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Yes, Harry was planning to get rid of her and marry Yolanda! How was she supposed to react? She just can't seem to take this all in. She cannot understand. He would certainly choose Yolanda. That cunning serpent!

Lola pushed him away and intended to walk out of the room, only to be caught by his firm grip.

Harry was trying to stop her while she was also trying to run away from him. It was a deadlock.

After a while, Harry let go a bit, careful not to hurt her. Lola took this opportunity and got loose from him. She smiled, "Save your words. Go and marry her! You don't have to tell me. We have been in this scene more than once in our life." Then she walked away without turning back and headed to the elevator.

At the villa of the Newman family.

It was that time of the week when all the members of the Newman Family would gather and have dinner together. All of them except Joseph are present.

Neither Harold nor Angie mentioned the news today. Landon also heard about it, so he planned to talk with Lola after dinner. Jordan looked at Lola, who was smiling while wiping the chocolate on Nicole's mouth. The sight of them happy together made him swallow his questions.

The doorbell rang. "Who would come to visit at this time? It's already way past dinner time." Angie curiously looked at the door.

Mrs. White ran to answer the door. "Good evening, sir. May I ask who you are looking for?" The handsome young man before her was such a delightful sight

because Mrs. White recognized that it was he who went out with Lola and Nicole yesterday!

"Good evening. Would you please tell them that a man by the name of Harry has come to sincerely apologize to them? Thank you." He politely waited at the door while carrying precious gifts in his hand.

After Mrs. White passed on the message, Angie and Harold looked at each other and then turned to Lola, who lowered her head and stopped eating.

Harold sought for Landon's opinion. Landon looked at Lola and when he realized that she was not taking any stand, he immediately made a decision. "We shall not cold-shoulder our guest. Show him in!"

The moment Harry walked in, Lola got Nicole from her chair and both of them walked upstairs.

Seeing Harry, Nicole turned into the joyful child as she always is whenever he is around. "Uncle!", she shouted and tried to wriggle herself away from her mother's grip.

Harry then saw Nicole in Lola's arm at the middle of the stairs. He smiled, "Nicole! How are you?"

Then he looked at the others and respectfully asked, "Could you please give us a moment?"

Landon, Harold and Angie looked at each other in sulky silence, nodded and started to finish their dinner.

Nicole struggled to jump off and Lola had to give in. She put her down and wiped the oil in her lips again. Nicole ran to Harry immediately.

"Uncle! Are you here to play with me?" Nicole gave Harry a big hug when he bent down.

Everyone in the Newman Family was speechless. Blood ties did work its magic.

Lola silently walked upstairs. Why not let Nicole spend more time with her father? She gave in. Maybe her father would marry someone else soon and Nicole would never hear from him again.

In the living room.

Mrs. White was clearing away the plates while Jordan left for the study right after having a moment or two with Harry.

Landon, Harold and Angie were sitting on the couch opposite to Harry, who still has Nicole in his arms.

"Mrs. White, take Nicole to Lola please!" Landon politely asked. Mrs. White quickly wiped her hands and took Nicole away.

Harry stood and bowed to them in a very polite and respectful manner.

Harold and Angie did not expect this and they felt slightly uneasy, as this powerful young man was so humble to them.

It was a bit too much!

"I came here today to make an apology to you. Though it was not my intention, Lola has suffered humiliation and shame because of me. As much as I want to be with her and Nicole, I can't promise her a future that is safe for all of us, especially her...I'm deeply sorry for all the trouble I caused. Sorry!"

...

Lola had no idea that Harry already left. When Angie walked in, she was reading Nicole a story book.

Angie came in with some gifts

from Harry.

"We didn't want his gifts but he strongly insisted. Lola, why don't you keep them?" Angie placed the bags on her desk.

Lola didn't even bother to take a look at these gifts. "Mother, I'm so sorry about what happened yesterday."

She is not a good daughter. At this age, she still brought shame to her parents.

Angie shook her head. "It's fine. Nobody dared to gossip in the army. I understand that we all make mistakes. After all, we are not perfect." She gently held Lola's hand.

Lola smiled. "That's good. I am blessed to have you, mother. If he leaves Ascea, that would be great. If he doesn't, I'll just quit my job."

She didn't know what to do. It would be so helpless if she has to witness their marriage.

She would hate herself for not being able to stop it!

Angie looked at Lola and put a hand on her shoulder. "Lola, just do whatever you want. You are more than justified to pursue the one you love. Those who judge you do not know you at all. Don't worry!"

Leaning against her mother's shoulder, Lola decided to find a way out no matter what.

She was not the other woman! She did not deserve all these humiliations while Yolanda enjoyed protection from the painful accusations...

The day after that, Harry made his first official announcement regarding the rumor.

He claimed on the internet that Lola and he were merely friends. He went to the amusement park with a friend's daughter. That was it. Despite all these rumors, he will be going back to Uthana to marry Yolanda. Lola has displayed impressive capability as a deputy CEO, so she would take over the company as the provisional CEO.

...

Hearing about this, Lola violently swept away all the folders and papers on the desk. Everything swirled and fell down, creating a loud thump.

Who cared about the position of a provisional CEO?

She came here for one and only purpose -- Harry!

A friend? He threw away everything that they have just for the sake of Yolanda!

This one stings. She could even physically feel the pain of her heart. With her face buried in the desk, she hopelessly cried her heart out.

What should she do? What can she do?

Every single day, she couldn't help but recall how Yolanda murdered her child.

She couldn't allow this to happen! She couldn't bear to see them get married! She couldn't let Harry be with the wrong woman for the rest of his life...Her right hand with her nails painted in scarlet, gripped the pen she was holding.

It was driving her crazy...

"... If we didn't meet that day, would I be less confused right now? If we didn't meet..." The ringtone she recently set rang. She didn't move. Instead, she got the phone

and looked at the screen through the transparent desk. It was Zoe's call. Her voice was listless. "Hello."

Zoe called her immediately after seeing the announcement Harry just made. He knew how much Lola loved Harry. That must hurt! So he was not surprised to hear Lola's sorrowful cries from the phone.

"Lola, I just read the news..." Zoe could not say anything more. He didn't know how to make her feel better.

Lola forced a bitter smile. Now the world knew that she was merely a friend, and a subordinate to Harry.

The door opened slowly, but Lola was not aware. She was still bending over the desk. "I've read it too. The past is gone, Zoe. It's all over. I have to start all over again."

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She may be suffering inside but she tried to put on a face of enthusiasm in the office. She has to act professional at all times for herself and also for Nicole.

But Zoe could see right through the Lola's outer self. He has known Zoe for a long time. He paused his thoughts and said, "Lola, if you are free tonight, why not have a drink with me to relax?" Zoe painfully stood in front of the window and looked at the view outside.

Whenever Lola was sad, he was even sadder.

Zoe wanted to say it even louder: Lola, please allow me to protect you for the rest of your life!

But her mind was full of that man anyway. That man has everything one can ask for. Power, wealth, and fame among many others. Besides, what could he possibly give her to ensure her happiness when he himself was at a mess?

He did not have the courage to tell her his feelings. He feared that once he opened his heart to her, everything would change between them! He could not risk letting her go.

The office door slowly closed from the inside. Harry looked at the mess on the floor and instantly felt sorry for her.

He was here to commence the turnover of command but ended up trying to fix all of these. Lola looked so upset while talking to someone in the phone. She has been like that whenever she was alone.

Lola laughed dryly. She and Zoe could still hang out like the old times, merrily drinking in the bars in Dreles. However, she and Harry could no longer go back to the times when they were intimate with each other, passionate about making one another happy.

In a burst of harsh reality, her dry laugh finally broke into a sad weep. No matter what she do and will do, Harry was no longer hers to keep.

"Zoe, I really love him. I love him very much." Her voice was incredibly weak and the words hurt both of Zoe's and Harry's hearts deeply.

"Lola, I love you very much as well." Both of them had a moment of comfortable silence.

"Lola, sometimes stepping away is also a way of expressing love." There are different ways of showing one's love. Some would show it by being faithful and loyal companion. Others express it by stepping away for greater courses.

Lola paused, looked at Zoe with tears in her eyes and then said, "Stepping away?" She murmured to herself, "I thought of it, you know, I tried to let go of him. But it never worked. Never once did I successfully let go of him." She was really happy whenever she was with him. The happy feeling was the most genuine feeling she had in her lifetime.

Sometimes, they get into heated argument. Even then, she still felt safe and at home when her eyes linger on his handsome face.

Zoe heard how her voice has been so weak and his heart became filled of sorrow as if someone was cutting his flesh with a sharp knife. If Lola was unhappy, how could he just stand right here and do nothing about it?

"Don't be sad. Do not give up until the last moment!" In his mind, Lola is a tough, strong girl who would never quit. She never gave up!

Do not give up until the last moment? She knew that. She was just very heartbroken right now.

"Let's find a place and drink all these sorrows away!" She refused to keep her feelings inside. The loneliness will just burn her from the inside. It will slowly kill her and she needs to stay sane for Nicole. She needed to find a place to drink and dance, so that she could feel better and vent her sadness out.

Somehow, she sensed that there was someone else in the office. She could trace a scent she was very familiar with. Lola quickly looked up and found no one but her own reflection on the office window. The office was empty and she was still alone.

Only the sign that read "Knock before you come in" hung on the doorknob and it was swaying slightly. She was too caught up in her thoughts. She could not even be aware of her surroundings anymore. She has to do something about this.

In the night club.

The dance floor was full of beautiful people. It smelled of sweat, but the lively music made you forget that. Lots of women and men were dancing their hearts out on the floor. The music was becoming so loud and fierce. The whole floor was boiling with excitement.

Lola was in the booth seat at the corner. She was holding a liquor bottle and there was another empty bottle lying in front of her. She had been drinking nonstop since they arrived here.

Zoe lit up another cigarette and gazed at her in silence. He did not drink anything tonight.

He could not afford to drink as he still needed to drive her home safely later. He might not have the attention of Lola but he had promised himself that he will protect her at all times.

Lola finished another half bottle of liquor and was now too drunk to understand anything.

Lola was now completely drunk and Zoe grinned bitterly. She had been uttering the word "douchebag" for so many times tonight and had gradually becoming her favorite word.

He knew very well who she referred to. Until the last moment of her passing out, she was still murmuring one name: Harry.

He envied Harry so much. Not because of his wealth and power, but because of all the love and attention he got from Lola. He thought Harry did not deserve all of these.

Zoe put out the cigarette and carried the sleeping Lola out of the club.

He walked towards to his Benz, opened the car door and laid her down on the back seats.

He stood by the car and instantly remembered something. He forgot a very important one! "How could I forget to ask about her address when she was still sober?"

If he turned to his so-called father for help, he would sure to get more unnecessary trouble to himself. All right, fine. He would simply bring her to a hotel first.

But Zoe did not know that everything was seen by the man sitting in the black Maserati not far away from them.

Zoe checked Lola into a hotel room and laid her down on the luxury suite bed. He took off her shoes and tucked her nicely into the sheets.

Then he sat quietly on the sofa by the bed and let his eyes linger on the beautiful woman in the sheets. Lola was quiet at first, and then she started turning around restlessly as if she was in great pain.

She tossed around in the bed for a couple of minutes, then suddenly, she sat up and walked on the floor with bare feet.

Zoe quickly brought a pair of slippers for her and muttered, "What's wrong, wear your slippers first."

Lola covered her mouth in a quick motion and stepped into the slippers. She anxiously pointed to the bathroom and Zoe immediately understood.

He stepped over and opened the door for her.

Lola vomited hard in the bathroom. Zoe felt sorry for her and opened a water bottle for her to drink when she's done.

He also went out and asked for hot tea from the hotel service desk.

Lola was in the bathroom for over ten minutes. When she finally came out, she confusedly took over the water bottle from Zoe. She staggered back to the bathroom and rinsed her mouth there.

Lola was really drunk and could not tell who was standing in front of her. She opened her mouth and asked with a goofy smile, "Harry, is that you? You came back." She placed a hand on Zoe's right shoulder.

Zoe looked at the red-faced Lola and a sense of pain completely seized him. After all, in her eyes, she only saw Harry.

Zoe helplessly shook his head but to his surprise, Lola giggled and circled her hands around his neck.

"Harry, please do not be with Yolanda, alright? She is the most evil woman!"

Zoe pulled away Lola's arms and gently hugged her, "Girl, you should behave and go to sleep now." Patiently, he sweetly whispered in her ear.

Lola walked towards the direction of the bed. But it was not long before she got up and walked into the bathroom again.

She struggled back and forth the bathroom and the bed for over two hours. She drank all the hot tea but it was not very helpful. She kept on throwing up.

In the end, Zoe gave up and decided to send her to the hospital. Hearing this, Lola miraculously felt asleep on the bed like a peaceful angel.

She held on to Zoe's arm and was no longer murmuring Harry's name.

Zoe scratched his ear. He really had heard enough tonight to the point that he thought his ear was going to bleed.

Lola's phone started ringing inside her bag. Zoe carefully pulled his arm out of Lola's hands and reached for the phone.

He did not hesitate to answer the phone for her.

Outside the hotel.

The Black Maserati was parked by the road. Next to the car were a dozen of cigarette butts. Harry was standing here since the moment the two walked into the hotel.

Harry tried very hard to convince himself that he should not go inside the hotel and interfere with Lola's life. He has done this to himself. After all, she deserved to have her own life.

However, his clenched fists revealed his true feelings. Lola went into a hotel room with a man! What's more, that silly girl was drunk to begin with!

He could not possibly imagine what was going on inside that room. Who was he to judge and to take her away from that man?

2 and a half hours later.

A military car urgently pulled up next to the black Maserati. The people stepping out of the car all walked straight into the hotel in a hurry.

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"Hey, Jordan." Jordan stopped when he heard the deep familiar voice.

He turned around and saw the man leaning against the Maserati. Jordan's eyes had something very complicated and anxious in them.

"How long have you been here?" He noticed the cigarette butts on the ground and thought to himself that Harry must have been waiting here for hours. But how come would he actually let Lola stay in the same room with another man? Knowing Harry, he could not risk something bad to happen to Lola.

Harry put out another cigarette butt and reached for another. He was getting very worried and smoking was his only way of repressing his emotions. Unfortunately, the cigarette case was already empty and he had run out of cigarettes. He slightly shook his head and looked at Jordan: "Just go and pick her up. Pretend that you never saw me here."

Jordan thought of what happened during the day, silently nodded and briskly walked into the hotel.

Inside the hotel suite, Zoe wiped Lola's face with a warm towel and helped her with the sheets.

Just at that moment, somebody knocked on the door and he went to answer it. Outside the door stood a man in a tidy military uniform. He must be Lola's elder brother, thought Zoe.

"Hello. I am Lola's elder brother." Jordan briefly examined Zoe from head to toe. This was the first time they met. He heard his sister mention that she had a close male friend. He must be the one then.

Zoe stepped aside and said: "Hi. Lola is now sleeping inside. You'd better take her home then."

Jordan nodded and walked into the suite. He saw his sister lying on the bed. Next to the bed, there were a basin full of water and a clean towel.

He carried his sleeping sister in his arms and started walking towards the door: "Thank you for taking care of her. We'll pay you back for whatever expenses you must have had." He extended his sincere gratefulness to Zoe.

"No need for that. Lola and I have been friends for ages. It is my obligation to help her out." Zoe picked up Lola's bag and decided to take off with them.

The two carried the sleeping Lola out of the hotel and stopped by the road. Zoe asked, "Where is your car? I'll help carry her bag." He walked a few meters ahead and saw a military jeep. That should be it.

However, he also noticed a black luxury car next to the jeep. A man was leaning against the car with his hands in the pockets of his trousers. The figure seemed to be familiar.

Harry saw Jordan and a girl in his arms. He made sure that Lola was doing fine and then sat in his car. He couldn't risk Lola seeing him right now. Without saying anything, he started the engine and drove off.

Zoe's eyes followed Harry's car as it disappeared into the distance and then he opened the door of the military jeep. Jordan helped lay Lola into the jeep along with her bag onto the back seat and then he bid goodbye to Zoe.

The jeep drove off as well.

Zoe stood still as both cars went out of his sight. A strong sense of desolation seized him and he felt a tinge of loneliness.

He was in love with her for so many years and yet he never dared to show her his love. He did not have the guts to let her know.

He would smile when she was happy and he would feel sad when she cried.

He would never forget the day when he first met Lola. She was such a charming girl with a very bright smile.

With one look at her, he knew that he has given his heart to her forever.

However, she never returned his love. She first had a crush on Mike and then on Harry. She never loved him back. Never did she paid any special attention to him.

A speeding car dashed pass him. Zoe's desire of freeing himself from all the disappointment got even stronger.

He tried hard to pull himself back to reality. He convinced himself that it was not the right time for him to go crazy. The company needs him and Lola needed him even more. He just had to be the best friend that she could have.

Jordan brought Lola back to the villa without waking up someone. After laying her in bed, he returned to his study room.

He sat in the chair and lit up a cigarette. In the darkness, Jordan remembered that his sister also had a close friend Wendy and another woman.

He thought of all of these and finally came to the conclusion that he would forget that woman and marry Wendy instead. He would treat Wendy with full respect. He should not let his marriage upset his sister.

It was getting dark and late.

Meanwhile in Crescent Spring, Harry could not fall asleep as well. He worked very late in his study. Before he left, he wanted to sort out all company matters so that Lola would not stress herself anymore. He needed to relocate two capable assistants from the headquarters for her.

The workload of a CEO was really overwhelming. She would get very busy. The only thing he could do for her was to get two skilled assistants to help her out.

In the middle of all these, his mind eventually got a bit exhausted. He thought of Lola's beautiful and adorable face and could no longer concentrate on his work. He frowned and closed his eyes in distress.

Harry sighed and reached for a cigarette. He lit it up and felt into deep thoughts.

Lola was woken up by Jordan the next morning. Her head was aching like hell. The hangover from last night's drinking was something she has not experienced before.

"You should take a day off. How about resting at home for today?" Jordan looked at his sister with care as she rubbed her head in pain.

Lola shook her head and declined: "No, I can't. I have a lot to deal with at work." Harry was leaving soon. He sure had a lot to hand over to her.

After she became the new CEO, her job would considerably be more complicated and stressful.

Jordan agreed and said: "Then you should dress up. I have asked Mrs. White to cook you some soup to ease your hangover."

Lola nodded in appreciation: "Thank you brother. By the way, how did I get home last night?" She asked him in a small voice.

"I went there and picked you up." He also ran into Harry but chose not to mention this to Lola.

Lola nodded: "Does father and mother know about this?" She drank so much that all her memories of the previous night were gone.

Jordan shook his head. Lola was quite relieved and she went to the bathroom to dress up.

In SL Group.

Lola showed up in an elegant black dress as she walked the corridors of the company. She was warmly greeted by the staff.

"Good morning, Miss Newman!"

She nodded and walked fast towards the elevator.

The staff started gossiping behind her back.

"Do you guys think that there is nothing going on between Miss Newman and Boss Lewis?"

"I don't think so. Four years ago, they used to have a history. It was quite sensational." "I heard that not long time ago, the mother of Boss Lewis actually came to the company to straighten things up. At that time, Boss Lewis confirmed that he was the father of Lola's child!"

"Yeah! I heard about this as well. I think President Herren is involved too!" "Miss Newman has stirred up quite a mess around here!"

"Not in a good way. Rumor said that she had an affair with Joshua from the Design Department. I think she is quite slutty."

... Since Lola was no longer in their sight, they dared to gossip behind her back about almost anything.

A few words flew into Lola's ears but she ignored them and walked straight into the elevator. She didn't care what other people will say anymore.

Harry was going to leave her anyway. What else could she do? The important thing was to do her role as the new CEO and that was it. Inside the empty elevator, Lola's face was full of uncertainty and disappointment.

In the morning meeting.

Lola tried very hard to concentrate on her work and efficiently sorted out tasks for her subordinates. She controlled herself from glancing at Harry who sat in the chair she used to sit on.

When the meeting was dismissed, Harry called out to Lola and said: "Miss Newman, please come to my office, I have something to hand over for you to do."

Lola stopped on her tracks without looking back. She simply nodded and replied, "Sure thing, Mr. Lewis!"

She walked away and left Harry alone in the meeting room.

He gazed at the place where he usually stood when presiding over the meetings. Then he thought about Lola, and how she just recently did his usual work. It felt like she was standing right next to him and he couldn't help but extend his hands to touch her.

But there was nothing. Lola was in an entirely new place and this was his fault.

Harry stood from his chair in great distress. When he returned to his CEO office, Lola was already there waiting for him.

He closed the office door and gazed deeply at the woman who was fixing the papers on the desk.

"Miss Newman, are you ready?" He stood in front of her and asked her the question without any hint of emotion.

Lola was confused. Ready for what? Was he referring to her taking over his work? "Not yet. I don't think I would ever be ready for that."

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Lola tried to look at Harry invitingly, but she also knew that nothing can change the situation now. He would not stay.

"There's no time to waste. Let's begin now!" He took out the folders that he prepared and put them in front of her, "I did everything that you need to do for the next few days of the turnover. I fixed and polished every corner of the system so that you don't have to stress yourself in cleaning them up. I've already marked how to do them. Take a look. Ask me if you have any questions."

He sat down on the sofa opposite her, his eyes fixed on her. She looked at the papers and turned her gaze towards him.

"I know none of them."

Lola was being disobedient. She looked at Harry with contempt and he looked back with sympathy.

"Take it seriously. Read the medical document first." He took a red folder and placed it in front of Lola.

Lola read the label of the folder in front of her but didn't open it. "Boss Lewis, could you please just explain all of them to me?"

Without the contempt and hatred in her eyes, Lola asked him in a serious tone.

If he would really leave, she wanted him to explain the matters one by one slowly, so that she could have more time to be with him. Every minute she could have with him was precious. He wouldn't leave her so soon, would he?

Harry took the folder and began to explain it to her.

It may have looked like Lola was paying attention but she didn't listen to him. As Harry was explaining seriously, Lola dreamily stared at him and listened to his sexy and deep voice. Suddenly, she felt some tears streaming down her face.

She requested that he explain everything and he agreed without saying anything. He still loved her, right?

At the thought of this, Lola got up from the sofa and walked towards Harry. Confused, Harry twitched his eyebrows.

Intimately sitting on his lap, Lola put her hands around his neck and rested her head on his shoulder.

Harry hesitated but he gave in and irresistibly put his hands around her waist.

"Harry, don't marry her. I don't want to let you go." She whispered in his ear in a familiar sweetness, making Harry sad.

He did want to marry Lola. However, it was something that he couldn't change, no matter what he does.

Holding back his feelings, he pushed Lola away. "You have so much to catch up on. Let's continue working."

Lola became mad. She emphatically dropped the folder to the ground. "I don't want to work. Harry, don't you have any feelings for me? You still love me, right?" She pouted like a child and looked at him.

"No, I don't have any feelings for you anymore. Are you satisfied now? Let's get back to work." Only he knew that what he said was a lie.

"Harry, tell me why Yolanda is better than me. What does she have that I don't? Tell me!" She looked up at the ceiling and tried to stop her tears from falling.

Harry said nothing. He took out a cigarette and smoked.

"Harry, if you love her dearly, why did you have to give me hope? Why did you have to enter Nicole's life only to leave both of us?" Why couldn't the universe just let them be together?

As Harry didn't answer her, Lola became very heartbroken and burst into tears. She rushed over to him and hit him in his arms. "You scum! Scum..."

Harry hugged her with one hand and took half of the cigarette out from his mouth. He didn't stop her.

She said he was scum. Maybe she was right. He was engaged, but he gave her hopes and let her down. He deserved this.

Lola got tired and rested in his arms, sobbing. Harry held her tightly.

It was quiet in the office. Only her voice could be heard. After a long time, Harry felt it was weird.

He looked down at Lola, who was already curled up in his arms. She had closed her eyes and had not stopped crying.

Harry sighed. Perhaps she got tired of what happened last night. She looked so drunk when she got out of the bar. Harry lifted her up by her waist and put her onto the bed in the lounge.

Lola slept sound. Harry sat at the bedside, feeling satisfied. As long as he could see her, he would be pleased.

She looked so beautiful whenever she was at peace. But her eyes had swelled so much because of constant crying. It made him feel so sorry and wished that he could be the only one hurting.

He never got tired of looking at her, so he lay beside her and took her in his arms, letting her sleep on his shoulder.

He stroked her long hair and tried to stay awake for him to cherish the quietness and beauty of this moment. After all, this could be the last time this would happen.

Harry and Lola cuddled on the bed until they both fell asleep. The sun shone through the floor-to-ceiling window, emitting a rather dazzling light.

Lola woke up at noon. She looked at the chandelier in the room, not knowing where she was and how she got here.

This seems to be Harry's lounge. How did she fall asleep? She must have been so tired from everything that had happened.

She felt a little pain in her head, but it got much better when she had come to her senses.

Just when she sat up on the bed, Harry opened the door, holding the lunch that Joey prepared.

He saw Lola sitting on the bed but ignored her and put the lunch on the side table.

"Time for lunch. You need to eat." He opened the lunch boxes and waited for Lola to sit down.

Lola pushed back the quilt, got out of bed, went to the bathroom to wash her hands. After this, she went back to Harry and sat down beside him.

Taking the chopsticks from Harry, Lola began to eat. Harry put a sauced trotter in her bowl.

... Why did he always give her trotters?

Lola also put a trotter in his bowl. Harry looked at the trotter, "I already have enough on my bowl."

He put the trotter back to her bowl. A bit disappointed, she ignored this and continued eating.

Lola looked down and was again lost in simple thoughts. Why must she eat trotters?

Seeing what she did, Harry smiled. He put another trotter in her bowl and began to eat the braised tenderloin in his bowl.

Lola really wanted to make him eat the trotter. Her thoughts have been torturing her lately.

He chose Yolanda for what? Why? "I'm weaker and inferior. Yolanda is just way better so you chose her, right?"

What was she even thinking about? Harry frowned, looked at Lola's serious face, and said coldly, "Eat!"

Eat? So he does not deny it? Lola suddenly lost all appetite. Despite how tasty and delicious the food was in her bowl, she just did not have the will to eat.

Harry looked at Lola and put down his chopsticks. "You don't like having lunch with me?"

Hearing this, Lola stared at him and replied, "You dislike me." She countered with another argument. Harry does not like her anymore. Hell, maybe he did not even like her at all. Well, she would find out later.

Harry began to eat again. As he ignored Lola, Lola thought that she was right.

She ate rice slowly but was still not in the mood.

When she finished half of the rice, Harry had already finished his.

He wiped his mouth, stood, grabbed the chopsticks in Lola's hand and put them on the table.

"Hey! What's the matter?" He even didn't allow her to finish her food? How dare he!

"I want to prove to you that I still like you." He said with passion in his eyes, throwing Lola onto the bed.

Lola was confused, but he ignored her and did what he wanted.

After two o'clock in the afternoon.

Lola blushed. After she straightened her hair, she opened the door of the CEO's office and went straight into the elevator.

She held the handrail in the elevator. Her legs were so weak that she could hardly stand. She almost knelt on the ground. She was tired, but very pleased.

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The scum tortured her again before leaving! How could she let this happen?

Rubbing her sore breasts, she could not believe how easy she has fallen prey again to him.

As soon as she entered the office, Harry followed her.

He opened the door and saw Lola on her desk with her face down. He smiled smugly.

"You... You.... Why you are here again?" She looked at the man in a bit of a panic. How evil this man was

Harry threw the papers on her desk. "You still have to study them today." She knew that this was actually for her benefit. Otherwise, she could turn to nobody for help when he left.

Lola looked at the folder and immediately rolled her eyes. "I can't stand up. My legs are sore." She spoke softly and weakly, staring him at the face.

Harry sat on the sofa and looked at her indifferently. "If you don't go over here and finish them now, you shall work all night." Lola curled her lips and held on the table to stand up. She was that weak. Sitting on the sofa, she pretended to look fine. Harry would never understand. Only she could feel the pain.

They talked in the office for three hours. Harry explained in detail to her the papers and important documents that he just brought in. He emphasized all the acts of caution that she should always take as a leader of the company. "Are we clear about everything?" He leaned against the sofa and squinted at her. She was trying her best to dutifully take down notes.

"If we didn't meet that day, would I be less confused right now? If we didn't meet..." Just then, Lola's cell phone rang. The ringtone was of a sad, melancholic tone, a perfect background for their love story.

"Hello, Zoe." Lola calmly replied to Zoe.

Zoe was having a cigarette while fiddling with the earrings Lola gave him a long time ago. "Are you feeling better?"

Lola smiled and thought how blessed she was for having somebody who was always on her side. "Much better, thanks for your help last night." She talked with Zoe as if no one was around.

Harry heard Lola mention Zoe, and his eyes became intense and piercing. He remembered what happened last night. Her guy friend really cared about her! He was getting skeptical, and a bit jealous.

"My pleasure. Should we go out for dinner tonight?" He just wanted to spend his last hours with her.

"Tonight? Dinner?" She repeated slowly, thinking if her schedule was free tonight.

Harry looked at her who was going to say yes, and suddenly said, "You've got to work tonight!"

... Lola looked at Harry who had closed his eyes so she would not see how his eyes had turned bloodshot red. She totally understood what he meant. He was deliberately stopping her from eating with Zoe.

"Who's talking?" Zoe seemed to hear a man's voice.

"Nobody. I'm in the office, and I'm supposed to work overtime tonight. I'll call you later if I can get out early here." She really felt bad for refusing his invitation. Only when Harry left could she make another appointment with Zoe.

Zoe disappointedly put the earring into his pocket, and calmly replied, "All right, please do keep in touch. I'm just here."

After hanging up the phone, Lola looked at Harry who was squinting, and a bit uneasy. "What do you want?"

Harry slowly got back on his feet. "We are going to eat seafood tonight and bring Nicole along."

... "I won't go with you!" Why did she have to follow him? Lola tried to deny his offer.

Harry put his hands in the pockets of his trousers and gave the woman a cold look. "One more body exercise? I'd love to help you! I love helping you."

Lola's face suddenly flushed with embarrassment. "Harry, you're a bad man!" She was mad. How was he controlling her every action?

Harry walked out of her office, leaving the folders behind, while coughing up a short laugh.

It was a little cold in the evening.

Lola put on a thin white coat to Nicole and took her out of the villa.

In front of the villa, Harry leaned against the car, waiting patiently for them.

He became gentle and happy at the sight of this little one, "Nicole."

"Uncle Harry! Uncle Harry!" Nicole immediately broke away from Lola's hand and ran to Harry.

Nicole rushed carelessly to the steps below. Unfortunately, she missed one step and was about to fall.

Lola ran to her daughter. "Nicole!"

A tall figure, faster than her, caught Nicole before she could fall on the ground.

Lola let out a sigh of relief. She became very scared. If she had fallen to the concrete floor, she would have been badly hurt.

"Thank you." She politely expressed her gratitude. Harry looked at Nicole in his arms and straightened her hairpin.

Nicole looked at Harry like he was her idol and had her arms around his neck, "Uncle Harry, Uncle Harry, you're awesome!" Without her Uncle Harry, she would have figured in an accident.

Hearing the cute voice of the little girl, Harry smiled like he never did before. "You have to be as strong as Uncle Harry when you grow up and protect your mommy, OK?"

Lola's eyes widened in happiness. Did she need protection? "Do I look weak?" She walked close to them and rejected the idea.

"You're not weak, but could be a bit stupid sometimes!" Harry teasingly replied. Nicole laughed at his words. He took Nicole to the back seat and put her in the child's car seat.

Lola bit her lower lip in disgust at Nicole. She laughed loudly when she heard Harry's playful banter. Lola determined to have her payback when she got home!

At Seafood King Restaurant.

Harry had booked a table in advance. He put Nicole in a baby chair next to him, and took the menu from the restaurant manager.

"An Australian lobster, an avocado salad, a steamed sole fish, lake crabs, abalones with oyster sauce, garlic scallops..." He ordered a lot of seafood in one fast motion and passed the menu to Lola, "Do you want anything else?"

She scanned the menu. The food here was very expensive. A single fish dish cost several hundred.

She saw a dish in the menu which reminded her of what happened at noon when Harry advised her to eat more trotters. She promised to be more careful this time around. "Hello, sir, ten mustard oysters and a stew of sea cucumbers with millet and grains."

Certainly, after ordering, she got confused looks from both Harry and the manager.

But the manager maintained a professional stance and kept smiling. "OK. Anything else?"

Lola passed the menu to him, "No, thanks!" Harry had ordered enough food.

After the manager left, Harry poured some juice for Nicole and glanced at the little woman beside him.

Thinking about how they would spend the night after the dinner, Harry said, "Let's get Nicole back home after dinner, wait for her to sleep and you come home with me."

There was no children's room in his house. He did not want Nicole sleeping alone in a room. But they would be disturbed if she slept next to them. So, it was better to let Nicole sleep home and come back for her first thing in the morning.

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Lola got the glass of juice and took a sip. It was fresh and sweet. This place was wonderful.

But his words almost made her choke on the drink. She curtly replied, "Mr. Lewis, I have a home. I have a place to stay. We don't need your help."

Harry did not accept her decline. He wiped away the juice stain on Nicole's mouth and said, "Fine, I will go to your place then."

She was utterly speechless. How could anyone be so determined like him! He almost gets anything that he wants. "I don't think so. Mr. Lewis, you are a VIP and our humble home is way too small for you."

Harry stroked Nicole's chubby little cheek and scornfully cast a glance at her. He needed to teach her a lesson for talking to him like that! He really did not want people treating him differently just because he was a highly-deemed person in the society.

"That's true. I may have a lot of assets and fame is on my side. However, I am also able to adapt myself to any situation. So your humble home suits me just fine." His voice was quite calm and indifferent. But the message he conveyed was strong and clear: he was not going anywhere tonight! He wanted to be with her.

"I was with you during the day, wasn't that enough?" Lola slightly curled up her lips. In the first place, she should be the one annoyed and hurt. She had every right to get mad at him.

Nicole looked at her parents as they argued. Her big eyes blinked as if she could understand what was going on.

"No, not enough! We are talking about the evening now!" The day they both had earlier should be forgotten. They should no longer talk anything in their past.

Lola put down her glass and gazed at the man who was attending to her daughter. She could never predict what he wants and thinks.

One minute later.

"Hot enough?" Harry's eyes were still on Nicole but his question was addressed to Lola.

Lola firmly nodded her head and said, "So shameless! Your shamelessness is quite outrageous! Be careful with your words next time!" She blurted out with a serious expression on her face.

Harry cast a cold glance at her direction and Lola almost bit her tongue. She firmly believed that she had the right to tell him off!

"Nicole, are you hungry already?" He asked the cute girl with a soft voice. He really loved his beautiful little girl. The bond between them was so deep that he loved her from the bottom of his heart. Everything that he did for her was sincere and was out of pure love.

Nicole raised her little cup and took a sip. She replied with a sweet voice and said, "Uncle, I think I will just drink this juice." Nicole knew that the dinner was not yet ready. She was patient enough to wait for the meal.

Harry broke into a smile as he pressed the button and called for service. Someone knocked on the door politely and the manager came in. "Boss Lewis, what can I do for you?"

"Please serve our dishes as soon as possible. Thank you." He calmly requested.

The general manager replied with full respect, "Of course, Boss Lewis. We shall serve them right away!" He already told the kitchen to speed up cooking these dishes as he knew that Boss Lewis was coming to dine tonight.

After saying that the food is almost ready, he briskly went out to attend to the kitchen.

Within five minutes, several waiters walked in one by one with trays in their hands. They looked very professional with their white gloves on.

The general manager laid the dishes onto the table and personally explained every meal to them. "This one is the oyster with mustard sauce. That one is a fresh flounder cooked with ginger and spice. That one over there is a scallop with garlic flavored vermicelli..."

Harry scooped some seafood sauce for Nicole and mixed it with the rice on her plate. He gently put the bowl in front of her.

Lola looked at him as he attended to their daughter. She said nothing but carried on eating the scallop on her plate.

It would be nice for Nicole to call him daddy as he was indeed a very good father. But right now, she was so sure that it was not a good thing to do. The timing is very wrong.

She was concerned that he would still marry Yolanda even if she told him the truth. Then she would lose Nicole as well. Harry would eventually take her with him. Therefore, she chose to remain silent.

She looked at a peeled shrimp on her plate. Harry had put it in her plate for her to eat. Lola was pulled back from her deep thoughts.

Harry noticed the perplexed look on her face and asked, "What are you thinking?" He put down the chopsticks and looked directly into her eyes.

Confused, Lola looked at him. "Huh? Nothing."

Harry leaned over and sealed her mouth with a kiss. "Eat your food." He commanded in a cool voice.

She couldn't be absent-minded while dining with him. It was something that he really did not like.

Nicole saw this and giggled: "Boy kisses a girl, shameful, shameful! My teacher said that boys shouldn't kiss girls. It is something that is not good!"

Lola looked at her daughter as she waved the spoon in the air with her chubby little hands and was amused by her innocence. "Nicole, be a good girl and eat your food. You should not laugh at your mommy!"

Harry was very pleased as he observed both of them, very happy together. He looked at the beautiful woman and the adorable girl sitting next to him. He put on the gloves and cracked open a crab. He skillfully took out the crab meat and served them on their plates.

Just then, someone knocked on the lounge door. Harry said, "Come on in."

The general manager walked in with a big smile, followed by several waiters.

"Boss Lewis, the lobster dish and the rest are all cooked."

He lifted up the lid of the first waiter's tray.

On the tray, there was a huge lobster that weighed over five kilos.

The lobster was beautifully presented on the plate. The head was intact and was delicately laid in the middle of the plate while the body was cut in halves and dressed with a rich creamy sauce. The plate was decorated with green broccoli and other leafy garnish. It looked very tasty and delicious!

"All your dishes are now served. Enjoy your meal!" With these words, the manager left the lounge along with the waiters.

"Wow, such a big lobster!" Nicole was amazed at the size of the lobster. Her little mouth was wide open as she stared at it.

Harry winked and smiled kindly at her. He picked up a piece of the meat and put it into Nicole's spoon. "Try it, Nicole."

He also put some meat onto Lola's plate before digging in himself.

She saw that the father and the daughter had connected very well with each other. Lola enjoyed her meal while watching Harry taking care of Nicole.

She was quite moved that she spontaneously put some oysters and sea cucumbers onto his plate.

Harry cast a meaningful glance at her.

Without hesitation, he dipped the oyster into the mustard sauce and had a big bite. He was not a big fan of spicy food but he could handle a refreshing mustard well.

He finished the rest of the oysters with seafood sauce. He also enjoyed the sea cucumbers that Lola picked for him.

After the meal, Harry drove them to the high street. They walked around to help their bodies digest the food they just ate before heading home. They ate a lot!

Harry carried Nicole in his arms while Lola held onto his arm. The three walked in the busy streets and some people took furtive glances at them.

"I want ice cream!" Nicole spotted an ice cream kiosk and shouted in excitement. Lola reluctantly shook her head and thought that her daughter had enough sweets for the day already.

She was about to turn her down but Harry had already decided to spoil the girl. "Let's go. Uncle will buy you ice cream!"

It was already quite late and Harry did not want her to intake too much sugar. He bought her a scone with just two scoops.

They happily shared the scone together. Lola could not believe her eyes.

No wonder they said that blood is thicker than water! Lola felt left out when these two were together. They connected and interacted in a very natural way.

When they walked passed a toy store, Harry took Nicole's hands and walked straight into the store. There, he bought her dozens of fancy toys.

It was already nine in the evening when Nicole was sent back to the Newman family.

Lola put Nicole to sleep and said to Angie that she needed to deal with some work at the company and she would not come home tonight.

Angie looked at Lola's blushing face and knew straight away that she was lying!

However, she did not try to talk about this, and she simply waved her hands and said, "Just go then and take care." She believed in her daughter.

At Crescent Spring.

On the bedroom balcony.

Lola had a refreshing shower and was sitting on the bench while counting the twinkling stars in the night sky. It was not long until Harry stepped out of the shower. Oh, those beautiful eyes of his haunted her so much.

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Harry didn't find Lola in bed, so he went to the balcony. There she was. She was so beautiful to look at with her swaying with the wind.

Sitting close behind her, he stretched his arms around her waist and laid his head on her shoulder. He could smell the vanilla scented lotion she rubbed on her skin. He was so enticed.

Lola nestled in his arms and neither of them spoke, enjoying the comfort and tranquility of this moment. The road ahead was so uncertain and they wanted to make the most of their time together.

The stars were bright in the night sky. The downtown was still brightly lit in the distance. The view of the night was so pleasing to the sight. It made the night more festive and romantic.

After a long while, Lola broke the silence. "Harry, do you really love me?" She asked the question once four years ago, but she didn't get his answer.

This time, she wondered how he would reply...

Harry pulled her towards him and answered without hesitation, "Yes, I do."

With a smile, she turned her head and took hold of his neck. "I don't want to let you go. Please don't leave me alone. Can you do that?" How could she live without him?

As she buried her face in his arms, Harry kept silent for a while before he spoke his mind. "I'll take you and Nicole to a place where nobody knows us. We'll start all over again. How about that?" He pulled her up and looked her intently in the eyes.

Lola was shocked. Was he proposing that they elope with Nicole? Why?

Everything was so vague just moments ago. Now, how did they come this far? Was Harry hiding something from her? Was he suffering from deep sorrow? Why would he rather run off with her than publicly break off the engagement with Yolanda?

However, if that was the case, he must be suffering from some really difficult dilemma. Well, she guessed that it must be Rose who had put him in this very hard time of his life.

Thinking of the possibility, she shook her head gently. Rose was Harry's mother. How could she force him to harm his family for her sake?

"I hope you will think of me when you hold and touch another woman!" She threw her arms around his neck again and looked closely at his face.

Harry, who can't imagine putting his hands on any other woman, kissed her passionately on the lips and answered, "Of course, I will."

Hearing his words, Lola shot him a pout and said accusingly, "Did you just mean that you will make love to another girl?"

Harry could not utter a word but laughed. He did not mean that!

He stood from the recliner, picked her up and went inside the bedroom.

The two woke up to the light cast by the morning sun. They lay comfortably in each other's arms.

At eight in the morning, Lola hurriedly got out of the Maserati and ran into the elevator.

"I'm going to be late for the meeting again!" she thought. "What a shame."

Harry, however, got out of the car only a few moments after Lola went inside the elevator.

Lola had warned him, "Don't get out of the car before I am in the office. We cannot be seen taking the same elevator!"

Lola presided over the morning meeting, She was getting used to being the leader. Her performance did not disappoint Harry. She was good at it.

She was a woman of decisive character, and with considerable insight into investment. Her only weakness would be her very kind heart. Kindness is a weakness in business. One has to be competitive at all times.

She stayed for two hours in the CEO office and this time, it was truly about work.

She was in a good mood because of last night. When they had finished talking about work, a series of rapid knocks on the door interrupted them.

"Come in!" Lola moved sideways to keep a reasonable distance from Harry.

To their surprise, Yolanda came in. She was supposed to be in Uthana right at this very moment.

She wore a rose-red one-piece hip skirt and high heels with the similar striking color. Her hair scattered behind her back.

Looking at Lola sitting beside Harry, she repressed her jealousy and anger and put on a smiling face.

"Harry!" She called him gently and walked towards him.

Harry frowned. "Why did you come back?"

Yolanda noticed Harry's displeasure and her heart pinched with pain.

She was really upset that Harry was with Lola. Every single day that Harry stayed in Ascea was a torture for her.

"Your mother told me to bring you back to Uthana." She smiled and sat on Harry's right side. At that moment, the three of them formed a straight line. It was rather awkward.

Lola glanced at both of them, flashed an impish smile, and put her arms around the man's neck. "Boss Lewis, I have to go now. Remember to miss me!" For emphasis, she gave Harry a kiss on the lips.

Then she stood and walked to the office door, ignoring Yolanda, who was gnashing her teeth in deep rage.

Downright furious, Yolanda would by no means let Lola just walk out of this!

"Lola, stop!" Hearing her shrill voice, Harry became very nervous. Yolanda rose to her feet and followed Lola.

Lola didn't stop her walking. Yolanda was thinking too highly of herself if she thought that Lola would follow her order!

Yolanda strode forward and pulled Lola, paying no attention to what Harry will think. Today, she must teach her a lesson!

When Lola reached for the doorknob, Yolanda grasped her hand and tightened her grip.

She freed her hand with a jerk and glared at Yolanda. "Let go of me! You're too filthy!" Lola hated being touched by Yolanda! She could not stand being harassed by such evil person.

Yolanda was really mad. "How dare she accuse me of being filthy? Who does she think she is?" she thought. Her tone suddenly changed. Her aura lightened and she put on a smirk. Lola was confused. "Harry and I are getting married soon. We both invite you to our wedding."

The man looked coldly at the two quarreling women and sat down in his chair, obviously tired of the quarrel. Slowly, he lit a cigarette, trying to ignore what was happening.

Lola wasn't annoyed by Yolanda's words. He walked to the man and clasped her hands around his neck. "It's okay. When he holds you, he would be thinking of me. I'm satisfied with that! When he is touching you, he is making love to me!"

Beaming with pleasure, Lola fixed her eyes on Harry as she spoke to Yolanda.

How could Yolanda not be angry about this shameful disrespect! Harry sat emotionless, continued smoking his cigarette and looked at Lola. She did whatever she liked and he seemed to have no intention of stopping her.

For a moment, Yolanda almost gave up, but this man had been in her heart for more than ten years! How could he be so heartless, saying goodbye and never looking back?

But even so, she was once important in his heart, wasn't she?

Yolanda was relieved at the thought of this. "No matter what, you're merely a mistress. It's okay you don't care about your own reputation. But don't you care about the reputation of your family? Be ashamed of yourself!"

This greatly angered Lola. Smirking and pouting yet again, she squinted at Harry. He was not going to do anything about it, then?

"You're right! Well, you can have my worn-out shoes! You're welcome! I just don't care, okay?" Lola's words cast a shadow over the faces of both Yolanda and Harry. In the end, Harry coldly puffed a heavy smoke into her mouth. It choked her until her tears burst out.

"Ugh..." She broke away from him and stooped, coughing violently. The bastard toyed with her again!

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Staring at the two people acting too intimately right in front of her, Yolanda could not wait to scratch a dent in the woman's face! A shameless woman!

When she stopped coughing, Lola took Harry's hand, kissed him on the wrist and gently bit it before slowly letting go. She quickly left.

Harry and Yolanda had always been very rough on her! She would not just stay here and be bullied! She would fight back in the way that she knew the best.

Harry looked down at the fresh bite mark on his hand and smiled.

The office door slammed shut. "Harry...", whined Yolanda in a weak voice.

"Go back to Uthana. I'll be back soon." He said with his back to her, not paying attention to the pain she just felt right now. His faint tone did not reveal the slightest emotion.

Yolanda was still struggling. "It was your mother who asked me..."

"I won't say it again!" His cold tone forced a chilling sensation all over her body. He has never been like this before.

He had his own plans. He needed to attend to them first. After all, Lola's birthday was fast approaching...

Footsteps came from behind, and then the familiar sound of the closing of the door. After Yolanda left, Harry called in Joey.

Looking at the two women who went out after one another, Joey felt a tingle in his spine as he became nervous of how their boss was feeling at this very moment.

He listened attentively! After all, it was Lola who his boss loved with all his heart and soul. He knows this like he knows how the lines in his palm connect to each other.

Poor Yolanda! Her emotions always get the best of her!

"Is the gift ready?"

Joey nodded. "I received a phone call from Switzerland this morning and they told that the gift will arrive tomorrow!" That was a gift that his boss had given a lot of time to think about and prepare.

Harry nodded and let Joey go back to his work.

After two peaceful days, Lola's birthday came. She had been so occupied with work and how to be the next CEO. She had almost forgotten her birthday!

At eleven o'clock in the morning, Leo knocked on the office door.

"Miss Newman, your package is here!" He put a small box on her desk.

"Thank you!" Her package? With her hands trembling a bit, she slowly opened the package and saw a fine wooden box. She opened the box and saw a beautiful crystal bracelet.

Who sent it? She curiously fiddled with the box and found a piece of paper that read: "Happy Birthday, Little Princess!"

She then realized that today is her birthday!

However, there was no signature on the paper. Was it sent by her brother? Or...

Just when she guessed wildly, her phone rang.

It was Zoe! "Hello!" She answered briskly, guessing that it was probably sent by Zoe!

Sure enough! Taken aback by her cheerful voice, Zoe asked, "Do you like the birthday gift?"

Looking at the shining crystal bracelet, she answered, "Of course, I like it very much. It's very beautiful!"

Laughing spontaneously, Zoe was pleased that she liked it. "Lola, happy birthday!" He extended his heartfelt greeting.

As for any implicit emotion, probably only he knew it!

"Thank you, my dear Zoe!" She responded half-jokingly.

Despite knowing that Lola was joking when she called him "dear", it still felt good and his heart thumped a bit!

"You owe me a treat!" He said bashfully, because he knew that she would be very busy tonight. Of course, he knew that he wouldn't be the one she would be spending her birthday with.

Lola put on her bracelet and gleefully nodded, "Sure! You have my word!" By the time Harry leaves, she would see to it that she invite Zoe to dinner!

After hanging up, Lola lifted her wrist, looked at the elegant bracelet, and raised it so the sun shone upon it. The bracelet reflected the sparkling light. It was very gorgeous and she was entranced by it.

At noon, Lola was finishing her morning work. She tidied up her stuff, readying to have lunch.

She heard a knock at the office door. It was Leo. She stopped and asked, "What's the matter?"

Leo looked at Lola and replied with respect. "The Security Department just called and asked you to go outside." There were some packages outside and they were blocking the company entrance and exit doors.

Lola curiously looked down from the window and saw a bunch of people surrounding something she could not tell. Was it another birthday gift for her? Who sent it? Harry? If it was sent by Harry, she was looking forward to...

No, it couldn't be Harry. He was about to go to Uthana and get married. He wouldn't exert such enormous effort anymore.

Zoe had already sent her a gift. Then maybe was it sent by Joshua? No way, he did not have the guts! So, it was sent by Thomas?

Before she got out of the company building, she was already pressed by her envious colleagues.

She heard faint voices saying that the package was very expensive.

It was lunch time. A dozen colleagues gave way for Lola to pass by when they saw her come.

About one hundred small boxes with lovely packaging were placed on the floor in a heart shape.

She took a closer look and guessed they were lipsticks.

"Miss Newman, this is sent by your boyfriend, right? My God, ninety-nine colors of international Feel!"

A colleague boldly approached her and shouted excitedly. Lola was surprised, too. Feel was a sought-after lipstick brand.

Even one piece would cost over one thousand bucks, and there were ninety-nine of it here, which would be worth at least hundreds of thousands!

She shook her head in confusion, having no idea who sent it!

"Miss Newman, please affix your signature on the delivery form." The two good-looking girls who delivered the lipsticks cast envious glances on Lola when they confirmed that she was the recipient.

Lola wrote her name on the receipt. Her cell phone rang again.

The lipsticks were sent by Thomas, but he didn't seem to be such a high-profile person...

"Hello." She answered the call.

Thomas put down his pen and smiled. "Do you like it?" He had asked his cousin for advice before he decided to send Lola the lipsticks as birthday gift.

Lola stood still and for a moment, she did not know what to say. More and more colleagues were whispering with envy.

"It's too expensive!" replied Lola, even though she knew that Thomas wouldn't care about the money at all.

Thomas smiled awkwardly. "Well, don't you like it?" His cousin told him that every woman loves cosmetics and they use them almost every day.

He then thought that it would be the best choice.

Before Lola answered Thomas, she heard her colleagues greeting Boss Lewis!

She was afraid to look back, but she smiled and raised her voice. "I love it, thank you for your gift!"

Hearing her joyful voice, Thomas smiled too. "That's great. Lola, happy birthday!"

"Well, thank you!" Then she hung up the phone.

Harry stared at the lipsticks on the floor. Joey felt a chill run down his back when he took a glance at his boss.

He heard the colleagues talking about the lipsticks, so he tipped Harry off.

Then Harry said, "It's lunchtime already. Don't mind this." And he strode out of the office.

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Hearing Lola say that she liked the gift so much, Harry was further irritated.

This was definitely not sent by a woman. While Lola had a few close female friends, they would not give her such an expensive lipstick. Let alone so many!

This was done by a man who had feelings for her. Maybe Joshua? No, Joshua did not dare do this kind of a favor. So, it was sent either by Zoe or Thomas!

"Miss Newman!" His cold voice instantly dispersed the people around Lola and her gift.

The sun was torching hot. Although Lola did not look back, she already had an idea who shouted at her.

"Help me to put them away, thank you." She looked at the large box of lipsticks next to her and requested the two beautiful women to help her.

Then she turned around with a lovely smile, "Boss Lewis, are you going out to have lunch?"

What? How could she be so happy like this?

Harry looked directly at her, whose face was filled with joy, and spit a few words, "Throw them to the trash!"

If she dared to refuse, he would pinch her neck. Harry was so jealous and enraged.

Lola cursed him in her mind, "Fuck!" "I'm sorry, Boss Lewis, this is a gift from my friend. You don't have any right to deal with them."

After saying these words, she held the large boxes full of lipsticks packed by the two beautiful women and walked to her own car.

They were very heavy!

She immediately received a WeChat message after she put them in the trunk and became very terrified when she read the text. "You are doomed this evening." Harry and Joey had disappeared when she looked back.

Was this a real threat or just a prank? Lola was a bit confused. Maybe she would leave early after work and hurry home. It should be all right!

Rumors and gossips had spread within the SL Group. She heard a lot of it as she was going back to the office.

Everyone had known that Miss Newman received a very special gift from her suitor: 99 lipsticks of different colors from a very famous international brand.

A mixed combination admiration and jealousy filled the air.

But right after lunch break, all the colleagues got an email of disposition when they started to work.

It said that Miss Newman did not abide by the company rules during work and has caused unproductivity and other bad effects on the company. The following penalties are imposed as a punishment: penalties for three months and continuous overtime work for one month.

The gossips got louder and fiercer. As it was sent from the mailbox of Joey, it must have been ordered by the CEO.

Some people said that Boss Lewis still loved Miss Newman. The old adage says that the deeper the love is, the deeper the hatred will be!

Some said that the CEO pretended to be adamant in separating public from personal affairs. Some said that he got jealous.

Actually, Joshua knew that the CEO got very envious.

He did not dare to involve himself in the relationship between Lola and Harry after what he had experienced last time. He just wanted to do his work the best way he can.

However, after thinking about it, he still sent a greeting to Lola, "Happy birthday!"

Lola was very depressed while staring at the company's e-mail. But she felt much better after reading her birthday greetings. There's no better time than your birthday.

After quickly replying "thank you" to Joshua, she put the phone aside and continued to stare at the email.

Continuous overtime work for a month! How would she be able to take care of Nicole?

She would like to protest! Wasn't she allowed to take an immunity from her behavior today? It was her birthday! He did not even send a gift himself, so maybe he became very insecure upon learning that men have been giving her lots of presents

She sent Harry a message, "I am going to protest this punishment!"

Harry looked at the words coldly. He put down the documents in his hands, and replied, "Talk to me in person tonight after work!"

Should she have to personally talk to him? What for? It seemed that there was still some opportunity to negotiate her punishment.

Then she could finally be relieved. She hoped for the best. She took out a document and began reading it so she could take her mind off from the email.

Harry personally called Jordan before going off from work and then he went to the parking lot to wait for Lola.

Lola, who was still desperately reading the contract in the office, suddenly received another WeChat message, "Come to the parking garage now!"

She curiously checked the WeChat message and found that it indeed came from Harry. Should she try to negotiate now?

Then she packed her stuff, grabbed her bag and left the office without thinking too much.

In the parking garage.

Tapping the steering wheel repeatedly with his slender fingers, Harry was deep in his thoughts.

Lola looked around to make sure none was looking in this direction. Then she quickly opened the door of the black Maserati and sat in the co-pilot seat.

Harry started the car and drove out of the parking garage.

"Hey! Could you please tell me where we are going first?" She looked out of the window and did not expect for any reply.

Would they celebrate her birthday together?

The man drove quietly without a word and finally stopped in front of a fancy restaurant.

They walked in the building, proceeded to the elevator and when they reached the 55th floor, the luxury restaurant on the top floor was playing light romantic music.

The dim light illuminated the dining tables. One of them leaning against the edge was lit with white candles.

So... Are they here for a candlelight dinner?

Feelings of fondness and anxiety filled her fragile heart. Was he going to celebrate her birthday with her?

He gently held her hand and walked to that table, pulling the chair off for her to seat. It was a real romantic gesture.

They sat down face to face. The large dining table was decorated with a few red roses in the middle.

Moments after they sat down, several waiters with trays came over and placed plates of Western food one by one in front of them.

The first plate was foie gras and caviar.

They could easily see the beautiful night scenery of Ascea. It was exhilarating. Looking at Lola, Harry did not speak. Lola also chose to keep silent.

Filling her mouth with caviar, Lola felt a little uneasy, worrying that this candlelight dinner would just pass in silence. She did not know what to say.

"Don't you have anything to say?" She glanced at the man elegantly eating foie gras, whose aura was so noble and natural.

The man just rolled his eyes and silently glanced at her.

Lola pouted her lips in displeasure. What kind of celebration was this?

The waiters came over to get the empty plates. Several minutes later, they served seafood soup and Italian vegetable soup.

Slowly taking in the seafood soup, Lola casually looked around, glaring at the empty table beside them now and then. She wondered if Harry had booked the whole restaurant. She preferred that they be alone.

Then she looked at the roses on the table, which were different from those of Ascea and might have come from somewhere far.

At last, she casted her eyes on the man who sat opposite to her, guessing whether he would keep silent until the end of the dinner. This stupid guy!

Then the main courses were served, including the cooked sirloin steak, the sautéed silver carp, and the roasted turkey.

Noticing that Lola was festively eating her steak, Harry put his untouched steak on her plate. Seeing the already chopped steak on her plate, Lola became very ecstatic

He would always cut the steak for her every time they eat Western food together.

They focused on their food without making any sounds.

Lola was almost full after eating the main courses. Then the waiter brought up the cheeses and the fruits.

They ate the cheese first, and then proceeded to consume the fruits. When they were finished eating, Lola wiped her mouth, stood up from her seat, and walked to the other side of the rooftop without saying anything.

A cool breeze blew in and Lola's long hair fluttered in the wind.

"Did you enjoy the food?" Harry embraced her from behind. Lola did not expect this. But she liked it so much, wishing they would be like this forever.

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Fascinated by the flickering lights in the distance, she simply nodded in response.

Harry stayed still behind her and put his arms around her waist. Surrounded by an aura of safety and love, Lola willingly fell into his arms, cozy and comfortable. She enjoyed and cherished the serenity of this moment.

Harry held out his hand and pointed ahead.

Confused, Lola squinted and then looked to where his finger pointed. There is a huge electronic billboard. Suddenly, the advertisement changed into a word made up of roses -- Lola, against a background of heart shape and there followed a sentence that said, "Happy Birthday. I love you!"

This breathtaking view was witnessed by many people. Birthday surprises on a huge screen in the city center were definitely not planned by ordinary people. Advertising spaces like this were very expensive!

Lola's heart pounded and there was no way to calm it down. She held his hand around her waist tightly, with her eyes fixed on the billboard.

Was this his way of showing his love to her?

Lola blushed and looked up at Harry who happened to be watching her. She comfortably put her head against his chest.

"Thanks!" There she was, happy and contented. She had never felt like this before. This was something new, and she loved every bit of it.

Harry kissed Lola's soft red lips and looked at the image on the billboard.

He let himself indulge in the moment and spend some time with Lola without being disturbed by anyone or anything.

When Lola finally collected her thoughts and came back to her senses, Harry took her out of the restaurant.

Back at the car, Lola said, "Thank you, Harry. You have made my day complete." With a big smile, she tilted her face and rested her head on his shoulders.

Harry took the chance that the red light provided and gave her a long loving kiss. Lola pouted playfully, "Stop at the next crossing. I'll grab a taxi home." He must have been tired already, from all the issues and stress at work.

Harry gave her a meaningful look, which left Lola wondering about his plans for the future.

She turned around and looked out the window. He was about to drive her home. This beautiful night was about to end.

He was the boss today! However...

This was not the route to her home.

She turned to Harry, puzzled. What was this about? Clearly, this was the way back to Crescent Spring. Lola was good at directions. Was he driving her to Crescent Spring?

"I've called Jordan. He knows that you are staying with me." Harry noticed her confusion, so he explained and assured her.

... He called Jordan? "What did you say to him?"

"That you are mine tonight!" He declared with such pride.

Lola blushed at once. How could her brother say yes to him after everything that happened? "No way. My parents would kill me if I stay out all night again!" She got slightly anxious.

"Jordan will tell them that you have gone to Uthana on urgent business. You should need not worry." He skillfully steered the car towards the opposite direction and drove into Crescent Spring.

What else could she say to stop him? She has no other reasons to say no. She has ran out of excuses.

Just when Harry and Lola walked into the villa hand in hand, Joey sneaked out with few other guys.

There was a dim light in the house, but Lola didn't pay attention to it because she was busy changing her shoes.

But the moment she turned around, she was stopped right in her tracks..

She was completely amazed by the scene before her. She covered her mouth with her shaking hands. She didn't know what to feel or think.

A several-meter-long path made of rose petals winded up to the second floor, and jelly candles in goblets were placed along it at both sides. It was such a romantic scene.

Two-tone candles formed letters that spelled "Happy Birthday!"

Harry suddenly became nervous and worried about what Lola would feel. This is just a very simple gesture. He took Lola's hand and led her to the second floor.

When Joey first suggested this plan, he was a bit skeptical. He had not done anything like this before.

Well! He would now double Joey's salary as his reward!

The path of roses and candles, which splendidly lighted up the corridor, led them to Harry's bedroom in the second floor.

The lighting in the bedroom was dusky as well.

Roses were all over the place, surrounding a decorated board saying "Happy Birthday".

Rose petals on the bed creatively formed a shape of a heart.

While Lola was feeling the fresh and tender petals on the floor, she heard Harry calling to her. "Lola."

She turned around. In the dim light, he came closer to her, holding a heart-shaped cake that had two candles representing her age. She had turned 26 today.

Tears streamed down her face as Harry slowly approached her.

Lola had never experienced such heavenly happiness. This was what love could do and only Harry could make her feel like this!

She never expected a dignified man like Harry would do this sweet gesture for her.

Harry stood before her, putting on his usual charming smile. Watching Lola sobbing, he couldn't help feeling protective towards her.

"Make a wish, Lola." He patiently waited for her as Lola was too excited to think clearly.

Lola wiped her tears, closed her eyes and made a wish. Then they blew the candles together.

When Harry was about to cut the cake, Lola playfully put some cream on his nose and laughed loudly.

Harry put the knife down, took hold of her hand and licked the cream left on her finger.

Lola quivered at his warm touch, and shyly cast her eyes down. Suddenly, she felt something cold was put around her wrist.

She looked down her wrist only to find out Harry putting a lovely-looking watch on her.

She took a closer look and found it mounted with approximately 100 small diamonds!

Then Harry fetched something out of his pocket and gave it to Lola. "Help me wear it."

It was a black version of her watch, except that this one was a man's version. Apparently, Harry had bought a couple watch for both of them.

She took the watch and gently put it on his wrist.

Harry embraced her and whispered, "Happy birthday, Lola!" 'I love you!'

Harry said these words only in his thoughts. He didn't want to give her any more pressure and pain.

Lola held him tightly. "Harry, I'm so happy today!" She was indeed very happy. How she wished this moment of happiness could last forever!

Harry held her delicate face and kissed her tears away. "Do not cry, even if I won't be around in the future!" I love you, Lola.

Even Harry himself didn't know for sure how much he loved her.

Hearing this, Lola was reminded of the fact that he was leaving, and more tears streamed down her already wet cheeks.

But at least, he had given her such a perfect and precious memory as her birthday gift.

She put her arms around Harry's neck and stood on her toes to kiss him gently. This was the best day of her life.