

# **For Your Failed Unrequited Love**

## **#Chapter 41 - Read For Your Failed Unrequited Love**

### **Chapter 41**

#### **Chapter 41**

Lucy was genuinely curious. The prince had a reputation that was opposite to what she remembered. As she pondered the growing questions, her interest in Adrian naturally grew.

Lucy originally wanted to join the book club since the members who worked in the library would be given a certain scholarship. However, after learning that Adrian was the book manager, her reason changed to wanting to see him up close. So Lucy decided to join the book club, and she always carried her application form in her bag.

The opportunity to submit the application came soon after that.

The next day, she happened to find Adrian Berg in the hallway, surrounded by other students. Lucy quickly took out the form from her bag, but her feet, on the other hand, did not move as fast. Adrian was being swept away by the waves of students. There were so many of them around him that Lucy didn't even dare to approach him.

She hid behind the wall, losing her confidence. The students surrounding Adrian were mostly freshmen. Among them, the proportion of female students was overwhelmingly high.

Dont tell me theyre all applying?

Lucy grew nervous, seeing the freshmen fluttering about in front of Adrian with papers in hand. Faced with an unexpected competition rate, her feet froze in place. At this rate, she thought she would not be able to submit the application, let alone join the book club.

A boy, who seemed to be a sophomore, suddenly appeared out of nowhere. He approached Adrian straight away, then shouted as if to drive out the students surrounding him. The surprised freshmen hurriedly scattered quickly, and Adrian could finally escape the crowd.

Adrian, now finally alone, walked in Lucy's direction. She squeezed the application she was holding hard enough to crumple up. It seemed like this was her chance.

Lucy, hiding behind the wall, popped out in front of Adrian. Hello, Adrian-sunbaenim! She was so nervous that a louder voice than she expected came out of her mouth.

Adrian came to a halt, surprised by the female who suddenly appeared in front of him.

Lucy took a step back, even more astonished that she had surprised him.

Im sorry, sunbae! She bowed her head and apologized.

Suddenly she heard a cheerful laugh. Soon a soft touch grabbed her shoulder, and she lifted her head gently.

Its okay.

When she looked up, she saw Adrians smiling widely.

Whats the matter?

His voice was so soft that Lucy felt like someone was tickling her ears with feathers.

Lucy handed Adrian the application form. Id like to join the book club.

Oh. Adrian reached out to take the paper Lucy gave him, but someone snatched it up. It was so sudden that Lucy was taken aback.

It was the boy who kicked out the freshmen around Adrian a moment ago. He looked at Lucy coldly. How many times must I say it? Ive told you freshmen so many times to give me the application form, not Adrian! he snapped and waved Lucys application for admission into the air. I can see right through every single one of you! Everyone approaches Adrian with an ulterior motive in the hopes of getting friendly with him! His voice echoed loudly in the hallway.

The passing students glanced at Lucy and her face reddened by the sudden criticism of a senior who didnt even know her name.

ALLEN! Adrian, who had been speaking calmly, frowned for the first time and raised his voice. He took the paper from the boy.

His cold reaction prompted the boy, Allen, to give excuses. No, I Because girls bother you so much

She was just going to give me a piece of paper.

Alan soon left, still mumbling under his breath.

Adrian looked at Lucy, whose head was lowered, red in the face, and asked. Lucy Keenan, right?

Lucy raised her head in amazement.

Do you remember me? But I never gave you my name.

However, Lucy was relaxed again as Adrian continued her words.

You entered the school as the top student. I saw you go into the principals office a few days ago. You didnt seem to notice me.

Oh.

Perhaps he saw Lucy on the day of the entrance ceremony when the principal and vice-principal asked her to go to the principals office.

Anyway, its an honor. I didnt expect the first-year top student to come to my department to apply, Adrian said with a kind smile.

Hes so kind. Lucy thought as she looked at him curiously. He really feels like a different person. What the hell has happened in the past seven years? Did you get struck by lightning?

Those who submit their application to the library have to have a separate interview. But now I have class, Adrian continued apologetically, not knowing what Lucy was thinking. Can you come to the library during lunchtime?

Yes, I can.

Well then.

Adrian left the hallway without losing his sweet smile until the end. Lucy, now alone, stared at his back as he walked away.

Naturally, he didnt seem to remember Lucy at all. Moreover, he was polite and kind throughout, as if he were a different person from the boy seven years ago.

Wow I guess the Dukes has quality education. Lucy thought, staring at Adrians back. That jerk has become a completely different person.

\* \* \*

It was lunchtime, and Lucy headed to the library.

As promised earlier, Adrian was handling the library alone. Lucy approached him, and he greeted her with a gentle smile.

Oh, come, sit.

Lucy, guided by Adrian, sat down on a sofa in the corner of the library.

Adrian put Lucys application on the table and disappeared somewhere. Soon he appeared with a steaming teacup.

Isnt it cold outside?

Yes, a little bit, Lucy answered, holding the teacup that Adrian had set down in front of her. She felt the warmth in her hands, which helped alleviate her nerves.

Maybe the chilly weather will continue until mid-March. So wear something thick, Adrian said.

Lucy nodded. She was nervous at the thought of having an interview, but listening to Adrians calm and soothing voice made her feel comfortable.

Its an interview, but its not that grand. Im just trying to see if you have a sincere commitment to the work we do in the library. We have a librarian, but most of the work here is decided and operated by the book club.

Lucy carefully laid down the teacup and sat upright to show her enthusiasm. She was usually quiet and didnt like to come forward, but she was different when it came to books. She grew up in a small rural neighborhood with no library, but she was proud to have read everything on classics and famous literature.

Now, shall we start the interview? Adrian said and picked up Lucys application form.

Lucy was frozen stiff, trying to shake off her nerves.

Adrian opened his lips as if to ask something. However, before he could even begin, the library door suddenly burst open. Lucy and Adrian both turned to face the door when the noise from outside broke the silence in the library.

A boy was standing by the door with his hands in his pockets. He was as tall as Adrian, and his golden hair flowed past his shoulders. His eyes were sharp, as if something displeased him, and blue like a glimmering lake.

Lucys eyes grew bigger when she saw him.

What?

Lucy was puzzled she stared at the boy in the doorway. She turned her head again to see Adrian sitting across from her. Then he turned to the boy at the door again.

Straight forehead, full eyebrows, deep blue eyes, sharp nose bridge, thin lips, and golden blond hair. The two men looked the same as if they were mirrored reflections.

Twins?

Lucys mouth opened slowly.

She had never seen a twin so similar in her life. They were very much alike. Everything is indistinguishable except for the length of the hair.

Adrian frowned and scolded the boy. Do you have to come in so loudly?

Theres no one here anyway. The boy walked inside with a sly smile. His straight forehead was revealed again as he swept back the golden hair that fell in front of his face. He took off his coat and held it in his hand, and despite the somewhat chilly weather outside, there was sweat on his forehead and neck.

How was the meeting?

Same old same old. Its about the old people in the family getting together and playing the game. The boy answered Adrians question with a fed-up look.

Coming close, he plopped down on the sofa behind Lucy, bringing the cold wind of early spring to Lucys back.

Sienna

## **Chapter 42**

But the goosebumps around her neck were not necessarily attributed to the wind. Lucy was very surprised by the appearance of the boy who looked exactly like Adrian.

To keep cool, the boy fan himself with his shirt.

Why are you sweating so much? Adrian asked.

Ive been walking, the boy replied.

Walk? What about the carriage? Adrian rose from his seat and went in front of the boy. Lucys presence seemed to have been forgotten for a while by his sudden appearance.

Riley was going to nag me again, so I just got off and walked over.

Whats wrong with your clothes?

It was a running carriage,

Youre driving me crazy. Why would you jump out of it?

Do you think Riley would let me off? the boy asked Adrian with a rather resentful look on his face. Hes going to be ninety the day after tomorrow. Im afraid Ill be wandering around in poverty if he dies because of me.

Adrian clicked his tongue and shook his head.

Adrian, give me some water, the boy said shamelessly, pretending not to have seen such an expression.

Get it yourself.

Bring me cold water.

Adrian sighed and turned toward Lucy. Sorry, Lucy. Can you hold on a second? he asked Lucy for her understanding and disappeared to where he had previously got the tea.

The boy looked away from Adrians retreating back and glanced at Lucy, who was sitting right behind him, for a moment. Their eyes met, but he immediately turned away as if he were not interested.

Lucy turned away from him and sat up straight. No, it was more appropriate to say that her body stiffened. She was baffled.

She heard a rustling sound behind her; the boy had taken off his tie. Afterward, she heard the sound of a tie being thrown away randomly. Then he leaned back against the sofa. Lucy could feel the small movement against her back.

There was no sound after that.

Lucy, face blank, was lost in thought.

*Twin. The same face. Prince Berg. Two people.*

The boy she saw at the lake seven years ago may not be Adrian.

*Yeah, I felt something different.*

Adrian and the boy by the lake looked alike, but the way they carried themselves was completely different. When she was thinking about it, she felt someone tap her shoulder.

Lucy looked back in horror.

The boy was looking at her. Seeing Lucys surprised reaction, he withdrew his hand a little awkwardly and apologized, Im sorry.

Lucy stared blankly into his blue eyes, forgetting to let out the breath she held. Her hand gripped her school uniform skirt hard.

Then the boy looked at Lucy with a slightly strange look and said, Do you have a ribbon?

What? Lucy asked, unable to understand the meaning behind his question.

The boy stared at Lucys braided hair on the back of the sofa. He tapped his finger on the ribbon at the end. Do you have one more?

No,

Okay. He turned his back again, sweeping back his long hair that tickled his cheeks and neck.

Lucy stared at the back of his golden head, then fixed her sitting position and quickly regained her composure.

*What. That surprised me. The boy behind me seemed to be the boy I met when I was a child, or not.*

Lucy frowned in confusion.

*Is that right? No? Which one is it?*

The boy didnt talk to Lucy anymore after asking her if she had a ribbon. He was still wiping the sweat on his neck, his hair now damp. The mere sight of it made her look hot. She gazed at him, then loosened the green lace ribbon that tied her hair.

Excuse me, she called the boy quietly. He looked back. Here.

Lucy held out her ribbon, and the boy looked back and forth at Lucys face and Lucys loose hair. He asked her first if she had a ribbon, but he didnt accept it and instead looked away.

*What? Why arent you taking it?*

Lucy looked at him in wonder, but then the boy took the ribbon from her hand. He didnt even say thank you.

He turned around and placed the ribbon between his lips. Then he brushed his hair with his hands, drawing the strands into a ponytail. His blonde hair, as bright as sunlight, swayed gently in front of Lucys eyes.

The strange sight of a large but slender hand moving slowly with a lace ribbon somehow gave her a strange feeling. Lucy couldn't take her eyes off the sight of him tying his hair together with a ribbon.

Soon he tied his hair with nimble hands and turned back to Lucy. She didn't expect him to suddenly turn toward her; she closed her lips and drew herself back.

He looked into Lucy's eyes as if observing something, like someone who had no idea that it was impolite to stare into a stranger's eyes.

*W-what*

Lucy was so embarrassed by him, so casually looking into her eyes, that she didn't even think of avoiding his gaze. Her heart began to beat fast at the sudden thought that came to her.

*Dont tell me*

Her eyes lit up with expectation.

*I wonder if he remembers anything about me.*

The boy gazed into Lucy's eyes, and his eyebrows wriggled. He kept tilting his head as if he was thinking of something.

*Whoosh~*

Something white flew in and covered the boy's face. The blue eyes in front of Lucy quickly disappeared, replaced by a white towel.

Adrian stood in front of Lucy and the boy with his hand on his waist. Why are you bothering her? he asked as the boy removed the towel covering his face.

What did I do? the boy replied gruffly, wiping the sweat off his forehead with the towel.

You just glared at Lucy, Adrian said, putting down his cup of water in front of him.

Oh, I remember! Do you remember The Witch's Tears? The boy paid him no mind and suddenly said something ridiculous.

What? What are you talking about, all of a sudden?

Lucent's painting. It was hanging across the room at the end of the hallway on the 2nd floor.

Adrian still stared at the boy with a blank face.



The Witch of the Forest is holding a great emerald no, nevermind. He was about to explain something more, but he stopped talking and drank the water that Adrian had given him at once. Then he picked up the coat and tie he had left on the sofa. I cant stay here because of your nagging.

As soon as I get to the dorm, Ill pack your things.

Look at this. Youre nagging me again.

If you dont tidy up, Ill throw it all out.

The boy quickly put on his coat and strode toward the entrance, running away from Adrians nagging.

Felix! Adrian shouted, displeased.

The boy named Felix looked back, but he was not looking at Adrian. He stared at Lucy and pointed his finger at the ribbon that tied his hair. Thank you, he said.

What? Adrian asked, but Felix strode out of the library with his long legs. Adrian shook his head, tired of his selfish behavior.

Im sorry, Lucy, he apologized, looking back at Lucy. Hes my twin brother, and he got work at home, so he arrived at the Academy just now. Im not being rude to you, am I?

Lucy shook her head at Adrians question. Its not rude. Its just

*It was strange.* She swallowed the words in her heart.

\* \* \*

Since then, Felix Berg has not appeared in the library again. Lucy also had an interview with the book club, so she had no time to worry about him.

The book club interview ended unexpectedly quickly.

Lucy was very nervous about what Adrian was going to ask. She tried to recall the countless books she had read.

*Is he going to ask about the contents of a classic novel? He may ask about philosophy books or history books.*

Along with these thoughts, Adrian made an unexpected request, as she recalled difficult classics, various philosophies, and history books.

Now, Lucy, will you get up and move these books over there? Adrian said, pointing to the books piled high in the corner of the library.

Lucy looked at it, puzzled, and then rose from her seat a moment later as she came to her senses. She took a large amount of books and went to the place Adrian instructed her.

After she had safely put the book down, Adrian said quickly, as she looked back at him. Passed.

What? asked Lucy, as if she had doubted what she had heard. Is that it?

Lucy stared at him incredulously, but Adrian strode closer and held Lucys hands tightly. Well, thats it. Welcome to the book club, Lucy Keenan. Then he added, with a grim look on his face. Please stay in the library for a long time. Please dont just leave.

Sienna

## **Chapter 43**

Lucy soon understood the meaning behind Adrians pensive yet sincere words.

Do we really have to move all these books by the end of this week? One of the freshmen asked a few days later, stunned.

They had gathered in the library and there were piles of thick books in front of Lucy and other new book club members.

Well, within this week, Adrian replied. There will be a lot of new books at the beginning of the semester. Remember that. Adrian folded his arms afterward and looked at the newcomers. Well, lets get a move on everyone.

Along with that, a student raised his hand. Adrian pointed at him to speak up. Im sorry, but Id like to withdraw from the book club, he said, slightly ashamed.

Adrian closed his eyes and nodded as if he had expected it. He opened his mouth and asked, Anyone else wants to quit?

Hands came up from around Lucy.

In the end, more than half of the new book club members left the club at once along with the first student who raised his hand. Only Lucy and two new students remained.

Sure enough. These are the people I expected to stay, Adrian said, looking at the three. Rather than being despondent, he grinned hopeful while looking at the remaining new recruits, despite the difficult situation.

That's what I felt when I first saw you. I feel like you won't give up easily despite the rough weather.

In the present situation, it sounded more conciliatory than praise. However, in any case, Lucy and three other new members, who missed the timing to withdraw, stood in front of the pile of books with a fairly grim face.

Well, I think I'll be able to get this book done by the end of the week with you.

It's a good thing freshmen like you are here. I'm so blessed.

My conscience is bothering me. I'll give you one last chance. Anyone who wants to leave?

Yes, I believed in you. I have a good eye for people.

Listening to Adrian's constant cheering, the new members began to carry the books. Lucy wiped off the sweat on her forehead, already hard at work from the first day.

What? Where's everybody? Another second-year senior asked, appearing at the door and looking around the empty library. He was Allen, the senior who had previously humiliated Lucy in the hallway with her application form.

I knew this would happen. Anyway, I just came to see their faces. Go. He noticed Adrian looking at him, and he shut his mouth from saying more useless things. He groaned and cleared his throat. While checking the faces of the remaining freshmen, his sight landed on Lucy.

Allen did not look at her favourably. Rather, he looked at Lucy with suspicion as if she had joined the book club with an ulterior motive.

Watch out for him, Jemima, who was stacking books next to her, whispered to Lucy. She was a freshman with red short hair and a lively appearance, and was also a new member of the book club. People said to stay away from him because if you get on his bad side, you'll be miserable for the rest of the day.

Lucy nodded slightly at Jemima's advice. She had witnessed Allen's irrational side once and was well aware of how bad it was. She carried the book as far as possible from his sight, but Allen's sharp eyes were on Lucy from the beginning, like a falcon after a prey.

He keeps looking at you, Jemima informed Lucy, approaching her.

*Oh, really. What the hell did I do?*

Lucy acted like she didn't notice him, but Allen's eyes followed her persistently.

To make matters worse, when Adrian briefly left the library to go to class, Allen took the opportunity to order the freshmen around. Of course, Lucy was the one who suffered the most.

Even though Lucy was the smallest of the three new members, Allen didn't seem to notice since he asked her to lift the heaviest books.

After a while Allen pointed at a rather heavy box and pointed at Lucy. Do you know where the Bertha Classroom is? he asked and then instructed her rather arrogantly. Take these books and put them in the bookshelf. Of course, you know that you have to sort them in alphabetical orders, right?

Yes. In spite of Lucys resentment at her senior book club members unprovoked attitude, she had no choice but to respond.

Lucy lifted the box with a grunt and left the library. The box containing the book was heavy, but she was relieved at the fact that she was finally out of Allens radar.

The Bertha classroom that Alan spoke of was on the first floor. Fortunately, she didn't have to climb the stairs.

Lucy, was at a loss for a moment when she entered the classroom. There were second-year students inside, waiting for their class to begin.

She appeared at the front door with the box, and all the students in the classroom turned toward her at the same time.

*Oh, I shouldve come in through the back door.*

But it was too late, Lucy walked as fast as she could toward the bookshelf behind the classroom.

*Lets get it over with and get out.* She thought as she walked across the room, then she saw a familiar person.

Felix Berg was snoozing in the backseat while the rest of the class sat down to get ready for class. She can't see his face, but she could tell that was him just by looking at his long blond hair hanging down the desk.

Lucy clicked her tongue. *I guess he doesnt like studying that much.*

She moved her gaze away from the back of his blond head and placed the box she was carrying in front of the bookshelf. She had to finish organising quickly and get out of the classroom before the teacher arrived for class.

Lucy hurriedly opened the box, but her face contorted as soon as she saw the book inside.

The titles were all in the Bertha letters.

*Of course, you know that you have to sort them in alphabetical orders, right?* Alans voice as he spoke with a cheeky expression reverberated in her ears.

Lucy looked down at the box, at a loss on what to do. Although Bertha was a required language among the high nobles, she knew nothing of it.

*What should I do? Should I just stick it in first and then come clean up later? Who should I ask for help? Can Jemima speak Bertha?*

Then the front door opened.

A middle-aged woman walked in. It was her first time seeing the woman but Lucy knew she was a teacher for the class.

*Im in trouble. Ill just leave it be.*

Lucy quickly closed the lid of the box and stood up. But then, of all things, she met the eyes of the teacher.

Oh, a student from the book club, The teacher said with a smile as she looked at Lucy. Is this the entire collection of Bertha literature that I applied for?

Oh Frustrated, Lucy looked down at the book. However, she couldnt read the text on the book covers. that

Well, Id appreciate it if you could arrange them for me now. Oh, dont forget to put them in alphabetical order.

Unaware of Lucys situation, the Bertha teacher gave her a difficult request and started the lesson.

Oh, dear

Lucys randomly grabbed the books in panic. However, this did not mean that the books were magically sorted on their own.

*Theyll laugh at me, right? If I dont do this properly*

*Even if I didnt have enough time, I should have memorized all the letters of Bertha before entering the school*

Lucy looked around desperately to find any letters she knew. But it was in vain. She felt like she was going to cry in a situation where she didn't know what to do.

Suddenly a large hand appeared grabbed the corner of the box Lucy was holding, and she was so startled, she let go of it.

The owner of the hand, seated in a chair, dragged the box to his side. Soon he began arranging the books in the box without the teacher even noticing.

Lucy sat down in front of the bookshelf and stared at Felix's hands that were moving without hesitation. His lengthy fingers flitted around in the box as though playing the piano,

It took him less than a few minutes to sort out the books in order, and Felix pushed the box back to Lucy when he was done.

Thank thank you

Lucy's faint murmur of thanks did not seem to reach his ears. Before she had finished speaking, Felix turned to the blackboard again.

Lucy looked at Felix's back with great appreciation. It wasn't until a long time later that she felt relieved at the work that had been solved in an instant. She exhaled slowly and wiped the sweat off her forehead.

*Im glad*

Lucy breathed a sigh of relief and reached for the books in the box, but there was something on top of the books.

It was the ribbon that she had previously lent to Felix in the library.

Sienna

## **Chapter 44**

She picked up the ribbon and looked at Felix's back. Before she knew it, he was staring at the blackboard with his chin in one hand.

Forgetting the fact that she had to organize the books, Lucy couldn't take her eyes off the bored-looking back.

A person who seemed uninterested in anyone but himself; a person who seemed bored with everything.

But if there were someone in trouble, he would be the first one to notice and help.

She couldn't tell if he was really arrogant or kind. Like seven years ago, it was still difficult to figure out what he was thinking.

Lucy took the ribbon and put it in her pocket. Then she placed the books on the bookshelf according to how Felix had arranged them.

She finished arranging the books and quietly left the classroom. No one paid her any mind, not even Felix.

I guess you helped me for no reason.

As she looked at his sullen face, Lucy closed the door feeling somewhat disappointed, as if her guess was true.

\* \* \*

Streams of warm light poured down on the earth, and new life began to sprout on the moist and fragrant ground. The fresh breeze blew around the campus. It seemed like spring had finally come to the Academy.

A month had already passed.

Lucy took off a layer of her freshman tee and became quite relaxed.

She never got lost in the large campus and the complex academy building. No one was suddenly calling her name from behind in a classroom full of unfamiliar and awkward students. There was no reason to be shy.

Of course, being in a new environment is not without a crisis. One day, homesickness came to her.

For quite some time, the feeling of emptiness filled her heart. There were days when she couldn't fall asleep easily at night; she kept tossing and turning until she barely fell asleep.

When she opened her eyes, she felt like she could see her grandmother's face at any moment and could hear her mother nagging her for not getting up yet.

However, every time she woke up early in the morning, she was in a dormitory room filled with high-quality furniture that was still foreign to her.

She was swept in a wave of anxiety. Maybe I'll never be able to adapt to this place?

But it was only for a while.

Lucy got herself together at one point.

It was the moment she realized that she needed to keep her top spot.

The scholarship she received from the Academy was only tuition for the first semester. If she couldn't maintain being the top student, the scholarship for the next semester would go to someone else.

The tuition fee wasn't her only concern; there were also problems with the dormitory and living expenses. The dormitory fees at prestigious imperial academies were surprisingly high compared to ordinary schools, and the living cost in the capital was much higher than in the province. It was quite a burden.

All these expenses too much for Lucy's family were sponsored by Baron Connor.

Lucy's grandmother said, I have an idea, which turned out to be the baron's patronage. But Lucy knew very well that Baron Connor didn't have much wealth.

Brom, a remote countryside, was a place where most of the young people lived on their own and farmed for a living. Therefore, unlike the nobles of the capital, Baron Connor could not collect as many taxes.

Sending Colin to Xenomium Academy also requires a big budget. In such a situation, sponsoring Lucy's dormitory and living expenses might've been an added burden to the baron.

She made up her mind to keep the top position, for herself and those who were willing to believe in her. She never wanted to add any more financial problems to the baron and his family.

Since then, she was glued to her desk. She often studied late into the night. Colin was so concerned when he saw her tired face that he asked her to do it in moderation.

After spending most of the day studying, Lucy didn't have many chances to make friends.

Furthermore, because she is a commoner, not many students approached her first. Nobody was being mean to her, and there didn't seem to be anyone with whom she could have a deep and serious friendship.

So even after entering school, Lucy spent most of her time with Colin. With Colin next to her, she didn't feel desperate to make friends. She wasn't even enthusiastic about making any.

However, she made new friends because of the book club.

There were two girls, Jemima and Rita, who joined the club at the same time as her. They were the only students who greeted her and talked to her whenever they saw her.



Jemima was a noble young lady from the capital and had a cheerful personality. Lucy sometimes had a hard time dealing with her overflowing energy, but she was always positive and full of energy, and she loved it very much.

Rita was as quiet and gentle as Lucy. She was also not from the capital but from a far northern region, so she shared a lot of similarities with Lucy. When Lucy was feeling homesick, Rita was the first person to notice and comfort her.

They became close while being in the book club. The three of them sometimes ate lunch together and took walks on campus. Thanks to this, Lucy was able to experience something she had never experienced before with Colin: an emotional exchange between women.

In fact, her close friendship with them was because of this person: Allen Gross, a second-year student in the book club.

Allen always looked annoyed, as if his job in the club was to kick out the new members.

He even purposely made Lucy carry heavy books that she didn't have to carry and even made her do his personal errands. Because of this, the three girls were busy secretly swearing at him whenever he was away.

Allen seemed convinced that all the girls who joined the book club had feelings for Adrian. Whenever they tried to speak to Adrian, he glared at the newcomers, his eyes filled with suspicion. He was most likely a Berg family guard who would do anything to protect Adrian.

But that was the beginning of the story. Despite the mistreatment, Lucy, Jemima, and Rita remained firmly in the book club. Contrary to Allen's prejudice, the girls were honest, excellent at work, and quick-witted.

At last, Allen realized that it was better to keep them. At some point, the blatant persecution and the petty harassment stopped.

However, he still looked at the newcomers with a look of disapproval. The scolding did not disappear. He would scold them even though the return table was clean, for not organizing the books on time, and criticized them for not cleaning the library even though it was just cleaned.

For this reason, Adrian's presence was a great comfort for new book club members.

The more Lucy became closer to Adrian, the more surprised she was. At first, she thought he was just an upright, sincere, and thorough school council president, but surprisingly, he showed a lot of his human side.

He helped the newcomers adapt quickly to their duty. In particular, he made a lot of effort to relieve the tension by playing light pranks and making jokes.

But it wasn't funny because they were all jokes at the same level that Lucy's dad used to throw.

However, after discovering Adrian's unexpected kindness, she was able to get along with him more quickly. It somehow reminded her of his twin brother, Felix.

Felix Berg.

Since she got the ribbon back from him, they hadn't got much contact. Sometimes she only ran into him in the hall, and each time Felix walked by, completely ignoring her. Lucy would glance at him secretly, but Felix didn't even seem to notice that she was there.

In fact, Felix didn't seem to take many classes, and when he didn't have classes, it was like he had turned invisible; he couldn't even be found in the academy building. They said that, unlike Adrian, he didn't hang out with people, and it seemed to be true.

Lucy remembered him hiding by the lake when he was younger because he disliked being around others.

Anyway, she didn't have any ties with him. They didn't even have a chance to talk further. Naturally, her interest and curiosity in Felix Berg began to fade over time.

\* \* \*

Why is he here again? Jemima asked, pointing at Colin. He was sitting on the sofa in the library, relaxing. He was a sight for sore eyes to Jemima, who was busy finishing her library work. Does he want to join the book club?

Lucy shook her head at the question. Colin often came to the library to see her. He didn't really read or study.

Colin is an honorary member of the book club, Adrian chimed in. He was listening to the girls' conversation. It's a little distracting, but he's the only one who can help me with the book club when I'm short-handed, he added, looking pleased with Colin.

That's true, Jemima replied, immediately agreeing with Adrian when moments ago she was unhappy with Colin.

He seemed to have carried more than he did the last time you organized the new books. Even Rita, who was caught up in Jemima's comment, praised Colin.

I think I'll be able to use him well in the future, Jemima said with a wicked smile.

What are you talking about? Colin, lying on the sofa, stood up and approached them. The book club members, who had been gathering and whispering, quickly scattered in all directions.

Nothing.

He looked at Lucy with suspicion but then brought up another topic.

Its the end of the week, isnt it? Uncle Keenan is coming soon!

Sienna

## **Chapter 45**

Lucy broke into a broad grin when she heard the news.

Its been a month since she entered school and two months since she moved from Brom to the capital.

She hadnt met her father in a long time, and he was supposed to visit the capital this weekend. She heard that he had come this far to learn a new method of surgery in the capital. Usually, Lucys dad does not visit faraway areas to learn medicine, but this time he seemed to have chosen a long trip to see his daughter.

It was a pity that her grandmother and mother couldnt come with him, but Lucy couldnt hide her excitement at the thought of meeting her father. She was looking forward to that day.

\* \* \*

The long-awaited weekend.

After changing her clothes early in the morning and getting ready, Lucy hurried to the carriage. Several carriages were parked in front of the main gate of the Academy, waiting for the students.

Lucy approached a private carriage.

Unlike the public carriages, private carriages were expensive. Public carriages had a fixed departure time, but students could ride the private carriage alone and leave whenever they wanted.

She decided to rent a private carriage because it was an important day.

Upon arriving in the center of the town, Lucy made a beeline to the place where she had promised to meet her father. The streets were crowded with people out and about.

But even the sea of people, Lucy could recognize her father with just one glance.

Dad!

Her small voice was soon drowned out by the noise of the street. But just as Lucy recognized her father in the midst of many people, he also recognized her voice, and immediately turned toward it.

Lucy!

Through the crowd, Lucy ran straight to her father. She hugged him tightly, rubbing her face against his chest.

There was a familiar smell; the smell of bromine. There was also a hint of her mother and grandmothers scent.

What a long-awaited embrace!

Lucy felt like she was dreaming at that moment. She felt like her heart, which had been emptied by terrible homesickness, was quickly filled with happiness and relief.

Oh my! Lucy, why are you so thin? her father asked, gingerly holding her face in his hand.

A look of pity flashed on her fathers face, as if saddened by how skinny she looked.

Lucy, on the other hand, was just happy to meet her father again after months of not seeing her family.

Soon the father and daughter pair began walking in the street, arm in arm. They made their way to the restaurant, and for the first time in while, Lucys steps were light as if she was flying.

Dad, the Academy building is really nice! I wish I could show you around today. Oh, by the way, I joined the book club! The senior manager there

With each step they took, Lucy was determined to tell her father everything that had happened in the academy. However, she was so excited since she hadnt seen him in a long time that she poured out what she wanted to say randomly.

Her father listened to her rambling and smiled. He was just pleased to be with his daughter again.

They arrived at the quiet restaurant and chose a table near the window.

During the meal, her father took out the several packages from his bag and placed them on the table. Lucy knew at once what it was without unpacking the wrapping cloth.

First of all, one of them must have been cookies made by her grandmother, packed in a round box. Sure enough, as soon as she opened the box, it was her grandmothers homemade cookies. They smelled like cinnamon.

Your grandma was so eager to wrap the box her father said, smiling at her. He knew how much Lucy liked cookies. Im sure I told her the food would go bad on the way to Bethel, but she kept trying to give you everything. In the end, we made a compromise by taking only these cookies.

Lucy burst into laughter as she imagined her grandmother packing a bunch of things like turkey, and so on.

The other package contained a cardigan that Lucys mother had made herself. It was just the right thickness to wear during the change of seasons from winter to spring. There was also a new lace ribbon lying nicely on the neatly folded cardigan.

Lucy picked up the ribbon and stared at it. She was silent for a moment; someone suddenly came to her mind.

Are you sick? her father asked, peering quietly into her face. Your face is red, did you catch a cold?

No. Lucy quickly put the ribbon on top of the cardigan and rewrapped the package. Its because of the cold weather. She rubbed her arms on purpose and pretended to be cold, but the spring light shone warmly at where she was sitting in the restaurant.

Take care of your health. You catch a cold every time the seasons change, her father said with a worried look. He had no reason to doubt her.

Lucy nodded her head. She really do get sick with every sudden change in the weather.

*A cup of lavender tea made by grandmother would have healed me quickly.* Lucy thought to herself.

Whenever she had a cold, she would lay in her bed, and her grandmother would come up to her and measure the temperature of her forehead with her rough hands. Then she would hand Lucy a cup of warm tea.

Now Lucy was holding a glass of water in front of her instead of her grandmothers tea. Her expression reflected on the water was sad and lonely. She missed her grandmother and mother so much.

I guess youre having a hard time at the academy. her dad said, looking at her listless face.

No, its fun! Lucy quickly replied, putting on a bright expression on her face. Her answer made her father feel a little relieved.

Actually, Im glad that you look happy whenever you talked about the Academy. Then, after a pause, he continued, Im really sorry that I opposed to you taking the entrance exam. I didnt know you wanted to come to Xenomium Academy so badly. I didnt thought you would do so well

Lucy shook her head at her fathers words. Dont say that, Dad. To be honest, it was true that Xenomium was too much for our family. Youre just voicing out your opinion.

But Im sorry that I didnt believe you. Her father clasped her hands tightly. Now Im rooting for you no matter what you do. Of course, the same goes for your mother.

Lucy was moved by her fathers words.

Actually, it would be a lie if she said she wasnt disappointed. However, all the disappointment that remained melted away when she heard his encouragement and his trust in her.

Ring.

The restaurants bell rang as the door opened while Lucy was still holding her fathers hand. Three people walked into the restaurant, and she glanced at them.

No, to be more precise, her eyes turned to the young man with long blond hair among them.

It was simple, in simple plain clothes. He was accompanied by two boys who were often seen with him at the academy.

They looked around the restaurant in search of an empty seat, and settled not far from Lucys table. She quickly averted her gaze and pretended she didnt notice them.

How about becoming a doctor in the capital when you graduate? her father asked.

Lucy, staring blankly down at the plate, looked up suddenly. She was lost in thought for a moment. After a beat, she opened her mouth, finally registering his question.

Oh A doctor? But wouldnt Grandma be disappointed if I kept saying I would stay in the capital?

Well, I'm sure she won't feel that way. If you want to do something, Grandma will never object. She also said that she would like you to experience more while you're in the capital.

Really? Lucy asked with her eyes wide open. Well, but I don't know yet

Yes, because you're still young. There's no need to decide the future already. Go to Xenomium and experience a lot of things and slowly find out what you want to do. By the way, do you know them?

All of a sudden, her father turned his head and looked at the nearby table. He seemed to have noticed a moment ago that Lucy's eyes were constantly glancing elsewhere.

No! I don't know them. Lucy hastily denied it.

However, her father looked at the boys sitting at the table one by one as if he were observing them. Soon his gaze stopped at one of the boys.

He's handsome. He must be popular with girls, he said, his eyes glued to Felix. But what about Hans in the blacksmith's shop?

It's not like that! I have nothing to do with Hans! Lucy said, hitting her fist on the table. But looking at the way Lucy acted, her father just smiled as if she was being cute.

Are you done? Lucy hurriedly packed her things and tried to get up. I'll show you around Bethel.

As if to tease Lucy, her father deliberately picked up his luggage slowly. She stared at her father exasperatedly and left the table first.

But without her realizing it, she stole a glance at Felix.

He didn't notice her eyeing him, completely engrossed in the conversation with his friends. One of them linked his arms with him then grinned as if he had told a bland joke.

*He looks good.*

Lucy thought as she gazed at his smiling face.

She didn't see him in the hallway or the campus, so she wondered if he was sick. When she saw him laughing and chatting with his friends, she felt relieved for some reason.

Then she turned away from Felix and left the restaurant with her father.

Sienna

## Chapter 46

When Lucy was with the students at the academy, she still felt as if she were a country girl from the countryside. But when she was with my father, she was relaxed as if she had lived in the capital all her life.

Just like when she first came to Bethel and could not keep her mouth shut when she saw the enormous city, her father also could not hide his surprise at the brilliance of Bethel.

It was Lucys first time showing and telling her father to a place, so she was excited to take her father around Bethels famous landmarks.

The square, the market, the palace, and so on.

Lucie was delighted to see her fathers face light up and admire the places he saw, as if he was a child.

Furthermore, she felt relaxed because she was with her family, letting go of the strains he felt when interacting with people she wasnt close to. Her natural smile sprung from her lips.

Maybe that was why she felt the time spent with her father went by faster than usual, and it wasnt long before they had to say their goodbyes.

The sun was already setting in the horizon.

Lucy, unable to hide her sorrow and regret, held hands with her father and walked to the line of carriages.

That fast?

Lucy looked discouraged when she heard her fathers saying that he had to go back to Brom after two weeks. She wanted to beg him not to go if she could, like a child. However, Lucy endured the feeling because she knew how inconvenient it would be for the villagers to have the only doctor in the village gone for nearly a month.

She wished she could see him again during the week of her fathers stay. But that didnt work out either. The midterm exam will begin in two week, so she wanted to spend her weekend studying.

She has to keep her top position because she has to get the scholarship.

Lucy hid her disappointment and told her father about the situation. When she said she had to study for the exam, her father also looked disappointed, but he nodded and understood her situation.



Dont worry about me, just study hard, her father soother her, his tone soft. Well see each other again during the summer vacation.

Summer vacation.

It felt so far away.

They walked with their hands clasped tightly, and soon arrived in front of the carriage. Her father told her to take a private carriage, but Lucy refused. After all, all the private carriages were occupied, and there was not a single carriage left.

Well, the travel takes about the same amount of time as the public carriage.

Lucy walked to a public carriage as if it were not a big deal.

The carriage had no walls, and it was a carriage with a tent for a roof, so it could barely prevent rain. In fact, it was more like a large cart than a carriage.

Heres the carriage to the Academy! Ill be leaving in five minutes! the old coachman cried, standing by the carriage.

Lucys father reached out to her to help her get on the carriage. She lifted her skirt slightly and climbed into the carriage.

As soon as she entered, she saw people sitting in the corner of the carriage first. Surprisingly, one of them was Felix. His friends whom she had seen in the restaurant were also with him.

Lucy managed to hide her astonishment and sat close to the entrance.

Youre also riding this carriage?

There were no private carriages left, but she never imagined that the dukes children would ride in such a crowded, old carriage. Regardless, Felix and his friends were sitting face to face and engrossed in their conversation.

Lucy,

She heard her fathers voice calling for her, and she turned around. He was standing by the carriage.

Its late, Dad. You should go.

Yes, and this. Her father took a small cloth bag out of his arms.

Lucy accepted the pouch, it was quite heavy. What is this?

Its not much, but If you need anything, buy it using that.

Its okay, Dad. Isnt this your pocket money? Lucy asked, anxious, as she returned the money pouch.

However, her father shook his head and refused. I dont think Ill spend as much money as I expected, so Im giving you some of it. Dont worry.

The money pouch went back and forth between the two several times. Eventually, Lucy couldnt beat her Dad, so she placed the pouch inside her bag.

Thank you, Dad.

Her Dad spread his arms wide and hugged Lucy tightly. I love you, my daughter, Dont get sick and stay healthy.

I love you too, Dad. Lucy also gave her father a heartfelt farewell hug.

At last, she heard the coachmans shout of departure. Her father let her go with a sad smile.

If anything happens, you must write to me immediately.

Her fathers final behest rattled through the sound of wheels that began to move. Lucy nodded and waved to him. Soon the horses began to run at a fast speed.

The figure of her father waving his hands in front of her was getting smaller and smaller. After some time her father finally disappeared, Lucy stopped waving and sat down immediately.

Ah

Lucy, who inadvertently turned her eyes forward, made eye contact with Felix, who was looking at her. His face glistened in the crimson sunset, in the rattling carriage.

Lucy gulped with her eyes widened. But unsurprisingly, Felix turned away first. After that their eyes never met again.

Lucy tried to calm her pounding heart.

Why is my heart beating so fast?

Seeing herself responding like that just because their eyes met once felt weird.

Felix was now turning away from her and looking at the sunset sky. He didnt seem interested in Lucy at all.

It was a coincidence that our eyes met.

Her pounding heart gradually calmed down, and Lucy turned away from him, her eyes gazing at the road.

The carriage rattled along.

As she returned to the Academy, the sun gradually set and the whole area was engulfed in darkness. The carriage stopped in front of the gate in the pale moonlight.

The students rushed out of their seats to get off. Among them, Lucy, who was sitting close to the door, was the first to leave.

She tried to go down carefully, but she stumbled as she stepped on the hem of her skirt.

Ahh!

Fortunately, there was no sloppy tumbling to the ground. Lucy, who barely stepped on the ground, held her center and stood up straight.

However, one of the pouch she had kept in her bag came out and fell to the ground. It was the money pouch she received from her father.

Coins poured out of the old pouch and rolled over the dirt floor. Seeing the coins scattered in all directions, Lucys face turned white and she immediately knelt on the ground. She stretched her arms around to pick up the scattered coins.

A pair of female and male students, who were getting off from behind her, glanced at her figure and avoided the coins.

A few more feet crossed in front of her as she continued to pick up the coins. Lucy was ashamed and lowered her head. Her face flushed red.

Lucy, you idiot, she said to herself. Why do you have to stumble here?

She felt even more ashamed because she knew who was going to get off behind her.

Im sure Im the only one in this academy who carries a bunch of silver coins like this, she murmured to herself and kept picking up the coins.

After a while Lucy realized that someone was standing behind her. She stopped picking up coins and looked back.

There stood Felix and two of his friends, looking down at her.

She quickly lowered her head again. Her face was burning red; she felt like she was about to explode.

Lucy waited for Felix to pass by quickly. But no matter how much time had passed, he didn't leave.

Are you going to watch me pick up coins?

Lucy looked down at the floor and frowned, she was so embarrassed. She would rather this moment be a dream, but the feeling of the cold coins in her hand was too vivid.

Then, a big hand appeared in front of her. The hand picked up the coins Lucy hadn't seen.

It was Felix. He suddenly knelt on the ground like her, and looked under the carriage. He reached over with his long arms and took out several coins.

There's one here, one of Felix's friends, standing by and watching, pointed to the coin at his feet.

Hey, Felix. down here, said the other, tapping on the wheel of the carriage.

You pick it up too, Felix said, looking at the two in displeasure.

Just pick it up while you're at it.

However, as Felix stared at them fiercely, they also began to pick up the coins quietly.

Sienna

## **Chapter 47**

With three people helping her, she was able to quickly find all the coins.

Lucy held out the pouch as Felix's friends approached her, and they dropped the coins in.

Ting~ Ting~

Her money pouch was filled with the sound of coins clinking.

Thank you, Lucy thanked them, blushing.

Hey, Felix. What are you doing? One of Felix's friends called him since he was standing far behind.

Felix was looking down at the coins on his palm as they shimmered over his hand.

But Lucys eyes were on his face, hidden in his golden hair.

Well

Lucy had seen this expression once before, from a boy crouching and wrapping his arms around his knees by the lake.

*Why on earth*

*Why do you look like that?*

Hey, FELIX!

Felix looked up, startled out of his trance by his friends call. Realizing that everyone was looking at him, he approached Lucy with an awkward look.

He slowly dropped the coins he had picked into her bag.

Ting~ Ting~

The coins cling happily inside the pouch as they all had returned safely into Lucys hands.

Lets go, Felix said to his friends.

Before Lucy could thank him, Felix turned around and walked toward the front gate of the Academy. She looked at his back, feeling the weight of the coins in her hand.

She could not forget the sad expression on his face.

\* \* \*

The week started anew.

The spring sunshine leaked through the white silk curtains and illuminated the classroom. Unable to overcome the warm weather and languid sound of Mr. Arkels voice, the students who were sitting down started dozing off.

Lucy, who had always sat firmly in the right position and had her eyes wide open, stared at the back of the person in front of her. There was no focus on her gaze, and her pen drew meaningless circles on the notebook.

There was a certain face in her head that kept popping up.

Someone with long golden hair.

Someone with eyes as blue as a lake.

And someone who still looked sad and lonely

Lucy Keenan!

A shrill voice rang in the quiet classroom, and Lucy suddenly came to her senses.

Mr. Arkel was staring at her with a fierce look.

You're not listening, are you? I've called you twice to get up and read page 90!

Lucy stood up in dismay at Mr. Arkel's scolding. She hurriedly turned the book over to the page he had said. While she was lost in thought, the class had already covered over ten pages.

*You're crazy, Lucy Keenan!*

Lucy scolded herself.

*I can't believe I'm losing my mind over this.*

Lucy cleared her throat and began to read. Mr. Arkel still looked at her disapprovingly, but fortunately, he didn't scold her any more. She soon sat down after she had finished reading page 90.

*Wake up!*

She pinched her arm hard. So hard that her tears were about to come out.

*Don't think too much and concentrate on your class!*

She stared at the blackboard with her eyes wide open.

*I'm really not going to think about anything else anymore.*

Lucy forced out the face that had been floating in her head and clenched her fists as if she had made up her mind.

Her efforts continued in the library.

After organizing the returned books without a break, Lucy even brought a cloth and wiped the empty table. It was not enough, so she reorganized the positions of the potted plants.

She deliberately trying to get busy to shake off all the thoughts that were floating in her head.

Lucy, youre full of energy today, arent you? Adrian said, watching her.

Lucy was surprised as if she had been caught. After a while, she approached Adrian carefully.

Well Lucy hesitated, and Adrian looked at her with a puzzled expression. At last Lucy made up her mind and said, Is everything okay these days?

*at Sunbaes house.*

Adrians brows knitted at her question. Whats the matter? Nothing, Why?

Nothing.

Adrian chuckled at Lucys bland reply. Just as he turned around, Lucy asked another question.

Are you feeling sick?

*I mean, someone in Sunbaes family.*

Adrian burst into laughter. Am I sick? Well, Im not. He approached Lucy with a worried look. Youre a little strange today, Lucy. Why do you keep asking me that?

Lucy shook her head very hard.

Nothing!

She left with a loud shout.

\* \* \*

Even though she didnt want to think about it, Felix kept coming to her mind, and now Lucy even doubted her own self-control.

*Am I a person who cant concentrate?*

It was time to get serious about studying for the exam. It wasnt the time to be distracted. In order to prepare for the exam and work in the library at the same time, it was necessary to manage her time well.

She thought of her father, mother, and grandmother, even the faces of Baron and Baroness Connor.

It was some form of mind therapy.

By remembering the faces of those who supported and cheered her on to attend the academy, it was a way to erase all the useless thoughts in her head. She kept remembering their faces, and the images of Felix, who always appeared without notice, also calmed down for a while.

As expected, it works.

Lucy went on to recall her grandmother, who had been wearing socks many times, and Baron Connor, who only lit one fireplace in the middle of winter. As expected, useless thoughts disappeared at an astonishing speed.

Lucy seemed to be able to concentrate for her examinations now.

If only she hadn't heard Felix's voice in the hallway at that time. Lucy stood still. Her head turned naturally toward the sound of his voice.

It wasn't difficult to find Felix mixed up in the crowd as always. All she had to do is find the most beautiful blond.

He was standing in front of the herbal section and talking about something serious with his friends who were with him yesterday. He looked annoyed.

Mr. Estrid says he'll extend the deadline for submitting the Limosium potion. So, by tomorrow afternoon

You don't have to do that. I don't mind getting a zero on the assignment.

Hey, Felix! You're only saying this because you don't know how stubborn the teacher is. I'm sure he'll fry you until you submit the assignment.

Felix stubbornly shook his head. You were the one who broke my vial in the first place, Alec!

That's why you've been given the opportunity to submit again.

Well, I'm not going to make it twice. I'll just get a zero.

They were talking about making a Limosium potion, one of the tasks of herbal medicine class.

It seems that his friend accidentally broke the potion that Felix had submitted as an assignment. Felix argued for a long time with his friends who told him to recreate it and submit it as soon as possible, saying that he doesn't care if he doesn't receive a score.



*That idiot!* Lucy cried inwardly at Felix. *That medicine is so easy to make!*

Lucy had grown up with her grandmother who ran a pharmacy. She could make the drug even with her eyes closed.

It was unusual for a teacher at Xenomium Academy to extend the deadline and accept the assignment again. If it was her, she would have bowed to Mr. Estrid, who had been generous enough to look after her situation.

Its a medicine that can be made really quickly.

The process of making medicine unfolded naturally in her head. Although there were many ingredients needed, it was relatively easy to obtain, and it did not take much time to make it, different from other drugs.

It was a task that showed Mr. Estrids excellence, giving a chance for the students to get high grades easily.

*Let me see.*

Lucys eyes looked out of the window. Yellow dandelions stuck out their heads and bloomed here and there on the wide flower bed. Dandelion was one of the ingredients used in limosium potions.

Lucy, who was thinking of other ingredients with dandelion, suddenly came to her senses. Her startled face was reflected in the window.

*Are you crazy? Arent you going to study for the exam? Why would you think of making it?*

Lucy looked at her face reflected in the window and scolded herself.

*Dont worry about Felix Berg!*

Now Lucy was even angry with herself. She thought shed be a real fool if she make a potion for Felix.

With a determined face, she moved away from the window and turned around immediately. Then she walked out of to the corridor.

Felixs voice faded away. She made another promise that she would never think or worry about him again.

\* \* \*

Im a fool. Lucy murmured as lunchtime approached. She was plucking a dandelion from the flower bed.

Her basket already had a handful of dandelion picked from various flower beds.

Sienna

## **Chapter 48**

Im crazy.

Lucy shook her head. And yet her hands moved non stop.

It was clear that Lucy had turned her back firmly, saying she would no longer care about Felix. Then she went straight to the dormitory.

She went up to her room, and came out with a basket and collecting tools then headed to the flower bed. Then, without hesitation, she started collecting dandelions which poked a little above the ground.

She couldnt understand why she was doing this and laughed at the ridiculousness. Her head and body were moving separately as if they had different minds.

As she crouched down, some of the students looked at Lucy, who was tearing off a dandelion, with a strange look. Lucy, who was as red as a tomato, hurriedly finished collecting the dandelions and left the flower bed.

She went to the third floor of the Academy, taking the rest of the materials that were easy to get in the herbalist classroom. At the end of the corridor was an old herbalist classroom. It was used more as a storage room now.

In a classroom where desks and chairs were piled up, Lucy opened a wooden cupboard. She put the ingredients in it and took out a black pot and a small furnace for boiling. These were used by students when they had herbal medicine classes.

What am I doing?

Lucy murmured as she took the materials out and put it on the desk. If she had studied for the exam, she might have already read half of the book.

But it had already been done. In desperation, Lucy set the pot on fire. Then, when the water boiled, she put in the ingredients one by one.

As she expected, the limosium potion was completed in a short time.

She poured the potion into a medicine bottle the size of a thumb. Then, she wrote Limosium on a piece of paper and tagged the bottle.

Bottle in hand, she went to the hallway on the second floor, where the lockers of the senior students were. After confirming that there was no one there, Lucy found Felix's locker and carefully put the small bottle of medicine into the letter-box.

Clink~

She heard the medicine bottle landed safely on the bottom of the locker.

This concluded her mission. Of course, she wouldn't know whether Felix would hand in the bottle and complete his task. He might even suspect the medicine and throw it in the trash. Wasting all of Lucy's time and effort in making it.

However, Lucy left the locker in a hurry, not regretting her decision.

Felix had unintentionally helped her a lot, so she just wanted to do something useful for him at least once.

She kept thinking about him because she has so much to be grateful for. Of course.

With renewed determination of not thinking about Felix or interfering in his affairs, she went up to the empty classroom on the third floor. It was to tidy up the desk she had used to make her potion.

As soon as she opened the door, she was shocked to see light purple smoke rising from the table. It was flowing out of the pot and onto the table.

Light purple smoke

Frustrated, Lucy pulled her sleeves quickly to cover her nose and mouth. She ran to the smoke-filled pot and looked inside, and saw a thick purple liquid melting down the wall of the pot.

Lucy put a lid on the pot immediately. However, the purple smoke that had already risen was covering the ceiling of the classroom. She quickly opened the window and let the smoke out.

The liquid in the pot was clearly pus tree sap since it's the only sap that has a purple color.

Pus tree sap is a substance that causes temporary hallucinations when drunk or smelled. In particular, when heated, it emits its distinctive purple smoke and spreads in all directions, necessitating the use of protective equipment.

Unfortunately, the pot she found in the empty classroom was not thoroughly cleaned, and the pus tree sap that was used before seemed to have remained intact. Lucy couldn't detect it because it hardened in the pot after a long time and turned black.

Oh!

Lucy was instantly reminded of the limosium medicine in Felix's locker.

She had used the pot to make medicine, melting the hardened sap. It seemed that only a small amount had permeated, but it was still a problem. Lucy didn't know what kind of medicine it would be if the limosium was mixed with pus tree sap.

She hurried out of the empty classroom and ran down the hallway. She had to retrieve the medicine before Felix found it in his locker.

Lucy stopped when she arrived at the floor. A group of boys were gathering and buzzing around the locker not far away.

Don't tell me

Lucy felt a chill run down her spine.

She slowly approached them and saw a boy carrying an empty crystal bottle among the crowd. It was Adrian. He frowned, and with one hand he rubbed his chin, peering at the name tag on the medicine bottle.

There was no sign of Felix.

Adrian-sunbae

Adrian looked up at Lucy's call.

Oh, Lucy, he said with an apologetic look on his face. I'm sorry, but something just came up. If it's about the book club, can we talk about it later?

No, it's Lucy's eyes turned to the bottle Adrian was holding. Well

Oh, this, Adrian lifted the empty medicine bottle. The bottom of the bottle was broken.

Somebody put a broken bottle of medicine in Felix's locker, with the name Limosium on it, but I don't think it's Limosium. Felix smelled the locker and said it smelled like some pus.

Did you smell? Lucy's face turned pale. Where is he now?

He said he was dizzy, so he went to the nurse's office.

Did he stumble? Lucy asked, her face pale.

However, Adrian shook his head. No, he walked away without any trouble.

Isn't he just making an excuse because he didn't want to attend classes?

Yeah, he was walking perfectly fine.

The boys next to her spoke one after another.

Well, he better see a doctor, just in case, Adrian said, turning toward the bottle once more.

Lucy stepped back from the crowd of boys who began to chatter noisily.

Lucy, you idiot!

How the hell are you going to deal with this?

Things took an unexpected turn, and Lucy's eyes were dimmed. She turned back and hurried to the nurses office.

\* \* \*

Lucy arrived in front of the nurses office, and she pushed the door open softly. She peeped inside, and found Chester, the nurse, sitting at his table.

Lucy went into the nurses office and walked toward her.

1st year?

Uhh Yes.

Where does it hurt?

Oh, my head. Lucy lied automatically. Then she glanced around, searching for Felix.

There are a lot of people who have a headache today. Just lie there for now.

He pointed to a bed with an open curtain. Come to think of it, there was another bed that was covered with curtains right next to it.

Did you smell the sap of the pus tree?

What?

At Chesters words Lucy turned her head and looked at him. He looked puzzled by her reaction, and then nodded at the bed with the drawn curtain.

Theres another student who just smelled the sour smell of light purple smoke and said he had a headache. I think its a sap from a pus tree.

Oh, no. Mines just a normal headache.

Really? Chester took the headache medicine out of the drawer and handed it to Lucy. When you recover from it, go back to the classroom.

Yes but, sir, how dangerous is the smell of pus sap?

How dangerous? Chester scratched the back of his head by the sudden question. Well, youll only get temporary hallucinations.

It was as though he was reminded of something, Chesters casual tone shifted into a more serious one. No, its quite dangerous Yes, there can be pain that makes you want to die.

Then he suddenly burst into laughter.

When I was a student, a friend smelled the sap of a pus tree and took off his clothes inside the classroom. He must have thought he was in a bathroom because he was hallucinating. When you wake up and hear what youve done, you would want to die.

Chester rose from his seat and headed to the medicine cabinet. He took out various medicine bottles and tea leaves from the cupboard and displayed them.

The sap itself is not dangerous to the human body, but you can die if you are unlucky. You might have thought it was a road, so you continued walking, but it was actually a cliff, and you fell to your death Well, there are cases like that.

Lucy shuddered as she imagined Felix falling from the Academy building because of a hallucination. She felt as if she had committed a serious accident the harder she thought about it.

I shouldnt have tried to help him!

She was only going to do Felixs task for him, but she almost sent him to death. It was fortunate that Felix had come to the nurses office.

Lucys mind went blank just thinking about what would have happened if he had gone to a dangerous place she didnt know.

Chester went out of the nurses office for a while; he was looking for something.

After confirming that his footsteps were moving away, Lucy slipped out of bed. There was no sign of movement in the bed right next to the curtain.

Felix-sunbae, Lucy called him quietly.

There was no reply.

After hesitating, she opened the white curtain. Felix laid on the bed with his eyes closed; he appeared to be sleeping.

Lucy approached the bed and sat down.

Sunbae. She tried to call him louder than before, but Felix still didnt move.

Are you asleep?

Feeling uneasy, Lucy put her finger under his nose and checked if he was breathing. She looked at him and saw that Felixs chest was slowly going up and down.

Im sorry, sunbae, Lucy said tearfully. Its my fault. I didnt check the pot properly I shouldnt have used just any pot

Hmmmm

Lucy, who had been pulling her hair with her head down, suddenly raised her head. Felix was looking up at the ceiling with his eyes half-closed.

Sienna

## **Chapter 49**

Felix sunbae? Lucy carefully called out his name. However, he only opened his eyes and did not respond much.

They said he walked normally when he came to the nurses office, but seeing that he was distracted right now, it seemed that the symptoms came belatedly. It must have been the side effects caused by the sap mixing with limosium potion.

Felix wriggled uncomfortably, and suddenly began to unbutton his chest.

Oh! Lucy grabbed him by the hand in a hurry. Whats wrong, sunbae?

She remembered what Chester had told her a while ago. When he was a student, his friend who smelled the sap of a pus tree fell into a hallucination and took off his clothes in the middle of the classroom.

Lucy never wanted to see it happened right in front of her eyes, and desperately stopped Felix from touching the buttons of his shirt.

Felix's hand, which had been wriggling even after Lucy had held it, slowly drained his strength at one point. Fortunately, he became calm again.

Lucy was surprised. She let go of his hand and sighed.

Felix was still staring blankly at the ceiling with his unfocused eyes. According to Chester, hallucinations were temporary, but Lucy was still worried.

She stretched out her palm and swung it before Felix's eyes.

Sunbae, can you see my hand?

Felix didn't reply.

Felix sunbae

Smack!

Felix, who seemed to be lying still, reached for Lucy's wrist in an instant. She jumped out of her seat in horror.

His eyes slowly moved to Lucy, no longer unfocused. Before she knew it, his blue eyes sparkled with life. He smiled as if he had recognized Lucy's face.

Bibi~

But what came out of his mouth was a meaningless murmur.

What?

Bibi!

Suddenly he tightened his grip on Lucy's wrist. Then he raised one eyebrow and even lowered his voice and said, No.

What do you mean Lucy stared at Felix, puzzled by his words. He still looked distracted, but he was looking exactly at Lucy.

No, Bibi.

He said the same thing over and over again. Just as she was about to ask a useless question, Felix raised his other hand. His big hand rested on Lucy's head. Then he put his hand into Lucy's hair and messed it up.



Ackk! Lucy screamed. Her hair, tied neatly, was now messed up by Felix.

Afterward, he spoke with a serious look on his face. What the hell is Rayleigh doing? I cant believe hes letting your hair grow this long

This time Felix stroked Lucys head as if he was petting his dog. Lucy stared at him, even more puzzled than before.

Felix seemed to have mistaken her for his dog.

Felix sunbae, wake up! Lucy cried, but it was no use.

*They said it was temporary, so hell come back to his senses soon, right?*

While Lucy looked anxiously at him, Felix held her head and wouldnt let go.

Sunbae, Im not Bibi! Let go of me!

I havent brushed you properly, right? Your hair is a mess. Felix muttered, ignoring her completely. Bibi, hand.

It became increasingly spectacular.

He went on and shouted Hand! at Bibi in his hallucination.

Lucy, whose head was held in one of his hands, eventually burst into laughter. The situation she was in was so absurd and ridiculous.

Shouldnt it be considered lucky because it was a hallucination of playing with a dog?

Its better than climbing high places or doing dangerous things.

Lucy looked at Felix, who was still shouting, Hand! with one palm out toward her, with a wide smile on her face.

It was not easy to see Felix Berg, without his usual blunt appearance, half lying on the bed asking for his dogs paw.

Bibi, hand!

Yes, here. Lucy put her hand on his palm with a resigned look.

Immediately, a mixture of pride and joy appeared on Felixs face. Soon he grinned and put strength in his hand, which was holding Lucys head.

She had a bad feeling for a moment.

Well done, Bibi! Ill give you a reward for listening to me.

He pulled Lucys head close to him in an instant.

Muah~

Something soft and ticklish touched her forehead.

*What*

Lucy opened her eyes wide.

*What was that just now?*

Lucys hand on Felixs palm fell helplessly.

*Just now What touched my forehead?*

Lucy was so stunned, it took a while for her to collect herself, and she pushed Felix away immediately after.

Felix, who was grinning and muttering Bibi one after another, fell down on the bed.

Lucys face was so red as if it was about to burst when she stood up from her seat.

Ugh Bibi Felix groaned, lying on the bed.

Lucy pushed open the curtain and ran out, leaving him alone.

What, what the hell! Lucy cried, her expression blank. She couldnt believe what had happened to her.

Her heart seemed to pop out of her chest, and her face was as hot as a roast duck that had just been taken out of the oven.

She heard footsteps in the hallway, and the door opened. Chester, carrying the medicine in his arms, stepped inside.

You havent gone yet, Hh said as he saw Lucy standing at the nurses office.

Noticing Lucys face was red as if it was about to burst, he approached with a worried look. By the way, are you really just having a headache? Your whole face is red.

Im all right!

Lucy walked past Chester, as he approached her, and rushed out of the nurses office. Chesters curious eyes followed her, but she was not in her right mind to care.

In the hallway, Lucy stood still by the window.

*What happened just now was an accident.*

*He just bumped into me.*

*But why is my heart pounding so hard?*

Moreover, her blush didnt seem to subside. All of Lucys senses and emotions were sensitive to what had just happened.

its no big deal. She murmured, rubbing her forehead. However, her face as she left the hall was still full of embarrassment.

\* \* \*

Whats going on with you these days?

Jemima asked with a worried look on her face a few days later. Lucy was walking beside her, looking blank and unfocused. They were on the way out of the dormitory to the Academy.

Lucy couldnt tell her what had happened in the nurses office, so she just shook her head.

Oh my, you have a fever. Jemima said, noticing Lucys red face, and touched her forehead.

Are you overdoing it because the exam is just around the corner? It would be better to take a short break today

Jemima was worried about her but Lucy turned suddenly before she had finished talking, and ran to the nearest building.

Lucy!

She heard Jemima calling from behind, but she didnt look back.

Lhe hid inside the building and looked out through the window. Felix was walking to the place where he had just stood.

*Phew, I almost ran into him.*

Lucy rubbed her chest in relief.

Felix, who had been hallucinating for a while after smelling the sap of a pus tree, appeared at the Academy the next day in a normal shape. He seemed to have no recollection of what had happened in the nurses office. Although fortunately, Lucy still felt it was unfair somehow.

He didnt mind when he ran into Lucy in the hallway. No, actually, he still didnt seem to notice her presence.

Lucy, on the other hand, felt so embarrassed that she was busy avoiding him every time she saw him.

It was her fault that Felix accidentally had a hallucination. But what happened after that

Suddenly the image of Felix, who was bringing his lips to her came to her mind, and Lucy banged her forehead against the wall. The thought of it made her feel like the heat in her whole body was rushing into her face.

Jemima had followed Lucy into the building. Lucy, youd better get some rest. Im afraid youre going to faint, she said as she misunderstood something.

How many sleepless nights did you have?

Lucy had been studying for the exam for the past few days, giving up her sleep. This had something to do with what happened in the nurses office.

She was making limosium potions for Felixs task, and after leaving the nurses office, she lost her mind and wasted her precious time.

When she came to her senses, she had pushed back a lot of test scope she shouldve reviewed.

It was a moment when her will became empty and shabby, even giving up her weekend appointment with her father to keep her position as the top student.

However, it was not a situation where she could give up. She had to cut back on her sleep. That way she can get a scholarship next semester.

She was rather glad. If she focused so much on studying like this, she wont be able to think of the sunbae who keeps popping up in her head and bothering her.

Sienna

## **Chapter 50**

She had many nosebleeds while staying up all night and stumbled a lot of times while walking on the street due to insufficient sleep.

After the sufferings, Lucy finally achieved all of her target amount of study.

As a result, she topped the midterm exam for the first semester of the first year, taking one step closer to the scholarship for the next semester.

Thanks to this, Lucy, who had little presence even though she was the top student, became a little famous among her peers as she was deprived of her freshmen oath on the day of the entrance ceremony by a male student who placed second.

She was invited by some unknown aristocratic girls to tea parties every weekend. Lucy, who hated being under awkward positions, refused.

Starting with ranking first place in the midterm exam, Lucy continued to maintain her high rank, and as a result, she was able to win first place in the final exam before the summer vacation approached.

She felt good at the thought of showing her family her report card with the highest grade in all subjects.

Thus Lucy spent her first summer vacation peacefully doing two things. The first was to watch her grandmother proudly show off her report card throughout the village.

The second was to recall the memories of years ago and make a medicine for Maram vine allergy.

Until just before the vacation, Lucy avoided Felix. Now, whenever she thought of what happened in the nurses office, she felt so ashamed that she wanted to hit her head against the wall. Still, she didnt have the courage to face him head on.

However, Lucy heard rumors that Felix tried hard to cover up the Limosium potion incident, which had almost turned into a big incident once the duke heard of it.

It was fortunate for Lucy. No matter how well the incident ended, if it had been revealed that she had put suspicious potion in the dukes successors locker, she would not have been able to remain in the Academy.

Feeling sorry about it, Lucy decided to make an allergy medicine for Felix. This time, she was confident that she would make it right without any mistakes.

After the summer vacation, Lucy returned to the academy and gave Adrian the allergy medicine. She didnt mention Felix in particular since she was sure he would share it with Felix. Adrian always took good care of his twin.

Even when the new semester began, Lucy still avoided Felix. Although a few months had passed since the incident in the nurses office, there was nothing she could do about her heart pounding and her face flushing every time she saw him.

She thought it would be better not to run into him at all than to look like a fool around him for no reason. While avoiding Felix like that, the rest of the first year passed by.

\* \* \*

The season has gone round, and spring has come again. After winter vacation, Lucy returned to the Academy and entered a hectic new school year. This is because Lucy unexpectedly became the second-year manager of the book club.

Jemima had been nailed down earlier, saying, I dont want to do it because I think there will be too much work being a manager. Rita also refused, saying she was not confident, so she had to return the managerial position to Lucy.

Upon returning to the Academy, Lucy created a public relations magazine for the book club. She was exhausted from walking around the campus and posting promotional papers on every visible bulletin board. In addition, she had to conduct interviews for new members without a break.

Thanks to Adrians popularity, there were a lot of first-year applicants who wanted to join the book club. Lucy couldnt even walk properly in the hallway because she was so busy receiving applications from new students rushing at her like bees.

However, the large number of applicants did not mean that it was easy to recruit new members. Lucy knows working in the library is a hard work. With a mournful look, she could finally understand Adrians desire to have successful interviews with promising applicants.

Anyone who wants to leave?

Lucy asked about a dozen first graders who had passed the interview. Behind her was a pile of new books that had just arrived that day, showing off their enormous heights. Half of the successful applicants, whose faces were as pale as sheet due to its magnificence, quietly raised their hands.

Lucy nodded her head calmly at the expected result. She didnt think these aristocratic freshmen who applied in anticipation of the noble activity of library helper would be willing to accept physical labor.

When Lucy gestured for them to leave, the successful candidates, who raised their hands, rushed out of the library without looking back.

There were only five people left.

Oh, but theres still more time left, Jemima whispered to Lucy. She looked at the four first-year girls and one boy standing awkwardly with a pleased look.

And that boy, Noel, seems pretty cute. Jemima said quietly, glancing at the boy with brown curly hair and a mischievous face.

Lucy coughed, reminding Jemima to be careful, and then said to the newcomers, Welcome to the library. Since its your first time here, you probably dont know a lot of things, but dont worry your sunbaes will teach you well. I believe your strength will be a great help to the Xenomium Library in the future.

Its not a metaphorical expression, you literally have to use a lot of strength

The faces of the new members turned white once again when Jemima added the warning tactlessly. Their faces showed signs of regret.

Should I have just gone out earlier?

Lucy had the five newcomers sign the list for new members immediately before they could change their words.

As soon as the signature was completed, Lucy took a breather and said to Jemima, Show them how to organize the books for me. Ill give Adrian-sunbae the list.

At her words, Jemima patted the newcomers on the back and took them to a place where new books were piled up. Lucy left the library with the list after making sure Jemima wasnt attached excessively to Noel.

\* \* \*

Lucy, who was looking for Adrian, stopped in front of a classroom. The Berg twins were standing together with their friends. However, Lucys face, as she looked at them, was filled with embarrassment.

The two Berg princes, who had been easily distinguished by the length of their hair, wore the same hats. Both had their hair hidden in their hats, so they could not tell who was Adrian or Felix.

*Maybe Ill come back next time.*

Lucy was in serious trouble. She was still running away from Felix. He seemed to have no recollection of what had happened in the nurses office, but Lucy was different. What happened then was so vivid like it just happened yesterday.

The feeling of his large hand that wrapped her face and the warmth that touched her forehead.

When she remembered the moment, Lucy felt herself stiffened. She was reluctant to step forward, afraid that she might act even more foolishly in front of Felix.

However, she remembered Adrians request. He had asked to hand over the list by today, and she had no choice but to slowly approach the backs of the Berg twins..

Umm She called carefully, and both looked back at the same time. When two pairs of blue eyes were directed at her, Lucy became stiff with tension.

Felix and Adrian looked more alike in close proximity. She thought it would be more fitting to call them doppelganger.

Lucy fell into a deep conflict. Her eyes twitched, wondering which of the two was Adrian.

It was then.

Oh, thank you.

Prince Berg, standing on his left, reached out to the list with a kind smile.

Lucy glanced down at the big hand that stretched out before her.

*Oh, is this Adrian?*

Strangely enough, however, she was unable to readily hand him the list. She felt something strange.

Lucy looked up and looked up again at Prince Bergs blue eyes. Obviously, he smiled as gently as Adrian, but his eyes were somewhat different. It wasnt the eyes of Adrian who looked at her straight and full of trust.

Lucy, forgetting that she had to hand over the list, looked blankly at the Prince, who was reaching out to her.

*Blue eyes like a lake*

*What is fluttering in those beautiful eyes is not faith and affection for your beloved junior  
It was curiosity.*

Lucy had seen such eyes before. It was when Felix looked into her green eyes and said they looked like an emerald.

A subtle look of mischievous and curiosity.

Adrian had never looked at Lucy like that. So it was clear that the boy, standing in front of her now, was Felix, not Adrian.



As soon as Lucy realized it, her heart began to pound with tension. It was the first time she had seen him this close since the moment Felix had pulled her in the nurses office.

Well, heres a list of newcomers Adrian-sunbae.

Lucy immediately handed the paper to the other Prince of Berg. All she could think of was to tell him this and leave.

Felix, dont pretend to be me.

Adrian, who received the list, blamed his twin brother for his childish pranks.

Felix frowned slightly. The gentle smile he had when he pretended to be Adrian had disappeared from his face. He now looked somewhat surprised.

Sienna