Arielle was about to retaliate when she saw the man's face. At once, she paused in her motions.

"Mr. Nightshire?" She blinked her eyes and asked in shock, "W-Why are you-"

"Why did you pretend not to recognize me?" Before Arielle could finish her sentence, Vinson cut her off.

In response, she stared into his eyes in mystification. A vortex of anger swirled in the man's gaze, so menacing it resembled that of a ferocious, wrathful lion.

Does he mean that he's angry because I didn't say hi to him when he walked past me just now? So he recognizes me? Then why did he pretend not to know me at the airport and even ignore me while we were

on the plane?

Arielle was nonplussed. "You're the one who pretended not to know me first, Mr. Nightshire. You're such a busy man; I wouldn't dare to disturb you."

She found herself unable to understand the man at all.

Since he recognizes me, why did he act like he doesn't know me? If he did, he should've continued with the act. Why did he suddenly pin me against the wall and throw me a barrage of questions?

Arielle shoved Vinson aside. "No matter what, let me go first. It won't be nice if anyone sees us like this."

Nonetheless, he remained in his spot and continued staring into her eyes as if he did not hear what she said.

The man's gaze was clear as a stream yet deep as the ocean.

On the other hand, there was no fear or flattery in Arielle's gaze, only confusion. The way she treated him was just like how one would treat a stranger.

Well, it had been long since someone ever treated him that way.

"Are you mad because I didn't recognize you at the airport?"

Arielle was rendered speechless. "I'm not."

That answer only left Vinson in utter silence.

At that very moment, he was inundated by mixed feelings.

After some hesitation, the man suddenly let go of Arielle and staggered backward. "Why are you here at Norham? Are you tailing me because I didn't give you an answer?"

"Tailing you? I'm not that free to do that. If I have that much time, I'll rather do something else. Also, what answer am I waiting to hear from you?"

Her mouth twitched unhappily. But the next second, she suddenly recollected those words she said to Vinson at the birthday party the other night.

With her eyes widened, she folded her arms before her chest and queried, "Don't tell me you're still thinking of the joke I made the other day?"

"As I've said, jokes are merely tools to conceal one's deepest desires. Well, I'm still considering, so please

| be patient for the time being." |
|---|
| "Huh?" Amused, Arielle whipped her head around and remarked, "I really wish I could crack open your head and see what's going on in your mind." |
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Vinson's expression remained deadpan. "I should be the one saying that." "What nonsense are you spouting..." Verily, Arielle's phone rang. The moment she pressed the answer button, Henrick's voice rang out. "Where did you go, Arielle? Shandie has been waiting for a long time!"

She's waiting? But I didn't see her at all.

Arielle immediately switched to an aggrieved tone and explained, "It's my first time taking the plane... I'm a little lost. Sorry, Dad. Where are you guys? I'll head over to look for you."

"Go get help from the airport staff. We're at the information counter."

"Got it, Dad. I'll come over right now." The woeful expression on Arielle's face instantly disappeared as soon as she ended the call.

Following that, she turned and waved her phone at Vinson. "I have to go. My dad is looking for me. Also, let me repeat. I was really pulling a joke then! There's no need for you to think about it anymore!"

Having said that, she headed for the exit.

However, she had only taken two steps when she heard the man's suspicious voice come from behind her. "What's your relationship with your family?"

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