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Elise helped Alexander into his room and to his bedside. "Take a rest." After saying this, she had intended to leave, but he stopped her and uttered, "I'm thirsty." Acknowledging him, she poured him a glass of water without any hesitation. "Here you go." As he looked at the glass of water in front of him, he reached for it and took a sip.

The temperature is just right. "Thank you!" With a smile, she replied, "No problem. Rest well. I'll be going back now." This time, he didn't try to stop her and instead watched as she left the room. As soon as she closed the door, the expression on his face went back to normal.

Images of her kept popping in his mind as he gazed at the glass of warm water in his hand. For example, images of her accompanying him as he overcame difficulties with the Griffiths, organizing his documents at the company, and openly defending him in the public eye. All these memories of her were deeply imprinted in his mind. When did I start caring about her every move? And when did I start getting concerned about how she felt?

He couldn't find the answer to this question, nor could he get her out of his head. As night fell, Alexander had a long dream. In it, he found himself at a festive scene with guests coming and going. Curious, he moved through the crowd and arrived at a hall. "Mr. Griffith, will you take this woman to be your lawful wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and health, till death do you part?"

Hearing the master of ceremonies' voice, he was perplexed. I'm getting married? When was this decided? And who's the bride? With all his might, he wriggled through the crowd to the front and finally saw clearly who the bride was this time. Elise? Why's it her? Then, in his dream, she looked toward him all of a sudden and gave him a sweet smile. With a loud gasp, Alexander woke up from his dream. "Phew! It was all just a dream!"

he blurted out and stared outside the window to find that it was pitch black. Then, he looked at the clock on the wall. It was 3.00AM! Stunned, he couldn't believe that he would have such a dream. It must have been because she had often been appearing before him recently that he started having hallucinations.

For the rest of the night, he had trouble getting back to sleep, so he decided that he might as well settle some of the company's matters until daylight. As soon as the morning sun shone into the room, he changed into a tracksuit and went out. Meanwhile, Elise had a good night's sleep. After getting out of bed, she drew the curtains to let the sunshine in. "What nice weather!" Then, she gave her body a good stretch.

The next moment, she saw Alexander jogging outside. *Are his legs all better?* Though she was puzzled, she looked away. Right after, she washed up and changed into a set of new clothes before going out. As soon as she stepped out, she bumped into Alexander. "Good morning!" she greeted.

Unlike before, where he would greet her back politely, he ignored her and walked past her back into his room. Confused, she didn't give it much thought and headed downstairs.

After shutting the door, he realized that his heart was racing furiously. "What's going on?" Why am I getting more excited than before when I see her? "When are you coming down? I'm going to be late," she knocked on his door and said impatiently. Immediately, the door opened and revealed half of his body. "My legs aren't well.

I'll ask Danny to send you." After saying this, he was about to close the door when she stopped him. "I don't see anything wrong with your legs! I saw you jogging in the morning," she grumbled. However, he insisted, "My legs haven't fully recovered yet. It's really inconvenient."

Knowing that he was a hard-headed man, she brushed off her suspicion and said, "Fine. I'll leave, then." With that, she turned to leave and went to school with Danny. The lush greeneries of the school yard gave off a youthful and vibrant energy. As Elise got out of the car, she waited for Danny before entering the school. "Boss, could you explain the trigonometric functions to me? I took a look at the textbook last night, but I still don't really get it."

Upon hearing this, she conceded. "The textbook only covers the basics. For the final revision, doing practice questions would be more helpful. I'll lend you my exercise book later. It might be of help." Happily, he beamed. "Thank you, Boss!" Then, the two walked into the classroom in unison. Previously, Danny had always been the perfect example of a student who was ignorant and incompetent, causing many problems to teachers.

However, all the teachers turned a blind eye to his behavior as he was a Griffith. But recently, the ignorant and incompetent Danny started to take his studies seriously. He would pay great attention in class no matter what subject it was. Initially, the teachers thought that he was simply putting on a show, but this actually went on for a week, so the teachers were greatly impressed. "Danny, come and solve this problem."

Mr. Winfrey, the mathematics teacher, called him. At once, everyone turned to stare at Danny with a look of disbelief. "Why did Mr. Winfrey ask Danny to answer the question?" "He's a student from the last row. Teachers have usually given up on them. How did Mr. Winfrey notice him?" "Maybe Mr. Winfrey called Danny by mistake. Besides, Danny might not be able to answer the question even if Mr. Winfrey really did call him."

The other students gossiped softly, but Elise overheard it all. With her brows raised, she looked at Danny and cheered him on silently. At first, Danny didn't want to go up to the podium, but he stood up as soon as she encouraged him.

With the other students' astonished gazes on him, he walked up the podium. "It's alright if you can't solve it. You're remarkably brave for coming up here." Mr. Winfrey handed him the chalk.

Taking over the chalk, he looked at the question on the blackboard. In less than two minutes, he had already come up with a solution. With that, he started writing it so smoothly and without hesitation that the other students watched with their eyes wide open. The classroom fell silent instantaneously as they stared at him.

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After finishing, Danny handed the chalk to Mr. Winfrey. "Here you go. I've solved it." Looking at Danny's mathematical solution, Mr. Winfrey couldn't help but feel amazed. He couldn't believe that Danny could improve so much in just a week. He even suspected that Danny had been acting ignorant and stupid all this while. "Well done! Your steps and answer are correct. It looks like you've improved a lot, Danny. Other students should learn from you."

Immediately, the corner of Danny's mouth tugged upwards as he made his way down the podium with his head held high while he enjoyed the attention that the other students were giving him because it was something that he had never experienced before in his 18 years of life. "You did great," Elise whispered to him. Right then, he smiled even brighter and whispered into her ear, "That's because you taught me well, Boss." "Don't be glib.

The end is yet to come. We still have to work hard." Hearing this, he gave her a formal salute. "Yes, Boss! I'll keep up the good work!" With a smile, she resumed reviewing her practice questions and wrote in her book. During recess, he stayed in his seat and did revision exercises instead of doing what he would usually do. He even rejected his friends' invitation to play basketball.

That day, what he said most was, "Boss, how should I answer this question? Could you explain question 17? How should I draw the force analysis diagram for physics? Can you teach me?" Even Mikayla was surprised by his sudden change of behavior. "Elise, why do I feel like Danny's become a totally different person? Is he still the Danny I know?" Elise wasn't sure how to answer this question, so she turned to glance at Danny and said, "I guess he's really changed.

After all, he can't stay at 250 forever." Confused, Mikayla asked, "250? What do you mean by that?" "His grades! His total score has always been at the edge of 250. Perhaps he came around and decided to stay away from such an unlucky number," Elise explained. Upon hearing this, Mikayla couldn't help but laugh. "Now that you mentioned it, Danny seems so inspirational all of a sudden. Besides, I admire you even more right now for training your apprentice so well without spending much effort."

Unconvinced, Elise smiled and scratched her head. "This actually means that he's talented. I didn't really do much." After all, a teacher would show the way, but the outcome depended on the student's own effort. Elise knew this very well. After school, Elise waited at the school entrance for quite some time, yet Alexander still had not arrived. Even when most of the students had left, she still did not see his car. So, she took out her phone and called him.

As soon as the call went through, she couldn't help but ask, "Look at the time. Why are you not here yet?" However, it was Cameron who answered the phone. Staring at the tightly shut meeting room door, he explained, "Miss Sinclair, Mr. Griffith's still in a meeting. I'm afraid that he won't be able to pick you up. Why don't you call a taxi?"

Biting her lip, she replied, "Never mind, then. I'll go home on my own." Though she had said so, a sense of disappointment overwhelmed her as soon as she hung up the phone. "Whatever. I'll just call a cab." Just as she was about to book a cab, a cool-looking Porsche stopped right in front of her. The window was wound down, revealing Danny's charming face. "Get in!" She looked up at him. Without any hesitation, she kept her phone and hopped into the car.

"Alex sent me a message saying that he can't pick you up today and asked me to do so instead. And I happened to be looking for you," he said with a smile on his face. Humming a tune, he seemed to be in a good mood. Not paying attention to what he said, she looked down and opened her textbook. Then, she realized that they were not taking the road back home, so she raised her eyes and questioned, "Where are we going?"

"You'll find out later." He smiled sheepishly. In truth, she felt that he had been acting really weird that day, but she didn't ask much until he brought her to a library. "Why did you bring me here?" she asked curiously. Rubbing his head embarrassedly, he told her, "Hahaha... To do revision, of course. This library's owned by the Griffith Group, and it's not open to the general public. I only found out about it after hearing it from Alex.

Come, let's immerse ourselves in the inescapable sea of knowledge." Hearing this, she went speechless. Right after, the two walked into the library. It was huge and had seven floors in total. All the books were organized according to their genres. There was a librarian on each floor. When they saw Danny, they stood up and greeted him respectfully, "Young Master Griffith." "It's alright. Just do your stuff. We're just here to do our homework."

He waved at them. Seeing this, they retreated. Meanwhile, Elise's gaze never left the books as soon as she came in. "Danny, go ahead and do your homework. I'm going to take a walk around." "Sure, go ahead! I'll look for you if there's something that I don't understand," he replied. With that, she walked along the bookshelf and realized that there was a wide range of books here, including out-of-print books. It was like a paradise to avid readers.

Just then, a book caught her attention. It was a thick, ancient book in Traditional Chinese. She took it off the shelf and started flipping through it. Time passed very quickly. Soon, night had fallen, but she was so absorbed in the book that she didn't realize it. Finally, Danny found her.

"Turns out you're here, Boss. It's getting late. Let's go home." It was only then that she came back to her senses. It was already 7.00PM when she checked the time. Wanting to read more, she glanced at the book in her hands and folded the corner of the page before putting it back in its original place.

"Are we coming again tomorrow?" she asked. Smiling, he gazed at her and nodded. "Of course. I realized that my head's clearer when I do my homework here. It's as if I'm being influenced by these books." "Reading can take you places." She couldn't help but chuckle.

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"That's true." At that moment, Danny was regretful. Why didn't I realize that reading and studying were so pleasurable? "Let's go home. We'll come again tomorrow." With that, Danny and Elise made their way out of the library. Then, he started the car and drove them home. It was already pretty late when they reached home. Just returning from work, Alexander bumped into Elise and Danny, who were chatting happily as they came in. "Alex, you're home!" Danny greeted. After acknowledging Danny, Alexander glanced at Elise, who was standing next to Danny, and asked, "Where did you go? Why did you come back so late?" "We just went for a walk," she answered with a chuckle. It was obvious that Danny didn't want Alexander to know about his current situation, so she didn't expose him. Instead, she waved at them. "I'll go upstairs first." "Goodnight, Boss!"

Danny waved back. After watching her go up the stairs, Alexander asked softly, "When did you two become so close? Didn't you find her annoying before?" "No, I didn't! We've always been close. What happened before was just a little misunderstanding." Danny snickered. Alexander was quite surprised to hear so because he knew what kind of person Danny was. Danny would come up with a thousand excuses if he hated someone; on the contrary, he would put his heart on his sleeve if he treated someone as his friend.

"It's nice to know that it was just a misunderstanding. It's late. You should rest too." "Okay. Goodnight, Alex." With that, Alexander made his way up the stairs. The next morning, Danny knocked on Elise's door. Half-awake, she got up reluctantly in a daze. "Danny, what are you doing so early in the morning?"

Then, he handed her a pair of headphones. "It's a good idea to listen to Chinese listening comprehension in the morning." Upon hearing this, she was at a loss for words. Staring at him, she asked unhappily, "You're not crazy, are you?" "I'm just sharing a good way to study Chinese with you. Besides, I'm not taking up much of your time. I just woke you up ten minutes earlier than usual." He laughed. Thinking he must have gone mad, she chided, "Don't wake me up next time.

I just want to sleep ten minutes more." Right after, she closed the door with a loud *bang*. In spite of that, he wasn't annoyed at all. *Whatever*. I'll listen to it myself if she doesn't want to. With that, he turned to leave. Just then, Danny saw

Alexander coming out of his room, whereupon he greeted, "Good morning, Alex!" Seeing that Danny was wearing his headphones, Alexander asked curiously, "What are you doing here?"

"Oh, nothing. I came to wake Elise up." He giggled. Alexander was slightly upset seeing Danny's unusually enthusiastic attitude toward Elise. However, he had no right to say anything. "Let's have breakfast. You need to go to school in a while." Danny agreed, and the brothers went downstairs to have breakfast. Halfway, Elise finally came down with an exhausted look on her face. As she pulled the chair out, she said to Danny, "Don't wake me up so early in the morning next time."

"Okay," Danny conceded. Then, like a little lackey, he handed her a glass of milk. "You should drink more milk. It's a rich source of protein." Instinctively, she reached for the glass and took a sip. "Hmm... Not bad." Alexander put on a poker face as he watched the interaction between the two. Putting down his cutleries, he told Elise, "I had something going on yesterday. I'll take you to school today." Just as Alexander finished, Danny quickly replied, "There's no need.

I can go with her, so there's no need to trouble you since there's so much to do at the company. Go ahead and settle the company's matters." "Yeah, we'll just go to school ourselves," she concurred. Looking at both of them, Alexander had no choice but to refrain from what he was about to say. Instead, he responded, "If that's the case, I'll leave first." The servant hurriedly handed him his briefcase when he stood up and headed toward the door.

Taking it, he left without the slightest hesitation. Yet, he didn't leave at once after coming out of the house but waited in his car instead. He waited until Danny and Elise came out and watched as they got into the car happily. Finally, he started the car and drove away after they left. In the car, Elise suggested, "Today's last period is a self-study session, so let's head to the library earlier." "Sure. I'll wait for you at the school gate," Danny replied.

She couldn't stop thinking about the ancient book that she had not finished reading yesterday, while he found that the library's environment was perfect for studying. Hence, with a tacit understanding, they slipped out of class during the last period. When they reached the library, they proceeded to do their own things with unspoken understanding. She was reading on the second floor while he was revising on the first floor.

Neither of them bothered each other. With that, both of them stayed in the library until 9.00PM before they finally left reluctantly. It was already 10.00PM when they reached home. All of a sudden, Elise realized that it was Wednesday—the day that she was supposed to teach Alexander Arisian. Quickly, she typed on her laptop, then she sighed in relief as it turned out that he was offline. At the same time, she was surprised as he was usually on time for the lesson.

What happened today? Meanwhile, the lights of Maybach in the Griffith Residence's yard had been turned off. Yet, Alexander sat rigidly in the car with no intention to get out. With a cigarette between his index and middle fingers, he

took a long drag and exhaled circles of smoke while he recalled the sight of Danny and Elise coming home together earlier.

Frowning, he stubbed out the cigarette and pulled out his car keys before getting out of the car. It was also then that he realized that it was Wednesday, and he was supposed to learn Arisian. He almost forgot. Immediately, he went into his room and turned on his laptop. After going online, he sent Sare a message.

Elise had been waiting for him online all the while. When she saw his message, she typed on the keyboard swiftly and replied to him. After receiving her message, he got up and took off his coat before going into the bathroom, then the sound of water rushing came from the bathroom.

Ten minutes later, he walked to his laptop while drying the drops of water from his hair before sitting down and starting his Arisian lesson with Sare. An hour passed by very quickly. After their lesson, he sent her a private message: 'I heard that there's a batch of good stones that had just arrived in Athesea. Are you interested?'

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Ever since Elise learned about stone gambling from Alexander in Aris the last time, she couldn't stop thinking about it. Of course, she wouldn't miss such a great opportunity now that he had brought it up voluntarily. 'Of course! Where?' Seeing her response, he sent her the coordinates. 'Let's go take a look at 10.00AM tomorrow.' With that, she sent him an okay emoji. Then, he closed his laptop and stretched his back.

Gazing at the starry night sky outside the window, he got up and walked to the balcony. At that moment, he didn't know what was happening to him. Every time he had nothing to do, he would think of Elise. His chest would ache a little as he recalled how she and Danny talked and laughed happily. Narrowing his eyes, he tried to get it out of his head. It seems that I'm not busy enough. I should find more things to do.

The next day, Elise and Danny headed to class together. In her mind, all she could think of was checking out the new batch of stones with Alexander at 10.00AM later. Hence, she came up with an excuse to ask the teacher for a day off. Mr. Winfrey looked at her and advised earnestly, "Though your foundation's good, it isn't good asking for days off so frequently. You should focus more on your studies." Cheekily, she replied, "I know, Mr. Winfrey. I'll take note of that."

In truth, he had high hopes for Elise, and he could see that she was losing focus. However, he couldn't do much about it, so he warned, "This will be the last time I approve your application for leave this semester." We're halfway through the semester already, so I only have another half left that I can't apply for leave. It shouldn't be a problem, she thought. Hence, she agreed unhesitatingly. Right after, she exited the campus with the leave application.

This time, she was fully prepared with a spare set of clothes. She changed into them in a public washroom, and by the time she came out, she had a completely new look. She was now Sare. Staring at her reflection in the mirror, she checked if everything looked alright before booking a taxi to meet Alexander. Athesea's stone gambling market wasn't big, and there was only one street that had a stone shop. As soon as she arrived, she sent Alexander a message.

In less than two minutes, a black Maybach stopped right in front of her. "Get in." Though she was puzzled, she opened the door and hopped into the car. "Aren't we going to check out the stones? Where are we going?" "You won't be able to find any good stones here. I'm taking you to an exclusive seller." Alexander drove along another path and passed by the stone gambling street. After a five-minute drive, the car finally stopped at the entrance of an old-fashioned courtyard.

"Come. Let's get out of the car." Confused, she unbuckled her seatbelt and looked around. There was barely anyone there, making the place seem deserted. "Go in," he walked up to her and said. Then, she pointed at the mansion and asked, "There?" After humming a reply, he led the way. In spite of her perplexity, she placed her trust in him and followed along. The mansion was huge, with a pond in the foyer. After walking toward the end of the corridor along the pond, they finally reached the living room. "Welcome, Mr. Griffith," the servant greeted respectfully.

With a slight nod, he informed, "I'm here to take a look at the stones. Is Mr. Jordan here today?" "He's in the backyard; so are the stones. I'll escort you there," the servant responded. With that, Elise and Alexander followed the servant to the backyard. When they reached, the quiet mansion had suddenly turned lively. Many people were gathered in the backyard, carefully examining and choosing the stones. "This stone seems nice. What's your price, Mr. Jordan?" "It isn't worth much. I'll sell it to you for half a million dollars if you like it." Hearing this, the customer seemed satisfied.

"Sure, I'll take it! Please ask the craftsman to open it." "Please make your payment this way, Mr. Lewis. I'll find a skilled craftsman to have it opened for you." Jordan nodded. After escorting Mr. Lewise out, Jordan made his way toward Alexander and Elise and welcomed them. "Welcome, Mr. Griffith. Who's this?" "She's my friend, Miss Sare," Alexander introduced. She greeted Jordan, "Nice to meet you, Mr. Jordan." "This way, please, Miss Sare!" Jordan brought them over to a batch of stones and introduced, "These stones were just shipped over this morning.

They're in good condition, and the probability of containing jadeite is pretty high. You're a regular customer here who knows the market, and we've gotten used to your practice. What kind of stone are you looking for today?" "I'll take a look first," Alexander said instead. Knowing Alexander's temperament, Jordan replied, "You two take a look around. Call me if you need anything." As soon as Jordan left, Alexander turned to Elise. "Give it a try. Let's see if you have a good eye." Understanding that the stones here would cost at least 300,000, her mindset shifted. It would be a waste to buy a 300,000-dollar stone for practice. "Let me take a look first since I'm not in a hurry to buy," she responded as she examined the stones.

The stones were in different shapes and sizes, with distinctive shades of color. She didn't dare to choose because she knew very little about stone gambling. Thus, she pulled Alexander over and asked, "Why don't you choose one?" He turned and gazed at her. "I have a rule when picking stones here.

I only choose once and will not choose a second time no matter what." She had heard of this rule before. Though some stone gamblers loved stone gambling, they were good at self-control and would never make another reckless purchase after buying an inferior stone. They would also never throw money just because they found good stones containing jadeite. Instead, they would trust their instincts and buy the stone that they fancy at first glance.

"Did you find a stone that you like?" Taking a look at the stones, he answered, "No." She bit her lip upon hearing this and took him to another pile of stones. After looking around, she found a stone with a slightly darker color. Thinking that it was a good choice, she asked, "What do you think of that one?" With a quick look, he stated, "It looks dull. Besides, the chances of it containing jadeite is low since it's placed at such an isolated spot. Stones like this are generally quite cheap."