

Luna & Joshua 2981

Chapter 2981

The man dressed in black frowned upon hearing what Winson said. He looked up at Winson's face with his frosty gaze. "So you're getting close to her because you want her?"

"Wrong." Winson looked in the direction where Gwen left. He took out his lighter from his pocket to light

up the cigarettes and puffed out a ring made out of smoke into the air.

"Since you and I have the same motive, I'm going to be frank with you: I'm getting close to her to bring her back to Sea City to claim a reward."

"Claim a reward?" The man dressed in black stared at Winson. "And what's that?"

"Don't pretend like you don't know anything." Winson scoffed at that question. "Aren't you after the reward too, seeing as you're trying to win over Gwen? Don't tell me you don't know the gang in Sea City has put a bounty on Gwen to avenge Luke?"

The man dressed in black trembled, and his eyebrows furrowed. "A bounty on Gwen just to avenge Luke? Didn't he give Gwen his heart? Isn't it the same as destroying the last evidence that Luke once walked in this world by killing Gwen?"

Winson rolled his eyes and smoked the cigarette. "Are you playing dumb with me, or do you truly not know? Do you really think Luke's brother wants to take revenge for Luke? All they wanted was some excitement. The one who captured Gwen and killed her will take Luke's place and become the new leader of the gang. Do you honestly think those people care about Luke and Gwen? How naive."

He blew out another ring of smoke in the direction where Gwen left. "But then again, if you don't know anything about this... Are your efforts solely because you've fallen for her?"

The man dressed in black did not answer. Despite that, Winson knew the answer to that question.

He smirked and sneered. "Gwen is pretty, but too bad, she's broken. When she was studying at the university, she was with her high school

sweetheart, Ben, and lost her virginity to him. They both got married but were divorced afterward. Do you know why?"

The man dressed in black furrowed his eyebrows and asked, "Why?"

"Because..." Winson cackled. "She was raped by some thugs, but she was lucky to meet Luke later.

Luke didn't care that she was once married or that she slept with many men, even if she was pregnant

with god knows which men.

"You probably know that she was the reason Luke died. Not only is this woman a damaged good, but she's also a taboo to all of her men."

Winson put out the cigarette and threw it into the bin behind him. Later, he extended his hand out to pat

the shoulder of the man dressed in black." Pull yourself out while you still can; any other woman is a lot better than Gwen. Besides, if you do end up with her, without any support from the other gangs, it's easy for the other men to target you when they try to kill her. Don't ruin your life just because of her."

The man dressed in black narrowed his eyes. "Then aren't you afraid, too?"

"I'm not the same." Winson chuckled. "I have someone backing me up, and I don't intend on giving my heart to her. My plan is to sleep with her and have a little fun before I trick her back to Sea City. I mean she has slept with many men, but at least she's very pretty, and her body-"

Before Winson could finish his sentence, the man dressed in black threw Winson over his shoulder and onto the ground.

Winson grunted in pain as his body slammed against the ground.

At that moment, Gwen was walking out of the pharmacy with some alcohol pads, sanitizer, and bandages, so she saw how Winson was flung to the ground by the man dressed in black.

Shocked, she quickly rushed over. "Winson!"

"Gwen..." Winson used his hand to support his back when Gwen helped him to get up. He said weakly,

"Do you even know this guy? He's so fierce..."

Gwen bit her lip and looked at the man dressed in black. "I..."

She wanted to say she knew him, but she remembered what Luna and Joshua told her.

Gritting her teeth, she answered, "I don't know him."

"You don't know him..." Winson glanced at the man dressed in black in disdain.

Although this man did not have the same motive as him, they were both here because of Gwen. He, however, was much closer to Gwen.

The first one to arrive normally had the advantage of being in a favored position. He and Gwen had known each other since they were in high school, and Gwen had said she did not know this man at all.

He straightened his back and said, "Gwennie."

He called Gwen by her nickname on purpose. "I was expressing my gratitude to this man here just now. I also told him that you and I are very close with each other and that we had known each other since high school. Without so much of a warning, he threw me to the ground!"

Winson continued after a sigh, "If you didn't arrive here just in time, god knows what he would've done.

I was just telling him the truth, but he hurt me..."

Gwen's eyebrows furrowed as she looked at both Winson and the man dressed in black helplessly.

Although she did not know if Winson was telling the truth, she was aware the man dressed in black would not harm her.

If the man decided to hurt Winson, it just meant Winson had said something inappropriate.

After a pause, Gwen turned to face the man dressed in black. "I'm sorry, my friend doesn't know the truth. If he said anything that offended you, I apologize on his behalf."

She then passed the bag of pharmaceutical goods to him. "Take this and treat your wound."

The man accepted it and said with a deep voice, "Thank you."

This was the first time Gwen heard his voice. For some reason, it sounded very familiar to her. It

sounded...oddly similar to Luke's and Steven's voices, yet not entirely the same.

Unconsciously, she took a look at him.

Same as before, he had his cap lowered enough to cover his face and also a huge mask so that no

one could see his face.

"How long will you guys take?"

Suddenly, the man's voice pulled Gwen back to reality.

She paused and looked at Winson. "How long do we need to finish the art exhibition?"

Winson frowned. "Probably at least two hours."

The ticket stated each entry was allowed two hours inside the art gallery, and Winson had spent a

fortune buying those tickets. If he did not fully utilize the two hours, it would be a waste!

"Okay." The man dressed in black nodded and looked at Gwen. "I'll be here. Run out immediately or

yell if anything happens."

He thus turned and walked to the gazebo with the stuff Gwen bought for him. He sat down and started

to treat his wound.

"Who does he think he is?" Winson rolled his eyes. "You and I are just going to look at some art in the art gallery. What's going to happen?"

Chapter 2983

The man dressed in black ignored Winson and looked at Gwen." Remember what I told you."

Odd as it sounded, Gwen felt like she was looking at...Luke.

When Luke was still alive, Luke would shoot her an annoyed look when someone interrupted them mid-conversation. The conversation often ended with Luke saying, 'Remember what I told you.'

Every time, she would giggle and nod back at him to show that she remembered what he said, though she always forgot them.

Instead of being irked, however, Luke would rub her head softly and sigh." Sigh! What are you going to do if I'm not around..."

It hurt Gwen terribly to recall her memories with Luke. It took more than a while for her to withdraw herself away from the sadness.

She lifted her head and looked at the man dressed in black while earnestly replying, the same way she

would always do when met with this question by Luke, "I know. I'll remember them."

The man dressed in black faltered for a moment briefly, and he nodded." Alright.'

After that, he lowered his head again and continued to treat his wound.

A pang of confusion hit her as she stared at the man. Every time Gwen replied the same way she did to

Luke before, he would always tease her," You keep saying you remember it, but do you honestly

remember?'

After that, she would throw herself into Luke's arm and giggle.

Several seconds later, Gwen curled her lips and smiled bitterly. Frankly, there was nothing for her to

feel upset about. She knew better than anyone that Luke was gone, and he was never going to come

back.

Even Steven, who took Luke's body, was nowhere to be found.

This man in front of her, who had been protecting her, was just a bodyguard Joshua hired.

How could she even assume the wild thought that this bodyguard would indulge her by having a

conversation she used to have with Luke?

She thought too much of it. Her head was in the clouds.

Up until this point, she took a deep breath and looked at Winson. 'Let's go in.'

Winson was stunned. He quickly turned around and spread his arms in a welcoming gesture before walking into the art exhibition with Gwen." Gwen, let's go to the painting section, and let me show you that drawing! The person Theo Allen drew looks too much like you..."

When Gwen and Winson were further away, the man dressed in black frowned and rolled up his sleeve. Under the black clothing, there was a deep cut on his fair arm, and it bled profusely.

He took out the bandages Gwen bought from the bag and bit it with his mouth. Then, he used the alcohol pad to sanitize the cut.

The sun was shining brightly, and the pain from his arm had his forehead sweating as if it were raining.

He sweated so profusely that his hoodie was soaked.

Despite that, he did not take off his cap and mask, keeping his face obscured from all prying eyes.

After an excruciating pain, he took a deep breath and used the bandage to patch up his arm like he had done it a million times. As he finished putting away everything, he leaned back on the pillar of the gazebo with his hands supporting his body to take a rest.

Just then, his phone rang.

He furrowed his eyebrows and answered, 'Hey, Joshua, what's up?'

Chapter 2984

On the other end of the line, Joshua stayed silent for a while before saying hesitantly, "You're...Luke now?"

The man frowned and said, "Take a guess."

It was another moment of silence.

After a while, Joshua asked, "Did something bad happen? Why is it you now?"

"Yep. Something happened." Luke-in Steven's body-looked in the direction where Gwen left and took out a cigarette from his pocket. He lit it up and said with a frown, "There's a man with Gwen."

Joshua frowned. "So that's why you came out? Because you're jealous? That's a new way to trigger the change of personality."

Luke rolled his eyes. "I'm not finished. That man is from Sea City. I think he, Luna, and Gwen were high school classmates."

"The guy is pursuing Gwen?" Joshua leaned back on the office chair with a smile on his face. "I told you. Since Steven allowed you to share the body with him, you should just go find Gwen and tell her everything. You two can continue to be together."

"You won't have to be the invisible man in her life that exists only as her bodyguard. The guy won't have the chance to pursue her, even if he was her classmate."

Luke blew a ring made out of smoke. As the smoke flew away, he furrowed his eyebrows. "I told you this. Even if Steven allows me to share this body with him, he's still the pilot of this body. I don't want to sleep with Gwen the night before, only for her to realize she's hugging Steven first thing the next day. It'd be a nightmare for her."

Joshua frowned. "Why is it a nightmare? Steven isn't that annoying."

"That isn't the problem. Gwen doesn't like him as a lover, and she'd never be in love with him. In this situation, if Gwen finds out the man she's hugging is suddenly Steven, she'd be very upset. So would I."

Luke sighed. "I'd rather disappear forever and never want Gwen to be upset, n

Hearing how earnest Luke sounded, Joshua fell solemn and no longer attempted at making

lighthearted remarks. "I understand. I understand the difficulty between the two of you."

Luke and Steven were at a standstill.

In signing the contract with the Miller family, Luke used his life in exchange for the sickly Gwen's life back then. Since Gwen survived and lived on, he wanted to forfeit his life and not stay in this world as promised.

Luke had hoped he would vanish from the world entirely. He had done many bad things when he was a gang leader, and he made his life worth living when he exchanged his life for his lover's, as well as his brother's future.

On the other hand, the true owner of this body, Steven, believed his own life ended five years ago. He was satisfied with his life knowing his heart saved Gwen's life and hoped to return the body to Luke before disappearing entirely.

The brothers persistently hoped for the same wish in the same body. As a result, both brothers remained in one body, and they both lived miserably.

Steven thought of bringing Luke to places where they had never been so they could see new places.

Alas...both brothers could let go of Gwen. It worried them even more knowing Anne was dead because of Luna.

In the end, both of them decided to return to Gwen, but they also decided not to identify themselves and merely watch from afar.

Guarding and protecting her from a distance was the best solution they came out with to not hurt Gwen.

"Yeah." Luke took a deep breath. ' But there's another pressing matter now. My men from Sea City are starting a problem. They're looking for Gwen in every corner, wanting to bring her back and kill her to exact vengeance for me. The one who does it will replace me and become the gang leader."

He put off the cigarette frustratingly. "I've only been dead for half a year, and these people are getting too rowdy!"

Chapter 2985

"Sigh." Joshua sighed, hearing Luke's rant, and said wearily, "Do I need to send someone to keep you and Gwen safe? You may not be able to handle your old subordinates, even with Steven."

"No thanks." Luke snorted and changed to a more comfortable position, leaning on the same pillar. He

continued to look in the direction where Gwen and Winson left. "I know those people too well, and

they're nothing when they leave Sea City. Your cousin, Sean, is much better than many of them."

Joshua laughed. "Sean did want to learn from you, be like you, and become a gang leader."

Luke shrugged and sneered. "Why not learn to be a good guy instead? Why did he want to be like

me?"

"Aren't you a good guy?" Joshua paused. "Sean was actually under a lot of pressure. He had been

living in the countryside and became a mechanic sometime in his life, only to find out that he, all this

while, has a biological older brother and other relatives, which made him feel slightly unhinged.

"You're the only one who fought your way up from the bottom among all of us. He thinks of you as his

role model and hopes to one day be like you, a gang leader. If he doesn't have to take care of Denise

now, I think he'd make himself a very successful man.'

Luke frowned uncontrollably when he heard Denise's name. "Has that woman not woken up yet?'

Joshua nodded. "Yes, but Sean doesn't care."

The last time Joshua contacted Sean, both of them talked for a long time.

Sean said Denise deserved the terrible consequences of her actions. After all, everyone had to face the music for what they have done. At the same time, however, he would willingly wait for Denise to wake from her coma to atone for her sin.

Joshua took a deep breath. ' What are you afraid of since you said your subordinates won't cause any problem for you and Gwen in that town?"

"Yes, they don't dare to cause any problem here, but they're using a man to trick Gwen." Luke paused and explained how Winson tried to be close to Gwen, as well as what Winson told him.

"How much does Luna know about Winson?" Luke asked.

"I'll ask her that later."

In fact, Luna always talked about the things that happened during her university and high school days with Joshua. There were a few times when she also talked about the time when she and Gwen were studying, too.

Nevertheless, Joshua never heard Winson's name from Luna.

"Winson planned on making Gwen fall in love with him so he can bring her back to Sea City." Luke

closed his eyes and said softly, "Have Luna warn Gwen to stay away from Winson."

Joshua stayed silent for a while before chuckling happily. "Wow, you're actually asking me for help."

"You better get used to it." Luke paused and said, "When Steven finally has control over this body. I'll

do whatever I can to never come back. I hope you can help me to take care of my younger brother."

Joshua frowned. "He's your brother, so you should be the one who takes care of him." "How can I take

care of him? We can't appear at the same time." Luke scoffed. "Alright. I'm going to rest and let him

come out. Bye now." After that, he closed his eyes, leaned back on the pillar, and dozed off.

Chapter 2986

Gwen and Winson made a beeline straight to the art show as soon as they entered the exhibition

center.

There were indeed plenty of Theo's artworks displayed there, and the first one was the portrait he had

painted of Luna.

"What a talented man," Winson could not help lamenting as he gazed at the painting.

'Oh my. I can't believe Theo managed to capture the essence of Luna's beauty so perfectly!' Gwen

thought to herself as she stared at the painting.

Although this was only a painting of Luna's back as she chased after a kite, wearing a simple white dress, Gwen could not help being reminded of the early memories that she shared with Luna.

They had been so happy and carefree at one point...

Who would have thought that a few years from that point in time, Luna would have almost died, been forced to undergo plastic surgery, and even gone through such devastating events such as losing her best friend and going to jail for attempted murder?

As for Gwen, on the other hand...although she had lost only Luke, it felt as though she had died a thousand times over.

As much as they wanted to, none of them could ever return to the carefree moments of their youths.

After staring at the painting for a long time, Gwen finally sighed and snapped out of her stupor. She turned to glance at Winson. "Didn't you say there was a painting of me? Where is it?"

The color drained from Winson's face when he heard this. The truth was, this was just an excuse he had thought of to get Gwen to come into the city with him. That was the only way his plan of letting her get hit by a car would work and he could swoop in to save her like a damsel in distress. He was hoping

that by doing so, Gwen would fall over heels for him, and it would no longer matter that he had lied to get her out of the house.

However, his plans were foiled by the man in black, and since he failed to save her life, he no longer had any leverage over Gwen. At the mention of the painting, Winson had no choice but to simply point at a painting nearby and stutter, "Well. Isn't this a painting of you?"

Gwen's eyebrows furrowed as she glanced in the direction Winson pointed.

It was a painting of a long-haired woman standing underneath a tree, and it was obvious that the woman in the painting was not her at all but Rachel.

In fact, the woman in the painting looked nothing like her.

"Do you honestly think that looks like me?" Gwen shot him a strange look, feeling a little disappointed at this.

She and Rachel were nothing alike, and the painting was the only reason she had even agreed to come out on a date with Winson in the first place. She had not been looking forward to seeing herself in a painting, but she was curious as to what a younger version of her looked like in Theo's eyes.

All in all, she wanted to catch a glimpse of this painting to reminisce about her younger days. However, it was clear that this was not at all what she hoped to see.

Winson scratched his head rather sheepishly and replied, "Well...I think it does."

"How so?" Gwen curled her lips into a smirk. "The only thing she and I have in common is we both possess two eyes, a nose, and a mouth.'

With that, she turned to stare at Winson solemnly and continued, "I thought I made myself very clear last night, Winson. The only reason I came out with you today is because I'm interested in what you have to show me, but it turns out it wasn't at all what I hoped. Please don't do something like this ever again."

With that, she turned to leave, but before she could do so, Winson reached out to grab hold of her wrist with a frown. 'Don't go!"

His grip on her was so tight that it was beginning to hurt. "The art show tickets cost me a fortune, so are you seriously going to leave right now? Come on, stay for a little while longer, okay?"

Gwen turned to shoot him a murderous glare. "Let go of me!"

Chapter 2987

How could Winson possibly let her go just like that?

The angrier Gwen got, the tighter his grip became. "Come on, Gwen. It's not like you have anything else to do today anyway, so why don't you join me for the rest of the art show? Come on, we've known each other for ages now. Are you seriously going to do this to me?"

Gwen sneered as she cast him a cold look. 'Yes, we've known each other for ages, and in fact, we used to be close back in high school, but that isn't a reason for you to stop me from leaving!"

After all, they had lost touch for so long that in Gwen's opinion, they were more akin to acquaintances instead of friends at this point.

The only reason she agreed to come out with him was because she still remembered him from their high school days. If she had failed to recognize him, he would be a stranger to her.

What was the point of watching an art show with someone she barely knew?

At the thought of this, Gwen bit her lip and grew even more determined to leave without Winson, but the more she struggled against his grasp, the tighter it became. "Come on, Gwen. You're already here; join me for the rest of the art show. I'll treat you to lunch after this!"

If he had not continued to hold onto her like this, Gwen might have caved in right on the spot and agreed to his request, but the fact that he was doing this made her lose all her patience toward him.

"I don't care about lunch. Let go of me!"

He refused to.

Gwen was a woman, so naturally, she was not as strong as Winson. Not only that, but she had just undergone surgery a few months ago and had yet to regain her full strength, so no matter how hard she tried, she could not pry herself free from him.

Before long, the people around them began to notice their little commotion and paused to stare at them.

Some of the nicer strangers even stopped to ask whether they knew each other.

"She's my girlfriend," Winson replied, still holding onto Gwen's wrist. He was worried that the people would try to help Gwen once they found out about their relationship, so he quickly explained before she could, "I invited her to this art show, but she refused to stay because she claims she knows nothing about art. I'm trying to convince her to stay, but she won't listen."

With that, he tightened his grip on her and added, "Come on, honey, please stop making a scene.

People are staring at us!"

Gwen widened her eyes in shock. "Who the hell are you calling 'honey'? Let go of me, Winson! Since when did I agree to date you? What utter nonsense!"

"See? That's just how she is. Whenever she gets mad at me, she'll turn around and tell everyone she doesn't know me." Winson shot everyone a sheepish grin, then continued to tug on Gwen's wrist.

"That's enough, Gwennie."

"Don't call me Gwennie!" Gwen was so infuriated that her voice began to shake. "You're not allowed to call me that!"

The passersby witnessing this began to step back when they saw this. They had all bought into Winson's lie and thought he and Gwen were an arguing couple.

Not only that, but some of the people were even beginning to leave.

The rest of the people who remained started murmuring about how bratty Gwen was behaving.

Winson could not help growing even more triumphant when he overheard their whispers. He curled his lips into a smirk and turned to glance at

Gwen. "Come on, Gwennie. Let's go in to watch the art show, then we can go for lunch afterward, okay?"

"No," all of a sudden, a man's voice rang out coldly.

At the same time, someone's hand reached out and grabbed hold of Winson's wrist, which was tugging on Gwen's.

With a loud crack, Winson's wrist was twisted at a grotesque angle, and Winson shrieked in pain as he drew his hand back.

Gwen turned around, and an expression of joy crossed her face when she saw the man in black.

"You're finally here!"

Chapter 2988

"Yes." The man dressed in black paused for a moment when he heard the delight in her voice, then glanced at her and nodded. "Are you hurt?" "No." Gwen shook her head. "How about you?"

She scrutinized his right arm, which was wrapped with gauze, and furrowed her eyebrows. "Are you okay?"

"I'm okay." The man turned to glance at Winson, whose wrist he was holding. "How did you claim that you know her?"

At this point, Winson was in so much pain that his entire face had turned pale, and he could not utter a single word apart from vague whimpers of pain.

"He claimed to be this lady's boyfriend," one of the passersby piped up. "We thought he was harassing her, but he claimed to be her boyfriend...and this lady also referred to him by his name, so we assumed that they knew each other."

The other passersby agreed. "Yes, we thought something fishy was going on, and we were wondering whether he was telling the truth... After all, you never know what goes on in other people's lives."

"Yes, I thought this man looked a little aggressive, but I never once imagined he'd be lying!"

"Thank God you're here. Otherwise, who knows what could've happened..."

A split second later, one of the passersby finally asked, "Miss, do you actually know this man who claims to be your boyfriend?"

"We used to be classmates." Gwen sneered as she cast Winson a cold look. "But from now on, we're

nothing more than strangers.'

People like him did not deserve to remain in contact with her, much less be a friend of hers!

"Gwen..." Winson bit his lip as a distraught look crossed his face. "It's no big deal; do you really have to-ahh!"

Before he could even finish his sentence, the man had bent his wrist again at a crude angle, and this time, he could clearly hear the sound of his bone snapping.

The man shot him a cold glance. "You deceived everyone by wrongfully claiming to be her boyfriend; do you think this isn't a big deal? What would you have done to her if I hadn't shown up just in time? How dare you harass her like this in public? If this is what you're capable of doing in broad daylight, who knows what you'd get up to when no one is around?"

Winson slumped onto the ground limply and began to howl in pain. "You assaulted me! I'm going to call the cops on you! Just wait!"

As he said this, he took out his phone and dialed 911. "Hello, yes, I want to report a case of assault..."

Seeing that Winson was already calling the cops, Gwen immediately lunged forward and kicked his phone out of his hand, sending it clattering onto the ground.

"Run!" The moment the phone landed on the ground, Gwen grabbed hold of the man's hand and sprinted out of the door.

If Winson really called the cops on them, not only would they be blackmailed by Winson, but they would have to be subject to police interrogation.

Since none of them were locals, it would be a hassle should the police get involved.

Most importantly, however...once they arrived at the police station, the man in black would be forced to reveal himself, and Gwen could not bear to see him be subject to such cruelty, especially in front of Winson.

The man was dragged out of the art show by Gwen, and he could not help smiling as he gazed at the tendrils of her hair being blown softly in the breeze.

She was as adorable as he remembered.

Chapter 2989

Still holding onto his hand, Gwen led the man in black out of the art gallery and all the way back to the street where she lived.

Finally, they came to a halt as Gwen slumped against the wall of a house, panting. The man behind her, on the other hand, was totally unfazed.

He curled his lips into a smile as he glanced at her. "We ran almost five blocks just now. I didn't know you had such good stamina."

The man's melodic voice and his teasing tone made Gwen freeze momentarily. For a split second, she could not help thinking that...the man before her was Luke.

Not only that, but she had the sudden urge to remove his mask and see if it was him, but she stopped herself from doing so.

This man could not possibly be Luke-Luke was dead.

Even if Luke's subconscious remained in Steven's body, Steven would never come all the way here.

The man before her was just a bodyguard that Joshua hired to protect her, and the reason he was wearing a mask was that he felt conscious of his looks after suffering a tragic accident.

She could not possibly do this to him, especially knowing that he did not want to be seen by anyone else.

Since there were people from Sea City that were after her, she still needed his help in the future, and she could not afford to offend him.

At the thought of this, Gwen sighed and turned to smile at him. "I was just worried about you. If Winson really called the cops on you, you'd get arrested."

The man grinned. "I guess you're right. I can't afford to get arrested again, considering I don't have the best track record."

With that, he reached out to gently pat her back. "Thank you for your help."

Gwen's entire body stiffened at this. The familiar sensation of this man being Luke returned once again.

A split second later, she broke out of her stupor and glanced at the time. "It's already noon. Care to join me for lunch? My treat."

The man paused. His first instinct was to turn her down, but on second thought, he decided that it was better to continue hanging around for the sake of her safety, so he nodded in agreement.

The two of them went into the nearest restaurant.

Initially, Gwen intended to sit at the same table with him. She pointed at the chair across from her and sat down.

However, the man turned around and sat at the table behind her.

After a brief moment of surprise, Gwen realized that he did not want to sit with her because he did not want to reveal his face to her during their meal. At the thought of this, she could not help feeling a little apologetic for her insensitivity.

After ordering her food, she leaned back in her chair and, without turning around, said to him, "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to try to see what you look like. I'm just used to dining with someone at the same table... Please don't misunderstand..."

The caution in her tone made him curl his lips into a smile. If she were sitting right across from him, she would be able to see the grin on his face even despite the mask he was wearing. A split second later, he replied, "It's okay. I didn't misunderstand anything, and besides..."

He paused. "Even if you really wanted to see what I look like, you don't have to apologize for that. You have the right to be curious, after all."

Gwen furrowed her eyebrows. "Well, since you say that... Can I remove your mask and see you for who you are?"

The smile froze on his face and was gradually replaced by a frown. "Are...Are you really sure you want to do that?"

Chapter 2990

The man's voice was solemn.

Gwen bit her lip and could not help feeling guilty for her insensitivity again. The somberness in his tone made her realize that she had overstepped her boundaries again.

She bit her lip and turned to look at him.

She had turned around because she thought it would be more earnest to apologize to him face to face, but to her surprise, when he saw her turn, the man extended his hands toward his ears in preparation to remove his mask.

"Wait!" Gwen furrowed her eyebrows and stopped him. 'Don't take off your mask...'

His hands stiffened. He frowned, then asked in a low voice, "Why not?"

He had already prepared for this moment. After all, there was no point continuing to meet each other like this, and he thought he might as well reveal his identity to Gwen once and for all.

He never once thought that Gwen would change her mind at the last minute.

"I..." Gwen quickly turned around and avoided his gaze. ' Joshua told me about your situation.'

The man's eyebrows furrowed. "So..."

"He told me that you suffered a tragic accident during one of your missions and ruined your looks and that you are still self-conscious about it ... The truth is, you shouldn't feel obliged to reveal yourself to me if you don't want to. That's too cruel.

"I wouldn't mind if you want to continue hiding yourself. It doesn't concern me at all what you look like.

After all, you're just a bodyguard here to protect me... I apologize for stepping out of line just now."

The man froze when he heard this. A split second later, he narrowed his eyes as he tried his best to control his emotions. "Alright. Thank you for understanding."

That goddamn Joshua. Out of all the excuses he could come up with, this was the story he decided to go for?

He was mentally prepared to reveal himself to Gwen, but she decided not to do so out of guilt toward him and his so-called 'tragic accident*.

At the thought of this, the man sneered and replied, "Well, please don't make any requests like this

anymore.'

Since Gwen had bought into the story, there was no point in trying to change anything anymore.

After all, she had already gotten used to his presence, and perhaps not revealing his identity would be

for the best.

"I...I won't.' Gwen nodded earnestly. She had guessed correctly; the man was indeed self-conscious of

his looks.

At the thought of this, she sighed and could not help feeling relieved that she had stopped herself just

in time. Otherwise...

She could not bear the thought of potentially hurting the man who had done so much to protect her.

All of a sudden, her phone buzzed with a message from Luna. [Gwennie, did anything interesting

happen on your trip so far?]

The reason she had sent this message was that Joshua had just told her about Winson.

Luna was not too familiar with Gwen's situation, so she did not dare to bring up Winson directly and

instead chose to ask in an indirect manner.

However, Gwen was always honest with her, and this time was no exception. [I ran into Winson Tinker.

Do you remember him?]

Luna's reply came quickly. [Of course I do! Although I must say, I never once liked him, even back in

high school. You'd better stay away from him!]