the company's interest. You're not an indecisive person."

Joshua directly took a jab where it hurt the most. "What on earth are you thinking about? Why the sudden kindheartedness?"

Luna gasped. She took a deep breath, turned around, and faced Joshua's gaze fearlessly. "Mr. Lynch, I only feel that as humans, we can't be so ruthless. No matter what, he's your father-in-law. Even if he had made a mistake, it is your family matter. If you want to get the police involved and if he goes to prison, have you ever thought about your mother-in-law, who always had a heart problem? What would happen to her?"

Finally, Luna threw the documents on the table. "Forget about it. In the end, this is your problem with the Gibsons. I'm only a victim. What right do I have to speak up?"

Luna stormed off and left everyone in the conference room in a daze. Clearly...

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 488

Clearly, Luna was the victim while Alice was Joseph's daughter.

Why were their roles swapped at that moment?

Joshua narrowed his eyes on Luna's leaving form, his gaze murky with confusion.

"Joshua..." Alice sighed. She walked over and grabbed his hand. "Why is Luna so concerned with our family matters? Since when is she so enthusiastic about us?"

"I'm surprised, too." Joshua retracted his gaze, his voice flat when he spoke. "Luna has always been professional in her work. I can't get used to her suddenly bringing in family as an excuse."

Then, he looked at Alice. "Just like how you used to be concerned and worry about your family unconditionally, yet you'd suddenly choose to punish them. It's baffling."

Alice's expressions changed a little.

After a while, she bit her lip and looked a little embarrassed. "I'm doing this just for you..."

She cautiously looked at Joshua's expressions. "T— Then...what are you planning to do with my father? "

There was a hint of hesitation in Joshua's gaze for a moment. "We'll go according to plan. Make a police report."

Coming out from Lynch Group, Luna instantly hailed a taxi back to Swan Lake Residences.

Once she got back, she saw Theo's door next door was opened. Theo was making prosciutto at home.

Upon hearing the elevator door open, Theo immediately rushed out. He smiled and looked at Luna. "Come, I'll treat you to some good food."

Luna furrowed her brows and rejected. "I'm not in a good mood."

"I know you're not in a good mood, so that's why I made you a feast."

Theo smiled and dragged Luna into his living room. " When you came out from Lynch Group, Nigel called me and updated me on what happened."

Luna paused a little.

She subconsciously lowered her head and grabbed the dangling necklace on her neck.

"Did you secretly turn the necklace on behind my back again? Eavesdropping on our meeting?"

After a long while, only then did Nigel's depressed voice come through, "It's not like I'll reveal the ongoings during the meeting."

Luna was silent.

Nigel was never an immature kid. At that moment, he was speaking to her in a relaxed, teasing, and cheeky way. He was obviously trying to cheer her up.

However, she could not smile at all.

"It looks like Neil would be better at cheering people up."

After a long while, Nigel, on the other end of the call, sighed. "I saw the design that Mo Sam published this morning. I only opened it because I was worried for you. Mommy, I'd never try to invade your privacy."

Theo came out from the kitchen with dishes of food. "You're her son. Even if you invade her privacy, she won't do anything to you. Furthermore, your mother likes to keep things to herself. If we did nothing, she would've kept all her troubles to herself."

Then, Theo passed the utensils to Luna. "Eat up. We'll think of a way after eating."

Luna picked the utensils up and looked at the feast of dishes on the table. She somehow did not have the appetite.

Seeing her disheartened look, Theo furrowed his brows and put his utensils down. "Luna, I know that you can't bear to see your own father go to prison, but have you ever thought that if Joshua

were to tolerate his wrongdoing this time, he might do it again? By then, the loss that the Lynch Group would incur isn't something that you can bear. It doesn't matter whether your father has been instigated by Alice or not. Since he made such a mistake, he has to bear the consequences."

Luna bit her lip. She wanted to say something else when her phone rang.

It was from Lucas.

"Luna." His voice sounded a little troubled. "Joseph has been arrested. His wife has passed out and has been sent to the hospital. "Mrs. Lynch wanted me to tell you that since you're so kindhearted, you should perhaps pay her a visit.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 489

Luna did not go to the hospital to visit Natasha. Instead, she took a taxi to the police station.

The officer on duty turned her down in a righteous manner. "The suspect is still under interrogation, and no one can see him."

"When can I see him, then?"

The officer looked at his watch. "At least another three to four hours."

"Three or four hours, right?" Luna sat down on the bench. "I'll wait."

The officer looked at her in surprise but said nothing as he then left.

Luna sat on the bench from the afternoon, all the way until night fell in the evening.

Around six in the evening, the officer finally approached her. "You can see him now."

Luna thanked the officer and followed along to the visitation room, much to Joseph's visible surprise.

"I heard that a woman has been waiting to see me for the entire afternoon. I never thought that it was you."

Then, Joseph sneered. "Director Luna, why are you so anxious to see me? Are you here to laugh at me?"

When Alice got him to steal Luna's designs, he long expected this day to come. He just did not expect

that it would come so quickly.

Before the plagiarizing incident could take off online, Joshua had already sent him to prison.

"Yes, I'm here to laugh at you." Luna took a deep breath. Her eyes were filled with a little more mockery.

"The Gibsons were also once businessmen. Although the business wasn't too big, Mr. Gibson, you were once a boss. You willingly leaked confidential information of other businesses even though you knew that it was wrong."

Joseph swept her a cold glance. "Who knew that you'd intentionally do a background check of my past, Director Luna. Are you happy now? You almost successfully manage to seduce my daughter's husband, even sending her father to prison. Are you happy seeing her being sad?"

Joseph harrumphed coldly. "You won't get what you want, Luna! Joshua loves my daughter deeply. No matter how pretty you are or what tactics you use, it'll be in vain! "

Luna gasped. She changed into a more comfortable position and leaned back on the chair. "Do you genuinely think Joshua likes Luna Gibson? Have you forgotten how lowly Luna Gibson was when she married Joshua? She didn't want anything. She even went against all your wishes just so she could marry Joshua.

"However, Joshua gave her nothing in return. Even when your company went bankrupt, Joshua has never helped you out financially. Luna was the one that helped to pay your debts bit by bit, using her scholarship money and the money she earned by secretly selling designs online."

Luna sneered, looking at Joseph's face gradually getting paler. "How could you be so sure that Joshua loves her?"

Joseph's wound-up emotions broke loose at Luna's words. He glared at Luna and gritted his teeth.

"What on earth do you want? My eldest daughter is pitiful enough! Ever since she was young, we only spoiled our youngest daughter. We neglected Luna's feelings and missed out on giving her a good childhood.

"Now, her two children aren't even close to her while Joshua is being hot and cold toward her. She's miserable enough. Will you only be happy, ripping her off of her last chance at happiness?"

Luna shuddered violently at Joshua's words.

Ever since she was young. This was the first time she heard Joseph saying how he was sorry for her and how he regretted his actions.

She bit her lip and looked at Joseph coldly. "Although Joshua wants to bring you to court for leaking confidential information, you stole my designs anyway. If I don't want to pursue this matter, you won't need to go to prison." Upon hearing Luna's words, Joseph's eyes brightened a little.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 490

Joseph looked at Luna agitatedly. "In that case, Ms. Luna, will you let me go?"

"Sure," Luna closed her eyes. "but I need you to answer two questions."

"First." Luna took a deep breath and looked at the white-haired middle-aged man sitting opposite her closely.

"Before Aura left for overseas, she told me something. She said that she wasn't Natasha's child. She was a child you had with another woman. You sent the daughter you had with Natasha to the orphanage and brought Aura back instead. Is this true?"

The room was instantly in dead silence.

Joseph lifted his head and looked at Luna in shock. He opened and closed his mouth many times, but

could not form his words.

After a long time, he said in a hoarse voice, "Why did she tell you this?"

Luna closed her eyes and inhaled deeply. "You only need to answer whether this is true or not. If I were to tell this to Alice, based on her character and how kind she is, do you think she'll

want to rescue you after knowing that you abandoned her own younger sister?"

Joseph's face lost all of its colors. He was paler than the wall behind him.

After another round of long silence, Joseph closed his eyes. "This is a long story, but I've indeed swapped children."

Luna's heart hurt terribly.

A mistress' child. A mistress' child took over the affection of her biological mother for more than 20 years.

Even up to that moment, her mother, Natasha, was still kept in the dark.

That afternoon, she even got too agitated over the scumbag that secretly swapped her daughter away. She passed out and was hospitalized.

Luna bit her lip harshly as she glared daggers at Joseph. "Don't you think that it was heartless of you doing that? What do you treat your wife as?"

Joseph bit his lip timidly, not saying anything for a very long time.

In the end, he took a deep breath and closed his eyes.

"I'm going to prison anyway, so there's no reason for me to continue hiding this. Actually..."

Joseph opened his eyes.

“Although Aura isn’t Natasha’s daughter, neither is she mine. She’s the daughter of a rich foreigner.

Back then, when I heard that the rich foreigner was coming to pick their daughter up, I had the idea. I had no ability to let my daughter have a better life...”

Luna gasped. “So you swapped your daughter with someone else’s daughter? Is that it?”

Joseph said nothing.

Luna closed her eyes. This man in front of her was her father. For many years. Joseph was always a mature and great person in her eyes.

However, at that moment, everything was ruined. “Natasha doesn’t know about this, even until now. ”

Joseph lowered his head. “Even if she does someday, she won’t blame me. After all, our daughter is having a great life now. I’ve been blaming myself all these years, but it has already happened. Other than treating Aura better, I have no other way...”

Then, Joseph lifted his head. “I have answered your question, Ms. Luna. What’s the other question?” Luna hesitated for a while. She smiled. “The other question is...you said that you and Natasha were regretful of your actions toward Luna Gibson. Were the both of you truly regretful and guilty, or are you just trying to please Alice to get protection from Joshua?”

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn’t Easy chapter 491

Luna’s mind was dizzy as she exited the police station, yet Joseph’s words haunted her ears, still

"We're very remorseful. All this while, we thought that Luna won't need us to worry about her, seeing how mature and capable she is.

"We want to make it up to her. Me, stealing your drafts this time, was just an attempt to make her happy.

"You previously asked me why I still do it, knowing the consequences. That's because I'm willing to risk it for her. If Alice wants the stars in the skies, we'd try our very best to give it to her, seeing how we disregarded her badly in the past..."

Luna looked up at the dark skies. Suddenly, she felt like crying.

Why did none of her parents or Joshua care for her or showed her any ounce of warmth when she was still Luna Gibson?

Why did they only start to adore her, willing to do everything for her when she became just Luna and Alice became Luna Gibson?

In the end, she merely lacked luck. Was she fated to never experience their tender love?

"Luna." Suddenly, a male voice rang in her ears.

Luna came to her senses and subconsciously looked in the direction in which the voice came from.

Lucas was standing next to the familiar black Maserati, smiling and waving at her.

In the car next to him, Joshua was sitting in the back seat with his head lowered and a cold expression. She did not know what he was looking at.

Luna hesitated for a while before walking toward the vehicle.

"I never thought to see you here."

Lucas smiled and looked at Luna before sneakily went in closer and said into her ear, "When I called you this afternoon, Mrs. Lynch was next to me, so I

can't say much to you. Have you visited Mrs. Gibson in the hospital?"

Luna shook her head. "I came here straight away."

Lucas nodded. "That makes sense, too. Mrs. Gibson was just too agitated. The source of the problem is here."

He got closer to her once more, wanting to say something when the car door opened.

Joshua elegantly closed the documents that were on his lap and shot Luna a cold glance.

"Get in."

Lucas winked at Luna, then he turned around and headed to the driver's seat.

Luna sighed and opened the front passenger seat door.

Before she could even get in the front passenger seat, Joshua said coldly from the back seat, "Will I bite?"

Luna shuddered a little.

After a while, she laughed bitterly and shut the front passenger seat door. She obediently went around to the back seat, entered the car, and shut the door.

The car has become an enclosed space.

Even if she was not near to him, Luna could still feel the aloofness and coldness emitting from Joshua nearby.

In the end, Luna could not help but take a deep breath and asked, "Are you really planning to take Joseph to court?"

Joshua swept her a glance. "Why? Are you going to say that I'm heartless again?"

Luna pursed her lips and said nothing. Joshua gazed into the distance. His voice was low and distant. "I'm the president of the Group."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 492

"If I can't do it without bringing my personal feelings to work, how can I ask my employees not to play favorites?"

Luna bit her lip. She understood Joshua's insistence, but it was just...

Luna turned to look at him. "Mr. Lynch, if I said that I don't wish for Joseph Gibson to be in prison for too long, will you think I'm being unreasonable?"

Joshua raised his eyes and looked in front. His voice was flat as he remarked, "Joseph Gibson has two daughters. One of them was Aura, who almost killed you and the children a few times. The other is my wife, Alice, who always had a problem with you."

He turned and glanced at Luna coldly, examining Luna's face. "All that, and you're extremely tolerant of Joseph and Natasha. You won't resist no matter how they scold you.

“If you didn’t install hidden cameras before this incident, your future in the jewelry design industry would be completely destroyed.”

Joshua squinted. His gaze was so sharp that he could penetrate through all her pretense, reaching for her deepest, darkest secret.

Luna looked away, not daring to meet his gaze. This man was still like before—dangerous and perceptive.

Her every single action, no matter how small, could not be hidden.

The atmosphere in the car was so quiet that it was rather strange.

Joshua leaned back gracefully on the leather seat as he looked at Luna’s side-profile.

“Give me a reason why you want to let Joseph Gibson go.”

Luna stopped breathing.

A reason...

Would the fact that she was Joseph’s biological daughter count as a reason? How about the fact that Joseph and Natasha have truly repented? Did that count as a reason?

As for why she wanted to let Joseph Gibson go, she had a million reasons, but she could not say a single one to Joshua.

After a long time, Luna sniffled as she peered at the dark scenery outside. “I think that parents can be forgiven even if they do

something wrong because of the love they have for their children.”

Luna turned to look at Joshua and smiled. “Perhaps it’s because I’ve been Nellie and Neil’s adoptive mother for six years, so I can understand what it feels like to be as parents. If Nellie grew up and

encountered such an incident, perhaps I’d do it, too. Is this reason enough for you?”

Joshua narrowed his eyes. He looked at her closely with his deep gaze.

After a long while, he smiled. “It’s not enough to convince me, but it is one reason.”

Joshua closed his eyes and leaned back on the leather seat rather exhaustedly. He raised his hands and rubbed the middle of his brows. “Only the people in the meeting today know about the plagiarism incident. After all, this incident didn’t incur any economic loss. If I were to forbid the people today from talking about it, I could let my father-in-law go and pretend that nothing had happened.

However...”

Joshua’s voice lowered. “Someone posted a video of the meeting you had with the design department today online. In one afternoon, it spread like wildfire.”

Luna’s body instantly stiffened.

She has been waiting to see Joseph at the police station for the entire afternoon. How could she have known...

When she came to her senses, Luna immediately took her phone and searched for the video.

Before she could find it, Joshua flatly said, "The person that took the video didn't post the full content of the meeting. Only the part where you presented your design."

Joshua opened his eyes and glanced at Luna. "If we don't properly deal with this video, you'd most probably be accused of plagiarizing. You'll never be able to design jewelry, which you love, for the rest of your life after this.

"If you want to clear your name, you have to publish everything that Joseph did. He still has to go to prison."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 493

Luna closed her eyes.

She had reasons to suspect that Alice was probably the one that posted the video online.

Alice was deliberately attempting to put Luna in a dilemma.

On one hand was her career, which she has worked hard for many years and wanted to continue doing so for the rest of her life.

On the other hand were her biological parents, who raised her for the past 20 years.

Both were equally important to Luna.

Luna secretly clenched her fists tightly. She had been too naive. She was so engrossed in her work for the past half a month that she almost forgot Alice, a ticking time bomb, was near her.

After a long while, the car stopped.

Joshua's voice rang in her ears. "Get down." Only then did Luna open her eyes.

She opened the car door and realized that Joshua had sent her back to Swan Lake Residences.

"Thank you, " she thanked him and left.

"Luna." The moment she turned around, Joshua called after her gently.

She furrowed her brows and turned back subconsciously. "Is there anything I can help you with, Mr. Lynch?"

Joshua elegantly placed his hands on the leather seat. His gaze was calm. "Aren't you going to invite me up for a meal?"

Luna furrowed her brows.

Joshua might say that he wanted to head up for a meal, but once he was upstairs and alone with her, no one would be able to say what might happen.

Even if she was desperate to bear his child to cure Nigel, due to the complicated situation that day, she could not bring herself to be excited.

After a long while, Luna let out a long breath. "If the plagiarizing incident didn't happen today, I'm more than willing to invite you up for a meal to celebrate, Mr. Lynch, but now..."

Luna could not help but sneer. "Now that the Lynch Group's Director of Design is being under fire for plagiarism and the Lynch

Group's stock prices have been plummeting, I don't think you'd want to celebrate either, Mr. Lynch."

Joshua raised his eyebrows and smiled. "I never knew that you paid attention to Lynch Group's stock prices."

Luna smiled. "It's only normal that I do this."

In truth, Luna never paid attention to Lynch Group on the stock market. She only happened to see the news of Lynch Group's stock prices dropping while searching for the news of her plagiarizing.

Joshua touched his chin. "As for the dropping of the stock prices, I'm not worried. After all..." Joshua

looked at her calmly. "You'll help me earn it back."

"Thank you for your trust in me, Mr. Lynch." Luna chuckled gently. "But, if I can't fix this problem

right in front of me and if I can't ever design anymore, I don't think I '11 be able to earn it back for you."

Then, Luna turned and went upstairs.

Joshua sat in the car, looking at Luna's thin figure. His eyes darkened.

When she completely vanished within his sight. Lucas slowly turned his head around. "Sir, if this problem can't be settled, is it true that she won't be able to design in the future?"

Lucas still remembered that Luna had a hidden identity—Moon, the famous jewelry designer in Europa.

Her limited edition jewelry was worth more than a hundred million.

Would such a talented designer be disabled from designing for the rest of her life because of such a small matter?

Joshua leaned back in the back seat and closed his eyes.

Luna's talents and skills were outstanding.

In the incident where Joseph framed Luna, even his own daughter, Alice, agreed to take him to court and send him to prison to seek justice.

However, Luna's attitude toward this was obvious. She did not want Joseph to go to prison.

"I'll find another way."

Joshua took a deep breath and opened his eyes. He looked at Lucas. "I remember that you have a girlfriend?"

Lucas was stunned, but he immediately nodded. " Yes. We're getting married in three months."

Then, he seemed to have thought of something and turned around. "Sir, aren't we discussing Luna?" Why did he suddenly bring up his girlfriend?

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 494

Still at the back seat, Joshua's gaze darkened. "Don't you think that you've crossed the line with Luna?"

Lucas was stunned. Crossed the line? Had...he?

Seeing how dazed Lucas was, Joshua turned around and looked out of the window.

"Your excessive concerns with her. Also, just now at the police station, you were whispering closely into Luna's ears."

Lucas was stunned.

His slow brain spun quickly. Lucas finally knew the problem.

Was his boss...jealous?

Lucas cleared his throat and said, "Okay. I'll pay more attention to this in the future."

Joshua responded flatly and looked up at the apartment building.

The light in Luna's apartment had been switched on.

"Let's go."

Luna walked out of the elevator and had just taken out her keys when she noticed light coming from under the door.

She subconsciously furrowed her brows.

Was someone in her house? Was it Anne? She did give her a set of spare keys when she just moved into the apartment, after all.

The video online was spread all over the place that morning. Anne must have seen it, too. She most probably came to comfort her.

At that thought, Luna helplessly smiled. She opened the door, feeling slightly moved.

“Mommy! ”

“Mommy! ”

Once she opened the door, two small figures immediately pounced at her.

Neil and Nellie hugged each of her legs. They looked up at her with their adorable faces.

Nellie blinked her innocent huge eyes. “Mommy, you’re back so late! I almost fell asleep.”

Neil smiled and looked at Luna. “Mommy, Godmother and I made good food! We’ve been waiting for you for a long time! ”

Luna was stunned at this sudden surprise.

When she came to her senses, she excitedly hoisted Nellie up into her arms and grabbed Neil’s hand. “ Why did you all come?”

“How could we not come after such an incident?” Anne and John.

One of them was busy in the kitchen, while the other was busy setting the table up. “John sent me the video after seeing it this afternoon. Once I saw it, I knew that someone was trying to hurt you. You’re so amazing, you don’t need to plagiarize other people’s work! ”

Once she finished the last dish, Anne turned off the gas stove. She looked at Luna helplessly as she took off the apron, standing by the kitchen entrance.

“Is it Alice Gibson again?”

Luna furrowed her brows. She secretly swept a glance at John, who was still busy.

Anne knew about her worries, so she immediately pulled Luna into the bedroom. Before she closed the door, she reminded John, "John, go ahead and eat with the kids first. I'll have a talk with Luna."

Once the door was closed, Luna sighed and plopped herself onto the bed, lying down exhaustedly. "This time, it was my dad."

Anne's eyes widened. "Your dad?"

Luna smiled bitterly as she looked up at the ceiling. "After so many years, my parents finally realized that they treated me badly back then. They want to make it up to me now, but now, in their eyes, Alice is their daughter."

Anne was so shocked that she could barely say anything. "So, they helped Alice to go up against you?"

Luna closed her eyes and helplessly nodded. Anne was at a complete loss for words.

After a long while of silence, Luna opened her eyes. "Why did you bring Neil and Nellie?"

If she remembered correctly, after Nellie and Neil returned to Blue Bay Villa, they were well protected by Adrian's men. She would not be able to see them usually, even if she wanted to.

Anne pursed her lips. "It's thanks to Joshua—he was the one who contacted me. He said that you must be in a terrible mood after encountering such a thing. He also had me take those two here to surprise you so you won't be so sad."

Then, Anne suddenly thought of something. "He said he went to pick you up. Why did he not come back with you?"

Luna paused a little. The scene where Joshua was asking her to invite him up a moment ago appeared on her mind.

Did that mean that Joshua wanted to follow her upstairs because Anne and the kids were there?

She still thought that he might want to do things with her at such a time...

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 495

Anne did not notice the changes in Luna's expressions. She went to pour herself a glass of water, remarking as she drank, "Actually I feel that Joshua is very hard to read sometimes. After the video was posted online and it gained traction,

Lynch Group immediately sent out an announcement at first notice that the video is misleading.

"Not long after the notice, Joshua contacted me and told me about the incident. He said that you must be in a bad mood and told me to cheer you up."

Anne could not help but scoff, "If I didn't know that he was the scumbag that hurt you so much, I would've thought that he's a good person."

Luna secretly clenched her fists.

After a while, she got up and rushed to the balcony.

The place where the Maserati once stopped was already empty. Luna slapped her forehead in annoyance.

Joshua must have thought that she was nuts. He prepared a surprise for her, yet she refused to invite him up.

It was quite cold on the balcony.

In the cold night breeze, Luna took her phone out and dialed Joshua.

"Are you going to thank me?" came Joshua's first response the moment the call connected.

Luna was silent for a while before a feeble sigh escaped her lips. "Why didn't you tell me? I thought that..."

"You thought that I was going to do something to you?" said Joshua teasingly. "It's rare of you to think of this after such a terrible encounter."

Joshua's comment made Luna's face burn as if she had been slapped.

She sniffled, not wanting to continue such an awkward topic with him. "We haven't had our meals yet. Do you want to come?"

The call was paused for a while. After a long while, Joshua laughed in a low voice. "I gave you a chance to invite me up just now, but you didn't cherish it.

I'm on the way to visit Natasha. Alice is waiting for me at the entrance of the hospital."

Luna pursed her lips. "Okay."

The second before she hung up, Luna took a deep breath. "Thank you."

No matter what, Joshua was willing to go against the wishes of his elderly, letting Neil and Nellie come to visit her. It was good enough.

"Once you feel better, things will always work out," muttered Joshua gently, so softly that Luna thought she misheard him.

She leaned into the phone. "What did you say?"

"Nothing," a cold reply came from the other end, followed up by the busy beep.

Luna furrowed her brows and hung up.

When she returned to the dining table, Neil and Nellie had already started eating one-third of their meal.

Seeing her return, the two of them smiled and looked at her. "Mommy, come eat! Godmother's cooking tastes great!"

John and Anne, who were sitting next to them, smiled and looked at Luna. "Come, eat."

Luna sat on the chair and looked at the two adults and two kids. Her closest friends and the children that she loved the most were with her.

Perhaps she should not feel that unhappy.

At that thought, Luna took a deep breath, picked up her utensils, and took a huge bite.

Although Theo made a feast for her that afternoon, she barely had any of them.

This meal, at this moment, could be considered her first meal.

Neil and Nellie looked at each other, and they beamed brightly after seeing Luna eating seriously. After the meal, Luna wanted to clear the table, but Anne and John stopped her.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 496

Anne pushed her into the bedroom. "You should do nothing and think nothing. Just have a good sleep! "

Luna was helpless. She wanted to say that she could help with the dishes, but John quickly pulled Anne into his arms. "I want to be lovey-dovey with Anne, doing dishes together in your kitchen. Don't be our third wheel."

While Luna was still stunned, John immediately took Anne and left.

It was only until the two of them vanished from sight did Neil smilingly remark, "Mommy, stop looking."

Luna paused a little and subconsciously lowered her head. Neil and Nellie had already changed into their pajamas, and each hugged a small pillow as they stood by the door to the room. "We want to sleep together with you tonight, Mommy."

Nellie yawned. "We haven't slept together in such a long time! I missed it!"

Neil smiled a little. "Yes. You've been so busy that you don't chat with us anymore. It's nice that you can return the favor tonight! "

Luna's heartstrings were tugged as she heard the two of them cooed to her.

She bent down and gently pinched Neil's nose. "You cheeky kids."

She then carried Nellie and went to the bed.

The three of them squeezed themselves on a small bed and looked at the ceiling.

"Mommy, do you really not want Grandpa to go to prison?" came Neil's gentle voice once the lights were switched off.

Luna pursed her lips. She was silent for a long while before calmly sighing. "He's still my father, after all."

"Joshua is also our Daddy. " Neil sighed. "Mommy, you always told us that we have to learn how to be more heartless because the scumbag has treated us very badly. Now that something happened to Grandpa, who's always treated you poorly, you've become soft."

Neil pursed his lips. "Mommy, you can't have double standards."

Luna paused for a while and laughed bitterly.

Yes.

Neil was right. She always had her three children listen to her, to draw a line with Joshua and keep him at a distance, but she could not follow her own words when it came to her parents causing her problems.

After a long while of silence, Luna exhaled. "This is the last time."

"But, " Nellie pursed her lips. "The last time when you helped Grandma search for Aura, you said that it was the last time already."

Luna helplessly rubbed the middle of her brows. Her kids had a good memory.

She sighed. "That last time was about helping your Grandma. Now, it's your Grandpa. It's true."

It was the last time.

After this incident, if Joseph and Natasha still did not repent, she would no longer protect them anymore.

"Mommy, are you sure? " Suddenly, a clear child's voice rang from the necklace by the head of the bed.

Luna paused for a while before realizing that Nigel had been eavesdropping on their conversation.

Luna bit her lips and nodded seriously. "Mmh. This is the last time."

"Okay, " said Nigel stoically. "Have a good sleep. Everything will be resolved when you wake up tomorrow morning."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 497

That night, Luna slept exceptionally soundly.

Neil was on her left while Nellie was on her right. Nigel's light breathing came from the necklace that hung by the head of the bed.

In a way, her three most important persons were next to her.

She hugged Neil and Nellie tightly, and all of a sudden, her problems no longer seemed like problems.

As long as her loved ones were next to her, everything could be resolved.

The next morning, Anne's knocks on the door woke her up from her dreams.

"Luna, open up! Luna, wake up! Good news! "

Luna groggily opened her eyes while rubbing her aching head. She got off the bed and opened the door.

"Be quiet. Neil and Nellie are still sleeping."

Anne paused a little and looked a little apologetically into the room. The two kids on the bed were still sleeping soundly, undisturbed by her pestering.

Luna closed the room door. She yawned and pulled Anne toward the sofa and sat down.

"What good news?" "This! "

Anne passed her the newspaper of that day.

The headline of that day was Mo Sam's apology.

Luna's eyes widened. She immediately snatched the newspaper and had a closer look at the article.

It was a letter of apology from Mo Sam to her.

That talented designer admitted that he liked Luna too much, and that was why he secretly befriended Luna online.

He said that because Luna took great care of him, her junior in the design industry, so as long as he had any questions, she would video call him even if she was working in her office.

However, while on the video call, Mo Sam unintentionally noticed Luna's designs, so he decided to steal her designs and copy them. He even shamelessly posted them online before Luna could publish them.

It was only when the video was published the day before did Mo know that the incident had blown up badly. If it would affect Luna's career, he was willing to stand up and tell the truth. He also sincerely apologized to Luna and the Lynch Group.

Looking at the article in the newspaper, Luna was so stunned that she went blank verbally.

She read the article seriously once more to make sure that she did not misread it.

How could this have happened...

She turned around and looked at Anne in a daze. "

This..."

Anne excitedly grabbed Luna's hand. "This is good news, right? Amazing news!" Luna was excited, too.

She read the article once more. A huge boulder on her shoulders was lifted at last.

Since Mo admitted that he was the one that stole Luna's design, the plagiarism incident did not exist anymore.

Also, Luna realized something.

Mo went to great lengths to write in detail about how he stole Luna's drafts. Throughout the entire

process, he said that he was the only one who did it.

That meant that Mo's apology letter not only cleared Luna of plagiarism, but he also hid the fact that Joseph stole confidential information.

Luna put down the newspaper and clasped her hand together excitedly.

Who would be so skillful to be able to persuade Mo Sam from across the ocean?

To be able to get a 17- year-old genius to admit that he stole other people's designs itself was challenging enough, let alone Mo Sam, who was a proud and arrogant young man.

After calming down, Anne asked gently, "Do you think it was Joshua?"

Luna shook her head. "I don't know."

"Mommy." At that moment, Neil yawned and came walking out of the bedroom.

Looking at Luna, he smiled and winked at her. "I've long told you to trust in Nigel's abilities."

Anne's eyes widened in disbelief. "Nigel did this?!" How could a six-year-old solve such a huge issue?

"It's nothing much, " At that moment, Nigel's proud voice came from the necklace in Neil's hands. "Mo has his weakness, too. As long as I can get it, it's not hard to get him to admit his mistakes."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 498

Anne's mouth gaped wide open.

Luna rubbed the middle of her brows. She sighed heavily. "I never would've thought that things would be resolved so easily."

She thought she would need a day or two to come up with a plan. She never expected that everything would change overnight.

Nigel pursed his lips. "I've told you to have a good sleep and when you wake up, everything will be solved. I wasn't lying, right?"

Luna chuckled. After a while, she exhaled. "I'm just curious—how did you make Mo Sam listen to you?"

"Nothing much." Nigel laughed gently. "I hacked into his computer and took away everything on his hard disk, including his diaries of wetting the bed when he was young and how he failed to pursue the girl that he has a crush on. Also..."

"Also, evidence of other designers' drafts."

Luna paused for a while before slowly saying, "So, his identity as a talented designer..."

"Mmh," Nigel responded, "it's all fake. He's only a person that loves jewelry design a lot, but he only likes them. He doesn't have any talent for it. His previous designs were all bought from other designers."

Luna rubbed the middle of her brows.

She never would have expected this.

"However," Nigel, on the other end of the line, was silent for a while before slowly saying, "When I threatened Mo last night, I

only got him to admit that he stole your drafts, Mommy. I said nothing about clearing Grandpa's name for stealing the drafts.

"According to Mo's character, he's not the type of person that would actively help clear Grandpa's name."

Luna shuddered violently. "Are you trying to say..."

"I don't think I was the only person that looked for Mo Sam last night. After I chatted with Mo, someone else must've used a different way to force Mo to bear all the crimes."

Nigel said his deduction confidently, "I think that person must be Joshua Lynch."

Luna gasped a little.

Joshua...

Why would he get Mo Sam to help Joseph Gibson out? Was it because of Alice, or because of her? She could not understand.

After hanging up the call with Nigel, Luna was feeling even more complicated.

After hesitating for a long while, she picked up her handphone and walked to the balcony, dialing Joshua's number.

The phone call rang for a long time before it was picked up. However, it was not Joshua that answered the call but Lucas.

"Luna." Lucas sounded a little tired. "We're in the airport now. The flight is about to take off."

Luna furrowed her brows. "Where are you going?" "Not 'where'." Lucas sighed. "After sending you

back to Swan Lake Residences last night, we went

straight to the airport and flew to where Mo Sam was. We spent the night searching for Mo, forcing him to take responsibility for all the crimes. Mr. Lynch didn't sleep at all the entire night. He had just fallen asleep."

Luna's breath stopped.

She pursed her lips. "Thank you so much for your hard work."

"Don't mention it." Lucas' hand that held the phone trembled a little. " There is something I have to tell you, though. Last night, the person that was dealing with your hacker friend isn't Mo, but Mr. Lynch himself."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 499

Luna's hand that held her phone stiffened instantly. "Mr. Lynch, he..."

"He knows some hacking skills, too."

On the other end of the line, Lucas scratched his head rather confusedly. "Technically, with his busy schedule, Mr. Lynch wouldn't have the time to cultivate a hobby, but he's a pretty skillful hacker. He said that he studied it many years ago when he was bored."

Lucas then added, albeit emotionally, "Mr. Lynch truly is the smartest man I know. Hacking is such a challenging skill, yet he could learn it when he was bored! How amazing! "

Luna's hands shuddered a little.

If she remembered correctly, when she just married Joshua back then, she remembered she once told Joshua that she thought men who knew how to hack were very cool.

She even naively asked him whether he had any hacking skills.

However, Joshua swept her a cold glance.

“Hackers are only smarter programmers. Why don’t you like programmers, then?”

From then onward, Luna no longer mentioned how she liked hackers to Joshua.

Giving birth to Nigel, she eventually found out that he had a deep interest in computer skills. The teacher that taught him said that Nigel was extremely talented in the field.

Luna initially thought that God took pity on her, seeing how tough the first half of her life was, so He gave her a son that possessed a skill that she liked.

Everything fell onto her the moment Lucas explained everything.

It turns out that Nigel’s talent was inherited from Joshua.

It was not that Joshua did not have any hacking skills. On the contrary, a skill that he learned when he was bored was enough to compete with Nigel, someone who she had put a lot of effort into training.

However, back when she said that she liked hackers and asked him whether he knew how to hack, he dismissed her coldly.

If a man did not love a person, he would not be willing to showcase a skill before that person even if he already possessed a skill. Was that it?

"Luna?" Lucas could not help but call out after Luna after hearing her end of the line silent for a long time.

"I'm listening."

"The plane is about to take off." Lucas took a deep breath. "We'll reach Banyan City in about five hours, and we'll have to start investigating the video incident. The meeting yesterday was a confidential one. Someone actually dared to record it and post it online, so we have to find out who it was. Otherwise,

the consequences would be terrible."

Luna furrowed her brows and nodded. "It's true." If someone could record it this time, there could be the next time as well.

Before she announced her designs to the public, it was considered confidential information within the Group.

"Get your assistant to come up with a list of people who attended the meeting yesterday. Also, take

these five hours to think of who could be a suspect. "

Then, Lucas hung up the call.

Standing by the balcony, Luna gripped her phone and looked at the heavy traffic in the city.

Actually, she long had a suspect. However, would Joshua deal with the person she suspected?

After a long moment of silence, she took a deep breath and called Nigel.

"I don't think I've made any mistakes. " When Luna said that the person last night was Joshua, Nigel's voice was even more excited. "Turns out I was dealing with the scumbag last night. No wonder the firewall was so hard to crack. I thought that he found another skillful programmer."

Then, Nigel said emotionally, "But, if it was really him last night, then he didn't go all out on me."

Nigel had dealt with Joshua before; his skills were definitely much better than his. When he hacked into Mo Sam's computer the night before, and although there was some resistance, it was still manageable. Luna paused for a while.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 500

"Is his hacking skills...good?"

"It's great. " Nigel pursed his lips. "I might need a few more years of training to reach his level."

Luna's heart sunk deeply upon Nigel's words.

She casually caught up with Nigel for a little while more before hanging up the call and returning to the living room.

Anne had made breakfast. She called Luna over to have some food, though with furrowed brows as she looked at her. "Mo Sam has admitted that he stole your designs, and this is good news. Why does it feel like you're not in a good mood?"

Luna forced a smile. She lowered her head and seriously started eating.

Five hours later, at Lynch Group Tower.

It was the same conference room with the same people. Everyone was called in for a meeting.

Sitting at the main seat, Joshua could not hide the tiredness and haggardness on his face.

Even so, he was equally dignified and arrogant- looking.

With a small smile, he tapped on the meeting table rhythmically with one hand. "I'm sure all of you have seen the news this morning. The plagiarizing incident doesn't exist; Mo Sam was the only one who

stole the designs. It has nothing to do with Mr. Gibson."

Upon his words, Courtney, at the corner, could not help but roll her eyes. She muttered lightly. "Why does it have nothing to do with him all of a sudden? Didn't Director Luna capture it all?"

Luna turned her head, looked at Courtney, and smiled. She said in a calm voice, "Perhaps, Mr. Gibson only thought that my designs were very pretty. He only took pictures of my designs to admire them, maybe? Although it crossed a line, accusing him of leaking confidential information is too heavy a punishment."

Courtney bit her lip. She wanted to say something but did not know how to retort.

Thus, she clenched her fists tightly. "If that's the case, that means your designs were stolen while you had the video call with Mo Sam, and that was why your designs were leaked. That means you have to bear the responsibility, too. You also leaked confidential information! "

Luna shrugged. "I'm in the wrong, too."

"As a punishment, Luna's bonuses and commissions from this project will be canceled."

Joshua then remarked calmly, still on the main seat, "I'm sure no one has anything to say about this, right?"

Luna was the first one to say, "Yes." Courtney gritted her teeth harshly. She was speechless.

Alice, by the side, chuckled a little. "Ms. Luna, what a great sacrifice." She then shot her a glare laced with vague mockery, however.

Luna knew that Alice was mocking her for sacrificing for Joseph. Alice knew better than anybody about the entire story.

Luna slightly squinted and coldly swept her a glance. "As for the plagiarizing incident, we'll put it aside for now."

In the main seat, the dignified Joshua calmly rubbed the middle of his brows. "Next, we have to deal with the video issue yesterday."

Lucas took a set of documents and placed it in front of Joshua.

Joshua coldly slammed the documents on the conference table. "According to our investigation, the IP address from which the video was posted came from Lynch Group's design department.

Whose computer is computer number fifty-two? "

The entire conference room was in silence for a few seconds.

In the end, Shannon timidly stood up. "I remember that computer number fifty-two..."

She slowly looked at Alice. "Mrs. Lynch has been using it for the past half a month."

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