No Escape 191

Chapter 191

Soon enough, the petals on the bed were mashed.

The night went on deeper and deeper. The blessings that showed up on the big screen in the distance were replaced in five hours and twenty-one minutes.

And it was said that it took thousands or tens of thousands of dollars to rent that big screen just for a seconds' time. It would have cost a fortune to rent it for that long, for five hours and twenty-one minutes. Oh My God... Lola was so happy.

In the WeChat group of SL, all of her colleagues were so excited. Lola! They guessed that Miss Newman must be challenged by another suitor.

Their goddess was so praised and loved that she got many gifts and love confessions on her birthday! But these gifts and confessions all cost a lot, and it didn't took long for people to start to suspect that her suitors included Thomas and Harry.

From that moment on, Lola had become a living legend of the SL Group.

The following day, Harry carried Lola into the car and sent her to the company's underground parking lot. Lola spoke the same words as she always did, "I'll go up first, wait here for a second."

However, after Lola dragged her jelly legs back to the office, Harry was still sitting and smoking in the car.

Then he started his car and drove back to Crescent Spring.

Lola hosted the morning conference of the day absent-mindedly. The empty seat next to her made her feel that something bad might have happened.

Did he arrive? Why wasn't he there?

Back at her office, Lola checked her e-mail and suddenly collapsed.

Although she had well prepared for this news, her heart still sank heavy to the bottom of the sea floor. She couldn't help crying when she read that the company officially nominated her today as the acting CEO of the company.

Her official nomination meant that he would leave.

And last night was actually their final night. She heard him whisper in her ears: "Lola, forget me!"

She tightly held in her right hand the watch sent by him and remembered his love from last night. How could she ever forget him! His every movement attracted her in a fatalistic way.

Were they done because of Yolanda?

And in that moment, she wished that Yolanda would disappear from the world!

...

As he heard the crying in the office, Joey paused.

His boss would board on a plane to leave tomorrow morning, so he was now handing over the work.

He came to tell Lola of his boss's flight. Hearing her sob like that he bet that a proud woman like Lola was certainly not reluctant to be seen weak by others. He decided not to disturb her.

Joey sighed, put his hand down, which was just about to knock on the door, and left.

When Joey told Harry about this event in his study at Crescent Spring, Harry was standing by the window, admiring the dark night sky, and smoking a cigarette.

He frowned and his face was filled with a rare, distressed expression of his.

The only woman he felt sorry for in his whole life was her.

And every time he hugged her to sleep, Lola always gently stuck in his arms.

She wasn't as stubborn, arrogant and bad-tempered as she seemed to be... She turned out to be soft and gentle.

And he certainly knew for sure that she wouldn't dare behave like that in front of someone she did not love.

All in all, at the end of the day, he broke her heart.

But in comparison with Yolanda, he loved Lola much more.

He loved her so much that he could easily get excited just at the mere sight of her.

However, he had to give up on her, the only one he truly loved.

Then he remembered Nicole, the cute little girl.

Uncle won't be able to play with you anymore in the future.

It was midnight.

Jordan called Lola again and again but her phone was power off. He got worried with a grim sense of foreboding.

Although he was hesitant for a moment, in the end he called Harry.

"Jordan." Harry spoke with a hoarse voice, and seemed to be tired and sad, too.

"Is Lola with you?" He hoped that they were together. Then he could be relieved.

He replied instantly: "No, I'm working from home."

Jordan hung up on him and became more and more nervous.

Lola wouldn't leave home without leaving a word. Even if it were that she wouldn't be coming back, she would've definitely informed her family beforehand of her leave.

Jordan then called Joseph, who seemed to be in a pub, again. He struggled in asking him if Lola had got in touch with him, but Joseph said no.

Lola, who had never been late for work, didn't show up the following day either.

That was when everyone realized that Lola had disappeared...

Harry and Joey packed their things and were about to leave for the airport to fly to Uthana.

In the VIP waiting room at the airport.

"Please note that passengers on the C330 flight to the Vleydon in Uthana will start boarding now... " The announcer's sweet voice came from the loudspeaker above. Harry dressed in a casual black suit and wearing sunglasses in the VIP waiting room, stood up and walked to the ticket gate.

Joey, who dragged two suitcases behind, followed him. They waited in line.

By now, Joey got a call from the company. Several minutes later:

"Boss, Leo, assistant to Miss Newman, just called. He said that Miss Newman didn't come in for work today either!" Hearing these words, Harry frowned. He remembered that in the first half of last night, Jordan had asked him if she was with him. Did something happen to her?

He got out of the ticket line, and standing aside took out his cell phone and called Jordan: "Is Lola with you?"

The question asked by Harry made Jordan feel uneasy.

He immediately passed his plane ticket to Joey and ran straight out of the airport.

Joey looked at his boss, and then looked at the flight tickets. He didn't have the time to think twice. He followed Harry running out of the airport.

They took a taxi back to the company building. Harry kept calling Lola on the road, but her phone was still closed.

Harry first checked the security camera recordings of the night before in the monitoring room the moment he got back.

At 6:45, the woman stumbled out of the building slowly, on foot, and without driving her car.

Then he looked at the outside monitoring area, and saw her walking north along the road and then vanishing from the camera's range.

He immediately asked Joey to contact the police to check the following street camera videos.

He went to her office, which was empty, and could vaguely smell in the air her perfume.

He closed his eyes and spoke to himself: "Lola, come out. Don't play games like this anymore!"

How deeply he had hurt her!

He slammed the door and drove from the parking lot to look for her on the streets of the city.

It was already hot in this season, and there were only a few people on the street.

After turning a corner to another street, Joey called him: "BOSS, I checked the street cameras. They showed that Miss Newman was kidnapped by three men next to the ZS Park."

Kidnapped? This was even more worrying than leaving by herself!

"Start searching for her all over the city! Use as much police force as possible. I'll pay for everything incurred!" His cold voice made Joey shudder and he immediately started looking for someone to arrange a police search for Lola.

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Another person could definitely contribute more. Harry called Jordan to tell him about what happened. Jordan immediately sent out for the army to search the city and then reported the events that had happened to his father.

So far, they had just found out that Lola had been gone missing for almost20 hours already!

The second daughter of the Newman family had suddenly disappeared, and a large number of police and military personnel were dispatched to search for her, instantly causing commotion and controversy in Ascea.

In the government of Ascea.

In the entire five-storey government courtyard, there was no dust. The president's office in the office building was austere and discreet.

Thomas, who had been impeached by senior officials recently due to the various rumors that ran around regarding his relationship with Lola, was now busy handling his official duties. His chauffeur came in and said: "Mr. President, there is a matter that I don't know whether I should report it to you or not."

As the chauffeur knew that the relationship between Thomas and Lola was special, he felt that it was his duty that he should tell him the truth when he heard about this matter.

"What's up?" Thomas glanced at his chauffeur, who seldom spoke in this manner.

The chauffeur told Thomas the news he had just heard of. "Mr. President, Miss Newman has been

missing now for nearly a day and a night. The CEO of the SL Group is using all his power and influence to look for her, and Lieutenant Harold and Colonel Jordan has also dispatched their own army to conduct a thorough search operation."

Thomas stopped smiling and put the documents that he was handling down. Was she really missing?

"What kind of police did Harry dispatch?" He asked in detail as he didn't want to repeat or stay on repeat.

The driver soon recalled: "Hundreds of armed police and special police officers from the General Public Security Department of Ascea have been searching now for five hours but with no luck yet. It also was said that Miss Newman's daughter also disappeared this morning. The entire Newman family was in total disarray. Harry once again made arrangements for two other International Criminal Police

Investigation Teams from the United Nations, and also an Anti-Terrorist and Ballistics Task Force Teams to be on standby. "

Harry was so powerful that he could have even competed with the President himself in power and influence! Even the UN International Criminal Police team, which could not be mobilized at any time not even by the President, was now easily moved by him!

Was this man going to overturn Ascea just for a mother and daughter?

"Since he has already dispatched so many police forces, I will personally go to the Newman family and speak with them!" Thomas stood up. He was so busy these days that he did not have the time anymore to visit her. How did this happen?

The chauffeur quickly stopped Thomas. "Mr. President, this is not right at all! The senior government officials are trying to impeach you. You should certainly avoid such matters at all costs at the moment!"

Had it not been for his strong family background, Thomas would have already been impeached and stripped of his position by those people.

Thomas now rubbed his painful temples. He didn't care about his position and had no attachments to it whatsoever. However, both of his grandparents had done a lot for him and had gone at great lengths to get him in this position, and now, as it was expected, he was definitely not allowed to give it just away!

"Inform me immediately as soon as the smallest progresses are made!" And now he had just to wait.

The chauffeur nodded and got out of the office.

Sitting on his chair, Thomas closed his eyes.

He was so busy every day that he did not have time to think about her. "Lola, be safe!" he thought.

In the dark basement.

Lola slept for a long time and eventually woke up in a dark chamber.

Slowly opening her eyes, she found herself tied tightly by the arms and legs by a very thick rope. There was only a very small light bulb with a very low dim light over her head.

There was a pungent musty smell in the air and there were no windows. Where was she? Or better yet, why was she here?

She gathered all her strength to sit up and saw a small silhouette, which was also tied and thrown to the ground, not that far from her.

In the pink dress with which Lola was more than familiar with was dressed her daughter. "Nicole!" Lola, who earlier was calm, was now desperately trying to reach out for her daughter.

As she was tied and could not stand up, she had to crawl on the floor on her knees to get to her.

"Nicole, Nicole..." She gently called her twice. "Nicole, mommy's baby, wake up soon." Her daughter seemed to be sleeping strange, something that made Lola's voice shake a bit.

She laid her back to the ground again, in parallel with her daughter.

Nicole had her eyelids shut tight. There wasn't a single sign that she would wake up soon, and this terrified Lola.

"Nicole, my baby! Wake up!" begged Lola. She caressed her daughter's little face with her own, but Nicole still didn't move.

Lola, by now, got more and more anxious. What could she do?

By this time, the people outside the chamber she and her daughter were held captive in, heard the noise inside she was making and opened the door.

A bright white light shone on Lola's face, which forced her to close her eyes.

Around her she saw that there were some very old pieces of furniture. The men standing in the

doorway were wearing black hoods and tattered clothes, with only their eyes and lips showing out.

"Who are you, what do you want to do to us?" asked Lola. She regained her wits and with difficulty started standing up on her legs.

One of the men stared at her with cold eyes. "Stay there and be quiet. We won't harm you. Someone will give you something to eat later." His voice sounded very rough and dumb, and it seemed more like he was trying to change the sound of his voice.

Lola quickly nodded, "I am willing to cooperate with you. Please, first untie my daughter. She is just a child!" She tried to barter with the men with calm.

The men glanced at one another, and the hooded man walked in and began to untie the ropes on Nicole.

As the man approached her, Lola smelled the fishy stink of his clothes and body. She tried to overcome the disgust this foul odor gave her by sniffing air out of her nose more often. This smell reminded her of the fishermen at the seaside.

Outside the chamber they were held captive in, there was just another empty room, with one table and a few chairs around it, she couldn't tell anything of her surroundings yet, of where she was.

"What happened to my daughter? What is your purpose in all of this?" she cried.

Seeing that the man untied the ropes for Nicole, Lola got closer to her.

The man with the hood looked at her and said: "We are only acting on what we are ordered to do. She will soon wake up. As for the purpose of all of this, we do not know!"

After saying these words, he threw the ropes that bounded Nicole aside, and again closed the door. The room was now dark again.

"Nicole, don't sleep, please wake up soon!" Their masked kidnappers must have drugged Lola's daughter, otherwise she wouldn't have slept so abnormally deep.

What monsters would do this sort of thing to a three year old child?!

Who the hell did this? Could it have been Yolanda? At present time, she was the number one suspect.

But the man said just now that they wouldn't harm her and someone would bring them food soon enough.

If Yolanda kidnapped them, wouldn't she have harmed them?

This ruled out Yolanda. Then who could have done this to them? She was clueless.

Why did they kidnap the both of them?

The family must be now in a total mess and discord. Ah! She let her family worry about her again! In the Newman family.

Landon was walking around restlessly in the living room. Although he had been through a lot, his face was still filled with that specific feeling of anxiety that you often end up in during moments like this.

It had been more than a day and a night, and they still had no news about his daughter and granddaughter.

Angie, who was always standing by his side with a pale face, was also unable to sit down.

Next to her, Evelyn shed heavy tears. She blamed herself for not taking good care of Nicole Those people had also drugged her, and that was how they had managed to take Nicole away.

The door of the villa was left opened, and Joseph rushed in the room like a gust of wind.

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"Grandfather, mother, have you got any news yet?" Hearing that Lola and Nicole were kidnapped, Joseph took the first flight back from Uthana.

Landon looked at him and sighed.

Angie suddenly grabbed her cap and walked out.

"Mother, what are you doing?" he asked. Getting no answer, Joseph was starting to become also more and more anxious.

With her mind wandering in other places than the present moment, Angie answered: "I have to look for them. I can't just sit by at home and do nothing!"

"Angie, don't bother, you can't find them by yourself, and also so many people are looking for them. Calm down. Don't worry. Joseph will look for them, " said Landon. He calmed down and eventually sat down on the sofa.

Joseph rushed to pull Angie back from leaving to search for Lola and Nicole. "Mother, I'll go look for them. Wait at home. Please!"

He ran out.

Everyone in Ascea knew Miss Newman of SL Group was kidnapped, and of course so did all the employees.

Harry returned to take charge in his own hands. He had finished all the documents in the CEO office.

It had been more than one day, but Joey hadn't called in yet.

Harry had searched Ascea thoroughly in every nook and cranny but couldn't find Lola and Nicole. Did they leave Ascea?

No, it wasn't plausible. He already had guessed that the kidnappers aimed at the old pocket watch.

If so, Lola and Nicole wouldn't be put in danger before they got to it. He would have to wait.

The phone rang, and he immediately picked it up to see who was calling. His face shifted at the sight of the caller's name.

"Mother!"

Rose was furious at him. Harry had promised to return back home today, but he was still in Ascea.

"Don't call me 'mother'. I was humiliated in front of Yolanda's mother." They waited more than three hours today for him, but Joey told them that Harry was still in Ascea over the phone.

Closing his eyes, Harry said coldly, "I'm busy with something important. Don't call and get my line busy." After he hung up the phone, it rang again, but he hung it up directly as he knew it was the same caller as before.

Rose was so furious that she wanted to throw away her phone to the wall. She had no idea on why her son was being so rude to them.

But Kevin, while reading the newspaper aside, squinted at Rose who started to burst with rage and eventually sigh. "Rose, don't force it on Harry. He has already promised us to come back and get married. That's enough." Spoke Kevin.

Sitting back down on the sofa, Rose looked bad. "That whore is to blame. She doesn't let Harry come back." She should have returned with Harry a few days ago.

Looking at Rose, Kevin shook his head helplessly. "It's harsh. She is a good girl. Don't call her that."

"She is Angie's daughter. Do you feel hurt because of that?" Rose raged at these words.

Both Angie and Rose had made every effort possible to win Kevin's heart while they were in their university years.

Both of them had feelings for Kevin, but Kevin ended up to like Rose more. However, Angie had no idea of this. She still wanted to approach Kevin several times, and Rose noticed it.

She told Angie clearly that she and Kevin had been in love for almost two years.

Angie eventually gave up on this thought. However, they joined the same association, so they often had to meet for business.

Rose believed that Angie and Kevin had developed emotional entanglements between them, so she made things more different for Angie.

This lasted several years.

And this didn't come to an end until Angie married to Ascea.

Kevin was speechless. "It was years ago. Why don't you let it go already? I judge it as it stands now, in the moment."

Hearing what he said, Rose now remained silent.

In Ascea.

After receiving the call from Harry, Zoe searched for Lola and Nicole everywhere but failed.

Joseph drove to the beach and wondered if Yolanda was involved in any way in this matter. However, as she was a weak woman, she couldn't possibly have the guts and wits to hide Lola and Nicole so well.

Harry had thoroughly searched all flights, trains, high-speed trains and buses, but he found nothing in the end. The kidnapper or kidnappers must be cunning.

Nicole slept for several hours before waking up in the arms of her mother, Lola, who had been also eventually untied.

"Mommy." Her soft, delicate voice made Lola burst into tears. She shouldn't have suffered this.

Lola asked her to sit up. "Nicole, I'm here. Do you feel all right?"

Nicole shook her head in a daze.

"You must be so hungry. Here, have some congee." The kidnappers gave them a bowl of rice soup. Although it was thin, she had already tasted it to make sure it was okay for her.

She took the small spoon and started to feed Nicole the cold rice soup

with some steamed buns. They had to keep their physical strength up in order to cope with what would happen next.

After Nicole was full, Lola ate the rice and pickles left over.

Nicole was still in a dream-like daze. She leant in Lola's arms: "Mommy, where are we? It's dark and smelly here."

Lola held Nicole in her arms tightly. "Dear, no matter what happens next, I'm with you. You have to listen to me if something happens, okay?" She rested her chin on Nicole's head. Nicole nodded, making her feel relieved and safe.

48 hours after Lola and Nicole were gone missing, the phone rang in the Newman Mansion.

Sitting by the phone, Angie picked it up immediately. "Who is it?"

The caller used a voice changer. "Is that Angie? Do you want your daughter and granddaughter back?"

The kidnapper had finally called. Angie calmed herself down. "Sure. Tell me what you want."

While she was speaking with the kidnapper, Landon walked over on his crutches.

"What do I want? Ha-ha-ha." The kidnapper's weird laugh made Angie feel more restless and frown.

"I want the old pocket watch. Ask Landon to exchange the old pocket watch for your daughter and granddaughter in the place I'll designate at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. If he doesn't come on time or comes with someone else, they both will die!"

The old pocket watch? The kidnapper wanted to meet Landon? Angie glanced at Landon who sat beside her now.

"What's the address?"

The phone was hung up as soon as she asked.

"What did he say?" asked Landon. Landon was hoary-haired, old and wrinkled. He looked nervously at Angie, but Angie didn't know what to say to him anymore.

Landon was too old even to stand it.

"They want the old pocket watch." Angie didn't dare to say anything else.

Landon frowned. The secret of the old pocket watch had been given away.

Harry had the phone at Newman Mansion monitored, so now he knew about the talk of the old pocket watch over the phone.

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The SWAT team found nothing but a wasteland at the location from where the call was made. When they called the number again, it was no longer registered.

Harry drove to Newman Mansion immediately.

Other family members had started returning back home right away as well, to meet up with each other in the living room and consult between them about the matter at hand.

The kidnapper asked for the old pocket watch, but they found no possible suspect after their long discussion.

They exchanged glances with each other when Harry showed up. They knew how much this man had done for Lola and Nicole these last couple of days. Landon stood up and showed him to a seat on the couch.

"I will go with Mr. Newman tomorrow." Harry's request left all others in complete silence. Of course he ought to go, he had the right to, because, after all, he was Nicole's father. However he'd also better not go, as he would soon walk out of Lola and Nicole's world.

"Mr. Lewis, you don't have to do this for us. Harold or Jordan would accompany him with no problems." Angie refused him in an indirect way. She was clear about the complexity of his relationship with Lola, and after all, it was their family affair.

Harry understood their concern. "I love Lola. And I will certainly not step back now when she's in danger!" It was not easy to turn him down considering his uncompromising and proud attitude.

After another half hour or so, Harry left them.

At midnight, Angie got a message: "Central Pier of East District. Only Landon should be there, or Nicole would lose her life."

The sender was tracked immediately, but again, there was nothing but a wasteland at the location and soon the number didn't exist anymore. These guys were serious in hiding their traces.

Angie leaned against the headboard. How did they know her number?

And Nicole was kidnapped in their own back garden. Could it be that someone they knew had sneaked into this house and all this was just a part of a longtime conspiracy?

It was a sleepless night for Harold too. They must have demanded Landon's presence intentionally, because it seemed that they clearly had a plan to pick out only the aged and children, who could barely defend themselves.

"Get some sleep, my love. We need to prepare ourselves for tomorrow." Harold tucked Angie up in bed and switched off the lights.

In the darkness of the night, a woman sneered as all the lights went off in the Newman Mansion.

Harry stayed up to 4 am to prepare for everything, and after he had a quick nap, he came to pick up Landon at 8 am. Landon got in the car with the old pocket watch, while Jordan and Harold followed them in another car until Angie eventually called them.

"Harold, they said you and Jordan have to come back now or they will kill Nicole!" Harold frowned and looked around cautiously. Nothing seemed suspicious.

They were watched without noticing! That was not a good sign.

"Go back. Now." Harold shot a quick look at Jordan, and Jordan turned around the car without uttering a single a word.

In the Central Pier.

Harry parked the car near the seaside, and helped Landon get out of the car. With Harry's helping him, he walked to the wharf.

The tranquility in the gentle breeze cool air and calm water somehow indicated the prelude of something unusual that was about to happen.

Harry's phone rang. "Yes, Mrs. Newman."

"They asked you to leave." Angle kept getting calls from different numbers and started hearing a different voice each time.

Harry hung up, updated Landon on what happened and checked the surrounding area.

When he was just about to leave, something happened.

A yacht was approaching the shore, with a board connected behind by only a rope. A little girl was on the board, and was floating unsteadily.

Harry clenched his fists at the sight of this, and Landon couldn't contain his anger anymore. "Nicole! How could they do that to a child!" He hit the wharf heavily with his walking stick.

At this moment, Harry's phone rang again. Foreseeing what this call was about, he stepped backwards. As the yacht got to the wharf, a hooded man came out of it and shouted at him with a gun pointing at Nicole: "Give me the watch!"

Landon raised the watch in the air and showed it to him.

Soon, another hooded person got near Landon with a weapon. "Give it to me," he said.

They had been commanded to kill the old man once the watch was in their hands!

The area was safe, and there was practically nothing or no one nearby except a ship and several boats offshore in the distance.

Harry drew his weapon from behind. Nicole was on the board. What about Lola?

Was she also on that ship?

Landon passed the watch to the man, who checked it

and who aimed his gun at Landon at once. Landon, to his surprise, suddenly knocked the weapon out of his hand with the walking stick. The weapon dropped into the sea and its owner was holding his arm out in pain. Landon hit him again and made him kneel down.

Just then Harry fired his weapon, aiming at the man on the yacht and hitting him right in his arm. After a short screech, his weapon fell into the sea as well.

The kidnapper looked sinister. He got a knife from the cabin, cut off the rope, hid in the cabin and drove the yacht away.

The narrow and thin board started to wobble along the waves. Nicole grasped it tightly, and saw Uncle Harry taking off the shirt and jumping into the sea to save her.

Mommy told her not to panic. They would be rescued! And Mommy was right. Uncle Harry came to rescue her, and Nicole grinned joyfully at his sight.

Several guys appeared on the ship and now aimed their weapons at Harry.

But also, in the meantime, the task forces in the noise-muffling helicopters overhead were aiming at the ship.

In no time at all, a chain of firing sounds was heard all over the place. Harry spared no effort to swim towards Nicole.

A bullet got through Nicole's skirt and the board that supported her. "Hang in there, Nicole!" Harry prayed to himself.

But soon Harry was hurt by a bullet shot to his arm. He groaned, and the water around him turned red.

He was now only 2 meters away from Nicole, so in spite of the sharp pain, he couldn't slow down.

Several villains were put down by the police forces shooting from up in the air. However, some more came out and started to shoot at Harry and Nicole like mad. Fortunately, they were quickly shot down before they could succeed any way in their vile attempts.

On the ship, a tall man crept out to the deck and hid himself under a door roof, so that the police couldn't spot him. But Harry could. And that man was pointing his gun at Nicole, who was now smiling at her Uncle Harry!

Harry exhausted his remaining energy and threw himself on Nicole to shield her from the bullet with his own body. A bullet hit one of his shoulders brutally and his face turned to pale.

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"Daddy!" The smile on Nicole's face disappeared when she saw the wounded Harry with blood on him. She let out a fearful cry.

On hearing Nicole's cry of concern, Harry forgot all the pain he was feeling, looked up and a sunny smile spread over his face. He said to her: "Good girl, Nicole! I'm okay. Daddy is here." He hugged her tightly in his arms. As much as he was worried about his life, he was more anxious if Nicole was safe. But in the next second, another shell penetrated his other shoulder. The sharp stinging ache made him sweat profusely and he winced in pain.

The fighter jets did a barrel roll formation in the sky and started to descend to get an easier target on the enemies. They spotted the location of the kidnappers and a fierce exchange of gun firing commenced. Within seconds, the kidnappers were slaughtered on site.

Several special forces soldiers jumped out of the fighter jets. They parachuted into the sea and gently took Nicole from Harry's arms. Noticing that Harry was heavily wounded, the soldiers took over and helped him to swim to the shore.

It apparently happened that the special forces soldiers received a notice as they were patrolling in a nearby location and immediately arrived to the scene with medics.

A dozen soldiers were sent out to search the ship to find Lola but found nothing and no one. Where did Lola go? The question remained unanswered.

When Harry and Nicole were rescued to the shore, the medics were ready to provide first aid on them.

Landon warmly hugged Nicole as she stared at her pale-faced father, whose shoulder wounds were being carefully attended to and dressed by the nurses.

"Nicole, do you know where your mommy is?", asked Landon in an obvious worried tone.

Nicole looked confused as she replied in soft, shivering voice, "The bad guy brought me here after he took her away! She's with that guy!"

Harry heard her words and looked at her attentively, saying, "Do you still remember the route on your way here?" He worried about Lola so much that he refused to be carried to the stretchers. Instead, he pressed on his dressed wound to stop the bleeding and stood with great effort.

"Mr. Lewis, you need to be sent to the hospital right now for immediate surgery. We need to remove the bullet shells inside you! Your body will be infected by the internal wounds!" The medics were shocked when they saw Harry move. He had three shells inside his body and it would be considered an imminent danger for him if those shells would not be removed in time.

He shook his hands and firmly said: "I will be dealing with it later. There are more important matters to attend to."

... The doctors were speechless. How could he just ignore his own well-being like that? What gives him the strength and guts to do that?

Nicole jumped hurriedly into Harry's arms, put her little hand in his face and lovingly looked up at him. "Uncle, did it hurt?" She stared at the white gauze on his arms.

Harry shook his head. Desperately worried about Lola, he continued to ask Nicole the important questions: "On your way here, did you actually see anything familiar, like some buildings? Or colorful houses?"

Nicole thought for a while and then exclaimed, "Yes! I think I saw our villa through the peephole!"

Her words made Landon uneasy. He thought to himself, "Could it be her?"

Harry noticed the old man's unusual look. Just as he was about to ask him, his cellphone suddenly rang.

Angie's extremely frantic voice spoke, "Tell Landon, Lola is in the hands of Lucy!"

Harry passed the message on to Landon. On hearing the news, Landon gazed into the deep dark sea and released a sigh of great sorrow. This nightmare had just got worse.

They had sent numerous searching groups for Lola and Nicole. No wonder their efforts to search every corner in Ascea has not produced any good result! All because the safest place was also the most dangerous place!

"Let's head home!" He heavily stamped his walking stick on the deck and held tightly onto his pocket watch.

Harry refused to be sent to hospital and insisted on going home with Landon. The medical team tried to deny him of his absurd request but they couldn't do anything to stop him. They all hurried to the villa.

As soon as they arrived at the Newman villa, the case was entirely cleared.

Nicole and Lola were kidnapped by Lola's aunt. Meanwhile, outside the other villa of the Newman family, the special forces soldiers already ready for combat.

The glass window of the balcony on the second floor was shattered to pieces. An elegantly-dressed lady stood on the balcony with a cigarette in hand. She inhaled the smoke deeply and then elegantly flicked

away the ashes to the ground. Next to her was Lola, whose mouth was taped and hands tied up. It was like a dramatic scene from a movie except that this was real.

Wearing a bold red lipstick and dark eye shadow, Lucy Natt looked wickedly dangerous. An evil smile spread across her face, and Lucy looked at her sister-in-law with a smirk and said, "You actually have the guts to ignore your own daughter? How dare you kill my guys just to save the life of a mere useless child?"

With Nicole in her arms, Angie sternly shouted, "Lucy, I will give you the pocket watch. Now, let Lola go!"

It was this woman who kidnapped Lola more than two decades ago. Landon had her locked up in this villa and grounded her.

Harold's younger brother, Hilton, wanted to have a divorce with her due to this reason. But she never agreed it. Later on, something else happened which caused Hilton to have a severe heart attack that eventually killed him after a while. Poor Landon had to bid goodbye to his young son.

They had Lucy grounded for almost ten years. It never occurred to them that she was able to form her own forces and hook up with some other dangerous guys. She has come back to take revenge. She dared to plan an intelligent scheme to kidnap Lola and Nicole in order to get the heirloom-pocket watch.

On hearing Angie's words, Lucy grinned. "Fair enough, send the watch upstairs then."

Just as Angie was about to move upstairs, someone pulled on her sleeve.

With the pocket watch in his hand, Harry calmly said with overflowing mixed feelings of courage and anxiety, "I will go."

Angie had mixed feelings about this. She gazed intently at his wounds and eventually replied, "No need, I will go, Harry. You're in a very bad condition. She won't do anything to me."

Harry shook his head and abruptly cut her off. "The last thing I can do for her right now is to save her. Please let me do that for her."

He needed to see her safe. Even if that is the last thing that he'll see in this cruel world.

Lola, who was trapped on the second floor, wept silently as she saw him walking towards her. Little did they know that behind her stood a man taped with bombs all over his body! It would only be a split second before all of them died!

Their eyes met and at that instance, Harry read Lola's thought that she did not want him here. Their connection with each other was undeniable. He walked steadily into the gloomy villa.

He could hear footsteps following him.. He turned around and saw Jordan, Joseph and Zoe!

"Go back! This is too dangerous." Harry snapped at them as he frowned his eyebrows disapprovingly.

Lucy looked at them and was delighted. The more the merrier! She wanted them all to die.

"She is my sister!" Jordan ignored Harry's anger.

"She is my sister!" Joseph shivered but he still raised his head in bravery. He resembled Lola very much. They were both fearless and selfless.

Harry forcefully pushed Joseph back. He did not want to bring him to danger.

He then turned to Jordan and tried his best to push him out as well.

As a last resort, he stared at Zoe and challenged him, "Shall I throw you out as well, or you prefer walking out on your own?" Zoe did not mind his warning and dashed upstairs. He caught Harry off guard. Harry became very furious.

The more people were involved, the more dangerous the situation would become! He slammed the door close to isolate the Newman brothers. Without further hesitation, he paced upstairs to the second floor.

Every room of the second floor was tightly shut. The gloomy corridor looked spooky and eerie.

The farthest room of the corridor was suddenly pushed open. Stepping out was a man with suspicious objects covering his whole body.

Harry instantly knew what was coming...

Zoe and Harry cautiously stepped into the room.

The room had intimidating wallpapers with skeleton patterns. On the table next to the wall, there were various vases with different body organs soaked in formalin inside. Among them was a pair of eyeballs trapped in a small glass bottle, staring at them.

There were also human hearts and intact human heads with closed eyes. The room was really terrifying.

Zoe felt like vomiting while Harry calmly approached Lucy.

Next to Lucy stood a well-suited man. As soon as he saw what was in Harry's hand, his eyes widened with greed.

"I have the pocket watch you want. Now let Lola go!"

Harry slowly yet steadily raised his hand and let them take a look at the watch. All his heart was screaming out for right now to bring Lola out of this mess. He could not see anything but her now.

Lucy stood and gracefully moved to the front. With a wicked grin on her face, she ordered the man, "Untie the ropes around her."

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As soon as Lola was untied, she cried to them in a hoarse voice, "Are you two crazy? Didn't you see me shaking my head? He has explosives all over him!" She pointed to the guy who opened the door for them just now.

Harry and Zoe smiled and that made Lola even more confused and helpless.

They were so stupidly fearless! They were crazy!

Thomas hurried to the site of the crime as well. Lola spotted him and yelled to stop him from coming any further, "You should all go away. There is a bomb here!"

Thomas was immediately stopped in his tracks. He looked up and saw the fearless Harry and a smiling Zoe. He respected them so much for the courage that they were showing.

Everyone backed off upon Lola's warning.

Lucy hysterically laughed. "Jordan and Joseph should come here as well. After all, I am their auntie! It's kind of lonely to die alone. The more the merrier! Hahaha!"

"Lucy, the pocket watch is here. Let's go! There's no time to waste." The guy in the suit standing behind Lucy greedily stared at the watch in Harry's hands. His face was full of lust and adoration.

On hearing his words, Lucy scornfully laughed. "You are a fool. Even if I get the watch, I won't be able take possession of the crude oil. I don't think you can evade the law on your own! Good luck with that!"

Crude oil? What did she mean by that? Lola cast a glance at Lucy. She was absolutely confused. Lucy wicked smiled back at her.

"Silly girl, don't you know the secret of the old pocket watch? President Herren and this man approached you aggressively because of it. Don't you know about that? You foolish girl." Lucy gave her niece a meaningful look. She was indeed a beauty!

The past flooded towards her and made her heart hurt.

"Silly girl. This watch is the biggest fortune of the Newman family! Your grandmother passed it on to you as her only granddaughter! I am so jealous of you! I really don't think you deserve it." She lit up another cigarette in an enchanting manner and then blew a smoke ring into the thin air.

Harry pulled Lola over so that she could stay further away from Lucy.

Lucy saw this and dismissively laughed at them. She did not care. She had everything she wanted.

"Forget about it. You just wanted to be close to her for the sake of the watch. What confuses me is why are you even pretending that you are in love with her?"

Harry radiated a cold look and snapped back, "Mind your own business!"

Lola looked at him and noticed that the blood was slowly dripping out of his wound. The situation had just become worse as they were now in a deadlock.

"Lucy, we will give you the watch. Just let them go!" Landon's familiar voice was heard from downstairs.

Lucy glared at Landon and emitted a loud wicked laugh. Thanks to this old man, she married Hilton!

That loser of a man!

"Well, I have changed my mind. I want them all to die here with me! Haha!" The wild laugh of Lucy terrified literally everyone.

Landon became so furious that he almost fainted! He clenched his chest so hard.

On learning that the enemy had explosives upstairs, Harold advised the others to leave the site. He only asked the bomb squad to stand by so that the potential casualties could be reduced to a minimum.

"Are you sure you want the others to go to hell with you?" Zoe had kept his silence all this time but now he opened his mouth as he noticed something different about the man with the bomb wrapped on him.

His eyes looked lifeless and he was behaving like a confused child.

"Zoe, you go away with Harry. Just hand me the watch! You don't have to play the role of the hero. Nothing will change." Lola grabbed the watch from Harry's hand and walked straight to the floor-to-ceiling window. She was standing right on the very edge.

"Lola, you come here right now!" Harry's face froze as he was utterly shocked. How dare she disobey him like this! He couldn't put her in so much danger!

Lola peered over at the angry Harry. She wanted to remember this moment and his face in her mind.

Lucy witnessed all these and just smirked. She forcefully grabbed Lola by the arms. "Take it easy, my dear niece! You don't want to die alone, right?"

Harry immediately took action and pulled her back to himself. At that critical moment, the man who opened the door for them lifted up his clothes. He had a lighter in hand and his chest was taped with explosives.

Harry now had the chance to take a close look at the bomb. It was short-fused and could be easily lit to explode within just three seconds!

"Everyone evacuate now!" Lola panicked and yelled to everyone in the yard.

On hearing her warning, everyone cautiously moved backwards. Angle has taken Nicole out of the yard already.

"Harry, I am not related to you at all! Get out of here! And you Zoe, why the hell did you come here! You should all leave now!" Lola had become increasingly pressured by the situation and had pushed them towards the door with all her strength. "Stop!" Lucy exclaimed viciously. "No one can leave!"

Zoe cast a glance at Lola and said to her in a solemn tone, "Lola, this is for you! I want to see you happy! That's all I could ask for in this life."

With these words, he jumped onto the man with the bomb and forced him towards the window. "Zoe, come back!"

"Zoe!"

"Lit it!"

It all happened too soon. Harry, Lola and Lucy shouted out at the same time.

The bomb was lit up instantly. Zoe held on to the man tightly and they both fell out of the window to the ground floor.

It all happened within 3 seconds.

"Bang!" The dreaded explosion happened in front of their eyes. As half of the first floor exploded into pieces, the second floor was already starting to collapse.

Another man fell straight downstairs. Slowly, Lucy and Zoe were gliding downwards.

Lucy soon fell into the debris on the ground floor. Her left arm was still clinging onto Harry. She was also trying desperately to hold onto Lola's hand.

Ten seconds after the explosion, everyone's ears were still ringing.

Lola was lying on a piece of the broken floor. She looked up and could see Harry holding her hand with great effort. HIs face was pale and his arm was bleeding.

She wanted to lose his grip but she saw him say something in a determined manner. She could not hear a word but judging from his mouth movement, she could tell that he said, Don't you dare, Lola!

When the wave died down, Jordan and Thomas dashed towards the second floor, in an attempt to rescue everyone.

Together, they pulled up the helpless Lola. The four of them quickly evacuated from the scene.

Lola's hearing and her other senses came back to her. Without hesitation, she ran towards the debris. Tears streamed down her cheeks and she didn't even have the time to wipe them away.

"Zoe! Zoe!" Her face was as pale as paper. She did not do anything but call out his name again and again.

The ground was a horrific scene. Blood and flesh were scattered everywhere.

The explosion was so huge that he wouldn't have a full body left. Harold pulled his daughter back so that she would not step further into the debris.

"Zoe! Father. Please, let me find him!" She knew well that it was impossible... But she still had a glimpse of hope that he would be alive!

The next second, she was pulled into a warm and familiar chest. This time, the embrace smelled of blood.

Harry insisted on holding her and tried to calm her down. It was impossible for Zoe to be alive...

"Harry, just let me go! I need to check out on Zoe! Let me go!" She cried and kicked as if she could get Zoe back.

He pressed her head against his chest and shared her pain. He softly said to her, "Lola... Zoe is gone. He was your hero until the very end."

Lola burst into tears. Why did her best friend die like that? He sacrificed himself for all of them...

She hated it so much. She should be the one to die! Zoe did not deserve this! Now she would be living the rest of her life with guilt!

The police soon arrived on the site and carried out their duties. Landon, Harold, Jordan and Thomas all held different thoughts as they watched Harry embrace Lola in front of the broken house.

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Lucy was taken away in handcuffs by two policemen. Her face was all covered with blood. She still put her head up high and looked indifferent from all the chaos when she walked past them.

Another body was carried out. It was Lucy's lover!

The scene was so horrific that the men who were used to tough times all turned their heads away.

Harry was having a low blood pressure. He set his teeth but the cold sweat kept streaming down his forehead. The wounds that he had from the bullet shells had started to bleed internally. Eventually he could not hold onto it anymore. He pushed Lola into Jordan's arms and passed out.

Lola was terrified as she cried out loud, "Harry!" After a mere second, she fainted as well.

The Newman family were all shocked...

A long time ago, the peach trees were blossoming into a real beauty.

A young girl was climbing on the peach tree, trying to pick the purest flower. Under the tree, not far from her, a bunch of kids were chasing after a boy who was wearing a white tracksuit.

Finally, the boy was out of his breath and could not run any further. He stopped by the tree, gasping for air.

"Come on! Beat him up. He is a bastard without a father! How shameful that is!" A fat boy of around ten years old pointed to the boy in white tracksuit and shouted to his peers.

The kids all gathered around and circled the boy in the middle.

They all looked wicked and were eager to beat up the poor kid.

"Whistle! Bite them!" A young voice spoke above their heads. A split second later, a big caucasian ovcharka appeared out of nowhere and charged towards them, barking fearlessly.

The kids became so scared and hurriedly ran away.

The boy in the white tracksuit looked up. Among the beautiful peach flowers, there sat a cute little girl. She was wearing a graceful pink dress and looked absolutely adorable.

The sunshine was gently kissing her bright face. He thought that she had the most beautiful smile in the world.

He stared at her and was completely lost in her eyes. It was until she suddenly fell off the tree and hit him that he came to his senses.

"Ouch, my back hurts!" The girl stuck her tongue out with a grin and was about to stroll away with the dog.

He quickly stood from the ground. While rubbing his butt, he shyly asked a question to her: "Hey, little fairy, my name is Zoe Dawson. Can I know your name too?"

The girl turned around and gave him a big smile. "Hey Zoe, my name is Lola Newman! Don't you forget my name, okay?" She crossed her arms in front of her chest and grinned at him. She grinned broadly, revealing a mouthful of white teeth.

She had been on his mind since then. Lola, the little fairy who rode a big caucasian ovcharka!

One dream after another, Lola saw Zoe smiling at her among the twinkling stars. He said to her in a sweet soft voice, "Lola, I love you but now I need to go. You should be happy! Don't cry on me now." He looked utterly stunning in the dream with his red hair and cool smile.

The past haunted her. Another big explosion rang through her ears!

"Zoe! Zoe!" Lola screamed as she was awaken by her own nightmares. She sat in the bed, shivering like a leaf in the chilling autumn wind.

On hearing her daughter's shrill cry, Angie quickly stepped out of the bathroom to check on her.

"Oh Lola, you woke up!" She pressed on the button and called for the doctor.

Lola looked around, trying to figure out where she was. Was she at the hospital? How did she end up in a hospital?

She had dreamt about Harry and the first time she met Zoe.

"Mother! Where are Harry and Zoe?" She opened her mouth and stared at Angie whose eyes were quite red. She assumed that her mother has been crying a lot.

Angie walked up to her bed and tapped lightly on her hand. "Harry...he is in the ward next to yours. He is still in a coma..."

On hearing her reply, Lola quickly removed the drip equipment on her and lifted up the sheet. She was so desperate to see Harry.

"Lola! Slow down! Leave the drip on! Lola please..." Angie chased after her daughter out of the ward.

Lola looked around and searched the wards one by one. She pressed her face on the door glass, trying to find her Harry.

Then, in one of the wards, she spotted Rose. Lola pushed the door open with all her strength and dashed inside. Angie could not stop Lola in time and saw her tumble into the room.

As Rose was in the ward, Angie followed Lola in as well.

The man who used to be so energetic and full of life was now lying on the ward bed, motionless.

No, she could not bear to see him like this. Her heart ached in great agony.

On the sight of Lola, Rose was furious. It was because of this woman that her son was now lying on the bed in a coma!

"Get the hell out of here!" Her face became twisted in wrath as she pointed to the door and yelled at Lola. Kevin saw his wife's look and quickly came over to calm her down.

Angie cast a glance at her direction and said, "Please Rose, this is a matter between the kids. We should not interfere with them!"

"Not interfere? How could I just stand by and watch your daughter trick my son into death? Wouldn't it

be too late by then?" Kevin could no longer stand his wife being hysterical. He went up and tried to pull her out of the room.

"Where are you dragging me to? Let go of me!" The door was slammed shut but her loud yelling could still be heard from afar.

Angie left the ward as well so that her daughter could be with Harry on her own.

Lola busted into tears and threw herself onto his bed. She knelt beside him and wept, "Harry, please wake up. You will be fine, okay? I need your companionship!

Harry! You foolish man! Please wake up soon! I'm so sorry...I need you so much." Zoe had already left her. "Could you please wake up and be with me? I love you so much. I don't know what to do if you never wake up!" She was literally crying her heart out.

After a long time, she eventually stopped crying. Only Lola's murmuring and her occasional sobs could be heard.

"Harry, you risked your life to save me and Nicole. I will marry you! I am following you until the end of the world!" She laid her head next to him and held his hand tightly in hers.

Miraculously, the man on the bed came to his senses. He opened his eyes slowly as he heard her last words. He smiled silently. Being pale, he let out a groan.

The ward door was pushed open again. Harry closed his eyes and lay there with an even breath.

"What the hell are you doing here?" What happened to the Newman family of Ascea caused worldwide sensation.

Yolanda hurried all the way here from Uthana as soon as she heart about what happened to Harry.

But as she entered the room, she saw Lola holding onto her man tightly. Harry almost died because of her and her bastard daughter. She wanted to kill her right now!

Lola was in a patient robe herself. She sat up straight and wiped away the tears on her face.

"I am here to keep him company. He saved me and my child's life!" Her tone was full of proud and appreciation.

Yolanda put her bag down on the bed and came up to Lola. She grabbed her arm and started dragging her out of the room. "Get the hell out of here! It is because of you and your bastard child that Harry is like this!"

"Slap! Slap!" Someone's face was slapped twice! The ward was now quiet. Lola's face was as pale as paper. She stared at Yolanda in anger.

"Yolanda, you are from the famous Morrison family of Uthana! You should act more elegantly. What do you mean by bastard? You don't talk to a mother like that!" Lola stepped up and looked at Yolanda challengingly as she held onto her face. She should have learnt karate when she was still young! So that she could beat the shit out of this woman!

Without hearing Yolanda out, she continued, "My daughter is a lady from the Newman family of Ascea. No matter who Nicole's father is, she most certainly is not a bastard! Today I only slapped your face.

Next time there will be more. You should know how to address others more politely! Know where you are standing, woman."

Lola was still in a patient robe, but her imposing manner was unquestionable. Yolanda was shocked and speechless as Lola walked away.

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After being stopped in her tracks for a moment, Yolanda raised her hand and was about to slap back. But Lola seized her hand in the air. "Miss Morrison, don't dare touch me! Anyway, Harry is mine! I know you two are engaged, but so what! You, pretentious angel, ruined my marriage! Do you really think I'd let you off the hook that easy?"

Yolanda pulled back her wrist, staring at Lola with a smirk in her face. "Ha ha! Who do you think you are? But, I'm not that mean. You're still welcome to come to our wedding! I will greet your personally!"

Lola was annoyed at her bragging tone but instantly composed herself and smiled instead. "Well, you shall see, Miss Morrison. I swear, after this time, I'll fight to the bitter end!"

Yolanda cannot be with his Harry! She can't be with him. Even though she didn't wear any makeup and was clad in a plain hospital dress, Lola walked away from her love rival, proud and elegant.

Harry had listened to their conversation. To fight to the bitter end? Were they keeping something from him? He badly wanted to find out.

Yolanda froze for a long time before she approached the man's bed.

She obsessively stroked his cold and perfect face. He was so charming even when he was sleeping...

Depressed and bored, Lola stayed in the hospital for another day. She wasn't discharged from the hospital until she was told by the doctors that everything was fine and she just needed rest every now and then.

People told her that Harry was already awake from the coma and was accompanied by his family.

Suddenly, she felt too embarrassed to see him.

However, she still made up her mind to go with Nicole and see him before they leave the hospital. In the ward, he was sitting on the bed with a better complexion and not looking as pale as before. This relieved her of worry and anxiety! Harry looked every bit of his handsome features again.

Kevin was reading newspapers on the sofa. Yolanda sat by the bed, holding Harry's hand tightly, and Rose returned home to bring some clean clothes.

"Hello, Mr. Lewis! Sorry to bother you!" Lola greeted Kevin respectfully. The man, Harry's father, seemed more welcoming than his mother.

"Hello!" Kevin put down the newspapers and nodded at her.

"Hello, Grandpa Lewis. Uncle Harry saved me and my mommy. We just want to say thank you!" said Nicole. She was in a long lavender dress, her hair in two small pigtails and a crown headwear.

At the sight of Nicole, Kevin became bright and cheerful. "Hi, my little puppet. What's your name?"

"Grandpa Lewis, my name is Nicole." Lola looked down at her lovely daughter, and was instantly filled with so much emotions.

For a moment, Nicole's face reminded Kevin of what his son looked like as a kid, and he was about to think deep about it when Lola said, "Mr. Lewis, we're going to visit Boss Lewis!"

Kevin was interrupted by her words and lost his train of thoughts.

They went to the other side of the bed, and when Lola saw Yolanda holding his hand, she felt extremely hurt and jealous.

God. Was he really okay with this public display of affection? He said that he only holds hand with me in public.

"Uncle Harry, do you still feel pain? Are you okay now?" Nicole's voice, innocent and tender, interrupted her deep meditation.

Harry took his hand back from Yolanda and looked down gently at Nicole, stroking her hair. "I'm feeling better now, almost recovered! Thank you for being my little guardian angel."

Yolanda watched the scene and it annoyed her. She imagined how the three of them, Harry, Lola and their child, looked like a happy family.

Nicole nodded vigorously and grinned. "Uncle Harry, thank you for saving me and my mommy. You are really our superhero!"

A superhero? Harry raised an eyebrow. It sounded good!

Lola took a deep breath, "Boss Lewis, thank you for saving us! We'll pay a visit to your house to express our heartfelt gratitude!"

Could he interpret it as a hint that she was going to sleep with him?

Yolanda sneered, "Not at all, Miss Newman. Harry treasures friendship. He would do the same to any one of his friends! He did not do it just for you. Besides, when Harry is recovered, we will go back to

Uthana for our wedding. Miss Newman, you will not have such an opportunity!"

She replied, sounding every bit like Harry's fiancee. It sounded polite and persuasive.

Lola smiled. She neither hit back nor looked at the man again. "Mr. Lewis, we're leaving. One of my friends...he saved us...and he's gone. I'm going to see him!" Lola said goodbye to Kevin, her eyes moist and red.

"Zoe saved us. I want to say farewell to him. Let's go together!" Harry determinedly replied and quickly tried to get off the bed with the support of his lower body.

He still looked handsome and appealing even in a hospital suit. Yolanda hurried to hold his arm, but he just looked at her and said, "No, thanks. I'll go back soon!"

Lola brought Nicole to Angie and Landon in her own ward before she went to the morgue with Harry.

They walked down to the B2 where the morgue was located. It was gloomy and cold.

Lola unconsciously grasped Harry on his shirt and her lips shuddered. She was afraid of three things: ghosts, being alone at night and cats.

Harry noticed something was wrong with her, and he, enduring the pain, moved his injured arm wrapped in gauze and held her shoulder tightly.

"The deceased rest in peace. Don't be afraid!"

They arrived at the morgue 3 where there were six corpses covered in white clothes. When she saw it, Lola was short of breath due to fear.

She was drenching in sweat, and was feeling hot and thirsty.

She had been mourning about Zoe's death, and couldn't accept the fact that his best friend is now gone. How could he lie, lifeless, in this cold morgue? She tried to suppress crying by covering her mouth.

Harry found the bed labeled with the name of Zoe. Although it was covered with white cloth, the body below was obviously not in its complete form.

The head was still there, but his upper body was gone, and only half of his leg was left...

Lola trembled violently in Harry's arms, crying bitterly with sorrowful moans and sobs. She came to say farewell to him who sacrificed himself for them and died with a mutilated body.

She owed him her life and will forever be in debt to her best friend.

"Don't cry. It's not what he wants!", said Harry who had a deep admiration for his courage and love. The man sacrificed himself without any hesitation for the sake of his true love.

If Zoe was still alive and he himself couldn't get rid of Yolanda, he might ask Zoe to take care of Lola...

"Zoe! You're gone... Have you even considered what I would feel now? Who's going to drink with me if you're not here... Who will be my best guy friend..." Lola got very emotional and her legs were giving up. She was about to have a breakdown.

She remembered that he had always helped her in times of need for the last ten years. Whenever she turned to him for help, he would always make himself available.

They grew up together, prepared hard for the College Entrance Examination, studied side by side at the university, and stayed up all night and day to play games like hiking, drinking, racing...

He was very important to her. He was not just a close friend. He was her brother.

He was younger than her. But she insisted on being his elder sister. He would always try to guide her with advice and tips. But she did not pay attention and had taken him for granted. Now she would miss everything that he did for her. Now that he was...gone.

Chapter 199

When Lola was in a fight with others at a younger age, Zoe called in many friends to help her. As a result, he would always go to prison for a week because he protected her.

He had always been there for her through the best and the worst days of her life. Now that she was already strong enough, he was gone.

"Zoe..." It struck her that losing her best friend might be the most horrible thing ever.

"Lola, let him rest in peace." Thank you, Zoe!

Harry held the shivering Lola, thinking that it would be better if she did not see Zoe like this, so that she could remember the perfect Zoe.

When they walked out of the mortuary, blood began to drip off Harry's arm again, and Lola was still overcome with tears.

He sent her back to the ward. Her mother and grandfather both wept bitterly when they saw her very downhearted and depressed.

Both Newman family and Lewis family were very grateful to the life of Zoe, the young man from the Dawson family!

"Take a rest, and we'll see him at his funeral." He comforted her in a reassuring voice and helped her sit on the bed.

Lola calmed down for a moment, took the tissue Harry had handed her and wiped her eyes.

She glanced at Harry, who was wincing in pain but was trying to hide it. "Your arm is injured again. Go take care of it or else it will be infected. I am going to be discharged today and I will go back to work tomorrow."

Harry sat down beside her and let her face him. "Lola, stop crying. I don't want to see you in tears!"

Landon and Angie stepped out of the ward to give them space.

Lola looked at Harry and thought about Zoe again. Her tears streamed down immediately at the thought of Zoe. "Please, just go!"

"Why are you crying again?" He frowned and gently wiped her tears with his palm.

She avoided his hand and looked out at the greenery outside the window. "From now on, you and Zoe are no longer in my world... There's only me. I don't want to lose another man. It stings and pains me so much."

If she was in a bad mood, no one would drink with her again.

If she wanted to go race cars, no one would keep her company.

If she couldn't reach Harry, no one would pick her up.

.....

Looking at her like this, Harry felt as if countless needles were pricking his heart. He stood, walked up to her and pulled her closer to him.

"I will stay with you for a while."

The woman withdrew from his arms and stared at him. "Harry, do you know what I want?"

He gazed at her deeply. How could he not know? What she wanted was the same as what he wanted most, wasn't it? "I can give you anything but a marriage."

He could give her everything, heart and soul.

Hearing his words, she closed her eyes. "Please go. I will get what I want by myself! Leave me alone now." She wanted more than his heart and she believed she could get all she wanted!

The setting sun shone on the Harry's figure through the glass and made him more noble and extraordinary.

"I'll give you everything else that you want!"

There was no need to! She knew that he would comprise and marry Yolanda.

"Please leave! You're just making things worse!" She dropped her shoulders feebly and leaned against the bed.

Harry really hated that he could not make the only woman that he loved happy! He hated seeing her like this. For the first time in his life, he felt so powerless. So helpless.

He pulled her to his arms again. "Lola..."

"Go!" She raised her voice and struggled to free herself.

Why was he still here? What was he trying to prove? Lola stood to her feet and pushed him out of the ward with all the strength left of her.

She banged shut the door of the ward and breathed a sigh of relief. She needed to be left alone to clear her mind.

Angie and Landon watched as Lola pushed Harry out of the ward and looked at each other in surprise.

Only Lola dared to treat him like that.

"Grandpa, auntie, Lola is very emotionally unstable right now. I will see her when I am discharged from the hospital. Please do take care of her. I beg you."

The two elders nodded at once. "We're obliged to you, Harry! Thank you for saving my daughter and granddaughter. I will ask Lola to take Nicole and go to your house to offer our gratitude!"

Landon saw with his own eyes how Harry had saved Nicole. And how he went back to the villa and tried to save Lola. They had seen it and were very grateful.

"Please don't mention it. Excuse me, I have to leave now!" He took one final glance at Lola's ward and rushed into his.

He pressed the beeper to call the doctor to put a bandage on his arm.

Seeing Harry return, Yolanda promptly stood from the couch. "Harry!"

She was the only one in the ward as Kevin was not there.

"Are you all right?" Yolanda came to help him but Harry turned his face away from her.

Yolanda's eyes turned red as she watched him treat her so coldly. He had been with her for so many years and he had never treated her like this before. She was becoming so insecure. She just wanted to be with him. What was wrong with that? He agreed to marry her. She has every right to act like this. What was wrong?

Fortunately, she would live through the pain just for a short time. They were going to hold a wedding in less than three months.

.....

In SL Group.

Lola sat in the deputy CEO office, busy again with work. Although she was already the acting CEO, she didn't want to relocate her office, in case he might come back in a few days.

She was going through things the way he would and was doing what he had done.

At 12 o'clock in the middle of the night.

Lola looked at her watch. It was already late. She hadn't brought any toiletries.

"I'll just head home, I guess." she thought. But it was already twelve o'clock. She did not want to cause any unnecessary trouble. People in the villa were already fast asleep.

"Forget it, only one night!"

Lying in an armchair and overcome by fatigue, she felt uncomfortable for she had never slept on an armchair.

At about one o'clock in the morning.

There was only a temporary lounge in the CEO office of SL Group. She cleared up her own stuff and went to the CEO office.

It was pitch dark outside her office. She turned on the flashlight on her cellphone to guide her on the way to the elevator.

The door of the CEO office was not locked. She pushed in and turned all the lights on. The office instantly became bright.

His stuff had all been packed and taken away. The door of the lounge was locked.

She had gone through all the drawers but didn't find the key. She stared at the phone, hesitating to give him a call.

In the end, she still called him.

The phone rang a few times before he picked up. She could tell from his slightly husky voice that he had fallen asleep...

"Well, it's late, and I want to sleep in the lounge for one night, but I can't find the key..." Hearing the woman's embarrassed voice over the phone, Harry sat up from the bed.

She had been so busy at work. She did not even bother to go home.

Of course, now that she became the acting CEO, she must be busy all day long.

... Was he too cruel to her? Did he put too much pressure on her?

"Go look in the secretary's office, see if they've put the key away."

Lola nodded and replied, "Okay." Then she hung up the phone. She was dead tired.

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Two minutes later, she did find a golden chain of keys, with which she used to enter the lounge. The room was very tidy and the bedding was newly-put. Everything in the room felt so relaxing.

Lola was so tired that she immediately fell into sleep once she was in bed. All the events leading up to this day had drained all the energy in her.

As a result, she missed all the calls from Harry.

Two o'clock in the morning.

Someone was knocking at the door of the lounge, which was locked from the inside. Already sound asleep, Lola only turned over when she heard the noise and fell asleep again.

"Bang! Bang!" Nagged by the loud combination of the knocking and the ringing of her phone, Lola finally woke up.

Who would be knocking here so late at night? Was it Harry? She checked the incoming call.

Then she abruptly picked up the call. "Open the door." It was him!

With disheveled hair and confused eyes, Lola looked at the dark shadow of a man outside the door.

"How can I help you, Boss Lewis? It's quite late now, you know." Being woken up from sleep was not a pleasant experience. It was something that she never liked.

But Harry found her look of confusion extremely adorable. He couldn't reach her through the phone

repeatedly, so he was worried that she might be in trouble again. The unfortunate happenings they experienced had also caused a bit of a trauma in him.

Despite the fact that Sara had been arrested and sentenced to death, the Newman Family was actually put at a bigger risk as more people knew about the old pocket watch after the kidnapping. The value of the pocket watch had been reported in every channel of the radio and television.

"Nothing. Go back to sleep! I'm very sorry for bothering you." He walked in and sat on the couch. His heart ached when he saw Lola throwing herself back to bed. She has been so worn out. He wished he could have her tiredness and pain so that she would not be feeling exhausted or hurt anymore.

He shouldn't have asked her to be acting CEO in the first place. However, he could still give her a hand. Several competent assistants could be assigned to help her..

Lola forced herself to stay awake and see what Harry would do, but she fell asleep again not before long.

When she woke up again, it was already 7 in the morning. Her laptop was on the desk, along with some folders.

She picked up one of them and found it had been thoroughly examined, and had been marked with detailed comments of revision and had been carefully approved.

His comments, written in an elegant style, were always right to the point. They revealed all the hidden risk and flaws she had not noticed. Harry had given practical suggestions for each of them, which meant that it only took Harry few hours to cope with her workload for a whole week...

Was he that good? He even stayed up all night to finish her job. He loved her that much.

When she was about to open the door after tidying up, Joey pushed it open from the outside and slowly walked in.

He showed Lola the bag in his hand. There were several lunchboxes in it.

"Miss Newman, Boss Lewis just left and he told me to bring you some breakfast! He is so sweet on you!" Actually, it was a tragic story for Joey. He waited downstairs for the whole night after receiving Boss's call at 2 o'clock in the morning. He had not slept since then.

Lola was stupefied for a moment, and then she nodded. "Thanks, Joey. It's so kind of you! You're so sweet too!"

In the lunchboxes, there were steamed creamy bun, deep-fried dough stick with special spice sauce and preserved egg and minced pork porridge. All looked very warm and appetizing.

"It's my pleasure. I'll see you later then, Miss Newman." Finally! He could go back home and catch some sleep now!

After Joey left, Lola took the breakfast to the CEO office.

It was early in the morning, so no one was at work yet. She went back to the lounge again, got her laptop and folders, and cleared the room up.

After the morning briefing, Julie gave Lola a letter of resignation.

Julie was still wearing that enchanting smile as if the letter was not from her.

Lola went through the whole letter and the ultimate reason Julie stated in it was nothing more than suitability for her job in SL.

"Miss Shaw, is this really why you decided to leave?" Lola put the letter on her desk and looked at Julie with arms crossed.

Julie was a remarkable manager in spite of her unprofessional flirting nature. If she left, it would be a loss to the management of the company. She was a valuable asset.

"I came here for Boss Lewis, to tell you the truth. But now it seems that he's far from my reach. And he's leaving soon, so there's no point in staying here any longer." Sitting opposite Lola, Julie said bluntly.

Lola smiled. "For Boss Lewis? What a coincidence. We came here for the same reason! However, I haven't given up even after four years of waiting. Why are you in a hurry?"

It was true. Lola was planning to make some bold moves after Zoe's funeral. Tit for tat, she would get back at that woman sooner or later. She would not let justice underestimate what that evil of a woman had done to her.

Yolanda ruined her career in the entertainment industry, so she would not allow her to enjoy the fame and power today. Ultimately, she destroyed her marriage.

All of a sudden, Julie changed the way she was looking at Lola. There was really something special about her. Despite their differences, she still adored Lola. Simply speaking, they were chasing after a

same man. But Lola seemed to be okay with that.

"You really don't mind?" Normally, Lola would kick those rivals out.

"Of course I do. But he's not mine yet. So why should I care? Besides, you are very valuable to this company." Lola laughed, radiant with confidence, like a typical superwoman.

Julie tore the paper up, secretly hoping that Harry would not be so blind to choose Yolanda, that cunning bitch.

"Miss Newman, pretend that I never show up here today!" Julie stood up. Inspired by Lola's words, she decided to stay instead.

Lola nodded, stood at the same time and held out her hand. "Miss Shaw, I look forward to your excellent performance. I believe you'll have a bright future in SL."

Julie took Lola's hand and found it exceedingly soft. Obviously, Lola was well brought up in a rich family. "I really appreciate your kindness, Miss Newman! I won't take this opportunity for granted."

Soon afterwards, Julie left the deputy CEO office and threw the paper shreds into the garbage can.

The brilliant sunshine outside the window was just like the smile on Lola's face when she looked at Harry.

It reminded Julie of the men who just came and went in her life. Now she was determined to end this long time of love affairs and be an elegant, independent and unique woman like Lola!

Julie even wanted to thank Yolanda now. If it were not for her, she wouldn't have come to SL and had her values changed for the better after learning from people here!

She looked at Lola's office again. Lola, you are going to get him for sure! I hope you do! You're the better woman.

About 7 in the evening, Lola grabbed her purse and rushed to the parking lot. She almost forgot that she had an important dinner with some high-ranking political figures. These meetings were very important for the promotion of the company.

She called Jordan on the way, and asked him to pick her up around 8 to 9 pm, as he was usually at leisure during night time.

At exactly ten to eight, Lola arrived at Marriott Hotel. When she walked in Private Room 666, a dozen or so people had seated themselves around a round table, and Lola was the last guest.

"Look! Isn't this Miss Newman from SL Group!" A stout man abruptly came to her side to shake hands with Lola.

Lola recognized him. He was Danny Garcia, the CEO of Garcia Holdings Group. She couldn't believe she would be able to meet him!

At about her father's age, this Mr. Garcia was notoriously lecherous, infamous for his lust for both genders and frequent sex scandals. At the same time, he was a cunning businessman and had already achieved a lot of success.

Lola shook hands with him in a routinely manner. When Danny was about to bring up a conversation, she walked away right away to the guest of honor. She did not have any time to waste.