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Meanwhile, Luna and Gwen were hidden inside the room. They tilted their heads and eavesdropped on the conversation happening outside the door.

The color drained from Luna's face as soon she heard what Joshua said.

As soon as she heard that Joshua had arrived, Luna guessed that Joshua had probably found out she was here and rushed over to talk to her.

Otherwise, he would not have arrived without giving Luke a heads-up, considering how close he and Luke were.

What he had just told Luke, however, was that the reason he came was that Luke had meddled with something that belonged to him.

Luna pressed her lips into a thin line.

It turned out that she was nothing more than an object to Joshua.

"What do you mean by this? What thing of yours did I touch?" Meanwhile, in the hallway outside the door, Luke gave Joshua an impassive glance and spoke, a cold smirk playing on his lips, "I can't seem to remember what it is."

"Is that so? " Joshua curled his lips into a sneer and fixated his cold, penetrating gaze on the closed door behind Luke. "Do you need me to remind you? A few nights ago, you brought your men to Banyan City and took something from me. Don't you remember?"

With that, he shifted his icy stare onto Luke. "Luke, you should know that the only reason you're the person you are today is because of me. Is this how you pay me back for helping you in the past?"

Luke narrowed his eyes upon hearing this but did not say a word.

He knew that since Joshua had come all the way to the hospital, he must have been loo-percent sure that Luna was here.

Yesterday, when Luke showed the X-ray to Joshua, it was actually a form of reminder. However...

Since Gwen was inside the room with Luna, eavesdropping on their conversation, he could not possibly tell Joshua the truth and hand Luna over to him.

Seeing that Luke did not reply, Joshua curled his thin lips into a smirk and said, "Since you don't know why I'm here, let me tell you what's been happening, then.

"Luna has been diagnosed with severe mental illness. Not only does she abuse the children during her episodes, but she'd also harm herself and even broke her own finger.

"However, after I sent her into a mental asylum, someone came and broke her out of there. I've already looked into this incident and found out that both she and my son, Nigel, were involved in this. Nigel even kidnapped the wife of the doctor who diagnosed Luna, Dr. Robert, in an attempt to get the doctor to redact his psychological evaluation.

"Therefore, as Nigel's father, I am responsible for educating him."

Luke narrowed his eyes upon hearing this. "How are you going to do that?"

"I have two choices." Joshua lifted his gaze to stare at the closed door. "The first one is after I find Luna,

I'll let her re-educate the children and let them know that this behavior was entirely wrong. Then, I'll observe to see if there's any improvement.

"The other one is..."

Joshua raised his voice and continued, "If I can't find Luna, then I 'll have to send the children to a youth education center and let them be schooled in a strict, no-nonsense approach. That'll show them how to behave like good children."

Inside the ward.

Luna balled her right hand tightly when she heard what Joshua had said.

It turned out that everything Fiona told Anne on the phone was true.

Joshua had decided to send the children to an education center, where they would be locked in a windowless room!

Luna gritted her teeth in anger. How could this man be so cruel and heartless?

Was this because Fiona had successfully gotten pregnant with his children, so he did not like Nigel and Nellie anymore?

Even though Luna had never been to the youth education center that Joshua mentioned before, she knew that this kind of school was no different from prison!

Nigel and Nellie were only six years old! How could Joshua do this to them? Meanwhile, outside the door, Luke had the exact same reaction as Luna. "A youth education center?"

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"Why don't you just say you're sending them to jail?"

Joshua let out a chuckle and replied impassively, "Well, that's another way of putting it.

"If the two children still haven't realized their mistake and don't think they've done anything wrong, then it's about time they need to get treated as well. After all..."

He raised his eyebrows. "They're involved in breaking a mentally insane patient out of her treatment facility." With that, he stood up and continued, "Luke, I know what you took from me, and I even know where it is, but if you don't want to hand it over, then it's okay.

"I heard Dr. Robert say that if he doesn't find his wife before this evening, he's planning to sue Nigel and Nellie in court. Even though I'm their father,

I've never been emotionally close to them, so I won't get involved in this potential lawsuit at all.

"If he indeed sues them, then it's up to the legal system to determine their outcomes. Whether they go to prison or get sent into an education center, it's none of my business anymore."

With that, Joshua turned and strode away.

Luna's entire body was now pressed against the door. As Joshua's receding footsteps echoed through the hallway, she felt as though someone had pierced

a knife into her chest and stirred its contents around.

Dr. Robert was going to sue the children.

Joshua was going to send the children into a youth education center.

Was she going to continue hiding?

All they wanted was for her to come out of her hiding spot. If that was what they wanted, then she would do as they please.

As soon as she thought of this, Luna let out an exhale, flung Gwen's hand away, and pushed the door open with a slam.

Meanwhile, Joshua had just reached the elevator, with Lucas following behind him.

His figure was tall and lean as always and looked as cold and unapproachable as Luna remembered.

Luna bit down on her lip and clenched her teeth, still staring at Joshua's retreating figure. "Joshua Lynch! "

Joshua, who was just about to get into the elevator, froze when he heard her voice. CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR TELEGRAM CHANNEL FOR FAST UPDATES <u>https://t.me/NovelsFuns</u>

He curled his lips into a smirk, and a triumphant smile flashed across his face before he regained his composure and turned around with a steely expression.

Luna was standing at the end of the hallway, dressed in a white hospital gown.

Her entire frame was bony and frail, like a limp paper kite caught in a strong breeze.

Joshua suppressed the urge to rush forward and pull her into his arms and instead said impassively, "I was right—you are here."

"Yes, I am." Luna met his gaze without a single ounce of fear. "You're right. The 'thing' that you lost has been right here all along."

She let out an exhale and staggered toward him somewhat unsteadily. "I'll go back with you, but please, don't send Nigel and Nellie away..."

At first, she was too far away from him, so Joshua could not see her face properly, but as she got closer and closer, Joshua suddenly noticed how pale her face was.

Luna's eyes were red and swollen, as though she had been crying not long ago.

Joshua suddenly recalled the cries he heard downstairs when he and Lucas had gotten out of the car.

At that time, Lucas had even commented on how miserable this woman sounded and said something about how hospitals were where the living and the dead were separated.

It was not until this moment that Joshua realized...

The heart-wrenching sobs he had overheard downstairs were possibly Luna's...

"Joshua." Just as he was caught up in his thoughts, Luna had already made her way over and was now standing in front of him.

She stared at him and offered a bitter, doleful smile. "I'll go back with you."

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Seeing that Joshua was staring at her, Luna curled her lips into a feeble smile. "What's wrong? Didn't you want me to appear before you so that you can bring me back to the mental asylum?"

The mental asylum: the place where she was locked in a windowless room and was subjected to inhumane tortures.

Joshua paused for a moment, then asked in a hoarse voice, "What happened to you?"

He knew that Luna was here, but he never imagined this was how she would look.

He had seen her only a few days ago. At that time, she was full of life, with pink cheeks and clear eyes. This was a stark contrast to what she looked like as she stood before him: colorless and frail, as though she would break into pieces at any moment.

Joshua thought that after being rescued by Luke and Gwen, Luna would be happy and carefree.

While on his way here from Banyan City, he even thought to himself how selfish Luna was. He thought she was a self-centered, inconsiderate mother who did not care about her children.

After all, there was no way Luna did not know that the children had kidnapped Janice to take her place in the psychiatric ward. Therefore, how could she possibly subject her children to everyone's suspicion without feeling even an ounce of guilt?

Contrary to his beliefs, the woman before him at this moment was nothing like he had imagined.

She was bony, sallow, and sickly, like a porcelain doll that could break into smithereens at a single touch.

Luna curled her lips into a smile.

She lifted her head to gaze at Joshua's chiseled face, then let out a bitter smile. "Isn't this what you wanted, Mr. Lynch? You abided by Dr. Robert's diagnosis and treatment advice...and sent me to living hell."

She exposed the wounds on her arms, as well as the section of burnt scalp hidden beneath her hair.

"Electric shocks, acupuncture, physical stimulation, injection of sedatives..." Luna rattled off the various methods of torment she had suffered these past few days in the mental asylum with a cold, expressionless face.

Finally, she lifted her left hand, displaying her broken little finger to Joshua, and smiled at him. " Didn't you say my hands are pretty? Well, because of this, they smashed my left little finger with a hammer."

Luna's tone was so calm that it was as though she was describing something that happened to someone else.

Joshua widened his eyes in shock. "Your finger..." Did she not break it herself?

All of a sudden, he recalled the X-ray that Luke had shown him the day before. He immediately turned to glance at Luke.

Luke nodded at him.

Joshua immediately took a step back, and a harrowing realization dawned over him.

How could this be...? How could they do this to Luna? He had specifically asked Mr. Chase to look after her and provide her the best care possible...

Mr. Chase had even promised that he would assign more nurses to look after her!

"They even told me that if I stayed in there a day longer, they'd smash another one of my fingers. "Luna let out a self-deprecating snicker. "Do you know what I was thinking at that time, Mr. Lynch? "

She chuckled again as Joshua continued to stare at her incredulously. "I was thinking to myself, thank God Mr. Lynch complimented my fingers instead of my eyes, nose, or head. Otherwise... Otherwise..."

Luna was about to continue when all of a sudden, she felt as though something was about to come out of her throat.

"Cough—" After shuddering severely, Luna coughed out a mouthful of blood, then immediately slumped onto the ground.

"Luna! " Joshua could not suppress his emotions any longer. He immediately lunged over and grabbed hold of Luna.

Luke furrowed his brows at this sight. "The emergency room is on the first floor! "

Joshua clung onto Luna tightly, as if she were a piece of valuable treasure, and stormed toward the elevator.

However, both the elevators were stuck on the first floor.

They were on the 15th floor.

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Joshua stormed into the stairwell without any hesitation, with Luna still in his arms.

"Let go of me..." Luna protested weakly.

However, she was too tired and in so much pain that her struggles were futile.

"I won't." Joshua zipped down the flights of stairs and, holding Luna tightly against his chest, said, "I've appointed three more teams of medical professionals to reassess your mental condition. You have to go home with me right now. If Dr. Robert's diagnosis is wrong... I won't forgive him for this! "

Luna let out a bitter smile as she listened to the thumping of Joshua's heart against his chest. "Three medical teams..."

Her voice was so hoarse that it seemed even a simple sentence like this used up all the strength in her body. "So you still need to hire some doctors to determine if I'm mentally insane or not, don't you? You don't believe me after all..."

Joshua's entire body stiffened when he heard this. Was that true? Did he not believe her?

All of a sudden, Joshua recalled what Janice had said when he saw her at Banyan City Mental Asylum.

"I didn't know how rigid and unrelenting of a person you are, Mr. Lynch. I guess in the end, you'd rather believe some words on a page than a living, breathing human being, don't you? Can't you tell

the difference between someone who's really sick and who's not?"

Joshua felt his heart sink. He wanted more than anything to believe Luna, but...

He let out an exhale and said in a low voice, "You're too weak now. Don't talk."

Luna curled her lips into a bitter smile and nodded. " Okay. I'll shut up."

She should not be talking to him anyway. After all, what use was it to speak to someone who did not believe her at all?

Even though Joshua was holding her like this, Luna knew that in his mind, she was still a mentally insane patient, a crazy woman who would abuse both her own son and herself.

Luna was sent into the operating room.

Six hours passed before she was finally wheeled out of the operating room.

"The reason she vomited blood was because of an infection in her blood, " the doctor explained, sighing at the same time. "She had been through so much within such a short time, and even after her finger was broken, no one treated the wound, and it got infected.

Even though the finger is already unviable, the infection didn't clear up in time, so it spread into her bloodstream and caused her to vomit blood."

With that, he lifted his head to glance at Joshua. "How are you related to the patient?"

Joshua fell into silence for a moment, then finally answered, "I'm her husband."

"Her husband?" The doctor stared at Joshua incredulously, then said in a tone that was as frosty as his gaze, "What kind of husband are you? How can you let your wife suffer like this? Don't you know how much it hurts to have your finger crushed like that?"

The doctor let out a sigh and added, "I've seen many patients in my day, but this is the first time I've ever seen anything like this. The bones in her finger were fractured into so many pieces that there was no way of reconnecting them anymore! "

With that, he slammed his folder shut and turned to leave. "Talk about irresponsible!"

Joshua remained motionless, his expression dark.

After a moment, he took out his phone and barked an order, "Find Mr. Chase and lock him up immediately! I have some questions for him!"

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As soon as he hung up, his phone rang with another call.

It was from Granny Lynch.

Joshua knew perfectly who it was that was calling him. He let out a sigh and picked up the phone.

"Mr. Lynch, "Nigel's cold voice rang out from the other end of the line. "I heard you went to Sea City. Have you found my Mommy?"

Joshua's eyes narrowed slightly.

He had confiscated all of Nigel and Nellie's devices last night and asked Granny Lynch to take them to the family villa at a rural village to lay low for the time being.

The village did not have strong network coverage, so the residents could not frequently communicate with the outside world.

Despite this, Nigel still found out that Joshua had gone to Sea City in search of Luna and even managed to find a way to contact him.

Seeing that Joshua did not answer, Nigel pursed his lips slightly and said, "Mr. Lynch, I know the signal isn't good here, but I've added a signal booster and got on the neighbors' good sides so I can connect to their phone networks... Don't try to pretend as though the connection isn't stable so you can avoid my question. How's my Mommy doing?"

Joshua knew he was caught, so he let out a sigh and answered, "She's... fine."

"Don't make things difficult for her." Nigel let out an exhale and continued earnestly, "I was the one who devised the breakout. I was the one who kidnapped Janice and contacted both Aunt Gwen and Uncle Luke."

"Please don't punish Mommy for this. If you want someone to take the blame for this, then I'm the one you should punish."

Joshua's breath caught in his throat. Then, after a moment, he curled his lips into a smirk and said, sounding somewhat helpless, "Do you really think your father is such a bad, unforgiving person?"

"I guess you can say that." Nigel sighed. "To be honest... You're so different from the father I always imagined, Mr. Lynch."

Joshua paused upon hearing this. "What kind of father did you always envision to have, then?"

"Well, I always thought my father would believe my Mommy over anyone else and wouldn't send her into a mental asylum over someone else's claims."

Nigel sighed again. "But, since you've already found her... Please take good care of her. If you want to blame someone for everything that happened, then it should be me. Goodbye."

As soon as he finished his sentence, Nigel hung up the phone.

Joshua gripped his phone tightly, then let out a deep exhale.

Did he... make a mistake?

Just as he was mulling over this question, Lucas appeared and rushed over to his side. "Sir, Luna is awake, and she wants to see you."

Joshua furrowed his brows, then strode in the direction of Luna's ward.

Inside the white-walled room, Luna leaned against the headboard, looking just as pale as the walls. As soon as she saw Joshua arriving, she lifted her head and fixated her impassive gaze on him. "Bring me back to Banyan City."

Joshua glanced at the tubes and IV drips that were connected to her body and frowned. "You can't go back now."

She at least had to wait until her condition had stabilized. After all, even though Sea City was not far from Banyan City, there was still a distance between them. Moreover, Luna had just come out of surgery, so he was afraid that she would not be able to endure the grueling journey back to Banyan City.

To his surprise, Luna shook her head. "I want to go back."