

For Your Failed Unrequited Love

#Chapter 61 - Read For Your Failed Unrequited Love

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Ros then described the appearance of her uncle so Lucy could easily find him.

Hes tall, skinny and has mottled blonde hair. He might be smoking on the terrace because hes done talking by now.

Then Ros pushed Lucy on the back.

Dont be nervous and do well. I have to finish this interview, so I cant come with you.

Then she waved her hand as if to ask her to go. Lucy was deeply grateful to her.

Thank you, Ros.

This is nothing.

She shrugged her shoulders as if it was nothing, and then turned back to the reporter.

Lucy left the banquet hall to go up to the second floor as Ros told her. Unlike the banquet hall thats full of guests, the central hall was quiet. Some people were just hanging around the door to get some fresh air.

Lucy headed for the central staircase. With every step she took, the marble floor rang under her shoes. The sound made her even more nervous for some reason. As she climbed the stairs, a long corridor appeared. Most of the guests didnt come up to this floor, but every window had a soft light.

There was a faint chuckle nearby. A lover who sneaked out of the banquet hall was enjoying a secret meeting on the nearest terrace. Lucy turned her head hurriedly. She walked down the hall looking for Wayne Millard and looked at the other terrace. However, no slim man was seen smoking.

There was one thing that caught Lucys eyes as she was sneaking down the hallway. It was a big door at the end of the hallway. Looking at the size and splendid sculptures that are far larger than other doors, it seemed like its not a normal room.

Forgetting for a moment to find Wayne Millard, Lucy slowly approached the big, overbearing-looking door.

Up close, the door was more magnificent and gorgeous. Lucy peeked inside through a crack in the slightly open door. She saw desks, chairs, and bookshelves made of high-quality wood. It looked like a study.

Lucy, who then found a candle lighting on the desk, faltered back. For some reason, she felt like she shouldn't wander around here. It was then that Lucy turned around at the door and ran into a woman standing tall.

Ugh!

Surprised, Lucy shrieked and reeled back. Holding her center, she looked up at the woman in front in surprise.

The tall woman, as if her head could reach the ceiling, was looking down at Lucy without a movement. Seconds later, Lucy's heart calmed down

That surprised me.

It wasn't a real person; it was a picture.

Lucy looked up at the picture. In a frame the size of a window, a woman with mossy green hair stretched to the floor held an emerald as big as a fist in her hand. From the light of the hallway, the woman and the emerald shone softly.

Lucy approached the painting.

The woman looked really alive and seemed to be staring at Lucy.

This is the painting.

The emerald in the picture that young Felix was talking about comparing her eyes, was right in front of her. In reality, it was bright, mysterious, and beautiful.

It was an uncommon green. It was a mysterious color that made her wonder, Where did they find that color?

It's beautiful.

Lucy fell in love with the painting. She felt as if the witch would reach out and gently sweep her cheek. While looking into the painting carefully, a cool wind of autumn night blew from the terrace next to the painting. The silk curtains, which stretched from the ceiling to the floor, moved slowly. Then, the silhouette of someone beyond it slowly emerged.

It was a man. Tall and slender, he stood in front of the railing and looked at the vast open garden. White cigarette smoke scattered high in the sky over his head. Lucy

realized that she was about to interrupt someones time and tried to leave quietly, but soon stopped walking when she saw the color of the mans hair.

Hes tall, thin, mottled blonde.

Recalling the appearance of Wayne Millard that Rose explained, Lucy looked at the mans head once more. The mans hair, which was slightly revealed in the dark, was also golden.

Is it him?

Lucy walked quietly up to the terrace. She looked more carefully at the mans back, with only one silky curtain in between.

The body shape and hair color matched what Ros described.

Maybe he is Wayne Millard.

Lucy breathed in slowly and exhaled again. The tension shook her body a little, but she got her mind together once again.

Tonight, I must get a sponsor before I go back.

Determined, she tore through the curtains and entered the terrace. The terrace was enveloped in darkness because the moon was covered by clouds. The man stood gray in it, barely catching the dim light of the hallway.

Lucy squinted and tried to get a better look at the man.

Blonde and slender body. Terrace. Cigarette.

All the descriptions fit.

Lucy walked quietly up to the man. He didnt even budge whether he didnt feel the presence or didnt care much.

Hello.

Lucy greeted quietly. But the man didnt look back.

Was my voice too low?

After swallowing her saliva, Lucy greeted her in a slightly louder voice this time.

Hello.

Her clear voice echoed through the terrace. It was certainly a voice that could be heard. And yet, the man just stood still, unresponsive. Soon the cigarette smoke that was rising into the night sky stopped. The man turned slowly.

The mans face was dimly revealed in the dark of the terrace. His eyes, nose, and mouth were hard to see, but only his parched face and protruding cheekbones could be vaguely identified.

The man who looked back stood still without answering. His appearance was somehow spooky, but Lucy plucked up her courage and greeted him.

Hello, Im Lucy Keenan from the Xenomium Academy. Excuse me, are you Wayne Millard?

After Lucy asked the question, silence filled the terrace. The man didnt answer. He stood like a statue and stared at Lucy.

Well.

Lucy stood awkwardly and took a step back. Apparently, this man wasnt the man he was looking for.

Im sorry, I mistook you.

She bowed her head and tried to leave the terrace.

Whats going on?

Then, the mans heavy voice held her feet. Lucy turned around again.

Are you a student at the academy?

The man muttered one more time.

Is it this person?

Lucy, with a puzzled face, took out an application for sponsorship from her bag.

Well, as you may have heard from Ros, Im looking for a sponsor to fund my tuition at the Xenomium Academy.

Lucy hesitated but moved a little closer to the man. She slowly held out the paper she was holding to the man.

The man stared down at the paper and held out his white hand to accept it. Unexpectedly, the man stood upright and began to look carefully at the paper. Lucy, who gained courage thanks to that, added.

These are the applications for sponsorship and the results I've received at the academy. The grades from the entrance exam to the final exam last semester are all listed. If you read it carefully.

Just then, the moon hiding behind the clouds slowly stuck out its head. The terrace, which was submerged in the dark, slowly emerged.

At the same time, the man standing tall in front of Lucy was clearly seen. Lucy's eyes first turned to his hair. This is because it was shining unrealistically bright under the moonlight.

Didn't she say it was a mottled blonde.

Ros certainly explained so. But the man's blonde hair standing in front of her was far from spotty. It was a beautiful blonde, like a gold thread pulled out, free of a single strand of impurities.

And it was also a blonde that Lucy was very familiar with.

The man exposed in the moonlight took his eyes off the sponsorship application and stared down at Lucy.

He was like the skeleton of a man. His protruding cheekbones looked more prominent because the bottom of his eyes was completely dark. His cheeks were dug deep as if he had no flesh, and his face was as pale as a vampire.

That's why the two eyes looking at Lucy felt more eerie and sharp.

He seemed to bear no resemblance to Ros. Even Ros, who does not know how to be humble and likes to show off, was basically a person with compassion.

But this man's eyes were different. She felt the inherent arrogance and self-righteousness as if he wanted all people under his feet from his fiercely open eyes as if he could see through people and tightly closed lips.

Well.

A thin voice came out of Lucy's mouth.

Are you Wayne Millard?

Even though she had an ominous hunch that she had come to the wrong person she had no choice but to ask.

Id like to apply to Mr. Wayne Millard for sponsorship.

Lucy couldnt continue her words properly after looking at the eyes of the man who was like a corpse. She recoiled without realizing it. She has never met anyone who breathes out such cold energy.

Hearing another movement behind her, Lucy looked back.

There stood a man with the same blond hair as the man standing in front of her, breathing heavily.

It was Felix.

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His eyes alternated between Lucy and the man standing in front of her. His forehead was covered with sweat. Then he stood up straight and opened his mouth.

Father.

Father?

Lucy looked back at the man. It was not easy to recognize because he was skinny like a skull, but come to think of it, he has a strange resemblance to Felix. He wasnt Wayne Millard; he was Duke Arthur Berg.

The duke looked at his son and opened his mouth with an indifferent face.

Whats going on, Felix? Im sure there are still guests left to serve.

At his words, Felix turned to Lucy. His eyes, which looked deep blue in the dark, were shaking finely.

Lucy. Ros is looking for you. Go down to the first floor.

She doesnt know why, but he looks nervous. Desperately pretending to be fine, only the slight twitching around his mouth seemed impossible to hide.

Lucy realized that the Duke of Berg was staring at his son, and now he was looking at her. There was a strange curiosity on his face, which had never contained any emotions. She had an ominous feeling. She thought of getting out of here quickly. Lucy bowed slightly to the duke and turned to leave the terrace.

Wait.

However, a heavy and cold voice from behind her stopped her steps. Lucy couldnt move anymore and froze in her seat.

You should take this.

When Lucy turned around, she picked up the paper the duke was holding. It was her sponsorship application and transcript.

Oh.

Lucy dared not look up at him and approached the duke.

Excuse me, Duke.

She murmured in a low voice and reached out to the paper. But as soon as she caught it, Lucy felt the chills spreading all over her body. The duke put strength in his grip on the papers.

Lucy, who was confused by his mysterious behavior, tried again. But still the duke did not let go of the paper.

Why are you looking for a sponsor?

On Lucys top of the head, an ice-cold voice fell. She raised her head with a tense face.

Yes?

Why are you looking for a sponsor? asked the duke repeatedly. Lucy replied, trying to conceal her confusion.

I have to get my own tuition.

Why does a noble lady go around looking for her own tuition? Has your family gone bankrupt?

The duke looked into Lucys sponsorship application after muttering a question or a word to himself with an unknown smile around his mouth.

Lucy Keenan Keenan Thats a name Ive never heard of. Are you a marginal aristocrat?

No, Duke. Im not an aristocrat.

The dukes eyes narrowed at Lucys answer. Soon there was a deeper smile around his mouth. It was an ominous and eerie smile.

He wasn't looking at Lucy now. Before she knew it, his sharp eyes had shifted to Felix, who was standing behind him.

I see. A commoner.

The duke muttered, looking at his son.

It was only a few minutes since they met, but Lucy didn't like the duke. This man was the father of the Berg twins, but he has no resemblance between Felix and Adrian.

She's Adrian's junior in the book club.

Felix said in a calm voice as if he had regained his composure.

I was invited to attend by Adrian.

Really?

The duke replied, amused. He had been holding Lucy's application all along, and seemed unwilling to return it. Lucy just decided to give up the document. At this point, she thought it would be good to go back to the banquet hall.

Excuse me, Duke.

Lucy bowed again, then turned around. He looks like a dangerous person. Lucy thought, who felt uncomfortable the whole time she was standing facing the duke. Somehow, she didn't want to be in this position anymore.

If you need support, the Berg family will do it for you.

Father.

It was Felix, rather than Lucy, who responded to the duke's unexpected suggestion first. He plodded up in front of the duke and continued.

Wayne Millard has already decided to be Lucy's sponsor.

But that's not what this lady told me just now.

The duke looked at his son and said with a relaxed smile.

She's talking about sponsorship as if nothing had been decided. She also gave me an application. Isn't that right?

The duke shifted his gaze and looked at Lucy. Lucy couldn't open her mouth with the piercing gaze and just swallowed her saliva.

I accept this sponsorship request.

While holding up the sponsorship application, the duke spit out surprising words in a calm tone. Lucy had no idea how things were going. Why does the duke suddenly want to support her?

In addition, Felix's expression was unusual. He looked as desperate as if his father had sentenced him to death.

Well, duke.

Don't say refused.

The duke gave Lucy no time to speak. He went on looking through her transcript.

Your grades are very good. Not once did you miss the top spot. I don't think you've been trained by a decent tutor.

Are you serious?

Unable to understand the duke's intentions, Lucy's lips stiffened.

It is also my job to find talented people and help them not to be frustrated in the face of economic difficulties.

She couldn't tell if what he was saying was sincere or if he had other ulterior motives. It was natural for a rich and talented aristocrat to say, but somehow the reluctant aura he secretly exudes seemed to say that she shouldn't believe what he said.

So don't refuse. Besides, you seem like a junior my son is taking care of.

Yes, Duke. Adrian-sunbae helped me in many ways. He's been working hard to find me a sponsor here. So, you don't have to help me.

The son I'm talking about is not that son.

As he said so, the duke smiled softly at Felix.

I'll write the sponsorship contract in my office.

The duke's tone was determined and there was something coercive that made it difficult for the other party to refuse. Lucy tried to say something more, but the duke stepped out of the terrace first.

Of course, the most important thing for Lucy tonight was to get a safe supporter. That was the first, the priority.

So, it may be natural to rejoice at this moment when the Duke of Berg, the wealthiest man in the Beros Empire, willingly offered to be his patron.

In addition, as Ros said in the carriage, she could have established herself in an influential position in the capital thanks to the dukes support after graduation.

But Lucy somehow felt scared. She has never met anyone so cold and scary as the Duke of Berg.

Lucy.

Felix, who did not leave the terrace with the duke, called her with a face still uneasy.

Get the backing of Wayne Millard.

His voice sounded nervous. Seeing his attitude like that, Lucy became uneasy. Just as Felix was about to say something, another man appeared on the terrace. It was an old man with his whole hair white, but standing with his back straight.

Young master.

Rayleigh.

An old man called Rayleigh came into the terrace and stood toward Lucy. He bowed politely.

Hello, miss. Im Rayleigh Phillegman, the butler of the Bergs mansion.

He pointed politely to the big door at the end of the hall and said,

The duke is waiting in the office.

She had no intention of signing the contract, so it seemed she needed to give the duke another refusal. Lucy passed Felix and followed the butlers instructions.

As she walked into the office, Rayleigh said, stopping Felix from following her.

You have to finish the reception on the first floor.

Felix tried to refute something, but the door closed coldly in his face. Inside the office, the Duke of Berg was sitting at his desk. And a slender man Lucy had never seen before stood next to him. It was a tall, thin, mottled blond man.

This must be Wayne Millard.

A man who she had been searching so much stood next to the dukes desk. He saw Lucy entering the office and smiled broadly. Although he looked subtly like Rose, he was a person who showed a gentler impression.

Oh, Lucy Keenan!

He strode up and asked Lucy for a handshake in a friendly manner.

My name is Wayne Millard, the owner of the Wayne guild. I heard from Ros, and while I was looking for Miss Keenan, I heard that the Duke of Berg will be sponsoring you?

No, thats.

Lucy wanted to deny it, but Wayne shook Lucys hand with a happy face.

As soon as I heard about Ms. Keenan from Ros, I thought she was a very commendable student. So, I really wanted to sponsor you, but if the duke will, Ill take a step back. There is nothing more glorious and reassuring than being sponsored by the Duke of Berg.

Then she whispered in Lucys ear.

The door to success is wide open.

[Hello readers! Ill be taking a quick break from translating. Ill be back in a week or two. Thank you for reading For your failed unrequited love. Please support the author.]

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He patted Lucy on the shoulder and winked in one eye. He also explained that he started the sponsorship business because he was impressed by the Berg familys sponsorship business. It seemed to be a great honor to be sponsored by the Duke of Berg.

Wayne Millards praise of the Bergs continued without knowing the end. When he finally finished talking, Lucy realized that it had become difficult for her to say that she didnt want to be sponsored by the duke.

Wayne Millard took his hat, greeted the duke, and tried to leave the office so that Lucy and the Duke could talk. But before that, he whispered lightly to Lucy.

Miss Keenan, Ive given up the opportunity to sponsor you, but youre always welcome to attend the Meeting Celebrities events that I organize.

Then he bowed lightly to Lucy and left the office.

In the quiet office of the duke there was one person who wanted to leave the place quickly and one person who was hard to read.

When the flowing silence started to feel suffocating, The Duke slowly rose from his seat and laid down a piece of paper on the table. It was a sponsorship contract. Lucy looked down at the paper with uncomfortable eyes.

She doesnt know what to do.

I want to say it once again, dont feel pressured.

The duke said, as if he had seen through Lucys mind.

In fact, there was no reason for Lucy to refuse this sponsorship contract. If she had to pick one, it was the strained relationship between the duke and Felix, but neither of them was a reason to refuse sponsorship.

Rather, it was a great opportunity for Lucy that people would think shes foolish if she missed the sponsorship deal.

In addition, Wayne Millard seemed to want her to sign a sponsorship deal with the duke, and she was not sure if she could find another sponsor at the banquet.

I dont know what youre hesitating about.

Looking at Lucy, who is staring at the contract with a serious look, the duke said.

Is there any other reason why you wont get my sponsorship?

He slowly raised his body against the sofa and stared at Lucy.

is it my son, for example?

Lucy, who was looking at the dukes face with a puzzled face at the subtle question, immediately came to her senses. She shook her head.

No, Duke,

Then theres no reason to hesitate.

The duke looked at the pen on the table. It was a silent compulsion. He looked like he was going to hold Lucy until she signed it.

Eventually Lucy hesitated and reached for the pen. Soon she signed her name under the dukes name.

Congratulations on becoming the ward of the Berg family.

When she put down the pen, the duke spoke in a low voice. Lucy, sitting nervously, held a copy of the sponsorship contract in her hand.

I hope that the patronage of the Bergs will be a good stepping stone for you to become a great person of the empire.

After finishing his insincere words, the duke nodded his head. It means its okay to go out. Lucy left the dukes office with a blank face and a sponsorship contract.

As she was walking enraptured by an unexpected sponsorship contract, someone suddenly pulled her from behind. It was Felix. He took Lucy to a corner covered by a partition, and he checked if there was no one around and asked.

Did you sign it?

Lucys face flushed red at that question. In her ears, it sounded like, Did you unilaterally break your promise to study with me, and then get support from my family?

Its.

While Lucy was hesitating, Felix, who saw the contract she was holding, dropped his head and scrambled his hair. He heaved his shoulders wide and breathed a sigh. Lucys heart dropped to the floor when she saw it.

I must have been seen as a shameless person.

Lucy regretted her decision to accept his patronage. Her head fell helplessly.

I should have just turned it down until the end.

What else did father say?

Felixs voice flew into Lucys ear. Lucy looked up. Now, his blue eyes, which made his heart ache just by facing him, were looking down right in front of her.

Nothing.

Her voice soon faded into the air. Felix raised his hand and gently over tucked a strand of hair that was hanging over Lucys forehead. The warmth of his fingers crossed her ear.

Lucy opened her eyes wide as if surprised by his unexpected behavior. Felix was looking at Lucy with friendly and affectionate eyes.

Are you sick?

Another question that had nothing to do with the previous question fell. Then, the finger that was sweeping behind her ear came up on her cheek this time.

Youve gotten slimmer.

His index finger slowly swept Lucys cheek.

Is it my cheek thats hot, or is it sunbaes finger?

Lucy blinked her eyes slowly, feeling the touch of his fingers. It was such a soft touch that she forgot about her relationship with him for a while. The urge to rub her cheek against her large hand arose.

Then Lucy came to her senses. She took a step back, dodging Felixs hand. He lowered his hand with an expression of regret.

Id better go down now.

He turned his head and said,

If you go down, youll see the book club members. Dont come up here again.

After saying that, Felix stepped aside to let Lucy pass. After a moments hesitation, Lucy slipped out of the corner and walked down the stairs to the first floor. When she looked back for a moment, Felix was still standing there with an anxious look on his face

And it wasnt until she came down all the stairs that Lucy realized. She gave him a birthday present twice, but she never said happy birthday to him.

Lucy! Where have you been?

Upon returning to the banquet hall, Colin recognized her from a distance and ran.

Whos your sponsor? Have you met Ross uncle?

Its.

Lucy told Colin what happened. After hearing the story, Colin opened his eyes wide and said,

Wow! Did you get the support of the Berg family?

Again, Colin, like Wayne Millard, was busy congratulating Lucy. It was an expression of a family like Berg deserves to support Lucy instead of the Connor family.

Lucy!

Then, another person came up with a quick step. Adrian seemed to have wondered if Lucy had found a sponsor safely even though he was busy entertaining guests. Colin stepped up before he could explain the situation.

Lucy has been sponsored by the Duke of Berg!

At the words, Adrians face flashed with surprise and confusion. He squinted back.

My father is supporting you?

While agonizing over something with a serious face, Adrian quickly gave a congratulatory remark with a bright look on his face.

Congratulations, Lucy. You deserve it.

But after greeting Lucy, Adrians expression on his way back to the table was not good.

* * *

The day after returning from the banquet was a weekend. There was a quiet silence in the dormitory until morning. The students, who were exhausted from the exam period, were all oversleeping.

Of course, some people woke up early in the morning and started their usual routine. Lucy slowly got out of bed and sat down as the bright morning sun came through the window.

It was the only delay she allowed herself to wake up a little late at night, flogging herself hard during the exam period, delaying her waking up a little early in the morning.

Jemima was sleeping frantically on the bed. Her blanket came up over her head and covered her face. A small snoring came out from under the blanket. Lucy fixed her blanket and opened the window to let in the fresh air.

When the sun rose a little higher, someone knocked on the door. Lucy, who was reading on the sofa, looked up.

Who is it.

Jemima, who was stuttering on the bed, also murmured in a half-asleep voice.

Well, is it Rita?

Lucy got up from her seat and went to the door. Rita is the only one who comes to their room at this time. However, when she opened the door, she saw a group of women. They weren't academy students. They bowed politely as soon as they saw Lucy. Lucy also greeted them.

W, who are you?

Hello, Lucy Keenan. How are you?

The woman at the front asked Lucy in a quiet and clear voice.

My name is Mary, and I work in Bergs mansion. I'm here to tell you something about the dukes sponsorship, Miss Keenan.

Jemima was heard scrambling out of bed. Hearing the name Berg, she quickly ran to the door and hid behind Lucys back and peeked out her head. Curious eyes glazed over the woman standing at the door.

Oh.

Surprised by the sudden visit, Lucy stood blankly and hurriedly stepped back from the door. Because Mary and other women were holding heavy-looking boxes in their arms. One of them even held a flower basket large enough to cover her upper body.

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As soon as Lucy stepped aside, the Bergs maids strode into the room. And started putting the things they were holding neatly on the table. In an instant, the table was packed with mysterious boxes.

This is a gift from the Duke of Berg to Miss Keenan to commemorate the signing of the sponsorship.

Mary stood in a few places in front of the presents on display. Lucys eyes widened at the word gift.

What?

Wow!

Unlike puzzled Lucy, Jemima, who was standing next to her, stepped forward with more excitement.

These are all gifts from the duke? And a sponsorship deal? What does that mean?

She picked up the presents one by one, bombarding her with questions. Jemimas fingers hovered around the ribbon as if she were about to unpack it. However, the person who received the gift looked confused. Lucy didnt know how to react, so she just rolled her eyes in her seat.

Burden came before the joy and surprise of the gift. The sponsorship contract, which was made because of the dukes push, and the gifts that came into her room were all unilateral. Moreover, as she recalled the face of the Duke of Berg she met last night, Lucy felt an unknown prickly feeling.

T this is too much. Im already getting sponsored I dont think I should be getting gifts like this.

Its the same gift that every ward of the Berg family receives.

Mary explained with a friendly smile.

My master said not to feel pressured.

Why dont things go my way?

Before Lucy could say anything more, Mary bowed to her. Immediately she took the other servants out of the room.

Wait! I cant take it. Please take it back!

Lucy shouted at their backs. But no one looked back. After leaving gifts and flowers in her room, they left the room as quickly as they did when they appeared.

As soon as the door closed, Jemima sat down in front of the table stacked with gifts.

What does sponsorship mean? And youre going to open this right now, right?

Before Lucys answer fell, Jemimas hasty hands were already loosening the ribbon. Jemima, who opened the box, admired it with wide eyes. The gifts were made up of items that women of Lucys age would like. Luxurious dresses, shoes, necklaces and earrings.

As expected, it was burdensome.

I cant accept this.

Lucy picked up the lid of the box Jemima had opened and put it back on the box and started wrapping the ribbon as it was. Jemima watched from the side with a sad face.

Are you going to give it back? I think it'll look good on you.

It's too expensive.

In addition, when she remembered Felix's face, she felt like receiving the gifts would make her shameless. Jemima, who was looking at the presents that she was repackaging with a sullen face, turned to the flower basket.

Are you going to send this back, too? Flowers wither anyway. Even if you send it back, the duke will think it's trash.

Jemima picked up the large flower basket and took it to the window. She put aside the vase with some withered flowers and put the basket on it. The window filled with colorful red flowers soon transformed into a colorful atmosphere.

Wow! It's pretty.

Jemima smiled innocently as she looked at the basket. But Lucy soon took her eyes off the flower and tied the ribbon.

* * *

At the library, Lucy was wondering how to return the gift to the duke.

I hope he won't feel offended.

When she imagined the duke's displeased face, she felt terrified. Thinking about it, the duke doesn't resemble his sons. When I think of Adrian, who is friendly, or even Felix, who sometimes gets angry but never ignores others, I find it hard to believe that they are related.

Is that what happens when you become a duke? Then if Felix becomes a duke

Lucy imagined him succeeding the title and leading people. However, it was also difficult to imagine him being cold-blooded like the current Duke.

Lucy, are you still feeling down?

At that time, someone tapped Lucy's shoulder, who was sitting blankly. Looking back, she saw Noel looking down at her with a light smile.

It's time to switch shifts with me.

Oh, is it already time.?

Lucy checked her watch. Today, she was thinking about something else all day, so she wasn't able to work smoothly. Stabbed with conscience, she tried to get up from the sofa to settle all the unsorted books. But Noel slumped next to her and stared at her face.

Uh Why?

Noel sighed suddenly.

Cheer up. Don't be down. You can do well on the next test.

Noel seemed to have some misunderstanding.

Or would you like to play with me on the weekend?

At the unexpected suggestion, Lucy suddenly stepped back and said, Uh

You're in a bad mood, so wouldn't it be worse if you stayed in the dorm until the weekend? Let's go somewhere together!

She was grateful that Noel cared about her mood, but his suggestion was not tempting. Moreover, it was burdensome to go out of the academy.

Ahm, I.

Come on. Actually, I feel sorry because of my brother. I want to make you feel better! I even checked the botanical garden.

A botanical garden?

Lucy's eyes sparkled at the word botanical garden. Then Noel smiled and actively explained.

The large botanical garden in Bethel. It's the most famous botanical garden in the Empire, and I'm sure you'll like it.

I like it.

Lucy already knew about the existence of Bethel Botanical Garden. It was also a place she wanted to visit when she visited the capital eight years ago. But unfortunately, the greenhouse was under construction, so it was impossible to enter. I remembered that I had to turn around while looking at the building from a distance with disappointed eyes.

What do you think? Don't you want to go?

Noel asked repeatedly with a subtle smile.

When it gets cold, there will be fewer flowers in the outdoor garden. Then we wont be able to see it until next year.

Noels persuasion gradually moved Lucys mind.

Well.

Youre going to go, right?

Yes.

Yay!

Noel clenched his fist and rejoiced when Lucys consent fell from her mouth. Lucy, who was not very willing at first, just smiled at Noel, who was so fond of her.

Where are you going?

A familiar voice fell on the top of their heads.

Its Adrians voice, but its not as sweet as Adrians.

Lucy looked back in surprise.

There was Felix standing. Below the bangs that covered his foreheads, the lake-like blue eyes were shining as usual. As soon as she met his eyes, Lucy avoided them with a bewildered face.

Where are you going?

Felix asked, looking at Noel this time. Though his eyes were quite sharp, Noel shrugged with a completely impervious look.

Us? Here.

Felix raised an eyebrow. He doesnt seem satisfied with the answer of his junior. His gaze shifted to Lucy, back to Noel, and back to Lucy.

He stared down at Lucy.

Do you have anything to say?

Yes.

To Noels question, Felix answered without taking his eyes off Lucy.

Lucys heart beat fast. She looked around unconsciously. It was a new habit every time she spoke to Felix, she became conscious of peoples eyes whenever she talked to him. Fortunately, no one was paying attention to the rest area, which was relatively far from the students studying.

Felix, who was standing with his hand on the sofa behind her, turned around the sofa and approached Lucy. Lucy looked up at him with a nervous face.

Theres a lot of people. What are you going to say here?

Suddenly Felix grabbed Noels arm as she wriggled her hand with a worried face.

You come out for a second.

Whats wrong with you?

Noels slender body was raised at once by Felix. Felix tried to drag him with his arm in his grasp.

Lucy, help me!

Noel called her in an urgent voice. Lucy scrambled and tried to stop him, but Felix put Noel on his shoulder, struggling. As some students turned their heads to look at the disturbance, Felix hurried out of the library with Noel in his hand.

Uh.

Lucy, who was left alone on the sofa, stared blankly at the door where the two disappeared.

After a while, Noel returned to the library. Fortunately, he looked fine. Except for his complexion that looks drastically tired.

Sunbae, the Botanical Garden on the weekends. Youre going, right?

As soon as Noel came in, he asked in a much more subdued voice than before.

Yeah. Are you alright?

Of course.

Noel replied cheerfully.

Then Ill pick you up on the weekend morning.

Then he began to sort out the returned books on the book cart with blank eyes.

Sienna

Chapter 65

The weekend was sunny and mild, as if cheering Lucy on her outing away from her studies for the first time in a while. It was the most pleasant weather to go to the botanical garden.

Today, Lucy took off her school uniform and wore a generous dress that came over her ankles. She also wore the most comfortable shoes.

She didn't feel very happy when Noel offered to go out, but when she finished preparing to go, she was strangely excited. Perhaps the botanical garden was full of rare plants that Lucy had never seen before.

Noel was gentlemanly waiting for her in front of the girls dormitory. But Lucy frowned slightly as soon as she saw him.

Noel was wearing a white blouse full of frills and a jacket with embroidery. Compared to Lucy's outfit, which focuses only on practical and comfortable things, it was so stylish that she thought it was a little excessive.

But it was also amazing that it matched well. Lucy saw other girls sneaking eyes at Noel as they were coming out of the dorm.

I think I'll definitely look like a maid serving a young master.

Comparing herself to Noel's outfit, Lucy thought. She'll definitely look like that if Noel escorted her.

The two headed to the carriage that Noel prepared beforehand. The carriage was waiting for them in front of the main gate. When the coachman opened the door, Lucy got into the carriage with Noel's help. The coachman closed the door after Noel got in.

Tak!

Suddenly the door opened again.

Lucy and Noel turned their heads at the same time.

Wow, I really didn't expect you to come.

Noel said to Felix, who was standing at the door with a surprised look on his face.

I didn't tell you the time, I just said it was the weekend, but how did you know? What's wrong with your clothes?

Suddenly, Noel frowned at Felix's outfit. Lucy was surprised too.

Where did Felix get it, he was wearing a yellow shirt and work pants worn by low-class men. In addition, the color of his hair, which was slightly revealed under the hunting cap, was not the brilliant blonde he always had.

Did you dye your hair?

Noel asked, looking at his darkened hair.

Felix stepped into the carriage ignoring his question and sat next to Lucy. But Lucy looked at his hair with an expression of astonishment.

It's a one-time dye. It'll come back when I wash it.

Why are you disguising yourself all of a sudden?

The question was also neatly ignored by Felix, but when he saw Lucy sitting next to him with curious eyes, he said.

I don't like it when people recognize me.

Then just stay in your room Argh!

Noel, who was kicked in the ankle, couldn't finish his words and screamed. His groan was drowned out by the rattling noise of the carriage. Soon the speeding carriage quickly ran down the road.

* * *

Anyway, I didn't give him permission. I'm sorry, Lucy sunbae.

The carriage ran stably on the flat road

Noel said, rubbing his still throbbing ankle. Lucy was just sitting awkwardly. She didn't even think about turning her head to Felix's side. It seemed the same to Felix. He glanced at Lucy a few times, as if to check her mood, and kept looking out the window.

Noel smiled significantly as he watched the quiet Felix throughout.

By the way, if you show up like that for disguise, you're willing to be a servant today, right?

Felix opened his eyes with a face asking what nonsense he was talking about.

You have to do it perfectly. We'll act accordingly. Right, Lucy?

Noel, who asked the question added Look, we need some adjustments. Even before Lucy could answer his question he gave Felix an alias.

I'll call you Phil. Not Felix but Phil. And since it's strange for the master to use honorifics to his servants, I'll speak informally today, Phil.

Noel, who was ironically scratching Felix's insides, suddenly stopped talking and looked wary. This is because Felix was closing his mouth and staring with a ferocious look. Only then did Noel hurriedly put his feet on the chair and wrapped it with his hands as if defending it.

Felix, who alternately looked at Noel and the scenery outside the window, spoke soon.

Hey.

W, why?

You can get off here right now, can you?

What?

Rolling around when landing won't hurt badly

As he said that, Felix looked out the window with serious eyes. Noel's face turned pale at once. He closed his mouth and crept his hips close to the wall.

There was a momentary silence in the carriage. After that, Noel didn't even smile until the carriage stopped.

* * *

Not long afterwards, the carriage arrived in central Bethel. The town close to the academy was also large, but it was not comparable to Bethel. There were a lot of people walking by.

Noel got out of the carriage first on the crowded road. He reached out to Lucy, who was about to follow him. But before Lucy could hold it, another hand popped out from behind. The big, tendon-like hand grabbed Noel's smooth hand without hesitation.

Noel, who was suddenly escorting Felix, gave him a stern look.

Oh, what is this? Ahhhhhhh

Suddenly he screamed. As soon as Felix let go of his hand, he clasped his red hand and stamped his foot in his seat. Lucy saw Felix approaching Noel who's in pain and

whispering quietly in his ear. But despite his covert appearance, his growling voice was clearly audible to Lucys ears.

Dont mess with me.

Felix, who turned around leaving a warning, hesitated for a moment. Then he approached the carriage and reached out to Lucy instead of Noel. Lucy stood at the door and looked down at the hand.

Uh.

Lucy hesitated.

Although decorated like a servant, Felix Berg was Felix Berg. Someone who can leave her world at any time and return to his original world.

She hesitated to hold his hand. The moment she held that hand, it seemed like it would start again. That torture-like expectation that makes your heart flutter.

She thought she shouldnt be swayed by him anymore.

Lucy drew her gaze from his hand and stepped down to the ground alone.

Noel and I will go separately to the botanical garden. Wed better say goodbye here.

Felix looked hurt for a moment as if he didnt expect Lucy to say that. He dropped his hand in disappointment.

He didnt want to show it, but Lucy, who saw it, felt heartbroken. But soon she turned away from him, bracing herself. Even if he was offended, she had to cut it out coldly.

Otherwise, one day, he and she will both be badly hurt. Its a huge scar that cant be compared to the pain he just had.

Lets go, Noel.

Lucy hurried to her feet and said, before she could get any weaker. Noel followed her with a surprised look.

Oh, my sunbae. You must have had it hard. Indeed, there are many childish pride fights at the beginning of a relationship. You dont want to fight anymore, but you dont want to bend down first.

What are you talking about?

Anyway, youre doing great.

Noel laughed amusedly as he spewed out vague words.

After a while, looking back, he whispered to Lucy.

Hes following us from behind. I thought he would take care of his pride first because hes a precious young man. Hes a bit lame.

Lucy looked back at his words and saw Felix following them from behind a few steps away.

But dont look at him. The person who pays attention first loses. You know that, right?

What are you talking about?

Lucy thumbed aside Noels words and continued to walk ahead. However, she was very concerned about the presence of Felix, who was following them from behind.

It was fortunate that the Bethel Botanical Garden appeared after a short walk. Lucy, who had been walking all along caring about Felix, was distracted by the beautiful and huge architecture in an instant.

A huge greenhouse rose high as if supporting the sky. Unlike the colorful scenery on the street, there was a green world in the greenhouse like only midsummer vegetation.

Wow, its like a different world here.

Right? Youre glad you came, right?

Noel responded to Lucys bewitched remarks like a child who wanted to be praised.

They went to the ticket office located at the entrance of the botanical garden. As Lucy and Noel approached the staff to talk, suddenly a large shadow appeared. Felix's back was blocking the front. Lucy realized he was paying the entrance fee for three people, so she tried to stop him but Noel stopped her.

Well, let him pay. If he wants to come with us, he has to do that.

Then he wrapped his arms around Lucys shoulder and took her inside.

Wait!

Pay for it, Phil!

Noel dragged Lucy in and waved at Felix.

Felix glared at Noel, but soon paid the entrance fee without saying much.

Sienna

Chapter 66

Bethel Botanical Garden was more professional and academic than she thought. Rather than being decorated like a garden focusing on beautiful flowers, it was filled with all kinds of strange and bizarre plants, giving visitors newness and shock.

Tropical flowers with black spots on vivid red petals, strange vine plants winding up trees like giant snakes, and colorful mushrooms that look dangerous at a glance.

I thought there would be pretty flowers, but there are so many weird things.

Inside the glass greenhouse. Noel said as he walked along a path decorated like a walkway. His eyes widened with surprise and then frowned with astonishment as he looked at the different kinds of plants planted on each flower bed.

I don't think this will change your mood

Seeing the flowers with long, tentacle-like legs fluttering in the place where the stamens should have been, she finally let out her heart.

Why? I'm having fun.

Why do you like this? I'm afraid it will come out in my dreams.

I don't really want to see pretty things. It certainly looks strange, but it's fascinating and useful to know.

Like this?

In front was a stinky flower, Noel crumpled his face and covered his nose. He may not have known because he was looking around, but Lucy was reading one small sign at a time, standing in front of each fence. There were detailed names of plants she had never seen before, their efficacy, and what medicines they could be used as.

Hurry up and let's go somewhere else. I feel like my nose is getting numb.

Noel pulled Lucy still holding her nose. Lucy also thought the smell was more unpleasant than she thought, so she stepped away this time.

Then, suddenly, she looked back. Felix had been following them silently without saying much. But he also frowned at the strange-looking plants like Noel.

Still, some plants were exceptional, and he showed interest in taking a closer look to see if they stimulated his curiosity. Especially in front of the vines wriggling as if alive,

he could not suppress his curiosity and even tried to poke them with his hand. Even then, when Lucy and Noel showed any signs of moving, he noticed like a ghost and followed.

Continuing visit to the Botanical Garden. They stopped in front of one of the most bizarre-looking flowers there. It was a cannibal flower with a human mouth.

At first glance, the creature looked like a large bud that could easily swallow a child. However, at the end of the bud, it had a disgusting and terrifying mouth to look at. Every time the flower wriggled and opened and closed its mouth, its sharp teeth crackled.

I feel like throwing up.

Noel said. He really looked pale, not a joke. Even Lucy, who was interested in seeing strange plants from an academic point of view, was surprised to see the appearance of this plant, so it deserved it.

I feel sick in my stomach. Does it need to look like that?

Lucy agreed, too. Still, it was the most mysterious and interesting flower in this botanical garden. It has an appearance that you won't see anywhere else.

I guess its feeding on animals. Is there a tongue in there?

Lucy was curious. Then Noel suddenly said to Felix with a playful look.

Did you hear that, Phil? She wants to know what's inside.

Immediately a look of irritation came. Felix stood crooked and stared fiercely at Noel. As if confident that it was an open place and that Lucy was next to him, Noel continued to nag.

Why don't you put your hand inside?

Felix's expression became even more terrifying. He looked as if he would grab Noel's head, not his own hand, right away.

Noel smiled and whispered in Lucy's ear.

He's angry, he's angry.

Stop it, Noel.

Lucy scolded him with a stern voice.

You're going to get into a fight again.

Lucy looked anxiously at Felix's expression as she remembered the two growling like dogs and cats in an empty classroom.

However, Felix, who was staring at Noel, turned to the cannibal flower and was lost in thought. He suddenly approached the fence and thought for a while. Lucy was startled when he went over it and into the flower bed.

Oh? Felix sunbae.

Lucy called, but he didn't seem to hear. Soon, Felix stood next to the cannibal flower. Lucy didn't have the time to stop him, he grabbed the side barrel of the plant like he's grabbing it by the collar without hesitation. Suddenly, the flower caught in the human hand wriggled and opened its mouth wide.

Clack clack!

There was a gruesome sound of teeth hitting. Felix suddenly pulled the plant up regardless. As the plant was laid down, the mouth facing upwards slowly tilted toward the people.

In that position, Felix spoke secretly to Lucy.

Lucy! Now, look!

He grabbed the collar of the plant higher so that Lucy could look inside.

Can you see it? But I don't think there's a tongue inside.

Suddenly, a shrill scream rang out in the vicinity. It was a lady's scream. She was looking at Felix with a contemplated face. He seemed to be shocked to see a young man struggling with the collar of a cannibalized flower.

Along with that, everyone around them turned to Felix. Soon the greenhouse was filled with the buzz of people.

That crazy person!

Noel was appalled. He grabbed Lucy by the wrist and hurried her somewhere else.

Lets run! I'm embarrassed, really!

He led Lucy through the crowd and escaped. Where are you going! exclaimed Felix.

On the other side, a man who appeared to be a botanical garden employee was rushing in. He also screamed at Felix with a white face.

Guest! What are you doing?

* * *

That was so embarrassing! Hes ignorant and strong!

Hey! You asked me to show you the inside!

Of course, it was a joke! Whos crazy to show you the real thing!

Why are you talking about such useless jokes?

After running away from the cannibal flower. Felix and Noel bickered along the road. The bustling quarrels on both sides made Lucy deaf.

Felix didnt even think about lowering his voice as if he had forgotten that he had followed them while hiding his identity. He didnt seem to recognize that people were glancing at him.

Obviously, he was dressed as a servant, so seeing him not losing to a young man that seemed to be a noble made the passers-by pay attention to them.

Su, sunbae.

Lucy, who couldnt stand it, took Felixs sleeve slightly.

People are looking at you strangely.

Only then did Felix shut up and looked around. When he realized that people were glancing past him, he kicked his tongue and pressed his hat deeply.

He gave Noel a warning look. It was like saying see you on the way back to the academy. In the midst of such a war of nerves, they arrived in the center of the botanical garden.

There was an open ceiling about six stories high. And in the center stood a giant oak tree, the symbol of this botanical garden.

Wow, its a tree thats a thousand years old.

Noel said, reading the sign in front of the tree.

It is a mysterious tree that is said to be inhabited by spirits, and there is a rumor that if you go into a huge hole in the base and make a wish, it will come true . I guess its over there.

Noel pointed to a cave-like hole in the base of the tree. In front of it, people who wanted to make a wish stood in line waiting for their turn.

Well, sunbae, its just the right time. Lets get rid of all the gloom here and get some fresh energy!

Noel took Lucy to a place where people lined up. It wasnt long before Lucys turn came. The employee who was standing in front of the hole said that they could only make a wish for one minute as there were a lot of people waiting behind.

Before entering the hole, Noel said, blocking Felix from following him.

Phil, wait here. The hole is so small that I think only two people can fit in.

Come to think of it, the hole was as big as if it would be full for two people. There were also two people who went in and out of the hole, just like lovers and couples.

Come on in, sunbae.

Noel gently pushed Lucy into the hole.

Oh, its dark.

Noels slightly frightened voice was heard behind her.

As he said, the hole was dark, and only a few small candles were lit. The subtle orange light lit up the hole, but the floor was dark and hard to see. Lucy tried not to fall on the bumpy floor.

Noels hand-held Lucys arm still behind her.

Oh, thank you.

The hole became full when two people came in. Lucy said, crouching her shoulders in a space where she couldnt even move.

But its too small here. Lets make a wish and go out.

Noel didnt answer. His warm breath touched her ear. She thought he already started making a wish first.

Lucy closed her eyes, too. At first, she thought it was a childish superstition, but when she came in, she felt strange as if the spirit would really grant her wish. Thinking about what to pray for, she prayed for the health of her family in Brom.

Im done praying.

She opened her eyes again and looked back and spoke.

Lets go out now.

Lucy stopped talking. It was Felix, not Noel, who was looking at her.

Sienna

Chapter 67

His face was so close that Lucy turned her head forward again.

W, what about Noel?

Outside.

Felix answered briefly. Then he sighed shallowly. His warm breath touched her neck once again.

Its really hard to talk to you alone.

She heard him brush his hair once and then fix his hat. There was an awkward silence. Felix seemed to want a situation where he could be alone with her, but he couldnt bring it up easily.

Finally, breaking the silence, he asked.

How have you been?

A little funny question to ask now.

Yes.

Did you get home safely that day? Did nothing else happen?

Lucy realized that he was talking about the day of the birthday party.

Yes.

Replying in a creeping voice, she remembered the gifts she had received from the Duke of Berg last week.

Oh, the Dukes gift is Thank you, but I decided not to take it. I thought I should tell you.

At Lucys words, Felix flinched.

Gift?

There was a sense of surprise in his voice as he asked. He seemed to have no idea that his father had sent her a gift large enough to fill a table.

Did my father send you a gift?

Yes he said it was a commemoration of the signing of the sponsorship agreement.

Felix suddenly became silent.

Does he think its shameless to receive the gifts since I already receive a sponsorship?

Lucy was embarrassed by his reaction and informed him of her decision again.

I, Ill give it back to you. Its too much..

No, dont send it back.

Felix said immediately.

If you send it back itll just be a pain in the neck. You better just keep it yes. thats better.

His voice trembled slightly as he mumbled words she didnt understand. Silence came again.

Then Shall we go out now?

Wait a minute.

Felix said with a serious look.

I have something to tell you.

He coughed as if he had cleared his throat. After some hesitation, he opened his mouth.

I

Customer!

Then a head suddenly appeared from outside the hole. It was an employee who guided them in front of the tree. He said to Felix, who was standing right in front of him with an expression of great regret.

Im sorry, but there are a lot of customers waiting in line in the back. This wish-making tree cave is only available for one minute.

It means to come out because its been a long time. Felix looked back at Lucy with a regretful expression and left the cave as if he could not help it.

When Lucy came out of the cave afterwards, she saw Noel standing with his arms folded with a sullen expression.

One side of his head was in a mess as if he had been rolling on the floor.

You finally came out.

He said to Felix with a sullen look.

Sunbae, you cant go in there to make a wish and throw someone on the floor. If you do such a bad thing, the spirit will be angry and wont grant your wish.

Really? Then please go in and make a wish to forgive me. Were leaving.

This time, Felix pushed Lucy toward the exit and took her. Noel came huffing after him.

* * *

Lucy only realized that this huge botanical garden cant be looked around in a day after her feet hurt like they were going to crack after a long walk.

There are so many species of plants in the world

It was a natural fact, but it was a moment when she realized it once again.

Fortunately, seeing her unusual walk, Noel said to leave now. The rest of us say were looking forward to our next visit.

On the way to the exit, the staff was handing out pretty cute souvenirs. It was seeds planted directly in the pot so that they could be carried away. The pot, smaller than Lucys palm, was cute to look at.

Lucy, Felix, and Noel also received small pots and seeds from the staff, respectively. They didnt tell them what kind of seed it was. The staff explained that they will be able to tell after they bloom.

Strange things wont grow, right?

Noel put the seeds he received from the employee on his palm and looked at them and murmured.

Flowers with eyes or a flower that opens its mouth.

He trembled as if he had thought of the cannibal flower he saw earlier.

Dont worry! Its just a regular flower.

The staff, who heard Noel muttering, kindly explained.

Its fun to wait for a flower to bloom. You can plant the seeds and give them to your friends.

At the end of the staffs words, there was a subtle war of nerves between Felix and Noel. They wriggled their hands straight away and planted seeds clumsily in the pot. And they handed Lucy their pots at the same time.

Uh Thank you.

Lucy answered, taking the two pots. The problem was that she had only one pot. In front of them, the two men were staring at each other and waiting for her to hand over the flowerpot.

Give it to me, me!

Noel said grudgingly, reaching out to Lucy.

Ill take good care of it. Yes?

Noels eyes shone.

Phil has a cranky personality. You saw him grab the flowers before, right? Hell kill these little plants in no time.

He did not hesitate to slander his opponent. Felix raised his hand as if he would grab Noels back any minute, but lowered it again as if he was conscious of the eyes around him.

Instead, he began to send Lucy a desperate look. He, too, was blinding with a desire to get the pot.

Lucy is in a bind. She looked back at the staff to see if she could get another pot, but he was refusing all the requests from people who asked for one with a friendly but determined face.

Of course, her head was telling her to give it to Noel. However, she was shaken to see Felix staring at her next to Noel.

Whew.

Lucy closed her eyes tightly and held out the pot to Felix.

What? Are you serious?

Noel asked with an expression of astonishment.

Since he paid for the entrance fee when we came in.

Lucy blushed and made an excuse. She wasn't lying, but she knew she'd want to give him the pot even if he didn't pay the entrance fee.

Felix took the pot with a bright look on his face. He then gave Noel a triumphant look.

Noel clicked his tongue and whispered in Lucy's ear.

You're so soft-hearted. What should I do?

What, what?

Look at the look on your face. If you're being so soft, he'll think you're ridiculous. It's not time to forgive him yet.

Then he murmured, Ugh. I have wasted my time worrying.

Lucy couldn't understand what Noel was saying all day today, but she agreed that she was being soft. She was acting spineless, even in her own mind.

I just decided to cut him off firmly but I gave it to him so easily.

However, in the corner of her mind, another Lucy refuted the remark.

Then what can I do! Looking at him with those eyes right in front of me I couldn't help but give it to him.

Felix's eyes weakened her mind. Lucy has vowed not to look him in the eye as much as possible.

* * *

After leaving the Bethel Botanical Garden, Noel took Lucy to a fancy restaurant near the square. Of course, Felix was also following with an annoyed face.

As they entered the restaurant, the staff approached them and responded kindly. He led Lucy and Noel to the table by the window, and when he saw Felix, he grabbed her shoulder hurriedly.

The servants are waiting over there.

He pointed to a long backless wooden chair next to the entrance of the restaurant. There were already people who seemed to be horsemen sitting and smoking while waiting for their owners to come out after dinner.

Felix's expression was crumpled when he checked the direction pointed by the employee.

He's going to eat with us!

Lucy pulled Felix's arm in surprise. The employee looked up and down at Felix in shabby clothes and tilted his head. The employee looked as if he had never seen a servant sitting at the same table with their owner.

Noel, who was standing as if he was about to burst in laughter, stepped forward. He said to the staff with a strange smile.

Our Lady has a big heart. She tends to take care of the meals of our humble servant.

Then he nodded as if to say he would take Felix to the table with him. Only then did the staff release Felix's shoulder.

Suddenly treated as a servant, Felix turned to the window with a grim look on his face, but Noel blocked him and spoke.

Phil, you're rude. What should you say to the lady who willingly gave you permission?

Lucy looked at Noel with a look of astonishment.

What are you doing?

But Noel even smiled as if the situation was just funny. Felix stood with a face that seemed to pick Noel and put him on the ground.

You shouldn't get angry here!

Lucy looked at the two nervously, Felix closed his eyes tightly with a face of holding back his anger and opened it. Not only the staff but also other customers entering the restaurant were watching the situation.

Then Felix murmured softly with a red face.

T, thank you, my lady.

Sienna

Chapter 68

When Noel heard the reluctant greeting, his shoulders suddenly shook and started laughing. A grotesque laugh came out of his mouth.

Felix blushed even more and his eyes glowed furiously as if he were going to grab Noel by the collar right away. But Noel was just busy grinning whether he hadn't seen the look or didn't care at all.

Noel, who laughed to his heart's content, seemed to have finally calmed down after a long time. He wiped his tear-filled eyes with his fingers and led Lucy to the table under the guidance of the staff.

You'll see when we go out.

Felix's eyes, following Noel's back, seemed to be saying that.

Unlike the previous war of nerves, their meals were conducted in a relatively calm atmosphere. Noel, who was teasing Felix earlier, was calm as he ate. It's probably because Felix was holding a fork and knife in both hands.

But this time other people were the problem. The people around keep glancing at Lucy's table.

They took a look at Noel's neat and luxurious appearance and turned to Felix, who sat across from him. Then he could hardly take his eyes off his old shirt and worn-out pants.

In the end, Felix also raised his head and began to stare at people openly as if those eyes felt uncomfortable.

Then, the customers who were looking opened their eyes wide, and then talked to each other again. They seemed surprised to see a young man, who seemed to be nothing but a servant, send a profane look to the nobles.

Your disguise is perfect, but your acting is terrible, Phil. What kind of arrogant servant glances at the nobles like that?

Noel, who found Felix's uncomfortable expression, said with interest.

I hope you put your heart into acting when you're wearing props for disguise. And I've been wondering, where did you get those clothes?

Lucy had no choice but to turn her head to look at Felix. She was also curious about where he borrowed such clothes from within the academy, where there were only aristocratic children.

I bought it because it was hanging in the old mans cabin yard.

Felix replied cumbersomely to Noel, who kept asking questions.

So, its old man Freds clothes?

Noel shook his head with a big smile.

Even if its old clothes, how can you take other peoples clothes?

Who took it? I honestly said I needed it and paid for it.

As he spoke, Felix exaggeratedly sneered at him, as if he remembered something from the past.

Its not like I stole the clothes of someone who was washing. I mean, I paid a fair price for this piece of rag. I have a conscience.

He spoke with particular emphasis on the last word. Noel, who had nothing to say after his sarcastic remarks about his brothers bad hand habit, tried to change the subject by coughing.

Anyway, clothes are clothes, but even your hair dye is perfect. Why dont you keep your black hair? So, I wont confuse you with Adrian sunbae.

Lucy, who was about to put the cut meat in her mouth, shouted casually.

No!

Perhaps because she shouted in a hurry, her voice was louder than expected, and she seemed slightly surprised. In a hurry, Lucy covered her mouth and cleared her throat.

I thought it would be awkward if sunbae had black hair..

She excused herself. Then Felix murmured as he lowered his head again to his plate.

I dont want to go around with black hair. And Im going to grow my hair again.

Like before?

Noel asked with delight.

You made a good decision. Do you know how much I got confused because it was hard to tell you and Adrian sunbae apart? A few days ago, remember? I thought you were Adrian and pretended to know you.

He continued with a frown.

Do you know how embarrassed I was because you looked at me like a bug? Did you really have to give me so much humiliation in front of people?

Noel pouted and complained long. But Lucy was so lost in thought that she was only poking at the meat, not listening to him.

In fact, Felix's decision to grow his hair again, although she didn't show it, was something Lucy welcomes.

Long hair glistening like gold thread.

The beautiful blonde used to curl gently on his forehead and broad shoulders whenever he swept it back.

Lucy liked his long hair.

Whenever she saw it, she felt an urge to stroke his head without realizing it. Of course, she never dared touch his head.

And maybe there will never have the chance of that to happen.

Lucy looked at Felix's head secretly. Since the start of the semester, his hair has grown quite a bit, but not too obvious.

How long will it take for that hair to grow long again?

Lucy thought for a moment, recalling the long blond hair that was flying in the wind.

Then she felt that the ideas were a little useless, so she hurriedly put the meat back in her mouth.

* * *

At the end of the meal, the sky was tinged with a mysterious light. Looking at the spectacular view of the sunset mixed with blue, purple and pink, Lucy secretly swept her stomach down. She couldn't walk properly no matter how much I called him.

Thank you, Noel. It was a delicious meal.

After leaving the restaurant, Lucy looked back at Noel and said,

Oh, Felix paid for it here too.

What? Again?

Well, I guess he wants to look good on you.

He whispered quietly.

Lucy looked back at Felix coming out of the restaurant and tried to approach him, but Noel caught him quickly.

No, no, no.

He grabbed Lucy by the shoulder, turned her around, and made her walk towards the square. In the meantime, he whispered so quietly that Felix could not hear.

You're going to say thank you again, right?

I should say thank you because I'm thankful.

Aigoo

Noel spoke as if he was rebuking his younger sibling.

Sunbae, it's not time yet.

Time for what?

You can't accept a human being who doesn't have any sense yet. So, keep pretending you're not interested.

Lucy sighed softly and pushed Noel away.

I don't know what you're talking about. You kept teasing Felix sunbae-nim today.

I'm not teasing him; this is all about helping you.

Noel put his arm around Lucy's shoulder again and pulled him closer.

Just trust me. This is probably the most effective way!

Soon there was a small scuffle between Noel, who was trying to walk close to Lucy, and Lucy, who shook him off. However, Noel repeatedly followed his own will and gave suspicious help.

Why don't you let go?

Felix's voice, like an arrow, flew through the back of his head and pierced him. Noel looked at Lucy and said triumphantly

Did you see that? The response came right away.

Then he looked back at Felix and replied with a wistful face.

What?

Why are you so clingy to people? She doesnt seem to like it.

Who says she doesnt like it? Im having a very important conversation with Lucy. Mind your own business.

As soon as Noels words were finished, Felix stopped in his seat. Then she stared at Noel and Lucy with a more shocked look than ever.

Who me?

Then Noel shrugged and hit back.

If its not you, then who?

Felixs eyebrows wiggled. Lucy hurried away from Noel and looked at Felix with anxious eyes. This is because she felt that his patience had reached its limit.

How are you going to handle the aftermath?

Felix spoke low as if he were holding back his emotions. His voice was calm, but it felt more tense.

In response, Noel took a step back with his body shaking. He spoke slightly to Lucy, covering his mouth.

I think thats enough. If I touch you more here, itll backfire.

Then he smiled and replied to Felix.

Ive already thought about how to handle the consequences.

He suddenly waved across the street. There stood a fine carriage. The man waiting in the horse seat saw Noel and rose from his seat and politely bent down. Noel nodded to him and turned again and said,

Im sorry, but I have to go now. My father sent me a carriage.

Huh? Youre going home? Not in the academy?

Noel nodded at Lucys absurd voice.

Tomorrow is also a holiday. Ill go home and relax.

He looked at Felix with an expression of is it ok now?. Felix folded his arm and responded with an expression of If youre going. Hurry up and go.

Noel rolled his eyes disapprovingly and greeted Lucy without time to catch him.

Yeah, Im going to get out of here. See you at the Academy, Lucy sunbae!

Before Felix snatched the back of his head, Noel quickly ran towards the carriage. When his shrewd footsteps disappeared across the street, Lucy was left alone with Felix. Nervous, she posed stiffly.

Felix also scratched his forehead awkwardly, looking as if he didnt know how to act when he was suddenly alone with Lucy.

Lucy, who was in a suffocating situation, is desperate for Noels presence again. She wanted Noel to come back and talk again, even if it was useless and meaningless.

As she stood with her back facing Felix, he broke the silence and opened his mouth first.

Shall we go back now?

Lucy barely nodded like a wooden doll squeaking and began to walk after him.

Arriving in a row of several carriages, the two rented a small private carriage to return to the Academy.

The distance from Bethel to Xenomium was certainly a few dozen minutes drive by carriage. It wasnt that awkward when the three of them came in the morning, but its different now.

When she thought about sitting alone with Felix in this small space, Lucys heart pounded with tension.

Sienna

Chapter 69

A long time after the carriage had departed, Felix was silent. With his arms crossed, he just looked out the window at the buildings passing by.

His black hair was scattered on his forehead, he took off the hat that he had been wearing all day. Lucy peeped into his face pretending to fix her posture.

He was clearly dressed in old, shabby clothes, but his natural nobility seemed to emanate from his manner. Even though he had hidden his blonde hair, which was considered a symbol of the prestigious Berg family, his aristocratic appearance could not be hidden.

Looking quietly out the window, he looked deep in thought. The atmosphere was different from his usual playful appearance.

Come to think of it, I think you were going to say something in the oak tree in the botanical garden.

Lucy thought, taking her eyes back to his profile. Clearly, his lips were twitching as if he had something to say in the wooden cave.

However, when he was left alone with Lucy, he just quietly looked out the window.

There was now more deep blue color than red in the sky. Lucy looked at the scenery as the sun slowly disappeared over the mountain.

You were tired today, right?

Felix asked suddenly. Lucy turned her head to him. Before she knew it, he was sitting with his arms folded and looking at her.

From dealing with that crazy kid.

Ah but it was fun. Its my first time going to a botanical garden.

Yeah, it was fun. Its amazing Its weird.

He frowned as he looked at the ceiling for a moment as if he had recalled the strange plants he had seen in the botanical garden.

Immediately after loosening his expression, he picked up a small package he had placed next to him. It was the small pot that Lucy got from the botanical garden. He wiggled his hands as he untied and tied the wrapping straps.

I hope we can go to the places we havent seen together.

He mumbled. Lucy couldnt answer back at that.

Are you serious?

No matter how much she thought about it, Felixs disguise today seemed to be because it was burdensome to show people who he was with. He was conscious of the gazes of others.

But on the other hand, he acted as if he wanted to be with Lucy. The person who joined suddenly tried to kick Noel out all day as if he were an uninvited guest.

I really dont understand you, sunbae.

The more she tried to guess whats hes thinking, the more complicated her mind became.

When there was no response from Lucy, silence fell between the two. Only the regular sound of horseshoes filled the carriage. She wanted to go quietly for a while, but Felix opened his mouth again.

and Ive never been mad at you.

Lucy looked up. Felix was now turning completely to her and looking at her with serious eyes. Lucy pondered the meaning of what she had just heard.

Then she remembered. That night, what she said to Felix.

Sunbae. I dont know why youre angry, but. Regardless of how you feel, Ive enjoyed spending the last few weeks with you.

Felix hesitated and went on.

As you said then I enjoyed the time with you, too. Of course, its still the case.

Lucy sat blinking her eyes at his calm words. She didnt expect to hear it from him, so she was dumbfounded.

As Lucy sat still without a reply, Felix added in a strong tone because he thought she was suspicious of his words.

I mean it.

Despite her refusal to have any hope for her relationship with him, the moment she heard his words, her heart pounded helplessly.

She drew her breath slowly. Felix on the other side also took a shallow breath and lowered his head. Staring at the shaking floor, he said quietly.

And I Ill be a duke.

This time again, it was a word that she didnt understand.

Youre supposed to be the duke.

Felix smiled weakly at Lucys words.

Yes, thats right. Im supposed to be the duke.

But at the next moment, his eyes changed resolutely.

Yes, I will be a duke. So perfect that even my father cant help it. So, you and Adrian.

Lucy waited for words to follow. But Felix shut up and just stared at her. The look in his eyes was so different from what she had ever seen.

Half hopeful but half desperate.

I have something I really want to tell you, but its hard to say now.

He opened his mouth again.

Of course, I know how upset and frustrated you have been until now. But Can you wait a little longer? Until I can say it proudly. Until no one dares to interfere in my decision.

Felixs eyes looked firmer than ever.

If your heart doesnt change until then I wont want anything more.

Lucy sat facing him as if she had forgotten how to breathe. She thought she could understand what he said.

My heart

Does he already know how I feel?

Obviously there is no future with him, so she only thought she should distance herself from him.

But now, listening to him, it seemed that the status and background that had frustrated her were just trivial matters and flew away.

His firm voice and eyes look like its saying, I feel the same about you, or is she over thinking?

If he also wants to be with her in the future, and if he thinks its possible.

Is it okay to trust him?

Before long Lucy nodded without realizing it.

Yes, sunbae.

I hope what you are trying to say to me is what I hope you will say.

Only then did Felix sigh as if he had let go of his mind.

Regardless of what conversation was taking place inside, the carriage was still running faithfully toward its destination.

* * *

The carriage stopped. The coachman approached and opened the door. Felix, who got off first, reached out to Lucy. She hesitated a little, but soon took his hand and stepped down to the ground.

The atmosphere was a little different from when they were in the carriage. Lucy felt something fluttering in her heart.

It was fun today.

Felix said, as if trying to keep her excited mood from coming down.

Shall we go in then?

He put on his hat again and turned to the front gate.

The two walked along the promenade on the campus toward the dormitory. By the time the light from the dormitory began to be clearly visible, a person came out of the academy's main building.

Even without coming close, they could tell that it was Adrian, just by looking at the dimly shining blonde under the dim sky.

Adrian walked with a smile as if he recognized Lucy first, and tilted his head when he saw the figure of Felix standing next to Lucy.

As soon as he approached them, his eyes narrowed when he realized that the face hidden under the hat was his older brother.

Felix?

Adrian rolled his eyes around and looked at his brother's black hair, old clothes, etc.

What's with your appearance?

Soon his gaze shifted from Felix to Lucy. Soon he asked when he noticed that she was in her outwear.

Did you two go out?

Yes, in the botanical garden.

Felix, who was taking a break, answered reluctantly.

A botanical garden?

Adrian looked at Felix with a quizzical look. It was like, Were you interested in something like that?

Two of you?

Yes.

Thinking about something, he asked a question carefully.

were you that close?

Noel was with us but he went home to see his parents earlier.

Lucy made a quick round.

What an interesting combination.

Adrian murmured, sweeping his chin with his hand. He looked as if he could not imagine how the friendship began. However, the next moment, he immediately shook off his doubts and asked a question with a purely curious face.

So, how was the botanical garden? Felix, Im surprised you went to see the flowers.

There was no such thing as a flower. No, was there? Can you call that a flower?

When Felix hesitated while answering, Adrian burst into laughter, saying, What the hell are you talking about?

He said to Lucy, still smiling.

Lets go, Lucy. Ill take you to the front of the ladys dorm.

Ill take her there.

Felix quickly interrupted his brother.

Im afraid Lucy will feel uncomfortable.

Do you feel uncomfortable with me?

Felix asked Lucy with a sullen look. Lucy shook her head in surprise.

If you ask her so openly, Im sure shell say no.

At Adrians words, Felix seemed slightly offended. Lucy broke into the conversation quickly.

You dont have to take me. I can go to the dormitory by myself.

Only then did the twins scratch the back of their heads at the same time, realizing that the place they were talking about was not in the dark back alley but in the middle of the academy campus.

Then Ill be on my way.

Lucy turned toward the girls dormitory, hiding her regret for some reason.

Because Adrian was watching, she couldnt say much to Felix. I only glanced at him for a moment and then turned.

Good night.

Not missing the brief moment, Felix spoke with his mouth. It was fortunate that it was dark. Lucy walked hurriedly, lowering her head and hiding her red cheeks.

* * *

Its uncomfortable, but she felt relieved that she got a sponsor, and had a change of mood at the botanical garden over the weekend.

And the faint hope of her relationship with Felix.

With mixed feelings, Lucy was finally able to gradually escape the shock of being in the fourth spot in the school.

Now, she doesnt have to run to check the bulletin board. She is also firmly determined not to repeat the same mistake again.

But she couldnt stop feeling bitter every time she ran into Eric Roman at the academy.

Eric has been hiding from Lucy after the theft. He hurriedly runs away when he sees Lucy walking in the hallway. However, since they are in the same grade, it was inevitable that the classes they took would often overlap.

In addition, he even conducted an interview with a newspaper company, as he was so thrilled to be in first place after only being in second place for a long time.

No student has ever made such a fuss about topping the midterm exam.

Its a bummer.

Colin, who was walking with Lucy, found Eric and spoke. Eric was being interviewed by a man who appeared to be a newspaper reporter on a bench on the campus. Sienna

Chapter 70

Im sure hes a journalist who came at the request of Baron Roman! Does he know that the son he is proud of is stealing someone elses things? Colin said with a rare look of cynicism.

He had a bad feeling about Eric after hearing the whole story about the necklace missing from Lucy. In addition, this time, he pushed Lucy away and took the first place, so his feelings about Eric were bound to get worse.

Hmph! Lets go, Lucy.

He snorted Lucy with a loud snort.

Tell him to enjoy this moment and youre going to get the first place back!

Colin exclaimed indignantly, as if he had been robbed from the first place.

Stop it. They can hear you.

Lucy tried to cover his mouth with her palm in embarrassment.

Tell him to listen!

Colin shouted louder regardless. Eric, who was interviewing, glanced over them. When he found Lucy and Colin, his expression quickly turned bad, but soon he turned away pretending not to see them.

Lucy calmed Colin, who was about to scream a few more words, and took him elsewhere.

Me, failing the midterm has nothing to do with Eric.

Lucy was aware. Eric Roman didn't unfairly take the first place.

The reason why she failed the test was clear. Because she couldn't concentrate during the test. And the cause was not Eric.

Maybe Eric Roman was one step ahead of her in terms of concentration and mental strength. Lucy fell three places at once because of her complicated mind, but Eric brazenly maintained his usual skills even after being disciplined by the academy for stealing.

Anyway, the academy didn't deprive Eric of the chance to take the test. He duly took the test and scored. But if you talk like that, people might end up looking at me strangely, Colin.

At Lucy's words, Colin eventually stopped criticizing Eric. Although he still huffed and puffed.

The results were shocking, but the midterms had already passed and the results couldn't be changed.

In addition, the scholarship issue ended after finding a sponsor. It was wiser to prepare hard for the final exam than to keep regretting and blaming herself.

With that in mind, Lucy took out the books that she had not been able to open for a while.

But the next day, news that dampened her motivation spread to the academy.

All the students who won first place in the midterm exam were invited to a luncheon at the Imperial Palace.

They're giving preferential treatment like they were waiting!

The day before, Colin, who barely kept his mouth shut due to Lucy's dissuasion, started scoring again.

They didn't treat you much when you were at the top! As soon as Roman's son won first place.

It's a coincidence, Colin. It's not like they waited for Eric to get first place to have a luncheon at the palace.

Lucy said calmly.

Only three students were invited from each prestigious academy in the capital. It was held immediately after the midterm exam, so it seemed natural for Eric, who recently won first place, to attend.

But somehow, it made her uncomfortable.

Doesnt the top have to go? Youre still the top of our grade, Lucy, because we havent got our final grade yet!

It was just as Colin said. The official head of the second grade was still Lucy, as the semester was not completely over yet and the final exam was not yet taken.

Furthermore, she was a genius who never missed the top spot for three semesters. Although he missed the first place this time.

In many ways, Lucy may be the best qualified person to attend the royal luncheon.

However, the student the Academy pointed out was Eric. It could not be challenged as it was purely the principals authority to choose who would attend the luncheon.

Lucy suddenly remembered the day of the entrance ceremony. Eric Roman, who was going up on the podium on behalf of her, the top student.

Why does todays happening seem to overlap with that day?

She didnt necessarily want to attend the Imperial Palace luncheon, but Lucys mood was bitter when she felt that she might have once again been discriminated against because of her origin.

* * *

Lucy, who was organizing her books in the library, found out that there was another top student who would not attend the royal luncheon besides herself.

Adrian sunbae.

Appearing from behind the bookshelf, he looked tired and barely had a faint smile around his mouth. He tried to help Lucy organize the book, but Lucy stopped him quickly.

I can do this by myself, but why are you here?

She naturally thought he would attend tomorrows royal luncheon.

You have to go to the Imperial Palace tomorrow, right? Go inside and rest.

I don't have to go to the palace.

Lucy opened her eyes wide at the unexpected answer.

You're not going? But if you're not going, who will go?

Then he remembered another third-year top student. At the same time, Adrian picked up the book and answered.

Felix is going.

It was unexpected, because she thought Felix would be annoyed by such a position. Adrian, who seemed to have the same question, continued with a little doubt.

The principal recommended it to Felix first, and he didn't refuse.

Felix sunbae?

I don't like that kind of situation. Anyway, they only invited three people to the palace, and the principal recommended me, Felix, and a sophomore, Eric Loman. But I didn't feel like there was any need for two people from the same family to go. That's why I gave way. The other will be a freshman who took first place.

Adrian, who was talking, suddenly looked sad and sorry.

I wish you would go. Actually, I was wondering if the principal would pick you. Since Eric has a previous theft case and you are better than him.

He glanced at Lucy's expression and asked quietly.

You're disappointed, aren't you?

He dropped his head suddenly.

Me too. I know how it feels. No matter how hard you try to run, you'll feel despondent when you realize that the limits you can reach are fixed.

At that moment, an expression she had never seen appeared on Adrian's face, making Lucy a little embarrassed. The atmosphere seemed to be gloomy in an instant.

She replied as if she were not interested in visiting the palace, pretending nothing happened.

No, I don't care at all. I never wanted to go in the first place.

It was true to a certain extent. Having lived as a commoner all her life, she did not know not only the royal etiquette but also the manners that should be observed among the nobles.

If she had been invited to the royal luncheon, she would have felt more burdened and afraid than overwhelmed and honored.

It would be a great honor to visit the palace for most of the students here. It has nothing to do with me. Visiting that place, seeing His Majesty, will not likely significantly change my life.

What are you talking about, Lucy? His Majesty is also looking at the abilities and talents of non-noblemen.

Adrian spoke very seriously, so Lucy closed the book and looked at him.

In the current situation where families other than the imperial family are growing rapidly, they want a new power. Rather than maintaining the power of the ruling aristocrats, they want to bring up the new power and bring it to an appropriate equilibrium.

And he also told Lucy unexpected things that she didn't know.

Didn't you know that the Xenomium Academy decided to accept students from non-noble backgrounds because of His Majesty's order?

What? Not at all.

Lucy, who lived on the outskirts far from the capital, had no clue.

Of course, this is my guess. The royal family might want you to attend the luncheon. They may already know that a person who entered the Xenomium last year was a terrifying girl who lightly shot and beat a noble. Wasn't the sudden luncheon held because they wanted to take a look at you this time?

Oh, no way.

It was a speculation close to delusion, but the speaker's face was quite serious. Lucy looked at Adrian with a puzzled expression. Then he burst out laughing.

What? Are you teasing me?

Unlike him, Lucy pouted at Adrian, who laughed with his shoulders up and down.

Sorry, but I don't want you to be upset.

Lucy shook her head at what he said as he straightened his posture.

I really don't want to go.

Where?

Then they heard a voice behind the bookshelf. Soon after, Felix appeared.

He then asked with displeased eyes, where he had previously found Lucy and Noel together in the library.

Where are you going?

Even his voice was cautious.

the two of us?

What are you talking about? We're talking about tomorrow's royal luncheon.

Only then did Felix nod as if he understood. Then he suddenly frowned on his forehead.

Speaking of that, I thought you would go as the second-year representative.

Felix looked right at Lucy and said,

But why, Roman the little thief is going?

Adrian stepped up before Lucy could answer anything.

We've talked about it for a long time before you came. And right now, Lucy is the most upset here. I don't think she needs to hear any more words from you.

Adrian's tone of voice did not appear to have any intention to embarrass him.

However, Felix's face, which was frowning because of Eric, quickly disappeared. His face was completely expressionless. But somehow he looked angrier than before.

Looking at Adrian, Felix said in a low voice.

Adrian Berg. I know very well that Lucy will be upset. So, you don't have to tell me everything.

Adrian's face wrinkled at Felix's words. He put down the book he was holding. He had a look of formidable displeasure. Sienna