

For Your Failed Unrequited Love

#Chapter 51 - Read For Your Failed Unrequited Love

Chapter 51

Chapter 51

He stared at Lucy with more persistent and curious eyes.

Lucy hurriedly greeted the two seniors and turned around. She walked faster and faster toward the stairs. Later, she heard Felix's voice asking Adrian what her name was, Lucy began to run.

Around the corner, Lucy stopped when the twins were out of sight. Standing against the wall, she breathed heavily.

Why did you pretend to be Adrian to me? Why did you ask for my name? Do you remember what happened in the nurses office?

When she thought of that, Lucy's heart began to pound like large flower buds bursting out of her chest.

It was really strange that the feelings she felt at that moment were excitement, not shame or anxiety, even though she might fall in a difficult situation.

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Since Lucy became the second year book manager, she has had a lot of things to discuss with Adrian, the third year book manager.

The problem was that whenever she visited Adrian, Felix was often with him. Each time, Lucy approached them with great nervousness.

One thing that was different from before was that whenever she spoke to Adrian, Felix's reaction was visible.

Normally, he didn't show any interest when Lucy was around. However, since the day she handed over the book club's list, he had stared at her with strange eyes whenever she visited Adrian.

Felix's gaze, which rarely moved away, made Lucy sweat, and her heart pounded violently. Then, when the conversation with Adrian was over, she left as if she was running away. She was puzzled and perplexed since she could not see why he was suddenly staring at her like that.

His mysterious behavior lasted until the end of the semester. But that wasn't the end. Felix confused Lucy as well as all the students with another questionable act.

After the summer vacation, he returned to the academy and appeared with his long hair cut short.

Why so suddenly?

With the same appearance and the same length of hair, people often confuse the Berg twins.

Lucy took special care not to make the mistake of speaking to Felix as Adrian for no reason. Unfortunately, however, such efforts were wasted in an instant.

The History of Murinen hasn't been returned yet? asked a female student, standing in front of the return table looking annoyed. She was also a sophomore like Lucy and had already visited the library for the third time.

Y yes. It was due yesterday.

All of the students who took Arkels class mourned after he assigned a task about the history of the Kingdom of Murinen. This was because the Murinen Kingdom had little historical records and it was difficult to find other materials.

For this reason, students even searched not only the Academy library but also the bookstore in the town to find a book called History of Murinen, which had well-organized materials. However, all the students who visited the library to get the book had no choice but to return empty-handed. Someone had borrowed the book a week earlier.

Lucy rummaged through the loan card to find the person who borrowed the book. Soon she picked up a card and identified the borrower's name.

Felix Berg.

To her surprise, it was Felix who borrowed the book and didn't return it.

Then when can I get the book?

She was staring blankly at Felix's name when she heard another annoying voice in front of her. The girls, who had already failed three times, seemed to be very angry.

I even made a reservation to check out the book. I need that book!

Lucy had a hard time calming the girl down. Not only the girl, but also a few more sophomores who took Arkels lessons, came to ask Lucy. She would rather run away from them.

Why aren't they returning it on time? Rita complained next to her.

I think we should go and get the book ourselves. Otherwise, we will have to listen to Mitchell Barnes' annoyance tomorrow. Then she winked at Lucy.

Huh?

Lucy tilted her head and Rita gave her another look.

Do you want me to go? Lucy asked and faltered back.

Rita shrugged and replied, I have to go to class right away.

But I.

While Lucy hesitated to make any excuses, Rita was already ready to pack her bag.

Well, then,

Rita left the library without looking back.

Wait, Rita! Lucy called, but she didn't answer.

Shall I go?

Then a lively voice was heard behind Lucy's back. It was Noel Roman, a freshman. He stood, as usual, with a friendly smile and radiant energy.

This kind of errand is supposed to be done by new members. I'll go.

Noel's words gave Lucy a deep sigh of relief. Will you?

Yes. Noel soon saw the name Felix Berg on the loan card and smiled brightly. Wow, Felix Berg! I really wanted to see him up close!

His eyes glistened brightly.

Adrian-sunbae is really cool so I think Felix is too. I'm sure he's smart, kind and gentle, right?

Lucy just smiled awkwardly at Noel's expectation. She wanted to tell him that he might not be what he expected him to be, but she stopped herself. She was afraid that Noel would change his word and wouldn't go to collect the unreturned book.

Well, I'll go ahead.

Wait, Noel! Jemima called Noel who was about to leave the library. She stood groaning while holding a book that seemed to be heavy.

You're supposed to organize the books here!

Oh, I'll do that! Lucy tried to approach Jemima quickly.

However, Jemima shook her head and loudly said, No, you can't! This is an encyclopedia! A weakling like you won't be able to lift it.

Then she turned to Noel. Come on, Noel!

I'm sorry, Lucy-sunbae. I don't think you can carry those books. He spoke with a sullen face and trudged to Jemima.

Eventually, Lucy was the one who had to go to Felix to get the overdue book. She stared hopelessly at Jemima and Noel and left the library.

* * *

It was really strange.

She knew from the beginning that he was really strange, but at this moment she couldn't understand him at all.

Lucy, now sitting on the edge of the bench where Felix was sitting, glanced at him sideways. He was opening the book with a really shameless face.

He told her to wait until he had finished reading the book, and it seemed that he was really going to sit next to Lucy and read it.

How shameless are you to ask me to wait? You're the one who missed the return due date by two days, causing the book to be delayed.

Shouldn't you apologize first?

Grumbling inward about the grievances that she could not bring out of her mouth, Lucy waited for him to return the book quickly.

With a pitiful heart, she poked the ground with her shoes, and touched a nearby leaf. Then she glanced to her side and saw that Felix was reading really leisurely.

Lucy seemed to be the only one who was confused. Reasons why he was doing this to her came one after another.

He must have remembered what happened with the Limosium medicine and nurses office. Thats why hes trying to get me into trouble!

Then why arent you saying anything?

Or did I make any other mistakes?

If not, are you interested in me? I dont think so.

A number of speculations came to her mind, but none of them were certain. On the contrary, her mind only became more confused.

As she was thinking, a noise was heard from a distance. They were third year boys. They found Felix sitting on the bench and began to approach him straight away.

Lucy looked at Felix with uncomfortable eyes as more than one or two male students walked loudly. He hadnt finished reading the book yet.

The bench, occupied by Felixs friends, was very hectic. In addition, Felix, who was reading a book, looked completely distracted. A boy wrapped his arm around his shoulder and clung together, then he pushed him away in a fit of irritation.

Lucy, who was crouching away from the rough movements of the boys, rose quietly. She couldnt sit there any longer. She might as well ask Adrian to take the overdue books.

She changed her plans and left the bench.

The next day, however, Lucy regretted her decision. She thought that she should have waited a little longer to get the book. As soon as the library was opened, students who visited for the book *The History of Murinen* came in one after another.

I, I dont know why theyre so angry with us! Jemima said, glaring at the second-year students leaving the library. We didnt intentionally tell him not to return the book!

It cant be helped. Lucy got up from her seat. I must get it this time.

Her face was quite grim when she said those words.

Sienna

Chapter 52

After leaving the library, Lucy headed to the male dormitory. As far as she knew, Adrian had no lessons at this time. She was going to visit him and ask Felix to return the book as soon as possible.

Upon arriving at the male dormitory, Lucy went to the floor, where Adrian and Felix had their rooms, after obtaining a permit from Lauren.

When Lucy arrived at the door, she knocked but there was no answer. The moment she was about to knock one more time, the door burst open.

The two people, who suddenly faced each other with a door between them, opened their eyes wide in surprise at the same time.

Ahmm

Prince Berg, who seemed to have just woken up from his sleep, had disheveled blond hair, looked down at Lucy blankly.

As soon as he saw Lucys face, she saw his eyebrows wriggling and wrinkles form between his eyebrows, it was Felix Berg. Unsurprisingly, another Berg, raised his head slowly from the bed in the room, look to Lucy and said,

Lucy? How did you get in here?

After explaining the situation, Lucy was about to take the overdue books. But the situation went unexpectedly again. Adrian left the room, saying he would have breakfast, only the two of them were left, Felix made another strange request.

Sit down there and wait,

He pointed to the bed where Adrian got up. Then he sat down on the sofa and opened the book.

It was the same situation as yesterday. Whats wrong with him?

Lets just ask first. Is it because of the limosium drug? And what happened in the nurses office Do you remember?

But soon Lucy shook her head.

She doesnt have the courage to speak about it first.

Lucy sat with her shoulders hunched over, looking around for no reason. A school uniform shirt was slung on the head of the bed. Lucy immediately recognized that it was Felixs for the sleeves were curled up. Felix usually rolled up his sleeves without a jacket, and Adrian doesnt roll up his sleeves no matter how hot it was.

On the bedside table were some notes with Felixs name on them.

Oh, this is Felixs bed.

Should I sit somewhere else?

Lucy, who had been troubled, stood up. However, when Felix showed signs of moving through the pages, Lucy was startled and sat down again.

Oh my

Embarrassed Lucy scratched her head. In the silence where neither of them speaks, only the sound of Felix's book flipping could be heard.

Lucy, who was sitting awkwardly, turned to the portrait hanging on the head of the bed. Immediately, Lucy's face, recognizing the face in the portrait, showed a glad look. That was Felix's childhood.

There was a portrait of a boy with the same face hanging over Adrian's bed, but Lucy could tell right away. The child in the picture she's looking at right now is Felix.

It's because the portrait showed an expression of annoyance like the look on his face when she saw him by the lake when they were a child.

It's been a long time.

It was a strange thing. She thought it was a face that would gradually fade to a very old memory, but when she saw it again in a portrait, the memory was vividly revived as if she had met him yesterday.

Oh, I really wanted to hit you back then!

Lucy smiled slightly as she remembered the feelings. After secretly confirming that Felix was absorbed in reading, Lucy gave a slight hit to Felix's forehead in the portrait.

Give me the book!

Of course, little Felix, who had been smacked, looked at Lucy with a sullen look without saying a word. Seeing his young face, Lucy felt sorry for no reason and stroked the boy's forehead.

Yes, you did nothing wrong. What's strange is that sunbae who I don't know what he's thinking

Smack!

Lucy, startled by the sound of the book being closed, raised her hand from the painting. When she looked back, Felix's eyes were fixed on her.

take it.

Suddenly, he handed the book he hadn't finished reading. He looked somewhat angry. Lucy slipped out of the bed. Her steps toward Felix were heavier than ever.

Oh, my. I think he saw me smack his head..

She closed her eyes and took the book from Felix. As Lucy left the room, Felix, with a cold look on his face, said to her,

That's my portrait,

The moment Lucy heard it; she quickly closed the door with a blank face.

Walking along the long corridor as if she were running away, Lucy pulled her hair off. But she can't do anything about it now.

When she thought about how she looked in Felix's view, Lucy was so ashamed that she couldn't raise her face.

I'm sure I looked weird.

No, it would have been better if I ended up being considered weird. Having shown a strange attitude toward him since last semester, the thought that he doesn't care made her head cool down.

I really shouldn't run into that sunbae anymore.

Lucy made another promise and ran out of the male dormitory.

* * *

But Felix's action once again exceeded Lucy's expectations.

Whenever he met Lucy, he looked at her with persistent eyes, but after he had returned the book, he began to ignore her completely.

It was natural for Felix Berg not to be interested in others, so no one noticed it. But Lucy was convinced.

He was openly ignoring Lucy's presence.

As she approaches Adrian for a conversation, he turns his eyes away deliberately. He could hear her voice, but he didn't even raise his head. Sometimes he just left his seat.

Lucy was only confused by his actions.

You make people wait right next to you because of an overdue book, and now you treat them like invisible people?

Were you really displeased when I gave you a smack?

Lucy pouted and grumbled.

Oh, I didnt really hit you. I just did it on the painting.

* * *

Lucy, who was a little depressed because she was treated as an invisible person without knowing why, even lost her mind during the Literature Night. She had so many things to prepare that he had no time to worry about anything else.

Unlike in her first year, she had a partner and needed some nice dress for the ball after the poetry recital and accessories and hair styles.

There was more than one thing to prepare.

In the meantime, Colin decided to escort her. He said, How about a dress? Just wear anything, that made Lucy upset.

No matter how close they were to each other, Lucy was annoyed by his manner in which he seemed to be not interested at all, regardless of comfort. What was more unbearable was that Felix Berg suddenly came to her mind for some reason.

A few days ago, he openly applied as a partner for a very beautiful girl named Ros Millard, a third-year student at the library.

It has been a long time since the entire Academy had a rumor that he, who was not interested in relationships, begged Ros Millard to be his partner was circulating around the campus.

Of course, Lucy was there, too. She saw it clearly with her own eyes.

In fact, that morning, Lucy had just heard a rumor that third-year seniors were talking about in the dormitory. It was rumored that Ros Millard would ask the prince of Berg to be her partner.

The moment Lucy heard it, she frowned unconsciously.

Prince of Berg? Which one? Which of the two do you mean?

From that moment on, Lucys face was filled with impatience.

When Adrian and Felix appeared in the library, Lucy did not think of leaving even though she had already finished her library work.

Does Ros Millard want Felix to be his partner? But Felix doesnt seem to be interested in such events. He didnt attend last year either. I think hell probably refuse even if she asks him.

No, Ros Millard is cool. Maybe hell say yes, this time.

Her thoughts continued one after another. Lucys face, fiddling with invitations in her pockets, was already crumpled.

Thats right. You have to be Ross partner.

Then the door of the library burst open, and Ros Millard with charming red hair appeared. Lucy watched her walk to the Berg twins with great tension. And fortunately, it was Adrian who Ros to be her partner.

Whew!

Lucy swept her heart. At that moment, she didnt know why she was relieved, Ros didnt seem interested in Felix anyway.

As she was very nervous, a sense of relief suddenly came, her whole body relaxed. Lucy sighed again, supporting herself on the bookshelf.

It was then.

Why dont you come with me, Ros?

Lucy raised her head suddenly. Her eyes went straight to Felix. But what she heard was not auditory hallucination. Apparently, Felix Berg had asked Ros Millard to be his partner.

A storm of disappointment swept through Lucys heart, which had been filled with relief just now. She felt frustrated like something was stuck in the corner of her heart.

The voice that had asked Ros to be his partner seemed to ring in Lucys ears until the evening of the night of literature. Lucys expression, standing in front of the mirror in her dress, became sullen. But at once she shook her head and shook off her thoughts. She didnt want to be depressed because of her sunbae anymore.

The important thing for Lucy now was, Is the dress she prepared really well-equipped enough not to be laughed at?

Today, Lucy stood in front of the mirror, not at her desk, and agonized for a long time. She looked at her plain beige dress with a very awkward face. She had been to a ball so many times but she could still not judge whether the dress she was wearing now was suitable for her.

Theres nothing wrong with it, Lucy,

Jemima, who saw her worried face, said in her dress.

Your dress is all right. Its so uncharacteristic that there cant be any strange parts. By the way, did I gain weight on my waist?

Jemima, who was wearing a tight, sensual dress, murmured with a surprised look.

Why is it so tight?

She struggled to pull up the narrow dress.

Who would wear this so small?

Rita quickly approached and helped Jemima pull her dress.

After a long pause in front of the mirror, the three were ready. Jemima and Rita, who have been to many parties, were immersed in their appearance, standing in front of the mirror, perhaps because they were used to their dress. However, no matter how much Lucy looked at herself, she felt awkward.

Lucy, youre not going to go in those shoes, are you? asked Rita, pointing to Lucys black shoes. They were the shoes that Lucy usually wears in her school uniform.

Well

Jemima and Rita were astonished when Lucy, who could not answer no, hesitated.

Oh, my Shoes and dresses are completely separate!

Rita disappeared out of the room for a moment, and soon appeared with a box.

Come on, Ill lend you this, Jemimas feet are too big for you, so wear mine.

She opened the box with white shoes that seemed to go very well with Lucys dress. Lucy took off her black shoes and tried on the shoes that Rita had brought. It was a little big, but there was no problem walking.

Wow, thank you!

Lucy said as she looked in the mirror, she had become quite cool with Ritas shoes. The tiredness she felt for the past few days, which had been hectic preparing for the event, seemed to be gone completely.

Lucy touched her hair for the last time. All she had to do was go out.

All I have to do is have fun with Colin.

Besides, he said that he would be announcing a poem he wrote himself, so she has to support him hard. Lucy left the room with excitement.

Sienna

Chapter 53

In front of the female dormitory, many boys were already waiting to escort their partners. Jemima and Rita disappeared towards their partner after saying goodbye to Lucy.

Lucy looked around to find Colin, too.

Hmm,

Then, Lucy met someones eyes, she held her breath without realizing it. It was Felix.

It was unfamiliar but fascinating to see him in a black suit and with his blonde hair hanging over his forehead without any disruption. Somehow his sharp expression made him look even more mysterious and beautiful.

The girls who were standing next to her forgot their partners and were busy looking at him. Felix looked displeased, but when his eyes met Lucys, he looked surprised.

In recent days, whenever he encounters Lucy, he immediately turns away or walks away from her. But at that moment, he stared blankly at Lucy with his big eyes. He seemed unable to even take his eyes off her.

Lucy turned around in a hurry. A short distance away, Colin was waiting for her.

Collin!

She quickly approached him. Lucy caught Colin by the arm.

Lets go,

She thought it would be better to leave this place quickly and go to the library. Just then, the students looked up the stairs and began to buzz at once. Lucy and Colin stopped and looked up at the murmur.

There stood a girl dressed in a white dress with her red hair beautifully styled. It was Rose Millard. The moment she saw her, Lucys mouth opened wide.

Wow! Shes so beautiful.

She was like a rose blooming in the snow. The students looked up at her with a fascinated look on their faces. Ros did not feel burdened by such a gaze at all, but rather walked down the stairs in a dignified manner.

When Ros found Felix, she stopped. She seemed to be waiting for Felix to come up to her first and reach out his hand. But Felix was looking at the wrong place as if he were distracted. Seeing that he was still at the end of his gaze, Lucy felt her heart throbbing.

Waiting for Felixs escort, Ros glared at him with a displeased face and approached his back.

Soon, Felix and Rose exchanged a few words, arguing about something. After a while, Ros, who had quickly erased her expression of dissatisfaction from her face, began to walk with her arms folded against Felix.

Lucy also went to the library with Colin as her escort.

She had never worn high heels before, so her steps kept creaking. In addition, Collin, who was excited to perform his own poem tonight, walked without even thinking about his partners pace, so Lucy almost fell down several times.

What made her own awkward and ridiculous gait even more embarrassing was that Felix and Ros were walking right behind her.

Lucy didnt have to look back to see how elegant and skillful Ros Millards dress was and how well she walked.

Lucy unconsciously compared herself to Ros.

How funny would it be to look at Ross graceful steps and a girl walking poorly like me?

Lucy tried to get rid of such useless worries. She didnt want to ruin the night with all her depressing thoughts. Moreover, today was the day where her dear friend will present his own poem in front of many people. Rather than being sullen, she should have cheered and encouraged Colin.

Lucy and Colin deliberately laughed and chatted and tried to change their mood. Fortunately, perhaps thanks to Colins cooperation, Lucy was feeling much brighter by the time she arrived in front of the library building.

Lucy and Colin entered the library hall where the Literature Night would take place. Adrian and several other book club members, who decided to focus on the event without a partner, had finished preparing to host the event.

Adrian's readiness was impeccable. The event was as perfect as flowing water, and everyone who attended the literary night fell into a lyrical and deep autumn night.

In particular, when Rose Millard came up to the stage and sang The Golden Queen in a rich voice, the atmosphere seemed to be reaching its peak.

She had as good a tone and singing ability as an opera singer.

I can't believe I can listen to this kind of song without paying.

Lucy exclaimed. But apart from her pure admiration, there was a slight tingling in her heart. The more she shone, the smaller she felt herself. She had no idea why she kept comparing herself to Ros, who had nothing to do with her.

and why she cares so much about one person.

Lucy inadvertently turned to the table where Felix was sitting.

Oh

Her body stiffened. Felix was looking at her. Not his partner, Ros, but Lucy herself.

Lucy turned away in a hurry. Her heart beat fast. She couldn't understand his behavior. At one time, he completely ignored her, and now he looks at her for no apparent reason.

She couldn't figure out what he was thinking.

* * *

All the presentations are over. Cheerful music has now begun to flow through the hall where the atmosphere has been reversed. People flocked out to the center of the hall.

The most excited person was Colin. After completing his successful self-written poem presentation, he seemed to be in a very good mood, but Lucy was very upset because he kept trying to lead her out to the center of the dance hall. Furthermore, after drinking the apple cider he handed her to relax, her face heated up.

Lucy was too tired to handle Colin, who seemed to have exploded with energy. She left the hall on the pretext of filling the table with cider.

Whoa,

Lucy took a deep breath and spat it out. The autumn air was quite cold. Breathing in the cold air made her frustrated heart feel refreshed. But she's glad the presentation ended safely.

Lucy thought as she found a box of cider in the warehouse.

She felt proud that the efforts of the book club members seemed to shine. Now that the ball was almost over, she thought she could go back to the dormitory and sleep comfortably.

Lucy, who was pulling out the box, turned her head, thinking that she should do her best to make it a great event until the end. It was then she heard a movement behind her back.

Lucy narrowed her eyes and looked at the man standing in front of her. At that moment, when she saw a vision of Felix, she thought it was because she was just too tired. Her heart beat like crazy then she started to feel nauseous.

But Felix, who she thought was just a hallucination, walked into the warehouse.

There was an awkward silence between the two who found each other.

As quiet as it was, there were a few breathtaking conversations. Felix found a wound on Lucy's heel, and he even added a questionable request to sit down for a while.

Lucy's face gradually heated up and her mind went blank. Lucy, who would normally flee before him, sat beside him in a bewildered mood.

Unlike her heart that couldn't calm down and beat rapidly, her eyelids became heavier and heavier.

He seemed to be talking to her. It was probably about shoes. Lucy shook her feet as he told her to take off her shoes and set them aside.

Why am I so sleepy?

She strained her eyelids to keep her eyes open.

But it didn't work. Her whole body drooped like wet cotton. The heaviest of them all was her eyelids.

Eventually Lucy closed her eyes, unable to overcome the rush of sleep.

* * *

Lucy opened her eyes softly to the noise of the birds.

The morning sun pouring out of the window was so bright that it was burning her eyes.

Are you up now?

She heard Jemimas voice.

She approached Lucy with a strange look on her face. There was something unusual about the secret smile hanging from the corners of her mouth. Usually, Jemima shows such a smile when she finds something surprising and interesting to gossip about.

Lucy sat up from bed, pressing down on her dizzy head.

Why am I here? Im sure I was at the librarys warehouse.

She remembers going to the warehouse to get some cider, and sitting next to Felix. But her memory after that was suddenly cut off.

How did I How did I get back here?

Dont you remember? Felix-sunbae carried you on his back.

What?

Lucys face went white.

Who? Who carried me on his back?

She asked again, hoping that what she had just heard was wrong. But Jemima broke her wind and answered with an excited look.

Felix-sunbae! I heard you fell asleep after being alone with him at the warehouse yesterday. Because of the wine Colin gave you! Thats why he brought you here!

plop

Lucy fell back on the bed.

What, tell me in detail!

Jemima jumped into Lucys side and shook her wildly.

Huh? Since when have you been so close? What did you do in the warehouse yesterday?

However, Lucy did not respond to Jemimas question. She just stared at the ceiling with a stunned face.

What kind of shame is this? And in front of Felix Berg, not the others.

Lucy's pale face was turning blue now.

I'm not going to school today.

Jemima, who heard Lucy muttering absent-mindedly, pretended to be exaggeratedly surprised and checked out the window.

Strangely, the sun rose in the east.

She came up to Lucy again and forced her to rise. Lucy had no choice but to get up from her seat and get ready for the class.

Just as she was leaving the female dormitory, someone called her.

Lucy!

Sienna

Chapter 54

It was Flora, the female dormitory supervisor. As soon as she found Lucy, she came running. She is known for her strictness and for protecting the front of the female dormitory looking like a gatekeeper in hell, but now her face was full of worries.

Are you feeling well? When you have a cold, you should rest well.

What? Oh, yes.

Lucy, who was asked an unexpected question, answered with a murmur. Flora seemed to think that Lucy had been sick last night. If she had known the truth, Lucy would have been scolded first about the student dignity with fierce eyes.

Here you go,

Flora handed over a small bag. At the night of literature, Lucy had left it in the library hall unattended.

Adrian came late last night and left it. Do you know how surprised Felix was when he carried you on his back?

Lucy stood with her hands neatly clasped together, as if she had been scolded by her mother. It was the first time that she had caused trouble to others since she entered the Academy.

F. Felix-sunbae, is he angry?

Is he angry!? Flora tilted her head at Lucys question.

Why would he get angry? Hes just feeling bad because youre sick.

Yes?

This time Lucy tilted her head at Floras answer.

How can he not feel bad when his favorite girl is sick?

Floras words were so sudden that Lucy opened her eyes wide. When Flora saw the response, she asked again with a puzzled face.

Arent you two dating?

What?

Lucy shook her hand in the air in astonishment.

No way!

Really? Well, thats what it looked like to me.

Flora shrugged her shoulders.

He took you to your room by himself, laid you in bed, and took off your shoes. Besides, he looked quite shocked when you fell down. Dont you remember at all?

At the end of yesterdays story Flora explained, Lucy looked blank as if she had been hit in the head. Without thinking of answering back, she hurriedly said goodbye to Flora and left the dormitory.

Her steps past the campus to the classroom creaked differently than usual. While walking so busily, she almost tripped over a stone and bumped into another student.

Did sunbae.?

She murmured as she climbed the stairs with a stunned face. No matter how hard she thought about it, Floras words didnt seem to be false.

What about him? Theres no reason for him to do that to me..

Walking down the hall and arriving at the classroom, her questions never ended.

In fact, one or two of Felix's attitudes toward Lucy were not strange. One day he stared at her with burdensome eyes, then the next day he treated her like an invisible person. Moreover, he changed his attitude last night and showed kindness to take her to the dorm.

Lucy was at a loss for his capricious behavior.

Jemima,

After the lesson, Lucy called Jemima.

What does it mean when a man suddenly stares at a woman?

What do you mean all of a sudden?

So, without saying a word, just like this. asked Lucy, imitating Felix's face with wrinkles between her eyes.

Just staring at you with a serious face?

Are you really asking because you don't know? Jemima grinned with a stunned look.

He's interested?

Interested?

Yes, rational interest.

But Lucy shook her head. That's because he's not that kind of person at all. Lucy, who had been lost in thought for a moment, asked another question.

But one day, he ignored her completely. He didn't look at her, and he deliberately avoided her.

He's interested. replied Rita, who was sitting next to her this time.

He's trying to get your attention by pretending to ignore you.

Again, Lucy thought it was ridiculous.

So? Who is it? Don't tell me it's!?

Jemima immediately leaned over with a wicked smile.

Felix-sunbae?

What? No!

Lucy jumped from her seat.

Does it make sense? Hes Felix Berg!

Hmm,

Jemima looked at her with a suspicious eye and nodded.

He doesnt seem to be interested in women. Thats why I was surprised when I heard that you were taken home yesterday by him.

Jemima folded her arms and said with a confident look,

Anyway, the boy you described must be interested in you.

Im not talking about me.

Lucy turned her eyes away. But her heart was beating wildly as if a huge tsunami had hit her.

Hes interested? That sunbae? To me?

No way,

Lucy picked up her bag with a puzzled look on her face.

* * *

In front of Jemima and Rita, she pretended to let it go, but in fact Lucy continued to ponder about what they had said. Strange expectations continued to swell.

Is it because youre really interested in me?

She walked on the campus with a throbbing heart, and what caught her eye was a plant growing here and there.

Oh, hes allergic to maram vines.

Lucy stopped and stared at the vine. Last fall, she made medicine for the allergy of the Berg twins. And by now, they must be running out of medicine.

Yeah, Felix-sunbae must have had a hard time last night because of me. Ill have to make you some allergy medicine.

Lucy walked on, thinking that way as if she were possessed.

This is definitely not because I heard that sunbae is interested in me. Im just trying to make it up to you because Ive been helped. And when the medicine is done, Ill just deliver it through Adrian.

Lucy prepared to make an allergy medicine after giving herself a good reason. An unexpected figure appeared before Lucy. It was none other than Felix himself. He surprised her once again by visiting Lucy before she even started making medicine.

In addition,

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

Youre busy, arent you? Its really all right.

Then Ill go.

He volunteered to go with Lucy who is going out of town to buy medicine ingredients.

* * *

Hey, Lucy. Felix-sunbae, the more I see him, the better he looks

Inside the Arvena boutique. Colin whispered in her ear as he was trying to find a dress for Lucy to try on. He seemed quite excited to follow Felix out of town, saying he wanted to get along with him.

At first, I thought he was a blunt senior, but he was rather funny and caring! Well, last time he even pulled my ears, you know? Im sure hes comfortable with me!

She couldnt quite agree with his last words, but Lucy nodded quietly at Felixs subtle tenderness.

Give it to me. Its heavy.

Stay close to me and walk.

Be careful you dont run into it.

He has always taken care of Lucy so that she does not feel uncomfortable or hurt herself in the shopping district and along crowded streets.

So, it was no wonder that what Jemima and Rita had said automatically rang in her ears.

Hes interested.

Lucy pretended to fiddle with her dress and glanced back at Felix. He was standing in front of a shelf of womens bags and shoes, with a frown on his face.

Is it true? Hes really interested in me

Lucy, try this on!

From somewhere Colin appeared with another dress. Lucy glanced at Colin with a bewildered look.

Stop bringing it! I wont be able to buy it anyway.

Lucy had spent a lot of money on medicine and could not afford to buy clothes at the boutique. Perhaps aware of the situation, Colin and Ros bustled about looking for a new dress.

Hmm

Lucy took off the hat, Colin and Ros thought was cute. She was forced to use it, but actually, it looked pretty to Lucy. She glanced over the price list of the hat.

Gasp!

No way! If the hat is this price, how much is the dress?

Lucy jumped from her seat at the price beyond her imagination. She looked down at the dress she was wearing. She didnt think she should keep wearing such expensive clothes. She hurriedly called the clerk to take off the dress.

On the contrary, Ros constantly ordered things. If there was a dress she liked, she pointed it with her finger without hesitation.

Wow, I cant believe Ros can live without worrying about the price.

Lucy looked at the scene with curious and envious eyes.

Dont you think that is enough?

Then a voice full of displeasure burst in. Felix looked up at Ros with one eyebrow raised.

How long are you going to look? Theyre all similar clothes.

In your eyes, I suppose, Ros immediately snapped.

Why dont you help me shop instead of standing there?

Why should I help you with something like that?

Then why did you follow us here? Why did you come if you were going to stand there doing nothing? Are you going to be a mannequin? Then you stand there and wear a dress!

They growled at each other like a dog and a cat that met on the street. Lucys face turned sullen as she looked at it.

Its like a marital quarrel.

For Lucy, who cant speak properly when standing in front of Felix for some reason, Ros, who doesnt lose to him, looks great. In addition, the appearance of Felix, who always responds short and blunt to her and acts like a ruthless friend, was also new to her.

You two must be really close.

Sienna

Chapter 55

Lucy felt somehow disappointed when she saw Felix and Ros arguing. In addition, she became depressed when he remembered that Felix had previously asked Ros to be his partner.

Well, Ros is very beautiful and has a nice family. If she had to pick one, Ros would be better suited to Felix than her.

Why am I comparing myself like this?

Lucy came to her senses and turned away from them.

Coming out of the boutique, Lucy peeped at Felixs shopping bag in his hand. It must have been the hat. It looked pretty even in his eyes.

Ros thought about whether to buy it or not but put it down again.

Are you going to give it to Ros-sunbae? I guess you were sorry for arguing with her.

Lucy sighed deeply. Felix didnt appear to be, but he seemed to care a lot about Ross mood.

I was mistaken to think you were interested in me.

Lucy thought, looking at the back of Felix and Ros, who kept bickering while moving to the restaurant.

It was a ridiculous idea in the first place. That senior is interested in me.

Lucy somehow felt a bitterness in her heart. Whenever she saw Felix and Ros side by side, and when she saw the two of them joking around, talking to each other, and comfortably dealing with each other, Lucy was heartbroken as if she was poking her heart with a needle.

* * *

Maybe thats why she was so surprised at the moment.

On a dark autumn night, Lucy heard Mr. Freds footsteps, holding her breath under the bushes. Thinking hard about why her heart is beating so fast.

Maybe its because shes afraid shell get caught by the gatekeeper, or maybe its because shes with the same sunbae that she thought she would never be with like this.

She tried to hold her breath with unknown tension, but she could only feel her pounding heart even better.

Then she felt something gently wrapped around her head. It was a hat.

Felix put a hat on her head and pretended he didnt. Lucy touched the hat on her head. She could tell by the touch. Its the same hat that she liked at the boutique.

Its my reward for making allergy medicine. Dont hesitate to accept it.

Felixs low voice sounded like a dream.

Oh You bought the hat for me.

Not for Ros, but for me.

At that moment, she wondered why she felt relieved. Lucy seemed to have an untimely spring breeze in her heart. She was happy.

And she realized.

It wasnt him who was interested in the other person, it was her. Her face turned red every time she saw him, her heart was racing, her eyes were constantly twitching. The time she agonized over every word and action of him. Every time he looks friendly with another girl, her heart throbbed like its being pricked..

It was all because she liked this sunbae.

Maybe from a long time ago.

* * *

Near midnight, Lucy sat in front of the closet with her hat. The breathing of Jemima, who was in a deep sleep, flowed slowly in the room. It was dark everywhere, and only the moonlight flowing from the window dimmed Lucy and her hat.

Lucy stared at the hat in her hand. As Felix put the hat on her, the autumn night air that passed by seemed to be still there.

The smell of autumn at the tip of her nose made her feel as if she had returned to that moment, and a slight thrill came to Lucys mouth.

But for a moment, Lucy took off the hat again and looked distraught.

She knows it wont work anyway.

When she first met Felix Berg at the Evergreen, she thought he was just a mischievous, selfish boy.

A young gentleman from a noble family who she will never see again. Just like that.

The same was true when years passed and unexpectedly reunited at the academy. He was the heir to the Duke of Berg, and she came from a commoner family far below him. He and she had no connection, no excuse to be connected.

So, Lucy was embarrassed the moment she realized she liked Felix.

Me to sunbae?

She will never be connected to the Duke of Berg. Lucy couldnt believe that she had started such an absurd feeling.

The excitement was only for a moment, she had to be aware of the reality.

I shouldnt expect anything.

Her feelings for Felix deserve to be kept hidden. But as always, Felix shook Lucys mind with his unexpected behavior. He visited Lucy first, talked to her first, and suggested studying together first.

Lucy was dumbfounded. She was confused by her sunbaes behavior, which had always felt like a riddle. But when she came to her senses, she was spending time with him.

Studying together, eating together, and going back to the dorm.

At one point, she was distracted by the sweet time and unknowingly looked forward to it.

Maybe Its a miracle that he and I get along well.

Felix might be feeling the same way. Maybe thats why it hurts more during that day.

* * *

Felix, you have to go back to the academy right now!

Whats going on?

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

With the sudden visit of the Duke, Felix left the garden. He briefly looked back at Lucy before he disappeared from the garden. There was anxiety and worry in his eyes.

The comfortable smile he had just shown to her had gone away.

What are you worried about?

The peaceful and enjoyable time has been shattered. Lucy remained alone in the open space and paced around for a long time.

After a while, she left the garden feeling empty without Felix. It was around the time when the academy building was visible that she heard a rumbling sound from somewhere. It was the noise of students sitting on the bench behind the bushes.

Lucy lowered herself and hid behind the bushes. This is because Felixs name was mixed in their conversation.

I heard the dukes expression in the principals room was very bad.

Its obvious. He came when Felix was alone with the commoner girl. Perhaps the Duke has seen it.

Lucy took a deep breath. The commoner girl they were talking about must be her.

Felix is unlucky. Hes just having a little fun with the girl.

If he were caught with Ros Millard, things might have been better.

But how did he change his taste from Ros to such a girl?

Lucy clenched her fists as she listened to their laughter. Deep fingernails were stamped on her soft palms. Her face was hot.

She was angrier at what they said to Felix than at what they said to her. They were rambling about Felix. They have no idea what he really is.

But the Duke might overlook it. He must have been messing with this and that woman when he was young.

No matter how hard it is, a commoner girl is a little.

Their words flew into Lucys chest like a sharp arrow and stuck. It was her first time to go up and down in the mouths of people who she didnt even know their faces, so it came as more shocking.

Lucy got up from her seat and walked away, thinking she would not be able to bear it any longer.

I dont need to worry about that.

Lucy repeated over and over again, as if casting a spell on herself.

They dont know what theyre talking about.

But their words kept ringing in her ears like annoying flies.

Felix was by no means the sort of person who discriminated against people by status. At least Lucy was well aware of that. So, she doesnt have to worry about those words. Its a bad thing to talk about.

But what if being with me really had a bad effect on Felix?

Lucy stopped sharply.

It was a question that she had never thought about because she had so much fun spending time with Felix.

What if people continue to talk bad about Felix?

What if they mocked him, the successor to the Bergs, because of me?

Such bitter thoughts came to her mind out of control, and for the first time, Lucy begins to seriously consider her identity. When she was casually joking around, laughing, and chatting with Colin in Brom, she never had a problem like this before.

Even on the day of the entrance ceremony, when Eric Roman took away the opportunity to take the oath of a freshman, she just felt empty and bitter, but her heart was not as broken as it is now.

For the first time, she felt like she was facing a cruel world. She felt as if she had seen the wall between herself and the nobility that she had forgotten for a while right before her eyes.

At that moment Lucy felt ashamed and funny about herself. She thought she had a slight possibility in her relationship with Felix.

Her foolish self-thought she could stay with him.

Sienna

Chapter 56

Nevertheless, Lucy could not easily give up her time with Felix. The time she spent with him was fun and happy. He is caring, kind, and he makes her laugh.

Lucy was distressed by the gap between Felix's irresistible temptation and status difference, but she was able to endure the pain whenever she saw Felix's face. The hurtful words that she overheard in the garden melted away naturally as she listened to Felix's voice.

They became closer, and Lucy realized that she couldn't change her mind. Even if she likes him alone and gets hurt by herself, she can never stop her feelings. She just likes being beside him. She thought she could be satisfied just by helping Felix study for the exam.

Felix was never alone with any girls. But Lucy was an exception. His attitude toward Lucy certainly seemed to suggest that he wanted to be with her apart from asking for help in studying for the exam. Lucy believed so.

But

What? Are you going out with her?

What are you talking about? Why should I?

Well, there's no way you're going to meet a kid who doesn't fit your level.

As soon as she heard what he said in front of the library, Lucy in her dream came back to reality.

Oh, yeah. Level.

It was once again a moment when she realized how far the distance was between her and Felix. She was poor. She herself had expectations that she would never receive an answer. She couldn't help but be ashamed of herself.

She decided to wake up completely from this dream. Before she knew Felix. If she could go back to before she got to know him, she wouldn't be as miserable as she is now.

Late at night, Lucy went in front of the boys dormitory. She sat in the flower bed in front of the dormitory and waited for Felix. Felix, who appeared in the dark, looked surprised as soon as he saw her. Soon a deep shade fell on his face.

As expected, Are you feeling uncomfortable now?

It's okay to meet alone, but it's difficult to meet in public.

When she stood in front of him, she was worried that what she had to say would not come out of her mouth, but she was worried for nothing. When she met Felix, she was able to say that she should not see her personally any more easily.

Along with that, she was also able to say her innermost thoughts.

I've enjoyed spending the last few weeks with sunbae. We went to town together, and we studied together.

Yeah. Maybe it's the last time I'll be able to talk to him.

Lucy spoke frankly of her feelings that she had endured. It was hard to see what Felix's expressions were. Only his blurred figure, standing in the darkness, remained in her memory.

After saying everything, Lucy ran away from the boys dormitory.

After returning to the girls dormitory, Lucy sat down leaning against the wall. She buried her face with her knees together.

She had never felt such pain before. This autumn seemed to be unforgettable.

* * *

It hasn't been a long time since she fell asleep, but she felt the dawn rising over her eyelids. Lucy woke up and blinked slowly.

She still feels tired. Maybe she wasn't able to get enough sleep. But somehow, she couldn't seem to get back to sleep, so she got up from bed.

Jemima yawned loudly when she opened her eyes to Lucys movement.

Lucy..you can sleep for another hour or so.

Today is the first day of the examination.

A hoarse voice came out of Lucys mouth. She staggered to the desk and pulled out a chair. The dragging of the chair filled Jemimas face with anxiety.

thats what Im saying. Studying now wont change much. Youre always working hard; youre really going to die. So, when you take the exam, believe in your usual skills, and for now, just sleep well.

Jemima got out of bed and approached her, lifting Lucy up from her chair. But Lucy insisted that the important part should be reviewed one last time. However, Jemima, who saw her bloodshot eyes, did not let it slide this time.

Youre really going to faint if you keep doing that. Whats the point of studying so hard if you faint?

Eventually, by Jemima, Lucy was forced to lie on the bed. Contrary to Lucys expectation that she would no longer be able to sleep, she fell asleep faintly.

As a result, listening to Jemima was a good choice. Just getting another hour or so of sleep seemed to make Lucy feel much better. Her eyes were still red, and there was black shadow under her eyes.

Lucy has had to spend more time studying than ever in recent days. This is because she had trouble concentrating and could not spend her time efficiently.

She was definitely reading a book, but the words didnt come into her head. She read the question, but she couldnt understand it at once. But she couldnt just skip it, so she spent more time pushing the letters into her head.

When she gets distracted a bit, her thoughts go straight to another place. Her eyes went to the empty seat.

They only studied together a few times but Felixs absence felt too great.

It was not once or twice that she wanted to take back what she had told him. In fact, she never meant what she said about not studying together.

But Felix Berg was a very distant man, a person from another world who would never fit in or blend in with her world.

All the more reason Lucy tried not to think of him. She had to wake up from her dream and come back to reality. Keep the Top position and secure the scholarship until graduation.

This was the only reality Lucy had to accept.

Eat a little, said Jemima, looking at Lucy, who had no appetite even when she arrived at the restaurant. From the side, Rita looked at her with a worried look on her face.

Im fine. If I eat a lot before the exam, Ill feel sick.

Eventually, Lucy finished her meal without eating half of the food.

When Lucy arrived at the classroom, she sat at her desk, took a deep breath, and waited for the teacher to come in. Mr. Peter, who appeared shortly afterwards, handed out the test papers to the first line.

I need to pull myself together.

She repeated that thought countless times. No matter what the situation was, the top position had to be kept at all costs.

Lucy calmed down her unusual throbbing heart and read the examination paper before her.

* * *

The three-day examination was over.

A few days later, second graders gathered in front of the bulletin board on the first floor. It was because of the ranking table stuck in the center of the bulletin board. All the students who stood in the front and checked their rankings first looked surprised. They exchanged glances and murmured.

Lucy and Colin, who were standing in the back, also dug forward to check their performance. Lucy, who stood in front of the ranking table, checked her name from the top row as always.

1st place, Eric Roman.

The moment she saw a name that wasnt hers, Lucy hardened like a stone statue. She stared blankly at the strange name for a long time. No matter how many times she looked at it, she couldnt understand.

Colin, who was standing next to her, grabbed her by the shoulder before she could respond.

Lucy

It wasn't his usual cheerful voice, but his sad voice. But Lucy was not in the mood to answer. Her gaze shifted down a line.

However, her name was not next to Top 2. The same was true of Top 3. Lucy looked down in disbelief.

Top 4, Lucy Keenan.

It was a rank she had never received before.

Top 4 murmured Lucy, with a vain face. The shock was so great that she couldn't think of anything. She couldn't even feel Colin's slight shaking her shoulders.

Lucy, are you all right? Colin asked her quietly. Only then did Lucy wake up and look around. Then the students, who were secretly looking at her, hurriedly turned away.

Yeah, I'm all right. Lucy smiled awkwardly and replied, because she could not let other people see her tearful face.

Lucy walked out in front of the bulletin board and said to Colin, who was following her.

I'll walk alone for a while.

At Lucy's words, Colin looked at her with a pitiful look. However, he thought it would be better to leave her alone, so he just stood there.

It was the eyes of the other students that followed her instead of Colin. Everyone looked at Lucy and was busy talking about her finally coming down from the top spot.

Lucy escaped from their sight and came out to the campus. As she was trudging, she fell down on the bench that she saw in front of her.

Before she was disappointed, worries and fears flooded in like waves.

Fourth place was also high, but the problem was that Lucy's score and Eric Roman's score were quite different. Even if Lucy wins the final exam again, it is unlikely that she would be able to take the top spot in the second semester of the second year. As long as Eric doesn't completely screw up his final exams.

The scholarship for the next semester was moving away from Lucy.

What should I do?

Lucy bit her lips with a nervous look.

Of course, even if she didn't get a scholarship next semester, she will still be able to continue attending the Academy. This is because Baron Connor would have offered to provide tuition fees if he knew.

But Lucy knew that the baron and the estate were not very rich. In addition, this summer, heavy rains and floods hit Brom, and the situation of the residents was not so good. Baron Connor would offer to provide Lucy with tuition fees, even in such a situation. Lucy wanted to avoid it as much as she could.

She felt someone sitting next to her while in agony.

Lucy-sunbae,

Before she knew it, Noel was sitting next to her.

Sienna

Chapter 57

Noel.

He looked at Lucy and hesitated a little, then opened his mouth.

Why are you so down?

He asked, but he seemed to already know that Lucy had lost the top spot. In fact, his brother Eric could not have said anything to his brother because he won the top spot he wanted so much.

Lucy just bowed her head without answering, and Noel scratched the back of his head.

Im sorry, sunbae.

Noel apologized out of the blue. Lucy looked up again with a quizzical expression.

Why are you.?

Its just that sunbaes grades.

In the end, he talked about Lucys performance with difficulty.

Im so sorry, its all because of my brother. If I had told you earlier, you wouldnt have had to worry about the necklace.

Eric, who stole Lucys necklace and Felixs school uniform, was given a week of probation and 50 demerit points. Returning what he stole was taken into account and the fact that he did it due to extreme academic stress.

It was an ambiguous punishment, not heavy or light. It was a decision that showed the Academys concern about protecting Eric's prestige as a junior while not going against the sentiments of Prince Berg, who had his school uniform stolen.

Eric should have been deprived of his chance to take the test. Maybe if you were only in the same year as the Bergs.

Noel hesitated and spoke.

He was right. The academy set the level of punishment in consideration of both Felix and Eric's positions, but it did not think about Lucys position, another victim.

Although she was the top student, Lucy was a commoner. The Academy may have been secretly hoping that a student from a noble family would take the top spot, not a commoner. That's why they didn't take the chance to take the test from Eric.

However, Eric was not entirely to blame for Lucys lower-than-expected ranking. No, at some point she didn't care a bit about Eric.

It was a completely different boy who gave her a hard time while preparing for the exam.

Well, actually, I didn't miss the test because my necklace was missing.

Lucy answered, shaking her head.

I just I couldn't concentrate on studying because I wasn't feeling well this time. I was really nervous when I took the test.

You can't always be in good shape. I think it's great that you've been in first place for a year and a half!

Noel suddenly spoke with a loud voice.

After that, he tried to relieve Lucys subdued mood. Then, he suddenly turned his head and looked toward the main building. Lucys eyes followed his sudden action.

A man with blond hair, who was very visible from a distance, was walking this way. Lucy realized at once that he was Felix just by looking at him walking with one hand in his pocket.

Well, I'm going now.

Lucy got up from her seat. She didnt feel like running into Felix now. Suddenly, Noel stood up following Lucy, who was about to leave the bench.

Oh Isnt that Felix sunbae?

Noel asked, following Lucy, who was moving quickly.

I think he is coming to you

Ignoring Noels words, Lucy kept walking. As Noel kept glancing back, Felix seemed to be following Lucy without stopping.

Lucy slipped into a nearby building as fast as she could. Hiding behind a large pillar, Felix came into the building and looked for her. Soon after, he couldnt find Lucy and disappeared.

Why are you hiding? I think Felix came to thank you. asked Noel, who was hiding with Lucy behind the pillar.

Thank me?

Lucy asked back with a quizzical look at Noels words.

They both topped this time. Felix and Adrian. Adrian is a given, but its all thanks to Lucy that Felix also took the top spot

Both of them?

Lucy opened her eyes wide.

Adrian and his twin, Felix, were expected to have good brains, but she never imagined Felix could get the top spot in such a short period of time.

See? You can do it well.

Lucy thought of Felix preparing hard for the test without realizing it, and shook her head in surprise.

But now its none of my business.

Whether Felix was at the top or last place, it was no longer Lucys business. Looking at where Felix disappeared, she smiled bitterly.

* * *

Lucy doesn't want to think about Felix any more. However, not hearing his name was not easy because the news that he joined Adrian to the top spot was such a hot topic among other students.

The book club members were also constantly clamoring about the surprising news.

I heard Felix sunbae failed in all his subjects before

How did he get a perfect score at once?

I guess he's been hiding his skills

Or the duke put pressure on the academy to fix his score a little.

Well, if you're the successor, and you're inferior to your brother, you'll look terrible..

Shh!

Adrian appeared as the wild speculation crossed the line. The members hurriedly shut up and watched Adrian's countenance.

But he didn't seem to hear the murmur. As soon as he came in, he took several envelopes with Berg's seal from his bag and held them out to the members.

Take one at a time.

It was an invitation to a banquet to be held in the Berg family mansion two days later.

That day is Felix's birthday and mine. I want everyone who has time to come.

It was the first time that his juniors were invited to his birthday. Last year alone, only two male students, who always go with the twins, were able to receive invitations.

Huh? Can we go?

Jemima asked with a surprised look on her face whether she thought the same thing.

Of course, it's my last birthday before I become an adult. I really want you guys to come this time.

Everyone was buzzing with excitement and anticipation, and hurriedly opened the invitation from Adrian.

In it, Lucy became alone in a difficult situation. It was only a few days ago that he went to see Felix first and asked him not to see her again in private, but now she's invited to his birthday banquet.

She slipped the invitation she received from Adrian on the table. It seemed embarrassing and strange for her to attend.

Adrian found it and pushed the invitation back to Lucy. He asked quietly after confirming that the other members were distracted by the invitation.

You're not coming?

Oh, that's.

Lucy, who couldn't answer because she couldn't bear to see Felix's face, hesitated.

Don't be so discouraged.

Adrian, however, began to cheer Lucy up with a friendly tone as if he had misunderstood something else.

Being the top is not given. It's not easy at all. I know that very well.

Then he grinned playfully. At that moment, Lucy was surprised to see Felix on his face.

And just because your grades are down this time doesn't mean it's over. You can pull it up again on the next test. I'm sure it'll go up next time because you've been doing well so far.

It was all the more touching because it is said by Adrian, not anyone else. She never thought about it before, but somehow, she felt the same way thinking that she should try harder to protect the first place.

So why don't you come to the banquet instead of being depressed?

He presented the invitation once again. But still Lucy hesitated, Adrian asked with a worried look.

Wait, you don't look so happy or do you have any other concerns?

It's just the scholarship.

Perhaps because of Adrian's soft voice, Lucy unwittingly brought up her own troubles.

Scholarship?

I don't think I'll be able to take the top spot this semester. I don't know if I can get a reduction in tuition for the next school year.

Oh, I see.

Adrian looked sad when she finally found out about Lucys real problem. Then he tapped the invitation and said in a confident tone.

Then you should come to the banquet even more.

Lucy looked puzzled by Adrians vague words.

Even though its our birthday party. There are more aristocrats who come to put their eyes on the next Duke of Berg than the people who congratulate us from the bottom of their hearts or they just want to make more connections with our father. Thats why most of the people who will attend the party are our fathers acquaintances. Maybe you can find someone there to back you up.

Lucy opened her eyes wide at Adrians unexpected words.

A sponsor.

It was an unexpected way to find a sponsor other than Baron Conor.

It was common for high-ranking nobles to sponsor talented children. The children of the lower aristocracy, who had no financial leeway due to the collapse of the family, used to form a sponsorship relationship with them to continue their studies.

It didnt sound so bad. Of course, she was a commoner, not of noble birth. Nevertheless, she has been at the top for three semesters. That point deserved a good enough score.

Sienna

Chapter 58

Lucy made up her mind. She nodded and said,

Then, Ill be there.

Lucy accepted the invitation from Adrian. She was still worried that she might face Felix, but for now, finding a sponsor is more important.

* * *

Two days later, weekend evening.

Members of the book club, dressed in suits and dresses, walked out of the main gate.

Soon several white luxurious carriages arrived before them. All of them were carriages sent by the Duke of Berg at Adrians request.

Wow, its fancy!

Colin opened his eyes wide and exclaimed. As soon as the carriage stopped and the coachman opened the door, Colin quickly approached. But someone snatched him from the back. It was Jemima.

Youre not a book club member. Why are you joining us?

Colin, who almost stumbled and fell, managed to balance himself and pouted his mouth at Jemima. He looked really upset.

I got an invitation from Adrian, too!

Then she led Lucys hand toward the other carriage in the back.

Lets ride separately from them!

He heard Jemimas squeaking sound behind him.

Colin still huffed and helped Lucy get into the newly chosen carriage. Lucy climbed into the carriage, slightly rolling up her blue dress. There was already someone riding inside.

Oh, Ros-sunbae.

Hello.

Ros, who was sitting with her legs crossed, greeted Lucy and Colin, who was riding after her. Wearing a dark green dress, she was breathtakingly beautiful and charming today.

Did you get invited, too?

Colin asked as he sat down.

No

The embarrassing answer came proudly.

But I thought it would be fun. I cant miss a party like that.

Can you go in without an invitation?

Ros waved her hand as if she were not worried.

If I tell Felix, hell let me in. He owes me something.

When she said that, Ros showed her teeth and growled as if she had remembered something unpleasant. The door closed and the carriage began to move slowly. Soon the carriage ran vigorously toward the Duke of Bergs mansion, not far from Bethel.

It was a fast but stable carriage. Lucy sat next to the window and looked out at the scenery. The hills and trees whizzed past. Lucy suddenly became nervous after the carriage started. She never thought she'd be invited to Bergs mansion.

She wondered what kind of people the Duke and Duchess would be, but the thought of facing them for the first time made her feel scared. In addition, it was worrisome for Lucy to see herself at the banquet and think about how Felix would react.

Rumble~

Deep in thought, Lucy stumbled down from her seat. This luxurious carriage was shaken greatly because of a large stone.

Fortunately, no one was hurt. Instead, Lucys small handbag rolled down to the floor of the carriage. Colin held Lucys hand so that she could get up and bowed down and picked up the bag.

Hey, Lucy! You have to get the invitation!

Colin said, picking up the invitation sticking out of her open bag.

Without this, we can't even go in! What is this?

The invitation wasn't the only thing sticking out of Lucys bag. Colin gathered and grabbed scattered papers around the invitation.

Request for sponsorship?

He looked into a piece of paper and murmured. Among the papers he held was a document proving Lucys grades.

Give it to me!

Lucy hurriedly snatched the papers from Colins hand as she was arranging the hem of her dress that had been turned upside down by the fall.

Whats all that?

Nothing.

Lucy answered as if nothing had happened, but Colins eyes narrowed. Colin, who grew up with Lucy, was quick-witted this time.

Are you trying to get a sponsor there by any chance?

Colins face, asking that, seemed more despondent and disappointed than ever.

Is it because you came in 4th place this time? Youre worried that you wont get a scholarship?

Colin poked questions out, but Lucy folded the papers in half and put them back in her bag without answering.

My father told you not to worry about money! Why do you worry about this!

How can I not worry? I know everything about the estate!

In the end, Lucy couldnt hold back and screamed.

The flood has cut the crops in Brom by half! Because of that, the lord owes another estate.

Colin shut up at her words. Lucys heart was breaking. Those were the last things she wanted to talk about in front of Colin. She never wanted to hurt him.

There was a long silence in the carriage. All they could hear was the sound of horse hoofs and wheels running vigorously.

Clap! Clap! Clap!

Then they heard an applause breaking the silence. Lucy and Colin turned their heads at the same time at the sound that suddenly came. Ros was still sitting with her legs crossed in a haughty position, looking at the two with satisfaction.

Your friendship brings tears to my eyes.

Ros wiped the corner of her eyes with her thin fingers. Of course, there were no tears.

When I was young, I had a lot of childhood friends who were like my siblings.

Ros suddenly turned his eyes out of the window and looked sad.

But theyre all gone now. They had a different feeling towards me.

Ros kept looking out the window with a mournful look, and there was silence again in the carriage.

Several trees flicked past the window, and then she opened her mouth.

But surely it would be reassuring to have a capital aristocrat as a sponsor. Especially if you're from a rural area.

She moved her eyes from the window and looked at Lucy.

Even if it's not necessarily a tuition issue, it's good to make a connection in advance when you don't have a backer in the capital. It will be much easier to settle in the capital after graduating from the academy.

Lucy had not yet thought about her post-graduation career. She couldn't decide whether to stay in the capital or go back to her hometown. Still, what Ros said seemed reasonable. Lucy listened attentively, and Ros offered a suggestion with a sneering smile.

If you're looking for a sponsor, do you want me to introduce you to someone I know?

You know someone?

Yeah, you can't just trust anyone and choose a sponsor? There are so many perverts in the world. Especially a girl who looks innocent like you is the number one target. So, we have to make sure that we have someone who is guaranteed to be your sponsor.

Then she recommended her uncle, Wayne Millard, as a sponsor. He was the younger brother of Ros's father, Count Millard, who had no title, but he was a rich man who built a huge guild with his own strength.

He's single and doesn't have any children, so he spent his entire life saving money on dogs. But a few years ago, he became interested in nurturing talent, and he's been looking for children who need sponsorship. My uncle would be happy to support you.

Ros affirmed with an expression of certainty.

Because he's the second son, he's been out of my grandfather's interest all his life, unlike his eldest son, my father. Maybe that's why he gets excited when he sees people who have skills like you but don't have support. I heard he's attending the banquet, so I'll introduce you to him tonight!

Are you sure he's a good person?

Colin stepped in before Lucy could answer back. He squinted doubtfully with an uncharacteristically sharp face.

What?

Ros immediately frowned as if displeased.

Who are you doubting? Why would I introduce her to a strange person?

Ros opened her eyes and shot back at Colin. Colin faltered for a moment in her ferocious spirit, but soon confronted her again with straight shoulders.

But isn't it best to have a sponsor who treats you like his own child and can support you with affection?

Colin's mouth, biting as sharp as Ros, was sulky. He understood the situation that Lucy was trying to be sponsored by a noble other than his father, but he just felt disappointed.

My uncle can support her with affection!

Ros shouted in high spirits. Then she began reciting the support his uncle had provided to the ward, one by one.

Last year, the kids my uncle sponsored went to the southern part of Paganya to explore the ruins! Of course, my uncle paid for the trip! And twice a month, he gives them a chance to eat with successful people in different fields! For example, the great actress Elijah Cole Lucent, the genius painter.

Hold on!

Colin hastily raised his hand and intervened.

Elijah Cole? Are you talking about Elijah Cole, the main character in The Hill of Dawn?

Colin's eyes widened with surprise. He likes to watch plays and is also interested in acting, and he has always said Elijah Cole whenever he is asked to pick the actor he respects the most.

Ros raised her chin as she looked at Colin, who instantly changed his attitude and shone his eyes. There was a smug smile around her mouth.

Yes, the famous Elijah Cole! We had a few meals together. She has an ear for singing, so she gave me some advice.

Colin gave Ros an envious look like a puppy who quickly became gentle.

Wow, Elijah Cole and a meal.

Ros raised her chin even more pompously as she saw Colin looking at her and muttering like a dream. That put an end to the heated debate about who is more suitable for Lucy.

Lucy.

Colin slanted over Lucy. He whispered secretly with a desperate look like a puppy who had his bowl taken away.

If you get a chance to eat with Elijah Cole, dont forget me.

Sienna

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Darkness slowly sank around the carriage as it ran vigorously. Outside the window, black trees flicked past like ghosts with their hands up.

The carriage, which arrived at the dukes mansion, slowed down slowly. Like Colin, who poked his head out of the window, Lucy peeped out.

While everything sank into the autumn night, the Duke of Bergs mansion in front of them was bright with countless lights.

Wow! Lucy, look over there! How beautiful!

Colin pointed to the mansion and exclaimed. But even if he didnt speak so loudly, Lucy was already unable to shut her mouth when she saw the magnificent sight.

The Bergs mansion was the second most majestic and magnificent building after the imperial palace she had seen in her lifetime. The appearance that showed off its large size, made Lucys shoulders shrink as if it were going to swallow the carriage carrying her in one bite.

Many carriages had already arrived in front of the main gate. Each of them was luxurious and colorful, and the seals of famous families were engraved so the people would know which family they are from.

Whenever the door opened, people dressed up in extremely expensive clothes appeared. Soon, Lucys carriage arrived in front of the main gate. A waitress opened the door straight away.

Lucys face was filled with tension as she got out of the carriage and looked up at the mansion standing like a huge mountain. Dozens of lit windows seemed to be looking down at Lucy like the eyes of a monster.

I need to get a sponsor here.

Lucy swallowed her saliva. Before coming, she was full of hope, but when she saw the size of the mansion and the aristocrats walking proudly, she felt worried.

There was a pretty long line in front of the main gate. It was a line to check the invitation before entering. They checked whether the invitation was real or not with meticulous eyes.

Ros looked at the scene leisurely without blinking. Colin finally asked, unable to stand his curiosity.

Ros-sunbae, I think they're checking the invitations. How do you intend to get in?

Then Ros shrugged her shoulders and called another servant waiting around. As the servant approached, Ros delivered a note from her bosom and said,

Give it to Felix Berg right now. He'll know when you say Ros Millard sent it.

The servant, who received the note unexpectedly, looked at Ros with a puzzled face. He looked suspicious as to why a con artist was trying to enter the mansion. But Ros's dress was so luxurious, and her arrogant expression and gestures were also natural aristocratic attitudes.

In the end, the servant turned to the main gate to deliver the note while looking suspiciously.

Run! Run!

Ros roared slowly toward the back of the servant as he walked in. The servant disappeared quickly into the house in astonishment.

Then, Ros waited for him to reappear with a relaxed face. After a while, unlike when the servant, who had disappeared into the mansion, returned to Ros with a hurried step.

Oh, come inside.

To their surprise, he led Ros into the main gate without asking any questions. Lucy and Colin, who were with Ros, were also able to go inside without lining up.

What did you write on the note?

Oh.

Ros covered her face with a fan and burst into laughter as if she couldn't stand it. Her high, scrawny laughter spread high above the night sky.

I just wrote that I'm going to dance with him the Eveloza dance if he doesn't let me in.

On the way to the entrance of the mansion, wonderful landscaping trees and white statues stood tall, adding dignity.

Wow, the garden is wonderful!

Lucy looked around and admired.

I don't think it's the garden. It's just a front yard. Ros replied.

Maybe the real garden is over there.

She pointed the fan to the back of the mansion.

What do you mean it's not a garden when it's this big? It's just a yard!

Lucy couldn't close her open mouth.

The three entered the great central hall under constant guidance. A large chandelier, decorated with hundreds of crystals on a high ceiling open to the second floor, was shining in the light.

The luxurious ceiling paintings depicting the gods of the earth and the fairies were also enough to attract people's attention. Lucy looked at the ceiling with her head bent backward and almost missed the guidance.

They passed the hall and headed to a large banquet hall. The nobles who entered in advance were seen gathering at each table to greet each other.

In that spacious and brilliant space, there was a group that Lucy had never mixed in before. Forgetting to stay out of Felix's sight, she gazed at the splendid and unfamiliar landscape.

The nobles, each with a glass in their hands or covering their faces with a fan, looked relaxed and natural.

Unlike them, Lucy's eyes stopped at one person as she stood stiffly and looked around the banquet hall.

Beautiful and familiar blonde.

Lucy hid behind Colin without realizing it. She took a breath for a moment and calmed herself down, and just poked out her face and looked at the golden hair.

There, stood Felix Berg.

Adrian was with him. The princes were dressed in black and white tailors, respectively.

Adrian, in his white tailcoat, was giving a short greeting to those approaching him, with a soft smile around his mouth.

On the other hand, Felix, dressed in a black, had a grim look on his face; he didn't look like someone celebrating his birthday. Perhaps because of that, people only glanced at him, but could not approach him easily.

Occasionally, some of the older-looking aristocrats seemed to offer congratulations, and Felix responded brusquely, twisting his stiff neck.

Soon Lucy's gaze shifted to a lady standing between the two princes. She stood gawking in her dark navy dress. Lucy recognized at a glance that the slender woman was the Duchess of Berg.

The Duchess, who is covered with lace wraps under her chin and long sleeves that covers the back of her hands, looked pale as the chandelier lit up. There were some people talking to her, but she never smiled at all when she was indifferent.

The Ghost of the Terrace.

It wasn't much different from what she saw on the streets of Evergreen eight years ago.

Oh, there you are.

Other members of the book club who came in after confirming the invitation appeared at the banquet hall. Everyone seemed surprised at the splendid and grand scale of the banquet. In particular, Jemima opened her eyes wide enough to pop out and murmured.

Wow, even if His Majesty the Emperor visits their family, we will not be able to hold such a banquet.

At that time, Adrian, who found the book club members in the distance, raised his hand to greet them. The first bright smile hung over his face.

Felix, who was standing next to him, saw his younger brother waving somewhere, he turned his eyes to look. Soon his eyes moved around as if he were looking for someone when he found the book club members.

His wandering gaze stopped only after he found Lucy. Lucy turned her head quickly and averted his gaze. Her face burned up. It was proof that she never wanted to be caught by Felix in his own birthday banquet.

Lucy, let's put a present over there.

Fortunately, Colin led her elsewhere and saved her from Felix's gaze.

Where Colin took her, was the most spectacular and eye-catching scenery in the banquet hall.

Gifts brought by visitors were piled high to celebrate the birthdays of the Princes of Berg. The gifts continued to pile up as Lucy opened her mouth and looked at the luxurious gift tower.

It was easy to recognize at a glance who sent the gifts, all wrapped in luxury, because the seals of the noble families were clearly stamped on the surface as if they were showing off.

The book club members also began to put their own gifts on it. They were also aristocrats, so it was clear that they were expensive gifts without having to open them.

In the gap, Lucy opened the small bag she was holding and took out the gift she had prepared. Wrapped in plain colored paper wrappers and tied with ribbons, she made them herself, for Felix and Adrian.

He gave Felix a present in advance, but.

Lucy recalled the constellation necklace she had given him before.

It wasn't a happy birthday at all.

Lucy placed her ointment on top of other gifts and looked at it with a shrunken look. Among the boxes stamped with the writings of the prestigious people, her gift package seemed endlessly shabby. It's like someone put it there for a while to tie a shoelace, and then forgot and left it.

Sienna

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but it's better than coming empty-handed.

She was deeply grateful to Adrian for inviting her to the banquet so that she could find a sponsor. Lucy wanted to express her gratitude even if it was a small gift. Eventually she left, venting her worries about the gift.

After a while, she unexpectedly saw Felix standing in front of the presents. To be exact, to where the book club members left their gifts.

He paced in front of it for a moment and seemed to pick up something. Then he put it in his inside pocket and left.

Lucy could tell. That the thing he took precious was her gift.

* * *

As the night advanced, the atmosphere of the banquet was also ripe.

The members of the book club were scattered and each was having a good time.

Jemima and Rita were talking to a noble man. Presumably from the blushing light on their cheeks, they seemed to really like the person they were talking to.

Colin, meanwhile, was reciting his own poems in front of some ladies. The ladies held back their laughter as they watched Colin, who looked small and young, but read poetry deftly. It was a great nudge.

In the meantime, only Lucy looked around with a nervous look. Her feet were stuck in one place and kept walking around the banquet hall.

Where the hell is Ros?

She wandered among the noble ladies in fancy dresses to find Ros. This was because before she returns to the academy, she needs to meet her uncle, Wayne Millard, whom she was supposed to introduce, and hand over her sponsorship application.

She will never have another opportunity like today. So tonight, she had to get things done.

But Ros was not seen anywhere in the banquet hall. She'd be right on the spot with her always eye-catching, flamboyant looks. Lucy opened her eyes wide and checked if Ros was somewhere in the crowd.

But after dozens of minutes, Lucy still can't find Rose.

I can't help it. I'll just have to find someone myself.

She decided to go around the banquet hall in person and look for someone willing to be her sponsor.

Talking to someone you don't know first, and shamelessly asking if they could be her sponsor, was something she'd never done before.

However, when she imagined her dad's old jacket, her mom's worn-out shoes soles, and the baron's empty barn, courage that she didn't have rose.

The first-person Lucy noticed, who was carefully walking around among people, was a lady. The person, who is also the principal and educator of a women's school in the capital, has also visited the Xenomium Academy once.

She was interested in womens education and owned a fairly large scholarship foundation, so she seemed like she could be a good sponsor of Lucy if she could do well.

Im lucky to meet you here.

Feeling her confidence rising, Lucy clenched her fists.

I can do it.

She exclaimed to cheer herself up.

As soon as Lucy finally made up her mind and approached the lady. Someone stood in her way. It was a man she had never seen before.

How are you, lady?

The man, who greeted Lucy tactfully, smiled somewhat uncomfortably. Lucy faltered back in surprise when the road was blocked. But the man continued, smiling, as if he didnt care at all.

Ive been watching you for a while, but are you here alone?

Uh.

Lucy frowned at the sudden question.

If you dont mind, can I be your interlocutor?

A look of embarrassment flashed across Lucys face. This is because she has never faced a man who is so aggressive and blatantly approaching her at first meeting.

No, I have to go somewhere.

Youve been hovering around here for a while.

The man was persistent. Lucy tried to escape from him, but he stood in the way with a relaxed gesture.

Im sorry, but Im going through.

Do you not like talking in crowded places? Then shall we take a walk outside? The dukes garden is very beautiful.

No, I dont feel like taking a walk with you.

She tried to speak as firmly as she could, but Lucys voice, which was thin and trembling, was small. And somehow that seemed to instill the man with useless confidence. He grinned and this time stretched out his long arms to keep Lucy from running away.

Lucy looked around. But no one seemed to notice her difficult situation. Lucys eyes, looking for a chance to run away from the man who didnt move out of the way, naturally headed to one place.

In the distance, Felix was talking to a nobleman with his back on her view. Lucy looked at his back without realizing it. She doesnt know why she wanted him to look her way so desperately at that moment, even though shes been avoiding him all this time.

I dont think youre a noble from the capital. I think youre from the countryside. Which family are you from?

The man looked up and down at Lucy and said,

Get out of the way!

Lucy shouted sharply at the man.

Tak~

Then a big hand stretched out from behind Lucys back. The hand went straight in front of Lucy and gently pushed the shoulder of the man standing in front of her. Lucy looked back.

Adrian-sunbae.

Lucy said with wide eyes.

Lucy was not the only one surprised. The man saw Adrian standing behind Lucy and backed away. His eyes shook uneasily.

Prince Berg.

He instantly erased his sly attitude and bowed politely. But Adrian ignored the greeting and spoke.

What are you doing?

Its.

The mans eyes turned to Adrians hand, wrapped around Lucys shoulder. Soon he faltered and opened his mouth.

Oh I didnt know.

What do you mean?

Its Im so sorry, Prince.

You better go somewhere else.

Yes, of course, Prince.

The man turned straight to the table where the other nobles were. But Adrians low voice called him back.

The other place Im talking about is outside this mansion.

His cool tone made the man look around for help. But of course, there was no one to help him. Eventually, the man left the hall reluctantly with a resigned look.

Lucy.

After confirming that the man was leaving the banquet hall, Adrian looked back at her.

Are you okay?

Yes, Im fine. Thank you, sunbae.

I thought you would be having a good conversation with the person you would like to apply for sponsorship by now. I should have come and asked you earlier.

Then he looked around the banquet hall as if he were looking for a noble who he could introduce to her right away.

Oh, actually, Ros is going to introduce her uncle.

Rose?

Adrian touched his chin with his hand as if he were pondering something and said,

Ross uncle is Wayne Millard. The owner of Waynes guild. Hes pretty good.

When Adrian said so, Lucy was relieved.

Yes, so I was looking for Ros, but I couldnt see her anywhere.

If its Rose.

At Lucys words, Adrian pointed to one place.

Shes over there

When she turned to where Adrians fingers were pointing, she saw Ros, hiding behind a long curtain, having a conversation with a man.

She looked somewhat suspicious. Considering her usual attitude, which likes to be noticed anytime, anywhere and always stands at the center of attention.

Thank you, Adrian. Then Ill go to Ros.

Lucy thanked Adrian again and walked over to Ros.

Closer to the curtain, Ros and the mans secret conversation flowed through her ears. It wasnt until she heard the conversation that Lucy knew why the two were talking in such a hidden way.

Can you tell me exactly what your relationship with Prince Felix Berg is like, Lady Rose?

The man showed enthusiasm to write down everything Ros said, and asked a question with a pen in his hand. Then Ros smiled softly, shrugged her shoulders once, and opened her mouth.

Its true that there was a lot of speculation about me and Felix. Well, I had to be. Felix is known to be blunt and rarely expresses his feelings, but he is different when it comes to me. He asked me to be his partner at the previous Literature Night event, too..

The man who listened to Ros and quickly wrote down her words was none other than a reporter that managed to sneak up on this banquet

The Berg familys servants didnt seem to notice these two secretly doing an interview behind the curtain. Lucy, who was looking for Ros, had no choice but to hesitate. It was because Ros was so focused on the interview that she didnt want to disturb her.

Fortunately, Ros found Lucy hanging around in front of the curtains first.

Lucy!

Ros stood up from her chair and approached her, saying she was looking for her. She drew Lucy close and whispered in her ear.

I already told my uncle. Go up to this floor. Hell be there. Theres a client he really wants to trade with. He came all the way here to work.

Sienna

