

For Your Failed Unrequited Love

#Side Story 01 - Read For Your Failed Unrequited Love

Side Story 01

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Twenty-eight Twenty- Twenty-nine Thirty!

Lucy opened her eyes and looked up after counting. Under the warm spring sun, a tidy garden came into view.

She heard a rustling sound somewhere, but it quickly faded.

So, where do I begin?

She was muttering loudly while looking around, as if she wanted someone to overhear her. A giggling laugh that sounded like it was being carried by the spring wind could be heard somewhere. Lucy quietly moved her feet to locate the source of the noise.

After some time, she came across two tiny, wiggly feet among the garden trees.

It was however too early to catch him. She walked around the garden pretending she had trouble finding them so the child could enjoy the tension.

Lucy spoke loudly, pretending to be tired, checking behind the tree and beyond the flower bed, both of which had obviously nothing.

Where is he hiding? Its not here either!

After acting in her own way, Lucy approached the garden tree where she found feet earlier and cleared the leaves on both sides.

Blonde hair and lake-blue eyes appeared under the spring sun. Soon, the pair of eyes bent like a half-moon with a playful smile.

Found you!

The child emerged from between the trees in response to Lucys cry. Lucy gave the child a bear hug and gently stroked the back of his head.

However, this was not the end.

So, where is Knox?

The first child was a little more challenging. Knox, who frequently astounds his parents with extraordinary behavior, did not even consider hiding behind the bench or in the trees like Eston, the second child.

Lucy indeed discovered his tiny feet squirming beneath the bushes. She pondered how he had squeezed himself inside.

Forgetting that she was playing with the kids, Lucy touched her forehead. Its unlikely that the child who crawled down there was in good shape. She is certain that his face, clothes, and hair would have been a complete mess.

Lucy dashed to the bushes without even thinking about acting for the child.

Found you, Knox!

In an instant, Lucy reached out and yanked the kid from the underbrush. The childs entire body quickly became completely covered in dirt, as was to be expected.

The childs clothes were covered in grass and dust, which Lucy shook off before sighing through her teeth.

Youre the taggers now that Ive found you,

No, its not.

Knox immediately refuted it.

What do you mean?

Im not Knox.

The child lied with a brazen face.

Im Eston, Mom.

What? I discovered Eston earlier, hidden between the trees.

Lucy pointed to the trees in the garden where the second child was discovered earlier. Eston, who had been standing there a short time before, was no longer visible.

Thats not Eston. It was me.

The two tenacious children appeared to be teasing their mother once more.

You couldnt find Knox, so mom is the tagger again.

Knox then sprinted off to another spot.

Before she knew it, two young children looking very much alike were laughing at their mother.

Mom, hurry!

The twins urged.

I had no choice but to.

For this never-ending game of hide and seek, Lucy sighed and once more covered her face. She began counting again.

One Two Four Three

The twins would always sit next to each other on the bench to wait for Lucy after playing in the garden. Lucy would then sit them on her lap one by one, removing the grass stuck between their hair.

The children dozing off, leaving their heads in their mothers touch. Lucy felt at ease. It was one of the few occasions when the two kids were silent.

Knox, do you want me to cut your hair?

The words caused the child, who was dozing off, to open his eyes widely.

My hair?

Yes, lets shorten it by this amount.

No!

The child spoke with a firm face.

At the sound, Eston, who was dozing next to him, also stood up.

I dont like it either!

Lucy only sighed.

She couldnt tell the twins apart because they were identical and were difficult to distinguish. She didnt think so, but as they grew older, they started to look more and more alike.

Of course, you can tell the difference if you look closely. However, it was difficult to distinguish them even if they were just a few feet apart.

If the hairstyle was different, it would be easier to tell.

But the twins insisted on growing their hair out.

Knox, you'll look very handsome if you cut your hair, so you..

No!

Knox screamed loudly and firmly once more.

I have the same hair as my father!

The twins insisted on having long hair because of their father. The twins may not let either of them cut their hair unless Felix does so first.

Im not going to cut my hair!

Im not going to cut it, either!

You cut it!

No, you cut it!

The twins started to push and fight with one another.

Stop! Stop!

The twins were eventually stopped by Lucy. The children were quiet again, but she couldn't bring up any more talks about their hair.

The nanny arrived and took the twins to the bathroom to wash their muddy bodies.

Only after checking her reflection in the window did Lucy realize that it wasn't just the kids who were dirty.

Lucy trudged up to the floor after removing the leaves from the top of her head. Playing with energetic children made her entire body seem to hurt.

Its spring now.

While patting his shoulder as she moved down the hallway, Lucy suddenly stopped and turned to face the window.

Gladiolus blossomed in vibrant colors under the clear sky in each flower bed that the servants in the duchy had meticulously maintained. Even the tall iron fence visible in the distance was covered in a dense layer of red roses.

Small, plump birds flew up from the branches, causing minor disturbances here and there.

With her arms resting on the window sill, Lucy took a moment to observe the serene and picturesque surroundings. Heated by the spring sun, the mansion gave an impression of infinite warmth and coziness.

The anxiety and fear she experienced when first meeting the Duke nine years ago in the fall now only existed as a distant memory.

This was now her residence, where she will remain until she passes away.

From the window sill, Lucy stood up and turned to face the hallway's other end. The office where the Dukes of Berg had worked for generations was located there.

Felix, who walked in there first thing in the morning, didn't appear to leave until after half a day.

Because of the mountain of work, he probably doesn't realize how much time has passed.

Lucy considered opening the door slightly and peering inside, but she decided not to bother him for no reason and quickly turned around.

After playing with the twins, she started to get hungry. Her stomach has been grumbling loudly for some time.

Lucy moved in the direction of the kitchen with the intention of merely sating her hunger.

The basic kitchen on this floor was never noisy, in contrast to the main kitchen, which is active with servants preparing meals all day. She opened the cabinet and took the dishes and ingredients out.

A warm hand gently touched the back of her neck as she was spreading jam on the bread.

A familiar temperature and touch

Soon, the hand that had been massaging Lucys tense shoulders started gently brushing her tangled hair.

Did you fight anyone in the stable, and why is there a straw in your hair?

Lucy turned around, her arms folded and her eyes wide open at the question. His beautiful blond hair and loving blue eyes were in front of her.

His face, however, now has a slightly cheeky expression.

Thank you to your sons who look exactly like you.

Did the kids cause trouble again? I should scold them. Felix said, stroking Lucys cheek.

Im almost done with my work for the day, so Ill go check on the kids while you rest.

When Lucy didnt release her grip on his arms in response to the words, Felix pressed his pouty face against Lucys shoulder.

His touch tickled Lucys face and made her heart melt. She quickly lifted her hand and brushed his hair away. Felix raised his head.

Soon his lips overlapped Lucys. Lucy responded by wrapping her arms around Felixs neck.

Lucy had no choice but to tiptoe to the fullest because of his tall stature. So as not to lose her balance, Lucy clung tightly to Felixs neck.

Felix was surprised, and his breathing got even rougher. He began to smack his lips more violently.

As a result of Felixs strength, Lucys upper body slowly leaned back. The bread filled with jam behind her back was about to be crushed.

She quickly reached out and grabbed Felixs arm as she remembered a hilarious incident involving their fall into the pond.

and then again!

But Felix moved first, before she could warn.

The bread was gently pushed aside by his hand. After that, he raised Lucy and placed her on the counter.

There was no awkward situation in which the bread was crushed. Instead, the skillful tongue only invaded and returned.

The kiss continued unabated, and the sweet scent of the opened jar of jam filled the kitchen.**Sienna**

Side Story 02

Lucy, as if she had become a farmer, became busier as spring came.

Inside the duchy, there was a garden she cherished. Recently, she almost lived there because she didn't miss plow days or seeding days.

She also made medicines out of herbs and other plants and performed some volunteer work using the medical skills she learned in medical school.

Felix, who was busy, also had a similar situation. He spent almost every day in his office working, and he frequently traveled for work. As a result, it was difficult for the two to spend time together.

Lucy, who had been stumbling around the garden all morning, finally cleaned up and wiped her sweat with her sleeves.

Suddenly, she raised her head and looked at Felix's office. But there was no movement in the window. This is because Felix left the mansion early in the morning for work. The empty office looked more lonely.

When she returned to their room with a lonely heart, there was some paper on the table. The memo only had two sentences scrawled on it in Felix's handwriting; it appeared that a servant delivered it.

Two o'clock. In front of the fountain in Bethel Square.

Lucy, who had read the writing, smiled quickly.

She immediately threw off her filthy clothes and hurried to the bathroom to wash herself.

She wiped the water off and then opened the closet. She typically wore achromatic, cozy clothing at home, but today she noticed a pretty colorful, adorable dress.

Lucy dressed herself and quietly walked out of the room.

She vaguely heard the twins' laughter. It was playtime for the kids, so the tutor and nanny were watching them.

Strangely, the children's laughter seemed to be getting closer as she descended the stairs in peace and quiet.

And the moment Lucy was already down the stairs.

She came across the twins exiting the playroom. Walking while holding the tutors hand, Knox and Eston stopped.

Lucy made a hasty attempt to hide behind the stairs, but the two kids had already found her.

Mom!

The twins called Lucy with gleaming eyes.

Mom, where are you going?

Im not going anywhere. Just the garden.

Dressed like that?

The children were quick-witted.

Knox and Eston came running to Lucy, letting go of the tutors hand. Before she could leave, the twins clung to her skirts.

Where are you going?

Im not going anywhere

Lies! Then why did you wear this?

I just like to wear it!

I want to go too!

Take me with you!

Lucys lies didnt work on the children.

I want to play with my mom!

I want to play with my mom, too!

The nanny and the tutor were standing behind them, pityingly glancing at her. This is due to the fact that they were well aware from prior experience that they could not handle the kids behaving in such a gooey, gum-sticking manner toward their mother.

When her lies didnt work, Lucy decided to use the last resort.

Phew, yes, thats right. Mom, is going to play.

Im coming, too.

I want to follow you!

Yes, yes.

Lucy pretended to listen to the twins and slipped.

Aunt Ros misses you, too.

At the same moment, Eston and Knox, who were both holding the skirt of Lucy, both looked up.

Aunt Ros?

The children who asked with bewildered eyes, suddenly let go of her skirt and slowly stepped back.

Yes, Im going out to see Aunt Ros today.

The children were rendered speechless. Lucy was able to contain her laughter as she thought back on some memories.

Last fall, the children who begged Ros to play with them during her visit to the Duchy boldly suggested playing tag, and Ros immediately removed her shoes.

Recalling their mother and nanny who always lost to them, the twins expected Ros to play the role of a tagger and act like them but the person involved seemed to have a different plans.

Less than ten minutes after Ros took the twins to a large open space in the garden, the screams of the children began to resonate in the Duchy.

What Lucy and Felix saw when they looked out of the window was Ros, who was chasing the twins with her skirt gravely raised.

As the twins ran from their seats whenever they heard the word Ros, Perhaps the moment remained etched in their minds.

Whats wrong? You said you wanted to follow me. Lets go see Aunt Ros together.

Shake~ shake~

The children shut their mouths and shook their heads.

Why? You said you wanted to go, too.

Shake~ shake~

The twins exchanged glances with each other, and then calmly greeted Lucy.

Mom, have a safe trip.

Mom, have a safe trip.

Then they sprinted to the tutor. The twins, who held their home teachers hand tightly, urged the teacher and asked him to go somewhere else.

Lucy burst into laughter as she watched the twins calmly following their tutor and nanny.

Bethel Square.

Lucy stepped outside the carriage to inspect the fountain. She had a distant view of Felix.

Felix quickly located her and waved his hand.

Through the throng of people, Lucy sprinted to him and immediately gave him a bear hug.

They havent gone out on a date as a couple for such a long time.

Felix, have you been waiting for long?

He responded while giving Lucy a bear hug.

Theres no such thing as a lot waiting for you.

Her ears rang with the sound of his voice.

I will always wait for you.

Soon after he released Lucy, he held her hands and led her somewhere.

It looks like there are more people today.

Lucy looked around the square full of people with a puzzled expression.

Because its spring festival day.

Ah.

Only then did Lucy think of the date. Because of the garden work and taking care of the twins, she temporarily lost all awareness of the festivals approaching date.

I wanted to walk with you like this, even if its not necessarily because of the festival because the weather is so nice, he said.

He was right; it was a day that no one could resist coming outside because the sky was clear and it was a moderately warm day.

Holding hands tightly, the two made their way through the crowd.

It had been a while since they had fun together, so she wanted to walk quietly, but things didnt turn out the way she had hoped.

This is due to peoples stealthy eyes following them everywhere.

Lovely blue eyes and long blond hair. A pleasing face

His appearance, the features of the Duke of Berg, attracts peoples attention anytime, anywhere.

In addition, the carriage that Lucy rode was still there.

People appeared to be aware of the Duke and Duchess of Bergs presence in Bethel Square thanks to it.

Additionally, the duchess, the woman walking alongside the duke while holding his hand, was a commoner.

Felix seemed to have caught the oblique glance directed at them quickly. He removed Lucy from the crowd and led her into an alleyway filled with street vendors.

On both sides of the street, there are stalls set up indefinitely, vendors slinging their wares, and people stopping briefly to take a closer look.

Lucy started to remember the old memories she had temporarily forgotten as she took in the surroundings.

Leaving their friends, a boy and a girl vanished into the crowd.

Did she and he both recall the same event? Felix looked at them and grinned softly.

The two kept a cordial distance while walking. The spring sun shone brightly on the top of their heads.

At one of the stands, Felix purchased a womens brim hat. He placed the hat atop Lucys head.

Because the sun is shining. Felix said as he personally tied a ribbon under her chin.

Lucy was startled to feel eyes on them.

However, it was the nearby young women who were glancing at the two. They were enviously glancing at Felix and Lucy as he tied the ribbon with a kind touch.

Evidently, Felix attracted admiration from more people than just the ladies.

Nevertheless, the person in question did not appear to have paid it any attention.

Felix gave Lucy a friendly smile and even arranged Lucys hair.

Lucy thought as she looked at Felixs smile. I believe that rather than the sun, it is your face that shines.

Shall we go now?

After leaving the hat vendor, Lucy and Felix resumed their stroll.

Felix continued to scan the area even after purchasing the hat as if he were looking for something.

Lucy asked, Shall I guess what youre looking for?

What is it?

Lucy grabbed Felix by the wrist, moved forward, stopped in front of a stand, and pointed to one place with her finger as Felixs chin twitched as if to guess.

This one.

A crystal necklace was gleaming under the sunlight at her fingertips.

Sienna

Side Story 03

Felix shook his head when he saw the necklace Lucy pointed at.

Well, I wasnt looking for that.

No?

Lucy tilted her head at Felix's answer.

The string of the constellation necklace I gave you was very rusty.

The necklace she gave Felix as a birthday present nine years ago was now corroded and rusty, and the string was about to break. So Lucy guessed that he wanted a new necklace.

Lucy felt Felix's neck.

Huh? You don't wear it anymore? Is the string broken already?

It's been a long time, silly.

Then did you throw it away?

Why would I throw it away?

Felix rummaged through his jacket's inner pocket with an expression as if he had heard something absurd. Soon after, he took out a small case, he flipped it over on his palm and a small crystal fell.

The necklace had no strings and only the crystal decorations remained.

Why do you carry it around when you don't have a string? Now throw it away, I'll buy you a new one.

Lucy turned to the stand. But Felix grabbed her hand as she tried to take out her wallet.

Why throw it away? I'm gonna keep it. I don't need a new necklace.

Oh, come on. It's not that expensive. Why are you carrying it around?

Because it always teaches me a lesson. Felix replied with a grin.

Lesson?

I will talk to you under any circumstances.

As they held hands as they walked down the streets, Felix felt as if he had returned back to his school days.

A decade has passed since then, but his wife still exclaimed in an innocent tone whenever she found something strange.

The two were already full even before they got to the restaurant because they walked around for a long time and bought some street food. Lucy patted her stomach and said, I dont think I can eat any more.

Felix took Lucy to a bench and sat her down.

So, what are you looking for?

Lucy asked, sitting on the bench and rubbing her swollen ankle from walking for a long time.

As she walked down the street, Lucy noticed that Felix had been looking around as if he were searching for something.

Felix looked back at Lucy, taking his eyes off the flower vendor.

As she said, he was looking for something. What he was looking for was none other than a flower but he doesnt even know the name.

Im looking for a flower.

Flower?

But I only know the appearance and dont know the name.

What does it look like?

His wife knew everything about flowers and trees. Lucy stepped out with her eyes shining as if she would find out the name of the flower right away.

Well, first of all, its not fancy. Its a blue flower the size of a babys fingernail with a stem this long. I think I saw them all over the field when I was young.

Felix explained the appearance of the flower, tracing his faint memories.

Ive been to a flower shop, but theres no such flower. All of them are colorful flowers.

Ah I think I know what that flower is.

Lucy rose from the bench immediately as if something had occurred to her.

I know where it is, that flower!

On their way back to the mansion.

Lucy suddenly asked the coachman to stop the carriage.

Felix looked out of the window with suspicious eyes.

It was still a long way before they got to the mansion, and there was nothing around here.

Why are we stopping here?

Felix asked the question, but Lucy had already opened the carriage door and stepped outside.

Felix followed her down without realizing it.

The sun was setting, and a cool breeze blew through the nape of his neck as clouds from somewhere obscured the sun.

It was a road that he had passed several times, but he had never paid attention to.

Felix, this way.

Lucy called Felix, who stood staring blankly at the wide field. She plowed her way through the unrelenting grass.

Where are you going?

You said you wanted to find the flower. I think its somewhere around here.

They walk for a long time. Lucy finally stopped and looked back at Felix.

She pointed her hand in front of her.

This is the flower you were talking about, right?

At Lucys words, Felix approached where she was pointing. There were really small blue flowers huddled together.

He bent down and looked at the flowers more closely.

Yes, I think its this flower.

Of course you wouldnt have found this in the flower shop, Felix. Its just a plant thats close to weed. Of course, flowers are cute.

Felix sat in front of him and picked a flower. And started making small bouquets. Lucy watched the figure and helped him pick the flowers.

After a while, a bunch of wild flowers that didnt fully fit into Felixs big hands, but were still pretty cute, were made.

It looks pretty like this

Lucy said, looking at the bouquet.

Lucy, who came back to the carriage, reached out to Felix.

Give it to me now.

What?

That bouquet. Didnt you make it for me?

Lucy even nodded her hand as if to ask for it. Felix burst into laughter at the gesture.

You still need more flowers?

A few days ago, Felix gave Lucy a new glass greenhouse for their wedding anniversary. For he often remembered her envious expression, talking about all the rare flowers she had seen in the garden greenhouse on Everen Street.

There are all kinds of rare flowers inside the recently built greenhouse that would not envy either the botanical garden or Everen Street.

That is that, and this is this.

Lucy said so and held out her hand under Felixs chin. Felix found it so cute that he almost gave the flower to her. Having barely recovered his senses, he hid the flower behind him.

Im sorry, but this isnt for you.

There is no woman other than me who you can give flowers to.

When did I say Id give it to some girl?

Heh, Knox and Eston would love it.

Lucy jokingly waved again, saying, So give it to me when there is someone who will accept it. But Felix grinned and grabbed her hand and walked into the carriage.

Ill give you something else instead of flowers.

Felix said, escorting Lucy to the carriage.

What else?

Felix, who followed her into the carriage, closed the door without answering. And straight away she pulled Lucys lips to his face.

The carriage came to a stop in front of the mansion.

As soon as Lucy got off, she entered the mansion where the twins were waiting.

Felix, who followed her into the hall, stood in place for a moment and hesitated. His hand was still holding a bunch of unsightly drooping wild flowers.

Immediately, he stepped away as if he had made up his mind and walked through the hallway and stood in front of a room.

He knocked on the door, but he couldnt hear anything. Felix sneaked in the door and looked in the room.

In a quiet room, his mother was nodding off tiredly, leaning on the sofa. He crept up to his mothers side so that she wouldnt wake up and put the flowers on the table.

His mother didnt seem to detect any signs of him. Felix looked down at his mothers face.

His mother had a much younger face in some of his vague memories. Sitting at a table in the garden, she didnt even raise her head when Felix approached her.

Her face, motionless, expressionless as a doll, her eyes empty as if empty.

A mother who doesnt welcome her son at all.

Is my mother really not interested in me?

The young him wandered behind his mothers back and finally approached her as if he had made up his mind. Then he put what he was holding on the table.

Then for the first time, his mothers eyes moved.

His mother, who found a blue flower barely attached to the end of a slender stem, only looked down at it for a while. Felixs heart beat.

Will my mom like it?

Felix waited. But thats all.

Felix left his mother, who had no response, as if running away. But he clearly saw before he disappeared around the corner.

His mother slowly picks up the flower and puts it close to her nose.

Even though the ugly flower wouldnt smell anything.

The memory flashed into Felixs head today.

After his father died three years ago, his mother also began to lose her health. In addition, since Adrian left the duchy, his mother has come out of the room less and less.

His mother looked lonely.

So he thought that if he brought this flower, maybe it would comfort his mother.

Of course, he didnt completely forgive his mother. There were times when he felt sad as he suddenly recalled the memories from back then.

There were times when he questioned himself if he should really be doing this.

But at the same time, Felix didnt want to stay in the same position. Whether the other person accepts it or not, he wanted to at least try.

The first time he felt that way was when Knox and Eston were born.**Sienna**

Side Story 04

His first child with Lucy was a set of twins, which he had long wished for.

When they first discovered they were expecting, they enjoyed talking about their anticipation of the babys characteristics each night.

However, those idyllic days were brief.

Lucy struggled more and more as her stomach filled up.

Lucy kept throwing up. She struggled to eat properly, lay down, or sit without feeling the weight of her body.

There were numerous nights when she moaned while sleeping and shed tears while claiming to have headaches.

Felix, who was standing to the side and watching, was also unwell.

Above all, he couldn't believe it was Lucy's body when he looked at her bulging stomach. He feared that something would go wrong.

A child was a blessing, wasn't it?

However, neither Lucy nor Felix had considered the process of bringing the child to be difficult.

During this time, his mother cared for Lucy and kept a quiet, calm eye on her. She was aware of her suffering; she remained silent, but Felix could tell.

Looking at Lucy reminded her of the past.

Did mother experience such pain while we were inside her stomach?

He felt sorry for his mother for the first time.

As his mother dozed off, Felix stood beside the chair, turned around, and fixed his gaze on her.

the instant he tried to leave after opening the door.

Felix.

His mother called for him.

His mother was looking at him as he turned around, holding a bouquet in her hand.

I would like to see Knox and Estons faces again after a long time, so kindly send them to my room tomorrow.

His mother spoke in her customary collected manner. Felix soon quietly nodded.

Yes, I will.

His mother clapped her lips again, as if she had something else to say. But in the end, she was unable to say it. Instead, she placed the flower in her hand close to her nose tip and inhaled.

He deemed that to be sufficient.

Felix went outside after leaving his mother in the room.

Childrens laughter could be heard coming from his bedroom, as opposed to his mothers room, which was completely silent.

When he went inside, he saw Lucy and the children lying on the bed. The twins antics, which included hiding under a blanket with their faces protruding, were what made it so amusing.

Knox! Eston!

Daddy!

As soon as they saw Felix, the children came down from the bed and jumped into Felixs arms.

You werent bothering your mom, were you?

I didnt bother you!

I played with my mom!

Compared to their peers, Knox and Eston were unusually energetic and quick to develop. Although it gave him relief to know that they were developing normally, the troublemaking kids are also giving him headaches.

Now that I think about it, I believe I also caused problems that alarmed the adults around me.

I do, however, have a quiet side.

Felix rubbed the back of his head as he grinned ferociously at his two sons.

Eston tugged on Felixs pants and protruded something as he recalled his childhood. It was a letter,

Even before he asked where the letter came from, Lucy recognized it first and said.

Eston! Where did you get that?

Eston pointed to the table with an innocent look.

Eston handed the letter to Felix; it was from Adrian.

Lucy got out of bed, approached and took the letter back.

I cant believe it. I was wondering what happened to it!

As he listened to her, it seemed that the letter had already arrived a few days ago. Perhaps the children sneaked away what was placed on the table to read later.

Eston, Knox. You shouldnt take other peoples letters carelessly.

The kids appeared to shrink for a moment before saying with an unfair look as Felix reprimanded them in a firm voice.

But it could be a letter to us!

Thats right! Uncle Adrian said he would write a letter!

Knox, Eston.

This time, when Lucy sang in a low voice, the twins closed their mouths and looked at their mother.

Then you should have asked your mom right away. How can you take it without saying anything? What would you gonna do if it was an important telegram?

I wanted to read it with mom.

The children quickly lowered their heads.

Im sorry, Mom.

Lucys expression softened as the twins spoke with soft eyes.

You cant do this from now on. Got it?

Yes.

Yes.

Lucy tucked the children to bed.

Well, Ill read it for you.

The children lay down on both sides of Lucy as if they were crying, and fixed their eyes on the letter.

Felix also took off his jacket and hung it on a chair, and lay down beside Lucy and the children. After confirming that everyone had settled down, Lucy slowly began to read the contents.

Felix, Lucy. And to Knox and Eston.

Look! Im right, it came for us!

Shh!

Lucy quieted Knox and read the letter again.

How are you all doing? I arrived in the capital of Bertha last night.

Where is Bertha, Mom?

Its an island country far away.

How far is it?

Very far.

Then which one is farther, Brom or that?

Lucy struggled to read the letter calmly. This is due to the fact that each line kept going and the kids kept asking questions.

Felix and Lucy responded to all the inquiries.

Because of that, Adrians letter, which was only two pages long, took them a long time to read it all.

The letter concluded with the information that he was currently residing in the Kingdom of Bertha, the land of art, that the journey had been enjoyable, that he had enough money, and that he was completely safe.

Adrian appeared to be faring better than he had anticipated. Felix sighed in relief.

When he first expressed his desire to travel to the continent, Felix felt anxious.

He was afraid and concerned that he would leave like this and never return and that he might get into some sort of accident as a result of his carelessness with himself.

However, Adrian told him this after realizing he was thinking that way.

Im going to be more selfish than anyone else now, so dont worry. Im ashamed to say it, but please take care of our mother instead of me.

He actually did leave.

Adrian, however, delivered the information regarding him on a monthly basis, as he had promised.

And Felix could sense it each time he read his brief letter. His brother is finally enjoying the freedom he has been granted.

Mom, were going to Bertha, too.

When you grow up a little more.

How long do I have to grow?

To the point where the top of your head comes to your dads waist.

The words made the twins cry at the same time. Knox immediately lay next to Felix and even looked at his height.

His dad was very tall. So it was like her mom said, Dont even dream of traveling until you grow up. The twins mouths pouted out.

Looking at the expressions of the dissatisfied children, Lucy suddenly became silent as if she were lost in thought. It wasnt long before she opened her mouth again.

All right.

Lucy changed her words by tapping on the twins hips.

Then lets go this far, not the waist.

She said, pointing to Felixs middle thigh.

When you grow up to here, Ill go with you wherever you want to.

Really?

Suddenly, the twins who had been sulking, quickly brightened up.

After making a promise with their pinky finger to their mom, the twins fell asleep as if they were very tired.

Why did you change your mind all of a sudden?

Felix asked, gently sweeping the sleeping childrens backs.

I just thought it was unfair to not allow them to travel just because theyre young.

But you said they are too young to go on a trip.

That said.

Lucy looked at the ceiling as if she had a memory.

When I was only nine, I went on a trip that changed my life.

He looked at Felix who had a face that he didnt understand what she was saying, but Lucy just smiled.

Our kids might experience something like that too when we are traveling, right? I cant take that opportunity. Right, Knox? Eston?

Lucy whispered, sticking her lips to the childrens heads.

Night was falling quietly outside the window while the family talked about their future trip.

Felix put a blanket over Lucy, who fell asleep like a child, and closed his eyes quietly.**Sienna**

Side Story 05

I havent forgotten this year.

Felix searched the drawer, feeling the tip of his itchy nose. A round medicine bottle was caught in his fingertips. There was a golden pill inside.

When he took one out and swallowed it, the effect was immediate. Itching and sneezing symptoms that kept bothering him disappeared.

Lucys allergy medicine has progressed, and now he doesnt show any symptoms just by taking it.

Feeling relieved thanks to the disappearance of the itch, Felix turned and looked at the scenery outside the window.

Along with the allergy symptoms that came like a ghost, the scenery of the duchy was also changing to autumn. The weather was getting cooler, and the trees were showing off their last green of the year.

From inside the office, he observed Lucy leaving the garden as he peered out the window. She had a basket on the side with unidentified fruits in it.

She spent almost all of her time in the garden. Why is she returning so early on this day?

Looking down at the top of Lucys head as she approached the mansion, Felix covered the documents he had been reading. He got up from his chair and left the workplace.

He descended to the first floor and noticed the twins leaving the study. The kids were given hugs by Lucy, who was standing in front of the door.

In front of her mother, Knox flapped a piece of paper while appearing to be pleased about something. It was probably a test paper.

Mom, mom! Look! I got it all right!

As he said, Knoxs test paper was filled with circles, which means he got the correct answers. Watching the scene from behind, the family tutor added a word.

Knox is getting a perfect score on the test all the time.

Wow, thats amazing

To Lucys praise, Knox shrugged his shoulders with a proud look.

A few steps behind her, Eston stood. The child was staring at the floor while listening to his brothers brag.

Eston.

Lucy, who noticed the figure, called the child. Eston raised his head with sullen eyes. Lucy didnt ask but he said;

I did not get a perfect score. I got a few wrong.

Did you?

Lucy took the test paper that the child was holding and opened it. An X was drawn to indicate that some answers were wrong.

Its all right, Eston. This is also a high score.

As the childs expression did not improve even with comfort, Lucy jokingly whispered something into Estons ear. The child twitched his mouth as if his ears were itchy and eventually burst into laughter.

The timid child quickly regained his energy.

Eston. Knox.

When Felix approached and called, the twins ran to him and held them in his arms. He spoke to his sons in secret.

I came out because dad didnt want to work.

Actually, I dont want to study either.

Eston whispered in secret.

Cant we go out and play?

Knox also helped.

Shall we?

Felixs response immediately excited the kids. Holding the childrens hands, he walked to Lucy.

Should we head out for a walk today, the four of us?

The twins behind Felix looked anxiously toward their mother as they awaited her response.

After agonizing for a while, Lucy finally answered.

Okay. To be honest, I didnt want to work today.

She held the childs hand while putting the basket she was carrying on the hallway floor roughly.

So, two adults who didnt want to work and two kids who didnt want to study left the mansion together.

The fact that they take that after you is a relief.

Felix said as he watched the children playing in the garden. When Lucy raised her head to see what he meant, he shook a medicine bottle that he had pulled from his pocket.

Allergies. If they were anything like me, they would have struggled every fall.

Strangely, the twins, who resemble Felix in all ways, including appearance and personality, did not inherit his allergies.

Felix was always appreciative of the fact that the kids could run around and play outside whenever they wanted, even in the fall.

The health of the children is the most important thing.

Thats right.

Coincidentally, as soon as the conversation was over, Knox coughed.

Hes been coughing for a while now. Did he catch a cold?

Lucy eventually called Knox, whose cheeks were also red when she saw it up close, and she touched the childs forehead.

Youve got a little fever

Im not sick.

For fear of being told to stop playing and go back, Knox spoke quickly.

Doesnt your head hurt? What if your fever gets worse?

The child shook his head at the mothers question. Still, Lucy looked at the childs forehead again as she was worried. She couldnt tell if it really didnt hurt or if hes pretending not to be sick because he didnt want to go back.

Then lets go to the greenhouse.

Felix suggested. It was always warm in the greenhouse. Knox, who had a slight cold, would be fine there.

Lets look at the flowers together and then go back.

Good!

Lucy and the children agreed.

The gloomy sky started to rain as they made their way to the greenhouse inside the garden.

Lucy quickly removed her jacket and covered Knoxs head, who had a hint of a cold.

The four-person family entered the greenhouse right away to get out of the rain. Since the greenhouse was set at a certain temperature even though it was raining outside, it felt warm inside.

I should make tea.

Felix said as he hung the kettle on the stove.

After some time, as the water heated up, Lucy gave Knox the warm tea first. The child's constant coughing bothered Lucy, so she pulled the covered outer garment up to the child's neck.

There must be a blanket here.

Felix stood up from his chair and moved over to a corner of the greenhouse where there was a drawer. He pulled open the drawer to find the blankets and other items he needed when all of a sudden he felt movement behind him.

He turned around and saw Eston standing.

Why? Do you need anything?

When Felix asked, Eston shook his head. The child wandered around Felix and opened and closed the drawer for no reason.

Daddy.

After a while, the child who stopped closing the drawer called him quietly.

I guess my mom likes Knox better than me.

Felix sat Eston next to him and put the blanket down next to him.

Why do you think so?

Because Knox got 100 points on the test today, yesterday, last week. But I'm not.

When he added the last word, the child looked dejected.

Mom always won first place in school and Knox is better than me.

You know what, Eston?

No one was listening, but Felix whispered quietly to Eston.

Dad got zero points on all the tests in the past.

Really?

Eston asked back with his eyes wide open, as if he could not believe what he had just heard.

In addition, your mom saw my report card.

But how did you get married?

Eston asked, genuinely curious. Felix burst out laughing at the child's silly question.

Because mom likes dad.

Wow.

And she said, 'You can do it!'

Felix said, hugging Eston's shoulder, looking at his face.

So no matter how many questions you get wrong on the test, your mom will love you. And she'll say, 'You can do it. Okay?'

Yes.

Eston replied with a much better look.

Let's go to Mom now.

Felix reached out his hand and held the child's small hand.

Eston, sit here.

As they returned by the fire, Lucy tapped the seat next to her and called for Eston. As Eston approached and sat down, Lucy touched his forehead.

I think you got it too.

In addition to his forehead, Lucy muttered, measuring the temperature of his cheeks, neck, and back. Then, she handed out the tea she had already prepared to the child.

Come on, drink while it's warm.

Eston's eyes met Felix's as he sipped the tea. The child smiled at him from the other side of the glass.

It stopped raining! cried Knox, who was looking at the ceiling. Before they knew it, they couldn't hear the sound of rain that was making noise on the ceiling.

The children put down their teacups and jumped out of the greenhouse.

Lucy.

Felix made a promise to Lucy while only the two of them were left.

I guess Eston doesn't like taking the test.

Oh, that?

Lucy nodded and answered.

I already told the teacher not to give tests from now on.

The two headed out of the greenhouse where the children were running side by side.

They're still young, so they don't need a test, right?

Felix held Lucy's hand instead of answering. The two came out clasping their hands. There was a pleasant smell of moist soil.

Autumn is the best!

Lucy said, taking a deep breath.

Oh, of course it's a difficult season for you.

No, I like it, too.

Felix shrugged his shoulders and said.

I got to like it.

Since I met you, a lot of things have changed for me.

You changed it for me. You turned painful memories to bearable memories and days that I wanted to forget to days I can endure.

And you will continue to give me happy days. So that I can cover all the pain eventually.

Felix clasped her hand in his, promising to do the same to Lucy as well. Lucy held his hand tightly as if responding to the sudden force.

Dad! Mom!

In front of them, Knox and Eston were beckoning to come.

The two walked into the happy autumn.**Sienna**