

## Fractured Affection

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Noah's hand trembled as he checked her breath, then quickly withdrew it, his voice filled with terror. "Adam... Sylvia... she seems... dead."

Adam grabbed his collar, enraged. "What nonsense are you talking? She will be fine."

This was as much a reassurance to Noah as it was to himself. With modern medical technology, she would be fine. He immediately pulled out his phone and called for an ambulance, rushing Sylvia to the hospital.

Meanwhile, Charlotte received a notification from the system. "Congratulations, Host, you've completed the quest. Noah and Adam's affection points for you have reached 100%. You can choose to stay in this world or return to the real world."

Charlotte excitedly jumped up. "Of course I'll stay! In this world, I'm a celebrated musician, adored by countless people. In the real world, I'm just a nobody. Who wants to live a hard life?"

"I can't believe Sylvia gave up. If she'd surrendered earlier, I wouldn't have needed to sic my fans on her. Poor girl. She suffered for nothing."

Charlotte assumed Sylvia had simply quit, unaware the truth.

Then, the system said, "Host, Sylvia transferred her 99% affection points to you, so she has been erased by her system."

Charlotte was lost in the joy of completing her quest; she didn't notice the affection points thing. She was too eager to share the good news with Adam and Noah.

She arrived at the hospital. Adam was standing grimly outside the emergency room, Noah was leaning against a wall, lost and smoking.

"Adam, Noah, I succeeded!" Her excitement was uncontainable.

Adam and Noah, however, looked heartbroken, because they knew what Charlotte's success meant Sylvia's death.

Noah couldn't accept it, grabbing Adam's shoulder excitedly. "No! You said Sylvia would be fine, right?"

But this time, Adam remained silent.

"Adam, say something!" Noah roared.

Adam's lips moved, his voice barely a whisper, filled with bitterness. "Let's wait for the doctor's report." Their only hope was now pinned on that.

Seeing their grief, Charlotte squeezed her hands, forcing a comforting smile. "I know Sylvia's death is hard for you, but I survived. Let's move forward..."

Adam was annoyed by her voice. He suddenly remembered that Sylvia's death was due to Charlotte's fans. He yelled at her, "Shut up! What are you acting all innocent for? Your crazy killed her. Don't you feel guilty?"

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Adam's gaze was cold.

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A flash of panic crossed Charlotte's face; her eyes welled up. She stammered, "No... I'm... I'm also sad, but Sylvia... she's dead..."

Before she could finish, Noah interrupted sharply, "She's not dead! She will be fine. Don't you fucking dare..."

Charlotte, faced with Noah's aggression, was angry and frustrated, but she dared not refute him. She put on a look of innocence and helplessness.

"Noah, I know you're heartbroken, but you can't blame me for what

can't blame me for what my fans did, right?"

Charlotte's pitiful voice only increased Adam's irritation. He frowned, tugging at his tie.

Just then, the red light above the emergency room door went off. A doctor emerged, his voice laced with regret. "I'm sorry. We did everything we could."