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The sunlight peeked through the tall trees and fought for their entrance via the leaves.
Heather raised her eyes and looked out the car window. It was a little shady in the woods
and there was even a slight breeze blowing into her car from time to time. She closed the
car window and realized that it was getting late.
Looking at the busy figures of Leon and Matthias, she did not have any intention of offering
her help.
She missed Myra so much at this time. Clicking into her Messenger, she sent a sticker
illustrating a bored expression to Myra. However, even after a long time, there was no
response from the other end of the line. Heather guessed that Myra probably did not have
her cell phone on hand. After all, they had pinned each other's contact at the top of their
chats. As long as they had their cell phones with them, they would reply to each other in
seconds.
Scrolling through her contact list in Messenger, Heather realized that there wasn't anyone
else whom she could chit-chat with other than Myra. Normally, she wasn't the kind of person
who would chit-chat. It just so happened that Myra was an exception. Heather scrolled through her Stories in boredom. In fact, she rarely used this application
whenever she was abroad. If it weren't for Myra, Heather wouldn't have used Messenger so
frequently upon her return to Solaria because there weren't many people on her contact list.
Thus, there was nothing much to see on her Stories as well.
Wasting time in the wilderness was not something written within Heather's principle at all.
After thinking about it for a moment, she exited the car. There was one thing she had to do,
but she needed to obtain Matthias' permission first.

On the other hand, Matthias and Leon were studying the best way to build a simple stove
with stones for their barbecue session later. As she leaned forward, she could see the
seriousness on their faces.

"Matthias." Heather would normally call his given name whenever she was in a good mood.

Of course, when she was in a bad mood, she would address him by his name as well,

although the tone would be extremely different.

Matthias was talking to Leon when he heard her calling him. Instantly, he turned around and looked at her.

"Yes, Heather?" Matthias raised his gorgeous face and tenderly gazed at her.

At the side, Leon gave Matthias a disgusting glance. Matthias was still exasperated with

Heather a second ago and now he was like a toady in the hope of gaining her favor.

"It seems that you're getting better with your hands-on skills. There's no need for my help at

all." Heather expressed her intentions as soon as she walked toward them, for she did not

want them to misunderstand that she was here to help.

Upon hearing her words, Leon rolled his eyes at her. "Heather, I know you've been a

pampered princess, so we won't dare to let you lay your hands on this kind of dirty work."

His words were full of sarcasm.

"True enough, this kind of dirty work is not suitable for girls like me to lay my hands on," she

responded in agreement, not giving in to him at all.

Before she forgot about her initial intention, she pushed him away and met Matthias in the

eye as she continued, "I want to open your briefcase." She was here to inform him rather

than seek his permission.

"No problem, you can even have it if you like it that much," Matthias answered generously.

Heather immediately understood the meaning behind his words.

Now that she had informed him, she stopped talking to him. Refusing to waste her time

arguing with him, she turned around and walked back to the car. A

confused Leon looked at

her back with a puzzled expression as he winked at Matthias.

"Did Heather recently suffer from an emotional shock?" Leon asked curiously as soon as

Heather left.

At Leon's words, Matthias shook his head. He didn't know much about her private life, not

even as much as Leon did.

"Aren't you close with her? You should know better than me."

Leon curled his lips helplessly. Of course, he knew what was bothering Heather lately, but it was somehow related to Matthias. Therefore, there was no way he could tell the truth.

Upon noticing the brief expression flashing across Leon's face, Matthias thought that perhaps he had guessed it right. Could it be that Heather was really hiding something from him?

"What's on Heather's mind lately?" Matthias asked tentatively, wanting to read Leon's

expression. He knew Leon was not going to tell him the truth anyway. However, Leon shook his head. "Even if she had something in mind, she wouldn't tell me."

He was feeling a little embarrassed for not telling the truth. After all, he wanted to be an honest person.

Perhaps there was no way for him to be an honest person in this life. He didn't want to live

in a world of deception, but he always found himself lying. The adult world was filled with many lies.

"Who would she normally talk to when she is bothered then?" Matthias continued to ask, but

he couldn't gather any more hints from Leon's face.

"Myra. You should know this very well." Leon felt that Matthias was asking a question with

an obvious answer. Almost everyone who knew Heather was aware that she would only share her problems with Myra.

Matthias was not surprised at Leon's answer. So, it turned out to be Myra and here, Matthias

was thinking that it would be someone else. Could it be that Myra was the only one who

managed to walk into Heather's heart since they were young? At the thought of it, he

became a little envious of Myra.

With little effort, Myra could convince two defensive people to let their guard down. She had

a temperament that no one else had—it was a kind of reassuring aura that had people

approaching her without fear. It was like she was the source of warmth that others would

instinctively rely on during the cold winter.

A moment later, Matthias quickly changed the subject as he said, "Look, we did a good job."

As he placed the last stone, the construction of the temporary stove finally came to an end.

With his eyes slightly squinted, Leon stared at the pile of stones in front of him. They tried their best to search for stones with a smooth and pretty surface. Now that he looked at the final product, he reckoned that the height of the stove should be high enough to keep the fire within.

It was dangerous to build a fire in a bushy forest during the winter, which was why they had to use stones to enclose a range on the open ground.

They had to make sure the fire did not burn wildly as they wanted to use it within a

controllable range. At the same time, the enclosed range should be in moderate size for the

fire to burn effectively as they could get the food cooked in the shortest time possible.

However, they had to also take into consideration the issue of even cooking.

Matthias and Leon were still not sure what kind of game they could find around here, so

they could only make a simple stove for the time being. There could even be a need for

slight adjustments after they had actually caught something.

There were two relatively dry stones near them that seemed to be frequently exposed to

sunlight. When those stones collided with each other, they could produce the sparks needed

for the fire—and it was the flint and steel that they had found.

As for the effectiveness of the flint and steel, it still had to depend on the methods they

used. Leon and Matthias used the materials available around them as much as possible

based on what they knew.

Perhaps the most ironic part of the story was that none of these men had a lighter with

them since neither of them was a smoker.

Because of health reasons, Matthias was never a smoker, nor did he have a tobacco

addiction. Leon, on the other hand, had also quit smoking a long time ago as Heather didn't

like anyone who smoked.

In fact, she hated people who smoked around her. She loathed secondhand smoke and the

smell of tobacco on men. Because of her sensitivity toward the smell of smoke, she could

even detect the faint smell of tobacco on Tony. On the other hand, Matthias did not have it

on him at all. Perhaps it was indeed a coincidence of fate.

When Leon used to be a smoker, he would always cause Heather to feel uncomfortable with him getting close to her. Even though he had quit smoking for her later on, she could still remember the time when he reeked of tobacco. On the contrary, Matthias had always smelled fresh and clean since the first time they met during their teen years. Although he occasionally had a faint smell of herbs on him, it was still a pleasant scent. Now that they had met again after many years, he was still free from the smell of tobacco that other men would have, which was why she was not so repulsive to him. Truth be told, she liked Matthias' scent the most as compared to other men. With only the last piece of potato chips left, Heather looked in the direction of Matthias and Leon, only to discover that they were still in the full swing of their preparations. It seemed that they wouldn't be done with it anytime soon. Things had not been easy for these two pampered nobles as a result of the picnic. After noticing her gaze, Matthias looked in her direction and their eyes happened to meet each other. He gently flashed a warm smile at her. There wasn't even the slightest hint of tit for tat on his face. In embarrassment, she turned her head away. Coincidentally, she met his eyes and his gentle smile. He was just like a character emerging from a painting; it was so beautiful that it tugged at her heartstrings. Upon seeing that Heather turned in a panic, Matthias gave an even brighter smile. She was really adorable when she looked like that. However, what he did not know was that her heart pounded like a drum. Ever since she bumped into him, she had come to realize the feeling of having butterflies in her stomach—and it was not the first time that it happened.

Heather hated her heart for being so honest and the fact that Matthias was exceptionally charming. His allure had recently skyrocketed and even surpassed Tony's popularity to become the most desirable man among the socialites. Now that Tony and Myra were married, they became the golden couple who were deeply in love and about to welcome their first born soon. Matthias was a different story altogether;

although there were many scandals between him and Heather, neither party had confirmed the rumors. Therefore, there was still at least a glimmer of hope for the socialites.

It became extremely boring to stay in the car for the entire time. Thus, Heather decided to come out and get some fresh air while waiting for them to finish their preparation. Soon, Leon and Matthias would have to split ways to hunt separately. Leon had already been eager to have the novel experience ever since Matthias mentioned it back in the hotel.

"Leon, you can go ahead to look for something that you can catch for our barbeque later."

Matthias was about to complete the final touchup and asked Leo to head first. He could already notice Leon's excitement.

After Leon left, Heather walked over to Matthias. Upon seeing that he did a good job in

building the stove, she praised, "Your craftsmanship is not bad."

"It was all thanks to Leon's Swiss Army Knife." Matthias swung the dagger in his hand.

Well, it wasn't surprising to her at all. She had long known about Leon's habit to carry a dagger with him. In the past, she used to think that it was his personal preference and

hobby. However, when she connected it with the recent explosion at his residence, she

suspected that it might be one of his means of self-defense.

Heather even wondered whether he had taken up martial art classes before this. Even

though he always behaved in a weak manner, she wanted to know the answer by testing

him.

There were just too many suspicious points in Leon and Heather couldn't help but be more

wary the more she thought about it. Looking at her with puzzlement, Matthias wondered

why she was spacing out while staring at the dagger.

Just as she was still in a daze, Matthias quickly stepped forward and planted a light kiss on

her cheek. As she was stunned, she wasn't able to react until her face flushed red due to the embarrassment.

Instantly, it caused Heather's body to stiffen a little. She instinctively raised her hand as she wanted to slap him. However, he had already made his escape from the 'crime scene',

leaving her standing still in her spot. Heather had always thought only naive women would be caught off guard and encounter a sneak attack. It was only when this happened to her today did she understand how cunning a man could be and the boldness of Matthias.

"I'm going to hunt for some game and fill up my stomach," he said and left as if he was escaping for his life.

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If it weren't for how fast Matthias was running, Heather would have definitely not let him get away. Right now, she could only stare angrily at his back. When they had finally arrived in the wild, they felt absolutely relaxed and free—which was the opposite of their usual selves—especially Matthias, who was now practically swinging from tree to tree.

In fact, the ladies of Bradford City would be appalled to see him like this. Soon enough, Heather could no longer find any trace of him. She felt alone, but she was not at all worried about Matthias; she was only afraid that Leon would lose his way in this huge forest.

The sun was slowly setting, so it wasn't as bright as it was at noon. Since it was also during wintertime, daytime was also much shorter than usual. Heather glanced at the time and estimated in her heart that the sun would completely set in a short while. It was inevitable that they would have to drive in the night when they decided to go back.

Heather got back into the car again as she noticed that the surrounding was horribly quiet, completely void of even the sounds of birds chirping or flapping their wings. She guessed that the birds might have already flown to the south during this time of year, and dusk was about to come.

It had been a long day today, and it was getting late. Around this time, the wilderness was a dangerous place to be. No one could tell where the ferocious beasts that hid deep in the forest and their whereabouts were. As soon as this thought crossed her mind, Heather couldn't help but worry for Leon and Matthias. Sigh. They're too childish and stubborn to come to a place like this at this time. It was

already getting darker when we arrived. Besides, they even wanted to go deep into the forest—did they really think they were hunters? Heather thought to herself while heaving a sigh.

The air around her seemed to have stagnated. Heather put the earphones into her ears, trying to distract herself from any unnecessary worries with music. She knew that in the face of the wilderness, there wasn't much she could do anyway, so she prayed silently in her heart that Matthias and Leon would be safe.

Time passed by quickly; she still hadn't seen either of them return, but the sky was getting darker every passing moment, especially since the sun rays were blocked by the tall trees in the forest, darkening the surroundings much quicker.

Seeing that it was indeed getting darker, to the point that it was hard to see the ground in front of her as dusk approached, Heather felt that this feeling was rather strange. After all,

she was always busy with work, so she naturally would not notice these things. However, she happened to witness the entire gradual transition of light to dark of a day; no words could describe the feeling she had right now.

She held her breath to listen for any possible movements in the forest, but she still did not hear anything from them. Could it be that they have gone too far? she thought.

At this point, she could only stay where she was and wait for them to return. Heather couldn't go anywhere in case they returned and didn't see her, but the waiting process was unbearable. By now, she was almost counting the time for them to return.

The sky had gotten completely dark, but there were still no signs of either of them. As a matter of fact, she would have felt a little more at ease if either one of them had just returned. However, to her dismay, no one did, causing her to palpitate from worry.

Occasionally, the wind would blow at the grass and make a rustling sound, whereupon

Heather would immediately cast her eyes out of the window when she heard the sound, in hopes that she'd see either of them.

Meanwhile, Leon had gone to look for food before Matthias, but in this vast forest, he didn't

manage to find anything to eat.
After all, Leon knew little about food ingredients, and he would only chase small animals around in an attempt to hunt them. Little did he know, there were many wild fruits and mushrooms that were also edible.
Matthias, on the other hand, was better in this respect. However, the wild fruit could only be eaten raw after washing. As for the wild mushrooms, they wouldn't have much taste to it even after being grilled.
To roast a delicious meal, he would need to catch living animals. That being the case, there were certain skills needed in order to successfully hunt animals—he also knew that some animals couldn't be hunted.
He wasn't able to find anything suitable along the way. The two of them finally met in the forest and found that they were both empty-handed after taking a look at each other.
Immediately, they let out a chuckle in unison.
“Did you manage to find anything?” Leon asked first. It seemed like he was not the only one who was embarrassed from not finding any food.
Matthias calmly replied, “I couldn't catch any animals, but I saw a lot of wild fruits and some wild mushrooms along the way. If we really can't catch any animals in the end, I guess we would have to settle our hunger with those...”

Although he did see a lot of things that could be eaten along the way, Matthias didn't pick them up immediately, but instead simply made a mark.
“It took us so long to set up the temporary barbecue pit. If we really couldn't catch anything to eat, I wouldn't have the face to go back. And I can already foresee Heather laughing at us,” Leon said helplessly. By then, Heather would have a reason to tease and taunt them, so he had to catch something that could be barbecued no matter what.
“Did you see any small animals on the way here?” Matthias asked. There were even fewer animals during winter, and he wouldn't know where they were hiding. Could it be that they've all gone into hibernation? Matthias thought.
“I did. But they ran faster than rabbits, and I couldn't get close to them at all. Do you reckon we should set up a trap?” Leon suggested, since he obviously couldn't catch them with his

bare hands.

"That's not necessary. The animals I saw on my way here are protected at the national level, so I couldn't do anything. As long as I see animals that can be hunted, I will definitely be

able to catch them." Matthias was quite confident in his skills.

Unfortunately, his luck was

not so good, as he didn't encounter any animals that could be hunted at all.

"What? There are protected animals here? So does that mean what we are doing here is

illegal?" If Leon had known that this would be the case, he would

definitely not have agreed

to come here. He didn't recognize those national-protected animals and could have very well

killed them by mistake—that would've been bad news.

"No. Most animals here can be hunted. You'd better follow me to avoid making any

mistakes," Matthias thought for a while and said. Since Leon had no idea about such things,

it was better for the both of them to stick together—this way, they would be able to take care

of each other as well.

"Alright, then. I will follow you and hopefully bring you some luck!" Leon said with a smile.

He saw many small animals running around a while ago, including several rabbits. Thinking

back to what Matthias said about protected animals, Leon thought, We can hunt rabbits at

least, right?

As soon as he said that, Matthias held his hand up immediately, as if he noticed something.

"Don't move. There is a rabbit right in front," Matthias whispered, fearing that he would scare

the rabbit away if he was too loud.

Leon immediately stood frozen and motionless, also fearing that he would scare today's

dinner away. "Stay right there. I'll catch it." Matthias didn't plan to capture the rabbit with

Leon, as he thought it would be enough for him to catch the rabbit all by himself.

Seeing that Leon nodded, Matthias started the hunting, and he flew straight in the direction

of the rabbit like a sharp sword.

Leon looked at Matthias' explosive power in amazement. He didn't expect him to be so

agile, and his speed was staggering. It was the first time he ever saw someone running

faster than a rabbit; that was when Leon finally believed that Matthias was indeed more agile than Heather after all.

Soon after, Matthias returned with a rabbit in his hand, a triumphant smile hanging at the corner of his lips. Leon looked at Matthias admiringly. He sure is amazing! Leon thought to himself.

"Awesome. I am really impressed," Leon said sincerely.

Matthias held the rabbit by its ears and replied with a smile, "It seems we've gotten our dinner sorted."

Leon nodded vigorously. The rabbit that was in Matthias' hand was really fat; it was enough for at least three people.

The next step was to get back. Leon had lost all sense of direction, so Matthias said calmly,

"We will go to the left and walk straight forward. I left marks along the way, and we can pick up some wild fruits on the way back."

Hearing that, Leon immediately agreed as his admiration of Matthias grew a little more. He

didn't expect Matthias' survival skills in the wild to be so advanced.

"Have you had to survive in the wild before? It seems that you are very experienced," Leon

remarked casually, but it indirectly reminded Matthias of the training he had done in the

Locke Family. There was indeed a program about survival in the jungle in the training before.

The reason why such a training was arranged was because, should they become an

important figure in the family and face any danger in the future, they would be able to

survive in the wilderness.

After all, Matthias had undergone much cruel training in order to climb to his current

position. He once thought that the Locke Family was actually training him to be a special

forces officer.

However, even if he was proficient in all survival and martial arts skills, accidents weren't

completely avoidable. Hence, Matthias didn't think those training sessions were completely

useful.

Upon hearing Leon's words, Matthias only smiled and looked at Leon without answering his

question. He had indeed undergone a special training, so the latter's guess was correct after

all.

"Well, it seems that I've guessed right." Leon was even more certain.

Although he usually

acted ignorant, it was undeniable that he still had a keen observation.

"Did you see the shrub ten meters away from here?" Matthias changed the subject without a

trace and pointed in a direction to show Leon.

Leon looked over curiously and saw many small red fruits growing on it.

Meanwhile,

Matthias continued to explain, "Those wild fruits are edible, and they taste a little sour and

sweet."

"Cool." Leon nodded. "Will it be too sour? I don't really do well with sour food."

"You can go pick a few." What Matthias said a while ago was to signal Leon to pick some

fruits, but he didn't expect Leon to be so clueless about his suggestion, so he explained it

clearer this time.

"Huh? Why me?" Puzzled, Leon asked.

Hearing that, Matthias brought the rabbit in his hand over to Leon and said, "It's not

convenient for me. I have to carry the rabbit, you see."

How could he not get what I'm trying to say? Matthias looked at Leon helplessly and

thought. Why do I suddenly feel like he's kind of dumb? Matthias began to question Leon's

IQ.

"Okay, I got it. Alright. Wait for me here." Leon finally regained his senses, and he ran happily

to the bushes to pick some wild fruits.

At the same time, Matthias reminded Leon behind him, "Be careful of the thorns in the

bushes!"

As Matthias was speaking, Leon had already let out a wailing. It seemed that the thorns had

gotten him as soon as Matthias warned him. At once, Leon's face grimaced in pain and

hatred.

Matthias couldn't help but laugh at how clumsy Leon was. Compared to him, it seemed that

Leon really lacked common sense in life.

On the other hand, Heather was still waiting anxiously in the car; it was her rationale that

made her glue her bottom in the vehicle. Aside from that, she would occasionally get out of

the car and get some air to calm herself down.

In her heart, she was complaining about how Matthias and Leon went straight ahead without bringing their mobile phones. Their phones were just lying in the car ever since they arrived, meaning they couldn't be contacted now. When Heather got out of the car once again and was walking in circles, Leon's voice rang from the forest. "I can't hold them in my hand anymore. You still have an empty hand there; come and help me!" Leon had picked a lot of wild fruits and vegetables along the way. He looked very happy. "I told you to pick less, but you didn't listen. So, you are now responsible for what you picked." Matthias obviously didn't want to help. Hearing their voices, Heather immediately followed and looked in their direction. Soon, Matthias and Leon walked over from the bushes, which made Heather overjoyed. There they are. Finally! she thought. She was looking forward to this for so long.

However, Heather didn't greet them immediately. Instead, she only said contemptuously, "You guys took so long that it's dark now—are you planning to camp here?"