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The atmosphere in the living room suddenly became freezing.

Duke took the box from the tea table and threw it to Mrs. Winters. "Who gave this to you?" Guilt flashed across Mrs. Winters' eyes, but she pretended to be calm as she said, "A good friend whom I haven't met for a long time gave it to me. Is there a problem?"

"Mom, am I an idiot to you?" Duke sneered. "Earl' is written on the right corner of the box. That's been Earl's habit for many years. He clearly knows that I don't like you meeting him, yet he still signed his name on the gift box that he gave you. Mom, don't you understand why he's doing this?"

Mrs. Winters' eyes began to tear up.

She looked at the signature on the gift box, and her voice trembled a little. "Duke, he's your biological brother. Can't you just accept him? He's changed. He's changed into a good person. Just give him one more chance, okay?" "If I give him a chance, who will give Dad a chance?" Duke's voice was full of pain. "If the chance I give him can bring Dad back from the dead, I'll give him hundreds of chances!" Mrs. Winters covered her face and started crying. "Your father had cancer, and it was just a matter of time before he died. Why do you keep thinking that your brother caused his death?" Duke's expression turned cold. He did not want to say another word.

Due to that incident, he lost his father, and the whole Winters family nearly fell apart.

He would never forgive Earl. It was impossible.

He went upstairs, entered his study, and made a call. "Contact the CEO of Elitos. Ask him to transfer Earley Winters back to Europe."

Outside the study, two boys gently sneaked back to their room.

"George, how come Dad has a brother? Why haven't I heard about it from Dad?" Harold asked in disbelief.

“Based on biology, the gene for twins is inherited. We’re quadruplets, so dad should at least be a twin.” George’s expression was serious as he said, “But it looks like there’s been a misunderstanding between Dad and his brother because of Grandpa.”

Harold scratched his head. “Dad made it sound like Grandpa died because of our uncle. This is not a misunderstanding. This is clearly a feud!”

George pursed his lips and did not say anything else.

kids like them could not interfere with the grudge between the previous generation.

They did not go home the night before, but their house looked the same as it did before they left.

Adina helped Melody take a shower. Only after she put the girl to bed did she start to clean the living room and the house.

Alden obediently took the mop for her. “Mommy, I’ll do it with you.” Adina suddenly felt sad.

If Alden had grown up with the Winters family, many servants would have taken care of him, and he would not have needed to suffer.

The more mature and well-behaved Alden was, the more incapable she felt as a mother. “Alden, I’m sorry.”

Adina stroked Alden’s head, and her eyes were full of guilt.

Alden raised his head and smiled obediently as he said, “Mom, actually Georgie and Hal envy me and Mel because we were able to live with you for four years, as well as be with you every day. They weren’t able to... Compared with them, Mel and I are clearly happier. Why are you apologizing?”

Adina’s heart melted. “My Alden! I must have saved the world in my previous life to give birth to such an obedient and thoughtful son like you.”

Alden looked down.

In reality, he was not obedient at all. He had secretly done many things that his mom had forbidden him from doing.

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He hoped that his mom would never be able to see his other sides.

He paused for a while before he asked, "Mom, do you like Uncle Duke?"

Adina looked at him. "Why do you still call him 'Uncle Duke'? He's your dad, your biological father."

"Sorry, Mom. I'm not used to calling him 'Dad' yet," Alden said in a serious manner. "Mom, if you like Uncle Duke, I'll support your decision."

Adina schooled her expression and asked, "What about you, Alden? Do you like him?"

Alden blinked. "Mom, I asked you first, so you should answer me first."

"I guess I like him a little."

Adina looked out the window in the dark and replied softly. That man was outstanding. He was more excellent than all the men she had ever met. Such a remarkable man had treated her nicely, so she could not resist him.

Besides, the man was her children's father.

If she allowed herself to fall for him, it would only be advantageous to her and the kids. No matter how she looked at it, falling for Duke was the solution for many things... "I like him too." Alden flashed her a smile. "I'll like him as long as you like him, Mom." Adina caressed his face. "Alden, you have to ask yourself whether you really like him. Can you accept Duke as your father?"

"Of course!" Alden nodded without hesitation. "He likes Mel, and he likes you, Mommy. He also likes me. Why wouldn't I like him?"

Adina frowned slightly.

Why did she feel that Alden was not being sincere? But no matter what, she could tell that Alden did not reject Duke entirely.

That was sufficient.

Alden pursed his lips and continued cleaning up. Duke was actually a great man. He did not oppose his mom marrying Duke.

But the need for certainty existed in all humans.

Duke loved his mom now, but could he promise to have only one woman for the rest of his life?

Since that was not a guarantee, Alden had to look for a backup for himself and his mom.

He had to be strong enough. He had to be stronger than Duke. That way, Duke would not be able to hurt his mom.

The next morning, Adina drove to her company after she sent the kids to preschool.

As soon as she arrived at her company, she met Mr. Roberts from the company next door.

Mr. Roberts' secretary, who used to be rude toward her, was standing outside the elevator respectfully. When he saw Adina walk out, he smiled and said, "Hi, Ms. Daugherty. Our companies have been neighbors for so long, but we've never sat down and had a proper meal. Mr. Roberts would like to treat you to a meal. May I know if you have the time?"

Serene walked over and stoically said, "I'm sorry. Ms. Daugherty has an appointment at noon today."

Serene wondered where Mr. Roberts had hired this "top-grade" secretary. He used to look at Ms. Daugherty with contempt and scorn as if he thought Ms. Daugherty had achieved everything because of her beauty.

After the banquet yesterday, people like him probably understood that Ms. Daugherty relied on her own ability. She was even more capable than Mdm. Jones from Jones Corporation!

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"Ms. Daugherty, Elitos Corporation gave you a call earlier," Serene reported respectfully. She purposely mentioned Elitos Corporation, and that made Mr. Roberts' secretary so jealous that his eyes turned red.

Adina smiled and said, "Mr. Roberts, I'm a bit occupied today. Let me treat you to a meal next time."

After she said that, she walked to her office with Serene. "Why did Elitos call?" she asked.

"Mr. Wynters' secretary called and said Mr. Wynters wants to talk to you about the details of the chip design in person." Serene flipped open her notebook and seriously said, "Since the initial draft that we submitted was too simple, Mr. Wynters mainly wants to know the details of a few aspects. Firstly, the source of client data. Secondly..."

Adina returned to her office and compiled the details before she brought the information to Elitos Corporation.

She was now a collaborator of Elitos, so she really needed to communicate the details to them to avoid unnecessary problems.

"Ms. Daugherty, please come this way. Mr. Wynters is already waiting in the meeting room."

The receptionist had received instructions a long time ago. She politely brought Adina upstairs via the exclusive elevator for the CEO. She only turned around and went downstairs after she led Adina up to the meeting room.

Adina knocked on the door after she tidied her hair. A cold voice then rang out from the meeting room. "Come in." The voice made Adina stop in her tracks for a while. She recalled what Duke had told her in the car. 'Stay away from him. 'Early Wynters is a very dangerous person.'

It sounded like a scary warning.

Adina looked up at the corridor not far away. The secretary's office was there, and a few secretaries were walking back and forth busily.

She pushed open the door and went inside. She purposely left it open. "Mr. Wynters."

Adina flashed him a decent smile and sat across from him.

Earley cast a glance at the open door, and his gaze was profound and cold as usual. "Ms. Daugherty, I took the liberty of inviting you here today because I would like to go over some details with you."

Adina took out the documents, placed them on the tea table, and pushed them over. "Mr. Wynters, you can take a look at this first. If there's anything you don't understand, I can

clarify it for you right now." Earley flipped open the document. He only finished reading one page after five long minutes. He pursed his lips and said, "I'm sorry, Ms. Daugherty. I know very little about this. I might need some time to finish reading the whole thing. Please have a cup of coffee first." Adina glanced at the coffee in front of her but did not drink it. The coffee had been placed there before she arrived. She would never drink anything that was prepared out of her sight. She casually took a magazine from the book rack and slowly flipped through it as she read. Suddenly, she smelled a strange scent. She turned to the side and spotted a pot of flowers that she could not name on the tea table. The flowers were blooming, hence their fresh fragrance filled the room.

She looked away before she continued reading, but she suddenly felt sleepy.

The afternoon in autumn was slightly warm. Sunlight shone in from the French window and landed on Duke's shoulders. He suddenly felt irritated and anxious. He raised his wrist and looked at the time. It was 3.00 pm, and there were two more hours before classes at the preschool would be over. It suddenly became a little difficult to get through those two hours. Duke decided to summon Jake. "How's the progress of Project A-F?" Jake flipped through the project schedule and carefully reported, "The project is going well. The first smart car will leave the factory in about two months-" Duke frowned and interrupted him. "Hasn't there been a problem during the process?" Jake shook his head. "Everything's been going very well." Duke pursed his lips.

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He just wanted to find an excuse to visit LaStar Technology Corporation, but he could not find

one.

"Print out the project schedule for me and also list out some problems that we might need to anticipate," he said coldly.

Jake did not know what Duke was planning. He just prepared the documents earnestly and sent them over.

He had been worried about preparing the documents flawlessly, but he noticed that Mr. Winters did not even glance at them before he grabbed the documents and left the office. Jake immediately stepped forward. "Mr. Winters, there's a very important meeting coming

up."

"Postpone it." Duke walked into the elevator with a cold expression. For some reason, he desperately wanted to see Adina at that moment. It was as if he could not be at ease if he did not see her.

He drove to LaStar Technology Corporation as fast as he could. Then, he mentally prepared himself before he headed upstairs with the dispensable documents.

"Mr. Winters, what brings you here?"

Serene was surprised. She immediately led him inside before she quickly served him a cup of coffee.

As she faced Duke, she felt her body tremble. Mr. Winters' aura was overpowering, and a junior assistant like her could not handle it.

"Mr. Winters, Ms. Daugherty won't return to her office early today. Would you like to come again next time or would you like to give her a call?" she said fearfully.

Duke frowned. "Where did she go?" "Elitos Corporation gave us a call, asking Ms. Daugherty to go there in person and discuss the details of the project."

Duke's gaze instantly darkened

He took out his phone and called Adina.

The line was busy, and she could not be reached

He got up and walked outside.

He pulled open his car door, got into the car, and started the engine. Soon, he was speeding toward Eltos (Oppuratioji).

As he arrived at the building's lobby, he saw a familiar figure exit the lobby before he could get out of his car.

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spacious entrance.

“Duke Winters, you’re really capable.”

Earley slowly walked over with an intense and hostile gaze.

He wore a terrifying smile while he slowly said, “Did you think that you could live without worries after getting me transferred back to the headquarters?” He came up with today’s plan after he received a call from the company headquarters.

One could force him to step back, but he also wanted Duke to learn the price of forcing him to back down.

“Your woman’s in the building. Hurry up and find her. If you’re late, I can’t guarantee what will happen.”

Earley flashed him a sardonic smile before he walked away and entered a black car.

Shortly after, the car drove away. Duke could not be bothered with it. He walked into the building, but the receptionist stopped him. “Sir, may I know who you’re looking for? Do you have an appointment?”

Duke raised his arm and pushed her away. His gaze was ruthless. “F*ck off!”

His gaze was ferocious. The receptionist could not stand up to him, so she took a step back in

fear.

After Duke took two steps forward, he turned around again and fiercely said, “Take me to the CEO’s office!”

Threatened by his powerful aura, the receptionist dared not say a word. She grabbed an elevator card and handed it to him as she shook. “You can access the top floor by swiping this

card.”

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The CEO's office was on the top floor of the building of Elitos.

As soon as Duke went upstairs, he attracted the attention of a few secretaries. They were always handling all kinds of documents, so they naturally knew Duke.

A female secretary came forward and respectfully said, "Mr. Winters, may I know if you're here to look for Mr. Wynters? He has an emergency..." Duke glared at the secretary and firmly said, "Where's Adina?" The secretary shuddered in fear.

She used to think Mr. Wynters' gaze was terrifying, but when she saw Duke's gaze, she learned what fear was.

She subconsciously took a step back before she trembled with fear as she said, "I just saw Ms. Daugherty coming in, but I... I didn't see her going out... Maybe... Maybe she's still waiting for Mr. Wynters to return to the meeting room."

"Where's the meeting room?"

The secretary immediately pointed to the other end of the corridor.

Duke walked over and kicked open the meeting room door, but he did not see anyone there.

An unfinished cup of coffee was on the tea table, while a familiar handbag was on the right above the couch.

Duke's pupils shrank dramatically. He walked over and picked up Adina's handbag. Her phone was also inside, and it was ringing.

There was only one name on the caller ID. (Mr. Wynters.) Duke's expression darkened completely. He took the phone and menacingly said, "Earl Winters, I'm giving you one last chance. Where's Adina?"

"Ha!"

The laughter from the phone was full of hatred. "My little brother, you've already found the place. Why can't you see Adina? She's just ten meters away from you."

Duke squinted. He glanced around the meeting room. It was less than 20 square feet. There were two rows of couches, a tea table, and a tall bookshelf.

He hung up before he walked toward the bookshelf. Right then, two security guards entered the meeting room. "Mr Winters, you may be the CEO of Winters Corporation, but you can't rush into the CEO's office in Elitos for no reason. Please level"

Dulu did not even turn around "Get out!"

The saunty yards stared at each other before they slowly walked inside while they tried to

jopale nike boy grabbing his shoulders on each side, hoe onstuitly turned to the side and

slammed one of the security guards on the floor. He had thrown the guard over his shoulder with the back of his hand. Then, he coldly looked at the other one. "You're still not leaving?" The other security guard knew that he could not fight Duke, so he just supported his colleague and ran away! Duke's face was full of coldness and ruthlessness. He walked over and locked the meeting room door.

He did not have the time to deal with these people.

He walked up to the bookshelf again. He pushed it with great force, but he was unable to move

His sharp gaze scanned past every decorative item on the bookshelf, and he finally stared at a statue with the word "Earl."

After he raised his hand and turned the statue, he noticed the bookshelf suddenly part to the sides and split like a door. A doctor in a white coat walked out. "Mr. Wynters, it's done... You're not Mr. Wynters. Where's Mr. Wynters?" The doctor glanced around the meeting room but did not see Earley's figure. Duke looked past the entrance and discovered that it was a lounge. However, a woman was lying on a bed, and it was Adina! He could not be bothered with anything else as he rushed inside. Adina was sleeping on the bed with a rosy and glowing complexion. She did not look any different.

"What did you do to her?" Duke asked angrily. "No-Nothing!" the doctor said guiltily. As he spoke, he tried to leave. Duke immediately walked over and lifted him by the collar. "I guess you don't want to drop my kindness, do you?"

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“No... I really didn't do anything to her. She's just under anesthesia. She'll gain consciousness later.”

Right after the doctor spoke, Adina slowly opened her eyes on the bed. She looked at the two people in confusion. “What are you doing?”

Duke instantly swung the doctor away before he nervously walked to the bedside. “How are you feeling? Do you feel unwell? If you don't feel well, you have to tell me.”

Adina was a little dizzy. She just felt a little tingling on her collarbone, and she wanted to touch it.

The doctor immediately stopped her and said, “Don't touch it with your hand, and don't get it wet, or it will ruin the tattoo's beauty.”

Adina immediately lowered her head, but she could not see her collarbone. Meanwhile, the tingling was getting more and more intense. “Mr. Winters, can you get me a mirror?”

Duke's expression darkened to the maximum. He took a mirror from not far away and handed it to Adina.

Her collarbone was beautiful, but an alphabet had been tattooed on the left side of her collarbone. (N)

She immediately recalled the scene before she lost consciousness. Adina's pink lips were filled with contempt. “It was Earley Wynters.” That man had tricked her to come over under the pretense of work and used an unknown method to drug her. Then, he tattooed the alphabet on her collarbone.

(N)

Earley's name did not even have that letter. So “N” should be a letter in Earley's original name. Why did Earley want to tattoo the letter on her?

Just because she refused to cooperate with him? Adina stared at the tattoo doctor intensely. “I'll pay you double the price. Get this tattoo off me right now.”

There was pride in the doctor's eyes. “The material for this tattoo is a new product that I just developed. No matter what chemical cleaner you use, it won't come off. It'll take at least three years before the color fades a little. Mr. Wynters also personally designed

the shape of the letter. Once the swelling goes down, it will definitely make your collarbone sexter and more allrartive”

finished

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After that, he stepped on the doctor’s wrist. “Do you think you can stay out of this?” The doctor glared at him in horror and fear. “I’m working for Mr. Wynters. If you harm me, he won’t spare you!” “Ha!”

Duke’s eyes were filled with disdain.

Did Earley tattoo an “N” on Adina’s collarbone because he wanted to show his power? Did Earley really think Duke would take such a childish show of power seriously? Duke just did not want to see Adina get involved in the brothers’ dispute. The agitated Duke made a call. He turned around and looked at Adina. “Can you walk?” Adina nodded. “Yes.” She just felt some pain in the tattoo spot. She could still walk.

Duke lifted the doctor with one hand and walked out of the meeting room. He also took Adina’s handbag that was left outside and handed it to her. When the group of three exited the meeting room, the secretaries who were standing at the door immediately took a step back Duke glanced at the secretaries before he scoffed and entered the elevator. The doctor was scared out of his wits. “This is a society governed by laws. What are you doing? I’m telling you. You better let go of me, or else Mr. Wynters won’t spare you.”

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Two bodyguards had been waiting downstairs. Duke threw the doctor over to them and coldly said, “Find a laboratory and keep him there for a month first.” The bodyguards covered the doctor’s mouth and dragged him away as he begged for mercy. Adina pursed her lips before she said, “He’s working for Earley. You mentioned that Earley’s a very dangerous person. If you deal with the doctor, won’t Earley cause you trouble?”

“I’m not afraid of his retaliation. As long as he comes, I have a lot of ways to deal with him.”

Duke's eyes were full of darkness. His father's death was the one thing he could not get over all these years.

Now, Earl even wanted to hurt his woman and tattoo her body. That was something he would never tolerate.

If Earl dared to enter Sea City again, he would make Earl learn what it meant to be defeated by his rival again when he was down.

Adina looked at Duke's profound gaze and softly said, "Thank you, Mr. Winters." If he had not come looking for her, perhaps she would have encountered something more terrifying. When Duke heard her voice, the darkness on his face disappeared like a melted iceberg. He finally composed himself. He pursed his lips and said, "Let's go. I'll take you to the hospital for an examination." Adina took a look at her watch and casually said, "It's getting late now. I have to pick the kids up from preschool. I'll go and pick them up first."

"Get into my car."

Duke pulled open the car door. Adina combed through her hair and said, "I drove over, so I can drive my car." "Get into the car." Duke's tone was overbearing, and he did not allow her to question him. "You've just inhaled an unknown substance, and you were unconscious for so long. I don't think it's safe for you to drive."

Adina looked at him for a few seconds before she compromised and sat in the passenger seat.

She had a pretty strong personality, so she did not like people who were overbearing.

Yet, for some reason, her heart pounded a little fast when Duke ordered her to get into the car.

Was it how it felt to fall in love?

Adina would love to, but Duke suddenly stopped it by the road. Duke unbuckled his seatbelt and yanked her well "live in the car for a few minutes."

He pushed open the car door and got out before he speedily entered a mall. Adina felt dizzy indeed. Perhaps it was the effect of the drug. Just as she was about to close her eyes and rest, Duke came back holding a light pink scarf. "Here, I'll put it on you."

Adina was momentarily stunned. But she quickly understood why he did that. Her tattooed collarbone was still swollen. If Alden and Melody saw it, they would definitely ask her what happened. Alden was brilliant. She would be exposed as soon as she lied.

She should just cover the tattoo with a scarf. Adina felt conflicted. "Thank you, Mr. Winters."

Duke stared at her seriously. "I think we're not distant to the extent that you can only call me Mr. Winters.' What do you think, Addy?" As he stared at her, Adina felt her heart pound uncontrollably fast again. When he called her Addy, it was like an electric charge that sent a tingling sensation through her gut. She immediately looked away and awkwardly said, "I promised to call you 'Duke' last time, but I'm still not used to it, so sometimes I end up making mistakes. If I accidentally call you 'Mr. Winters' again, please remind me." Duke finally felt satisfied. He started the engine and slowly drove toward the preschool. Right after they arrived, the preschool bell rang to end classes for the day. The children's laughter was the purest melody in the world.

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Alden held Melody's hand while he walked over. He obediently said, "Mommy, Daddy."

Melody learned from him and sweetly said, "Mommy, Daddy." Duke bent down to lift the girl. "Did you miss Daddy at school today?" "Yes!"

Melody nodded hard. Her smile was pure and bright Alden raised his head and frowned slightly. "Mommy, why do you look unwell?"

Adina smiled and said, "I was in the meeting the whole day. Someone was smoking in the office, and it was so suffocating, so I felt a little dizzy. Come on, let's get in the car first."

Duke put Melody in the back passenger seat and carefully buckled the seat belt for the children before he started the engine.

Alden sat in the back and leaned forward a little. He sniffed hard but did not smell cigarettes from Adina

He instantly saw the scarf around Adina's neck. He remembered that she did not have the habit of wearing a scarf.

He slowly said, "Mommy, your scarf's quite pretty."

Adina's heart skipped a beat.

She understood her son too well. Whenever he brought up a subject, he had a purpose.

In other words, Alden already suspected that there was something on her neck. It was actually nothing for Alden to see it. The problem was, the whole thing was just too creepy, and she had not even discovered what had happened.

"Alden, you think this scarf is pretty too?" Duke suddenly said. "It's a gift from me to your mom, but she doesn't think it's pretty. Alden, be honest, does this scarf make your mom's skin look fairer?"

Alden stared at the scarf and did not answer.

Melody suddenly clapped. "It's nice! It's very pretty!"

Adina smiled and said, "Mel, if you like the scarf, I'll give it to you, okay?" Melody waved. "Daddy gave this to Mommy as a gift. I don't want it." Duke smiled happily

Melody was truly his sweetheart and they arrived at the Winters family's villa in a blink of an eye

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Mrs. Winters put down her teacup before she also walked out of the house.

When she saw the children, her gloominess from last night instantly disappeared. She walked over and held her granddaughter in her arms before she smiled and said, "Mel, did you miss Grandma?"

“Yes!”

Melody’s eyes were full of joy. She did not look like she used to be an autistic child. Mrs. Winters had bought some good stuff from an auction again today. She could not wait to let the servants take them out and lay them on the climbing mat like it was a flea market.

“Mommy, I miss you so much!”

Right when Harold wanted to climb onto Adina’s body, Duke carried him instead. The boy moved around uncomfortably. “Daddy, I don’t want your hug. I want Mommy to hug me.”

“Either I hug you or you stand,” Duke said coldly. Harold tilted his head, contemplated for a few minutes, and seemingly compromised. “Okay, I’ll just stand.” Duke was speechless. This must not be his biological son!