

Luna & Joshua 471

Chapter 471

The entire atmosphere in the room was so awkward that it bordered on suffocating.

Luna let out a sigh and glanced at Joshua. "I admit that I misunderstood you, but..." She lifted her head to look at him. "I don't think it's entirely my fault. After all, these men were once under you, weren't they?"

Joshua nodded. "Yes, that's true, but that's not what I 'm talking about, Luna. " His gaze never wavered from her face. "You're Neil and Nellie's adoptive mother. I'm glad that you care so much about them, but you must remember that ultimately, they belong to Alice and me. Therefore, you have no right to say we don't deserve to be parents."

Joshua then smirked and continued, "Take this misunderstanding, for example. I wasn't the one who sent these men over to protect Aura, but even if I did, what gives you and Malcolm the right to target me on behalf of my children?"

Luna froze at that. She felt as though every joint in her body stiffened, and her blood had turned into ice.

Joshua's words felt like sharp needles that pricked into her heart.

Neil and Nellie were her children. She carried them in her womb for ten months. However, no one knew that, and at that moment, Joshua looked down on her.

“You have no right to say we don’t deserve to be parents.”

He was right. No one knew that Luna was Neil and Nellie’s birth mother. To everyone else, she was just an adoptive mother who had kidnapped someone else’s children. What right did she have to criticize the children’s birth parents?

Luna’s expression darkened, and the blood drained from her face.

Joshua could not help but frown when he saw the disappointment and sorrow on Luna’s face. He sighed and said, “I know you’re just worried about them, so I’ll let you off the hook for today. However, there won’t be a next time.”

Luna closed her eyes and nodded bitterly.

Seeing how upset she was, Joshua did not feel like continuing the conversation any further. Instead, he balled up his fist and coughed somewhat awkwardly into it. “I’ve looked over the materials you prepared this morning. Although you weren’t feeling well, your work was structured and well-organized.

You're an outstanding worker. As your boss, I hope that you'll be able to focus most of your energy on your work for the time being."

He lifted his head to glance at Luna. "Neil and Nellie will be staying at Blue Bay Villa for the time being.

If you miss them, you can come over to visit."

Luna's entire body stiffened. She bit down on her lip and was about to say something but ultimately decided against it. Instead, she gave him a bitter smile. "Alright."

There was nothing she could do about it since Joshua had made up his mind.

Even if she continued to argue with him, he still had the last word because he thought he and Alice were Neil and Nellie's birth parents.

Joshua never expected that Luna would agree without hesitation. He remained silent for a moment, then stood up. "I've postponed your meeting today to tomorrow. Get some sleep today. I don't want to see you faint again in the future."

With that, he turned and left, slamming the door behind him.

Luna sat on the sofa as she gazed at the closed door, but her mind was millions of miles away.

When he came out of Swan Lake Residences, Joshua did not go home first thing. Instead, he asked

Lucas to arrange a dinner with Adrian at the most high -end restaurant in Banyan City.

“I never thought you’d invite me out for dinner.”

When Joshua and Adrian finally met up in one of the restaurant’s private booths, Adrian seemed to be in a good mood. He picked up the wine glass and took a small sip. “You’re finally starting to act like how a son should.”

Joshua let out a chuckle. “Don’t patronize me.” He tossed the photos of the bodyguards onto the table and said, “If I remember correctly, you asked me if I could assign some of my men over to you, claiming that you wanted them to help you take care of some stuff.”

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“Do you have any idea what they’ve been doing abroad?”

Adrian frowned and picked up the photos from the table. He recognized the men in the pictures—they were the bodyguards that he had asked Joshua for. However...

“I’m not sure.” Adrian put the photos down. “According to my understanding, since you’ve assigned these men over to me, I should have the final say over what I do with them.” He shifted into a more

comfortable position, leaned back against his seat, and stared at Joshua coldly. "My friend needed some help, so I sent your men to help him. What's the problem with that?"

Joshua poured himself a glass of wine and gently swirled the glass. There was an air of aloofness and pomposity about him. "Which friend of yours?

Dennis Walter?"

Adrian glowered at him but did not respond.

"It appears my guess is right." Joshua sneered. "Let me ask you this, Master Lynch. Do you know why Dennis needed these men?"

Adrian paused and lifted his head to stare at Joshua.

Joshua gracefully tipped the wine glass over and took a small sip. "He sent them to protect Aura."

Adrian furrowed his brows. Although he did not understand why Dennis wanted to guard Aura, he still snickered. "Isn't Aura your ex-fiancée? What's wrong with him protecting her, then?"

"Master Lynch, you have no idea what's been happening in your family, have you? If you had tried harder, you probably would've found out the reason why Aura was sent abroad and forbidden from returning." Joshua set down the wine glass with a clink. He continued with a stony expression, "Dad,

you claim to love and care about Neil and Nellie very much, but do you know that Aura almost killed them in the past?"

Adrian's expression fell as soon as he heard that. He genuinely had no idea any of that happened.

"Then..." Adrian shot Joshua a confused look. "Why did Mr. Walter send my men over to protect her?"

"Maybe Aura has connections with the Walters, or maybe it was the Walters who had ordered Aura to kill my children." Joshua chuckled and put down the wine glass. "Do you truly have no knowledge of any of this, Dad?"

Adrian's expression darkened. He had spent the last few years traveling, never staying long in any particular place or country. As for Dennis, Adrian had been friends with him for a long time, ever since they were young, but they were not as close as they used to be anymore. Therefore, he had no idea what Dennis had been up to lately.

"My assumptions were right," Joshua sneered. "Aura almost killed me and Luna Gibson's children, and now, it appears she has connections with the Walters. Dennis even borrowed some of my men to protect and guard Aura in secret."

Adrian's face was ashen at the explanation.

Joshua raised his glass and gently clinked it against Adrian's. "Well, since you have zero idea what's been happening, then I don't think you should get involved in the feud between the Walters and me anymore. Don't try to make things difficult for Luna on behalf of the Walters anymore. She's the one who raised Neil and Nellie as her own. As for you, you're just their grandfather, but aside from that, you don't care about them at all."

Joshua tipped his glass over and drained its contents. Then, he set it down on the table and stood up. "

That's all I have to say to you. Please enjoy your meal, Master Lynch."

Adrian chewed on his lip as he watched Joshua leave. "The whole point of this conversation is for you to vent your anger toward me because I slapped Luna last night, isn't it?" He scoffed and added, "Have you fallen for Luna?"

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Joshua stopped in his tracks and chided, "Just because I'm sticking up for Luna, you think I've fallen for her?" He curled his lips into a contemptuous smirk and added, "How about you, Dad? You're very protective of Hailey as well. Does that mean you're in love with her?"

Adrian grew furious the moment he heard Joshua's words. He slammed his fists against the table and roared, "How dare you even say that, Joshua? I've been friends with Dennis for such a long time now. Hailey is like a daughter to me! Besides, she's dead now—how dare you even say such disrespectful things?"

Joshua chuckled. "No one is certain whether she's truly dead or not, but..." He turned around and glanced at Adrian. "I learned this from you, Dad."

Adrian was so enraged that he began struggling to breathe. "You b*stard! How dare you even talk to your father like this?"

"If I'm a b*stard, what are you, Master Lynch?" snapped Joshua before he turned and left the room, slamming the door behind him.

Adrian flipped the table over in a fury, not caring that he had spilled the food.

Swan Lake Residences.

Luna sat on the sofa as she drew some sketches on her easel while listening to her three children chatter through her earpiece.

"The food that Lily cooked for us tonight was delicious ! Although her cooking isn't as good as

Mommy's, it wasn't bad at all ! " chirped Nellie in a childish voice as if giving Luna a brief recap of her

day. "Much better than what Alice made."

Neil snickered. "I think even I 'in better at cooking than Alice is. " Then, suddenly, he seemed to recall

something and added, "Nigel, do you know that Lily taught me how to cook a few new dishes? I '11

make them for you as soon as you get better."

As soon as Neil said this, Luna heard Nigel's chuckle ring out from the other end. "Why do you have to

wait until I get better?"

Neil giggled. "I'm scared my cooking might make your condition get worse."

Luna let out an exasperated sigh. "Are you trying to tell us you're good at cooking, or are you bad at it?"

"

Neil contemplated for a moment before he finally replied, "I guess I'm a pretty good cook, but you might

get an upset stomach after eating my food."

Luna was speechless. She shook her head feebly and shifted into a more comfortable position before

she resumed her sketches. "It's already 9 at night now, and you guys should sleep soon. I'm not going

to be

by your side anymore, so in the future, you and Nellie have to take care of each other and sleep early every night.”

Everyone fell silent at her words. Then, after a long pause, Neil sighed and asked, sounding upset, ”

Mommy, did you really promise Joshua that you won’t come find us anymore?”

Luna nodded. “Yes, but I promised him the same thing in the past, didn’t I? Don’t worry, everything will be fine.”

“Everything is different now! ” huffed Nellie. “A nasty woman is going to be taking care of us now!”

Luna opened her mouth to comfort her children, but she did not know what to say.

“That woman will definitely make our lives difficult every time Daddy isn’t home! ” Nellie continued to complain.

Neil frowned at her words. “Nellie, don’t say things like this in front of Mommy. It’s not like she had a choice.”

“But— ” “I’ll think of something,” Nigel sighed and interjected just as Neil and Nellie were about to get

into a squabble. "Wait for my good news."

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Neil and Nellie quieted down as soon as they heard Nigel's words.

Luna, too, let out a deep sigh. "I'll try to think of something as well." She then comforted the two children before she hung up, somewhat exhausted.

Nellie was right. Even if Alice did not dare to treat them like how she did when she kidnapped them, she would still go out of her way to make their lives at Blue Bay Villa miserable.

She would not dare do anything to them when Joshua was around, but what would happen if Joshua was away from home?

Luna pondered over that for a while, then finally had no choice but to call Joshua.

"Is there something wrong?" Joshua did not seem to be in a good mood. There was a hint of irritation in his tone when he picked up his phone.

Luna frowned and tried to get straight to the point. "I remember you told me before that Mrs. Lynch has

been learning jewelry design on her own, is that right?"

Joshua leaned against the leather seat of his car and closed his eyes, trying to suppress his emotions.

“ Yes. Why do you mention this?”

Luna bit down on her lip. “Well, I could use an extra pair of hands now. Instead of hiring someone new to help me, why don’t we ask Mrs. Lynch to work at the company? She’s your wife, so her priority will definitely be the Lynch Group’s profits. Besides, it’d be good for her to start from the bottom if she wants to join Lynch Group.

“When this project comes to an end, I’ll give her all the credit, and she’ll be able to use her achievement to prove everyone who thought she’s just a trophy wife wrong. Then, in the future, you can transfer her to whichever department you want and put her skills to good use.”

That was the only way Luna could think of to protect her children. Although she could no longer stay by their side, she could at least try to keep Alice tied up at work so she would not be able to make things difficult for Neil and Nellie at home.

This project would take at least two or three months to complete. That was not a short period... She would definitely be able to get pregnant with Joshua’s child in this time span, right?

Even if she could not get pregnant, Luna could use her separation from Neil and Nellie as an excuse to

bring them out of Blue Bay Villa.

"You'll be giving Alice all the credit for your work?" asked Joshua, the grip on his phone tightening as he did. "This doesn't sound fair to you."

This jewelry project was not a small one. Joshua had wanted to use this project to revive Lynch Group's jewelry design branch, so it required very skilled planning and execution from start to finish. However, he was confident that Luna had the expertise to pull this off. Moreover, if she managed to execute this project successfully, Luna's net worth would grow exponentially.

How could she be willing to give up such an opportunity?

"Well, I wanted to make this up to Alice for kidnapping her children." Luna smiled. "Why don't you discuss with Mrs. Lynch tonight? Then, if she wants to take this job offer, she can start tomorrow, and I'll put her in charge of the most effortless task."

"Why?" Joshua did not answer her and instead asked her a question in return. "Considering the relationship you have with Alice, why are you so willing to let her take credit for one of the Lynch Group's most important projects?"

Luna gripped her phone tightly. “Why do you think I’m doing this, Mr. Lynch?”

After a long pause, Joshua smirked. “Do you think that if you don’t occupy Alice’s time, she’ll try to make things difficult for Neil and Nellie at home?”

Luna’s breath caught in her throat as soon as she heard that.

Joshua was too astute. She could not hide anything from him at all.

Luna bit down on her lip and said, “Maybe you think I’m worrying unnecessarily, but...”

“I refuse to send Alice over to work for you.”

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The glimmer of hope in Luna’s eyes dimmed as she heard Joshua’s response. Her hand started to shake.

Luna let out an exhale and tried to compose herself so as not to let Joshua hear how devastated she was. “ Mr. Lynch, even if you think I’m just worrying too much, I still have my reasons for doing this.”

“Since I’m willing to give Mrs. Lynch all the credit for my hard work, isn’t that a bonus for both of you? If that happens, she can work for Lynch Group without fearing anyone’s opinion...”

Joshua leaned against his car seat and chuckled. “If I want to let my wife work for me, I wouldn’t even

care what any of my employees think.”

Luna’s hand stiffened.

Joshua continued in a low voice, “She’s my wife; she can take over any job position as long as I see fit.

She doesn’t need to take credit for your work to do so.”

Luna felt as though something had hit her.

He was right.

As long as Joshua wanted to, he could offer Alice any position he wanted in the company. He would

even let her become CEO if that was what he wanted, and no one else had a say in that.

Suddenly, Luna recalled an incident from when she and Joshua had just gotten married.

At that time, Luna desperately wanted to work at Lynch Group and become Joshua’s trusted sidekick.

She tried to support him in his family life as well as his career.

However, Joshua had refused to take her in, claiming that it would spark many rumors and gossip

about her within the company. He would not offer her a job unless she truly had the skills and expertise

to excel in it.

He even told her that a good CEO would not offer anyone a job simply because they were close to him.

Instead, they would have to evaluate and ensure that said person was indeed a good match for the company and job requirements before hiring them.

At that time, Luna had believed him and tried to improve herself in every aspect so she would one day be able to help him in his career.

Luna was so naive that she genuinely believed Joshua was a fair and impartial CEO.

"Alright then... Never mind." Luna sighed and hung up the phone without even saying goodbye. She understood what Joshua meant, so she no longer bothered to change his mind.

Luna put her phone aside and tried to fall asleep, but she tossed and turned the entire night. She was up all night as she thought of other ways of helping Neil and Nellie so that they would be free of Alice's wrath. She even listed all of them down but crossed them out in the end.

Luna knew there was no way of protecting Neil and Nellie apart from saving them herself.

She eventually drifted off into an uneasy slumber.

However, at daybreak, Luna was awoken by a bad dream.

In her nightmare, Alice had poisoned Neil and Nellie, causing them to grow thinner each day. By the

time they returned to Luna's side, they were so malnourished that they died soon after.

When Luna opened her eyes, she discovered her pillow was drenched in tears.

She sat up and hugged the pillow close to her, gazing out at the dimly lit sky, and could not help feeling

a little dazed.

She wanted to escape this place along with her children, but she knew that she could not do so, not

before she got pregnant with Joshua's child.

She had to save Nigel.

Even if she had to fight until her last breath, she would never give up on Nigel.

8am.

Luna pushed open her office door, looking exhausted.

"You're five minutes away from being late," a cold voice rang out as soon as Luna pushed the door

open.

Luna frowned, lifted her head, and glanced in the direction of the voice.

Alice sat in her office chair, wearing a red outfit and a steely expression on her face. Alice caught sight

of Luna and shrugged. "I'll be taking this office."

She then tossed all the documents on the desk in

Luna's direction. "Get all this stuff out of my sight."

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"This will be my office now."

Luna froze. After a long while, she widened her eyes in delight. "Are you here to work?"

Alice shot her an irritated glare. "Of course!"

Alice did not know why Joshua had suddenly insisted on sending her to work in Luna's department,

and as her assistant, no less! She slept so soundly that morning when, all of a sudden, Joshua woke

her and demanded she go to work. Of course, she was frustrated by that, but she did not dare protest.

What ruffled Alice's feathers the most was Joshua's instructions. He had informed her beforehand that

no matter what, she would have to obey Luna's orders.

The worst part was that Joshua did not allow her to take credit for Luna's work after the project was

completed.

Alice could not understand any of this. She was the CEO's wife, for God's sake! How could she work

as a lowly assistant, and for Luna, no less?

Although her official job title was as an assistant, Alice knew that her responsibilities were to take care of everything Luna did not want to or did not have the time to. She could not even be late or leave work early. No matter how late it was, as long as Luna was still in the office, Alice also had to be there.

Alice grew more and more frustrated when she thought of it. She angrily hurled the rest of the items on Luna's desk onto the floor. "Get rid of all these useless things ! I don't want to see them anywhere near me!"

Luna felt her mood lift when she registered how infuriated Alice was. She smiled, kneeled onto the ground, and picked up the documents Alice had strewn all over the floor. "What position did Mr. Lynch assign you to do?"

Alice rolled her eyes in indignation. "Your assistant." Assistant?

Shannon, who had hovered outside the door all this while, could not take it anymore. She walked in and helped Luna pick up her things, saying pointedly, " From the way you're acting, I would've thought you were here to take over as project director. Instead, it turns out you're nothing but a lowly assistant."

Luna lowered her gaze and continued to pick up the rest of her stuff. "Be careful what you say."

Luna was secretly overjoyed that Alice would be working with her. Luna thought that it was better for Alice to be spending most of her time at the company instead of at home with the kids so she could keep an eye on her.

"Director Luna, you're too kind." Shannon tidied up the documents and could not help but added, "This is the first time I've ever come across such a bad-tempered assistant. I can't believe an assistant would dare to throw the director's documents all over the floor."

Alice immediately scowled, "What did you just say?" She stood up and strode over to them in her high heels. "Don't forget I'm the CEO's wife! The Lynch Group belongs to my husband and me. I could get you fired as easy as that!"

Shannon instinctively frowned when she heard Alice's arrogant tone. Although she was angry, she kept her mouth shut and did not say anything else. She finished picking up the documents from the floor and quickly left the room.

Luna stacked the documents back into a neat pile and smiled at Alice. "Do you want this office? If you do, you can have it. I'll sit outside instead."

Alice rolled her eyes and got up from her chair. "It's not like I want this stupid office anyway."

When she stood up, Alice caught sight of a framed photo on Luna's desk. It was a picture of her and Neil, but he looked paler and sicklier in the photo than in real life.

Alice narrowed her eyes and picked up the photo. "Neil looks good in this."

As soon as Luna caught sight of what she was holding, her eyes widened. "Put down that photo."

"Why should I?" Alice sneered, then forcefully smashed the photo down onto the ground. A split second later, she stepped on the photograph, her pointy heels puncturing right into the smiling faces.

She clamped a hand onto her mouth, feigning surprise. "Oh, no! I accidentally dropped your photo frame, and now it's broken! "

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Luna immediately lunged forward and shoved Alice aside.

The glass frame was smashed into smithereens, and there was a gaping hole in Luna's face in the photo where Alice had stepped on with her high heel.

Thankfully, Nigel's half of the picture was still intact.

This was the last photo Luna had taken with Nigel before she came back to Banyan City. Every time she felt tired and burnt out, she would look at the photo, and it would magically give her the motivation to persevere.

However...

Luna frowned and picked up the remaining shreds of the photo. The broken shards of glass cut into her finger, but she did not seem to feel any pain. She wiped the blood off and gingerly put the photo into her pocket.

“Director Luna...” The rest of the employees were gathered around her door with worried faces and contemplated whether to help her or not.

Alice automatically sneered when she saw how devastated Luna was. “It’s just a photo of you and Neil.

Why are you so upset about it, Luna? It’s not like you can’t take another one with him. Neil is at Blue

Bay Villa right now! If you want, I’ll let him take plenty more pictures with you. Stop acting so pitifully!”

Luna lifted her head and glowered at Alice, her eyes seething with rage. “Get out!”

Alice scowled, “How dare you talk to me like that? Let me tell you this. Even though I’m just an

assistant, I’m still Joshua’s wife, after all. I—”

“Even though you’re Joshua’s wife, you’re still an assistant!” roared Luna. “Get out!”

Alice had crossed a line.

Luna allowed Alice to throw her things around the room and let her claim her office as her own because

she could not care less about them; it was just an office and a few documents. Luna was willing to

endure all these as long as Alice would come to work, instead of staying at home and bullying Neil and

Nellie, but then...

“Luna, you’re going to regret this! How dare you talk to me like that?” Alice glared at her and continued,

“Do you know what I’m going to do as soon as I go home? I’ll—”

“What are you going to do?” a steely voice suddenly rang out from behind her.

Alice was momentarily flustered, but after a moment, she turned around and leaped into Joshua’s

arms, tears welling up in her eyes. “Joshua... Luna bullied me! She asked me to get out!

“You sent me here to work, and I arrived early in the morning. I didn’t know what to do, so I came into

Luna’s office to wait for her, but I accidentally dropped her picture frame on the ground, and now she

wants me to get out...” Alice wiped her tears daintily. “It’s just a photo of her and Neil. I can’t believe

she..."

Joshua furrowed his brows and removed himself from Alice's embrace. "I heard everything."

Alice's entire body stiffened. "Joshua..."

Joshua shot her a cold glance. "You broke Luna's stuff on purpose and used your title as Mrs. Lynch to threaten her... You promised me this morning when we left home that you'd work hard. Was this what you meant by that?"

The color drained from Alice's face. "Joshua, I..."

Lucas, who had been standing by the door, sighed and said, "Ma'am, if only you'd keep your mouth shut... Sir came down specially to check on you. He said that this was the first time you showed willingness to help out the company, but as soon as we arrived, we saw you stirring up trouble in Luna's office..."

Alice bit down on her bottom lip hard. Had Joshua been there for that long already?

"Luna."

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Joshua strode over to Luna and extended his hand toward her. "Give me the photo."

Luna frowned and backed away instead of complying. She knew that Joshua probably wanted to help her piece the photo back together again to make up for what Alice had done, but...

This was a photo of her and Nigel.

Even though Joshua had seen it before, he never paid much attention to it. If she gave it to him, and he restored it for her...

Luna was afraid that Joshua would discover the boy in the photo was not Neil as he had thought.

Joshua did not know of Nigel's existence. As soon as he discovered Neil and Nellie's true identities, he immediately took them away from her.

She could not lose Nigel to him, too.

"I just want to help you." Joshua frowned and took a step toward her.

Luna immediately shook her head. "There's no need. I can do it myself..."

"Luna!" Joshua's brows furrowed. "Do you want me to snatch it away from you?"

Luna paused, then lifted her head to stare at him.

A flurry of emotions was etched in Joshua's dark eyes. Luna bit down on her lip and remained silent.

Finally, after a long while, she had no choice but to hand the photo over to him.

The photo was stained red with Luna's blood. It was a picture of Neil and Luna smiling at the camera.

However, a gaping hole had punctured through Luna's face.

Joshua could not help but notice that the boy in the photo looked slightly different from the Neil he knew. Just like the picture he had seen in Luna's apartment, the boy in the picture looked pale, sickly, and appeared to be far more mature and reserved than Neil.

Joshua narrowed his eyes.

He could not help but feel that the boy in the photo was not Neil at all but another child instead.

However, a split second later, he dismissed the thought.

How could that be possible? Neil and Nellie were twins. How could there be another child that looked identical to Neil?

Joshua sighed and tucked the photo away. "If you value this picture that much, I'll find someone to fix it for you," offered Joshua. Then, his gaze fell on Luna's injured finger. "Are you okay?"

Luna paused, then withdrew her bleeding hand. "Yes, I'm fine."

Joshua gave her another meaningful look and was about to say something but ultimately decided

against it. Then, he strode out of the office.

As soon as he stepped out of the room, however, he stopped. "Lucas."

"Yes, Sir," Lucas answered respectfully.

"Find a first aid kit and take care of Luna's wound for her. Then, help me find someone who can restore photos."

"Yes, Sir."

Joshua swiveled around to glance at Alice. "Come to my office."

Alice wrung her hands and followed him in silence. She did not expect that Joshua would suddenly turn up at the design department just to check on her! If she had known he would come, she would not have behaved the way she did!

The two entered the elevator and arrived at Joshua's office on the top floor. Joshua closed the door and sat down in his office chair. He then fixated his steely gaze on Alice. "Why did you cause Luna trouble? Are you upset at me for making you come to work?"

“No... Of course not.” Alice bit down on her lip and stared at Joshua with a pitiful expression. “I wasn’t upset with you. On the contrary, I’m thrilled to be able to work at Lynch Group. I know that the reason you wanted me to come in to work is that you didn’t want me to feel bored at home, and also because you wanted me to get used to this place so that we can work together in the future, but...”

Joshua narrowed his eyes. “But what?”

Alice sighed and glanced at Joshua. “I was scared that if I start from the bottom, the rest of the employees will look down on me. Even though I’m the CEO’s wife, I still have to start from the bottom to climb to the top...” Alice wiped her tears and continued, “Joshua, you know that I was born into an ordinary family in Sea City. My family isn’t wealthy, and I’ve always felt insecure about that...”

Joshua’s brows furrowed upon hearing that. He gazed at her red-rimmed eyes and heaved a deep sigh. “You’re right. Working with someone as skilled as Luna might’ve been too challenging for a moment, then finally said, “I’ll ask her to assign you some easier tasks.”

He lifted his head and fixated his deep gaze on Alice. “I can understand why you acted the way you did just now. You lashed out at Luna because you wanted to make everyone else respect you and gain your dignity back. However...”

Joshua narrowed his eyes. "Did you really break Luna's photo frame by accident?"

Luna had so many items on her desk; why did Alice just so happen to break the photo frame? Why did she step on the photo, puncturing a hole right through Luna's face?

Joshua was not stupid. He knew that it was not just a simple accident.

Alice knew this as well, so she took a deep breath and admitted the truth, "I did it on purpose."

Joshua raised his brows at her.

"I was jealous of Luna because she had so many memories with Neil, but I had none. Luna can display a picture of her and Neil on her desk, but what about me? I don't have anything at all. Neil still refuses to call me Mommy, much less take a photo with me." With that, Alice lifted her head to look at him as if she was genuine.

"I know it wasn't right of me to do that, but I couldn't stop myself. Neil is my son. I can't stand seeing how close he is to Luna."

"You have to know that you were missing from Neil's life for a long time," remarked Joshua as he gently tapped his slender fingers against his desk. "Besides, even though Neil has returned to your

side now, you never fulfilled your responsibility as a mother to him.”

Alice bit down on her lip. “That’s because I didn’t have a chance to do so. I...” Before she could finish,

however, someone knocked on the door.

Lucas’ voice rang out from the other side, “President Lynch, the photo restoration specialist is here.”

Joshua murmured a reply and turned around to glance at Alice. “Get back to work. Remember, even

though Neil isn’t close with you, it’s not Luna’s fault. It’s yours. Please don’t ever bring personal

grudges into your work in the future.”

Alice bit down on her lip and muttered in response. Then, she turned around and left the room.

Just as she was about to leave, however, Joshua suddenly recalled something and stopped her. “Are

you sure you gave birth to only two children at the time?”

Alice’s heart leaped into her throat.

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Alice turned around and shot Joshua a puzzled look. “Didn’t I...birth two children?”

Was one of the children adopted?

Joshua let out a bitter chuckle as soon as he saw her baffled expression. He was wrong, after all.

Alice shot him another confused glance before she finally left the room.

At the design department.

Luna's finger was wrapped in a bandage. At that moment, she stood outside her office as she

instructed Shannon and the rest to find an empty desk for Alice.

Seeing that Alice had returned, Luna glanced at her and said, "Since you don't like my office, I've

requested the staff to find a nice, spacious desk for you. You don't have to do anything in the

meantime, so just try to figure out what goes on in the design department every day and get to know

the rest of your colleagues."

Alice rolled her eyes, turned around, and plopped down in the seat. Then, she gave Luna a wry smile. "

Thank you so much for looking after me, Director Luna."

Luna frowned and shot her a glance but said nothing in response. Instead, she turned around and

entered her office.

To her surprise, Alice immediately got up and followed her into the room. She closed the door behind

her and said coldly, "Luna."

Luna turned around and raised her eyebrows questioningly. "Is something the matter?"

"Neil and Nellie. One of them is adopted, right?" Luna frowned. "Why are you suddenly asking me this?"

"Just tell me yes or no." Alice exhaled and lowered her voice before saying, "Just now, when I was in Joshua's office, he asked me if I was sure I had given birth to two children."

Luna's breath caught in her throat as soon as she heard that.

Joshua would never ask a question like that out of the blue. Plus, he had taken her photo away...

Luna had a bad feeling about it. She bit down on her lip and stared at Alice. "What did you answer him?"

"I said I was sure, of course." Alice rolled her eyes. "Tell me: Did you or did you not adopt one of them? I always thought both Neil and Nellie belonged to you, but if one of them was adopted, you better tell me who it is!"

She narrowed her eyes angrily and added, "If Joshua finds out I'm not the real Luna Gibson, I'll make you and your children's lives a living hell!"

Luna heaved a deep sigh. "They're both my children."

Don't worry."

"That's good, then! " Alice rolled her eyes at Luna before she left the room, closing the door behind her.

Luna sat back down in her office chair and stared blankly in the direction of the door.

Joshua must have realized something. Otherwise, he would not have asked Alice a question like that.

Luna wrapped her arms around herself when, all of a sudden, she felt a chill run down her entire body.

If Joshua found out about Nigel's existence...

Luna did not even dare imagine what would happen next.

If Joshua found out about Nigel, she would have nothing to fight for anymore.

Luna continued to feel dazed the entire morning. She was terrified that Joshua would summon her into

his office and demand to know why she had kept one of her children secret.

After what seemed like forever, she made it to noon. Luna let out a sigh and started packing her things

to head to lunch. All of a sudden, she received a call from Joshua.

"Come to my office," Joshua's steely voice rang out from the other end of the line. "I've asked a photo

restoration specialist to fix the picture for you, but I have something to ask you."

