

For Your Failed Unrequited Love

#Chapter 11 - Read For Your Failed Unrequited Love

Chapter 11

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Lucy looked at Felix with a puzzled expression after hearing his request. Adrian-sunbae took Felix-sunbaes medicine Was it not enough?

No, I spilled it on the floor. Felix replied right away. Of course, the allergy medication was piled on the desk in his dorm room.

Lucy, who had no idea that Felix was lying, nodded. Im still trying to make extra allergy medicine since Maram vines often bloom until November. When its done, I will deliver it through Adrian-sunbae.

No, I dont want to receive it through Adrian. Felixs true feelings immediately popped out of his mouth.

He already knew what was on Lucys mind. Perhaps, him asking for medicine is bothersome to her. But

Felix hesitated for a while and continued. I want to receive it directly from you.

Lucy widened her eyes as if a little startled by the request. Her head tilted slightly, contemplating the meaning of Felixs words.

Haa sunbae-nim! Why are you so serious? Of course, Lucy will give it to you herself! Colin stepped in, breaking the subtle silence between the two of them. I told you earlier! Lucy is sorry for what happened yesterday.

Why do you have to bring that up? Lucys face turned red in an instant. She hit Colin on the back, her hand clenched into a fist. She then turned to Felix, who was glaring at Colin. Last night Im sorry for the inconvenience I have caused you, sunbae. Ill make the medicine for you.

Lucy couldnt even look straight at Felix. What happened last night seemed quite embarrassing for her. After apologizing to Felix, she took the honey from the stone wall and left the garden without looking back.

I apologize to you once again! Ill do my best to help Lucy make medicine! Colin said to Felix, who was staring blankly at Lucys back.

Without warning, Felix grabbed Colins ear with a grim expression. It was the ear that was caught by Mr. Peter last night. Dont come here from now on.

Argh! Whats wrong with you all of a sudden?

Youll die if you come.

Colin Connors screams filled the backyard of the library.

* * *

Felix went to the library backyard the next day as well. It was just in case Lucy was there. But there was no one. Felix approached the garden, knelt down on one knee, and carefully looked at the herbs planted by Lucy.

From golden butterfly grass with delicate yellow-green leaves to flowers that Felix did not even know the name of. There were so many varieties that it would not be an exaggeration to say that if Mr. Estrid, who is in charge of herbal medicine, would rush to come here if he knew.

He could imagine Lucy crouching on the ground, tending her garden and carefully cultivating herbs.

Pitter-patter

Felix turned around at the sound of footsteps behind him. Lucy was standing there.

Sunbae? What are you doing here?

I came to see when the flowers would bloom. I want the medicine to be completed quickly, Felix said as an excuse.

Lucy approached him with a worried face. Are you itching a lot? she asked. Stopping right in front of Felix, she took a closer look at his face.

Felix suddenly stopped breathing. His face and neck turned red. He could feel heat rising from that area.

Seeing Felixs reddened skin, Lucys face turned serious. Felixs blushing face seemed to have been mistaken for allergies.

Its fine, its bearable, Felix stuttered, taking a step back. I came to check if the flowers have bloomed. He looked into the air with an unsettling gaze, and then hurriedly left the backyard.

* * *

Felix vowed not to visit Lucy Keenan first, and to wait calmly until she brought the medicine she made. Despite such a promise, three days later, his steps were heading back to the backyard of the library. Now, he just laughed in vain at his own unpredictable behavior.

As he walked around the library and approached the backyard, he heard people chattering. And from time to time, laughter also came out.

Felix's eyebrows twitched.

Is Colin Connor here again?

From the first time he saw him, he didn't like him at all. He seemed to be close to Lucy, and it's strangely annoying to see him as if he knows her family well.

I'm going to get rid of him today.

Felix swore and turned to the corner. As he expected, there was a male student next to Lucy. But he was not Colin Connor.

Adrian.

Adrian, who was sitting next to Lucy in front of the flower bed, looked back as he heard Felix's voice. He found Felix and asked. What brings you here?

Felix, who was about to kick Colin Connor out at any moment, stopped at the unexpected appearance. A formidable foe that cannot be compared to Colin Connor. I'm here to check if my allergy pills are doing well, said Felix.

Your allergy medicine?

Yes, my medicine. Felix strode closer to the flower bed, and stood between Lucy and Adrian. They split on both sides, unsure what to say, and looked up at Felix with a puzzled expression. Felix pretended not to notice their gaze and look down on the flower bed.

I decided to give it to Felix when the allergy medicine is completed, Lucy explained to the confused Adrian.

I was going to share it with you when I got it from Lucy. Lucy also made the medicine I gave you in the past.

I know, Felix responded bluntly.

Lucy and Adrian continued to talk about allergy medicine, while Felix pretended to look at the flowerbed.

I think the golden butterfly will bloom within two days, said Lucy as she pointed to a small rising bud.

I just need to get the mandragora root in town on the weekend and I will be able to make the medicine in no time.

I wish I could come with you, Adrian sighed with an apologetic expression. I dont think its possible because Im busy with the student councils work even on weekends. Im sorry.

No! Lucy waved her hand. You dont have to worry about it!

Still, Lucy. It was originally made to give to your friend. Im sorry for the trouble it caused you making them for us.

That friend is you, brother. For Lucy Keenan, making the medicine for you will never be troublesome.

Felix let out a smirk inwardly at his ignorant little brother.

Its not that hard, Lucy brazenly lied to ease Adrians burden.

The warm conversation between a senior who was sorry and a junior who was willing to handle the trouble continued without interruption.

Then I will pay for the mandragora root.

You dont have to do that!

But mandragora is quite expensive.

I know a place that sells it for cheap.

Then it would be better if I just go with you.

Youre busy. Its really okay.

It was a really warm atmosphere. Felix didnt even have a chance to intervene.

Then Ill go, said Felix suddenly. He had been quietly listening to their conversation. Lucy and Adrian raised their heads at the same time. Even though he thinks there is no room for him, he cant shake the desire to interrupt the two. He spoke again with a clear voice. Im talking about going to town on the weekend. Ill come with you.

You? Adrian was bewildered. He had a look on his face that was saying, Did you like the medicine that much?. But soon he shrugged his shoulders and nodded his head. Well, its better than letting Lucy go alone.

He then smiled at Lucy and said. Take him and use him as a porter to your hearts content.

Lucy didnt say a word of refusal, but she looked down at the golden butterfly grass with a look of utter discomfort. Felix saw her and secretly snorted.

She must be sad because Im the one coming, not Adrian. Ill make it an unforgettable weekend instead, Lucy Keenan!

* * *

The weekend came.

Felix was having a hectic morning. He put on the clothes he had prepared the day before and stared at the mirror several times. He had already had his perfect hair done flawlessly over and over again.

It was fortunate that Adrian left the dormitory early for the student council. He would have thought it strange if he had seen Felix acting nervously like this.

Felix had finished getting ready to go out, and after a long time wandering around the room, the sun finally rose to the highest point in the sky. Felix stood in front of the mirror one last time, checked his hair, and left the dormitory.

Lucy was already there, waiting for him, when Felix arrived in front of the main gate of the academy. She was not wearing her usual neat school uniform, but was wearing a plain dark brown dress. As always, her hair braided behind her, glistening in the midday sun.

As Felix approached, Lucy greeted with a stiff face. Hello, sunbae.

Hi, Lucy, Felix replied, keeping a casual expression on his face.

Going out with Lucy Keenan for lunch on the weekend.

Felixs face twitched from holding back his cheekbones trying to rise again and again. They headed toward the front gate of Xenomium Academy, where the carriages lined up waiting for passengers who were going to town.

Felix and Lucy also lined up in the procession for the carriage. Felix realized that many of the students in the queue were men and women holding hands. It was clear that they were a couple out on a date over the weekend.

Come to think of it Felix thought as he glanced at Lucy standing next to him.

Isn't this like a date?

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Felix blushed at the thought. Unlike other couples, they didn't make eye contact and hold each other's hands, but in the eyes of others, he and Lucy might look like a couple out on a date. He glanced at Lucy.

What is she thinking right now?

Felix was curious. Since earlier, Lucy has been looking around at the main gate of the academy as people passed by.

Are you looking for anyone? asked Felix.

Lucy looked back at him and opened her mouth hesitantly. Oh, that's

Lucy!

At that time, someone shouted Lucy's name and ran vigorously toward them. Felix's eyebrows rose at once. He recognized the person at a glance. Colin Connor came running, waving his hand cheerfully.

Lucy, good morning! Hello, Felix-sunbae! Colin, who arrived in front of them in an instant, took a deep breath and greeted them cheerfully.

Ah, Colin said he wanted to go too Lucy said in a low voice.

Of course! I have to help Lucy make the medicine! Trust me today! Porter! Tour guide! Restaurant guide! I'm confident with everything!

Get lost. Felix forgot that Lucy was by his side for a moment and let out harsh words.

What? Is that a joke!

I'm not kidding.

Huh! It's our turn! Come on board! Colin pretended not to hear Felix and opened the door of the empty carriage. Come on, Lucy! Take my hand! He escorted Lucy who was about to climb inside.

Colin once again grated on Felix's nerves.

This guy!

Felix looked like he had chewed a bug. He didnt have a good feeling about this.

* * *

Its been a while since Ive been to the towns shopping street! When I was a kid, I used to go to the capitals shopping district with my mother! Oh man, the street food you buy there is so delicious! But my mother didnt but it that often because she was skeptical of the hygiene! Oh, and the street vendors also sell strange things!

The carriage was on its way to town.

Inside, Colin couldnt keep his mouth shut for even a second. He talked non-stop, from the story of the shopping mall he frequented with his mother when he was young, to the story of his aunt and grandmothers house in the capital not too far away.

Felix looked out the window with his arms folded with a grim look on his face. It was a great opportunity to ask Lucy Keenan random questions and get close to her, but some kind of tactless guy suddenly appeared and ruined everything.

Should I throw him out of the carriage?

Felix looked out the window and Colin alternately and pondered seriously. The carriage wasnt moving that fast, so it didnt look like he would die from it.

Should I really throw him out?

Right then.

Whoa!

Suddenly, the carriage stopped.

Colin ended his jabbering and looked out of the window. What. Whos that standing in front of our carriage? He quickly reported the situation.

Ah! Lady, hold on a second!

Felix could hear the horsemans urgent cry outside, but the carriage door opened. Someone stood in front of the door, the gleaming sunlight shone behind them. It was Ros Millard.

Ros looked around the people in the carriage with her unique arrogant eyes and stopped at Felix.

What? You were riding it, too? Ros voiced her disappointment, her eyebrows furrowed together, hinting her displeasure with Felix.

What? Felix asked, his face turned surly at her absurd intrusion.

Ros paid it no mind and climbed onto the carriage. Lets ride together. The carriage I was riding suddenly stopped. She pointed at the carriage on the side of the road. Its wheel stuck in the mud. I couldnt go anywhere for a long time and stood there. Its better than waiting for a new carriage to come, right? she said and continued without waiting for a reply, Oh, my. My clothes are dirty. She frowned, looking at the hem of her dress that had been smeared with mud.

Ross arrival caused the carriage to become cramped in an instant.

Move aside! Ros demanded. She sat next to Felix, which annoyed him further.

Felix, who was helplessly pushed into the corner, clenched his jaw and rubbed his forehead. He heaved out a deep sigh.

What kind of crazy situation had he got himself into.

* * *

The road beyond the window was paved with flat stones, and colourful buildings soon came into view. Slowly, the carriage came to a halt in the middle of town.

The crowd on the street was bigger than expected. Looking back, decorative flags connecting buildings were fluttering in the wind in the sky.

There must be a lot of people because theres a festival! said Colin as he got off the carriage and looked around the crowd.

Argh! My clothes are so dirty. Ros raised the hem of her dress and spoke, displeased. So, where are you going? she asked.

Well visit the pharmacy first! And then the clothing stores and street vendors after! Colin made a series of arbitrary plans.

Even before Felix could refute anything, Ros clapped first and said, Oh, are you going to stop by the boutique? I was about to go see a dress, too. All right, I tag along!

Are you going to the pharmacy? Felix asked Ros, frowning his forehead. You have nothing to see there.

Who cares. I can go and look around! And wouldnt it be dangerous to walk alone on a crowded street like this?

Why did you come out alone in the first place?

Thats up to me!

In an instant, a fight between Felix and Ros broke out.

Felix closed his mouth when he found Lucy looking at him with a surprised look on her face, while he was trying to shoot Ros with harsh words. He pretended to clear his throat in a hurry.

Things are getting out of control. Even that damn Colin wasnt enough, now Ros Millard wants to follow us too.

Ha Yes, do as you please. sighed Felix, as if he had given up. But inside, he was hatching a different plan.

I should find an opportunity and lose them both.

Thus, the four of them walked together along the town center.

The streets were crowded with people who came out to enjoy the festival. The road they passed was narrow. Naturally, they split in two. Lucy and Colin walked side by side in the front, and Felix and Ros in the back. Felix was quite annoyed. For some reason, nothing had changed from the night of Literature Night.

The pair of squirrels were busy looking around the streets, completely oblivious to Felixs displeasure. Lucy, whose eyes were taken away by the street scenery, seemed curious all the time.

They soon arrived in an alley lined with shops. The herbalist Lucy was talking about was also located in the alley.

As Felix entered the store, the scent of bitter herbs filled his nose. The scent were not overbearing, and from time to time, it mixed with the scent of flowers emanating from Lucy.

The shelf of the store not only displayed dried plants used as medicinal ingredients, but also weirdly shaped beans and strangely twisted tree roots.

I think Im going to throw up, Ros stated as if nauseous, looking at the dried fruit that looked like a human brain.

Do you want to go now? Felix asked, opening the door for her.

I dont want to, Ros sighed and went inside.

At the counter, Lucy was ordering mandragora root. The owner of the pharmacy disappeared through the curtain behind the counter and soon came out with a pile of mandragora.

Its five golds. said the owner.

Ill pay for it. Felix stepped forward when Lucy opened her wallet.

Lucy quickly grabbed his arm. I have money.

Didnt the ingredients cost twice as much because of me? And it was originally made for Adrian My conscience nagged at me for getting it free.

That After a moments hesitation, Lucy said, with her emerald eyes shining, It wasnt really made because of Adrian-sunbae

Felix slowly lowered his arm.

It wasnt made for Adrian?

A question crept into his mind. Lucy quickly paid for the ingredient as Felix froze in place.

I bought all the ingredients I needed. Im going now.

After purchasing the goods, they left the pharmacy and headed to a boutique led by Ros. Somehow, Colin was more excited than her and talked about the boutique all the way.

Ros sunbae-nim, do you know Arvena Boutique?

Ros face brightened up, and she excitedly replied, How do you know that place? Its a place that only deals with womens clothes!

Sunbae, you dont know anything! Mrs. Arvena is very good at designing mens clothing as well! My aunt is a regular at the boutique, so she sometimes orders my clothes!

I had an inkling after seeing your outfit. You know something about style, dont you?

Finally, someone understands me.

Colin and Ros continued to talk to each other, and suddenly they started walking in the front. They seemed to have completely forgotten the existence of Felix and Lucy, and were busy praising each others clothes or recommending other boutique.

Naturally, Felix and Lucy walked behind them, side by side.

Give it to me. Felix took the paper bag of pharmacy items from Lucys hand. Its heavy.

Thank you. Lucy blushed and thanked him.

Felix loved that he got to walk alongside Lucy. He hoped Colin and Ros would be lost in their conversation and forgot about them, or whether they were in the boutique or not.

There were many people who came to enjoy the festival in the shopping district. Felix thought it would be perfect to leave the party because it was so crowded. It didnt matter if he lost the two in the lead, but it would be difficult if he lost Lucy.

Just stay close to me and walk. Felix said, gently leading Lucy to his side.

Lucys face reddened again.

I hope its not unpleasant.

Felix was worried as he saw Lucys stiff expression.

Did I act too friendly?

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Fortunately, Lucy didnt try to push him away.

After walking for a few more minutes, they arrived at the towns largest boutique shop. The entire building was used as a single store.

Felix had never been to a store that handled womens clothes. He had no need to purchase one. Furthermore, all of his clothes were tailored by a tailor visiting the mansion.

As they entered, Lucy also looked around the store with curious eyes and a feeling of awkwardness.

Colin and Ros, who entered first, were literally like fish in water. They were busy looking at the clothes while staying close to each other, like it wasnt their first time meeting today.

Colin made a fuss, saying that he would pick a dress that suited Ros.

An excited clerk brought a design book containing images of various dresses and unfolded it in front of the pair. Soon the three had a heated discussion over the designs.

Why dont you look at it together?

At Felixs question, Lucy, who had been tapping the feathers on his hat, turned around in surprise.

I I dont have clothes that I want to buy. There is no need.

It was not an excuse, Lucy didnt really seem interested in those things. She is different from Colin and Ros who were looking at the hats and shoes.

Lucy! Lucy! Colin dashed toward her, pulling her hand. You should come and look too. Theres a dress that would look good on you!

Im fine!

Colin was stubborn. He took a blue dress with a cute design from the display. Try this dress! He pushed the dress into Lucys arm, saying it was okay, and forced her into a dressing room.

After a while, Lucy, who had changed into the blue dress, walked stiffly out of the dressing room. The way she twisted her hands, as if her clothes were too awkward, looked fresh and shy.

Wow! You look great, Lucy!

Youre so cute.

Colin and Ros spoke words of admiration as they looked at Lucy.

But somethings missing! Ros said, giving Lucy a once over.

Afterward, she moved in search of something, and came back holding a stylish hat accented with ribbon. She put it on Lucys head.

So much cuter! Rose clapped her hands and said with a satisfied nod. She soon turned to Felix, one eyebrow raised. Hey, Felix, say something, too! Why did you come here if you were going to stand there looking so sad?

Felix frowned at Ross remark. As soon as Ros was about to scold him again, Felix turned his head and muttered, Cute.

Lucy reddened under her hat, perhaps because she heard it. However, Ros, who did not see Lucys flushed state, clicked her tongue while looking at Felix. Tsk, is that it? Youre stingy with compliments.

Thats right, Felix-sunbae! This isnt just cute enough, its super cute!

Never mind, what would the noble Prince Berg know about fashion?

Ros and Colin chose to ignore him and left to find a new dress for Lucy to wear.

When the noisy atmosphere calmed down, Felix turned his head again and looked at Lucy. Lucy kept looking into the mirror as if she was looking at an unfamiliar woman in a new dress. He couldn't take his eyes off her. Colin was right to say that she was not just cute, but very cute.

Lucy in a new dress was indescribably cute. If she wouldn't refuse, he would buy all the similar dresses in this boutique and hand them to her.

Lucy, who had been shyly standing in front of the mirror the whole time, stared at the hat she wore and took it off and checked the price tag, she hurriedly put down the hat, surprised by the amount.

I want to change into my clothes again. Lucy told the clerk. Soon the clerk took her into the dressing room.

Huh? Where's Lucy?

Ros and Colin, who soon appeared with a new pink dress, looked around, puzzled.

She's changing her clothes. Felix pointed to the changing room.

Oh, I want her to try this dress too.

It'll definitely look good on her.

Is she a doll? Felix said, clicking his tongue. But thinking about it, it's not wrong.

She does look like a doll.

Oh, this hat! The more I see it, the more I like it! Ros said, as she put the hat on her head, which Lucy had taken off. It's not that expensive. Should I buy it

When he heard Rose muttering, Felix took the hat from her. |Why don't you finish shopping and change your clothes?

Hmmph! Ros headed to the changing room with her mouth sticking out.

* * *

After shopping, they headed to a restaurant for lunch.

What did you buy? Colin asked, looking at the large shopping bag in Felix's hand, brimming with curiosity.

What is it that you need to buy? Ros also looked at the shopping bag, her eyes questioning.

Don't mind it.

Hmm.

Ros and Colin looked at Felix with suspicion at his curt reply.

Let's go eat lunch!

Felix quickly walked into the restaurant before they paid any further attention to the item.

The place they went for lunch was a restaurant called Evening Promise.

Perhaps because it was operated not only for aristocrats, but also for rich merchants, foreigners, and academy students, it was a little more lively than other high-end restaurants.

Wow, it's been a while since I've been here! I remember coming here with my mother when I was young. Colin said, as he settled down at the table. He looked around the interior as if recalling his childhood.

Colin recommended the menu to Lucy, who sat next to him, and prepared this and that. Ros, who was watching them attentively, said, You guys seem to be really close. Are you two dating?

What? It's not like that! Lucy jumped up from her seat and waved her hand.

Colin pouted at Lucy. Hey, Lucy Keenan! Aren't you being too rude?

But soon Colin returned to his usual playful expression, as he explained to Ros. Actually, Lucy and I grew up in the same hometown. We also prepared for the entrance examination at the Xenomium Academy together at my house.

At those words, Felix's face darkened, and he asked briskly, At your house?

Collins father, Baron Connor, is sponsoring me. Lucy hurriedly explained. My grandmother has been running a drugstore in the Barons territory for a long time, so he is close to me. I was able to come to the Academy thanks to him.

Oh! Our academy is famous for its expensive tuition. If you are being sponsored, it means you must be really good at studying. Ros said, full of admiration. Lucys cheeks flushed pink.

Felix also recently learned about Lucy Keenans excellent performance. Maybe that was why the book club became famous. Because Lucy Keenan and Adrian Berg are two of the chief executives.

Its because shes good at studying, but theres another reason!

At that time, Colin came out with another playful expression. Lucy looked at him anxiously with a look that said what else are you going to say.

Lucy is my fiance! Its no wonder why my father sponsors her!

Felix spewed out the water he was drinking. He frowned, unable to understand the shocking words he had just heard.

What?

His expression, looking at Lucy and Colin, who were sitting opposite him, became more serious than ever.

Lucy Keenan is that boy

Collin! Lucy stared at Colin. It seemed to mean not to joke around. But Felix still looked at the two with a puzzled face.

It was a joke the Baron used to say when we were young. We have played together a lot since we were little, Lucy explained, noticing Felixs gaze.

But my father and mother still often say that they will marry you and me. Colin chuckled and continued making fun of Lucy. When you and I become adults, were going to have a wedding.

Thats not true. Lucy bluntly slapped his shoulder, and gulped her water in one swift breath.

Despite Lucys firm denial and explanation, Felixs uncomfortable feeling did not go away. Even after the meal, he stared at the dish in front of him and thought.

So, not only did Lucy Keenan have a crush, but she also had a childhood friend who might become her fiance.

Im going crazy.

Felix poked the innocent fish with his fork

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The streets were noisy when they left the restaurant after a late lunch. People were rushing to go to the towns square.

Naturally curios, the group headed to the square a well, and soon, they heard a majestic and powerful march. When they came to the large plaza, it was crowded with people waving their hands towards something.

Wow! The Imperial Knights! the short Colin stood on his tip-toe and shouted, looking over the shoulder of the person in front of him.

The knights were marching through the square with a modest gait. Their silver armor and red cloak shone brilliantly in the shouts of the people.

Wow, thats cool! Colin voiced his admiration, his cheeks heated up with excitement.

Ros who was standing next to him also spoke words of admiration. What? Look at those muscles! Its different from the boys at the academy, right?

Colin and Ros pushed forward through the crowd to see the Knights closer.

As the Knights approached, peoples cheers grew louder, and petals fell like snow in the sky.

Although many people had already gathered in the square, masses constantly appeared from somewhere to watch the march of the Imperial Knights.

Some squirmed in to see from the front, causing angry complaints from others here and there.

One of them moved between Felix and Lucy. As a result, a gap arose between the two, people who were looking for a chance to go forward began to constantly dig in between.

Soon, Lucy was pushed around and was about to stray away from Felix.

Felix quickly grabbed Lucys wrist and pulled her into his arms. Stay close.

Lucy, who looked anxious at his words, nodded.

Among the crowds, the tiny Lucy stood motionless like an acorn that had fallen into a crevice of a rock. Although Felix was protecting her in his arms, it was a difficult situation for her small body.

Colin and Ros were moving quite far from Felix to the front.

I cant do this. Felix wrapped his arms around her and walked through the people, leaving the precession.

Lucy, who had escaped the crowd safely, put her hand on her knees and took a deep breath. She was pale, probably from nervousness being in the middle of the crowd.

Are you okay?

Lucy nodded slightly at Felixs worried question. Lucy, who soon realized that only two of them were left, looked around. By the way, Colin and Ros sunbae-nim.

Its fine. Felix immediately replied as if it was none of his business. They will get out on their own. Lets go together first. I hate places with a lot of people.

Felix took a step forward. Lucy followed after briefly glancing at Colin and Ros. The two hurried out of the noisy and frantic square.

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Felix and Lucy came out of the square and walked along a nearby large boulevard. It was also crowded with people who came to see the festival, but it wasnt as crazy as the parade area.

On both sides of the boulevard, numerous miscellaneous merchants were placing their items on the stand.

Take a look at our stuff!

Ill give it to you at half price only during the festival!

There were people selling freshly squeezed fruit juice from home, people selling bracelets made of colorful threads, they were also selling chicks and puppies, and even strange magic tools that they did not know what for.

People passing by the stalls would often stop and buy things.

Felix, who was not interested in cheap items sold by miscellaneous merchants, kept walking, his eyes stayed at the road in front. Then he noticed that Lucy, who was walking next to him, glanced at a kiosk lined with jewelry made of cheap crystals.

Do you want to see? he stopped in front of her and asked.

No, its not like that. Lucy shook her hand, but Felix was already approaching the stands.

Although they were made of cheap crystals, the necklaces, bracelets, and rings were quite cute and well-made. Felix could feel Lucys gaze carefully looking down at them from the side, and he smiled happily without realizing it.

Its a constellation necklace. the owner of the stand said, introducing the necklace. Look inside the crystal carefully. There are constellations that symbolize each moon.

As the owner had said, gold beads smaller than sesame seeds were in the shape of constellations in the crystal. Raising the necklace into the air, the constellation gleamed in the sunlight.

What month was the lady born? the owner suddenly asked Lucy.

I was born in May.

What about you gentleman?

I was born in October.

Then it must be Eliakezari and the Holy Swordsman.

After the owner looked through the necklace, he picked up two. In the crystal hanging from the end of the silver string, Eliakezari and Holy Swordsman respectively shone brilliantly.

I think you two will get along well. It is also very popular as a necklace for lovers.

Lovers? Felixs eyes twinkled.

Would you like to buy it? The owner held out the necklace.

Ill buy both.

The answer unexpectedly came out of Lucys mouth. Felix opened her eyes wide and looked at her.

Why does Lucy Keenan want my constellation necklace?

His heart pounded for a while, but his mood subsided coldly.

Like a fool.

He laughed at himself, who had been excited for a while.

Adrians birthday is the same as mine.

Lucy packed the necklace she bought gently. A strange jealousy rose from Felixs heart as he watched it.

I didnt buy it because it was a lovers necklace A friend I know is also a holy swordsman. Lucy, who saw Felixs crooked expression, said as if explaining. It was clear that both of her cheeks were red.

Even so, there was no reason for Felix to be mean to her. He knew very well that it was none of his business who Lucy gave the necklace to.

He began to take move again, pressing down on the childish emotions that rose from his heart.

He was walking without a word and stopped again when he passed a food stand. Lucy, who was following him, was glancing at all kinds of street food with sparkling eyes. Then she met Felixs eyes, she immediately tuned her head, blushing. She seemed embarrassed after she was caught being secretly preoccupied with the food.

But she seemed to have no idea. That innocent face changed Felixs mood at once.

The heavy emotions that tormented him disappeared, like snow melting under the warm sun, the moment she saw her face.

Im getting hungry again after walking. He exclaimed, and bought whatever he could see ice cream and cotton candy were some of them.

Now, I bought too much, so you should eat too. He handed over the food to Lucy, practically shoving it into her hands.

After a while, Felix smiled contentedly as he saw Lucy following, licking an ice cream like a child.

It was funny to see Lucys small words or actions change his mood, but there was nothing he could do about it. Today, everything seemed to be centered around Lucy.

The sun was beginning to set over the mountain as they walked along the main road. At dusk, the sky was tinged with a reddish hue.

When Felix and Lucy arrived in front of the academy in a carriage, the sun had completely set. It was dark everywhere.

The main gate of the academy was closed. It was natural since the fixed curfew had passed.

What should we do? We will be penalized for breaking the curfew. Lucy said, worry evident on her face.

If you return after curfew, you can tell the doorkeeper your name and ask Fred to open the door. But at the same time, a fairly large penalty will be given.

For Lucy Keenan, who was always at the top and was an exemplary student, it was quite a concern.

Come here. Felix took Lucys hand and turned at the corner of the wall. Soon, Felix stopped at a distance where Fred would not see.

We can cross the wall from here.

What?

Lucy opened her eyes wide, as she had never thought of doing that even in her dream. Felix already jumped over the wall even before she could feel embarrassed.

He carefully checked the other side. No one was there. The sun had set, engulfing them in darkness. It seemed like this would be enough not to be noticed.

He first threw his and Lucys luggage over the wall, then grabbed Lucy in a flash.

Huck!

Lucy staggered in surprise.

Dont struggle and sit on the wall.

As she came to her senses and sat on the wall, Felix then jumped over the wall with light movements.

Felix got down on the soft grass and opened his arms toward Lucy. Come on, Ill catch you. Dont be afraid.

At that time, they heard someone approaching from afar. It was Freds footsteps.

Come on! At his urging, Lucy closed her eyes and jumped toward him. Felix hugged her and collapsed gently on the grass. Lets wait until old man Fred passes by.

After rolling under the bushes, they hid themselves and waited for the sound of footsteps to move away.

Lucy was hunched over, anxious and holding her breath. Perhaps this was the first time she had jumped over a wall. Felix quietly burst into laughter as he took a guess.

Grasshoppers chirped nearby, filling the night with their sound. The cool autumn wind, which cannot be expressed in words, fluttered through their hair.

Lucys fine hair, which scattered out of the wind, gently tickled Felixs cheek.

After contemplating for a while, he pulled a hat out of the shopping bag he had been carrying for half a day. It was the hat that Lucy was wearing at the boutique.

He put the hat on Lucys head. Lucy, who was staring at Freds feet, looked back at him in surprise.

This is

Its your reward for making the allergy medicine. Dont refuse and accept it.

But its too expensive, Lucy said, remembering the price tag she saw at the boutique.

Its ridiculously cheap compared to the effort you put into making the medicine.

Lucy fiddled with the hat without answering. He couldnt see her expression well because it was dark.

Then I will be grateful. Finally, Lucy answered. Her face, dimly visible under the dim moonlight, smiled gently.

Felixs heart began to pound at the sight. It was the first time she smiled at him. He felt happy and sad at the same time.

Chapter 15

That night, Felix lay in bed and stared blankly at the ceiling. His head was jumbled up, and he didnt want to think of anything, yet her face kept popping up.

She has fluffy light brown hair and mysterious emerald eyes.

He kept thinking of Lucy Keenan, hiding under the bushes, looking at him and smiling. The more he tried to shake it off, the deeper she dug into his head.

He wanted to give her all the clothes, shoes, and accessories in the store. But even if he had given her that much gift, he still wouldnt be satisfied.

Finally, Felix had no choice but to admit it.

The fact that he liked Lucy Keenan.

He wanted to see Lucy Keenan smile more. He hoped she wouldnt feel uncomfortable with him anymore, and he wanted to go on a date with her every weekend

His face, lost in thought, had a shadow as dark as an autumn night outside the window.

But Lucy Keenan doesnt like me. The person Lucy Keenan likes is

How was your trip to the town?

Yeah, its this guy.

Felixs eyes were filled with bitterness as he looked at Adrian, which made him worried with the sudden shift in expression. Whats wrong? Earlier, you were talking as if something good had happened.

Felix turned his head, not answering the question.

Adrian continued, not letting up. Have you been to the pharmacy? I feel bad, I think I wasted Lucys time.

Dont worry. Shell enjoy even the time to make allergy medicine for you. Felix muttered.

However, Adrian ignored him. He didnt put any meaning to Felixs words.

I heard that Ros was also there, Adrian asked, curious.

Felix frowned slightly when he heard the name he didnt want to think about.

You didnt use Lucy to go on a date with Ros, did you?

Felix jumped up at Adrians ensuing question. What nonsense! He shouted sincerely as if he was wrongly accused. What do you mean used her?! Im the one who got in the way! With that, Felix lay back on his bed, annoyed.

Adrian tilted his head at Felixs outburst; he didnt understand. He looked at him with a strange expression for a moment and soon smiled and shook his head. Okay, just read this. Its a letter. He handed it to Felix. The crest of the Berg family is stamped on an envelope that exudes a subtle fragrance.

As Felix opened the letter while lying down, the Duchess of Bergs neat handwriting formed neat rows and filled the paper.

To Adrian and Felix.

The letter contained the mothers minor concerns; whether they were adjusting well to the new school year, if they caught a cold in the increasingly chilly weather, if the allergy symptoms were ok, or if the last year at the academy was too busy.

Felix put it back on Adrians bed after he was done reading. He would always hand their mothers letters back to his twin. The letters were never intended for him.

The Duchess of Berg had never written a letter to her twin sons separately. She always wrote letters that began with To Adrian and Felix.

It wasnt because they were twins or because she loved them equally. The Duchess of Bergs letter was written entirely for Adrian. Felixs name was inevitably added because they were twins.

It had been a long time since he had stopped thinking about why Adrians name was always written first in her letters, even though he was the older twin.

Now Felix knew the reason well. Their mother loved Adrian more than him. Every time he thought of it, something sharp pierced his heart.

You cant even tell us apart. But how can you have a son you like more?

There was clearly a problem with the favoritism of the Duchess of Berg, who loved one over the other without being able to tell them apart.

It would be fine if he didnt know, but the duchess often confused the two sons and hurt Felix deeply.

Adrian, come on. Eat up before Felix comes.

Adrian, dont tell Felix you received this. Its a secret.

Adrian, you should be the only one who knows what I just told you. You cant tell Felix.

Felix was confused and saddened to watch his mother happy at keeping a deep secret with his younger brother Adrian, leaving him out, but he couldnt voice his feelings.

He felt out of place. He felt like he was in a position where he shouldnt intervene. Instead, he seemed to have become a hindrance between his mother and Adrian.

The Duchess also chose Adrian without hesitation whenever she was at a crossroads. Felix witnessed it right before his eyes eight years ago.

It was around the time when there was a deep discord between the duke and the duchess. They raised their voices and had a screaming match. Then, the duchess ran into her room and sobbed for a while.

After that, the duke left the mansion, rubbing his angry face. Soon, the duchess left her room again, luggage in hand.

Felix, the only one who saw his mother, got up from his chair. Mama, where are you going?

The duchess rolled her anxious and blank eyes around and turned to the sound. Her lips kept muttering as if they were chanting a spell. She soon walked over to Felix and snatched her sons wrist.

Adrian! Come here!

Where are you going?

Hurry up and follow me!

While being dragged by his mother, Felix, a ten-year-old kid, had an epiphany. He kept quiet whenever her mother often mistook him for Adrian, but now he thought he shouldnt. Not only his mother but he would also be seriously hurt when the truth came out.

Mama, Im not Adrian

However, Felix, who was trying to reveal the truth, shut up when he saw the duchess expression. The duchess, rolling her bulging eyeballs back and forth, seemed insane at first glance.

She was so preoccupied with running away from the mansion in a hurry that she didnt even notice her little son was trying to say something. It was as if all she could think of was how she needed to hurry and run away, taking her beloved Adrian with her into the carriage.

The carriage never stopped and rushed down the road once their journey began. It was not until the hills, and lakes passed through the window and darkness fell slightly over the world that Felix gathered his courage.

Mama, Im not Adrian.

The duchess had been staring out of the window all the time. She slowly turned her head and looked at Felix.

Felix thought he would jump out of the carriage to avoid the situation, but he couldn't, so he just closed his eyes tightly.

Im Felix.

Felix then slowly opened his eyes again and thought.

Wouldn't it be great if, when I opened my eyes again, my mom told me that I was lucky to be with her instead of Adrian?

His mother's face came into focus as his eyelids opened gently. At the same time, a very sharp wound was deeply engraved in his chest.

The duchess sitting in front of him looked more dismayed than ever. Felix had never seen her mother so distraught. His heart seemed to sink to his feet at the fact that he was the cause of that despair.

I should have told you before the carriage departed. I should have said I was not Adrian, and her beloved Adrian was left in the mansion.

Felix regretted it. But he was too late. The carriage had already entered the Everne family estate, the duchess's former residence.

Marquis Everne, the duchess's father, severely scolded his daughter for returning home as if she were fleeing to her homeland.

You ran away to your parents' house because you fought with your husband?! Are you out of your mind?! What kind of disgrace is this?!

The duchess, who would normally have bowed at his father's scolding, was stubborn this time. She returned to her room, declared she would not return to the duchy, and locked the door behind her.

She didn't come out of her room for a whole month.

Strolling through the lakefront of the garden of Everne, feeling the grass on his feet, Felix felt guilty and waited for his mother to leave the room.

If it were Adrian, not me, who came here, would Mama be less sad? If so, she might not have stayed in the room. Maybe Mama would take a walk in this garden with Adrian and share her childhood memories to soothe her gloomy mood.

And a month later, the duke appeared on the Everne family estate to take back his wife and son.

Felix saw his father enter his mothers room. He didnt know what the two of them were talking about. All he knew was after a short conversation with his father; his mother came out after a month. She called Felix and got back into the carriage.

Thus, the duchess month-long runaway came to an end.

When Felix returned to the dukes house, he tried to forget about it. Remembering it would just cause him more pain.

But still, Felix had a question that popped into his head from time to time.

Why is it, Adrian? We have the same face, height, and voice. How did my mother come to love my younger brother more than me?

And these days, that question sparked another one, making Felix suffer even more.

How did Lucy Keenan come to like Adrian, not me?

Chapter 16

When you had someone you liked, your hearing would be several times sharper. You could distinguish the persons voice anywhere and clearly hear that persons name among the many sounds.

Just like now.

I was just helping Lucy move the books to the library!

Felix, who was returning to the dormitory after his morning classes had ended, stopped in his tracks.

Due to its age, students were prohibited from entering the old Academy building to prevent any accidents.

In the old hall, Colin Connor, carrying books, was arguing with a student from the student council who looked like a sophomore. Itll be quicker to go this way. Why would I go back? Colin complained. Ill be quick.

Its against the academy rules, Colin! The principal banned students from entering this area!

Please cut me some slack! You want me to walk the long way with these heavy books? Just close your eyes, this once.

I cant.

Felix had no idea what was happening, but Colin appeared to have been caught while attempting to pass through the old hall. There was a verbal fight between Colin, who was trying to take a shortcut, and the student council member, who said no.

It was none of his concern who Colin was fighting with; the issue was that Lucy was standing next to Colin.

Likewise, Lucy, holding a lot of books in her arms, pulled Colins hem. She looked uncomfortable. Lets just turn around, Colin. Breaking the school rules is a bit

Ugh! How do you go around carrying all these books? And there are still a lot of books left to move in the library! Just look at us, Emily! Im going to lose my arm while moving these books!

Colin begged the student council member desperately. However, the smart-faced female student responded with a firm tone. I know! But the book clubs business is none of the student councils concern, so I have no choice but to give penalties to those who break the rules!

Another sluggish argument ensued between the student council member and Colin. Felix didnt think Colin would win.

Felix stared at his reflection in the window, clasped his buttons up to his neck and tightened his loose tie. Then he approached the quarrelling duo.

Whats going on, Emily? Felix asked, calling the student council member by name.

Adrian! Emilys face brightened up as soon as she saw him. She immediately reported the two for breaking the rules. I caught them trying to sneak through the old hall, and they kept asking me to just let it go.

Emily pulled a notebook out of her arms. She held the pen with stern eyes, ready to write down Colin and Lucys names and impose a penalty at any moment.

Wait, Emily. Felix raised his hand to stop her.

The library is organizing old books. He explained with a kind smile on his face. As the student council president, I have given them a permit to pass through the old building while moving books to the library. As you can tell, the distance between the two libraries is quite long.

Felix continued, pretending to be searching his pocket. Sorry, I should have informed the student council earlier as the book club manager. Where did I put my permit? He

searched around the pocket and took out his empty hands with a troubled expression. I must have left it in the library. Ill bring it now.

No, you dont have to bother. Emily hurriedly waved her hand. She then turned to Lucy. Why didnt you say anything, Lucy? I didnt even know that. Anyway, its okay to go this way.

Emily politely made way.

I told you so! Colin snorted at Emily. Lets go, Lucy! Thank you, Adrian-sunbae!

However, before Colin could take a step forward, Felix caught his arm.

Surprised, Colin gasped. He stared back at Felix. Su Sunbae?

Who are you?

Colin frowned. What? What are you talking about? Im Colin!

Who is that?

Colin struggled at his feet as Felix grabbed him. He whined, feeling like he was being mistreated. Its me! Colin Corner! Lucys friend!

Well, I dont know anyone by that name. Felix pretended to be worried and rubbed his chin. He then forcibly took away the books Colin was holding. The access permit is only for the members of the book club. Youre not a club member, so youre breaking the rules.

What?

Felix glanced at Emily. If you keep talking back, youll get more penalty points.

Yes, sir.

You can clean the hallway as a punishment.

Come on, wait! Puzzled, Colin tried to grab the hem of Felixs shirt, but Emily stood in the way.

Where are you going?

Unfortunately, Colin was unable to defeat Emily not only verbally but also physically.

Lucy! Adrian-sunbae! Colin, whose neck was wrapped around Emilys arm, eagerly called the two.

Lets go, Lucy. Felix happily led Lucy away.

* * *

How many times have you escaped like this, Felix-sunbae? Lucy asked when they round the corner, and Colins whining was no longer heard. She squinted and looked at Felix suspiciously.

You make it sound like Im a habitual offender. I swear this is the first time, Felix replied, a little awkward, but he was telling the truth. In the first place, the student council members werent bold enough to impose penalties on the Princes of Berg.

But impersonating the student president is Wouldnt Adrian feel bad if he knew? Lucy asked carefully.

Felix shrugged and replied playfully, Adrian sometimes acts like hes me when hes at a disadvantage.

Adrian-sunbaenim? No way.

Felix secretly pouted at Lucy, who seemed to have no doubts about the honesty of her twin brother.

On April Fools Day last semester, everyone said it was me who kicked Detrees planetary model, but it was actually Adrian.

What?

I didnt make a fuss for Adrians sake.

That doesnt make sense, Lucy said in disbelief.

Why not? You cant expect the student council president to be perfect every single day. They also need time to relieve stress.

As if holding back the laughter that was about to burst, Lucy tried to keep a straight face, yet the corners of her lips kept twitching. That was you sunbae. Her cheeks turned red, trying to hold back her laughter as she said, I was there too. I saw it.

Oh, really? Felix smiled sheepishly. Yeah, thats a lie. That was me. He graciously admitted.

If Lucy was there, he couldnt fool her eyes.

* * *

They soon arrived in front of the library.

Unlike the newly built library, the library they went to was located in the old building, so there were rarely people visiting.

Cobwebs stretched all over the old wooden building, creating a gloomy feeling.

When they pulled the doorknob, the wooden door, with faulty hinges, opened with a terrifying creak.

It was dark inside the library; no window was opened. Even though it was midday, not even a single ray of light came in. The cold air rose slowly from the floor.

You can leave the books here.

Felix placed the books she was carrying on the wooden table Lucy pointed to.

Are you going to tidy it up?

The book club members will come and join later, Lucy replied, organizing the books she brought. Thank you for your help, sunbae.

When she turned to Felix and thanked him, a gust of wind suddenly blew.

Bang!

The wind slammed the door shut and instantly engulfed the library in darkness, cutting off the only source of light.

Startled, Lucy screamed.

Its okay. Its probably because of the wind, Felix said, calming her down. He fumbled over the wall and located the door. The handle was easily found. However, no matter how hard he yanked, the door would not open. It wont open.

What? Lucy groped her way in the darkness and approached Felix. She also attempted to open the door but to no avail. Its locked up? Lucy said, sounding anxious. Her voice trembled slightly.

Ill try again. Felix tried to pull the handle again.

The door only shook with a loud noise but never opened.

The old wooden door was rotten in several places, and the hinge joints were loose. Felix would probably be able to break through it just by kicking it with his feet.

But Felix thought.

This is an opportunity. Today, I accidentally bumped into Lucy, easily beat Colin, and now I'm alone in the library with her

Lady Luck is helping me.

In the dark, the corners of his mouth went up. Pretending to pull the handle a few more times, he slowly turned toward Lucy. The door didn't budge. A lie naturally came out of his mouth.

What? What should we do?

Let's wait until someone comes, Felix said calmly. Please don't let anyone come.

It was fortunate that Lucy could not see his expression in the dark.

Chapter 17

I should turn on the light first. I can't see anything

Lucy walked somewhere, fumbling over the wall. Soon she found a candlestick hanging on an old nail and lit it up. Bright orange light soon filled the dark library.

I'm glad there are still candles left, said Lucy, relieved.

Then she approached the table and began to sort the books she had brought. Whenever Lucy's hands moved, books piled up neatly, making a faint sound as they went on top of the other, sincerely working as a member of the book club.

I'll help too. Embarrassed for reasons unknown, Felix approached.

Then can you check between the book pages? Lucy picked up a book and turned the page. Sometimes some students use a student ID card as a bookmark and forget to take them out and just return them to the library.

Really? Felix picked up a book that was nearby. When he flipped over the book, a piece of paper fell, but it wasn't a student ID.

[Archel, be bald. Archel, be bald. Archel, be bald]

The same sentence filled one side of the paper. Archel was a history teacher famous for being strict and stingy.

What is that? Lucy asked. She laughed as soon as she saw what was written. I think Mr. Archel should be really careful. There's always a curse note like this.

Every time?

Yes.

Lucy began to list the things she saw one after another.

He was cursed to have diarrhea all year round, and someone also cursed him to be constipated all year round and that a beetle would come out of his ears

Isn't it a miracle that Archel is still alive? Felix thought as Lucy listed the various curses she had come across.

Various things appeared between the other books pages as well. Most of them were trash receipts, scribbles, and candy wrappers but there was a love letter, inserted between the pages and was left forgotten.

A love letter

Felix stared at the letter with the strange confession written on it. The names of the sender and recipient were not written.

That's too much.

Felix turned back; Lucy's focus was on the letter he held, sadness in her eyes.

How dare they treat someone else's confession letter like this.

I know. Felix folded the letter in half and put it on the pile of paper.

The letter, which someone must have courageously written down, was intentionally used as a bookmark and was now on the verge of being thrown away.

It would be very sad if the other person treated my heart like this Lucy muttered, returning to her task. She looked melancholic.

Are you planning on confessing to anyone?

At Felix's sudden question, Lucy raised her head. Hmm?

Why are you so surprised?

I'm not surprised. But her voice trembled faintly.

Were you really going to confess to someone?

One persons face came to Felixs head.

Is it Adrian?

He quickly became serious.

No. Theres no way Lucy suddenly has such courage. She couldnt even ask Adrian to go together to the Literature Night.

Felix reassured himself. However, his anxious hands were unknowingly flapping roughly through the books. A note flew out from the book by the wind he created, soaring far from the table.

Felix picked it up. Ha, popularity vote? He let out an exasperated laugh.

The note had a popularity ranking among female students of the Xenomium Academy.

Who did such a childish thing? Felix snorted, but his eyes were checking the rankings.

The first place was Claire Hamilton, the daughter of the Marquis and a student council member. Ros Millard was in second place by a narrow margin. From 3rd place onwards, the names of unfamiliar female students and no Lucy.

What? Whats the standard of this ranking? Felix spat out, dissatisfied.

Thats absurd. How could they not include Lucy?

Was there something wrong with their eyes? He crumpled the paper and threw it onto the table.

In an instant, Lucy quickly picked up the paper and unfolded it.

As expected, do you think Ros should be number one?

Felix looked at her in surprise as she checked her paper.

What? Ros Millard? Felix asked, extremely puzzled. How did you come to that conclusion? Didnt you see me fighting with Ros when we went to town?

Were you fighting? You seem to be on good terms to me.

What are you talking about?

Does Lucy Keenans definition of a good relationship refer to a relationship where they cant stand each other? How can you say that we are good friends even after seeing that?

You seem to be joking around with each other. Lucy blurted out after a moment of hesitation.

Joke? Joking?

Felix was momentarily confused.

I swear I never uttered a single joke to Ros Millard.

Give me that.

He took the note from Lucy and crumpled it relentlessly. Then, he opened the lid of the nearby box marked Discarded Books and shoved the note into it.

A strange silence loomed in the library.

Ever since they found the note with the popularity ranking, Lucy was preoccupied with organizing books, not uttering a single word. She looked gloomy, as if she was in a bad mood. Felix also kept flipping through books after books as the atmosphere in the library became more stifling.

Not long after that, an unexpected object appeared, dispelling the uncomfortable atmosphere at once.

Huh? Lucy, who was flipping through the books, noticed something. Her lips parted in shock. Felix-sunbae. She called him carefully.

Felix raised his head; his eyes rested on her.

Lucy was still, looking at the item she had found. Here is the sunbaes report card.

Oh. Felix snatched the report card as fast as lightning. Why is this stuck in there?

After checking his name and grade on the report card, Felix closed his eyes tightly. Of all things, it was the report card from back *then*.

Sunbae Lucy muttered, her hand hanging in the air from which the report card had been taken. How can all of them be F except for one subject?

As Lucy said, all subjects excluding Swordsmanship were recorded as F on the report card. He had blanked out all the test answers in the midterm exam last semester.

Felix quickly folded the report card in half and shoved it into his pocket. There was a reason for that.

What is it? Lucy asked. She had not recovered from the shock.

Felix had one strange obsession not being in a competitive structure with his twin brothers. He would be nervous if his grades were a little similar to Adrian's.

Instead of praising him for outperforming his twin, their mother was busy comforting the disappointed Adrian.

His habit of yielding most to Adrian was born after witnessing such a thing. If he didn't outdo Adrian, the duchess wouldn't be hurt.

Therefore, he intentionally made more mistakes on the test questions after entering the academy. Thanks to him, Adrian always took the top spot. It didn't matter to Felix. Even though he didn't get good grades, he was comfortable in his spot.

The problem was the reaction of the duke when he found out about it.

I can't believe the next Duke of Berg can't even secure the top spot at the academy! If you can't beat even your younger brother, what are you going to do to control people from now on?!

The Duke wanted Felix to regard Adrian as a competitor he had to overcome and win rather than just congratulating him on his success.

Felix was always torn between his mother, who wanted him to be less than Adrian, and his father, who wanted him to be better.

Out of sheer anger, he left all the answer sheets blank.

Since then, he left his report card randomly on the desk. He didn't know it would lead to this moment, where the report was stuck in a book and Lucy finding it.

Lucy, a sophomore who never had a failing grade, seemed quite astonished.

Except for one subject, everything is F she mumbled as she sat on the chair blankly. How can you get such a grade? Did you use your foot to answer the exams?

Lucy was surprised by the words leaving her mouth and immediately covered her mouth. Sorry, she apologized to Felix, her face flaming red. You must have felt bad! I was just surprised!

It's fine. Not even shocking.

Thats not what I meant! Lucy shook her hand quickly in embarrassment. I think thats

Its okay. Dont comfort me. Felix cut her mid-sentence and sat down on the chair with a dead expression on his face.

It made Lucy was even more embarrassed and restless. Her eyes became round like a surprised rabbit, and her face as red as a tomato.

For a while, Felix was ashamed that his report card was revealed, but seeing her reaction made him feel weird.

Chapter 18

The stomping of her feet sounded like a squirrel that had been deprived of acorns.

Im not comforting you!

Its okay, Felix said, restraining the corners of his lips that kept rising. But I have to explain this one thing I didnt use my feet to solve the problem.

I I know! Lucy shouted, feeling wronged.

Felix eventually bowed his head, covering his face with his palms. He couldnt hold back the laughter that flowed out.

As his shoulders shook, Lucy asked in bewilderment. Sunbae! Are you crying?? She slowly approached him. Really Are you really crying?

With his head bowed, Felix deliberately made a sobbing sound and said, okay. As you said, I am a dumb crybaby.

What? I didnt say that!

Im just a dirt stuck inside a trolls toenail.

Why are you saying that all of a sudden!

Im a lugworm that cant even be used as bait.

Thats not true!

Suddenly, Lucy placed her hands on Felixs cheeks and lifted his face. Felix was surprised and lowered his hand, covering his face.

Dont say things like that! Lucy said with tears forming around her eyes. Youre not a lugworm sunbae!

Felix held his breath. The fact that he was just teasing her vanished from his mind. Huh

Its normal to get a score like that!

I

You can do well in the next exam!

After finishing her words, Lucy took a small breath, still holding Felixs face tightly with her hands. Her emerald-colored eyes were moist.

Why Felix slowly exhaled the breath he had been holding back and opened his mouth. Are you about to cry

Youre making me misunderstand.

Ah!

Lucy realized her action, and she pulled her hand in surprise. But even before she could take one step back, Felix snatched her wrist.

Then you help me, Felix said in a low voice; it was strangely warm. I think I can do it if you watch me from the side. Lets study for the exam together.

Lucys eyes were wide open, looking at Felixs hand wrapped around her wrist.

I wont interfere with your studies, he added quickly when she didnt answer. No?

He waited anxiously for Lucys answer. After a while, she nodded slowly.

Really? Felix asked again. He was stunned into disbelief when she agreed.

Yes, lets do it together, Lucy replied, her voice trembling.

Felixs expression brightened.

Is this a dream? A day in the Library with Lucy Keenan No, studying for the exam!

This gave him a chance to get closer to Lucy.

I Sunbae. Can you please let me go? Lucy asked carefully. Her wrist was still clasped in Felixs hand while he rejoiced.

Oh, sorry. He blushed and let go of her hand. Then when

Clank! Clank!

Felix was interrupted by the sound of the doorknob turning.

Lucy! Are you inside? Someone asked, knocking on the door.

It was Colin.

Whats wrong with the door? Colin fumed from the other side of the door.

Felixs expression darkened instantly, and a frown wrinkled his forehead.

Why are you here again? You should be cleaning the hallway. He spat out his displeasure toward the uninvited guests who had come all the way to the old library.

Felix-sunbae are you really going to be like this? Colin groaned as soon as he heard him. How could you leave me? If Adrian-sunbae didnt come and save me, I might have really cleaned the hallway!

What a shame, Felix replied with a bite in his tone.

You leech. The atmosphere was getting good.

Collin, I think the handle is broken. Adrian knows how to open it. Can you bring him?
Lucy said as she approached the door.

What? You can just get out of that hole!

W What hole? Lucy stuttered as if she was flustered. I dont know what youre talking about. Will you call Adrian-sunbae quickly?

What are you saying? The hole we used that hole to get out when we were trapped last time! Colins frustrated voice flew straight from the other side.

Lucys face blushed in an instant. That, well Was there something like that?

What the! Lucy, did you have a memory lost?

Felix heard Colins footsteps walking somewhere, and then he shouted, This hole!

Soon after, Colins head popped out of the corner. There must have been a small ventilation window that Felix had not noticed.

Lucy! Felix-sunbae! Colin gave them a mischievous smile with his head sticking out of the hole. Oh my.

Soon Colin began to crumple himself into the hole. Look, you can come out like this! He started wriggling like a snake to get out of the hole.

Fe Felix-sunbae cant fit in there! Lucy shouted.

Oh, is that so? He stopped wriggling and looked up at Felix, who was much taller than him.

Anyway, it would have been better if you came out and called someone. Felix-sunbae would be too much, but if its you

Oh, wait! Colin frowned. Why is it so tight?

Colin, whose shoulders were halfway out, wriggled to remove the rest of his body out of the hole. However, no matter how hard he struggled, his shoulders did not budge.

Hey Lucy! Help me! I guess my shoulder is stuck, he awkwardly asked for help. Felix-sunbae Dont look at me like that. Help me!

Looking down at him, Lucy heaved a deep sigh. What do I do with you.

She was about to help Colin, but Felix stopped her.

Lucy.

Yes?

Stand back for a moment, Felix said, pointing toward a spot away from the door.

Lucy walked to where Felix pointed, a strange expression on her face.

What? Why arent you helping me?

Ignoring Colins cries, Felix shook the locked door a few times. The hinges vibrated slightly. He then took a step back and kicked the door hard with his foot.

Bang!

The loosely attached hinge fell at once, and the door flew into the hallway. Dust rose under the door that fell on the floor.

What? Whats that sound? Colin was frightened; his voice shook.

Collin, Ill call someone, so stay like that for a moment, Felix said to Colin.

What? What does that mean? Colin asked. Are you leaving me alone again? No, right? As if he had sensed the danger of being left alone, his face was stained with disbelief.

Lets go first. Felix grabbed Lucys hand, ignoring Colins words.

Lucy! Dont leave me behind! Colins pathetic cry rang inside the library.

Sorry, Colin.

Perplexed, Lucy was led by Felix out of the library. His hand on hers.

* * *

Felix stopped when they could no longer hear Colins cries. They were free from the noisy interrupter, and he could finally talk to Lucy.

When will we see each other at the library? he asked, planning to set the time so that Lucy could not take back her words.

Lucy thought about Felixs question quite seriously. How about the weekend? she suggested. Starting this weekend, Mrs. Erin will be in charge of all the library work. The book club members also have to prepare for the midterm exam.

Really?

Weekend Library Da No, studying for exams.

Felix was delighted. The weekend is great, he answered, hiding his expression to not show that he liked it too much. Then, Ill see you in front of the library at ten this weekend.

Alright, Lucy replied.

A satisfied smile crept up on Felixs face.

* * *

Felix whistled as he returned to his dormitory. His last class had ended. Adrian was in the room for some reason; he was usually at the academy until later.

You look happy. Did something good happen? he asked, looking at Felixs smiling face.

No, not really, Felix answered briefly, quickly schooling his expression. He didnt want to tell Adrian anything about Lucy.

You're so dull. Adrian looked at his older brother and smiled softly. But the next moment, with a shadow over his face, he picked up a letter from his desk. I don't mean to ruin your mood. Speaking carefully, he handed it to Felix. Father sent you a letter.

Felix's expression darkened as he was leisurely taking off his school clothes. His mood, which had soared high in the sky due to his promise to Lucy, immediately plummeted. He accepted the letter. The envelope was stamped with the familiar Berg family crest. He tore the envelope open, dreading the content.

There was only one short sentence in the letter: This weekend, attend the opening ceremony of the port of Libourg. There was not even a greeting nor a goodbye.

Felix took a deep breath and sighed as he ran his hand through his hair. Then he threw the letter on the desk.

What was it? Adrian picked up the letter. After reading the content, his forehead wrinkled.

Libourg port After all, he built it.

(3/6)

Sienna

Chapter 19

Since a few years ago, the Duke of Berg had been working hard to build a port in Libourg, which bordered the West Sea. If there was a port there, it could dramatically increase trade within the continent.

The problem lay within the people. The families living in the Libourg area for a long time did not want their hometown to be developed as a port.

At the risk of losing their livelihoods, they desperately opposed the construction of the port. But it was impossible for a small town to fight against the Duke of the Empire.

The duke enticed the young people to move to another city, telling them, If you move to another place, I will let you live a richer life. Then, he pushed ahead with the construction of the port with only the elderly remaining in the village. The villagers could not even put up a fight and were forced to forfeit what they had.

Attending the opening ceremony of the port only meant one thing.

As the next Duke of Berg, Felix should also strive to expand and pioneer the family's land even if someone lost their homes and was kicked out in the process.

But Felix didnt share his fathers outlook.

In his eyes, the Berg familys land and business had already reached the limits that one family could manage. To expand the land and do business was nothing but greed.

He immediately wrote a reply to the Duke on the back of the letter. It was a brief statement that he would not attend the opening ceremony as the Academy exams were coming soon.

Felix. Adrian, who had been quietly watching, called him out. Father wont stay still.

It doesnt matter, Felix immediately replied.

Im saying this because Im worried about you, Adrian said, concerned. Father never reverses his decision. Im sure hell call you in by other means.

Adrian, Felix called him softly to ease his worries. Do you remember our grandfathers last breath?

Their grandfather, the previous duke, Duke Robben Berg, died in a carriage while driving out the natives of the north and conquering their lands due to overworking.

Before his death, he had a mountain of work that he could not handle on his own. Even with such an emaciated appearance, he traveled all over the continent with greed filling his eyes.

If I live as our father wants, Ill be like that someday, Felix responded bitterly and sealed the letter with the reply.

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Weekend morning.

Felix had woken up early and prepared to go to the library. He was the only one in the room.

Adrian left for home as soon as the last class ended the night before. On weekends when there was no student council work or book club activity, he would faithfully go to see their mother.

Felix left the dormitory with excitement filling his steps. He had never thought that going to study for the exam would be this enjoyable.

Even the weather was clear, as if representing his state of mind.

The fog that had covered the campus for the past few days had disappeared, and the long-awaited warm sun finally emerged. The autumn sun was shining down over the brightly colored campus.

When Felix arrived at the library, the seats were only half full. There were still about two weeks left before the test began, so the other half of the students seemed to have decided to enjoy the warm weekend sunshine instead of preparing for the test.

Felix-sunbae.

Standing in front of the library, Felix turned toward the sound. Lucy stood on the stairs, her arms laden with books. She came down carefully and stood in front of him.

The books Lucy was holding shook precariously as if they would collapse at any moment. Felix quickly took over the books.

This Are you going to do it all today? Forgetting to give her a greeting, he looked at the huge number of books in surprise. Arent you overdoing it?

At his words, Lucy tilted her head and said, What? This is yours, sunbae.

Mine?

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Hurry up and come.

Lucy pushed him into the library without delay.

Some of the students sitting by the entrance glanced at them with curious eyes as they entered. And when Lucy didnt go to the book return counter as usual but took a seat next to Felix at the window table, they whispered to each other.

As Lucy organized the books on the table, Felix shot them a fierce look. Then the students quickly lowered their eyes.

Sunbae, here.

Lucy selected some of the books she had brought and spread them out in front of Felix. There were bookmarks in several places where he had to read.

How did a sophomore know the scope of the 3rd year exam?

I asked a sunbae in the book club, Lucy answered clearly.

As she had prepared this much, Felix's report card seemed to have left a stronger impression on her than he had imagined.

Shall we get started? Lucy said. She was determined. Then she added, clenching her small fist. You can do it!

Lucy, who immediately opened the book, began to concentrate at a frightening speed. With that enthusiasm, Felix couldn't even dare to talk to her.

He looked down at the book in front of him. It was something he already knew. But since Lucy was so eager to help, he felt he had to show that he was studying hard too.

Countless times, Felix adjusted his posture and began to read the book quietly.

After a while.

Lucy tapped Felix's arm. She was staring at him when he looked back, her forehead wrinkled. Sunbae, are you reading that? Why aren't you turning the pages? she asked, whispering. You have to read it carefully. I will ask you later.

Felix smiled at her serious expression.

Lucy frowned even more. Why are you smiling? I'm going to ask something hard. Something really hard.

Okay, I got it.

Felix still couldn't get the smile off his lips, so he pretended to read the book for a while.

As if struck by lightning, thoughts came into Felix's head that had nothing to do with the book's contents.

How cute is Lucy studying!

He slowly lifted his head and glanced at Lucy, who was so focused on studying. She concentrated too much on the book that her smooth forehead was slightly wrinkled. Her tightly closed lips looked cuter and fiercer than ever.

What about your hands?

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Felix's gaze moved down, and he began to observe her hand quietly.

Her hand, which was constantly writing something on her paper, looked smooth and soft at first glance. Moreover, it was so small that it seemed like he could hold both her hands with only one hand.

Even the letters written by her small, delicate hands were round and adorable, resembling the owner. The constant size and spacing seemed to show her usually calm personality.

Felix kept glancing and peeking at Lucys letters filling the paper. He found everything about her fascinating.

Every time he found something new about her, his heart stirred like the flowers under the breeze on a spring day.

Lucys hand, which had been moving constantly, stood still. Then she slowly raised her head. Do you have anything to say?

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Felix quickly lowered his gaze. No. I wont disturb you. He then pretended to read his book again.

Soon Lucy turned to her notebook. The crunching sound of the pen rubbing against the paper came back pleasantly.

However, Felixs gaze still couldnt stay in one place and wandered around the page. His desire to study had since long gone. In fact, what he was curious about was not in the book.

What Felix really wanted to know was not when the Ephemer dynasty collapsed or when the Verus Empire unified the continent. He was more curious about what Lucy liked and what she was thinking now.

He wanted to know more about Lucy.

Amid his blank stare, Felix scribbled something in the corner of the notebook as if he had already made up his mind. Then he slowly pushed the notebook towards Lucy, showing her what he had written.

[What do you like?]

Lucy looked closely at the question. She furrowed her eyebrows slightly. She was contemplating his intention in asking the question out of the blue.

After a while, she wrote something down under it and handed it to Felix.

[My grandmothers meat pie.]

Ah. Meat pie made by Lucys grandmother. Thats good.

Felix nodded, even though he had never tried it. Smiling happily, he wrote something else under Lucys answer.

[What else?]

Again, Lucy looked down at the question he had written. Soon her hand moved.

[Autumn.]

Autumn? I hate autumn the most. Felix thought. He had suffered from Maram vine allergy every year.

However, since it was Lucys favorite season, the autumn scenery outside the window seemed more beautiful than ever.

Im going to like autumn from now on.

Taking his eyes off the window, Felix grabbed the pen again. This time, he wrote down quite a few questions.

[Whats your favorite color? Whats your favorite animal? What else do you like besides meat pie? Ah, something you can buy and eat in town. What is Colin Connor most afraid of?]

After thinking for a moment, Lucy wrote one sentence it was too short to answer that many questions.

[Sunbae! Hurry up and read your book!]

Lucy gave him a pretty firm look, so Felix had no choice but to put away their notes.

Chapter 20

Time flew by, and soon it was noon. The sun rose higher, and the library was bathed in the warm golden light of the autumn sun.

Felix had been secretly writing in his notebook for quite some time. As he recalled his sophomore year, he wrote down all the exams he had taken. It was to hand it to Lucy when they parted ways today. He wanted to be of some help to her.

However, after sitting for a long time under the warm sun, he was getting more and more sleepy. His hand was getting slower, and he kept closing his eyes.

On the other hand, Lucys eyes were still bright. She has a really great concentration.

Yeah, thats why shes the top student How amazing

Felix internally praised Lucy and squinted his eyes, then closed them for a moment.

How much time has passed

He was lying on his desk. He seemed to have fallen asleep. He could feel the soft texture of a fabric on his cheek that was on the desk. The scent of herbs from Lucy emanated at the tip of his nose.

Felix opened his eyes.

Before he knew it, he was sleeping on Lucys cardigan. And in front of him, two emerald-colored eyes were staring at him silently. When their eyes met, she hurriedly turned her head, cheeks red as she pretended to have never looked at him.

Felix was still lying on the desk, staring at her side profile.

Poke.

He lightly poked Lucys shoulder with his finger. She looked back. Would you like to go out for a walk? he asked.

Lucy, staring blankly at his sleepy, languid face, nodded slowly as if possessed.

They left the library and went to the garden. It was full of students who were out to enjoy the warm weather after so long. They sat together on benches, chatting or strolling beside the rose bushes.

As Felix and Lucy appeared side by side in the garden, several girls sitting on blankets on the grass turned to look at them.

Todays weather is nice. Felix stretched as hard as he could.

Yes. Its warm after a long time.

Shall we sit over there? Felix pointed to a fountain spouting a clear stream of water in the middle of the garden.

Okay.

Felix and Lucy walked across the grass, shoulder to shoulder.

Does Adrian-sunbae go home every weekend? Lucy asked, walking next to him.

Yes. Unless something special happens.

Is it okay if you don't go, Felix-sunbae?

I promised to study with you today, right? Felix chuckled, and Lucy's cheeks were dyed like roses. Soon a small smile appeared on her face.

Ah! Laughing shyly, she searched her pocket, remembering something. Come to think of it, medicine.

She took out a small medicine container and held it out to Felix. It was a complete Maram allergy medicine. You've been very uncomfortable, right?

Huh Well, I was, Felix answered, thinking of the bottle of medicine he had left on his bedside table in his dorm. He lied to Lucy that he had spilled the entirety of her medicine when the bottle was still intact. There was no itching anywhere due to him taking it every day. Thank you. How can I pay you back? Felix asked as Lucy handed him the container.

The hat is enough to pay me back.

But Felix didn't want to end it with a hat alone.

He had laid out a carefully crafted plan in his head. First, they would go to town together with the pretext of buying her a meal. Afterward, it would be nice to stop by a boutique and buy the dress she had tried on last time.

Suddenly, a happy and contented smile appeared on his face. Just then, he heard the footsteps of several people behind him.

Adrian.

Felix turned and saw a group of girls standing there. It was the same girls sitting on the grass with blankets earlier.

Claire Hamilton, a senior like him, had called Felix. She was a student council member like Adrian. They had greeted each other a few times, but they were not very close.

Didn't you say you were going to see your mother today? Claire asked, placing her fine blonde hair behind her shoulder. Her softly smiling face had a neat and noble atmosphere, unlike Ros, who boasted attractive features.

Im not Adrian.

Ah. Claire sounded a little surprised by Felixs answer. She looked at Lucy standing quietly next to Felix and said. I thought you were Adrian since youre with the junior from the book club.

Adrian hasnt returned yet.

Really? I didnt know. Claire shrugged.

Even after realizing that the Prince of Berg standing in front of her was not Adrian, Claire did not leave her position. The girls standing behind her continued to glance at Felix and Lucy alternately.

Do you have anything else to say? Felix asked.

Oh, thats Claire blurted out but stopped in hesitation, and then she exchanged glances with her friends.

Her friends smiled strangely and whispered, Ask him quickly.

Overwhelmed by the pressure of her friends, Claire finally opened her mouth. Its not a big deal, just the two of you. She licked her lips as if trying to get herself to speak. But she soon shook her head and looked away from Felix. never mind. Its absurd.

What? If you have something to say, say it.

No, nothing. Im sorry I took your time.

Claire, who had sweetly spoken her words, pushed her friends on the back. Nudging at them to leave the place. He could see her friends brushing up on Claire with words like Im curious! and Ask him!

At last, their figures disappeared around the rose bush. However, chattering noise from beyond the bushes came over and flew into Felix and Lucys ears.

Who is she?

You know, the kid who organizes books in the library. I dont know her name either.

Really? But why is she with Felix?

Renee will cry if she sees this.

What! Felix doesnt seem to be interested in Renee.

The voices of female students who were chirping like sparrows gradually became distant. When they disappeared, the surrounding area became quiet again. It was as if a brief gust of wind blew past the peaceful garden.

When Felix turned around, Lucy was staring at the grass, her eyebrows droopy. He didn't hear anything that criticized or ridiculed him, but he was shocked that he was the subject of their conversation.

And the way they looked at them both. As if asking why the Prince of Berg was in the garden alone with a commoner girl who was not even a noble, their lips curved up in a strange smirk, almost in ridicule.

Lucy.

Lucy raised her head when Felix called her quietly. He became upset when he noticed her downcast expression.

Because of me

Felix grabbed Lucy's hand. Let's go to a place where there are no people. With that, he led Lucy into the depths of the garden.

* * *

The sound of people talking and laughing became distant. They were also far away from any prying eyes.

They came to an abandoned vacant lot at the end of the garden. The ground was overgrown with weeds instead of ornamental plants, and tall trees were located in several places.

All they could hear was the chirping of birds and the trickling sound of a small stream.

It was then that Felix felt something wriggling in his hand, belatedly realizing that he was still holding Lucy's hand tightly. He hastily released her hand.

Oh, sorry. Did it hurt?

It's okay.

Lucy approached a fallen log nearby and sat down. She kept her head bowed, concealing her expression.

Thank you for making the allergy medicine. Your grandmother runs a pharmacy, right? Felix asked, trying to change the mood. Did you learn how to make medicine from your grandmother?

Yes. I learned how to distinguish medicinal herbs and their efficacy when I was young. I might take over the pharmacy one day.

Felix could imagine Lucy Keenan working at a pharmacy. She would be in a small room filled with the bitter smell of medicinal herbs, and he remembered the sight of her fair, delicate hands pruning herbs. The profession seemed to fit her.

My father wants me to become a doctor in the capital after graduating from the Academy, but I'm not sure. She smiled faintly. I still prefer to search for herbs in the forest.

Lucy got up from her seat and plucked a grass flower near the log. It was a yellow flower smaller than her little fingernail, which he didn't know existed before she touched it.

It's a chick grass. She showed Felix the flower stalk she was holding.

It's a cute flower.

Right? The flowers have no effect, but the stems can be dried up and brewed for tea in the winter. It's good for a cold.

Lucy, who was looking around, picked another grass flower. This time, it was a flower that was not very noticeable.

However, she showed Felix the flowers and explained their use. Her despondent feelings just now seemed to have been relieved.

Felix didn't care what was on the ground, but he listened intently to her words. Surprisingly, if the explanations came from Lucy, he felt that talking about the world's insignificant grass was very important.