

For Your Failed Unrequited Love

#Chapter 71 - Read For Your Failed Unrequited Love Chapter 71

Chapter 71

Lucy intervened in bewilderment.

Wait, I think youre both wrong. Im not upset at all.

She pushed the twins away, still standing face to face.

I dont want to see the Emperor because I feel burdened. What if I make a slip of the tongue and choke on the gate?

She tried to lighten up the mood, but no one laughed. Felix took a step back and scratched his head.

Sorry, I was too sensitive.

Then, before Adrian could respond, he left the front of the bookshelf.

Adrian, who stretched out his hand to hold him, soon put his arms down and sighed. He doesnt show a bad expression even when things dont go well. However, he swept his face down looking at where Felix disappeared to with a tired face.

Sweeping through his slightly disheveled hair, he suddenly smiled at Lucy. He pointed to the cart, pretending nothing had happened.

Look, we ended quickly because theres the two of us, right?

He turned, pushing the cart, without giving Lucy any time to answer.

Well, lets just go check how much more there is on the counter.

* * *

After hearing from Adrian that he would not attend the royal luncheon, strangely enough, Lucy lost her bitterness.

Of course, the reason was completely different, but it was a relief that she was not the only top student who could not go to the royal luncheon.

Lucy Keenan, shes a commoner, so she cant step on the palace! No matter how good her grades are, the principal must have been ashamed to show her in front of his majesty.

Such insulting remarks also fell flat after news broke that Adrian was not going to the palace either.

As the voices that talked about her and the royal luncheon disappeared, Lucy thought she could not care about the topic only then.

So, she tried to forget about the luncheon, but it didnt work out as she thought.

Unexpectedly, the royal luncheon was once again a hot topic among students. On the day the three students were scheduled to go to the palace, Eric disappeared.

The academy flipped over. When Eric, who should have come earlier, was not seen, the principal ordered a person to check Erics room and all the classes he attended.

However, even the staff who went into the library, restaurant, and garden could not find him.

Did he go out under the ground?

Colin said sarcastically.

Maybe his conscience suddenly appeared and realized how brazen it was for him to go to the royal luncheon!

Lucy also looked puzzled as she listened to Colins acrimonious spouting.

No matter how much she thought about it, it didnt seem like it. Just yesterday, Eric seemed very proud of going to the royal luncheon.

However, Eric was not seen even though it was almost time for the carriage to leave for the palace, the principal had to hurry up and pick another student to send to the palace instead of Eric.

Lucy thought it would be Adrian, but it was revealed that he had conceded once again.

In the end, the new student was a sophomore named Mitchell Barnes. She was the second highest ranked student after Eric in this midterm exam.

Even after the students who were going to the palace were gathered and sent in a carriage, the principal was still angry and ran wild. There were many students who witnessed him screaming with a red face in the main hall.

Attendance at the Imperial Palace was a promise with the Emperor. To break the promise and not show up was nothing short of an insult to the royal family.

The principal, who had to face a difficult situation because Eric did not show up, firmly said he would not let this go. He shouted for a long time to find Eric Roman right away.

That little guy finally caused a big accident!

Colin, who was watching the scene in the hall among the other students, laughed. He added a word as he looked at Lucy.

How great would it be if they decided to let you go in the first place!

It was around noon when Eric appeared again, no, when he was discovered. He was found in an old building, where students were not allowed to enter, by the gatekeeper, Sir Fred, while on patrol. He found him locked in a room, knocking on the door, so he brought him out.

Returning hastily with a pale face, he had to face the angry principals face immediately. Then, as soon as he heard that the carriage had already left for the palace, rumors spread throughout the academy that he had fainted.

The students raved about the absurdity of what happened to Eric Roman all day long.

Eric, he still hasnt come to your senses.

Colin told Lucy the rumors he had heard.

As soon as he got up from the nursing room, he maliciously claimed that someone locked him in the old building.

Lock him up?

Of course its an excuse! The old building is off limits to students! Im sure he went there for a short cut but locked himself like an idiot!

Clearly, the fact that he was locked up in the old building alone gave Eric no excuse.

This is because the old building was closed under the order of the principal, and if it was violated, a large penalty point will be imposed. So, the student council would also keep a close eye on the students who wanted to enter the old building and catch them with their eyes lit.

You fool! I guess he was punished. God must have taken away his chance to attend the royal luncheon because he was annoying!

Listening to Colin, Lucy got up with a wistful look and packed her bag.

In the first place, it had nothing to do with Eric whether he seized the opportunity or missed it.

* * *

But Lucy soon found out that it was her own delusion. Two days later, Eric Roman sneaked up to Lucy, who was leaving the classroom after class, and asked her something.

You, you?

Lucy frowned at the incoherent question.

In just two days, Eric looked haggard. He couldn't sleep all night, so his eyes were blank.

It's you, right?

What do you mean?

You locked me up in the old building.

His absurd remarks left Lucy speechless and her mouth wide open.

What are you talking about?

I definitely saw someone walking behind the door and locking it. It's you, right?

He spoke quietly, slightly blushing, as if he were barely feeling the shame of stealing with a handful of conscience.

You hate me.

He seemed to have a strong misunderstanding.

You're the only one who would do that to me! You think I'm the reason you lost your place. That's why it's like that, right? You're following me secretly..

Are you crazy?

Lucy was genuinely displeased and spat out coldly. Then Eric flinched and shrank. However, his voice became a little quieter, and he continued to say things that seemed suspicious of Lucy.

Or did you ask Connor to do it? I heard it all. Hes talking about taking revenge on your behalf.. I dont know what the hell youre trying to get revenge on.

Lucys cold eyes avoided his gaze, but her eyes were still full of doubt and dissatisfaction.

Lucy said in a harsh tone.

I never locked you up. And I didnt ask Colin to do that.

T, then Colin Connor could have done it on his own! Hes holding you up like some kind of princess.!

Lucy clenched her fist and bit her lips. She knew Eric was a shameless and gloomy kid, but she didnt know he was so paranoid.

If its not you or Connor then who did that to me?

Why are you asking me that?

Lucy, who couldnt stand it, raised her voice. Surprised Eric shut his mouth and recoiled back.

Look back on your usual behavior. Am I the only one who really hates you? Think about what else you stole besides my necklace!

Students who were passing through the hallway sneaked into the classroom after hearing the fight.

Eric's face went red and bit his lips. He shivered and left the classroom.

Lucy, who was left alone, was shaking her heart and wheezing. This is because she never thought that Eric would blame her for not being able to attend the royal luncheon.

How shameless!

Eric believed in superstition and stole the belongings of other students in order to do well on the test. Who else did he steal aside from Lucy?

He was obviously in a situation where there might be other people who didnt like him, it was rude of him to doubt and blame only her.

I guess Im the easiest, huh?

Lucy stared at the door where Eric had disappeared with a displeased face. Her unpleasant feelings did not go away even after a long time.

* * *

Since then, Eric has continued to claim that someone intentionally locked him in the old building. But there were no witnesses to the words.

He also strongly insisted to the principal that he did not intentionally miss the schedule, but the principal did not accept it.

Whatever the reason, it did not change that he did not appear at an important event called the royal luncheon.

The principal was very angry with Eric, who almost caused a major setback, and seemed unwilling to listen to his unfair situation.

In short, Eric was firmly ingrained in the academy.

Sienna

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It was only after he was criticized by the principal that Eric finally calmed down.

Not only did he stop talking about not being able to go to the royal luncheon, but he also didn't tell Lucy any nonsense about locking him up.

However, she felt a reluctant gaze in the classroom and library from somewhere, when she turned her head, Eric was looking at her with suspicious eyes. It made her feel uncomfortable.

If you have something to say, come and say it!

Lucy clenched her molar and shouted to herself.

At the time Eric claimed to be trapped in the old building, Lucy was taking a class, it was the same with Colin. There was no solid evidence that she had been near the old building during that time.

If you say that to me again, I won't stay still!

Lucy stood upright as if she were confident of dealing with Eric's nonsense at any time.

She already accepted the fact that she got a lower rank than Eric in the midterm, but other things left Lucy feeling uncomfortable.

The stolen necklace, Eric's vague punishment for it, and his oath at the entrance ceremony going way back.

You're not the only one who feels wronged, Eric Roman.

Lucy thought, staring at the blackboard with a disapproving stare.

* * *

Why does he look at you so bad these days?

Soon, Jemima and Rita noticed Eric's gloomy eyes. They immediately approached Lucy after class and whispered;

I thought there was a hole in the back of your head.

Ha.

Lucy, who is sick of his gaze, sighed.

It's already been two days since he didn't directly argue with her, but just glanced like that. She thought he'd quit soon, but Eric's determined behavior was more persistent than she thought.

Moreover, not many people knew that Eric had been punished for stealing.

Lucy and the Berg twins were not the type to come forward and make rumors, and Noel was also silent because it was his own brother's work.

Therefore, it was natural for Jemima and Rita, who did not know this situation, to not understand Eric's behavior.

What did you do to him?

Despite Jemima's subsequent question, Lucy just shook her head. Now she has no energy left to tell the long story.

Let's just go.

Avoiding Eric's eyes following her, Lucy told her friends.

Oh? Is that Adrian-sunbae?

While leaving the main building, Rita said, pointing to a boy who was moving towards the main gate. There was a man in his outwear, Prince Berg, walking towards the carriage waiting at the front gate.

Is he going home?

This year, Adrian often returned to his dukes residence on weekdays at the call of Duke Berg. Each time he didnt go to school for one to four days at most.

But he always tells us when he is going away. He must be in a hurry this time.

Ah!

Suddenly, Jemima jumped from her seat.

Then Alan-sunbae will come today? If so, I wont go to the library.

Lucy and Rita frowned at her remarks.

Alan Gross, a senior in the book club, was a person who was not liked by anyone because he annoys his juniors every time he comes to the library.

After he became a third year, he didnt come to the library much saying studying is more important. Although the number of workers was reduced by one man, no one complained that he was not doing any side work.

Of course, no one wants him to direct the library work instead of Adrian.

I should ask.

Jemima hurried down the stairs and ran to Adrian. Adrian, who looked back at the sound of Jemimas call, talked to her for a moment.

The next moment, Jemima turned quickly and began to run again. Somehow her face looked perplexed.

Jemima, who ran up the stairs at once, breathed heavily on her knees. Then Straighten up again and said.

Oh My goodness! It wasnt Adrian-sunbae, it was Felix-sunbae.

Felix, who looked blankly at Jemima, who was moving away from him as if she were running away, was still standing there. His eyes were now on the stairs. To be exact, to Lucy.

He soon began to walk back the way he came. As he climbed up the stairs and approached Lucy, Jemima and Rita moved back, exchanging glances.

Jemima poked Rita as Felix approached Lucy.

Well go first, Lucy.

They rushed down the stairs in a hurry for Lucy to catch them and disappeared to go to the library in an instant.

Lucy.

Felix called her.

Neatly combed blonde hair, neatly dressed with no mess.

Seeing him up close, he had a more noble and gentle feeling than usual.

Its a relief, I can see you before I go.

Where are you going?

On the west coast.

West?

Lucy was surprised. The west coast was quite far from the academy.

Why would you go there?

Theres something my father made me do. Itll take about four days.

Somehow he hesitated for a moment and asked.

Have you ever been to the sea?

No, not yet.

Ive only been there once when I was a kid. It was such a beautiful place.

But for someone who was going to a beautiful place, he didnt seem to be looking forward to it or excited. Rather, it seemed obvious that he didnt want to go.

Whats wrong with your face?

He laughed bitterly at Lucys question.

I didnt know Id go back for this kind of thing.

This kind of thing?

Lucy looked curious, but Felix didnt explain it.

At that time, a horse standing at the front gate in the distance made a purr. Felix glanced toward the carriage and soon looked at Lucy with a regretful face.

I've got to go. Then I'll be back.

He spoke solemnly as if he were the head of a family who would leave his family for a long time. Lucy nodded unconsciously at the sight.

Yes, go ahead.?

Felix smiled cheerfully at her unexpected reply. Soon he turned and began to go down the stairs. Flapping the hem of his coat, he edged away toward the front door.

After seeing off something fondly, Lucy hurriedly came to her senses. It was a good thing that there were no students passing by. She hurried back to the library.

The day seemed to end smoothly. Until someone pulls Lucy out of the library behind the wall.

Tak!

As soon as she identified who was dragging her, Lucy slapped his hand roughly.

Eric!

She rubbed her wrist and glared at Eric who was standing at the opposite side. Eric said mumblingly, giving her a look of displeasure.

Ha, I knew it. It's you, isn't it?

Now Lucy was no longer embarrassed. Whatever he said, she was going to take it back with confidence. Eric took a step back with a slightly intimidated look but he continued with a face full of dissatisfaction.

You locked me up, didn't you? Don't make excuses.

Are you still talking about that?

It's not Colin. It's Felix sunbae. I saw it all. You and that senior talking.. like that.

Can you say that in front of Felix-sunbae?

Eric shut up hurriedly at Lucy's words. His eyes trembled nervously. But the next moment, he changed his attitude and pushed Lucy.

I, I certainly apologized to you! I returned the necklace first! But why are you doing this to me?

Did you really apologize to me?

Lucy clearly remembered the day Eric returned the necklace to her. That day, he hid behind Noel with a pale face and hesitated for a long time. Eventually, Adrian and Noel persuaded him to confess all his faults and apologize.

At that time, Lucy felt sorry for him when she saw him shaking. In addition, she sighed even more when she heard that the reason for the theft was none other than pressure on the test.

She knew better than anyone how hard the pressure was.

But the person standing in front of her now was completely different from that person, he was now a shameful and disgraceful person.

Did you mean it? Or did you force yourself to apologize because of Noel and Adrian-sunbae?

Eric faltered when his brothers name came out.

Noel tried so hard for you. Why are you so twisted?

Dont compare me to Noel!

Suddenly Eric burst into a roar.

Noel, noel, noel! Everyone, Noel! Im so sick of it! He can be so naive because he has nothing to carry on his shoulders!

His face was red.

Oh, he doesnt know how much pressure it is to lead a family. Of course you dont know! No one knows how I feel.

He vented his anger with a face of injustice.

J, just be honest with me. I honestly told you that I stole the necklace, too. You did it, didnt you? Its true that you had someone else lock me up. I wont tell the principal. I just want to know the truth.

Suddenly Eric stopped talking. Because there was a sign of someone behind the wall.

Soon someone showed up around the corner.

It was Adrian. He was staring at Eric with a cold face she had never seen before. Sienna

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When Eric saw Adrian suddenly appear, he shut his mouth in dismay. Just a while ago, he was accusing his twin brother of being the culprit who had locked him up.

Eric's face immediately lit up with worry, Did he hear it all?

Adrian felt somewhat different from usual he slowly approached him and asked,

What are you talking about?

But he didn't look as curious as if he had already heard all the conversations between Eric and Lucy.

The strange manner made Eric speechless. When he kept hesitating, Adrian brought it up himself.

I think you're talking about being locked in the old building. Are you suspecting Lucy?

T, that's not it!

Without any evidence?

Eric tried to explain with anxious eyes, but Adrian interrupted and repeatedly asked.

Eric, you stole Lucy's things only a few weeks ago. The apology you made when you returned the necklace, did you not mean it?

T, the apology I made at that time was sincere! So, Lucy!

But Adrian calmly interrupted him.

Looking at what you're doing right now, it doesn't look like a sincere apology. It looks like you just did it to escape the situation. Where is the evidence that Lucy locked you up? Or it's just a feeling because you really hate her?

At Adrian's words, Eric was tongue-tied and only his lips were twitching.

The reason you ended up receiving a minor punishment was because you returned the items and made a sincere apology. But now I doubt its authenticity.

Adrian paused for a moment and went on.

Shall I tell the principal about what I just saw?

Eric's face went pale at the words. Gone are the days when the principal looked after him just because he had good academic performance. He was out of the sight of the principal because he caused trouble during the royal luncheon.

It will not end in a good thing if the principal learns about this situation.

Eric pursed his lips with a pale face. But no sound came out.

Oh, no. Please don't tell him. I think I shouldn't have doubted her.

At last he replied. Then he left as if he were running away. The sound of rushing footsteps gradually grew farther away.

Adrian sighed as he watched Eric back. He trudged down to the flower bed.

Seeing Adrian flop down on the stone wall and bury his face in his hands, Lucy approached with a puzzled face.

Adrian-sunbae

I didn't expect him to doubt you.

Lucy looked blank at his quiet words.

I didn't know either. I didn't know Eric would suspect me.. He was totally different when he came to me and gave me back the necklace and apologized.. Well, I'm the only one in the world who doesn't like him, though.

Lucy let out a sigh of resentment and bitterness.

It's me.

Adrian said abruptly. A cool breeze flashed over her head. Lucy couldn't understand the meaning of what she had just heard, so she asked back like a fool.

What?

The one that locked Eric up in the old building. It's me. I did it.

Lucy opened her eyes wide at the unexpected remark.

Sunbae? Why?

Adrian scratched his forehead as if he were in trouble.

I dont know why I did it then. I just couldnt control my anger at that moment.

His face looked bitter and sad as he spoke in low.

He did such a thing to his only rival. They say he did it because of superstition, but they dont know whats really going on. Lucy, Eric should have been deprived of his chance to take the midterm exam. Besides, youve been Even if you were unfairly discriminated against, you did not protest and just accepted it.

Adrian looked up. Now his eyes were filled with nothing but sadness.

Being accustomed to discrimination. It may look good on the outside, but not on the inside.

Lucy looked a little stunned by his unexpected remark.

In that situation, I couldnt bear the thought of Eric going to the Royal luncheon shamelessly.

After finishing his story, Adrian sat silently with his gaze fixed on the ground. Lucy looked anxiously at his face.

He was strange today. It was the first time she saw him express his innermost thoughts so much.

Adrian was someone who always remained calm and alert to his juniors. But at that moment, there was a strange and unfamiliar atmosphere in his face.

Sunbae, are you okay?

Lucy carefully extended her hand to Adrians shoulder.

But at that moment, Adrian suddenly raised his head and burst into laughter. His laughter, as clear as the autumn sky, spread through the air.

I look really funny, dont I?

The young man there smiled innocently, his expression was nowhere to be found.

I never thought that I could do such a thing.

Sunbae

But Its not as big as I thought it would be.

He said so, and looked at Lucy with shining eyes more than ever.

I didnt know breaking the rules is not such a big deal.

Seeing Adrian smiling faintly, Lucy could not answer back.

His smile was as good and soft as always, but somehow there seemed to be emotions that she had not noticed were hidden in it.

* * *

After disappearing so quickly that day, Eric did not even come near Lucy. Lucy felt relieved that the person who had annoyed her for the past few days disappeared.

But the thought of Adrian made her a little confused.

I cant believe it was Sunbae who locked Eric up.

Lucy thought that Erics claim that someone locked him in the old building was a lie.

Although Eric was unfriendly, she thought that it was unlikely that anyone would have locked him up on purpose, so she thought his words were just paranoia.

But its true that he was locked up, and its none other than Adrian-sunabe who locked him up!

Lucy was confused by the unexpected behavior of her sunbae, whom she had been relying on.

Why did sunbae do that?

No matter how much she thought about it, it was an impulsive act that was not like him.

She began to think that Adrian, who had only seemed perfect so far, might have some circumstances that others do not know.

After finishing the last class with a restless heart, Lucy returned to the dormitory and found students sitting together in the lounge. However, the atmosphere flowing in the meantime was unusual.

Lucy looked at them with curious eyes and found Jemima.

Jemima, why does it feel like the seniors are divided into two groups?

Its the mood. Im telling you.

Jemima replied with a look at the third year seniors sitting in two groups.

I mean Ros and Claire. I guess they're fighting a war of nerves again.

Lucy looked around the lounge at her words. Indeed, it was Ros and Claire Hamilton who sat in the center of each group and looked at each other with fierce eyes.

In fact, it was not a very special sight for the two to engage in a war of nerves.

They both had beauty and a good family, and Ros stood out in the arts and Claire in the academic world. As a result, there were many who followed them, so a rivalry was formed naturally.

But the atmosphere seems to be worse today.

Then Jemima grinned and answered Lucy's question.

Dylan Huff decided to dedicate a flower to Claire on Knights Day.

Knights Day was a custom in which men offered flowers to women at midnight on the first day of November. In the distant past, it was a culture derived from the fact that the legendary knight offered flowers to the goddess.

In commemoration of the legend, every year when Knights Day comes, the imperial men would prepare flowers in advance and offer them to their lovers and wives.

However, at Xenomium Academy, it was almost impossible to carry out this romantic event. The reason is that all students had to enter their own rooms in the dormitory at midnight, the time when they had to offer flowers.

If a male student wanted to offer flowers to a female student at that time, he had to break the school rules and sneak into the female student dormitory.

Right. Last years Knights Day was a riot.

Lucy's gaze went up in the air as if she were trying to remember.

Xenomium, where entering the dormitory of the opposite gender is prohibited.

In particular, male students entering the females dormitory was never allowed unless there was special circumstances.

Flora, who is in charge of the females dormitory, was a person who was ready to roar and kick the male student lurking around the dormitory building.

Nevertheless, there was at least one male student every year who sneaked into the females dormitory and tried to offer flowers. Of course, no one broke Flora's ironclad security.

And this years challenger seemed to be a male student named Dylan Huff.

Dylan is a promising swordsman. Hes strong, he looks good, and hes popular. Ros was secretly expecting him to give her flowers, so she was very upset when he dedicated them to Claire.

As Jemima said, Ross gaze at Claire was unusual. It felt like a spark was about to burst out of her eyes.

Why in the world would he go so far? Is it that important to give only one flower? What if he gets caught?

Lucy murmured with an expression of incomprehension.

Thats why it stimulates his desire to win. How romantic is it to sneak into a forbidden place and offer flowers?

Rita shook her head when Jemima spoke with an ecstatic look. Soon she said with a pathetic expression on her face.

Its just a bluff, you know. If you look at romance novels, those scenes are portrayed romantically. Enemy families. Forbidden lovers. A man who does not hesitate to climb a high wall and confess his love.

Lucy watched Ros and Claires war of nerves, thinking they were just wasting their energy.

Anyway, Ros her pride must have been hurt.

I know. Claire-sunbae must have been a thorn in the side of her eye. There is no talented individual who can succeed in offering a flower.

Maybe Adrian or Felix-sunbae can beat Dylan.

During the conversation between Jemima and Rita, Lucys face darkened when Felixs name popped out.

Its already been five days since Felix went to the west coast.

Im sure he said itll only take about four days

Its been more than four days already, but he still hasnt returned to the Academy. It seemed it would take longer than expected to handle their family affairs.

Felix.

Lucy, with a sullen face, quietly called out his name.

I miss you, Sunbae.

[T/N: OMGGG!! I really thought Felix was the one who locked up Eric in that old building. This chapter really surprised me.]Sienna

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Knights night.

The girls in the dormitory were having a heated debate over whether Dylan could really succeed in offering flowers to Claire Hamilton, and whether Claire, who would receive the flowers, could push Ros down the nose.

Even with all the attention focused on her, Claire maintained her usual calm smile and elegant attitude. It was perfect to scratch Ross nerves, always thirsty for peoples attention.

For some reason, however, Ros remained calm despite such subtle provocations. No, she even looked relaxed.

Sitting as elegantly as Claire and sipping her tea, she doesnt seem like someone who just lost her chance to receive a flower.

Girls gathered and whispered about Ross mysterious attitude.

Did someone else offer flowers to Ros-sunbae?

But other than Dylan, is there someone with a strong heart to sneak into the females dorm?

Seeing her relaxed attitude. Perhaps is it Felix-sunbae?

Idiot, Felix-sunbae isnt at the academy right now.

There are people who are interested in other peoples love stories, and those who think its pathetic but wonder what will happen. They all waited for Dylan to appear in unison.

They wandered around the lounge, but their curiosity cannot overcome their sleepiness so they went up to the room.

The night grew deeper and deeper.

But no sound was heard until close to midnight. The occasional night breeze shook the window and the distant owls cry was the only sound.

No male students showed up near the female dormitory. Dylan Huff, who declared publicly that he would give flowers to Claire, seemed to be doing nothing.

As time passed by in that state, Jemima seemed to have lost steam.

Oh, what the? I thought something interesting would happen.

She said, sitting quietly with a small candle lit near the window. Soon she got up from her seat and crawled into the bed with a big yawn.

Thats right. Who would dare break into a females dorm when theres Flora whos scarier than the gatekeeper in hell?

Jemima, who crawled under the covers, mumbled in a sleepy voice.

Im just going to sleep.

She was chattering while waiting for Dylan Huff to come in the evening, so when she stopped talking, the room quickly became quiet. Lucy also changed into her pajamas, blew out the candles and went to bed.

It was then.

Rattling~

There was a small sound from a window somewhere.

Rattling~

The clandestine sounds continued one after another not far away.

Jemima, who was lying under the covers, jumped up.

Whats this sound?

In the dark room, her eyes sparkled in the moonlight. She scrambled out of bed and ran to the window. Then he opened the window with a careful and hasty touch.

Lucy!

Jemima peeped under the window and shouted quietly with a very excited face.

Come here, come on!

At her urging, Lucy was forced to get up and approach the window. She looked down like Jemima and saw six or seven boys standing under the walls of the building.

And looking up a little, a male student had already climbed the wall near the first floor, it was Dylan Huff.

He skillfully climbed the wall using his strong body as a swordsman.

Woah, theres really someone who does that stupid thing.

Lucy clicked her tongue in astonishment.

It was an incomprehensible act for her, who has maintained her upright life to avoid even a small penalty since she entered the school.

Looking around, other girls were also giggling at Dylan with their eyes sticking out of the window.

Look over there. Its Claire-sunbae.

As Jemima turned her head in the direction she pointed, Claire was already seen with her window wide open and waiting for Dylan to come up.

Lucy frowned.

Can a student council do that?

Well, Dylans the only one wholl be punished if they get caught anyway.

Jemima said with a look of great excitement as if she were the one going to receive the flowers.

Youth. This is youth.

Lucy clicked her tongue one more time. She wasnt very interested in this commotion. She moved away from the window and was about to go back to bed.

She heard footsteps somewhere. Someone was rushing around the wall. The other boys gathered below and looking up at Dylan as he climbed began to make a fuss looking at each others faces.

Dylan, who was climbing the wall, asked, looking down at the agitated boys from below.

What? Why?

But it was a completely different person, not the boys, who answered the question.

You bastards!

Around the corner, Flora in pajamas appeared. Her face flashed horribly on the lamp in her hand.

I knew this would happen! I thought this year would be over quietly!

She immediately came running towards the boys with a whip in her hand. The boys began to run away in bewilderment like sparrows scattered in all directions because of a stone that suddenly flew in.

As long as I'm here as a supervisor, a man can never come in, never!

Flora's shrill cry mingled with the sound of a whip and spread into the night sky. Girls who were watching the scene attached to the window burst into laughter at once. The same was true of Jemima.

Look at Dylan!

He climbed the wall proudly, but he was attached to the wall without being able to climb or descend because of Flora, who was mercilessly wielding a whip from below.

Claire, who watched the scene, looked disappointed, she closed the window irritably and disappeared.

Eventually, Dylan, who was in danger of being hit in the butt by a whip, jumped to the ground and quickly began to run away into the dark.

Hold him!

Flora shouted at the student council ladies who followed her. Emily, a member of the student council, immediately followed Dylan as if she would not miss him.

Get his name, Emily! I'll take him to the principal's office tomorrow!

Flora screamed ferociously at the darkness where the boys and the girls from the student council disappeared. Her fierce eyes were soon transferred to the girls clinging to the windows.

She screamed in a ghastly voice, looking angrier than ever.

Everyone, gather up on the first floor!

I knew this would happen.

Lucy sighed and put a cardigan over her pajamas.

I cant go to bed early today.

* * *

Furious by the male students attempt to break into the dormitory, Flora called the female students and gave them a long sermon.

Dylan, who was captured by other stout student council ladies, including Emily, was sitting on his knees in front of the auditorium.

All the students had to stand sleepy and listen to her nagging. It wasnt until everyone was standing crooked on their sore ankles that Flora stopped preaching and sent the girls back to their rooms.

Ill stay up all night watching you guys tonight. Dont even think about sneaking a man into the room!

Flora threatened and shouted at the girls as they ran up the stairs.

Ill say it again! Dont even think about it!

Lucy hurried up the stairs following Jemima. She didnt want to hear more nagging.

Hey! It was going to be fun.

As soon as she tried to respond to Jemimas words as she went up ahead.

Lucy felt something out of place and stopped at the stairs.

Whats wrong?

Rita, who was following behind her, asked.

No, I thought I saw something.

Lucy tilted her head and began climbing the stairs again.

It was only for a moment, but she felt like she saw a face that should not be here.

I guess I saw it wrong.

A girl was following her among the girls walking down the hall. The girl caught Lucys shoulder; she looked back.

Co, Colin!

Lucy, who checked the face hidden in long bangs, tried to scream with an astonished face but managed to stop. Colin put his finger to his mouth, saying, Shh.

His appearance was a spectacle.

He was wearing womens sleep pajamas and even wearing night caps. Because of his small size, he certainly looked like a schoolgirl.

Im on my way to offer flowers to Ros.

He whispered excitedly.

She promised wed have dinner with Elijah Cole if I gave her flowers at midnight! Im in a hurry!

With his face down, he hurried toward Ross room, mingled among the girls.

Isnt he a real nut?

Even Jemima and Rita, who were standing next to each other, were astonished.

Lucy looked anxiously at Colin as he moved away and turned to the room.

The disturbance is over. Now that Flora was snarling and guarding the dormitory, there would be no male students to infiltrate the dormitory.

If only Colin can offer the flowers safely.

Oh, your friend is someone who does such a foolish thing.

She took off her cardigan and hung it on her chair, sighing. She thought she needed to have a proper word with Colin as soon as it dawned tomorrow.

Ack!

Then, Jemima, who was on her way to close the window, screamed. Lucy turned around surprised at her scream.

Felix!

Surprisingly, Felix stood on the window sill.

Looking at his hair and clothes tangled in the night breeze, it was clear that he had just arrived at the academy.

Lucy's face turned white as soon as she found him. She hurried up to him and grabbed him by the hem.

T, this is the third floor!

But he was busy looking around the room as if he hadn't heard Lucy.

Where is it?

He asked.

Yes? What?

The flower that Noel gave you!

Flower? What do you mean?

Lucy didn't understand Felix and asked back. Then he frowned furiously and cursed.

That punk!

[T/N: Noel: 1 point / Felix: 0]

Sienna

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Lucy was startled by the harsh swear words. Seeing her expression, Felix hurriedly stepped down into the room.

He shook his head and explained.

I didn't curse at you!

I know!

That wasn't the point for Lucy now. She whispered urgently as she checked the doorstep.

Sunbae, why are you here? Miss Flora is walking around with a whip!

No, because Noel gave you flowers.

I never received one! I didn't even bump into Noel today.

Felix gritted his teeth after listening to Lucy.

She doesn't know what happened, but Noel must have tried to trick him up again.

Fooled by it, he ran to the females dormitory without thinking. It was fortunate that he was not discovered by Flora while climbing through the window.

I'll look out for you!

Somehow, with an excited face, Jemima quickly left the room. As soon as the door closed, Lucy pushed Felix and urged him.

Get out of here! You'll be in big trouble if you get caught! Flora is very angry.

Are you sure Noel didn't give you flowers?

Why would I lie about that? Just go!

Perhaps relieved by Lucy's words, Felix looked through the room with wide eyes.

Then Lucy, who was whining and pushing him toward the window, pulled him back to her, saying, Oops!

Wait! This is the third floor. How are you going to get down there?

I just have to jump.

What?

Lucy was at a loss for words by his sordid reply. It was ridiculous to jump off the third floor, no matter how sleek the body was.

But.

Lucy looked up with a worried look, and Felix, who had been looking into the room with sharp eyes, smiled at her.

Are you worried about me now?

Even if someone else jumps off the third floor, I'll stop him!

You don't have to worry; I've jumped from a higher place before.

Why would you jump from such a high place?

Lucy, who was asking like that, remembered that when they passed the curfew before, he casually said let's go over the wall.

Sunbae Dont tell me youre going around violating the rules freely, are you?

Whats the point of going around? Im too lazy to go out.

Despite Felixs explanation, Lucys eyes narrowed with suspicion.

As they quarreled with each other, they heard footsteps approaching, thumping into the room. Lucy stopped in surprise and turned to the door.

At this time, there was only one person who could walk in the hallway with such loud footsteps. In addition, when she heard Jemimas voice trying to block the steps from coming to the room somehow, Lucy became desperate.

But before she could do anything, the door swung open.

At the door was Flora, who stood with fiercer eyes than ever before. Lucy froze at the sight of her.

Im doomed!

Why is Jemima roaming the hallway like a puppy who needs to poop? As if she was being a look-out!

Flora shouted, boasting a loud voice. Standing behind her, Jemima closed her eyes and opened them, then gave a sorry look.

Lucy didnt dare turn around and look at Felixs bewildered expression. He was caught in the act. Now all she and Felix had left was a big penalty and being called to the principals office.

What are you hiding?

Then Floras suspicious voice rang out once again in the room. Then she strode into the room and began to look around.

Lucy looked puzzled and looked around the room together. Only then did she realize that she was the only one standing in the room. Felix had disappeared somewhere.

You didnt bring in a boy, did you, Lucy?

Flora checked the closet door without hesitation, and fell on the floor and looked under the bed. But Felix was nowhere to be seen.

Flora stuck her head out of the window and checked. Raising her upper body again, she tilted her head.

Thats strange I thought you were hiding something.

But she could not find a boy anywhere. Flora stops searching the room. Eventually she turned and walked to the door.

All right, Ill believe it. So go ahead, turn off the lights and lie in bed! Jemima will sleep in my room if she comes out in the hallway again.

Yes, maam!

Like this.

The door closed.

Lucy and Jemima sighed at the same time and swept their hearts.

Did Felix-sunbae leave?

Yeah, I think so.

Lucy answered Jemimas question with a dubious face.

Did he jump straight down? Hes really fast.

She approached the window with a worried look. She looked down, but she couldnt hear anything on the dark ground.

Youre not hurt, are you?

Im fine.

Suddenly, Lucy raised her head to an answer from above. At the same time, a hand came down from the top and wrapped Lucy around one cheek. The warm warmth, which was clearly contrasted with the cold autumn wind, touched her face.

Felix was hanging from the upstairs window. He stepped back down to Lucys window with a light motion.

Sunbae!

Whoa, I almost got caught.

He murmured.

Standing on the window frame, Felix began to rummage through his pockets. Lucy was nervous because she could still hear Floras footsteps in the hallway.

I dont have flowers Instead, this.

Felix took a small box out of his pocket and held it out. Felix grinned and said as she accepted it.

Ill do this instead today but I really wanted to show you the sea.

Lucy looked up at Felix, feeling the heavy weight in her hand.

She tried to say thank you, but Floras voice scolding a student nearby flew through the silence. It was no longer a time to relax.

Felix quickly prepared to jump down. Before stepping out of the window frame, he looked back briefly at Lucy and greeted her softly.

Good night, Lucy.

Then he disappeared straight down. By his bold action, Lucy took a breath and hurriedly looked down at the window.

No one was seen rolling on the ground. Instead, in the dark, a silhouette was seen moving away towards the males dormitory.

Finally, his silhouette disappeared. Lucy grabbed the box and sat down on the bed. Jemima, who had been hiding behind the bed and secretly watching the two, quickly came to the side.

What is it? What is it?

She urged her to open the box. When Lucy carefully opened the lid, a transparent and fist-sized sphere appeared.

Wow, its snowballs!

Lucy took the snowball out of the box and held it in her hand. A smooth, cold sphere lit by the moonlight shone brilliantly in Lucys hands.

Wow.

What caught her eye was the ocean view in the snowball.

White sand, red coral reefs, and small fish swimming between them.

Its pretty.

Lucy murmured. There was a bright smile on her face without her knowing it.

Are you that happy? asked Jemima, who was next to her.

Lucy smiled awkwardly instead of answering.

Well, can you keep this a secret?

When Lucy asked carefully, Jemima replied with a stern look.

Dont worry. I have a heavy mouth!

Then she pinched her lips with his fingers.

Before they knew it, the dormitory was engulfed in a quiet darkness. That couldnt even hear Floras footsteps walking around the hallway.

It seemed that nothing more interesting was going to happen, and the girls, who were tired from hearing Floras long speech, seemed to fall asleep quickly.

Lying on the bed, Lucy looked at the snowball by her bedside for a long time. Fish floated leisurely in the quiet sea reflected in the moonlight.

I really wanted to show you the sea.

Felixs voice, who was saying so, seemed to be heard in her ears. Her relationship with him, which was still uncertain, the words encouraged Lucy.

She also had a vague feeling that she might be able to really go see the sea with him someday.

Lucy looked into the snowball for a long time until the moon outside the window was out of sight.

* * *

The morning after the noisy night with various disturbances. Ros appeared in the lounge in a state of high spirits.

Rumors had already spread throughout the dormitory that she had already received a knights flower from a boy the night before. Since the academy was established, it was the first time that a male student went into a female dormitory and offered flowers, so the incident became a topic of conversation.

However, it is not known exactly who the male student was. Female students who witnessed Ros receiving flowers actually only heard the voice of the boy outside the door.

Deflated by Ross momentum, Claire couldn't maintain her usual relaxed and calm expression.

In the morning when she came down the stairs and found Ros hanging out on the sofa in the lounge, she went up to the room with a forced smile. Of course, her twitching mouth looked indisputable.

While everyone was talking about the boy's identity with curious faces, Lucy rushed to the classroom.

Colin!

As soon as she found Colin, she began to nag him.

Unauthorized entry into the dormitory between the opposite sex may not end with only penalty!

But Colin, who was not at all remorseful said;

But Lucy! There was a meal at stake with Eliza Cole. It's not just an actress, it's Eliza Cole!

Colin replied with a confident look. It was an attitude that if he could meet an actor whom he respected in person, the penalty points would be irrelevant.

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Thus, the case seemed to come to an end by Ros getting the attention she wanted and Colin getting a chance to eat with the great actor.

But the next afternoon, rumors began to circulate here and there that the man who had given Ros flowers was Colin.

The rumor soon reached the ears of Flora. As she was desperate to find the boy who sneaked into the girls dormitory, she immediately called Colin in.

Lucy touched her forehead when she heard that Colin had been called by the landlady. She sincerely hoped that his only childhood friend would not be punished.

But contrary to her nervousness, Colin reappeared in the classroom with a nonchalant air. His expression was as calm as usual. He didn't look like a person who was discouraged after being scolded.

How did it go? asked Lucy.

She let me go.

What?

Flora just looked at me and told me to go.

Colin said something incomprehensible. Lucy stared blankly at his face in bewilderment.

Theres no way you were the one who gave flowers to Ros. With a body like this, I dont think you can even climb the first floor.

Funny how Flora never doubted Colin. It was because she had no idea that he came into the dormitory dressed up like a schoolgirl.

Even Dylan, who everyone thought would succeed, failed. I think shes only suspicious of big boys, unlike me. Well, Id love to be off the list of suspects.

Colin gave Lucy a naughty smile. Looking at such a friend, Lucy couldnt decide whether she should be angry or relieved.

Youre lucky.

In the end, Lucy said with a pathetic expression on his face, but relieved inside.

* * *

Everyone was busy chatting about the flowers Ros received from an unidentified man, but Lucy was not interested in whatever she received.

Recently, as soon as she returned to the dormitory after class, she ran straight to the bedside table. And she would pick up the snow globe and look at it for a long time.

Nowadays, it has become her habit to look at it several times a day.

The sparkling sand and red coral reefs in the transparent sphere always made Lucys heart flutter. Whenever she looks at it, a smile automatically appears on her face.

Each time, the words she heard from Felix were clearly and vividly revived like the touch of the snow globe in her hand. As if its constantly saying that her relationship with Felix is not a dream but a reality.

So much had changed from the past when Felix didnt even notice her presence.

Now he recognized Lucy at a glance wherever she was. No matter how far Lucy was, no matter how little she speaks.

* * *

You guys go first; Ill sit down for a while.

Lucy looked up at Felix's voice from somewhere. She was sitting on the bench for a while and organizing her bag.

When she looked around, she saw three boys passing by the street nearby. Of course, the first person she noticed was Felix who has bright blond hair.

Just as Lucy recognized him at a glance, Felix also seemed to have noticed right away that she was sitting there.

But he didn't hastily pretend to know or wave his hand to greet her. Instead, he suddenly stretched with a subtle smile around his mouth. He mumbled to his friends.

Im tired, so Ill sit down for a while.

His friends looked at him, bewildered, at his words.

What?

You just said we should go back to the dorm quickly.

But Felix didn't care and came near Lucy, scrambling his hair for no reason.

He glanced at Lucy and sat on a bench a little away. He didn't forget to look at Lucy and smile lightly at that short moment.

His friends looked at him with a confused expression as he suddenly stopped on the bench. But the confusion soon came naturally to Felix. Felix frowned openly as his friends sat next to him.

Aren't you going?

Where?

Are you not going back to the dorm?

You said we'd sit on the bench and go.

When did I!

Felix, who was trying to say something in an annoyed voice, continued in a soft voice as if he had been forced to squeeze it.

you can go in first.

Just go with us.

Felix's friends seemed unwilling to leave him, and one of them even lay on the bench.

Oh, that's nice.

How long has it been since I looked up at the sky like this?

Unlike Felix, who has a disapproving look on his face, they began to talk leisurely looking around the campus.

Lucy glanced at Felix's sullen expression and secretly burst out laughing. The expression on his face, which was slightly distressed, seemed cute as the situation did not go according to his plan.

Hey, Felix.

His friend who was staring blankly at the blue sky suddenly called him.

By the way, why are you working so hard these days?

What?

I mean the class. Why are you taking classes so hard?

I wanted to ask that, too. I thought Adrian and your soul were finally the same.

At first, they were asking questions with playful faces, but gradually they became serious and began to ask questions.

It's very suspicious that you suddenly become a top student this time. Just be honest with me. What the hell did you do?

Felix, who had a sullen expression on his face at his friend's words, sat down with his legs crossed leisurely.

Someone helped me. So that I can do well on the test.

Who?

It must be Adrian.

It's not Adrian.

Felix replied firmly to his friends guesses.

Lucy, who was listening to the conversation in silence, shrugged her neck. When her story came out of his mouth, she felt somewhat embarrassed.

With a flushed face, she re-positioned herself not to look at Felix. But before she knew it, her ears were pricked up to listen to him better.

Who is it if its not Adrian?

Yes, a smart and well-educated teacher.

If you have a teacher like that, introduce us as well.

Felix frowned at his friends words. He turned them down at once with a ferocious look on his face.

What? No.

Why are you so serious?

At Felixs exaggerated reaction, his friends burst into laughter.

The teacher is so busy that she doesnt have time to help you.

When Felix spoke in a decisive tone like a wedge, his friends shook their heads and clicked their tongues.

Whatever. It must be a hard-working teacher hired by the duke.

After such speculation, his friends no longer showed interest in who Felixs teacher was.

While his friends turned to the campus again, Felix secretly looked at Lucy and smiled.

Teacher, what are you doing here?

For a moment, Lucy was worried someone would see him but looking at his innocent expression made her smile.

From that day on, she smiled like a foolish person. This was all because of Felix.

The small words he said and the expressions he always showed came as a new and exciting feeling for Lucy.

She felt happy even just by looking at him like this.

Felix, shes been staring at you.

Lucys spine cooled by his friends sudden words. She removed the smile on her face and turned her head away from Felix.

I let my guard down.

She stealthily looked up, gripping her pounding heart. But it wasnt Lucy that Felixs friend was talking about.

He was pointing to the girls who were gathered a little far away. It was a group of third year ladies who Lucy doesnt know.

Renee Kepinnon. She cant take her eyes off you.

Felixs friend said teasingly with a sly smile.

Who doesnt know Renee is interested in him?

Another friend also dropped the subject like firewood.

Lucy looked at a girl named Renee more nervous than ever. Renee. It was a name she heard somewhere.

She couldnt see her face very well. However, she was an attractive girl with black hair that hung abundantly over her shoulders.

The girl stood and talked with her friends, and when Felix and his two friends looked at them, she nodded and greeted them with a friendly look.

Lucys heart seemed to drop.

Actually, Felix turned his head without any reaction.

Hey, Felix. Shes greeting you.

She did not greet me.

Felix answered, interrupting his friend.

What are you talking about? Youve been.

No, its not.

Shes

No.

Felix desperately denied his friends words. His sudden unnatural attitude made his friends look at him with a look of Whats wrong with you again?

After a while, a girl named Renee began to walk to Felix's place. Her gaze was exactly directed towards Felix. There was no mistake.

What do you mean? Look, she's coming to you.

But before his friends words were over, Felix jumped off the bench.

What?

Felix turned to his ridiculous friends. After greeting Lucy with an awkward look, he immediately started walking towards the males dormitory.

Hey, where are you going?

His two friends looked at his back with absurd expressions and quickly got up from their seats and began to chase him.

In the end, Renee, who was walking gracefully, lost her way and had to look at Felix's back with a blank look. Sienna

Chapter 77

Actually, Renee was not the only one looking at Felix with regret. The girls standing with Renee also admire Felix.

Felix, who left his seat to escape the troublesome girls, simply drifted away like the wind.

It was fortunate that he didn't even look at Renee. But looking at the crowd of girls looking sadly at his back, Lucy realized one thing she had forgotten.

It was that, just like Adrian, the female students were also interested in Felix.

He is handsome, excellent in swordsmanship, simple and honest and he seems to have a good relationship with his friends due to his easy-going personality. Besides, he is the heir to the Duke of Berg.

There can be no girl who is not interested in him.

she forgot for a while because she only saw her sunbaes inexplicable and weird sides for the past few days.

The Xenomium Academy is a paradise for girls who were after Felix.

It was not a time to be relieved just because he asked her to wait.

Lucy stood up from the bench while looking at the girls looking at Felix's disappearance with wary eyes.

She tried to compose herself, but her face as she left the seat was somehow filled with nervousness.

* * *

By November, the cold air, which naturally made the people adjust their clothing, filled the campus. Students with early colds were heard coughing everywhere.

It was cold, but the trees with red leaves were spectacular to see.

Thanks to this, during noon, when the warm sunlight shines, there is a crowd of students who want to walk around the beautiful campus.

Among them, there were several people who did not appear to be enrolled in the Academy.

They were the young ladies and lords of a noble family, and they were all walking along the campus with their servants.

They were all young students who wanted to enter the Xenomium Academy next year. The academy opened the campus for the aristocratic children who wanted to enter the school.

They looked around the academy buildings and gardens with their faces full of excitement and admiration to the students walking around in school uniforms.

Oh! So cute!

Jemima, who was looking out the window in the classroom, said with a happy smile.

She stood in front of the magnificent and beautiful academy building, looking down at a girl.

We were so young two years ago.

What are you talking about, Jemima? Were still young.

But even in Lucys eyes, the girl, who would be only two years younger than them, looked so young that she felt strange.

In a few months, it will be crowded with new students again.

Hmn, well be in the graduating class then. Alas, I never thought about what I would do after graduation!

Suddenly, Jemima tore her hair out and made a painful sound.

I dont have an estate to inherit like my brother!

Lucy tried her best to stop Jemima from pulling her hair.

My father already told me to get married as soon as I graduate.

Lucy and Jemima stopped moving at the same time as Rita muttered. The two looked at Rita with astonishment.

What? Rita, I thought youd stay in the capital and get a job!

Yes, you wanted to work as a bureaucrat in the palace.

Thats true, but.

Rita blurted out the end of her words. Lucy, who was about to say something more, shut up when she saw her bitter expression.

Lucy already knew that marriage was a means to the aristocracy.

Most of the aristocratic students at the academy marry a suitable partner after graduation. In the first place, there were many cases where they already have a fianc even before they entered the academy.

For them, marriage was not just love, but an alliance between families.

Therefore, it would be difficult for Rita, the daughter of a Northern noble family, to refuse the marriage that was decided against her will.

Well, marriage is supposed to be done with the people chosen by your family.

Rita replied with a womanly tone as if nothing had happened. But the next moment, she looked at Lucys face and hesitated to speak.

But Felix-sunbae is rumored to be like that, too.

Felix-sunbae?

At Ritas significant words, Lucy asked back with her eyes wide open.

Recently, there is a rumor that he is engaged to a princess from a certain kingdom in the Western Continent.

Rita stopped abruptly when she saw Lucys face.

Its all right. Tell me about the rumor, Rita.

There was a rumor saying that he went to the west coast this time to advance his marriage with the princess. But Im not sure!

Looking at Lucys face getting darker, Rita hurriedly added. But Jemima, who was listening to Rita next to her, snorted loudly.

What? I dont believe it! Its all just a rumor!

She even patted Lucy on the back and laughed.

Rita! If you had seen sunbaes face on Knights Night, you would never believe a rumor like that! He is so into Lucy! I saw it!

Because Jemimas voice was so high, Lucy had to hurry up and cover her mouth.

Well, I was surprised to hear that, too. Who knew hed climb up the wall to the third floor?

While Jemima and Rita were increasingly eager to talk about what happened that night, Lucy fell into a deep thought alone.

Felix is the heir to the Duke of Berg, and it was natural for his family to choose his fianc.

So, it was not strange at all if the other person was a princess of any kingdom.

Of course, as Jemima said, it could have been a false rumor. Felix has always been at the center of attention, and rumors always follow him.

For a moment, Lucys mind gradually began to calm down.

Its just a rumor. Felix-sunbae didnt say anything about that at all.

She decided to trust Felix over rumors.

Lucy had already been misled several times by other people's rants. Now she didn't want to make the same mistake again.

Contrary to her firmness, however, the engagement rumor, which she believed was just one of the numerous rumors surrounding Felix, began to spread far in the students' tongues.

In addition, as rumors spread more and more, they even turned into concrete facts.

When Rita told her about it, his fiancé, who was just a princess of the Western Continent, was transformed into a specific figure, the eldest daughter of the Kingdom of Bertha.

The Kingdom of Bertha was a country famous for its art and studies, and was also a place where trade was actively conducted with the Beros Empire. A princess of such a country was certainly a perfect match for the Duke of Berg.

She tried to ignore it, but as she listened to the words inevitably, a beautiful woman was being portrayed in Lucy's head.

She knew how useless and self-destructive it was, but her mind didn't work out as she originally thought. Lucy had to struggle not to listen to her surroundings and to stop imagining things happening in her head.

However, something happened that immediately destroyed those efforts.

The rumored Princess Berta suddenly appeared at the Xenomium Academy.

* * *

Princess Clothill of the Bertha Kingdom was walking slowly along the campus with her servants behind her. While enjoying the colorful campus scenery, she led her maids around the building.

The 16-year-old said she had been staying in Bethel, the capital, for months, with the aim of entering the Xenomium Academy.

Wow! The princess really came to the academy?

Jemima, who was walking along the road on the campus, muttered loudly without realizing it and hurriedly turned to Lucy as she remembered she was next to her.

Well, I guess she really wanted to come to our academy!

Lucy just looked at Princess Clothill without a reply.

The princess was a girl with rich brown hair. A 16-year-old young lady with sparkling eyes full of curiosity that looked very cute.

The princess didnt seem to match Felix at all. Lucy found her too young.

She doesnt look at all old enough to be engaged. Did she really come to the empire because of his engagement with Felix-sunbae?

Thinking about this and that, Lucy was in agony.

Lucy, Lucy!

Lucy came to her senses at the sound of Jemima shaking her shoulders.

Lets go in now.

Lucy took her eyes off Princess Clothill and followed Jemima and Rita to the library.

Lucy knew well that drowning herself in thoughts would only increase her delusions. However, Princess Clothills face, which was shining brightly and kept glittering in front of her eyes.

To shake that face off, Lucy had to devote herself more to organizing the book.

Overshadowing the effort, a group of people appeared in the library after a while. It was Princess Clothill and her servants.

Lucys gaze, which was sitting on the return table, automatically turned to her. The princess seemed to have come to see the library after going around the campus.

She ordered the servants standing behind her to go away and brought only one servant into the library. It seemed to be to avoid disturbing students studying in the library.

The library is very big.

She could hear Princess Clothill speaking in an awkward imperial accent.

The princess and servant had a few more words. Soon the servant strode toward the return table.

Excuse me, is this floor off limits? asked the servant on behalf of the princess.

Its a place where old books are kept, so only students can enter.

Rita, who was next to Lucy, replied.

I see.

The servant told the princess what she had heard. The princess nodded regretfully.

Just as they were about to turn around.

Wait a minute.

Lucy unwittingly rose from her seat and called the princess.

Ill Ill show you around.Sienna

Chapter 78

What did I just say?

Lucy was surprised by her unexpected action. From the side, Jemima and Rita also gave me a bewildered look.

Why all of a sudden?

They looked at her as if they were asking that question.

But Lucy couldnt answer the question. Because she didnt understand what she just did.

What are you going to do?

Lucy asked herself.

Are you going to ask the princess whats her relationship with sunbae? Why dont you just ask Felix-sunbae directly?

Of course, she thought about visiting Felix first and asked him about the engagement rumor.

However, when he came into view, her handful of confidence was blown away by the wind like sand and disappeared.

Not to mention the only words she heard from Felix were not a confession, just a sweet, Please wait.

He did not express his feelings clearly, and they werent even in a formal relationship.

In that situation, she didnt want to give the impression that she was ahead of herself by suddenly asking about the engagement rumor.

However, Lucy was not confident that she would not care about the rumors that were going through her head all day, so she blindly went out to guide the princess.

She slowly opened her mouth to Princess Clothill.

Its true that its a restricted area for outsiders, but if you are accompanied by a custodian, you can enter.

At Lucys explanation, the princess stood with a puzzled look on her face for a moment, and then briefly exchanged conversations in Bertha language with the servant who was standing one step behind her.

Only then did Lucy notice that the princess was not yet familiar with the Imperial language and did not fully understand her words.

It was not until the servant interpreted what Lucy said in Berta that the princess looked back at Lucy with a big smile.

Thank you. Then, please.

The princess thanked her in a clear voice. Despite her young age, she looked polite and dignified.

Jemima smiled secretly next to Lucy and whispered in her ear.

Yes, Lucy! You better face her head-to-head!

From behind, even Rita was seen clenching her fist to cheer her up with a solemn face.

It was as if her friends had caught up with her concern for the princess. Embarrassed, Lucy turned around the return table pretending not to see their cheering.

Then shall we go this way?

Lucy hurried the princess down the stairs.

* * *

The library is beautiful.

Princess Clothill said as she followed Lucy up the stairs. She looked up at the librarys high ceiling with curious eyes, and then lowered her head again to look down at the beautiful hall.

As a princess of a country famous for its art, she could not pass a single sculpture or painting installed in various places.

The Bertha Library is beautiful, too. The ceiling is big and the floor is big like here.

Princess, you should say the ceiling is high and the floor is wide.

A servant who seemed to be from the Beros Empire corrected Princess Clothills awkward sentence. Despite the criticism of her subordinate, the princess just burst into laughter without showing any displeasure.

The princess said to Lucy with a smile.

Im sorry. Im learning the Imperial language now.

Its alright.

For a moment, Lucy realized that the princess was no different from any other girl. In a way, she seemed more humble and easygoing than any other noble student at the academy.

Im having a hard time because imperial language is hard.

Suddenly, Princess Clothil sighed heavily and expressed her difficulty in learning a new language.

I want to do better.

The expression of the princess who spoke as if muttering was gloomy.

As if to prove her desire to speak the imperial language better, the princess talked to Lucy using the imperial language throughout her guidance.

To be honest, Princess Clothills Imperial language skills were ambiguous.

Basic conversation seemed possible without difficulty, but it seemed not enough to enter the Xenomium Academy and take classes.

At this level, it would be difficult for her to fully understand the class unless she makes a lot of effort.

The princess became more and more depressed as the servant continued to criticize her because she kept making grammatical mistakes.

When the servant went away for a while to get something for the thirsty princess, the princess asked Lucy;

Is my imperial language hard to hear?

The princess continued, drooping her eyebrows before Lucy could answer.

I studied hard. really hard.

The princess, who looked mature, showed a weak appearance and confessed her innermost thoughts.

My dad says he doesnt want me to go to Xenomium. He kept telling me to go to the academy in Bertha. But I want to come here. I want to show my dad. I can do it well here. I want my father to believe me.

For a moment, Lucy felt that her situation was similar to her a few years ago.

She recalled her memory of coming to the capital to take the entrance exam despite opposition from his father and mother. The thought of it made the princess look pitiful.

She knows how scary it is to come to a strange place and start everything from scratch.

You can do it.

Lucy spoke in Bertha language. The princess erased her sullen expression and raised her head. She spoke in Bertha to Lucy, unable to hide her excitement.

You speak Bertha

Im still learning, so Im not good at it.

No way! Its great

Lucy smiled.

I have no problem having a basic conversation. In the past, I couldnt even read Berthas letters. There was a time when I almost embarrassed myself in front of people.

Lucy recalled the moment when she had to organize a complete collection of Bertha literature without being able to read the text. Just thinking about that time is making her break out in cold sweat.

Ive been studying hard since then hoping it wont happen again. So even the princess can do it. No, youre already doing well enough.

Lucys words brought a bright smile to Princess Clothills lips. She nodded with a hopeful face, as her dejected appearance was gone.

Yes, I can.

The princess still spoke in an awkward but imposing imperial language.

* * *

Thank you very much, Lucy.

Princess Clothill thanked Lucy after touring the library under her guidance.

Lucy, tell me the name of your family. I really want to thank you.

Naturally, Lucy was embarrassed by the question, the princess probably thought of her as a noble.

Princess, I am not a noble.

The princess looked surprised to hear that she was not a noble. This was because there were only a few academies in most countries where nobles and commoners could go together.

Is that so? Lucy, but I really want to thank you.

Princess, Ill just take your heart. I didnt do anything in particular except guide you to the library.

At Lucys words, the princess nodded with regret. She seemed to realize that it would burden the other person if she continued to return the favor more than this.

Then I hope we can meet here next year as my sunbae.

Princess Clothill expressed her true feelings in Bertha language.

After the princess left the campus with her servant, Lucy was overcome with despondency.

The princess was a good person. She was also an ordinary girl who was working hard for her dream.

Lucy was ashamed to approach her with ulterior motives rather than pure goodwill.

How disappointed would the princess be if she knew what she was doubting her while she was guiding her?

Besides, she discovered nothing after doing such a thing.

After all, it was in place.

Lucy went to the backyard of the library, feeling guilty. She felt like she was about to cry. She didn't want anyone to see her like this.

Lucy!

Then she heard footsteps running from behind, then someone grabbed her arm. It was Felix who followed her to the backyard.

Why did I have to run into you at a time like this?

What are you doing here?

Felix, who asked, looked at Lucy with a perplexed face.

Lucy realized a little late that something hot was coming out of her eyes. The tears that burst without knowing the reason why flowed nonstop.

Lucy hurriedly covered her face with her hand.

Are you serious, Lucy Keenan?

I can't believe I'm crying in front of sunbae. This is the worst!

Then Lucy's face touched a hard chest. At the same time, she felt the strength of his both arms holding her tightly.

What's wrong? Why are you crying?

She heard Felix's bewildered voice in her ear. He was asking Lucy in a really lost voice.

Did I do something wrong? What is it?

But it didn't do anything to stop Lucy's tears.

Why does his voice make me cry more?

Lucy couldn't stop crying even though she knew how stupid she looked.

Sunbae Are you engaged?

The question that she hesitated to ask came out of the worst situation. Lucy wanted to cover her mouth, but her emotions that burst at once could not be stopped, it kept leaking like tears.

Did you go to the west coast because of your engagement?

What are you talking about?

Felix asked back, letting go of Lucy, who he was holding tightly in his arms. Instead, he wrapped his hands around Lucys cheek.

Where did you hear all that crap? Damn it, I shouldnt have agreed in the first place.

He said with a look of regret.

I have nothing to do with the princess, Ive never even met her!Sienna

Chapter 79

Felix put strength in his hand, wrapped around Lucys cheek. After saying his words at once, his shoulders shook slowly as if he was catching his breath.

After a while he made eye contact with her and spoke in a calmer voice.

Im sorry. Its my fault.

Now he looked as tearful as Lucy.

I didnt know until recently that there was a rumor going around. I was going to take care of it before it got into your ear I was too complacent.

His thumb slowly swept under Lucys eyes.

I should have told you beforehand.

Lucys eyes trembled as the spot his fingers had swept through became hot. Seeing it, Felix slowly pulled her into his arms, thinking she was about to burst into tears again.

Now he began to pat her back gently with his big hands.

Lucy gradually calmed down at the childs soothing touch. Tears that had flowed endlessly also stopped before she knew it.

Trust me, please.

His low voice sank on top of Lucys head.

I trust you.

She wanted to answer like that, but no voice came out of her wet throat.

Lucy breathed slowly and tried to stop crying completely. Felix's hand continued to gently sweep her back, as if to help her.

As time went by, Lucy couldn't raise her head. Even if she didn't see it she knows how messed up her tear-soaked face would be.

It wasn't anyone else, she cried in Felix's arms. She felt relieved after crying.

When Lucy's sniffles died down, Felix relaxed his arms. As she was released from his warm arms, a cold wind soon wrapped around Lucy's body.

Lucy, fully awake by the cold air, hurriedly stood with her back facing Felix. Then she hurriedly wiped off her wet face with her sleeve.

Behind her back, Felix waited quietly.

Suddenly crying and asking if he's engaged. He must have been very confused.

I'm sorry, I suddenly cried.

Unable to look back at him, Lucy said in a crawling voice.

You can cry. Felix replied.

You can be angry. You can say anything, you can ask questions.

His words came clear through the rustling leaves in the wind.

You can do whatever you want to do to me.

His voice soothing Lucy, was infinitely sweet. Lucy stopped wiping her face and stood still.

If you say that, I might really do anything.

Lucy said quietly to herself.

Whining and being stubborn. If it's related to you, I keep becoming a childish person.

The two stood like that for some time. Lucy is waiting for her red eyes to return to normal and Felix is waiting for her to collect herself.

And when Lucy finally looked back at Felix, he spoke naturally, ignoring Lucy's embarrassed expression.

Now, lets get out of here.

Lucy followed him out of the backyard.

She was worried that other people might notice her red eyes, but the students passing by the library didnt care about Lucy. Everyone seemed busy going their own way.

Only one of them caught Lucys attention for her suspicious behavior.

Princess Clothill, who already said goodbye, returned in front of the library and was looking around the campus holding a bouquet of flowers that she didnt see earlier.

Soon the princess found Lucy and ran at once waving her hand.

Lucy!

She stood before Lucy, calling her name in a friendly tone.

I went to the library to find Lucy but they said you werent there so I kept looking for you.

Do you have anything to say to me?

I came back to give you this. Here you go.

Princess Clothill held out the flower to Lucy.

If you dont want me to return the favor, Ill just give you this.

A fragrant smell came to Lucys nose. She looked down at the flowers she had received with a puzzled expression and asked.

To me?

Yes!

The princess replied cheerfully.

Uh Thank you.

The princess replied with a pleased smile to Lucy.

Then its really time to say goodbye!

The princess greeted Lucy with a cheerful voice. She then bowed her head lightly as if she had no interest in Felix, who was standing next to Lucy, and returned to the attendants who were waiting for her.

Who is that?

Felix, who alternately looked at Lucys flower and the princess moving away, asked. Lucy replied, unable to take her eyes off the princesss back.

Someone I want to see as a junior next year.

A relieved smile hung on her face as if she never cried.

* * *

The golden season.

Golden leaves roll around whenever the wind blows and covers the whole campus. The leaves fell like raindrops from the trees that were gradually getting bare.

Lucy looked out of the window at the beautiful sight and held her chin in one hand. There was a smile that no one could see around her mouth hidden in the palm of her hand.

Lucy, show me your assignment!

Suddenly a hand invaded her desk. Colin snatched Lucys notebook with a quick hand gesture.

It was a task they had plenty of time preparing, what did he do during that time? Colin prepared to copy Lucys assignment in a cheeky way,

Ah, yes.

Lucy, who would normally take away her notebook with a lot of nagging, replied calmly. Then she turned her attention out of the window again, distracting Colin.

Colins expression as he opened her notebook became strange.

Youre weird these days

He rose from his seat with a serious look on his face and approached Lucy. Then he touched her forehead with his palm.

You dont have a fever. Thats weird.

What in the world?

You rarely get angry these days. You say yes no matter what I say, and you keep smiling even in class. Did you really go crazy after studying?

It may have been half a joke, but Colin took Lucys temperature once again, as he suddenly thought there was a possibility.

Is it really like that?

Whats wrong with you?

When Colin measured her temperature again, crushing her both cheeks, Lucy finally uttered a word of dissatisfaction. Only then did Colin nod in satisfaction.

Yes, this is Lucy Keenan.

Lucy did not bother arguing with him, she punched his hand and began to pack her bag.

We still have a lot of time before the next class.

We are going to make a collection of writings at the library. We decided to have a meeting with the club members in another classroom, so I have to go.

In the season of reading, poetic concepts usually come to mind. Even people who have never written poetry are jotting down verses for nothing.

The book club has been publishing a collection of poems and short novels by the academy students every year.

Colins expression quickly brightened when he heard Lucy.

I want to go too!

He, whose hobby is writing poetry, could not have missed such a good opportunity.

Will you stop following me? Youre not even a member of the book club.

I dont want to be a slave to the library like you

Colin answered, shaking his head.

He gladly helped the book club whenever new books came, but he said he doesnt want to stay in the library and work every day.

With Colin behind her saying he would follow her, Lucy headed to the classroom where the meeting would take place.

When she opened the door and entered, many members were already gathered. Adrian and Jemima, Rita. First-year members, including Noel. And Alan Gross, a third grader who rarely showed up.

Alan wriggled his eyebrow at Lucy once, then frowned openly when he saw Colin following her. He doesn't like Colin, who would normally walk in and out of the library like it's his own house.

The other members, however, looked bright.

Hello! Colin Connor, the leading poet at the Academy of Xenomium, is here!

Welcome, Colin!

In the meantime, the atmosphere was welcoming to Colin, who was willing to step out whenever the library needed help. Some first-year students even took out a chair for him.

Sensing a favorable atmosphere for Colin, Alan was forced to sit quietly.

The anthology meeting began with Adrian's initiative.

This time, the meeting proceeded with each person giving their opinions on what articles to publish and how to recruit a writer.

There was quite a peaceful and calm atmosphere, except for Alan Gross who kept muttering dissatisfaction every time Colin stepped in and argued his opinion.

But then the door suddenly burst open.

And it was none other than Felix who appeared at the door. Everyone in the classroom looked at him.

What's up, Felix?

Adrian, who was slowly getting ready to wrap up the meeting, asked with a quizzical look.

Instead of answering, Felix strode into the classroom and closed the door.

Having confused all the members with his sudden appearance, he said absurd things once again with a calm face.

I'm here to join the book club. Sienna

Chapter 80

It was the first time he liked someone, so Felix realized belatedly that he was pathetic and clumsy in every way.

Love, curiosity, jealousy, misunderstanding.

In this process, he only faithfully followed his feelings. Without considering what the other persons situation is and how ones trivial behavior will affect the other person with relatively low social status.

Only when his father learned of Lucys existence did he realize how dangerous and careless it was.

At that moment, his spine literally cooled down.

Far from protecting Lucy, it was as if he had rather trapped her.

Why was he so hasty? Why couldnt he settle the situation calmly?

However, when he found Lucy and her father in one space, his head went blank and nothing came to mind. He just thought he should keep Lucy away from my father.

It was the worst birthday ever.

Realizing the terrible fact that just liking someone can bring misfortune to that person.

He agonized over and over again.

Cant I get closer to Lucy?

Should I really not like her?

No, that was impossible.

Not liking Lucy couldnt be his choice now.

So, he brought up another option that he had never considered in his life.

To be a duke of great power that even his father could not wield.

To rise above his father and jump over a position where no one can dare disobey his words.

Only then will he be able to take care of his loved ones by his side.

At that time, Felix firmly vowed not to give up his life with Lucy no matter who opposes it.

So, he followed his fathers orders and began to learn the new businesses of his family that he had been neglecting.

It was the first step to protect Lucy.

One thing that complicated him was the anxiety that constantly came to him.

Will Lucy really wait until he confesses? Can he hold her back with just the word to wait?

When he saw the tears in Lucys eyes a few days ago, he strongly felt that he should not leave it as it is.

He wants to stay by her side so that she wont feel anxious again due to false rumors about him, but it was difficult for other students to draw attention like last time. In a situation where he couldnt do this or that, he thought and thought, Is there no other way?

Then he suddenly remembered.

A very natural excuse to be with her.

* * *

You want to join the book club?

Adrians eyebrows rose for a moment and then came down again.

Felix often confused his brother with his sudden and incomprehensible behavior. But now Adrians expression was more confused than ever.

You know were graduating in two months, right?

Adrian reminded him of one fact that Felix didnt care at all.

Now, what are you going to do? And the application period was at the beginning of the semester. I dont have any plans to fill the staff right now.

At his brothers cold refusal, Felix stood and rolled his eyes around for a moment.

Was there a recruitment period?

In fact, He didnt expect that he wouldnt be able to join, but he couldnt think of anything to say because he came randomly.

While thinking about why he should join the book club with his hands in his pockets, he found Lucy, who, like other members, was looking at him with a puzzled look.

Her face suddenly raised his will to cheer up more. He responded to Adrian in a confident manner.

Why dont you fill it up? Every time I go to the library, your members are struggling. Isnt it good for the book club to have another person to help?

He looked around the rest of the members with a look of Am I wrong? Then some members nodded strongly behind Adrians back.

Then Adrian opened his mouth with a troubled expression.

In principle, there is a separate recruitment period set by the academy. Its been a long time since that period has ended, so I cant accept new people, Felix. Ive already submitted the list.

It was the first time I knew all about it. When Adrian mentioned the school rules Felix couldnt refute anymore.

But he cant back down like this.

In his troubled vision, he noticed an unexpected person who he had not noticed before because he was only paying attention to Lucy.

Wait, hes not in the book club either.

He pointed to Colin Connor, who was watching the situation with interest next to Lucy.

Im an honorary member!

Before Adrian could answer, Colin came forward and tapped his chest.

So, I was given the opportunity to participate in the conference.

Only then did Felix approach the members with a face that he had found an excuse. Then he took a chair out of a desk and declared it at will.

Then Ill be an honorary member.

Unexpectedly, Adrian didnt say much. In fact, he looked like he had given up on his brother.

Yes, do as you please. When did you listen to me?

Even if he didn't say it out loud, Adrian's inner thoughts seemed to be heard in their ears. Instead of kicking Felix out, Adrian ended the situation by saying this.

Come on, everybody, ignore my brother. Let's finish what we were talking about and wrap up the meeting.

Adrian changed the subject naturally.

However, Lucy still had a stunned expression, and the members kept glancing at Felix, conscious of his presence.

In particular, a schoolgirl who appeared to be friends of Noel Roman and Lucy managed to hold back her laughter, smirking as if the wind were blowing.

Actually, it has become difficult to find manuscripts to be published in the literature since last year.

Adrian led the meeting again.

I guess no one writes much these days. Even if I put out an announcement for collecting manuscripts, there weren't many writings that came in. If anyone has a good idea, I want you to give me your opinion.

Colin raised his hand as soon as Adrian's words were finished.

I can offer you as many manuscripts as you want.

That's not a solution.

Colin lowered his hand with a sullen face.

This time Lucy raised her hand.

Why don't we pay for the manuscript? Of course, once we start paying for the manuscript, we'll have to keep paying for it every time we make a collection. In the meantime, making a collection of books by receiving students' texts for free can be a challenge, but I think it will be possible with the budget of the library department.

Felix tried to come up with a consensus, but another student came forward first. It was fellow student Alan Gross.

But it's just a penny. There's no one in this academy who would write poetry for such a small sum.

It was an oddly sarcastic tone. Felix's eyebrows rose in a flash.

Where the hell does this dog come from?

Whew! Alan is always so negative

Lucys short-haired friend muttered openly.

But its a good idea to pay for the manuscript! Even if its not necessarily money. Then therell be a lot more manuscripts coming in!

Where are you going to get the payment for that?

There were opinions that contradicted the opinions, and there were opinions that contradicted those opinions. The classroom became noisy in an instant.

Strangely enough, he could see a person in the library clouding the water.

Most of the students in the book club seemed to have a bad feeling about that boy, Alan Gross.

He wasnt very close to Alan, so he never talked to him, but Felix knew at a glance. He is a natural born pessimistic and full of irritation.

In addition, he ignored what his juniors said and accepted Adrians words without saying anything.

It was a typical type of sycophant who was strong to the weak and weak to the strong.

All right, everybody, stop it.

Adrian gently restrained the members. The students, who were making a lot of noise by shooting back at their opponents, calmed down. Even Alan Gross quietly shut up.

As if he had already seen this scene many times, Adrian arranged the situation with a bored face.

A few years ago, I heard that there were so many manuscripts that it took a considerable amount of time to sort them out. As time goes by, the number of people writing poems and novels seems to be decreasing, and as a result, it seems that it is becoming more and more difficult to get manuscripts. If you keep doing this, we might not be able to publish an anthology at all.

Adrian pondered for a moment and said,

I agree with Jemima about Lucys opinion. Even if its not necessarily money, I think it would be good if there was another reward.

The atmosphere in the classroom was so cold. Adrian said that they would discuss it again later and ended the meeting in a hurry. He seemed to want to keep Alan and the other members apart quickly.

At the end of the meeting, the members crowded out of their seats. In the cluttered gap, Lucy sent Felix an eye saying, See me for a second.

It was what he was hoping for. He followed Lucy carefully so that it wouldn't be too obvious.

Of course, there was one thing left to do before that.

Felix left the classroom and stopped by the door for a moment, and then popped out one foot at the right moment. As expected, something came clung to his toes.

Alan tripped over Felix's feet and huddled, but eventually fell down with a loud noise on the floor.

Oh, my mistake.

Felix said sarcastically, looking at him who fell. Sienna