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Christopher then hung up the phone without even sparing Jim any time to think, much less respond.

Sitting in his study, Jim could not help sneering as he stared at the phone. Christopher had not changed at all; he would always retaliate whenever he felt he had been mistreated.

Jim had just hung up on him because of his bad mood, and within minutes, Christopher had called him again to do the same thing in revenge. However, on the flip side, this meant that Christopher had recovered greatly and was more and less back to his normal self. Jim sat in his chair, contemplating for a while more, before finally standing up. He had yet to find any clues about Number-9 from the information his assistant had gathered, and he knew that it would not be easy trying to track down Number-9. Since that was the case, there was no harm in meeting Christopher for a quick drink. Besides, he was convinced that Bonnie had sent Christopher to talk to him about her and was curious to find out what he had to say.

As soon as he thought of this, Jim called his assistant, ordering him to continue gathering as much information as possible, and strode out the door. As soon as he left the house and got into his car, he received a call from an unknown number. Not only that, but the call was received on his personal number. Jim furrowed his brows.

He did not recall giving his personal number to any stranger recently.

Despite this, he picked up the phone.

"Hello," a woman's voice he had never heard before rang out from the other end of the line.

The woman sounded in her mid-twenties, and her voice was gentle and melodic.

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"Nice to meet you, Mr. Landry. My name is Sarah Duncan; my father is Paul Duncan.

"My father told me that you took a very important name list from him, and he requires this document for his future use, so he sent me over to help you, Mr. Landry. "When you finally find whomever it is you want to find, i'll have to take the name list from

you."

She chuckled and added, "Don't worry, Mr. LCSFPM_xrry, I won't charge you for helping you locate this person. "I myself had stayed in the orphanage for some time when I was young, and maybe I can provide you some clues."

Jim furrowed his brows when he heard this. A split second later, he curled his lips into a smile and replied, "Thank you in advance, Ms. Duncan."

Then, he hung up the phone without giving Sarah any chance to ask further. Would she be able to give him some clues just because she had lived at the orphanage for a while when she was a child? If that was the

case, why was he still unable to track down Number-9, even though he, too, had stayed there for some time? Not only that, but even after he was convinced that he had found the right person, which was Charlotte, it turned out to be a lie... As soon as he thought of this, Jim closed his eyes and chuckled bitterly. The image of the little girl dressed in red appeared in his mind's eye, standing before him with her arms outstretched to protect him. He let out a sigh, opened his eyes, and toyed with the necklace in his hand. "Where are you, Number-9?" This was the necklace he had given Number-9 a long time ago. Initially, Jim thought that as long as he found the person who possessed this necklace, he would be able to find her.

However, it turned out the person who owned this necklace was not Number-9 at all, and he had been deceived for many years...

Where was the real Number-9? Had she forgotten entirely about him and started her life afresh? No matter what happened, even if she had already married someone else, he would do everything he could to find her! This was his promise to her, and it would never change!

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At the pub, Christopher was dressed in a green shirt, sitting in the corner of the room as he sipped his beer while glancing at the time.

He emanated an aura of elegance and aloofness that drew women to him, but even as countless women walked past him, he gave neither of them a glance and instead waited patiently for his mate to arrive. "What is he doing here?"

In the distance, Laura picked up her glass and took a sip from it as her gaze landed on Christopher. She had come to the pub that night to drown her sorrows alone. Initially, she thought that if she remained by Joshua's side long enough, he would realize how successful and attractive she was and see that she was so much better than Luna. She never thought that someone as handsome and successful as Joshua would turn out to be such a simp! He loved Luna so much that he would not change his mind about Luna no matter what Laura said.

In Laura's mind, if this were directed toward her, she would call this devotion, but if it was directed toward another woman, it was nothing but stubbornness and ignorance!

Because of this, Laura had come to the pub to drown her sorrows in alcohol.

She was devastated by her failure to seduce Joshua, but at the same time, she could not help thinking that it was Joshua's loss to miss out on such a good woman like herself.

She lifted her head to glance at Christopher and finally could not stop herself from walking over to his table. "Drinking by yourself, Dr. Roberts?" Christopher and Laura were both the top performers in the medical field. Christopher was more focused on drug research, whereas Laura was well-versed in clinical medicine.

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Even though technically they were in different subspecialties, they were nonetheless among the best in their field and therefore had met each other on countless occasions before.

Christopher lifted his head to glance at her when he heard her voice. "Aren't you here by yourself too, Dr. Suess?" Laura smiled. "It's not strange of me to do so. After all, I've always participated in wine parties, but..."

She gave Christopher a once-over EWAXK_xn added impassively, "This might be the first time I ever see you drinking, Dr. Roberts. What's wrong? Something on your mind?" "Not really." Christopher curled his lips into a smile and shot Laura a polite but somewhat distant glance. "I'm meeting my friend here; he's the one with something on his mind." Then, he lowered his head to glance at his phone. "He's about to arrive soon. Please excuse

me, Dr. Suess." Laura narrowed her eyes when she sensed how indifferent Christopher was toward her. She had heard plenty of rumors about Christopher's sexual orientation. In her mind, it was one thing to be undesired by Joshua, but another thing entirely to be looked down on by someone who clearly liked men and befriended women. Was something wrong with her? No, that was impossible! She, Laura Suess, was God's treasured child and the rising star of the medical world, so how could there be something wrong with her? Surely Joshua and Christopher must be the ignorant ones! As soon as she thought of this, Laura sat down in front of Christopher, smiling instead of leaving as he wanted. "Dr. Roberts, I remember that you have a daughter named June, right?" Christopher paused, frowning, then glanced at her. "Yes. Why are you asking?" Laura smiled. "I just think it's such a coincidence, but I happen to have a young patient by the same name whom I saw recently. She looks about five or six years old, and I think she's about the same age as your daughter, Dr. Roberts. "She has big, beautiful eyes and rosy skin, and she loves wearing traditional dresses. "When I saw her, I thought, 'How could every pretty girl who likes wearing traditional

dresses possibly be called June? Was this a coincidence?", Christopher furrowed his brows.

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A young girl about five or six years old with big, beautiful eyes, rosy skin, and who loved wearing traditional dresses... This was June, no doubt. As soon as he thought of this, Christopher's gaze on Laura softened as he asked, "You say you came across her recently as a patient? What's wrong with her? Where did you see her?" Laura sighed. "I saw her at Mr. Joshua Lynch's house.

"That poor child. She doesn't have a mother, and her father recently left her too. She had no choice but to be put under the care of her father's friend, where she had to beg for her meals... "If this friend of her father's hadn't treated her so terribly, she wouldn't have fallen ill so easily. "I hear that she came all the way from Banyan City. That poor child..." Then, she glanced tentatively at Christopher, trying to observe his expression. "Don't you agree, Dr. Roberts?" Christopher narrowed his eyes and replied impassively, "Yes, indeed. What a poor child; I especially pity her for having such a bad doctor who shares her personal information so publicly even though she's sick." Then, he lifted his head to shoot Laura a cold look. "Don't you agree, Dr. Suess?" Laura's expression darkened upon hearing this. She bit her lip and was about to say something in reply when Christopher's phone rang. "I'm sorry," he said before picking up the phone. Jim's cold voice rang out, "I'm here."

"I'm sitting in the corner of the room." As soon as he said this, Christopher hung up and glanced at Laura. "Are you going to stay here, occupying my friend's seat, and listen to our conversation, Dr. Suess?"

Sensing his irritation, Laura bit her lip and stood up. "Well...since your friend is already here, Dr. Roberts, I won't take up more of your time. Goodbye."

Then, she turned and left.

She had just taken a few steps when Jim, who was walking in the opposite direction, bumped into her harshly. Laura winced from the pain, but there was not even a hint of emotion on Jim's face as he said, "Sorry." His voice was low and melodic, EVAVI_lv as soon as she heard this, Laura waved her hands at him. "No need to apologize. It was my fault too, ..." However, before she could finish her sentence, Jim had already sat down next to Christopher.

Laura narrowed her eyes and suddenly understood that Christopher had deliberately invited Jim here so that he could get him drunk. Therefore, she hid in a corner, intending to eavesdrop on their conversation. "Why did you return to Merchant City all of a sudden?" Jim asked. Christopher poured Jim a glass of wine and replied, "I could tell you were in a bad mood, so I invited you out for a drink." "Did you come back...for Bonnie?" Jim asked as he picked up his glass. Christopher smiled. "Yes, and no.

"Actually, Bonnie is not the main reason I'm here. "I flew back here because of you."

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"Me?" Jim snickered and glanced at Christopher. "I didn't think you'd care about anyone else but Bonnie now."

Then, he shifted into a more comfortable position, leaning against the bar table, and added," When you brought her up immediately after calling me, I thought you were here to speak on her behalf."

"No, I'm not. She doesn't need to be friends with someone like me who hurt her in the past, much less... speak to you on her behalf."

Christopher sported a self-deprecating smile, then

lifted his head to stare at Jim. "Jim, I'm in the middle of something important now, and as soon as I'm finished, I might bring June with me to someplace up north.

"Aunty Rosalyn had already given me the recipe to formulate the drugs for my illness, and I'll be able to produce my own medicine in the future. I..."

He paused for a moment before continuing, "I want to bring June with me to someplace where nobody knows us and start a new life there." Jim's entire body stiffened when he heard this. He lifted his head to stare at Christopher in shock. "But you've lived in Merchant City for the past twenty years... All your friends and family are here, so you..." Christopher picked up his glass and drained its contents before finally replying, "It's precisely because I've been living here for more than twenty years that I want to leave. I can't let myself ,remain stagnant forever, so I want to go somewhere up north to a foreign city and start our

lives afresh." He lowered his head to stare at his empty glass and sighed. "I want June to experience the life she's always wanted..." Jim sighed.

"Are you going to come back in the future?" "I don't know." Christopher let out a bitter chuckle. "It's still too early to plan this yet since I haven't yet finished what I'm doing..." He lifted his head to meet Jim's gaze. "Therefore, I hope you and Bonnie can help me look after June before I finish what I started.

"The only person I care about now is June, and if anything happens to her...I'll never be able to devote my time AYESJAsp energy to my research." Jim furrowed his brows, picked up his wine glass, and gently clinked it against Christopher's. Then, he smiled and downed the contents of his glass. "Don't worry; I watched June grow up before my own eyes, and if anything bad happens to her, I'd be worried sick, too."

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After getting Jim's word, Christopher exhaled and lifted his head to stare earnestly at Jim." Actually, there's another reason I returned to Banyan City. I have something I wanted to talk to you about, apart from this..." He poured himself another glass of wine. "The baby that Bonnie aborted...wasn't mine."

Jim furrowed his brows and shot Christopher a look of disbelief. "Not yours?" He recalled how confident Christopher had been that Bonnie was pregnant with his child and how he even forced Jim to go with him to Joshua's house to bring her home... "That's right." Christopher sighed. "Even though I was already sick at that time, I was still sane.

"I hadn't said that because I was in a psychotic state, but because I didn't want you and Bonnie to get back together again, so, out of my selfish reasons, I told you that Bonnie was pregnant with my child... "That way, you would give up trying to get back together with her because you thought she had moved on and was dating me." Jim narrowed his eyes upon hearing this.

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"This means that...the child she had been pregnant with was not yours, but..." "It was yours," Christopher said, staring intently at Jim. "The only person Bonnie has ever loved and been intimate with was you. As for me and her... "It has only been my wishful thinking since the start, and she never liked me back at all." Jim was holding his glass so tight that his knuckles had turned white. "She...was pregnant with my child?"

"Yes." Christopher sighed. "In the past, I used to think that you and Charlotte were meant to be since both of your lives had been intertwined since young when you first met at the orphanage. "Therefore, I thought that...even if I lied to Bonnie about you and made her abort the child, it'd still be for your good. After all, there was no way you and her would ever be together again, so what was the point of keeping the child? "However, I never thought that..." He closed his eyes and let out a bitter chuckle. "I never thought that Charlotte had been lying all along." He lifted his head to glance at Jim. "Are you still going to track down Number-9?" Jim nodded in reply. "I'm already searching for her." "You shouldn't." Christopher curled his lips into a bitter smile. "Bonnie loves you more than anything. Not only did she give birth to Harvey for you, but she even aborted the second child because of you. "You should know that...her health hasn't been at its best lately. She shouldn't have gone through with the abortion at all, considering how difficult it had been for her to even get pregnant in the first place.

"However, because you had lost your memories and chose Charlotte over her, she lost all hope in your relationship and therefore decided to abort the child despite the health consequences. "She's a good person, so you should stop trying to look for Number-9 and cherish what you have right now instead." Jim let out a sigh but did not reply. He poured himself another glass of wine and continued drinking. "I've already told you that I don't like her that way. If I choose to be together with her despite this, it won't be fair to either of us." Christopher sighed DRDXL_mr had no choice but to explain the effects of the drug to him." The reason you don't remember her is not because you don't love her, but because you loved her too much in the past."

Jim sneered and lifted his head to meet Christopher's gaze. "What if I had done so simply

because I had felt guilty for putting her through all the suffering of childbirth? If this is the case, then I don't truly love her at all." Christopher did not know how to answer this.

Even though he was Jim's best friend, he could not guarantee whether Jim had known about Bonnie's true identity as Harvey's mother before losing his memories. As soon as he thought of this, Christopher sighed but remained silent, not knowing what to say. Instead, he continued drinking in silence.

Jim, too, joined him. For some reason, he could not help feeling frustrated and helpless ever since finding out about Bonnie's abortion.

He and Christopher drank until midnight. After coming out of the pub, Christopher hailed a taxi back to his hotel.

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In his intoxicated state, Jim got back into his car. "Where should I take you, Sir?" the driver asked when he saw how drunk Jim was. Jim laid in the backseat and closed his eyes, his mind in an utter mess. The driver

asked the same question again. With his eyes still closed, Jim unconsciously gave him the address of a familiar place. "Take me to Tea Cottage."

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Tea Cottage? The driver froze when he heard this name that had not been brought up in a long time. "Sir, just to confirm...you want to head to Tea Cottage?"

He remembered that the only time Jim had gone to Tea Cottage after losing his memories was to confront Bonnie, so why did he suddenly want to go there at this moment? Besides...had Bonnie not moved out of Tea Cottage? By right, Tea Cottage was nothing but an abandoned mansion. "How is this any of your business?" Jim furrowed his brows when he heard this. He laid in the backseat, his eyes still closed, and said with a hint of impatience in his slurred voice, "Do as I say. Are you the driver, or am I?" The driver immediately shut up and started the engine when he heard the anger in Jim's tone.

The car pulled onto the main road. Despite his eyes being closed, Jim could not stop uttering Bonnie's name under his breath. The driver sighed. As he drove, he could not help glancing out of the corner of his eye at the man lying in the backseat. Maybe it was only during his drunken state that Jim returned to being his old self, the man who would frequent Tea Cottage to spend time with the love of his life. Soon, the car reached its destination. The driver initially thought that the house would be empty.

After all, he had been working for Jim for a long time and had overheard the events that transpired between him and Bonnie.

Therefore, he knew that Bonnie had already moved out of Tea Cottage a long time ago and was now living with Joshua and Luna. However, to his surprise, Tea Cottage was brightly lit and flourishing with activity that night. Not only was the house occupied, but there were also many guards outside the door and gate, keeping an eye on things. The driver was frozen in shock for a moment, but when he heard the vague sobs of a baby coming out of the house, he knew that Bonnie and the children must have returned. He quickly opened the car door in relief and helped Jim out of the car. "I'm here..." Jim chuckled as he stared at the strange yet somehow familiar house in front of him. "Bonnie...Bonnie is waiting for me... My precious B..."

Then, out of nowhere, he summoned the strength to push the driver away, then hobbled drunkenly toward Tea Cottage.

The guards stGQGVK_ksing outside the door stopped him, but as soon as they saw it was Jim, they hesitated for a moment but eventually allowed him to pass.

All of these guards were chosen personally by Lucas, so they were not only strong and burly but intelligent, too.

After working for Joshua for so long, they were familiar with Bonnie and Jim and knew of the relationship between the two.

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Therefore, Jim managed to enter the house unobstructed.

At this moment, the living room was quiet and empty. Bonnie was in the kitchen, getting a drink of water after finally managing to put a crying Shelly to sleep. She had just taken a sip of her water when she heard someone knocking on her door. She furrowed her brows in confusion. Who would be visiting at this hour? She and the children had only moved back to Tea Cottage that night, and already, there was a guest. The fact that the bodyguards had allowed them through meant that it was someone they recognized, but... Bonnie had just gotten off a video call with Luna and Gwen, so she knew that it would not be them.

Could it be Sean?

'As soon as she thought of this, Bonnie frowned and strode toward the door, intending to open

it, but suddenly, she heard the sound of keys jingling in the door. Then, the lock clicked, and the doorknob turned. The door slid open.

Bonnie's entire body froze in shock. Apart from her and Luna, there was only one other person who possessed the keys to Tea Cottage...but what was he doing here?