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For a long moment, Selena and Juniper gazed at each other, smiling brightly. Fate and its tribulations had bonded them together. Meanwhile in Astoria, Meredith, who won the Best Actress Award of Silver Fox Awards, had reclaimed her past glory. With numerous requests for her appearance, endorsement and movie acts, she was once again the center of attention.

A few of Fowler Group's most important endorsements were also delegated to her, which caused rumors regarding her relationship with Pierre to once again start circulating.

However, the media were only making groundless assumptions, as Meredith never actually talked about that during her interviews. Therefore, the media could only play the guessing game by making bold deductions based on whatever tiny details they could find.

After one particular interview, Meredith allowed herself to be momentarily rid of the perfect smile that she plastered to her face at all times while resting on the sofa, looking exhausted as she took a quick nap.

As silent as possible, Landy draped a rug over her. "Meredith, I don't understand why you just won't disclose your relationship with Pierre to the public when it's basically an open secret. It's just a matter of time that it's revealed, so there's no point in keeping it under wraps, no?"

On the other hand, Meredith heaved a long sigh while opening her eyes. "I sure wish I don't have to keep it a secret, but Pierre..." She never was certain how he felt about her. Although he comforted her as well as gave her a hug when Jameson died, nothing else happened after that.

Aside from getting an immediate reply when she texted him after she won the Best Actress Award, the rest of her texts were ignored just like before. Perhaps it was because he was too busy, or perhaps just like Selena, he harbored some ill feelings toward her after Jameson's death, which didn't help to alter his perception of her at all.

"I do have an idea, but I don't know if it will work," Landy said.

"What is it?" Meredith looked her way.

Cautiously, Landy offered her suggestion. "You gave birth to two sons for Pierre. This is incredible news. Once the media knows about it, it will create pressure for the Fowlers. With public opinion against them, I wonder if the Fowlers would still be able to decline your hand in marriage."

"Absolutely not!" Meredith shut her down immediately. "This is impossible!" She already promised the Fowlers to never reveal anything about her sons, so the public didn't even know of the existence of Joaquin and Jameson. If the matter was ever made known to the public, the Fowlers would know that Meredith was the responsible one, which would definitely result in the Fowlers taking actions against her. Of course, she knew that John was a ruthless man. If it wasn't for Joaquin and Jameson, he might never even acknowledge Meredith. His reaction to the matter alone was enough to get Meredith into much unwanted trouble.

Noticing Meredith's exaggerated response to her suggestion, Landy smiled uneasily. "It's just a suggestion. It's your private matter, so it's up to you to come up with a solution."

By way of switching the topic, Meredith asked, "Landy, have you gotten the lucky charm that I told you to get?"

"Oh, I almost forgot about it." Then, Landy procured from her bag a small red sachet. "This lucky charm was consecrated by the bishop in the Church of Favonius. I heard it's quite potent."

Upon taking the charm from Landy, Meredith hung it around her neck as if it was her life-saver.

"But as you know, you're a public figure, so you're constantly under public scrutiny. The charm might be—"

"Don't you worry. I won't let it be discovered."

"Meredith, I noticed that you haven't been in your best condition, as you have bags under your eyes. You need to get more rest, alright? We still have a tight schedule to follow in the coming days."