

For Your Failed Unrequited Love

#Chapter 91 - Read For Your Failed Unrequited Love

Chapter 91

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What do you mean? I studied so hard. You were with me.

Lucy replied, with her eyes narrowed suspiciously this time.

No, you were definitely in last place last semester, right? But how did you get first place after studying for only a few weeks?

She stared at him with eyes saying, Explain it to me. Felix, who was bewildered, answered with a sly smile on purpose.

Well Isn't it because my teacher is great?

Lucy bit her lip at the words. She almost let out a laugh while looking at Felix. However, she quickly returned to a blank expression and questioned him once more.

You passed a blank paper last semester do you really not know the answers?

Felix, whose heart was struck by the question, hurriedly glossed over.

I, I don't remember. Anyhow, are you going to study for the test starting today? Then shall we go there? The classroom is on the third floor.

Lucy still looked at him suspiciously but eventually nodded.

Okay. You ranked first in just a few weeks of studying for the midterm, so I'm very curious about what kind of grades you'll get again.

What? It's all thanks to your help from the side.

Really? Then I'll do my best next to you.

Felix's face was slightly darkened by Lucy's words. This is because he remembered Lucy, who used to appear with a lot of books in her arms for him.

This time, she was even more fired up, so he was a little nervous about what and how much she would show up with. But at the same time, Lucy's appearance was also cute.

From some point on, he finds it cute no matter what Lucy does. No matter how many books she brought and forced him to read, she seemed irresistible.

He was even willing to be dragged into the middle of the ballroom hall and dance Evelosa.

Yeah, Im willing to dance.

If its for Lucy.

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Recently, Felix's life seemed to be revolving around Lucy. It was funny to see himself being swayed by one person, but he couldn't help it.

It would have been unimaginable for him before because he hated to have anyone interfering in his life. In particular, the girls who openly expressed their interest were really annoying.

But it's different with Lucy. He thought she could interfere with his life as much as she wanted.

And for her, he was willing to give up everything.

The whole process of loving her was just fun.

Except for one thing.

For the first time in his life, he was put in a situation where he had to maximize his patience.

Well, we can do it from here to here. This time, we started preparing for the exam early, so don't make an unreasonable schedule like last time.

Yes.

In an empty classroom on the third floor. Felix answered briefly, pulling the books that Lucy had pushed toward him. His eyes were fixed on the desk all the time.

Cheer up!

Lucy spoke cheerfully. But again, Felix nodded his head, pretending to open the book.

His anxious and troubled eyes shook uneasily, and from time to time his throat tossed up and down.

Lucy thought it was strange, so she stopped to ask.

Are you sick?

no.

Felix raised his head and answered Lucys voice, which was full of worries. Soon, his eyes were drawn to her red, thick lips.

A burning look filled his eyes as he looked at her lips, and he once again lowered his head. So he flipped over the pages, and began rolling his eyes around randomly over the visible letters.

This was the problem.

Lucys lips bothered him whenever they were alone together. Each time, he would be shrouded with strange feelings and be put in a difficult place.

He never kissed Lucy again after the kiss by the pond. He took it for granted. Isnt it too shameless to keep kissing her while dragging her into a relationship that cant be revealed proudly in the first place?

Moreover, in the carriage on their way back from the botanical garden, he spoke solemnly and seriously.

Will you wait until I can say it confidently?

He certainly asked her to wait.

It was he who couldnt wait and kissed her. The thought of it made him feel embarrassed and awkward.

How do you see me?

Lucy never talked about the kiss. She didnt say anything on the outside, but she might have been surprised on the inside.

So he tried to be patient as much as possible.

But his patience began to be constantly tested when he faced a situation where he was alone with her in a classroom where no one was looking.

Everything in the quiet silence made him overly conscious. Even the sound of his own swallowing made him worry.

He became disillusioned with himself, who kept his gaze on Lucys lips. He felt like a beast without restraint.

He once looked down upon his best friend Alecs creating a sticky atmosphere with any girl.

Tsk tsk, hes like a beast.

He even clicked his tongue inside when he saw that.

Now, however, he came to think that he was no different from such insidious people.

He glanced at Lucys lips, and he closed his eyes completely. Then he lowered his gaze to the book to get his mind together.

Just study, Felix Berg.

He scolded himself and tried to focus on the book. As he focused on the letters, his eyes seemed to pop out.

Why do you keep staring?

Felix looked up in amazement at Lucys sudden voice. A bewildered voice came out of his mouth.

Yes? What?

No way, I got caught staring at her lips.

Lucy frowned when he was visibly embarrassed.

why are you so surprised? Youve been looking at the table of contents for a while.

At her words, Felix looked down at what he was reading. The page, which was spread out in the table of contents of the herbal medicine textbook, listed a long list of 500 herbs covered in the book.

He hurriedly flipped the book and opened it roughly anywhere.

Nothing.

He equivocated. But he could feel the heat rising from his face vividly. Lucys expression got serious as if she saw it, too.

Are you really sick?

Suddenly, she reached for his forehead. Her lukewarm hands cooled his hot face. But Felix flinched at the tickling touch.

You dont have to force yourself if youre sick.

Lucy took the book from Felixs hand, closed it, and began to organize it with the other books.

You didnt look well from a while ago; did you force yourself to sit here because of me?

Lucy asked with a worried face. Felix shook his head with a blank face.

Im not sick. Its just I cant concentrate.

Then Ill go now for today. I have to go to the library anyway.

Lucy collected the books and began to put them in her bag. Felix sighed quietly and followed Lucy as she packed her bag.

Yeah, Id rather not create a situation where the two of us are alone.

He was ashamed of his behavior. He kept glancing at Lucys lips. He realized for the first time that he lacks self-control and is a sly person.

I should hurry back to the dorm and soak myself in cold water. Then Ill come back to my senses. I wont even think about kissing anymore.

He sprang up from his seat and walked to the door as if he had something urgent to do.

Like a fugitive, he tried to open the door and flee first. Lucy, who was following behind, grabbed him by the arm.

As Felix turned around, Lucy suddenly pulled his face and kissed him.

The soft and pleasant sensation that touched his lips made Felix feel that the handful of patience, which he had been holding tightly, was slipping out of his hand.

Lucy, who quickly moved her lips away, smiled shyly with a red face. Then she murmured in a low voice.

There are people out there

Felix, who was holding the doorknob, immediately closed the door again. Without realizing it, he let go of the latch and the bag in his other hand fell to the floor with a thud.

Felix wrapped his hands around Lucys face and pulled her towards him.

A long kiss has begun.

Unlike his earlier pledge that he would not think impurely, Felix eagerly coveted Lucys lips.

It was the second time, but it was a clumsy and impatient act, as if it was the first time. As if he completely forgot the lesson he learned when they fell into the pond on their first kiss, he deeply kissed Lucy again.

It was only when Lucy finally gave out a rough breath and tapped him on the back that he could barely come to his senses. He let go of Lucys face in shock.

Ah

Felixs mouth was filled with a mixture of shame.

Sienna

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Now he has nothing to say, even if Lucy really thought of him as a beast. After stealing her shiny lips, he looked at Lucys red face carefully and spoke.

..Im sorry. I didnt follow you here for this purpose.

Were you surprised?

Lucy didnt answer. So Felix wiped his lips with his thumb.

In front of Lucy, who was silent, Felix looked at her with impatience. A look of regret appeared on his face as he added a word.

I wont do it again.

Lucy then lowered her eyebrows and looked at Felixs face. There was an awkward silence between the two.

It was Lucy who broke the silence first.

I didnt hate it

She spoke in a small but clear voice. Felix paused at the unexpected answer and looked at her again.

I can keep doing it?

Looking at Felix's dazed expression, Lucy said one more time. It took a while for the words to be fully understood.

When she said she didn't hate kissing him, joy and happiness came to Felix.

Then his eyes began to boil again with passion. But this time he didn't want to act like a clumsy boy.

Lucy also looked up at Felix with an eye that seemed to want something more.

He slowly approached Lucy and touched her lips, softer and more relaxed than ever.

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After a long time, Felix and Lucy left the classroom.

Both looked awkward. The two could not hide their embarrassment at the fact that they kissed longer than they were sitting to study.

Felix wondered how much more time they would have to spend together in the future for him to act calmly and restrained in front of Lucy. However, his desperation for Lucy did not disappear no matter how much time passed.

Then let's go separately from here. Lucy said after leaving the hallway. As Felix nodded, Lucy walked a little ahead and began to go down to the first floor. Felix followed behind, looking at her round head.

It was a letter from Brom that forced the two to calm down.

The two greeted each other in front of the main building and parted, and each turned toward the dormitory and library. Soon afterwards, Lucy suddenly stopped walking and looked toward the main gate.

The mailman, who stops by the academy every day, entered the school gate with his horse tied to the front gate. Lucy made a hasty turn and ran toward him.

After returning from the Thanksgiving holiday, whenever the mailman visited, Lucy rushed to check if any letters had come to her. It was because the reply to the Thanksgiving card she sent to her parents in Brom had not yet arrived.

Felix reassured her that there must be a lot of mail that had caused the delay in the delivery, but Lucy couldn't shake off her worries.

But it didn't seem like much to worry about. It turned out that there were a few more students from the east who had not received a reply from their house. Perhaps there was something wrong with the eastern post office. Mail carriages were often overturned or lost in accidents.

Lucy ran to the mailman and received the letter. It seemed that a reply had finally arrived. Felix could see Lucy's happy face from afar. A smile of relief soon came to his face.

But when Felix, who was stepping back toward the dormitory, suddenly looked back at Lucy, she was no longer smiling. Her expression as she read the letter was unusual.

Felix turned around and approached Lucy with a puzzled face. As he got closer, her pale face became apparent.

Lucy, what's going on?

Sunbae

With a pale face, Lucy dropped her hand holding the letter.

What should I do?

Her lips trembled. She opened her mouth with difficulty.

There was a battle on the eastern border.

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Lucy's letter was accompanied by several lines of replies to the Thanksgiving card, as well as a few lines of recent worrying events.

Days before Thanksgiving, it was said that the Trach tribe invaded the eastern border of the Empire and plundered several villages.

Fortunately, Brom was not harmed. Lucy's parents and Baron Connors couple were also safe. They told her not to worry about anything even if she heard a news later. It was written in calm handwriting.

However, Lucy's hand, holding the letter, trembled slightly.

Even if they weren't harmed, she had no choice but to worry after hearing about the Trach tribe.

Felix held her shoulder still.

The Trach tribe were barbarians who wandered near the Trach mountain, above the kingdom of Lausanne, and engaged in looting. The king of Lausanne, the neighboring country, has long used large force to prevent the barbarians from plundering and harming their people.

He even temporarily gave up the land that was in conflict with the Beros Empire because of the battle against the Trach tribe.

It was fortunate for the Beros Empire. The longer the dispute with the Lausanne kingdom lasted, the greater the burden on the people of the empire.

Anyway, the land that was obtained was quite useful. And since the kingdom of Lausanne was always standing between the land and the barbarians, the attack of the Tracks was not something to worry about.

However, the two were surprised to hear that the barbarians suddenly invaded the eastern border of Beros.

It was not known at this time whether the Trachs penetrated the soldiers of the Lausanne Kingdom and reached the empire, or whether the Lausanne Kingdom intentionally opened the way for looters.

The situation will not get worse because Count Braden will drive the barbarians to the north.

Count Braden was an experienced knight who had protected the east side of the empire for decades. In addition, skilled knights were guarding the eastern border, so even barbarians would not rush to loot again.

Yes

Lucy nodded in tears at his consolation.

Lucy could hardly shake off her anxiety. She seemed to feel greater anxiety that the distance between the capital and Brom was too far to immediately receive news about the situation. In fact, a few days had already passed before she heard the news about the plundering.

Ill send a messenger to check the situation. So dont worry.

Felix said. Lucy nodded, slightly relieved.

Felix took Lucy, who was anxious, to the library.

The shadow on her face made Felix feel uneasy. When he arrived in front of the library, Felix, who couldn't just let her go, hugged Lucy.

Dont worry too much. The Imperial Palace must have heard about it before us, they're already discussing this situation. It won't be a big deal.

He said, sweeping down Lucy's back.

Yes, I hope so.

Lucy's trembling voice touched his ears.

Then, the library door opened. He stopped when he saw the two hugging. Felix sensed the man's presence and fell off Lucy.

As soon as he turned his head and checked, Felix's expression changed to bewilderment. Likewise, it was none other than Adrian who stood looking at the two with a surprised expression.

He alternated between Felix and Lucy with a more perplexing look than ever. He then hid his surprise and spoke in his usual tone.

Lucy, Jemima is waiting inside.

Oh, I'm sorry.

Lucy hurriedly took her bag from Felix's shoulder and ran into the library. Adrian approached Felix after the sound of the book that was crashing loudly in her bag completely disappeared.

So, you two?

Adrian asked cautiously.

Felix nodded his head, not knowing what to say. Adrian's expression grew serious.

Felix, if father finds out about this, he won't stay still.

He knew he said it because he was worried about his junior, but Felix was fed up as soon as he heard it.

I'm being careful.

Is this what being careful looks like? What if I wasn't the one who found you?

His cold words left Felix speechless. Adrians expression changed as he stared at him. He asked a question as if he had thought of something.

By any chance Does father already know? Why did he suddenly decide to sponsor Lucy?

Father doesnt know for sure yet. I wont let him know.

At Felixs blunt answer, Adrian swept his hair. He still looked at his brother with questionable eyes.

Yes, of course.

After a while, he nodded once with a blunt expression, as if he didnt want to be more involved.

Adrian passed him down the stairs, then moved away toward the main building. Felix sighed as he looked at his younger brothers disappearing back.

At some point, Adrians atmosphere changed. From the time he threw the vase at the book club members, Felix noticed his change.

He was more concerned about what he was thinking now because he never revealed his innermost thoughts to others.

Maybe hell never answer even if he asks him whats wrong.

Nervously, Felix swept his hair away.Sienna

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News about the invasion of the barbarians soon became known to the whole empire.

But the academy was quiet as if nothing had happened. Most of the students attended their classes as usual, sat on the campus and chatted with their friends, leading a peaceful daily life.

Thats because the eastern border region was located quite far from the capital. It was necessary to ride a carriage for 15 days to reach Bethel, the capital city, located on the west side of the empire,

Because of that, rumors about the invasion and looting may seem like a thing from a distant country for the capital people.

The invasion of the Trach tribe became a talk of the town only among the students from the East, the other students weren't even interested in it.

Moreover, even when the Trach tribe tried to invade again, the people didn't seem to take the issue very seriously, perhaps because of the belief that the outstanding knights of the East would easily prevent it. In fact, the looting was quickly suppressed this time, too.

Despite the atmosphere, Lucy seemed not yet relieved.

Her complexion was always not good, and she often sits still and thinks unlike usual when she is always busy.

She's probably worried.

It was understandable that Lucy could not put her mind at ease because it was not yet known how the Trach tribe invaded the border, and no one knew whether they would try to invade again.

Besides Lucy, there was another student wandering the hall like a ghost with drooping shoulders.

Colin Connor, where are you leaving your mind?

Felix cautioned, holding up Colin, who kept walking without knowing that things were falling through the gap of his open bag.

Colin, who was always active and energetic, turned his head toward Felix, the spark in his eyes was gone.

All your things are gone.

Despite Felix's criticism, Colin answered helplessly with a sullen expression.

Yes

He began to pick up the fallen objects, shedding a dying voice.

Looking at the figure, Felix clicked his tongue thinking it can't go on like this.

Perhaps because they grew up hearing so many stories of war 50 years ago, Lucy and Colin were depressed, worrying about things that hadn't happened yet.

It wasn't that he didn't understand the feelings of the two, but stamping their feet and worrying won't change anything.

So, Felix decided to go out with Lucy and Colin as soon as the weekend came. The plan was to take them to a crowded place and make them forget thinking about their hometown.

But it wasn't as easy as he thought. Lucy aside, Colin's condition was worse than expected.

Where are you looking and walking? Walk straight!

Colin, who was trudging toward the front door, almost fell because he didn't see the stone right in front of him. Felix quickly grabbed him by the back and helped him up.

Colin growled himself, dangling from his hand.

I'm sorry.

He made another dying noise.

Felix always thought Colin was annoying whenever he couldn't control his energy and was distracted, he just wanted him to shut up and stay quiet for a moment.

However, when Colin did not say a word and just limped like a zombie, the thought ran away. What is more difficult to handle than the overly energetic Colin Connor, was Colin Connor, who became quiet as if he had died from anxiety and worry.

What kind of condition is this extreme?

No matter how much Felix tried to put him back to his original form, Colin's mood never came back.

Then an elegant and arrogant voice flew over their heads.

Why are you so down, little kids?

Normally, he would have frowned as soon as he heard the voice, but at that moment, Felix turned his head with a welcoming look.

In a nearby carriage, Rose was looking out at them with her arms folded.

Soon her eyes turned to Lucy and Colin, drooping beside Felix like a wet puppy.

What's wrong with them?

When Rose asked, Felix immediately dragged Lucy and Colin to Rose's carriage without answering.

Excuse me for a moment.

W, What?

Ignoring Roses bewildered look, Felix put Lucy and Colin into the carriage.

No matter how much he thought about it, he could not offset the gloomy atmosphere created by the two alone. However, he thought it might be a little different for Ros, who only talked about what she had to say without thinking about the feelings of others.

No matter what sadness others are in, they will continue to show off their new clothes or fall into their own world.

He thought it would be better to continue to ventilate the atmosphere while listening to Ros showing off.

Lets go for a ride together.

Finally, Felix pushed his sturdy body into the carriage and spoke.

You owe me one last time. You remember, right?

When Ros mentioned what happened a few months ago, she shrugged as if she had nothing to say.

Well, it doesnt matter. Its lonely to go alone anyway.

As it turns out, Felix taking Lucy and Colin aboard Ross carriage was a good choice.

Lucy and Colin also slowly began to gain energy due to Ross cool and cheerful energy, who only said what she had to say, regardless of whether the other person heard it or not.

Colin, who was looking out the window with his mouth closed, began to show interest slightly when Ros started talking about boutiques and dessert shops, and a few minutes later, he turned to Ros.

By the time they got closer to the town, he willingly accepted Roses offer to go to the boutique together, and returned to his original lively self-leading the conversation.

Meanwhile, Lucys pale face gradually returns to normal.

Felix held her hand quietly and gave her as if saying dont worry. Lucy also nodded quietly and smiled for the first time.

After arriving in the town, they were led by Ros going around boutiques.

Colin regained his energy back even if he was left alone. He went around the boutique looking and picking out clothes for Rose.

In the meantime, Felix watched Lucys condition and took good care of her. To further boost her energy that has barely recovered.

Then Ros sneaked up at their back and asked a subtle question.

what, the atmosphere is unusual?

What?

You and Lucy.

Ros looked at Felix with a curious expression and soon showed a mischievous smile.

I cant believe Im seeing Felix Berg struggling with a woman. Ive never seen anything like this before

Dont tell others.

He wasnt too worried because Ros wasnt the kind of person who would go around with her mouth even though she was cold and rude, but Felix warned her just in case.

Dont worry. Ill keep this funny fact to myself for now.

Ros giggled. Then she muttered, changing the direction of her gaze.

By the way Lucy Keenan.

Felixs face darkened as she looked at Lucy with dangerously twinkling eyes.

Isnt Ros a girl who once followed him for her popularity? Shes not thinking that Lucy has done something she failed to do right?

He was worried about that, but she smiled and murmured.

You have an innocent face but are full of ambitions.

Do you think shes you?

Felix clapped his tongue inwardly towards Ros, who was talking nonsense.

Eventually, Ross shopping ended only after wandering around the boutique until her soles were swollen.

Not only Ros but also Felix's hands were full of things. It was the clothes she bought for Lucy.

He knew she wasn't the kind of person to feel good about this, but he wanted to do anything for her. So even if Lucy refused, he bought all the things she showed interest in.

It was when they came out to the roadside after each satisfactory shopping.

Dududdu!

They felt a tremor shaking the ground from afar. The people standing on the street stopped and buzzed all at once. The next moment they quickly split sideways.

A group of knights were speeding along the boulevard at a high speed. It was the Imperial Knights.

As Felix pushed his group to the wall and stepped back from the center of the boulevard, the knights moved away from their eyes, waving dark navy capes as if a strong storm were passing by.

A cloud of dust flew high into the sky where they had passed. In it, people were coughing and waving their hands.

As the sound of horse hoofs died down, peace came again on the boulevard. People glanced back at the place where the Knights disappeared and began to go back.

What is it? I didn't hear that the Imperial Knights were going to war.

Ros murmured. Usually before the Knights' appearance, a grand ceremony was always held in the capital. Seeing them run so fast, it was clear that something urgent had happened.

Lucy and Colin stiffened. The two, who had regained their energy at best, began to return to their original state rapidly after seeing the Knights.

And the next day, news was delivered to the whole empire that made it impossible for them to recover.

It was reported that Lausannes' army had invaded the east with the Trach tribe at the forefront.

READ ONLY AT MOONLIGHT NOVELS [[Sienna

Chapter 94

In the last 50 years, the empire has never had a war, apart from a small conflict with neighbouring countries. When the news of war broke out, the entire country fell into complete chaos.

Only then did the capital citizens, who dismissed the looting of the Trach tribe as mere conflict in the far eastern provinces, gradually begin to tremble in fear.

Furthermore, what shocked the academy students was the decrees issued throughout the empire. The academy was in mayhem because of the emperor's order for all noble families.

In the event of a war, every family that swore allegiance to the emperor had to send one adult man to the battlefield. Failure to do so is strictly punishable under national law.

Most of the eldest sons had to carry on their families as successors, so it was the second or youngest son who was sent to battle.

Felix looked at the decree on the wall with a serious expression; he then turned and ran down the hallway.

When he turned the corner, the man he was looking for appeared from across the street. He saw Felix and stopped walking.

Adrian.

A more restless voice came out of Felix's mouth. It was a voice mixed with worries, fears, confusion, and everything else.

But the other person was really calm.

Berg's second son, who became an adult after his birthday only a month ago, smiled faintly at his brother.

Even among the students running around in a mixture of surprise and confusion, he stood upright, maintaining his usual neat appearance.

There was no resentment, no anger in his empty eyes.

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The war drove the academy into a huge storm overnight.

Half of the third-year boys were second or third sons who were subject to the decree. In addition, there were many people who had become adults after their 19th birthday. They

had to join the Imperial Knights in place of their father or brother and leave for the East on a designated date.

They still couldn't accept this situation. The only thing that was left on their faces was the fear of dying.

That night, Felix sat absent-mindedly on the bed in their dormitory room. Thanks to the storm that swept through the academy, the dormitory was quiet.

It was a strange stillness.

Then, Felix's gaze turned to the bed next to him. Adrian took off his school uniform as usual, organized it neatly, and sat on the bed in a neat manner.

He went through his schedule with an indifferent expression, as if to check his tomorrow's schedule in advance. There was no emotion on his face to the point where it was creepy.

Even though he is someone who might be called up suddenly because of the decree, he is preparing for tomorrow without any agitation. Who knows, his schedule for the next day might be useless.

The calmer he was, the more Felix's heart seemed to crumble.

If you have something to say, say it.

Adrian said, with his eyes still fixed on the timetable. It was such a calm tone.

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When Felix didn't answer, Adrian turned his head and looked at him.

Why are you looking at me like that?

He asked with a smile, as if the situation were nothing. But Felix did not believe the face that pretended to be indifferent.

Who can laugh nonchalantly before leaving for the battlefield?

But Felix couldn't say anything.

Don't worry too much.

There must be another alternative.

You'll be alright.

No words could comfort Adrian. Instead of deceiving Adrian with the right words, Felix bit his lips.

I'll find someone to send in your place.

That was all he could say after much consideration.

The emperor's decree was only given to aristocrats who swore allegiance to the emperor.

At one time, nobles used their power and wealth to hire knights to send them to war instead. However, when this was increasingly abused and most nobles simply passed their duties on to powerless knights, the emperor banned alternative service.

Therefore, in the event of a war, the nobles were forced to send their beloved son to the battlefield.

Of course, even at the risk of being punished, there were often cases where someone else was secretly sent to war instead of their son. If caught, it was difficult to avoid harsh punishment, but someone tried.

They couldn't bear to send their beloved son to war.

Will father do the same?

Felix was in agony, recalling his cold-blooded father.

No matter how much Adrian was regarded as his replacement, it was undeniable that he was a descendant of the Berg family.

The Duke has been using Adrian with contempt, but this time it may be different. It's about the life of his son.

Felix had a glimmer of hope that his father would agree to find someone to go to war for his brother.

The Duke is very powerful. Buying the chief of the Knights would not be too difficult for his father.

Who will replace me?

However, Adrian's voice was not skeptical, and it was even mixed with explicit ridicule.

Well, maybe it's a great opportunity for our father to get rid of me.

Felix frowned at his significant words. Every time Adrian uttered something negative like that, he felt like his heart was breaking.

What do you mean?

You know, Felix. Father wont do that for me.

How do you know that?

Felix wanted to shout like that.

He wanted to shake his shoulders and tell him not to give up already and not to say such desperate words.

But somehow, the word only lingered in Felixs mouth.

As he only puffed his mouth, Adrian grinned.

I abandoned that vain hope a long time ago.

After he said that, he blew out the candle without Felixs permission.

Silence settled in the room with darkness.

Vain hope

Even in the dark, Adrians voice lingered in Felixs head.

When Adrians rustling in the bed stopped, Felix sat still for a long time.

Its not a vain hope.

He blamed himself endlessly for not being able to guarantee it.

* * *

He had not seen Lucy ever since the news of the war broke. She didnt even show up to class all day.

Felix caught her book club friends and asked them, but they just shook their heads. He became nervous.

Felix knew how much Lucy loved her hometown and family, so he couldnt even imagine how miserable she felt when she heard the news of the war.

He circled the girls dormitory building and looked up at the window where Lucys room was.

He desperately wanted to climb up the wall and check if Lucy was okay or if she had cried all night.

What are you doing here?

When he turned around to see the voice he heard from behind, Ros was standing behind him.

She looked up at the girls dormitory with her hands on her waist and looked suspiciously at Felix, who was standing.

Lucy hasnt come out of the room. When I checked her out when I brought her a meal in the morning, her face looked terrible.

Even before Felix asked, Rose told him what he was curious about.

It must be painful. since it happened in her hometown. Hows Colin?

I stopped him from packing and going home right away.

Good job. He cant even fight properly. Where is he going?

Ros sighed as she swept through her red hair.

Anyway, Im checking Lucys status from time to time. So dont think about forcing yourself into the female student dormitory.

Ros said, maintaining her usual haughty attitude.

But Felix realized that she was deliberately acting resolute. He could feel the anxiety that she couldnt hide in the corner of her face.

Her father, Count Millard, was a knight who made a name for himself in the Empire. He, too, will have to go to the East for the peace of the Empire.

Dont look at me with a sad face!

Ros, who read the expression on Felixs face, burst into a rage. She paused for a moment and then opened her mouth.

As the daughter of a knight, I was always mentally prepared for this kind of situation. So I dont want to get that sympathetic look from you.

Its not sympathy.

Felix corrected her words.

Its because I cant believe it either. The fact that I have to send my family to war.

At that, Ross eyes turned and looked at Felix. Only then did she realize that Adrian had come of age and was subject to the decree.

Rose hesitated and opened her mouth.

Wouldnt your father be able to find enough people for Adrian?

Roses words, without knowing the situation, only made Felix bitter once again.

Ill be going now.

Averting to answer, he turned away. His mind was more complicated than ever.

Lucy, Adrian, the war, the decree

Everything was going down at once.

And in it, Felix couldnt give up hope.

Theres no way my father would send Adrian to war. Whatever happens, father

Its funny to say this, but isnt Adrian still useful?

But his expectations were crushed with a single letter.

It was a letter from the Duke.

The recipient was Adrian, telling him to prepare to join the Knights immediately.

Felix, who opened the letter instead of Adrian, clenched his fists as he slowly read the letters down.

His whole body trembled with anger at the thought of relentlessly betraying his handful of hope.

READ ONLY AT MOONLIGHT NOVELSSienna

Chapter 95

Felix crumpled the letter and threw it into the corner. He didnt think so, but when he faced his fathers decision that was colder than he thought, his anger grew even more intense.

Does father really not have any affection for Adrian?

No, does he have any sympathy for humanity? For him, are children just someone he needs to use to maintain the glory of his family?

Adrian was not a fighter. Not only did he not like holding a sword, he never thought about living as a knight in his life.

His place was not a battlefield, but an academy that would make him better demonstrate his abilities.

Felix bit his lips.

Lucy and Adrian.

All he can do for his loved ones is just clench his fist or just bite his lips.

He was so upset by the reality that he had no choice but to stand still and just watch the situation turn around.

A sense of helplessness came. Whats the use of being the Prince of Berg? He doesnt have the power to protect those around him.

If so.

Maybe for Lucys hometown, and for Adrians sake, Ill go to the war instead.

Dont even think about it.

A determined, cold voice flew into his ear. Felix turned his head.

Adrian returned to the room before he knew it and stood looking at him with a colder expression than ever.

You have to stay and continue the family. Im the one who has to fulfill this duty.

Adrian said firmly, as if he had looked into Felixs head.

Felixs heart was filled with resistance when he saw his brothers face.

You sound like father, Adrian. You dont even like to fight someone with a sword.

Is this a question to argue with? No one goes to war because he likes to wield a sword.

Adrian soberly reminded him of reality. But Felix wanted to refute his words somehow.

You're not the kind of man who can stand the war.

Then, what about you? What fate do you have on the battlefield? You mean you're gonna go instead of me? Do you think father would tolerate that?

No, it's impossible.

Felix knew that, too. His father will never just watch his sons change roles at will.

I won't be sent directly into battle anyway.

Adrian walked into the room and said, taking out a large bag. His tone was monotonous as if he were talking about an academy class.

At first, I'll go in as a servant and take on the knights' chores for a few months.

They do not immediately put a person who had no actual experience in combat into the war. As Adrian said, the newcomers who entered the Knights Templar were supposed to serve the formal knights for some time.

And he'll be in charge of the food for the knights and the things behind the battlefield, such as moving supplies.

Don't worry, no one will push me to the front line right away.

Adrian started packing his bags. Felix stared at the figure and was lost in thought.

Of course he didn't mean to let Adrian leave as he was.

If their father did not intend to rescue his younger brother, he had to step up. He was going to prevent Adrian from participating in the war even if he had to find a replacement for Adrian himself.

The sun began to set out of the window.

In the gloomy atmosphere where no one is visiting their friend's room anymore, someone knocked on the door. It was a very impatient, angry knock.

Felix got out of bed and approached the door. When he opened the door, an unexpected person stood in front of him.

She didnt even come to the academy during the entrance ceremony. It was the Duchess of Berg with a pale and slender figure.

Mother.

Felixs startled voice sank low in the hallway. The duchess looked at her son with trembling eyes. Her eyes scanned Felixs face as if to confirm something.

Soon she looked over his shoulder into the room, perhaps realizing that the son standing in front of her was not Adrian.

Felix stepped away from the door feeling dejected.

Adrian sat on the bed, threw his clothes into the bag, and raised his head. His eyes also widened as if surprised to see his mother who suddenly came.

Mother, what are you doing here.

Adrians words didnt go through. The duchess ran straight to him and grabbed him by the wrist.

She forced Adrian to rise from his seat so quickly that they wondered how such strength generated from her fragile body.

Adrian! We have to leave here right now! said the Duchess, with her eyes trembling. Her words were like murmurs crying for help.

What are you talking about, mother!

Adrian grabbed her by the shoulder and tried to calm her down.

You have to run away! Adrian, we need to get out of here. Listen to this mother.

The duchess muttered frantically. Standing by the door, Felix stood watching the scene with shocked eyes.

A son who now has to leave for the battlefield, and a mother who ran without proper shoes to save him.

Felix bit his lips.

He strode up to the Duchess. Then he took his mother away from Adrian and said,

Stop it, mother. Where are you going to take him?

We have to take Adrian!

Where the hell? If youre not going to take him abroad, theres no other place for Adrian to hide now!

We have to take Adrian!

Please stop!

Felix grabbed his mothers shoulder and shook it.

A sharp touch passed through Felixs cheek. The duchess quietly lifted her hand, mumbling like a madwoman.

She slapped his son and was surprised by her own action. Her hand flinched.

I, I didnt mean to, Felix..

All right, go back.

A cold voice came out of Felixs mouth.

He had enough of everything now.

Mothers actions are of no help now.

His cold words drew the duchesss attention. Her lips trembled. She muttered something nonstop, but it didnt reach Felixs ear.

Her whole body trembled and was unable to keep her eyes fixed, as if she were really out of her mind.

Mother.

Adrian carefully examined the Duchesss condition. However, she seemed unable to hear even the voice of her son, whom she cared so much about. Pages: Page 1, Page 2

Chapter 96

what?

Felixs hand, which was holding Adrians shoulder, fell down. He only looked at him with a frown, as he did when he heard the news of a war overnight.

Felix, who couldnt figure out what to say back, asked a dazed question a long time later.

What do you mean

literally.

Adrian explained, looking at his brother with dismal eyes.

Since I was very young, I knew father didnt like me. The way he looks at me. his eyes that want me to disappear from this world. They look like theyre saying I shouldnt have been born. Even though I was young, I could feel it all.

Felix listened to Adrian and recalled his childhood memories.

Adrian was right. However, it was the same for Felix.

He also used to freeze like ice when he stood in front of their father, who was strict and never smiled at all. In front of his cold father who never says warm words, he also felt terrible fear and tension.

it was the same for me, Adrian. Thats the way he is. Hes a terrible person whos even hard on his wife.

At Felixs words, Adrians blue eyes sank cold like a frozen winter lake. He opened his tight mouth and spouted out softly.

When we were six years old, he strangled me.

what?

His brothers words were once again shocking, forcing Felix to ask back with a blank face.

He wasnt drunk or out of his mind. He was in a sober state of mind, he just strangled me without any guilt. As if thats what he has to do at that moment.

His distant voice seemed to penetrate Felixs head once, then fly away and scatter.

He didnt know what to say back. Confused, Felix just listened to his brothers story with a stunned face.

At that time, mother ran to stop father. She begged desperately. To save me. To not kill me.

Adrian paused for a moment with a dark face as if he were recalling that time.

Two identical blue eyes stared at each other. However, the difference was, one side was in shock, and the other side was sinking like death.

but father didnt stop. No matter how many times mother shouted that I was his child, he didnt stop. Then mother changed her ways and began to persuade him in other words. Our faces are becoming indistinguishable, so he can use me somewhere. At that, he stopped strangling me. Thats all she could say to save me. Im his son, but I dont mean anything to him.

Adrian let out a self-help laugh.

Thats how I was able to survive. Like mother said, father didnt try to kill me afterwards because he thought he could use me for something. He started using me as your replacement.

When Adrian stopped talking, a terrible silence filled the room.

Why in the world

Why does father want to kill Adrian?

It never happened to me. Not even once.

Adrian and him were twins born on the same day. He couldnt think of a reason why he would kill only him.

Why on earth would father.

Adrian laughed bitterly at Felixs vain murmur.

I dont know, Felix.

A desperate voice came out of his mouth.

Like you, I also dont know. Why did father try to kill me?

It wasnt until he heard this tremendous fact that Felix realized. Why their mother tried to protect Adrian as obsessive as she has been.

Why Adrian always came first to his mother.

I think thats when mother started over protecting me. Mother was always afraid that my father would try to kill me again when she didnt know.

Adrian, who struggled to finish his words recalling the terrible memories of the past, collapsed on the bed.

So dont tell me that mother loves me more. Because its not true.

How can I respond to that?

Felix couldnt say anything in front of his brother who confessed his trauma.

* * *

Felix quietly left the room. Now, he walked slowly in the dark along the campus, which smelled like winter.

Adrians voice was calm and quiet, but his words caused a stir in Felixs mind.

Why did my father want to kill Adrian?

He already knew that he was crazy when it came to his familys business, but he couldnt understand that he tried to hurt his child.

Shortly after he walked, he found a person standing in front of a nearby flower bed and stopped walking. His mother, who stumbled out of the room, remained in the academy with the help of a maid.

With a pale complexion, her eyes widened when she found Felix. Pages: Page 1, Page 2

Chapter 97

Kalchak!

How long has it been? Felix raised his head at the sudden sound of a bird flying from the tree.

Only then did he realize that he had been leaning on Lucys shoulder, who was much smaller than him, for a long time. They must have looked weird in other peoples eyes.

It was fortunate that it was dark and difficult to see the surroundings.

Are you done crying now?

I didnt cry.

In the hopes that Lucys eyes wouldnt be able to see his wet face clearly, Felix lied.

But the next moment, Felix became even more embarrassed, as she did not ask anything and pretended to know nothing. A belated sense of embarrassment turned his face red.

Why were you walking around the campus alone at night?

Felix asked to change the subject, although it was not for him to say.

Im just frustrated.

It has been three days since Lucy received correspondence from her family in Brom. She hasnt heard any news since then.

Of course, expecting constant news from people in turmoil as a result of the war was unreasonable.

Felix sent a person to Brom on behalf of Lucy, who has no way of receiving news immediately. He doesnt know when the news of her familys safety will come, but its better than doing nothing.

Meanwhile, news spread throughout the capital that some Imperial Knights had departed east to support the Knights already in battle. Nobody knows what the situation is like, but people were relieved by the news.

We have to get in now.

Lucy said quietly as she looked around the campus, filled with silence. The occasionally passing students hazy shadows are now totally invisible.

After the curfew, Flora will never open the door.

Its the same with the male dormitory manager, Lauren.

After taking a few steps, Lucy spoke as if she had just remembered something.

Oh, please check out Colin when the sun comes up tomorrow. I havent seen his face since he was holed up in his room.

Yeah, I see. Ill go tomorrow morning. It probably wont be a big deal.

Thats a relief, but.

He was actually thinking about checking Colins condition. He hasnt seen him in the dormitory for two days. He was very worried about his quietness since he was a troublemaker who always stirred around and made noise around him.

Ill check Colin out, so you take care of yourself.

Thank you.

Although he was embarrassed, Felix's heart calmed down after he buried his face in Lucy's shoulder and shed tears. He took Lucy to the front of the dormitory and returned to his room.

What should I say when I meet Adrian?

He stood at the door and pondered for a while, but it was a useless worry. As he entered the dark room, he could see Adrian's dim figure lying on the bed.

While there were signs of him coming in, he did not move. It's probably not the time to talk to Adrian.

It wasn't because he was asleep, but because he felt like he was pretending to be asleep.

Felix, however, discovered Adrian's bed empty when he awoke the following morning. He left the room in the early morning.

At that moment, he had an ominous feeling, so he opened Adrian's closet and checked it. Fortunately, the luggage he packed remained in its position.

Felix left the room with a sigh of relief.

But the next second, instead of Adrian, he saw someone else fussing over his luggage.

When he came to Collins' room to check on him as promised with Lucy the day before, Colin Connor was screaming with a bag as big as he was. And a boy, who appeared to be his roommate, was screaming, holding onto Colin's bag with an absurd face.

What are you going to do about it?

Let go of me!

Felix looked at the figure with a puzzled face and asked.

What are you doing?

I'm going back to Brom!

Colin, who found Felix by the door, replied with a grim look.

No way! I can't send my father to war!

Colin is preparing to carry out a risky scheme to fight in the war on Baron Connors behalf.

Felix laughed in a deflated voice because Colin doesnt know how to fight.

Do you know how to swing a sword?

Im better than my father!

Felix had never seen Baron Connor, but he took the bag, thinking that he would still be better than Colin.

Give it back!

Colin jumped up and tried to take the bag from him, but Felix handed over the bag to Colins roommate, standing next to him, and snatched Colin from the back.

Colin, youre the only child of Baron Connor.

Colin was the only heir to Baron Connor unless he had another son during this time. When Felix reminded him of that fact, Colin became teary and stopped trying to shake Felixs hand.

Yes, but

He was tearing his hair out.

I cant help it! Theres no news from my family!

Just because you join the Knights doesnt mean you can fight for your hometown right away.

Felix said roundly. To be more precise, it was right to say that he couldnt fight.

Colins physique was smaller than most girls. In fact, it was questionable whether there was any armor that could fit him. If he says he will fight with a sword, people may laugh at him.

Colin slumped on the floor with a frustrated face, perhaps reading Felixs acrimonious thoughts.

Would the Baron give you permission in the first place?

He recalled Adrians face as he asked Colin a question.

Absolutely not. I would rather go out instead.

At Felix's words, Colin seemed to have regained some sanity. He murmured a melancholy reply.

Okay, I'll find another way.

What other way?

Felix asked, frowning at the uncomfortable answer but Colin started organizing his messy room without answering.

Leaving Colin behind with a ferocious look, Felix rushed to the library searching for Adrian. He didn't think he could leave him alone after what he had heard the day before.

The library was quiet. Fewer students were sitting down and studying leisurely, filling the tables.

Only students from families who had nothing to do with the East, who had no son to send to the battlefield, and foreign students were reading books leisurely.

At the return table, Mrs. Erin, the librarian, was working alone. None of the book club members were seen. The same was true of Adrian.

Felix, who was just leaving the library, found light-brown hair sticking out behind the bookcase and approached it.

Sure enough, Lucy was crouching behind it.

Lucy?

She lifted her head at the sudden sound of Felix's voice.

Oh, I was waiting for Mrs. Erin to come.

She's already here.

Oh.

Lucy looked back at Mrs. Erin sitting at the return table.

I didn't even notice she came, I was thinking about something else.

Lucy stretched her knees and her arms, then asked as if she had suddenly remembered.

By the way, what about Colin?

staying quiet in his room.

He didnt mention anything about the disturbance a while ago, he was afraid shed be worried.

Thats a relief. He must be more heartbroken than I am. Colin is the next Lord to inherit Brom.

He was so heartbroken that he tried to do something reckless.

Felix swallowed the words and reassured Lucy.

Dont worry. I told him not to act rashly.

Then a man walked into the library. He walked straight up to the librarian and asked him something. Then Mrs. Erin, who was looking around the library, answered by pointing to Lucy.

The man turned in the direction she pointed and took something out of his pocket.

Felix blocked it reflexively, but the man approached politely, bowed his head, and passed by him. Then he held out what he had taken out of his pocket to Lucy.

A letter to Miss Lucy Keenan.

Lucy jumped up from her seat as soon as she heard it. Did her family in Brom finally respond to her after all this time?

But Felix raised his eyebrows.

Already?

He dispatched a messenger, but it was too early for a response.

Lucy quickly received the letter from the man. She tore the envelope with an impatient touch and quickly opened the folded letter. However, Lucys face became strangely stiff as she was reading the letter.

Felixs heart sank.

Did she receive bad news from her hometown?

After a while, Lucy raised her head and stared at Felix with nervous eyes. Slowly, she handed him the letter.

The letter contained only three lines. In addition, it was familiar handwriting.

Sunbae

Felix, who read the contents of the letter while listening to Lucys voice, frowned.

[To Lucy Keenan]

I look forward to seeing you again and would like to invite you to the mansion.

[From Duke Arthur Berg]

Sienna

Chapter 98

Felix took his eyes off the letter and stared sharply at the man who delivered it. He was a servant whom he had seen several times in the duchy.

Why did he invite Lucy?

The master wants to hear directly how Lucy Keenan, whom he is sponsoring, is living in the academy and if there is any inconvenience.

Felix chuckled. His father was by no means a man to mind such a thing. It was clear that there was another ulterior motive.

Who else was invited besides Lucy?

There is only one person who has been invited to todays dinner.

In response, Felix bit his lip.

The Duke seemed to know more than he expected.

The relationship between them and about how significant Lucy has become to him. If he uses her well, he will be able to control Felix easily.

How on earth did he find out? Could he have attached people to follow me in secret?

In light of the Dukes terrible character, it was not impossible.

One thing was certain, he could no longer hide his relationship with Lucy from the Duke. His father already knows everything.

Ill have a carriage ready for you in the evening.

Even though Lucy has not yet answered, the man sent by the Duke delivered the schedule arbitrarily.

When youre ready to go to the Dukes house.

Tell him shes not coming.

Felix interrupted the man in a sharp voice.

Im sorry, young master. The master ordered Miss Lucy Keenan to answer directly.

Tell him shes not coming.

Felix said firmly, cutting off the mans words repeatedly.

Ill be attending the dinner in Lucys place. Tell father that.

All right, young master.

As soon as Felix finished speaking, the man answered, bowing his head. In the first place, Lucys attendance was unimportant. After receiving Felixs answer, he left the library without hesitation.

Why did the Duke suddenly invite me?

Lucys trembling voice was heard behind his back.

Does the Duke know all about it? about you and me.

My father often invites people whom he is sponsoring to the mansion. Theres no other reason.

Felix looked back at Lucy and lied. He didnt want to see her worrying or getting anxious about his father. But Lucy didnt believe what Felix said.

Then why are you stopping me from going to Dukes house?

Thats

Felix was rendered speechless. She appeared to have a general understanding of what was happening even though he kept lying.

After all, the Duke knows everything, thats why youre in a difficult position.

Lucy had a confident look on her face, and Felix, on the other hand, could not deny it.

Dont worry. This is my first time meeting someone. My father is probably just curious.

Felix tried to look as if he was talking about something insignificant, but Lucy was still suspicious.

She didnt ask Felix any more questions. To be honest, even if they were discovered, there was nothing she could do about it. It just adds to her worries.

Felix felt sorry for Lucy for no reason. He wouldnt have had to go through this if he had a normal father, or at least one who wasnt such a horrible man as the Duke of Berg.

You didnt do anything wrong. Dont be so upset.

Felix said, gently sweeping Lucys cheek down.

I can handle this.

If he can no longer hide it, he has no choice but to confront it head-on.

Lucy still had a shadow on her face, but she nodded reluctantly when she saw Felixs determined face.

Felix reassured Lucy, who hardly shook off her worries, and then turned around and left the library.

How are you going to solve it?

At that time, a voice from behind stopped him in his tracks. Turning around, Adrian was standing by the door.

Your relationship with Lucy You should have been more careful, Felix.

As if he had heard the conversations with Lucy, he sighed, rebuking his brother. He looked worried that his beloved junior would get involved in something useless.

Felix, who knew what he was worried about, had nothing to say. There was nothing wrong with Adrians words; he should have been more careful.

Ill take care of Lucy, shell be fine.

Lucy is Lucy. Youre the one Im worried about, Felix.

At Adrians words, Felix closed his mouth and raised his head. Adrians face was filled with sadness for Felix.

These days youve been following fathers order, youre learning business, and you run right away as soon as youre called?. I was wondering why you suddenly changed. Is it because of Lucy and me? Because you think youll be able to protect us if you get power?

Adrian paused. Then he hesitated and continued talking.

You said you didnt want to live like our father or be like our grandfather.

Felix couldnt fathom Adrians intentions.

Then what else is there to do? For now, he has no choice but to do what their father tells him to do.

Moreover, it was Adrian himself who always showed signs of giving in, saying, Lets not make father angry, and Lets follow his words for now.

Youve been avoiding situations that are against our fathers will, Adrian. Why are you asking me that now? Isnt this what you wanted?

When asked by Felix, Adrian lost his words this time and closed his mouth. After a while of hesitating, he continued his words with difficulty.

Yes, I always wanted you to live as a proper successor because I didnt want to be dragged around fulfilling your role. I wanted to live as a whole person, not as someone elses shadow. But I know Ill never have that freedom.

Adrian raised his gloomy eyes and looked at Felix.

Im scared because youre changing. If you do your part entirely So what will happen to me, your stand-in?

At Adrians words, Felix was stunned as if an explosion had occurred right next to him.

His brother was still struggling in the hands of his father, strangling him. He was afraid he wouldnt be used as his replacement.

Trust me, Adrian. I will never let father touch you again.

Adrian smiled faintly at Felixs words.

Does it mean he believes him or not?

Adrian did not answer until the end.

Around evening, Felix headed to the duchy. His conversation with Adrian left him confused.

The Duke didnt look very surprised when Felix, not Lucy, appeared in the mansion. He sat like a statue at the table and watched Felix enter.

You wanted to see Lucy.

Suddenly, Felix spoke without greeting him. The Duke responded calmly, without expressing his displeasure at his disrespectful demeanor..

Because I am Miss Keenans patron. Isnt it only natural to be concerned about what she might be lacking?

The Duke spoke with a brazen expression on his face.

Felix felt suffocated already. He didnt want to spend a lot of time talking to him.

I dont want to hear a long story. What do you want from me? You must have had a reason for calling me out and using Lucy as an excuse.

He spoke impatiently.

Sit down first.

The Duke relaxed and offered him a seat.

Yes, since you look so impatient, so Ill get straight to the point.

As Felix sat down, the Duke opened his mouth.

As soon as this war is over, the emperor will try to build a wall on the eastern border.

Felixs eyes shot open in response to the unexpected remark.

The war had just started a few days prior, and the populace of the imperial city was in disarray. He had no idea why his father had brought up the wars conclusion.

Regardless of Felixs expression, the Duke continued the story.

In the meantime, the Kingdom of Lausanne was like a wall that blocked the relationship between the empire and the barbarians. Now that Lausanne has recruited the barbarians and invaded the eastern borders of the empire, the wall is as good as gone. Perhaps after the war, we will need a new wall to stop the barbarians.

The Duke continued in a monotonous voice.

They will need a huge amount of stone. Go to Ikar before the imperial family and monopolize the mountain stone.

.

Felix looked at his father, speechless.

This country was at war. Even at this moment, many people are suffering in the east.

Moreover, Adrian could have left for the battlefield in a few days.

But even in this situation, he was thinking about raising money.

Is he really a man of no blood or tears?

They havent even sent all the imperial troops, and yet, youre already talking as if the war is over.

Felix was sarcastic. However, the duke replied in a firm tone.

The Imperial Army will win.

There was no doubt in his voice.

Lausannes strength is not comparable to the imperial army in the first place. The only annoying part here is that the barbarians Lausanne recruited are also quite intimidating when they are on horseback, but thats all. If they drop it from the horse, their fighting skills are useless.

The Duke explained with an insensitive face, as if he were talking about a war in another country.

Lausanne started this war because they wanted to keep some territory in the east as a disputed area. The battle is already won. Therefore, we should not care about the process of war, but prepare in advance to seize the opportunities that will come afterward.

After finishing the explanation, the Duke looked at Felixs face as if waiting for his answer.

But it would be too late. By now, the imperial family is already trying to buy stones in Ikar.

Except for Berg, the Ikar imperial family will not negotiate with anyone.

What do you mean?

This means that we have already obtained priority negotiation rights for the mountain stone a few months ago.

A few months ago?

Felix opened his eyes wide, as if he were surprised.

How did you know we'd need stone?

As soon as he asked the question, Felix began to get goosebumps on his back. He whispered lowly to his father as his face twisted.

You already knew that there would be a war.

Sienna

Chapter 99

Felix's realization brought a faint smile to the Duke's face.

He was patting his armrest rhythmically with his fingers. He didn't seem like he was talking about the serious issue of war.

There is no way that the Kingdom of Lausanne would have thought of withdrawing completely from the territorial dispute with the Beros Empire. They haven't been able to pay attention to the conflict zones because they have spent the last few decades trying to stop the barbarians from looting.

The next moment, the Duke laughed, as if he were in a pleasant mood.

Luckily, I received information from the barbarians a few months ago that Lausanne was using a conciliatory plot against the imperial family. After that, I was able to figure out the plan that Lausanne would invade the eastern border of the empire with the barbarians they recruited.

Nevertheless, you didn't inform the Empire about it, but rather used it as an opportunity to start a business.

Felix is unable to contain his rage more than ever. The Duke maintained his composure despite his son's hostile demeanor.

As I have already said, the Imperial army will win the war. So don't worry about the damage. No matter what war the Kingdom of Lausanne may cause, it will not affect the West at all.

Felix's fists were clenched tightly on his lap. He cast a furious look at his father, who was sitting by himself in front of him.

What happens elsewhere does not matter as long as the capital where his family lives is safe. Does this mean that even if the eastern land is ruined by war or not, there is no need to worry about it?

Lucy's family, which he had never seen, passed by in his head in a fuzzy image. Then Colin's family and friends from the East also came to his mind and disappeared.

The innocent people's cries in the East appeared to be heard far away.

Does he really not care one bit about this kind of thing? Isn't it the terrible misfortune of the empire that such a person is sitting in the Duke's seat?

In front of his son's bewildered face, the Duke only smiled leisurely. As if he doesn't feel any remorse for his actions, which contributed to the prosperity of his family.

Do you realize how many people are suffering because of your silence?

Felix bit his lip and asked his father.

Is money that important?

Money and power are the most important things to sustain a family.

The Duke added with a smile on his face.

In order to protect ourselves, we have to make our family more prosperous. See what the men of our Berg have cultivated in the meantime. The legacy of our family, which even the emperor can't attain, did not happen overnight.

Felix was horrified by the Duke's low voice.

You're saying you have to protect your legacy, but you're driving your family to death.

Family?

Duke asked with a face that he did not understand.

I mean Adrian. Adrian is going to be dragged to the battlefield overnight because of this war. Do you not feel sorry for your child?

Are you upset?

The Duke laughed.

He should be very honored to participate in the war in the name of his family. He will die for the honor of the Berg family.

Bang!

Felix couldn't hold back any longer and hit the table. The plates and forks vibrated loudly. Despite this, the Duke did not bat an eye.

Honor? What honor does our family have? What kind of honor do you have after exploiting the powerless?

It's not something you should say because you've been enjoying a comfortable life because of that honor.

At the Duke's words, Felix felt as if he had been struck by lightning for a moment. He was unable to reply to the words that struck him deeply.

The duke laughed hysterically at him.

See?

If, as you say, our family's legacy is a disgrace, why are you still attached to this family? Why have you been so keen on succession classes lately?

The truth is, you know it. The fact that you're nothing without your family. That's why you couldn't give up.

Felix stared blankly at the table with a shocked face.

The servants began bringing food in spite of the heavy, stagnant atmosphere.

They busily filled the empty plates between the father and son, who sat silently. Felix, however, did not have any appetite.

After a while, Felix rose from his seat. The servant, who was putting the meat on his plate, looked at him with a puzzled expression.

But Felix left the dining room without caring. Of course, his father did not stop him.

Felix moved along the hallway on the first floor, which was lit by a faint light.

In the long hallway, there were large portraits of the Dukes who had led the Berg family for hundreds of years.

These dignified men all had bright blue eyes beneath brilliant blonde hair. Their self-righteous eyes followed Felix.

As one of the oldest families in the empire, the procession of portraits continued endlessly. Felix could not hide his disturbed and mixed feelings as he walked in front of them.

How many Bergs have accumulated false wealth over the years? How many people and lands have suffered because of their family?

When he finally reached the end of the long-running portrait, an empty frame appeared. If nothing else happens, the space will be his place.

And by that time, he would have become a man worthy of the Duke of Bergs position and have soaked in the familys property.

Expelling the powerless from their homes and conquering empty lands at will.

Can I live like that?

.

Felix was lost in thought for a long time, looking into the empty frame. And after a long thought, he concluded.

No, he couldnt possibly live like that.

He didnt want to live greedily, like his father and grandfather.

Felix stood still and listened to the sound coming from the dining room. Soon after, the Duke came out and returned to his bedroom.

Felix turned his way back to his room and headed to the end of the hallway on the second floor. Located at the end of the corridor was the Dukes office.

He didnt run into anyone while he was on his way. This is because no one is allowed to enter the office except for a few maids and the Duke.

It was the first time in a long time that he had been in the Dukes office.

Felix didnt like this place, which was as stark and eerie as its owner. Coming here made him feel uneasy because he remembered being called here when he was younger to receive reprimands from his father.

A small flame blazed in the fireplace. The office, where the embers were dying down, was as cold as the Dukes atmosphere.

Nevertheless, Felix's eyes were burning fiercely as he looked around the office.

If he can't escape his father's prison, he'll just bring it down.

He intended to bring the entire Duke's irregularities to the empire. Felix was not going to stop, even if his family disintegrated.

Many people have already suffered because of their family.

He particularly felt that he would no longer be able to face Lucy directly when he realized that his father had concealed it on purpose despite knowing there would be a war. He believed he wasn't deserving of it.

He plans to take matters into his own hands by exposing his father's shortcomings.

Felix began to search the Duke's desk drawer and bookshelf. However, no documents are available regarding the Duke's activities.

Of course, he couldn't have kept the papers so poorly.

He'd never heard of a secret space in the office, but just in case, he pressed here and there and pushed it.

The protruding pieces of the desk, the dreary space under the drawer, the floor under the carpet. And finally, when he pushed a bookcase, Felix was able to find a small safe door on the wall.

Funny how the key to the safe door was right in front of the door. Was it the Duke's arrogance that made him believe no one would dare to push behind his bookshelf?

Felix quickly put aside such curiosity, picked up the key, and opened the safe.

It contained a lot of documents he was looking for. After hurriedly looking around, Felix discovered a wooden chest lying alone on the top.

When compared to other documents piled up at once, it appeared suspicious that only the chest was enshrined.

The lid was engraved with three lights and a large wooden pattern, the symbol of the Great Temple. It meant the chest came from the temple.

He carefully took out the box and opened the lid. Sienna

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Felix's eyes narrowed. There wasn't anything in the chest.

He turned the lid upside down and checked the bottom of it. But he couldn't find any difference.

There's nothing here, but why did he keep it here?

The moment he asked that question.

It is a chest containing the prophecy of the Berg family.

A weak, faint, trembling voice came from behind. Felix looked back.

Mother.

The Duchess appeared before he knew it. She was standing by the door with the shawl tightly fastened.

Her eyes swept past Felix, the open safe, and the papers scattered in it. She looked a bit nervous, but she didn't seem to be trying to criticize Felix's behavior.

Felix stood vaguely and looked at his mother as she was looking at the chest.

It was unusual for her mother to speak to him first. In addition, a few days ago, Felix felt even more awkward when he recalled the memory of unilaterally turning a blind eye to his mother, who was trying to approach him on campus.

After clearing his throat for no reason, he quietly asked his mother.

What do you mean by family prophecy?

It was new to him. He didn't know there was a prophecy handed down in the Berg family. He had never heard of it.

It is a prophecy from the temple when this empire was founded and the history of the Bergs began.

The duchess slowly walked into the office, pulling the shawl closer to her neck. Her eyes glanced at the door like a herbivore who is worried about being attacked by a beast that will appear at any moment.

That's the first time I've heard of it.

Because Arthur doesn't want the existence of the prophecy itself to be known. He didn't even tell me right after we got married. I just happened to hear Arthur talking to his father before he died.

what does that prophecy say?

Felix's question spread a deep sadness over the Duchess's face. Soon, however, she returned to her usual worried yet dull face. After a moment of hesitation, she finally opened her mouth.

The power of the family extends to the extent of the land that Berg has.

The honor in the family is built up as high as Berg's gold.

The legacy of the family will be divided by the number of sons Berg has.

The Duchess's calm voice spread quietly throughout the office, as if she were reciting a poem. In Felix's mind, however, the content was strongly and deeply embedded.

Land and power gold and honor.

the legacy will be divided according to the number of sons?

His mother's voice lingered in his head. Felix, who was confused for a moment by the sudden prophecy, realized it after repeating the prophecy several times.

Why were all the previous Dukes of Berg so greedy for land and wealth.

Taking over lands for power, accumulating gold for prestige.

Those ambitions were all sparked by the prophecy.

Arthur seemed to repeat the prophecy every day. Funny how he once murmured it in his sleep. Perhaps those words gave him hope more than anything else. He, as the head of the family, wanted to expand his family's power endlessly.

But what Felix was most curious about was the last sentence. The Duchess continued as if she had noticed his mind.

But as I have just heard, the prophecy has also given the Bergs serious anxiety. The legacy will be divided according to the number of sons in the Berg family.

She recited the last verse again.

While many families were thriving to have many sons, only the Bergs could not do so. This is because only one son had to be left to prevent the family's legacy from being split.

Felix recalled the predecessors of the Duke of Berg, who was mostly an only child. Of course, in some generations, there were times in which other sons were born in addition to the successor. Felix vaguely recalls that there were other sons besides the heir

As soon as they were born, they died of illness.

The Duchess said.

Maybe its only the men in this family who know for sure if they really died of illness .

She had a deep shade on her face.

I was also urged by Arthur to have only one son. I was afraid of him, so I agreed. But I I really didnt know Id have twins.

The Duchess, who had been talking calmly, cried for a moment, holding her trembling hands together.

She paused for a moment, as if to repress the surge of emotions. She barely held back her tears by closing her lips.

As his mother spoke, all the puzzles Felix could not comprehend were being matched one after another. He murmured with a disheartened face, recalling his father.

..thats why my father tried to kill Adrian.

Because he wants to protect his familys legacy. His young son, who is only six years old. With his own hands.

Father is crazy.

He murmured.

Hes really crazy. Hes insane to try to kill his son for a prophecy that might not even be true. No, everyone in this family is crazy.

Felix was so confused that he had a headache. Only then did he realize that his family was smooth on the outside, but corrupt and rotten on the inside.

It was fortunate that you two were so identical as you were growing up. said the Duchess in a still watery voice.

Arthur didnt touch Adrian anymore. Right now, I I think he decided to rather take him around and use him instead of killing him.

Felix's eyes flashed with anger. The other meaning of the word is that one day he will kill Adrian.

I can't take father anymore.

The Duke had to be stopped.

His eyes turned to the papers in the safe.

I'll charge father.

I'll expose all his wrongdoings and put him on trial.

That is the best way to prevent the name of the family from being tarnished and save Adrian.

Felix reached into the safe without delay and scraped up the documents contained in it.

However, the Duchess, who was watching the scene from behind, stopped him in a low voice.

Felix, take a thorough look at the papers.

Felix raised his suspicious eyes and gave his mother a look, then lowered his gaze toward the document, as she said.

Tak~.

Felix inspected the random documents one by one. As a result, deep wrinkles began to form between Felix's brows.

On the surface, the document looked like an ordinary document that had contracted several businesses. But if you look closely.

It's all fake.

The Duchess said. Felix sighed and put down the papers.

Indeed, his father would not have hidden documents that could have led to his demise in such a shoddy device. So where are the real documents?

Instead, check the vault in the temple. Felix's mother said.

The real documents signed by Arthur are kept in the vault in the temple.

There was a separate vault for noble families in the temple. It boasted security as strictly as the vault in the imperial palace. Since it was an area protected by Gods power, there was no occasion where it was invaded by unauthorized people.

Only those who have received a family seal from the priest can go inside.

Felix calmly recalled his right thigh when his mother spoke. Immediately after birth, he was stamped with the familys seal to prove that he was the successor of the Berg family.

If her mothers words were true, Felix was the only one who could enter the Berg familys safe in the temple.

He immediately pushed the scattered documents into the safe and closed the door.

I will go to the temple right now.

His mother, who had been watching him, replied.

Me too Ill go too.

She spoke to her son with a determined face he had never seen before.

Felix stared at his mother in astonishment. Is he so deeply concerned about Adrian?

But she couldnt come with him.

No, if my mother disappears suddenly, father will suspect me, so please stay here and watch over him.

The Duchess looked really eager to follow Felix, but she nodded as if she had decided to obey him.

Felix didnt want to delay for a second. He and his mother hurried off.

However, her mother, who was leaving the office first, found something and stopped walking. Soon, her shoulders began to tremble slightly.

Felix sighed loudly, guessing what had happened.

Soon, a worried voice came from the door.

The mother and son must be having a very cozy time.

A dark shadow hung before him and the Duchess. Sharp eyes followed Felix as if they were about to pierce him.

Felix clenched his fist and blocked his mothers front as if protecting her. The Duke looked at his son and wife with a cold smile on his face.

But thats it.

He pounded the floor with his cane. Consequently, suspicious men armed with weapons flocked to the front of the office.

Felix prepared to fight them in case of an emergency, but soon changed his mind.

The man in front of him was a cruel man who even tried to kill his son. If he rushes at him, his mother might be put in danger.

Take him to his room.

The Duke ordered the men.

Felix had no choice but to helplessly watch his mother and him being held by them.

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