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Although Sonia thought that, she didn't speak it out loud. Instead, she squeezed out some hand wash and replied in a cold voice, "Not really. We are in the main city of Seafield, and it's not the biggest city in the world. It's normal to see each other occasionally."

Rina didn't expect Sonia to answer so coldly, and the former's expression froze. "T-That's right."

Sonia raised her eyebrows and paused her hand-washing. She then turned around to look at Rina. "You seem... nervous since we met. Are you afraid of me?"

Rina's eyes widened and she shouted, "Of course not! I'm not afraid of you. Don't be ridiculous!"

After that, she lowered her head and quickly rubbed her hands.

Her movement was so rough that one would think she would scrap off her skin, and it looked painful.

Sonia squinted and sneered inexplicably. "Ridiculous? I don't think I am. Your expression and behavior are telling me that you're panicking and uneasy. Before you noticed me, you were calm even after you vomited. After you see me, you're suddenly panicking, nervous, and scared. I'm now starting to wonder if you did something to offend me."

"No!" Rina sharply raised her head and hurriedly replied, "Miss Reed, I have never done anything to offend you. If I did, Toby won't ever forgive me."

Rina's expression was sincere as she spoke.

Sonia could tell that Rina was not lying, which was why the former frowned. "Since that's the case, why are you still nervous when you see me? What are you nervous about?"

Even though Rina didn't do anything to Sonia, Rina's actions were suspicious. They made Sonia think that she was planning something terrible.

Facing the penetrating gaze, Rina felt guilty and her eyes kept wavering. She did not dare to look Sonia in the eye as she mumbled, "I'm not nervous—"

"Lies!" Sonia couldn't bear to listen anymore and she frowned, saying sternly, "I clearly said you are nervous when looking at me. However, you are still lying. Taylor Carey, you're a liar. You could rival Titus Gray, you know? As father as daughter."

These words hit Rina's nerves. She suddenly smiled sarcastically and looked into Sonia's eyes. With an inexplicable expression, Rina stated, "Thanks for your compliment. However, you are wrong."

I am not Titus' birth daughter.

I am not Titus' birth daughter.

Indeed, why am I not the Gray Family's birth daughter?

Why did God not let me be the Gray Family's birth daughter?

Looking at Rina's sudden burst of anger and jealousy toward her, Sonia was stunned.

She's jealous?

Why is Rina jealous of me?

Do I have something that she lacks?

The Gray Family is more wealthy and influential than me. I should be the one who is jealous of her.

However, Rina is jealous of me now.

She can't be jealous of my wealth. After all, her family is wealthier than me.

Is it about my looks?

Not to blow my own trumpet, but I am prettier than Rina. However, Rina is not ugly either. With her makeup, she is now a beauty. I don't think she is jealous of my looks either.

Since it's not about money or looks, it should be men.

Many care about wealth and looks. What comes after those two is love.

Toby has a broad chest and a narrow waist. He is handsome and a billionaire, so he is the best among men. Therefore, many women want him as their husband.

I can shamelessly attest that most of the rich daughters in Seafield definitely have a crush on Toby, so it isn't strange that Rina loves Toby too.

Thinking of Rina falling in love with Toby, Sonia's heart sank.

Sonia was convinced that Rina was flustered because she fell in love with Toby and tried to court him. So, she was guilty when Rina saw Sonia.

It's not impossible, and she will likely do that.

Otherwise, I can't explain her actions.

Thinking of that, Sonia didn't think much about what Rina had said. After staring at Rina and giving an icy chuckle, Sonia washed away the foam from her hand and left the washroom.

Just wait for me, Toby Fuller.

I'm okay with you attracting every woman in Seafield. However, you drew Rina too.

What in the world?!

Rina didn't know what Sonia was thinking about. However, Rina's heart tightened when she saw Sonia angrily walking out of the washroom. Rina was afraid Sonia would meet Titus and Julia along the way, so she quickly stopped Sonia in the heat of the moment. "Please wait a moment, Miss Reed."

Sonia stopped and coldly looked at Rina. "What's the matter?"

Rina squeezed her palm but did not speak immediately as she hesitated.

Seeing this, Sonia frowned with impatience on her face. "I'll leave if you have nothing to say."

Sonia turned her head after speaking.

Rina hurriedly reached out. "Wait. I'll talk now."

Sonia stopped. Although she didn't speak, she still coldly gazed at Rina and waited for her to speak.

Rina bit her lip, took a deep breath, and met Sonia's eyes.

Although it gave Rina a lot of pressure, she could handle it for her needs.

"Miss Reed, can you leave this restaurant and dine elsewhere? Of course, I will handle your expenses for your meal."

"Pardon me?" Sonia was stunned by Rina and questions appeared in her mind.

Rina thought she didn't hear it clearly, so she repeated it.

Sonia smiled angrily at that. "Taylor, are you crazy?"

"What?" Rina's face twisted for a moment.

How dare she say I'm crazy?!

"You must be crazy to say those words. Why are you ordering me to leave this restaurant? You're really shameless!" Sonia crossed her arms and stared at the other woman coldly. She did not hold back.

I don't have to be polite.

Anyone sane won't make people leave the restaurant.

This isn't Rina's restaurant.

What else did she expect when her words angered me?!

Rina never thought that Sonia would insult her. The former's face turned pale with anger as she growled, "You little—"

"Stop it." Sonia rolled her eyes as she was getting impatient. "I don't understand and am not interested to know why you are making me leave this restaurant. However, I'm not wrong. You can't make me leave this restaurant. If you don't want to meet me in this restaurant, then that's your problem and you should leave instead. Either you leave or hold back reluctantly."

Saying that, Sonia ignored the crazy Rina and left the washroom.

On the other hand, Rina stomped her foot angrily.

However, she stopped quickly and caught up to Sonia. She wanted to know if Sonia would meet her parents.

It'd be best if they don't meet. If they do, I must divert my parents' attention and not let them overthink things.

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Sonia was aware that Rina was following her from behind. Not only that, Rina was also looking at her suspiciously, which irritated her as it appeared that she had done something shady.

However, why did Rina want to chase her out of the restaurant in the first place? This action of hers had only piqued Sonia's interest.

What was the reason behind that?

Though Sonia was dying to know, she did not explicitly ask Rina as she knew that Rina would not answer her.

Hence, she could only find the answer herself.

As she was in her thoughts, her steps slowed down and she cast a sidelong glance at the person behind her.

That person nervously halted her steps when she saw that.

Noticing that, Sonia sneered deep down. Can't she do it properly if she's determined to follow me?

When Sonia stopped, Rina did the same immediately. It was so obvious to everyone that Sonia was being followed!

Yet, Sonia did not expose Rina's act. She simply pursed her lips and resumed her walk.

Within minutes, she arrived at her private room and went straight away.

Rina saw Sonia entering it. Then, she took a look at the Gray Family's private room, which was opposite Sonia's room, before exhaling a breath of relief.

Luckily Dad and Mom did not come out from the room, she thought.

She wouldn't have to worry as long as her parents did not bump into Sonia here today.

Rina let out a light breath while thinking, and her tense expression finally relaxed. She then averted her gaze and proceeded to the Gray Family's room.

However, even though her parents did not leave the room and did not meet Sonia, they were all in the same restaurant. They could still run into each other later.

To prevent such a situation from happening, Rina now had to persuade her parents to leave this place. She then opened the door by twisting her hand on the door handle.

Just when Rina was entering the room her parents were at, Sonia's room door opened, although not in its entirety.

Sonia merely opened a small gap. And she was watching Rina enter the room opposite hers from behind the door.

She was already intrigued by Rina's earlier attempt to chase her out, and she was even more curious now after Rina trailed behind her the entire way.

Furthermore, Sonia suspected that the restaurant had something that Rina did not want her to see, which was why she tried to chase her out or even followed behind her in case she discovered what Rina was trying to keep from her.

Hence, she went along with Rina's plan. After entering the room, Sonia intentionally opened a small gap to observe Rina's subsequent actions. From that, she was pretty certain that things were as she had suspected, as she saw Rina heaving a sigh of relief after she entered her room.

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Rina did this obviously because Sonia did not encounter the thing that would make Rina anxious. Then, she noticed Rina looking at the private room opposite hers before her expression slightly changed.

Sonia couldn't explain the change, but she had an intuitive feeling that the things Rina wanted to keep hidden from her were in that room.

So, what was in that room?

Sonia lowered her eyes, something flashing through her gaze.

At this moment, the man who had been standing behind her since who-knows-when suddenly lowered his head and asked, while looking at her, "What happened? What are you looking at?"

When Sonia heard his voice, she retracted her gaze and shut the room door before turning around and saying, "Rina Gray."

"Rina Gray?" When Toby heard this name, his expression changed slightly. His gaze flickered with a different expression too.

However, Sonia did not notice his reactions as all her mind was on the room that Rina entered. "Yes, it's her," she replied, after letting out a low hum.

“Where did you see her?” he continued asking, his gaze darkening.

She responded directly and without hesitation, “The restroom. When I walked in, I noticed she was inside.”

“Did she hurt you in any way?” Toby immediately grabbed her hands and began to examine them.

Seeing his anxious demeanor, Sonia laughed as she shook her head. “She did not. I am not someone who will be easily bullied, you know. However, she was behaving strangely.”

“What do you mean?” Toby was relieved that Sonia had not been bullied, but when she told him that Rina was acting strangely, he frowned.

She did not respond right away. Instead, she took his hand in hers and led him to the table. The table was already filled with delectable food that the waiter had served before Sonia returned.

After Toby sat down, Sonia took her seat as well. “When I bumped into Rina in the washroom, she looked anxious and it was as if she was afraid of me,” she said after taking a sip of water.

“Anxious? Afraid of you?” Hearing that, Toby furrowed his brows even more. He did not understand what Rina was feeling anxious about.

“Yes. I am certain that I did not sense it wrongly. There was also some guilt and jealousy mixed in with her anxious and fearful feelings! I’m not sure why she was feeling that way, so I tried to probe, but I got nothing. Then...”

Sonia abruptly stopped and grudgingly raised her head and looked at him.

“Why are you looking at me like this?” he raised his brows and asked.

Her gaze now was making him fearful as well. She then rolled her eyes and retracted her gaze before continuing, “Well, there are only a few things for women to be jealous of. It is either looks, figure, family background, or men.”

With each of her words, Sonia tapped her fingers one by one. “Though the Gray Family is in jeopardy now, they are still wealthier than my Paradigm Co., so she won’t be jealous of my family background. That’s the same in terms of looks and body figure. Despite being slightly inferior to me, she is still attractive after applying makeup, and there is no reason for her to be jealous of me in these two areas as well. With this, the only factor remaining is men.”

Sonia looked at Toby, who was sitting beside her, after she finished her words.

Pursing his lips, he responded, "So, you think that Rina is attracted to me?"

"Yes," Sonia replied, her chin raised.

Toby merely found it amusing. "That's impossible. I know I am captivating, but not to the point where every woman will like me. In addition, I know who Rina truly adores."

He stroked her hair while saying that.

Sonia was taken aback to hear that. "The man that Rina truly loves?" she asked, her eyes wide.

"Yes."

"Who's that?"

"Zane," he said slowly.

Sonia was in the midst of drinking water. The moment she heard Zane's name coming out of Toby's mouth, she couldn't stop herself from choking and spitting out all the water in her mouth.

Toby had not anticipated such a strong reaction from her. He regained his senses quickly after being stunned for a while and gently patted her back to soothe her. Then, he handed a tissue to her. "Here you go."

That came at the perfect time. Sonia grabbed the tissue and wiped the water on her lips before staring in disbelief at the man in front of her. "Is that true? Rina has feelings for Zane?!"

"It's true." Toby nodded with his gaze solemn.

Seeing that, she had no other options but to believe him, although she was still stunned. "How is this even possible? You said she has feelings for Zane? Since when?"

He shook his head in response. "I have no idea."

Toby truly had no knowledge on this.

Biting her lips, Sonia continued her probing, "How did you know she likes Zane, then?"

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"I didn't know it at first." He placed some dishes on her plate and went on, "When Zane came to discuss a government project with me, he received a gift from Rina about halfway through, and that day happened to be White Day. While opening the gift, he told me awkwardly that it wasn't the first time he'd received Rina's gift. She had done it several times before, even on ordinary days, and she frequently finds opportunities to meet him. It's easy to understand where she's coming from."

"Wow..." Sonia was taken aback and took a deep breath. "I had no idea about this at all."

"We had not yet reconciled at that point in time. And because this isn't about us, I didn't tell you anything else after that," Toby responded while raising his head.

When Sonia heard that, she fell silent, unsure what to say. She wasn't sure if she should feel sorry for Zane for being adored by Rina.

On the other hand, she found it amusing too.

"From what you've said, she's been in love with him for a long time." Sonia then had the food that Toby had placed on her plate earlier.

Toby sipped his red wine and replied, "That should be the case. Rina had taken the DNA test with Julia about two weeks before White Day, and she had been trying to meet Zane at random even before that. So I'm guessing she had a crush on him not long after they met."

"Would it be when they were constantly in contact with each other?"

Toby's action was halted by her words. "Do you know about it?" he asked, looking at her.

She nodded to that. "As you know, we wanted Rina to be our insider in the Gray Family, so we needed her to go through some training to learn more about them. Zane was in charge of training her. They saw each other almost every day during the training. It is very likely for her to fall in love with him after all those days together. Frankly speaking, Rina had never had the opportunity to meet outstanding guys like Zane before she met us, and once she saw him, she was naturally tempted."

"That should be it," Toby said, raising his chin.

"I never imagined that our plan would undergo such drastic changes. Not only did we discover the Grays' biological daughter, Rina is now harassing Zane. I'm sure he's now regretting the entire plan."

Even Sonia, let alone Zane, regretted the plan.

Her original plan was to put an insider into the Gray Family to find ways to beat them down.

However, it turned out that she had, in fact, lent them a hand.

Sonia felt regretful thinking about it.

Sonia felt regretful thinking about it.

Toby, on the other hand, did not say anything and silently added more food to her plate.

"Zane didn't tell me about this either, not to mention that I'm his coworker!" She exhaled a sigh.

"He doesn't want you to feel bad about it. After all, engaging Rina was your mutual plan," Toby said this while putting food in his mouth.

Sonia only gave a bitter smile in response. "True. That's why I'm regretting it now."

"You don't have to. Nobody could have predicted that things would progress to this point." He stroked her hair and attempted to console her, but she only pursed her lips and remained silent.

Setting his utensils down, Toby then supported his head with his hand and smilingly asked, "So, do you now believe that Rina isn't interested in me?"

When Sonia heard that, she looked at him coquettishly and said, "Based on her actions earlier, I suspected she has a crush on you. I assumed she was jealous, or even anxious and afraid of me when she saw me, because she intends to court you. I was prepared to deal with you on that!"

That stunned Toby for a while. Then, he laughed. "I am so aggrieved!"

Sonia was flushed with embarrassment. "That was my initial thought. However, after I left the washroom, Rina followed me from behind anxiously until I entered this room, where she stood outside and appeared to be relieved. That's when I realized she wasn't feeling guilty or anxious because she loves you, but rather because she has something she wants to keep from me, which is why she followed me and tried to monitor everything I did. Toby, what do you think is in this restaurant that makes her so nervous that she wants to chase me out and then has to follow me all the way?"

"Did she chase you out?" Toby wore a solemn expression when he heard that.

Sonia responded with a light hum. "Yes. She asked me to leave when we were in the restroom earlier. Isn't it amusing? This isn't her restaurant, yet she has the audacity to chase me away!"

Upon hearing that, Toby was even more glum. "She is the one who should leave. Since when does she have the authority to drive people away?"

And it was his woman she did this to!

Is Taylor Carey tired of living?

Sonia had no idea that Toby was already displeased with Rina. When she heard his words, she nodded and said, "That's correct. I told her as well and her expression was priceless!"

"What happened next?" Looking at Sonia's smile, Toby finally relaxed his brows before taking a tissue and gently wiping her mouth.

Sonia then took a spoonful of soup and said, "I left the washroom after that and headed here, and she followed me all the way. From that, I realized that she wasn't anxious or afraid of me because she likes you, but that there is something here that she doesn't want me to run into. She entered her room, relieved, after seeing that I had not encountered anything on my way here. When she looked into her room, her gaze seemed strange as well. I can't put my feelings into words, but I believe the thing she doesn't want me to come across is in her room. What do you think she's hiding?"

However, Toby merely lowered his gaze and remained silent.

What was it in Rina's room that made her so terrified?

In the entire Seafeld, only Titus and his wife could do that.

It was such a coincidence that Sonia was craving Norfolkian cuisine today, and Titus and Julia were also here.

It was most likely Julia's idea. Since she was from Norfolk, it wasn't surprising for her to adore Norfolkian cuisine.

Hence, it was perfectly natural for them to appear here.

Sonia, however, wasn't the same. She was from Seafeld, and it was surprising that she loved Norfolkian cuisine, though this could be attributed to her personal preferences.

After all, there was no hard and fast rule that Seafeld residents couldn't prefer food from other places.

But then again, Sonia shared many similarities with Rina. Titus and Julia would be suspicious of her identity if they saw her here and learned that she adored Norfolk's cuisine.

Perhaps Rina wanted her to leave the restaurant because of this. She did not want Sonia to run into Titus and Julia.

However, Sonia refused. Rina did not dare to forcefully chase her out, so she could only follow closely behind Sonia to see if she would happen to run into Titus and Julia.

She did not, which was why Rina felt relieved.

“What are you thinking about?” Seeing that Toby was immersed in his thoughts, Sonia gently nudged him.

“Nothing much.” His gaze flickered. Trying to suppress his thoughts, he smiled nonchalantly and continued, “I think the one in Rina’s room is Titus and his wife.”

“Titus and his wife?” Sonia exclaimed in shock.

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“Yes.” Toby then set his utensils down and said, his eyes flashing, “You know that Titus and his wife once suspected you were their daughter, right?”

Sonia nodded in response. While recalling this, a tinge of annoyance flashed across her face. “I know. I recall publicly admitting during Jessica’s press conference that I am not my parents’ biological child and was instead discovered by my father three days after he took Rina away. Titus and Julia began to suspect that I was the real ‘Rina’. It’s amusing how they continue to suspect other people as their daughter even after Rina has been found and a DNA test has been performed to confirm her identity. In this regard, I sympathize with her.”

Toby felt a tinge of guilt when he saw Sonia’s disdainful expression, but he didn’t show it. “There’s one thing you don’t know about,” he said, his face expressionless.

“What’s that?” Sonia asked curiously.

With his gaze lowered, Toby answered, “I happened to hear that during the time when both Titus and Julia suspected you were the real ‘Rina’, Julia expressed that she did not have any feelings towards the current Rina. Rina heard it and from what I’ve heard, her reaction was massive.”

Though Toby dismissed it as a coincidence, he had obtained such information from the people he had sent to spy on Rina.

That's why he knew this piece of information and Sonia didn't.

"What?" Sonia was stunned by his words. "Julia said she doesn't have any feelings towards Rina?"

"Yes."

"How can that be?" She shook her head, feeling stunned. "Julia had a serious illness after my father took Rina away, and it is still affecting her emotionally. Logically, she should be overjoyed and lavishing Rina with her love now that Rina has returned. Julia can't possibly have no feelings for Rina! Furthermore, from what I can tell, they get along well."

"Julia is just putting on a show for the outsiders." Toby put his utensils down and leaned back against his chair. "She is well aware that such an attitude is wrong, so even though she has no feelings for Rina, Julia accepts her responsibility as a mother and pretends that she adores Rina."

"Oh my." Sonia believed everything Toby had said. After all, he had no reason to lie to her.

She then sneered coldly and continued, "That's unusual. How could a mother have no feelings for her daughter? I don't understand that."

Toby did not say anything to this, as he knew there was nothing wrong with Julia.

Rina wasn't her biological daughter; that was why she had no feelings for her.

Truth be told, Toby was also shocked and had the same doubts as Sonia had now when he first heard about it.

But Toby knew something that Sonia didn't—the current Rina was an imposter. She was not Titus and Julia's biological daughter. After all, Sonia was the true 'Rina'!

But Toby knew something that Sonia didn't—the current Rina was an imposter. She was not Titus and Julia's biological daughter. After all, Sonia was the true 'Rina'!

Hence, he understood why Julia did not have any feelings toward Rina.

This was her natural instinct as her mother.

Despite not knowing that Rina, who was in front of her now, was an imposter, Julia's maternal instinct prevented her from having any feelings for an imposter.

Sonia, on the other hand, did not know what Toby was thinking. She bit her lips for a few seconds and as if she had suddenly realized something, she opened her eyes

widely and exclaimed, "Wait a minute... So, Rina was afraid of me meeting Titus and Julia, right? Rina wanted to chase me out because she is still bothered by the fact that they both once took me for their daughter, and Julia even once hurt Rina's heart over this. This is also why Rina followed me all the way, fearing that I would run into Titus and Julia and confirm their suspicions that I am their daughter, right?"

Toby responded with a light hum. "This is possible."

In fact, he initially did not plan to tell Sonia that Titus and Julia might be in Rina's room. He was also concerned that something unexpected would occur when they all met.

But, after giving it some thought, he decided against it and told her directly about Titus and Julia.

If he did not do so, Sonia would be left wondering why Rina acted so strangely, and she would inquire about who was inside Rina's room. After receiving the answer, she would begin to wonder why Rina was so afraid of allowing her to meet with Titus and Julia.

With that doubt planted within her, Sonia would undoubtedly pursue the matter. It would be a disaster if she managed to get the whole truth out.

That being the case, he told her right away that the person inside was Titus and his wife, followed by him purposefully leading her astray. This would clear her doubts and prevent any further investigation.

And he was right. Based on Sonia's reaction and her next words, he knew that he had succeeded in doing so.

With her lips pursed, she said dismissively, "Is there a problem with Rina's mind? A DNA test confirmed that she is their daughter. I just happen to share some characteristics with their daughter, but that doesn't mean I'm her! What does she have to be concerned about?"

Sonia really could not fathom Rina's thinking.

In her opinion, Rina simply wasn't someone normal.

Noticing that Sonia was no longer interested in Rina's room, Toby relaxed his brows and stood up.

Sonia saw what he was doing and reflexively asked, "You're going to the gents?"

"Yes." He nodded. "Sit here and don't run around."

She merely rolled her eyes in response. "I am not a child. You don't have to remind me of this. Besides, what's the big deal if I go out? I can't possibly get lost, can I?"

"You're always a child to me," he said with a warm smile on his face.

Toby, of course, wasn't afraid of her getting lost.

He was terrified of her running into Titus and Julia!

Though she would not overthink, the same couldn't be said for them.

Hence, he had to remind her to stay in this room, to be safer rather than sorry.

"I know. I won't go anywhere," Sonia waved her hand and replied.

Her face was blushing as well.

He dares to say that I'm a child to him?

I have never seen anyone who would do all those things to a child.

Sonia's face flushed when she thought of that.

However, Toby did not realize that as his mind was elsewhere. When she waved her hand earlier, he had already moved forward and walked outside.

The moment he stepped out of the room, he took a glance at the row of private rooms opposite him.

He had no idea which room Rina was in but according to Sonia, he knew it was one of the rooms in the row opposite theirs.

He then locked his gaze on two rooms that were most likely to contain Rina, before pulling out his phone and texting, 'Take Titus and his family out of this restaurant.'

His tone in the message came across as authoritative, but not at all offensive.

After all, Toby was a natural leader with the authority to rule over everyone.

He took a cigarette from his pocket and lit it after sending the message. Then, he leaned against the wall next to him and began smoking.

Every other man smoked the same way; it was nothing special at all.

But Toby was unique. The way he smoked was captivating, with his actions revealing a delicate sense. When he puffed, it almost felt as if there was more to what he did.

Those who looked at him would sense that he had been through a lot.

And that was what made him attractive.

Meanwhile, the Gray Family was eating in the room across from him.

Rina was preoccupied while eating the food Julia had placed on her plate. She didn't even notice Julia calling to her.

It was until Titus gently pushed her arm that she regained her senses, thereafter dropping the food that was in her spoon and onto her plate.

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"Dad, what happened?" Rina asked while looking at Titus.

While gesturing at Julia with his lips, Titus replied, "Your mother was calling you."

Once Rina learned that Julia was looking for her, she looked at Julia and asked, "Mom, why did you call me?"

"What were you thinking about? You were so lost in your thoughts that you didn't even hear me calling you," Julia explained while frowning. There was a look of concern on her face as well.

Although she didn't have much feelings for Rina, she wasn't stingy about her responsibilities toward her daughter, including being concerned for Rina.

"It's nothing," Rina mumbled with her head down.

As Julia and Titus glanced at each other, they knew that Rina was lying.

Sighing, Julia comforted, "Rina, are you still mad at me for what I said in your father's ward? If you are, how about I apologize to you again? It wasn't my intention to hurt you with my words. I said those words because I'm still not used to your return. Once we've spent more time together, I'll get used to having you around and won't act like that again. So, Rina, can you forgive me?"

With her head still lowered, Rina didn't answer Julia.

Wouldn't act like that after getting used to it? I don't think so.

She wasn't their biological daughter, so it was normal for them to reject her because they weren't related by blood, and because of that, both adults wouldn't have feelings

for her no matter how long they spent time together. At this moment, they treated her nicely mostly because it was their responsibility.

Ironically, they took up that responsibility because they thought she was Rina Gray.

Once they had discovered that she wasn't their daughter, apart from their feelings for her, they would probably stop being responsible for her too.

Seeing that Rina wasn't talking, Julia grew anxious, while Titus frowned and commented, "Rina, your mother has apologized to you. Aren't you going to forgive her?"

As Rina noticed the unhappiness in his voice, she knew that she had taken a wrong move. Just as she was about to make amends, her phone on the table suddenly started vibrating, which made them all glance toward it.

Being the one closest to Rina's phone, Julia saw the contents displayed on the screen and asked in shock, "Mr. F? Rina, who is this? Is he your boyfriend?"

Once Titus heard that his daughter had a boyfriend, his expression changed drastically. "What? Your boyfriend? When did you have a boyfriend and why didn't you tell me? What if he's a scammer?"

Although he disliked the way his daughter was treating his wife, she was his daughter and his only descendant. Besides his wife, she was the person whom he cared most about in the world.

How could he not be anxious after discovering she had a boyfriend?

How could he not be anxious after discovering she had a boyfriend?

Their family had been separated for over twenty years, and it hadn't been long since her return, but now that she had a boyfriend, it wouldn't be long before she would have to get married. How would the two parents be able to cope with that?

After all, the two hadn't spent much time with their long-lost daughter, so how would they be willing to let their daughter leave their home and live at another person's place?

Even if they had to let Rina leave, they would like to spend a few years with her first.

Thus, if this Mr. F was truly their daughter's boyfriend, he would do anything in his power to have Rina break up with him!

"Your father's right, Rina. You should have told us about this. What would we do if something happened to you because of this boyfriend of yours?" Julia agreed with a nod.

When Rina noticed the reaction from them, she blushed out of awkwardness as she assured, "Dad, that's not my boyfriend. He's just an acquaintance."

How could she let that terrifying man be her boyfriend?

Moreover, the person she liked wasn't him, but...

When Zane's face appeared in her mind, her face blushed even redder as a trace of shyness emerged in her eyes, which her parents noticed. However, they misunderstood her reaction, thinking they were right, and that the person who had just sent a message to their daughter was her boyfriend.

Titus felt sour and his face turned red as he slapped the table while stating, "Rina, tell me who he is. I want to know who dares to flirt with my daughter under my nose. This is driving me crazy."

"Yes, Rina. Tell us, who is he? Let me help you take a look at his character and see whether he is the right man for you," Julia hurriedly agreed while nodding.

At that moment, Rina blushed even harder as she took her phone and stood up. "Oh, Mom, Dad, what are you guys talking about? I said I don't have a boyfriend, and I mean it. He is just an acquaintance."

"Oh? Are you telling the truth?" Titus narrowed his eyes.

She answered with a nod, "Of course I'm telling the truth."

After discovering the seriousness in their daughter's expression, the two fell into silence. Then, Julia elaborated, "Titus, I think we've misunderstood Rina. Maybe she really doesn't have a boyfriend."

"Even if she doesn't have a boyfriend, she must have someone she likes, right?" he asked.

Rina's shyness didn't seem fake, so if she didn't have a boyfriend, she must have been thinking about the man she liked. Otherwise, why would she feel shy?

As expected, once Rina heard his words, her expression paled as she became anxious.

Watching the scene before her, Julia knew that what Titus said was true. "Rina, do you have someone you like?" she asked as she pulled Rina's hand.

Rina kept quiet while having her head lowered. Then, she withdrew her hand after a few moments and said indifferently, "Alright, Mom, stop asking. I need to reply to the message."

After that, she took a breath and walked to the window as she was afraid of bumping into Sonia if she went out. If they were to meet each other again and get into a fight, it might attract her parents' attention and lure them out.

As Julia watched her daughter's back, she looked at her husband and whispered, "Honey, what do you think Rina meant by that?"

Glancing at Rina as well, Titus shook his head and replied, "I don't know."

After a moment of silence, she asked, "Who do you think is the person Rina likes? I noticed her expression was not right when I asked her about it. I think maybe that guy doesn't like her back."

Titus' expression darkened when he heard that. "He should be honored that my daughter took a fancy to him. How can he not like my daughter? Just wait until I find out who he is. I'll skin him for not knowing chalk from cheese."

In his eyes, his daughter was the best in the world, and all men were out of her league. Yet, now she had someone she liked, but that man hadn't returned her feelings.

Thinking about that made his blood boil.

While Julia listened to his aggrieved speech, she didn't have much opinion on that matter. Instead, she was looking at Rina, who had her head down while standing beside the window. She couldn't help but feel curious about who Mr. F was and why Rina had to reply to his messages behind their backs.

Also, she remembered Rina's shocked and anxious expression when she mentioned Mr. F. Could it be that he was a bad person?

On the other hand, Rina had come to the window and immediately opened the message Toby had sent, but when she read its content, her grip on her phone suddenly tightened.

He told her to leave the restaurant with her parents!

It seemed like Sonia had told him about their encounter and Toby guessed that something was up.

Since things had come to this, she couldn't stay here any longer.

Although she didn't like it, she had to accept the reality that if Sonia wasn't leaving, she would have to leave.

Moreover, she didn't have the guts to go against his orders because he would definitely cause more trouble for her.

She took a deep breath, sent him a reply before storing her phone away, and returned to the dining table.

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As she walked, she pondered for a good excuse to take her parents away.

After all, they hadn't been here for long, so they hadn't had the chance to try out most of the dishes on the dining table. If there wasn't a special reason, her parents wouldn't just leave like that.

She had to come up with a logical excuse that wouldn't arouse suspicion.

However, this type of excuse obviously wasn't that easy to find.

Just when Rina was getting more and more annoyed inside, Julia suddenly spoke up. "What's wrong, Rina? Why do you look so pale?"

"I'm—"

Rina looked up and was about to tell them she was fine. Then, she suddenly thought of something, and her eyes lit up with a fleeting light.

Right, my pale face can serve as an excellent excuse!

With that in mind, Rina smiled a little, but fearing that someone might catch on, she quickly hid the smile. Then, with a sudden change of expression, she gripped her chest where her heart should be, and put on a suffering expression.

Seeing that, Titus and Julia were both startled, and they stood up simultaneously.

"Rina, what's wrong?" Julia hastily circled around the table and walked toward Rina.

Even though Titus didn't say anything, the nervous look on his face was clear as day.

When Rina saw that they were indeed worried, a light flashed across her eyes. She knew her plan was working.

But this wasn't enough. She needed to do something more.

At that thought, Rina faked a discomforted scream, and she slowly crouched down on the ground, as if she suddenly caught some sort of disease and couldn't hold on any longer.

She really managed to trick Titus and Julia like this, and they were immensely terrified.

"Rina, what exactly is going on?" Julia was so worried that she was about to cry.

Titus helped Rina off the ground and asked hastily, "Yes, Rina. Tell us, where does it hurt? Don't scare us like this."

"Dad..." Rina gripped her chest as she heaved labored breaths, her widened eyes staring at Titus. Her lips trembled as she said weakly, "I... I don't feel so good, I—"

She suddenly stopped short.

Then, leaning in Titus' arms, Rina "fainted."

Titus shook her a little, but there was no response. He was really frightened now. "Rina!"

"Honey, quick, let's take Rina to the hospital." Julia also was so worried that her eyes reddened, and she hastily reminded him.

Titus finally gathered his wits about him and nodded consecutively. "Right, the hospital. Let's go to the hospital. Come, we're going right now."

Once he finished speaking, the couple carried Rina as they hastily walked toward the entrance of the private room.

In the corridor, Toby was still leaning on the wall next to the entrance of the private room, smoking.

In the corridor, Toby was still leaning on the wall next to the entrance of the private room, smoking.

He had more or less finished the cigarette, but he still hadn't put it out and returned to the private room. Instead, he kept staring at one of the private rooms across from him, as if waiting for something.

Just now, Rina had replied to him, saying that she would lead Titus and his wife away soon.

He wanted to see how long it would take her to do it.

Toby faintly let out some smoke, hovering the cigarette over the ashtray at the side. With a slight tap of his finger, the ash broke off and fell into the ashtray.

Soon after, there was some movement coming from a certain private room across from him.

Toby was about to take one more puff, but when he heard the sounds, he suddenly changed his mind and put out the cigarette by pressing it against the ashtray.

The cigarette was just put out and tossed into the ashtray when the door of the private room diagonally across from Toby opened. A couple familiar to Toby was carrying someone as they hastily walked out from within.

Toby could recognize right away that the couple was Titus and Julia.

As for the person Titus was carrying...

Even though Toby couldn't see her face, he knew it could be none other than Rina.

Seeing the couple's worried looks, and from the way Rina was carried outside by Titus, Toby could make out that Rina had a "sudden sickness."

Of course, he knew that Rina had faked it. It was an excuse Rina made up specially so that Titus and Julia could leave.

If not, how could such coincidences occur? He had just asked her to leave moments before, and now she was suddenly ill?

As Toby watched the three leave, a cold smile crept upon his thin lips.

Titus and his wife focused all their attention on Rina, so they didn't realize his presence. After leaving the room, they headed right toward the stairs.

But it was a good thing. If Titus and Julia saw him and challenged him, Little Leaf might come out, and things would get much trickier.

Toby sent a last glance at the stairs the three disappeared at, then calmly averted his gaze and turned around, returning to the private room.

When Sonia heard the footsteps behind her, she turned around and smiled as she said, "You're back."

"Yeah." The chill in Toby's face receded as it was replaced with a gentle warmth that filled his eyes.

Sonia patted his chair. "You've taken quite a long time."

"I saw a performance when I was coming back," Toby replied after taking his seat.

"A performance?" Sonia was stunned, then she got curious and was about to ask him what sort of performance it was when she caught the smell of cigarettes coming from him.

Yes, the smell of cigarettes.

It wasn't the usual kind of cigarette, though, which was especially thick and foul.

On the contrary, there was a slight fragrance to it, and it smelled quite nice.

Since these cigarettes were specially made, outsiders who had never smelled the fumes before wouldn't know that it belonged to a cigarette. They might even think it was some sort of perfume.

As for Sonia, she had smelled this cigarette before, and from him no less. This was exactly why she knew that he had been smoking.

Also, she knew that he smoked, but it wasn't an addiction, so she usually never saw him smoking. As time went on, she almost forgot that he smoked.

Now, when she suddenly caught the scent of cigarettes from him, she finally remembered that this terrible man was a smoker.

In an instant, Sonia's expression soured as she glared at the man, her voice filled with anger as she said, "You smoked?"

Hearing that, Toby knew he was in trouble. She seemed to be upset about him smoking.

Toby subconsciously wanted to say he wasn't smoking, but he knew it was futile to lie, for the smell couldn't fool anyone.

Also, he still had the rest of the cigarettes in his pocket. If he lied, she could definitely search his pockets and find the cigarettes.

When that happened, the atmosphere would get even worse.

So, it was better for him to admit it right from the start.

With that in mind, Toby coughed lightly, his voice a little guilty as he answered, "Yes, I smoked."

"I knew it." Sonia frowned, her expression turning worse.

Toby glanced at her from the corner of his eye. "You don't like me smoking?"

"Of course I don't." Sonia pursed her red lips and looked at him. "Who would want people they care about to smoke? Smoking is bad for your health, don't you know that?"

"I do." Toby nodded.

Sonia glared at him, her voice getting louder. "You knew, but you still smoked?"

Toby touched his nose, keeping quiet. He knew very well that if he replied now, he would only make the situation worse.

Sonia glared coldly at the man. "I already knew before this that you smoked, but that was when we weren't back together. So, I wouldn't care if you smoked, or if you smoked a lot, or if you smoked yourself to death. After all, there's nothing between us. But now, it's different. We're together now, so I have to take responsibility for your body and your health. So, I absolutely do not allow you to smoke. Also, I noticed that you haven't smoked in a while, so I thought you quit long ago. Too bad, I was wrong."

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This man didn't quit smoking after all, and he was probably smoking quite often.

However, he made sure she never saw him smoking, so she thought he had quit.

Now, she knew that she was fooled through and through.

As Toby looked at the woman's small infuriated face, he guiltily rubbed his nose.

He had never expected that smoking a single cigarette would cause such dissatisfaction in the woman.

Now, he also regretted smoking that cigarette a little.

"Sorry, I won't smoke in the future. I'll quit, so don't get angry, all right?" Toby held Sonia's hand as he said in all sincerity.

Sonia eyed him sideways. "Really?"

"Really." Toby raised three fingers. "I swear."

His expression was serious.

Sonia pursed her red lips. "What use is swearing? Do all promises come true as soon as you swear?"

Of course not!

Toby replied silently in his heart as he realized swearing probably wasn't the best way, nor could it convince anyone. After falling silent for a bit, he looked at her and asked, "Then tell me, what should I do so that you'll believe me?"

"Who knows?" Sonia said indifferently, "Even if I believe you now, who would know if you'd smoke when I'm not looking? You said you won't smoke, but I don't know if you mean it."

She was right.

Toby was silent again.

Then, he reached into his pocket and fished out the cigarettes and the expensive lighter, placing them on the table in front of Sonia.

Sonia looked at the cigarettes on the table, then back at the man beside her. "What do you mean by this?"

"You can do whatever you please with them," Toby said sincerely.

Then, he took her hands and placed them in his palms. "I mean everything I say. I really won't smoke in the future, and I will definitely keep my promise. I won't do anything that makes you sad, so please, give me another chance, okay?"

As he spoke, he was especially serious.

He was so serious that Sonia didn't have the heart to say no.

Sonia gave a wry smile, then sighed in the end. "Fine. Seeing how sincere you are, if I don't believe you and give you another chance, I might look like the villain here."

"Impossible." Toby frowned. "To me, you're always the kind fairy in my heart."

Sonia chuckled at that. "A fairy? You're crafty with words, aren't you?"

Toby smiled. "Only for you."

Sonia glared at him.

She believed those words all right.

“Fine. Since you said you’ll quit smoking, I’ll hold onto these for you.” Sonia reached out and gathered the cigarettes and lighter toward her, then put them in her bag.

When she did so, she kept a watchful eye on the man’s expressions, intending to figure out if the man would express any reluctance.

Fortunately, throughout the whole process, the man was very calm and didn’t show any refusal toward her actions.

Fortunately, throughout the whole process, the man was very calm and didn’t show any refusal toward her actions.

This made Sonia see the man in a better light.

After placing her bag back on the chair beside her, Sonia looked at the man with a half-smile. “I thought you’d protest.”

Toby ate his food calmly. “Nothing to protest about. I don’t have much of a smoke addiction in the first place, and I rarely smoke anyways. I only smoke one cigarette sometimes. If not, how come you only found out now that I’m still smoking?”

Sonia had no retort for these words.

He was right. If he had a strong addiction to smoking, she would’ve found out pretty early that he smoked regularly.

“I just didn’t expect you to react so strongly to my smoking.” Toby put some food on her plate as he spoke.

Sonia ate the food courteously, which was also another sign that she was no longer upset about his smoking habits.

“I reacted strongly because I care about you and your body. If you aren’t my lover, I wouldn’t care at all.” At that, Sonia rolled her eyes at the man.

Toby nodded sincerely. “Yeah, I won’t do it anymore. Don’t worry, I’ll keep my body in good condition, and I won’t put you at a disadvantage. I’ll only make you happy.”

His last sentence was whispered in a low and seductive voice in her ear as he leaned in toward her.

Sonia felt a tickle in her ear as she moved away a little bit. Her face was extremely red as she glared at the man.

What was this stupid man flirting around for?

She cared about his body so that he wouldn't fall sick. She wasn't hoping for him to keep up his abnormal amounts of stamina and do those things with her.

This stupid man always liked to interrupt the conversation with such things.

"Go away and be good." Sonia pushed the man away, annoyed.

The man chuckled, but still he obediently shifted back to his position.

Sonia tucked a bit of her hair behind her ears and took a sip of water before she could finally calm down. Then, she returned to the topic at hand. "Tell me, why smoke all of a sudden? Or did you go to the washroom just to have a puff?"

"It's not that." Toby shook his head. "I smoked because I was too bored while watching the performance."

"It has something to do with that performance?" Sonia was surprised. "What performance is that? You never cared much about these things and don't really join in the fun, but this performance is actually interesting enough that you'd stop and smoke while you watched?"

She was curious about this instead.

"It's a performance by the Grays," Toby said, sipping his wine.

Sonia blinked. "The Grays?"

"Yup." Toby nodded. "What other performance do you think was worth stopping by and watching?"

"You have a point." Sonia nodded. "What happened to the Grays?"

"Rina suddenly fell ill, and the Gray couple took her away."

"Suddenly fell ill?" Sonia was truly surprised then, and her voice went an octave higher. "How can this be? When I saw her in the washroom just now, she seemed alright. She didn't look ill at all."

"That's why it's sudden," Toby replied as he lowered his gaze.

Sonia pouted. "Then she's really unfortunate to fall ill just like that. How is she?"

"She fainted." Toby rubbed the wine glass.

Sonia supported her head with her hand. "That sounds serious. Say, do you think this is hereditary?"

She looked at the man.

The man was stunned for a bit. "What?"

"A hereditary disease." Sonia shrugged. "Titus has kidney failure, doesn't he? And this sort of illness is usually hereditary. You said that Rina suddenly fell ill, so could it be that she inherited Titus' kidney failure?"

As soon as Sonia uttered those words, Toby's expression changed in an instant.

He had never thought that kidney failure would be hereditary!

It was true. In a family, if one of them had this illness, their descendants might very possibly get the same illness as well.

Titus had kidney failure, so would Little Leaf have that as well?

After all, Little Leaf was Titus' real biological daughter!

At that thought, Toby stared at Sonia, his thin lips pressed into a tight line as his expression tensed. The look in his eyes was so serious that it was terrifying.

Sonia was startled at his behavior. She parted her red lips and asked faintly, "What's wrong? I feel kind of scared when you look at me like this."

"Little Leaf, let's find some time to go to the hospital for a full body checkup, all right?" Toby took her hand and said.

Sonia was shocked. "A full body checkup?"

"Yes." Toby nodded.

Sonia cocked her head to a side, expressing confusion. "I'm feeling alright, so why the sudden checkup? Aren't we talking about Rina? Why focus on me all of a sudden?"

Toby had no way of telling her that it was because she was Titus' daughter, so he was worried that she might have kidney failure like Titus did.

So, he could only find an excuse. "Because, when I saw Rina fall sick so suddenly, I realized that the human body is very fragile. Someone might look okay one moment and then faint the next. So, I want you to go for a checkup, then I'll rest assured."

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He had to know if she had inherited Titus' kidney failure.

If she did, then it would still be early if they found out now, so she could be cured soon. Otherwise, if this dragged on and they couldn't find a replacement kidney for her later, things would be more troublesome.

After all, because of Titus' special condition, he still couldn't find a replacement kidney until now.

What if Sonia inherited the same special conditions as well?

Toby didn't dare bet on it, so the only thing he could do right now was to find out early and prevent it before it got worse.

Sonia didn't know what the man was so anxious about. Seeing his serious expression, she couldn't help but be amused. "Even though some people do fall sick all of a sudden, I am definitely not one of them. Remember, I'm still taking supplements right now. Every time before giving me the supplements, Tim will run a quick checkup on me. He never mentioned anything wrong with my body, so that means I'm in the pink. So, this incident that happened to Rina won't happen to me. Rina became like this probably because she inherited this disease from Titus, or something terrible happened to her when she was young, which manifested its aftereffects only now. I don't have either of those conditions, so I'll be fine. Don't worry."

She patted the man's tense shoulder, a gesture telling the man that he should relax and stop worrying too much.

However, she didn't know that even if she said so, the man couldn't stop worrying, nor could he relax.

Because she was Titus' real daughter.

"You also said that Tim only did simple checkups on you instead of a more comprehensive one. So if something really is going on, he wouldn't be able to notice it. You'd better get a full body checkup," Toby said as he looked at Sonia.

Sonia frowned, her pretty eyebrows knitting together. "Why do I feel like you're very sure that there's something wrong with me? Are you so sure that I have some sort of illness?"

She shifted closer to the man and stared at him with an intense look, as if trying to figure out some clues from the man's face.

But the man hid his thoughts well, and there was nothing out of the ordinary showing on his face.

So, Sonia looked at him for a while, but she couldn't find anything different.

"Why would I think that you're definitely ill?" Toby put down his wine glass and took her hand. "I wish, more than anyone, that you're perfectly healthy. I was just really worried that the same thing that happened to Rina might happen to you. I was really shocked by Rina this time." Toby lowered his gaze as he spoke in his emotionless voice.

He was really shocked.

However, it wasn't because of Rina. Instead, Sonia's words had frightened him.

If she hadn't suddenly mentioned the hereditary disease just now, he really didn't think that she might also inherit the illness.

If she hadn't suddenly mentioned the hereditary disease just now, he really didn't think that she might also inherit the illness.

Sonia stared at the man for a while, then smiled. "You're shocked just by that? Since when are you so easily spooked? This isn't like you."

"Because I'm worried about you." Toby gently caressed her face. As he gazed at her, she saw a look in his eyes that she couldn't quite decipher.

Sonia was silent for a while before she said, "Will you rest assured only after I do a full body checkup?"

She believed that he had asked her to go for a full body checkup because of this sudden incident with Rina, and he was worried that the same thing might happen to her.

However, for an unknown reason, she could faintly feel that there was something wrong somewhere.

As if he did this not solely for this reason, and he might have some other reason he hadn't disclosed.

However, she couldn't confirm her suspicions from this man's expressions.

After all, the man only expressed concern for her, and there was nothing out of the ordinary other than that.

Perhaps she really was overthinking it, and he really was just concerned about her health.

Just like how she worried about him smoking.

At that thought, Sonia managed to convince herself. She smiled at the man once again. "If you're really worried because of this, let's go then."

Hearing that the woman finally relented and agreed to a full body checkup, Toby nodded and smiled. "Good. Let's go tomorrow morning."

He needed to know about her health conditions as soon as possible, or he wouldn't be at ease.

Seeing the man's anxious behavior, Sonia didn't know if she should laugh or cry. Nevertheless, she felt very warm in her heart.

After her parents' passing, there was almost no one left in this world who would care about her.

There were three people who cared about her in the Lane Family, plus Rose, Carl, and Leonard, which totaled to six people.

However, these six people all had their own families and lives and businesses to attend to, so they couldn't be concerned about her all the time. There were even common instances where they lost contact for days and weeks on end.

So, compared to them, Toby's constant concern for her as he stayed by her side was the most touching, and also the warmest to her.

As she thought about this, Sonia suddenly wrapped her arms around the man's waist and buried herself in the man's arms.

The man was stunned, then responded with a smile as he hugged her back. He patted her back lightly and said in a soft voice, "What's the matter? Why the sudden show of affection?"

"It's not that." Sonia humphed in the man's arms, her eyes closed but her lips in a smile. "I'm just thanking you."

"Thanking me?" Toby raised an eyebrow. "For what?"

"I'm thanking you for your meticulous love and care." Sonia nudged at his chest. "Aside from you, I don't think anyone else would be so concerned about me."

Toby's expression softened. "I am your man, so it's only natural that I do these things for you. Just like how you were worried about me, I feel the same toward you. So you don't have to thank me at all. Alright now, we haven't eaten much, so let's eat more."

With that, Toby gently pushed her away from his embrace.

This was his first time breaking away from their hugs of his own accord.

This man, after all, was someone who wanted to take as much advantage as possible.

When she got close to him, he wouldn't let go of her so easily.

But now, his actions were indeed surprising.

Sonia chuckled and took up her fork as she continued eating.

But Toby didn't have much of an appetite as he kept tapping away at his phone.

Sonia asked him about it, and he only said that he was replying to Tom on some business matters.

Seeing his serious expression, with his eyebrows tightly knitted together, Sonia didn't suspect him one bit. She ate quietly, trying not to bother him too much in his conversation with Tom.

She was wondering, though, why Toby didn't just call Tom and talk. Still, perhaps Tom was busy with something and couldn't talk over the phone.

Seeing that Sonia's attention was completely diverted, Toby sighed in relief and began looking at the contents displayed on his phone.

Just now, he was contacting Tim and asking the latter about Titus' kidney failure, especially in the hereditary department.

When he saw Tim's reply, Toby pursed his thin lips into a line, his heart sinking. His grip on his phone tightened as well, as if threatening to crush the phone into smithereens. Even the air around him seemed to gain weight.

Tim said that Titus' kidney failure was truly a hereditary disease, and the chances of it getting passed down was very high. There would be one with the disease in every three generations.

The last one was Titus' great grandfather.

And this fact was something Titus found from the files at home when he first found out he had kidney failure, and he had reported that to the hospital.

That kidney failure was truly a hereditary disease instead of the occasionally occurring ones that didn't get inherited.

Toby gritted his teeth, anger boiling in his heart. He hadn't expected that the Grays would have this hereditary disease!

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When Titus' kidneys failed, he thought that it was just pure misfortune that he was struck with the illness and did not even think that it might have been due to his genetics.

It was really close now that they thought about it; still, they should be able to make it in time.

Rubbing his forehead, Toby replied, 'Okay. Do you have any news on Titus' kidney replacement?' he asked Tim.

Even though Tim was not treating Titus, it was child's play for an executive like him in the hospital to get a hold of a patient's condition.

Looking at Toby's question, he simply typed on the keyboard a few times before the answer popped up. 'Nope!' he replied.

The answer did not surprise him too much as Toby's expression maintained. This was because he already had the answer as he merely wanted Tim's confirmation.

Toby then glanced at the woman who was busy eating. Seeing that she was not paying any attention to him, he typed, 'You mentioned that this is hereditary to each third generation. Does this mean that after every third generation, there will be a descendant with this illness?'

If that was the case, then he could relax a little. After all, if Titus had contracted the illness, that meant that Sonia should be safe.

Yet, Tim, who saw Toby's question, laughed as he rolled his eyes and used the voice message function. "What makes you think so? There's no set rule for hereditary diseases. If it really were to befall someone every three generations, that patient's family can relax, but things like this can happen to anyone at any time. Some hereditary diseases have patients in every generation while some might have it after countless generations. All in all, this isn't something that can be pre-determined with time."

Converting the voice message into words, Toby felt his heart sink upon seeing Tim's explanation. So, it doesn't religiously happen every three generations. Titus just happens to be the unlucky one who contracted this genetic illness after three generations. This means that there is still a high possibility that Sonia might contract it.

Toby clenched his fist and stopped asking.

Yet, it was Tim who became curious and asked, "Why are you suddenly so concerned about the hereditary condition of the Grays?"

His question made Toby pursed his lips. "Have you forgotten that Little Leaf is Titus' daughter?"

In fact, he did mention this to Tim in the past.

The reply had dilated Tim's pupils as he suddenly became stern. He was originally lying on the chair lazily before springing up into an upright position; it was obvious how shocking Toby's words were. Right. I already knew that Titus is Sonia's biological father. I actually did not consider that she might inherit this kidney failure disease... and I call myself a doctor.

Adjusting his glasses, Tim replied, 'Bring Sonia to the hospital if you have time. I'll do a full-body checkup for her personally.'

Adjusting his glasses, Tim replied, 'Bring Sonia to the hospital if you have time. I'll do a full-body checkup for her personally.'

His words made Toby's tightly clenched forehead slightly relax as he typed, 'That's what I was thinking too; I'll bring her in tomorrow. Since she still doesn't know her relationship with Titus, I'll just lie to her and say that I want her to do a full-body checkup to ensure that she won't just collapse suddenly. Make sure to keep this a secret.'

Tim sneered. 'I don't need you to remind me of that. Okay, let's end the conversation here. I'm going to the nephrology department to take a look at Titus' medical records, to be on the safe side.'

Replying with a simple 'Okay', Toby kept his cell phone aside, yet he could not seem to settle his nervous heart as he felt stuffy inside.

His action made Sonia turn to look at him. "Are you done talking with Tom?"

"Yup," he lied without batting an eye.

Since she did not suspect him at all from the start, she naturally could not detect that the man was lying. Hearing that both men were finished with the conversation, she nodded and did not ask anything else as she only placed some food onto his plate. "Alright. Since you're finished, it's time to eat. You didn't really touch your food earlier."

The woman's concern made Toby smile and reply gently, "Sure."

After dinner, Sonia went to the toilet again before preparing to return with Toby.

It was about 9.00PM when they finished eating, so she estimated that it would be almost 11.00PM by the time they arrived home. After a day's work, she was feeling a bit tired.

Standing outside the entrance of the restaurant, Sonia was looking at the busy road while waiting for Toby to pay. A few minutes had passed before he came out with a slip of paper and a somewhat weird expression. Hmm, he actually looks a bit dazed. That's new.

Since this was the first time she ever saw such an expression from the man, she thought that something had transpired, so she quickly asked, "What's wrong, Toby?"

Reaching out, he gave her the colorful paper. "I won the grand prize."

"Wait, what?" Sonia was surprised.

Toby repeated, "I said that I won the grand prize."

The corners of her mouth twitched. "Grand prize?!"

"Yup." He nodded and motioned her to look at the item in her hand.

It was then she lowered her head to look at the paper. After reading it, she discovered that it was a voucher for a couple's suite!

This...

Sonia was dumbfounded as she looked at the voucher, then at the somewhat baffled man before accepting the fact.

"You... How did you get it? Where did you get it?" she asked.

Blinking, Toby then regained his usual composure as he stopped looking stunned and coughed lightly. "In the restaurant. When I was paying, the owner said I could enter in the raffle, so I shook it and—"

"You won the prize?" She raised her eyebrows.

He nodded. "I never thought that I would get it too. I had never won a raffle before, so this is frankly my first time."

So, this is why he looked a little shocked and baffled earlier. For his whole life, he had never won anything before, so this sudden dawn of luck rendered him unable to respond to the situation.

Gazing at the unconvinced Toby, Sonia smirked, thinking that he looked somewhat adorable. She could understand his feelings, though. After all, if one was to win something out of the blue after twenty or thirty years of living, they would experience a torrent of emotions too.

“How does it feel to win a raffle?” She made a fist and pointed it at Toby’s chin, pretending as if a microphone was in her hand.

Toby then looked down and smiled before acting how he usually did in front of the media and replied seriously, “It’s quite nice. It’s a feeling that I’ve never had before.”

Finding the situation amusing, Sonia continued her line of question. “Then, President Fuller, can you describe what this nice feeling is?”

Toby had a dotting gaze when looking at the beaming woman. “I can’t, but if I really have to, I would say that it’s quite alien and strange.”

“Anything else besides that?”

Pretending to be deep in thought, he replied, “And also joy. Of course, if you are to spend the night with me at this hotel, I would feel even happier.”

He then gazed at her upon saying this. With a piercing gaze, he had a charming smile that would make any woman fall for him.

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Sonia blushed and glared at the man. This b*stard is teasing me again!

Dropping her hands, she stopped playing around, fearing that he would say something inappropriate if she was to continue the role-acting.

“I’m not going to continue this.” She snorted before returning him the voucher.

However, Toby only shook his head as he did not retrieve it and asked, “So, do you want to experience this so-called love hotel together with me? After all, this is my first time to ever win something. Will you grant me this honor?”

His words amused Sonia. “Are you really planning to go there?”

“No matter how I look at it, I gotta honor this win. Otherwise, this will all be naught, won’t it?” Toby smiled lightly.

Sonia thought he made sense as well. Besides, she also knew about the existence of this hotel as it was relatively famous with a lot of branches within the borders. Thanks to the various themes, it became popular among couples.

Of course, she heard all of this via rumors and had never seen it for herself before, so this did pique her interest a little.

Noticing the woman's curiosity, Toby knew that there was still a chance as he said with a glimmer in his eyes, "What I got was the presidential suite as well. If we were to miss out on that, it really would be a waste, seeing how it costs fifteen hundred thousand per night." He then sighed intentionally.

It was this very sentence that dispelled Sonia's hesitation as she gripped the voucher and nodded. "Let's go. Since you finally won something and it's the grand prize, we should definitely go!"

Even though she was not one who liked to take advantage of any situation, she was not a wasteful person either. After all, it would be such a waste to miss out on such a luxurious suite.

I might feel physical pain if I let this room go! Besides, this was his first time winning something, so I should just let him have the joys of being able to redeem his prize. Or else, this will be all for nothing.

Seeing the woman agree made Toby hide his smile behind his hand.

He only said that because he knew her well enough to know that she was thrifty. As expected, she agreed immediately after the statement.

"It's getting late now and there's quite a distance from the hotel. Let's go!" Toby held Sonia's hand.

With that, she nodded and let the man lead her to the car. Walking somewhat in a hurry, he had an anxious look that bemused the woman greatly.

After half an hour, they arrived at the hotel.

Alighting from the car, Sonia found herself standing at the entrance of the hotel as she looked up and felt her mouth twitch, not really daring to step inside. Well... This is a love hotel afterall.

The design of the hotel looked very romantic at first glance, for the outline of the building resembled a heart shape with eye-catching pink exterior walls.

The design of the hotel looked very romantic at first glance, for the outline of the building resembled a heart shape with eye-catching pink exterior walls.

If that's what it looks like on the outside, I can only imagine how crazy it'll be inside.

All in all, the couple would have to possess a certain amount of bravery; otherwise, they would not dare to even step into the place.

Due to the bizarre exterior of the establishment, it stuck out like a sore thumb when compared to the square buildings nearby.

Sonia thought to herself that if she was hesitating upon seeing the hotel and did not dare to go in, Toby would probably have the same thoughts.

Turning her head slightly, she noticed the man standing beside her looking at the building as well.

The man pursed his lips and had a bit of a sour expression, but more than anything else, a torrent of emotions were swirling inside him.

It was obvious that the place stunned him too as she burst out in laughter.

The chortle finally pulled Toby back to his senses before he looked at her and asked, "What are you laughing at?"

"How is it? You feel like washing your eyes, do you?" Sonia teased happily.

Not replying to her, he merely nodded.

It indeed was a unique piece of architecture for it was not ugly by any means, but it was very girly.

However, it was the very fact that it was accentuated by all the commercial buildings nearby that made the hotel on its own seem awkward.

As such, Toby rubbed his temples. He had never expected that it would look like this.

I regret not doing my research before going anywhere with a woman I like. Yes, this has to be the last time we're in such an awkward situation like this.

Noticing that the man stopped talking, Sonia nodded and laughed even louder. "What now? Should we head home? Or do you want to go in?"

After a few seconds of silence, Toby squeezed out, "In we go!"

This surprised her. "We are?"

"Yup." He nodded.

We're already here. If we leave just like that, doesn't that mean that we got cold feet? This is not my style. If word got out that I don't even have the guts to enter a love hotel, I would become the butt of everyone's joke.

But, how could Sonia not know what the man was thinking inside? She looked at him before turning her gaze at the building once again and smirked.

She thought that he would never enter anything so ugly. After all, his style was completely opposite to this hotel. Besides, she could not imagine how wild the interior was going to be.

Even if he were to get cold feet now, she would not tease him about it since she wanted to leave as equally as he did.

To her surprise, she was completely wrong about him!

"We're really going in?" Sonia suppressed her shock and took a deep breath in, looking at the man for confirmation.

A solemn expression accompanied Toby before he nodded. "Of course. Since we're already here, why not just go in? Let's go. We have to face this." He then held her hand and went into the hotel.

Looking at him, Sonia was greatly entertained.

If he was not so stiff with such a heavy expression, she would have bought the fact that he was nonchalantly accepting this. Yet, that was the exact reality and it ironically seemed like he was bringing her into war, not into a romantic, tacky, love hotel.

All in all, his temperament now was hilarious.

At the sight of this, Sonia could not help but giggle.

Seriously, even though he detests how it looks, why is he still forcing himself to go in? There's no way a rich man like him would be reluctant to let one night of tacky hotel stay go to waste. I don't think so.

This man just wants to experience something new and exciting with me in the hotel.

Other than that, she had searched up the information regarding the hotel online in the car and it stated that it was a paradise for couples. According to the reviews, every couple that came here would be catalyzed by the atmosphere and get all steamy real quick; it was precisely this that piqued her interest.

She was curious as to what kind of sorcery the hotel possessed to have all the guests leave good reviews.

Just as Sonia was thinking about this, Toby had already collected the room key from the front desk.

When she snapped back to reality, he was seen refusing the receptionist's guide and dragged her to the elevator himself.

Ding! The elevator door opened.

After the couple went in, Sonia could clearly hear Toby heaving a sigh of relief.

Turning around, she saw the man had finally relaxed his facial muscles and she asked, "Do you have to be so dramatic? Look at you all nervous."

He then shot a glance at her. "It's my first time at a place like this."

"Like it's not mine as well," she replied.

Falling silent for a few seconds, Toby continued, "It was me who exchanged the voucher at the front desk, so it was me who got more unwanted flirtatious looks."

Speechless, Sonia could not retort his words as it was the truth.