

Love Spell 281

Chapter 281

“He wouldn’t say that for no reason, right?” Gerard questioned her with a cold face.

“Are you saying that I wronged him?” Maria’s smile froze. She didn’t expect that her husband, who had always doted on her, would speak up for Carlisle.

“Carl, come right in. Let’s just ignore her.”

Gerard joyfully pulled Carlisle into the private room. Maria tried to go in herself, but Gerard had already

closed the door.

Gerard felt sorry for treating his wife like this in order to get the loan, but it couldn’t be helped.

“Gerard, you bastard! Are you really going to treat me like this? Come out this instant!” Maria kicked the door furiously from outside.

Hearing the commotion, waiters and security guards soon came to stop her.

Maria had always been conceited, and she would not let these staff members stop her. As such, she

immediately cussed them out.

It’s a good thing that these security guards were no pushovers. They quickly carried her away regardless

of the vulgarities she spewed.

Inside, Phoebe had already calmed down. She was confused to see Carlisle arrive in such a short time, so

she asked in disbelief, “Carlisle, did you fly here?”

“I was also having dinner here,” Carlisle explained with a smile.

“Carlisle, sit here!” Christine, who sat next to Wanda, gave up her seat for Carlisle.

“Thank you.” Carlisle thanked her and took her seat.

Jenny took a skeptical look at Carlisle. This particularly good-looking boy seemed to have an unusual

relationship with Wanda.

Carlisle sat next to Wanda, while Phoebe passed him a new set of cutlery.

At this moment, Gerard said with a grin, “Carlisle, your college entrance celebration was on the same day

as my daughter’s, so I couldn’t attend yours. I hope you didn’t mind.”

Wanda and Carlisle were said to be classmates, and she would certainly know that Gerard didn’t attend

Carlisle’s college entrance celebration. Therefore, Gerard thought to explain himself.

Carlisle smiled and said, “I know. You held her college entrance celebration at the restaurant opposite to where we had mine.”

Gerard grimaced at the unexpected bluntness. He had reminded Carlisle over the phone to speak nicely so as not to be laughed at by others. Yet, he got him in trouble right away.

Wanda understood what Carlisle meant, so she said to Gerard with a smile, “Too bad both celebrations

were held on the same day. It’s perfectly normal for you to hold a college entrance celebration for your daughter.”

Gerard was secretly relieved as Wanda seemed to comprehend him.

However, Wanda asked curiously the next moment, “Did Mr. Zahn give you a gift, Carlisle?”

Gerard became nervous again upon hearing that, and he looked pleadingly at Carlisle.

“He didn’t give me anything.” Carlisle glanced at Gerard casually.

Not only did Gerard not give him a gift, he also purposely held his daughter’s college entrance celebration across the street—on the exact same day, no less.

He even invited all the neighbors to his daughter’s college entrance celebration. He obviously did so to

humiliate Carlisle’s family.

Wanda looked innocently at Gerard while asking, “Mr. Zahn, my father is also a businessman. He taught me that businessmen have to look at the long term, especially when it comes to relationships.

“I still don’t quite understand what he meant by that, could you perhaps explain it to me?”

Gerard could tell that Wanda was being sarcastic. He was embarrassed and forced a smile. “Then, did your father tell you that businessmen should value profits?”

“He did, but he also said that family is more important than money. We shouldn’t prioritize profits over our family. If we’re blinded by money and lose our conscience, we’ll only get a bad reputation!” Wanda spoke softly, but her words made Gerard feel ashamed.

Wanda continued, "I'm not cursing you, but can you guarantee that the rest of your life will be smooth sailing? Are you so sure that Carlisle and his family won't have the chance to turn the tables in the future?"

Gerard sighed softly and said, "You're right, Ms. Thompson. I was too narrow-minded."

Those were the words that left his mouth, but Gerard was only feeling contempt.

So what if Carlisle's family could turn the table? He would be collaborating with Windex Corporation soon. The upcoming project alone could earn him at least 3 million dollars.

Carlisle's family wouldn't be able to make 3 million dollars in their lifetime.

"Everyone likes money, but money isn't everything. I hope Mr. Zahn can put family first in the future as there are things that money can't buy," Wanda added like an experienced elder. She only hoped that Carlisle would get along with Gerard and his family.

"Ms. Thompson, I've learned from your advice. I'll keep it in mind for the future," Gerard said with his head hung low, like a child who had made a mistake.

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"Have you brought all the documents with you?" Wanda asked.

"They're all here." Gerard brought his briefcase over. It had all the documents needed for a loan application inside.

Wanda turned to Jenny and said, "Ms. Robson, bring him to do the credential check."

"Okay." Jenny stood up to leave.

"There's no rush. You can go after the dinner."

"Alright, then." Jenny sat back down.

“Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Thank you.” Gerard was overjoyed that the negotiations seemed to come to

an end.

He even regretted not agreeing to Wanda’s terms in the first place. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have been laughed at by Carlisle.

Carlisle whispered in Wanda’s ear, “Did you lend him the money for my sake?”

Wanda smirked. “That’s the half of it. The other half is because I want to make money.”

Carlisle chuckled and said, “Don’t cry if he doesn’t pay you back later.”

Wanda was shocked by Carlisle’s words. She widened her eyes and asked, “He doesn’t have the habit of not paying back debts, does he?”

Carlisle shook his head with a smile. “I wouldn’t know.”

For as long as he could remember, he rarely encountered Gerard. His father also didn’t particularly like talking about Gerard.

Still, he knew that Gerard deeply cared about his reputation, so it was unlikely that he would not pay back the money he had borrowed.

Wanda grinned. “If Mr. Zahn doesn’t pay me back, I’ll look for you.”

Carlisle smirked. “Then I suggest you not lend it to him at all.”

At this moment, Gerard raised the wine glass before him and said, “Carl, I’ve made mistakes in the past. Let’s forget about all that after this/toast. I’ll also treat you and your family well from now on.”

Carlisle looked up and stared at Gerard incredulously. He was unwilling to believe Gerard's nonsense, but he also hoped that Gerard would keep his word.

He no longer wanted to see his parents being bullied by Gerard's family.

After a moment of hesitation, Carlisle picked up his glass and said indifferently, "You don't have to treat us well, I just hope that you can stop showing off in front of my parents."

"You know how Maria is. I'll talk to her about it later. I'll drink first." Gerard gulped down the wine in his glass.

Carlisle also finished his glass of wine.

At this moment, however, Wanda's phone rang. She retrieved her phone and glanced at the screen. It was

Queenie calling.

She went to the side to answer the phone.

"Hey, Queenie."

"Where are you?"

"I have a business deal outside," came Wanda's reply.

"Where at?"

"A1 Seafood Restaurant."

Queenie perked up at this news. "What a coincidence, Zachary and I are going there for dinner as well."

“Huh? Aren’t you going to have dinner at Imperial Hotel?” Wanda was a little anxious as she had planned to take a walk with Carlisle later. There wouldn’t be a chance for that if Queenie and Zachary came.

“There are only a few signature dishes in Imperial Hotel. We’re tired of them.”

“Aren’t you tired of the dishes in A1 Seafood Restaurant as well?” Wanda asked with a chuckle.

Queenie let out a quiet grunt. “But it’s economical.”

“Alright then, come over quickly. I’ll book a private room for you.” Wanda sounded a little upset.

“Forget it. Don’t book it. I want to eat Hanese food.” Queenie suddenly changed her mind.

“Okay, have a pleasant night, then.” Wanda instantly became delighted. “Okay, bye.”

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Queenie signed after hanging up. Harvey had reported Wanda’s recent activities to her.

Wanda had sat with Carlisle during the bus trip to the outdoor military training. And Wanda obviously didn’t want Queenie to go to A1 Seafood Restaurant just now.

It was very likely that Carlisle was also there.

Zachary, who was smoking with crossed legs, asked with a frown, “Didn’t you want to have seafood for dinner? Why do you suddenly want to eat Hanese food?”

“I had indigestion recently, so I shouldn’t be eating so much seafood.” Queenie was playing Tetris on her

phone with her head hung low.

Zachary muttered, “Let’s ask Wanda to join us.”

Wanda had left the college, so he could no longer keep an eye on her. He was worried that Wanda would

get back together with Carlisle.

Queenie rolled her eyes at him. "Can't you give her some personal space?"

Zachary's face darkened. "If she had behaved at college, would I be keeping such a close eye on her?"

Queenie sneered. "Wanda is just a tool for political marriage in your family, right?"

Zachary leaned against the chair with his eyes closed, unspeaking.

He also had complicated feelings about this. Wanda would definitely hate him and their father in the future. However, the fate of the Thompson family was on the line.

They could only join hands with influential families to strengthen their business foundation.

Queenie held on to Zachary's arm and asked coquettishly, "Honey, who will Wanda be married off to?"

"Mind your own business!" Without even glancing at her, Zachary spoke in a detached and emotionless

manner.

"I'm curious. Please tell me." Queenie kept rubbing against Zachary's arm.

Zachary gulped but remained unfazed.

Queenie then whispered in Zachary's ear.

Zachary arched his brows and asked in surprise, “Really?”

Queenie flushed and nodded shyly.

After a moment of hesitation, Zachary whispered a name in Queenie’s ear.

Queenie widened her eyes upon hearing the name.

Zachary warned solemnly, “You must keep this to yourself.

If Wanda finds out, I’ll break up with you!”

Queenie nodded repeatedly. “I got it.”

But soon after, she asked, “If they’re willing to help Mr. Thompson, Yuriel should be unable to do anything.”

Zachary looked grim as he answered, “But they won’t help us for free.”

“So they’ll only help after Wanda’s engagement?”

“I suppose you can say that.”

Queenie grew excited. “Then, is Wanda going to get engaged soon?”

“I won’t tell you about that!” Zachary continued to rest with his eyes closed.

“Honey, please tell me. If you satisfy my curiosity, I’ll fulfill another wish of yours, okay?” Queenie was very curious, so she persisted cutely again.

Recalling that his previous wish was denied by Queenie, Zachary became excited and whispered a date in

her ear.

Back at A1 Seafood Restaurant, Carlisle constantly served Wanda food and even peeled shrimp for her.

Gerard felt miserable watching them. They both looked every bit like a couple.

He didn't want Carlisle to have such a good-looking girlfriend.

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Gerard also did not want Carlisle's girlfriend to be a daughter of a wealthy family.

To clear his growing doubt, Gerard asked with a smile, "Carlisle, you and Ms. Thompson are more than classmates, right?"

"We are whatever you think we are." Carlisle gave an ambiguous answer.

Feeling awkward, Gerard turned to look at Wanda and asked, "Ms. Thompson-

"Are you perhaps inquiring into my personal life right now?" Wanda interrupted Gerard while eating the shrimp peeled by Carlisle.

Gerard instantly closed his mouth. He had yet to sign the contract for the loan, so he couldn't afford to offend Wanda.

Wanda soon put down her cutlery and said to Carlisle, "I'm done."

Carlisle finished the food on his plate and smiled. "Let's go for a walk?"

Wanda pursed her lips and nodded.

At this moment, Jenny asked Gerard, “Mr. Zahn, do you want to do the credential check now or tomorrow?”

“Let’s do it now!” Gerard would only feel at ease after getting the money.

“Okay, then follow me to the company.” Jenny soon left with Gerard.

Christine and Phoebe also went to the company to learn from Jenny.

Before leaving, however, Gerard paid for the dinner and asked where Maria was.

The security guard thereafter led him to the VIP room, where Maria was watching TV and leisurely eating fruit on the sofa.

“Mary, let’s go,” Gerard called out to her. But Maria ignored him and continued to munch on the apple.

Gerard walked over, sat down, and placated her. “I know you’re very angry but I had no choice. The project with Windex Corporation is very urgent. If we can’t get the funds in time, we might be robbed of our

chance.”

Maria asked coldly, “Is that why you left me outside?”

Gerard replied helplessly, “Carlisle was Wanda’s classmate in high school, and he’s probably her boyfriend. If you continued to make a scene, would we still get the funds from her?”

“What did you say?” Maria was taken aback. “Carlisle is that brat’s boyfriend?”

Gerard nodded. “That’s what I’m assuming, but it’s highly likely.”

Maria did not want Carlisle and his family to be well-off any more than Gerard did. After hearing what

Gerard said, she scornfully replied, “No way, his family will never prosper!”

Then, she added with a click of the tongue, “So what if he’s that brat’s boyfriend? He won’t be able to stand tall if he has to leech off of her.”

After talking for a while, Maria finally agreed to leave with Gerard.

Meanwhile, Carlisle and Wanda had already arrived at Shane’s table outside.

Daniel was stunned to see Wanda coming out with Carlisle. They were walking so closely together.

He finally believed that Carlisle was not bragging without reason.

Wanda’s lover was indeed Carlisle.

“Carl...” Seeing Carlisle coming over, Shane was about to get down on his knees with teary eyes.

Carlisle hurriedly helped Shane up and frowned. “What are you doing?”

“Thank you... Thank you for risking your life to save Olivia.” Shane’s face was covered in tears. His lips and his voice were trembling as he spoke.

“Let’s sit down first.” Carlisle turned to glare at Daniel. He must have been the one to spill the beans. Daniel shrugged, looking unconcerned. “Don’t glare at me. It’s Olivia who told him!”

Shane was even more touched upon hearing the exchange. Carlisle had actually intended to keep it a

secret.

Shane gave Olivia another reproving look. “Olivia, you’re too silly. Even if I have to sell my organs, I’ll never let you sully your purity.”

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Olivia lowered her head, and tears streamed down her cheeks.

She had wanted to keep this matter to herself. The idea of selling her body was simply too ridiculous, after all. Shane would definitely hate her if he found out about it.

However, she would never feel at ease if she hid this matter. Plus, Shane would never know how kind his

two roommates were.

She struggled with herself for a while before mustering up the courage to tell Shane everything that had happened that evening.

“Shane, stand up!” Daniel suddenly spoke.

Shane stood up with a puzzled look.

Daniel then said, “Lift up your shirt.”

“Dan... Do you have such a fetish?” Shane asked with a tiny voice.

“Damn it. Cut the crap and be quick about it.” Daniel glared at him angrily.

Shane looked at Wanda, blushing.

Seeing this, Wanda covered her face with both hands. “I won’t look.”

Only then did Shane slowly lift his shirt.

Daniel stared at him and found no wounds, so he instructed again, “Turn around.”

Shane turned around obediently.

Daniel still did not see any wounds on his body.

Carlisle chuckled and asked, “Did you think Shane sold his kidney?”

“Otherwise, how could he earn nearly ten thousand dollars in just two months?”

Daniel still couldn’t figure it out. Ten thousand dollars used to be the amount of his monthly allowance,

but that didn’t mean he was not aware of the current salary range.

The security guards and janitors of his father’s semiconductor company were only paid two to three

thousand dollars a month.

The salary of a technician was slightly higher, but it was only around four thousand dollars while the salary of an engineer was around six thousand dollars.

The highest pay a part-timer could get was a thousand a month. Yet, Shane had made ten thousand

dollars in two months.

Daniel couldn’t figure out how he did it, so he uttered, “Damn, I thought it was something serious.”

Shane put down his shirt and sat back down. Then, he explained with a smile, “I worked as a salesman

during my summer break. I was lucky and scored a big business deal, so I received a large commission.”

“Damn it.” Daniel slapped his thigh.

Shane was startled. Had he been seen through?

“The sales commission is indeed quite high. Why didn’t I think of that before?”

Daniel flashed Shane a thumbs-up. “You’re amazing. Let’s work with Carl in the future. I’m sure he’ll treat you well.”

Shane smiled again. “As long as Carl doesn’t mind, I’m willing to work for him for the rest of my life.”

Both his parents and grandparents passed away when he was still young. He’d been left to survive on his own since then.

There was once a time when he locked himself in a dark and wet room, crying and trying to starve himself to death. That was the darkest moment of his life.

Just as he was about to lose consciousness, a little girl broke into his room with an older lady.

It was Olivia and her mother.

The young Olivia had carefully handed him a slice of apple pie.

Shane gained the strength to live on after being persuaded by Olivia and her mother.

From that day onward, Olivia would come to talk to Shane and play with him every day. They would catch fish and frogs in the pond together, then climb trees to find bird nests.

Soon, the little girl became Shane’s whole world. He secretly made a vow to marry Olivia when they both

grew up.

If Olivia had really slept with other men, his world would collapse.

Therefore, he, who had never been mean to Olivia, reprimanded her today.

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Carlisle had saved Olivia, as well as Shane's whole world.

It was undeniable that Carlisle was very wealthy, and Shane knew he was unable to repay him. He could only leave a sincere and appreciative remark at this moment.

As long as Carlisle didn't mind, he was willing to

work for him for the rest of his life.

Olivia felt bad when she heard Shane's declaration. He was offering to commit his life to Carlisle—all to repay him for saving her. She lowered her head and shed more tears.

Carlisle quickly said, "That's too much. Sit down and eat."

The group seemed to be waiting for him, as the dishes were still untouched.

Wanda moved her chair closer to Carlisle's and whispered in his ear, "Shane lied just now."

"I know." Carlisle was aware. Shane had averted his eyes when he said he made money through sales. He was obviously lying.

Wanda asked in a hushed tone, "Aren't you curious about how he got the money?"

Carlisle shook his head. I'm not curious. Everyone has their own secrets. He must have a reason for not telling us, so let's not dig any deeper."

Wanda smiled in understanding.

Meanwhile, Daniel looked around.

To his left, Shane busied himself with serving Olivia food. On his right, Carlisle and Wanda were whispering to each other.

It felt awkward for a single man like him to sit between them. He only felt better when he saw Francis eating alone opposite him.

With one arm on the back of Carlisle's chair, Wanda leaned in and asked, "Are you free tomorrow?"

Carlisle turned his head and answered, "Yes, where do you want to go?"

He snuck a glance at Wanda's arm on the chair behind him and smirked, then he leaned back to be closer

to Wanda.

Wanda blinked innocently as she contemplated aloud. "Let me see, I want to go—Ah!"

As she was speaking, Carlisle suddenly pushed his chair back, causing Wanda to lose her balance. She shrieked as she fell forward and kissed Carlisle on the cheek.

Her eyes widened in surprise and her face flushed red.

Shane and Olivia gasped simultaneously.

"Oh no!! My Innocent goddess actually offered another man a kiss! Daniel clutched his chest in pain as if

it was hard to accept reality.

Francis merely grinned. After all, it was rare to see people act so affectionately in public.

Wanda supported herself by holding onto Carlisle and straightening up. Her face was as red as an apple. Carlisle, you're so annoying!"

Carlisle touched the cheek that Wanda had inadvertently kissed and smirked. "You're the one who kissed me. Why am I annoying?"

"You know what you did! I don't want to talk to you anymore." Wanda covered her blushing face and rant away in a huff.

Alarmed, Carlisle quickly chased after her.

Wanda didn't run far before she stopped to look back—but Carlisle wasn't there.

Wanda stomped her feet unhappily. "Stinky Pig, so you're ignoring me?"

Just then, someone hugged her from behind.

Wanda let out another scream, causing the passersby to look in her direction.

Carlisle whispered in her ear, "Do you want everyone to see you like this?"

Upon hearing Carlisle's voice, Wanda was relieved and her tensed body eased a little. Still, she didn't forget to reprimand him. "Are you trying to scare me to death?"

Carlisle chuckled lightly. "Wanda, babe. Do you still want to run from me?"

Wanda flushed when she heard Carlisle calling her that. She mumbled, "Let go of me first. I won't run

anymore."

“But I don’t want to let go. I want to keep holding you like this.” Carlisle rested his chin on Wanda’s shoulder and let out a warm breath against her neck.

Wanda felt tingly and numb all over. She noticed the piercing stares of the passersby and said with a quivering voice, “People are staring at us. Let go of me quickly!”

“I don’t want to,” came his immediate reply.

“H–How about.... we go to another place to hug?”

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After saying that, Wanda’s face became even redder, like a ripe apple. She looked so cute that Carlisle wanted to plant a kiss on her face.

However, there were several passersby in the area. He didn’t mind it as he didn’t care about what people thought, but Wanda was easily prone to shyness.

“Shall we stroll along the river?”

“Okay!” Wanda flushed and nodded fervently.

Then, they walked hand in hand to the riverside.

Breaking the comfortable silence, Wanda suddenly asked, “Carlisle, what’re you going to perform at the bonfire party?”

“It’s a secret.”

“But...” Wanda pouted.

She suddenly recalled how Queenie acted cute in front of Zachary. It was obvious that Zachary liked it. Every time Queenie acted cute, Zachary would give in.

Later, Queenie explained to her, “Boys can’t resist girls who act cute.”

Should she act cute too? But she had never acted cute before!

Seeing that she was getting upset, Carlisle said with a smile, “The bonfire party is the day after tomorrow.

You’ll find out then.”

Wanda pouted again to express her dissatisfaction.

Girls were curious creatures.

The more he tried to hide it from her, the more she wanted to know.

After a moment of hesitation, Wanda halted her steps.

“What’s wrong?” Carlisle became nervous and wondered if she was really angry.

That song he would be performing was meant for Wanda, but he still wished to sing it to her during the

bonfire party.

“Please tell me...” Wanda tilted her head as she grabbed Carlisle’s arm with both hands and swayed it lightly. She was emitting soft, endearing sounds.

What the fuck? Was she acting cute?

Carlisle stared at Wanda in disbelief. He was thoroughly amused.

Feeling deathly ashamed, Wanda’s gaze dropped to the ground. She didn’t dare to look up at all, even her

neck was starting to turn red.

She couldn't believe that she had made such sounds just now.

She sniffled. "I'm not talking to you anymore..."

Before Carlisle could react, Wanda had run away in shame.

"Wanda, don't run. I'll tell you." Carlisle quickly caught up to her.

Wanda had put in so much effort to satisfy her curiosity. It wouldn't be nice if he continued to hide it from

her.

The riverside was a long stretch, but there were only a few people around:

The night wind blew, carrying with it a slight fishy smell. The dim street lamps flickered intermittently.

Carlisle and Wanda walked hand in hand on the pavement. In the end, he told Wanda the song he was

going to perform.

"For Once"? Whose song is that? Why haven't I heard of it?" Wanda asked Carlisle with a confused look.

She could be considered a music enthusiast of sorts. She had an album collection of more than 20 popular artists at home. There were no popular songs that she had never heard of.

"You can

say it's a song of my own making." Carlisle touched his nose sheepishly and smiled.

In truth, the song would be released ten years later. That said, no one would know even if he said that it was his original work now.

“You can even write songs?”

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Wanda was doubtful. She shook her head and said, “I don’t believe it. You always sang out of tune during high school.”

Carlisle pinched Wanda’s cheek with a smile. He did it gently, In fear of hurting her. “That was when I was

in high school, now I’m in college.”

Wanda smiled and requested, “Then sing me a few lines.”

She was curious about the song written by Carlisle.

Carlisle hesitated. “Do you really want to listen to it now?”

Wanda nodded. “Yes, I’ll see how good your singing voice is, so that you won’t embarrass yourself on

stage.

“Alright then.”

Carlisle cleared his throat and started to get into the mood.

This was a very heartfelt song. The song would lose its essence if it was not sung with utmost emotion.

Carlisle began to sing. “I wish to laugh with you, dance with you, and hold you in my arms...”

Wanda was fascinated the moment Carlisle sang with his deep and magnetic voice. She covered her

mouth with her hand and stared straight at him.

Unfazed, Carlisle continued the song. “One second we’re arguing, and in the next we’re laughing...”

Wanda’s gaze remained fixed on Carlisle.

The lyrics and melody of this song were indeed heartfelt. It relayed what a boyfriend would want to say to his girlfriend.

Carlisle soon reached the chorus.

“For once, I want to live with you forever. We can laugh on sunny days, and argue freely on colder nights. Do you know the only thing I want...”

“The world is large, but I’ll go anywhere with you. Don’t worry, my dear. We’ll grow old together, just you and I. Do you know that my heart beats for you..

Halfway through the song, Wanda was already teary-eyed,

This song was like a confession, but it also expressed regret. Carlisle’s singing made her feel happy but pained.

She threw herself into Carlisle’s arms and cried. “Carlisle, did you write this song for me?”

Carlisle embraced her lightly and nodded with a smile. “Yes, I wrote it for you. I planned to perform it during the bonfire party, but since you want to listen to it now, I sang it to you first.”

Wanda felt touched as she raised her head and said, “The song is so good. Sing it again at the bonfire

party. I haven't had enough yet."

Her fringe was stuck to her face because of her tears. Carlisle smiled and tidied up her hair.
"Sure, I'll sing it to you if you want to listen to it."

He was really gentle.

As Wanda listened to Carlisle's gentle and magnetic voice, she felt like her heart was about to melt.

Looking at Carlisle's bobbing Adam's apple, she suddenly had an urge to bite on it.

Carlisle was also feeling aroused at this moment.

It would be a shame not to kiss in such an atmosphere.

He lifted Wanda's chin and slowly lowered his head toward her lips.

Wanda did not resist this time and closed her eyes.

However, someone began clapping when they were about to kiss.

Wanda immediately opened her eyes and turned to look at the source of the sound.

There was a young man in his twenties sitting on the railing under a broken street lamp not far away.

There were several liquor bottles scattered on the ground beneath him. He had obviously been drinking

there.

“Let’s go.” Carlisle pulled Wanda as he walked forward.

The young man asked in a Yorksle accent, “Hey dude, did you write that song? It was amazing!”

Carlisle ignored him and continued pulling Wanda forward.

The young man jumped off the railing, caught up with Carlisle and Wanda, then stood in their path.

This person was drunk, and there were no surveillance cameras around. Carlisle shielded Wanda behind him and asked with a frown, “What do you want?”

“Dude, I mean no harm...

When he realized the two of them were wary of him, the young man backed off and smiled amiably. Carlisle noticed the Rolex on the young man’s wrist, and he didn’t look like a gangster, either. Only then did he let down his guard. Carlisle asked again, “So what do you want?”

Carlisle certainly would not talk to the man politely as he had Interrupted his kiss with Wanda.

The young man glanced at Wanda next to Carlisle and was taken aback. He only said with a smile, “I still want to listen to you singing that song. I’ll give you 1000 dollars.”

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“I’d rather not.” Carlisle rejected the strange man right away.

The song was for Wanda alone.

Plus, Carlisle was not short of money, so he did not have to perform for 1000 dollars.

“What if I give you ten thousand dollars?” The young man gazed at Carlisle with drunken eyes.

Wanda looked at Carlisle with mixed feelings. She hoped that Carlisle could earn more money, yet she didn’t want to see him casually selling the song he wrote for her.

“I’m not singing,” Carlisle said firmly.

*100 thousand dollars!” The young man raised the price again by tenfold.

Now, even Wanda was tempted.

100 thousand dollars was enough for an ordinary person to place a downpayment on a house in the

outskirts,

Based on current average wages, an ordinary person would only be able to make that kind of money after working for a good few years.

That said, the young man only requested Carlisle to sing a song in exchange for that exorbitant amount.

Back then, Wanda didn’t have much desire for wealth. But now, she had to work hard to make money to

be with Carlisle.

Only when she and Carlisle became more successful could they be together openly.

Therefore, she had to make a lot of money.

Wanda tugged at Carlisle’s sleeve.

Carlisle held her hand and turned to ask, his voice laced with worry, “What’s wrong?”

Wanda whispered in his ear, “It’s 100 thousand dollars!”

“What’s that? You want a million dollars?” Carlisle deliberately raised his voice.

He would be a fool to refuse the money, but a small sum could no longer satisfy him.

This young man had a

Yorksle accent, and everything on him looked to be expensive. He probably came from a rich family in Yorksle, and 100 thousand dollars was nothing to him.

If he really wanted to listen to Carlisle's song again, he should pay a million dollars.

Wanda widened her eyes in confusion. Did she say that she wanted a million dollars?

But she soon understood his intentions. Carlisle intended to raise the price yet again, but a million dollars

was too much.

Even the current top stars were not paid a million dollars for TV appearances.

Only fools would agree to pay him that much. Perhaps Carlisle purposely said that to make him give up.

"Okay, deal." However, the young man actually agreed.

Wanda and Carlisle were shocked.

It was true that Carlisle hiked the price to make him give up, yet he actually agreed.

Wanda's heart raced, and her eyes widened. She could not help but tighten her grip on Carlisle's hand.

Carlisle knew that Wanda was also tempted. A million dollars was a lot of money in this era.

Olivia was willing to sell herself for 1800 dollars, and Shane washed his roommates' clothes for 1 dollar.

Carlisle's mother, on the other hand, was working a part-time job assembling hardware parts for around 300-500 dollars. Her hands were chock full of wounds to prove it.

A million dollars could make an ordinary person financially independent for a long time.

"Dude, you're drunk. You should go home now," Carlisle reminded him kindly. He didn't want the man to

regret it when he sobered up the next day.

Technically, it was illegal to ask for a million dollars from someone drunk.

"I'm not drunk." The young man spoke distinctly and made himself appear as clear-minded as possible.

Carlisle still shook his head. "If you really want to listen to it, then look for me tomorrow."

"No, I want to listen to it now!"

The young man became anxious and took out his phone to make a call.

He put his phone on speaker, and soon a man's deep voice was heard from the other end of the phone.

"Mr. Spencer," the voice called.

"Max, come over!"

After immediately ending the call, the young man said to Carlisle with a smile, "Dude, wanna have a drink

with me?”

Carlisle could tell that the man was unusual. He had a strange feeling that if he could get along with this man, he would certainly make a good connecting

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Carlisle turned to look at Wanda and shook his head. “Let’s do that next time. I’m not free today.”

Both his career and love life were important. As such, he had to accompany Wanda now.

He didn’t want to set Wanda aside just for the possibility of a useful connection.

The young man noticed Carlisle’s gaze and knew that he wanted to accompany his girlfriend. He sighed. bitterly. “I had a breakup recently, that’s why I’m out here drinking alone.”

Wanda looked at the young man with sympathy and said to Carlisle, “Why don’t you keep him company for a while?”

Carlisle held Wanda’s hand tightly and said, “But I prefer strolling with you.”

At this moment, a Mazda of the same model as Carlisle’s drove over.

The car door opened, and an old man in a suit with a slicked-back hairstyle stepped out.

The drunken young man quickly went up to him. They both whispered for a while:

The suited old man frowned slightly, but soon his expression returned to normal. He went back to the car, retrieved a checkbook, and wrote a check.

The drunken young man waved at Carlisle. “Dude, come here!”

When Carlisle was about to walk over, Wanda suddenly stopped him. She then took out her cell phone, turned on the voice-recording function, and tucked it into Carlisle’s pocket..

Carlisle smiled and proceeded to walk over.

The drunken young man said with a grin, “This is my guardian. He’ll give you the money as promised.”

The old man handed Carlisle the check for a million dollars with a smile.

“Are you sure you want to pay me a million dollars to sing that song?” Carlisle didn’t accept the check. right away, he instead stared at the old man with a firm gaz

The old man nodded, not saying a word in response.

Carlisle still didn’t take the check. “Please answer my question.”

The eyes of the old man flickered before he smiled and said, “Yes... This one million dollars is your payment for singing to

“Spencer.”

Upon hearing the old man’s confirmation, Carlisle took the check.

The looked at the drunken young man and said, “I’ll wait for you in the car.”

ld man then

The young man waved his hand and said, “Go.” Turning to Carlisle, he then extended his hand and introduced himself, “Let’s get to know each other. My name is Gareth Spencer.”

“I’m Carlisle Zahn.”

Carlisle and Gareth shook hands.

Although Gareth had a lot to drink and certainly appeared drunk, he was actually sober.

In other words, he didn't pay Carlisle a million dollars to sing simply because he was drunk. This further proved that Gareth was no ordinary man.

At the very least, he was not someone the rich people in Riverland—like Zachary or Yuriel—could compare

to.

“Let's drink first.”

Gareth put his arm around Carlisle's shoulders and went to the spot where he had been drinking

After taking a few steps, some fragmented images suddenly flashed through Carlisle's mind.

Someone had jumped off a building.

Many wreaths were laid outside the city council building.

A faceless man poured gasoline on himself in an attempt to light himself on fire.

In the end, the president of the city council was arrested.

These images played out like scenes in a movie, accompanied by overlapping sounds from various TV news broadcasts.

Carlisle was taken aback.

Wasn't this the incident involving fake wine that shook the entire alcohol industry in his previous life?

The person who was said to have sold fake wine was the grandson of a prominent political figure. Because of this incident, his entire family was implicated.

Carlisle turned to look at Gareth.

That incident happened around December in the year of 2004. Carlisle had already started work in the factory in his previous life during that time. He had only heard about the incident from his colleague.

The Internet was not well-developed back then, so only a few people knew about it. In the end, however, the case was reported in the news and some legal programs,

“Dude, what’s wrong with you?” Gareth asked in confusion when he noticed that Carlisle suddenly stopped walking.

Carlisle shook his head and asked, “Gareth, are you in the liquor business?”