Luna & Joshua 2421

Perhaps Joshua was right; he should probably leave.
Staying in Merchant City would not only allow his ungrateful son Malcolm to continue pestering
himbut he even had to worry about Thomas, too.He could not help feeling that Thomas would not let
him off the hook so easily after what happened just minutes ago.
Samuel sighed and glanced at the boarding time on the ticket.
This was a flight ticket for the next day, so he had a day to saya proper farewell to everyone else.
At the thought of this, Samuel rubbed his brows and contemplated this for a long time.
Finally, he picked up his phone and dialed a number.
Joshua's house.
At this moment, Mrs.Flores was helping Nellie organize her design sketches.
"These sketches are absolutely stunning! You have such a natural talent at this, Princess Nellie!"
Nellie glanced at her, grinning when she heard the compliment.

"Mrs.Flores, do you want me to design some jewelry for you? I'm really good at this!"

Mrs.Flores could not help smiling upon hearing Nellie's enthusiastic offer.

Thank you, Princess Nellie, but I'm old now, and I haven't worn jewelry in a long time!

"Besides, why would a lowly servant like me be wearing jewelry pieces designed by Princess Nellie

herself?"

As soon as she finished her sentence, Mrs. Flores' phone rang.

At this moment, her phone was placed on Nellie's table, whereas she had her back turned.

When the phone rang, Nellie instinctively glanced at the screen, which read, [Samuel Quinn].

Nellie's eyes widened in shock after registering this familiar name. She knew who this was—it was

Father Samuel, Malcolm Quinn's father! She could not believe that Mrs.Flores and Father Samuel

knew each other! At this moment, Mrs. Flores heard the phone ring and quickly picked it up.

"Hello, long time no see...Huh? You're leaving soon? Alright then...

"I'll see you tonight."

Mrs. Flores strode away while talking on the phone while Nellie remained seated at her little table,

straining hard to listen as Mrs.Flores' voice grew further BDr.AoNJ further away.

Her eyes were still as wide as saucers.

According to their conversation, Mrs.Flores was not only friends with Father Samuel, but they seemed
to be close, too! What a small world! Just as she pondered this unexpected connection, Nellie's phone
rang, too.
It was a call from Luna.
She and Joshua were on their way to the hospital to visit Sean and Kate, but she was worried that their
encounter with Thomas Howard would still be affecting Nellie, so she called to check in on the little girl
"I'm fine!"
Nellie pouted slightly as she munched on the jellies on the table.
"Mrs.Flores is here with me, and she even said I'm really talented at this! Oh, speaking of this—"
Nellie glanced at the door, then continued in a low voice, "I made a discovery!"
Luna chuckled as she leaned against Joshua's shoulder.
"And what is that?"
"I discovered that Mrs.Flores is friends with Uncle Malcolm's father, Samuel! Not only that, but they
seem to be very close to each other! Father Samuel called Mrs.Flores just now to say goodbye to her!"

Joshua narrowed his eyes upon hearing this.
Samuel and Mrs.Flores knew each other? Samuel was supposed to leave Merchant City the next day,
yet the first people he decided to bid farewell to were neither Charles nor Rosalyn but Mrs.Flores
instead.
His instinct was telling him thatthere was much more to this than he did not know.
Chapter 2422
Luna could not help chuckling as she listened to her daughter's ' report'.
At the restaurant, she had told Nellie that Mrs. Flores and her daughter, Yannie, were both kindhearted
people.
Not only did Nellie remember this, but she even began to place more attention on Mrs.Flores, so much
so that she had watched and observed her every move.
A surge of warmth spread into Luna's heart when she realized how kind and thoughtful her daughter
was.
At the thought of this, Luna's voice grew even more gentle and tender than before, and she finally hung

up after reassuring Nellie some more.

After she tucked her phone away, Luna leaned her head against Joshua's shoulder and said with a hint of pride, "Did you hear what Nellie said just now? She's such a good girl; she listens and pays attention to every word we say."

Joshua nodded impassively and took her hand in his.

However, his eyes were narrowed as he stared straight ahead, his gaze seeming to penetrate to some place far, far away.

"Don't you think it's a little strange? Why would Father Samuel and Mrs.Flores know each other? Why was Mrs.Flores the first person he contacted after finding out he's going to leave tomorrow?"

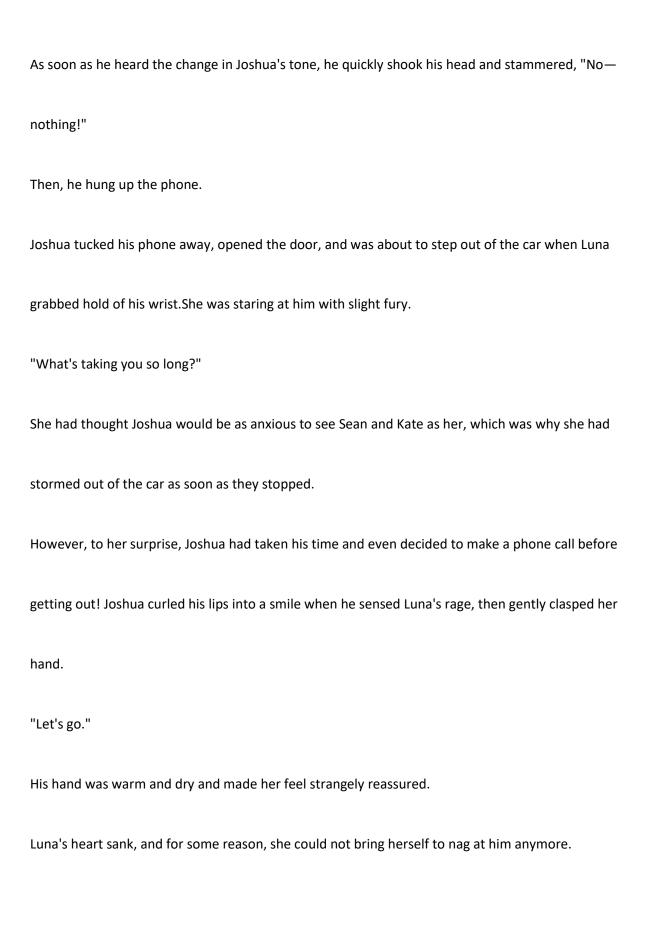
Luna pursed her lips slightly, turned to stare out the window, and replied, "That's because Mrs.Flores is a religious person.

"She once told me that she used to pray at the church on the outskirts of the city all the time. She's been going there for more than ten years, and so she's grown close to some of the priests there.

"When one of the priests passed away, she even sent her daughter Yannie to attend his funeral."

Then, Luna sighed and added, "That's probably why she and Father Samuel are so close. The fact that

she even sent her daughter to attend a late priest's funeral despite having left the city for so
longmeans that she's a kind person who grows easily attached to people."
Then, she turned to stare at Joshua.
"Isn't that so?"
Joshua narrowed his eyes but did not reply.
Soon, the car arrived at Central Hospital.
As soon as the car came to a stop, Luna flung open the car door leaped out.
Joshua narrowed his eyes as he watched Luna leave, then picked up his phone to call Lucas.
"Send some men to keep an eye on Mrs.Flores and Father Samuel."
Lucas froze for a moment, then asked in confusion, "Isn't Mrs.Flores the servant working for us? Why
do we need to follow her?"
Joshua narrowed his eyes and said curtly, "Is there something wrong?"
Lucas, having worked for Joshua for so many years, was more than familiar with Joshua's mood
swings at this point.



Chapter 2423

Luna thus sighed, squeezed Joshua's hand, and said gently, "We've already wasted plenty of precious
time, and I'm worried that Sean and Jim might be angry at us for this."
An hour ago, they had been notified of the news that Sean was found, and even then, they had

promised to rush to the hospital as soon as possible.

More than an hour had passed since this happened, yet they had not shown up at Sean's hospital room.

Even if Sean was courteous enough not to mention it, Luna was sure he would be displeased about this delay.

This was why she had been so impatient to get out of the car.

"They won't be."

Joshua chuckled and walked into the hospital hand-in-hand with Luna.

Inside the room, Sean was still describing to Jim—in animosity and great detail—how he had been

kidnapped.

"Kate told me she was tired and needed a nap, so I agreed to let her sleep. After all, Thad only gotten

my hands injured, whereas the rest of my body was fine, so I didn't need someone to keep an eye on me 24/7.

"Therefore, after Kate fell asleep, I placed a jacket on top of her and went to sleep myself.

"While I was asleep, I dreamt that a few men had broken into the house and were taking Kate and me away. I tried to open my eyes because, for some reason, this dream felt strangely real, but no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't pry my eyelids open. It was as though they had been filled with lead...

"After God knows how long, I finally managed to open my eyes and realized that it hadn't been a dream after all."

He sighed and glanced down at his hands, which were still wrapped in thick layers of bandage.

"When I woke up, I found that Kate and I had been trapped in a dark, moldy dungeon. I was tied onto a chair, whereas Kate was tied onto a pillar. There was only one light source in the room, and after observing the surroundings, I discovered we were kept in a dungeon.

"I woke Kate up, then told her we had been kidnapped.Initially, she hadn't believed me and instead thought that Luke's men, who were also her friends, were playing a prank on her.

"However, after some time, she finally believed that we had been kidnapped. Because of this, she kept cursing CCt)]wJK scolding them, hoping we'd irritate whoever was keeping watch on us. "If they got mad and snapped back at us, we'd perhaps be able to get some valuable information about who they were, but to our surprise..." Sean sighed before continuing, "The people who had captured and were keeping guard of us didn't seem to hear us, nor did they care what we had to say at all. Not one person came to check on us much less talk to us—from the start till end." Finally, he let out a defeated sigh. "Perhaps it's because we mattered too little to them." "That's where you're wrong," Joshua's calm voice rang out as soon as he finished his sentence. Joshua strode into the room, still holding Luna's hand, and explained, "The men who had captured you were elite soldiers trained to do this, so it's understandable why you and Kate could not seem to anger them at all."

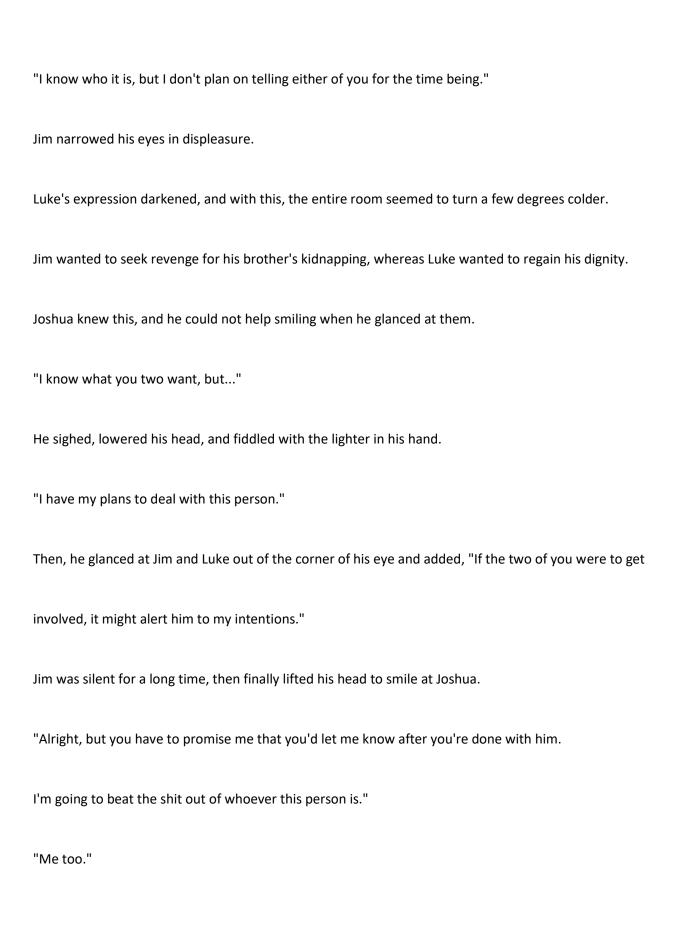
Thomas was a celebrity and thus needed to keep his background clean.

Therefore, he could not possibly let his men do such dirty work and instead had to hire outsiders to do
it for him.
"I guess you found out who kidnapped them, huh?"
Luke curled his lips into a smirk. He shifted into a comfortable position, placed his long, slender legs on
the seat in front of him, and said, "Come on, tell us.
"I'm curious to know who could've possibly snatched these two away from right under my nose."
Chapter 2424
Luna furrowed her brows in surprise.
"Those peoplekidnapped Sean and Kate while they were under your watch?"
Luke's expression darkened upon hearing this.
He shifted into a comfortable position in his chair, placed his arm elegantly on the back of the chair,
then shot Luna a cold glance.

the doctors, and said calmly, "I've already told Jim and Joshua about Kate's true identity, so surely you
must know, too?"
Luna paused for a moment, then nodded. She had indeed heard Joshua and the rest mention Kate's
background before.
Kate had hailed from a rich and noble family from Europa, and even though she had left her home
country, her family had secretly been keeping tabs on her.
If they found out that she had gone missing or had been kidnapped, they would fly to Merchant City
and would not cease to turn the entire place upside down in search of her.
This was why Jim and Joshua had been so anxious about finding her after Luke revealed her true
identity to them.
"Since you know her identity, you should know that I'd never let my guard down when it comes to
protecting her."
A year ago, Luke had been forced to buy illegal firearms from Kate's family to win his territorial fight

against the gangsters of Merchant City.

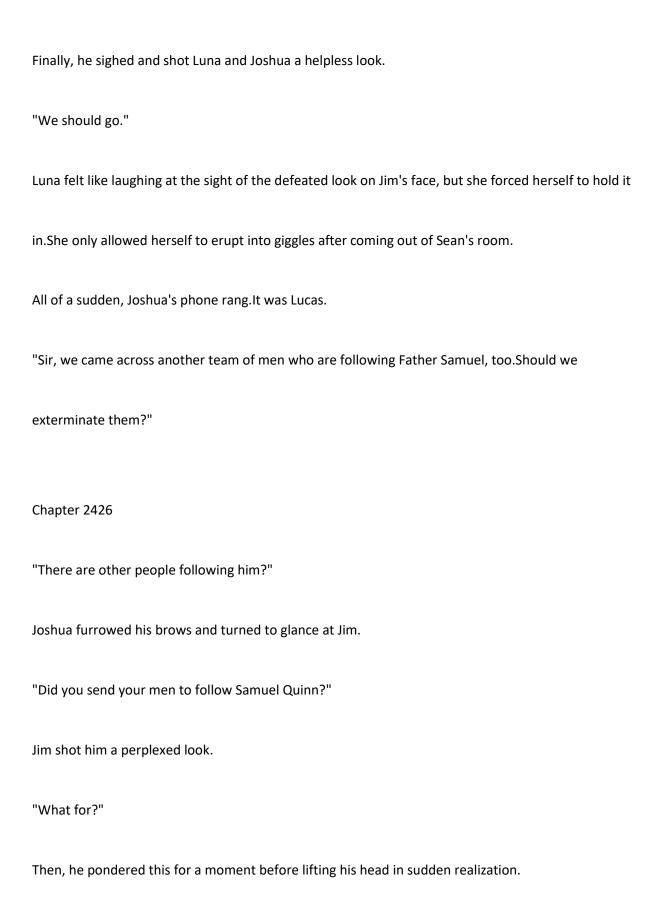
Because of this, he owed them a favor and was forced to take Kate in when she needed his help.
Despite her small stature, she was a woman with strong opinions.
Initially, Luke thought she had come to Merchant City out of curiosity and would return home after a
while, but to his surprise, she had chosen to remain by his side even a year later.
In two more months, she would have been with him for a full year, and he had planned to send her
home to Europa then.
Clearly, the universe had other ideas.
"Your men had been protecting Kate and Sean all this while?"
Jim narrowed his eyes upon hearing this.He was staring at Luke, but his gaze seemed to penetrate
past Luke was lost to a different place.
"Whoever did this must've been someone powerful to be able to kidnap them from right under your
nose."
Then, he turned to glance at Joshua.
"Do you know who this person is?"
Joshua narrowed his eyes and fell silent for a long time before finally meeting Jim's gaze.



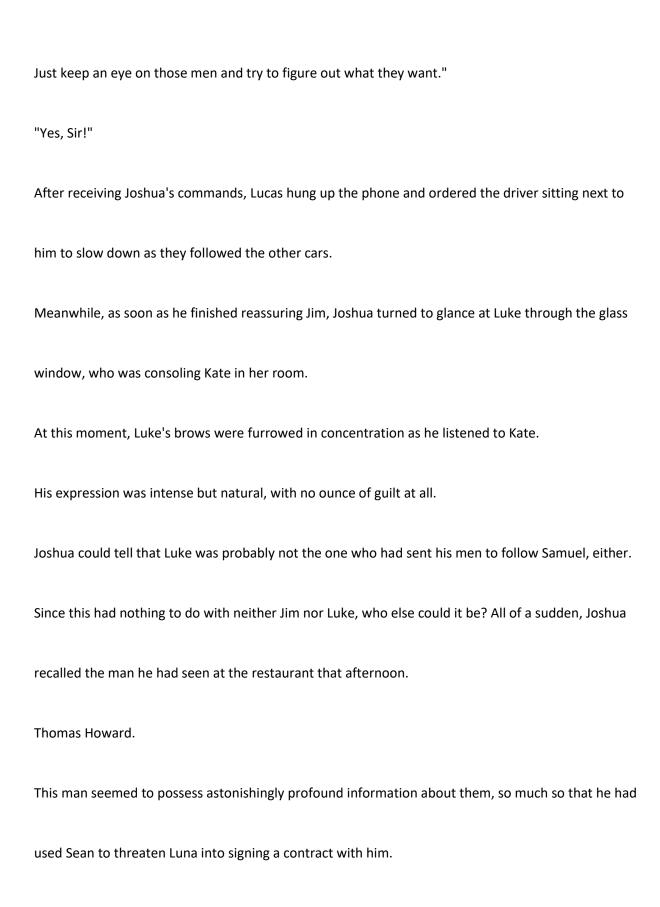
Luke glanced impassively at Joshua, then stood up.
"Since you want to take care of him first, I won't interfere, but if this person offends me once more, or
worse, shows up at my face"
Chapter 2425
"He'd better watch himself."
With that, Luke stood up, opened the door, and walked over to the room next door.
The glass window between the two rooms was soundproof, and even though Luna could not hear any
sound coming from the room next door, she could see that Kate had been squirming and writhing in
pain as the doctors examined her wounds.
However, as soon as Luke stepped in, she stopped.
The moment she caught sight of Luke, the painful grimace on her face dissipated and was instead
replaced by a gentle smile.
Luna could see Kate talking calmly to Luke through the glass window.
This discovery made Luna furrow her brows in disapproval.

Even though she had never been fond of Luke, he was still Gwen's boyfriend. However, judging from the way Kate behaved in front of Luke...she could tell that she liked him. Luna's heart sank at this realization. As she turned around, she came face-to-face with Sean. At this moment, Sean was watching Kate and Luke through the glass windows with a hint of surprise and hurt in his gaze. Luna pursed her lips and was about to say something when Jim piped up, "It's clear that this girl named Kate has the hots for Luke." Even an insensitive man like Jim had noticed. Luna sighed and began to observe Sean's reaction to this. His face was first etched with surprise and puzzlement, then replaced by sadness and finally defeat. Luna was a little shocked by this. Had Sean not been in love with Bonnie all this while, so much so that he wanted to steal her away from Jim? How long had he even known this woman? Why had he fallen for her so soon? "Can you see it too, Sean?"

Jim, unlike Luna, did not seem to notice the crestfallen look on Sean's face.He turned to glance at
Sean in excitement.
"You and Ms.Miller have known each other for a little over a day now, and you two were held captive
together.Do you know what kind of relationship she has with Luke?"
Truth be told, Jim had never been someone who liked gossip, but he did not know what else to talk to
Sean about.
However, to his surprise, his well-intended gesture of bringing him closer to his brother only served to
do the opposite.
Sean turned to glance coldly at Jim.
"What does this have to do with me? You mentioned yourself that she DEx+\wNN I have known each
other for only a day, so how will I know anything about her relationship with Luke?"
Then, he closed his eyes and tipped himself back onto the bed.
"I'm very tired, so everyone should leave now."
Jim froze at the sight of this.He wanted to say something in response, but no words came out.



"Could Sean and Kate's kidnapping have had something to do with Father Samuel?" At the thought of this, Jim narrowed his eyes and glanced at Joshua. "Where's Samuel Quinn right now? what is he doing?" Joshua narrowed his eyes. He should not have asked Jim in the first place. Jim had not known about anything Malcolm did to him or Luna, so why would he suspect Samuel in the first place? Joshua sighed, then tried to reassure Jim. "Samuel had nothing to do with Sean and Kate's kidnapping.I just sent my men to keep an eye on him because of a potential business opportunity. I thought perhaps you might've done the same to help me solve the problems my company has been facing recently." Jim rolled his eyes at him. "Don't overthink anything. Why would I care how Lynch Group is doing, anyway? I want nothing more than for you to go bankrupt so that I'd be able to get some benefit out of this." Joshua could not help bursting into laughter when he heard this. "I guess you're right." Then, he sighed, picked up his phone, and ordered, "Don't do anything yet.



Not only that, but Malcolm was working for him, too.

It would not be strange for him to be following Samuel...but why would he do this? Samuel was on his way to visit Mrs.Flores—that was all.

Could Mrs.Flores and Samuel possess a secret so big that even Thomas Howard wanted to discover it? "What're you thinking about?"

All of a sudden, Luna approached him and snaked her arm around his.

"What's wrong?"

She followed Joshua's gaze, which led her to Luke and Kate.

"Even you can tell that Kate likes Luke, can't you?"

She sighed and added, "Even though I had never been fond of Luke, and I'd constantly been trying to help Gwen escape from him She stared at Luke through the glass window as she said, "Even though Luke doesn't seem to like Kate back, as Gwen's friend, I can't help feeling a little uncomfortable by this."

Joshua immediately snapped out of his stupor upon hearing this. He scrutinized Luke, who was still listening to Kate intently, through the glass window.

Chapter 2427
"How can you even tell that Kate is in love with Luke?"
In Joshua's opinion, this was just a conversation between a disapproving boss and an employee trying
to defend herself.
"Can't you tell?"
Luna pursed her lips and shot Joshua a helpless look.
"It's so obvious!"
The expression on Kate's face was one that every woman reserved only for the man they loved.
Luna was more than familiar with this! Joshua furrowed his brows and observed for a little while longer,
then finally shook his head.
"I can't tell."
Luna pursed her lips and decided not to pursue this any further.
"Alright.Let's go home."
Joshua nodded, took her hand, and finally left.

As soon as they returned home, Luna went up to the bedroom to rest. She was exhausted from dealing with the family butler that morning and her encounter with Thomas the same afternoon.

It was already 5 p.m. by the time Joshua returned to his study after tucking Luna into bed.

Lucas had already sent the recording of Samuel and Mrs. Flores' meeting to Joshua's laptop.

Joshua opened the laptop and took a sip from his tea as he watched the two people walking side-by-side on the bridge.

He was curious to know what kind of relationship Samuel had with a servant like Mrs.Flores, so much so that she was the first person he decided to meet up with before leaving Merchant City.

Joshua narrowed his eyes as he leaned against the back of his chair.

The two people walked along the bridge for a long time before Mrs. Flores finally broke the silence.

"Where are you going? Why are you leaving so soon?" Samuel smiled.

"I guess you never changed; you're still so absorbed in your life that you barely notice anything happening outside of you."

Then, he sighed, stared out at the sea before him, and said, "If you've been keeping up with the news recently, you'd know that my son and I have gotten into some trouble with the Landry and Lynch



Howard.Not only that, but she even wants my precious Yannie to start working for her soon!"
With that, Mrs.Flores could not help adding fondly, "Mr.Lynch and Ms.Luna are both kindhearted
people!"Samuel furrowed his brows and stared at her in disapproval.Please quit your job, and tell
Yannie to do the same.Don't keep in touch with the Lynch family, and please, please stay away from
Thomas Howard!"
"Why? "

Mrs.Flores gaped at Samuel, unable to comprehend why he was so angry at the mention of the Lynch

family.

Chapter 2428

In her memory, Father Samuel had always been kind and easygoing, and even though he used to be the Quinn family's heir, he treated everyone with kindness after becoming a priest.

He had always treated her and Yannie well despite knowing how harsh their upbringing had been.

This was why, out of all the priests at the church, Samuel was the only one she had remained in touch with through these years.

However, this usually gentle and easygoing man had suddenly turned fierce and hostile after hearing
about her and Yannie's involvement with Joshua and Luna.
"Don't ask why!"
Samuel furrowed his brows and gazed intently at her.
"If you still think of me as a friend, you'd better take my advice and stay away from the Lynch and
Landry families!"Then, he closed his eyes and let out an exhale.
"This is the only piece of advice I have for you and Yannie before I leave Merchant City.Of course,
there's someone else— someone who goes by Howard"
Mrs.Flores raised her brows questioningly.
"Howard?"
"That's right"' Samuel sighed and explained, "You don't have to know who this person is, but please
pass on my message to Yannie.She'll understand what I'm trying to say."
Mrs.Flores furrowed her brows in confusion.
Why was Samuel telling her and Yannie to stay away from the Lynch and Landry families? Who was
this Howard that he was talking about? She wanted to know the answers to these questions, butShe

stared at Samuel's solemn face and decided against it. She knew there was no point in asking any
further questions since Samuel would not answer them anyway.
According to Samuel's personality, he would not answer anything that he did not feel like talking about,
much less a question coming from someone as lowly as her.
Therefore, she had no choice but to sigh and reply, "Alright."Then, she changed the topic.
"Will you come back again in the future?"
Samuel shook his head.
"I won't be coming back here anymore."
He turned to gaze out at the ocean explained, "I've always wanted to become a wanderer, but
Merchant City is my home, and since my mother and son were here, I never got the chance to fulfill my
wish.Now"
He curled his lips into a bitter smile.He had received the news of his mother's passing while on his way
to meet Mrs.Flores.
Granny Quinn had passed away in the hospital, and even in the last moments of her life, she never

expressed the wish to see him, nor even mentioned his name.

She had clutched the nurse's arm and declared that her only regret was that she had failed to raise her

son and grandsons to become the heirs she wanted them to be.

Initially, Samuel had been crestfallen to hear about his mother's passing, but after the initial wave of

grief, he could not help chuckling.

It turned out that Granny Quinn had failed to see her mistake in all of this. She had singlehandedly

caused a tremendous misunderstanding between the Landry and Lynch families, led to Lucy Hamilton's

demise and caused Rosalyn to suffer for the rest of her life in this process.

Not only that, but she had almost destroyed Luna and Joshua's relationship, as well as Jim and

Bonnie's as well.

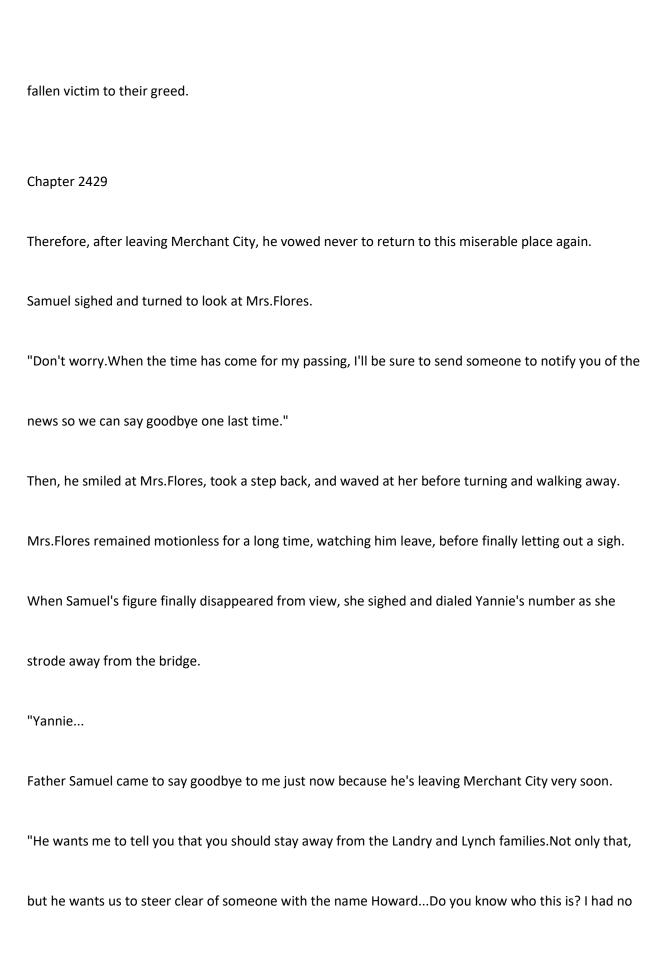
Even until her last breath, she was still blinded to her wrongdoings and expressed that her only regret

was failing to 'nurture' her heirs to become as cruel and malicious as she had been.

Perhaps at one point, Malcolm had stood a chance to become the heir to the Quinn family, but...

After thinking about this for some time, Samuel finally realized that there was nothing to feel sad about.

He had tried his best when it came to Granny Quinn and Malcolm, and it was not his fault that they had





"Maybe Father Samuel just wanted to warn me so that I won't become a mindless fan like the ones on TV. "Mrs.Flores heaved a sigh of relief. She glanced at the billboard once more and could not help agreeing with her daughter's speculation. "You're probably right. Yannie, you shouldn't lose your mind like those girls have..." Joshua's house. Sitting in his office chair, Joshua narrowed his eyes as he watched Mrs. Flores slowly walked away from the camera. He did not like letting his men eavesdrop on other people's conversations, which was why Lucas had not recorded Mrs.Flores Samuel's conversation at all. Not only that, but Lucas had even interfered with the other party's signal so that they would not be able to eavesdrop, either. However, he still managed to overhear the phone call Mrs. Flores made to Yannie. He narrowed his eyes and picked up the stack of folders from his desk, one about Mrs.Flores and Yannie and the other about Thomas Howard.

What did Yannie have to do with Thomas Howard? Not only that, but why had Samuel warned

Mrs. Flores and Yannie to stay away from Thomas, as well as the Lynch and Landry families? All of a



That afternoon, Joshua had expressed repulse and disgust toward Yannie, so why had he changed his
mind about her in just a few hours? "Daddy must've noticed how pretty Aunt Yannie is, so he wants to
keep her by Mommy's side."
Neil, who had been eating his dinner in silence all this while, pursed his lips when he sensed Luna's
puzzlement.
"All men are the same! Even someone like Daddy has gotten tired of staring at Mommy for such a long
time!"
He let out a sigh and added, "We're so disappointed in you, Daddy.Even if you thought Aunt Yannie
was pretty, you shouldn't try to find excuses to keep her by Mommy's side.
"If you visit Mommy at her work in the future, there's no way to explain whether you're there to visit
Mommy or Aunt Yannie!"
Joshua's expression darkened upon hearing this.
"What nonsense is this?"
What was this boy talking about? He turned to glance at Luna and protested, "Don't listen to him."

Luna was amused by this exchange.

She knew that Neil had said this on purpose as a joke, but Joshua had always been a strict, nononsense man, which was why he had failed to understand Neil's mockery. She could not help bursting
into laughter when she saw Joshua trying desperately to explain himself. She turned to meet his gaze
earnestly and said, "Well, since you're not keeping Yannie by my side so you can see her more
often... why don't you tell me the reason you changed your mind about letting me hire her?"

Joshua fell silent upon hearing this.

A split second later, he let out a cough and turned his head away.

"That's none of your business."

On one hand, he did not want to let Luna know that he had sent Lucas to follow Mrs.Flores, and on the other hand...

He had yet to figure out the relationship between Mrs.Flores, Father Samuel, and Thomas Howard.He did not want to reveal too much to Luna lest she became worried about this, too.

"Daddy, if you don't tell us the truth, I'll assume that I was right that you wanted to keep Aunt Yannie by

Mommy's side because you like her!"



All of a sudden, Nigel, who had been silent all this while, lifted his head to shoot Nellie a murderous
glare.
The look in his eyes was so cold that Nellie could not help shuddering before she lowered her head to
stare at her plate in shame.