

# Unrepairable Love / I married a man

Unrepairable Love

Chapter 361

Felix hummed and posed another question. “Hey boss, what’s the budget for Serenity Leaf? I heard the starting bid tonight is a cool million.”

“Just a million for Serenity Leaf?” Elizabeth’s eyes nearly popped out of her head. If this were domestic, wouldn’t Serenity Leaf start at least at five million dollars? “These guys have no clue. Auctioning off such a rare herb abroad for just a million,” Elizabeth grumbled.

Meanwhile, Alexander, cruising back to the hotel, let out a massive sneeze in the car. Nolan glanced back, concern all over his face. “Mr. Tudor, you feeling alright?”

Alexander frowned, rubbing his nose. He felt fine.

Elizabeth kept going, “If it’s not ignorance, then it’s lowballing on purpose just to butter someone up!”

Alexander sneezed again. Nolan freaked out. “Is it the climate?”

“No biggie!” Alexander’s voice was deep and firm. He rubbed his nose, feeling annoyed. He wasn’t sick or anything. The sneezing was just weird.

“Everything set for tonight’s auction? Serenity Leaf’s definitely going to end up with Louis, right?” Alexander asked Nolan.

Nolan nodded. “Yep.”

“If anything goes sideways, we’ll pull it from the auction,” Nolan added.

Alexander nodded. “Good.”

Night fell. Nyxonia’s nightlife was all about romance and luxury. More folks were out now than during the day. Passing a high bridge, Elizabeth spotted young couples making out.

Tonight, Elizabeth wore a black, form-fitting dress. Simple, but packed with subtle details. The dress had a cinched waist and an open back. Her butterfly tattoo, stretching from her shoulder, looked heartbreakingly real. Her jewelry? Designed by the famous Pamela Lopez. This set was once loaned to A-list celeb Lila. After that, Pamela never lent it out again. Pamela and Rose were close, both designers from the same era. So Felix had no trouble borrowing it for Elizabeth.

The car rolled up to the palace.

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Elizabeth glanced outside; a long red carpet stretched out. Reporters were everywhere. She put on the mask Felix had prepped for her and stepped out. Felix quickly moved in, offering his arm to support her. Dressed in a black suit and silver mask, Felix looked like the perfect match for Elizabeth.

Elizabeth took his arm, and the reporters went nuts, cameras flashing.

“Check it out! She’s wearing Pamela’s design!”, “Pamela never lends this set out. Who is she?” “Never seen her before.” The reporters buzzed, snapping away.

As Elizabeth walked by, a few women gasped. “So gorgeous!” “She doesn’t look local!” someone exclaimed. “Look at that back tattoo. Stunning!”

Photos of Elizabeth’s back blew up online. Her back was slender and stunning, especially with that lifelike butterfly tattoo, like it was kissing her skin. Elizabeth turned her head slightly, making everyone insanely curious about the face behind the mask. Everyone wondered what kind of unparalleled beauty she must be.

Under the flashing cameras, Elizabeth walked into the venue.

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As soon as they rolled into the venue, they noticed everyone was rocking masks. Elizabeth and Felix shared a look. They were just here for the auction, not this social scene. They found a low-key spot in the corner, plopped down, and braced themselves for a long half-hour.

Just then, someone outside hollered, “Louis!” Elizabeth swirled her wine glass, glancing outside with zero interest. Everyone had masks on, except Louis.

“Why’s he mask-free?” Elizabeth wondered aloud. Then they saw the organizer hand Louis a mask, and he slapped it on quick.

Elizabeth then spotted another dude next to Louis. This guy was all suited up, tall and lean. Elizabeth squinted. His mask covered half his face, making him hard to ID. The guy felt Elizabeth’s stare and looked her way. Their eyes locked, and Elizabeth froze. The guy slipped one hand in his pocket and grabbed a champagne from a waiter with the other. He looked at Elizabeth and frowned a bit. Elizabeth bit her lip and gripped her wine glass tighter. This guy looked like Alexander! Elizabeth quickly looked away. Alexander snapped out of it when Louis called him.

“Felix,” Elizabeth suddenly said.

Felix nodded. “What’s up?”

“Can I borrow your coat?” Elizabeth asked.

Felix was confused but handed over his coat. Elizabeth threw it on, mainly to hide the butterfly tattoo on her back. If that guy was really Alexander, she didn’t want him recognizing her.

“I gotta take a call,” Felix told Elizabeth.

Elizabeth nodded and watched him leave. Her mask today was a full-face one, like a cute little fox, super pretty.

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Probably because she was too pretty and had a killer figure, she quickly caught the eye of other guys. As soon as Felix left, someone came over. The guy greeted Elizabeth in the local lingo. Elizabeth got it but didn’t want to chat, so she smiled and said, “I ain’t from Nyxonia, so I don’t get it. My bad.” The guy paused and then switched to English, “You are very beautiful.”

“Thanks,” Elizabeth nodded, being polite. The guy had a drink with her and then bailed. But right after, another dude came up. Elizabeth was getting kinda annoyed.

“Hey, I’ve been watching you since you walked in. You’re gorgeous, just my type.”

People from Nyxonia were straight-up like that, no beating around the bush. Elizabeth just thanked him.

“Where are you from?” he suddenly asked.

Elizabeth frowned. She glanced at Louis. Feeling cautious, she lied, “I’m from Lindell Harbor.”

The guy replied, “People from Lindell Harbor are very beautiful.”

“Are you here for work or fun?” he asked again.

Elizabeth was surprised. “Your English is good.”

“Yeah, I have a buddy who teaches me English. I’m into it!” His English was a bit choppy, but Elizabeth got it.

“My name’s Ronald Hernandez,” Ronald said.

Elizabeth nodded and smiled gently. “I’m Emily.”

“Can you take off your mask?” Ronald asked bluntly.

Elizabeth was taken aback. “Sorry,” she shook her head.

Ronald sounded bummed, “Alright.” Ronald probably figured out Elizabeth wasn’t up for chatting, so he left without much fuss. Elizabeth sighed in relief. They were too direct, and she wasn’t feeling it. She just hoped the half-hour would fly by.

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Seeing Felix still wasn’t back, Elizabeth got up and headed to the re...

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Elizabeth yanked at her blazer, strutting through the crowd like she owned the place. Heads turned, eyes glued to her. She was just too damn striking, and her walk? Pure grace, oozing charm.

Louis couldn't help but stare, his jaw practically on the floor. "Who is she? Alexander, you don't see women like that every day," he muttered to his buddy. Alexander's eyes followed her, but he kept his mouth shut. Louis took a swig of his drink, still eyeing her, a smirk playing on his lips. "I'll go say hi," he finally said, and off he went.

Elizabeth was in the restroom, washing her hands, then leaning against the sink, rolling her neck. She was beat. She'd barely made her flight and hadn't caught a break since landing. Afternoon tea, then straight to the auction. Tonight, she had to snag Serenity Leaf and jet back overnight to hand it to Grant by morning. That thing was priceless. The sooner she got it to Grant, the sooner she could chill.

She was still rolling her neck when she noticed Louis leaning against the doorframe. Blonde, tall, and slim, Louis was in his thirties but still had that charm. His black mask covered half his face, but you could still see his high nose bridge. Louis waved and grinned. "Hey." Elizabeth glanced around. Louis chuckled. "Yeah, I'm talking to you."

"Mr. Newman, hi," Elizabeth greeted him, cool as a cucumber. Louis wasn't shocked she knew him; he was the big shot behind tonight's auction, after all. "Mind if we get to know each other?" Louis asked. Elizabeth nodded. "Sure thing."

"Where you from? Your accent's kinda like my partner's," Louis said. His partner? Elizabeth thought of Alexander. "Lindell Harbor," she replied smoothly. "My partner's from Lisbun," Louis said. Elizabeth just smiled.

"How about we swap numbers?" Louis suggested. Elizabeth handed over her phone, letting him punch in his digits. "If I wanna ask you out, that cool?" Louis asked, straight-up. Elizabeth nodded. "Yeah, I like making friends."

"But I'm talking about a different kinda date," Louis stepped closer. Elizabeth narrowed her eyes, taking a step back. Louis moved in again. "I like having beautiful women around me," he said, leaving the rest unsaid. Elizabeth's face darkened. "Mr. Newman, respect yourself and me," she snapped. *Just 'cause you got junk doesn't mean you can bed any woman*, she fumed inside.

"Whatever," Louis shrugged. "That's how we roll here." He reached out to touch her shoulder. Just as Elizabeth was about to slap his hand away, someone called from outside, "Mr. Newman!" Both of them looked over. It was a waiter in black. "The auction's starting. Everyone's looking for you."

Louis frowned, annoyed, and thought, ‘Already? Has it been half an hour?’ “Got it!” he barked. He glanced at Elizabeth, shook his phone. “Catch you later.” And with that, he was gone.

Elizabeth frowned, letting out a sigh of relief. She immediately deleted Louis’s number. As she walked out, she spotted Alexander leaning against the wall, smoking. His eyes, deep and unreadable, peeked out from under his mask. He glanced at her but said nothing. Surrounded by smoke, Elizabeth, who hated cigarettes, quickly walked away. Alexander watched her go, his eyes darkening.

The waiter from earlier came back, smiling and holding out his hand. “Mr. Tudor.” Alexander slipped him a bill. “Thanks.”

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Elizabeth strolled into the venue just as Felix returned from outside.

“Got some bad news,” he muttered.

Elizabeth shot him a sideways glance. “Spill it.”

Felix sighed, looking frustrated. “We ain’t got Nyxonia’s papers, and we popped in unannounced. Our cash is tied up.”

Elizabeth’s brows knitted together. “How could you screw up something so basic? You know why we’re here, right?” An auction needs serious cash! If our funds are tied up, what if we can’t snag Serenity Leaf? We went through hell to find it, and if someone else gets it, we’re toast, she thought.

Felix looked down, shame evident on his face. “We rushed it. My bad.”

Elizabeth stayed quiet for a few seconds, considering that the starting bid for Serenity Leaf might be low. “Let’s see how it plays out.”

‘Let’s just bid and see. Maybe no one else knows its worth, and we can get it cheap,’ she mused.

“What’s our cap?” she asked Felix.

“Ten million bucks,” he replied.

Elizabeth frowned. “That should do.”

Soon, a girl from Nyxonia announced in the local language, “You can collect your auction number plates here. Please enter the auction hall!”

Elizabeth and Felix received room number three. Inside, they saw a large round platform, all high-tech and fancy, with small rooms and floor-to-ceiling windows. Elizabeth used the number plate to open the door to room three.

An intelligent robot butler greeted them. “Welcome. There are sixteen bidders today. Hope you get what you want.”

Elizabeth patted the robot’s head and walked in, plopping down on a large sofa. As soon as she sat, she noticed two guys entering the room opposite hers. Elizabeth’s eyes narrowed.

“Is Louis bidding today too?” Felix asked, curious.

Elizabeth shot him a look. Felix pointed to a nearby room. Sure enough, it was the blond Louis. Remembering what Louis had said in the restroom earlier, Elizabeth felt a wave of disgust. She lounged on the sofa, crossing her legs and resting her face on her hand, lazily watching the opposite side.

The guy looked familiar, but she couldn’t quite place him from a distance. Everyone at the event was in black suits and masks, making it hard to tell. Just as she was about to look away, a memory from the restroom hit her. ‘No wonder he looks familiar; he’s the guy who was smoking at the restroom door,’ she pondered.

The glass in front of her lowered and disappeared. A stunning woman in a black professional outfit stepped onto the round platform. She was the auctioneer for the night.

“Ladies and gentlemen, our auction is about to begin. Let me introduce tonight’s items.”

Elizabeth’s eyes locked onto the woman on the platform. A large blue screen appeared in each room, displaying the auction items. The first item was a bracelet, starting at one million dollars. The second was a necklace donated by the First Lady of Nyxonia, starting at 2.5 million dollars. The third item, the one everyone was buzzing about, was the luxury herb from Lisbun, Serenity Leaf, starting at one million dollars.

Elizabeth looked at the screen and sighed. ‘Serenity Leaf is as valuable as a bracelet? The person who put it up for auction is clueless!’ She muttered, “Not right in the head.”

Felix glanced over. “What?”

“The one auctioning off Serenity Leaf is out of their mind, foolish,” Elizabeth repeated, clearly annoyed.

Felix chuckled, “No kidding.”

Meanwhile, the guy sitting opposite Elizabeth turned his head and suddenly sneezed. The person next to him quickly handed him a tissue.

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“Alright, folks, grab a seat. The auction’s kicking off!”

The robot zipped over to Elizabeth. That bracelet looked way better in person than in the pictures. Elizabeth was totally into it. But, bummer, she had a budget tonight. Otherwise, she would’ve snagged it for Rose.

For the first item, Elizabeth just chilled, resting her chin on her hand. Pretty much every dude with a lady friend was throwing bids at this thing. In no time, the price hit \$2.5 million.

Elizabeth thought, “This has gotta be the cap. If they know what’s up, it should stop here; going higher is just dumb.” Sure enough, everyone knew the deal, and it sold for \$2.5 million.

“Next up, the second item.” This one was a hit too. After all, it was a necklace from the First Lady. They showed it on the big screen, and Elizabeth felt a little flutter in her chest. She hadn’t been that into it from the description, but seeing it now, it hit different. It was a butterfly necklace.

Butterfly pendants are everywhere, but this one had each clasp as a butterfly. Super unique. The designer really put in the work! Plus, Elizabeth had a thing for necklaces.

“So pretty,” Felix said.

Elizabeth glanced at Felix. Felix smiled at her. “You like it?”



Elizabeth nodded without a second thought; she did like it. But she knew tonight's mission was to get the Serenity Leaf for Grant. Even if she liked it, she had to keep it cool. They just didn't have the cash for it tonight!

"No biggie. Just bid for fun," Felix told her.

Elizabeth shook her head. What if she actually won?

The bidding kicked off soon enough. The robot next to them kept updating the prices.

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Elizabeth watched it climb from \$2.5 million to \$5 million. Everyone was really into this necklace. Elizabeth bit her lip, feeling the itch to bid.

"\$6 million," she blurted out, not for any other reason, just so this fancy piece wouldn't go for cheap. It deserved more.

Felix looked at her, surprised and thought, 'Dang, she just upped it by a mil?' Elizabeth didn't notice the guy across from her sneaking glances.

The price hit \$6.5 million. Elizabeth frowned and went, "\$7.5 million." People kept bidding, up to \$9 million! Elizabeth didn't dare go higher. She was scared she'd win and couldn't pay up. But she really wanted that necklace.

"\$9 million, going once."

Elizabeth bit her lip and looked around to see who was in Room 6. She spotted Louis! Louis looked back, raised his wine glass, and nodded at her. Elizabeth was speechless.

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Felix's eyes widened. "Wait, Louis bidding against you? What's his deal with a butterfly necklace?"

Elizabeth just kept quiet. For a guy like Louis, who's all about those one-night stands, dropping big bucks on a necklace for some chick wasn't exactly shocking, right? Elizabeth knew Louis was a hit with the ladies in Nyxonia.

Since it was Louis, Elizabeth smirked and upped the bid, "10 million dollars."

Louis shot back, “10.5 million dollars.”

Elizabeth narrowed her eyes. “11 million dollars.”

Louis didn’t back down, “12.5 million dollars.”

The room went dead silent; everyone was glued to Room 3 and Room 6. A blonde dude and a sultry chick were duking it out over a butterfly necklace. It was kinda wild.

Elizabeth glanced at Louis and snorted, “Let him have it.” 12.5 million dollars? Louis was getting played.

Felix gave Elizabeth a silent thumbs-up. “12.5 million dollars? You could get a custom one for that.”

Elizabeth stopped bidding. Louis smirked, staying cool, thinking the necklace was his.

“12.5 million dollars, going once.”

“12.5 million dollars, going twice.”

The auctioneer raised the gavel, ready to call it. Louis sipped his red wine, feeling all smug.

Then a notification blared, “A bid of 15 million dollars has been placed, breaking the ceiling.”

The room was stunned. Breaking the ceiling meant the max price was 15 million dollars; whoever bid that would win! Dropping 15 million on a necklace was insane. But Louis was the most pissed. He was about to snag it for 12.5 million but got outbid.

Louis looked around, and the notification sounded again, “This item goes to Room 9.” Everyone started searching for Room 9.

Elizabeth looked up and saw Room 9. “Isn’t that the room across from mine? Isn’t that the guy smoking by the restroom?”

“15 million dollars for a butterfly necklace,” Felix whistled. “Must be nice to be loaded.”

Elizabeth stayed quiet, her eyes locked on Alexander, her expression hidden behind her mask. “Felix, remember that guy. We’ll find him later and buy that necklace from him,” Elizabeth told Felix.

Felix nodded. “Got it.” He jotted it down.

Louis glared at Room 9, clenching his fist. “Room 9, who the hell is that?”

“Mr. Newman, it’s Mr. Tudor,” his assistant reminded him.

Louis’s face darkened, muttering angrily, “What’s Alexander’s deal? Doesn’t he know I had plans for that necklace with a lady? He straight up swiped it! That’s messed up!” Louis put down his glass.

Alexander was looking Louis’s way. He raised his wine glass, like an apology. He had his eye on that necklace. Alexander sipped his wine, noticing Louis’s anger, but a cold smile played in his mind.

Louis was fuming, too pissed to toast back, and just slapped the sofa. The assistant tried to calm him, “It’s okay, Mr. Newman. Serenity Leaf has arrived. Mr. New brought Serenity Leaf because he heard you liked it.”

Hearing this, Louis felt a bit better. “Really? Then he’s got some decency left,” Louis crossed his arms. He really liked rare herbs from Lisbon and had been hunting for this Serenity Leaf for years.

“Mr. Newman, if you get the Serenity Leaf tonight, would you consider giving all of Lisbon’s best...agency to Mr. Tudor?” the assistant joked.

Louis raised an eyebrow and replied, “If I’m in a good mood, sure!”

A fresh and beautiful Serenity Leaf was displayed on the round platform, truly stunning.

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Elizabeth stood up and locked eyes with Serenity Leaf onstage, her eyes practically glowing. “This Serenity Leaf is even cooler than saffron! So damn beautiful,” she thought.

“Serenity Leaf, starting bid, 1 million bucks.” The gavel dropped, and the auction was on. Elizabeth jumped right in, “1.25 million bucks.”

Everyone in the room was like, “What’s the big deal with this herb? Why’s it even up for auction?” A few folks joined in just for kicks, but most didn’t really care. No one had given a rundown on this herb. Only those in the know understood its value.

Elizabeth leaned on her hand, chilling. She wasn’t in a rush to up her bid, just biding her time. The price hit 2 million bucks. The number of bidders was thinning out. Then Louis jumped in, “2.3 million bucks.”

Elizabeth pressed her lips together and shot back, “2.4 million bucks.” Louis was both amused and annoyed. “This chick again! Is she seriously trying to outbid me?”

Louis kept going, “2.5 million bucks!” Elizabeth wasn’t about to mess around with small raises. “3 million bucks,” she said, upping the ante.

Everyone was scratching their heads. “Why is it always those two?” “Do they have beef or something?” “Who knows.” People were whispering all sorts of stuff.

Alexander stared at Elizabeth, leaning on his hand, looking indifferent. “Mr. Tudor, that woman looks super familiar,” Nolan said. Alexander smirked, “You’re not as clueless as you look.”

Nolan paused and mused, “Could it really be who I’m thinking of? Is it Ms. Percy?” Nolan was totally surprised. Alexander pulled out his phone, opened the news, and handed it to Nolan.

Nolan then saw that Elizabeth had already blown up on Nyxonia’s entertainment sites before the auction even started. The headline was straight to the point: #The Exotic and Enigmatic Butterfly Lady: Unparalleled Beauty# The picture showed Elizabeth’s back and side profile. The butterfly tattoo was so real and insanely beautiful!

Nolan chuckled and sighed, “I saw Ms. Percy at the hospital this morning. Ms. Percy’s tattoo...” It was a dead giveaway; this was Elizabeth. “Mr. Tudor, when did you figure it out?” Nolan asked Alexander.

Alexander took a sip of water and said, “When she went to the restroom.” Alexander had followed and overheard someone talking about the Butterfly Lady nearby. That’s when he realized Elizabeth had indeed come to Nyxonia. “What’s she doing in Nyxonia?” Alexander wondered.

“Ms. Percy is raising the bid again,” Nolan nudged Alexander. Alexander looked up. The price of Serenity Leaf kept climbing. He saw at the café was also Elizabeth. He had thought Elizabeth came for the butterfly necklace. But now, he wasn’t so sure.

“The Percy family is all about medicine. Could Elizabeth be here for the rare Serenity Leaf?” Alexander thought. “It’s at 5 million bucks now,” Nolan said. A single Serenity Leaf had been bid up to 5 million bucks. No one saw that coming, not even Alexander!

Louis frowned, his casual interest turning serious. “Who is this woman? Find out for me!” he barked at his assistant.

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“\$5.5 million!” Louis kept upping the ante. No way he was leaving without Serenity Leaf tonight!

Elizabeth watched Louis keep raising the stakes, this time by \$250,000 a pop. She was trying to wear him out with only a \$10 million cap!

Elizabeth sighed, thinking, “If I don’t snag Serenity Leaf today, I’ll have to deal with Louis. And if I give in to him, who knows how cocky he’ll get!”

“\$6 million!” Louis shouted.

Elizabeth countered, “\$6.25 million.”

Louis shot back, “\$6.5 million!”

Elizabeth bit her lip. “What’s he want Serenity Leaf for?” Felix wondered aloud.

Elizabeth’s head was pounding. Sure, she was glad foreigners were into their culture, but she wanted the herb to go to someone who really needed it. Louis wasn’t backing down, so Elizabeth had to keep bidding.

Then Louis said, “I need a break.”

“Approved,” the auctioneer said. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief, the tension easing up. The room buzzed with chatter about who’d end up with Serenity Leaf. Elizabeth stood up, tired of sitting.

Just then, there was a knock on the door. Elizabeth and Felix turned. It was Louis and his assistant. Louis didn't even bother with a mask, standing right in front of Elizabeth.

'What's Louis up to?' Elizabeth thought.

"Can we talk?" he asked, smiling.

Elizabeth gave him a cold look. No denying he was handsome.

"Nothing to talk about," she said.

Louis shook his head and pulled out his phone. On it was Elizabeth's entry info. "You just got to Nyxonia today. And it looks like you're without documents?"

Elizabeth frowned. She didn't expect Louis to dig into her. *I was too careless; should've kept my identity under wraps*, she thought. But she stayed calm. "So what?"

"It means after \$10 million, you're out of the game," Louis said.

Elizabeth nodded. "Yeah."

"Then why are you still bidding against me for Serenity Leaf? You really want it?" Louis smirked.

Elizabeth glared at him, not answering, her face hidden behind her mask.

Louis got straight to the point. He pulled out a hotel room key card and handed it to her. "Alright, come find me in twenty minutes, and I'll give you Serenity Leaf. Deal?" he asked, smiling.

Elizabeth's face darkened. Felix stepped up, ready to curse, but Elizabeth stopped him.

"Mr. Newman, are you serious?" Elizabeth raised an eyebrow, intrigued.

Louis smiled. "Of course."

"Alright." Elizabeth nodded. "Tonight, see you there." She waved the key card.

Felix frowned. What was Elizabeth up to? Louis smiled, stepped closer, and brushed her hair with his fingertips. "I'll be waiting."

Louis and his assistant left. Elizabeth watched them go, clutching the key card tightly. She thought angrily, 'Isn't Louis insulting me? A one-night stand for Serenity Leaf? He's despicable!'

She was about to head back to her room when she saw a man approaching. Without looking at him, she said, "Let's go."

"Not following anymore?" Felix asked.

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"I'm out," Elizabeth said, rolling her eyes. She thought, 'Ten million is my limit. If Louis is gonna throw down ten million...'

"Felix, we might be late getting back," Elizabeth sighed. They brushed past Alexander. Alexander turned slowly, watching Elizabeth walk away. Elizabeth handed her blazer to Felix, and Alexander caught a glimpse of Elizabeth yank off her mask and toss it onto a waiter's tray, then kick...

Alexander raised an eyebrow, thinking, 'Someone's got a temper.' As the waiter walked by, he called out, "That mask..."

"Oh, the lady didn't want it," the waiter replied.

Alexander grabbed it and slipped a bill into the waiter's tray. The waiter walked off, grinning. Alexander looked at the little fox mask in his hand and chuckled. He thought, 'What a coincidence, bumping into Elizabeth on business...'

"Mr. Tudor," Nolan said, walking over quickly.

Alexander looked up. "Yeah?"

Nolan said, "Ms. Percy's here for Serenity Leaf. Her companion inquired..."

Alexander nodded. "Got it."

Nolan looked at him and asked, "So, about this Serenity Leaf?"

Alexander's eyes were unreadable. "Take it back."

"Understood," Nolan said, catching Alexander's drift.

Alexander didn't go back to the auction hall; he saw Louis leaving to...  
Alexander squinted, wondering if Elizabeth was really gonna keep...

Elizabeth left the auction hall. The room key was for the hotel next door. Felix pulled up.

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Elizabeth dragged her suitcase out and tossed it in the back seat. As Felix drove to the hotel, Elizabeth opened the suitcase. Felix glanced back and saw Elizabeth pulling out a needle.

Louis was in for a rough time.

"Boss, don't go overboard," Felix warned, "We're in Nyxonia, after all..."

"So what if it's Nyxonia? If he dares to humiliate me, I'll make sure he can't use his manhood!" Elizabeth snapped.

Felix laughed. "Boss, you're getting scarier."

Elizabeth tied up her hair and hid a dagger, just in case. Her dress had no sleeves, so she stuck the silver needle at her waist where it wouldn't be noticed, easy to grab.

They soon arrived at the hotel across the street. Elizabeth didn't get out right away, letting Louis sweat it out a bit. Finally, her phone rang, showing a Nyxonian number. Looked like Louis was getting nervous. Only then did Elizabeth push open the car door and step out. She leaned against the car door, looking up at the tall building.

"Boss, I'll be waiting at the entrance. Once you're done, get in the car immediately. We'll bounce," Felix told her.

Elizabeth nodded.

"If anything goes wrong, call me, and I'll come up," Felix reminded her again.



Elizabeth nodded.

“Boss, be careful. Serenity Leaf... worth risking it all for,” Felix’s voice softened. He felt guilty. Because of him, Elizabeth’s funds were tight.

Elizabeth headed to the hotel alone. She shook her wrist and swiped the card to take the elevator. On the 36th floor, she saw Louis’s two bodyguards not far away. They were stunned to see her. Her face was stunning, especially her eyes, which sparkled with a captivating charm. Elizabeth glanced at them disdainfully and asked, “Where’s Louis?”

15:2

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The waiter pointed to the presidential suite beside him. Elizabeth swiped the card. The door opened.

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The sound of someone showering echoed from the bathroom. Elizabeth peeked in, then casually shut the door. The water stopped, and a voice called out, “Is that Ms. Percy?”

Elizabeth answered and kept scoping out the room. After making sure there were no cameras or other people, she asked, “Where’s Serenity Leaf?”

“It’s been sold. My assistant is bringing it,” Louis replied, sounding a bit on edge.

Elizabeth squinted. A moment later, she saw Louis stepping out of the bathroom. Louis spread his arms and grinned. “Darling, thanks for coming!”

Elizabeth felt a wave of nausea but kept it cool. She just waited for Serenity Leaf. Louis poured two glasses of wine and then asked, “How about a shower?”

Elizabeth smiled, dodging the question, “Do I look dirty to you?” Louis quickly shook his head. He moved closer and wrapped his arm around her.

Just as Louis was about to get closer, Elizabeth pressed her fingers against his chest and pushed him back. “I want to see Serenity Leaf,” she said bluntly.

She thought, 'Louis wants to touch me without showing Serenity Leaf first? In his dreams!' "Why be so goal-oriented? What's the fun in that?" Louis grumbled.

"I want to see Serenity Leaf," Elizabeth repeated. Louis felt like she was killing the vibe. "Are all people from Lindell Harbor like you?"

Elizabeth smiled and coaxed him, "I'm being responsible for both of us, Mr. Newman. We're here for a deal, right?" Elizabeth wanted Serenity Leaf, and Louis wanted her. So, the rules had to be clear. Louis snorted.

Elizabeth spoke gently, "Once I see Serenity Leaf, I'll serve you right away. Mr. Newman, you're so handsome and charming. I'm lucky to serve you." She lied through her teeth.

Louis was pretty taken by this. A few sweet words made him happy. Louis sighed, spread his hands, and said, "AL... 378%."

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He went to get his phone to call his assistant. Elizabeth stood behind him, patting the places he had touched. Louis turned to her, feeling puzzled.

Elizabeth smiled and made a gesture as if she was about to undress. Louis stared at her. When the call connected, he asked in a relaxed tone, "Did you get the Serenity Leaf?"

There was silence on the other end for a couple of seconds. Louis frowned, "What? Damn it!" Elizabeth stepped forward and vaguely heard the person on the other end say, "This item was bought by someone else."

"Who bought it?" Louis cursed, "You useless fool. You couldn't even get the Serenity Leaf!" The person on the other end couldn't explain because the buyer hadn't registered their identity.

Louis was furious and yelled, "Useless!" He hung up the phone. Elizabeth sighed. Louis calls others useless. But isn't he also useless?

Louis turned to Elizabeth, about to speak. Elizabeth directly took out a dagger and stabbed Louis in the stomach. Louis's eyes widened instantly, looking at her in disbelief.

Elizabeth smiled and said, “I heard that in Nyxonia, carrying a gun isn’t illegal. This shouldn’t be illegal either, right?” Blood trickled from Louis’s mouth.

Elizabeth leaned in slightly, speaking dangerously, “Louis, consider this a warning. Respect women, or you’re done.” With that, she pulled the dagger out.