

The entire room fell silent.

Bonnie furrowed her brows and shot Theo an exasperated glare.

She knew that Theo was acting impulsively because of his overconsuming guilt toward Roanne, that this was his way of compensating for Roanne's tragic death, but Rachel had been the love of his life before this!

How could he say something so hurtful in front of her? Even if he did not want to be with Rachel anymore in the future, it did not give him the green light to treat her like this.

As soon as she thought of this, Bonnie exhaled and lifted her head to stare at Theo coldly. "You don't think she has anything to do with this? Can you guarantee that you won't regret what you said today?"

"If you can guarantee that, then I'll let you do whatever you want, including marrying a dead girl that you won't be able to bring home to your parents. I don't care whatever you do! "If you can't guarantee that you won't regret your decision in the future, you should take back what you just said!"

"There are other ways of compensating for Roanne's death, like helping her track down her birth parents so that she can at least rest in peace knowing she has a family, but instead, you choose to do it in the most destructive way for both you and the people around you!" Bonnie's tone was so stern and solemn that Theo stiffened upon hearing this.

He furrowed his brows and was about to say something, but in the end, he changed his mind and remained silent.

Seeing that Theo did not reply, Bonnie immediately understood that he was not entirely gone; his rationality was intact. As long as... "What's going on? You chickened out?" All of a sudden, Rachel stood up and stared coldly at Theo. "Judging by how determined you were, I thought you'd stand by your promise of marrying that dead girl, so why are you hesitating now?". "Do you somehow think that I'd still accept you if you came running back to me even after all this? Well, let me tell you this, Theo: I'll never take you back." She curled her lips into a smile. "Never. Everyone has always thought I'm eccentric, Theo, and you yourself know that, but the fact is, I'm just someone who sticks to her word, no matter how hard it is. "Let me tell you this one last time, Theo: there's no way we'd ever

be together anymore.” Then, she dangled her phone in front of them and added, “My fiancé is coming to fetch me soon, and I’m going to leave now. Meanwhile, I wish you and your dead wife nothing but the best and that you’ll live happily ever after. Goodbye.”

Then, she turned and strode away. Theo remained motionless, staring at Rachel’s retreating figure, the light dissipating from his gaze.

Bonnie furrowed her brows and nudged him. “Go get her back!” “It’s too late now,” Theo muttered. “The moment she makes up her mind...there’s no turning back.”

Then, he turned to stare at the civil rights officer, who was still frozen in shock. “Is there really no way to legally marry Roanne and me?” The officer said with a pained expression, “Sir... I really can’t help you. If you really want to, maybe you can...you can host a ceremony to bind your souls together and feel like you’re truly married?”

Theo sighed and was about to say something in reply when Harvey, who had been silent all this while, sprinted over to them.

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Harvey then handed the civil rights officer a blank piece of paper and pen. “Sir, can you please write an unofficial certificate of marriage for my Uncle Theo? Even though it won’t be legally recognized, I’m sure he can still accept it.” Everyone in the room froze upon hearing this. Bonnie understood what Harvey was trying to do and immediately glanced at Theo. “Theo, you’re not a kid anymore, and you should know if the civil rights officer tells you he can’t do this for you, he means it. If he’s willing to write you a marriage certificate right now, at least it’ll be something, right?” Theo froze for a moment, contemplating this, then nodded reluctantly, like a child who had to give in to an undesirable request. The civil rights officer had no choice but to do as Bonnie and Harvey said and scribbled a ‘ marriage certificate’ for him, even drawing a fake stamp to add to its credibility.

Theo held this certificate close to him, like a newly obtained treasure, and muttered, “Roanne ... I’ve finally fulfilled your wish. From today onward, you’re my wife... You can finally rest in peace...”

Bonnie let out a sigh, staring at this crazed man, and escorted him out of the building like a child together with Harvey.

However, to their surprise, Rachel had not left yet.

At that moment, she was standing at the curb, calling someone on her phone repeatedly while glancing at her phone once in a while, as though she was waiting for someone to pick her up. Bonnie furrowed her brows and was about to approach her when a silver sports car screeched to a halt in front of her.

The window was lowered, exposing a man's handsome face. "Dr. Liddell, what made you change your mind and agree to the date my grandfather set up?" This man... Bonnie remembered him; he was Caleb Crawford, the wealthiest man in Lincoln City and heir to the Crawford family fortune.

At one point, Luna had been tricked by Heather into going on a blind date with this man, but to everyone's surprise...not only had Caleb and Luna hit it off in a platonic way, but in the end, he became close friends with Joshua, who was his competitor. Bonnie had always been puzzled by this but never asked Luna about what happened. "I was feeling a little bored, so I decided to try something new." Rachel curled her lips into a smile FSD8/JBP opened the passenger side door. "What's wrong? Did you change your mind about me?"

"What is there to change my mind about? To be able to marry such a beautiful, smart woman like you—a doctor, no less—is a blessing for both my family and me, so what is there for me

to change my mind about?" Caleb raised his brows teasingly at Rachel and added, "Where would you like to go for dinner tonight?". "Anywhere you'd like. Perhaps you'd like to bring me to your old haunts where you used to bring your ex-girlfriends?" Caleb started the engine, smirking. "Me and my exes used to play it a little more exciting; I'm scared you might not be able to take it..."

"There's no such thing as that. Try me." Then, without warning, Caleb's car roared to life and sped off like an arrow. Bonnie remained motionless, gaping at the silver car that had disappeared, then turned to glance at Theo. "You... Why don't you go back, calm yourself down, then apologize to Rachel? Judging from the way she and that Caleb guy talked... I think she means it when she says she's given up on you."

Theo glanced coldly in the direction the car had left in, clutching the marriage certificate in his hand. “What she does is none of my concern anymore.” Then, he curled his lips into a bitter smile and met Bonnie’s gaze. “What would you have done if you were in my shoes?”

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Bonnie rolled her eyes. Perhaps to Theo, this was an impossible question to answer, but to her, she did not even hesitate.

“If I were you, I wouldn’t have chosen a dead person over the people around me, knowing that my actions would hurt them, and besides...” She turned to shoot Theo a cold glare. “Even if Roanne were still alive, you wouldn’t have loved her back, anyway. Your feelings toward her now are built on guilt rather than true love.

“I can never do what you did, blaming someone else’s death on yourself and sacrificing everything just to make up for that. What happened in the past will always remain in the past, and since I can’t change anything about that, I won’t make myself miserable because of this.”

Bonnie sneered and added, “If I were you, this wouldn’t even have been a choice in the first place.”

“Is that so?” Theo could not help snickering when he heard Bonnie’s reply. He shot her a taunting glance and said, “What if Roanne was the old Jim, and Rachel was the new him? Who would you choose, then?” Bonnie furrowed her brows upon hearing this. “That’s not fair! They’re not the same!” “How are they different, then?” Theo sneered. “You told me that what happened in the past will always remain in the past, and so you won’t make yourself miserable over something you can’t change, but...” He lifted his head to meet Bonnie’s gaze. “Aren’t you keeping yourself in the past by fixating and obsessing over the old Jim? You’re so drowned by your love for him that you can’t even see the fact that he doesn’t love you anymore. Aren’t you doing the same thing as me? Lying to yourself and making yourself miserable over something that won’t return?”

Bonnie’s words caught in her throat.

She bit her lip and glared at Theo, then said coldly, "They're not the same, Theo! Roanne will never be able to come back from the dead, but my Jim will one day come back to his senses. I believe that one day, the Jim that loved me and cherished me above anything will return. "He's going to recover his memories soon; you just wait!" Then, she took a deep breath DQB8/WBS reached out to grab hold of Harvey. "Theo, if you're going to continue lashing out at the people trying to help you, then I don't intend to stay here. Luna begged me to come to talk some sense into you, and I've said everything I wanted to!" Then, she reached out to hail a taxi, opened the door, and got into the backseat. "Take me to Tea Cottage." "Alright," a cold male's voice rang out from the driver's seat. Bonnie froze, then immediately lifted her head.

The man sitting in the driver's seat was none other than Jim!

At this moment, he looked even more cold and aloof than how she had left him. He had changed into a fresh set of clothes and was sitting quietly in the driver's seat, looking like an actual taxi driver.

Bonnie froze for a moment, then suddenly realized that she had not gotten into a taxi at all, but Jim's black Cayenne! She was so outraged by Theo that she had mistaken such an expensive car for a taxi! Seeing that Bonnie was silent, Jim curled her lips into a smirk and smiled at her through the rearview mirror.

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"I've been waiting here for a while now, and I overheard everything you said to that Theo guy.

Bonnie's entire body stiffened when she heard this. Her expression darkened as soon as she recalled the conversation she had with Theo. She...had been talking to Theo about Jim's amnesia. Not only that, but she had been so angry at him that she even insulted him directly before bringing Harvey into what she thought was a taxi. If Jim overheard everything... "I heard everything," added Jim, curling his lips into a small smile as though he could see through Bonnie's thoughts. "Were you and the old Jim very much in love in the past?" Bonnie fell silent upon hearing this. Someone had asked her this exact question after Jim lost her memories, and every time, her answer was the same. "Before Jim lost his memories, he and I had been so happy together, and if he hadn't suffered amnesia, we would've been married by now."

Every time someone asked her this question, she would give this answer so confidently because she truly believed in it. At present, however, when faced with the same question from Jim, she somehow could not answer anymore.

“You two used to be obsessed with each other!” After a few moments of silence, Harvey let out a sigh and took his phone out of his pocket. “I still have a video of you two spending Christmas together last year!”

Then, he clicked play on the video. “Jim, you asshole!” “You’re calling me an asshole? Just because I hit you with a snowball?”

“Yes, you are!”

“Well, you haven’t seen the worst of me yet!”

Jim and Bonnie’s playful voices rang out from Harvey’s phone as soon as he pressed play. Bonnie pursed her lips, and even without glancing at the video, she could remember what had happened on that very day. The three of them had been fighting in the snow and building snowmen together that day, and in the end, Bonnie and Jim had kissed underneath the mistletoe, promising Harvey that they would one day become a family.

She still remembered the grin on Jim’s face that night. However, within just six months, he had turned into another person entirely. A man who, even after knowing that Charlotte had been lying even after learning that he and Bonnie had dated in the past, still refused to acknowledge her as his partner. Jim, on the other hand, furrowed his brows when he heard the voices coming out of Harvey’s phone.

His eyes were fixated on the road ahead, focused on his driving, so he could not watch the video, but from the sound of their voices, he could imagine how beautiful the smile on Bonnie’s face had been.

Had she...been so in love with him in the past? Had they at one point been happy together?

All of the memories Jim had of her were of her crying. Tears of sadness, determination, stubbornness, and sorrow. He had never seen her smile, and this was also the first time he had ever heard her laugh. For a split second, Jim wished for nothing more than to regain his old memories, but at the same time,

he could not help feeling scared of this. He was worried that his guesses were right but, at the same time, terrified of what would happen if he was wrong. What if... What if, in the past, he had never loved Bonnie at all and had just chosen to be together with her out of guilt? What would happen to them then?

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Harvey's video had finished playing.

Bonnie's head was lowered, and she was silent. Jim, too, was fixated on his driving, pretending as though he did not hear anything from Harvey's video at all. The entire car was silent, as though everything that happened had just been a dream.

Finally, they arrived at Tea Cottage.

Jim unlocked the door and said, "Harvey, get out of the car first. I have something to talk to your mother about."

Harvey sighed and glanced first at Bonnie, then at Jim. "Alright, but you two talk this out properly. Don't argue, and don't you dare get into a physical fight!" Then, he opened the door and got out of the door. As he did this, Bonnie, too, placed a hand on the door handle on her side and tried to slip out of the car unnoticed. She had nothing to talk to Jim about. In the past, when she had been desperately trying to salvage their relationship, he had chosen Charlotte over her and rejected her over and over. Time and time again, he had even insulted her and led to her being injured. All of the injuries on her body had something to do with him. Not only that, but during her meeting with Rosalyn and Charles the day before, he had not ceased to humiliate her either.

All that, and he was claiming that he wanted to marry her just a day later? What did he think she was? Did he think she was some sort of pet that he could chase away and beckon to him at his fancy? As soon as she thought of this, Bonnie could not wait to get out of the car, but before she could do this, Jim caught sight of her trying to escape and swiftly locked the doors. Bonnie almost caught her finger in the door in doing this, and as she drew her hand back quickly, she shot Jim a murderous glare and snapped, "Are you trying to murder me again?" "Did I allow you to get out of the car?" Jim curled his lips into a

smirk and said curtly, "I've already said I wanted to talk to you in private, and yet you're trying to escape from underneath my nose. This is a punishment."

Bonnie rolled her eyes at him. "I don't know what you want to say to me but...I have nothing to say to you."

"If you want to talk to me about getting married, I've already made it clear that I refuse to do so, and as for Harvey's custody... I think it's best that we discuss this when your father and

mother are present, and finally,"

She let out an exhale and glanced at him. "Shelly is neither your child nor mine, but I intend on adopting her for now. If you finally recall who her mother is in the future, feel free to contact me, and we can discuss this further." Then, she closed her eyes and let out a deep sigh as though she were trying to release all the frustration that had been on her mind all this while. A split second later, she opened her eyes and said, "I've said all I want to, Jim." Theo was right; she had been drowning in her love for the old Jim that she failed to open her eyes to the truth.

The fact was, the old Jim and the present Jim were two entirely different people. Whenever she was on her own, Bonnie would ask herself, did she still love the current Jim?

The answer was yes.

She loved Jim as a person, and it did not matter to her whether he possessed memories of her or not, and she did not care what kind of person he became.

As long as Jim was still Jim, and his voice, appearance, and personality remained the same... she would love him till the end of time.

Despite this, she was not someone who pestered her exes even after knowing they did not love her back.

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If it were not for the fact that she and Jim had dated in the past, she would not have pestered him for so long.

What Theo said to her that day had reminded her that she had been lying to herself too. She had accused Theo of being so fixated on the past that he could not open his eyes to the truth and the people around him. What made her think she was different?

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