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to him, he could use this opportunity to prove Sheena wrong. But...Elisa hadn't sought him at all these times. On the contrary, their relationship had deteriorated for a specific reason. Carle was heartbroken. He began to ponder if he should stop pining for Elisa. He was in a dilemma...But now, after seeing the news, he knew it was time for him to let go. Let her go...Thinking about it, Carle steeled himself and gave Elisa a call. On the other hand, Elisa was about to get back to work after a break. She picked up the phone as it rang and saw Carle's name on the screen. She wasn't surprised to receive his call. She knew he had wanted to talk to her. Although reluctant, she still answered the call. "Hey, Carle." "What are you doing?" Carle asked gently. Hearing Carle's voice, she realized that they hadn't talked for a long time. Elisa felt guilty for shunning him, but at the same time, she felt relieved and peaceful when she was spared of his presence. Whenever Carle came to her, she would feel stressed for no apparent reason. But she didn't tell him that, lest she hurt his feelings. Elisa responded promptly, "I'm at work. What about you?" Carle could return to his office and work as usual since his injury in the head had healed. Carle beamed a smile and said, "Well, I've just finished a meeting." He lied. There were no meetings today. In fact, he had been cooping in his office all day. He lied to suggest that he had not followed the sensational news on Twitter. Meanwhile, Elisa wondered if Carle knew about the tweet. But.....She didn't intend to explain herself. As for Carle, who was at his last straw of faith, he was still wistfully hoping for a miracle. He hoped Elisa cared about him enough to confide in him about the rose incident. He would rather believe that she had not been in contact with him because of her busy work schedule and not because she was avoiding him. He clutched the phone anticipating Elisa's response with his heart in his mouth. Elisa said noncommittally, "I see." She didn't know what else to

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out myself. But I love you too much and refuse to accept the truth. I thought as long as I don't point it out and stop thinking about it, you'll open up to me one day." Elisa pursed her lips and couldn't bring herself to say anything to him. She reckoned this was just the tip of an iceberg; Carle had not fully poured himself yet. She wanted to hear what was in his heart. Had he moved on or..Elisa didn't dare to assume the undesirable outcome. Carle took a deep breath and suppressed the burgeoning bitterness in his heart. He regarded Elisa as his life and soul. Losing her was like killing him. He had considered the thought before. He would have given up the will to live if it wasn't for Elisa fervently motivating him to wake up from a coma. God knew how lonely and hopeless he was at the time. He had lost the desire to live. He wanted to call it quits. But... Liz. She was his everything. His heart and soul yearned to be with her. Carle drew another deep breath and said softly, "But after what happened, I realized I've been living in my own bubble. Liz, you have always regarded me as your best friend or, in your word, a brother. I guess the two of us... that's our fate." Elisa's brow furrowed as her lips turned grim. She clenched her phone and didn't know what else to say. After all, she had deceived him. She had kept him in the dark and played with his feelings all this time. Elisa squeezed a word through her teeth, "Carle, I..." "Liz, you don't need to say anything. I know. I know everything." Before Elisa could finish her sentence, Carle intervened. Elisa

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I meant. Don't misunderstand. I mean, we can still be friends. You have always been my friend and brother in my heart. I was trying to say that you don't have to protect me because it's very tiring."Carle breathed a sigh of relief. He relished Elisa's willingness to go back to being friends with him. But he would still protect her no matter what. Elisa was the most important woman to him. He refused to let anything bad happen to her or to let anyone bully her. Even if it meant sacrificing his own life to keep her whole, he would do it in a heartbeat. "I won't trouble you anymore, Liz. Don't worry. I have thought about a lot of things recently. I realize I have put you in a difficult position before this. Forgive me, Liz." "Forgive me, Liz." Carle had always wanted to say that to Elisa. He admitted that he was selfish. He knew Elisa had never loved him, but he was unwilling to let her go. Instead, he forced her to stay with him, and that was unfair to her. He was stubborn and refused to let go. Looking back now, he realized he was too much. "Don't say that, Carle." Elisa understood love clouded a person's judgment. It was natural and inevitable for Carle to want to keep her within arm's reach. Just like her former feelings for Gareth, she liked him a lot. And she admitted that she constantly wanted to keep him by her side. But in the end, she lost everything. She was no stranger to this possessive feeling. Perhaps she should thank Gareth for his cruelty. She wouldn't have moved on so quickly if it weren't for his cruelty. Gareth made her realize her ignorance. He taught her always to know her place and never make unattainable wishes. It was a painful experience. She couldn't bring herself to hurt Carle as Gareth did to her. She couldn't bear to see Carle hurting, so she resorted to avoiding and ignoring him. Fortunately, Carle had woken up from a coma. Initially, she was still determining if she had done the right thing. But anyway, the outcome had panned out the way it should be. Carle had agreed to move on, stop pining for her and come to terms with reality. She was so grateful that he was willing to return as friends. "Do you hate me, Liz? I was too selfish." "Never." Elisa soothed Carle, "I know how it feels to love someone. But Carle, at the end of the day, it's about fate between two people. The person I love is not you, and the person Sheen loves doesn't love her back." Carle's eyes glistened with inexplicable emotion. He didn't say anything. Elisa carried on and said, "Actually, Sheen is a good woman." Carle twitched his lips and said with a wry smile, "Rach

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options before consulting Sheena and Rachel on WhatsApp. Elisa: 'Carle called me just now. He knows I never loved him, and I only agreed to start a relationship with him to keep him alive.' Sheena: 'What did he say?' Sheena's response was prompt. Elisa knew Sheena was worried about Carle. Rachel: 'Have you told him? How did he take it?' Elisa: 'He took it well. He said Sheen was right. Love should be self-sacrificial and not possessive.' Sheena: 'It's a good thing that he finally understands it.' Rachel: 'Then what else did he say?' Elisa: 'He asked to be friends like how we used to. He asked me not to estrange him, and he will control his feelings and emotions, but... I don't know if...' Elisa didn't speak any further. She was confused. Sheena understood her concerns; she was worried about the same thing too. After a brief pause, she wrote again. Sheena: 'Rach, Cale already knows my feelings for him. He may feel awkward talking to me. Can you go and check on him when you're free?' Rachel: 'Okay, I'll see him tonight.' Sheena: 'Go and have a talk with him. Remember not to trigger his anxiety. Sigh. I don't know if I have done the right thing telling him all these things...' Rachel: 'Of course, you did the right thing! It's good for the three of you to talk things out and nib the problem in the bud! No, it should be four of us! Although I'm a bystander, all of you are my friends. I do feel awkward as well. It is good to clear the air!! I'll go and see him tonight.' Rachel: 'Forget it. I'd better take leave. I'll go over now to see how he is doing. All of you are my good friends. I don't want to lose any

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on her face or body. When they heard her question, some hurriedly diverted their attention somewhere else while others continued to stare at her silently. One of them couldn't contain their curiosity and asked, "Ms. Elisa, will you and Mr. Wickam get back together?" Elisa's irises shifted. So, it's because of the thing on Twitter. "There's no chance," she replied calmly and surely. There's no way Gareth and I will get back together. Hearing that, those that had averted their eyes subconsciously turned back to her. "Can it be that Mr. Wickam can't forget Ms. Elisa? Not only will he pick roses for you, but he can even create such a stir!" Elisa was puzzled. Not only, but?? Why does that sound off? Has Gareth done something again? She looked at the lady that said, "What do you mean?" "Did you not see the Whatsapp group chat? The topic is on fire." "Ms. Elisa isn't in that group chat," a woman in pink said. Elisa did not know what was going on, but she did not ask any further questions. She would get her answers once she arrived downstairs. I'm sure Gareth must have done something big since that woman asked about the possibility of us getting better. But he hates me. What could he have done? Elisa was confused about the situation but couldn't help but feel contempt. Get back together? How can they? Elisa banished those thoughts from her mind. When the elevator doors opened, the crowd stepped aside and looked at her. They created a path for her to get out first. Elisa looked at them silently and nodded. Without saying another word, she walked out. The scene in the lobby was different from one on a typical day. Usually, people would clock off and leave the company in trickles. Even if there were big groups, they would disappear quickly. Today, the lobby was full of people. To the point that people were pushing against each other. However, it was quiet for such a big crowd. They whispered and did not let their voices carry. One would have to listen very closely to hear what they were saying. When they saw Elisa exiting the elevator, the quiet chatter immediately stopped. The lobby was shrouded in a peculiar silence. At the same time, the crowd moved back to create a path for her. Many of them stared at her with envious and jealous eyes. Some harbored hatred toward her. How can

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the employees didn't leave. They couldn't leave because the roads were blocked. No one dared to destroy the scene in front of them. The place was filled with rose petals, from the door, down the steps, to the pavement in front of the building. A man in a black suit stood in the middle of all that. He was surrounded by roses. There was even a phrase planted out in roses; love of my life. Elisa felt disgusted. She couldn't understand why some women were crying out of jealousy. Gareth fixed his gaze on Elisa and said softly, "You finally came out." Elisa felt the hairs on her arm stand up! Gareth sure can pretend like we did not publicly divorce. What a toxic man! Just as Elisa heard, none of the employees left. Even those that weren't interested in gossip couldn't go. No one dared to ruin the scene. Elisa was unhappy, and it was shown clearly through her expression. She ground her teeth as she looked at the roses. What a b*stard! Gareth felt uneasy when he saw the unhappiness on Elisa's face. The people behind her were also looking at him with engrossed eyes. Some of them were disinterested, but this was a matter of their boss! They couldn't look away! It wasn't often someone influential like Gareth Wickam would bring flowers and confess to Elisa Bennett in front of them. They watched the scene before them, wondering what Gareth would do next and how Elisa would respond. Elisa looked at Gareth coldly. She was able to shut down his advances, but he spoke first, "Grandma said you would like this." Elisa was speechless. Wow. This man is on another level! How dare he use Grandma to pressure me! What if Grandma is watching? I can't be too mean; Grandma might get sad. It might even affect the stock market if things get out of hand. Elisa became angrier as she thought about these questions. She stepped into the sea of

flowers and made her way to him. She ground her teeth and said in a low voice, so only he could hear, "Was there a need to go this far?" The corners of Gareth's lips lifted, making his handsome face seem softer. "Of course. I will do anything you like,"

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wanted to consider Julia's feelings and Wickam Group's finances, but she wasn't a saint. She wanted to be selfish for once. "You should find someone that appreciates your romance. It's a waste to spend time on your ex-wife," Elisa said coolly. The crowd was aghast! How could she reject someone like Mr. Wickam?! She's a divorcée. The only marriage that will last is one between her and Mr. Wickam! Who else would be able to stand it? It's not right for Mr. Wickam to chase after her. He'll probably get tired of her sooner or later. She's used goods, after all. Gareth's smile turned frigid, but it was fleeting. "Let's go. Grandma's waiting for us. There's another surprise waiting for you," he said, ignoring her words. He quickly grabbed onto her arm before she could

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punished you yesterday. And yet, you're coming to bite me back by making such a big scene. Don't you feel ashamed?" "I don't care as long as Grandma is happy," Gareth scoffed. Elisa was speechless. She huffed and turned away from him. Gareth started the car and drove away. They did not speak another word during the whole journey to Wickam Manor. Elisa was greeted by Julia's smiling face the moment she entered. "My dears, you're here! Dinner's ready. Go wash up, and we can eat." Elisa's face softened when she saw Julia. She couldn't act unhappy in front of her. On the other hand, Gareth moved naturally. He felt quite pleased to see Elisa so bothered. Elisa gnashed her teeth and stayed quiet. Gareth angered her so much, but she had to find her standing. Otherwise, she would be suffocated! At the same

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he said to the crowd, you don't have to take it too seriously. As for Mr. Wickam, he is a man of his word. He has always kept his promises in other matters," Elisa said with a smile. Gareth turned his piercing gaze toward Elisa. He couldn't say anything with Julia present. Julia wouldn't let the matter rest. "I don't care what you do; you must surprise Elisa! If Elisa isn't satisfied, you better redo it!!" "I don't think that's necessary, Grandma," Elisa said hesitantly. "It is!!" Julia exclaimed resolutely. "Grandma..." Gareth's face was darkening by the second. Julia slammed her fork down on the table. "What? Do you think you're so independent you can disregard the manners I taught you?!" "That's not it." Gareth couldn't retort back. Elisa stayed quiet with her lips tightly pressed together. Grandma just needs to let her anger out. It'll be fine once she's done scolding him. "Since you single-handedly prepared all those roses for Elisa, you can do the same today. Prepare something to surprise Elisa. You'll stop only when she is satisfied!" Elisa did not expect Julia's next words to have such an impact on Gareth. She burst out into laughter. She did not care that Julia was still around. She turned to Gareth and said through tears of laughter, "Oh my gosh! With Grandma behind me, all I need to do is be displeased with your efforts. What an easy revenge!" Julia, too, burst out in laughter, "That's a good idea! Just say you're unhappy with whatever he has done! He needs to be punished!" Elisa

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to accept that. Julia became more heated. She was worried about their future. Gareth nodded in understanding. "No problem. I'll go prepare it now," he said as he put his cutlery down. Julia frowned slightly. "Finish dinner first. It won't take long." Elisa's face stiffened. She did not expect Julia to support Gareth's idea of posting the surprise online. "Grandma, we don't have to go through all that trouble. I didn't mean anything by it. I don't need a surprise. Gareth and I are just pretending, just like we did before," Elisa said hurriedly. I can't stay with this man any longer! I need to put him in his place. But I can no longer rely on Grandma... I need to try something else. Julia shook her head in satisfaction and turned to Elisa with a smile. "Hey, we can't do that. This brat must do what he says! Wait a minute. Let me check if there's anything on Twitter," she said and left to retrieve her phone. What? Didn't she tell Gareth to finish dinner first? Why did she leave the table...? Gareth remained silent. "It's out!" Julia said excitedly. The video from today was on Twitter. However,