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Nonetheless, Thomas is still so young. That kind of air is unattainable for someone his age. Even if that is just a coincidence, there is no way he can fight as well as the patriarch. After that thought, Shadow climbed the stairs to the second floor while Thomas was in the kitchen. When she located Olivia's bedroom, she went inside and looked around. "She's a rich kid, after all. Look at this place. It's so clean." She later realized he had replaced the windows but saw nothing amiss.

Then, she heard a knock at the door and saw him walk into the room, handing her a box of salves. "I made this today. Apply it to your abdomen, and the swelling should go down." He bought the herbs earlier, and finding himself with nothing better to do after Olivia returned to the Pearson Residence, he decided to make some salve. Moreover, he knew Leslie had kicked her the day before, so he anticipated her abdomen would be swollen.

"Okay." Even though she wasn't hurt, Shadow accepted the salve that Thomas handed to her. I pray that my wits will deceive him. As long as he is unaware that I am an imposter, it's highly unlikely he'll ever figure it out.

After that, he said good night and returned to his room.

The night passed quietly, and she woke up early to make breakfast. She prepared the foods Olivia enjoyed cooking and made them taste exactly like Olivia's. It was clear that Shadow had put a great deal of effort into trying to imitate Olivia. Then, Shadow looked at him and smiled sweetly. "Is it good?"

Since he wasn't a picky eater, he responded, "It is." A beautiful lady made me breakfast right after I woke up. What more could I ask for?

Following breakfast, they made their way to Keyshire Property.

On the other hand, Terrence had two missions for Shadow. First, she would deplete Keyshire Property's resources and redirect them to Pearson Group. Keyshire Property was a profitable

company, and if their plan worked, the Pearsons could be the Irieson real estate industry leaders. By then, he anticipated that every family would attempt to curry favor with them. Second, she must assassinate Thomas. He

was powerful, so killing him head-on was impossible, but she could easily poison him using her disguise. Hence, no matter how powerful he was, he would not be wary of those closest to him.

As usual, upon his arrival at the office, he plopped down on the couch and played on his phone out of boredom while she prepared for a meeting. Nonetheless, she told Molly to stay in the office that day. Before Shadow took on the mantle of Olivia, Terrence made her go through some files. They were records of people close to Olivia, and Molly was one of them. Since Molly has a good rapport with Thomas, I cannot allow her to follow me, or she will discover my plan.

Meanwhile, Molly was puzzled over why Olivia wouldn't let her tag along, but she refrained from asking since Olivia was the boss.

Soon after, Shadow arrived at the meeting room, where she was greeted by two men and a woman who had been sent by Terrence. Then, one of the men handed her a business transfer agreement, which she signed without even perusing.

"As expected from you, Miss Olivia," the man said sycophantically. This contract is worth billions, and I couldn't believe she would just hand it over to the Pearson Family. With this, our real estate company will be at the top of its field in this city. Who says all girls think about all the time are their boyfriends? She proves them wrong, and she cares about her family.

However, these people had no idea that Olivia had been switched out. If this were the genuine Olivia, she would never give away this multi-billion business.

After that, Shadow frowned and said coldly, "If nothing else, leave." She hated talking to these glib- tongued devils, and the sight of this man alone disgusted her.

"There's something else, Miss Olivia." The man looked at the woman, and the woman whipped out a file from her bag and handed it to Shadow.

Shadow hissed when she saw the file, perused it, and exhaled sharply. What? Master demands immediate control of 50% of the company's operations? Since the business in question is not mine, I won't get involved here, but doesn't it seem a little bit hasty? Today is my first day posing as Olivia, and he wants half the company's business right away?

Nonetheless, her silence made the man impatient. "Stop reading it, Miss Olivia. Whatever happens, the contract will not be altered." You are a member of the Pearson Family, as is your company, so hurry up and sign it!

Afterward, she signed the papers and left the room.

"Good show, Miss Olivia," the man said.

On the other hand, Shadow returned to the office and stole glances at Thomas. After Molly left to make some copies, it was just him and her in the office.

Then, he put his phone down and placed a thermos on the table. "Time for your meds."

As soon as he heard this, confusion filled her eyes. What meds? However, she noticed he was staring at her, so she finished the meds quickly in case he suspected her.

He waited for her to finish her drink before returning to the couch to fiddle with his phone. She can't stop taking these meds. If she skips doses for more than three days, the poison in her body will counteract these meds by turning them into poison.

Meanwhile, Shadow was taken aback by the sensations she was experiencing in her body. This is no ordinary med! Suddenly, she felt a wave of warmth spread from her abdomen to her veins, and it was

as if she were drenched in something soothing. Is this an ancient formula? It's used to get rid of frost aura, it seems. Wait a minute... Sh*t! He uses these meds to turn the poison in Olivia's body into something else. "Damn you, Thomas. What have you done? I'll kill you!" she muttered.

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On the other hand, Shadow needed to call Terrence and inform him about the meds that Thomas had prepared. So, she took a deep breath and tried to remain calm before picking up her phone and exiting the building. Moreover, she had to ensure no one could overhear her conversation, so she went to a quiet alleyway near the company and called Terrence. "Bad news, Master. For some reason, Thomas knows about Olivia's duty and has prepared some

medicine for her. I took a dose and can tell the medicine is used to cure Olivia's poison."

"What?" Horrified, he dropped his phone without realizing it, and his heart was pounding furiously at the time.

"Master? Master?" she called out to him, but there was silence on the other end. Eventually, she hung up and returned to Keyshire Property because she knew Thomas would become suspicious if she had gone too long. When she returned to the office, she whipped out a bottle of liquid from her pocket, poured it into a mug, filled it with water, and handed it to him. "Here, have some water."

Terrence had spent a lot of money on this bottle of liquid. It was odorless and colorless like water, but it was a slow-acting poison that was fatal. The poison would have no effect for the first six doses, but on the seventh, it would kill the victim instantly, and no one could cure this. He was a cautious man, and he knew Thomas was a great doctor who had even cured Olivia, so Terrence chose a slow-acting poison. He knew that even the most skilled doctor, like Thomas, would never be able to tell that the water had been tampered with before the poison took effect.

When Thomas noticed Shadow offering him the drink, he put down his phone.

The moment he took the mug, she smiled smugly. This is my master's perfect plan. Most people who don't know him would think he's an amiable old man. However, he is the antithesis of kind because he is callous.

However, his phone rang just as he was about to drink from the mug. Then, Chloe's voice could be heard on the other line. "Are you busy, Thomas?"

"No."

"Then, can you come over? I'd like to walk around." She was just a young girl who had barely escaped an assault the day before. It left some trauma on her, but she couldn't tell her father that, so she called Thomas and asked him to go out with her.

"Wait for me. I'm coming right now." After saying that, Thomas set his mug down and said goodbye to Shadow before leaving.

Shadow gnashed her teeth when she heard that. He was about to gulp down that water if not for Chloe's call. Gotta find some other way to deal with him.

Nevertheless, Thomas had no idea he had narrowly avoided being poisoned. At the time, his priority was Chloe, and he knew she needed to distract herself, and as her brother, he felt obligated to help her. So, he took her to the mall, and after a few trips with Olivia, he concluded that girls liked shopping for some reason. As he had anticipated, Chloe loved to shop and promptly bought everything she could lay her hands on. He also stated that he would pay for everything, as this amount was nothing to him, and as long as she was satisfied, he was fine with it.

Once she finished shopping for herself, she bought two sets of clothes for him. Although he already had plenty of clothing, including Olivia's purchase that he hadn't even worn, he wouldn't turn down a gift from Chloe. Soon, her disposition improved shortly after they had a meal and watched a movie.

"Will you always be by my side, Thomas?"

He nodded and replied, "As long as I'm here, no one can hurt you."

"Okay." She nodded, and her eyes glistened with tears.

In the meantime, the Pearson Family was again thrown into utter chaos.

At that moment, Terrence and Norman were in a family-owned private villa in the city's southern region. It was a beautiful and secluded spot, perfect for unwinding. Moreover, this was where Olivia was locked up. Aside from them, an old man was in the villa's lounge with a young lad's face. This man appeared slightly older than Terrence and was the family patriarch—Duban Pearson, Terrence's cousin.

Then, Duban asked solemnly, "Is that true, Terrence?"

Terrence sighed and replied, "News from Shadow. Can't be false."

"I'll check on her." After saying that, Duban went to a bedroom on the second floor, followed by Terrence and Norman.

Once they opened the door, an angry voice demanded, "What do you want? Let me go!" Olivia was bound to the bed and hadn't left the room since she

awoke. There was a bathroom in the bedroom, which was the extent of her walking range.

When Duban heard that, he frowned and knocked Olivia unconscious. I can now comprehend why Terrence and Norman dislike her due to her stubbornness. Every time she sees me, she demands I let her go, and she refuses to listen no matter what I say. Her tenacity is starting to irritate me.

However, Terrence and Norman regarded the unfolding scene with a detached disinterest, as if she were irrelevant to them.

After that, Duban checked her pulse, and a few minutes later, his face fell. "Her poison is seventy percent cured."

Thud! Terrence plopped to the ground. We're done for. They'll destroy our family. "Do you have a way out of this?" Duban was his last hope because he was the family's most powerful member and was the reason the Pearsons had survived this long. He was certain Duban had a plan.

Nonetheless, Duban said nothing as he stood with his hand behind his back and his eyes cast downward as if deep in thought.

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Meanwhile, Norman and Terrence exchanged glances but said nothing for fear of disrupting Duban's train of thought.

Thomas, you b*stard! Terrence cursed silently. There has never been any bad blood between us, but the reason for our conflict is entirely due to Olivia. Still, it was you who tried to meddle in our family affair. Fine, I can live with that, but why the heck did you cure her? Don't you have anything better to do? Your actions will negatively impact my entire family.

Ten minutes later, Duban sat down and said, "I have a way out."

"What is it?" Terrence's eyes lit up. I know he will find a way. He's not the patriarch for nothing. As long as she can become the sacrifice, we'll live.

"Either we re-inject the poison or flush out the blood in Olivia and replace it with that of a woman with a Yin Physique."

"Um..." The expectation in Terrence's eyes dimmed upon hearing that. A woman with Yin Physique? How are we supposed to find that woman? Also, there is no way to re-inject her with the poison because we do not have it, and only those people have it. It will rile up a storm if we have to re-inject her, as those people will kill us, and the other families will be out for our heads.

Duban turned to face Terrence after noticing his silence. He knew his solutions were challenging, but they were their only options. "We'll do this quietly. First, get a woman with Yin Physique."

"How are we supposed to find her?" Terrence asked helplessly. Women who have Yin Physiques are notoriously difficult to find, and there is no way we will be able to locate a woman with such a physique in such a short time.

"Just look for her. If you fail, we'll have to re-inject her with the poison. I just hope we won't be punished too severely for that." Duban shook his head and waved the father and son away as he had no other option.

After that, Terrence and his son left the villa, and Norman asked, "What now, Dad?"

"We will send all of our men on a search. Be sure to instruct them to look in every nook and cranny for the woman who fits the requirements." This is the only thing we can do. If we're lucky, we might find one. If Shadow hadn't told us, we would have been in the dark until the day of the sacrifice, and by then, our family would have been annihilated.

Norman nodded after hearing that. As he was aware of the gravity of the situation, he quickly called his men and instructed them accordingly. Although we have little hope, we must grasp at whatever straws we can find.

In the meantime, Duban frowned at the awakened Olivia. We gave you life and raised you. How could you go against us when it is time to repay us? I would have taught her a lesson if she wasn't a sacrifice.

"Let me go! Kidnapping is a crime!" she screamed as she struggled to break free. After waking up, she began to reflect on the events that had led up to her passing out. It had to be the tea my dad made, or else I wouldn't have passed out. It must have been Dad and Grandpa's idea to lock me up since they specifically lured me here for that purpose. How low will they sink? That realization filled her with regret; had she known this beforehand, she never

would have returned. From now onward, it doesn't matter to me if Grandpa lives or dies!

On the other hand, she was not worried because she had told Thomas to pick her up before returning to Pearson Residence. She was aware that once he realized she was missing, he would not give up until she was located. Even though she was now locked up, she was confident he would find her. She

had faith in him because he always showed up whenever she was in danger. In addition, she had begun to rely on him without even realizing it, and whenever she recalled his presence, she found the strength to persevere despite the gravity of her circumstances. This time is no different. He'll find and save me, just like at the Hind Residence. Unknowingly, I've fallen in love with him. It is a common girl's fantasy to meet the savior; he is the savior I've been waiting for. Obviously, I'm hopelessly in love with him.

At that moment, Duban harrumphed and opened the window. The villa's windows were fitted with security bars to prevent Olivia from escaping; she would never have a chance unless she could miraculously shrink her body. Fury gleamed in his eyes as he asked, "Do you have any idea what you did, girl?" If the poison in her body is not resolved, our family will face disaster. Although I may be strong, I could never hope to defeat those people or even be wiped out by them. Our families existed solely to serve them; this was the first time our family botched the sacrifice event.

"Let me go, you old man!" she barked at him, oblivious to his identity. Despite being the young miss of the Pearson Family, she was not a part of the core family, nor did she have any status.

"Stop struggling. Stay put and live out the remainder of your life in peace. Don't waste your time with that useless special force soldier," he said. Poor thing, she's spent her entire life being raised like a pig for slaughter, but nothing could be done because this is her fate.

"Whom I spend my time with is none of your business, old man. Let me go, or when Thomas finds this place, he'll kill you!" Olivia was enraged after hearing Duban's words. She would not tolerate any ridicule directed at Thomas, whom she considered her hero.

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Did this old man just call Thomas a useless special force soldier? If he is useless, then everyone else in this world is also. What do you even know about him, you old man? You know nothing! However, Olivia had no intention of threatening Duban. She knew Thomas' character so well that once he discovered what the Pearsons had done to her, he would get rid of them. Moreover, she was well aware of all he had done for her and was confident she had a special place in his heart.

Nonetheless, she hoped Duban would release her before things got out of hand. If that were the case, she could talk Thomas out of taking his anger on her family. After all, she was a member of the Pearson Family, and she didn't want to see the family fall apart. She reasoned that if they didn't let her go, she wouldn't stop Thomas from unleashing his rage on them.

In the meantime, the old man was taken aback by her threat but quickly recovered with laughter. Then, his eyes were filled with contempt as he blurted, "Is that supposed to be a threat, girl?" Unbelievably, a young girl like her dares to threaten me. Kill me? What a joke! It's been years since someone said something like that to me. "You think that useless man can kill me? Dream on."

After hearing that, Olivia rolled her eyes. "I'm not kidding. Fine, then you'll know for sure when he shows up."

"Hah, he doesn't even know you're locked up, girl."

"What do you mean?" She was confused by Duban's words. If Thomas can't find me, he'll ask the Pearsons to turn me over. Why is this old man claiming Thomas is unaware I'm locked up?

"Fine. I'll explain this to you so you can give up. Right now, a woman who looks just like you is staying with him, and he has no idea that you have been switched out. He's still driving you around like usual. Oh, and the company he gave you? Half of the business had been transferred to Pearson Group at no cost. Without you, our company would not have been able to grow so successfully. It won't be long before Keyshire Property is a distant memory, and our Pearson Group takes over as the leader of

Irieson's real estate industry." As the family patriarch, he was always in the loop. He didn't mind telling her about it, though. After all, he believed she deserved it, and even if he couldn't teach her a lesson, he could still annoy her.

"W-What? How could you do that? How low can you sink?" The revelation caused her brain to explode, and she trembled with rage as she tried to contain her reaction. Suddenly, she felt a blow to the chest, and the sheer intensity of her anger knocked her out.

As soon as Duban noticed Olivia had fainted, he scoffed. Keyshire Property is a profitable company; having it under our control will eventually expand our current business operations. It cannot be denied that this is entirely due to her credit, and while her carelessness has thrown the family into crisis, I'm confident we can get through it. At that, he turned and walked away, leaving her alone and unconscious.

After a while, she eventually awoke, and tears streamed down her cheeks. Family? What is family to them? All they care about is themselves. They got someone to impersonate me and stay with Thomas? How could they? They're going to pay for this! I can't believe they would take over Keyshire Property. Thomas gave me this company, which has nothing to do with the Pearsons. What makes them think they're entitled to half of its business? The more she contemplated it, the more incensed she became. She wished she could kill Norman and Terrence but couldn't even move. However, she was bound to this bed, with only her thoughts being unrestrained. I have to leave no matter what. First, I have to compose myself; only after that will I be able to think of something. There must be a reason why I am regarded as one of Irieson's most influential women. At that moment, she conceived a flawless escape strategy. Then, she stared at the ceiling, simulating all kinds of scenarios that could arise from her attempt to flee until late at night.

"Let me go! I need to use the bathroom!" Olivia shouted.

After hearing that, Duban entered the room, untied her, and pointed at the bathroom. "Go."

However, she shook her head and replied, "No. There's no hot shower in there. I need to take a shower." She wasn't stupid; she knew the bathroom window had been fitted with security bars, preventing her from escaping.

"Fine." After that, he led her to the second-floor guest room bathroom with a water heater.

Olivia went inside and looked at Duban. "Can you stay away for a bit?"

"Just bathe. I'm not going to peep. I'm old enough to be your grandpa," he said as he shook his head. Despite my age, I'm not a pervert.

"No. What are you scared of? That I might escape? You can catch me easily, can't you? Also, it's not like I can run anywhere. I don't even know where I am. If you keep standing there, I can't bathe." Her tone softened, in contrast to how she was a short time ago.

On the other hand, the old man thought that was odd. She wasn't talking like that a while ago. What happened? Did she finally think things through? "Fine. I'll stay away." Then, he glanced at the open window in the bathroom and closed the door. There are no security bars installed in the windows here. Bet she's going to jump out of the window once I leave. At that, he sneered. You think you're smart, eh? He then went downstairs and waited outside the bathroom window. I'd love to see the look on her face when she jumps down and sees me.

Unfortunately, Duban underestimated Olivia.

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Olivia had anticipated Duban's reaction, what he would do, and what he would think. Instead of stripping down, she leaned on the bathroom door and listened for noises of activity outside. Once she was certain he had left, she cautiously exited the bathroom and closed the door. Then, she entered his room and noticed the window was not fitted with security bars. Consequently, she opened the window and quickly crawled under the bed, which was filthy, but she did not care.

In the meantime, he kept looking out the window, expecting her to leap at any moment. After waiting twenty minutes, hoping she would jump down, he eventually became impatient and muttered, "Is she that stupid? Can't even jump out of the window?" Weird. She's tall enough to climb up the window. "Maybe she wasn't thinking about escaping. No, that can't be. Damn! Something's off, as evidenced by her abrupt changes in attitude."

At that, he quickly returned to the villa and dashed toward the bathroom. He listened attentively through the door but couldn't detect any sounds of running water. His heart sank when he realized he had been tricked by her.

Bang! Duban quickly kicked the door open but couldn't see Olivia inside. Where is she? Since no one was in the bathroom, he stormed into her

bedroom, only to find it empty. The next place he went to was his bedroom, but he found no one there either and noticed the window was wide open. I recall closing the window before leaving the room. Huh! It appears that the windowsill is wet. "Dammit!" He cursed and leaped out of the window. This is a secluded neighborhood, and if she were to get away, she could potentially hide anywhere, making it impossible to track her down and bring her back.

"God f*cking damn it!" he roared. I can't believe a young girl outwitted me, and if word gets out, they'll laugh at me. Nonetheless, her intelligence astounded me, and it is no surprise that she is regarded as the Pearson Family's most intelligent and formidable person of this generation. He then instructed his men, "Split up and search for her." It hasn't been that long since her escape, so she probably hasn't gone far.

However, his men exchanged a look of curiosity upon hearing the orders. "You want us to search for Olivia?" Isn't she in the villa? Did she... Escape?

"Don't just stand there! Hurry up!" Duban roared. His men winced in response and hurriedly split up.

Unbeknownst to him, Olivia hadn't left the villa yet and was still hiding under his bed. She was wise in not jumping out the window because she knew his men were guarding around the house. She was just a regular lady, and the noise she would make by jumping out of the window would be noticeable. In addition, she was aware that even if Duban was too far away to notice, his men probably would.

Therefore, she made it appear as if she had escaped, fooling the old man into thinking she had done so. She anticipated that he would dispatch all his men searching for her, and she intended to take advantage of this fact to make a quick getaway. After all, she wasn't just any ordinary girl but one of the city's most talented women, given that she devised a perfect, all-encompassing plan.

After that, Olivia crawled out from under the bed and leaned against the windowsill to gaze outside. She realized she had a chance to escape when she noticed Duban and his men had split up to look for her, so she climbed up the windowsill. However, when she looked down and saw how high she would have to jump, she became dizzy. She eventually realized she had no choice but to escape, so she closed her eyes and leaped.

Thud! The instant she landed, she sprained her ankle, and a grunt escaped her lips. Nonetheless, she gritted her teeth and forced herself to remain silent. Then, she leaned against the wall and walked ahead, but a while later, she saw a group of people walking around, and the man in the lead was Duban, much to her shock. Huh? I thought he went to look for me. Why did he return? At that, she quickly glanced around, only to find that the area was dense with villas, leaving her nowhere to take cover. What should I do? I can't run away now? Panicked, she rang the doorbell of one of the villas.

A middle-aged woman opened the door and looked at Olivia curiously. "Are you looking for someone?"

"Hello, miss. Can I go inside and catch a break? I need to call my friend and get him to pick me up. I sprained my ankle and can't walk."

When she heard that, the woman gave Olivia a wary look. It is already late at night, and most people are asleep. So, why is she wandering outside alone? She wants to come in and make a call? Is she a scammer or something?

"Search the area! If you can't find her, you're dead!" Olivia and the woman overheard Duban's angry roar from a distance away.

As soon as Olivia heard that, worry slowly seeped into her heart. They'll take me back if she doesn't help me. "Please, I'm not a bad person, I swear!"

Nevertheless, the woman gazed at Olivia and eventually got the gist of the matter. She doesn't look like a scammer, but someone is hunting her down. At that, the woman stepped aside and said, "Come in."

"Thank you!"

Once Olivia stepped inside the woman's villa, she closed the door and helped Olivia to the touch.

"Oh, she's beautiful. Is she your friend, Mom?" A boy stared at Olivia.

However, the woman shook her head and replied, "No questions. Now get my phone for me."

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After hearing what his mother said, the boy nodded and walked away. After a while, he returned with the most recent phone model on the market. "Here, Mom."

Then, the woman handed the phone to Olivia. "Make the call. Don't worry; you're safe here," she said confidently. Even though the villa in this neighborhood was not as expensive as Northpine Villa, it was still expensive to purchase a home here. Moreover, this is not a neighborhood where just anyone could settle down. She reasoned that only foolhardy people would attempt to abduct someone from her home.

On the other hand, Olivia knew that Duban would have instructed his men to search every house in a different residential neighborhood, but not this one. So, no matter how powerful the Pearsons were, they wouldn't risk offending every influential person in this neighborhood all at once.

As if she had reached her breaking point, she finally started crying. A stranger came to my aid in my darkest hour, but my family did the opposite. They set me up, sabotaged me, and took over my company. They are evil, despicable, and shameless.

"Oh, don't cry. Why are you crying?" The woman quickly comforted her.

Sob! Olivia nodded and stopped crying upon hearing that. Even without the woman's reminder, Olivia knew her priority was to call Thomas and have him pick her up. She understood she could feel safe only when he was beside her. Since she had memorized his number, she immediately dialed his number, but his phone had been turned off.

"T-Turned off? Why?" she mumbled and tried calling him again, but she only got a recording saying the phone was off.

After that, she started to panic. I can't get to him. What now? I can't go out, or that old man will capture me. They are not going to stop until they find me.

"Oh, don't be sad, missy. What's wrong?" the boy asked, noticing the change in her expression.

However, his mother patted his head. "Go to sleep. It's a school night. I'll stay with the ladv."

"Okay." After saying that, the boy went to his bedroom, though he kept glancing at Olivia. He liked her, but that was to be expected, given her beauty and likeability.

In the meantime, the woman noticed that whomever Olivia was calling had their phone turned off. Since her husband was on a business trip, she didn't mind keeping Olivia around. Aside from her son, there were no other men, so she suggested, "Let's go. Allow me to take you to the guest room so you can rest. You can call your family tomorrow."

"I-Is that alright?" Olivia was moved by the woman's generosity.

"Of course. Let's go."

Olivia nodded in response. This was the best she could hope for, so she followed the woman to a guest room. The woman even got her some salve for her sprained ankle.

Then, Olivia mused, After escaping this ordeal and returning to Thomas, I will express my gratitude to this woman. If not for her, I would still be stuck in that villa.

As the night passed, she awoke as dawn broke through. She had only slept for two hours, which was a fitful sleep. After that, she tried to call Thomas again, but his phone was still turned off, which caused her some consternation. Weird. He never turns his phone off. What is it with him today?

At 8.00AM, as the woman prepared to drop her son off at school, she observed that Olivia still couldn't make the call, so she suggested, "If you still can't get through, I can give you a ride home."

When Olivia heard that, she nodded and thanked the woman again. Hence, Olivia climbed into the backseat, and as the car approached the neighborhood's entrance, she noticed a group of burly men

standing around, staring at the passers-by. Her heart sank upon seeing those men. It's been a whole night, and they're still searching for me? "T-They're looking for me, miss—" She spoke with a stutter and a quaking voice.

After hearing that, the woman glanced at those men and said, "Don't worry. The windows are heavily tinted. They can't see through the car, so just sit tight." She was understandably enraged after Olivia told her what had

happened the night before. Still, she couldn't believe Olivia's father and grandfather would set her up. That is pure evil, so I'm going to help her.

Vroom! The car whizzed past those men, and Olivia finally managed to escape. After dropping off the boy at school, Olivia guided the woman to Keyshire Property.

When they arrived, the woman looked at the majestic building and commented, "You work here?"

"Yes." Olivia nodded in response. With her sprained ankle and pain that wouldn't stop flaring up, she could only hobble into the building with the woman's assistance.

When they stepped through the door, a surprised Molly gasped, "Miss Pearson!" What happened to her? She's unkempt and can't walk well, but she was alright yesterday.

In the meantime, Olivia was more than delighted to see Molly. Finally, someone I know. "Where's Thomas? Is he around?"

After hearing how Molly greeted Olivia, the woman assisting Olivia was taken aback as she muttered, "Miss Pearson?" This gorgeous young lady is the president of this company?

"He's not here yet. It's still early." Odd, Molly thought. He's your driver. You should know more about him than I do. Why are you asking me if he's in? She has been acting weird these two days. She also made sure I wouldn't follow her to any meetings or negotiations, and she transferred half the company

to Pearson Group yesterday. You're a part of that family, but you can't do that. Everyone in the company knows what she did, but they are afraid to speak up for fear of losing their jobs.

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Amidst the entire Keyshire Property, Thomas was the only person with authority to reject Olivia's decision. However, he was abnormally calm and didn't even frown after finding out about that incident; instead, he stated, "I respect Olivia's decision."

"Molly, call Thomas and tell him I'm looking for him. I don't have my phone with me," Olivia said.

"Okay!" Molly agreed and pulled out her phone to call him.

"Miss, since you're back in your company, I'll take my leave," the woman told Olivia.

"Please, don't leave so soon. I haven't thanked you for today. I would have never been able to escape that place if you hadn't helped me." Olivia had decided to give her a proper thank you, so she wouldn't let her leave.

"You don't have to be so formal with me." She wants to thank me? How? I'm not short of money. Those who can afford such a high-class residence clearly have no financial worries.

"In the meantime, please wait for Thomas to arrive." Olivia held the woman's hand tightly without letting go. She reasoned that the least she could do was treat her savior to a meal.

Since the woman couldn't persuade Olivia to change her mind, she stood beside Olivia and waited.

"Thomas says he's almost here." After Molly said that, she saw a Maserati stopping before the building entrance. Then, the man Olivia had been thinking about exited the vehicle.

"Thomas!" Olivia could no longer hold back her tears and started crying upon seeing him.

When he walked through the door and heard her crying voice, he looked up and froze. "You... Didn't you go home? Why are you back here?" He knew his memory wasn't messed up, but he was still confused by her sudden appearance. I had clearly sent her to the Pearson Residence half an hour ago,

and she had even requested that I come to the company first. Still, why is she here? Also, she wasn't wearing this outfit when I saw her this morning, and her makeup was different! She attached great importance to her appearance, and the Olivia standing before me was nothing like the intricately dressed-up woman she usually was. Looking at her, I could tell she hadn't showered in days.

"Phew!" Then, Olivia took a deep breath and instructed Molly, "Molly, bring this lady to the reception room to rest and make her a cup of coffee." Although this woman knows my family has locked me up, what I am about to tell Thomas is quite "horrifying," so it is best to keep her out of it. After all, it is my personal matter.

"Sure! Miss, please come with me." Molly gestured for the woman to follow her.

After hearing that, the woman shook her head and smiled bitterly. I'm not greedy, and I rescued Olivia out of kindness, so I don't expect anything in return. Nevertheless, based on her behavior, I am certain she will not let me leave. Since I would be alone at home with nothing else to do, I should stay for a while.

After watching the two women walk away, Thomas asked, "Olivia, what happened? I saw you enter the Pearson Residence's gate, but why did you suddenly appear at the company? Also... What happened to you? You were wearing a different outfit when I saw you this morning." Even if you had rushed here, you could not have arrived before me.

"Thomas, you've been deceived. That woman isn't me," she explained.

"What?" His eyes widened in response. How could it not be you? That woman has the same appearance and even acts in the same manner.

"She's not me. Let me explain." Seeing the disbelief on his face, Olivia told him everything.

Crack! Crack! When he heard the whole story, he gnashed his teeth so hard that they cracked. His face was red with anger, and his eyes were filled with an endless desire to kill.

"Gasp..." Olivia was startled by Thomas' expression because she had never seen him with such a fierce expression before. Then, she mustered her courage and stated, "Come on, let's go to the office."

After learning the truth, he struggled to tame the rage, which was on the verge of erupting. Nonetheless, he believed everything Olivia had said, and while Shadow resembled her, he found Shadow's actions peculiar. Furthermore, he knew what Olivia thought of the Pearson Family, and he was baffled by her sudden decision to transfer half of Keyshire Property's business to Pearson

Group at no cost. Although it did not make sense to him, he feared that she would overthink the situation if he asked her about it, so he refrained from doing so.

Furthermore, he realized that Olivia hated returning to the Pearson Residence and that she would usually schedule a time for him to drive her home if she had to return. Then, he recalled sending Shadow home this morning, but she said nothing about picking her up. Most importantly, the way Shadow and Olivia looked at him was different! However, he didn't know that it was something Shadow couldn't imitate because the thing missing from Olivia's gaze was called affection. All he knew was that something was missing from Shadow's gaze.

Never would Thomas have imagined that Terrence would stoop so low! He had not expected Terrence to plot against his granddaughter and encroach on half of Keyshire Property's business! Out of so many large families in Irieson, no other family could probably be more shameless than the Pearson Family!

After noticing that Olivia was hobbling, Thomas asked, "Your leg-"

"About that... I jumped out the window when escaping and accidentally sprained my ankle." She felt aggrieved because she felt immense pain in her ankle every time she took a step.

After hearing that, he felt guilty. If he had been more vigilant and attentive, Shadow would not have been able to deceive him, and Olivia would not have suffered as much. He had previously promised Olivia that no one could hurt her with him by her side, but what happened? He was there all along, yet she still got hurt by her father and grandfather. Reality had proved him wrong. "Let me carry you!"

Once those words were spoken, she felt her world swirl before she landed in Thomas' arms the next moment.

Instantly, their actions attracted the attention of everyone in Keyshire Property.

"Look! Mr. Clifford is carrying Miss Pearson in his arms!"

"Oh, God, kill me. I didn't expect to see such a display of affection in public!"

"What the heck! They're even showing off their affection in the company. Can't they spare the single employees such torture?"

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The crowd watched the handsome and beautiful couple while discussing with jealousy and admiration. However, they did not know that Thomas never intended to show off their affection for each other. He did it because Olivia had sprained her ankle and had difficulty walking.

When the crowd's discussion entered Olivia's ears, she blushed but did not think of escaping. Instead, she moved slightly and leaned further against Thomas' chest. I'm finally back with him. No one can hurt me with him here. Terrence Pearson, come to Keyshire Property and take me away again if you can!

Once they arrived at the office, Thomas placed her on the couch and removed her shoes to help her massage her sprained ankle.

Meanwhile, Olivia felt his large, warm hands touch her body. Those hands seemed to contain magic because every time they touched her, she would have a tingling sensation and feel extremely comfortable but also abnormally shy.

"How is it? Does it still hurt?" Thomas asked after massaging her ankle for a while.

"Huh?" Olivia's eyes widened as she felt her legs had stopped hurting. How could that be possible? She had been so immersed in her embarrassment that she didn't notice the change in her ankles. Did it heal right after Thomas' massage?

Seeing that she was not talking, Thomas thought his massage technique was wrong and asked, "What is it? Does it still hurt?"

"No, it doesn't hurt anymore." Olivia gradually calmed down. After all, this was not the first time she experienced how miraculous Thomas could be, so she wasn't surprised.

"That's great to hear. Lie down and rest. I'm here, so you have nothing to be afraid of."

Thomas rose to his feet, feeling frightened. Luckily for them, Olivia was an intelligent woman and knew to escape from the villa, or else he would not have discovered he was being tricked. Everything with her was fine except the poison still lingering inside her. Once she stopped drinking his prescribed medication for three days, she would instantly suffer the backlash of the poison. By then, everything would be too late.

He felt extremely guilty. Oh, Thomas Clifford, how could you not notice such a simple trick? You're so dumb!

"Okay!" Olivia gave him a sweet smile and lay on the couch. She had not slept a wink last night because Duban and his men were searching for her outside the villa. Anyone in such a situation would not be able to sleep, so she felt fatigued. But she only lay down and did not sleep because the woman who saved her was in the reception room, waiting for her.

Meanwhile, Thomas arrived at the window in the hallway, smoking while lost in thought. If some other family had been daring enough to treat Olivia that way, he would have wiped out the entire family to get revenge. After all, the King of Marksmen was never associated with kindness. He would respect those who respected him but would become a blood-thirsty devil to those who challenged him.

However, the culprits weren't any other family but the Pearson Family! The family that raised Olivia. Yes, she despised them, but that was because she was angry at them. What if she forgave them later? What would she think if she found out her entire family was slain because of her? With her personality, she would blame herself instead of blaming him. But he could not let this matter go that easily. The others might be able to live, but Terrence and Norman must die! The old man responsible for guarding Olivia must die as well!

At that thought, Thomas turned around and entered the elevator. "It's time I settle some scores with the Pearson Family!"

He wasn't worried about Olivia because as long as she stayed at Keyshire Property, no one would be foolish enough to come here and do anything. Of course, the incident with Leslie was purely accidental.

Meanwhile, at the Pearson Residence, the atmosphere was gloomy, and everyone, including Duban, bowed their heads and remained silent. Duban had explained everything. He and his men had searched the surrounding area

all night but could not find Olivia. It was a no-brainer that she must have escaped.

Terrence was more humane this time and immediately informed Shadow to find an excuse to return home after receiving news that Olivia had escaped. That was because Shadow would be in danger once Olivia appeared before Thomas.

Thomas' phone being turned off was also her doing because they feared Olivia might call him.

Terrence sighed hopelessly. Using Shadow to replace Olivia was his last trump card, but he didn't expect things would go against his wishes. Even such a perfect plan had failed. It seemed like the Pearson Family was destined to face such a catastrophe. He didn't blame Duban, or more specifically, he dared not to blame Duban. Instead, he blamed Olivia for being too intelligent, for being able to escape even when he had placed such heavy defenses. He seemed to have underestimated her too much.

"Uhm... Dad, do you think Thomas will come here after he finds out the truth?" the terrified Norman asked.

"Hmph! We'll just scare him off! The Pearson Family is still a member of the Six Greatest Families of Irieson, so he would not dare to come here!" Terrence was very confident.

After listening to his father's boast, Norman felt assured. As long as Thomas would not come here, he could bear not heading outside for a few days and cowering at home. There was no other choice as he

couldn't defeat Thomas.

Boom! A loud noise came from the door as it was kicked open. The crowd looked over and saw it was Thomas!

Terrence felt his lips twitch. F*ck this. This Thomas guy is such an *sshole. I just said he wouldn't dare to step foot here, and he came bursting through the door the next moment. That's a slap to my face.

"You... You..." Norman was scared sh*tless. Didn't Dad just say Thomas wouldn't dare to come here? What is this now? Fine. Even if Thomas is arrogant and capable enough to come here, shouldn't he be coming at night?

Breaking the Pearson Residence's door in the middle of the day. It's like he looks down on our family.

Unlike his son, Terrence was calmer as he stared at Thomas coldly. I admit you're strong, but it doesn't mean no one in the Pearson Family can deal with you! Our elder, Duban Pearson, is sitting right there! You coming over is like looking for death!

On the other hand, Thomas ignored Terrence and Norman because he was focused on Duban. He knew that the old man Olivia mentioned was the guy sitting before him. Didn't you say Olivia was bluffing and killing you is just wishful thinking? Well, well. You're going to be the first one I kill!

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At this moment, Thomas was not only furious that they kidnapped Olivia but also because he felt cheated. He could not bear to think what horrible thing might happen if Olivia hadn't escaped. Would he continue to be fooled into treating the faker as the real Olivia and protect her for a lifetime? What about the real Olivia? She might have been "sacrificed" and given to someone else!

As for why he did not make any further investigations even though he felt Shadow seemed strange, it was because Shadow and Olivia looked too much alike. Also, he had underestimated how shameless the Pearson Family could be! Never would he have thought Terrence would commit such a shameless act. That alone was enough to sentence Terrence to death. Every core member of the Pearson Family must die too! That was something they deserved!

Duban narrowed his eyes, looking at Thomas. He knew the man must have exceptional skills to be brave enough to barge into their home.

Bam! With both legs forcefully jumping off the ground, Thomas shot toward Duban like an arrow, swinging his fist at Duban's face so quickly that one could hear it whooshing.

The battle began without a single word of nonsense.

Duban's pupils contracted. Thomas was fast, so fast that it shocked him. But that was it. He wasn't nervous or anything and merely moved quickly to the side to dodge the attack.

Such a change shocked Thomas as Duban was the first person, after returning to the city, to dodge his fatal attack that contained 80 percent of his strength. He didn't expect the Pearson Family to have such a strong master amidst them. It seemed like Quincy was right when he said the Six Greatest Families weren't as simple as they seemed. However, no matter how strong Duban was, he was still doomed to die!

Turning around, Thomas swung his leg and kicked the old man by the waist, and this time, he used his full strength, which allowed him to attack even quicker.

"Not quite!" Duban bellowed while placing both hands on his waist, blocking Thomas' attack.

Then, Thomas moved both hands and began attacking with military boxing techniques.

Swoosh! Swoosh! In just a breath's time, he had thrown six to seven punches. But what was that sound, one might ask? That was the sound of his fists rubbing against the air! That was how quick his punches were!

Gasp! Terrence and Howard took in a sharp breath because they finally realized how terrifying Thomas was. It was just that he had never revealed his true strength, which was terrifying! Only a rare few in Irieson had martial arts skills of such an extent, and the ones they knew were all martial arts experts from the other great families. However, those people, like Duban, had spent most of their lives practicing martial arts. But how old was Thomas? He looked to be in his twenties. How could someone younger than thirty years old be so powerful?!

He was a prodigy! An absolute prodigy!

Meanwhile, Duban was forced to retreat under Thomas' fierce attacks. At that point, he could only defend but not attack.

When Terrence saw that, he began trembling uncontrollably while his heart raced. He had a feeling that perhaps Duban might not be Thomas' match either...

But he quickly shook his head to stop himself from having those thoughts. If Duban could not defeat Thomas, then he might not survive today! So, he

assured himself in his head, Elder Duban can do it! He definitely will win! It's just Thomas, an arrogant young lad, so Elder Duban will crush him! Thomas

hasn't been alive as long as Elder Duban has, and Elder Duban has dedicated his life to practicing martial arts, so how could Thomas possibly win?

After thinking of that, Terrence calmed down, while Norman also sighed in relief after seeing his father had calmed down. Thomas and Duban were fighting so fast that Norman could not see what was happening, but his inability to see what was going on might also be due to him being less skilled in martial arts than his father. He could only see two entangled shadows and nothing else, not even what techniques they were using.

On the other hand, Duban felt bitter because Thomas was quicker than him. Therefore, he could not dodge Thomas' endless attacks and had to use all his strength to defend against those attacks. But what alarmed him was that Thomas was not only quick but also had strength that was almost on par with his. Duban was certain that if he hadn't reacted in time, he would have been killed by Thomas' punches. Most importantly, his hands slightly tremble after blocking so many attacks, so if this battle continued, he would definitely lose! That could not happen! He could not lose because the Pearson Family would get annihilated if he did!

"Ahh—" Duban roared and stopped defending. Instead, he began madly attacking, aiming all his attacks at Thomas' vital spots!

Meanwhile, Thomas was startled by the sudden change but wasn't afraid. Instead, his desire to fight became more intense. It had been a while since he met such a worthy opponent, so he had to make the most of this opportunity!

Smack! As Duban was a long-established master, he was more experienced in battles and caught a chance to deliver a smack to Thomas' shoulder. Despite the fact that Thomas also had quite a lot of experience in combat, his experience leaned more toward sniping and assassinations. Therefore, he was somewhat inexperienced in face-to-face combat.

As one would expect from the Pearson Family's guardian, he is highly skilled. Thomas stumbled back and looked at Duban warily.

"Not bad. Not bad at all!" Duban looked at him with appreciative eyes. The younger generations had succeeded the old! Not many youngsters in Droycore could engage in such a long battle with him without losing. Also, his

previous attack was aimed at Thomas' chest, and Thomas seemed to have reacted in time and forcefully turned his body so that his shoulder would take the hit instead.

Brilliant! If the Pearson Family can take in such a talented young individual, he will certainly give the family a huge boost! Didn't he fall out with the Pearson Family because of Olivia? Since Olivia's destiny is set, we can't give her to him, but we can give him Ophelie, or even Shadow, who looks exactly the same as Olivia! He can even have all the money he wants!

"Thomas, if you're willing to submit to our family, we can put the past behind us. Then, we will even give you money, even more than you can imagine!"

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"Also, you'll have thousands of beautiful women to choose from. Although you can't have Olivia, perhaps you might be interested in Ophelie? As long as you agree to submit to the Pearson Family, I'll give you the highest status possible and even make Terrence show you the respect you deserve! Since you like Olivia, and Shadow looks exactly like her, I can use my authority to make her your concubine!"

It had to be said the offerings Duban proposed were indeed tempting. Riches, women, and even Terrence's respect. Duban was the only one in the Pearson Family worthy of indulging in such things, and if Thomas agreed to submit to the Pearson Family, he would become the next Duban Pearson!

When Thomas heard what had been said, he was shocked. What's this? Weren't we fighting? Why is he suddenly trying to persuade me to join him? And he said he would give me money and women? Who does he think I am? A poor man or a man with insatiable sexual desires? The Pearson Family's wealth is nothing to me, and most importantly, he wants to make that Shadow woman my concubine. How dare he make her Olivia's replacement? Does he think she can replace Olivia just because she looks the same?

Seeing that Thomas was silent, Duban thought his persuasion had worked and was just about to continue when he saw Thomas get down on one knee.

"Oh..." Duban smiled because he thought Thomas was about to bow down before him. With such a talented martial arts prodigy among them, they could then extend the Pearson Family's glory! Seeing how skilled a young man like Thomas was, Duban, who appreciated talent, thought that with some hard

work, Thomas might even surpass him after reaching his age. By then, Thomas might be unmatched within the entire Droycore!

Meanwhile, Terrence and Norman beamed while watching Thomas' actions. Once Thomas joined their family, Keyshire Property would completely be theirs and the wealth associated with it! Also, without

Thomas' protection, Olivia would have no choice but to return home. It was two birds with one stone! How could they not be happy about that?

It was a pity that they were wrong, so very wrong.

How would Thomas be so easily won over? He did not get down on one knee because he was willing to submit to them. He did it because he wanted to fix his dislocated arm! The blow Duban delivered on his shoulder just now had dislocated his arm.

Crack—

Following the sound of bones rubbing against each other, Thomas slowly rose to his feet and moved his shoulders. Fortunately, he didn't feel anything besides a slight numbness. When he looked up at Duban with his cold eyes, he admitted that Duban was indeed capable, and it had been a while since he met someone who could injure him!

Pow! In a flash, Thomas moved like lightning and charged toward Duban, then swung a strong punch at him!

Swoosh! Duban dared not look down on Thomas' ability and quickly moved away.

Crack—Thump! Though Thomas' punch missed Duban, it landed straight onto the cupboard behind him, and the mahogany furniture was rendered into pieces.

"What... What the heck!" Norman screamed as he wondered how much power was inside that ordinarily-looking punch. The cupboard was made from the strongest wood available—mahogany. An ordinary man would need some time to break that with an ax, yet Thomas broke it with just a punch! How strong would he need to be to achieve that?

But the one receiving the largest shock was Duban because he could clearly feel that Thomas was different from before! He was even stronger and bolder as the fight prolonged! It felt like he was a beast who had unleashed its inner ferocity after getting injured! At this point, Duban thought Thomas seemed odd like he had grown up taking Viagra or something.

Thomas arrived before Duban and began a round of close combat. At that moment, Duban suddenly felt fear because he knew he would definitely get hurt if he continued to fight with Thomas! Not even mentioning Thomas' punches, his bursts of energy alone were enough to injure Duban, so Duban could only frantically try to dodge.

On the sidelines, Terrence watched the scene while subconsciously retreating. Oh, no. It seems like even Elder Duban isn't Thomas' match. Am I going to die today?

Bam!

There was bound to be a time when Duban would be too late to dodge Thomas' attacks. When that time came, Duban could only use his hands to try and block Thomas' punch, but when both their hands touched, Duban was sent flying backward. By the time he found his footing, he felt his stomach churn and spat out blood.

In the meantime, Terrence and Norman felt like their eyes were about to pop out. How could Thomas injure Elder Duban to the point that he was spitting blood? Was... he human?

Gotta take advantage of his weakened state to kill him! Thomas did not give Duban much time to recuperate and immediately continued to attack with increased speed and strength.

While the two previously fought, Norman could not see anything, while Terrence could. But now, even Terrence could not see how Thomas had delivered the blow. Thomas' speed had reached the absolute limit of humanity!

Duban quickly searched his brain, not believing that Thomas would be so well-rounded. He can deliver such fierce punches, but what about his lower body?

Once he thought of that, he immediately attacked Thomas' lower body, and Thomas quickly retreated to dodge the attack.

Duban's eyes lit up as he thought he had found Thomas' weak spot—His lower body! Afterward, Duban was so overwhelmed with joy that he failed to notice the almost unnoticeable sneer on Thomas' face.

"Kid, you're dead this time!" Then, Duban began attacking and aimed every attack at Thomas' lower body.

Thomas seemed like he had no choice and could only retreat to dodge the old man's attack.

"Elder Duban, good strikes!" Terrence waved his fist while yelling encouragement to Duban, thinking Thomas was a fool for not accepting their terms and for being daring enough to fight back. Thomas deserved to die!

Pow! Pow!

Just when Terrence and Norman thought they had it in the bag, they heard a deafening noise, and when they looked over, Duban was already on the ground while both his hands were laying limply.

"You are... shameless..." Duban was so angry that he gritted his teeth. After all the effort, he discovered that Thomas' lower body was also very sturdy. Thomas deliberately pretended to be defeated to lure Duban into the trap and make him let his guard down so that he could deliver the winning blow! Since Duban was also skilled in martial arts, he only had to think about it to realize the important factor in this incident.

"Shameless?" Thomas sneered. "Who could be more shameless than the Pearson Family, who can even give up their own as 'sacrifice' just for family benefits!"