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"Thank you, Mr. Dafoe. But that's to be expected from us, isn't it? If we aren't decisive, it'd be hard to manage the team, don't you think?" Sonia smiled politely. Asher wanted to shout, but he couldn't, so he swallowed his pride. "That's right, Sonia." "I'm glad we're on the same page. Seems like I made a great decision. After all, if they can betray their boss, they might even sell their company out someday. Best we cut them off sooner rather than later, am I right?" Sonia continued. Asher forced a smile. He was so mad that he could kill, but he had to play along for the moment. "Yes. That is a great decision, Sonia." *My foot. I spent a lot of money to turn them to my side, but they got fired right after that. I lost my supporters and my money. Dammit.* "Thanks for the praise. I'll be going in now." Sonia ignored his forced smile and nodded before going into the conference room.

But Asher suddenly stopped her. "Hold on a second, Sonia." Sonia stopped and looked at him. "Anything else you need, Mr. Dafoe?" Asher straightened his necktie out. "My sources told me you're handing the proposal about alternative energy technology in today, aren't you?" Sonia looked at him for a moment. She wondered why he was asking that, but still she answered with a smile, "Yes, we are." "Good luck, then.

Let's see if you can take this deal." Asher smiled fakely. He wasn't looking down on her, but he just thought Sonia and Paradigm weren't up to par. *It'd be a miracle if she manages to take this deal. Even if she's hooking up with President Fuller, the Grays wouldn't let her succeed.* Either way, Asher didn't think she could win, so he was just wishing her well out of spite. Sonia knew that, of course, so anger flared up within her, but her smile didn't falter.

"I hope so too, but nothing's sure until the dust settles, am I right?" "True. I'll be waiting for the good news, then. I just hope it'll turn out for the best, or it'll be awkward for at least one of us." Asher chuckled and patted her shoulder before going into the conference room. After he left, Sonia stopped smiling and brushed her shoulder off, as if she got something dirty stuck on it. But she had to admit she felt a lot of pressure after what Asher told her. She was confident in her proposal, and the professors praised it, but there was no guarantee if there were any better proposals.

It might be possible that she would fail. She massaged her forehead and sighed. *Don't think too much about it. All that matters is I tried my best. It'd be great if I can get the deal, but if I can't, I'll just come up with another way to wrest control from Asher.* She patted her cheeks, composed herself, and went into the conference room. It was already noon after the meeting ended. Sonia quickly stuffed a few mouthfuls of the lunch Daphne bought for her before she took the proposal and headed to Fuller Group.

After the receptionist found out what she was here for, she brought Sonia to the elevator. "Please head to the waiting room on the thirty-eighth floor, Miss Reed. Mr. Brown is taking the proposals there." "Sure. Thank you." Sonia nodded and thanked the receptionist before she went into the elevator. A short while later, she came to the waiting room. Tom stopped sorting the files out when he heard someone knocking.

When he looked up and saw it was Sonia, he quickly stood up. "Come in please, Miss Reed." "Sorry for intruding." Sonia smiled at him and walked in with her proposal. "Here's my proposal." "Alright, got it." Tom took it with both hands and placed it on the stack of documents. Sonia arched her eyebrow. "Are these the proposals from all the other companies?" "Yes. Everyone's present and accounted for, aside from President Gray." Tom nodded. Sonia nodded in understanding. Tom invited her to take a seat. "Have a seat, Miss Reed. I'll make some coffee for you."

"It's alright. I have something to do, so I'll be leaving now." She refused his offer politely. Yes, Sonia did have work to do, but a big part of it was because she didn't want to stay any longer. After all, lots of people here knew she was Toby's ex-wife. If she stayed any longer, Tina might find out about it and cause a scene. *That crazy woman can do anything.* Since Sonia insisted, Tom didn't ask her to stay, and he sent her to the elevator, all smiles.

Sonia said goodbye and went back down. Then she left the company. But a red car stopped where she stopped the moment she left. A moment later, Tina came out of the car, glaring at the direction Sonia left, and she clenched her fists. She knew it was Sonia's car because she recognized the number plate. *Sonia came to the company?* Tina squinted, but she put on her usual smile a moment later and went into the building.

When the receptionist saw her, she greeted, "Hello, Miss Gray." Everyone in the company knew Tina was Toby's fiancée. Besides, she came to the company all the time to see Toby, so everyone saw her before. Naturally, it was easy to recognize her. Tina nodded with a smile. "Is Toby here?" "Yes. He'll be in for the whole day today," the receptionist answered. "I see. Thank you," she thanked the receptionist gently. "No problem, Miss Gray," the receptionist replied. Tina's eyes glistened. "Oh right. About the lady who left earlier..." "Are you talking about Miss Reed?"

"Yes. Why did she come here?" Tina stared down to keep the receptionist from seeing the murderous look in her eyes. The receptionist was a newbie, so she didn't know Sonia was Toby's ex-wife. She thought Sonia and Tina were friends, so she answered, "Miss Reed was here to hand in her proposal for the alternative energy technology collaboration." *Ah, so that's what it is.* Tina pursed her lips. She had heard her father talking about Sonia's participation in the bid.

"I see. I'll be going now. Toby's waiting for me." Tina smiled at the receptionist before she went to the elevator. However, instead of seeing Toby in his office, she went to the waiting room on the thirty-eighth floor instead. "Hi, Miss Gray." Tom wasn't surprised to see Tina, so he invited her in. Tina nodded. "I'm here to hand this proposal in on behalf of my father. The traffic was congested, so sorry for making you wait, Mr. Brown."

"It's alright, Miss Gray. Have a seat." After Tom took her proposal, he pointed at the sofa. Tina pushed her hem down before taking the seat. As she looked at the stack of documents on the table, an idea struck her, but she didn't let it show. *Sonia's proposal should be in there.*

At that thought, she smiled. "Is there any water here, Mr. Brown? I've been feeling thirsty for a while now." "Yes, Miss Gray. I'll go get some for you. Please give me a minute." Tom left the waiting room after that. Now that she was alone, Tina stood up and looked at the door carefully.

Once she confirmed the coast was clear, she took a deep breath and took a document from the stack. Fortunately for her, the first one she took was Sonia's proposal.

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Tina skimmed through Sonia's proposal, but the more she read, the worse she looked. She might be inept in business, but that didn't mean she couldn't appraise a proposal. After she took a look, she knew Sonia's proposal was a top-tier one. In fact, it was loads better than the one she handed in. She couldn't believe Sonia could come up with such a great proposal after taking over Paradigm Co. for a mere two months.

No. She couldn't have come up with this. She must have hired someone to do this. I bet she did. Tina brushed her jealousy aside and insisted that Sonia couldn't have come up with that brilliant proposal on her own. But either way, she couldn't deny the fact that Toby could very possibly go with Sonia's proposal. The fact that Sonia might get a spot while her family didn't was unacceptable for Tina. "I can't let this happen."

Tina bit her lip. And all of a sudden, a plan struck her. She put both Sonia's and her proposal on the table, then she unclipped them and swapped the proposals. Since the name tag was only there on the file, Sonia's and Titus' proposals were successfully swapped. After she did all that, Tina smiled smugly. Suddenly, she heard sounds of footsteps coming closer. Tina knew it must be Tom, so she panicked. She quickly closed the files and put them back in their original positions.

After that, she went back to the sofa and pretended to scroll through her phone. As expected, Tom came in a moment later. "Sorry for the wait, Miss Gray." "Not at all," Tina answered politely. Tom didn't notice anything wrong with the room, and he put the cup of coffee in front of Tina. She was just about to take a sip, but then her phone rang. "Sorry. I'll need to take this." She smiled apologetically while taking her phone out.

"Hello? Cynthia? You're out?" Surprise colored Tina's face. Tom arched his eyebrow at her. *Cynthia's out?* "Okay, I'll be right there." After she put her phone down, Tina looked at Tom. "Please tell Toby I won't be seeing him, Mr. Brown." She wanted to see Cynthia. Even though she only thought of Cynthia as a disposable lackey instead of her friend, she had to keep Cynthia by her side, since Cynthia had been loyal to her.

And I can use her to defend me if something were to happen. Can't cut our "friendship" off just yet. "I'll pass the message to him, Miss Gray. You go ahead and do your thing." Tom nodded, smiling. After Tina was gone, Tom went to the top floor with the stack of documents in hand. He then knocked on Toby's office's door. "Enter." Toby's cool, magnetic voice sounded from within. Tom went into the office. "President Fuller, these are the proposals everyone handed in."

Toby stopped writing and looked at the stack of documents. "Everyone?" "Yes." Tom nodded. Toby's eyes glinted. "Where's Sonia's?" He regretted it the moment he asked Tom, since Tom might think he was caring about Sonia too much. After all, he only asked for her proposal. He didn't know why he cared about her proposal so much though. But when he noticed that Tom wasn't surprised about his question, he calmed down.

Maybe Tom doesn't think I'm caring about Sonia. However, unbeknownst to Toby, Tom wasn't surprised because he knew Toby still liked Sonia. In that case, he wasn't surprised when Toby asked for Sonia's proposal. "Here." He handed Toby Sonia's proposal. Toby opened the proposal, curious and excited. However, he frowned the moment he saw the proposal, and his excitement was gone with the wind. *Bad. This is just bad.*

This proposal is too general. There's nothing exciting here. It's not competitive at all. How can she even hand in something like this? Toby pursed his lips, and his disappointment showed on his face. Tom noticed it too. "Is something wrong with her proposal, President Fuller?" He pushed his glasses up. "Have a look for yourself." Toby tossed the file to Tom. Tom caught it and skimmed through it, but after he was done, the corner of his lips twitched.

"This... Maybe it's Miss Reed's first time getting involved in alternative energy technology, and she probably doesn't know much about it, so she ended up with this proposal..." Tom's defense made sense to Toby, and his frown unraveled. "Leave her proposal here. Filter the rest and bin the bad ones. I'll look through the remaining proposals and pick the best one." "Understood." Tom nodded and left with the remaining files, but he glanced at Sonia's proposal before he left.

President Fuller told me to bin the bad ones. In that case, Miss Reed's proposal should be binned as well, but he singled her proposal out. Ah, so he wants to give her a chance. And here I thought this would be a fair competition. Tom rolled his eyes. *So President Fuller does have double standards too.* After Tom was gone, Toby flipped through Sonia's file again. He picked up his fountain pen and started writing down suggestions on the parts he thought that could be improved.

But Sonia didn't know anything about that. While Toby was writing his suggestions down, she had already arrived at the Reed Residence. Her parents

bought it more than two decades ago right before they were married. She grew up in this place, and it contained a lot of memories. But after her mother passed away twenty years ago, everything changed. Her father remarried and had a daughter with his second wife.

The Reed Residence was no longer her place of refuge. Since then, it was just a common inn for her. Nay, an inn had more warmth than this shell of a home. Six years ago, her dad passed away as well. After that, her stepmother and stepsister ran away with his money, leaving only this villa behind. Since then, Sonia sealed this place down and never came back. Until this day, it was still the same villa, but everything had changed over the years.

She sighed and was about to unlock the gates, but then she remembered something. A frown creased her forehead, and she took out the key Rose gave her. "Odd." She stared down at the keys. One of them was given to her by Rose, while the other one was her own. Rose told her it was the key to the Reed Residence when she gave it to her. *But my key also unlocks the residence as well. Hmm, both of them are different though.* When she took the key Rose gave her, she didn't realize she had the Reed Residence's key as well, so she didn't notice that Rose's key was different from the one she already had.

The only reason she brought her own key here was because the access card was attached to the keychain. *I guess Grandma's key is more than meets the eye. Either the villa's lock has been changed, or this key unlocks some other door.* Sonia glanced at the front door for a moment.

When she tried to unlock it, she realized it was still the same lock. *So Grandma's key unlocks another door, but I have no idea which door it is.* "Guess I should take a look," Sonia mumbled as she unlocked the front door, then she went inside. There was nothing in the villa. Her stepmother and stepsister sold everything valuable in this place, leaving nothing but a sheet of thick dust behind. Every step Sonia took left a footprint on the ground.

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Sonia sneered before she pulled out the other key that Rose had given her. She tried the key out on every door in the house until she finally managed to unlock the door that led her to the storage room. She wasn't entirely surprised—her stepmother and sister had sold off most of the valuable items in the house, so the storage room was probably the last and only place that still had some items in it. A layer of dust found its way to her face the moment she pushed the door open.

With one hand clamped over her nose and her mouth, she used her other hand to wave off the dust in front of her face. When most of the dust finally settled, she released her hand from her face before turning the lights on and walking into the room. "Oh gosh!" Her head hurt when she saw the cobwebs and scattered items

that filled the room. *This room is filled with stuff—how am I supposed to find anything here?*

She was tempted to give up, but she eventually took a deep breath and clenched her fists before walking into the room. *I've come all the way here, after all. I'll still have to hunt for it the next time if I don't find it this time.* After some digging around, her entire being was coated with dirt and dust. She looked like a stray cat out of the gutter. Fortunately, she also managed to find a box that looked like it might carry the necklace that Rose had been talking about.

The tiny leather suitcase didn't have a lock on it, so she had no trouble opening it up. There were a bunch of lipsticks, foundation bottles, earrings, bracelets, and other items in it—the suitcase was a mess. She finally found a necklace after some rummaging. "Is this the one?" She tilted her head to look at the necklace as she held it up to the light. This was the only necklace she found in the entire storage room, so she assumed that it was the right one.

Well, it's just an old, rusty necklace. What sort of secret could a thing like this hold? Confused, she lowered the necklace into her palm and poked around on the red onyx pendant that dangled from it. Her eyes narrowed with suspicion as she realized how the necklace looked rather familiar to her at that moment. *I've seen this somewhere. Where have I seen it?* After some contemplation, her eyes widened as she got her answer.

"Julia!" *That's right! I've seen it on Julia's neck.* She recalled how Julia wore a necklace that looked almost identical to the one in her hand. Back when Sonia first saw Julia's necklace, she had assumed that Julia kept the necklace around as a memento. *I remember wondering why Julia didn't change into a different necklace—I recall how the necklace looked outdated and worn. The stone wasn't even gleaming anymore. Well, it seems like the necklace is more than a keepsake to Julia now—she's probably holding onto it for some other reason. But I don't get how the necklace that Julia owns has anything to do with the one I'm holding.*

Sonia concluded that it was impossible for both the necklaces to simply have similar designs to each other. The letters 'DT' were carved onto the backs of both the pendants. DT Jewelry was one of the most luxurious brands globally, and most of the accessories they produced were limited edition items—there'd only been one of each in the whole world. It was impossible for there to be two pendants of the same design.

One explanation is that one of the necklaces is a well-made imitation and not actually an original DT necklace. Otherwise, both of the necklaces must be somehow related to one another. With that thought, Sonia kept the necklace into her bag and left the villa hastily. Half an hour later, she arrived at the mall and headed directly to DT Jewelry's counter. "Hello, miss. How can I help you?" the female worker asked with a smile.

Sonia pulled the necklace out of her bag. "I'd like to check if this necklace was manufactured by DT." The lady took the necklace into her hands and stared at it for a while before she flashed Sonia a rather bashful smile. "My apologies. This necklace looks like it was made a long while ago, so I can't be sure if it's

manufactured by us. Why don't you hold on for a while? I'll get my manager to take a look at it." "Alright."

Sonia nodded. The lady poured Sonia some coffee before she went off to look for her manager. For approximately ten minutes, Sonia sipped on the cup of coffee in her hand while she waited patiently for the lady and her manager to get back to her. "Does this necklace belong to you, miss?" the manager asked once he finally showed up. Sonia nodded. "To be precise, my father was the one who passed it down to me." "I see." The manager beamed as he lowered the necklace onto a piece of black velvet cloth. "DT Jewelry was indeed the one who manufactured this necklace, miss.

I ran through our files and found out that this necklace was made 20 years ago. Someone called Mr. Gray had hired one of our designers just to create this piece." "Mr. Gray?" Sonia's eyes lit up as she thought of Julia. "Is the man's name Titus Gray?" "That's right. According to our files, Mr. Gray's wife had just given birth to a daughter back then. Mr. Gray ordered our designers to come up with a special mother-daughter necklace for both his wife and his daughter.

That design is the one that you're holding in your hands now. This piece that you have should be the daughter's necklace." The manager had other thoughts running in his mind while he responded to Sonia. *Mr. Gray was the one who customized this necklace, and this woman says that her father gave it to her. That must mean that Mr. Gray is her father. Yet, she refers to Mr. Gray by his full name, and her voice sounds rather cold when she says it.*

Could both of them have a bad relationship with each other? Sonia furrowed her brows. My guess was right. Both of these necklaces are related to each other. The one Mrs. Gray has is the mother's necklace, while the one with me is the daughter's necklace. If that's the case, then this necklace should be with Tina. What is it doing in the Reed Family's hands? Could something have happened between the Reeds and the Grays 20 years ago?

She bit onto her bottom lip. *It seems like I'll have to understand what happened between the Reeds and the Grays 20 years ago to solve the mystery behind this necklace. It'd be impossible to get the Gray Family to tell me anything—they'd never open their mouths. I'll have to do some research on my own.* "I got it. Thank you. Could you please polish this necklace a little?" Sonia asked with a smile. "Of course." The manager nodded.

Sonia handed the necklace over to one of the staff members, who proceeded to polish and clean the necklace. It was a quick process—Sonia only had to wait for two minutes before it was done. She left after purchasing a pair of earrings from the store. Julia arrived at the store a while after Sonia left. The manager came forward to greet Julia personally. "The bracelet you previously ordered has arrived, Mrs. Gray. I'll bring it over to you immediately."

"Sure." Julia nodded with a faint smile. The manager unlocked the safe box and retrieved an emerald green bracelet from it. "Please take a look, Mrs. Gray. Is this what you were looking for?" Julia took the bracelet into her hands and studied it for a while. The smile on her lips widened. "It looks good to me. I'll put it on right

now.” “Let me help you,” the manager offered. “It’s fine. I’ll do it on my own.” Julia rejected the manager’s offer and wore the bracelet by herself.

The manager didn’t insist after that—he simply continued to smile at Julia. Right then, the manager noticed the necklace Julia was wearing. “I’ve always heard rumors of Miss Gray being a beauty, Mrs. Gray. The rumors were true—her eyes look just like yours.” Happiness spread across Julia’s face when she heard the manager praising her daughter. “Thank you for your sweet words. Did Tina drop by earlier?” The manager figured that Tina was Miss Gray’s name, so he nodded politely. “That’s right. She came over to ask about her necklace.

Well, that’s odd—it seems like Miss Gray had no idea that the necklace she owned was a pair that was made along with yours, Mrs. Gray.” Upon hearing the manager’s words, Julia’s bracelet fell onto the countertop before she managed to put it on. The manager winced as a sharp *clang* sounded. He immediately picked the bracelet up to check if it had been scratched after it struck the countertop. “What did you just say? Did you say that Tina brought the other necklace over to ask you about it?”

Julia glared at the manager as she questioned him in a rather impatient tone. The manager couldn’t understand what was going on, so he simply nodded with a puzzled expression. “Yeah.” “That’s impossible!” Julia shook her head furiously. *Titus and I bought the necklace for Rina, and the necklace disappeared after Rina passed away. How could Tina have the necklace with her? There’s no way Tina came over to ask about the necklace.*

Does that mean that Rina was the one who visited the store? Is Rina alive? Julia grabbed onto the manager’s arm as she considered the possibility that her daughter wasn’t dead. “You said something earlier. You said that the girl’s eyes looked like mine, didn’t you?” Julia cried.

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“Yeah. Her eyes are a carbon copy of yours.” The manager forced a smile onto his face as he watched his arm turning red under Julia’s grip. Tears welled up in Julia’s eyes immediately. “It must be Rina. It has to be her! She isn’t dead! She’s still alive! Where’s that girl now, sir?” Julia’s cheeks were soaked with tears as she questioned the manager in a trembling voice. “She left just a while ago, so she might still be in the mall,” the manager replied. Right after the manager answered her question, Julia sprinted out of the store without even bothering to take her handbag with her.

She ran around in search of a girl who might be her eldest daughter. After hunting around the entire mall, she couldn’t find anyone who wore the necklace or shared the same eyes as her. Julia eventually returned to DT Jewelry with a dejected look on her face. The manager quickly brought her a glass of warm water.

"Did you find her, Mrs. Gray?" "No," Julia said while shaking her head. "Don't give up just yet. I'm sure you'll be able to find her since she's in Seafield." The manager offered her some words of comfort. He wasn't sure how Julia and the other lady Julia referred to as 'Rina' were related, but he assumed they were close since Julia seemed to care for Rina a lot.

"Thank you." Julia tugged her lips to give him a smile. She pulled her card out and paid for her bracelet before she rushed back to the Gray Residence. "Honey!" Julia cried once she stepped foot into the house. Titus hurried down from upstairs. "Didn't you go shopping at the mall? Why are you back so soon?" "Rina's alive, honey!" Julia cried as she looked up toward Titus, who was descending from the stairs. Titus nearly slipped when he heard Julia's words.

"What did you say?" He grabbed onto the railing on the stairway as he met gazes with Julia. She clasped her hands together as she repeated her words. "Rina's alive! Our eldest daughter is still alive!" "Nonsense." Titus frowned as he continued to walk down the stairs. "You must have encountered some swindler. In the past, there's been a number of them who attempted to convince us that our daughter's alive, but they're just saying all of that to scam our money."

"It's different this time. Rina had the necklace. It was this one..." Julia quickly held her necklace up. "Rina brought the daughter's necklace and asked about it at DT Jewelry, and the store manager told me that Rina has my eyes. I have a feeling the girl that the manager saw is Rina, Titus." Titus was utterly dazed by her sudden statement. "How could that be possible? Rina drowned because of Henry—we all saw it with our eyes."

"We saw it happen, but didn't the police tell us that they couldn't find Rina's dead body in the end? Perhaps she didn't die after she was thrown into the river. Perhaps someone jumped in and helped her out. A girl who has my eyes and owns the daughter's necklace showed up—how else can we explain this?" Julia clutched on her necklace as she spoke. "Give me some time." Titus pressed a palm against his forehead.

"Mom, Dad. What are you guys talking about?" Tina came down from upstairs and stumbled upon Julia and Titus's flustered expressions. Tina was too curious to stop herself from asking. Julia held onto Tina's arm immediately. "Your sister isn't dead, Tina. She's alive." "What?" Tina froze for a moment before she widened her eyes. "Did you just say that Rina's alive, Mom?" "Yeah. She's alive. She's somewhere in Fredburg." Julia nodded excitedly.

Tina lowered her gaze as a threatening look filled her eyes. I can't believe it. Rina's not dead. Judging by the look of joy on my mother's face, it seems like she's ready to get Rina to come back home. Rina will get Mom's full attention if that happens, and I'll be practically invisible in this house. No. I can't allow Rina to return. My inheritance, the Gray Family's wealth, my parents' love... All of that would be halved if Rina's back. I can't let that happen.

Tina bit her lower lip and plastered a smile on her face as she looked at her mother. "That's great. Where's Rina now, Mom?" she asked in a careful tone. Tina

wanted to know her sister's whereabouts so that she could get to her sister before her parents did. Tina wanted to get rid of Rina first.

However, Julia's expression dimmed when she heard Tina's question. "I only happened to find out about this today. I still don't know where Rina is for now." "I see." Tina nodded slowly as she squeezed her brows together. *Mom and Dad couldn't have been scammed, could they? Regardless, I'll still have to get to the bottom of this matter. Of course, everything would be fine if all of this was just fake news. However, if it's true, then I'll have to chase Rina off.*

I don't care about this 'sister' of mine, anyway. Tina continued to question her mother. "How did you find out that Rina's still alive, Mom?" "This necklace." Julia began to explain the incident that occurred in DT Jewelry. Tina balled her hands into fists as she listened to her mother's story. *It seems like that woman might really be Rina. I can't believe Rina's so lucky. How did she not die after all of that?* "I'm having dinner at the Fullers tonight, Mom. I'll be leaving now." Tina lowered her gaze as she relaxed her clenched fists.

She had to find Rina before they did—it'd be too late if her parents were to find Rina first. Julia nodded. "Alright, off you go." Tina planted a kiss on her mother's cheek before she strode off toward the exit. Julia turned back to her husband once Tina left. "Let's try to find Rina as soon as possible, honey. I don't know how she has been in the past 20 years. My heart aches whenever I think of how she might have suffered during that period." Julia pounded a fist against her chest. "Don't worry. I promise to find our daughter, and I promise that she'll be back with us soon."

Titus felt his heart aching at the sight of his wife's sorrow, and he quickly pulled her in for a tight hug. "But... I'm worried that Rina might not want to return to us. What if she thinks that we didn't want her? What if she hates us because she thinks that we abandoned her?" Julia felt both excited and fearful to see her daughter. "That's not going to happen. I'm sure that Rina must be looking for us since she brought the necklace over to ask about it," Titus replied. Julia shook her head.

"According to what the manager said, it seems like Rina already knew that you were the one who hired someone to design the necklace. In that case, Rina must know that we're her parents. I'm worried that she might not wish to approach us at all." Titus sighed. "Let's give her a few days. She might approach us by then. We can just look for her otherwise. We can use your necklace—we'd just have to upload a picture of it online.

Rina will know that we're looking for her, and she'll understand that we didn't abandon her. She might come to us after that." "That's true." Julia nodded. ... Sonia had no idea that the Gray Family knew about her queries in the jewelry store. After she left the mall, Sonia drove to the hospital to meet Rose. She wanted to ask Rose for information regarding matters between the Reeds and the Grays 20 years ago.

However, things didn't go as planned—Sonia's car broke down on the way to the hospital, and the tow truck took a long while to show up. She ended up waiting by the roadside in the cold weather for nearly two hours. "That's Miss Reed,

President Fuller!" Tom was in the car with Toby, and he exclaimed when he saw Sonia by the roadside. The elegant, classy man in the back seat opened his eyes to glance out the window.

He knitted his defined brows when he saw the girl waiting by the side of the road. *What's she doing? It's freezing cold out there; why is she squatting by the side of the road?*

"Make a U-turn," Toby ordered. Tom immediately nodded and spun the wheel to turn back to where Sonia's car was stopped. The Maybach came to a halt in front of Sonia, and Tom rolled the window down to call her. "Get in the car, Miss Reed."

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Sonia was surprised to see Tom, but she was even more surprised when he told her to get into the car. She glanced toward the back seat window. It was tinted, so she couldn't tell if there was anyone sitting in the back. "Do I have to do what you say?" She was reluctant to go along with Tom's words. "President Fuller is the one who told you to get in," Tom replied. "No thanks." Sonia's gaze darkened when she heard Toby's name.

Similarly, Toby's expression dimmed when he heard her rejection from his seat in the back of the Maybach. He immediately lowered his window to stick his stern, cold face out in the cold air. "Get in!" His voice made it clear that there was no room for negotiation. Sonia shifted her calm gaze toward him. "I just said that there's no need for that, President Fuller. Don't you understand my words?" *What's up with this guy?*

Isn't it normal for me to decline his offer? I'm not related to him, anyway. Who is he to get mad at me? What an odd guy. He frowned when he heard the impatience in her voice. He was tempted to get Tom to drive off since she refused to get in. But he held his temper back when he saw her rosy cheeks that were flushed from the piercing cold. "What are you doing here?" he asked in a deep voice. She could tell that he was tempted to leave, yet she didn't know what made him stay.

She couldn't be bothered to guess what was going on in his mind. "I'm waiting for the tow truck," she uttered flatly. "It looks like Miss Reed's car broke down, President Fuller," Tom added after he took a glance at Sonia's car. Toby raised an eyebrow. *I see. That explains why she's squatting by the side of the road.* "A major accident occurred on the highway just miles away from here, and the roads haven't been cleared.

I don't think the tow truck will reach you anytime soon. You can get into the car now, or you can continue to wait here until the skies turn dark," Toby uttered. *There was an accident. That's why the tow truck is taking so long,* Sonia thought as she squeezed her brows together. "I'm sorry, President Fuller. I can't

leave my car here; things would get more troublesome for me if I do that." Sonia pressed her lips together after she finished her sentence.

She knew that her license might be revoked if she was caught leaving her car on the road. Toby shot his assistant a glare after he heard what Sonia said. Tom tugged his lips into a bitter smile when he understood what Toby meant. "Hop on, Miss Reed. I'll deal with your car." "You?" Sonia shot Tom a side-eye. He nodded. "Yeah. I noticed that you checked your watch a couple of times in the past few minutes, Miss Reed. You must have urgent matters to handle."

Sonia parted her lips to speak, but no words came out of her mouth. She had already phoned Rose to tell her that she would drop by for a visit before her car broke down, and Rose had been happy about it. She knew that Rose would be disappointed if she didn't show up in the end. Tom continued to convince Sonia when he saw her contemplating their offer. "That's why I think you should get in the car, Miss Reed. You don't want to be late for your appointment."

Finally, Sonia took a deep breath before she looked into Toby's dark, bottomless pupils. "Well... Thank you, President Fuller." Her red lips moved as she muttered her words of gratitude. Toby let out a grunt before he rolled the window up. Sonia watched as Tom got out of the car. "Hold on. I left some things in my car," she uttered.

"Sure." Tom nodded with a smile. Sonia headed over to her car and retrieved the gifts she had bought for Rose before handing her car keys over to Tom. After Tom took her keys, Sonia walked back to Toby's Maybach. She went around the front of the car and opened the door to the front passenger's seat. However, she realized that Toby had already shifted to the driver's seat. She immediately changed her mind and shut the passenger's door with a blank expression on her face.

Toby frowned as he watched her slamming the passenger's door and opening the back seat door instead. *Was that a look of disdain I saw on her face? Did she just refuse to sit in the passenger's seat beside me?* "Alright, President Fuller. You can start driving," Sonia said bluntly once she placed the gift down beside her. Toby felt the urge to laugh amidst his anger. *Does this woman think I'm her driver?* He looked at the woman through his rear mirror.

She had turned her head sideways to look out the window. "Where are you headed?" His thin lips parted as he spoke. "The train station further down the road," she uttered without looking at him. His expression faltered as he realized that she would rather get her own transport than let him send her to her destination. In the end, he lowered his gaze to conceal the frustration in his eyes before he started driving.

Sonia seemed caught up in her thoughts as she glanced at the view outside the window. She only turned back and grabbed onto the driver's seat when she realized that the car had gone past the train station. "You've passed the station, President Fuller!" she cried in a furious voice. "I know." Toby's gaze was fixed on the road as he responded in a cold tone. "Did you do that on purpose?" She bit on her lip. A smug look unconsciously flashed across his gaze as he nodded. "Where are you headed? You can tell me your new destination now." "You..."

Sonia smacked the backrest of the driver's seat in anger. He smirked when he saw her doing so. "I'm going to continue going straight if you won't tell me where to go." "I'm headed to the hospital to visit Grandma." Sonia shot him a glare before she gave him the answer he wanted. *Since when did this guy ever enjoy driving others to their destination? I'm speechless—how could he play such games just because I didn't want him to send me directly to the hospital?*

Toby seemed somewhat surprised when he heard that Sonia was headed to visit Rose. He had assumed that she was on the way to visit Charles's parents when he first saw all the health supplements that Sonia had prepared as a gift. For some reason, Toby felt his mood lifting after he heard Sonia's plans. Sonia, on the other hand, wasn't in a good mood at all. Her expression was dark and grim on their way to the hospital. When they finally arrived, Sonia got out of the car and thanked Toby before she strode directly into the hospital's main entrance.

Toby followed behind her, and he chuckled when he saw the way she stormed off into the building. *Is she still mad?* He had never seen her angry when she was with the Fullers—she always had the same, stoic expression on her face. Even her smiles looked forced back then. Her every action used to be filled with despair—just the sight of it used to annoy him. He had never seen this amount of energy in her. It was clear that she had never been happy while she was living with the Fullers.

Toby decided that the divorce was the right decision after all. Although he knew that the divorce felt like a relief to Sonia, he couldn't explain why he didn't experience the same sense of freedom after that. If anything, he felt heavier after their divorce. Furthermore, the sense of heaviness seemed to become more evident as time went on. He was afraid to even consider the reason he felt so heavy—his gut feeling told him that it was something he didn't want to know. He knew that his life would fall apart once he truly understood his feelings.

At that thought, Toby wiped off the smile on his face and returned to his usual cold demeanor. Soon enough, they arrived at Rose's ward. The door was open, and Mary was nowhere to be seen, so Sonia knocked on the door before she stepped in. Rose was reading a book on the bed, and she lifted her head up when she heard someone knocking. A loving grin spread across Rose's face once she saw who her visitor was. "Sonia! Come in!"

Rose gestured for her guest to enter. "I'm here to visit you, Grandma." Sonia walked in with her gifts. Rose was about to nag at Sonia for buying her so many gifts when she noticed another figure that was entering the room. "Toby?" Rose shot Sonia a look of utter surprise before she turned back to Toby. "Did you guys come over together?" "No. I just bumped into President Fuller at the elevator. That's why we came up together," Sonia explained with a smile.

Toby understood why Sonia told such a lie—he knew that she didn't want Rose to overthink their relationship. Rose would have gotten her hopes up, and she would have expected them to get married again otherwise. Although Toby knew that Sonia had made the right move, he still felt uneasy after hearing what she said.

Am I some sort of disease? Why does she have to try so hard to avoid me? "That's right, Grandma." Toby's expression was glum as he agreed to Sonia's story. Rose let out a rather disappointed sigh. "I see. I thought you guys came over together." One look at Rose's face was all it took for Sonia to understand the situation.

Rose has never given up on hoping for Toby and me to remarry to each other, huh? Sonia beamed and changed the topic immediately. "How have you been feeling, Grandma?"

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"I feel much better," the old woman replied with a smile. Sonia nodded. "That's good to hear." All of a sudden, Rose pointed toward the end of her bed as if she had just recalled something. "Mary's son dropped by to visit her yesterday, Sonia. He brought Mary some pineapples from home. You like pineapples, don't you? You should bring some home for yourself." Sonia turned toward the basketful of pineapples.

She felt her mouth watering just at the sight of it. She was just about to nod and thank Rose when Toby spoke up. "No!" Rose frowned immediately. The smile on Sonia's face faltered as Rose shot Toby a rather disapproving stare. "Why not? I'm the one who's giving it to Sonia. Do I need to ask for your permission?" *I've never realized how stingy of a man my grandson is. Why is he being so selfish over a few pineapples!*

On the other hand, Sonia kept her lips sealed. She didn't feel angry at all. They were just pineapples, after all; she didn't see the need to lose her temper just because he refused to give her some. Toby realized how the two other women must have misunderstood him when he saw the grim looks on both their faces. "She's not supposed to eat pineapples," he muttered as he lowered his gaze. For some reason, Toby found himself doing research on things that pregnant women had to watch out for after he heard the news of Sonia's pregnancy.

He went through the list of foods that pregnant women weren't supposed to eat, and pineapples were one of the items listed there. "Why not?!" Rose shifted her cold glare toward Toby. It was evident that she was going to bicker with him until he provided her with a reasonable explanation for his words.

Sonia turned to look at Toby as well. She didn't understand why he would say that she couldn't eat pineapples. Toby pressed his thin lips together as he thought about how he should explain himself. Sonia hadn't told the public about her pregnancy, so he was in no position to reveal such information about her. After some thought, Toby's eyes lit up as he came up with an answer. "Mary was the one who gave this to you. How could you offer it to someone else? What would Mary think? You should get Mary to blend it into pineapple juice for you or something."

Rose's hands were trembling with fury at that point. "Is this the reason you won't allow Sonia to take some pineapples? Great, Toby. Great job! You must have been spending a lot of time with Jean—that would explain why you're acting as stingy as she is. Look at how much of a miser you are! I should have never allowed Jean to take care of you while you were growing up." The corner of Toby's lips twitched a little as he listened to his grandmother criticizing him for being a selfish person.

His gaze shifted to look at Sonia before he realized what he was doing. He didn't want her to think of him as that sort of person. "You can bring some pineapples home, Sonia. Please just ignore him. These are my pineapples; he has no say in my decision." Rose gave Toby another angry stare as she spoke in a stern and uncompromising tone.

Sonia nodded. "Okay." The more Toby didn't want her to have the pineapples, the more she wanted to get some for herself. She felt happy whenever Toby was unhappy. She didn't even bother to hide the mockery in her eyes as she glanced toward Toby. Toby felt like laughing when he noticed the way she looked at him. *Whatever. She can take it if she wants to. I'll just find a way to get rid of the pineapples after that.*

I can't allow her to eat any of it. "Why are you just standing around? Why aren't you pouring Sonia some water?" Rose continued to pick on Toby when she saw him standing as still as a stick by the side of the room. After the incident that had just occurred, Rose felt displeased by her grandson. *He used to be such a smart and good kid; what happened to him?* Toby simply let out a grunt before he got a paper cup and filled it with water from the water dispenser.

Once the cup was full, he walked over to Sonia and handed it to her. "Thank you," Sonia replied politely as she took the cup from him. "Watch out. It's hot," he mumbled a reminder. Rose shot him a puzzled look once she heard what he said. *Is he showing care toward Sonia right now?* Meanwhile, Sonia didn't recognize anything out of the ordinary. She was used to receiving such reminders, after all. She would have given someone else the same reminder if she were placed in his position, so she didn't sense anything odd about the situation.

After blowing the water to cool it down, Sonia took a sip of it. She let out a confused cry right after that. "What is it, Sonia?" Rose asked concernedly. Sonia shot Toby a puzzled expression. "Did you put honey in here, President Fuller?" "Mhm." Toby nodded. "Do you not like it?" He didn't realize the hint of nervousness that coated his voice as he spoke. Rose, on the other hand, jolted with surprise as she sensed something that Sonia didn't; she was experienced and wise—Sonia was no match for her.

She had suspected that Toby was caring for Sonia ever since their earlier conversations. Once she heard that Toby had added honey into Sonia's drink, and once she heard his voice as he asked Sonia if she liked it, things were much clearer to her. *I'm sure that Toby still has feelings for Sonia! But that silly boy doesn't know it himself!* Rose grew increasingly annoyed at the young man as she thought about his cluelessness.

Meanwhile, Sonia responded to him with a polite smile. "I do. I was just a little surprised. Thanks, President Fuller." Toby lifted his chin up as he secretly let out a sigh of relief. "No worries." It seemed like she wasn't angry, although he had made the decision to add honey on his own. Toby curled his lips into a lopsided smile as he thought about it happily. "You idiot!" Rose glanced at Toby through the corner of her eye. He raised an eyebrow in surprise.

"Are you talking about me, Grandma?" *What did I do? How am I an idiot?* Even Sonia looked at Rose perplexedly. The old woman let out a scoff. "Who else could I be talking about?" *What else can you call someone who isn't aware of his own feelings? He's obviously an idiot!* Toby pressed his lips together as he felt rather hurt. He was just about to question his grandmother's words when his phone rang. He knitted his brows and pulled his phone out.

A series of complicated emotions flashed across his eyes when he saw that it was Tina who was calling him. "Why aren't you picking it up?" Rose asked. Toby parted his lips to say something, but he remained silent in the end. He didn't want to pick up the call, not in front of his grandmother and his... He then shot Sonia a glance. Sonia pulled the corner of her lips downward. *Weirdo! Why is he looking at me?* She turned her head away.

Finally, Toby decided to pick up the call as he felt displeased by Sonia's cold and heartless gestures. "Hello, Tina." He held the phone against his ear and walked toward the balcony. "It's that woman again," Rose grumbled with an unhappy look on her face. Sonia smiled. "Miss Gray is President Fuller's fiancée. Isn't it normal for them to phone each other?" "Well, that idiot walks around like a blind man. He can't even tell that the woman has evil intentions."

Rose pouted as she spoke. She could tell that Toby didn't genuinely like Tina. However, she didn't understand why he seemed so stubborn about his relationship with Tina—he stubbornly believed that what they had was love. That was one of the reasons why he couldn't tell that his true love was Sonia, and that was why Rose thought he was such an idiot. "I think President Fuller is aware of that. He knows who Miss Gray truly is, but I don't think he minds it," Sonia said while brushing her hair aside. Rose scoffed.

"Forget about that woman. Let's talk about you, Sonia." "Me?" Sonia pointed a finger toward herself. The old woman let out a soft chuckle. "Yeah. I want you to be honest with me, Sonia. Do you still have any thoughts about Toby?" Rose decided that she would have to step up and do something about the situation if Sonia said yes to her question. Rose would do everything she could to chase Tina out and bring Sonia and Toby back together. The old lady wanted her grandson to recognize the truth—that Sonia was the one he loved. Sonia shook her head.

"I don't have any feelings for Toby anymore, Grandma." The old lady's face stiffened. "Are you sure?" She clearly didn't trust Sonia. "I am sure!" Sonia nodded furiously. Rose let out a disappointed sigh when she saw how sincere and serious Sonia looked. "Forget it, then." "I'm sorry, Grandma.

I..." Sonia started. Rose gave her a warm smile at that point. "You have nothing to be sorry about. I was around to witness the way Toby treated you, and I think it's only normal that you no longer have feelings for him.

I just didn't expect you to lose feelings so soon." Sonia lowered her gaze. "I didn't take a long time to lose feelings because I was so disappointed by him," she muttered. "I understand." Rose sighed. On the balcony outside, Toby lowered his hand that had been about to push the sliding door open. His head was hung low so that no one could see the look on his face.

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This wasn't the first time Toby heard Sonia saying she didn't love him. However, he had never taken it to heart—he had always assumed that she only said those words out of anger. He knew how much she cared for him in the past few years, after all. But Toby only came to a realization when he saw Sonia talking to Rose in a calm and civil manner—he realized that Sonia hadn't said those words to infuriate him after all.

She told Rose that she no longer loved him because that was the truth. At that moment, Toby felt a sharp and distinct ache in his heart, followed by a hollow sensation in his chest. He felt as if someone had taken something important away from him right then. Rose caught sight of his rather pale expression from the corner of her eye, and she shook her head as she let out a sigh. "I thought that I could do something to bring you two back together if you still had feelings for Toby, but... Ah, I guess this isn't all bad."

The married couple's relationship used to be distant and cold in the past because Toby didn't have feelings for Sonia back then. Now, Sonia's the one who doesn't have feelings for Toby. History would repeat itself if they got back together now, Rose thought. "I appreciate your thoughtfulness, Grandma. But I know that things between President Fuller and me will never work out," Sonia uttered as she held onto the old woman's hand.

"I'm sorry for disappointing you, Grandma." "What are you talking about, you silly girl? I'd rather see you happy than force you to be together with Toby. Look at your petite little face! You look so energetic nowadays. You used to look so worn out in the past—you didn't even look like a young woman in your twenties back then. I think you're doing a lot better now." Rose cackled at the end of her sentence. Sonia laughed along with Rose—the tension and worry in Sonia's heart disappeared when she saw that Rose didn't blame her for anything.

A while later, she pulled out the necklace that had been lying under her shirt—she recalled something that she had wanted to do. "I forgot to mention that I paid a visit to the old house recently, Grandma. I found a necklace there. Look—is this the necklace you were talking about?" *A necklace?*

Toby's eyes narrowed when he overheard their conversation from the balcony. *What necklace?* Rose lifted Sonia's necklace and took a look at it. "I'm not sure if this is the right one. Your dad was in a rush back then; he didn't tell me what the necklace looked like specifically. I'm not too sure either." "This was the

only necklace I found in the house. There weren't any other necklaces," Sonia said as she lowered the pendant onto her chest.

"I guess this is the right one, then," Rose replied with a nod. Sonia bit on her lower lip before she spoke. "This necklace looks really similar to the one that Julia wears around her neck. I went to the store and asked about it—they said that our necklaces were made as a pair for both mother and daughter. Julia's necklace is the mother's one, while the one I'm holding onto is the daughter's necklace. I just don't understand why Tina's necklace would show up in my house."

"Did you say that this necklace belongs to the Gray Family?" Rose was stunned upon hearing Sonia's words. Sonia nodded. "Yeah. Titus was the one who got someone to design the necklaces a little more than 20 years ago. It was made as a gift for Julia and their newborn child, Tina." "I remember now," Rose said with a smile. "If the necklaces are really meant for the Grays, then the one with you isn't for Tina. It was supposed to be for Rina."

"Rina?" Sonia tilted her head puzzledly. For some reason, she felt an inexplicable sensation bubbling in her chest once she heard that name. However, the feeling didn't last for long—it disappeared almost immediately. "That's right. The necklace belonged to Rina, who's the Grays' eldest daughter. The whole Seafield was talking about it when Titus bought the necklaces—everyone was envious of Julia. However, Titus didn't do anything similar when they had Tina, so this necklace must belong to the eldest daughter."

Upon hearing Rose's story, Sonia lowered her head to glance at the necklace. "So the Gray Family has more than one daughter, huh. Why haven't I ever heard them talking about their eldest daughter?" "Their eldest daughter died at a very young age," Toby said as he pushed the door to let himself back into the room. Sonia widened her eyes in shock. "She died?" Rose nodded. "Yeah." "Well, what's this necklace doing in my house then?"

Sonia couldn't understand the situation. Toby shot her a glance. "Do you want to know the answer?" he asked. "Do *you* know the answer?" Sonia met his gaze. He didn't give her a direct answer to that question. "I did some research on Rina when I first heard that Tina had an elder sister.

Rina's death is related to your father." "My father?" Sonia leaped to her feet as she was too surprised. Rose shook her head slowly. "All of this is due to the grudges held across the generations," she muttered. Sonia's lips trembled when she next spoke. "The incident that happened between the Grays and the Reeds all those years ago... Does that have something to do with Rina's death?" "Hm?" Toby looked at her.

Sonia merely ignored him as she grabbed Rose's arm and continued to speak. "Apart from paying you a visit, I'm also here to ask if something had happened between the Grays and the Reeds in the past. That's the only explanation for how the necklace showed up at the Reeds' place." Sonia made her guess according to the information she had so far. "Judging by what you said earlier, it seems like you might know something about this, Grandma.

Please tell me about it. What happened between the two families? How is Rina's death related to my father? My father talked about a secret underlying the necklaces; was this what he was referring to?" Sonia eyed Rose with a pleading look in her eyes. Rose reached a hand out to stroke Sonia's head. "Fine, I'll tell you about it. I know that you'd find other ways to get to the bottom of the story, even if I refuse to tell you right now.

I'd rather be the one to tell you about it. But I have to say, I hadn't expected the necklace that your father was talking about to belong to the Grays." "Thank you, Grandma." Tears of joy welled up in Sonia's eyes. She had been worried that the old lady would refuse to tell her about it. Toby felt his insides twisting when he saw Sonia's tears, and he immediately reached into his coat pocket to pull out a handkerchief for her.

"Here, wipe your tears off." Sonia looked dumbfounded for a moment before she shook her head. "It's fine. I have my own." She proceeded to pull out a packet of tissue from her bag without looking at his handkerchief at all. Toby shifted his gaze downward as his expression darkened. He tightened his fingers around his handkerchief before he kept it away. *Serves him right*, Rose thought when she saw the look on his face.

"Okay, Grandma. You can start telling me now." Sonia tugged her lips into a smile once she dried her tears. After Rose cleared her throat, she began with her story. "More than 20 years ago, Paradigm Co. invented a brand-new machine that had the ability to increase the quality of production. Your father was elated when he found out about it as he knew that Paradigm Co. finally had a chance to launch this product.

But one day before that happened..." "What happened one day before that?" Sonia clasped her palms together as she looked at the old woman anxiously. Rose patted Sonia's hands sympathetically. "Titus somehow found out about the existence of this machine, and he ordered someone to steal the data away. Needless to say, Paradigm Co. failed to launch the product, and the main researcher committed suicide as he was too disappointed."

"What?" Sonia's pupils shrank. "Did something like that happen?" Even Toby furrowed his brows—he clearly hadn't heard this part of the story. Toby knew that Titus used unethical tactics in his business, but Toby had never thought much about it. The enterprising field was a harsh place, after all—it was normal for people to employ some immoral tactics. The government wouldn't interfere as long as these entrepreneurs didn't go out of line with their actions.

However, no one had expected Titus to commit such an evil deed. He stole another company's confidential information, and he even indirectly murdered someone! "Your father became a public target after this incident.

After the loss of the machine's data and the suicide of his main researcher, your father didn't just need to comfort the people in Paradigm Co.; he also had to handle the huge compensation amounts. Your father lost his temper when he couldn't fork out the money for compensation, so he decided to kidnap Titus's eldest daughter," Rose uttered before heaving a sigh.

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I see. So that's what happened, Toby thought as he pressed his lips together. He knew that Henry kidnapped Rina in the past, but he had no idea that Titus was the one who forced Henry into it. *It seems like I have to be more thorough when I'm investigating a particular matter; all these illusions might blind my eyes from the truth otherwise. Titus's expression had been filled with hatred when he last spoke to me about Henry, but I just find that hilarious right now. I can't believe I completely fell for Titus's narrative when he told me that Henry had wronged the Gray Family.* At that thought, Toby shifted his gaze toward Sonia. His eyes were filled with remorse and guilt. He felt sorry because he concluded that Sonia's father was a bad man after listening to one side of the story. Meanwhile, Sonia didn't have the time to look at Toby's reaction. She simply lowered her head to hold onto the necklace.

"That's why this necklace was in the Reed Residence," she muttered. She figured that her father must have removed this necklace from Rina when he first kidnapped her. "That's right," Rose said with a nod. "How did Rina die in the end?" Sonia asked. She had a bold guess in her mind, but it was a guess that she didn't wish to make. Rose studied Sonia's expression for a while before she slowly parted her lips to speak.

"Your father drowned her in the river, right in front of Titus and Julia's eyes." Sonia's guess was right, but the revelation was still a bombshell to her. Her vision turned black as she felt the world around her spinning. She felt herself falling as her stance grew unsteady. Upon seeing that, Toby held her by her shoulders before he pressed her close to his chest. "Are you okay?" "I'm fine." Sonia bit her lower lip as she replied to him in a weak voice.

At the same time, Rose eyed the younger woman concernedly. "You should sit down," she suggested. Thus, Toby helped Sonia to the couch, where she sat with her limbs trembling. "H-How could Dad... do such an idiotic thing?" Sonia couldn't believe that her father had drowned a young child. It explained why Titus had been so cruel to her father six years ago, for Titus was also avenging his daughter's death.

"That's right. Your father was silly to have done that. However, his actions were understandable—Titus had forced him into a corner, and it's easier for one to do stupid things when they are feeling impulsive." Rose stroked Sonia's hair sympathetically. Sonia squeezed her eyes shut. "He was way too impulsive." "Don't you guys think that there's something odd about this whole story?" Toby spoke up all of a sudden. "What is it?"

Sonia raised her head. "If your father drowned Rina right in front of Titus and Julia's eyes, why didn't he end up in jail? Judging by how unforgiving and vindictive Titus is, he'd never let your father and Paradigm Co. get off so easily. Yet, that was what he did. Titus didn't get the law involved after what your father did, and he even allowed your father to continue expanding Paradigm Co. Titus only launched his attack on your father and the company six years ago," he said.

Sonia seemed to realize something at that point. "That's true. Why is that so? Do you know the answer, Grandma?" Sonia turned to look at the old woman. Rose shook her head. "I'm not too sure about this either. I'm guessing that your father and Titus had some sort of agreement back then. There's no other way to explain it." "I guess so. One way or another, the hatred between the Gray and Reed Families is absolutely irreconcilable," Sonia muttered as she bit her bottom lip.

Titus was the one who started the conflict between both families. Although Henry had killed Titus's daughter, Titus was the one who forced Henry to his death. The resentment between both of them might be gone since Sonia's father was dead, but that didn't mean that things were settled between Paradigm Co. and Titus. *I'm going to get even with him!* Sonia thought. Toby felt the urge to get rid of the hatred that he saw in Sonia's eyes.

Her beautiful eyes shouldn't be filled with such anger. However, I know that I no longer have the right to help her get rid of this hatred. Her icy voice sounded in his ears as he thought about his relationship with her. "I would like to destroy both Triforce Enterprise and the Gray Family, President Fuller." He wasn't surprised by her words, for he had managed to guess her thoughts through the hostility he observed in her eyes. "So?"

Toby asked as he looked at her. "So, are you going to meddle with my affairs?" Sonia met his gaze with an emotionless expression. He frowned upon hearing her words. *What does she mean? Why is she looking at me like that? Is she saying that she will go against me if I decide to meddle with her affairs?*

"I'd like to know your answer, President Fuller. Will you step in and support the Gray family?!" Sonia repeated her question when Toby didn't respond to her the first time. Rose hastily replied on behalf of him. "Of course not. I'd never support it if Toby were to stand on the Gray Family's side." "I'd like to hear him say it himself, Grandma," Sonia uttered. If it weren't for Rose, Sonia wouldn't care whether Toby wished to help the Grays. It'd be great if he didn't support them, but Sonia knew that she would attack them all at once if Toby were to support the Grays.

She would give everything up just to fight them until the very end. However, she posed Toby the question to Toby because she cared for Rose. Toby was Rose's grandson, and Rose had to be mentally prepared just in case Toby were to support the Grays. If Sonia went against Toby in the end, she knew that Rose would be disheartened. "I won't support them," Toby said with his gaze lowered. It was Titus's fault to begin with, so the Grays had to pay for what they had done. Toby knew that he wouldn't let Tina suffer even if she had lost the Gray Family.

"That's good. I hope you stick to your promise. If you go against your own words the way you did the last time, I'll risk my life just to make sure that you suffer

forever," Sonia threatened in a firm tone. Toby's pupils shrank as he clenched his fists tightly. "I won't." *She's serious this time. She's surely going to make me suffer if I go against my words. For example, she might kill Tina, or she might even kill herself...* he thought.

"What did you do in the past? Why did you break your promise to Sonia?" Rose turned to look at Toby. He was distracted by the old woman's sudden question. "It's nothing much." Toby's gaze dimmed as he tried to avoid the question. Then, he glanced at Sonia in hopes that Sonia would play along with him. Rose would definitely be shocked if she found out that Tina had shoved Sonia down the stairs. Sonia was well-aware of this, so she gladly played along with Toby.

"Alright, Grandma. Everything's over now, so you don't have to know about it. I don't want to talk about it either. Right now, I have something that I'm more concerned about. Since I know the secret behind this necklace, I only have one last question regarding this matter. Why did my father want me to find this necklace?" *He wouldn't need me to find this necklace if he just wanted me to get revenge for him.*

He should know that I'd avenge his death as long as I know that Titus was the reason for it. There has to be more to this story—this necklace must be useful in some other way. "I don't know either. Your father mentioned that it was related to a huge secret, and this secret should be the incident from 20 years ago—the one that I just told you. I'm not sure if there's anything else to this story." Rose shook her head. Upon hearing that, Sonia let out a long sigh. Rose smiled as she comforted the younger woman.

"Don't worry. You should just keep the necklace for now. You might find the answer to your question someday." "I guess so." Sonia beamed in response. "It's late. I should leave now, Grandma. The skies are turning dark." "Okay. I'll get Toby to send you back." Rose turned to Toby as she spoke. "Send her home," she said to Toby. "Okay." He quickly complied with Rose's words, and he retrieved his car keys to send Sonia home, but Sonia rejected their offer in a flat tone.

"It's fine, Grandma. I'll just hail a cab outside the hospital. I wouldn't want to trouble President Fuller. Goodbye." With that, Sonia smiled at Rose and picked her bag up before leaving the room. She didn't even throw as much as a glance in Toby's direction before she left. Toby pressed his thin lips together. His legs instinctively began moving to go after Sonia. "Stand right there!" Rose stopped him with a stern tone. "Yes, Grandma?"

Toby's footsteps came to a halt. "What are you doing? Didn't Sonia just say that she doesn't need you to send her home?" Rose glared at him. *Sheesh. You had a chance to send her home in the past, but you didn't cherish it. Now, you're insisting on sending her back when she doesn't want you to do it. You need to consider her opinion as well!*

Toby's thin lips twitched, looking as if he wanted to say something, but no words came out of his mouth in the end. Rose let out a sigh. "Do you regret your actions now?" Toby's eyes glistened, but he still retorted indignantly, "What?" The old woman gave him a cold scoff. "You can continue faking it if you wish to."

I was asking if you regret getting a divorce with Sonia." At that moment, Toby felt as if someone had grabbed his heart and twisted it around. He could feel a sore ache in his chest. He had to lower his eyelids to conceal the emotions he felt. "No," he replied.