

Luna & Joshua 371

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Luna laughed at Alice's words and shot her a glance. "You want me to apologize?"

Alice deliberately bumped into her and made her fall right into Gavin's arms. He took advantage of her, yet she was supposed to apologize instead?

"Yes, you should apologize." Alice pursed her lips and was about to say more when Joshua hung up his phone and got out of the car. He had been taking a phone call, so he did not notice what went down outside. He glanced at Gavin, who was rubbing his swollen face, then at Luna, who was cleaning herself with a tissue. "What's wrong?"

Alice immediately grabbed onto Joshua's arm. "When I was getting out of the car just now, I accidentally bumped into Luna, and she fell. Gavin grabbed her to break her fall, but she thinks Gavin was trying to take advantage of her."

With that, Alice pointed at Gavin's swollen cheek. "Look. She slapped him right across his face, and now she's trying to clean herself up... Aren't you being a little disrespectful, Luna? I asked her to apologize to Gavin, but she refused to..."

Joshua frowned at that. He shot Luna a glance. "Is that true?"

Luna paused and lifted her head, meeting Joshua's gaze directly. "Yes. Are you going to make me apologize to someone who just took advantage of me, Mr. Lynch?"

Gavin was displeased to hear that. He glanced at Luna and said somewhat bitterly, "I was trying to help you. What makes you think I was trying to be handsy?"

"He's right," Alice piped in. "Joshua, the Walters sent Gavin over to give us a tour, but now, Luna has made the situation awkward. At best, people would think Ms. Luna is feisty and just trying to protect herself, but if word gets out, some might think the Lynch Group and the Walter Group have a rivalry !

This can be easily settled with an apology, but why is she so reluctant to do so? I don't understand."

Luna knew Alice was trying to coerce her into apologizing to that creep by talking about the impact of her actions on the company. However, she still refused to do so. Luna narrowed her eyes and tossed the tissue into a nearby trash can. "I won't apologize."

Luna was not an arrogant person. She was willing to be Joshua's maid and employee, all for the sake of saving her child's life. However, she refused to apologize to Gavin because she knew that if she did so, he and Alice would take this win and try to irritate her even more.

Besides, Luna knew that Gavin's motive was not to take advantage of her. Instead, he and Alice would go out of their way to make her uncomfortable and upset her.

"Luna, it's just an apology. It's not like you'll lose anything." Alice rolled her eyes. "It's just a simple sorry, but if you don't do so, Joshua will have a hard time explaining this to the Walters..."

"Yes," Joshua interjected before Alice could finish her sentence. "It's just a simple sorry." He shot Luna a glance, then turned around to look at Alice. "Apologize to him."

Luna lifted her head to gaze at him. Her entire face was pale. He wanted her to apologize?

Luna knew Joshua could see through everything that happened. In the car, he noticed that Luna was unnerved by Gavin's presence and switched seats with her. This meant that he was aware of how uncomfortable Gavin made her.

All of a sudden, he wanted her to apologize to that creep, all because of what Alice had said?

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Luna glared at Joshua. "Does Mr. Lynch agree that my not apologizing will affect the business relations between Lynch Group and Walter Group?"

Even though the Walter Group did send Gavin over, he was just an ordinary employee! If the Walter

Group was willing to give up on this collaboration because of him, this opportunity was not worth the time and effort at all!

Perhaps Alice did not understand that, but Joshua certainly did. However, he still stared at her and waited for her next move. It was blatant he wanted her to apologize.

“I’m here for an on-site investigation, not to stir up trouble.” Joshua glanced at Luna, then at Alice. “

Apologize to him now.”

Alice was overcome with glee at his words. She linked arms with Joshua and stared at Luna smugly. “

Come on now, Ms. Luna. Joshua has asked you twice. Aren’t you going to do as he says? I know you two are close, but he’s still your boss and the CEO of Lynch Group! Why are you still hesitating? You’re not as good an employee as you think you are—“

“Alice, “ Joshua interjected before she could finish her sentence. He frowned and removed her arm

from his. “I wanted you to apologize to Luna and Gavin.”

Alice froze and gaped at Joshua, unable to believe what she heard. “Me? Apologize?”

Joshua shot her a glance. “Yes. You bumped into Luna and caused this whole misunderstanding.

Gavin wasn't wrong for trying to help her, but neither is Luna. She's a woman and thought he was being handsy, so she stood up for herself. She's not wrong either."

Alice's face lost its color, and she could only hear a faint buzzing in her head. She stared blankly at

Joshua and muttered, "Does that mean...it's my fault?"

Joshua cast her another glance but did not reply.

Alice was not the only one stunned by the sudden turn of events. Luna and Gavin were both shell-shocked as well. Who would have thought Joshua would ask his wife to apologize instead? However, upon second thought, they guessed it was reasonable since Alice was the reason this misunderstanding even occurred in the first place.

"Time is ticking," Joshua murmured as he peeked at his watch. "Alice, I didn't want you to come along on today's field trip since non-essential workers joining in would only delay the progress. If you're planning on wasting our time even more, then I'll ask Lucas to send you back to the hotel instead."

Alice gritted her teeth at Joshua's tone. Then, after a moment, she let out a sigh and strode over to Luna and Gavin. "I'm sorry. It was all my fault!"

Alice clenched her teeth and turned around, wiping a tear from her face. She then marched off in the

direction of the factories. "I didn't even do it on purpose. Why did I have to apologize?"

Luna let out a snicker. That was not what Alice said when she insisted that Luna apologize.

"Alice." Joshua noticed her wavering voice and immediately frowned. He paused for a moment before

he ran after her and put his arm around Alice's shoulder. He whispered something in her ear as if

consoling her.

Watching Joshua and Alice's intimate actions, Luna could not help but feel a painful prick in her heart—

as if someone stabbed her.

"Come on, Ms. Luna. Let's go in now." Gavin chuckled and started walking in their direction. He

deliberately raised his voice as he continued, "Even though Mrs. Lynch made a mistake, Mr. Lynch is

still willing to forgive and forget. I guess he still loves her more than anything."

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Luna knew Gavin said that to irk her. Although she was aware of his intentions, she could not help but

still feel somewhat dejected at it.

He was right. Even though Joshua had forced Alice to apologize, that did not change anything. She

was still the most important person to him.

Luna's chest tightened at the thought, but she merely let out a deep sigh and tried to push it out of her head.

Clutching the documents in her hands, Luna strode past Gavin and made her way toward the factory.

She could hear Gavin let out a snort before he caught up to her quickly. "Ms. Luna, I hear you're still single. Don't you feel a little envious when you see Mr. and Mrs. Lynch being so intimate with each other? Don't worry, though. As long as you keep your eyes peeled, I'm sure you'll find love soon enough. Maybe you've already found it without even realizing!"

Luna did not even give him a second glance. She picked up her speed and hoped Gavin would give up chasing after her, but he followed closely behind. He chattered on and on, oblivious to the fact that Luna actively tried to avoid him.

Luna grew annoyed at that, but she did not want to make another scene. She knew that Gavin did it on purpose. Even if she snapped at him, Joshua would not help her for a second time. Therefore, Luna decided that the best course of action was to ignore Gavin as if he did not exist.

By the time they caught up to Joshua and Alice, they were already inside the workshop, observing the

manufacturing process. Luna immediately got to work. She engaged the supervisor in conversation as she took notes of the materials and supplies the factory could offer them.

Whenever Luna was focused on work, she would become so immersed that nothing could get through to her. As usual, she was busy listening to the supervisor's explanations, so much so that she did not notice the look of admiration on Joshua's face, as well as the seething resentment in Alice's eyes.

She also did not notice the piece of jade ore that zipped toward her nor the cries of warning from the workers.

"Heads up! "

Just as the jade ore was about to hit her, Joshua— who kept watch from afar—lunged forward and shoved her out of harm's way.

The ore struck Joshua's elbow with a loud thud.

"Joshua! " Alice immediately rushed forward and grabbed Joshua's arm. "Are you okay?"

Joshua frowned and glared at Luna. "Are you dumb? Didn't you hear them shouting? " He was scolding her, but there was a hint of concern in his voice.

As she got abruptly shoved, Luna lifted her head and took in the sight before her, slightly stunned. She caught sight of the jade ore on the ground, then glanced at Joshua, who was clutching his arm. She froze momentarily as she tried to piece together what had happened.

One of the workers sprinted over and picked the ore up from the ground. He apologized profusely, "I'm so sorry! This piece of rock fell out when we were unloading the entire pile just now. Again, I'm so sorry, Sir!"

Alice clenched her teeth. "What use is your apology? My husband is injured!" She glowered at Luna, then shifted her gaze onto the worker. "If the rock hit someone else, it wouldn't even matter so much, but this is my husband we're talking about! His arm is worth more than anyone else's! How should we settle this?"

The worker frowned at her with the ore still in his hands. He glanced at Luna and replied, "Well, the rock was originally headed toward this lady, but your husband got in the way... Although it's partly our fault, you shouldn't blame us entirely..."

Alice's face turned pale.

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Alice gritted her teeth and scowled at the worker, “ Are you trying to shift the blame? Do you know I can

fire you...” Before she could finish, however, Alice recalled that she was no longer Hailey Walter. She

was in no place to fire anyone because the factory and all its employees belonged to the Walters.

She shot the supervisor a murderous glare and snarled, “You’d better take care of this! “

That startled the supervisor. For a moment, this woman sounded almost identical to Hailey Walter. “

Yes, will do! “

As she secured the supervisor’s guarantee, Alice turned around and glanced at Luna. “What are you

waiting for? Joshua saved you. Why aren’t you helping him?”

Luna paused, then realized she was right. She immediately walked over and grabbed hold of Joshua’s

other arm.

Although the injury did not break any of Joshua’s bones, the wound still looked quite serious. Joshua

was clutching his right arm as he grunted in pain, and Luna could not help but feel distraught at the

sight. She could not understand why Joshua saved her, and she did not know why she felt so worried.

“Come with me.” The supervisor led them out of the factory frantically. When they reached the clinic,

the doctor took off Joshua's jacket for him. It was only after his jacket was removed that they discovered Joshua's entire sleeve was drenched in blood.

The doctor frowned and pulled up Joshua's sleeve, exposing the bloody wound. As soon as she saw the laceration, Alice let out a shriek, "Oh my God! "

She glanced at the injury before she turned and glared at Luna. "It's all your fault! " She was so furious that she raised her hand and headed toward Luna.

Before Alice could give Luna the slap she had intended to, Joshua stopped her. He raised his uninjured left hand to block her path and said, "It's just an accident. It's not Luna's fault."

Alice bit down on her lip. "Joshua, if she paid attention and got out of the way in time, none of this would've happened! "

Joshua curled his lips into a smile. "She's too slow. She won't be able to get out of the way in time."

Although he was criticizing Luna, there was a hint of endearment in his tone.

Alice clenched her teeth and scowled at Luna. "If anything happens to Joshua's arm, I'll make you pay!"

"

Luna remained motionless and said nothing in return.

“Well, thank goodness no bones were broken,” sighed the doctor. After performing a brief physical examination, he injected local anesthesia into Joshua’s arm and started suturing his wound.

The supervisor watched on in panic and started to apologize profusely, “I’m so sorry, Mr. Lynch. It’s all our fault. Don’t worry. I’ll look into this and punish whoever is responsible for this incident!”

Alice snorted in indignation. “Of course you will, but the person most responsible for this is Luna!” She glared at Luna and continued, “You must’ve done this on purpose! Although Joshua made me apologize to you just now, he comforted me instead of you. You were jealous, so you didn’t get out of the way and let Joshua hurt himself on purpose! “

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The sudden accusation made Luna dumbfounded. She paused and sneered at Alice, “Why do you think I care?”

It was true she did not hear the worker’s cries of warning, nor Joshua and Alice’s words of caution. If she had heard them, why would she not get out of harm’s way?

Luna let out a deep sigh and glanced at Alice. “Mrs. Lynch, are you suggesting that I was so certain Mr.

Lynch would save me if I placed myself in harm's way?"

Alice's face turned pale at her words.

Luna continued with a smirk, "You were right, Mrs. Lynch. Although Mr. Lynch made you apologize to

me just now, he still comforted you instead of me. This clearly shows that he deeply cares for you. If

that's the case, why would he treat me differently? Why would I be so certain that Mr. Lynch would save

me if I put myself in danger?

"If I had made the wrong call, Mr. Lynch wouldn't have rescued me, and I'd be the one in here, getting

stitches. Let me ask you this, Mrs. Lynch. If you were in my shoes, would you put yourself in danger out

of jealousy?"

Alice's face was even whiter than the wall behind her. Then, after a moment, she bit down on her lip

and argued, "You knew Joshua saw the rock flying toward you, and you knew that he'd save you

because you're one of Lynch Group's star employees ! "

Since Alice could not use Luna and Joshua's relationship against her, she had no choice but to bring

up Joshua's devotion toward his employees. " Joshua loves all his employees ! If any of them got hurt,

he'd do anything to help them ! "

Luna stared at Alice and suddenly realized it was pointless in arguing with her. Alice was stubborn, and she was convinced Luna caused this accident on purpose.

"Ms. Luna is an outstanding employee , so it's only natural that Mr. Lynch would be willing to save her "

The supervisor sighed. "She was so focused when

I was explaining the data to her just now. I've been working there for more than ten years now, but this is the first time I've ever come across someone this committed... "

Alice frowned at his explanation. " So what if she's committed? She— "

"Her commitment means she'll be an excellent worker who can help Lynch Group achieve more in its jewelry development, " interjected Joshua before Alice could finish her sentence. He came out of the treatment room with his arm wrapped in layers of bandage. The doctor had finished suturing his wound and had his injured arm in a sling.

Although he looked no different from a typical injured patient, the sling somehow gave Joshua an air of pride and pomposity instead of frailness.

"Luna was so engrossed in her work that she didn't hear any of our cries," he said as he stepped out of

the room. He glanced at Alice and continued, "If I hadn't pushed her out of the way, the rock would've hit her spine. If that happened, you would have to do her job and take all the necessary notes instead."

Alice's expression darkened. "But..."

"There are no 'but's. Luna is an intelligent woman, and she'd never put herself in danger just to get back at you."

Alice scowled. She could not believe that Joshua was taking Luna's side! He even called her committed and intelligent!

Alice bit her lip nervously. "Joshua, I was just worried about you..."

"I know you're worried about me, but that doesn't mean you can talk about my employee like that."

Joshua turned around and shot Luna a glance. "It's good that you're a focused worker, but the next time you're in a place where accidents tend to happen, please keep an eye out and protect yourself. I won't rescue you a second time."

With that, he strode out of the clinic without turning back. Alice frowned and sprinted after him. "Where

are you going, Joshua?"

“I’m going back to the workshop. We haven’t finished our work yet.”

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“You’re hurt...”

“Just because I’m hurt doesn’t mean we should delay our progress.”

The two voices grew further and further away. Luna stood motionless as she watched the two of them

leave. There was an indescribable feeling in her heart.

After a while, the supervisor let out an awkward cough. “Ms. Luna, shall we...continue?”

Luna finally came to and picked up the documents in front of her before she turned to look at the

supervisor. “Please continue...”

It was noon when they finished their on-site investigation. According to the plan, they were supposed to

have lunch in the car as they made their way to the next destination to attend the symposium for the

design schemes.

However, citing Joshua’s injury as an excuse, Alice insisted on heading to a nearby restaurant for lunch

instead. Luna wanted to head to their next destination as soon as possible, but since Gavin and Joshua

did not object, Luna had no choice but to follow.

In the restaurant, Alice and Joshua sat on one side of the table, while Luna and Gavin were seated together on the other, much to Luna's disgust.

"Joshua, your arm is hurt. Let me feed you instead,"

said Alice in a syrupy tone as soon as their food was served.

Joshua frowned and glanced at his sling before he murmured in acceptance. Alice was delighted at that. She picked up his food, gently blew on it to cool it, and brought the spoon up to Joshua's mouth as though feeding a child.

Joshua was visibly uncomfortable at that. His brows were furrowed throughout the entire process.

Sitting across from him, Luna lowered her head and ate her meal in silence, trying to block out Alice's simpering voice. She kept telling herself not to listen and not to care. She was just Joshua's ex-wife in the past, and the only reason she had returned was to get pregnant with Joshua's child. Therefore, it did not matter who he chose to be with. It was none of her business anymore.

However, the more she tried to convince herself, the more uneasy Luna became.

"Hey, eat slowly," Gavin's voice rang out next to her ear.

Luna frowned. Before she could react, Gavin's fork appeared in her line of vision. He put down a chunk of steak on her plate and said, "Here, have some more, Ms. Luna. You should eat more—you're too skinny."

Luna lifted her head and met Gavin's sleazy gaze. All of a sudden, her stomach turned. She picked up the piece of meat and dropped it back on Gavin's plate. "It's okay. You can have it."

She was just about to continue eating when she suddenly realized that her fork had touched the same piece of steak Gavin's fork had. She felt as if she were about to vomit.

Luna hastily put down her cutlery and declared, "I'm full."

Joshua glanced at Luna's unfinished steak, then glanced at Alice's food, still untouched. "Alice, switch seats with Luna."

Alice's hand paused in mid-air. "Why? What's wrong?"

Joshua said indifferently, "Luna's finished with her meal, but you haven't eaten yet. Since she has nothing better to do, she can feed me instead."

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The entire table grew silent, apart from the sound of Gavin sipping his water.

Alice stared at Joshua with an expression of disbelief and horror, unable to trust her ears. Was Joshua suggesting that another woman feed him in front of his wife?

"I don't want to do that." Luna shot Joshua a dismissive look before she glanced at the frozen-in-shock Alice. She then lowered her head and picked up her phone, about to read the news.

Alice smiled. This was the first time she and Luna agreed on something. "Alright. Since Ms. Luna refuses to do so, I guess I should feed you."

"What right does she have to refuse?" Joshua tapped against the table with his left hand. "I injured myself because of her. I had to get stitches! It's not too much to ask her to feed me in return, is it?"

Luna was still reluctant to do so, but she did not have much of a choice. She lifted her head to glare at him. "Mrs. Lynch is already feeding you, isn't she?"

"Yes, but she hasn't eaten yet. Since you're already done, why don't you take over so she can eat? I got injured because of you, and I now want you to feed me. Is that too much to ask?"

Luna paused for a moment, then came to a sudden realization. The only reason why Joshua wanted her to feed him was so Alice could take a break. Alice had not even taken a single bite of her food ever

since they stepped foot in the restaurant. This was Joshua's way of expressing his concern toward Alice.

'Why hasn't he ever shown me that sort of concern before?' Luna could not help but think to herself.

Despite that, she scoffed and stood up anyway. She inched past Gavin and walked over to Alice.

"Please switch seats with me, Mrs. Lynch."

Alice bit down on her lip and shot Joshua a helpless glance. "I'm not even hungry, Joshua. I'll eat after I've finished feeding you."

Joshua stared at Alice and let out a chuckle. "It's okay. You should eat. You haven't eaten all day, and I wouldn't want you to starve."

Alice had no choice but to relent. She gritted her teeth and glared at Luna before she got out of her chair and sat down next to Gavin. She picked up her cutlery and started eating somewhat rashly.

Luna let out a sigh before she picked up Joshua's fork and knife. Then, she stabbed a chunk of lettuce with the fork and brought it up to his mouth. "Open."

Luna's tone was cold and harsh, but she deliberately forked the food Joshua liked. Joshua smiled at her before he opened his mouth obediently.

Luna continued to feed him that way. She was not gentle at all, and her actions were firm and lacked feeling. Despite that, however, Joshua could not help but feel a tingle of warmth in his heart.

He recalled the nights where he held her against

him. At that time, she was tender and affectionate, a stark contrast to how she treated him at this table.

She treated him so coldly as if she wanted nothing to

do with him at all.

Joshua could not help but wonder which was the true Luna. What were her true feelings toward him?

Joshua did not realize that he was staring blankly at Luna, but Alice certainly noticed. Her motions

became more and more aggressive.

“Ahem,” Gavin gently cleared his throat when he noticed Alice’s change in mood.

Joshua finally came to and hastily shifted his gaze from Luna. “Open,” Luna ordered again as she

brought another forkful of food up to his mouth.

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Joshua narrowed his eyes. “Is this how you treat someone who saved your life?”

Luna forced a smile and continued to feed him. "If something similar happens again in the future, I hope Mr. Lynch won't do this again. Firstly, I'm just an ordinary employee, and I don't need the CEO to protect me. Number two, even if I got hurt, you can just give me a few days' leave or even monetary compensation. I don't need anyone to rescue me."

Luna shot Alice a glare. "I'd rather get hurt than be misjudged for something that wasn't even my intention."

Alice's face was ashen at Luna's words. She frowned and was about to say something in defense when Joshua cast her a meaningful look that stopped her right in her tracks.

"I'd still save you if this happens again in the future." Joshua turned around and smiled at Luna. "Alice was right. A boss should always protect his employees, especially since you're one of our star workers." He observed Luna's expression for a while before he added, "Although I do wish my employees could show a little gratitude toward their boss. One way of doing that would be adopting a better attitude when feeding me."

Luna stiffened at his suggestion. After a moment, she heaved a deep sigh and brought the fork up to Joshua's mouth a little gentler.

Luna knew Joshua was right. Their relationship was that of a boss and his star employee. She should have displayed more gratitude towards him instead of behaving in such a way.

They soon finished their meal and quickly made their way to the next destination of their field trip. The on-site investigations that happened thereafter went by much quicker than in the morning. They did not have much to do apart from obtaining information about the latest jewelry design concepts and fashion trends.

Although there was no longer any risk of getting hurt, Luna received a different kind of shock that afternoon. She was perplexed and somewhat mortified by Alice's actions throughout the whole day.

Alice had touched one of the samples on display out of curiosity and flipped through the other company's design sketches. To make things worse, she even scribbled a few doodles on the notice board that

hung outside the other company's design department.

Since she was the CEO's wife, Luna did not think it was appropriate for her to reprimand Alice in public.

She had no choice but to apologize to the company they were visiting and tell her off in private.

Luna could not help but feel exasperated because of that. She knew Alice did it all on purpose. Anyone who had manners knew better than to commit mistakes like them. Therefore, the only explanation was that Alice did it purposely to get on Luna's nerves.

The field trip finally ended at 8pm that night. The owner of the last company they went to was an old friend of Joshua's, so it was natural he insisted on inviting all of them for dinner. Joshua did not reject his offer, so Luna, Alice, and Gavin tagged along as well.

As soon as they started eating, the owner of the company, Mr. Scott, raised his glass up for a toast. "

Mr. Lynch, it's been a while since we last saw each other! "

"Mr. Scott," Alice interjected as soon as he finished his sentence. She chuckled and reached out her hand, stopping him from offering the glass of liquor to Joshua. "As you can see, Joshua has hurt his arm. I don't think he should be drinking."

Mr. Scott froze for a moment, then laughed. "Oh, well. Since Mr. Lynch can't drink, why not Mrs. Lynch accept my toast on his behalf?"

"I 'm sorry, Mr. Scott, but I can't." Alice smiled at him. "I 'm very lightweight. I'm afraid that if I drink too much, I might throw up and cause a scene." She pointed at Luna and said, "Why not let Ms. Luna

accept Joshua's toast instead? She's the most important person here on this trip besides the two of us.

She's one of Lynch Group's star employees.

Besides..."

Alice smirked. "She's the reason Joshua hurt his arm. She should drink on his behalf to repay her debt of gratitude."

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Hearing what Alice had said, Mr. Scott immediately set the glass down in front of Luna. "Here you go,

Ms. Luna."

Luna frowned and glanced at the glass of liquor but made no move to pick it up. "I'm just an ordinary

employee. Isn't it inappropriate for me to accept a toast from you, Mr. Scott?" She glanced at Joshua

before she added, "Besides, I don't tolerate alcohol that well. I'm afraid that I might do something stupid

after I get drunk."

Seeing how Luna glanced meaningfully at Joshua, Alice tightened her grip on his arm. "I beg to differ,

Ms. Luna. Mr. Lynch has risked his life to save yours, so what makes you think you're just an ordinary

employee? Besides..."

Alice glanced at the glass that clearly contained hard liquor and sneered. Then, she lied through her teeth, "It's just one glass. How could you get drunk from that?"

Luna smirked and looked at Joshua. "Mr. Lynch, are you sure you want me to accept this drink on your behalf?"

Joshua smiled and lifted his head to glance at Mr. Smith. "I don't think that's a good idea, Mr. Scott." He had witnessed Luna in her drunken state before, and it certainly was not pretty.

Mr. Scott refused to relent. "Mr. Lynch appears to take very good care of his female employees.

Although I guess that makes perfect sense. Mr. Lynch is even willing to put himself in harm's way for his employee." With that, he shot Luna a teasing look and added, "It appears that Ms. Luna truly is an outstanding employee. Otherwise, why would Mr. Lynch go to such lengths for you?"

Mr. Scott's words were borderline insulting. Luna frowned and stood up abruptly. "I'm going to the washroom."

"Luna," called out Alice curtly as soon as she realized Luna tried to flee the scene. "You've always

insisted that nothing is going on between you and Joshua and that your relationship is just that of a boss and his employee. However, you refuse to take a drink for Joshua, and you don't even try to explain anything when Mr. Scott has misunderstood you. "

Alice's brows furrowed as she continued, "Are you deliberately trying to make people think there's something going on between you and Joshua?"

Joshua's expression darkened upon hearing Alice's words. "Alice ! " he said sternly. He glanced at Luna, then turned around and glowered at Alice. "There's no need to explain anything to people who don't matter."

Mr. Scott was displeased to hear this. "Mr. Lynch, what do you mean by that? We' re about to become partners. How can you say something like that?"

Joshua's lips curled into a smirk. "Mr. Scott, do you truly think that just because Lynch Group is about to collaborate with you, this gives you the right to comment on my personal life?" He stood up and said, "If that's the case, I don't think we should sign that contract anymore."

With that, Joshua tugged on Alice's hand, about to head out the door.

Alice frowned and stopped Joshua from leaving, then turned to glare at Luna. "Luna, you cost Lynch

Group a collaboration opportunity just because you refused a glass of liquor. Don't you feel ashamed?"

Luna narrowed her eyes. Although Mr. Scott was rude and disrespectful, the jewelry company he owned was one of the best in the market. Lynch Group had just branched into selling jewelry, so they definitely needed Mr. Scott's help on this. However...

To Joshua, Lynch Group's jewelry branch was just a tiny sliver of the businesses he owned, so it did not matter that much if they lost this partner at all. At the same time...

"It's okay." Luna let out a sigh, lifted her head, and met Joshua's gaze. "Please don't be offended, Mr. Lynch. Mr. Scott is just outspoken, that's all. It's only one glass. I'll drink it."

Luna picked up the glass and downed its contents in a single gulp. As she did so, the pained expression on her face made Joshua's heart lurch.

He recalled one incident that had happened many years ago. At that time, he and Luna Gibson had just gotten married, and she liked tagging along with him everywhere. One day, he finally gave in to her persuasion and agreed to bring her to a party he had been invited to.

At that time, they had also encountered a potential client who insisted that Luna drink. As her husband, Joshua knew that Luna could not tolerate alcohol very well, so he got angry and wanted to leave the party.

However, Luna was afraid that the Lynch Group would lose a client because of her, so she stood up and downed the entire glass in that instant. Joshua could still remember the pained yet somehow determined expression on his ex-wife's face.

It looked exactly like the expression Luna wore.

Joshua frowned and immediately lowered his head to glance at Alice, who stood right next to him. She watched Luna somewhat triumphantly, with a hint of contempt in her eyes.

Joshua felt like an invisible hand had squeezed his heart. What happened to the Luna Gibson he had fallen in love with? Since when did she turn from the woman who willingly drank and suffered a whole night of vomiting for him into someone who coerced others into drinking against their will?

Luna finished her drink and slammed the empty glass down on the table forcefully. "How's that, Mr. Scott?"

Mr. Scott stared at Luna's face, which began to turn red, with a hint of amusement. Then, he let out a

chuckle. "Ms. Luna finished that drink, but there's a catch. Since you made the situation so awkward just now, don't you think you should take another drink as punishment?"

Luna's lips twisted into a smirk. "Mr. Scott, I've told you that I'm very lightweight. If I end up doing something stupid while I'm drunk, will you take responsibility for my actions?"

Mr. Scott was delighted to hear that. He guffawed and replied, "Of course ! It's my pleasure to take responsibility for a beautiful lady such as yourself! "

"That's great to hear." Luna smiled and took the glass Mr. Scott offered her.

"Luna." Joshua's brows furrowed. He said in a lowered voice, "You don't have to drink anymore."

If Luna had not accepted that first drink, they would have gotten out. The only reason he had stayed behind and agreed to continue working with Mr.

Scott was that he did not want Luna's sacrifice to go to waste. She had already fulfilled her promise, so why was she still drinking?

"It's okay. Mr. Scott said that if anything happens, he'll take responsibility." Luna smirked and downed the second glass.

Mr. Scott leered at Luna suggestively, his hand rubbing his chin. "I'm very curious as to what a charming lady like you would do when she's drunk."

As she became tipsy, she stood up and slurred, "Well, this is what a charming drunk lady does—" She staggered over to Alice and raised her hand.

The next instant, Luna's palm collided against Alice's face, producing a loud smack. The entire Apart from a drunken Luna, everyone else in the room held their breath in fear of what would happen next.

Alice blinked a few times, seemingly trying to make sense of what had happened. Then, after a moment, she leaped out of her seat with a murderous expression on her face. "Are you crazy, Luna?"

She raised her hand and was about to give Luna a slap when Luna seized her wrist.

Luna sneered at Alice, "Mrs. Lynch, this is what I'm like when I get drunk. Weren't you the one who insisted for me to drink?"

Mr. Scott's eyes widened in shock. "You..."

Luna smirked and cast him a cold glance. "Mr. Scott, you promised me that no matter what I did, you'd be responsible for my actions," she said in a simpering tone.

