

For Your Failed Unrequited Love

#Chapter 81 - Read For Your Failed Unrequited Love Chapter 81

Chapter 81

Alan looked up with a red face.

He looked down again when he realized that the owner of the foot was Felix. Only a weak snort came out of his nose.

The book club members, who were standing behind them, found Alan lying on his face, turned their head and laughed secretly.

sorry.

Alan, embarrassed by Felix's insincere apology, got up and ruffled his clothes, pretending it was nothing.

Whenever he gave a pint cup openly in front of his juniors, he was quiet without saying anything. Then he left the hallway as if nothing happened. But the tips of his ears, which disappeared around the corner, were still only red.

It is revenge for trying to discourage Lucy.

Felix smiled reassuringly as he looked at the spot where Alan had disappeared in a hurry.

Then, Lucy grabbed him secretly and dragged him away. Felix was helplessly dragged by her hands like a fluttering paper doll.

Lucy took him into the next empty classroom.

Does he always complain that much? I think it's especially true when it comes to you.

As soon as the door closed, Felix asked. Lucy shrugged her shoulders, and replied.

That sunbae is like that to all his juniors. So, you don't have to worry about it in the future.

She said, alluding to Felix's tripping Allen's foot. Felix nodded his head.

Okay, I won't do that again.

But despite his docile reply, Lucy looked at him with a suspicious look.

But really? Do you really want to join the book club?

Dont worry. I will never do anything that will stand out.

Ill just watch you by your side.

He answered evasively, concealing his last words.

Again, Lucy did not seem to believe it. She seemed to have vaguely guessed that she was the reason hes joining the book club.

Maybe the other people will think Im doing this because of Adrian? Adrian is so busy. So, theyll think Im here to help him.

He added hastily, fearing that Lucy would resolutely tell him not to come.

I wont talk to you if you want. I wont even look at you.

I cant say for sure though.

At Felixs hasty promise, Lucy shook her head.

There is no need for that.

Right?

Felixs expression quickly brightened.

There isnt even a need for that? Okay, then, lets do well in the library activities together.

He brazenly reached out his hand for a handshake. Lucy smirked and held his hand but her voice was still cold.

You didnt forget what Adrian said, did you? Youre not a member of the book club yet. You forced your way to attend todays meeting.

One way or another, it didnt matter to Felix. His purpose was simply to get as much time as possible with Lucy.

Well, being an honorary member isnt bad.

He replied with a playful smile.

Lucy!

Just then, Colins voice was heard outside the door. He seemed to be wandering the hallways looking for Lucy.

I have my next class.

Yeah, go ahead.

Just in case, Felix had Lucy get out of the classroom first. If someone sees them together, he never knows what kind of rumors they will spread.

He waited for time to pass before leaving the classroom. But someone was standing outside and when he came out, he popped his face out. It was Noel.

He yawned with his mouth wide open before approaching him.

I had some expectations when I saw what you were doing at the botanical garden, but honestly, I didnt know that sunbae would do it this far.

Felix raised the corner of his eyes in a stealthy manner.

This guy has always had a mean side to him. Furthermore, he was the one who made him run to the girls dormitory in the middle of the night with a raw lie that he had given Lucy a knights flower.

He even gave him a few blows over it, but he looked so confident talking to him without being intimidated at all.

How serious are you with Lucy-sunbae? Lets hear it.

He appeared out of the blue, acting like a member of Lucys family and asked Felix questions. It was so absurd.

Why do you care?

Actually, Im still not sure whether I should allow this meeting or not.

So, what are you?

Lucy-sunbae is a senior that I really cherish. If my brother had been sane, he would have actively supported me.

Noel crossed his arms as if he had the right to meddle, and uttered absurd remarks.

Im doing this because I want Lucy-sunbae to do well.

So, you want to find her a suitable groom yourself?

At Felix's words, Noel was surprised for the first time and opened his mouth.

No way ! Are you thinking about marrying Lucy-sunbae?

Yes, we already have three kids in my head. ()

Instead of answering like that, Felix glared at Noel fiercely. He seemed to know what he was trying to say. It was something Felix had been thinking about for a long time too.

I also want Lucy to marry into a decent family and live comfortably, but her sunbae's family is a bit isn't it too much, I can clearly see how much Lucy will be going through.

Noel glared at him and added.

But I want sunbae to be wise, and express herself well.

As he spoke, he quickly raised his feet, hoping to avoid Felix's sudden kick. But nothing flew. Felix was just staring at Noel with a brooding look.

What Noel said was presumptuous but he has a point. What I didn't notice. What he couldn't express. Even Felix acknowledged it.

I know even if you don't tell me.

you know? That's a relief.

When Felix, who had thought he would be very angry, readily admitted, Noel, who had been taking a defensive stance in advance, tilted his head.

Well, since sunbae is aware of it, I won't say anything anymore. I'm sure you two will take care of it.

What are you talking about when you've been meddling all this time?

Felix said with an annoyed face as he recalled what happened at the botanical garden and on Knight's Night.

It was because the two of them were so frustrating. Well, do well on your own in the future.

After saying those words, Noel left the place as if there was nothing more to say.

You just turn inside out and go away.

Felix muttered with a still dissatisfied expression while looking at his back.

* * *

The conversation with Noel somehow complicated Felix's mind. He wanted to go back to the dormitory and rest without thinking.

But when he returned to the room, Adrian was sitting on the couch waiting for him like another father-in-law.

Felix, can I talk to you for a second?

He was well aware of Adrian's personality. Once he started nagging, he would never let go until he's tired, so Felix already felt dizzy.

Come on, sit down.

Adrian tapped the seat next to him. He spoke softly, but somehow it felt like the calm before the storm.

Felix sat down beside him, and Adrian spoke his words without hesitation.

Would you like to explain what happened earlier?

As expected, he did not seem to have any intention of letting go of Felix's reckless intrusion into the library earlier.

What are you thinking of suddenly joining the book club?

To help you.

Felix gave the answer he had prepared in advance, but his seed didn't work.

After staying still for 2 and a half years, you suddenly thought you should help me?

I know. It's a little late, isn't it?

Felix chuckled. It was an attempt to get over it roughly, but Adrian looked uneasy.

To try to persuade him a little bit, Felix brought up what he saw at the meeting.

I went there today because I thought you needed my help. Alan Gross or something, that bastard is completely obscuring the mood of the book club.

At those words, Adrian put away the questionable expression he was making towards Felix and sighed. Adrian didn't show any signs of it, but he seemed to be quite troubled by Alan Gross. Without missing this moment, Felix quickly applied for the job.

Just put me in the library, I can solve it all at once.

How would you do that?

Ill just scare him a little bit enough for him to be quiet.

Felix clenched his fists and grinned. As expected, Adrians expression was unpredictable.

Quit it. Thats not how conflicts are resolved.

It was like Adrian. His patience was so great that Felix had hardly ever seen him annoyed in his life.

He would rather kneel and pray for days like a biblical saint than use violence to make Alan Gross a positive human being.

Are you really not going to tell me? Why do you want to join the book club?

It seemed difficult to avoid his interrogation completely. This time Adrian was also poised to keep asking until Felix gave a satisfactory answer.

But that doesnt mean he can talk about Lucy.

Felix rolled his head to come up with another plausible reason. But then, Adrian spoke up first.

Felix, Im just going to ask you outright.

His expression looked a little troubled and at times serious. He gave up his questioning attitude and asked with hesitation.

Are you Are you trying to copy me?Sienna

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Felix paused for a moment. It was because he did not understand Adrians question well.

I am trying to copy you? What do you mean?

He shook his head and pondered.

Adrian, who was looking at his older brother with a serious face, suddenly burst into laughter. Felix looked at him with puzzled eyes at the sudden change of attitude.

Im joking, Felix.

Adrian quickly returned to his usual calm face.

We are twins. I said this because people cant tell the difference between us, and lately it seems we are getting more and more the same. We got the same score in the exam and got first place at the same time. If you even join the book club, we might really look like one person.

No way.

Felix smirked. He cant believe that his younger brother, who was always scolding him whenever he said something useless, would make such a foolish joke.

Even if I act like you, I am me. you are you No matter how similar we are, we cant be exactly the same.

Felix gave a serious answer without realizing it.

is it.

Adrian turned his eyes into the air and mumbled back.

Well, if we were really the same on the inside, we wouldnt be twins. We would be born as a perfect one in the first place.

What do you mean?

Nothing.

Adrian answered quietly, picking up the teacup on the table. Felix tried to examine Adrians face, as he felt his voice was somehow strange, but his expression hidden behind the teacup could not be seen.

* * *

Adrian, who he had been together in his mothers womb, was the closest to Felix.

But, Felix sometimes couldnt fully understand him.

For the first time, Felix thought he didnt know Adrian in all aspects.

After much thought, he decided not to join the book club. Hell just have to find another way to meet Lucy.

The biggest reason was because of Adrian. Although he said it was a joke, his face, which looked somewhat bitter, kept bothering him.

Instead, Felix decided to attend the book club meeting one last time. He thought Lucy would be puzzled if he didnt show up suddenly after the riot. And he was worried that Alan Gross might disagree with her again.

But that was a bit of his concern. This is because, in this meeting, Mr. Peter, who is in charge of literature, will also attend.

After Alans disagreement about paying for the manuscript, Lucy seemed to have come up with a different method.

It was to give literary points only to students whose writings were published in the literary collection.

Good idea!

Peter actively accepted the proposal and set out to consider it. He even went so far as to argue that a Xenomium Literary Award should be created.

I dont know why Xenomium doesnt have the on-campus literary award that all other academies have! There are singing and dance competitions!

He was genuinely upset and saddened. He even secretly asked the book club staff if they would like to host a literary award altogether, Adrian struggled to change his mind.

In a situation where there is still a lot of work to be done, the book club staff may get hit and die if they take on such things.

After persuading Peter, who could hardly let go of his obsession with literary awards, it was concluded that he would pick the best manuscript for him. And he decided to give the student double literary points, as well as the privilege of writing on the first page of the book.

Giving extra points seemed like a good idea. Academy students, who are usually concerned about grades, might sneer at the manuscript fee, but the literary points could not be overlooked.

Thankfully, the meeting ended earlier than expected. All the members sitting around the table seemed to have a good expression on their faces. Lucy, who was sitting opposite Felix, had a good expression as well.

Felix reached out and tapped her foot slightly. He secretly wanted to send a glance to say that he did well. But Lucy didnt even look at him, perhaps because he didnt notice his signal.

Felix touched Lucys foot once. Still, she didnt respond.

sunbae.

At that moment, Noel, who was sitting next to Lucy, raised an eyebrow and called out to him.

Thats my foot.

The other members, who did not know what he meant, looked at Noel to see. At the same time, Felixs face, looking at Noel, began to contort unpleasantly.

Goosebumps sprang up all over his body.

It seemed to be the same with Noel. He made the same creepy expression as Felix and frowned. Felix groaned.

Why are you stretching your feet all the way here?

Ah, its you who keeps getting close to me, sunbae!

Their grumbling conversation alternated on the table. Their quarrel continued until Adrian noticed.

* * *

A few days later, Felix heard from Lucy that there had been enough manuscripts to fill an entire anthology. And he also found out who the owner of the manuscript that Mr. Peter thought it was the best. It was Colin Connor.

It wasnt surprising. After the Literary Night, Colins recitation of his own poem became very famous, it was widely known that many people were moved by it.

Lucy seemed very happy when his best friends poem appeared on the front page of the book of literature. Felix felt good too. If Lucy feels good, he feels good too.

That evening, close to closing time, Felix headed to the library. Now that the book-making was slowly coming to an end, it seemed that Lucy wouldnt be too busy either.

Students who had finished their studies were leaving the library. By now, the students of the library must have finished their work by organizing the remaining returned books.

However, when he reached the entrance to the library, an unusually loud noise was heard coming from inside.

It was Alan Grosss irritating voice.

But Adrian! It goes without saying that the first page of a literary book begins with a poem by a third-year book club manager. That was a rule that our book club has followed for a long time!

Yeah, but thats just a custom. Now I think we need to break it down.

Adrians calm voice followed Alans words. He was calmly persuading the excited Alan with a polite but cool tone.

Felix stood in front of the door and looked inside. Besides Alan and Adrian, other book club members were standing together.

Turns out, Alan Gross was complaining.

The original order of the poems is said to be third year, Second year, then first year. However, in this collection of literature, Colins poems, chosen by Mr. Peter, come to the fore.

Alan seemed very dissatisfied with this. His pride must have been hurt by the fact that Colins poems, who was not even a member of the book club, took up more pages than those of the members.

He continued to argue that the poem of Adrian, the third year book manager, should be on the front page as before.

Then he turned to Lucy and Colin, who were watching silently.

Honestly, its strange!

He said looking at them both.

It was Keenan who suggested giving extra points on literature for their manuscript, but the person who was chosen for the best manuscript was also her best friend?

Alan was just trying to prove his point, this time by attacking Lucy and Colin.

Didnt Lucy Keenan expect this to happen, so she brought up the literary points? To be honest, anyone could have expected Colin Conner to be the best writer!

Lucy responded to him with an absurd face.

Sunbae! It wasn't me who picked Colins poem as the best piece of writing, it was Mr. Peter!

Lucys friend Jemima also stepped forward with an indignant expression.

You're being unreasonable! Is the order of the poem really such a big deal?

Following Jemimas words, this time, the other members of the book club also added a word. They all looked at Alan with tired eyes.

The library became noisy. Alan didn't listen to anyone and was busy pouring out his grievances.

stop!

Adrians voice was heard trying to stop them. But the library was full of loud voices of quarreling with each other, his words didn't reach them at all.

I didn't like it from the start! You've been ignoring your sunbaes opinions and acting solely on your own!

That's not what sunbae should say! Who is it that picks only on his juniors and bullies them every time?

That time when the commotion showed no sign of subside.

Clang!

A vase from nowhere hit the wall and shattered. The students shrieked at the fragments of the vase scattered all over the place.

Everyone turned their heads in the direction the vase flew in. Adrian stood there with a cold face.

There was a deathly silence in the library. No one dared to speak up.

I told you to stop.

A cold voice that had never been heard came out of Adrians mouth. Sienna

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Chapter 83

Felix, who was watching the scene from outside the door, took a deep breath. The sharp sound of the vase breaking against the wall still seemed to echo in his ears.

Is that the Adrian.. I know?

He blinked his eyes as if his vision was blurry. However, the person who was standing still with a cold expression was really his twin brother.

Like Felix, the other book club members stood there, with a slightly surprised expression on their faces.

They looked more shocked than ever. No one seemed to be able to speak or move first.

Time went by in silence.

Adrian's expression, which had only been as cold as ice, gradually loosened. He let out a long sigh and ran his hand over his face.

Moments later, the anger was completely gone from his face, which was revealed behind the palm of his hand. Instead, the usual gentle atmosphere resurfaced.

Adrian finally opened his mouth to the members who were standing looking at him with a bewildered expression.

sorry. Were you all surprised?

His voice was terribly calm.

It's because you didn't listen to me.

He spoke patiently, adding:

Leave the vase alone. I will clean it up.

I, I'll help you!

Noel came to his senses and followed Adrian as he went to collect the cleaning tools. As soon as Adrian disappeared towards the warehouse, Colin frowned and turned to Alan Gross.

Sunbae, you are so amazing! To make that gentle Adrian sunbae throw a vase!

What? Are you saying this is my fault?

Alan responded to Colin, contorting his face likewise. The library was in danger of becoming noisy again.

Everyone, stop!

Lucy, who was quietly looking at Adrians back, shouted.

Thats enough. Allen-sunbae, you are free to be dissatisfied with this collection of literature, but please dont make any useless speculation. If you have something to say, go directly to Mr. Peter, who made the decision. Or can I deliver it for you?

At Lucys words, Alan bit his lips. At a time where Adrian was so angry, he thought that if Mr. Peter intervenes, he might end up in trouble.

He looked at the book club members who pushed him with a stern expression and left the library. He ran into Felix, who was standing in front of the door, he flinched and ran away.

Moments later, Adrian and Noel returned with broomsticks and started sweeping the shattered vase. In the awkward atmosphere, the rest of the members also wandered around and pretended to help.

Felix wondered if he should go in and check Adrians condition, but he soon gave up.

He probably didnt want to show himself somehow getting out of control. This time, Felix thought it wasnt a time to intervene.

Fortunately, as time passed, the book club members began to calm down and understand Adrians behavior.

Still, you didnt throw it in his face! If it were me, I would have hit him in the face!

Leaving behind Colins sparrow-like chatter, Felix turned away.

* * *

As expected, when Adrian returned to his room, he didnt reveal anything about what had happened in the library.

Felix also did not say that he had gone to the library and had seen such a sight. In fact, as time went by, he wondered if it was necessary.

Even if Adrian was a model student representing the academy, he too was only a person. Hes also just about to step on the borders of adults.

His patience was not infinite. When he thought it might have happened at least once, Felix just felt sorry for Adrian.

And Felix didn't seem to be the only one worried about Adrian.

The next day, Lucy quietly approached Felix, who was passing by the hallway, and asked:

Adrian-sunbae, is he okay today?

She hesitated and added her explanation.

There was a bit of an argument at the library yesterday. Adrian-sunbae didn't seem to be in a good mood when he was stopping us.

Well.. I didn't notice anything special.

Lucy nodded her head in response to Felix's answer.

There were only the two of them in her hallway, but she was in a hurry to leave, fearing she would be caught with him.

There, wait!

At that moment, a loud voice resounded in the hallway. Felix and Lucy turned their heads at the same time.

At the end of the hallway, an old man with sparse gray hair stood with a grim expression. It was Mr. Arkel, the history teacher.

Felix and Lucy's expressions hardened at once.

Being caught in Arkel's attention, even by chance, was a bad omen. That cranky teacher would usually call his students and give them humiliation or ridicule them for their low grades.

There were not a few people who were taken into his office and came out in tears.

I guess he's planning to scold me.

Suddenly, Lucy spoke as if muttering. When Felix turned to her, her complexion was unusually dark. Her body stiffened like a mannequin doll.

I missed two questions on the history test this midterm.

As if to prove Lucys words, Arkel was staring fiercely at their side with his bulging eyes. Lucy closed her eyes as if she thought she was going to be called to his office.

But then

Berg!

It was Felix that Arkel called out with a terrifying expression. He flapped his hand at Felix. He gestured for him to come closer.

You go now.

Felix said to Lucy. It meant that she should leave before she gets caught up in it.

Keenon!

However, before Lucy could even leave, Arkels scream-like shout flew in again.

As Lucy turned around, twisting her eyebrows, Arkel raised his hand just as before. Then he slowly opened the door to his office as if asking to come inside.

It was an unwelcome invitation.

As Lucy and Felix stared blankly at him, Arkel opened his eyes wide. He looked like he was thinking why they were hesitating to come.

Like cows being led to the slaughterhouse, Lucy and Felix slowly made their way towards Arkels office.

As they stood in front of him, they could see a glimpse of Arkels office through the open door.

A desk, chair, and bookshelf full of documents. It looked no different from other teachers offices, but because the owner was Arkel, a dark and evil energy seemed to be flowing out.

Arkel immediately pushed Felix and Lucy into the office. He looked like a jailer pushing prisoners into a cage.

Arkels office seemed to be a three-dimensional representation of a man.

A clean, shiny hardwood floor with no dust and no stains on the wallpaper. A neatly organized desk.

Even the books on the bookshelf were not simply classified according to their type, but were neatly arranged based on their size and shape.

Felix got tired of looking at the wall where strange standards were visible, he quickly turned his head away.

However, in the place where the eyes were turned, there was a more terrifying scene than anything else, and it was the students assignments that Arkel had been grading.

Almost all of the assignments were marked with an X in red ink without mercy. It was an eerie sight indeed.

Arkel came in after closing the door and looked at Felix and Lucy with his eyes flashing. He had dark shadows under his eyes like a man who had not slept well at night. Perhaps because of that, he seemed more sensitive and grumpier.

What did you call

The moment Felix opened his mouth to ask a question, Arkel put his finger to his lips and made a shh! sound.

He glanced around the room with his eyes twinkling and spoke quietly in a low voice.

listen carefully. this sound .

Felix and Lucy held their breath without making a sound at his serious expression. They listened to the sounds around them, wondering what they were trying to listen to.

After a while, a strange sound started to be heard from somewhere.

Isnt that the sound of a cat?

Felix tilted his head at the strange cry coming from somewhere and spoke.

Yes. Thats right! I couldnt sleep all night because of that noise!

All of a sudden, Arkel screamed and shouted.

The very sound of a childs whining was coming from outside the open window. Arkel, who threw an annoyed look toward the window, immediately said to Felix.

You have to take care of that demon!

Suddenly, Arkel pointed his finger at the window and made an absurd request.

Take care of it?

Literally! Kick him out, catch him, take him away, its up to you!

Arkel recklessly gave the order, and Felix, reluctantly, walked to the window.

I Wouldn't it be better to just call the janitor?

Lucy hurriedly grabbed Felix's hem and said to Arkel.

This is the third floor. What can Felix-sunbae do?

It's okay because there's a roof underneath!

Arkel shouted with a brazen face. At those words, Lucy, with an uneasy expression, stuck her head out through the window.

Felix also stood next to her and looked down. Then, on a really narrow two-story roof, he could see enough space for a person to step on.

Just then, another cat crowing was heard from under the window. At once, Arkel's expression changed and urged Felix again.

What's so scary about this height! You're still young, so falling from here won't kill you! But the old me might really die if I can't sleep tonightSienna

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Chapter 84

When Arkel screamed, Felix had no choice but to jump onto the window sill. He thought it would be best to get the cat and get out of this office quickly.

But he felt something pulling the hem of his clothes from behind. Looking back, Lucy looked terrified and was holding the hem of his jacket.

Are you really going to jump again?

Lucy's eyes, asking with a panicked face, shook.

Don't worry. I won't get hurt.

Felix answered confidently. He was fine when he jumped out of the girls dormitory before.

Even though she remembered the incident, Lucy kept holding the hem of his coat with an uneasy expression.

What if you slip off the roof?

I'll be careful not to fall.

After thinking for a moment, she went to Arkel's desk and returned with a pair of leather gloves.

Put this on. You could get bitten by a cat.

Keenon! Those are my gloves!

Arkel shouted with a ridiculous face, but Lucy didn't even pretend to listen. With the gloves she had forced him to use, Felix jumped down the roof of the second floor. It was a soft landing.

It might seem dangerous to the onlookers, but it wasn't really that dangerous because he jumped from the third floor to the two-story roof. When Felix stood on tiptoe, he could see the inside of Arkel's office through the window.

Felix peeped inside because he was worried about Arkel and Lucy, who were left alone.

Let's say he called me because of the cat but why did he call Lucy? Is it really because she got two questions wrong on the exam?

As if answering Felix's thoughts, Arkel called Lucy.

Come here and sit down.

He pointed to the tea table in one corner. It was just an ordinary table, but somehow it didn't suit Arkel's office.

Lucy, with her nervous look on her face, reluctantly walked over to the tea table and sat down.

Then Arkel strode to the office desk, took something out of the drawer, and returned to the tea table. What he brought was a glass bottle full of colorful candy.

Lucy looked at the object with a bewildered expression, it did not match Arkel at all. Felix could easily read the thought that immediately appeared on her face.

Is it poison in the shape of candy?

Arkel spat out a word to her.

Here, eat.

Yes?

Did you go deaf? Go ahead and eat it!

Arkel nervously shook a glass bottle of candy in front of Lucy. The candy clattered loudly.

Confused, Lucy took the bottle with both hands.

Yes.

And this too!

Arkel brought childrens snacks and chocolate, which he didnt know why he had, and poured them onto the table. He was staring at Lucy, as if he was trying to make sure she ripped open the cookies and put them in her mouth.

Is that really a poison?

A curious thought appeared in Felixs mind as he watched it carefully. It was clear that Lucy still had such doubts.

She looked at the cookies with a very suspicious look. However, Arkel was watching in front of her, so she opened a snack and bit the corner carefully.

Contrary to Felixs expectation that she would frown, Lucys expression as she put the cookies in her mouth was calm. No, she looked down at the cookie with a surprised expression and put it all in her mouth.

What do you think! Its soft and sweet!

When Arkel shouted something that she didnt know whether it was a question or hes just yelling, Lucy flinched and nodded her head. She hesitated and picked up another cookie, as if it werent a lie.

When he saw that Lucy was eating deliciously, Arkel gave her a satisfied expression.

What the hell is this?

Felix, who watched the scene secretly, was very confused.

But it didnt seem like Arkel was being grumpy with Lucy, so he took his eyes off them and walked towards the sound of the cats cry. Soon he found a small hole between the wall and the roof.

Peeking into the hole, he saw a pair of amber eyes twinkling in the dark. The owner of those eyes looked at Felix and then ran away to the depths.

He thought getting the cat out would be troublesome.

At that moment, Arkels blunt voice came out clearly from the open window.

Thanks to this, Felix was able to overhear the conversation between Arkel and Lucy while lying on the roof and peering into the hole.

about your grades this time.

Arkel seemed to talk about the reason why he called Lucy in earnest. As feared, he wanted to talk about Lucys grades.

You didnt write the answer to the last question properly, right?

Arkel clicked his tongue.

There is no one who got to the heart of the problem and wrote an accurate answer. Even the Roman guy who took first place this time. I was expecting you to write a satisfactory answer. I was very disappointed to see the blank answer sheet. Was the problem difficult?

Thats.

Even if he didnt see himself, he could imagine how embarrassed Lucy must have been at Arkels sudden interrogation.

Felix looked into the hole with a desperate heart. He thought hed better get the cat and Lucy out of this office.

Well, you can make a mistake once in a while. 4th place. Yeah, its not that much of a slip. I hope you can get to the top again next time.

Lucy answered Arkels question, but her voice was so small that it was hard to hear. Felix guessed that she probably nodded roughly.

Great. The historical society is a difficult place for commoners to enter. But its not without a case at all. Im sure you can get in. As long as you keep your grades good.

However, their conversation began to flow in a strange direction.

Society?

Lucy also felt a strange feeling, so her voice rose.

As you graduate, I would like to recommend you as a new member of the Beros Historical Society. You can probably study and learn a lot as a good historian.

W, wait a minute!

Hurry up and eat!

He heard Arkel interrupting Lucy and pushing the cookie bowl forward. Before Lucy could question what she had just heard, he turned to another topic.

By the way, I heard that you were able to attend the academy through a scholarship, what will happen to the scholarship next semester?

Arkel cared so much about Lucy that it was embarrassing. Even Felix never imagined that he would bring up the scholarship.

You didnt get 2nd rank, but the 4th rank, so wouldnt it be unreasonable to get a scholarship for the next semester? It will definitely go to Eric Roman!

Hearing those words, Felix frowned as something soft touched the tip of the glove. It was the cat

The cat, who twisted to and fro avoiding his hand, finally crouched close to a corner.

Felix, who saw it, put his hand deep into the hole again and finally succeeded in grabbing the cats neck.

Wouldnt it be difficult for you to continue attending the academy if you dont get a scholarship or something like that?

Arkel asked another question. He was using a unique way of speaking in a way that he had no consideration for the other person.

That.

If thats the case, I think you should get a sponsor as soon as possible! If you cant find it yourself, I can introduce you to someone I know!

Damn old man. Youre too late.

Felix moaned inwardly and slowly pulled his arm out of the hole. Then a confused-looking cat soon appeared.

It was a blackened cat that could only be noticed after a few seconds that its original fur color was yellow. Unlike when it was dodging his hands in the hole, the cat that came out looked calm and gentle.

Felix, holding the cat in one hand and the other on the windowsill, jumped up gently.

Thank you for your words, but I am already receiving support.

Lucy, who was responding to Arkel, sensed Felix's presence, and turned her head to the window.

Seeing the cat in his hand, Lucy and Arkel quickly got up from their seats. One quickly approached the cat with a bright smile, and the other stared at the cat with his back behind him from a distance.

Lucy quietly reached out to the cat in Felix's hand. The cat, who had already moved into Lucy's arms, was still meowing with a bewildered expression.

As Lucy gently scratched his neck, the cat squealed and closed his eyes.

You're so skinny!

Arkel, who was watching him, raised his eyes and shouted.

It's only bone because they were busy hiding like a mouse and crying all night long disturbing other people's sleep!

He suddenly walked towards the fireplace, picked up a poker from the wall and pounded it on the floor.

Bring me here right now!

Lucy's face, holding the cat in her arms, quickly turned pale.

<T/N: Poker a metal rod with a handle, used for prodding and stirring an open fire.>Sienna

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What are you trying to do?

Seeing Arkel standing there with a grim expression, Felix's eyes also narrowed. Arkel's eyes flashed as if he was about to swing the poker at the poor cat.

Come on and bring it to me!

Lucy remained motionless, Arkel spoke as if threatening once again. Lucy flinched, hugging the cat tightly.

Felix, who noticed it, was about to say something, but unexpected words came out of Arkels mouth.

Hes cold! Come on, bring it to the fireplace!

At that, Felix and Lucy looked at each other with bewildered expressions.

He seems to be feeling cold because his purr is thin! Put it down here, it will warm him up!

Arkel pointed to the hardwood floor illuminated by the fireplace light. Then he took a cushion from the top of his chair and set it down there.

Still looking at the poker in his hand, Lucy slowly approached the fireplace. After a moments hesitation, she laid the cat down on a soft-looking cushion.

The cat stood there for a moment with a blank face, and soon crouched on the cushion.

The cat sat quietly on the cushion with a fireplace that warms the room cozy.

It was a peaceful and warm sight that did not suit Arkel at all. Seeing the cat quietly sitting on the cushion he had laid, Arkel smiled warmly.

I What will you do with the cat?

At Lucys careful question, Arkel immediately raised his eyebrows and shouted.

What do you mean what do I do? Im going to kick him out!

Then he knelt in front of the fireplace and picked firewood with the poker. The fire ignited in an instant, and burned the firewood. The front of the fireplace became even warmer.

Seeing his words and actions contradict, Felix burst into laughter.

It didnt seem like Arkel would do any harm to the cat, and it seemed that his business with Lucy was over, so it was time to leave the office.

Felix said to Arkel, who was looking into the cat.

Then we will go out.

Wait for a moment!

Arkel hurriedly caught him.

You cant just go! I dont know what cats eat. Go get him something to eat.

Yes? Us?

Arkel glared with an expression Then shall I go?

Go to the restaurant and get something.

They are probably preparing for dinner right now. If I go, Aunt Linda wont give me anything..

You are the student council president! Go and do something.

I am Felix, not Adrian.

Who would know!

Arkel was reckless.

He even demanded that they feed the cat for a while, not just this once. In short, he thought that they should take care of the cat and he would only love it.

Felix had a headache.

Its not enough that he was suddenly called to rescue a cat, now hes going to take care of it?

Why do we both have to bother taking care of the cat.

But Felix, who was about to complain, stopped. Because he suddenly realized one thing.

Taking care of a cat with Lucy.

The place was quite uncomfortable, but isnt it a good opportunity?

Okay. We will take care of it.

Felix suddenly changed his attitude and answered.

Yes?

Lucy looked at him with a puzzled face at his answer, but Felix asked Arkel with a brazen face.

Instead, give me the office key so I can take care of the cat at any time.

* * *

After a failed plan to join the Book Club, Felix thought of another way to be with Lucy, and snapped up Arkels offer.

Of course, it was a bit unpleasant that the place was Arkels office, but Lucys presence seemed to dispel all his evil spirits.

In addition, Arkel was often away from the office for classes, so it was good to be able to spend time with Lucy.

What should we name the cat?

Name?

At lunchtime, Felix asked, putting the fish from the restaurant in front of the cat. Lucy, who was suddenly asked the question, fell into thought.

After thinking for a long time with a serious face, she couldnt come up with a proper name, so she gave Felix the chance to name it.

There is no name that comes to mind. Is it because I never thought of wanting to raise an animal? What kind of name do you think is fine, sunbae?

In fact, Felix had no name in mind.

Well. Then how about Vivi?

He just said any name that came to mind. That was the name of the hunting dog kept in the dukes mansion. But after hearing the name Felix suggested, Lucy tilted her head.

Thats your dogs name.

Felix was surprised.

How do you know that?

Then Lucy jumped up from her seat and panicked. She had her face slightly reddened.

Oh Didnt you tell me that? Well, when was it.

Lucy thought of excuses and murmured.

Me?

Did I tell Lucy about my dog?

As Felix stared into the air as if trying to recall his memories, Lucy hurriedly turned her back.

Then how about Lulu?

It seemed like a name that was made in a hurry, but Felix nodded.

Lulu? Thats a good name.

Because it was a name that Lucy came up with, it felt pretty cute.

Then the door swung open and Arkel appeared. As soon as he finished class, he went straight into the room with his shaggy hair messed up as if he had run in a hurry.

Brotomelius!

He shouted at the cat.

Brotomelius?

Felix looked at Arkel with a stunned expression at the grandiose and useless old-fashioned name. It was the same with Lucy, who had just given the cat a cute name, Lulu.

As soon as Arkel returned, he went out to check the condition of the cat.

Did you take care of Brotomelius food?

He asked with a stern voice. How shameless, he never even cleaned his poop.

It was already the third day of taking care of the cat instead of Arkel.

But they couldnt continue to take care of him like that. They also had work to do, so it was true that going in and out of the office every day was burdensome. That was the case for him, and Lucy had to study and work at the library.

Felix finally made up his mind and asked Arkel.

Are you planning to keep this cat?

What are you talking about! I have to get rid of it!

Now the cat seemed so comfortable that it completely recognized Arkels office as his home.

Why are you looking at me like that? Do you think Im lying? Do you think I cant send out just one cat!

Seeing Felixs dissatisfied expression on his face, Arkel screamed.

But the next moment, he suddenly dropped his head to the floor and spoke with a sullen expression.

Anyway, a lady I know decided to take him. I just wanted to have a cat. Im really going to send him today.

Arkels expression looked very sad as he was saying that.

The lady will come here, herself? Today?

Yes.

Felix couldnt believe what Arkel said. It sounded like an excuse to just let this moment pass.

But why would a lady come all the way here to pick up a cat.

At Felixs words, Arkel looked at him with a face that said, What kind of bullshit is he talking about? After a while he opened his mouth.

What are you talking about? The lady is coming to see Keenan. And she decided to take the cat with her.

At those words, this time, Lucys eyes widened.

Yes? Me?

Yes, Keenan! you!

Arkel said as if yelling.

I definitely told you last time. Im going to find you a supporter!

No, I have.

However, Arkel didnt listen to Lucy and was busy talking.

So, I asked her to come today. If its her, shell be able to support you until you graduate!

It seemed that there was a problem with communication. Lucy looked at Arkel with a troubled face, and then took a step forward with a face that said she needed to explain it properly.

But before Lucy could even speak, someone knocked on the door.

Oh, she must be here already.

Arkel got up and walked to the door.

Come in.

He opened the door and said to the lady standing by the door.

The lady entered the office and looked as old as Arkel, but they still felt her dignity and strength standing upright.

This got complicated.

Felix had a hard time figuring out how to handle this. He looked back at Lucy, hes sure she felt the same way.

However, Lucys expression was strange. She was staring at the ladys face with a surprised expression more than ever.

But what was even more strange was that the lady, as soon as she saw Lucy, opened her eyes wide and smiled.

Then Lucy opened his mouth and shouted in a voice full of joy.

Madam Triana!

Sienna

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Chapter 86

Lucy!

The reply came immediately from the other side as well.

An old lady, called Madam Triana, stood there with an expression she had never imagined she would meet Lucy.

Oh my! Its really Lucy.

After examining Lucys face a few more times, her wrinkled eyes blinked, Madam Triana stepped forward and grabbed her hand. Lucy also clasped her hand with a happy face.

Felix and Arkel, ignorant of the circumstances, stood in front of the two peoples welcome meeting with a blank expression on their faces. Arkel, who had been watching the two, finally opened his mouth.

Are you two acquainted?

Of course!

The madam answered, patting the back of Lucys hand.

Then she took her to her tea table and sat her down. It looked natural as if he had already visited Arkels office several times.

She lived on the estate of my nephew, Baron Connor. Years ago, we even traveled together. Since then, Ive been sick and havent been able to pay attention to work outside the house, the news has been cut off. Even when she was young, I thought she was clever, but I didnt know she came to Xenomium!

The madam still couldnt hide her joy, as she explained to Arkel.

Then the kid you told me to meet today.?

When the Madam asked, looking at Arkel, he nodded.

Yes, Evelyn. I was talking about Lucy Keenan.

Lucy and the madam seemed to have been happy to see each other after a long time, and they were busy asking each other how well they were doing, as if they had completely forgotten the existence of Felix and Arkel, who were standing around.

Arkel moved in a hurry, put the kettle on the fireplace and started boiling water. Normally, he was hesitant to even clean up cat poop, but for some reason he seemed to be diligently serving the guest.

Sometimes I ask Colin about Madam, but he says he doesnt know much.

At the time, I was too weak to travel, so I was confined to the capital. As expected, my age cant lie. Its been a long time since I visited the East and its also been a while since I corresponded with Baron Connor. Hows everyone doing?

Yes, both the baron and the baroness are in good health.

Lucy and Madam Triana had a few more friendly conversations.

But I had no idea that you were acquainted with Mr. Arkel.

We have been friends since childhood.

We went to the academy together.

At Lucys words, the madam and Arkel answered in turns. Felix, who had been silently listening to the conversation, looked at Arkel with a surprised expression. Because he never imagined he would have friends.

However, as he watched for a little longer, Arkel, who he thought to be eccentric, knew how to take care of people, and Madam Triana, who exuded a pleasant energy from her wrinkled face, seemed to get along with him quite well.

That is why I gladly accepted Arkels request to support a student in need.

She said after taking a sip of the tea with her graceful movements that her blunt friend had brought unscathed.

Thats you, Lucy, so Im more willing.

I, but

Lucy opened her mouth with a troubled expression.

Actually, a few weeks ago, I already received sponsorship from someone else.

At that, Arkel, who had put the kettle down again, scratched his forehead and looked back.

Im sorry, Ive troubled you. Im sure I told Mr. Arkel, but I guess he didnt hear me.

Its obvious, if its Arkel. He must have been talking and not listening to what others were saying.

As if she could understand her, she replied casually.

Then who is supporting you?

Arkel asked.

My father, Duke Berg.

When Felix answered instead, Arkel opened her mouth slightly in surprise.

The backing of the Duke of Berg? This was not my business.

Just like everyone else, Arkel looked at her full of trust as soon as he heard the name Berg.

With the patronage of the Duke of Berg, there is no need to worry. There is no other supporter who is financially strong in this empire.

Arkel nodded his head with a satisfied expression, and the Madam was busy looking at Felix's face with her eyes wide open.

The son of the Duke of Berg? then.

His Prince Felix Berg. A third year at this academy.

When Arkel introduced Felix politely, the madam responded with a welcoming smile, as if she knew him already.

I am also acquainted with the Marquis of Everen. Even now, on days when I am in good shape, I go to meetings organized by the Marquis.

Felix's maternal grandmother, the Marquis of Everen, often held social gatherings for noble women. As a result, when he was young, he often saw many noble ladies gathered at the banquet hall when he was staying at the Marquis mansion for a while.

Maybe I met the prince when I visited the Marquis of Everen.

Madam Triana said with a gracious smile.

Meow.

At that moment, the cat, which had been quietly curled up in the corner of the office, got up and let out a relaxed cry. All four of them stopped talking and turned their heads to where the sound was coming from.

Brotomelius!

Arkel hurriedly approached and hugged the cat.

Brotomelius?

Madam Triana looked at the scene with a face not very different from the expression Felix had made after hearing the name.

Oh.

She shook her head in exasperation as she watched Arkel gently scratch its tummy as if to soothe the cat.

Seeing Arkel Liod hugging and stroking the cat, it must be time for me to die. You seem to have a lot of affection for it, can I really take it?

At the Madams question, Arkel frowned and raised his head. He spoke in a foul tone.

What are you talking about? Do you think Ill be sad without this cat?

Then, he immediately picked up the cat and walked over to Madam Triana.

I dont care if a cat leaves me.

Madam Triana shrugged her shoulders and gently stroked the cats head.

Yeah, then. Ill take this cat.

Its Brotomelius.

Arkel corrected the name, but Madam Triana rose from her seat, ignoring what she had heard.

You should give it a cute name instead of a geeky name like that.

Are you leaving already?

Somehow, Arkel asked with a sad face.

Ill go, then.

Madam Triana put on a shawl she had left off, pretending to be in a hurry. Lucy, who was sitting opposite, quickly followed her and helped her.

Now that the cat is leaving the office, Felix and Lucy will no longer have to take care of the cat.

Felix gave Lucy a look to get out of here. Lucy recognized that look and quickly nodded her head.

Well then, see you later. Arkel.

After the greeting, the three of them left Arkel, who has a strange expression in the office and went out into the hallway. The moment Felix closed the door, Arkels sad gaze seemed to follow through the gap.

The three of them left the office and went down to the hall on the first floor together.

Anyway, Lucy, its nice to see you again. I am proud that you grew up so wonderfully and that you came to a prestigious academy.

Madam Triana spoke to Lucy with a warm look as if looking at her own granddaughter.

Its been a long time since we met, but its a pity that we have to part so soon. I want to invite you to the upcoming Thanksgiving, Lucy?

The Madam soon told Felix as well.

Of course, the prince may also come along.

Lucy replied with a bright smile.

I want to go to your house after a long time.

Felix, who saw the Madam who loved Lucy so much, readily accepted the invitation. Hoping to hear a lot about Lucys childhood from Madam.

By the time they arrived at the hall with such an invitation.

Suddenly, they heard someone calling out to them and rushing down the stairs.

Wait a minute! wait!

It was Arkel. He ran so fast that he didnt even think he was moving with his old legs and stopped in front of them.

Then he took the cat straight from Madam Triana.

You cant take Brotomelius.

He said, holding the cat tightly with his trembling hands. The three looked at him with puzzled eyes. But he rolled his eyes with a look of indifference.

As far as I can see, this guy has no strength! He cant do anything but eat and poop. Evelyn, no matter how much you train it, this bastard cant catch a mouse.

Upon hearing this, Madam Triana eventually burst into laughter.

Arkel, how are you the same as when you were young?

She said.

Tell me frankly if you like it! I had no intention of taking this cat in the first place.

Then she turned her body away from him without any regrets. She told Felix and Lucy.

Then let me send you an official invitation soon.

What invitation?

Arkel asked with a curious face, but Madam lightly ignored it and left the hall with her graceful demeanor.

* * *

Madam Trianas invitation arrived at the dormitory the next day.

Felix, who was checking to see if Lucy had received the invitation, found out that there was someone else who had received the invitation besides them. It was Colin.

Of course, Felix wasn't happy with the news at all, but he couldn't help it because Colin was Mrs. Trianas grandson. He can't help but be annoyed.

It would be perfect without this child.

Felix was very disappointed. After reading the contents of the invitation one more time, he felt even more so.

That's because the invitation included not only dinner, but also an invitation to stay overnight at Madam Trianas mansion. Sienna

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He should be happy to be with Lucy, but when he found out that Colin will also be there, he felt tired. He couldn't even ask Collin to leave since he's her relative.

Seeing Collin greeting him lively every time they saw each other, there was no possibility of him getting sick and not attending.

While thinking about this and that possibility, time passed like a wind in late autumn, and finally, Thanksgiving Day is just around the corner.

On Thanksgiving Day, one of the biggest holidays in the Beros Empire, the Xenomium Academy offers a three-day vacation.

Students who were born and raised in the capital, or who live near their hometown, usually pack their bags and leave for their mansion. Then, they return after enjoying a peaceful time with their families for three days, thankful for the richness of the year and the prosperity of their family.

On the other hand, students from other countries were busy making plans to have a good time outside the academy among themselves, rather than choosing to visit their hometown in a short time.

Lucy was also born and raised in the village of Brom, located on the eastern edge of the Empire, so visiting her hometown seemed difficult. Although she planned to have a good time at Madam Trianas mansion, she felt very sad not to see her family after a long time.

I think its time for their reply to arrive I havent heard any news from them yet.

Late evening.

As Felix was leaving the restaurant, he heard Lucys voice and looked around. On the shortened day, two familiar backs were walking side by side at the already dim campus. It was Lucy and Colin.

Without knowing that Felix was approaching, the two continued talking with serious faces.

Since its far away, it must have taken a while for the reply to arrive!

But it has never taken this long. Maybe something happened to the mail wagon? I think I should try sending a letter again.

What letter?

Lucy and Colin jumped at the same time as Felix suddenly spoke from behind.

Ack! Since when have you been standing in the back?

Colin asked, rubbing his chest. But Felix ignored him and immediately asked Lucy.

Is it an important letter?

No, its just a letter to my family. I couldnt go home, so I sent a thank-you card in advance. Considering the speed of normal mail delivery, the reply should have come by now. Its a little late this time.

Before Felix could respond, Colin intervened first.

Its probably too late because there are usually a lot of people sending letters this time of year.

He was right. On Thanksgiving Day, mail carriers worked nonstop because everyone sent letters to relatives asking how they were doing.

Colin, who was answering, suddenly became sullen and continued in an uncharacteristically weak voice.

In addition, everyone in the village must be busy this year. There was a flood last summer. Theyre probably busy looking for food for the winter.

It was strange that Colin, who had always been cheerful and unwitting even in a serious situation, showed no energy. He mumbled anxiously in a mature manner he had never shown before

Everyone in the village must be having a hard time, but can we just go to a dinner like this?

What he said made Lucy depressed.

If you are worried, should I send a separate messenger to find?

Felix suggested. But Lucy waved her hand.

No. If a messenger suddenly arrives in town, my mom will be surprised. As Colin said, it must be late because they are busy preparing for winter. If I wait longer, it will come.

After that, as they walked through the campus, Lucy and Colin talked about their hometown only the two of them knew, so Felix simply listened to their conversation. As he listened to that conversation, he felt that the two had really grown up together since childhood.

Then, suddenly, a word came to his mind.

Lucy is my fianc!

Colins voice, that uttered the shocking words with such an innocent face, was still vivid in his ears. He still didnt feel good remembering that one time his heart plummeted to the floor because of that word.

At the vivid memory that came to mind, Felix instantly felt annoyed.

Aww!

Colin, who was walking normally, suddenly screamed.

Why are you pulling my ears all of a sudden!

Did I pull it? There was a bug sitting on your ear, I chased it away.

Felix naturally lied.

He pulled his ears, but it wasn't a very cool revenge compared to the shock he received back then. It was at this point that he decided he needed to make sure of this matter.

Are you really engaged to Lucy?

It wasn't Colin who responded immediately to that out of the way question, but Lucy, who was walking next to him.

W, what are you talking about all of a sudden?

I remember what this guy said before. You said it back then? Lucy is your fiancé.

T, that's just what the adults say

Lucy spoke in an absurd tone. But Colin didn't seem willing to join the clarification.

Lucy, it's not just what the adults say? Even if it seems like a joke, the villagers are all looking forward to our marriage, right?

Were all the villagers expecting that?

Without seeing Lucy shaking her head next to him, Felix frowned.

The whole village?

How can the whole village come forward and think of pushing a marriage they didn't even think about.

Felix's forehead was wrinkled.

Ah, doesn't everyone hear such nonsense when they are young? No one in the village thinks like that now.

Colin giggled at Lucy's words. Hearing his laugh, Felix felt even worse.

Unaware that Felix was looking at him poised to pull his ear again, Colin was babbling with excitement. This time he was talking about the dinner to be held at Madam Trianas mansion and was enumerating what food would be served one by one.

Three people with different expressions walked out of the dark campus.

* * *

When Thanksgiving came, the academy students began to ride their carriages back to their mansion in the capital.

The noisy campus and dormitory had a much calmer and more secluded atmosphere when more than half of the students left. The students who could not return home seemed to have decided to spend a luxurious Thanksgiving in their own way.

While preparing to go from the dormitory to Madam Trianas mansion, Felix threw a puzzled look at Adrian, who was sitting leisurely on the sofa.

If it had been Adrian, he would have already finished all the preparations and went back to the dukes house to spend Thanksgiving. But he was sitting leisurely on the sofa, flipping through his books slowly.

Adrian suddenly raised his head, perhaps he noticed his gaze.

Why?

Arent you going home?

Well.

Adrian stretched himself lying down on the sofa.

Im going to take a good rest at the dorm today.

It was an uncharacteristic answer. Adrian closed his eyes in a lying-down posture as if to prove his answer.

Felix, who was worried about his brother who would be alone on Thanksgiving, not any other day, said;

Can you be alone in the dormitory on a day like today?

I want to be alone even more since its a day like today.

This time again, it was an unexpected answer.

Adrian opened his eyes again and gave a relaxed smile to his brother, who was standing with a puzzled face.

Im telling you, its okay Im more comfortable and better than ever now. I think Ill be able to relax because there wont be any snoring tonight. Its a real holiday.

Felix laughed reluctantly at his mischievous reply. But a corner of his heart was still uneasy. He has been worried about Adrian ever since he saw him smashing a vase a few days ago.

Well, go ahead.

He had told Adrian that he would be visiting another friends house in advance. Adrian, who knew that Felix was so unwilling to return to the duchy, so he had no doubts about him.

Felix went out to the front gate, he met Lucy and Colin, who were waiting in advance and got into the carriage. The carriage, which started immediately, sprinted through the gloomy landscape.

In the carriage, Colin never stopped chirping for a second. Felix didnt nag at all because hed been through it a few times already.

It was thrilling to secretly exchange glances with Lucy while Colin was talking. Felix even swept Lucys baby hairs behind her ears while Colin was distracted by the crowded scenery outside the window.

Isnt it cold?

Its not cold.

When Felix moved his lips and asked, Lucy too, quietly moved her lips to answer.

Felixs gaze turned to her hands neatly placed on her lap. Her small, white hands were red as if they were cold.

After checking out Colin, who was still busy staring out of her window, Felix gently grabbed Lucys hand. Contrary to the answer that it was not cold, Lucys hands were very cold.

Sienna

Chapter 88

At the apparent temperature difference, Felix unconsciously squeezed her hand. Lucy didnt take her hand away. She just wiggled her hand in his grasp for a moment.

When Lucy stopped moving, Felix, who gained confidence, moved his fingers gently and clasped his fingers. Again, Lucy did not refuse. Instead her feet, which were laying neatly on the floor, twitch for a moment.

In the early evening as the sun was setting, in a slightly dim carriage, the hands of the two shared their warmth and gradually had similar temperatures.

Wow, the streets are so crowded! I guess everyone is on their way home to see their family.

Felix was not annoyed by Colins cheerful chatter as he looked out the window.

His whole mind was focused only on Lucy. He could also feel it. At that moment, Lucy also realized that she was concentrating all her senses on him.

As if they were in a different world from Colin, Felix and Lucy held hands for a long time, staring at the meandering streets of Bethel.

* * *

Madam Trianas mansion seemed to embody her dignity.

The antique exterior perched on a large lawn looked imposing like the madam.

When the carriage that entered the gate slowly stopped, the waiting servant opened the door.

Wow!

Lucy got off the carriage and looked around the mansion with admiration. Her eyes gleamed with joy, as if the memories of her visits when she was a child came to mind.

Colin, look! Its exactly what I saw before!

The servant, who had been waiting patiently for Lucy and Colin to look around the mansion for a while recalling memories, soon led them alone.

As if fully prepared to entertain the guests, the hall was lit up with countless candles.

Welcome!

Madam Triana, who was waiting with her several maids behind her, welcomed them with open arms. She hugged Colin and Lucy one after another, and then asked Felix to shake hands.

Welcome, Prince Felix.

It was already dark, and the dinner time was approaching, so Madam Triana ordered the food to be served immediately. Soon, the table was filled with geese, deer dishes, mashed potato dishes, and various breads.

Even Felix, who wasn't very hungry, felt hungry as soon as he saw the food. The delicious smell stimulated the tip of his nose.

The dinner started with Madam Triana's prayer of thanks to God.

They were busy eating because of the excellent taste, but for a while they praised the chef's culinary skills and did not have any other conversations.

In the meantime, Felix looked around the table as if something was missing. It was a really perfect dinner, but something was awkward.

Soon he realized that a dish that was never left out on Thanksgiving Day was not on the table. Its.

Oh, there's no pig dish!

Colin, who had looked around the table before Felix, said with a questionable face.

It was the tradition of the Beros Empire to always have pig on the Thanksgiving table. It was even told that without the dish, it's not a proper Thanksgiving.

However, despite Colin's remarks, Madam Triana calmly replied.

The Triana's don't eat pork, Colin.

As if it was a fact that Lucy did not know, she raised her puzzled eyes and looked at the Madam. Colin also murmured with a look on his face, contemplating the meals he had eaten at this mansion.

Come to think of it, I've never seen pork cooked in my great-aunt's mansion.

It's because of the prophecy.

The Madam beckoned her servants to cut the goose dish.

Prophecy?

Some families in the Beros Empire have prophecies that have been passed down from generation to generation. These are the things that came down from the Great Shrine a long time ago.

Felix knew that each family had a prophecy passed down as an oracle. This is because those prophecies have been handed down since the founding of the Beros Empire.

Some families regarded the prophecy as important as a myth, while others treated it as just a superstition.

The prophecy of the Triana family was, If the household harms pigs, they will die.

The Madam then told the story of her husband, whom she had lost long ago.

Former Count Triana, who usually enjoyed hunting, ignored the prophecy one day and aimed his bow at a wild boar. However, his arrow, which was always on fire, did not hit the wild boar properly at that moment. When the excited boar rushed, the horse the Count was riding got surprised and raised its front feet, the count fell and passed away.

What happened that day was once again a reminder of the prophecy to the people of Triana. After that all Triana people, of course, never put pork on the table.

The wife's expression telling the story of her long-dead husband was calm. Grief was weathered and seemed to have flown away from her face earlier.

But I don't know if his death was really due to prophecy.

With her casual face, the lady cut the meat and put it in her mouth.

My husband had been drinking a lot that day. Riding on a horse while drunk was an unwise act. I think alcohol killed my husband, not the prophecy.

She spoke insensitively as if he was talking about someone else, but because of that, the atmosphere at the dinner was even more subdued.

Gosh. What useless things did I say in front of the guests? . It was a long time ago, so I spoke carelessly. Don't worry about it.

She said with a mischievous smile on her face. Then Colin opened his mouth as if trying to change the mood.

It's a family prophecy! I've never heard of it. My parents never told me anything like that. Have you ever heard of Baron Connors' prophecy?

Well I don't know either. My father, who used to be the baron, never said anything to me. Perhaps he had informed his brother, who was his successor.

But Colin murmured in disappointment that his deceased grandfather had not given him any prophecies. Colin, who must have been expecting some great prophecy in his own family, quickly became sullen.

Looking at it, Felix reasonably suspected that Baron Connor might not have informed him on purpose because of Colins constant babbling.

What about you, sunbae?

Colin turned his gaze to Felix and his eyes lit up. He looked at Felix with anticipation of some great prophecy.

If it was the Berg family, it must have been an unusual prophecy.

Colin couldnt hide his curiosity and spoke frankly. Lucy, who was sitting next to him, also looked at him with curious eyes.

But Felix couldnt live up to that expectation.

Because no prophecy was passed down to his family.

Well. There are no prophecies in our family.

He frankly wondered if his father, the Duke of Berg, would believe in God. When he thinks of the businesses he usually does, he never seemed to be a man who believed in God.

Perhaps he would have laughed and turned away at the prophecy of God.

In fact, even Felix had a stronger idea of prophecy as a superstition. He looked down at his plate and said timidly.

It might be better not to listen to prophecies in the first place.

Thats wise.

Madam Triana responded to Felixs words.

Because, like I said, I dont think my husband died because of the prophecy. Mans fate is in his hands.

When the story about the prophecy ended, the topic shifted to Madam Trianas health and hobbies. It was followed by stories about Colin and Lucys family in Brom, then stories of their life at the Xenomium Academy.

By the time the candle in the center of the table burned more than half, the dinner was slowly coming to an end.

At Madam Trianas direction, two of her maids entered the banquet hall and guided Felix, Lucy and Colin to their room for the night. The three continued to pat their belly and followed the maids upstairs.

The three were given separate guest rooms.

Before entering the room, Felix tried to ask Lucy if she would like to go for a walk together, but he shut up again because Colin was around. He didnt want to walk with him.

After a while, Felix sneaked the door open and walked out of the room.

He approached Lucys room and knocked on the door, but there was no answer.

Are you already asleep?

It was dark outside the window, but it was still early for bed. Felix knocked on the door a few more times. She still didnt answer.

Then the door to the next room opened and Colin poked his head out.

Sunbae, Lucy is probably not in the room

He yawned loudly.

Maybe in the garden. She likes to look around the garden day and night.

I wasnt really looking for Lucy.

Felix pretended he wasnt interested and lied, but Colin suddenly smiled sinisterly.

Hey, youve been walking around in front of Lucys room since a while ago and knocking on the door! You dont even have to hide it from me!

Hide what?

Felixs voice rose for no reason. Looking at him with a funny look, Colin said.

I saw it all in the carriage earlier. Holding hands together. Its all reflected in the window.

Sienna

Chapter 89

Colin approached Felix, who was speechless.

I've been hanging out with Lucy, but I don't know . When did that happen?

He asked with a sad look on his face. He seemed to feel a great sense of betrayal as he unwittingly realized that his best friend might have a lover.

It's noisy. Talk to someone else.

Colin covered his ears coldly as Felix stretched out her hand with a grim expression on his face.

What are you saying? I'm good at reading other people's minds.

This jerk.

Felix swallowed his words in his mind and tried to turn to the garden. But before that, Colin grabbed his shoulder and stepped out. There was a serious light that was rarely seen in his eyes.

Felix-sunbae. Lucy is my friend and family. If she cries, I won't leave you alone.

His slender physique didn't pose any threat at all, but Felix nodded silently. Then Colin went back into the room with a satisfied expression.

Felix grinned as he looked at the door where Colin had disappeared, and immediately turned around and went down the stairs. He headed to the garden to find Lucy, as Colin had told him.

The only thing that brightened the dark garden was the moonlight. Felix found Lucy sitting alone by a small pond in it.

Lucy.

When he called, Lucy, who had her cloak fastened up to her neck, looked back at him.

Sunbae!

A smile quickly appeared on her face.

It's cold, so why did you come out?

Even though she looked colder, Lucy asked.

So, what are you doing here alone?

Just thinking about the old days.

Lucy sat looking at the pond again, blurring the end of her words. Felix also approached and settled down.

Fallen leaves from trees were floating on the pond. Occasionally, whenever the wind blew, the leaves swayed to and fro like ships moored in the harbor.

What kind of old memories?

When he asked, Lucy let out a faint smile.

Just the memories of playing here when I was young, and this and that.

I wonder what you looked like when you were young.

Felix said suddenly. It was a random word, but he was really curious.

What kind of child was Lucy Keenan when she was young? At that time, was she as meek and shy as she is now? Maybe she was already interested in herbal medicine back then.

Its not fair that only Colin Connor knows about your childhood. So let me know too. What kind of child were you when you were young?

Well

Lucy scratched her chin as if embarrassed by the sudden question. As she struggled with her answer, Felix asked a more specific question.

Then, tell me something that Colin doesnt know. So, its fair.

Lucy pondered for a moment, and answered with a still puzzled face.

But is there a side of me that Colin doesnt know? When we were young, we lived together almost as if we were in the same house.

Does your village do any co-parenting?

Felix, who barely endured what he wanted to say, remained patient and asked another question.

Then tell me about your first love. You didnt share your first love story with Colin, did you?

First love?

Lucy frowned as if she had heard an absurd story.

Yes, first love. There must have been at least one boy in the village that you liked.

At the persistent question, Lucy fell into thought again. Then she hesitated and opened her lips.

I dont know if that was my first love

You dont know?

There was a boy I keep thinking of.

Keep thinking?

Felix struggled to maintain a relaxed smile. However, he couldnt stop his mouth from trembling as if he had a cramp.

What kind of man is he?

It was just a kid I met by chance.

How did you meet?

A cracked voice came out of Felixs mouth as if it was ridiculous. So, Lucy was saying that the boy she met by chance was her first love.

Tell me more. Is he handsome?

Yes.

At Lucys unhesitating answer, Felix felt like he had been hit with a single blow.

Honestly, I was shocked to see such a handsome boy for the first time.

You dont have to explain further.

Felix leaned his back against the landscape stone and lost his words for a moment. It must have been a really handsome kid to the point where the girl who rarely expresses herself said that.

Why did you stop talking?

Felix made an unsatisfied sound.

He wasnt very nice. Besides, he says

said I smelled like horse dung.

Is he crazy?

Felix couldn't stand it and cursed. Then Lucy shrugged her shoulders and burst into laughter. She couldn't stop laughing at what was so funny.

Why are you laughing so much?

Just because. Anyway, if it's my first love, I think he is my first love. It's something I only realized recently.

You realize it recently? So, even in my time with you, you were thinking about a kid you only met once a long time ago?

Lucy sat there, looking at the pond, like someone who was recalling her memories. Seeing the smile gently floating around her mouth, Felix was jealous without realizing it.

He seemed to have lost everything he wanted.

It was Colin Connor, not himself, who shared Lucy's childhood memories. What's more, her first love has a bad personality that she has only seen once.

I want to be the most special person to you.

As Felix stared at her side profile with an unfair gaze, Lucy, who had been immersed in her thoughts, turned her gaze to look at him.

Why do you look like that?

I want to be something too.

The best childhood friend and the first love seats were taken away by other guys.

So, he wants to get the rest of the seats.

What

Before Lucy could finish her words, Felix grabbed her hand and squeezed it tightly. Then he gently placed the back of her hand on his chest.

Feeling Felix's beating heartbeat, Lucy let out her shallow breath. In her Felix, her eyes staring at her like that, there was a spark that was hotter than ever.

I want to be more special than your childhood friend, more than your first love.

Felix looked into Lucy's eyes and slowly let out his words. Although he was nervous, he still spoke with sincerity in every word.

to you

Upon hearing this, Lucy looked at him without a word. Felix became nervous when she didn't say anything.

But the next moment, Lucy slowly closed her eyes. At the sign, Felix, who took a trembling breath, put his lips right into Lucy's mouth.

Lucy, who was wearing a cape in the cold of late autumn, also had cold lips. Felix kissed her passionately, as if to convey all his warmth.

Felix's mind became hazy at the tingling feeling he felt for the first time. He pulled Lucy, unaware that he was being rougher than he thought.

Lucy's cape slipped off and fell back. She grabbed Felix's hem in a hurry. But Felix has been pulling Lucy's neck tighter and sticking their body together.

W, wait a minute !

When Lucy's body was leaning towards the pond, she stuttered as if spitting her breath. But Felix couldn't hear her, so Felix leaned more heavily on Lucy.

Ugh, Su, sunbae at this rate..!

Lucy's words, well fall in the pond! were unfinished.

At Lucy's urgent grasp of his arm, Felix suddenly came to his senses. Sensing that something was going wrong, he quickly supported Lucy's back with one hand and reached out his other hand to the landscape stone that came into view.

But in an instant, they leaned over and fell into the pond before Felix could even grab the stone.

The coldness wrapped around their body, awakening their dazed mind. Felix quickly grabbed Lucy and lifted her up onto the pond.

Fortunately, the water level of the pond was only about the knee of Felix. But their clothes, which had already been soaked, were dripping wet.

Lucy! Are you okay?

Felix asked, pulling her hair off her face like seaweed. Lucy looked at him and shook her chin.

I, Itold, were going to fall.

Im sorry!

He hugged her, who had turned white in the cold water. It wasnt until he felt her frozen body that he realized what he had just done.

He was sure to convey his sincerity with nice and serious words.

Felixs face heated up in an instant at the fact that he had lost control and rushed.

Y, youre going to catch a cold, lets go in.

Picking up the cloak that had fallen on the ground, he hurriedly put it over Lucy, and he took her to her mansion.

As soon as the two entered the hall, a light appeared on the dark stairs. It was a maid with a lamp.

Oh my! Whats going on?

When Felix announced that they had fallen into the pond, maid quickly disappeared into the hallway to get a towel. As if she heard the maids footsteps, Madam Triana appeared in a hurry in her pajamas.

She opened her mouth in amazement at the sight of Lucy and Felix, who were soaked.

Oh my, Lucy! Prince Felix! What is this?

She rushed up and took them upstairs.

Your body is so cold! Youre going to catch a cold.

The Madam hastily called the maids and ordered them to bring them new clothes. The maids disappeared in a hurry.

When Felix returned to his room, the maids brought him new clothes. As he got dressed, he saw Madam Triana and Colin sitting in the drawing room. When he thought that the people in the mansion had woken up because of him, he felt awkward.

She did not see Lucy as she was still changing clothes.

Sorry for causing a fuss. My foot slipped and fell into the pond.

At his apology, Madam Triana waved her hand.

I should have guessed in advance that Lucy was going into the garden. I forgot to turn on the lights in the garden beforehand.

What have you done to fall into a pond?

Colin intervened with a sinister smile. Then Felix glared at Colin, accepting the robe that Madam Triana handed him.

Anyway, Lucy loves gardens.

The Madam murmured, expressing that she couldn't stop her.

Ah, come to think of it, I remember that she liked the garden of the Marquis Everen the most during her trip to the capital.

I remember her talking about flowers in the garden all day long.

But it is worth it. The garden of the Marquis of Everen is famous for its beauty in all seasons, right?

Madam Triana looked at Felix as if asking him to agree with her. But Felix stopped putting on the robe, stood still, and asked.

Lucy came to the Marquis Everen's Garden? Sienna

Chapter 90

At the sudden serious expression on his face, the Madam looked at him with a puzzled face and nodded her head.

She once took Lucy to a women's social gathering hosted by the Marquis. That trip was probably in the fall of 8 years ago.

Colin remembered that time and helped out.

You don't know how much Lucy bragged after returning from her Marquis Mansion! The dishes she ate there, the desserts, and the beautiful lake she saw while strolling through the garden. In addition, she was so noisy all day, she was reciting the names of all the flowers she saw in the garden!

A lake?

She said she saw a big lake near the garden? Since it's your mother's relative, you must have been there before.

lake

Felix stared blankly at the table top. All of a sudden, some vague memories began to come to mind.

His face seemed calm at first glance, but in his head he was going back eight years very quickly.

To that fall, which he had been turning away from for a long time, that he deliberately did not want to recall.

In fact, when he recalled the fall eight years ago, all he could think of were memories of his mother.

He was led by her hand and climbed into the carriage going to the Marquis. And the disappointed expression of his mother when he confessed that he wasn't Adrian in the carriage.

A child who had been neglected by his mother for a whole month.

Just thinking about it was a sad memory, so he consciously tried not to think of that autumn. For Felix, that autumn was like a lost time.

However, the moment he heard from Madam Triana that Lucy had visited the Marquis, a small memory that had been pushed aside in a corner came to his mind.

That little memory flashed through his mind in an instant. And finally, a face that had been forgotten appeared hazy. Even in the vague form, some parts regained their vivid appearance.

Hair braided neatly behind the back. The white little hands that were handing out the ointment. And mysterious emerald eyes.

Ah.

Finally, Felix slowly got up from his seat at a memory that he had long forgotten.

Sunbae, why are you like this!

As he stood up blankly with his mouth open, Colin waved at him and asked. Felix murmured without a reply to his words.

No way.

Leaving Colin and the Madam behind, looking puzzled, Felix quickly ran upstairs.

His heart was pounding. If that girl really was Lucy then, why on earth did he not remember until now?

Arriving in front of Lucys room in one step, he took a deep breath and carefully knocked on the door.

. Lucy.

Soon, Lucys bewildered voice leaked from beyond the door.

W, wait a minute! Im getting dressed!

Then there was a sound of footsteps running towards the door. Soon after, Lucys voice was heard from behind the door that was still not open.

Ill change clothes and go out soon!

But instead of replying to that, an impatient question came out of Felixs mouth.

Is it you?

yes?

At the question that had been cut both front and back, Lucy asked with a bewildered voice.

Are you that kid then?

His head was so complicated that only random questions came out of Felixs mouth.

What do you mean?

The.

Felix barely regained his composure and asked calmly.

Autumn, eight years ago. The girl who spoke to me at the lakeside in the Everen mansion. The child who gave me wound ointment and put moganara plant on my ankle. Is that you?

Silence passed for a while. There was no sign of anything beyond the door.

After a while, the door slowly opened. Lucys face, still wet with damp hair, was exposed. Big eyes looked up at Felixs face as if surprised.

Yes, these emerald eyes.

How could I have forgotten these eyes?

For a moment, even though she looked surprised, Lucy opened her mouth with eyes filled with resentment.

That you just remembered now?

Felix immediately opened the door and hugged Lucy tightly. Joy filled his heart.

He asked, pressing his recalled face against Lucys head.

Did you remember me?

of course. How can I forget that pretty face?

Wrapped in his arms, Lucy murmured.

Besides, you said I smell like horse dung.

After Felix released Lucy, he wrapped her face with his hands.

Did I really say that? I dont remember. I cant have said that to you.

Lucy clenched her lips once, and she asked with a suspicious look.

Arent you pretending you dont remember?

Of course not. He couldnt have really said such a thing. She smells so good.

Felix laughed softly as he smelled the soapy scent emanating from Lucys body. Instead of answering, he hugged Lucy tightly again. Lucy also snuggled into his arms without a word.

Felix was very surprised and pleased to remember the old encounter he had not remembered. At the same time, once again, I was happy and confident.

Maybe Lucy and him are destined to be bound by a thread of solid ties.

* * *

The holiday at Madam Trianas mansion seemed a bit short. It was such a fun and peaceful time that they wondered if they could go back to the academy and adapt again.

Thankfully, the Madam was so impatient to give this and that until the moment they left. If it wasnt for the servant the Madam gave them, they couldnt have taken all of them.

Thanks for the invitation, Madam.

I had fun too. Everyone, get home safely.

Greeted by the Madam, they got into the carriage.

The carriage rumbled once and then began to move forward gently. Although he stayed only one night, the mansion and garden, which became a special place for Felix, gradually disappeared from the window.

Opposite him sat a person waving her hand out of the window, she made the mansion that had nothing to do with him a meaningful place.

To him, Lucy was now an existence that he could completely give up. Because he didn't think he could make this kind of relationship with anyone else.

Lucy, sit with me.

Felix spoke to Lucy, who was sitting next to Colin, and tapped the seat next to him with his hand. At his words, Lucy glanced at Colin with a bewildered expression on her face. She didn't know that Colin had noticed their relationship yet.

Colin pouted his mouth and looked displeased at Felix's behavior, which now seemed to care nothing about him.

As Lucy continued to sit in confusion, Felix got up and tapped Colin's foot.

Swap seats with me.

Meh! Can't you just go away?

Colin muttered discontentedly, but Felix forced him to get up and change his seat.

As soon as he sat next to Lucy, Felix reached out to her. Lucy, who was looking at Colin's expression, hesitated and clasped his hand. Then she whispered softly.

Did you happen to tell Colin? I didn't say anything.

Yeah, he saw us holding hands yesterday.

He said with a smirk.

Just tell me, I will not leave him alone. Don't worry.

It's not that I was afraid that you'd be upset because I did not tell you beforehand.

He won't die from being upset.

I can hear everything.

Colin pouted and snapped.

Felix ignored his words and gently brushed the back of Lucys hand with his thumb. Then Colin quickly turned his head away, as if he had seen nothing.

Now Felix couldnt contain his feelings for Lucy. It was to the point where his love for her had already grown uncontrollably for a long time.

But last night, when he realized one memory that connected him with her, his confidence in her grew even greater.

And over the years that went by, he was so thankful to Lucy for not forgetting him and remembering him throughout her life.

He stared at Lucys round head looking out the window and kissed her lightly. Lucy, who looked back at the feeling of something touching, blushed after realizing that it was Felixs lips.

Am I a ghost?

Colins dissatisfied voice came straight in.

Cant you see me?

This time, Felix pretended not to hear him and buried his face in Lucys shoulder. After rubbing his face a few times, he put his cheeks to Lucy and looked out the window quietly. Trees strewn with yellow leaves flew past.

The gloomy autumn street looked as bright as a spring day.

* * *

After the three-day holiday, the academy was again bustling with students returning from their homes, but the mood was down. The students still could not get out of the idleness of playing and eating, so they could hardly concentrate even in class.

Everyone looked out the window with unfocused eyes as if their minds were elsewhere.

In the meantime, there was a person who was already keen to prepare for the final exam, staying alert on her own.

Felix sighed as he looked at Lucy. She was walking around struggling with a bag full of books which drooped down on the floor.

Give it to me.

Felix took the bag from her hand. He frowned at the heavier weight than he had expected.

You dont have to do this. You always work hard. So, it wont be a problem even if you just do what you normally do.

At his words, Lucy looked back with a sullen expression.

I dont want to hear that from someone who crammed but still manage to ranked first.

Sienna