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When night came, Elise decided to have dinner with Robin and Laura. Her grandparents had nearly gone mad with worry before she successfully escaped from Matthew's clutches, so she didn't intend to go out that night.

However, she still didn't see any sign of Alexander when the clock struck ten and both grandparents had already gone to bed. Elise felt a little antsy at that. She repeatedly paced between her room and the balcony, her eyes fixed on the road that led to the Sinclair Residence, searching for Alexander and his car.

After some time, Elise's pacing came to a halt in the living room. There, she belatedly realized that she was actually eager to see Alexander. Or to be more precise, she was already eager to see him even though they had only been apart for an afternoon.

When did Elise become so attached to him?

As she was immersed in her thoughts, her phone rang from where it was on the coffee table. She paced over to pick it up. The moment she saw Alexander's name on the caller ID, she immediately answered the phone.

Alexander's voice was pitched very soft and low, as though he was afraid of startling her. "Were you asleep?"

"No," Elise answered honestly. "I slept a lot this afternoon, so I haven't been able to fall asleep now. I'm a bit bored."

"Come down, then," Alexander said.

"Huh?" Elise didn't quite process that, standing there stiffly for a few moments before she whirled around and ran toward the balcony.

With the aid of the yellow glow of the streetlights, she could see Alexander, dressed in a leather trench coat. The belt around his midsection perfectly brought out the lines of his waist, making him look even taller and slender.

All of a sudden, Elise felt like she couldn't control herself as she hung up and dashed outside without even throwing on a jacket.

Their eyes met. Before Elise could even speak, Alexander undid his belt and draped his coat around her.

"You still came here even though it's so late already?" Elise asked.

Alexander's gaze was soft, and his voice was so lovingly gentle. "I wanted to see you. I'll only be able to relax once I'm sure that you're still here."

Elise didn't quite understand what he was getting at. If he wanted to make sure that she was safe, a simple phone call would have sufficed. There was no need for him to personally come here.

At the sight of Elise's expression, Alexander knew that she was lost again. His smile deepened, and he reached out to pull her into his embrace.

Someone–Elise had forgotten who–had once told her that the act of hugging could soothe one's heart. So, was Alexander trying to soothe himself by hugging her?

Is it because of what Grandpa said earlier? Figuring that was the case, Elise felt a little apologetic. "Grandpa didn't have any bad intentions. Please don't take what he said to heart."

"Silly, I can't even begin to express my gratitude. Why would I be angry with your grandfather?" Alexander released Elise and took a step back.

Their gazes met again. When Elise recalled the matter of the photos, her eyes began to glimmer. She didn't feel quite at ease.

Strange. She was clearly almost out of her mind with impatience when Alexander still hadn't come to see her. Now that he was actually here, she didn't even dare to look him in the eye.

"Elise," Alexander called out to her.

"Hm?" Elise whipped her head up, only for her eyes to immediately meet Alexander's fiery ones. Instantly, heat rushed to her face. But before she could react, Alexander's cool lips had already pressed themselves against her lips.

All Elise could feel was the jolts of electricity zipping across her nerves. Her entire body burned.

It wasn't until their breaths got heavy that Alexander reluctantly separated himself from her. The edges of his lips twitched up into a gentle smile. "See? Nothing has changed. Isn't that right?"

Her body was the most honest part of her. That kiss alone was proof enough that they were the best match for each other; nothing would change that fact.

And smart people didn't need any further explanation for that. At last, Elise smiled as

well. She voluntarily stepped forward and pressed herself against his chest. "Thank you for loving me so deeply, Alexander."

Alexander didn't speak. They both stood under the streetlights just like that, leaning against each other.

Meanwhile, Robin watched everything from where he was upstairs, unable to sleep because of his concern and worry for Elise

The next day, Elise changed into a casual outfit before she strolled to campus. The moment she stepped into the dorm, Janice stopped her. "Elise, why are you back?!"

The corners of Elise's mouth awkwardly twitched as she scoffed. "Heh... Does it matter much whether I come back or not?" She didn't like to interact much with people like Janice. The reason being, once they had their sights set on someone, they could never be shaken off.

Janice looked around before she said mysteriously, "Elise, I won't be someone that a country bumpkin like you can just shrug off in the future: I'm pregnant, and the baby is Johan's."

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Elise sucked in a breath, her eyes widening as she stared at Janice's flat abdomen in astoundment. She couldn't believe that there was already a new little life forming inside there in just those few days that she had been gone.

To top it off, Johan was definitely not a good match for Janice.

Elise truly didn't understand why Janice insisted on dying on the hill that was Johan Olson even though she was a stellar student at Tissote University, enjoying the best education there was—she clearly had a bright future ahead. And most importantly, if Johan's fiancée, Faye, were to find out, Janice might lose her life, never mind the baby growing in her belly.

Meanwhile, however, Janice still seemed unaware of the dangers she was about to face as she continued to talk excitedly to Elise.

"Now that you're pregnant, you should talk with Johan as soon as possible about your marriage. If the baby arrives with no status and no father, it will be detrimental to both you and the baby."

That was Elise's last reminder to Janice. She didn't want to continue to bother with whatever had happened in the past between them. It was different from how she imagined things would go, but she wouldn't need to keep wasting her breath on Janice anymore.

Having said all that, she smiled and prepared to leave.

"Elise, can you help me?" Janice furrowed her brows together, as though she had been deeply hurt.

Did someone spike her water or something? Why did Janice suddenly do a 180?! Elise had a hard stance on this. Her face darkening, she reached out to push Janice away in an attempt to leave.

However, Janice's grip was like a vice; she refused to let go of Elise. In their tussle, Janice suddenly lost her balance and tipped backward.

Elise's first reaction was to ensure the baby's safety, so she frantically twisted her body to the side to keep Janice from falling. While she managed to help reduce the impact for Janice, both of them still fell over by the door. The back of Elise's head struck the door, and she instinctively reached up to rub at it. But before she could register the pain, she heard Janice's choking sobs. "My stomach, it hurts... Help me..."

Subsequently, a few passing students called an ambulance to send them both to the hospital.

Elise was sitting outside of the emergency room, waiting for the doctor to finish checking Janice when Alexander called her. Immediately after pressing her phone to her ear, she heard Alexander's rich voice. It made her feel significantly more at ease.

"I'm already outside your dorm. Let's go have lunch."

"I'm at the hospital," Elise said.

Instantly, Alexander panicked. Even his tone changed. "What happened? Which hospital are you at?"

"I'm not sure, but it's the one closest to campus. You..."

Beep

Before she could finish speaking, all Elise could hear was the long beep of a call that had ended. She pulled her phone away to look at it, only to see that Alexander had already hung up. As she stared blankly at the screen, the emergency room light dimmed. The doctor then emerged from the room. "Is the patient's family here?"

Elise only returned to her senses after hearing the doctor's voice, getting up to greet him. "I'm her classmate. Is she all right, doctor?"

"We've already given her emergency care. The baby is safe, but I still suggest for her to remain here so that she can be observed for the next few days. Call her family so that the paperwork for her stay can be filed," the doctor said.

"Understood. Sorry for all the trouble."

"It's what any doctor should have done." With that, the doctor left.

Not long after that, a nurse wheeled Janice out and moved her into a regular ward. After hooking up an IV, the nurse urged, "There are limited beds. Her family should hurry up and file the paperwork."

Elise nodded repeatedly. Now that she was involved, she had no choice but to ask Janice for her family's contact. "You'll have to inform your family. What's their phone number? I'll help you call them."

Once she handed Janice off to her family, Elise could withdraw; she would've fulfilled her duty as a responsible citizen. But how could Janice reveal her pregnancy to her

family? She looked away to the side, her lips sealed.

Elise could see through her thoughts, and so she patiently asked again, "Okay, so you don't want your family to find out. How about your best friend then? Or any other friend?"

Janice remained silent.

Elise was a little angry now. "Janice Garcia, do you think that I'll hesitate to leave you here alone?"

"Then just let me die alone," Janice said huffily without even turning to look at her.

Elise smacked a hand to her forehead. She wasn't Johan; was there any point in Janice losing her temper at her? That being said, Elise wasn't actually able to bring herself to do it. Thus, she took the bills and headed to the first floor to settle the procedures for Janice's hospitalization.

Just when she reached downstairs, she ran into Alexander. "Perfect timing, ..."

"I'm glad vou're safe."

Elise had been prepared to vent, but Alexander already had her in a bear hug before she could finish her rant. And so, she swallowed her words. She could clearly sense Alexander's relief after he hugged her. This guy... Did he think I was the one who got hurt?

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That was, indeed, Alexander's thought. After he felt her warm presence, he finally cased up.

Elise didn't dislike Alexander's contact, but the gazes from the other families in the lobby was uncomfortable. With no other choice, she tugged on the hem of his shirt. "We're at a hospital," she reminded.

Alexander reluctantly pulled back before he held her by the arm and thoroughly inspected her. Once he had confirmed for himself that she was unhurt, he relaxed. "Why are you all the way here?"

Elise shrugged helplessly and brandished the bill in her hand. "I was forced to come."

.Alexander took the bill from her, seemingly understanding the gist of the situation

when he saw Janice's name on it. "Since when were you two close?"

Elise squeezed out a pained smile. "Is 'no idea' a good answer?"

In truth, Elise had no idea how she ended up getting involved with Janice either. In her worldview, there were only two colors—black and white. There was no room for gray. She and Janice were already like fire and water; they should be constantly butting heads with each other.

It was Elise's fault for being so soft–hearted. She had wanted to maintain a good relationship with her classmates, but she never expected Janice to try and climb up the status hierarchy. Now, she couldn't shake her off even if she wanted to.

Just my luck, Elise mentally lamented.

Alexander's lips curved up. "The friendship between girls is always a mystery," he joked.

"You can stuff it." Elise had a sour expression on her face. "A passing acquaintance is not a friend, and a one–off act is not enough basis for friendship. I can even say that the president is my friend, but is that possible?"

"With how skilled and talented you are, that's not out of the realm of possibility," Alexander said with a straight face.

Elise immediately pulled a face, squinting to glare at him.

It was then that Alexander knew he had crossed the line, so he immediately changed his tune. "Okay, I'll stop teasing you. Since you don't want to stay here, come with me. I'll let Cameron handle this."

"Great. I've had to put up with the smell of disinfectant the entire morning, and I'm sick of it." Now that Elise already knew that Janice was a giant pain, all she

wanted to do was keep a wide berth from her. She didn't even care that she was causing more trouble for Alexander anymore.

Alexander smoothly pulled her outside. "There's a new restaurant that opened recently. The vibe is nice. It's a good place to relax."

"Sure." Elise's lips thinned for a moment as she smiled. She had no intention of telling him about the truth with Janice. She just hoped that this would be the end of having to do anything for Janice. From now on, they would not get involved in each other's lives.

Alexander wasn't lying. The restaurant was in the suburbs, far away from the hustle and bustle of the city. The air was fresh, the environment serene. If Elise focused, she could even smell a faint sweet scent floating in the air.

The restaurant was built around a lake. It was an open—air establishment. Every few yards, there was a pavilion, and they all had booths. She and Alexander picked a spot with a better view of the lake, and they ordered all of the restaurant's signature dishes.

Elise was starving after all that busywork earlier that morning; she had already begun to dig in even though not all of the food had arrived.

Alexander poured a glass of warm water and placed it within her arm's reach. "Don't worry. I won't be stealing your food," he said, seemingly as a joke.

Elise froze for a moment before she belatedly came to her senses. She had been rude by eating like that, so she hastily stopped.

Alexander actually wanted to tell Elise that she didn't have to be so restrained around him, but his heart melted at the sight of her bashfulness. He selfishly drank it all in for a while, engraving this honest side of her in his heart. His only response to her was a faint smile.

Right at that moment, Alexander's phone rang. He glanced at the screen through the corners of his eyes. It was Cameron.

There was no need for Cameron to call him over the minor nuisance that was Janice. So, it had to be about Matthew.

"I'm going to take this call, okay?" Alexander asked for her permission, picking up his phone to head to an empty pavilion nearby.

"Go ahead." Elise was overjoyed on the inside. This way, she could eat to her heart's content without having to worry about her image.

The moment Alexander left, Elise grabbed one of the desserts, scooping up a large spoonful to wolf down. Instantly, a satisfied smile rose on her face. "Oh, that just hits the spot—"

The food on the table was plated beautifully. All of it tasted absolutely wonderful and delicious, but the desserts were mind–blowing.

Just as she was about to take another bite, a rich male voice rang out above her. "Get the pastry chef to send two more of his signature desserts to this booth."

Elise caught sight of Johan staring at her sinisterly the moment she looked up, a pretty woman in skimpy clothes by his side. His arm was wrapped snugly around the woman's slender waist. It was more than evident just how close those two were.

At the memory of Janice lying weakly but stubbornly in a hospital bed, Elise couldn't help but feel her stomach churn. All of a sudden, her appetite left her.

However, Johan seemed enthusiastic. "If you like the food, you can come here more often. This restaurant is one of my investments. If you ever come back here again, everything will be on the house."

Elise's expression chilled. She put down her food and deliberately put as much distance between them as she could. "There's no need for that. I'm not one to accept charity. I'm not so poor that I can't even pay for a single meal," she said blandly. With that, she steepled her fingers, supporting her chin with her hands as she looked up at him. A harsh glint shone in her pretty eyes. "If you have the time to make idle chit chat with a woman you have no ties to here, why don't you direct some of that attention to those you share your bed with?"

Johan didn't know about Janice's pregnancy. He instinctively looked at the woman next to him upon hearing that. Thinking that Elise was talking about her, a sly look flashed across his eyes. He then reached out and seductively gripped the woman's chin. "Tell Miss Sinclair here how I treat you," he said, seemingly in a teasing way.

The woman smiled bashfully. "Everyone in Tissote knows that you're the best at

understanding a woman's heart. Naturally, you're the kindest man out there."

A pleased look appeared on Johan's face. He then turned to look at Elise and smugly raised an eyebrow. "Heard that?"

"Yeah," Elise said evenly. "You cast a wide net.".

This guy was a casanova, no different from any other playboy out there. He'd go for any woman he could lay his eyes on.

Johan instantly picked up on Elise's implications. She was clearly mocking him fo. being a "manwh*re" among men, who would not reject anything that moves.

At this, he gritted his teeth, his expression changing. A cold look was present in his eyes now. This woman's words are as barbed as ever, leaving no room for

mercy. He hated it with every fiber of his being, but he also felt inexplicably excited. How exciting would it be to conquer a woman like this?

He released his hold on the scantily–clad woman and walked into the booth. Placing both palms on the table, he leaned over to look at Elise. "You know me so well, Miss Sinclair. Could it be that you have eyes for me?" he asked with a half–smile.

"Eyes for what?" Alexander's rich voice instantly shattered the sinister atmosphere hanging over the booth.

Johan immediately straightened up at Alexander's voice. By the time he blinked, Alexander was already right in front of him. When their eyes met, their gazes seemingly morphed into invisible blades, battling with each other. Neither of them would yield.

After standing off against each other, Alexander lowered his gaze to condescendingly scan Johan from head to toe. He then chuckled coldly. "Maybe your honeyed words? Your greed? Or maybe how you're impotent because of how you overindulged while still in your youth?" he asked.

"What did you say!" Johan's eyes bugged out of his skull, his fist unconsciously clenching up.

Alexander, however, was unbothered. He maintained his smile as he slowly answered, "What? Was I right? Did I strike a nerve?"

For a moment, Johan was struck speechless, unable to answer Alexander's question. His chest heaved from anger.

One could attack a man for his looks, his height, or his physique. But the one thing one could never attack a man for, though, was his virility.

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Alexander said it in such a delicate way that Johan's answer did not matter anymore. It was undeniable that the latter was frustrated and embarrassed.

Because both of them were famous big shots in Tissote, the atmosphere became tense and suffocating at once with the two men in a stalemate.

Fortunately, the waiter was observant and quickly went to inform the manager upon perceiving the awkward situation.

Since the manager was also a shrewd lady, she knew that could not afford to offend either party. So, she thought of a way to separate them. "Mr. Olson, your client is still waiting for you."

Initially, Johan was still thinking about how he should put this to an end, and the opportunity soon came. Despite feeling pleased inwardly, he still feigned an impatient look as he cast a side glance at the manager with a long face before looking at Alexander again. "Mind you. No one will forever be on a roll. You're just lucky today but we'll wait and see," Johan gritted his teeth and warned Alexander.

Thereafter, he put his arm around his companion's waist and left.

Meanwhile, the manager and waiter stood aside with their heads lowered. It was only after Johan and the woman had walked away did they go up to apologize to Alexander. "I'm so sorry for the interruption, Mr. Griffith. Your meal will be on the house today. Besides, I'll ask the waiters to send another bottle of first-class wine. Please forgive us and don't take it to heart."

Alexander had no intention to put the manager in a difficult position to begin with, so he looked down and nodded. "Mm–hmm."

Hearing that, the manager curled her lips slightly and was overjoyed. "I shall excuse myself first then."

As she said that, she gave a look to the waiter behind her, and the two quickly left.

On the other hand, Elise had been observing this female manager's performance and realized she was very sharp, so she couldn't help praising her. "This manager is rather observant—she knows it's worse to offend you than Johan."

Hearing that, Alexander smiled faintly and went back to his seat. "Do you think she's just a manager?"

Elise was confused. "Isn't she?"

Seeing that Elise had already finished half of her dessert, Alexander put his beside her. "To be precise, she's actually the owner of this restaurant."

Surprised, Elise couldn't help but look toward the direction where the manager left again.

In the restaurant they were currently dining in, one meal could easily cost up to ten thousand. Hence, it was deemed as a restaurant of the highest standard in Tissote. With that said, the female manager was indeed extraordinary to have this kind of achievement at such a young age.

"Let's drop this topic." Alexander was not too interested in other people's matters, so he switched the topic. "Do you feel like getting revenge?"

"What?" Elise was stunned for a moment.

Alexander lifted his brows and did not explain further.

Elise looked at his expression and understood at once. Then, she waved her hands about and rejected him. "I didn't take it to heart."

After saying that, Elise thought something was not right, so she quickly added, "However, a jerk like him indeed deserves a lesson."

While Janice was alone staying in the hospital, Johan was swaggeringly having a good time out here. Anyone who saw this situation would want to teach him a lesson.

Elise was not a busybody, but she would readily lend a helping hand to a stranger who was faced with injustice, let alone Janice.

Pressing her lips, Elise pondered for a while and had an idea in no time. She looked at Alexander and said excitedly, "Mr. Griffith, would you like to help establish justice?"

Alexander looked at Elise's quirky expression and smiled in affection. "I'd love to."

Thereafter, Elise grabbed Alexander's phone over and sent a message to the major news forums in the city before returning the phone to Alexander again, satisfied. "Your phone, sir."

"What did you do?" Alexander was curious as he had rarely seen Elise this bubbly.

"You'll know tomorrow." Saying that, Elise then finished the remaining half of the dessert in one gulp.

The next day, when Johan woke up on the big bed in a high—end hotel, the woman beside him was still sound asleep. Dressed in a bathrobe, he got out of the bed to pour a glass of wine. Then, he drank it while walking toward the living room and sat down on the couch to read the news habitually.

However, a few minutes after he started scrolling through his iPad, his finger stopped midair above the screen.

*Famous model Vivian is exposed for living a promiscuous life and has had illicit relationships with numerous magnates. It is alleged that Vivian is diagnosed with an STD, and several famous individuals have already gone for a checkup at hospitals as of now...'

Johan thought he had read it wrongly, so he quickly put down the wine glass in his hand and zoomed in on the screen with his two fingers.

After confirming that the Vivian mentioned in the news was none other than the woman lying on his bed, Johan was so annoyed that he threw the iPad right away and snarled loudly, "F*ck this wh*re!"

The iPad was smashed onto the cupboard's glass, and Vivian was awakened by the noise. Ruffling her hair, she sat up on the bed in a daze. Before she could open her eyes, Johan grabbed her hair and gave her a fierce slap in her face.

After falling back to the bed after getting hit, Vivian covered her face in pain and whined pitifully, "What is this about, Mr. Olson? Didn't we have a great time last night? You hurt me..."

Johan scolded while putting on his shirt, "Shut up, you b*tch! You got me in deep trouble! If something really happens to me, I'll kill you!"

Vivian stopped whining at once and could only sob softly as she did not dare to look at Johan. Even after the latter had left, she still did not understand how exactly she offended him.

After that, Johan spent an entire two hours undergoing every possible checkup. It was only until the result was released to confirm that he was not infected with any disease did he feel relieved and leave the hospital.

"You got frightened pretty bad, huh?" Suddenly, Matthew appeared beside Johan.

Hearing that, Johan turned to look at Matthew's direction sulkily. In one glance, Johan immediately recognized the young master who was once on the big headlines. "Damn! Yet another Griffith! What an unlucky day!" he tutted.

"Not at all. You need to be clear of one thing I'm not your enemy at all." Matthew raised his right hand and shook his index finger. Then, he walked up to Johan and stood in front of him. "Don't you want to find out who is the one who got you into such a fright?"

Suspicion arose in Johan the moment he heard Matthew's question. Frowning, he pondered inwardly and remembered that while waiting for the checkup reports, he read through the news again. Just as Matthew had said, the main focus should be on the news that Vivian contracted a disease and had sugar daddies. However, as the incident developed, a few influencers who had huge fan bases exposed old pictures of him and Vivian on social media. As such, he actually became the focus of public opinion instead.

Most importantly, even the Anderson Family was made known to the news. It had only been a few hours since the news was out, yet Faye had already sent Johan tens of messages to question him, which made him frustrated.

To think about it, Johan thought it indeed seemed like someone was deliberately plotting this.

He lifted his eyes to glance at Matthew again. Narrowing his eyes, he asked tentatively as he roughly had a guess, "Are you saying... it's Alexander?"

Matthew lifted his brows with a smile and said, "The Olson Family is also famous in the city. Besides Alexander, who else could be this influential to be able to order around all the major media in the city at the same time?"

"Why should I believe you?" Johan stared at Matthew dubiously.

"Of course you have to believe me." Matthew stuck out his chest with confidence written across his face. "An enemy's enemy is a friend, isn't that right?"

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Johan's eyes darkened slightly as he sank into deep thoughts.

Matthew was now a fugitive, so the only reason he initiated to come to Johan was that he wanted to use the latter to go after Alexander.

However, this encounter did not really mean much to Johan as even without Matthew, he would sooner or later make Alexander suffer too. However, the point was what advantage would he garner from Matthew?

On the other hand, Matthew actually came prepared. Seeing Johan's hesitation, he continued to rub Johan's nose in the dirt. "As far as I know, you just lost to Alexander in the auction recently. It has just not been long since then, yet you're getting screwed over by him again. One would rather die than be humiliated. Don't you want to seek revenge on him a hundredfold like a real man?"

Johan sneered coldly as he understood what was going on. "You're trying to provoke

me?"

Matthew curled his lips and put on an innocent smile. "I'm just unhappy with his actions."

Johan shrugged and had no intention to do Matthew this favor. "I'm not interested in the dispute between you guys. However, let me remind you that there are quite a number of policemen around this area, so watch out."

After saying that in a surly voice, Johan left directly without waiting for Matthew to respond

He was not that stupid. Although Alexander and Matthew were on bad terms, they were a family after all and this relationship could not be denied. If he agreed to join Matthew to teach Alexander a lesson today, he would be the only one suffering if the two men reconciled in the future. As such, he had no intention to be involved in this losing proposition.

Meanwhile, hatred flashed through Matthew's eyes as he stood at the spot and watched Johan leave.

One who lost his position and influence would easily be bullied by the others. He's just an ape who indulges in debauchery. How dare he too look down on me? Fine. I should teach you a lesson then.

Elise received a call from Janice the moment she came out of the restaurant.

Just as she was hesitating whether to answer the call, Alexander directly snatched her phone from the side and switched off its power. "Being indecisive will only put you at a disadvantage. Since when did you become this soft—hearted?"

Elise knew she was in an indefensible position, so she did not retort Alexander's words but merely stuck out her tongue mischievously and admitted his allegation.

Moments like this would show the difference between the personalities of a man and a woman. Although Elise was strong and independent, she was a girl after all, so she would become indecisive when faced with the vulnerable ones.

Nevertheless, the situation now was rather good–since Alexander shielded her from all these, she did not have to get involved with Janice anymore in the future.

Moreover, she had sought revenge on behalf of Janice today, so if Janice still had some integrity, she should know how to resolve the current plight.

Sometimes, having strong support would actually make one weak. In contrast, when she realized that she was completely on her own, she would learn to fix her problems herself.

"Do you want to go home or to school?" Alexander asked.

"School. There should be a lot of outstanding matters to be solved by me after such a long leave."

In fact, this was her original plan for the morning, but it was postponed due to Janice's emergency situation. Elise disliked the feeling of accumulating pending tasks, so she wanted to settle all of them today.

"Head to Tissote University," Alexander ordered.

"Yes, sir." Cameron quickly started the car engine to send both of them to the university

Half an hour later, the car stopped at the entrance of the university.

Alexander's eyes turned lazy and complicated as he sat in the car and watched Elise walk away. "How's the matter of hiring a private bodyguard going?"

"Everything is ready. The bodyguard will enter Tissote University as Miss Sinclair's classmate. I've coordinated with the university to arrange for them to stay in the same hostel too."

"Alright," Alexander hummed indifferently as he kept his eyes glued to Elise.

It was only to this extent that he could be slightly relieved as he would never allow the situation to happen again—where Elise could not be contacted or located for several days.

When Elise walked into the hostel, it was extraordinarily quiet because Addison and the others were napping.

So, Elise softened her steps and walked toward her bed.

Walking toward her place, she realized there were several notebooks of different colors placed on her desk.

She opened them to see the pages fully packed with notes of different subjects. At one glance, Elise could tell from the messy handwriting that these notes were written by Addison.

Feeling touched, Elise smiled.

Addison rarely attended classes on normal days, but she actually took down all these notes for her.

A friend in need was a friend indeed.

While Elise was still feeling touched, Addison suddenly turned around on the bed behind.

"Hey. Elise. You're back. I'm hungry; please order some delivery for me. I feel like having meat dishes..." Addison leaned half of her body against the bed frame and started acting in a coquettish manner before even opening her eyes.

"Sure. What do you want to have?" Elise agreed readily. "Since you were kind enough to help me take notes, I don't mind buying you some more expensive food—I'm fine if you want to dine out too."

Hearing that, Addison widened her eyes at once and became sober immediately. "Seriously? Are you going to buy me a feast?"

"Mm–hmm." Elise nodded and explained with a smile, "But not now as I've just had lunch not too long ago. Is dinner okay?"

"Of course!" Addison kicked away her blanket immediately and started putting on her shirt after getting out of bed.

Elise thought Addison did not hear her clearly, so she reminded her, "We're only going at night. Don't you want to sleep in a little while more?"

"You don't get it. Health is the greatest wealth, and nothing is more important than eating. I need to get out of the bed now to wash up, take a shower, and put on some makeup. Even so, I'm afraid that I won't have enough time and you might still need to wait for me toward the end!" While saying that, Addison quickly jumped down the bed and darted toward the washroom to start washing up.

On the other hand, Elise observed Addison quietly from the side. She always felt that the innocence in Addison was rare among those of their age, and that made Elise feel comfortable getting along with her for some reason.

In short, there was a world of difference between Addison and Janice.

At the thought of Janice, Elise rubbed her brows again as she started pondering how she should deal with her after she was discharged.

Just then, the clattering sound of high–heels emerged from outside the door, and the source of the sound approached closer.

In no time, a tall woman, who had a long ponytail and donned a leather suit strutted into Elise's room.

The woman had a compelling aura, and she started sizing up every corner of the room with her eyes which had heavy eyeliner applied to them the moment she entered the room.

Puzzled, Elise asked, "Excuse me. May I know who you are looking for?"

"Are you Elise Sinclair?" the woman turned around to look at Elise and asked.

"That's me." Elise stood up slowly. While answering to the woman, she racked her brain to recall if she had ever provoked a lady of this style, but to no avail.

"Great. I'm your new roommate cum private bodyguard, Miller Mikey." While saying that, Miller hurled the luggage she was carrying over her shoulder onto the only vacant bed in the room and called dibs on the space.

"Who sent you here?" Elise was still confused—she was here to study, not preparing for a battle, so how weird would it be to have a bodyguard following her around?

"I can't tell you that at the moment. All you have to know is that I'm here to protect you."

Saying that, Miller pulled out the closest chair to her and sat down. Thereafter, she lit up a cigarette and started smoking while staring at the floor in a daze.

Elise frowned as she wanted to continue asking her something.

Just then, Addison came out of the washroom to see the room's door wide open and an overdressed woman smoking swaggeringly in the room, so her immediate hunch was that someone wanted to mess with Elise again.

Without hesitating, Addison pointed at Miller and darted over fiercely. "Who are you?! How can you simply barge into our dorm, and you're even smoking! Mind you. I'm going to report you to the discipline master now. Stop smoking already!"

After saying that, Addison reached out her hand to snuff out the cigarette. However, before she could reach the cigarette butt, Miller sprang up all of a sudden, pressed Addison's face on the table, and seized both her hands from the back.

"It's dangerous here! Leave quickly!" Miller ordered Elise, who was behind her, in a serious manner.

While saying that, she exerted more force on Addison, which made the latter whine in pain, "Ouch... Ouch... Help me! Help me, Elise!"

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Feeling pain, Addison quickly asked for help, "Elise, find the dorm manager and call the police!"

"Stay there and don't move!"As Miller said that, she tightened her grip, making the other scream out in pain.

"Stop!" At once, Elise exclaimed. "There must be some misunderstanding between the two of you. We're roommates, not enemies..."

"Roommates?"

"No way!"

Both Addison and Miller screamed in sync before they looked at each other with hatred and contempt.

"Elise, are you serious? It's only been a few days since you last came to school. How could you have forgotten how many roommates we have? Look at this

person. The way she dresses is so shady. How could she be from our school?" Addison added.

Hearing that, Miller retracted her neck slightly before she took a glance at her outfit. She donned a leather shirt, leather pants, and knee—high leather boots. She'd prefer to say that it was a bold style she had and was nothing close to a shady person.

The contempi between the two continued to brew as none of them would take a step back.

Feeling helpless, Elise could only start from Miller. "You can let go of Addison first. I'll take responsibility if anything happens."

Since Miller was here to protect Elise, she'd likely listen to Elise.

Just as Elise predicted, Miller obediently let go of Addison without showing any changes in her expression. After that, Miller took a few steps back to distance herself from Addison.

Upon gaining the freedom of movement, Addison quickly went to Elise's side and hugged her arm before scrutinizing Miller again. She then said with doubt, "You're really our new roommate?"

Looking at the two of them expressionlessly, Miller only noticed the look that Elise

was giving her. Immediately, Miller understood what she wanted to convey. Thus, she reached for the bag from the bed before fishing out the student identification card that she had just gotten. The card was then passed to Addison. "Affirmative."

Taking it over with both her hands, Addison started flipping it back and forth to check it. She seemed even more serious than a police officer at work, showing just how badly she didn't trust Miller.

Needless to say, it was rude to do so. Elise then pulled Addison to a side and hinted for her to cut it out.

Obviously, Addison understood what Elise was trying to say. She then returned it back to Miller before apologizing. "I'm sorry that I've misunderstood you. However, you really don't look like a student."

Nevertheless, Miller did not reply. She simply turned around and started organizing her things.

Thinking that she was probably mad at her, Addison took the initiative to make up. "You're Miller, right? I didn't mean to be mean to you. We're roommates now, so don't hesitate to let me know if there's anything that I can help you with."

Regardless, Miller didn't reply. She proceeded to take out another cigarette from a cigarette box before twirling it before her fingers.

Out of instinct, Addison commented, "You can't smoke in the dorm..."

Before she could finish her sentence, she trailed off to not make things even more awkward than it already was. Adding extra comments now would definitely be detrimental to their relationship.

Al that moment, the atmosphere became even more suffocating compared to when they were arguing

Elise, who was watching their interaction from the sidelines, felt that the situation was amusing as she thought Addison was just a straightforward person who had yet to become mature enough not to judge a person by their looks.

As a cold and introverted person, Miller wouldn't be too warm even without the misunderstanding earlier. However, what happened had happened. In Addison's eyes, Miller must be holding a grudge against her for the trouble she had caused.

However, Elise couldn't bear to see Addison suffer like that. Hence, she decided to help out. "Miller, Addison is a nice person. Don't take what happened earlier to heart."

Hearing what Elise said, Miller made an effort to explain, "That's just how I am. I'm not used to being close to people, so don't mind me."

At once, Addison smiled after hearing Miller speak up. Following that, she replied in a sympathetic manner, "Don't worry, I'm not a social butterfly either. I don't like socializing with people, but maybe not as bad as you do. It's fine, I'll cover for you in the future!"

Hearing that, Miller hummed in response but her emotions were just too hard to read.

Nevertheless, the ice between them had been broken since they had communicated. So, it was time to leave the past in the past.

As Elise planned to treat Addison to dinner later, she took the chance to welcome Miller. Thus, the three of them went to a restaurant that served food at a reasonable price..

Both Elise and Miller didn't have much preference toward food, so the job of placing the order fell on Addison.

Though Addison had previously announced that she would order everything she wanted to eat at Elise's treat, she felt otherwise after seeing the price of the dishes on the menu. "Elise, their food seems a liule expensive. How about we choose another restaurant? I don't want you to go bankrupt after buying me a

meal..." Addison said as she recalled that she hadn't eaten anything since last night. At that moment, she was so hungry that she could devour a whole cow.

With a chuckle, Elise replied, "That's not necessary. I can still afford to buy you a meal. Just eat to your heart's content. Who knows? I may look to you for your notes

to copy again."

"Waiter"

"If that's the case, I'll just go ahead. Excuse me, waiter. I'd like to order this, this..."

In the end, the table was filled with dishes. Elise and Miller simply ate a little while watching Addison eat.

When Elise was touching up her makeup by applying a layer of lipstick, she saw something from the side of her eye that made her frown.

It was only this afternoon that she had given Johan a lesson. And yet, the jerk had a new partner and was hanging out with her in a public space not long after.

. Shaking her head, Elise convinced herself that she should just turn a blind eye and

not bother the crazy dog.

Just as she was turning her gaze away, Janice suddenly came up in the picture, blocking Johan from walking forward.

Just like that, the trio began to argue near the counter. Obviously, Johan treated Janice as if she was the problem. Every time Janice tried to touch him, he'd push her away.

Amidst the fight, Janice lost her footing and fell backward.

Fortunately, one of the waiters was quick to give her a hand and saved her from falling to the ground. Hence, an accident was avoided.

However, he continued to say, "Stop saying nonsense. You're not my only woman. If all of you came up to me and asked me to take responsibility, I can't be capable of helping all of you, can I? If you continue to bother me, I'm calling the cops."

At this moment, Elise couldn't just sit and watch any longer. So, she walked over in a haste and protected Janice. "Are you okay?"

"Elise?" Janice was surprised to see her there. "I'm fine."

Not bothering to speak logic into Janice, Elise turned to ask Johan, "Are you even a man? How could you do that to the mother of your child?"

"What nonsense are you saying?" Johan still didn't know that Janice was pregnant.

"You didn't tell him yet?" Elise directed the question to Janice.

With a shake of her head, Janice replied, "No. I haven't found the time to."

"Come here with me." Johan let go of his partner before saying that to Janice. Then, he made his way out of the restaurant.

With a happy expression on her face, Janice followed suit.

Looking at the back of her figure, Elise felt worried.

At this moment, Miller appeared all of a sudden and gave Elise a gentle reminder.

"There's a price to pay for getting involved in others' business. I hope that you will not get us into trouble."

After saying that, Miller went in the direction of the washroom.

Though Elise knew that Miller meant well, she couldn't forget about the innocent child that Janice bore. After hesitating for a moment, Elise still felt very concerned, so she left the restaurant too.

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Standing by the entrance of the washroom, Miller stopped and turned back. Staring at Elise who was leaving the restaurant, she silently made a phone call to Alexander.

Seeing that the call concerned Elise, he picked up the call almost immediately. "What is it?"

"Miss Sinclair is a little busybody," Miller said in a sarcastic manner.

Recalling the incident where Janice left the hospital on her own accord, he quickly picked up what was going on. "If that's not the case, how would you have a job to do?"

Hearing that, Miller was speechless. "My job is to protect Miss Sinclair from external harm. If she heads in the direction of trouble, accidents can happen. You can't blame me if that happens."

At this moment, Alexander started tapping on his phone screen before typing out a few words calmly. 'You'll get a commission.'

"Deal." Just like that, Miller hung up the phone and went after Elise. Before she left, she even paid the bill for Addison.

After crossing a street, Elise finally saw Johan leading Janice to a shady alley that no one would notice.

Slowing down her footsteps, she took a glance to check out what was going on, but the sound of a person struggling beat her to it.

Taking a close look, Elise noticed the presence of a few men in suits. They had Janice's hands and legs tied up and even had her mouth sealed. They were slowly dragging her to the other exit of the alley.

"What are you guys doing?! Let her go!" As it was a matter concerning life and death, Elise didn't hesitate to stand forward, hoping that her presence would scare the people.

Nonetheless, the men continued to drag Janice. Only Johan slowly turned back and gave Elise a suggestive smile as he quickened his footsteps.

Knowing that she did not stand a chance against these men, she quickly fished out her phone to call the police. "Hello, is this the police department? I'm calling from the alley next to Xedd Business Center. I've just witnessed a kidnapping case, so

please send help over!"

Amidst the call, a black SUV came from the opposite alley. Then, the few men shoved Janice into the car before closing the door and leaving the scene.

Immediately, Elise chased after the car, hoping to catch the car plate number. However, the black SUV had gone far by the time she reached the end of the alley. Needless to say, she didn't manage to see the car plate number.

Just as she was feeling troubled, a sharp sound of a car stopping could be heard. The next moment, the car stopped right before her with Miller in the driver's seat.

"Get in." Miller was wearing a pair of shades as she sat in the driver's seat. She tipped up her chin toward the passenger's seat, telling Elise to get into the car.

Stumped, Elise quickly snapped out of it before walking past the back of the car and getting into it.

Miller's driving skills were not lacking behind that of Elise. In no time, they were already chasing after Johan's car on a flyover. To avoid letting the opponent notice that they had a tail, they could only hide among the cars.

After an hour, the SUV finally drove into an area that had a messy pathway. Despite having followed them closely, they still lost the SUV at a crossroad.

Left with no choice, the two ended up getting out of the car to ask pedestrians on the street before they continued their way on foot.

Finally, they found Johan's car in front of an old house. Just as they were closing in, the SUV was suddenly revved up and driven off.

By the time Miller and Elise ran to the entrance of the house, the car was missing from their sights after a turn. Obviously, they were not going to successfully chase them on foot.

"Forget it." Catching a breath, Elise glanced at the door that was left ajar before saying, "Let's go in and take a look."

Miller was already on her way when she nodded in response. Standing in front of Elise, she pushed the door that was half rotten open.

Due to the age from the looks of the door, the connecting piece between the door and its frame made an odd creaking noise. Hence, Miller and Elise put their guards up.

As the door slowly opened, they were met with nothing spooky as they anticipated. Regardless, they saw Janice lying there in a pool of blood.

When Elise saw the scene, her mind was blown off. She had a hard time registering that Janice, who was living and kicking earlier, was now lying on the ground without budging. Between her legs, scarlet red fresh blood was trickling down all the way to her ankles. It almost seemed like it signified that her life was already at its end.

With that, Elise immediately walked over and squatted by Janice's side before picking her up from the cold ground. "Janice? Janice! Can you hear me?"

At this moment, Elise felt that her heart lunged up to her throat. Because of her, Janice was now lying in a house that nobody would pass by. If she died, it'd take a long time before anyone would find out. She would have been simply arguing with Johan in public and leaving alone safely if Elise didn't intervene.

However, Janice regained consciousness the next moment. She was using all the strength she could muster to plead. "Elise, save my child. Save us..."

After saying that, she fell unconscious in Elise's embrace.

"Call for an ambulance," Elise said.

It didn't take long before the ambulance reached the road outside. However, the ambulance couldn't enter through the alley, so Miller carried Janice out.

En route, they got a phone call from Addison who was left at the restaurant.

"Elise, did you two get lost in the washroom? Why are you still not back after so long?" As Addison said that, she burped before laughing cheekily. "If you don't come back any sooner, your share of desserts are going to be finished!"

"Go ahead and eat." Elise lowered her head and took a glance at Janice, who had breathing support on, and said in a serious manner, "Miller and I are dealing with something, so we won't be coming back any time soon. The bill has already been paid. Go back to school after you're done eating."

"Did something happen?" Addison asked in concern.

"Nothing. A friend got hospitalized. It's someone you don't know. I'm going over to the hospital now," Elise explained.

"Alright, that sounds serious. You guys go ahead. I'll be fine alone."

"Alright."

After hanging up the phone call, a call from Alexander came through.

Just as she was about to pick up, the ambulance came to a stop. As they had to help the nurse get the patient out of the vehicle, Elise could only put her phone away.

When Janice was finally sent into the operation room, Elise sat on the long chair in the hallway as she returned Alexander's call.

Having witnessed what happened to Janice, Elise had lost hope in romantic relationships. Hence, her tone was inevitably monotonous. "What is it?"

A child was a product of love. Elise believed that Janice and Johan must have liked each other when they decided to get intimate.

However, how could a man be so cruel to a person he shared such an intimate connection with?

"Is Janice in bad shape? You sound unhappy." Noticing her tone, Alexander made it a point to speak more gently.

"Still in operation." Suddenly, Elise had a question. "Do all men give and take their feelings as they wish? As long as they don't love the person anymore, is the person who was once the dearest to them worth nothing more than an ant?"

Hearing that, Alexander was speechless. "Are you comparing me to Johan Olson?"

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Though Elise didn't mean it that way, she could not help but make a comparison upon hearing what Alexander said.

The love that she desired was a love that would last long. Those who chose to give up halfway were all fake love. To her, it was not being together at all or being together forever.

Humans changed too quickly nowadays. So, she just couldn't judge a person's changed character based on love—a feeling that could not be seen or touched.

Perhaps she would end up with a situation like Janice's—closer than ever the first moment, yet could not wait to end her life in the next.

Suddenly, it reminded her of a saying that implied blood–related bond was always more solid than that of non–blood–related. When a couple got married, there would always be some distance between them as they weren't bonded by blood—even though they were already a family. Did she really want to get to that point with Alexander?

"Why are you not speaking?" Feeling that she was a little distracted, Alexander halted his steps.

He had a bad feeling that this incident with Johan was making her lose hope in love.

"Elise." Alexander called out to her softly before continuing in a gentle tone, "I'm not going to say anything to sugarcoat the situation, but please give me a chance. See how I'll do. You don't have to push me to a dead end so quickly. Can you do that?"

A little dazed, Elise nodded as she listened to the call on her phone. "Alright."

After saying that, she hung up the phone call.

Alexander was hoping to listen to her voice longer, but the beeping sound signified that the call had already ended. As he exited the phone call information page to the home page of his phone, he felt a little upset.

Johan Olson was a shame to all men.

It seemed that Alexander had to free up some time aside from going up against Matthew to deal with that fella!

At that thought, Alexander lowered his head before swiping his phone screen again. With his eyes locked at the name 'Cameron, he made a phone call.

"Tell the Andersons that I'll accept their invitation," he said.

"Okay. Is there anything else?" Cameron asked politely.

"Nothing. Focus on Matthew for now. Other things are unimportant."

At this moment, his head was filled with the desire to see Elise. All of a sudden, he recalled the day at the opening ceremony of her school. He bumped into Elise who was dealing with his driver—and that gave him an idea. At once, he picked up his phone before getting into his car to head to the Garcias.

After two hours, Janice was declared to be out of the dangerous state. She was then moved into a normal ward.

Not only was her fetus gone, but she'd also even have to work harder if she wished to bear a child in the future.

All the while, Elise stayed in the ward. Janice had regained consciousness not long after the operation, but she didn't say anything. She simply stared at the ceiling as tears escaped from the side of her eyes. It was wetting the bedsheets, but she didn't seem to be stopping anytime soon.

Though Elise didn't agree on many things that Janice did, she still felt heartbroken seeing how Janice seemed to be suffering.

"Stay strong. You will get another baby in the future. Fortunately, you're still alive. You will be able to get everything you want in the future as long as you don't do anything stupid anymore," Elise consoled as she patiently wiped the tears off Janice's face. .

However, no matter what she said, Janice stayed lying there like a rag doll that was lifeless. She simply lay there without budging and reacuing.

The pressuring atmosphere was giving Elise a headache. Hence, she got up, wanting to go out and get some fresh air.

Just as she turned back, she saw a man with a large build and a face full of facial hair standing outside with a worried expression.

Upon realizing that Elise was looking at him, he quickly hid away.

Feeling odd, she walked over and opened the door. The man didn't leave; he was standing by the door where she couldn't see.

Though the man seemed to have a rough edge on the outside, he gave people a feeling that he was dependable. The positive energy he had on him couldn't be covered by his facial expression as he naturally gave off an earnest vibe.

"Who are you looking for?" Elise asked politely.

"I'm Cedric Adams. I'm the bodyguard of Janice's father," Cedric introduced himself as he took a glance into the ward. Obviously, he was very worried. "How... is Janice now?"

"She's not in any danger, but she has to stay in the room and rest up for some time," Elise replied. She then asked, "Did Janice's father send you? Why did he not come over himself?"

"N–No..He quickly denied before stuttering, "I'm just worried about Miss Garcia, so I came. Mr. Garcia doesn't know about this."

"Oh?" Elise didn't understand. "Since you said that you're just the bodyguard, you must not be very close to Janice. Now, she needs people to take care of her. You're not the most suitable candidate for that. Do you happen to know if she has other friends? Preferably girls. It'll be easier that way."

"I get your gist, Miss Sinclair. I will find two helpers later. I won't make more trouble for you. However, please watch over Miss Garcia before they come. I hope that she won't do anything silly," he said with a serious expression.

"That's not a problem," Elise promised. She couldn't suppress her curiosity, so she asked, "But why should I trust you? I don't even know if you're really a bodyguard. How can I leave Janice in your hands?"

"I have identification!" Immediately, he fished out a green police officer identification card. On the first page, there was an official stamp and a picture.

Taking a guick look, Elise deemed that it looked real enough.

"You don't have to worry now." Cedric offered a smile.

"Well, I'll try." Elise nodded.

"Alright, I'll go prepare then. Please hang in there for a while longer. I'll bring people to take over soon."

After saying that, Cedric left the clinical ward.

The next time he came back was an hour later.

When he came back, he had brought over four ladies. One of them was in charge of cooking, another in cleaning, while the other two would help Janice in showering and going to the washroom.

Standing in the hallway, Elise watched as Cedric told the ladies about Janice's habits and preferences. Seeing the scene, Elise had her suspicions.

"Miss Garcia is a little germaphobic. When you change her sheets and help her with showering, please do it diligently. As for the cooking part, she doesn't like food that's sweet, but she likes flavorful dishes, especially western food. However, now that she's recuperating, it's better to not cook anything spicy..."

In no time, the ladies were given a quick brief and started to work. Quickly, they started to do their job in and outside of the ward.

However, the person who directed everything had not made an appearance in front of Janice. He simply stayed outside in the hallway as he monitored everything that was going on.

Once, Elise noticed how Cedric seemed to be upset and down at times as he looked at Janice who was lying in bed. It was shocking to see how a strong man immediately turned soft and hesitant when it came to Janice.

At that moment, a realization dawned upon Elise. Cedric knew about all of Janice's likings so clearly down to the details. What else would it be if it wasn't that she had his heart?

Someone was willing to self–destruct for Janice.

Suddenly, Cedric got out of the trance and shifted his gaze. At that moment, his eyes met that of Elise, who was watching him. Noticing that his secrets were probably out, he was caught off guard. He then looked away before lowering his gaze.

Without beating around the bush, Elise asked, "You like her. You like Janice, don't you?"

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Many things had happened at school in the past few days. Perhaps it was not the right time to return. Hence, she decided against going back to school for the time being.

Not to mention, she had to deal with Johan. There were some things she had to prepare for.

As Alexander steered the vehicle, he couldn't help but peek at her expression from the side of his eyes through the rearview mirror.

She seemed to be in a trance. She even looked colder than she sounded on the phone earlier.

Seeing that, Alexander felt upset inside. He had made the effort to find Cedric to let her know that true love existed. After witnessing that kind of scene, she should have recollected faith in relationships. So, she wasn't supposed to be as nonchalant as she was now.

What went wrong?

Alexander couldn't figure it out. As he was deep in thought, a car that was going in the forward direction bumped into the rear of his vehicle. At once, he stepped on the brakes and stopped his car steadily.

"Are you okay?" Not concerned about his own safety, Alexander quickly unfastened his safety belt before turning over to check if Elise was hurt.

As the two vehicles simply brushed each other, she only felt a minor jerk in the car. Shaking her head, she reassured him. "I'm fine. We should get out to apologize and compensate them."

Right turns were not allowed here. However, Alexander turned right when he was in his train of thoughts. Therefore, he was responsible for the accident.

"No, there's no need. Just get down the car and wait a little while for me. I'll stop the car by the roadside and let Cameron take over." It wasn't every day that he could spend some time alone with her. Thus, he didn't want to waste it on trivial matters as such.

Earlier, he should've been more careful. Fortunately, Elise was fine. Otherwise, he wouldn't know how to face her.

A man who couldn't even drive properly didn't have the qualifications to take up the responsibility of their future.

Meanwhile, she was still figuring out ways to defeat the Olson Family. Without thinking much, she unbuckled the seat belt before opening the door of the car. Then, she made a beeline to the roadside to wait.

When she got down, the driver of the car behind was already knocking on Alexander's window. After some discussion between the two, Alexander rolled down the window to ask her to get back into the car. "Let's go. They don't wish to ask for compensation. Let's clear the road for them quickly.

It made her feel that something was fishy. When she got out of the car, she noticed that the car that bumped into theirs wasn't cheap. The repairing fees would easily go up to ten thousand. Moreover, Alexander was clearly in the wrong. Hence, it was a closed case.

Not to mention, Alexander was in a rush. If they asked for more than necessary, he might even agree. Why would the opponent give up such a huge amount of money?

At that thought, she turned over to look at the car behind.

The two cars were still in the position where they collided. Hence, the car wasn't very far away from her. From where she stood, she could somehow see how many people were seated in the car.

There was only the driver sitting in the front, while the back seat was filled with a bunch of silhouettes. It looked like there were three or four people. Obviously, they were squeezing there.

That doesn't look right, Elise thought. With the ability to get a driver, the owner must wish for a comfortable ride. Why would they squeeze together when there was an empty seat in the front?

Just as she felt that something was off, she suddenly heard a muffled noise from the back of the car. It sounded as if someone was kicking around from the inside.

Lately, there had been a lot of news on kidnapping incidents of young girls. When Elise was looking through Johan's entertainment circle gossip, she saw two postings on missing persons.

With Alexander's car blocking the way, the car behind couldn't leave. Since they were in public, nothing too bad could happen if she checked it out.

After contemplation, she ignored Alexander's calling before making her way toward the trunk of the gray BMW.

Just as she tried to open the door, the driver suddenly pointed at her before calling out in a fierce tone, "Hey! What are you doing?!"

If he has nothing to hide, why would he be so anxious? That was Elise's thoughts exactly.

The next moment, she pressed on the button to open the door.

At the same time, the man in the car locked the car doors.

Therefore, no matter how much force she used, the car door was not budging.

Seeing that she was trying so hard for nothing, the man inside rolled the window down slightly before showing her a middle finger—it was his way of telling her to mind her own business.

Immediately, that ticked her off. At once, she threw her bag away before exclaiming in the streets, "Help! These people kidnap girls! Come catch the human traffickers!"

Due to the initial accident, there had been some traffic build—up behind. The drivers were all waiting outside their cars, hoping that they could leave soon.

Once they heard 'human traffickers, it was easy to relate it to the recent news reports. In no time, they courageously came forward to the car.

Seeing that things were getting out of control, the driver of the BMW quickly walked up to try and take Elise away. "I'm warning you. Don't you spew nonsense! Your car was the one that hit my car! I was kind enough to not ask you to pay me back, so what more do you want?!"

However, she was having none of that as she persisted, "Really? Why do I feel like you're hiding something? Since we're responsible, and your car is so expensive, why are you in such a rush to leave without getting compensation? You must be hiding something illegal in your car. Don't you guys think so?!"

"Indeed!" The people hated human traffickers the most. Hence, she was getting a lot of backups. Some of the people even had their fists clenched as they were ready to fight.

Seeing that the driver couldn't even deal with a woman, a macho man in the car pushed the door open and was about to hit Elise. But before his hand touched her, Alexander appeared in the nick of time and kicked him, sending him flying off.

At this moment, an old lady came out of the car trunk of the BMW in a haste. Before she could even stabilize her footing, she wailed, "Help! Call the cops! Will anyone save this old lady here?!"

After getting a closer look, Elise found out that it was none other than Bertha Jenkins.

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Since Elise knew who she was, there was no reason for her to just stand by and watch.

Therefore, she quickly went up to Bertha and identified herself as she was afraid that the old lady was dizzy. "Old Mrs. Anderson, do you still remember me? We met before at the Anderson Residence."

"I remember you! You are that lovely girl!" Bertha exclaimed while she tightly held onto Elise's arm.

She had already recognized Elise the moment the latter emerged from the car. If she didn't know about Elise's personality, why would a ragged old lady like her even dare to ask for help? Oh no! I forgot about Jeanie!

As soon as Bertha thought about Jeanie in the car, she immediately dragged Elise to take a look at the rear compartment of the vehicle. "Good girl, please save me and my daughter—in—law!"

Elise didn't resist and allowed herself to be dragged all the way to the rear end of the car as she craned her neck to see what was going on inside. Sure enough, she instantly saw Jeanie whom she met the last time, but Jeanie was now being trapped by a muscular man.

Judging from the situation, Elise had remained still as she thought there was no point for them to wrestle in such a small space. Meanwhile, as Alexander had already gained the upper hand and defeated the two other men, she suddenly had an idea. She squinted her eyes and shouted a warning, "Your partners have already left you and the police will be here soon. Do you really want to fight with them while being trapped here?"

Even though the man had received payment to kill these two women, he was instructed in advance to do so with secrecy, so he could never allow himself to be apprehended by the police. He had wanted the money badly, but he wasn't ignorant about his situation, so he quickly pushed Jeanie away and escaped from the car door.

Although the crowd was angered by what the man had just done, it wasn't to the point where they would sacrifice themselves for justice, so after halting him for a few seconds, they finally released him when they saw how vicious he looked.

After making sure that the man was gone, Elise released Bertha and went to ask Jeanie about her situation. "Mrs. Anderson, are you alright?"

Even though Jeanie was still in a state of shock, she nodded her head and answered, "I'm fine. Don't worry about me."

Elise brought the two women back to her home after much trouble.

Robin had always been enthusiastic toward visitors and after hearing what Jeanie and Bertha experienced, he made some hot tea to calm them down. "Please forgive me. It's not some fancy tea," he said embarrassedly while Elise served them the tea.

"What are you talking about? We were only able to escape danger today thanks to the granddaughter that you both raised." Bertha received her cup of tea and downed it instantly. Due to the critical situation that she experienced earlier, her heart was still racing

When Elise saw how outright Bertha was, she took the initiative to fill Bertha's cup with tea again and asked, "I think I saw that driver before. Isn't he a driver for the Anderson Family? Why would he—"

The moment Elise mentioned the driver, Bertha was instantly enraged as she waved her hand and said resignedly, "It's hard for me to know. All I can say is that it is a disgrace to our family!"

"I understand that every family has their problems. If you don't wish to talk about it, we won't force you to." Robin was experienced enough to know the schemes

and plots in most elite families, but he wasn't willing to inquire about another family's affairs. Sometimes, knowing too much might not be a good thing.

"I'm fine with talking about it. I just hope that you won't laugh after hearing what happened." A tired Bertha shook her head while glancing at Jeanie next to her. At the moment, the eyes of the two women were filled with helplessness and despair.

Without waiting for the Sinclairs to respond, Bertha began explaining the whole situation, "What happened in the Anderson Family is no secret to everyone in Tissote. My husband and son passed away at an early age, leaving us two women to support the family, but sadly, my daughter—in—law suffered a trauma back then, causing her to be mentally unstable. Since she was unable to take on any responsibilities, the company fell onto the only hope in our family, who is my granddaughter—Faye. It was something reasonable for us to do at that time, but we never expected her to harbor evil intentions. When I found out that she is dealing with others behind our backs and is about to destroy the hundred—year foundation our family built, I tried to stop her, but it only made her more desperate to get rid of the two of us.."

While quietly listening to her story, Elise nodded her head in agreement from time

to time. As expected, only a monster would fall in love with a man like Johan. I always thought that Johan is already the pinnacle of evil, but I never expected them to be in cahoots with each other.

She tightly clenched her fists as she couldn't wait to teach Faye and Johan a lesson.

"B*stard!" Robin was so enraged that he raised his cane and banged it on the floor multiple times. "How could one do such a cruel thing to the elders who raised them?"

While listening to them, Laura couldn't help but sigh constantly. It's terrible that their own child is doing this to them. Although Elise isn't related to us by blood at all, she always treats us well. Compared to Bertha and Jeanie, Robin and I should thank the gods for this blessing.

Once Bertha released all her emotions, it felt as though a dam had been broken down and she could no longer control herself. As her eyes became wet, she hastily lifted her sleeves to wipe away the teardrops from the corners of her eyes.

Elise felt really bad as she looked at Bertha, but there was nothing she could say. The only thing she could do was to remember all this and avenge the older folks by teaching those two terrible people a lesson.

After thinking about it, she suddenly couldn't wait to do something, so she said goodbye to the elders in a hurry. "Grandma, Grandpa, you all can continue talking. I need to head to my room to do something."

"Alright," Robin replied.

Then, Elise nodded her head at Bertha and Jeanie to say her goodbyes.

Just as Elise was about to return to her room, she immediately saw the uninvited Fave the moment she turned around.

"Miss Sinclair, long time no see. Do you still remember me?" Faye came into the house.

Without answering Faye, Elise thought whether it was time to hire two bodyguards for Robin and Laura; otherwise, other people would think that the Sinclair Residence was some place that anyone could simply wander in.

The moment Faye walked in the door, she initially ignored Bertha and Jeanie. Instead, she turned toward the two elders of the Sinclair Family and respectfully said, "You two must be Old Master Sinclair and Old Mrs. Sinclair. I can see that you two are remarkable people. No wonder Miss Sinclair has been properly raised and I really envy her."

"Thank you for your praise." Robin moved his head to one side and replied to her cynically, "It's all because Elise is a hard–working girl. It has nothing to do with us, but if you want to learn something from us, we'll gladly teach you a thing or two. At least we still remember what our ancestors have taught us." He was indirectly accusing Faye of being ungrateful and disrespectful to her elders.

Of course Faye understood the meaning behind his words, but instead of being enraged, she smiled and pretended to act dumb. "I definitely want to get the chance to learn from you, but I'm afraid that today is not the day. My mom and grandma had an accident today and suffered a lot of shock. I have to bring them back so that the doctors can check if they're alright." After that, she stepped forward and forcefully grabbed Bertha's arms. Ignoring her resistance, Faye dragged Bertha outside with force while her face revealed a threatening smile. "Grandma, I think you should go back with me. Without you and Mom, the Anderson Family's huge enterprise will lose its backbone and I can't support it alone!"

As soon as Jeanie saw Faye, she was weirdly angered as she ran over to hit Faye. "Let her go, you good–for–nothing little fox. Let her go!"

Faye wasn't able to block her with one hand, so she released Bertha for the time being before pushing Jeanie away. "Are you crazy?"

When Jeanie fell on the floor, Faye glared at her and tidied her messy hair while gritting her teeth. At the moment, she had completely lost that image of a noble lady when she first entered the door.