

For Your Failed Unrequited Love

#Chapter 21 - Read For Your Failed Unrequited Love Chapter 21 Online -

Chapter 21

Thats amazing. I thought it was just a common weed growing all over the place.

Sometimes even weeds can be used as medicine. Lucy finished explaining the flower. Then she smiled, a shy smile as if she was embarrassed to find herself talking too much.

Oh, come to think of it, I know this grass. Felix found grass with broad leaves around him and picked it up without hesitation. This is a plant called Moganara. You chew it like this. He stuck the leaf in his mouth and chewed it a few times. After that, he placed the spewed leaves on his forearm. If you put it on an itchy area, it will feel less inflamed and itchy.

He then looked at Lucy with a right? face. Since I have allergies, I can only remember the efficacy of this herb. I dont know about anything else.

Yes. You remember it well. Besides, Moganara grass is a common weed, so you can just pick it up and use it anytime. Lucy smiled and praised Felix.

Felix felt his heart pound once more, seeing Lucys smile directed at him.

I cant believe Im so happy with just one smile.

Felix felt like a fool.

Yes, this is fine for now. If only I can be with you like this.

Felix!

The peace of the vacant lot was disrupted by the sound of someone calling him out, followed by the sound of rushed footsteps. Felix turned around. It was his friend Alec.

Alec crossed the garden at once and stopped in front of Felix, gasping for breath. Felix, you have to go back to the academy now!

Whats going on?

The Duke of Berg is here. He Hes waiting for you in the principals office.

Father? Felix's face darkened considerably. The Duke's visit to the Academy was unexpected.

What about the opening ceremony? Today is definitely the opening ceremony of the Libourg Port. It is an important event, so why is the duke here?

Felix sunbae. Lucy called him. She also seemed surprised by the duke's sudden visit. Go ahead.

Lucy. Felix bit his lips. The happy moment they shared vanished in an instant as if it had been cut out. Okay. I'm sorry. Let's study together later.

At his words, Lucy quietly nodded her head.

Felix began to walk away. As he left the garden, he casually looked back. Lucy was standing at the same spot, staring at him. Felix's heart was as heavy as a rock; he had failed to keep his promise to Lucy. He didn't care about his father's visit.

* * *

Felix knocked on the door to the principal's office.

Come in.

The voice that answered was not that of the principal. When Felix opened the door and entered, the Duke of Berg was standing with his back turned. He stood in front of a large window, looking out over the wide campus landscape.

In the presence of Felix, the duke slowly turned around. He had dazzling blonde hair and large stature. As he looked at Felix, his expression was so cold that it didn't look like he was looking at his son, whom he hadn't seen in a long time.

But it wasn't his father's expression that caught Felix's eyes. It was his face, which had become so emaciated that he couldn't even recognize him. The cheekbones protruded over his cheek, and his eyes were dull with dark shadows underneath. His face, which had been leaner in just a few months due to heavy work, looked more sickly and creepier.

When the Duke looked at him and said nothing, Felix opened his mouth first. Why aren't you at the opening ceremony, father? Isn't that an event that you must attend?

With a tone as dry as his expression, the duke answered, Don't worry. Prince Berg is present at the opening ceremony instead of me.

At that, Felix raised an eyebrow. You mean Adrian is there?

He only thought that his younger brother had gone to the duchy to see his mother. Adrian did not mention anything about the opening ceremony.

The Duke laughed at his question. Yes, Adrian But he attended as Prince Felix Berg.

Felix's face gradually distorted. Did you tell Adrian to pretend to be me at the opening ceremony?

You unilaterally notified me of your absence, so I sent Adrian. Who would recognize you if you have the same face anyway? The duke replied harshly.

Felix clenched his fists. His anger soared. His brother had been used as his substitute, a fact he didn't know of until now. The duke's carefree face made him more furious. He had no qualms about treating his son as someone else's substitute.

Why do you look angry? the duke asked, eyes fixed on him. You unilaterally notified me of your absence. You should have expected this, right?

I told you. It's because I'm preparing for the exam.

Oh right, the exam. Hopefully, it wasn't like last time. The duke sarcastically reminded Felix of his previous action leaving the answers blank. Well, the duke continued, it's a pleasure for me if you're determined to study hard.

Even if you come to your senses, I wonder if anything will change significantly. It's not like your grades will go up in such a short time. So, I also want to give you one piece of advice. I'll show you a sure way to get to the top at once. A smile slowly came to the Duke's face. It wasn't a pleasant smile. For this exam, write Adrian on your answer sheet.

Father. Felix frowned at once, staring at the duke. Are you crazy?

Slap!

Felix's head turned at the sudden slap.

Watch what you say. the duke warned, lowering his hand slowly.

Felix bit his lip. Don't use Adrian, he growled. I have no intention of obeying you. I will write my name on the test paper and submit it.

Really? the duke snorted. But what should I do? Adrian already agreed to do it. the duke smirked as he gave Felix a once over. The principal will be very upset, but it doesn't matter.

Father! Felix shouted.

But the next moment, the Duke bared his teeth to Felix, enraged. Its all because you didnt listen to me! How dare you neglect your familys business and do what you want?

A face as pale as a corpse flashed in front of Felixs eyes.

All this time, Ive been ignoring your insincere and selfish behavior, but I cant tolerate this! The duke stepped back. As if to calm down, he stood in front of the window for a moment and looked at the scenery of the campus. I hope this will never happen again, Felix.

After a while, he lowered his voice and muttered a warning, In the future, whenever you dont listen to me, Adrian will make up for what youve done. Just like today. Try to disobey me again.

Felix stood still and clenched his fists. He gripped it so tightly that his fingernails were digging into his flesh. Anxiety that Adrian might be used for his sake and a sense of helplessness filled his heart.

The day you succeed me, you will manage all the business and land of the family. Even if you work hard, it wont be enough, said the duke, still looking at the window.

Then dont use Adrian. Adrian is also your son, just like me. He deserves an equal share of your fortune, father. Its not like hes going to take advantage of it.

The duke turned slowly. It is his fate. Just because you were born at the same time on the same day doesnt mean your fate is the same. The second sons role is not to covet the successors position but to assist his older brother, who leads the family. That is his only role. The dukes eyes gleamed sharply as he added, It means that Bergs legacy cannot be split under any circumstances.

* * *

It was well after midnight when Adrian returned to the dormitory. As he quietly entered the dark room, he stopped in surprise when he saw someone sitting on the bed.

Soon after recognizing his brothers face in the dim moonlight, he carefully opened his mouth. Felix, why arent you sleeping?

Felix got up without answering and lit the candle. In the brightly lit room, two identical faces flickered in the light.

Felix looked at his brothers face silently. Adrian who traveled back and forth from the Academy to Libourg in two days was tired.

Why didnt you tell me? Felix finally asked. His face was filled with regret and anger at the same time.

Adrian avoided his gaze and took off his coat. Im sorry I couldnt tell you. I thought you wouldnt stay still if I said I was going to the opening ceremony.

Of course, I wont stay still! Why are you acting like our fathers puppet?

Felix.

And what do you mean by changing the name of our test paper? Did you really agree to do that?

Yeah, I decided to do that.

What are you. Felix was speechless at Adrians unwavering answer. What did father do to you?

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Im fine, Felix. Lets just put this behind us. Its nothing.

Nothing? Felix was surprised by his younger brothers unexpected answer. What about today? Changing the name on the test paper? Its like Im stealing your achievements. Is that nothing?

Yeah, its nothing. Adrian looked at Felix, serious. The student council, the book club I worked hard not to miss out on this and that, but actually, those things dont matter to me at all. Whats important to me is you and our mother.

Adrian slowly approached Felix. He gently patted Felix on the shoulder and said, I really dont mind. After all, this will no longer happen after you inherit the title. He added with a faint smile, You just have to endure it until then. Lets not make anything that will upset father.

* * *

That morning, Felix had barely fallen asleep after tossing and turning. He had a dream.

He was in his room in the duchy, unable to get out of the tightly locked door. He pulled the handle, but it didnt budge. He quickly gave up and looked around the room, and then he went straight to the window.

He saw another him outside. He was elegantly dressed, and he was using perfect etiquette and a gentle attitude. Possessed by the graceful gestures and elegant voice, the nobles had ecstatic expressions on their faces. He was truly an impeccable nobleman.

With a graceful smile, he turned his head to look at Felix. Felix in the room and Felix outside the window met each others gaze. Felix outside the window, who had been looking at him for a while, smiled helplessly.

Ah! Only then did Felix realize. Thats not me.

Skillfully hiding his helpless smile, Adrian turned toward the people again. And he devoted himself to a conversation with them.

Felix knocked hard on the window. But Adrian didnt look back at him.

Adrian! Why are you there? he shouted, but the answer never came.

Outside the window, Adrian continued to fulfill his schedule as Prince of Berg in place of Felix. Felix was locked in the room, blankly observing the whole scene.

All of a sudden, all the people outside the window disappeared, and a large carriage came running. Adrian slowly approached the carriage and stopped.

Adrian! Felix shouted, knocking on the window. Where are you going?

Adrian looked back slowly at his cry, staring at Felix. For a moment, his face was gloomy, and then he moved his lips.

Libourg Port.

Dont go! Adrian! Felix yelled desperately. He banged on the window with both his fists but was ignored.

Adrian got into the carriage. The carriage carrying him began to move away from the window slowly. The horses gradually accelerated.

Watch out for the cliff! Felix screamed. Suddenly, a cliff appeared in front of the carriage. He was devastated as he watched the carriage disappear over the cliff.

Felix stared at the point where the carriage disappeared, keeping his eyes close to the window in vain.

Hes dead. He muttered, eyes red. Adrian is dead.

Click!

The tightly locked door opened. His father appeared after opening the door. The Duke of Berg looked at his mourning son, expressionless.

Adrian is dead, Felix said, anger filling his voice.

That's what they said, the duke replied indifferently. He leaned slowly against the door and looked at his son. Now, the future of our family is in your hands. You, the real Prince of Berg, should lead the family.

Felix clenched his fists. His white hands were trembling. Adrian is no longer in this world. The same Adrian who you used, father. Do you think I'll follow your advice?

Of course. It is your duty to follow it. Despite Felix's provocation, the duke did not blink. Rather, a strange smile appeared on his lips. I have one more thing to say.

The duke stepped aside. Anxious, Felix watched the door, and another person appeared.

Sunbae

Light brown hair, pulled into a single braid and dazed emerald eyes.

Lucy stood stiffly, staring blankly at him.

* * *

Felix gasped. His eyes wide open.

The ceiling was visible. A long shadow of dawn was cast over the antique ceiling painting. There was no Lucy or Duke. It was just a dream.

He let out a long, deep sigh as he brushed his hair back against his damp forehead. His heart was beating fast. Raising his body in bed, he sat still for a while to calm his heart.

Unlike in the dream, the scenery outside the window was tranquil. There was no Adrian and other nobles gathering outside. The slowly rising sky scattered the soft and blue light over the entire campus.

Adrian, whom Felix called so loudly in his dream, was asleep in the bed next to him, with colorful, quiet breaths. His forehead was slightly wrinkled as if he was also having a terrifying dream.

Last night, the conversation between the brothers that started in a strange atmosphere ended in vain. There were many unanswered questions, but Felix couldn't afford to ask Adrian any further.

Adrian looked exhausted. Even when he was spending hectic days going back and forth between the student council and the book club, he had never shown such a lifeless look.

Felix couldn't sleep that night until Adrian washed up and changed into his pajamas. He just lay down with his eyes closed, listening to the little noises his brother made.

Soon after Adrian blew out the remaining candle and lay on his bed, a deep silence came into the room. The autumn wind, which occasionally shook the window, was also quiet as if it had hidden somewhere.

Adrian, like Felix, can't sleep well and is having a restless night. No matter how much he waited, his sleeping brother's breathing could not be heard. For a while, such tranquility and silence persisted, and at some point, it seemed that he had fallen asleep.

Felix was still tired; he had woken up from a nightmare, but he didn't feel like lying down. He was afraid that a nightmare would come again. So he sat on the bed and looked out the window until it was completely bright.

Suddenly, the sun peeked out over the eastern sky and began to brighten up the world in an instant.

Felix's sleepiness had gone completely. He slowly raised his body, careful not to rouse the sleeping Adrian.

When Felix left the room, the place he headed was neither the bathroom nor the dining room. He immediately took his steps towards the training field.

A thousand things were going through his head. He had to move his body. He wanted to stop thinking and shake off the ominous scenes he saw in his dream.

Felix immediately wrapped a sword around his hand upon arriving at the field. Soon after, the sound of blades cutting through the air rang loudly. He swung the sword nonstop, focusing his mind on the swing of his blade.

His body continued to move like that for a while.

Clang!

Felix tossed his sword and lay flat on the floor.

His breathing was harsh, and his chest went up and down. His heart raced, and he felt a piercing pain in his lungs. He collapsed, blankly staring at the ceiling. As he lay there, the pain gradually diminished.

But that tranquility is only for a moment. After escaping from the harsh training, Felix began to recall the scenes that he tried to shake off at a terrifying speed.

The carriage that disappeared over the cliff The duke's cold face And Lucy, standing next to the duke, face pale.

No, its just a dream, Felix exclaimed. Perhaps it was a delusion created by his subconscious mind amid growing worries and anxiety over Adrian and Lucy.

Lets shake it off. Lets forget it.

Felix ruffled his hair roughly, then pulled himself up. A lot of time had passed since his frantic sword-wielding. He picked up the sword he had thrown. Leaving the field filled with his harsh breath and heat, he scrambled for the bathroom.

After washing away his sweat in the small bathroom attached to the training field, he went to the changing room to change into a school uniform. But when he opened the locker where he had kept his clothes, there was nothing there.

What? he murmured, furrowing his brows.

Soon, he opened the locker next to him, thinking that he had made a mistake. But that locker was also empty. And the locker next to it. And next to it.

His school uniform was nowhere to be found. It disappeared completely.

Ha! he scoffed, brushing his wet hair with his hand. He couldnt believe how absurd the situation was.

A feeling of great frustration crept across Felixs face. Allergy medicine!

The medicine Lucy made was in the school uniform pocket. It didnt matter how he lost his clothes, but the medicine was different.

Felix ran out of the locker room, only clad in a robe without hesitation.

He glanced and looked around. If he saw a suspicious person, he would attack him immediately and start questioning.

A group of first year students on their way to their morning class looked at him in surprise. Felix looked back at them, his eyes fierce. It was to see if they were hiding his school uniform. The first year students were scared by his eyes and ran away quickly.

After they fled, no other people walked around. No trace of the guy who took his school uniform could be found anywhere.

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Oh, damn it! Felix cursed.

I cant believe my medicine was stolen!

He ruffled his wet hair. Knowing how much time and effort Lucy had put into making it, he was even more anxious.

After returning to the dormitory, Felix did not even bother to wear a new uniform; instead, he changed into a clean training suit. Maintaining a neat uniform was the most basic rule in the academy. However, he didnt feel like following it at the moment when he had lost the medicine Lucy gave him.

Felix appeared in the classroom wearing a training suit, and his friend Alec greeted him playfully. Oh, Felix! He came over, put his arm around Felixs shoulder, and asked, Have you finally decided to cut Mr. Archel?

Felix had no energy to answer. He trudged to his seat, ignoring Alecs question.

Whats going on? Sitting in his seat, Adrian asked while looking at Felixs training suit. Its history now. Swordsmanship is tomorrow.

I know. Someone stole my school uniform from the field.

School uniform? Adrian frowned at the absurd notion.

But another friend, Jarvis, who was by his side, intervened with a knowing look. I guess he thought you were Adrian.

Yeah, its exam season soon, Alec added. Some guys are turning their eyes to get Adrians stuff.

In Xenomium Academy, a superstition plagued the top students during every exam period. A rumor said the students grades would improve if they took a top students item.

Most students thought the existence of that superstition or the student who believed it was pathetic.

Unfortunately, however, some students were under so much pressure on their grades that they could not even make such fair judgments. This was usually the case with students whose parents were very intrusive and aristocratic.

They were afraid of their parents. As long as they could avoid their parents scolding for their low grades, they were ready to do anything. So, students who wanted to improve their grades would steal pens or ties that Adrain owned.

Would someone steal the clothes of a person showering because of that superstition? Felix asked, his blue eyes gleaming.

Thats right. Stealing is wrong.

You have to ask for it proudly like us.

Alec and Jarvis proudly held up the pen they had received from Adrian.

But its strange, Adrian said, frowning. As for the items that have been stolen so far, the only thing I can think of is the pen on my desk. Isnt it too much to steal a school uniform?

It was true. Adrian stayed silent even when his things disappeared during the exam period because they were trivial items that werent very expensive.

It was definitely suspicious, but Felix was so enraged that it was not the time to argue about it.

I cant do this. When I find them, Ill rip them apart or give them a good beating.

Why are you so mad? Adrian asked. Its not like you. He had a strange look on his face, watching Felix in agony and pulling his hair off. After all, you have a lot of spare uniforms.

The clothes arent the problem! Unable to carry on with his words, Felix ruffled his hair again and let out a painful moan.

Now he is angry at himself. He couldnt even safeguard the precious medicine Lucy gave him. It was pathetic that his medicine was stolen for such an absurd reason.

* * *

Felixs mood plummeted to the ground throughout his class. He was upset that he had lost his allergy medication, and the disturbing dream he had at dawn kept coming back to him, making him even more perturbed.

Of course, his dream was not real. Adrian was alive next to him, and the Duke did not even know Lucys existence.

Nevertheless, Felix had a chill on his back whenever he remembered Lucy standing next to his father with a pale and hazy face in his dream.

He wanted to meet her and talk to her. He thought it would be reassuring to see that she was okay with his own two eyes.

And he had to apologize for failing to keep his promise yesterday and leaving first.

Im sure she was surprised.

His mind became even more complicated when he remembered Lucy standing there, looking at him with eyes full of worry as he left the garden.

After class, Felix left the classroom and went out to find Lucy. However, there was no way to know where and what classes she was taking, so he wandered around the academy's hallway.

Every time he strides forward in his black training suit, the students in the hallway hurriedly split like the red sea.

Felix soon found Lucy in the middle of class in one of the classrooms. He peeked into the classroom through a slightly opened door.

Lucy was staring at the blackboard, her brows furrowed. Perhaps because the exam period was approaching, she looked more serious when concentrating.

Lucy had been staring at the blackboard without taking her eyes off it for a moment. She blinked her tired eyes a few times and yawned secretly, perhaps because she didn't imagine someone was watching her.

Felix smiled at the sight. She looked better than he thought, so he felt relieved.

Yeah, it was just a dream. My father doesn't even know of her existence.

He entered an empty classroom and waited for Lucy's class to end.

Not long after, he heard the sound of a door opening and muffled cheers. Students rushed out into the hallway after class.

Felix checked if Lucy was coming through the slightly open door. Soon, a small face with light brown hair was seen in a row of noisy students.

Lucy was walking, rummaging through her bag. Judging by her facial expression, it seemed like something awful had happened to her.

Felix grabbed Lucy, who was about to pass by, preoccupied with her bag. He led her into an empty classroom.

Felix, Sunbae! She smiled brightly at him, her agony forgotten. She was happy to see Felix, but when she looked at Felix's training suit, she said, Sunbae, walking around in the academy wearing clothes other than school uniforms is subjected to a penalty!

I know, Felix replied, rubbing his forehead. Someone took my uniform from the field.

School uniform?

Theres a myth that your grades will improve if you take the exam with the top students stuff. I think they took it because they thought I was Adrian.

Oh. Lucys face darkened in an instant at his explanation. She clutched her bag.

Only then did Felix notice one fact. Lucy is also a top student like Adrian.

Whats wrong? Did someone take your stuff, too?

That After hesitating, Lucy took a deep breath and spoke. One of the ornaments I put in my bag is gone. I put it deep inside, but I think someone took it.

Ornaments? When did it disappear?

I dont know. I didnt look into it after I checked it this morning.

Seeing Lucy talking with reddened eyes, Felix became upset. Is it important? Did you get it as a gift? Or is it because its expensive?

Whatever it is, I can buy it for you. Those words lingered in Felixs mouth. Whatever it was, if it was valuable to Lucy, he was confident that he could find it at any cost.

I didnt get it as a present. It was not expensive either. I was going to give it to you later. Lucy couldnt finish her words and looked at Felix. But soon, she dropped her gaze and shut her mouth.

To me? Felix asked, curious, when Lucy had gone silent.

However, she shook her head. No, nothing. Anyway, this is strange. She quickly changed the subject. Even though the exam is approaching, this is the first time they dig through my bag and take things. So far, the only items that have been secretly taken have been pens and hairbands on the desk. And most of them asked me to borrow it for a while, but they never steal.

Adrian had also said the same thing. Apparently, someone in this academy must be obsessed with raising grades and doesnt hesitate to act recklessly.

It cant be helped. Theres no clue, so I dont think I can find it. Unless the person who stole it returns it on their own, Lucy said, her dismay evident. By the way, senior. Why are you looking for me? she asked, changing the subject.

Oh I have something to tell you.

Something to tell me?

I wanted to apologize for what happened yesterday. I couldn't keep my promise and left halfway through. Felix scratched the back of his head with an apologetic look. Since then, I've been worried about you.

Lucy hurriedly waved her hands. I'm fine. Rather, I was more worried since you didn't look so good. Is it because of me? Did you get in trouble with the duke? Lucy asked cautiously.

Felix was surprised. He realized that her question really meant, Did you get scolded for being with me who doesn't belong in a noble family?

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Felix frowned at the unexpected question. No, not at all. He answered truthfully. My father's visit to the academy has nothing to do with you.

However, despite Felix's reply, the worried expression on Lucy's face remained. She hesitated for a brief moment before averting his gaze and said, If you are concerned about the duke or the people around you, you can be honest with me. I fully understand sunbae's position-.

I will continue to study with you. This time, Felix spoke firmly and cut off Lucy's words. If there's anyone who thinks it's weird for you to be with me while mentioning your background

Felix bit his lips; he didn't want to speak such harsh words in front of Lucy. Anyway, you don't have to think about it, he said, resolute.

Even though Felix had reassured her, the anxiety he had been trying to suppress began to creep back in. Even if his father didn't know about Lucy right now, he couldn't be completely relieved.

He was in a position that caught people's attention even if he didn't do anything special. Even if he stayed still, people would still talk about him. The more he hid, the more interest people had in him. Prince Felix Berg's unusually cautious behavior would be enough to pique their curiosity.

It would be even more so if the person he was trying to hide was a commoner.

He was the successor of the Duchy. He had gone his entire life without giving much thought to other people. No one dared to laugh at him. But it was different for Lucy. People would continue talking about her, and she would never be free.

Lucy would be the one who suffered the most if there were rumors about her relationship with Felix. And if that rumor reached his fathers ears? Could he still be with Lucy in an open place like a library?

Felix was anxious.

Maybe Im putting Lucy in trouble because of my greed?

Lucy, I was thinking, Felix began, I dont think I can study well in the library. Its too stuffy. Why dont we change the place we study? He offered a suggestion. What about an empty classroom instead of the library?

An empty classroom?

Yes. After all, most of the classes are finished after 5 pm, so there are many empty classrooms. I think itll be good to go there and study. Its a little less frustrating.

And there will be no tiresome gazes wondering about you and me.

What do you think?

He waited anxiously for Lucys answer.

It wasnt until he asked the question that he thought his suggestion was excessive. Obviously, Lucy could have felt burdened. However, it was also inevitable that expectations for her to say yes rose at the same time.

Moments later, Lucy finally opened her lips.

Ugh

But then, they heard someone groan at the back of the classroom. Felix and Lucy, who were facing each other, turned their heads toward the sound in surprise.

Someone emerged from behind the empty desk. He then yawned loudly and stretched his body. The person who suddenly appeared was a male student with brown curly hair.

Judging by the fact that he got up from the chairs next to each other, it seemed apparent that he had been taking a nap long before they arrived. The sloppy-haired student blinked his sleepy eyes and looked at Felix and Lucy.

Noel? Lucy recognized the boy and called his name.

Ah, it was Lucy-sunbae after all, the boy said in a low voice, his eyes blinking. No wonder I heard a familiar voice even in my sleep. He smiled at Lucy like an innocent child. His pretty eyes softly curved upward.

At the same time, a grim expression immediately appeared on Felix's face.

What is this?

Regardless of his grim expression, the male student appeared to recognize Felix.

Adrian sunbae-nim is also with you.

I'm not Adrian, Felix responded bluntly.

Ah, then you are Felix Berg-sunbaenim.

Felix gave the boy a wary look. He already didn't like the way he smiled and replied kindly no matter what he said.

Sunbae, this is Noel Roman, a freshman from the book club. Lucy introduced him to the boy.

The boy also got up and nodded his head toward Felix. Hello, Felix-sunbae.

What were you doing here? Felix asked Noel at once, ignoring his greetings. His gaze was filled with suspicion as if something was not right. It was completely different from his gentle gaze when he looked at Lucy.

What? Oh I was taking a nap because I was sleepy.

Were you listening to us?

Noel hurriedly waved his hand, puzzled at Felix's interrogation. No, I wasn't.

However, Felix still had doubt in his eyes as he stared at Noel. Noel could only smile awkwardly, completely confused with Felix's behavior.

Sunbae, Lucy called Felix, who looked uncomfortable. Is something wrong?

Felix couldn't honestly answer that he didn't like how the boy smiled at her. It's nothing, he said.

Silence enveloped the classroom. Felix kept his eyes on the freshman who suddenly appeared, and Noel stood still with an awkward smile.

A voice from the hallway broke the uncomfortable silence.

Lucy! Are you there?

It was the voice of a female student looking for Lucy.

Ill be there soon, Jemima! Lucy answered, looking out the door. She turned to Felix and said hastily, Im sorry, sunbae. I have to go to my next class. Lets talk about this later. She then rushed to the door.

However, Felix didnt receive a response to his question, so he hurried after her. Lucy, wait!

He tried to catch her before she disappeared over the door, but she turned back first. Today at 5. The last classroom on the third floor, Lucy whispered in a small voice enough that only Felix could hear.

She left the classroom soon after.

For a moment, he stared blankly at the door where Lucy disappeared like the wind. Not long after, Felix had a slight grin on his face. He realized Lucy had accepted his suggestion.

He was able to continue studying with Lucy. Just the two of them.

Are you two dating?

Felixs smile quickly disappeared as he heard the voice behind him. He looked back at Noel, his face cold. Why do you want to know?

No, just Noel, embarrassed by Felixs cold response, slurred his word. A helpless expression etched on his face.

Felix ignored him and tried to leave the classroom. But Noel called him up as if he had something to say. S- sunbae!

When Felix looked back, Noel hesitated a little and asked, When your uniform was stolen. Did you see the face of the person who stole it?

At that, Felix frowned and strode menacingly toward Noel. As expected, you were eavesdropping on us.

I wasnt eavesdropping! I just heard it in my sleep! Noel said, feeling wronged.

But why did you ask?

I wanted to help catch the person who stole it.

Its okay. Dont do anything. I dont need your help.

Just dont smile in front of Lucy.

Felix gave him one last fierce glance and left the classroom.

* * *

Adrian looked up when Felix sat next to him. His older twin had stopped by the dormitory and changed into his school uniform.

Its Monday. Ive been busy since morning, Adrian said, and it was indeed a hectic Monday.

Do you have ominous dreams from dawn or have your allergy medicines stolen?

Luckily, Felix had met and talked with Lucy. That was the most enjoyable time he had had since he woke up this morning.

Now he only had one problem left.

Are you really going to write my name on your test paper?

Adrian frowned at Felixs abrupt question. He looked around the classroom carefully. Alec and Jarvis were chatting far away.

He whispered back only after confirming that other students were not eavesdropping on their conversations. Be quiet; were in the classroom. I thought we were done talking about this?

No matter how much I think about it, I think its stupid. Does it make sense that our grades change overnight? Youre not an idiot.

Im not, but Ill pretend to be one, Adrian replied sarcastically. As he said, no one would dare to question the achievements of the Princes of Berg unless there was clear evidence.

Felix leaned against the chair, sullen. And Im going to be the pathetic person who takes away his brothers grades.

Adrian was displeased to hear Felixs words. He looked like he had something to say.

Chapter 25

Felix waited for Adrian to express his discontent toward him.

I couldnt sleep for two days and had to go back and forth to the port to take your place, and here you are frustrated because you feel pathetic!

Felix would rather have him yell and be angry. But Adrian kept his mouth shut and turned his head away. Felix felt something heavy weighing down his heart.

Unfortunately, after the exam, I have to see our father. Its better not to do anything that goes against his will, Adrian said softly, his back facing Felix.

After the exams? Im not going home even after the exam.

Idiot, that weekend is our birthday.

Oh.

Adrian glared at Felix; his eyes seemed to say, How could you forget?

If you dont want to see our fathers wrath on our birthday Adrian gave him a firm look, omitting his words. Lets just do as he says.

Felix covered his head with his hand as if he had a headache.

The Berg Family would always hold a banquet for the twins birthday. However, the banquet overflowed with only the dukes connections rather than the Berg twins friends. A gorgeous and grand banquet hall, where people were looking for opportunities to talk to them, and countless gifts were sent with hidden intentions

To make it simple, it was a very annoying party.

Felix! Adrian snapped his finger in front of Felixs face when he didnt answer. Are you listening to me? Were going home on the weekend after the exam. Be sure to remember that.

Felix sighed. Yeah, yeah, I got it, Felix eventually gave up and replied.

He didnt like the exam or the birthday banquet, but he didnt want to put Adrian in a difficult situation again.

* * *

That afternoon.

After finishing the last lesson, Felix strode up the stairs to the third floor with his long legs.

East of the third-story corridor, right at the end, was an unused classroom. It was originally an herbal medicine class, but now it had become a warehouse for miscellaneous items.

It was time for most of the classes to end, so the students were going down the stairs to go to the dormitory, the cafeteria, or the library. Felix, who quickly arrived on the third floor, had squeezed through the crowd like a salmon and turned around the corner.

He saw Lucy just about to enter the empty classroom where they were supposed to meet.

Lucy!

At the sound of him calling, Lucy turned around. Sunbae!

She was holding an armful of books today. Felix smiled stiffly when he saw the huge number of books. He approached Lucy and asked carefully, Are those all the things I need to read?

No! Some are mine, Lucy reassured him, telling him not to worry.

Felix took the book from Lucy and followed her into the classroom. A strange smell of wood and dust, along with the musky scent of herbs, wafted up his nose.

An assortment of broken desks, chairs, and other miscellaneous objects littered the classroom. Looking at the mess, it seemed like it had been a long time since the classroom had last been used.

Unlike other classrooms, the air was chilly, lacking the warmth from human activity. However, the clear autumn sunlight poured through the side of the window.

Felix and Lucy looked around the classroom, searching for desks and chairs that were clean enough for them to sit and study. On most desks, remnants of thick liquid and stains spilled while making medicine remained intact. After a while, the two found desks and chairs in good condition and sat down near the window.

Looking out the window, students in groups of three or more could be seen making their way to the library. In contrast to the bustling atmosphere outside, the empty classroom felt quieter.

With a moderate amount of sunlight, a quiet atmosphere, and no one to interrupt Felix and Lucys studies, Felix liked the classroom very much.

This class is nice. Its quiet, Lucy said as if she had just looked into his mind. Whenever I study at the library, I keep getting distracted, like, the return books getting piled up on the return table, or when people leave the books on the table after reading them Mrs. Erin promised to take care of all the work until the end of the exam period, but I cant just ignore them. When I come to my senses, Im already organizing the books.

Youre just like Adrian, Felix said casually.

Adrian also had a habit of working nonstop. No matter how much people told him to leave it be, he couldn't stay still unless he took care of it.

That's right. That's why only me and Adrian-sunbae always stayed late at the library, Lucy said with a small smile. I broke the dorm curfew once last year with Adrian-sunbae to fix a broken book. At that time, I was sweating profusely, begging the supervisor to let me in. It's funny to think about it now.

Felix suddenly felt a sting when Lucy talked as if she recalled a good memory.

Time spent with Adrian Is it a pleasant memory for Lucy?

An image of Lucy and Adrian sitting side by side appeared in Felix's useless imagination almost immediately. His heart pounded.

This is I don't want to imagine this.

The corners of his tightly closed lips trembled slightly.

Fortunately, Lucy stopped talking about Adrian at that point and pulled a book on the desk.

Anyway, I think this place is much better than the library. You couldn't finish it over the weekend, so try harder today. Lucy selected several books and handed them over to Felix. Oh, and she added, her face reddened slightly, it's forbidden to write down words unrelated to studying in a notebook.

It meant that he should focus on his studies and not ask random questions like last time. Felix pouted. In fact, he had been thinking a lot about the questions he wanted to ask Lucy.

Oh, and you can't even sleep. Okay?

Yes, teacher.

Lucy blushed again at Felix's playful remarks. She hurriedly lowered her gaze to the book. However, Felix reached out and tapped her desk.

As she raised her head, he said with a look of anticipation. Are you not going to cheer for me today?

Huh?

You did it for me last time. Sunbae, you can do it!

Oh. Lucy opened her eyes wide, surprised by his sudden request. She looked cute, like a student bewildered by the teachers surprise question outside the scope she had prepared.

After agonizing hard, she finally raised her fists to him and shouted. G- get out of last place! You can do it!

It was a cheer that was strangely not like a cheer. However, the corners of Felixs lips rose uncontrollably.

Lucy quickly turned her eyes away from embarrassment. She rolled up her sleeves and gripped her pen tightly. Soon, Lucys forehead wrinkled as she read a book with her eyes wide open.

Looking at her forehead, Felix followed her lead, rolled up his sleeves, and clenched his pen. Soon he opened the book with clear intention, unlike usual.

Seeing Lucy seriously studying, he thought he shouldnt disturb her. Shes very sincere and smart. Surely her parents must have never been upset with her.

Felix felt like he could relate to Lucys parents, whom he had never met, and after looking at Lucy with a proud face, he began to read the book.

For a long time, the only sound in the quiet classroom was the sound of pages turning and pen writing.

Hmm?

Felix pricked his ears. It was clear that the atmosphere was peaceful, but he kept feeling on edge.

Is it because Lucy is in front of me?

But it also made him feel a bit uncomfortable.

Amid the silence, Felix lifted his head. At his sudden action, Lucy also raised her head and looked at him with bewilderment.

Whats wrong?

Shh! He put his finger to his lips.

Felix then got up and went to the back of the classroom, where desks and chairs were stacked high. He disappeared beyond that, but the next second, the stacked desks and chairs collapsed to the bottom with a loud bang.

Surprised, Lucy jumped up from her desk. Felix! she cried, her voice hoarse. Whats going on? Are you okay?

Im okay. Felixs voice came from below the chaotic mix of desks and chairs.

Ouch Along with the moaning of someone who wasnt Felix.

The pile of chairs shook once, and Felix rose from it. He was holding a male student by the neck. It was Noel Roman, the freshman from book club.

Some bastard is spying on us. Felix pushed him against the wall.

Noel, who was strangled, grunted and struggled to get his words out. What do you mean spying?! I was about to leave Ack!

Chapter 26

Sunbae!

Lucy rushed over and grabbed Felixs arm. She looked so alarmed that Felix let go of Noel

Noel, freed from Felixs hold, breathed heavily against the wall. Whats wrong with you?

Thats my line. Why do you keep eavesdropping on other people?

I wasnt eavesdropping Ive always nap here! Its you who came in after me, Noel said as if he was wrongly accused. I come here for that purpose since no one ever goes here

Do you go to school to sleep? Why did you pretend that you werent there from the beginning?

Noel sighed. Its because I missed the timing to talk! I woke up because I heard you two Besides, you grabbed my collar when I interrupted you earlier, thats why I didnt show myself he explained, his eyes teary.

Felix still stared at him, still in doubt. Lucy immediately spoke up as if to soothe Felix. Sunbae, I dont think he was hiding on purpose.

Noel, encouraged by Lucys words, slipped behind her. He leaned forward and whispered secretly in her ear, Adrian-sunbae is very sweet and kind, but Felix-sunbae is a little scary.

I can hear you, Felix said, looking stern.

Lucy gently pushed Noels shoulder away from him. No, Im not afraid of Felix-sunbae, she said, looking at Noel. He has a surprisingly friendly side to him.

The classroom was covered in silence as soon as Lucy finished talking. Felixs frown, which had been permanently creased with irritation, began to soften. Even the rage in his eyes as he glared at Noel began to wane.

He repeated what he had just heard.

A friendly side.

Lucy clearly said so. Although he caught the word surprisingly, he clearly heard friendly.

Really? Do I really look like that to her?

The anticipation in his eyes was palpable as he looked at Lucy.

Lucy seemed to be startled by the words she had unintentionally said to Noel. Soon she continued frantically as if trying to fix her own words.

If theres anyone around him whos in trouble, he comes forward and helps If youre carrying something heavy, he will carry it instead He went to town with me He makes me laugh with his jokes Anyway, thats that. Her voice tapered off at the end. She looked down and tapped the floor with the tip of her shoe.

Ah, thats it. Noel suddenly snapped his finger after Lucys explanation. He took a step forward, and he spoke as if he had realized something. Felix sunbae-nim, you seem to be kind only to women.

Lucy, who was looking at the floor, raised her head. Her face darkened at Noels reasoning. She tilted her head with a is it so? expression.

Are you only kind to your cute juniors? Noel asked, looking disappointed. Ive been told that Im also a cute freshman.

Felixs patience grew thin. He wanted nothing more than Noel to shut his mouth. Ill adore you now. Will you leave?

Noel hid behind Lucy again at Felixs harsh return, but his action only made Felix even angrier.

Why do you keep hiding there? Do you think I wont see you if you hide behind her?

Another confrontation broke out between the two. Nervous and stuck in the middle, Lucy flailed her arms to deter them.

Stop, stop!

At Lucys words, Felix stopped trying to catch Noel, but his eyes didnt stop glaring.

Both of you, calm down and sit down! Lucy said, pulling out the chairs when she saw Felixs glare. Come on, stop shouting. Some are still in class right now.

The two boys went to the chairs she had pulled out and sat down. One still glaring at the other fiercely and the other sitting with his butt over the edge of the chair as if preparing to run away.

Thats Lucys seat, Felix said to Noel, who sat awkwardly across from him.

Lucy-sunbae told me to sit down.

Lucy, tell this bastard to get off right now.

Lucy stood there with her palm on her forehead. Why are you two fighting? If we run into each other in the library, will you fight again?

I didnt pick a fight! Noel shouted; he felt like he was wronged. I was taking a nap, and the next second he grabbed me by the neck and dragged me out of my slumber unilaterally, he said, showing his bare neck.

Felix sat cross-legged and snorted, Hmph! Youre exaggerating.

The two turned away from each other. Felix wanted nothing more than to hurl Noel to the ground, but he held it in due to Lucys presence.

The classroom quickly fell silent as there was no longer a war of nerves. The only sound was of Lucy organizing the books scattered on the desk.

After a while, Noel, watching Felix from the other side of the desk, asked, Anyways, are you still looking for your school uniform?

Why are you so interested in my school uniform? Did you steal it? Felix questioned, full of doubt.

No, absolutely not. Noel denied it, his voice raised more than necessary, and Felix instantly became more suspicious. I was just asking because I wanted to help.

What do you mean help? I told you. Dont do anything.

What are you going to do if you find the thief?

What do I do? His wrist Felix stopped talking, conscious of Lucy.

What about his wrist?

Felix put his palm to the side of his cheek so that Lucy couldnt see it. Then he spoke in a low voice to the ever-curious Noel. Im going to crush it.

Noel frowned. Sunbae, you have a lot of money. Is the uniform that important? Enough to go that far?

What do you mean far? Lucy asked, her eyes shining curiously.

Nothing. Felix avoided answering. Anyway, youre a little weird. Why do you keep asking about my school uniform?

Noel, who was sitting, crept up from his seat shortly after Felix began to raise doubts.

Why are you running away?

Im not running away. Contrary to his words, Noel dashed to the door with lightning-fast steps and left the classroom. With only his head sticking out through the door, he said, Anyway, I wont disturb you two, and I wont come to this classroom anymore, so do whatever you want.

W- What?

Ignoring Lucys bewilderment, Noel disappeared through the door.

What a strange kid, Felix muttered as he stared at the door where Noel disappeared.

Lucy heaved a deep sigh. She cleaned up the desk, which was messed up by the childish chatter of the two boys. I want to study, but I cant help

I know. I cant study today either.

Lucy raised her head at Felixs words and looked at him, puzzled. What? Im still going to study.

Uh Arent you hungry?

At that question, Lucy suddenly pushed the books she had piled up in front of him. Her gaze was cold as she said, Sunbae, you cant go anywhere until you finish reading this.

Lucy was always calm and shy, but she was as strict and thorough as the Berg family tutor when it came to studying. Like what happened in the library last time, he was not allowed to ask questions that had nothing to do with his studies or take a walk.

Felix flipped through the book in the silence where there was not an ounce of romance in the air.

Senior, focus! Focus! Dont pretend to read it.

Sometimes Lucys tapping on her desk was the only sound he could hear in the classroom. Under Lucys close watch, Felix continued to flip through the pages. In the end, the thick book that he never thought he could read at all came close to the last chapter.

They finished their study just as it was getting dark outside the window. Felix closed the book he had read and let out a sigh of relief. It was as if all the moisture in his eyes had evaporated. Lucy also began to organize the books and notes she was reading with a slightly tired face.

Then Shall we go eat dinner? Felix asked, a bright smile appearing on his face after hours of studying.

Lucy did not share the same feeling. She shook her head and said, Theres still one thing left.

She picked up the book in front of Felix and opened it. She was deep in thought as she turned the pages where she had marked the important parts.

Emperor Astrino conquered the Kingdom of Sulan for how many years? Lucy suddenly asked a question. Five, four, three, two

200 years according to imperial history, Felix answered without hesitation.

Lucy looked at him, pleasantly surprised, and nodded her head. Thats right.

She flicked through the pages, her eyes sharp.

Chapter 27

The reason why the walls of the Kingdom of Lausanne were only head-high!

Because all they have to do is stop the horsemen.

What are the four sacred places of the Adelaic religion?

Adelon, Eshila, Munen, Rajgir.

At Felix's constant reply, Lucy closed the book. She stared at him with a look of astonishment and skepticism. Felix resolutely avoided her gaze. He was eager to be done with his studying, so he revealed his knowledge without a second thought.

How strange. You were clearly out of focus, Lucy murmured, puzzled, doubting the situation.

* * *

After leaving the classroom, Felix and Lucy headed to the cafeteria. Because the sun had already set completely, it was time for the cafeteria to close.

Lucy turned to Felix, looking sorry. What should we do? I think Linda is already cleaning up. I must have been holding on to you for too long.

The cafeteria manager, Linda, was working hard on her cleaning and giving directions to the other staff. Although it had not been long since she became the cafeteria manager, with her fierce and strict work skills, she had a firm grip on the students and the other staff members.

It's okay. We can just eat at the dorm, Felix said as he looked at Linda giving instructions to the staff, a stern look on her face. The eatery attached to each dormitory was operated much later than the Academy cafeteria for students looking for a late-night snack.

Then Linda turned toward Felix. She squinted and stared at his face. Soon, she coolly approached him and opened the door of the cafeteria wide.

Are you here to eat, student council president? Linda asked with a kind smile, no trace of her stern expression. She beckoned at him to come quickly, sighing. I feel bad for you! You must be busy studying for exams. You should at least eat well!

As Felix and Lucy stood stunned at the unexpected welcome, Linda beckoned again. Hurry up and come in!

The two entered the restaurant, and she briskly walked toward the kitchen.

Please sit there and wait for me! she shouted, pointing to one of the tables, before disappearing into the kitchen,

When Linda's figure had completely disappeared, Felix turned to Lucy and spoke quietly. Let's just say I'm Adrian for now.

At his words, Lucy quietly nodded. Of course, he could go back to the dormitory and have a light dinner, but Felix didn't want to miss this dinner with Lucy.

Not long after they sat down at the table and waited, Linda took out a plate full of food and set it in front of them.

Thank you so much for suggesting replenishment of kitchen staff on our behalf, student council president, said Linda, smiling broadly at Felix. Thanks to you, I have time to catch my breath! Before, I was so busy and distracted!

The rest of the staff standing behind Linda nodded eagerly in agreement.

Linda and the staff returned to the kitchen after making an exceptional promise that they would make food whenever they came, regardless of the operating hours of the cafeteria in the future.

So, this dinner is thanks to Adrian, said Felix as he looked down at the food in front of him.

I think Adrian is not only interested in the student council, but also the welfare of the academy staff, Lucy said, One time, when old man Fred fell off his horse and injured his ankle, he asked the academy if he could receive medical assistance.

Really? It was the first time Felix had heard of this. Both the story of the kitchen staff and the story of Freds injury. He knew that Adrian was passionate about the student council work, but he didnt know that he cared for and even helped the academy staff.

Is this part of your education in the duchy? Lucy asked, poking the sausage with a fork. Felix thought for a moment, then raised his head.

I dont know Nobles should embrace their responsibility and take good care of their servants. Isnt that right, A sarcastic reply came out of Felixs mouth.

Have I ever stepped up for the servants at the duchy?

He was lost in thought.

Adrian-sunbae seems to be a person who always thinks about that.

Felix kept his mouth shut. Suddenly, he felt like he was pathetic and thoughtless.

Well, its not wrong.

He poked the beans with his fork. However, his chest was pounding as if it was his own heart, not the beans, that was stabbed.

Sunbae

At Lucys call, Felix once again looked up, breaking away from his thoughts. Oh, hmm.

Lucy looked at him, worried. Felix was not eating and only poked at the beans. Why aren't you eating? You said you were hungry earlier.

No, I'm eating. Felix avoided Lucy's gaze and put the food in his mouth.

Lucy, who was staring at him, said cautiously. Well I'll finish an hour earlier tomorrow.

Huh?

I didn't know you'd be so tired. I should have taken it easy.

No!

Felix waved his hands urgently. He pretended to be enthusiastic to keep his time with Lucy from dwindling. Don't cut the time. You need to be harsh. I'm last in class. I have a bad brain, so it's not good to decrease the time.

At his words, Lucy jumped. What do you mean you're not smart? After memorizing one book today, she said, a little offended as if she had been told that her brain was bad. If Sunbae works a little harder, you'll be able to achieve good grades. Sunbae is Adrian-Sunbae's twin. You must naturally be smart like Adrian-Sunbae, Lucy encouraged him, because you are really the same.

Really? Felix suddenly turned serious. Are we really that similar? But you can tell the difference.

Lucy cast a puzzled look at Felix for repeating a question that all students at the Academy already knew the answer to. Hmm Yes. It's the same.

Is there really nothing different? Felix asked persistently. Even though we are twins, there must be something different in one place or another. For example, there are spots in certain areas, or the shape of the ears is different.

What? Lucy rolled her eyes in bewilderment. To me, you both look so much alike that it's hard to tell you apart.

No way.

Yeah? What?

Lucy's reply confused Felix.

Is there really a halo behind Adrian in Lucy's eyes?

But Felix never wanted to think that way. So, he asked Lucy again. Look. There must be something different somewhere.

Uh

As Felix urged her so seriously, Lucy also became serious. She began to tear Felix's face apart, frowning as she did when she was studying. Her round eyes moved eagerly. Felix's forehead, eyebrows, ears, chin, lips

Looking around Felix's face, her gaze finally stopped on his blue eyes. Felix, who put his face close to her, took a deep breath without realizing it.

Lucy's emerald eyes were deep and mysterious and were so close to him. Felix felt his whole body stiffen in tension with a tingling sensation.

But, sunbae, I can't find anything different because I don't have anything to compare it to right now, Lucy said, looking into his eyes.

Felix hurriedly pulled his face back and lowered his gaze. Oh, yes. That's right.

I'll check Adrian-senpai later when we're together.

Oh, okay, Felix mumbled and hurriedly shoved the food into his mouth, his heart pounding.

* * *

Felix walked with a spring in his step as he returned to his room after dropping Lucy off at the female student dormitory and returning from the restaurant. He had such a pleasant time with Lucy that he forgot about his nightmare. The day turned into a very satisfying one just because he had dinner with her.

Adrian had returned first and was changing his school uniform when Felix arrived. He said, looking at Felix, You're just coming back now?

Felix jumped into Adrian's bed without saying a word. Adrian's nagging started immediately, Felix, I told you not to lie on my bed in your outdoor clothes.

Felix just flopped like a fish on his bed with a smile.

Seeing this, Adrian shook his head. Well, as long as you're happy.

Felix flailed on Adrian's bed a few more times but stopped when he heard something fall from the bed to the floor. He checked the floor for the fallen object. A silver string-like thing fell next to the bed. Felix reached his arm out and picked it up.

After a while, he slowly got up from the bed and sat down. The smile slowly faded from his lips as he looked silently at the object in his hand.

The Holy Sword constellation was shining in the small crystals attached to the necklace.

Chapter 28

Why is this

Felix stared at the necklace in his hand without moving. The crystal was crafted exquisitely with the zodiac sign of October. It looked like the constellation necklace that Lucy purchased at the stall on the day of the festival.

Why is this on Adrians bed?

Felix was confused as he lifted his head and looked at his brothers back. He blankly fiddled with the necklace; thousands of thoughts ran through his mind.

Maybe its just a similar necklace? Constellation themed necklaces are common, or someone else gave it to him. We werent the only ones who bought things at the stand.

He recalled, quelling the suspicion rising from the corner of his mind.

Yes, necklaces like this are common. Its something I can find anywhere in the market. So, no need to worry.

Adrian, Felix called his brother. He needed to check it himself, but his heart was beating anxiously.

Adrian looked back while organizing his clothes. Hmm?

Felix showed him the necklace on his opened palm. Where did you get this?

Ah. Adrian rushed over and picked up the necklace resting on Felixs palm. He hurriedly put the necklace in a small box on the desk and closed the lid. Sorry. The person asked me to keep it a secret, he replied, a bit troubled.

Person? Secret?

Felixs heart sank at his response. It was an ambiguous answer and made him afraid to ask more.

Adrian opened the desk drawer and pushed the box containing the necklace into its depth, oblivious to his twins reaction. Felix looked at him, eyes empty. After a while, he slowly got up from Adrians bed and tumbled over to his bed, stretching helplessly over it.

Adrian looked at him, confused. Felix was acting strange. He was flopping around like a child on his bed just before, but now he lay still like a dead fish on a chopping board. Whats wrong?

Felix did not respond to his question.

Adrian looked at him and muttered, Is it puberty?

* * *

The next day.

Felix, who was returning to the dormitory after the morning class, sat down on a nearby bench for a while. Then he pressed his thumb against his temple. The headache he had felt since waking up in the morning never went away.

After a while, he lowered his hand and stared blankly at the campus. Autumn flowers bloom in every flowerbed against a backdrop of a clear blue sky and vibrantly colored trees.

No beautiful scenery caught his eye. A single thought dominated his mind and bothered him deeply. The fact he had forgotten because he got so close to Lucy and was so happy just seeing her smile.

The fact that Lucy liked Adrian, not him.

Like a dam, which had begun to crack once, could not withstand the rushing water and gradually collapsed, the negative thoughts that kept coming to his head could not easily be shaken off, and he gradually fell into deep agony.

It was painful to imagine Lucy presenting the necklace to Adrian.

The more he shook it off, the more specific and vivid the scenes that appeared in his head, making him sad. He closed his eyes tightly and swept his face down with his dry hand. It was then that someone tapped him lightly on the shoulder.

Lucy! Felix shouted, surprised, as he turned his head.

Lucy stood with her light brown hair neatly braided and hanging over her shoulder. She smiled gently as she looked at Felix, waiting for his usual cheeky smile. However, her bright smile gradually faded when Felix was just staring at her, still surprised. After hesitating for a while due to his unresponsiveness, she turned to the bench.

Felix-sunbae, she said, sitting next to him. Actually, Ive been following you from over there. She pointed to the entrance of the academys main building. I was walking quite close. Didnt you notice?

Felix couldn't even respond properly and only let out a strange Oh.

Seeing Lucy's face, he was overcome with both joy and pain. The two emotions were mixed together, so instead of his usual playful smile on his face, only an awkward smile appeared.

Are you sick? Lucy asked, worried.

No, I'm fine, Felix replied, shaking his head.

Not too far away, a group of students passed by, making a lot of noise. Lucy stood up as if conscious of their gaze and said, If it's hard to talk now, shall we talk about it later?

It's not like that. Felix sat her back down. His unusual mood had Lucy lowered her head with a sullen expression. An awkward air circulated around them, and Lucy fiddled with her hands on her lap.

Calm down, Felix! Lucy came up first and talked to you. What are you doing?

He pushed himself. He felt pathetic that he was unable to control his mood and attitude only because of a necklace.

These days I think I was able to diligently prepare for the exam thanks to you. Felix finally got the words out of his mouth after a few moments of deliberation.

Lucy raised her head with a slightly brighter expression at his words. Really?

Yeah. I've never worked so hard before.

If there is something you don't know while studying, just ask me. I'm preparing for the third-grade subjects in advance, too. I'll answer you as much as possible. Lucy turned to face the front, embarrassed. Ah! Come to think of it, and there's Adrian-sunbae too, she said as if she had just remembered. Since you share the same room anyway, you can ask him. I also received his help from time to time, and he was kind enough to explain it to me.

Felix was heartbroken when his younger brother's name came out, and his stomach began to hurt as if it were being squeezed. He nodded. Adrian Yeah That's right.

I think Adrian-sunbae is really great. He placed first in all subjects for all three years, and he was ranked first overall, but there are some subjects he did not achieve satisfactory results. Lucy sang Adrian praises.

Various emotions simmered in Felix's heart when Lucy praised Adrian. For swordsmanship, I was number one. Such words popped out of his mouth.

Lucy opened her eyes wide when he suddenly revealed his ranking. Felix looked down in embarrassment, thinking that maybe he was more talkative than Colin or Noel.

Oh, come to think of it, you got the highest score for swordsmanship, Lucy said as she remembered his previous report card she had seen before.

Yes, if you have any difficulties, please tell me. Ill teach you.

Thank you. But I dont take swordsmanship Im not well coordinated.

With those words, the conversation ended abruptly. The two sat silently, looking at the wide campus for a moment. Lucys feet kept swinging under the bench.

Umm, I think it would be okay to learn for self-defense, Lucy said after a moment of silence. I cant swing it coolly but learning how to hold a dagger is not bad.

Really? Okay, Ill set a date and teach you properly. Felix tried to answer in his usual tone and forced a smile on his face. Holding down the wretched emotions rising in his head.

It wasnt that he didnt know that Lucy liked Adrian. But what can he do? After meeting Lucy, all the emotions he felt were beyond his control. All he could do was hide his ugly feelings as much as possible and manage his expressions.

Sunbae, Im actually here because I have something to say, Lucy said, looking apologetic. I dont think we can study together this week.

Why? Felix raised his head at the unexpected news.

Mrs. Erin fell off the ladder yesterday and injured her arm. There was no one to work in the library, so the book club members decided to take turns manning the return desk.

Felix, who was already dejected, felt even more so at Lucys explanation.

Im sorry, sunbae. Lets study again next week. Im here to tell you this.

it cant be helped, Felix replied, unable to hide his disappointment.

Yeah Ill get going then.

Wait a minute. Felix hurriedly grabbed Lucys wrist when she got up from the bench. However, despite holding someone rather desperately, he was unable to say what he wanted to say. Is the neck

Neck?

Necklace Felix, unable to continue his words, had a strangely distorted expression. He released his hold on Lucy. Its nothing, he said indifferently.

In the end, he sent Lucy away without even asking about her constellation necklace. In fact, Felix was afraid. He was afraid that Lucy really gave Adrian the necklace. He was afraid she would say yes calmly. So, he avoided getting an answer. He couldnt even ask the question.

Felix silently looked at Lucys back as she walked away. Every corner of his heart ached unbearably as it seemed that one day, she would be so far away from him, forever.

Chapter 29

He lowered his sight to avoid catching a glimpse of Lucy walking away.

Then, a book caught his eyes. It was right next to where Lucy sat earlier, and she had completely forgotten about it.

Oh.

Lucy was gradually moving away from him and toward the main building of the Academy. Felix snatched up the book and dashed after her.

Lu

Felix tried to shout her name but immediately shut his mouth. Students in groups of two or three were walking around the campus. Calling out one of the girls names out loud was like throwing chunks of meat at a flock of hungry wolf-like students who liked to inflate even the smallest of rumors. So, he picked up his pace and took long strides to go after Lucy.

She was now climbing the stairs of the Academys main building. Felix, who was about to run and catch up with her, suddenly stopped. His eyes narrowed.

What.

His gaze was drawn to a male student who was walking a bit behind Lucy and was behaving suspiciously.

Hunched shoulders. Eyes glancing around. Muffled steps.

At the same time, the boy kept a certain distance from Lucy and was sneaking up behind her. As soon as Lucy entered the building, the boy disappeared inside as well.

Felix raised his eyebrows.

What is that guy doing?

These days, whenever he was alone with Lucy, a first-year book club member always appeared and interrupted them, which irritated him greatly. He wrinkled his brow even more when he saw the boy was discreetly following Lucy.

Soon, he resumed walking, following the direction where Lucy and the boy disappeared and entered the academy's main building.

Felix stepped inside, looked around, and saw Lucy walking up the stairs. Then he saw the suspicious boy hesitating at the foot of the stairs and then tried to climb the stairs as if he had made up his mind about something.

The boy soon took a step to go up the flight of stairs, but Felix was faster and caught up behind him before he could move any further.

Wait a minute, Felix called for him, and he looked back at the sound.

When he saw Felix through the long bangs covering his eyes, the boy was frightened. He stepped back in an instant, his face pale. He was definitely suspicious.

Why on earth

Before he could complete his sentence with, Are you following Lucy? the boy turned and sprinted toward the hallway on the first floor, not the stairs.

Don't run away! Felix ran after him.

Like a loach, the boy slithered his way through the crowd of students. Keeping a sharp lookout for him, Felix dashed through the confused crowd.

Why in the world are you running away?

Amid the frantic pursuit, Felix was busy racking his brain. There were only two reasons why a boy would skulk behind and follow a girl.

Is he someone who has a grudge against Lucy or a stalker?

However, no matter how much he thought about it, Lucy was not someone anyone would hate. Then there was only one answer. With that thought in mind, Felix began to chase the boy with even more intense momentum.

Before long, the boy reached the end of the hallway. Their distance had narrowed considerably. No matter how fast he ran, he couldn't be faster than Felix.

The boy stuck at the dead end hurriedly opened a door at the side and ran outside. At the same time, the students attention was drawn to the small commotion in the hallway.

Crash!

Felix felt a sudden, powerful shock on his forehead. He staggered after colliding with someone and held his forehead. He stumbled and leaned against the door. However, the person who collided was knocked back completely.

Ugh

Noel Roman was on the floor, clutching his forehead, just like Felix.

Sunbae! Why did you suddenly come out? He looked up at Felix and whined. They bumped into each other so hard that tears welled up in his eyes. Oh, my skull is about to burst open!

Who are you to say that? Felix exclaimed with a heavy expression, although he did not fall. Is your head made of stone?

At those words, Noel shouted a protest. Huh? You dont have the right to say things like that!

What? Was I wrong?

Back then, in the classroom! I heard what Lucy-sunbae said! Suddenly, Noel raised his fist, imitating Lucys gesture. G get out of the last place! You can do it!

You punk.

Felix seemed like he would rush at him at any moment, so Noel got up and prepared to take a step backwards. But Felix took his eyes off Noel and looked around.

Noel, in his defensive posture, gently lowered his arm and asked, What are you looking for?

Felix strode toward Noel. Do you know who the kid that just ran out of here is?

Just now? I dont know. I didnt see

Are you kidding me? I followed right after him.

Oh, I really didnt see him!

Felix creased his brow and turned his gaze to the side where the boy had fled. He didnt even see the boys face since it was covered by his bangs.

Why? Who is it? Noel asked.

Felix waved his hand in disappointment. There's nothing you need to know. Go on your way.

I was going well on my way, but my sunbae ran into me Oh! Im going! Im going!

When Felix looked at him harshly, Noel crept around him and went straight into the academy building. Felix stared at the cheeky boy and annoyedly swept his hair back.

I almost got him!

It wasn't that he had witnessed the male student doing anything inappropriate to Lucy, but Felix felt uncomfortable with how things ended. He couldn't let go of his regrets for a long time, and he stared outside the door where the male student had disappeared.

I won't miss him next time, he shouted firmly in his heart and took a reluctant step back.

* * *

Lucy was nowhere to be found when he returned to the stairs to return the book. Perhaps she didn't notice the fuss Felix made behind her.

After finishing all of his afternoon classes, Felix decided to bring the book Lucy had left behind. In fact, the book was an excuse.

As time went by, Felix regretted not being able to ask about the necklace. As much as he wanted to face the truth, he also wanted to avoid it. He had it rough as he imagined the worst situation.

In his anxious head, he imagined what was on Lucy's mind over and over again. At the same time, Adrian's vague and enigmatic answer, The person asked me to keep it a secret, echoed in his mind. He thought he would stay up all night again and not be able to sleep a wink at this rate.

He was also worried about the male student who was secretly following Lucy, so Felix naturally went to the library.

Unlike usual, the library was completely full. Perhaps everyone felt a sense of emergency as the exams were only a few days away. Meanwhile, Lucy was the only one busy organizing the returned books at the return desk.

Felix slowly walked over to her. She was writing the return date on the book loan card when she noticed his presence, and her eyes opened wide in surprise. Sunbae? What are you doing here?

This. Felix held out the book Lucy left behind.

She accepted the book, looking like she had completely forgotten about it. Oh! I didn't even know it disappeared.

Lucy looked busy, proving the truth in her words. Felix's gaze turned to the return desk, where the returned books were piled high. It looked like she had more books to organize than usual.

Some teachers gave homework without notice during the exam period. In order to finish their assignments in a hurry, the students constantly took out books that could be used as materials from the bookshelf. Then, after checking only the necessary parts, they immediately piled them up on the return table. There were mountains of books on carts and return tables due to this.

Lucy's neatly braided hair was messy from how frantic she had been to organize the books.

Even though you're a book club member, isn't it too much to have to work until the exam period?

Felix was worried that Lucy's solid retention of the top spot would be disrupted, and the books continued to pile up.

He knew how to organize books according to their classification codes. Without hesitation, he picked up the books on the return table.

Lucy stopped cleaning the book cart and looked up at Felix. Sunbae?

This is too much work. I'll help you.

But

Felix took the book and proceeded to the bookshelves despite Lucy's protest. He didn't pay attention to the student's gaze. After all, no one would think he, Felix Berg, would organize books in the library. As expected, the students didn't care a bit; they probably thought he was Adrian.

As time passed, the books piled up on the return table went back to their place one by one.

Sunbae, thank you for your help.

Felix turned around, and Lucy was standing behind him. He was pleased and proud of himself. He had entirely forgotten why he had come to Lucy since he was so focused on returning the books.

It was not long after that someone spoke and broke the peaceful atmosphere.

What are you doing here?

Felix turned his head toward the sound. At the end of the aisle, Adrian stood still, confused.

Chapter 30

Felix came to a halt in the middle of returning the books back on the shelves. The unexpected appearance of his younger brother quickly diminished the smile on his face.

Are you organizing the books?

Felix, who soon came to his senses, looked at Adrian, and Adrian tilted his head.

So what?

Adrian became even more confused. It was a natural reaction since his brother had never offered to help with the book club.

Soon Adrian slowly approached him. Walking through the floating dust in the sun, he looked like a devil who came to crush Felix's joy.

Adrian came closer and whispered, Did you do something troublesome?

No?

Why are you helping me all of a sudden?

Im not helping you.

Then you were organizing the books here for no reason? Adrian's eyes narrowed in suspicion.

Felix avoided his gaze and began to put the book back in. He didn't want to explain anything, especially to him.

Adrian looked at him and shrugged. Well then. He turned around and approached Lucy, who was nearby. Lucy, Felix insists on helping us here, so let's leave it to him. Adrian took the book Lucy was holding and placed it on top of the books Felix was holding. Then please.

Text

Wait, are you going to stay here too? Felix asked. He wanted Adrian to just go away.

However, Adrian replied mercilessly. There are a lot of people today, right? Lucy must be having a hard time handling it by herself, so I'll help her. He patted Felix on the shoulder and added, Anyway, thank you for helping us. But don't put the book in the wrong place. It's a pain in the ass to find them again later.

After finishing his words, Adrian turned around. Let's go, Lucy.

They were about to leave the aisle but before being nudged by Adrian and disappearing over the bookshelf, Lucy's gaze turned to Felix for a moment. She pursed her lips as if to say something, but she soon disappeared from his sight.

Felix was now left to organize the returned books alone, and he stared blankly at the place where Lucy and his brother had disappeared. In front of him were piles of books on the cart that had yet to be put back on the shelf.

He came to ask about the necklace, but he ended up helping Lucy and Adrian to spend time together.

This isn't it.

He had half a mind to leave behind the mountain of books. He ruffled his hair, annoyed at how the situation unfolded. However, if he didn't do it, it would all be Lucy's job. He began to return the books with a look full of dissatisfaction.

It was after a considerable amount of time that all the books on the cart had found their place. As he came back from his task, he saw Lucy and Adrian sitting side by side on the return table.

The two had their heads side by side and talked as if they were discussing something. They looked so close with their shoulders touching and eyes looking at each other.

Are you done? Adrian asked, raising his head once he noticed Felix.

Yeah.

Thank you. We'll take care of it now. You must be busy too; you don't have to help us anymore.

It was clear that he meant for him to leave. Felix bit his lips as he held back his displeasure. He was determined not to go back just like that.

Without hesitation, he went to the return table where they were sitting. Lucy and Adrian looked up at him as he suddenly broke in, surprised.

Why are you coming here?

Because theres no empty seat. Felix beckoned to the table full of students.

So, youre going to sit here? Adrian asked, puzzled.

Felix ignored him and pulled an empty chair. Then he sat at the return table, a little away from Lucy and Adrian. He opened his bag, taking out books one by one.

What are you doing? Go somewhere else. Only librarians are authorized to enter this place. Lucy is uncomfortable.

As soon as he heard Lucys name from Adrians mouth, Felix felt his heart boil. He once again opened his book, completely ignoring Adrian.

You can go to your room and do that.

I dont want to.

Adrian had tried to tell his brother nicely, but soon, his expression gradually darkened. He frowned. Felix was being unnecessarily stubborn, unlike usual. As if giving up dealing with him more, he sighed and said, Sorry, Lucy. Just ignore Felix.

Lucy, who was sitting anxiously between the two brothers, lowered her eyes, embarrassed.

Felix shrugged and casually turned the book in front of him. He knew he was being childish and shouldnt be doing this.

I didnt come here to do this.

Felix turned over the pages roughly.

Either way, Lucy and Adrian became busy again dealing with library work. The two had too much work to do to care about Felixs mood. Even Lucy, who was glancing as if she were conscious of Felix, seemed busy organizing books at one point. His presence diminished gradually.

The conversation between the two, which he did not want to hear, kept flowing into his ears. They talked about library work that Felix didnt understand, or about another librarian he didnt know.

Even if Felix wanted to join the conversation, he had no choice but to listen since they were only talking about why the books they applied for a few months ago were still not coming in or why a first-year student he had never heard of suddenly wanted to quit his club activities.

Felix tapped his book with a pen. At some point, the ink oozing from the nib began to stain the paper. He, who had been quietly listening to the conversation that had been flowing into his ear, finally capped the pen and slam it down. The sound was so loud that it echoed around the book return desk.

Not only did Adrian and Lucy look around at once, but also some students who were sitting at a nearby table looked up to find the source of the sound.

Whats wrong? Adrian asked, surprised.

There are things I dont understand even after reading. Felix tapped the book in front of him with his finger.

What is it? Adrian got up from his seat. But even before he approached, Felix spoke out first. Not you. Felix pointed to Lucy, who was looking at him with bewildered eyes from a distance. Let Lucy tell me.

At Felixs words, Adrian stood up, irritated. Are you really going to be like this?

What? Felix asked back in a formidable demeanor. He now openly expressed his displeasure. Even though he knew how childish he looked right now.

Adrian, who was about to retaliate, bit his lip to see if he had changed his mind. He seemed determined not to respond to Felix. He then turned to Lucy and said, Dont worry about him.

But Over Adrians shoulder, Lucy tried to say something with a complicated expression on her face. but at that time, another returned book came in. She hurriedly stood up and look for the loan card.

Felix looked down sullenly. The spotty ink mark spread even more as if it were the grumpiness rising from his heart. He stared blankly at the stain for quite a long time.

For the past few weeks, he had had a glimmer of hope that he might be able to turn Lucys heart to himself. He actually had a good time with her too, at least for him, it was an incomparable happy time.

However, as soon as he saw Lucy with Adrian, his confidence leaked out as if it were in a perforated bag. Instead, the only thing that rose anew in his heart was jealousy accompanied by childishness.

Adrian-sunbae, I cant find the loan card for this book. Lucy, who was searching through the box, asked Adrian for help. Soon the two put their shoulders together and began to look through the cards in the box.

Felix stared blankly at her back. He knew that the two of them had been together longer than he had begun to recognize Lucy. Maybe they had more pleasant memories between them than the time Lucy had with him.

It felt like a wall was erected. There seemed to be no room between Lucy and Adrian for him to intervene. It had a greater impact on him when he saw it in front of his eyes.