Luna & Joshua 2851

Cha	ntar	2851
CHa	טנפו	ZOJI

Steven was even more outraged when he heard this.

It was true, he had always been mild-mannered, but this was only subject to people he respected!

The man standing before him not only took advantage of his sister but even made her cry!

Denise was a strong, independent girl; she would never cry unless something terrible happened.

This man must have taken advantage of her!

At this thought, Steven narrowed his eyes, and a glimmer of malice flashed through them. "I don't have

to be mild-mannered to an asshole like you!"

As he said this, he slammed Sean's hand out of the way and brought his fist toward his face.

Initially, Sean had not been afraid at all. After all, the man before him only possessed Luke's physique.

He was still a weak, nerdy scholar at the core and thus would not be much of a threat at all.

However, he underestimated Steven.

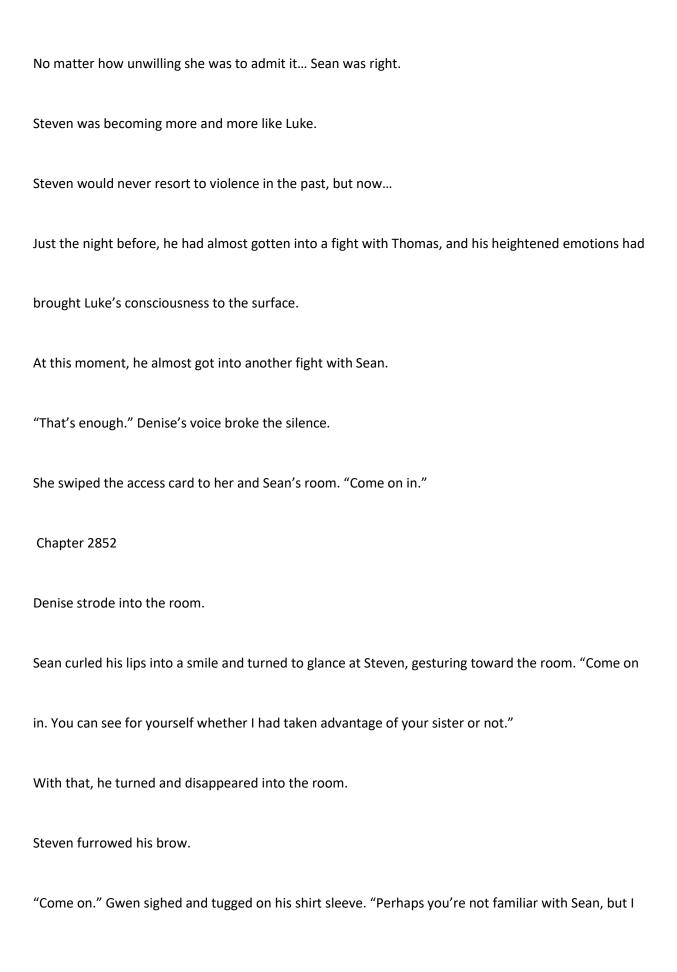
Steven's force was so strong that he bent Sean's arm backward and, a split second later, Sean failed to

hold him back.

He staggered backward in an attempt to resist Steven's attack, and seeing that the two of them were
about to break out into a fight, Gwen glanced at Denise, frowning. "Aren't you going to do something?
One of them was Denise's brother, and the other was the man she had spent the night with.
Why was she not stopping them from fighting over her?
Denise, who had been deep in thought, was pulled back to reality at the sound of Gwen's voice.
She instinctively glanced in Sean and Steven's direction.
When she caught sight of what was happening, her eyes widened in shock, and she lunged forward to
grab hold of Steven's arm. "What on earth are you doing, Steven? Sean didn't take advantage of me-
he
didn't!"
Steven furrowed his brow but did not relent. "What do you mean? Why were you crying, then? You
were crying when you called me just now, wasn't that because of him?"
Denise's face was red with alarm as she yelled, "It was, but it wasn't at the same time! Steven, let go o
him, and we'll explain everything, okay?"

Steven paused, then turned to glance at Denise. "Are you sure he didn't hurt you?"

Denise nodded fervently. "He didn't, I promise! Everything that happened last night was consensual! He
didn't take advantage of me this morning, either! I was crying for other reasons!"
Steven fell silent upon hearing this.
A split second later, he pulled his arm back and shot Sean a cold glare. Then, he turned back to face
Denise. "What happened? Tell me everything."
Denise sighed and turned to glance at Sean. "I'm sorry."
If Gwen had not called her out, she would have continued to be oblivious while her brother beat the
living daylights out of Sean.
"That's okay." Sean curled his lips into a smile, glancing back at Steven with a look of admiration. "I
can't
help but notice you're beginning to behave more and more like a gangster."
The air seemed to turn silent.
Steven furrowed his brow but did not say anything.
Gwen, on the other hand, tightened her grip around her shirt hem.





Besides, after what happened the night before, the room would be in shambles.

At the thought of this, Gwen curled her lips into a smile and glanced at Denise and Sean. "Did you guys

clean the room up?"

Denise blushed, then pointed at Sean. "It was him."

Steven paused when he heard this.

He was willing to believe this; he knew his sister better than anyone.

Even though his parents had treated Denise as a tool all these years, they still gave him the best, and

she never once had to raise a finger to clean her room or do chores. He was certain that she did not

even know how.

His distaste toward Sean began to dissipate a little at this realization. He furrowed his brow, glancing at

Sean. "Tell me what happened last night."

"I should be the one to do that." Denise sighed. "Last night..."

She closed her eyes and began describing what had happened the day before. "After what happened

at the hotel, I went to the slums and was stopped on the way by Sean.

"At that time, I was in so much despair that I ignored his advice and explanations. He was so upset that..." Her face flushed red as she continued, "He told me that if I truly wanted to waste my life away and give myself to a man, I should do it with him, since he's cleaner than the other men out there, and that would be a plus to me. That's why we..." Steven raised his eyebrows. "So you came here?" Denise nodded, still blushing. Steven was outraged by this and immediately slammed the table in fury. "How dare you say you didn't take advantage of my sister?" "She consented to it, so how can you say I took advantage of her?" Sean shifted into a more comfortable position in his chair and smiled. "She was so irrational last night that if I hadn't intervened,

With that, he shrugged and added, "Besides, if it weren't for me, none of us would ever find out that

Denise and Thomas never slept together at all."

another man would've taken advantage of her by now."

Both Steven and Gwen widened their eyes in shock upon hearing this.

Steven was so stunned by this that he could not even speak. After a long pause, he furrowed his brow and muttered, "What did you just say? Denise and Thomas..."

If Denise had not slept with Thomas, it would not have ruined Thomas' relationship with Yannie, which angered him so much that he tried to get revenge on Denise by threatening her to sleep with other men.

"Nothing happened that day at all." Sean let out a chuckle, then turned to glance first at Denise, then at Steven. "Your parents must've taught her how to seduce men, but they forgot to teach her one important thing; how sexual intercourse is supposed to happen."

With that, he flung open the covers, revealing a patch of blood on the sleek white sheets.

Gwen and Steven's jaws dropped at this sight.

"This..." Gwen frowned and instinctively glanced at Denise. "What's this?"

Did Denise not sleep with Thomas just two days ago? If so, how could she have given her virginity to

Sean?

Besides, even though Thomas did not have any recollection of what happened that day, Yannie had	
clearly heard suggestive noises coming from inside Denise's room, which was pretty self–explanator	γ,
so how could	

Denise bit her lip when she noticed the puzzled look on Gwen's face, then took out her phone from her pocket and said, "The noises Yannie heard was this..."

Gwen took the phone from her and pressed play on the video shown on the screen.

The cries of pleasure that emanated from the phone's speaker shocked Gwen so much that she almost

flung the phone away.

A split second later, she got ahold of herself and quickly turned off the video.

The entire room fell silent.

Gwen furrowed her brow and glanced once more at Denise. "So this was what Yannie heard that day?

Why did you do this, then ...?"

Denise bit her lip and closed her eyes. She was silent for a long time before finally saying, "Tina was the one who gave me this. She was worried that I wouldn't be able to handle things on my own and that

Thomas would wake up at any moment–despite being poisoned, we're not too sure if the drug would
work effectively on him-so she gave me this recording in advance.
"She wanted me to tie Yannie to the door and play this recording as soon as I entered the room. That
way, everyone outside the room would immediately think that Thomas and I had slept together that
day."
Gwen was utterly stunned by this.
After a long time, she let out a sigh and replied, "So it was all just a ruse, but since you and Thomas
didn't end up sleeping with each other at all, why did you apologize to him? Not only that, but you
almost lost your dignity last night"
Gwen was unwilling to believe that any of this was true.
If nothing happened that day, why did Denise act so remorseful? Why did she not choose to admit the
truth?
If she had told the truth about her and Thomas, all of them, including Thomas and Yannie, would be
freed of this turmoil. Not only that, but this would have saved Steven from almost getting beaten up by

Thomas!

"The reason I didn't admit that was..." Denise let out a sigh. "That's because I truly thought that

Thomas and I had slept together, but after spending the night with Sean, I realized that what happened

between Thomas and I wasn't sexual intercourse at all...

"I...I might've sexually harassed Thomas without knowing it, but we didn't end up having intercourse at

all." Gwen rubbed her brow in exasperation. "Wait, hold on a minute. I'm finding this a little too hard to believe."

Chapter 2854

Sean had anticipated Gwen's reaction before this.

The truth was that he, too, was just as shocked as Gwen was when first discovering this.

Even though this, too, was his first time, he still possessed some basic knowledge about sexual education, and after everything was over, he tried to pursue the truth of what had happened between Denise and Thomas.

To his surprise...he discovered that no one had ever taught Denise anything regarding sexual health.

All her knowledge was restricted to what she had heard from other people, and even the movies she

watched were age—restricted, with scenes of sexual promiscuity being removed from the films themselves.

According to the films she watched, 'sexual intercourse' constituted a man and a woman getting in bed together with their clothes on and nothing further.

Therefore, this was the limited knowledge she had regarding sexual health, and it was until her encounter with Sean the night before that she finally realized how wrong she had been.

As it turned out...nothing had happened between her and Thomas at all. As astounding as it sounded, this was the truth.

Denise bit her lip when she saw how stunned Gwen was and instinctively glanced in Steven's direction.

She thought that Steven would be just as incredulous as Gwen, and might even suspect that she was

lying about all this just to evade blame, but to her surprise...

He glanced earnestly at her and said, "I believe you."

There was no one in this world he knew better than his own sister. Even though Denise appeared to be a spoiled brat who would stop at nothing to achieve what she wanted, he knew that she was a naive



shouldn't have to bear all this guilt and do anything more to reclaim yourself. Please don't try to ruin yourself again, okay?"

Denise nodded. She sniffed and wiped the tears from her face before replying, "I...I won't do this ever again. I'll never try to hurt anyone for my own selfish gain anymore...and I promise I won't put myself at harm in the future."

She turned to glance at Sean, who was standing next to her. "I won't be alone anymore. There's going to be someone else who will look after me from now on."

Chapter 2855

Steven furrowed his brow upon hearing this. He turned to stare coldly at Sean. "You..."

"We're planning to get married." Sean lifted his head to stare earnestly back at Steven. "This is the reason Denise called you just now. She wanted to discuss our wedding with you.

"She said that even though the Hughes family adopted and raised her like their own, she no longer thought of them as family after how they treated her, and the only family she has left is you. Therefore, she wanted to discuss our wedding with you first before proceeding with any of the arrangements.

"You're also going to be the only family from her side at our wedding." Steven's entire body stiffened when he heard this. He turned to stare dazedly at Denise. "Denise... How long have you known this man? How are you going to marry him after only knowing him for barely a day? Aren't you going to reconsider this?" He did not have anything against Sean, but he did not think that Denise could have known him very well. If anything, she probably knew as little about Sean as he did. Even though Gwen could vouch for Sean's character, this did not mean that he would be okay with his sister getting married to this man just one day after meeting. "I won't reconsider." Denise lifted her head to meet Steven's gaze. "Sean is just my type, and he truly cares for me. If it weren't for him, I'd probably be in the slums right now..." Denise could not help breaking out in cold sweats at this thought. What would happen to her if Sean had not come through the night before? Despite having no idea what happened between her and Thomas, Sean still chose to believe that she

was

a good person and tried everything in his power to stop her from spiraling any further.

He had given her his first time, just as she did him.

Even though men naturally have an instinct regarding sex, she could still tell that it was his first time.

At this thought, Denise let out a sigh and lifted her head to stare at Steven and Gwen. "Sean and I will

meet Thomas in person to explain all this.

"Even though Thomas and I hadn't slept together at all, what I did affect him very much, and even led

to him losing his relationship with Yannie. Therefore, I owe them an explanation and the truth."

With that, she reached out to clasp Sean's hand and smiled at her brother. "Don't worry about me,

Steven. Sean is a good person. Even though I haven't known him for long, I can already tell what kind

of person he is from the way he's treated me thus far.

"All he heard about me was negative stuff coming out of Joshua and Thomas' mouths, yet he's still

willing to accept me and even marry me...this proves everything about his character."

Steven did not know how to counter this. He stared at Denise for a long time, frowning, and finally

asked, If that's the case, why were you crying on the phone just now?"

He could clearly hear from her voice that she had been crying, and this was also evident by how

swollen her eyes were..

If Sean was truly the man she wanted to spend the rest of her life with, why was she crying?

"Steven..." Denise sighed and tightened her grip on Sean's hand. "These are tears of happiness.

"When I was on the phone with you, Sean and I discovered the blood on the sheets, which made me

realize that...nothing had happened between Thomas and me at all. I was so relieved by this that I

cried tears of happiness."

Chapter 2856

"Sean is really good to me. I've made up my mind to marry him. Our biggest obstacle right now,

however, is probably his brother..." Denise sighed when she thought of Sean's brother.

Sean had told her that his brother was Joshua's best friend, and unfortunately, Joshua had seen every

bad deed she had done. She was genuinely afraid Sean's brother would think badly of her and treat

her with bias because of Joshua's influence.

"Don't worry." Sean/smiled. "I'll do everything I can to make him see my way. Even if I fail..."

He smiled again. "It doesn't matter. I'm the one who wants to be with you, and I'm the one who's going

to give you your happiness. My brother's opinion is just for reference purposes only. I won't listen to everything he says."

He did not say those things in particular for Steven and Gwen to hear, but they felt his sincerity after hearing that.

Steven paused for a while and looked at Denise again. "So...when you called me to tell me you're going back to the house to pack your stuff to live outside, it's because you're going to stay with him?"

Denise nodded. "Yes. I...want to go to Merchant City with him."

Nothing in this city awaited her except for Steven; he was the only thing worth staying for. Although she used to have many friends, they were friends with the young miss of the Hughes family, Denise Hughes- not Denise the orphan.

Besides, even if her identity was reinstated, those friends she used to be friends with would not admit to being her friends. They might even laugh at her and belittle her.

She had been friends with those socialites long enough to understand them.

After internally debating with herself, she decided to go to Merchant City with Sean. They would

register their marriage, and she would turn a new leaf and start afresh with him.

Steven sighed and took a good look at Denise. Although he was saddened that his sister was leaving, it was the best choice for Denise to leave this miserable place and be with Sean. Moreover, no one knew if Thomas might cause her trouble in the future because of how Denise plotted against him and Yannie.

In the end, he sighed and walked to Sean. Grabbing the man's hand, he said, "Then, I'll hand Denise to you. She's made...many mistakes in the past and believed the wrong person. Please take care of her."

Sean nodded resolutely. "I will."

Despite having known Denise for less than a day, it was how destiny worked sometimes; it was magical. He had liked Bonnie and had some feelings for Kate before in the past, but none of them excited him as when he met Denise.

Last night, she made him feel the joy and fulfillment of being a man. She also taught him to understand what sort of reaction his body has when a man was truly in love with a woman.

Perhaps she was a bad woman in the past and had made many unforgivable mistakes. Nonetheless, she was cute, naive, and kind when she was with him. That was all that mattered.

If a person felt the need to judge everything their love interest did in the past because they liked them, then their feelings were fragile to begin with.

"Alright, brother." Seeing Steven had nothing to say, Denise grabbed Sean's hand and stood in front of Steven. She bowed to him. "Thank you for taking care of me all these years. I'm going to go back to the house to pack up my things with Sean now."

Frankly, there was nothing much to pack. The most important thing was to take the adoption papers that proved she was adopted by the Hughes family. She was no longer a member of the Hughes family and refused to bear the family name anymore.

Therefore, she needed some evidence to sever her ties with the Hughes family.

"After I finish packing, we'll head to Merchant City and never come back."

Sean had fulfilled all of his purposes of coming to Saigen City. Other than helping Nigel and Neil to take care of Riley, he came to meet Steven.

With all these accomplished, it was time for him to head back.

"Sean." When Gwen heard Denise saying that they were heading to Merchant City, she paused and

waved at Sean. "Come here. There's something I want to talk to you about."

Chapter 2857

Sean was surprised. He exchanged looks with Denise before he followed Gwen out the door.

Gwen brought Sean out of the room and walked to the end of the hallway. When they were at the

staircase, she stopped and turned to look at Sean. "Luke came back last night."

It bewildered Sean so much that his eyes widened, looking as though almost popping out of their

sockets. After a while, he frowned and asked cautiously, "Gwen, when you said he came back last

night, are you saying, like... in your dream?"

Sean's question baffled Gwen for a moment, but it was not long that she realized she had worded

herself wrongly. "No, not in my dream!" she chuckled.

She pinched her glabella and thought for a while before telling how one of Steven's split personalities

was Luke.

Sean was shocked that he was speechless for a long time. "Are you saying...Steven and Luke can

coexist in the same body? When Steven is submitted in a certain predicament, he'll become Luke?"

What a miracle!

Gwen pinched her glabella again. "You can say that, but Luke...doesn't want to come out anymore. He prefers to let Steven live healthily and happily than returning himself, so I'll persuade Steven to continue his medication so his condition will stabilize, all to keep his split personality in check."

Lastly, she sighed. "The reason I asked you to come is that Luke told me something last night. He hoped that you'll pass the message to his brothers in Merchant City and Sea City."

She smiled bitterly. "You know about my case too. If I'm the one who tells his brothers, some of them

She was extremely sincere when she said that.

might think I was the one who killed Luke..."

Sean nodded. "Alright. Tell me, then."

Although Sean was not close with Gwen, he understood the gang's condition. After Luke was gone,

some irrational members insisted Gwen was the one who killed Luke and that Gwen was a curse.

Some even

suggested flying over to Saigen City to take Gwen's heart as vengeance for Luke.

Those people who had such a mindset were just the minority, of course, and they had been educated

that it was wrong to think so. Nonetheless, Gwen's worry was right. Perhaps she had been together	
with Luke long enough for the past year to know what kind of impression Luke's brothers had of her	tc
say that.	

"Boss....truly is a responsible person." Hearing Gwen's explanation, Sean sighed and solemnly said, "I thought that according to his strong personality from the past, he'd want to take over Steven's body and live his life again. It just never crossed my mind that..."

He never thought Luke was a person to care for others. The Hughes family never admitted him as their family, and Steven never said Luke was his brother, too. Nonetheless, Luke still treated Steven as his brother. Not only that, but he even sacrificed himself to give Steven the best.

All that, and he was the only one suffering.

"He won't." Gwen curled up her lips and smiled. "In your eyes, Luke was a gang leader who killed and did all sorts of bad things. Yet, in truth..."

She was the only one who saw how gentle Luke was, and the moments when he was the weakest. He was never the cruel, indifferent person everyone thought he was.

Chapter 2858

If Luke was never abandoned by the Hughes family from birth, and if it were not for his terrible upbringing, Gwen believed Luke would have turned out to be a gentle person like Steven too. They were brothers by blood, after all. They were separated from the same fertilized egg, grew up in their mother's womb, and came to see the world together.

Alas, the brothers never met when Luke was alive, and their current predicament somewhat mirrored this fact. Luke could see what Steven saw, seeing as he 'existed' as another personality, but Steven did not know about Luke.

It was a tragedy between the two brothers, was it not?

"Are you done?" Suddenly, Denise's voice came into the light behind them. Sean regained his senses and looked back.

Denise sheepishly stared at them. "I didn't mean to disturb your conversation. It's just that...'

She waved the phone in her hand. "The Hughes family butler called me just now. He said Mr. and Mrs.

Hughes is at home now, but they'll be leaving in a bit because they have plans. I think..."

She paused for a while. "I think it's better to go back when they're at home. To talk to them nicely."

Sean frowned and looked at Gwen subconsciously.

"It's alright. Go ahead." Gwen smiled at them. "I've said everything that I need to say."

Only then did Sean nod at Gwen, walked over to Denise, and held her hand. "Let's go."

Denise nodded and waved at Gwen as a farewell before leaving with Sean.

After they were gone, Steven went to look for Gwen. "What did you say to Sean just now? I...vaguely hear you saying Luke is back."

He paused and took a deep breath. "I have no memory of last night. Did I...have a split personality moment?"

Although Steven did not know anything about last night, he knew something about the split personality when he went to the doctor to get treated. The doctor had warned him that the medicine could cause him to have a split personality and how it was like if it happened.

When he woke up in the morning, he was drowning in the joy of hugging Gwen, not thinking that the reason he could not remember anything last night was due to him switching to another personality.

After he calmed down and vaguely heard Gwen saying it, he somehow related what happened last



Steven looked at the woman in front of him. "I've actually prepared for this."

He closed his eyes and said, his voice hoarse, "Gwen, I told you before. If you truly miss him, I'm willing to sacrifice myself to get him back for you. Dissociative identity disorder is just the beginning. Should I find the 'switch' to have him surface, I'll do it as much as I can so you'd both reunite-until his personality has total control over the body and I disappear. This body will become your Luke."

He opened his eyes to stare into Gwen's eyes while smiling. "I want to return him to you, and vice versa. You're both meant to be, and he's the rightful owner of this body.

"I'm just someone who was supposed to die five years ago, my life should've ended then. I'm satisfied to have a second chance at life for these few months..."

Gwen silently stood and clenched her hands into fists. In fact, Steven and Luke were quite similar in some ways. For example, Steven acted so stubbornly like Luke, who forced her to be at his side as he wanted to sacrifice himself to treat her illness.

They both had the means to sacrifice themselves and thought it was right because they were doing it

for her. Neither Luke nor Steven ever considered Gwen's thoughts and feelings.

She was an independent person. She had her own likings and the choice to make her decisions. None of them had the right to decide for her sake.

With those thoughts in her mind, she looked up at Steven's face and curled up her lips into a smile. "Do you think you're that great?

"Luke thought he was great too. He thought that dying for my sake was the best thing he could do for me. But..."

She took a deep breath. "I never thought it was good for me. Both of you are, in fact, very selfish."

Steven was shocked to hear that. He stood silently and stared at Gwen, not knowing how to respond.

After a while, a sheepish, helpless smile appeared on his face.

"Gwen, Luke sacrificed himself because of you. I'm also doing it because of you. Why are you...saying

that we're selfish?"

He did not understand. Both he and Luke hoped to see Gwen live happily. They were eager to sacrifice themselves in exchange for her happiness and joy for the rest of her life. Why was that selfish?

Gwen smiled as she looked into Steven's eyes. "You think you're doing it for me, but you don't truly

know if I need it.
"Luke stubbornly thought I wanted to live. He thought I'd be happy to be alive, so he sacrificed his life
for me. What he failed to realize, however, is that I'd be crushed upon knowing he'd no longer be alive."
She was smiling when she said that. It felt like her eyes penetrated deep into Steven's body and
reached the deepest place to look for Luke's soul.
She knew Luke knew every person Steven met, every word Steven said, and everything Steven
thought of. Therefore, she was actually telling it to Luke instead of Steven.
It was a pleasant surprise to see Luke again last night. Hence, she was unwilling to express her
dissatisfaction with his decision to him. Facing Steven, she could finally express all of her emotions.
She wanted to let Steven and Luke know she did not need them to make sacrifices for her.
In the end, Steven fell silent. He lowered his head and wanted to say something, but nothing came out
of
him.
After a while, he sighed deeply.

"Gwen," he muttered, evidently despondent, "he did it for your own good." "I don't need it."

Chapter 2860

Gwen stared at Steven coldly. "Your sacrifices are only worth it when I need it. When I don't need it, the sacrifices you think you're making are selfish acts to make yourself feel better. Luke did the same, and the same goes for you now."

She glared at Steven exasperatedly. "When Luke sacrificed his life for me, he didn't know my life would be meaningless without him. Now, you want to give Luke back to me by killing yourself because I love Luke. "Have you ever debated if I'd actually be at peace if that day comes, even if I'm with Luke? I'd always think we were the ones who killed you, all for the sake of my happiness with Luke."

Steven was stunned silent upon hearing this, and Gwen took this chance to assert herself.

"Even if Luke does come back, he'll think that he was the one who robbed you of your life. I can't accept Luke as I used to, either. There will be a gap in our hearts, and you're never coming back. The gap between me and Luke, as well as the wound in our hearts, will never heal.

"Only you get what you want; the great 'sacrifice' you think you contribute. You leaving with your selfish'

greatness' will only put us through guilt!"

Steven stared at Gwen as his face was pale like snow. He always thought it was his existence that caused Luke to lose his life and Gwen to lose her beloved.

He never thought of what it would be like if he truly got Luke back...and the life Gwen and Luke would be living..

Would they truly feel guilty like Gwen said?

"That's right." Perhaps Gwen read Steven's mind.

She inhaled deeply as she walked to him and patted his shoulder. "So get rid of the unrealistic thought.

This is my thought and also Luke's. We've made the decision in the past; Luke and I are destined to be

apart. We don't need you to make any sacrifices."

She smiled bitterly. "Don't go looking for that doctor again, and don't eat whatever medicine that

induces. that dissociative identity disorder anymore. Luke doesn't want to come back, and I don't need

him to come back.

"After the lawsuit against the Hughes family and Miller family are filed and completed, I'll go back to

Merchant City with Joshua and Luna, then I'll return to Sea City. I'll also live my life just like how Luke wanted. "In the meantime, I hope you'll stay in Saigen City and carry on with your life. Don't miss me and Luke. We're both strangers to you in the first place, anyway." Having finally said her peace, Gwen turned and walked away, not once turning back. Steven stood still as he watched Gwen leaving. The light in his eyes dimmed. Lowering his head and looking at his hands, a bitter smile broke out on his face. So she doesn't need my kindness. I'm just a stranger to her, someone she doesn't want to cross paths with. A stranger..." He closed his eyes as he felt his heart throbbing in pain. Fate was indeed cruel Although Luke was abandoned when he was young and had lived a hard life, he turned out to be the gang leader adored by many of his comrades and even met Gwen. On the other hand, Steven was the precious son in the family, but what did that leave him with?

He did not have Luke's ability, his connection, and his friends. Most importantly, he would never have
Gwen's love.
Even if he shared the same face as Luke and also Luke's body, he would never have Gwen's attention.