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"I want to calm down for a while."

With that, Luna turned around and entered her room, slamming the door shut behind her.

Luna lay down on the bed and stared at the ceiling as tears streamed down her face, wetting her pillows in the process.

Luna had told Joshua about her promise to marry Malcolm before. In fact, she had told him about it many times.

Just the day before she was kidnapped, she and Joshua were cuddling in bed when she hugged his back and whispered into his ear, "What do you think I should do about my marriage promise with the Quinn family? Do you want to go with me to the Quinn family to apologize to them? I'm worried they might kidnap me and force me into marriage. If that happens, what should we do?"

At that moment, Joshua had turned around and pinned her down on the bed. "Do you think the Quinn family will dare take you away and force you to marry Malcolm while I'm here?

"On the other hand, I'll never forget about the kindness that the Quinn family showed to you and the kids in the past. Once I'm done with my work, I'll visit them to thank them as well."

As soon as she recalled this, Luna could not stop her tears from falling.

What happened to the promise he had made?

Joshua knew perfectly well what the Quinn family's plan was for kidnapping her after Malcolm's accident, yet he did not come to find her.

Not only that, but he even made her wait.

Luna had to wait until he was finished dealing with the Landry family first before coming to get her.

In a week's time.

How ironic.

Yesterday, Granny Quinn had told her that she would only give Luna a week's time to decide whether she wanted to marry Malcolm or not, but today, Joshua wanted her to wait for another week.

Luna closed her eyes, and a self-deprecating smile played on her lips.

She had been through so much hardship and turmoil before finally knowing that she was the most important woman in Joshua's heart, the love of his life.

However, she forgot to consider how highly Joshua placed importance on his relationships.

At this moment, Luna finally found out the truth.

To him, his relationship was much lower of a priority than getting revenge.

Well, since he wanted to get his revenge, then let him be.

It was him who had given up on her.

She would never give him another chance!

Inside a five-star hotel in Merchant City.

After hanging up the phone, Joshua turned and glanced at Lucas, who was typing on the computer. "Did you manage to trace the location?"

Lucas lowered his head and nodded. "Yes, I traced it. Ma'am called you with a burner phone; it was registered under a servant working for the Landry family. Also..."

Lucas let out an exhale and continued, "According to the IP Address, her signal came from the Landry Mansion, inside the room of the Landry family's eldest daughter, Heather."

With that, he lifted his head to stare at Joshua. "Heather didn't lie to you. She said she would let Ma'am contact you today, and she really did."

Joshua narrowed his eyes. "Fulfill her request. Order the raw material suppliers that stopped working with her this morning to resume their work with the Landry family."

"Yes, Sir."

Inside the Landry Mansion.

The head of the Landry family, Charles, hung up the phone and let out a sigh of relief. "The companies that Joshua had cut off have resumed their operations now."

With that, he lifted his head to glance at the beautiful lady sitting next to him. "Being able to talk to people like Joshua and convince him to show us mercy should be credited to you, Heather. Tell me, what do you want as a reward for this?"

Heather bit her lip and immediately kneeled on the floor. "Father, what I did for this family is a responsibility, so I don't need to be rewarded.

Nevertheless, if you really want to reward me... I hope that Luna, the person who killed you and Mother's real daughter, will be punished so that I can avenge Aura's death."

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Luna never contacted Joshua again ever since that phone call.

Even after Malcolm's few attempts to advise her to call, she never did.

Every day, Luna sat on the sofa of the living room in Quinn Mansion and watched the news blankly.

Joshua had once again cut off a few of the Landry family's business supply chains. He had forced them into a desperate situation again.

The Landry family started to initiate contact with Joshua, hoping to soften things up...

"Luna."

Malcolm caught sight of Luna's despairing look and sighed, placing a cup of water in front of her. "You're just half a day away from the deadline that Granny Quinn set. You...really don't want to try contacting Joshua and ask him to take you home?"

As Malcolm spoke, he lowered his head and said, "If he doesn't take you away soon, you'll be forced to marry me, a useless man."

Luna took the cup from him and pursed her lips. "He said himself that he wanted to deal with the Landry family first. He wanted me to wait."

"But..." Malcolm sighed, wheeled himself over to her, and fixated his penetrating stare on her. "Luna, I know you don't love me, and I know the person I am now isn't a match to you at all. You can't continue

"Malcolm." Luna sniffed and lifted her head to stare straight at Malcolm, "Stop talking. Didn't you say there's half a day left? How it ends is all in Joshua's hands, not mine."

If Joshua did not manage to find her before the Quinn family forced her to marry Malcolm, maybe the two of them were not meant to be.

Luna was willing to wait until the very last minute.

However, if he surpassed that deadline, she decided she would not wait another second longer.

Seeing that she was in bad spirits, Malcolm sighed and suggested bringing Luna out for a walk and going to a restaurant for a meal.

Luna raised her head to shoot him a glance. "Will Granny and Hunter allow it?"

Malcolm nodded. "But..." He let out an awkward cough and added, "Hunter will probably follow us from a distance. You should know...he's scared that you'll run away and that I'll help you to do so."

They would be followed.

All of a sudden, Luna felt there was no point going out in the first place.

On the other hand, Malcolm seemed excited by this prospect. Luna guessed that he had been locked in the house alongside her during this time and could not wait to get a breath of fresh air.

Luna hesitated for a moment before finally agreeing. It had indeed been a tough time for Luna, and she decided that she should go out to have a walk and get some fresh air.

Malcolm took her to a restaurant named Lucky Den, where they used to go all the time in the past.

When Luna first saw the name 'Lucky Den', she liked it so much that she dragged Malcolm into the restaurant to eat.

Since then, Lucky Den became the spot where they would visit every time they met.

However, despite being back at this familiar place, Luna no longer felt the excitement she once felt.

The news displayed on the street was all about Joshua.

This man had brought a massive amount of fortunes into Merchant City to undercut the Landry family. With forces that could not be stopped, the Landry family was defeated within a week.

According to the reports, the Landry family tried to find ways to communicate with him in hopes that he would show them mercy.

Luna sat in a corner on the second floor of Lucky Den. Whenever she heard the people around her mention Joshua's name, she could not help feeling irritated.

They were right: Joshua was a capable, strong, and charismatic man.

When it came to relationships, however, he was a scumb*g.

Even though she was the love of his life, she still

could not match up to his vengeance toward the Landry family.

Malcolm ordered a few dishes that Luna loved and tried to engage her in conversation in hopes that it would brighten her mood.

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"Hey, isn't this the heiress of the Landry family,

Heather?"

"It really is! "

Luna was eating her meal absent -mindedly when she heard the whispers of murmurs of the people around her.

"I heard that Jim Landry had been the one taking care of the Landry family's affairs, but a while ago, he quit and went traveling with his son. Now that the Landry family has run into trouble like this, Heather has no choice but to take care of it instead."

"I heard that Ms. Heather found a way to contact Joshua Lynch and make the attacks on the supply chains under the Landry family's name stop."

"She's probably here to see Joshua Lynch, right?"

"Of course. Didn't you see the news? The Landry family has been reduced to almost nothing. Joshua Lynch isn't going according to logic at all. He's using a lot of money without any consideration for the costs, all with the aim of bankrupting the Landry family."

"Do you think Ms. Heather will be able to convince Joshua to stop?"

"Maybe. Look how beautiful she is; maybe she'll seduce him..."

Luna turned around and glanced in the direction where the crowd was looking.

A bare -faced woman dressed in a green, flowy dress was walking toward her, escorted by a few tall, burly bodyguards. The woman was tall and slender with an aura of grace and elegance. It was clear she belonged to a wealthy family.

She circled past Luna and Malcolm's table and turned to sit down in the seat behind Luna.

Her seat was right behind Luna's. Despite the several dozens of centimeters between them, Luna could still smell the faint scent of gardenia wafting off Heather's skin.

"Mr. Lynch, I'm already here. When are you arriving?" Suddenly, a soft, gentle voice rang out from behind Luna.

Luna's entire body stiffened.

The onlookers were right... Heather was here to meet with Joshua.

"You're already there?"

"I 'm in the third table from the left of the second floor. You can come up through the stairs on the left." As soon as Heather finished her sentence, the sound of footsteps echoed from the stairs.

Luna and Malcolm exchanged glances, then quickly brought out their menus to cover their faces.

Luna peeked through the gap in the menu and saw Joshua walking gracefully in her direction.

It had been a few days since she last saw him, and he appeared to have lost weight and looked much more exhausted.

She could not help feeling sympathetic for him.

If this had happened in the past, she would have wanted to cook a meal for him, but...

Joshua, too, circled past Luna and Malcolm's table and sat down across from Heather.

"Ms. Landry, " began Joshua in a cold voice as soon as he sat down. "There's no point meeting me here today at all. I've already told you what my demands are.

"You have two choices: obey my demands or go bankrupt. You choose."

Heather curled her lips into a faint smile. "Why do you have to say that, Mr. Lynch?

"Even though the Landry family and the Lynch family have been rivals for many years, that we have done despicable things to you in the past, Aura's attack on your grandmother wasn't of our intention at all.

"Since Aura has already paid the price for this, I thought you'd let go of this matter."

Joshua sneered at Heather. "Don't you know the real reason why I'm attacking the Landry family, Ms. Landry?"

"Of course, I know the reason." Heather curled her lips into a smile. "But Mr. Lynch, I'm curious to know. Aren't you planning to attack the Quinn family as well besides us?"

Luna, who was listening to this conversation intently, wrung her hands when she heard this.

She paused her breathing and tilted her head to hear Joshua's answer.

However, Joshua smiled and replied, "My only target for Merchant City is the Landry family. No matter what the Quinn family does, it has nothing to do with me.

"Maybe, after settling everything, I'll drop them a visit, but as of now, the most important thing to me is you, the Landry family." Luna felt her heart turn cold when she heard this.

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Despite being several dozens of centimeters away from Joshua, Luna still felt as though he had shoved her down an endless abyss.

To him, the first most important thing was defeating the Landry family.

What did she mean to him, then?

Luna bit down on her lip, gripping her menu so hard that her knuckles turned white.

"Luna." Malcolm let out a sigh and reached out to grab hold of Luna's hand. Then, he encouraged her in a low voice, "If you stand up and turn around right now, you'll be able to see him. Do you want to...ask him directly about what he means?"

Luna could feel the warmth of Malcolm's hand spreading through hers. She bit her lip and suddenly felt like crying.

She, too, wanted to ask Joshua what he meant by that, and most importantly, what she meant to him, but..

She was afraid of hearing the answer.

After all, was his response over the past few days insufficient to prove his point?

"Luna, " Malcolm piped up again after seeing Luna's hesitation. "People should always go after what they want, shouldn't they?"

Malcolm's words finally convinced Luna to pluck up her courage.

He was right.

After all, she had been through plenty of hardships and turmoil because of this man and done things that no one could even comprehend! Why was she so afraid of asking him a direct question?

As soon as she thought of this, Luna let out an exhale and told herself to go for it.

If Joshua admitted to her that he indeed prioritized his revenge on the Landry family over her and that he did not care about the Quinn family forcing her

into marriage...then she would give up!

With that, Luna put down her menu and turned around.

What she saw was Joshua's retreating figure while he talked on the phone. She could hear his low voice carried over by the wind. "Yes, Mr. Lennon, I haven't ended my pursuit on the Landry family just yet."

"Joshua Lynch! " Luna bit down on her lip and was about to chase after him when suddenly, she tripped over something and landed on the ground with a thud.

Luna froze for a moment and wanted to pick herself off the floor, but someone was stepping on her head and preventing her from doing so.

In the distance, Joshua, who was descending the stairs, furrowed his brows and put down his phone.

He seemed to have heard Luna's voice.

He turned around, but the only person he could see was Heather, who was still seated.

Seeing that he had turned around, Heather gave Joshua an elegant smile and waved at him. He even saw her wink.

Joshua frowned in disgust and turned around without a second glance.

"Luna! " After Joshua left, Malcolm finally managed to release the brakes of his wheelchair and wheeled himself over to Luna's side. "Ms. Landry! Don't you think you're behaving a little inappropriately?"

Heather, whose foot was still on Luna's head, drew her foot back and replied, "Oh, is this woman a friend of yours, Mr. Quinn? I thought she was just some random girl who wanted to get close to Joshua Lynch."

After the weight on top of her head had been lifted, Luna finally picked herself off the floor and glared at Heather. "You were the one who tripped me too, weren't you?"

"Yes." Heather curled her lips into a faint smile and gave Luna a once -over. "Mr. Lynch has previously promised me that if I could help him take care of the women who have been coming after him since he arrived in Merchant City...

"Then he'd show mercy to our supply chains, one factory for one woman."

"So, Ms. Friend-of-Mr. Quinn's, I hope you can understand that everything was just a misunderstanding and that I was just looking out for the Landry family's good."

With that, she pulled out a card from her pocket and handed it to Luna. "If you think that you have suffered injuries from what happened just now and want to head to the hospital...then this will suffice for the medical bills."

With that, Heather strode away, her heels click-clacking on the floor.

Luna rubbed the sore spot on her head and bit down on her lip. Just as she was about to prevent Heather from leaving, Malcolm stopped her. "It's no use, Luna."

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Malcolm gripped her wrist and let out a sigh. "Ms. Heather Landry is now the person in charge of the Landry family. If you get on her bad side, it'll be equivalent to offending the entire Landry family."

With that, he exhaled and lowered his voice, saying, "Even though your heart still belongs to Joshua, to some people...you're already my fiancée. My accident has already brought enough problems to the Quinn family. Please, don't cause any trouble on behalf of the Quinn family because of me anymore."

Luna froze in her steps when she heard this. She closed her eyes and let out an exhale, then turned to glance at a corner of the restaurant.

Hunter was seated there, his legs crossed while he sipped his wine with a smirk.

Luna let out an exhale and gave up on her thoughts of chasing after Heather.

Hunter was watching them, and she could not let Malcolm lose his status within his family because of her.

"I'm sorry I acted so rashly." She turned and wheeled Malcolm out of the restaurant.

Throughout the journey from Lucky Den back to Quinn Mansion, Luna felt like her entire mind was tangled with thoughts.

She lay on her bed and could not help recalling Joshua and the woman named Heather.

While on the way home, she had asked Malcolm about this woman.

The Landry family only had one daughter, and her name was Heather.

Heather was probably the other daughter that Joseph and Natasha had.

This meant that she was...Luna's biological sister.

However, every time she recalled the unpleasant experience between her and Heather, Luna could not help feeling disappointed and unwilling to meet her.

Perhaps, it was written in the stars that she could never grow close to her family members at all. No matter Joseph, Natasha, Aura, or Heather, all of them bore hatred toward her and never thought of her as family.

Not only that...

This was the same in her relationships.

As soon as she thought of this, Luna could not help recalling Joshua, as well as the words he had said.

She tossed and turned for an entire night, unable to sleep.

Smack!

Smack Smack! All of a sudden, a loud noise came from the yard. It sounded like... It sounded like a whip cracking. Luna froze for a moment, then quickly got up and headed to the window, so shocked by the sight before her that she was rendered speechless. Downstairs, Granny Quinn was sitting cross-legged in an armchair, watching the sight before her elegantly. Across from her was Malcolm's wheelchair, but it was empty. Between them was a large table, and at this moment, Malcolm was sprawled across it, shirt less with his muscular back exposed. Next to him stood Hunter, who whipped him repeatedly across his back. The leather whip, which contained a steel chain within it, smacked across Malcolm's naked back over and over, causing a deafening sound and leaving deep, red marks in its wake. Despite the darkness, Luna could still see that Malcolm's back was covered in so many wounds that it looked like a fishing net! As he whipped, Hunter even barked, "How dare you demand to cancel the engagement? I spent so much time and effort bringing her back, but you want to cancel the engagement? This marriage is what she owes us, but now you want to give her freedom? Even if you agree to these terms, this doesn't mean we will! " Granny Quinn scoffed. "Hunter, whip him harder so that he'll never dare to say those three words ever again! "