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As soon as she thought of this, Luna put down her curtains and returned to her bed to continue her drawing.

After breakfast, Bonnie glanced out the window.

Joshua, like the day before, had come alone, without Harvey or Jim accompanying him.

Bonnie furrowed her brows slightly as she gazed at the empty roads.

Did something...happen to Jim lately?

Didn't they plan to pretend to be a couple so that no one would suspect Luna and Joshua? Why did he disappear?

On top of that, where was Harvey?

She had planned to return his jade ring to him, but he did not show up either.

Inside the ICU on the top floor of Merchant City Central Hospital.

Rosalyn leaned against her headboard and clutched Jim's hand tightly, her face as pale as a sheet of paper. "Jim, I know that ever since you found out you're not my real son...you've been avoiding me and avoiding coming home. I guess that it's because you didn't want to face me..."

She closed her eyes and let out a sigh. "After all, to the public, your mother and I are rivals, but please don't believe what anyone says about your mother being a mistress...

"Your father and I had indeed had a planned marriage since we were young, but when he fell for your mother, he had told me the truth and canceled the engagement. When he and your mother were together, both of them were single, so no one was anyone's mistress.

"As for your father and I, we only got together after your mother passed away. After she died, he grieved his loss for five years, and I took care of him during this time. He chose to marry me because he knew I was head over heels in love with him..."

Rosalyn let out a sigh and gripped Jim's hand tightly. "The reason I'm telling you this is so that you won't question your mother's integrity; she's a good person. Me, on the other hand...

"I admit that I used to envy how much she meant to your father. I guess this was why my daughter died as soon as we managed to find her. This was karma for what I had done..."

As she said this, Rosalyn gazed at the distance blankly and continued, "Charles had never loved me back, and he only treated me as a replacement for your mother. I know this.

"I always thought that even though we're not a regular couple, I'm more than grateful that we have a daughter together, but little did I know that Heather wasn't our biological daughter.

"As for our real daughter—"

Tears slid down her face as she said, "I guess it's about time I join Aura now. I owed her too much. "

Jim stared at his mother's face and suddenly felt like crying. "Mother."

He lowered his voice and whispered, "You have to hold on."

"What point is there for me to hold on? My daughter is already dead." Rosalyn clutched her chest and suddenly coughed out a mouthful of blood. "Tell Christopher not to waste his efforts anymore...

Please give up on me."

As soon as she finished her sentence, she passed out on the bed.

The beeping of machines and equipment sounded throughout the room.

"Mother!" Jim bit his lip and grabbed hold of his mother's limp body, then he exclaimed next to her ear, "Your daughter isn't dead! She's not dead! Aura wasn't your real daughter!

"Please hold on! I'll bring your real daughter to you right away!"

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Outside the ICU.

Jim and Christopher stood outside the glass window and watched the two women inside the room.

At this moment, Rosalyn was holding Luna's hand and crying, telling her about the pain and misery she had suffered without her daughter by her side.

Luna, on the other hand, listened intently with her head lowered. Her back was facing them, so neither Jim nor Christopher could see the expression on her face.

However, they could tell from the faint twitching of her back that she, too, was feeling emotional over this reunion.

Christopher furrowed his brows and patted Jim's shoulder. "You couldn't help yourself in the end."

Jim pursed his lips and nodded.

Truth be told...he had never intended to let Luna return to the Landry family since the start.

On the one hand, he could tell how important Joshua meant to her and knew that Joshua, too, would do anything for Luna. Therefore, he did not want to separate them because of their family's rivalries.

On the other hand...

As the son of Charles and Lucy, he knew how emotionally tormenting and helpless it felt to be put through a situation like this, so as soon as he

thought of Luna and Joshua's three children.

He could not bear to put them through the same situation.

As a member of both their families, Jim hoped above all else that Luna and Joshua would live happily ever after, without any knowledge or regard of their family's rivalries, but...

In the end, he had given in to the debt of gratitude he owed to Rosalyn, the woman who had raised him for more than zo years.

If Rosalyn's time had really come to an end, he did not wish for her to leave this world with regrets, to die without ever having met her real daughter.

Christopher let out a sigh and said, "You knew that."

Before he could finish his sentence, the elevator doors slid open.

One of the guards rushed out, shouting, "Master Landry! Something bad has happened!

"Joshua Lynch has arrived; he's downstairs and demanding to see you!"

Jim furrowed his brows. "How did he get here so quickly?"

Jim knew that Bonnie would never let him take Luna away without any consequences, but he had never expected Joshua to be able to find him so quickly.

After all, this was Merchant City, not Joshua's territory. How could he possibly have found where he had taken Luna in only half an hour?

On top of that, this was not the same hospital that Joshua had sent him and Christopher to at the start.

The Landry family had transferred Rosalyn to a few different hospitals in secret so that she could receive the best care. There were more than a hundred hospitals in the entire Merchant City, yet Joshua could track them down so quickly.

A chill went down Jim's spine as soon as he thought of this.

Joshua...was more powerful and influential than he had expected.

He had only arrived in Merchant City for such a short time, yet he had already managed to assemble such a strong team.

"I'll go." Christopher furrowed his brows and glanced at Jim meaningfully. "You should stay here and keep the two of them company. The rest of the family must've heard the news of you bringing Luna here, so they'll probably arrive soon.

"As for Joshua, I'll take care of him."

Jim nodded and replied, "Alright. Thank you."

Christopher rolled his eyes at him and waved his hand in dismissal. Then, he turned and left.

He and Jim had grown up together, and Jim had even saved his lip, so why did he have to thank him for such a small favor?

Christopher soon arrived at the lobby.

When he arrived at the guest's lounge, he saw Joshua sitting in an armchair, smoking.

There were already a few cigarette butts strewn on the floor around him.

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Christopher entered the room and sat down next to Joshua with a smile. "You managed to find us so quickly. You're far more impressive than I anticipated."

Joshua glared at him and snapped, "What is Jim trying to do?"

If Jim had not saved his life and taken care of him all this while, he would have stormed upstairs to demand an answer instead of waiting here quietly.

"Nothing. " Christopher smiled and started toying with his phone. "You know how critical Mrs.

Landry's condition is. Jim just wanted her to meet Luna in person before she passed away."

Joshua's expression darkened when he heard this. "Why does she want to see Luna before she dies? Does she want to take revenge on Luna for killing her daughter Aura?"

Christopher shook his head in helplessness. "Joshua, I refuse to believe that you still don't know what's going on, with your intelligence."

As soon as he said this, the entire room fell into silence.

Joshua narrowed his eyes in malice, giving off an aura so domineering that it made the air feel strangely suffocating.

Christopher furrowed his brows. He could tell that Joshua was furious.

As for the reason he was furious...it was because Christopher had exposed the truth he had been unwilling to face.

"Just because you don't want to come to terms with something doesn't mean it doesn't exist." Christopher pulled up a photo on his phone and handed it to Joshua.

"As a man who had taken over Lynch Group and saved it from the verge of bankruptcy at the tender age of seventeen... I believe that your intelligence—both intellectual and emotional—won't allow you to avoid the truth.

"I guess even geniuses are helpless when it comes to relationships, huh?"

Joshua took the phone from Christopher.

It was a photo of a woman in her early twenties.

Even though the pictures were old and dated, he could still tell that the woman's face...was identical to Luna's before she had undergone plastic surgery.

All of a sudden, Joshua felt the air around him grow heavy.

No wonder...

In the past, he had questioned why Luna's entire face had been so severely injured during the car accident that she had to undergo plastic surgery.

After all, even though Jason had crashed into her and kicked her into the sea...it would not hurt her so severely to warrant a total facial reconstruction.

As Joshua gazed at the photo of Mrs. Landry, everything made sense.

Luna and Mrs. Landry looked so similar to each other that...everyone would know they were mother and daughter at first glance.

If Malcolm did not change Luna's appearance entirely, he would never be able to keep Luna by his side in secret and use her to threaten the Landry family when the timing came.

As soon as he thought of this, a twinge of pain shot through Joshua's heart.

He could imagine the pain and suffering Luna must have gone through when she underwent her plastic surgery...

If it had been for a legitimate reason, it would be bearable, but it had all been because Malcolm wanted to use her as a tool.

The more Joshua thought of this, the more pained he felt. He suddenly had an urge to point a gun at Malcolm's head instead of his legs.

"Joshua." All of a sudden, Christopher's voice pulled him back to reality.

Joshua immediately came to and saw Christopher staring at him earnestly. "Judging from these photos and the relationship between Aura and Luna, I'm guessing you know that you and Luna...

"May never be able to reconcile ever again." They would never reconcile again...

As soon as he heard this, Joshua's expression darkened. He reached out and grabbed hold of Christopher's neck. "What do you know about this? Do you really think Luna will choose a family that has never raised her over our children and me?

"That's impossible! "

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Ding!

The elevator doors slide open.

Heather strode out of the elevator and said to the man following behind her, "Father, I've always respected Jim, but what he did this time has crossed the line!

As she said this, she let out an exasperated sigh and continued, "I know that ever since Jim found out that he's not you and Mother's real son, he's thought of himself as an outsider like me…but…he's still your son…

"How can he do something like this? He knew fully well that Mother had fallen ill and can't afford to be aggravated right now, yet he still brought the woman who killed Aura to see her.

"Is he trying to kill Mother?"

Heather wiped her tears and added, "Father, I know Jim has always been worried that an outsider like me will receive such good treatment that I'll compete against him for the inheritance...

"But ever since what happened last time, I've learned from my mistake, and I don't even hold any position in Landry Group anymore, so why is he still doing this?

"The Landry family fortune already belongs to him, so why is he trying to kill Mother so that you will be upset and pass on the inheritance to him?"

Charles followed behind her with an air of dominance and malice so powerful that the entire hallway felt as though it had frozen over.

He narrowed his eyes.

He did not understand why Jim had become a person like this. He had not inherited the kindness and humility of his mother Lucy at all!

The two of them arrived at Rosalyn's ward. Jim, who had been staring intently at Luna and Rosalyn inside the room, furrowed his brows and turned when he heard their footsteps.

Smack!

The first thing he felt was the shooting pain of Charles, slap!

Charles had instilled all the strength in his body within this slap.

Despite being almost 190 centimeters in height, Jim was as skinny as a lamppost after having lost weight due to his constant worrying.

Therefore, Charles' slap was so forceful that Jim staggered backward and had to grab hold of the edge of a window to stop himself from falling.

The imprint of Charles' hand surfaced on his face. After steadying himself, Jim wiped away the blood at the edge of his lip and glared at Charles. "It's already so late. What are you doing here, Father?"

Charles narrowed his eyes and scoffed. "If I hadn't come, I probably won't be able to see Rosalyn ever again!"

He pointed at Jim's face in fury and snapped, "You good -for-nothing rascal! Even though you're after the inheritance, you shouldn't have brought the murderer who killed Rosalyn's daughter here to see her! What are you trying to do?"

Jim narrowed his eyes and glanced at Heather coldly.

At this moment, Heather was standing behind Charles, a triumphant smile playing on her lips.

"You say that Luna is the murderer who killed Aura, eh? " Jim squinted at Charles coldly. "What evidence do you have to prove that Luna killed Aura?

"All the investigation results in Banyan City have come out, and it showed that after killing the florist, Aura had set fire to Joshua and Luna's home with gasoline!

"How can you say Luna killed her, then?"

Charles grew even more outraged when he heard this. He let out a snort and said, "Are you an idiot? Banyan City is Joshua Lynch's territory. Do you think he'll let us find out the truth of what happened?"

"That's right." Heather could not help pursing her lips in approval. "Of course Joshua would want Luna to appear innocent. That's why no matter what she does, he'll help her cover up the truth! "Charles' expression darkened when he heard this. "Heather is right."