

Luna & Joshua 2391

Chapter 2391

"I'm sure Luna will be able to handle this."

Charles sighed and glanced at Luna.

Finally, he turned to stare meaningfully at Butler Fred and Mickey, who were both restrained by the servants.

"Send them to the police station and take care of this."

The servants nodded before bringing the two prisoners away.

Just as Butler Fred and Mickey reached the door, Luna hesitated for a moment before finally saying,

"Wait."

She remained motionless and stared at them through narrowed eyes.

"There's one more thing I need to say, not only to you but to my parents and Jim, too, and that is..."

She let out an exhale.

"I'm not going to take over the family business. I never have, and I never will.

"The idea of taking over such a large-scale business has never once crossed my mind. I've always

known that Jim would be the most suitable person to take up this responsibility.

"Therefore, I had been lying to all of you when I admitted to being the future heir of the Landry family business."

As she said this, she turned to stare at Charles and Rosalyn.

"I hope you won't force me into doing something I don't want, which is taking over Landry Group. All I want to do is spend time with Joshua as his wife and be a good mother to my children."

She let out an exhale.

"Nonetheless, I will still continue my work at the jewelry design company that Landry Group and Lynch Group invested in. I'm a jewelry designer, after all, and this is the only thing I do best, so..."

She turned to glance at Jim, then smiled.

"I'll leave the business to you."

Finally, she let out a sigh of relief and reached out to take Joshua's hand.

There's one more thing Joshua and I have to do, which is to track down our missing daughter.

When we finally do, all of us will return to Banyan City together."

Butler Fred, who had been listening to this avidly, immediately slumped in defeat upon hearing this

declaration.

He thought he had a fighting chance as long as Luna possessed the intent to take over the Landry family business.

However, Luna's announcement had extinguished the last remaining flame of hope in his heart.

"Luna..."

Jim frowned at her.

"You heard just now that I have my own businesses to run outside the LBEX&AKkNJry family, and I had always wanted to return Landry Group to you as well.

"After all, I'm not Mother's biological son, so I have no right—"

"You have every right as my son,"

Rosalyn interjected him before he could finish. She fixated her penetrating stare on Jim's face and continued, "I've always thought of you as my son. To me, it doesn't really matter whether we're truly related by blood or not, and what matters is the emotional bond between us."

Then, she turned to glance at Charles.

Charles nodded in agreement.

"Rosalyn is right. Please don't turn us down this time, Jim. As for Lulu..."

He shot her a meaningful look.

"As her father, I'd much rather see her living the life she truly wants."

Jim fell silent for a long time, and just as he was about to speak, his phone suddenly rang.

It was Luke.

Jim picked up the call, frowning.

"Your brother has gone missing."

Chapter 2392

Sean had gone missing? Jim furrowed his brows and quickly strode away, clutching his phone.

"What happened?"

"Just now, one of my men came to me saying that your brother, as well as my subordinate Kate,

disappeared at the same time, but no one knew where they had gone.

"I've already sent some people to check your house, but none of them went to visit Bonnie, so I called

to ask you whether you had any idea where they went."

A hint of cold malice crept into Luke's voice as he added, "It's one thing for your brother to go missing,

but another thing entirely if Kate were to disappear too.

It might not seem like it, but this girl hails from a rich and influential family, and the only reason she's

come to work for me is that she wanted to experience life on her own without being dependent on her

family.

"Therefore, if anything were to happen to her, not only will I have to take responsibility, but you'd have

to pay the price too."

Jim narrowed his eyes upon hearing this.

"I don't care about that girl. I want to know what happened to my brother."

He fell silent for a moment before asking, "What time did they go missing?"

"How the hell would I know?"

Luke rolled his eyes and retorted, "If I had known what time they went missing, don't you think I

would've stopped this from happening?"

He paused for a moment and added, "My men came to me about half an hour ago with the news of

their disappearance, so I'm guessing they must've gone missing around that time.

"I've already sent my men to scour the entire city, but I think you'd better get a move on as well. After all,

there are still some places within the city that my power doesn't reach."

Jim furrowed his brows.

"Alright, noted."

Then, he hung up the phone and turned to glance at Joshua and Luna.

"Sean and one of Luke's female subordinates have gone missing at the same time. It's been about half an hour now."

Luna raised her brows questioningly.

"Isn't Sean still recovering from his injury?"

Sean almost lost both his hands after that incident with Christopher had undergone emergency surgery to salvage them, so he should probably be recovering at this point. Where on earth would he even go?

"That's precisely why I need to find them as soon as possible."

Jim sighed.

"That rascal. He probably didn't think his injury was a big deal, did he? I'm concerned about his wounds getting infected..."

If Sean's wounds were to get infected, the consequences would be dire.

"I'll send my men to search for them," Joshua replied with narrowed eyes, then excused himself to make a phone call.

Luna could not help sighing as she glanced at Joshua and Jim, who were both busying themselves by barking orders into the phone. She strode over to Rosalyn's wheelchair and then turned to shoot

Charles a meaningful look.

"There's nothing much we can do...so let's go inside."

Charles glanced first at his bandaged hand, then at Rosalyn.

Finally, he nodded and followed behind Luna as she wheeled Rosalyn back into the living room.

The living room TV was blaring out the local news.

"International superstar Thomas Howard has graced Merchant City with his presence, and his arrival

has the streets of the city absolutely flooded. We go live to the city center, where fans have gathered all

around, cheering and screaming his name!

"This is the first time in many years that Merchant City has welcomed such an international idol, and

the excitement of everyone at the scene is palpable!

"Fans of Thomas Howard aren't missing out on this opportunity either. Some of them have even arrived

at the scene despite being sick, and the city center couldn't be livelier!"

Luna was sitting on the sofa and helping Rosalyn peel an apple when she heard this and frowned. For

some reason, a strange thought popped into her mind.

Chapter 2393

Could Sean and the girl working for Luke have gone to meet this celebrity? Even though Luna knew

that Sean's personality and upbringing made it highly unlikely that he would do something like this...she

could not say the same for Luke's assistant.

After all, Thomas Howard was someone so handsome that even Anne, who came in contact with

aesthetically perfect faces all the time, fawned over him so vividly.

With this in mind, it would make perfect sense that Luke's assistant was a fan of Thomas Howard! Just

as Luna was pondering this, her phone rang.

It was a call from Joey, an old pupil of hers.

"Master Moon, have you seen the news? Thomas Howard has arrived in Merchant City, but the better news is, his assistant has gotten in touch with me!

"Thomas Howard wants to become an ambassador for your jewelry! This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Didn't you say you wanted to restart your career in jewelry design?

"Thomas Howard's assistant told me on the phone that he has fallen in love with your designs and is willing to become an ambassador for your pieces no matter which brand you're working for—even if it's anameless, newly launched company.

"Not only that, but he's offering an insanely cheap price for his advertising!"

Joey was so excited by this news that his voice had turned croaky.

"Master Moon, I know you've already retired and are no longer designing new pieces under the pseudonym Moon.I've already clarified this to Thomas Howard's assistant, but do you know what he said to me?

"He said that as long as it's you, they don't care whether you use your old pseudonym or which brand

you're working with. As long as it's your design, they're willing to take it!"

Luna furrowed her brows, and despite how overjoyed Joey sounded, she did not seem to feel the same excitement.

"And then what?"

The calmness in Luna's voice almost sent him leaping into the air in exasperation.

"What do you mean, and then what? We should find a chance to meet this Thomas Howard in person!

"After all, it would cost hundreds of millions just getting a celebrity like him to work with us, now, he's offering us his services at only a few million dollars— one-one-hundredth of the price! This is an offer that we cannot refuse.

Aren't you seeing this, Master Moon?

"If you don't want to take him up on his offer, can I... Can I sell him my design with your name on it?"

Luna furrowed her brows upon hearing this.

"Never mind. I'll take it."

She knew that if she did not agree to this business deal, Joey would surely snap it up. She did not want

this to happen, lest he get into trouble and her reputation be tainted.

Besides...She narrowed her eyes as she glanced at the TV screen.

This man was indeed one of the hottest celebrities in this day and age, so if someone like this were to become her ambassador, her company would surely take off.

However...She could not help recalling the photo she had seen on Anne's social media page that morning.

The man who had been helping Thomas Howard retrieve his luggage from the trunk...

Was that not Malcolm? Luna could not help feeling that she was right and that it truly was Malcolm, but...

How would Malcolm and Thomas Howard even get to know each other? Besides that, she had retired from jewelry design for such a long time, so how could Thomas Howard have gotten in contact with her pupil and requested an opportunity to collaborate? There was no such thing as a free lunch.

Chapter 2394

"Have you decided to go for it, Master Moon?"

There was a newfound hint of joy in Joey's voice as he exclaimed, "Have you decided to come out of your retirement for this? If yes, I'll get in touch with Thomas Howard's assistant right now!"

With that, he hung up the phone.

Luna remained stunned as she clutched the phone in her hand, listening to the dial tone.

A split second later, she sighed and tucked her phone away.

Just as she was about to lock her phone, however, she received a message from Joey.

[Thomas Howards wants to meet you this afternoon! 1 p.m.at Bamboo House, a restaurant on the west side of the city!] Luna glanced at the time, frowning.

It was already past 11 a.m., so she would be meeting Thomas Howard in less than two hours.

How impatient was this man? The rational voice in her mind was telling her that something was wrong —that Thomas Howard must have had ulterior motives for setting up this once-in-a-lifetime business opportunity.

Luna knew that she should have discussed this with Joshua at a time like this, but...She glanced at the gazebo in the backyard, where Joshua and Jim were seated, frantically making phone calls to their subordinates.

They were already preoccupied with trying to track down Sean and Luke's assistant, so she did not feel like wasting their time with such an insignificant matter.

Therefore, she quickly found an excuse, bade Rosalyn and Charles farewell, then returned to Joshua's house.

While on the way home, she had talked to Neil on the phone about this prospective business venture, so by the time she arrived home, all three of the children were already seated on the sofa, waiting for her.

"Mommy!"

Nellie immediately leaped from her seat and grabbed hold of Luna's hand as soon as she saw her walk in.

"Is that superstar really going to work with you? This is fantastic news! "I've done some research, and I found out that this man's bone structure, as well as the length of each of his individual fingers, are perfect for jewelry advertising! There's no one out there who'd be a better than him!

"Mommy, we have to seize this opportunity to rebuild your career in jewelry design once more!"

Neil glanced at his sister as he poured Luna a cup of tea, then said calmly, "Nellie, have you ever heard of the phrase, 'There will always be a price for what fate bestows on you'?"

Nellie furrowed her brows and stared dubiously at her brother.

With her head tilted in slight confusion, she asked, "What does that mean?"

"What it means is that there is no such thing as a free lunch, and everything comes with a price,"

Nigel, who had been tapping at his laptop all this while, suddenly piped up.

'Mommy asked us to help her investigate this man because she doesn't think something so good would happen without an ulterior motive.'

Nellie pouted, then swiveled her eyes in deep thought, and finally exclaimed triumphantly, "Maybe this celebrity secretly admires Daddy and intends to build a relationship with Daddy by working together with Mommy, which will allow him the opportunity to work with Daddy's company in the future! After all,

Daddy's company is world-renowned, so surely he would want to work with him!"

Nigel glanced at her and smiled.

"If this celebrity needed the money that desperately, your theory would be right, but..."

He turned his laptop around to show the figures on the screen to Nellie and Luna.

"I managed to track some of the money in Mr.Thomas Howard's bank account."

"Tens, hundreds, thousands, ten thousand, a hundred thousand..."

"Nellie recited as she counted the number of digits on the screen.The chain of digits was so long that finally, she gave up.

Chapter 2395

"That's a lot of money!"

"You suck at math."

Neil shot his sister a helpless glance, then turned to meet Luna's gaze.

"According to Nigel's research, Thomas Howard does not need this money at all.

"On one hand, he's not desperate for money, and on the other hand, he's not desperate to get into business with Daddy either.Besides, he doesn't need you to fulfill any other terms besides agreeing to work with him...so why would he do this?"

He crossed his arms in front of his chest and declared confidently, "This is very suspicious."

Luna's chest tightened at the sight of this. She could not help feeling that Neil was beginning to resemble Joshua more and more.

Perhaps it was because the three children had gotten to know Joshua better over the past two years.

The way Neil looked, with his arms crossed and his brows furrowed in deep thought, made him a carbon copy of Joshua.

Just as Luna stared at Neil in slight appalment, Nigel turned the laptop back to face him and retrieved some of Thomas Howard's personal information.

"I can't seem to find anything this man has in common with Daddy and Mommy, and he has never been to Banyan City or Merchant City.

"Not only that, but neither of his assistants and employees had any connections with Banyan City or Merchant City.

"I even investigated Lynch Group, Landry Group, and the businesses that Uncle Jim owned outside of Landry Group...Neither of these had any connections with Mr. Thomas Howard or anyone close to him at all."

He crossed his arms in front of his chest and stared at the screen, frowning.

"This is strange. Could it be that...this man genuinely loves Mommy's jewelry pieces and specifically requested to work with her because of this, just as Uncle Joey claimed?"

"It doesn't seem true because according to my research, not only is Mr. Thomas Howard not a fan of jewelry, but he even appears to be disgusted by it."

"On one occasion, he had gotten into a fight with his stylist because he didn't like the fact that the stylist had put too much jewelry on him. In his opinion, men shouldn't wear too much jewelry at all because it would make them look feminine."

Nigel's face when he was thinking was another carbon copy of Joshua's.

Luna could not help curling her lips into a smile as she stared at her two sons.

A surge of warmth spread into her heart at the thought of her three children trying to help her.

Even though her children had just turned seven, they were all as sharp observant as their father.

However...It would be better if their youngest sister could join them.

Luna was confident that her daughter would become just as mature and calm as the rest of the children.

Not only that, but perhaps she would also prove to be a genius in another field distinct from her siblings...

"Mommy..."

Nellie could sense from the look in Luna's eyes that her mind had gone to their lost sister, so she reached out to tug on Luna's sleeve gently.

"We're going to find her someday, and besides, we still have Riley with us!"

Luna immediately snapped out of her stupor, sniffed, and cracked a bitter smile.

"You're right."

"Mommy,"

Neil quickly changed the topic and tried to divert Luna's attention back to Thomas Howard.

"In my opinion, since we can't accurately deduce this man's true motives for meeting you...why don't you go along with Uncle Joey's arrangement and meet him in person? Perhaps he'll tell you his terms and conditions in person."

"That's right."

Nigel let out an exhale and fixated his penetrating stare on Luna's face.

"If it turns out to be something you can fulfill, why not agree with him? After all, with the help of such an international idol, your career will be able to take off in no time."

Chapter 2396

Luna hesitated for a long time, but with the three children's encouragement, she finally decided to go ahead.

By the time she reached a decision, it was almost noon, and Thomas Howard had intended to meet her at 1 p.m.

With Nellie's help, Luna brainstormed the prototype for her jewelry design and developed a simple draft for Thomas Howard.

By the time they finished this, there were only 20 minutes left till the meeting time.

Nellie was worried that Luna would not be able to tap into her full creative potential due to her worries, so she volunteered to go with Luna to meet Thomas Howard in hopes that she could help alleviate her nerves.

"Aren't we going to send some guards to keep an eye on Mommy and Nellie?"

As soon as Luna and Nellie left, Neil furrowed his brows and glanced at Nigel, who remained

motionless on the sofa.

"Are you sure it's going to be safe for them?"

"Why wouldn't it be?"

Nigel replied impassively as he stared at the surveillance tape on the laptop screen.

"You know fully well how big of a star Thomas Howard is. He has reporters following his every move—
even to the toilet.

"Haven't you seen how crazy the traffic became as soon as he arrived in Merchant City this morning?"

He'll be surrounded by reporters and fans no matter where he goes.

Even if he and Mommy conduct their business meeting in a private booth and no one can hear them,
there will still be plenty of people with their eyes on him.

"If you were Thomas Howard, would you dare to harm Luna and Nellie in this case?"

Neil nodded in agreement upon hearing this, then propped his chin up in his hand and added, "You're
right. Not only that, but the restaurant that Uncle Joey proposed for their meeting is a fine dining place,

and it'd be harder for them to hurt Mommy and Nellie even if they wanted to."

Nigel nodded.

"That's right. To be frank, celebrities like him don't get much privacy at all."

"But they get to be famous."

Neil turned around and glanced at his brother with a hint of curiosity in his eyes.

"Nigel, do you think I have the potential to be a famous superstar? Do you think I should try to pursue this path?"

Nigel, who was busy typing on his keyboard, froze when he heard this. A split second later, he lifted his head to meet Neil's gaze.

"I don't think you should."

Neil pouted.

"Why not?"

"I don't like being deprived of my privacy."

"But I'm the one that's going to be famous, not you."

Nigel shot Neil a look of distaste, then replied in exasperation, "Have you forgotten the fact that we're

identical twins?"

Neil was silent for a moment.

"Oh...right. But since we're identical twins, doesn't it mean you'd be able to share the limelight if I

became an international superstar? After all, if someone were to call me handsome, they'd be

complimenting you, too."

In response, Nigel hurled a throw pillow in Neil's direction.

While on the way to Bamboo House, Luna contemplated for a long time before finally deciding to call

Joshua. She gave him a brief description of what had happened over the last two hours, including the

conversation with Joey and the decision she had made alongside the three children.

Joshua was silent for a moment before finally saying, "I think your decision is right, but please be safe,

considering you have Nellie with you, too. I'll send some of my guards to Bamboo House to keep an eye

on you, and remember to call me if anything happens."

Luna felt the weight lift off her shoulders when she heard this. She let out an exhale, leaned against the

seat in relief, and closed her eyes.

"Alright. Have you...heard any news about Sean?"

Chapter 2397

"No."

Joshua sighed.

"However, we managed to find out a lot of information about that assistant of Luke's.

"Her name is Kate Miller, and she's from a rich and powerful family in Europa. The power and influence of her family are not to be underestimated.

"Luke had secretly taken her in when she arrived here, but despite that, she's still required to call her family every day to confirm her safety. If her family doesn't receive any information about her within these two days, they'll do anything to find her.

"If her family were to come over to Merchant City in a rage, not only would Luke be in trouble, but the entire Merchant City would be affected, too."

Luna furrowed her brows upon hearing this.

"Is it that serious?"

"Yes."

Joshua sighed.

"It's the same as...If Nellie was to go to a foreign city after she grows up and ends up going missing there, but all data shows that she had never left that city, I, too, would flip the entire city upside down in search of her."

Luna fell silent for a moment before saying, "But why didn't you do this when our second daughter went missing?"

Not only was Joshua shocked by this question, but even Luna herself seemed to be momentarily stunned.

A split second later, she sighed and added, "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have compared this to that."

However, Joshua did not appear to be angry at all. He fell silent for a moment before finally replying patiently, "The reason I never turned the entire city upside down in search of her..."

"You and I had both thought she died as soon as she was born, and we had even buried her together, hadn't we?"

Luna closed her eyes.

"That's right."

"Even after we found out that she was still alive, we were led to believe that Riley was our daughter, weren't we?"

Luna's hands began to tremble.

"That's right, too."

"Finally, we have no idea— even until now—whether the child is still alive or not, much less her whereabouts.

Perhaps she could be dead, or maybe she could've been taken out of Merchant City already.

"My point is, there are too many uncertainties to this question, if I choose to flip the entire city upside down to search for her, what would people think of us?"

"What will people think of us, the Landry and Lynch families, if our search efforts turned out to be futile despite wrecking the entire city in the process?"

The quiet rage in Joshua's voice made Luna silent for a long time.

"I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that in the first place."

With that, she let out a sigh and hung up. She knew that Joshua was right.

He was always capable of staying calm and level-headed no matter the situation, whereas she could not.

"Mommy,"

Nellie's voice rang out.

Luna opened her eyes, glanced out the window, and realized that they had arrived at Bamboo House.

As soon as they got out of the car, Joey went up to them like an obedient dog.

"Master Moon! Princess Nellie! You two are right on time—Mr. Thomas has just arrived, too!"

As he said this, he led Luna and Nellie into a private booth in the restaurant.

"Is this your daughter?" a man's low, melodic voice rang out as soon as they entered the door.

"How adorable. I wish my daughter were this cute, too."

Chapter 2398

There was a hint of a smile in the man's voice, but for some reason, Luna felt uneasy about it.

After all, no one—not once in her 20-over years of life—had ever said anything like this while

complimenting her daughter on their first encounter.

If she remembered correctly, this was her first time ever meeting Thomas Howard in person, and they were not even acquaintances to begin with.

However, no matter how uneasy she felt, she still smiled and glanced at the man sitting in the booth.

"You're a funny man, Mr. Howard. I'm sure a celebrity like you can't possibly have children on a whim, can you?"

The tall, slender man was leaning against the sofa before her, his arms crossed as he scrutinized her. He was wearing a black suit which accentuated his long legs.

Even with his legs crossed elegantly, they still appeared to be longer than most, so much so that a patch of his ankle was exposed underneath his pant leg.

Underneath the dim, yellow light, the man's face looked as though he had been chiseled out of marble, and for a split second, Luna could not help being swayed by this man's beauty.

Anne was right; Thomas Howard's face was a work of the gods. He was even more handsome and elegant in person.

"To be quite frank, the news of me dating someone would stir up a storm anywhere, much less any

news of me getting married and having kids."

Thomas did not appear to be offended by Luna's words at all. He poured Luna a cup of tea and said, smiling, "Being handsome isn't as fun as everyone thinks."

For some reason, these words did not come off as haughty or arrogant when they spilled out of his mouth because it was the truth.

Luna pursed her lips and plopped down on the sofa alongside Nellie.

After lingering on Thomas' face for a moment, she began the topic of their meeting.

"Mr. Howard, Joey had told me that you were the one who specifically requested my service and that you wanted to become an ambassador for my jewelry pieces. Is that right?"

"However, according to my research, you had once gotten into an argument with your stylist for making you wear jewelry.

Based on this, I don't think you're a fan of wearing jewelry at all, so I want to know: what is the reason you want to work with me so badly?"

Thomas chuckled swept his dark, penetrating glance over Luna's face.

Finally, he smiled and replied, "What would you think, Ms.Luna, if I told you that I wanted to work with you because I love your daughter too much?"

As he said this, his gaze lingered on Nellie, and he continued with a smile, "I hear that even though your daughter is only seven years old, she's already displayed a remarkable talent in jewelry design as well."

Luna furrowed her brows and instinctively tugged Nellie closer to her, then said coldly, "I'm sorry, Mr.Howard, but my daughter is only seven.Even though she has shown incredible potential in jewelry design, she cannot be the sole designer of any product.Likewise—"

She narrowed her eyes and stared at Thomas with a guarded look.

"I'm not sure what your motives are behind telling me all this, Mr.Howard, but I can't help taking offense in this."

Thomas narrowed his eyes when he saw the cautious look on Luna's face, then leaned back against the sofa lazily.

"You must've misunderstood me, Ms.Luna.I'm not a creep or a child molester.I just..."

Chapter 2399

Thomas curled his lips into a smile and swept his glance over Nellie.

"I, too, hope to have a daughter of my own, but unfortunately, circumstances won't allow me to, so..."

He propped his chin up with one hand and fixed his gaze on Luna's face.

"I was hoping I could get to know Nellie better during our contract period, Ms.Luna.Don't worry; as soon as our contract is over, I'll get out of both you and your daughter's lives, and I promise not to get in touch again in the future."

Luna furrowed her brows upon hearing this.

She was unfamiliar with Thomas Howard's background, and if she had known that he wanted to work with her because of Nellie, she would not have come to meet him! Even though having such a famous celebrity become an ambassador for her products would truly be the honor of a lifetime, she would not use her daughter as leverage! At the thought of this, Luna let out an exhale and stood up.

"I'm sorry, Mr.Howard, but my daughter is the apple of both me and my husband's eye.I'm sorry to say that our relationship, Mr.Howard, is only that of business in nature, and I'll never use my daughter as a bargaining chip for your cooperation."

With that, she grabbed hold of Nellie's hand and turned to leave.

However, they had just taken two steps when all of a sudden, Nellie drew her hand out of Luna's grasp and turned to stare at Thomas with wide, innocent eyes.

"Sir, you said you liked me, but can you tell me what it is that you like about me? Is there anything particular that makes you want to get to know me better?"

Thomas' expression darkened at the sound of Nellie's sugary sweet voice. He looked back at her through narrowed eyes but did not reply.

Luna was startled by Nellie's impulsive behavior. She quickly stormed forward to pull the little girl back into her arms.

"Nellie!"

Nellie had already promised her before coming here that she would listen to her every command, so

why did she suddenly break free and say such things to Thomas Howard?

"Why can't you answer me, Mr. Howard?"

Nellie cocked her head innocently, blinking.

"The truth is, I wasn't the reason you wanted to work with my Mommy, am I right?"

"That was just an excuse you came up with on the spot."

Even though her voice was soft childlike, the words that came out of her mouth were oddly sharp.

"When I entered the door just now, you had just glanced at me without even a hint of adoration in your eyes. You claimed that you liked me and wished I could be your daughter, but when you were talking to

Mommy, you kept staring at her and didn't even glance at me.

"If you truly liked me and wanted to get to know me better, you would've been staring at me all this while."

Finally, Nellie let out a sigh and added, "Therefore, you probably have other reasons for wanting to work with my Mommy, but you didn't want to come clean with us, so you decided to use me as an excuse!"

The entire room fell silent.

After a long time, the sound of clapping echoed through the air.

As he raised his slender, bony hands in applause, Thomas glanced impassively at Luna and said with a sneer, "I never thought a seven-year-old would be more observant than you, Ms. Luna."

Chapter 2400

Luna narrowed her eyes upon hearing this. She pulled Nellie closer to her and met Thomas' gaze, sneering.

"So the reason you got in touch with Joey to set up an urgent meeting with me...was to insult me in person?"

Luna knew she had been behaving impulsively and should have noticed the observations that Nellie had made, but it was almost impossible for her to remain calm in a situation where her child's safety was at risk. She had been questioning Thomas' motives since the beginning, and when he expressed his longing to have Nellie become his daughter and get to know her better...she could not help putting her guard up. She had already lost a daughter; she could not allow herself to lose another.

She did not want to go through the pain of losing her daughter— or the immense sorrow she had experienced when she thought Neil had died—once more.

This was why she had placed all her attention on protecting Nellie and overlooked the fact that Thomas had not expressed any signs of adoration toward Nellie at all, as he claimed.

"Why are you so apprehensive toward me, Ms.Luna?"

Thomas chuckled when he noticed Luna's rage, then crossed his legs elegantly and said, "After all, no matter what happens, I'm sure we'll become business partners anyway."

Luna narrowed her eyes.

"I don't feel like working with you anymore, Mr.Howard."

If Thomas Howard were to become her ambassador, there was no doubt it would be a great help to the start of her career, but...

She would do perfectly fine, even without his help! Luna was confident that her career would be smooth sailing, even if she did not reestablish her career with her old pseudonym, Moon, or enlist Thomas Howard's help.

After all, she was experienced and possessed natural talent in jewelry design, so she knew she would be able to succeed eventually.

She did not have to force herself to work with someone she did not like just to speed up the process.

"Is that so?"

Thomas picked up his phone and tapped on the screen.

All of a sudden, a screen rolled down from the wall behind Luna, an image was projected onto it.

Luna furrowed her brows as she glanced at the screen.

Just one glance made her entire body freeze as though she had been struck by lightning.

The video displayed a dark, moldy dungeon where two people were restrained.

One was Sean, and the other was a petite woman with short hair that she had never seen before.

The woman kept spouting words of vulgarity in frustration, whereas Sean's face was pale and

defeated.

His hands were still wrapped with bandages, and he was tied onto a chair with his head lowered in

silence.

This scene stunned Luna so much that she was speechless for a few moments.

A split second later, she clenched her fists.

She should have known. She should have believed her instinct.

Thomas Howard was involved in Sean and Kate's disappearance! She thought Sean had accompanied

Kate to the fan meeting with Thomas Howard, but according to this video, the truth was much more

sinister than she had thought.

Thomas Howard had captured and imprisoned Sean and Kate as hostages.

This made perfect sense.

Even though Sean was still young, he was an honest and responsible man, so why would he have left

the house that Jim and Luke had settled him in without reason?