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Maisie made her way to him and got down on her knees in front of him weakly. There was no telling if she was scared or something else, "Where did you go, Waylon? How did this happen?"

"I'm sorry, Mommy. It was my fault that Daddy was hurt."

Waylon's tone was so calm that it was terrifying. It stunned Maisie for a moment, "What... What happened to him?"

Meanwhile, the doctor walked out of the ward, "Who is the family of Nolan Goldmann?"

Maisie stood up fearfully.

On the other hand, Quincy walked over in the meantime. "We're all his family, May we inquire what happened to him?"

The doctor had a stern expression. "We've already dressed up his wounds and given him a blood serum injection. It's fortunate that the snake that bit him isn't very venomous, or else not even doctors could save him. We will still need to keep him for observation for two more days to monitor his condition."

'Nolan was bitten by a venomous snake!?'

Maisie pursed her lips tightly while her face appeared to be rather pale.

"The venomous snake bit Daddy because he was trying to protect me. I would be bitten by the snake if not for Daddy." Waylon lowered his head.

Even though he had plotted on his father getting injured, he did not expect that his father would throw himself on him to shield him from the venomous snake and roll down the hill with him in order not to let him get hurt.

Waylon raised his head to look at Maisie as if he remembered something. The unyieldingness in his gaze vanished while he choked on his words. "Mommy, even though I didn't like Daddy before this, he saved me. Is he going to die because of me?"

Waylon had wanted to take a risk, but what should he do if his father were to die because of him?

Maisie wrapped her arms around him. Waylon was sobbing soundlessly in her arms despite barely shedding a tear in her presence.

Mr. Goldmann Sr. arrived at the hospital in a rush with Colton and Daisie. The old man inhaled sharply after learning about the situation.

"I'm sorry, Grandpa..." Waylon apologized.

Mr. Goldmann Sr. made his way to the front of Waylon, raised his hand, and rubbed Waylon's head. "It's an accident. It's good that you're fine."

Nolan didn't know how long he had been unconscious, and it was already dark outside when he woke up again.

He turned around to find Maisie sleeping propped to the bedside and could not help being stunned for a moment. He pushed himself to sit upright slowly, and the commotion woke Maisie instantly.

She looked at him. "You're awake."

"Hmm, where's Waylon?"

The first words from Nolan were about Waylon.

Maisie looked down. "Waylon is fine. Thank you for saving him."

Nolan's gaze changed. "You're thanking me, huh? Am I an outsider or the father of the child to you?"

"I..."

"Forget it. I won't be hearing anything good from you anyhow, so it's better for you not to speak." Nolan did not want to be infuriated by her. It was better off for him to remain calm and recuperate from his injuries. Maisie bit her lower lip and remained silent for a short while before she answered, "I know that you're the father of the child, and I can see that... you're good to him."

"So, haven't you realized how I'm treating you then?"

"You..." Maisie gnashed her teeth upon noticing Nolan's fussy expression "I'm talking to you about serious matters. Don't divert the topic of conversation again."

"I don't want to listen to you talking about something else then." Nolan turned to his side and laid down with his back facing her.

Maisie was astounded.

'Since when did Nolan become so arrogant?'

She stood up. "Nolan, you,"

"I'm hungry."

Maisie was stunned before she remembered that he had not eaten. Thus, she walked over to the bedside table where the food tray was. She picked up the tray and made her way to the man with his back facing her. "You're starving, right? Eat."

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Nolan sat upright slowly, looked at her, and enunciated word by word, "Feed me."

If this was the past, Maisie would have placed down the food tray and said to him, "Suit yourself!"

However, she did not say anything this time. Instead, she sat next to the bed and personally spooned the food to him. She felt rather shy as he stared at her from such a close distance, so she explained, "I'm only doing this reluctantly for Waylon."

Nolan gulped down the food she fed and stared at her without looking away while cracking a smile.

He suddenly realized that it was rather nice for him to be injured.

When he was done with the meal, Maisie put the food tray away. Nolan gazed at her as he leaned on the pillow and rested. After noticing that she stayed, he said, "Are you staying to keep me company?"

"Do you think I'm doing this willingly?" She would never stay had he not gotten hurt trying to save Waylon.

Nolan narrowed his eyes and suddenly tugged away the blanket, revealing the empty space next to him. He patted on the bed. "I'm lending the half side of my bed reluctantly for you to sleep tonight."

Maisie was rendered speechless.

Nolan continued in all apparent seriousness. "I'm an injured patient. There's nothing I can do to resist if you were to do something to me."

Maisie was lost for words.

'Screw you! Why didn't you just die from the venomous snake's bite, huh!?"

Maisie refused to get into the bed with him regardless, so Nolan did not force it on her either. He then turned to his side and slept.

Maisie leaned against the wall and looked out the window. It seemed that she would really have to spend the rest of the night sitting here. Perhaps it was the cold, and she shuddered and curled up to sleep on the sofa by the side.

She had not slept well the previous night and was fatigued, so she fell asleep soon.

Nolan opened his eyes slowly and turned over to look at the woman curled up on the sofa.

He could not help thinking to himself about his way of captivating her heart. He wondered whether he was doing a bad job or she was ignorant.

Perhaps, he should spend some time getting to know her.

Noticing that she was shivering in the cold, Nolan got up from the bed and walked over to pick her up back to the bed.

He laid down next to her, tucked her in the blanket, turned over, and curled up next to her.

Nolan furrowed his brows tightly at the sight of her curling up in his arms and rubbed herself against his chin.

'This woman was born to torment me!'

It was a calm and peaceful night.

When Maisie woke up the next day, she opened her eyes only to find Mr. Goldmann Sr., Quincy, and the three little kids looking at her curiously in the room.

Maisie suddenly sat upright only to discover that Nolan had one arm around her-she was sleeping on his bed!

Mr. Goldmann Sr. chuckled and said, "It's fine, sleep in. I'll take the kids to stroll around."

"Cheers, Mommy!"

The three kids left with Mr. Goldmann Sr.

Quincy followed from behind in haste.

Maisie was rendered speechless.

Soon afterward, her hysterical voice was heard coming from the room. "You're a scumbag, Nolan Goldmann!"

Mr. Goldmann Sr. ordered the servants to prepare a spread of scrumptious lunch on the day Nolan was discharged from the hospital.

Quincy and his younger sister, Cherie, joined them at the table to celebrate Nolan's return.

Mr. Goldmann Sr. turned around and said to Maisie, "Thank you for taking care of Nolan for the past two days, Zee."

Maisie stopped for a moment before she said smilingly, "It's alright, sir."

Cherie, who was wolfing down food, looked up and said, "Maisie, shouldn't you be addressing him as 'Dad

Quincy gave her a playful pinch. "Not even the food can stop you from speaking."

Maisie felt rather embarrassed.

Mr. Goldmann Sr. chuckled and said, "That will happen sooner or later. We're not in a rush."

"Whoa! So it turns out that Mr. Goldmann has yet to captivate his wife, huh? That's really funny." Cherie could not refrain from mocking Nolan at the dining table. She almost burst into loud laughter right there and then Mr. Goldmann Sr, would have kicked her out of the house had he not treated her like family, right?

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Nolan's expression was solemn.

Quincy gave her another pinch and said through his tightly-gnashed teeth, "Eat."

Cherie remembered something else, so she said to Maisie with excitement. "Please allow me to introduce myself, madam. My name is Cherie Lawson, and I'm the younger sister of this idiot. Mr. Goldmann is like a big brother to us, and we have a strong friendship, so please don't misunderstand us!"

Maisie cracked a smile.

Whoa! Cherie's personality is rather feisty indeed, and she is quite loquacious.

She looked toward Quincy. "So you have a younger sister too, huh?"

Quincy was frustrated. "My sister has always been with the troops all this time, so she snuck out of there to check you out when she found out that Nolan was coming home with you."

"Will you please speak properly? I came after seeking permission from my commanding officer!" Cherie was displeased.

Quincy cast her a look. "The commanding officer would have penalized you if not for his friendship with our elder brother."

Daisie chuckled and said, "Aunt Cherie, why are Uncle Quincy's name and yours so strange?"

Cherie wrapped an arm around Quincy's shoulder and said to her smilingly, "I have no idea either because our parents named us. My eldest brother is named Hans, which is a biblical name. I'm lucky that they named me Cherie instead of Honey, for being so sweet."

Colton and Daisie held back their laughter.

Maisie looked toward Quincy and said, "So, could it be that Quincy is..."

Nolan said nonchalantly, "He's named that for being quirky..."

"Hah!"

The people seated around the dining table could not refrain from laughing.

Quincy shoved away Cherie's hand and said with an embarrassed look on his face, "Fine then. You're better at making conversations than I am. Show some respect to Mr. Goldmann Sr. here, will you?"

'Can't you spare me some reputation? Why do you always have to expose my inside story anyway!?'

Mr. Goldmann Sr. was not offended either by the young people joking around. After all, the laughter made the place feel more lively.

They returned to the royal capital of Bassburgh after the meal.

Maisie looked out the window in the car. The initial plan had been to stay for two days, but they had

stayed for an additional day because of Nolan's injury.

However, after spending three days with them, she discovered that she could interact with them in harmony and joy despite not being a real family. On the other hand, her real family members were conspiring against each other.

“What’s on your mind?” Nola raised his hand and ran his fingers through her hair. Her soft, silky hair glided through his palm and felt ticklish.

Maisie turned around to look at him but looked away rapidly after meeting his gaze. “Nothing. It’s just that ... your family seems to have a close relationship with Quincy and his sister.”

Nolan narrowed his eyes, chuckled softly, and said, “Their parents used to work for my grandfather, but they were unfortunately killed in an accident. My grandfather adopted and raised them.”

Maisie was stunned. She looked at him in astonishment because she had no idea that Quincy and his siblings had a past like this.

Nolan pulled back his arm and sat up straight. “Hans is the eldest brother of Quincy and Cherie, and he’s now working as my grandfather’s bodyguard. Quincy is a meticulous person and is able to handle tasks in good order other than being slightly talkative. Hence, I have him work for me.

“As for Cherie, the silly girl doesn’t like to be tied down with work, and that is why she has been hanging around doing nothing with the troops all this time.”

Maisie lowered her gaze. “Nolan, I’ve always been very curious. What sort of family are the Goldmanns?”

The others claimed that the Goldmann family was on par with the Boucher family, whether it was their status or power. However, the Goldmanns were different from the Bouchers in the sense that the Goldmanns were not a noble family. They had risen to fame later on.

How had the Goldmanns attained their current status by engaging in normal business? 1

Nolan took a side glance at her and parted his tightly pursed lips to speak. “You’ll know in the future. I’ll ensure the safety of you and the children regardless.” Maisie was stunned for a moment. She pondered but did not comment further.

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Maisie's ringing phone interrupted the ambiance in the car at this very moment. The caller ID showed that it was Kennedy.

Maisie could not help looking solemn when she picked up the call and heard Kennedy's voice.

"Uncle Kennedy..."

Maisie arrived on the 16th floor and saw that Kennedy was discussing something with the other staff members.

Kennedy halted his discussion upon hearing her voice and stopped working on the task on hand to walk toward her. "You're back."

"What's going on?" Maisie assumed a stern expression. How had something like that happened when she was only away for three days?

Kennedy said with a stern expression, "I have no idea what happened either. It's the Lucas family. Other than Taylor Jewelry, they stopped all our suppliers from supplying mineral raw materials to us."

"The Lucas family?"

Maisie assumed a solemn expression.

Could it be related to Willow?

She was under the assumption that Willow would behave herself after experiencing those incidents initially. Yet, Willow had actually begun to make trouble again by relying on the Lucas family?

"Zee, the supply of mineral raw materials in our storage won't last for a week, and we won't be receiving those mineral raw materials one week later. It's estimated that the customized jewelry our customers ordered will be delayed."

Kennedy did not expect that the Lucas family would brutally suppress them just because of Willow. The only reason the Lucas family had no respect for Nolan was because of Madam Lucas, Larissa.

"There's no need to delay our customers."

Maisie crossed her arms and said, "We still have a week's time, right? Since our suppliers are breaching our contract due to the Lucas family's oppression, we shall seek compensation from them for breaching the contract then."

The Soul Jewelry Studio may be a newly-operating jewelry business, but it did not signify that they would just submit themselves to the mercy of others!

Meanwhile, at the Goldmann mansion...

Nolan's gaze turned cold upon hearing Quincy's remark. "The Lucas family is brutally suppressing Soul Jewelry Studio?"

Quincy nodded. "That's right. I figured that it was due to Willow. Willow is dating Louis Lucas now, right?"

Nolan's expression turned somber at the mention of Willow.

At the thought of how the woman had deceived him and taken Maisie's place six years ago, he wished that he could choke the woman to death.

He interlaced his well-defined fingers and squeezed so hard that his joints were popping loudly. He gnashed his teeth in anger. "Since the Lucas family is going against Zee in this manner, I'd like to see how Larissa's going to react when she finds out that Zee is her niece."

It would be fine even if the de Armas did not value Maisie. It would be enough that the Goldmanns valued her

His woman needed not to be affiliated to the de Armas at all!

Since Larissa had the audacity to bully his woman, he would not be bothered to show respect to her either!

At Millennial Gemstone Inc.....

"You must be joking to ask for double the compensation for breaching the contract!"

A raging, highly-agitated voice resounded from the chairman's office. The middle-aged man tossed the breached contract document on the table and stood up. "I can see that you have a rather huge appetite for such a small company. It was you who reached out to us to collaborate in the past. We agreed to supply your company out of respect, yet now you have the audacity to come asking for compensation?"

There was a hint of anger in Kennedy's eyes. "What do you mean, Mr. Parker? There's an official contract that clearly states that if there is a breach of contract on either party, the compensation will be doubled accordingly. Moreover, it was you who breached the contract first!"

Mr. Parker chuckled and said, "How is that related to us, huh? It was you who offended the Lucas family. You may take from them if you have the balls."

"You..."

Kennedy was exasperated and about to say something when Maisie, seated on the sofa with her legs crossed, removed her sunglasses and cracked a menacing smile. "It seems that I have overestimated Millennial Gemstone since Mr. Parker won't even take contracts seriously."

She stood up slowly with her arms crossed. "Since Mr. Parker isn't willing to terminate the contract according to the terms stated, we shall follow the legal procedures then, shall we?"

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"While we're at it, we'll show everyone what sort of crook Millennial Gemstone is that the company refuses to give compensation after breaching a contract."

Noticing that she was planning on making a big deal out of this, Mr. Parker was shocked. He had no choice but to calm her down. "Hehehe. Hey girl, we're all businessmen here, so why do you have to go as far as that? I can give compensation but doubling the amount is,"

"I'm taking double compensation, and I won't leave even if there's a penny less," said Maisie coldly.

Millennial Gemstone Inc was planning to renege on the deal because the Lucas family was their backer, Moreover, Mr. Parker did not fear Soul Jewelry because it was an unknown, small company new to the market.

Yet, he did not expect that he would encounter a woman that would pester him incessantly.

He figured that he should not be blamed for her gullibility.

Mr. Parker grunted. "If you wish to go to court, you're going to have to win the case too. Let me tell you this, you're not going to do better than you are now after offending our company."

"Is that so?" Maisie fiddled with the sunglasses in her hands and smiled. "Very well then. I hope that you won't regret this, Mr. Parker."

Upon saying that, she left with Kennedy.

Mr. Parker let out a grunt in contempt. He refused to believe that a small, new company was capable of anything!

Yet, his secretary came to report to him in a rush not long after Maisie's departure, "Mr.... Mr. Parker--"

Before his secretary could finish her sentence, she was shoved away by a few bodyguards dressed in black. Khan then entered Mr. Parker's office with his lawyer.

Mr. Parker was stunned. He stood up slowly.

The lawyer adjusted his glasses and made his way to Mr. Parker's table before passing his card. Mr. Parker accepted the card in a daze.

'Derrien Golding Esq. from the Royal Legal Firm? Is that not the lawyer who works for Erwin!?

Derrien placed a writ of summons on the table. "Mr. Parker, the Soul Jewelry Studio has entrusted me to negotiate the breach of contract with you. I hope that you will engage in discussion with a clear mind this time, Mr. Parker."

The meaning of his statement was that if Millennial Gemstone Inc. still insisted on not abiding by the compensatory damages listed in the contract, the company would absolutely lose the court case.

It was because not anyone could afford to hire a lawyer from the Royal Legal Firm!

Mr. Parker leaned against his seat in a daze with sweat trickling down his temples. 'How is that possible...'

A small jewelry company was actually affiliated with Erwin. He realized that he was in trouble.

In the car...

"I didn't expect that Millennial Gemstone Inc. could be so shameless. Had it not been Erwin Lincoln, they

would have regarded us as pushovers."

Kennedy was still aggrieved while he drove.

Maisie chuckled and said, "Millennial Gemstone has the audacity to deny the compensatory damages because they have the Lucas family as their backer. I figured that the Lucas family convinced Millennial Gemstone by promising to pay the compensatory damages, right?"

How could Millennial Gemstone have the courage to breach the contract and disregard the contract if the Lucas family did not back them? Perhaps they had convinced them to breach the contract by agreeing to pay the compensatory damages for them.

On the other hand, Maisie's studio was newly established, and they had not advertised that they were a jewelry studio under the umbrella of the Blackgold Group. In the past, Millennial Gemstone had agreed to collaborate with them by supplying raw materials to them for the sake of money.

Other than betting on them being newcomers who could be easily bullied, Millennial Gemstone was also betting on them not having the courage to go against the Lucas family when Millennial Gemstone refused to pay the compensatory damages.

A call was received in the meantime.

Maisie smiled at the sight of the caller ID and picked up the call. "Hello?"

"Uh, Ms. Vanderbilt. We can discuss compensatory damages again properly. Don't let this trifling matter affect our relationship by taking it to court."

The person calling was precisely Mr. Parker. Maisie smirked after noticing how courteous Mr. Parker sounded when he spoke. "Mr. Parker, we're going to proceed with the court case since we've agreed to take it to court. You've seen how our Soul Jewelry Studio is not easily bullied. You chose to breach the contract and refused to pay the compensatory damages, so it's not our fault for doing this."

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"Ms. Vanderbilt, Ms."

Maisie hung up without hesitation.

Kennedy laughed and said, "You really are turning into your mother."

She was not going to let herself be taken advantage of.

At the Lucas family's mansion...

"Goldmann, have you gone mad!?"

Larissa stared straight at Nolan. He just used Maisie to threaten her. Was he trying to openly challenge the Lucas family and even the de Armas?

Nolan crossed his legs and leaned backward. "If you insist on going against my fiancée, the Goldmanns will happily play along."

Larissa's expression darkened. "For a woman? Have the Goldmanns lost your senses?"

"She's my woman, which means she's a Goldmann. What do you think?"

Nolan slowly picked up his teacup and took a sip before saying, "The de Armas should know how reasonable us Goldmanns are, especially your father, right?"

Larissa's expression darkened even further.

It was true, the Goldmanns were not reasonable people. That was especially the case of his grandfather, Titus, the man who had rough and cruel hands covered in the blood of countless nobles.

In the eyes of the nobles, the Goldmanns were definitely unreasonable!

Nolan put down his teacup, fixed his sleeves, and stood up, "Mrs. Lucas, if you insist on targeting Maisie, I hope you won't regret it when you discover new information in the future."

He left after saying that.

Larissa frowned, 'What did he mean?'

Mr. Parker suddenly called her and broke her train of thought. After she picked up, something Mr. Parker told her shocked her.

"What did you say? Erwin has been helping her?"

"Mrs. Lucas, please save me. I've breached my contract under your instructions, but now Ms. Vanderbilt won't let me off! There's also Mr. Lincoln, I really,"

Mr. Parker was devastated.

He had been under the impression that she was just a newbie, but Ms. Vanderbilt wasn't someone to be bullied. He was stuck between a rock and a hard place now.

Since Mrs. Lucas was the one who had requested him to do this, he had to talk to her.

Larissa was in deep thought. 'Erwin.. Erwin from Morwich, but why would he be helping that woman?'

Nolan left the Lucas mansion with his bodyguards when Willow was coming back. When she saw Nolan,

her heart skipped a beat. She smiled and said, "Nolan, are you here to see me?"

Quincy, who was standing beside them, couldn't help but roll his eyes. Who gave Willow the courage to be narcissistic?

Seeing that Nolan was looking at her without saying a word, her heart beat faster. Nolan still cared about her. 6

However, when she recalled what had happened at the auction hall-that Nolan had seen her walking with Louis-she explained. "Nolan, don't worry. I'm just related to the Lucas family. Louis is just my cousin."

She looked up and smiled, "Nolan, I know that I'm not good enough for you as a child out of wedlock, but don't worry, one day I'll get there,"

"Do you think you're part of the de Ama family?" Nolan coldly cut her off.

Willow was stunned. Her smile faded and was replaced by paleness. "Nolan,"

Nolan's lips curled as he mockingly said, "Louis' cousin is just a niece to Larissa. Do you really think you're part of the de Armas?"