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Gwen's face was filled with doubt when she asked this.

Luke could not help curling his lips into a smile as he met her nervous, darting gaze. "What is there for me to overhear?"

Then, he shifted into a comfortable position as he leaned against the doorframe and gently tilted Gwen's chin up, forcing her to meet his gaze. "Did you say something to Luna about me that you didn't want me to overhear?"

He was asking her this on purpose, but to Gwen, she thought this meant he had not heard anything at all.

She let out a sigh of relief. "Nothing; I was just talking to Luna about women's stuff and didn't want you to hear."

Luke curled his lips into a smirk and leaned forward to gently kiss her on the lips. "It's about time. You guys should bring Bonnie to the hall now."

Then, he hovered close to her ear and said in a low, tantalizing voice, "If you want to talk about anything private, you can tell it to me in bed tonight.'

Gwen's entire body stiffened when she heard this, and a split second later, her cheeks flushed scarlet.

She shoved him away from her and said, "Alright, alright."

Then, she darted back into the room and emerged again with Luna, wheeling Bonnie in her wedding dress.

As soon as she came out of the room, Luna caught sight of Luke standing at the door. Instantly, she remembered Kate and was reminded of how lenient Luke had been toward her.

At the thought of this, she rolled her eyes at Luke and proceeded to wheel Bonnie down the hall with Gwen.

Luke sighed as he stared at their retreating figures, then leaned against the wall, took out a cigarette from his pocket, and lit it.

Through the puff of the cigarette smoke, he could see Kate's silhouette walking in his direction.

She stopped next to him, took out another cigarette from her pocket, and lit it as well.

She leaned against the wall next to him and watched Luna and Gwen leave. "Feeling sad now? It's not too late for you to change your mind; there's no telling she won't make it through..."

Luke sneered and turned to glance at her. "Once I make up my mind, there's no changing it."

Then, the closed his eyes and took a puff of his cigarette. "You should probably go home soon, shouldn't you? I promised your family I'd take care of you until you decide to return home, but I don't have much time left now."

Kate glanced at him, frowning. "What if I tell you I haven't had enough fun yet?"

"What's wrong? You want to stay and attend my funeral?" Luke let out a self-deprecating smile. "Don't bother; I just want to leave in peace."

Kate stared at him, still frowning. "I won't bother you."

Seeing that there was no point trying to persuade her otherwise, Luke shrugged and put out his cigarette. Suit yourself."

Then, he turned and strode in the direction Luna and Gwen had left.

Kate narrowed her eyes as she watched him leave, and after a long while, a small smile crept onto her face.

Kate Miller was a woman who always got what she wanted.

When Luna and Gwen wheeled Bonnie into the Landry family living room, Jim was already waiting, dressed in a white tuxedo with gold trimming.

Next to him stood Harvey, his eyes red–rimmed and dressed in a smaller but identical version of the same suit.

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The sight of a father and son standing together at the altar would usually be an amusing one, but the solemn look on their faces made it hard for anyone to laugh.

The atmosphere in the room felt heavy and suffocating.

When he saw Bonnie coming, Jim let out an exhale and strode toward her, holding the bouquet in his hands. Finally, he got down on one knee in front of her and said, "Bonnie, if I ever get the chance, I hope i can meet you again in my next life.

"If that opportunity arises, you can lose your memory and forget everything about me; you can do anything you want to me because this is what I owe you.

"I promise that no matter how you treat me, I'm going to stand by your side until the end of time."

With that, he placed the bouquet in Bonnie's lap, closed his eyes, and gently kissed her hand.

Watching this, Luna could not help laying against Joshua's chest in comfort, her eyes tearing at the sight before her despite knowing that Bonnie would not die.

In the past, she used to think that Jim and Bonnie's relationship was very superficial, and in her opinion, the only reason she and Jim had started dating was by accident.

That night, Heather spiked both Luna and Jim's drinks with an aphrodisiac, causing her to fall back into Joshua's arms, whereas Jim hooked up with Bonnie.

It was only after this that Jim and Bonnie started seeing each other in secret, and in Luna's opinion, any relationship that began as a purely physical one would not last long due to the lack of a stable foundation.

A relationship based on physical attraction and not an emotional one would not be a healthy relationship.

Therefore, Luna had always doubted Jim and Bonnie's relationship, but...

Staring at the earnest look on Jim's face, a twinge of pain shot through her heart.

She knew that Jim and Bonnie were perfect for each other, and she was the one who had been mistaken all along.

All of a sudden, the clock struck nine.

This was the time that Bonnie was supposed to awake from her coma, according to Rosalyn's calculations.

This was also the estimation of Bonnie's death, which they had given to Jim.

Luna clutched Joshua's hand and instinctively glanced in Rosalyn and Charles' direction.

The two of them, like Luna and Joshua, were also gazing in anticipation at Jim and Bonnie. All of them were waiting for Bonnie to wake up, waiting for the flicker of delight on Jim's face, and waiting for their happily ever after.

A minute passed, then two, then three...

Even until 9:10 p.m., there was still no sign of Bonnie awakening.

Jim clutched her hand tightly as tears slid down his cheeks. "Bonnie..."

"Mommy! Mommy..." Harvey, too, began to sob as he held Bonnie's hand.

A heavy feeling crept into Luna's heart as she glanced at the time.

A split second later, she turned to glance at Rosalyn.

Did Rosalyn not say that Bonnie would wake up at 9 p.m. precisely?

However, the look on Rosalyn's face was just as confused as hers.

What happened?

The poison that Bonnie had been put under should have worn off at this point, so why was she still unconscious with no sign of awakening at all? "Mommy's not breathing anymore!" Harvey howled at the top of his lungs.

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This sentence seemed to put everyone on their toes.

All of a sudden, Luna felt as though an invisible hand was squeezing her heart,

How could this be?

Did Rosalyn not say that Bonnie was not poisoned at all and could wake up tonight? Why was Bonnie still unconscious and worse... had stopped breathing altogether?

"Bonnie..." Jim, who had already prepared himself for this moment, tried to feel for Bonnie's breath. After doing so, he remained silent and instead wrapped his arms around Bonnie's legs tightly.

Apart from Jim and Harvey, everyone else in the room had expressions of shock plastered across their faces, including Rosalyn.

"No-this can't be!" Rosalyn narrowed her eyes and stood up from her wheelchair.

Her drug could never go wrong! Unless...

Unless Nikki had added something else into the syringe when poisoning Bonnie!

However, Nikki had always thought this was a real poison and could not possibly have added anything else into the concoction.

At the thought of this, Rosalyn tried to sprint in Bonnie's direction, but she was so frail that after two steps, her legs gave out beneath her.

Charles quickly picked her up when he saw her fall. "Are you okay?"

"No…" Rosalyn stared at Bonnie in the distance and said in a trembling voice, "Bring me over… I want to check on Bonnie!"

Charles nodded and quickly shuffled over to Bonnie's side with Rosalyn in his arms.

"There's no need to waste your energy, Mother." Jim let out a bitter chuckle when he saw the worry on Rosalyn's face. "Didn't you already say that there was nothing you could do? I've already accepted this fact."

He failed to mention that his heart withered soon after,

"No, it's not that, Jim." Rosalyn exhaled, strode forward, and felt for Bonnie's breath, furrowing her brows.

Bonnie's symptoms...did not seem right!

"Come help me." Rosalyn glanced at Jim. "I want to do CPR on her."

Jim let out a calm, bitter chuckle. "What use is it to do CPR now?"

The time had already come, and this was Bonnie's cue to leave, was it not?

In the days after she had been poisoned, Jim had tried to find ways of curing her, but it all led him to disappointment

Now that he had already prepared himself for this moment and talked himself out of taking his life to join Bonnie, why was everyone so agitated over this, as though none of them had accepted the truth?

Was it because he was too cold-hearted?

"I can't explain this to you now." Rosalyn frowned and said urgently, "If you still want Bonnie to live, come help me right now."

There was a hint of solemness in Rosalyn's urgent voice.

Jim hesitated for a moment, then finally sighed. "Alright."

He was probably the person who wanted Bonnie to live more than ever.

Luna furrowed her brows, glanced at Joshua, and asked in a low voice, "Aren't you going to help?"

"There's no need for so many people." Joshua frowned, and a glimmer of malice flashed through his eyes as he gazed in Jim and Rosalyn's direction.

He had sent a team of outstanding medical doctors to check on Bonnie's condition every day, and they would also give Rosalyn a copy of her medical report daily without fail.

Therefore, Rosalyn had always been in the loop about Bonnie's condition, and if anything were to go wrong, she would be first to find out.

It had been seven days, and all her parameters had been stable. Because of this, Rosalyn was confident that Bonnie's immune system was recovering tremendously and she would wake up in time.

Why, then, did she stop breathing at the moment she was supposed to wake up?

The fact that Rosalyn was trying to perform CPR on Bonnie meant that her condition was critical...

Joshua narrowed his eyes and let go of Luna's grasp. "I'll go check on this."

Then, he strode out of the house and dialed Lucas' number.

"Sir, I'm in the hospital surveillance room right now, and the footage shows that..." Lucas furrowed his eyebrows, staring at the screen before him, and said in a trembling voice, "Around midnight, Mr. Landry left Ms. Craig's room for about half an hour because Young Master Harvey wasn't feeling well, and he had to take him home.

"The surveillance footage of Ms. Craig's room during this half hour was wiped entirely, but."

Lucas let out an exhale. "One person was caught on the hospital entrance security camera during this time..."

Joshua narrowed his eyes. "Who is it?"

"It's... Mr. Lucifer Howard, the former Malcolm Quinn...

"The time he entered and left the hospital...lines up perfectly with the time Mr. Landry and Young Master Harvey left Ms. Craig's room."

Joshua's hand, which was holding the phone, stiffened when he heard this.

He fixed his gaze on a point in the distance, and a glimmer of malice flashed through his cold stare.

Malcolm Quinn

Not only had he brainwashed Thomas, his biological cousin, to turn against him, but he even tried to hurt Bonnie so that Jim would fall into a pit of despair and be unable to run the family business!

Even though Samuel kept praying for him and trying to help him redeem himself, Malcolm still had no ounce of regret at all!

Joshua narrowed his eyes.

This time, he would not show Malcolm mercy no matter what.

He still had not taken revenge on him for his past sins yet.

"Where is he now?"

Lucas fell silent for a moment before finally saying, "He... He's being well protected in Mr. Thomas Howard's private residence."

Lucas sighed and asked tentatively, "Sir, I know you're probably irate right now, but you'd better consider all your options before taking revenge on Mr. Quinn...

"If you don't handle this appropriately, it'll further strain your relationship with Mr. Thomas Howard. "Mr. Howard is the son of your mother's twin sister, after all, and he-" "He doesn't even give a shit about me," Joshua interrupted him curtly. "I cherish all my friends and family, but..."

He narrowed his eyes. "Thomas Howard doesn't deserve any of this."

Lucas did not dare to object any further upon hearing this. "Sir...do you plan to..."

"Get my car ready." Joshua let out a sharp exhale. "I want to go to Thomas Howard's place right now and demand he hand over Malcolm."

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"Where are you going?" a crisp, childish voice rang out from behind Joshua before he could hang up the

call.

He immediately turned around and came face—to—face with Neil, dressed in a dashing suit. "Daddy, don't you think it's a little inappropriate for you to leave at a time like this?"

Joshua furrowed his eyebrows before a small smile spread across his face.

He ambled over to Neil and squatted so that they were at eye level with each other. "What's inappropriate about that?"

Neil's breath caught in his throat when he met his father's cold gaze, but he still replied obediently." Daddy, Aunt Bonnie in is a life and death situation now, and Mommy's entire family is trying their best to save her...so it would come off rude if you were to leave now."

Joshua narrowed his eyes and glanced helplessly at the boy before him.

Out of the three children, Nigel was always the silent one, and even though he was a mature and trustworthy child, he never seemed to care about maintaining harmony in interpersonal relationships.

Nellie was the youngest and had been spoiled by Luna and her two elder brothers. Therefore, even though she was still considered mature for her age, she was the most mischievous of the three.

Neil, on the other hand, did not appear to be as talented as his brother and sister in their respective fields, but he was still an intelligent child with good ideas constantly. Because of this, he was always a considerate person and would frequently take other people's feelings into account before doing something

Therefore, Joshua was not at all surprised that Neil would be the one to say this to him.

Joshua let out an exhale and gently stroked Neil's head, then replied, "Neil, you know better than anyone that I'm not a doctor nor a healthcare professional or any sort, much less someone who knows how to bring back the dead.

"Even if I stay here, I won't be of much use to your Aunt Bonnie at all.

"On the contrary, the person who tried to hurt her is waiting anxiously for news of her death right now, and because of this, he won't try to escape yet.

"If I don't seize the opportunity to ambush him right now, he'll surely escape when news of your Aunt Bonnie spreads."

Neil fell silent upon hearing this. He knew that logically speaking, Joshua was right, but...

He also knew that Luna was an emotional person, and if Joshua were to leave at such a critical time and Aunt Bonnie did not make it through, she would accuse him of being a coldhearted person...

At the thought of this, Neil sighed and lifted his head to meet Joshua's gaze. "Daddy, can you tell me that ...the person who tried to harm Aunt Bonnie..."

The glimmer in his eyes seemed to dim as he said, "Is it Uncle Malcolm?"

Joshua's entire body froze upon hearing this. A split second later, he furrowed his eyebrows and shot Neil a puzzled look. "How did you know?"

Joshua himself had only discovered Malcolm's appearance at the hospital after hearing Lucas' report, so how did Neil manage to guess it so accurately?

"Because..." Neil sighed before explaining, "Last night, Harvey wasn't feeling very well, so June secretly made some soup for him and asked me to send it to the hospital for him.

"When I did this, I saw Uncle Malcolm coming out of the hospital and getting into his car...

"I was confused when I saw this because I thought he had already left Merchant City. I even thought I had mistaken someone else for him."

Then, he bit his lip and said nervously, "Now that you mention someone tried to hurt Aunt Bonnie last night, I can't help but think of him..."

A glimmer of disappointment flashed through his eyes. "Uncle Malcolm practically watched Nigel, Nellie, and I grow up, and I used to think he was a good person..."

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"I never thought that..."

When he saw the look of despair in Neil's eyes, Joshua was unsure of how to console his son.

He could understand Neil's disappointment and sorrow, considering that the three children had, at one point, thought Malcolm was going to be their new stepfather.

However, this was not the children's fault; it was Malcolm who had fooled everyone.

"How about this?" Neil lifted his head to stare at Joshua. "I'm familiar with Uncle Malcolm, so I think I'd better stall him while you stay by Mommy's side."

Neil tried to explain this calmly and clearly. "I heard you say you wanted to go to Thomas' house and demand he hand Uncle Malcolm over, but I think this is a risky decision, Daddy.

"It's unlikely that he'll hand Uncle Malcolm over, and if you went, it'll only aggravate the tension between you and Mr. Thomas even more.

"Even though you don't care that he's your cousin, he's still Mommy's future business partner, and this added tension won't benefit anyone."

Joshua narrowed his eyes and gazed intently at the seven-year-old boy before him.

After a long time, a helpless smile appeared on his face. "I guess you're right."

He had been so overcome by rage that he failed to consider the long-term effects of his actions.

After all, he had just sent Yannie to get close to Thomas and obtain his DNA sample a few days ago, and if he and Thomas got into a dispute at this moment, it would be challenging for Yannie to carry out her task.

At the thought of this, Joshua curled his lips into a smirk and stared at the boy before him. "You have any good ideas?"

"Leave this to me!" Neil patted his chest in confidence. "I'm the one who knows Uncle Malcolm best, so leave it to me, Nigel, and Nellie to lure him out of his hiding place.

"What you have to do right now, Daddy, is to remain by *M*ommy's side. If... If Aunt Bonnie never wakes up again, Mommy will be the most devastated person in the room, aside from Uncle Jim."

A surge of warmth spread through Joshua's heart when he realized how considerate Neil was toward Luna's feelings. He reached out and wrapped his arms around Neil's shoulders. "Your mother is blessed to have you as her son."

The warmth of Joshua's embrace made Neil's heart quiver, and finally, he sighed. "It's my blessing to have you and Mommy as my parents.

"I'm not as smart or talented as Nigel and Nellie, so I can't do much to help you and Mommy, but I try my best."

Joshua's arm stiffened upon hearing this. "Neil."

He gently pulled Neil away from him and fixed his gaze on the boy's face. "Please don't even think you don't match up to Nigel or Nellie, and don't you ever think of yourself as anything short of amazing.

"To me, you're the one with the most potential out of the three of you."

He did not mention the fact that, in his opinion, Neil was the one who was most equipped to take over Lynch Group in the future.

Neil sniffed. "Okay!"

Then, he shoved Joshua away and said, "You'd better get back soon and take care of Mommy!"

"Alright, but promise me you'll take care of yourself too. Malcolm is a very dangerous man, so please watch out." Joshua sighed, ordered Lucas to dismiss the men he had gathered, and returned to the living room. At this moment, the entire room was in chaos.

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Rosalyn was in the midst of performing CPR on Bonnie with the help of Yannie and a few other servants.

A thin film of sweat coated Rosalyn's pale, feeble–looking face while Jim glared at Charles in the distance, his entire stance defensive.

"Father, Mother, what the hell is going on?" Jim demanded coldly. His hands were clenched into fists as he fixed his bloodshot eyes on Charles.

"Jim, don't blame Father and Mother for this; they didn't know this would happen..." Luna was holding onto Jim in an attempt to calm him down. However, the more she tried to do so, the more agitated Jim became.

"What do you mean they didn't know this would happen?" Jim narrowed his eyes, his face clouded with hatred. "All of you knew that Bonnie would awake from her coma tonight but decided not to tell me, didn't you? And now that something terrible has happened, you finally decide to tell me the truth? If I had known...

"If I had known Bonnie wouldn't die and would wake up eventually, I'd put even more care into looking after her so that this wouldn't happen!

"You let Harvey and I wallow in our sorrow for so long, then finally decide to tell us that Bonnie wasn't going to die all along. Now, because of your mistake, she's probably not going to pull through! "Who the fuck do you think I am? How dare you treat Harvey and me like this, and not to mention Bonnie?".

When she heard this, another layer of sweat collected on Rosalyn's already wet forehead.

Charles, on the other hand, was speechless as he stood there, gaping.

He did not know what to say.

Both he and Rosalyn had thought that hiding the truth about Bonnie's condition would help Jim realize his true feelings toward her.

On top of that, they thought that giving Jim a surprise amid his sorrow would make him appreciate and cherish Bonnie even more from that day onwards.

However, neither of them-not even Joshua or Luna-ever thought that something like this would happen without warning.

Now, when faced with Jim's anger, Charles did not know what else to say other than words of apology.

How did this happen?

"Jim, Joshua Ahoʻl\F{ I also played a part in all this. It wasn't all Father and Mother's responsibility, so please don't blame it solely on them," Luna whimpered as she clung to Jim's arm. "You should put the blame on me instead!" She was more than familiar with Charles and Rosalyn's condition, and she knew that they were already feeling guilty over this.

11 Jim were to continue blaming them for what happened to Bonnie and cause them to suffer even more guilt and regret...

She was worried that her parents would not be able to handle these emotions and that something terrible would happen.

At the thought of this, Luna bit her lip and added, "If anything happens to Bonnie, you can punish me in any way you want, but please don't blame Father and Mother, okay?"

Jim could not help frowning when he heard this. He turned to stare at Luna coldly and sneered. "Why did you think I'd let you off the hook? "You—all of you—are murderers! You killed Bonnie!" "Weren't you the one who killed Bonnie?" Joshua interrupted him curtly.

He strode into the room, pulled Luna into his arms, and together, they shielded Charles from Jim's view. "Have you forgotten?"

He fixed his dark, penetrating stare on Jim's face. "The reason Bonnie had gotten hurt and became unconscious, which allowed Nikki to poison her in the first place…"