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Having walked out of Ferry Building, instead of going home, Elise walked alone along the side of the road. Her mind was cramped with dilemmas as she was perturbed. It wasn't until a car suddenly appeared and honked nonstop beside her that she came to her senses. She turned her head to the side and saw a familiar car pulling up beside her. Alexander pushed open his car door and got out of the car. He headed straight for Elise. "What are you zoning out for? Don't you know it's dangerous to dream and walk along the roadside?" His intonation was as serene as ever, yet Elise was able to find concernment within his words. She lifted the corners of her lips and forced a smile. "I was contemplating something and missed your horn. Why are you here?" Alexander, too, was surprised by the coincidence as he was merely out to sign a contract. However, to actually bump into her was quite dazing.

"And why are you here? Aren't you supposed to be in school?" He came back with a question of his own instead of answering hers. In response, Elise shook her head and remained silent. Somehow, she was behaving way differently than on other days. "Bad mood?" Alexander furrowed his brows, pondering how he could cheer her up. Unfortunately, he didn't quite possess the experience to comfort a woman, so it proved to be somewhat of an inconvenience. Having come up with some activities girls would usually like, he inquired, "Wanna go shopping? Or get something to eat?

Or we can go for a simple stroll if you want." After he said that, Elise gawked at him in confusion. Her heart that was tainted seemed to be affected as well. "Hmm... Let's go shopping then." For some reason, Elise didn't feel like rejecting him, so she accepted his suggestion. After scanning their surroundings, Alexander remembered Griffith Group's biggest mall that was nearby. "Shopping it is. Shall we?" And so, Elise got into his car. While she was staring out the window, Alexander sent a text message to Cameron.

A few minutes later, the biggest, most opulent mall in Athesea was cleared out before the staff members respectfully queued up in two lines at the main entrance. "Greetings, President Griffith, Miss Sinclair!" Alexander nodded his head in response. Very soon, a shopping guide came forth to serve Elise. "Miss Sinclair, what do you wish to see? Is it garments of the latest fashion, accessories, or perhaps you're into beauty and skincare?" Initially, Elise assumed they were only doing some casual shopping.

Little did she know, Alexander had arranged such an extravaganza for her, making her feel somewhat awkward. "It's fine. I'll just take my time." The shopping guide replied, "Other than that, we've also just received a new batch of bags that are limited edition. Care for a look?" Before Elise could say anything, Alexander whispered into her ear, "Just get anything you want. Don't overthink it." Thinking she was just too embarrassed to select any product, he decided to reassure her not to worry about anything.

"I'll look around. You don't have to follow me." Hearing that, the shopping guide turned to Alexander, who then waved his hand at her, signaling her to retreat, to which she heeded the instruction. Thereupon, Alexander accompanied Elise as she walked from one shop to another. Every single worker in the shopping mall tactfully approached to guide them. Even the manager of the mall, after hearing the news, consequently hurried over to see them. "If there's anything you need, President Griffith, just give me a call and I'll send it over," the manager warily informed.

On the other hand, Alexander returned to his usual, cold mannerism. "It's fine. I'm just passing by and looking around. There's nothing important here. You may leave." The manager hastily wiped the sweat off his forehead. Despite Alexander's statement, he stayed around, serving them with utmost care. Meanwhile, as Elise didn't expect to see such an empty mall, she didn't carry any purpose with her when she agreed to come. However, after walking around the mall, she noticed there were many things that piqued her interest. Thus, she decided to spoil herself by splurging.

When she was about to pay for the items, Alexander notified the shopping guide, "These are all on me." "It's fine. I can pay for myself," Elise hurriedly refuted. Nonetheless, the shopping guide didn't dare to take Elise's card. Eventually, everything Elise acquired in the shopping mall was afforded by Alexander. "Do you feel better now?" he quizzed. At that moment, let alone feeling better, it was as if she had visited the paradise every woman could only dream of, and the lavish spending was the best stress relief ever. "You're quite the womanizer, Alexander.

Going all out sure feels good!" Seeing she was not as moody as before, he revealed a subtle grin. "As long as you like it." His words carried a huge hint of adoration, but Elise, who was still dwelling on her excitement from shopping, failed to acknowledge it. As they were about to finish shopping, a number of staff members helped them to carry bags of their purchase, following Alexander and Elise out the mall. However, as fate would have it, they ran into Ashlyn. Ever since the incident on the cruise ship, Ashlyn's reputation among the socialites was utterly shattered.

Furthermore, with Alexander pulling some strings from behind the scenes, the Lawsons quickly fell to their demise. Besides, somebody reported her uncle's deeds, pinning down the family entirely. Hence, she was no longer the illustrious missy as she was in the past. For the sake of advantages, the Lawson Family had arranged a marriage between her and a local real estate owner. Right then, Ashlyn was seen with her fiance. Upon seeing Alexander, she instinctively stopped her feet and pursed her lips. In a pitiable tone, she shouted, "Alexander!"

Baffled, Alexander tensed his brows and turned around, only to see Ashlyn. Regardless, there wasn't a trace of emotion on his face as he completely disregarded her. Seeing that, Elise muttered, "Isn't that Ashlyn?" He extended his hand and patted her head. "Let's head back. There's no need to waste our time on irrelevant people." Murmuring in agreement, Elise withdrew her gaze. In regard to the incident back then, she didn't manage to play her cards as the dispute was quickly resolved by Alexander's men. Thus, she had decided to let Ashlyn go for the time being.

However, Elise was a vengeful woman. In other words, to her, forgoing was by no means forgiving. Meanwhile, Ashlyn watched as Alexander and Elise, interacting amiably, walked past right in front of her without responding to her. In that instant, her heart was filled with tremendous indignation. Had the incident not happened, the woman beside Alexander now would have been her. Catching Ashlyn's eyes fixating on Alexander, Ashlyn's fiance stomped over to her. "What the f*ck are you looking at, you wh*re? Have you forgotten you're now my woman?

If you dare to even think about cheating on me, I'll f*cking kill you." In fear, Ashlyn swiftly withdrew her stare and forced a chuckle. "You're reading too much into this, honey. I only have you in my heart." Upon those words, the frown on the man's face was slightly relieved. Despite that, he wrapped his arm around her waist in one swift move and gave her a vigorous pinch. "If I ever catch you looking at any other guy again, I'll plow you dead."

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Ashlyn didn't say another word and compliantly followed behind the man, but her eyes showed a hint of underlying dissatisfaction. How? How does an ugly duckling like Elise manage to live so vivaciously, and yet I have to suffer in such a way? When they arrived home, Alexander carried all the newly bought things to Elise's room. This was his first time in her room, and he could detect a slight fragrance in the air as he entered. "Let me know if there's anything else you need. I'll have Cameron bring it over to you," Alexander said. Elise glanced at the pile of shopping bags in front of her and was a little shocked that they'd actually bought so many things today. "That won't be necessary for now. We've already bought a lot, actually." Alexander nodded and asked, "What do you want to eat for dinner? I'll pass the word to the kitchen." Elise's eyes moved around as she pondered. She thought of something all of a sudden and said, "I want sticky pork ribs and roasted chicken." Alexander made a mental note of her cravings.

"Sure, get some rest and just come downstairs when it's time for dinner." As he spoke, he left her room with wide and brisk steps. Elise cupped her face with one hand as she stared at herself in the mirror. Strangely, she felt like a girl who was being pampered by her boyfriend. Elise lay on her huge bed and stared at the ceiling above her; an image of Alexander surfaced in her mind and she couldn't help but smile sweetly. Then, she rolled over and gradually fell asleep. Night approached steadily outside her windows. It wasn't until a knock sounded on her door that Elise stirred.

She stretched lazily and checked the time—she was surprised to find that it was already over 7.00PM. "Dinner's ready, Miss Sinclair." The housekeeper's voice came from outside her room. Elise quickly replied, "All right, coming." Lifting her blanket, she hopped off her bed before putting on her slippers and leaving her room. On the way down, she bumped into Danny who was playing mobile games on his phone. He instinctively hid his phone at the sight of Elise and greeted her

nervously, "Boss!" Elise looked at him and asked, "Have you been gaming again?" Danny admitted sheepishly, "Yeah...

I only played for a while, though—it was only a round." Elise nodded in response. "Okay. Have you done your homework? Is there anything you don't understand?" To that, Danny quickly said, "Yeah, there are a few questions I don't understand. Can we please go over them after dinner?" Elise hid the cunning look in her eyes as she stared at him. She replied readily, "Of course, but I have a condition." Danny had a bad feeling right away. "W-What is it?"

Elise extended a palm in front of him. "Give me your phone. No more mobile games until you make the top three on your next exam." Danny felt like he was being controlled, but as he gave it some thought, it was indeed his own goal to pay attention to his studies in the first place. He wouldn't be able to study well if he continued to give in to his desires and played mobile games without restraining himself. Thus, he happily handed Elise his phone.

"Here, Boss." Elise said with a chuckle, "Good boy. Listen, you can play your games all day all night when you get into college. I won't stop or bother you anymore then." For some reason, Danny felt a little bummed out when Elise said she wouldn't bother him. It was almost as if he enjoyed being constantly supervised by her. The two of them went down the stairs one after another. The housekeeper said the moment they arrived downstairs, "Mr. Griffith has business to attend to this evening, so he won't be having dinner at home. Young Masters Brendan and Jack also said that they won't be coming home tonight." Elise nodded in acknowledgment and went straight to the dining hall.

Placed on the middle of the dining table was the sticky pork ribs and roasted chicken that she'd mentioned earlier. A warm feeling flooded her heart instantly and her mouth curved up into a sweet smile. "Wow, we're having sticky pork ribs?" Danny hastily pulled out a chair and sat down. Then, he immediately picked up his fork and knife as he prepared to dig in. At that moment, Alexander seemed to appear out of nowhere and bellowed, "Danny!" Danny froze on the spot as soon as he heard that and quickly put down his cutlery. He looked up at his brother and greeted, "Alexander."

It was obvious that Danny was still rather afraid of crossing Alexander. The latter responded lightly and turned to Elise. "Here are the sticky pork ribs and roasted chicken that you were craving. Why don't you give them a try?" Danny realized then that the food on the table was specially prepared for Elise. It was no wonder his brother reacted in such a way. Thus, he quickly pulled out a chair for Elise and politely said, "Take a seat, Boss."

Elise sat down with a smile on her face. Even when the housekeeper had finished bringing out all the dishes, neither Alexander nor Danny started eating.

Alexander turned to Elise and said, "Give it a taste." Elise cut a piece and took a bite. Instantly, the rich barbeque sauce melted in her mouth; it tasted no different from what she remembered. "It's delicious. Please, dig in." Danny had been itching to start eating the moment he saw the food, so he began to stuff his face as soon as he was allowed to.

"These ribs are so good, Alexander." Alexander instinctively hid his hand under the table as he watched them enjoy the food—there was a small but noticeable band-aid around his finger. "Eat more if you like it." Elise thought that the sticky pork ribs were pretty tasty, but she could taste a hint of charred residue on the meat. She assumed that the chef must've been careless with the fire as he was cooking it. Other than that, she didn't give it much further thought. At that very moment in the kitchen, however, Stella was staring at quite a few slabs of pork ribs lying in the trash can, completely burnt and inedible. It was her first time seeing Alexander cook after serving in the Griffith Family for so many years.

At the thought of that, she couldn't help but chuckle. Seems like Young Master Alex has fallen for that young woman. After dinner, Elise went to the study to teach Danny his homework. Just then, her phone rang. She took it out of her pocket and realized that it was an alarm that she'd set for herself. Today was Wednesday, the day she had to teach Arisian to Alexander. "Have you understood everything? Do you have any other questions?"

Danny shook his head. "Nope. I'm all good." Elise then left the study and returned to her room. After locking the door behind her, she turned on her computer and noticed that Alexander was already online. She couldn't help herself and sent him a message. 'Quite on time, aren't you?' Alexander simply replied, 'Yeah.' Immediately after that, he said, 'Let's start, then.

What's the topic for today?' Elise was surprised at how fast Alexander could learn. In just over a month, he'd already mastered the basic Arisian sentence structures and grammar. He practically had no problem engaging in simple conversations as of now. 'Let's practice situation dialog today,' said Elise.

Then, she swiftly began to create a scenario in which they could have a conversation. Though Alexander was usually very efficient in learning Arisian, he seemed a bit off today. In truth, he felt like Sare's way of speech was quite similar to Elise's. Have I gone crazy? Why does everything I do have something to do with Elise?

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Elise couldn't help but ask, 'Did something happen today? You don't seem too well.' Alexander stared at the band-aid around his finger as he replied, 'It's nothing. It's just that you suddenly seem a lot like a friend of mine.' Elise's heart shuddered. She almost immediately assumed that Alexander was trying to expose her identity, but she was also quite certain that her disguise was flawless, and that he wouldn't have seen through it so easily. 'Am I? In what way are we similar?'

A slight frown formed between his brows. He felt ridiculous all of a sudden; Sare and Elise were clearly two different people, so how did he end up linking the two of them together? 'It's nothing. I'm probably just overthinking it.' Elise let out a breath of relief. 'Since you're not feeling the best, let's postpone our lesson.' Alexander didn't reject her suggestion. He replied with an 'OK' emoji and went offline right after. On the other end, Elise stared at the darkened profile icon of

the man, and her subconscious pictured the figure of Alexander at this moment as he sat in his room.

Her lips curved into a sweet smile. The next morning, Jack was quietly waiting downstairs. When there was still no sign of Elise after some time, he called out, "What are you doing, Elise? You'll be late if we don't leave soon!" Elise finally came downstairs in a rush. She had trouble falling asleep last night and didn't doze off until past midnight, which was precisely why she'd woken up late today. "I'm coming!" Elise got into the car in a hurry and Jack immediately drove away.

He seemed to be in quite a good mood today and was humming his new song all the way to school. "Elise," Jack suddenly called her name. She looked up and asked, "Yeah?" Jack studied her face for a moment before he finally let out his question. "You and my brother... Is there anything going on between you guys?" Elise blinked stiffly. She was unsure why he'd ask such a question, but she instinctively denied his claim nonetheless. "Like what?" Jack thought that she didn't understand what he meant, so he tried again and asked, "Tell me honestly, Elise. Have you fallen for Alexander?"

Elise let out a light cough to mask her true feelings. She quickly averted her eyes and answered as she stared out the window, "Nonsense." Jack was obviously unconvinced. "Are you sure? Why do I feel like there's something unusual going on between you two?" For instance, Alexander would take her along even when he hung out with his brothers. Also, the condescending air around Alexander which could be sensed from miles away would disappear without a trace whenever he was with Elise. "What are you talking about? There's nothing unusual going on between us!

Stop imagining things and focus on your new song." Jack stopped probing since Elise was visibly upset. Regarding his new song, the music and lyrics that were both composed and written by H was amazing. The song wouldn't have blown up the way it did if it wasn't for H. In fact, he wanted to personally pay his thanks to H, but he couldn't contact them no matter what; even Noel couldn't help him secure an appointment with H. "Forget it. I won't ask anymore if you don't want to tell me. You know what, though, Elise? You should make your move soon if you really are interested in him.

After all, it's not easy to bag a man as brilliant as Alexander." If he got it right and Elise had really fallen for Alexander, it'd be great if she ended up as their sister-in-law. After getting along with her for some time, he'd found Elise to be a lot less of a nuisance compared to when they first met. She was instead an easygoing and approachable person who could be naturally casual with each of the brothers; she was never too over the top with flattering them or putting up a cold front.

Most importantly, he could feel that Alexander treated Elise rather differently. "Since you have time to pry into someone else's privacy, why don't you think about your own life?" With those parting words, Elise opened the door and got down from the car. Jack watched her furthering figure and muttered under his breath, "What's wrong with my life? I'm doing fine, except I don't have a girlfriend..." His heart ached a little. Was she roasting me for being single?

Nonetheless, he brushed it off with a scoff and didn't think much of it before he started his car and sped off. At that moment, though, his phone rang. He reached out and tried to retrieve his phone from the passenger seat, but he accidentally dropped it underneath. Thus, he hastily bent down to pick up his phone. Just then, a loud *bang* sounded in the air and he slammed on the brakes immediately. The inertia sent his body crashing forward, and his head knocked into the windshield.

It was then that Jack noticed a person lying on the ground. He panicked and scurried down from his car at once. "Are you okay? You good?" However, when he realized who the victim was, he was stunned. Isn't this the girl who's always with Elise? "Hey, are you okay? Wake up." But Mikayla simply lay motionlessly in Jack's arms. He didn't have time for much consideration and carried her straight into his car and gave Ronald a call as he rushed to the hospital.

"I hit someone, Ronald. I'm on the way to the community hospital..." Ronald was stunned when he heard those words. "You're okay, right?" Jack quickly replied, "I'm fine, but she got hurt pretty bad." "Okay, listen to me—don't panic. I'll be there right away. Be careful and don't let the paparazzi catch any of this." Jack hung up and stepped on the gas all the way. At the hospital, the doctor came up to them and quickly pushed Mikayla into the operating theater.

Jack stood outside and waited as he panted for air. Before long, Ronald came rushing up to him. "How's things? How's the person doing?" Jack replied, "She's still in the operating theater." Ronald didn't care much about that, though. "This can never get out no matter what. We'll have to impose a media blackout at once. Listen up, you leave ahead. I'll take care of things here." "But..." "Come on, no buts. Please, Jack, don't forget who you are.

It'll be messy if the media gets a hold of this." Ronald spoke in a rushed manner as he whipped out his phone to call the driver. "Come over to the back door. Jack will be waiting for you there." Then, he hung up and made Jack leave in a hurry. Even though Jack felt quite helpless, he could only leave for the sake of preserving his reputation. Jack returned to the company, but his mind was obviously somewhere else.

Just as he approached the elevator, Charlene, who was heading in his direction with a smile, gave him a warm greeting. "Jack!" Jack nodded absent-mindedly and walked past her with a poker face before stepping into the elevator. The smile on Charlene's face froze in an instant. Jack had never taken her seriously; no matter how many times she'd tried to cozy up to him, he'd brush her off like she was nothing.

"Your phone's ringing, Charlene," her assistant said in a low voice when she saw the unhappy look on her boss' face. Charlene took the phone and put it to her ear. After hearing what the caller had to say, the look in her eyes darkened. "You didn't find anything? How's that possible?"

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"Yes, my people have looked into it for quite some time but they didn't find anything." Charlene's expression darkened even more. "I understand." As she hung up on the call, her grip tightened around her phone. "What's wrong, Charlene? Are you okay?" Charlene let out a scoff and shot her assistant a sharp glare. The one look was enough to send a shudder up her spine. "What's wrong, you say? Are you hoping for something to go wrong for me?" The assistant quickly explained herself, "No, Charlene. I didn't mean it like that." However, the woman wouldn't give her a chance.

"Just pack your things and leave now. I don't want to see you ever again." With those words, Charlene lifted her chin high and stomped away pompously. As she boarded her minivan, all she could think about was the fact that her people had failed to find even the slightest information on H. After all, H was clearly back in the industry, and she had to do something about it. Wait a minute. Since H wrote a new song for Jack, that means they're acquainted. If that's the case, I'll be able to find H as long as I keep an eye on Jack. An idea popped up in Charlene's mind as soon as she thought of that.

If she couldn't find anything on H, she'd definitely succeed if she kept an eye on Jack. Meanwhile, Elise, who was still in class, had no idea about what happened. Seeing that her friend had been absent for the whole day, she sent Mikayla a text message after class. However, she never got a reply even after some time, and she didn't think much of it either. Just then, her phone buzzed with a call. "Boss, they're back at it again." Jamie's voice rang in her ear. He was trying his best to track the other party, but they were too cunning indeed, so much that even someone as skilled as Jamie fell short to them as a rival.

"Just hold them back for now. I'll be there right away." Elise hung up and told Danny to fill the teacher in on her early leave before she rushed to Ferry Building. Jamie had been dealing with them for the time being up until Elise's arrival. After sitting down, Elise didn't immediately begin to track them down. Instead, she tried to contact them. 'What do you want?' Elise wrote and sent it over. Then, she waited patiently for a reply.

Not even two minutes passed when the other side responded with a smiley face emoji. Jamie couldn't hold back from cursing out loud, "Who the f*ck is this dumb*ss?!" Elise knitted her brows. Her fingers ran across the keyboard as she typed, 'I know you don't mean any harm. Otherwise, you wouldn't have continued talking to us for this long, am I right?' The reply was yet another smiley face. This time, Elise was all out of patience. "Boss, let's just end it right now." Elise stared at the emoji replies; her eyes darkened as she sunk into thought. She continued the conversation as she launched another tab and started writing some code.

'Do you know me?' wrote Elise, but the other side didn't reply for a long time. At the same time, Elise had completed her code which she immediately planted into the other party's system. A short moment later, their IP address was already in her hands. Just then, the other party replied, 'I'll be waiting for you.' The reply was simple, and Elise instantly knew what it meant—they had done that on purpose. They'd clearly figured out her actions and had intentionally exposed their IP address for her benefit.

"I'll go with you, Boss," Jamie suggested. However, the moment he said that, a line of words appeared on the screen. 'I want you to come alone.' Jamie felt like they were definitely planning something. "You shouldn't risk going alone, Boss. You're a girl, after all. We should just ignore this dumb*ss." Elise pursed her lips before she said, "No worries. I'll go and meet them alone." "But..." The next moment, Elise stood up. "Don't worry.

I'll be fine." Even so, she didn't know if she was reassuring Jamie or herself with those words. Strangely, though, she had a faint feeling that the unknown person behind the screen was someone she knew, and that they had no intention of harming her. And so, Elise wanted to give it a try and meet them in person. "I'll send you a message every 30 minutes. Call for back-up if you don't hear from me for an hour." Jamie was still worried, but he knew that Elise was never one to turn back once she made a decision. Thus, he could only comply. "Don't worry, Boss. I got it." "Give me your car keys." Jamie quickly took his car keys out of his pocket and gave it to Elise.

She took it and turned around without another word. The IP address pointed toward the outskirts of town. Elise started the engine and drove straight toward the location. An hour later, she glanced at the pin on the map of her phone and looked around. She was quite literally in the middle of nowhere, but she was sure that this was the place. However, she couldn't find anyone even after looking around. Elise started to suspect if she'd gone the wrong way, so she slowed down and drove down the path.

Just then, she saw a huge and extravagant mansion hidden behind a forest of trees. Elise's eyes darkened at once. She got down from the car after parking it by the roadside. As she walked up to the pond in the front yard of the mansion, two black German shepherds came running up to her. Elise looked down at the two dogs and her eyes were instantly filled with glee. "Potato! Tomato!" The dogs stopped next to her legs and excitedly wagged their tails as they stared up at her. Elise crouched down immediately and patted their heads affectionately.

"Oh my god! What are you guys doing here? Papa can't be here, can he?" At that exact moment, the booming deep voice of a middle-aged man came out of nowhere. "Ellie!" Elise instinctively looked up when she heard the familiar voice. She called out cheerfully, "Papa!" When Quentin Fassbender laid his eyes on Elise's strange appearance, though, he couldn't help but tease, "My goodness, are you really my sweet daughter? What happened to your face?" Elise scratched her head a little awkwardly, but the next second, she boldly jogged up to him and wrapped her arm around his.

"Aren't I pretty this way, Papa?" A deep frown formed between Quentin's brows as he stared at Elise. "Why did you do this to yourself? It hurts to see you looking like this." She stuck out her tongue and said, "Hehe! Just for fun." "What's so fun about this? Go and take this ridiculous makeup off your face right now." To his surprise, Elise shook her head. "Nah, I'd rather not. I think this is great for a change. Besides, everyone around me thinks I look like this now. It'd be troublesome if I go back to normal all of a sudden."

Quentin knew that Elise had her own way of doing things, but she was truly too ugly to look at right now. "Alright, sure. As long as you're happy." Elise simply

replied with a scoff and said, "Why didn't you tell me you're visiting, Papa? You didn't need to lure me over in such a manner."

Quentin started laughing loudly when she mentioned that. "What do you think, Ellie? Wasn't it a great surprise?" Elise shook her head. "A great surprise? More like a great scare." However, Quentin put on a mysterious smile. "What I mean is... Were you surprised by the skills of the person who was battling against you behind the screen?"