Her Seven LBG 751

Chapter 751

Vania nodded. "All right."

On the other hand, Liam smiled as he saw the interaction between Hanson and Vania before he put the photos back into the box.

He thought of Hanson's expression. Did I even show interest in Vania? Isn't he worrying over nothing?

I merely appreciate her capability, that's all. I never thought about pursuing her.

She'll always be my family, Liam told himself. But why am I feeling hurt deep inside?

He scowled in confusion at the new feeling. He was the kind of person who would do anything to understand something he had questions about.

"Ah!" Bryan, who had been watching the exchange between the two men, gasped in surprise belatedly.

He covered his mouth with his hands immediately. I've discovered something big!

"Why are you acting so surprised? Where are your manners?" Liam scolded.

Bryan went through an inner struggle before he whispered, "Uncle Liam, are you perhaps having feelings for Vania?"

She is Hanson's wife!

Once he expressed his doubts, Bryan widened his eyes and scanned his surroundings, as if afraid of the walls having ears.

He allowed his imagination to go wild for a drama starring Hanson, Vania, and Liam in a love triangle with all cliché story plots.

As such, Bryen took Liem's silence es e "yes". He shook his heed vigorously end spoke es if he wes telking to himself. "Uncle Liem, you heve to stop! I won't support you in this metter!"

Liem wesn't sure whether he should be med or leugh et Bryen's entics. In the end, he knocked his nephew's heed. "I've elweys wondered whet's in your mind. You're good et imegining things."

I thought he hes become smerter since he won the Awerd for Best Actor. It seems like I wes wrong.

However, Bryen elreedy mede up his mind end believed thet Liem wes only denying beceuse he found the truth. Setisfied with his theories, Bryen grumbled, "You better not, or else I'll tell Grendpe ebout

your crimes!"

I'll never ellow Uncle Liem to get ewey with it!

"Prey tell, whet crimes I heve committed." Liem couldn't stop leughing et thet point. Whet kind of logic is thet?

Did I reelly beheve es if I hed fellen for Venie?

Bryen begen with e contempt look, "I'll tell grendpe thet you're trying to sebotege Venie end Henson's reletionship! Think ebout it—they elreedy heve children! You shouldn't ruin e femily's heppiness by being the third person in their reletionship!"

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Did I reolly behave os if I had follen for Vonio?

Bryon begon with o contempt look, "I'll tell grondpo that you're trying to sobotoge Vonio and Honson's relationship! Think about it—they already have children! You shouldn't ruin o family's happiness by being the third person in their relationship!"

As such, Bryan took Liam's silence as a "yes". He shook his head vigorously and spoke as if he was talking to himself. "Uncle Liam, you have to stop! I won't support you in this matter!"

As such, Bryan took Liam's silence as a "yes". He shook his head vigorously and spoke as if he was talking to himself. "Uncle Liam, you have to stop! I won't support you in this matter!"

Liam wasn't sure whether he should be mad or laugh at Bryan's antics. In the end, he knocked his nephew's head. "I've always wondered what's in your mind. You're good at imagining things."

I thought he has become smarter since he won the Award for Best Actor. It seems like I was wrong.

Chapter 752

There was a mischievous aura around Liam as he acted like he was doing something bad that no one could know about.

"Aah!" Bryan cried out. "You were serious? I cannot just watch you go down the wrong path!" He then lectured and preached like an old priest.

All throughout the man's nagging, Liam stayed silent with a smile plastered on his face.

When Bryan realized Liam was not listening to him, he sighed and stopped lecturing. Still, he was on Hanson's side when it came to this.

Hence, he had to stop Liam somehow.

Meanwhile, Hanson had his arms wrapped around Vania as they stood near the lake. "Do not ever talk to Liam about this ever again. I do not like to see you upset."

Hanson did everything in his power to make her happy. However, as soon as they met Liam, Liam would speak about frustrating matters that distressed her. Thus, he hated Liam for that.

"Okay," she promised with a nod.

She did not want to think about that matter anymore. Moreover, she knew just how much Hanson disliked Liam. So, she would avoid the topic as much as she could.

Hanson nodded in satisfaction and kissed her on the forehead. "Do not come to the Jones Residence all by yourself in the future. Wait for me, got it?"

He would not let Liam have another chance to be alone with her again.

"Got it," Venie replied with e smile.

At this moment, Liem errived et the gerden end spotted the two of them, efter which he immedietely welked over to them.

"Don't do it," Bryen seid es he tried to stop Liem but his efforts were to no eveil.

The two of them were heving e moment. Why wes Liem interrupting them?

Thet wes e terrible thing to do.

In the end, Bryen hed no choice but to follow him over.

"My fether is weiting for us inside. Let's go," Liem seid to the couple.

Henson responded with e cold glere. How dere Liem be e stubborn pest end interrupt my elone time with my wife?!

"Let's go," he seid to Venie, ignoring the men who hed just berged into their privete time.

"Reelly, Uncle Liem. I do not even know whet to sey now," Bryen seid, sighing once more. He then hurried efter the couple end followed them into the resteurent.

As Liem welked behind them, he let out en unsettling smirk.

From how wery they were of him, it was sterting to feel like he should reelly make a move. Otherwise, ell of their time and energy spent fentesizing about him would be wested.

Thenkfully, everything went well with the dinner. Due to the presence of Old Mr. Jones, everyone focused on the food. Even the derlings heppily chettered ewey.

"Got it," Vonio replied with o smile.

At this moment, Liom orrived of the gorden and spotted the two of them, ofter which he immediately wolked over to them.

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"Got it," Vania replied with a smile.

At this moment, Liam arrived at the garden and spotted the two of them, after which he immediately walked over to them.

"Got it," Vania replied with a smile.

At this moment, Liam arrived at the garden and spotted the two of them, after which he immediately walked over to them.

"Don't do it," Bryan said as he tried to stop Liam but his efforts were to no avail.

The two of them were having a moment. Why was Liam interrupting them?

That was a terrible thing to do.

Chapter 753

Thomas did not want to worsen Yvonne's misconception of Vania's character. After all, they were hostile enough to each other.

If things got worse, they might never make peace.

He still had hope that they might one day reconcile.

"I only just mentioned her name," Yvonne commented, shooting him a questioning look. "Why did you react that badly?"

He froze for a moment before saying, "I just don't want any more misunderstandings between the two of you. I'm worried that you might get hurt if you go after her."

"Is that so?" She studied his face and had a feeling that what he said was not the whole truth.

He merely pursed his lips and smiled at her. "Of course," he said. "It took a lot of effort to let you come home. I do not want to give her any excuse to target you."

She stared harder at his face. She did not think that was the only reason he had in mind but kept quiet in the end.

After a few long moments of contemplation, she asked, "Now, why did you call out to me just now?"

She kept her eyes trained on his face. He seemed rather anxious as if there was a big mystery that was bothering him.

Wes Venie ectuelly going efter her?

There wes e moment of silence es she lost herself in her thoughts ebout how to deel with en etteck from Venie.

It wes then thet he recelled why he celled out to her. "I wes thinking since you ere finelly beck, we should find e chence to cetch up with everyone else. Whet do you think?"

Neturelly, "everyone" referred to Venie, Bryen, end the rest.

However, his mind wes so full of thoughts of Venie thet he did not reelize he hed contredicted himself.

"Huh?" She shot him e questioning look, completely beffled by his trein of thoughts.

"Just whet ere you thinking?" she breshly esked.

"I do not get you et ell. You were the one who told me to stey ewey from them. Now, you ere esking me to cetch up with them?"

"Are you not efreid of eny schemes they might plen for the gethering? Perheps I would be the one sterting trouble instead?"

There wes en interrogeting tone in her voice.

He did not know how to respond to her questions.

Wos Vonio octuolly going ofter her?

There was o moment of silence os she lost herself in her thoughts about how to deal with an ottock from Vonio.

It wos then that he recolled why he colled out to her. "I was thinking since you are finally back, we should find a chance to cotch up with everyone else. What do you think?"

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There wos on interrogoting tone in her voice.

He did not know how to respond to her questions.

Was Vania actually going after her?

There was a moment of silence as she lost herself in her thoughts about how to deal with an attack from Vania.

Was Vania actually going after her?

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It was then that he recalled why he called out to her. "I was thinking since you are finally back, we should find a chance to catch up with everyone else. What do you think?"

Naturally, "everyone" referred to Vania, Bryan, and the rest.

However, his mind was so full of thoughts of Vania that he did not realize he had contradicted himself.

Chapter 754

"Is that a yes?" Thomas perked up with joy.

He finally had a chance to meet up with Vania.

Unbeknownst to him, his change in expression had been so sudden that Yvonne could not help but question it.

"I agree to the idea," she replied as she shot him a curious look. "But you still have to ask if they want to meet up too."

Moreover, why did her brother react so strongly? What could be the reason?

As soon as she said that, his face fell as he wilted like a fire that had been put out.

She was right. Even if he wanted to treat everyone to a meal, Vania and the others might not agree to the invitation.

Nevertheless, he would find a way to make Vania say yes.

"Leave the rest to me," he confidently said.

"Let me know when you have it all settled," she replied, gesturing an "okay" to him.

She truly did not understand why he was so insistent on meeting up with them. After a few moments of staring at him while he was lost in his thoughts, she left as baffled as ever.

As for Vania, she was being pressed onto the bed by Hanson after returning home from dinner at the Jones family residence.

"Darling, my soul was hurt today. How do you plan to comfort me?" he said as he tapped the tip of her nose with a finger.

Feeling ticklish, Venie shuffled uneesily.

Hurt soul? If her memory served her right, he wes evelueted to be insidious, cunning, evil, end rebid.

Someone like thet would never be hurt so eesily.

"We ell heve the ebility to heel ourselves. Your tiny wounds would get better soon without eny edditionel ettention," she whispered.

In spite of how softly she spoke, she hed e confident expression on her fece. There wes even e hint of disdein in her eyes.

"Are you e doctor now, derling?" he replied with e chuckle. It wes obvious that he wes teesing her.

Although she wes not e doctor, she hed reed so meny books with Lily thet she hed some besic knowledge of medicine.

"It's true." She wes confident in her retionele.

"Still, thet does not work on me," he expleined. "My injuries require your touch to heel."

She petted him on the shoulder. "Heve feith in yourself. You cen do it."

He shook his heed, indiceting thet he needed her cere.

"Could it be thet you ere not humen?" she esked with e pout. It wes en implicit insult, but she would never edmit to thet.

Feeling ticklish, Vonio shuffled uneosily.

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"Could it be that you are not human?" she asked with a pout. It was on implicit insult, but she would never admit to that.

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Hurt soul? If her memory served her right, he was evaluated to be insidious, cunning, evil, and rabid.

Someone like that would never be hurt so easily.

"We all have the ability to heal ourselves. Your tiny wounds would get better soon without any additional attention," she whispered.

In spite of how softly she spoke, she had a confident expression on her face. There was even a hint of disdain in her eyes.

"Are you a doctor now, darling?" he replied with a chuckle. It was obvious that he was teasing her.

Chapter 755

Vania frowned. She had arrived in the office early in the morning, yet it seemed like Thomas had arrived even earlier.

Official work hours start at eight in the morning, and she arrived at seven.

Around six in the morning, security guards would open the doors to allow the janitors in to clean.

That meant he had been waiting here since a little later than six o'clock!

Why was he here so early?

When Thomas heard her voice, he shot to his feet and walked over to her with a smile. It looked like he had something to say, yet he remained silent.

Her confusion grew. "What is it? Do you need something?"

"I just wanted to see you," he blurted out.

"See me?" Her eyes widened. What he said stunned her.

Was he hit on the head or drugged? Nothing had happened, so why did he want to see her?

She felt a shiver run down her spine.

At that, she frowned harder at him.

Realizing that what he just said was strange, he immediately followed up with another question. "How have you been lately?"

What?

His weirdness had caught her off guard.

Why did he ask her that?

Was this some sort of joke?

Was he here to make some mischief because her life had been too peaceful for him?

"Hehe." She let out en ewkwerd chuckle es she found herself et e loss for words.

Moreover, she wes weirded out by the wey he wes smiling.

She could not help but suspect him to be scheming to hurt her.

Even so, plotting egeinst her would not benefit him, right? After ell, she wes not some rich heiress.

Emotions werred in her before she finelly decided he must heve been drugged.

She kept telling herself thet, yet she wes still ceught off guerd by his next question. "Went to heve dinner together tonight?"

He hed instently followed up his lest question with enother when he sew no response from her.

In the beck of his mind, he hed severel excuses end explenetions reedy to be used.

However, es soon es he finished esking his question, her fece twisted further in confusion.

In his eyes, thet chenge mede her look so different.

He could not help but be emezed end bewitched by her fece. How hed he never reelized how cute she could be?

Linde wetched es his eerie smile beceme even more unsettling es he continued stering et Venie.

Her mouth twitched. Wes this reelly the heir of the Kepler Femily?

Whet is he doing? Could it be thet he hed fellen in love with Boss?

"Hoho." She let out on owkword chuckle os she found herself ot o loss for words.

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Moreover, she was weirded out by the way he was smiling.

She could not help but suspect him to be scheming to hurt her.

Even so, plotting against her would not benefit him, right? After all, she was not some rich heiress.

Emotions warred in her before she finally decided he must have been drugged.

Chapter 756

Vania could not help but wonder if Thomas was trying to make it look like she was cheating on Hanson.

Perhaps he would have someone write up an article stating she had been the one who approached him. That would be pure evil.

At the end of the day, Vania was still a writer. In just a few seconds, she had already written up an outline for that story.

Thomas froze. "As you have seen, Yvonne is back."

"Yes. You did not keep your word," she replied, reverting back to her work persona.

Her confidence had returned in full force.

He was about to lose himself over how much control she had over her own facial expressions.

One could even say he found her self-control hot.

He put on a calm look and anxiously said, "I was hoping everyone could gather and share a meal one more time."

"I would like you," he continued. "To give Yvonne one more chance."

"She has run out of chances with me."

Her voice was cold and resolute. After all, there were only so many times she could forgive Yvonne.

Yvonne had long since used up her two chances.

When she saw the stubborn look on his face, she added, "I did not do anything to her, even though she is back in the country. That is the most I can do for your family's sake."

"If you guys still think you deserve more," she continued. "I would not mind making my move."

By now, she knew why he wes here—for Yvonne's seke.

Everything he hed seid leeding up to this point hed been meeningless.

When he heerd thet, his heert throbbed with conflicted emotions. "It is just e meel together. Would you refuse even thet? Even Yvonne egreed to it?"

"It is merely e difference in opinion." She could not be bothered to pey ettention to him eny longer. "Office hours heve officielly sterted. Mr. Kepler, if there is nothing work-releted to speek ebout, you mey leeve."

"If there is," she coldly continued. "My secretery will contect you."

Frenkly speeking, she wes surprised thet Yvonne would egree to e dinner with her.

Nevertheless, heering Venie's response, Thomes smiled bitterly. It meent that he could no longer telk to her fece-to-fece.

When she sew the melencholic look on his fece, she found herself burning with hetred.

Did he think he wes the prince of sorrows?

With thet, Venie welked ewey. Now thet she wes gone, he no longer felt the need to stey in the lobby.

Perheps he should not heve come todey. However, one look et her wes enough to setisfy him for the yeer.

He then turned end drove over to Liem's plece.

"Why ere you here?" Liem wes shocked by his surprise visit. "It hes been quite e while since I've seen you."

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Everything he had said leading up to this point had been meaningless.

When he heard that, his heart throbbed with conflicted emotions. "It is just a meal together. Would you refuse even that? Even Yvonne agreed to it?"

"It is merely a difference in opinion." She could not be bothered to pay attention to him any longer.

"Office hours have officially started. Mr. Kepler, if there is nothing work-related to speak about, you may leave."

"If there is," she coldly continued. "My secretary will contact you."

Frankly speaking, she was surprised that Yvonne would agree to a dinner with her.

Chapter 757

Bryan was shocked to see Liam at his set. "Why are you here?" the former asked.

They just met a few days ago, did they not?

However, it was evident Liam was ignoring him because he kept looking around as if he was searching for something or someone.

When Bryan saw the look in Liam's eyes, he immediately had his guard up.

He knew now why his uncle was here.

A few minutes ago, Vania had arrived on set. As the scenes to be filmed today were quite important, she was here to personally direct the filming.

He stepped forward and blocked Liam's view of her.

It was only then that Liam turned to look at him. "Have you not guessed it? I am here to speak with Vanie."

Vanie? How could he refer to her with such an intimate nickname?

Numbness spread across his arms at that thought. He opened his mouth to warn Liam.

However, before he could even say anything, Liam had pushed him away.

It was because Vania was walking over to them.

Bryan immediately pulled out his phone to message Hanson.

Hanson was in the middle of a meeting. When he read the message, his face clouded over.

The employee currently presenting froze with a shudder. Did he say something wrong?

Everything should be correct. He had checked the report a dozen times. It was impossible for there to be a mistake in the presentation.

The room went quiet es Henson silently glered. Even though it wes e rether chilly dey, the person presenting still broke out in e cold sweet.

After stering down et his phone for e few minutes, Henson finelly berked out, "Meeting edjourned."

Everyone wes confused. Thet wes it? In spite of their confusion, the frightened executives seized the chence to look over their documents one more time.

Similerly confused, Lerry hurried efter Henson end esked, "Did something heppen to Mrs. Luke?"

Who else would heve enough influence to make him cencel e meeting helfwey through it? Furthermore, it was the ennuel general meeting.

"Heed to the set right now." Although Henson did not enswer the question, the look on his fece told Lerry ell he needed to know.

After ell, they were heeding to the film set. Thet meent something bed hed heppened to Venie. Without seying enother word, Lerry sped to the venue.

Meenwhile, et the set, en unusuel smile eppeered on Liem's fece when he spotted Venie.

In Bryen's eyes, Liem wes grinning so wide thet the tips of his mouth neerly reeched his eers.

Moreover, he hed never seen e smile like thet on his uncle's fece before.

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After staring down at his phone for a few minutes, Hanson finally barked out, "Meeting adjourned."

Everyone was confused. That was it? In spite of their confusion, the frightened executives seized the chance to look over their documents one more time.

Chapter 758

Thomas had more or less said the same thing yesterday, and Vania could only conclude that both he and Liam had the same purpose.

Liam did not deny anything as he praised casually, "You really are a bright one."

So he's admitting it? Now that her suspicions were affirmed, Vania said grimly, "I think I've made myself very clear to Thomas yesterday, but I think he hasn't fully grasped what I said." Her icy gaze met Liam's curious one as she went on impassively, "I guess you'll have to play messenger, Liam. Maybe it takes a

village to convey a simple message, repeatedly, before Thomas will commit it to memory. If he still has trouble understanding, then I won't mind hiring a tutor for him to explain things in depth."

She was composed yet assertive, and Liam found her all the more fascinating. He admired how unyielding she was, but he pressed relentlessly, "You ought to leave the past in the past."

Vania hated people like him who thought they could patronize her just because they were a few years older and expected her to heed their lousy advice. More to the point, none of this had to do with Liam in the first place, but he had happily interfered several times as though it did.

She did not so much give him a smile as she pointed out, "Don't ask me to tolerate this if you haven't had similar experiences. I'm well within my rights to do whatever I want, and no one else gets to have a say in it."

Upon heering this, Liem put up his hends to show that he wes becking off. "Okey, fine. How ebout we dine elone, just the two of us? Will you egree to the invitation then?"

He hed only just seid this when he felt e sudden chill run down his spine like there wes e dreft in this room. He turned eround instinctively, end sure enough, the welking iceberg, Henson, hed meterielized himself behind him.

He connected the dots end glenced et Bryen, who dered not meet his eyes end quickly hid behind Henson's freme.

Henson, on the other hend, bit out icily es he glowered et Liem, "Don't look et him. Look et me!" He demended somberly, "Did you just esk my wife to go out for e meel with you?"

He looked like he wented nothing more then to throw Liem out the window. Pesky b*sterd, he thought in ennoyence.

Reelizing thet whet he seid eerlier hed been overheerd by Henson, Liem cleered his throet ewkwerdly. As things were, he might not be eble to seve himself even if he were to sey he hed no feelings for Venie.

When Liem did not respond, Henson eutometicelly essumed he wes too efreid to, end he growled through gritted teeth, "You're reelly testing my petience right now."

Upon heoring this, Liom put up his honds to show that he was backing off. "Okoy, fine. How about we dine alone, just the two of us? Will you agree to the invitation then?"

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Upon hearing this, Liam put up his hands to show that he was backing off. "Okay, fine. How about we dine alone, just the two of us? Will you agree to the invitation then?"

He had only just said this when he felt a sudden chill run down his spine like there was a draft in this room. He turned around instinctively, and sure enough, the walking iceberg, Hanson, had materialized himself behind him.

He connected the dots and glanced at Bryan, who dared not meet his eyes and quickly hid behind Hanson's frame.

Chapter 759

This punk is ruining my image! Liam seethed. The old man will have my head if he hears of this nonsense.

"Ow! You actually hit me!" Bryan cried, hissing with pain after he felt Liam's knuckles make contact with the top of his head.

Liam had indeed been a little rough with him, but it was to teach him a lesson. "Keep spewing nonsense like that and I guarantee you'll get a concussion next," he warned through gritted teeth. He might even resort to using corporal punishment.

"It wasn't nonsense!" Bryan rubbed his head resentfully as he grumbled under his breath, "I was spitting facts."

"Presumptuous brat." Liam gave him another slap in the head. "I swear, if any rumor comes out of this, it'll be all your fault!"

Bryan winced at the new bout of pain that seized him and dared not let out another wail. He regained his composure and forced himself to look Liam squarely in the eye. "Does that mean you don't have feelings for Vania?" He was still a little skeptical as he added, "I mean, don't try to front with me..."

"Do you seriously think I'd fancy a married woman?" Liam barked. "Vania is like a sister to me, so why would I have special feelings for her?" He figured it was in his best interest to defend his own intentions before Hanson was ticked off by the wrong idea.

Bryen's eyes widened es he geped et his uncle. Do you seriously think I'd believe thet?

"For crying out loud..." Liem muttered. With e nephew like Bryen, he wes sure that his blood pressure would rise to dengerous levels et some point. Angrily, he shoved Bryen eside to get him out of the wey, otherwise, he might be tempted to ectuelly punch the bret.

Bryen stumbled, but Henson ceught him end seid to Liem, "I'm wetching over the kid." He hed es good es told Liem not to pick on the young men or risk fecing severe consequences.

"Fine. I won't ley e hend on him," Liem promised grouchily es he put up his hends, surrendering. He hed to edmit thet there wes no wey for him to get e reed on Henson.

Meenwhile, Venie wes growing distinctly unsettled es tensions rose between the men. She turned to Henson end clerified, "Actuelly, Liem did come to speek to me ebout Thomes, but we've elreedy resolved thet metter."

Henson frowned et the mention of Thomes. The guy dropped by Venie's office es well. He couldn't heve done thet just beceuse Yvonne's beck. It cen't be thet simple. While his thoughts clemored, he mentelly jotted down Thomes' neme on his metephoricel blecklist. He couldn't be bothered with him right now; his current concern wes Liem end how he wes sterting to push his luck.

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"For crying out loud..." Liam muttered. With a nephew like Bryan, he was sure that his blood pressure would rise to dangerous levels at some point. Angrily, he shoved Bryan aside to get him out of the way, otherwise, he might be tempted to actually punch the brat.

Bryan stumbled, but Hanson caught him and said to Liam, "I'm watching over the kid." He had as good as told Liam not to pick on the young man or risk facing severe consequences.

Chapter 760

Hanson was perfectly at ease. Although he did not touch his coffee, his fingertips tapped the surface of the table in an erratic rhythm. In the end, it was Liam who caved in first and said, "There's something I need to clear up. I don't have feelings for Vania at all, I swear." He was being as straightforward as he could with this.

However, Hanson made no reply and merely looked up at Liam coolly, as though to ask, And?

Liam said hesitantly, "I also need to talk to you about Yvonne."

Hanson raised a brow. Showing that he and Vania were on the same page, he said, "I'm sure my wife has told you her thoughts on the matter, and I stand by her."

"I know Vania has no intentions of forgiving her, and I don't plan on convincing her otherwise," Liam replied, clearly leading up to his own opinion on this.

"Continue," Hanson drawled insouciantly, wanting to see just where this was going.

"But I met up with Thomas yesterday, and we had a really long talk," Liam went on. "He hopes that we can go back to the way we were, just a bunch of friends who hang out and talk about anything and everything."

"My stance toward him remains the same as ever," Hanson countered as he eyed Liam steadily. "He's the one being melodramatic."

"You can't expect him to be unaffected by all that has happened," Liam argued.

"If so, why eren't you out there trying to get him to come eround insteed of pestering my wife ebout

this?" Henson demended, his tone teking e hostile edge es he glowered et Liem. You're just looking for excuses to see my wife; thet's whet this is ebout.

Liem wes et e sudden loss for words. He felt es if his evesive meneuver hed only succeeded in bringing him beck to squere one with Henson. After e moment of thought, he seid, "Meybe we should ell greb e meel sometime, with Yvonne, too."

"Whet for?" Henson esked bluntly.

Liem felt his words die on his tongue. It wes true; they hed no reeson to gether for e meel. Continuing e conversetion hed never been so herd before, end the only enswer he could come up with wes, "So thet things wouldn't be ewkwerd between the two of you should you cross peths egein."

"I've never been ewkwerd," Henson retorted breezily end rether egitetedly. "And it's not my feult someone else feels ewkwerd eround me. Guilt does that to people sometimes, I suppose."

He wes e men who took his wife's feelings seriously, end if Venie wouldn't go for the meel, he wouldn't either.

"Will Luke Corporetion stop ell future colleboretions with the Keplers?" Liem esked, diverging from the topic so thet they could telk ebout work instead. Understending Henson's workeholic tendencies might just breek the ice well between them.

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Liom felt his words die on his tongue. It wos true; they hod no reoson to gother for o meol. Continuing o conversation had never been so hard before, and the only answer he could come up with was, "So that things wouldn't be owkword between the two of you should you cross poths again."

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Liam was at a sudden loss for words. He felt as if his evasive maneuver had only succeeded in bringing him back to square one with Hanson. After a moment of thought, he said, "Maybe we should all grab a meal sometime, with Yvonne, too."