

She is a ceo novel -Chapter 41

"I asked the reporters who were involved in the report this morning about Lucia to be here to clarify the rumors. And the reporters sitting in the right half of the room can report what I'm telling you today," said Arthur who still ignored the noise because if he spoke, the room would be quiet.

Lucia looked at Arthur from the stage. She did not expect Arthur to invite all the reporters who were involved in the report. Obviously, his purpose was not only to clarify but also to do something more.

"First of all," Arthur stood in the center of the stage, and his low and magnetic voice could be heard every corner of the hall through the speaker.

"Last night, were any of you at TalentScoop Company's Mr. Kaur's birthday party? Did anyone see me, Lucia, Eduard, and Jacob arguing?"

When Arthur finished speaking, he gave the reporters a chance to say something, but no one did. So he lowered his eyes and continued.

"Second, how did you conclude that Lucia was having an affair five years ago?"

This time, a reporter raised his hand to ask a question. Arthur gestured to a staff to hand over the microphone and listened to the male reporter's question.

"Mr. Davies, we know that you had nothing to do with Lucia's affair five years ago, and we don't know why you tried so hard to defend Lucia, but I was there. Lucia was lying in bed after our break-in. She did appear to have just had sex with someone. There are photos to prove this. We are not misreporting, aren't we?"

As the reporter spoke, Lucia, standing in the audience's seat, clenched her fist uncontrollably. She had not expected anyone to speak so plainly about what they had seen. No matter how powerful she was, the rumors still hurt.

Arthur's eyes grew sharp as the reporter's voice paused. Unconsciously, he glanced in Lucia's direction and saw her head was lowering. Without hesitation, he turned back to stare at the reporter and asked sternly.

"First of all, you didn't catch Lucia's so-called 'lover' five years ago. So, when Lucia was alone in her hotel room and not conscious, why didn't you consider other possibilities? Maybe she was raped. Maybe there was an accident. But you don't even think about it before you said that she had extramarital affairs."

The male reporter was speechless. Arthur's words were so reasonable that the reporters were talking again. Yeah, Lucia was alone in her hotel room. Why would

anyone rush in and find no trace of any other man present and conclude that she cheated, instead of believing Lucia was assaulted?

Who made this claim directly public?

Suddenly, the public, who thought Lucia must have cheated on her husband five years ago, had new questions about what happened.

All the reporters on the right side of the room talked about this topic, and none of the reporters on the left side said anything. They looked left and right. No one knew what they were thinking. The contrast was striking.

“Right now, I’m gonna tell you.” Arthur gave a cold look at the reporter, who was still standing, and then turned his head in Lucia’s direction. His eyes grew soft for a moment, then he slowly held out his hand in her direction.

Without hesitation, Lucia looked back at Arthur and walked in his direction.

Seeing the gossip heroine suddenly walking on the stage, the originally low voice of discussion turned into noise. Apparently, no one expected Lucia to be at the conference.

Lucia ignored them and walked slowly to Arthur’s side. Then she raised her hand and placed hers in his palm.

Arthur’s hands were so warm.

As soon as he touched Lucia’s hand, Arthur gently pulled his hand and wrapped it around her tiny hand. He looked down at her with a slight smile before turning his head and continuing to address the assembled reporters.

“Because Lucia is my girlfriend!”

The crowd was stunned.

Arthur had been at Athegate for many years. Because of his dignity and good look, he had always been a favorite subject of the paparazzi. Unfortunately, no one ever caught him having any affairs. And he never revealed anything related to his relationships. Then the paparazzi gave up.

However, today, a man like him who seemed to have no interest in women actually directly held a press conference in the company to announce his love for Lucia, which showed his seriousness and sincerity.

Lucia herself was taken aback by Arthur’s words. She had guessed that his purpose was to clarify the rumors, but she had never expected Arthur to announce his

relationship with her in public. She was sure that Arthur would not like his private life to be known to the public, and yet he did so on his own initiative, without making assumptions, in order to protect her.

Thinking of this, Lucia was moved and felt sorry at the same time. Therefore, after Arthur said this, she held her head high, faced all the reporters' suspicious eyes, responded to all the bad with a calm attitude, and stood together with him.

Arthur chuckled and went on. "Did Lucia become the CEO of Jibillion because of Eduard? Did you know that she graduated from MIT and is a student of Nike Federer, the well-known doctoral advisor of MIT, the academic master of Finance and Economics? Her thesis was published in a USA financial magazine, and that USA Finance and Economics hailed her as the most talented woman of the last decade?"

All the people present were surprised to hear her information. Most journalists were so focused on the scandal of five years ago that they forgot Lucia had changed. The fact that she came back and even became the CEO of Jibillion showed that she was not simple.

Arthur continued, "Do you think that Lucia needed someone else to get to where she is today? You can find out yourself whether Lucia knew Eduard when she got the offer. How dare you judge without even doing basic research?"

No one dared to respond.

Despite Lucia's impressive academic credentials, the fact that she was a protegee of Nike Federer was enough to impress everyone.

Nike Federer was the most famous man in finance. Every financial academic report he published influenced the financial situation of the whole world. He had also worked at Southwind Tavern, Cambridge, Oxford, MIT, Yale, and the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research and others to engage in lecturing and researches. He was the unrivaled god of every person in the financial field.

The fact that Lucia was a student of Nike Federer spoke for her ability. The alleged exploitation relationship between her and Eduard also collapsed of itself

Arthur used his way to clarify the rumors one by one. Now, no one dared raise their hand to question it.

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Satisfied with the silence of the crowd, Arthur quietly squeezed Lucia's hand and made a conclusion of the day.

“I have invited you here today to tell you personally that your companies have received a lawyer’s letter from Davonnis Corp, and I will sue you for making false reports and bringing bad publicity to my company.”

Arthur’s warning was blunt and bold, but none of the people here would dare to question his strength. None. The reporters in the left half of this morning’s report quietly buried their heads, and no one dared to look at Arthur onstage.

Arthur had said all the things he wanted to say. The person in charge who had been standing at the side of the stage came quickly to continue to host so that Arthur and Lucia could leave safely.

Arthur and Lucia seemed to have nothing to do with what just happened.

After walking into the elevator and out of people’s sight, Lucia embraced Arthur and apologized, “Arthur, I’m sorry you have to go public with our relationship because I know you don’t want your personal life to be public.”

“You are wrong about that.” replied Arthur, smiling as he hugged Lucia.

“What?” Lucia looked up blankly. Had she guessed wrong what Arthur was thinking?

Her eyes were large and round, and her lips parted. Arthur kissed her forehead lovingly and passionately before answering her question. “I want the world to know that you are my woman.”

“You really fascinate me…” Lucia was shy from the kiss on her forehead and bent her head slightly to keep him from seeing her smile.

The press conference was over, and the reporters left one after another. Especially the reporters in the left half. They didn’t look very good. They didn’t expect Arthur to fight back in such an extreme way. Not only did he clarify the rumors on the spot, he had even sued these companies. Many of those reporters were paid to do this.

As soon as they left the meeting, many reporters received a lot of phone calls and they were all apologizing. These calls were all from their superiors at the companies, asking them why they had messed with such a powerful character as Arthur.

Among them, there was a male reporter who had just hung up the phone with his superior before he picked up another call, and he said impatiently, “What can I do? The lawyer’s letter from Arthur has been sent to the office. I did the best I could. The managing editor has just called to give me a piece of his mind, and I was the only one in the room who dared to question Arthur. I’m afraid he’ll call me later. I’m gonna have to go through another round at work later, so I can’t help you.”

The man on the other end of the phone seemed very dissatisfied with the male reporter's answer and continued to say something. Finally, the male reporter lost his temper and shouted directly into the phone.

"Five years ago, I took the lead in helping you attack Lucia, and I also contacted other journalists. If they find out, I'll be the first one Arthur's ever taken revenge on! Poppy, Lucia isn't what she used to be. She's got Arthur and Eduard behind her now. If I go on attacking her, my life here at Athegate will be hell. Don't think I have to do everything I can to help you just because you're my homie. I've done what I can!"

With that, the male reporter hung up the phone. Yeah, it was Poppy on the phone with him. He and Poppy came from the same place and he worked for a local entertainment magazine.

He was the one who helped Poppy and Jacob connect with other journalists five years ago and led the press to accuse Lucia of having an affair. Before today, Poppy told him to challenge Arthur's every word on the spot, but he couldn't, and he became the target of public criticism. He still shuddered at the sight of Arthur who was staring at him.

The male reporter was not happy. Poppy, across town, was even more upset. She was in Jacob's office when she slammed the phone into her hand and swore.

"Bastard! Talking about doing his best. He took so much money from me, but he's of no use in the end. It's just a letter from a lawyer. I don't believe Arthur really has the guts to sue all those magazines! Isn't he just bluffing?"

Jacob sat on the sofa and watched Poppy lose her temper. He was in a bad mood too.

Yesterday, when Poppy offered to use gossip magazines to tarnish Lucia's reputation, he hesitated. After all, Lucia had Arthur and Eduard behind her. But he had used it to defeat Lucia five years earlier, so he agreed.

The same thing happened again, but he was no longer the winner.

According to the brief notes sent back by the homie, Arthur not only cleared up the misunderstanding at the birthday party but also raised questions about Lucia's infidelity five years ago. The loss outweighed the gain this time.

He heard that Arthur had hired other reporters who weren't paid by them to cover the conference truthfully. Soon, the news from the press conference would become public and his reputation would be in doubt.

"Come on, don't lose your temper. What can a little reporter do?" Jacob was angry himself, but seeing Poppy lose her temper made him even more upset. He growled impatiently at Poppy and said, "Don't we know a editor-in-chief of a magazine? I'll call

him right away and ask him to contact other magazines to speak for us. As long as the public opinion is not one-sided, we are not completely destroyed.”

“So, call him.” Poppy replied.

Jacob looked at Poppy’s broken cell phone on the ground, hesitated for a moment, then picked up the phone and called the editor-in-chief. However, the result was very disappointing to him.

“Sorry.” In response to Jacob’s offer to defend them against Lucia, the editor said, “It’s not that I don’t want to help you. It’s that I’m afraid to. Do you think Arthur was just kidding? My boss has received the lawyer’s letter right now, and there’s more than one.”

“More than one?” Jacob was confused.

“Yes, there is another letter from Jibillion before the launch. The content is similar to Arthur’s. Eduard is probably also annoyed. These are two powerful men, and we can’t afford to mess with one of them. I really can’t help you this time.”

After hanging up the phone with the editor, Jacob’s face looked extremely gloomy.

Eduard had a hand in it, too!

When Jibillion Inc announced Lucia had been suspended on its official website at noon, Jacob thought he had won. He had no idea that Eduard would do this behind the scene. How could anyone help him now?

Like the editor said, messing with Arthur or Eduard was not something a magazine could afford to do. They might struggle and even go out of business. Who dared to touch this bad luck?

Jacob learned how it felt to hurt himself by his own doing.

Poppy didn’t know what happened. Seeing Jacob’s terrible expression, she asked him what happened and if they agreed to help them. Jacob could not contain his anger any longer.

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“You always lose temper when things don’t go your way. Do you think you’re the only one in a bad mood? I am angry, too.” Jacob gritted his teeth and glared at Poppy.

Poppy was shocked at Jacob’s words. She glanced at his face. And sure enough, Jacob got really angry. Jacob had spoiled her for years, and she had almost forgotten that he was also a man and he would lose his temper, too.

“Jacob...” Poppy’s voice suddenly softened. Although she was angry, she thought the consequences of upsetting Jacob would be worse. So she quickly calmed down and sat down beside Jacob and said in an aggrieved way.

“I just didn’t think it would turn out the way it did...”

Jacob saw the hurt look in Poppy’s eyes and sighed deeply.

“It’s not just you who have to deal with this. It’s also me. It’s us. I’m as anxious as you are. Maybe we underestimated Arthur and Eduard’s protection of Lucia at the beginning. It’s not worth it to offend both Davonnis and Jibillion.

“But we have nothing to fear. Although Arthur led the public to doubt Lucia’s affair, it was just a suspicion. They didn’t have any evidence, so it was difficult to clarify what happened five years ago.”

“That’s right...” Poppy kept nodding her head. They didn’t need to worry that much, especially when their companies were strong enough not to be afraid of Davonnis Corp and Jibillion Inc.

“It’s just, after this incident, we’d better be careful in the future, in case they do something behind our back.” Jacob tried to estimate what was in the heart of the great with the heart of the mean..

“Jacob, if Lucia is really using Arthur and Eduard against us, then we...” Poppy thought of that, of course. She clutched Jacob’s arm nervously and frowned.

Jacob looked sideways at Poppy. Now he also wanted to know how to solve the problem!

The first thing they had to find out was why Lucia came back to Athegate. Indeed, Arthur was not lying at Davonnis Corp’s press conference. Lucia didn’t know Eduard before she came back and had no connection with Arthur, so Poppy’s idea that she would use the two to take down or even take back the enterprise didn’t work.

After all, no one would predict whom they would encounter in the future. But Jacob wouldn’t believe that she would return unprepared to a city that left her with nothing.

It seemed that he needed to see Lucia again, alone.

Thinking of this, Jacob looked away at Poppy. Subconsciously, he suggested to himself desperately that he had this idea for JTP Group, not because he was expecting it!

Poppy looked at Jacob’s thoughtful face. Suddenly, she realized that she could not understand the man.

In the evening paper, all the media and magazines that participated in Davonnis Corp's launch gave a true account of the event. For a time, the public opinion of Athegate was divided into two groups.

On one hand, some people were annoyed at themselves for not knowing the truth, attacking Lucia casually and reflecting on her affair five years ago.

On the other hand, some people thought that Lucia must have taken advantage of Arthur to make him turn right and wrong and clear her up. A lot of people were arguing.

But no matter what, Arthur's relationship with Lucia wouldn't change.

Sophie did not know this until she returned to Athegate with Theodore in the evening. She read the negative reports and Davonnis Corp's announcement. After Theodore was asleep, she talked to Lucia and Arthur in the living room.

She made no comment on Arthur using his power as the president to clarify the rumors for Lucia at Branch of Davonnis. "Lucia, come to New York with us this Christmas."

"What?" Sophie's sudden offer surprised Lucia.

It was early December. Winter was coming, and Christmas was coming too. Edwin and his family still retained the habit of their time at home, which would last almost a lifetime.

But they had also adopted the rituals and Christmas was just as important to them. Sophie wanted Lucia and Theodore to get to know their families.

"Now that you and Arthur are out in the open. Do you want to meet the rest of our family, too?" Sophie smiled with grace.

Lucia didn't know what to say. Even without Sophie's mention, Lucia was taking Theodore with her this Christmas to visit Auntie Esmae in the USA. But Lucia was a little nervous about meeting Arthur's other family members."

When Lucia was silent, Arthur reached out and grasped her hand. He said gently, "Yes, please come with us. Theodore is my child too. It's time for everyone to meet him."

"And... Does everyone else know about it?"

"Not yet. But with what happened tonight, I'm sure they'll call me soon." Said Arthur without any pressure. Although Arthur had been working at Athegate alone, his father and other brothers had been concerned about his recent situation.

"Sorry..." Lucia lowered her eyes, being ashamed. If she could, of course, she wanted Arthur's family to know her as a clean woman. But she was accused of betraying her ex-husband and being abandoned, even though she knew it was wrong.

Besides, she was totally unprepared.

“Lucia, don’t apologize.” Arthur felt most sorry for Lucia’s understanding.

Sophie also spoke to comfort, “Lucia, you don’t have to worry about anything. It wasn’t your fault. Besides, Arthur is Theodore’s father, which is the most powerful evidence. My husband and three other sons are all sensible men, and they won’t take it the wrong way.”

Lucia was gratified by Arthur and Sophie’s words. It was a wonderful thing to have someone who believed in her, but it was still too soon.

Perhaps because he could understand why Lucia would be hesitant, Arthur did not want to embarrass her, so he said to her, “Lucia, my mom’s just making a suggestion. You don’t have to answer it now. Shall we wait until Christmas is about twenty days away to make the decision?”

Lucia smiled gratefully at Arthur before she spoke to Sophie, “Sophie, this is a big thing, so please let me think about it.”

“All right, all right, I won’t push you.” Sophie smiled. She had just made this offer on purpose, in order to force Lucia to take Theodore back to show her husband, but her son helped her instead.

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“Okay, Mom, it’s getting late. You should go get some rest.” Arthur did not need to think twice about his mother’s intentions when he saw her smiling eyes. He was, of course, anxious for Lucia and Theodore to meet the rest of the family, but he did not want to make it difficult for Lucia.

Arthur knew his mother, but Sophie also knew her son very well. When she heard him tell her to go back, she knew that he was afraid that she might force Lucia again. So, she could only sigh and stand up to say to him, “Okay, let’s go back home.”

“Mom, let me get you down here.” Arthur stood up, too, and said naturally.

“Aren’t you going back?” Sophie thought he was going back to the villa with her.

“I haven’t seen my son in two days. I want to spend more time with him.” Arthur said to Sophie with a smile.

“You want to spend time with your son? I think you just want to spend time with your wife!”

Sure enough, the wife was always more important than the mother.

Sophie thought that herself. But she also wanted her son to spend more time with his girlfriend and son, so she did not stay longer. After saying goodbye to Lucia, she asked him to send her to Jan.

“Jan, it’s foggy tonight. Be careful when you drive.” Arthur stood beside the car and said to Jan, who was in the driver’s seat. Although Jan had been a driver for many years, Arthur still reminded him.

“Got it, Mr. Arthur,” Jan replied with a smile.

Arthur was about to leave when Sophie stopped him. “Arthur, there’s something else I want to tell you.”

Arthur obediently opened the door and got in the car. He sat down next to his mother and listened to what she had to say to him.

“I need you to talk to Lucia more these days.” Sophie talked like she was a psychologist. “You know what Lucia’s worried about. Even if she doesn’t mind the rumours, she may mind that she was divorced. That child is innocent, and that’s why she’s afraid to meet your father and your family, and it’s your job to persuade her. We’re all reasonable, and I’ll help you talk to the others. The most important thing is to let Lucia understand it herself.”

“I got you.” Arthur listened carefully and nodded.

“And Theodore doesn’t know you’re his father yet. This is something you should discuss with Lucia if you want to make it clear to him. Theodore is very clever. He asked me if you were dating Lucia the other day. Although usually he is just playing around with us, he will listen to us. He took some words to heart, too. Don’t leave such a young child in doubt.”

“Well, don’t worry about Theodore. Lucia and I will clear it with him when we get the chance.”

“Okay.” Sophie was relieved to have her worries explained to her son, so she started to tell him, “Go be with your wife and son. I’m going back to rest.”

“Okay,” Arthur answered quietly.

Arthur watched Sophie leave until the car disappeared in the thick fog in the middle of the winter night, then he turned back to the apartment.

He took the elevator and reached the door of his house. The door opened by itself. Lucia looked out, saw Arthur, and smiled, “What took you so long?”

Lucia was worried about him, and Arthur smiled when he realized it. He took Lucia in his arms and went back into the warm house and replied.

“I just talked to my mom. She’s worried about you.”

Sitting back on the sofa with Arthur, Lucia said apologetically, “I also know what Sophie is thinking, but I really don’t want to meet your family in this way.”

This silly woman.

Arthur thought as he took Lucia into his arms lovingly and put his chin on her forehead.

“I know how you feel. You know, when I was at the press conference today, I wanted to tell them who Theodore’s father is, but that would only prove that I was the man who was in your room five years ago, and it couldn’t prove that we were not together back then. It couldn’t prove you weren’t having an affair. So…”

Lucia frowned at the words. She didn’t expect Arthur to think so much about her. He wanted to make it public because he wanted to clarify the rumors about her five years ago, but he was troubled by the lack of evidence.

If she could prove her innocence, she would not be so embarrassed tonight when Sophie mentioned going to New York for Christmas. These things were closely related. While she was minding her own business, Arthur had thought of every possibility for her.

This kind of touching feeling was really beyond words.

Lucia responded to his embrace, whispering in her heart... “Arthur, thank you.”

Not aware of Lucia’s subtle emotions, Arthur tightened his arms when she tried to hug him back so that she could comfortably stay in his arms. Then he continued, “Mom mentioned something earlier, something we missed.”

“What is it?” Lucia asked Arthur, looking up. Arthur’s chin had been down on her forehead, and when Lucia lifted her head, his chin slipped onto the tip of her nose.

It was evening, and there was a thin stubble on Arthur’s chin that tickled the tip of Lucia’s nose. It was so pleasant and fun that Lucia couldn’t resist rubbing the tip of her nose against Arthur’s chin.

Arthur was about to answer Lucia when he noticed that she was gently rubbing his chin. He looked down and saw that Lucia was squinting slightly, moving her head with satisfaction.

He hugged Lucia tightly and rubbed her back with his hands. Arthur really didn't know how to get rid of the emotions that were rushing through his heart except in this way.

Lucia did not know why Arthur suddenly hugged her silently, but she liked the feeling of being close to each other. But, however much she liked it, Arthur's increasing pressure was beginning to wear on her, and she said in a whisper.

"Hey, Arthur, I'm choking..."

Arthur was shocked and realized what he had done. He quickly released his hand to check Lucia's condition. He saw that her body was soft, her little face was flushed, and her eyes began to burst into tears. So, he quickly kissed her on the forehead and apologized.

"I'm sorry I hugged you too hard."

Lucia was a little dazed because of the lack of oxygen. Hearing Arthur's apology, Lucia smiled back at him, which made Arthur feel very excited again. This time, he restrained himself a little, hugged Lucia again, and sighed helplessly.

How could she just flirt with him so easily?

Lucia slowly returned to normal. She remembered what they had said before and said, "Arthur, what else did Sophie remind you of?"

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Arthur finally released Lucia and looked down at her.

"Isn't time we let Theodore know where he came from?"

Arthur also wanted to be a qualified father. Every time Theodore called him "Uncle Arthur", he felt a little upset.

Lucia nodded at the words. There had been a lot going on. Thanks to Sophie's meticulous care of Theodore, she was able to concentrate on other matters. But she forgot to be honest with her son.

"Well, let's explain it to him. He's very good at understanding. I'm sure he'll get over it soon." Lucia wasn't too worried that her son wouldn't be able to handle it.

But speaking of her son, she took Arthur's hand and stood up. Then she said, "Let's go see our son."

"Okay." Arthur jumped up with her. He was thinking of it, too.

The two walked together, hand in hand, into Theodore's room. They were deliberately stepping in softly, and then standing beside the bed. Looking at Theodore's lovely sleeping face on the bed in shape of a race car, Lucia and Arthur felt a bond that was unlike any other. The child in the bed was their child.

Just as the two enjoyed the sweet moment, Arthur's phone rang. And Arthur, who had always been calm and cool, quickly took out his cell phone, muted it, and quickly checked on Theodore. Feeling relieved that he was not awakened, Arthur made a gesture to Lucia to answer the phone and went back to the living room for it.

Lucia waited for Arthur to leave, then went to sleep with Theodore, hugged his little body, and said happily.

"Baby, you have a daddy now."

In the living room, Arthur answered the phone. "Dad."

"Well, turn on the computer and we'll do the video chat." Arthur's father Edwin had a deep voice. When he got through the phone, he cut straight to the point without any nonsense and hung up the phone very readily.

He quickly turned on his computer and opened the chat software. If he had been any slower, he would get a second phone call from his dad. Sure enough, as soon as he clicked on the chat software, he received a video call. He clicked yes, and four pretty faces popped up on the screen.

It was a multiplayer video chat...

Arthur looked at his father Edwin, his big brother Otis Davies, his second brother Bailey Davies and his younger brother Douglas Davies on the screen.

"You're too slow." When the video was connected, Edwin's first sentence was to complain. But when he saw the son that he had not seen for a long time, his eyes still looked very kind.

Arthur was very gorgeous, so one could imagine how gorgeous Edwin was. After all, their four brothers all inherited his appearance.

On the screen, Edwin, who was nearly 60 years old, had white hair at the temples but looked refreshed and his eyes were bright. The wrinkles on his face, which were the traces of age, were filled with the hormones of a mature man, exuding mature charm.

"Arthur." Following his father's complaint, Otis called Arthur. Otis's look and personality were the most alike to Edwin's among the four brothers. And because he was in the prime of his life, he was pretty. He had crossed the boundary of maturity and his appearance was at its peak.

“Otis.” Arthur laughed and called Otis, as Bailey spoke.

“Arthur, I heard that you’re having a good time.” Bailey was the most flirtatious and the most popular of the four. He was on the more handsome side. There always seemed to be a smile on his face. Because of his eyes, Sophie had previously complained that Bailey was too popular and could pick up women wherever he went. He was also the most easygoing one.”

“Arthur, don’t take him seriously. He was just scolded by mom about Miss Wilkinson and he was just picking a fight.” The speaker was Arthur’s only younger brother, Douglas, the youngest of the Davies family. Douglas just turned 22 this year, and his beautiful face was still childish.

“Douglas, I’m warning you not to bring it up!” Bailey was not pleased when he heard what Douglas said, but his warning was met with an unconcerned grimace.

“Bailey, you need to pull yourself together!” Edwin said in a stern fatherly manner, and Bailey stopped quickly but grumbled disapprovingly.

“I thought we were talking about Arthur. Please don’t make this about me.” Bailey didn’t want to talk about his bad relationships, especially in front of his dad.

“Arthur, we all know about you and Miss Webb. Do you mean it?” Otis asked Arthur. In the Davies family, apart from Edwin and Douglas, who were still studying abroad, the other three brothers were all working for Davonnis Corp in major cities in the country, so he and Bailey knew the news before their father and younger brother.

“Yes, I mean it.” Arthur nodded with certainty.

“I heard that Miss Webb had a very complicated background, right?” Lucia was the woman Arthur loved, so Edwin asked very gently.

Arthur knew his father would ask it. He looked at Theodore’s room and saw no sign of Lucia coming out. Then he began to tell his father and his brothers what had happened to Lucia.

“This thing... It started five years ago...”

When Arthur finished telling all that had happened to Lucia and revealed that Theodore was his own son, even Edwin, who usually looked serious, could not hide his surprise. Bailey even cried out on the spot.

“Oh my god! Is there really such a coincidence in the world?”

“Keep your voice down. Theodore is still sleeping.” Theodore’s door was open. Arthur was afraid that Bailey’s screams would disturb him and Lucia.

“What? Are you at her house right now?” Bailey became even more excited when he heard this. Was his brother already living with her?

“Bailey!” Arthur almost said the word through gritted teeth.

Bailey liked to taunt Arthur, who was the only one of his brothers who had been claimed experienced since childhood. But that was all. He did not dare to upset Arthur. Bailey still remembered how Arthur got back at him after he annoyed him when they were just kids!

Bailey immediately shut up, and before Edwin spoke, Otis asked.

“Are you sure?”

Otis was as rigorous as Edwin. That was the question Edwin wanted to ask right now. In the past decade, since the Davies family’s boys grew up, they had had untold numbers of such “coincidences”. Some held their babies and said they were the Davies family’s boys, while others faked pregnancy to catch their hearts. These things were not new to them.

After all, the Davies family was a famous plutocrat in the USA. They were undoubtedly the top rich family in the eyes of many gold diggers. It was not unusual for these gold diggers to try to get close to them.

Arthur didn’t explain much. He took the paternity report from the drawer and showed it to his father and brothers. It was more powerful than any words.

Otis and Edwin looked relieved when they saw the report. It seemed Arthur wasn’t blinded by his feelings.

They had talked privately about Arthur’s relationship before. As men, they knew that Arthur, who seemed to be cold, was more serious than anyone else once he started a relationship. They all wanted Arthur to meet the right person. Now, it seemed that they didn’t have to worry too much.

“Congratulations, Arthur. Suddenly you have a wife and a son. When are you going to bring them home?” Douglas, who was well-behaved, promptly gave Arthur his blessing.

Among the brothers, the eldest brother Otis was too strict, and the second brother Bailey was too frivolous. Douglas idolized Arthur, who was different from others since childhood. When they were young, the brothers were playful and they often had conflicts with other children because of their race. At a time like this, Arthur was always the calmest, most rational person to start planning his revenge.

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“Well, I would like to meet my beautiful sister-in-law and smart nephew,” Bailey spoke, but Arthur couldn’t stand Bailey’s description of Lucia, so he only responded to Douglas’ blessings. Bailey screamed in anger, and Arthur glared at him several times.

“Dad, Theodore is a genius with a high IQ.” Arthur knew that his father had a soft spot for smart children, or to more exact, that all elders loved smart kids. He must first make a good impression of Theodore on Edwin, so he looked at Bailey and spoke, “Theodore’s IQ is higher than yours. Wouldn’t you be afraid of seeing him and being crushed by his intelligence?”

“Arthur!” Arthur’s words were nothing but blatant sarcasm.

Although Arthur was only telling the truth, Bailey said defensively, “You’ve just offended us all by that.”

Bailey was trying to get his father, elder brother, and young brother into this, but when the others heard his words, apart from giving him a look of contempt, no one was instigated by him. Bailey was so angry that he shut his mouth directly and became sullen.

Arthur saw Bailey had shut up obediently, and then said, “Mom has suggested to Lucia that we should celebrate Christmas over at our house, but... Lucia has her concerns.”

No need for Arthur to say more, the others knew what he meant.

Even though Edwin had been in the USA for many years, he still had a traditional view of family, and he was more strict and in-depth in seeing people and things, so he did have a problem with the fact that Lucia and Jacob were once married. After all, his son, Arthur had never been in a marriage or divorced.

However, just hearing the description of Lucia by his son, Edwin knew Lucia was a woman of good character. Otherwise, Sophie, his wife, would not condescend to become a nanny to take care of them.

Seeing Arthur’s embarrassed look, Edwin opened his mouth, “You should have a good talk with Miss Webb. I would like to meet them, too.”

He wanted to assess the character of his future daughter-in-law. More importantly, he was eager to see Theodore, who was his grandson, for sure.

Edwin’s words made Arthur feel much better. His father had recognized Lucia and Theodore, and he had more confidence now to persuade Lucia into bringing their son back to spend Christmas together.

Otis saw Arthur’s smile, so he smilingly said to Arthur, “Arthur, if you’re serious, then treat them well.” Arthur, his younger brother, had never fit in with others because of his

high IQ since he was a child, but it was also because of this that Otis loved him the most.

It could be seen that Arthur was serious about this relationship, and Otis, the eldest brother, also sent his blessings.

“For sure,” Arthur responded with a smile to his brother.

When Bailey saw that even his eldest brother Otis seemed to affirm Lucia’s relationship with Arthur, he put away his sulking and said to Arthur, “Arthur, you are not by yourself anymore in the future, remember to take care of your wife and children, you got it?”

Unexpectedly, Bailey’s words were more pragmatic than anyone else, and Arthur nodded in agreement with a gentle smile on his face.

In the end, after confirming Arthur’s relationship, the family meeting turned into a work report one. Douglas, who was still in school, shared what was new with him with his father and brothers before going offline, while the other three brothers needed to report to their father about the specific conditions of the branch that they were leading. When Arthur finished the meeting, it was already early in the morning.

Lucia hadn’t been out in the living room during Arthur’s work. He was relieved and curious, ‘Has she fallen asleep in Theodore’s room?’

Tiptoeing to the small room, Arthur saw Lucia lying next to Theodore, mother and son breathing steadily together, snuggling.

This scene made Arthur’s heart soften, and then he leaned against the door frame, unable to suppress the happiness that overflowed from his chest for a long time.

Walking over lightly, Arthur covered Lucia and Theodore with a quilt, branded a kiss on each of their cheeks, and said softly to himself, “Good night.”

Lucia had time to take care of Theodore at home after being suspended from work, but Theodore still needed to go to school during the day, and Arthur also had business to deal with, so Sophie was the one who spent the most time with her.

Sophie was getting ready for Lucia’s meeting with her family and spared no effort to introduce the husband and several sons to her.

When it came to her family, her tone was always brisk, or she was proud of her children’s achievements or worried about the character flaws they had. Every time she started chatting, she never stopped. Sometimes she was afraid that she would talk too much. But Lucia always smiled and listened with interest.

Such a lively family atmosphere was something she had never felt before but envied.

Perhaps sensing Lucia's slight sense of loss and regret, Sophie spoke something to admit Lucia's identity as her daughter-in-law for the first time.

"When you marry Arthur, they, and I, will be your family."

Lucia was moved when she heard these words, and her previous concerns showed signs of being gone. Admittedly, Sophie's words were very helpful.

Occasionally, Nia would come as a guest, but every time she gobbled down her meals, Lucia felt that Nia just came for Sophie's cooking most of the times. When Arthur showed up, Nia would say goodbye and leave quickly, which made Lucia feel very weird and speechless every time.

It had been a week since Lucia had been suspended, but she felt that every day was so fulfilling that it kind of caught her off guard when she got a phone call from Eduard.

"Lucia, the headquarters has notified me that you can be reinstated." Eduard just received the notification from the headquarters fifteen minutes ago, and he called Lucia after hanging up the phone.

"I see," Lucia was standing in the living room at the moment. Sophie had just left to drop Theodore to school, and Arthur was still sitting in the dining room having breakfast, looking at her as he ate. Meeting his eyes, Lucia hesitated and said, "It's just..."

Lucia didn't seem as excited as Eduard had thought, so he, on the other end of the phone, asked suspiciously, "What's the matter?"

Lucia took a breath, finally made a decision, and said to Eduard, "It's just that I can't get back to work right now as Christmas is coming. I would like to take my child back to the USA to visit relatives. If I go back to work now, I might have to ask for leave soon."

"I understand..." Eduard breathed a sigh of relief after hearing Lucia's reasoning, and said with a smile, "This is a trivial matter. All you need to do is come back today and go through the reinstatement formalities. I will give you the approval for the holidays until after the New Year, so that you can spend some quality time with the family."

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"Thank you..." Lucia didn't expect Eduard to agree so quickly, so she was happy and called directly, "Eduard."

This was the first time Lucia called Eduard by name because she already regarded him as a friend. Of course, this title was only used in private time. If she was at work, Lucia would still call him "Mr. Burton."

After saying thank you, there was no response from the other end of the phone for a long time. Just when Lucia thought Eduard had hung up, she heard him say, “You’re welcome, Lucia.”

After hanging up, Lucia went to tell Arthur that she had decided to go to the USA to meet his family, but she was unaware that Eduard, at Jibillion Inc’s headquarters, had gotten all emotional and excited because she had called him by name.

“Really? Are you willing to meet my family?” Arthur was the happiest person now. He had been trying to persuade Lucia into agreeing for the past few days. He didn’t expect to have a casual breakfast this morning and get the desired result he had wanted.

“After all, Theodore is part of the Davies family. He ought to meet his grandfather and uncles.” Lucia smiled and said softly.

Lucia and Arthur had told Theodore about his life experience three days ago. They thought that the child could not handle it for a while, but the little smart cookie told the parents that he had already known about it.

Theodore had doubts earlier when he found he looked exactly the same as the little Arthur in the family photo, but since his mother didn’t mention it, he didn’t ask about it. To Theodore, the usual conversations between Lucia and Arthur had revealed some clues.

But before Lucia and Arthur could breathe a sigh of relief, Theodore continued to ask about the part that he was most curious about – Did Mom and Dad use to date earlier before? How did you give birth to me? Why did Dad not know Mom and didn’t come to find them later?

Faced with Theodore’s barrage of questions, Lucia and Arthur were caught off guard – how could they explain to a child that everything that had happened was all owing to a fling of surprise?

So Lucia used her perfunctory skills to pass on these topics in a few vague words and only said that when he was older, she would tell him all about it. Theodore seemed to understand, but he also accepted this fact completely, and since then, he had started to call Arthur Dad.

Theodore’s new address of him almost melted Arthur’s heart. It took him several days to get used to the change in the way Theodore called him. At first, when Theodore called him Daddy, he didn’t realize Theodore was calling him.

It was rare moments when Arthur was stunned, and every time it amused Lucia.

As soon as Lucia nodded to confirm, Arthur stood up and hugged her, buried his face in her neck, and said thank you softly.

He knew how many inner struggles Lucia had overcome to make this decision, and he was grateful.

Three nights later, while Arthur and Sophie were bathing Theodore together, Lucia walked to the balcony alone and called Esmae, telling her that she was in love.

“Lucia, you’ve finally moved on.” Esmae’s voice sounded crisp and sweet, with a cheerful rhythm that wasn’t typically found in a middle-aged person. If they didn’t know her actual age, many people would think that the other party was a young woman just by listening to her voice.

Lucia smiled. Esmae had persuaded her the most in recent years to start a new relationship. After all, that would make the best farewell to her emotional haze in the past. But she had never met someone who she had a crush on for so long. She thought she would never meet anyone until Arthur showed up in her life.

After talking about her love life, Lucia continued, “Esmae, there is one more thing that needs you to listen patiently.”

Lucia knew that Esmae was inclined to get excited, so when she announced the big news, she reminded Esmae like a naughty girl.

“Come on! My curiosity is killing me already!” As soon as Lucia finished speaking, Esmae’s excited voice came from the receiver.

“For a long time, I have never known who Theodore’s biological father is, and I have never thought to find out, but... fate is so mysterious, my current boyfriend... is actually Theodore’s birth father!” Lucia spoke as slowly as possible about that wonderful coincidence.

“What?” Esmae, who was far away in the USA, exclaimed, and Lucia could almost imagine her jumping up.

With a smile on her face, Lucia comforted Esmae and then used simple words to tell her story with Arthur. But when she finished speaking, the other end of the phone was silent.

Lucia knew that Esmae was digesting what she had just said. So she patiently waited for her to reply.

Finally, Esmae spoke up, “Are you saying that the boyfriend you’re dating now is the same guy who entered the room five years ago? He’s Theodore’s birth father, and it’s all because of a mistake?”

Was there such a coincidence in the world?

“Yes, that was him.” The thought of Arthur made the smile on Lucia’s lips soften.

“Goodness! Lucia, that’s fate! But did you confirm he was that person?” Esmæ’s voice was very excited.

“Positive. He did the paternity test himself,” Lucia replied with a smile.

“Then you gotta cherish this connection. It’s so rare that no one would believe it even if written in a book!” Esmæ said happily and playfully.

“I know, I am very grateful and holding it dearly.” This was Lucia’s most real thought.

“Lucia, I am so happy for you. I thought you would never get out of the nightmare Jacob caused,” Esmæ said comfortably.

“How can it be? Jacob was just a passerby in my life. I will never let myself die alone hating him!” Although Lucia did have such negative thoughts in the past, now with Arthur, Lucia could let go of her past dark side.

“That’s good...” Esmæ said repeatedly, really happy for Lucia.

“His home is in New York, so after I go back to visit you this Christmas, Theodore and I will go to see his family. Esmæ, can we go together then?” Although Esmæ was not biologically related to her, to Lucia, Esmæ was like her real mother. If it weren’t for her rushing back to Athegate to help her five years ago after getting her message, Lucia couldn’t imagine what she would be like now.

“Of course,” Esmæ happily agreed. She wanted to meet the man who had helped Lucia move on from the past, and his family, so she asked again, “By the way, you haven’t told me his name yet.”

When Lucia heard the words, she realized that she was careless. Just now, she had been referring to Arthur by “him”, and she hadn’t told Esmæ his name, so she immediately replied, “His name is Arthur.”

After Lucia finished speaking, she thought that Esmæ would respond, but after waiting for a long time, there was no more sound on the other end of the phone, but the sound of the electric current was unbearably sizzling. Lucia frowned slightly in confusion, and asked, “Esmæ, are you still there?”

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There was another moment of silence. Lucia thought the signal was interrupted, and just wanted to hang up the phone to call again, when Esmæ’s voice sounded, low and solemn.

“Arthur, the chairman of Davonnis Corp, Edwin’s third son, is that him?”

“Yes,” Lucia responded immediately, and then asked, “Esmae, do you know him?”

Hearing Esmae say Arthur’s father’s name, Lucia remembered that Esmae’s family was equally good – maybe they knew each other.

“Edwin is one of the best talents in the financial industry in the USA and the chairman of Davonnis Corp. How could I not know him?” Esmae’s voice was still low.

Esmae’s words didn’t sound like a compliment or appreciation, but rather sarcasm.

She sounded completely different from the excitement when she learned that Lucia was in love.

Lucia was even more puzzled, but she didn’t know the reason.

At this moment, Esmae continued, “You guys should book a ticket on the 20th and come back. I have something to tell you in person.”

Lucia planned to take the flight on the 23rd with Arthur. It was the end of the year, so Arthur was very busy at work and couldn’t leave earlier.

So, Lucia hesitated and said, “Esmae, can we go back on the 23rd instead? I would like to wait for Arthur...”

“No, you and Theodore should come back to me first, just the two of you.” Esmae gave Lucia no room for refusal. She was telling Lucia that it had to be done instead of asking for Lucia’s opinion.

This time, Lucia was even more confused.

Just as Lucia was about to say something, Esmae said she was tired and all could be discussed until they were back. She then hung up the phone in a hurry, leaving Lucia puzzled.

Arthur saw Lucia like this when he came out of the living room with Theodore smelling fresh from the shower.

On the balcony, Lucia looked alone in the dim light. Although the heating in the room was pouring out from the open drag window, there was still a white mist around Lucia, as if wrapping her in the cold.

“Lucia, what are you doing standing on the balcony?” Arthur hurried over, stretched out his hand, and pulled Lucia back into the warm room. Only then did Lucia come back to her senses.

Seeing Lucia's confused face, Arthur frowned slightly and asked her worriedly, "What was on your mind just now?"

Lucia looked blank, but her mind was racing. She and Esmæ were just talking on the phone, however, after being told that her boyfriend was Arthur, Esmæ's tone sounded cold and even faintly revealed hostility to Edwin.

Lucia couldn't figure it out, but there was one thing she could be sure of – she wouldn't go against Esmæ.

Esmæ was a good friend of Lucia's father Eric before she went abroad. The two had a deep friendship. Although she went to the USA very early to develop her career, rarely returned to Athegate, and seldom meet Eric, their friendship never ended. Lucia had always remembered that it was Esmæ who would bring her countless gifts whenever she returned to Athegate and who treated her like a daughter, not to mention the kindness Esmæ had shown to her in recent years.

Esmæ was too important to Lucia, so Lucia looked up and spoke to Arthur.

"Arthur, I am afraid I might not be able to leave with you. I talked to Esmæ on the phone just now, and she said that she missed Theodore so much that she wanted me to fly to the USA on the 20th. And I am on vacation now anyway. I am going to leave a day earlier and spend some extra time with her."

It was not the first time that Arthur heard Lucia mention Esmæ. He knew that if it hadn't been for the help of Esmæ five years ago, Lucia would not have gotten out of the tragedy and stood in front of him now. So, even though he was unwilling, he still showed understanding.

"Okay, how about this? I spend some extra time to finish my work earlier these two days and I will leave with you."

As a husband and a father, Arthur knew that Lucia could take care of herself, but he just wasn't sure, and naturally wanted to go with them.

"There's no need!" Lucia subconsciously refused after hearing this, because Esmæ made it clear that only she and Theodore would be expected to go back.

Lucia then immediately realized she had answered too fast, which made Arthur's expression change, so she hurriedly added an explanation.

"It's the end of the year, and your work matters more. Besides, our destinations are different. I'll take Theodore back first. Don't worry, okay?"

In this situation, Lucia could only choose to lie.

Arthur stared at Lucia's slightly flickering eyes and could only nod in agreement.

"Okay, I'll help you change your ticket to the 20th and get to you guys as soon as I go back on the 23rd."

It was just the difference between a few days early and a few days later.

Arthur's understanding made Lucia feel both relieved and guilty, and she couldn't figure out the purpose of Esmae's request.

Lucia was afraid that Arthur would see something wrong with her, and she quickly turned her attention to tease Theodore.

"Babe, we're going back to see Grandma Esmae in a few days."

Esmae treated Lucia as her own daughter and loved Theodore even more, so Theodore immediately cheered when he heard this.

The child's excitement really distracted Arthur. He hugged his son and started listening to him talk about Grandma Esmae – how she was treating him nicely. Lucia looked at the two of them with mixed emotions.

It was late at night, and Arthur still stayed at Lucia's house. Sophie sent Jan back to the villa. Theodore slept obediently. And now it would be Arthur's favorite time to be alone with Lucia.

Lucia lied to Arthur. Even though it was a white lie, Lucia felt guilty. She sat on the sofa in his arms and watched the evening financial report together. When she talked to him, she seemed a little bit absent-minded.

Arthur hugged her on the sofa and talked about Athegate's recent financial changes. Sometimes he noticed that she didn't respond to him right away. When he looked down, he saw her incline her head on his shoulder, her eyes blurred, and even a little confused, but he didn't think too much into it.

Now, there were sixteen days left until Christmas, and three days before Lucia and Theodore went abroad.

In the past three days, Lucia took time to start packing. After packing her and her son's luggage on the 18th, she took time to ask Nia out for coffee, listen to the updates on Nia's recent work, and tell Nia to deal with some business.

After they finished talking about official business, Nia asked about Arthur out of curiosity.

Lucia didn't hide anything deliberately, and she satisfied Nia's curiosity by telling her some daily life stories with Arthur. Nia listened with great interest.

"After the last press conference, everyone now knows that you are Mr. Davies's real girlfriend and is envious!" Nia said with a little excitement while holding the coffee. That Lucia was attracting attention, and it was positive attention, made her happier than anyone else.

"Really?" Lucia replied with a faint smile, quite relaxed.

Nia looked at Lucia who had a tender look in her eyes. She felt distressed for Lucia but admired Lucia at the same time.

"People occasionally slandered you with what happened five years ago, but now most of them have changed their views. I have to say that Mr. Davies's words at the press conference really subverted people's inherent thinking a lot. Lucia, fortunately, Mr. Davies believes you," Nia said sentimentally.

When Lucia heard this, the small smile on the corner of her mouth gradually deepened along with the change of light and shadow outside the window. Right, the faith Arthur had in her was more important than any other thing. Her lover who knew the truth was always by her side, so she had nothing to be afraid of.

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Lucia listened to Nia talking about the change in public opinion. They chatted happily, but did not notice someone gazing at them in the corner of the cafe from time to time.

Jacob didn't expect that he would be so lucky today. He didn't want to be bothered by Poppy, so he went out to drink coffee alone at noon with the excuse of meeting a client. But unexpectedly, he bumped into Lucia.

Moreover, Arthur and Eduard were not present, and her assistant who didn't fear threatening beside her was negligible.

During this time, Jacob had been looking for opportunities to ask Lucia to meet privately, because he wanted to know what her plans were after coming back.

Though he had speculated that she might not tell him the truth, he would like to give it a shot. Because this way he could...

His eyes were fixated on Lucia. Even though the two were far away, Jacob could still see her stunning smile. Even he himself didn't realize how greedy his face was when he saw that smile.

Lucia was forced to suspend her job because of the scandal. Jacob couldn't reach her through the company. After all kinds of inquiries, he finally found her private number. Unfortunately, he was blocked every time he called. Jacob was about to give up until he met her today by chance.

Watching Lucia's every move intently, Jacob was like a viper lurking in the grass, waiting for the right moment to capture his prey in one fell swoop.

The lunch break was almost over, Lucia had free time, but Nia still had to go back to work. She stood up and said goodbyes to Lucia before leaving. Lucia had not finished her coffee, so she was staying.

This was a golden opportunity!

After Nia completely left the cafe and disappeared into the crowd of people on the street, Jacob stood up and even deliberately avoided the route on which he would be discovered by Lucia, choosing to approach her after the detour.

But when Jacob walked over without saying hello and sat down in the seat opposite Lucia, she didn't look surprised at all, and even sipped a cup of coffee, lowered her eyes, and asked.

"What would you like to drink?"

Lucia immediately felt a sense of disgust within herself, but her pride did not allow her to run away.

She had done nothing wrong and had no guilt for him, so no way should she run away and avoid him when she met him. On the contrary, the one who should feel afraid of meeting her should be Jacob!

Lucia sipped her coffee, thinking dismissively.

"You saw me just now, didn't you!" Although Lucia lowered her eyes which betrayed no emotions, Jacob felt that he was being disdained by her!

Lucia was silent, noncommittal.

At this time, a waitress came over and asked politely, "Sir, would you need me to bring your coffee over?"

Jacob was instantly annoyed and yelled at the waitress, "Go away!"

The waitress didn't expect that the seemingly gentle and polite guest would get angry with her for no reason and was stunned there for a while, a little overwhelmed.

It was Lucia speaking to help her out.

“Just get him a new cup of what he was having and send it over here.”

Lucia raised her head and smiled at the waitress, intending to appease her.

The waitress was embarrassed, but after seeing Lucia’s smile, her heart melted. She nodded quickly and left to get the coffee ready.

As soon as the waitress left and when Lucia faced Jacob again, the smile on her face was like a snowflake in the palm of her hand, beautiful yet instantly faded away.

The nameless fire in Jacob’s heart was raging, and Lucia’s actions undoubtedly indicated that she could show a generous smile even to a stranger, but it was absolutely impossible for him!

Jacob had the anger that he wanted to let out but found no outlet. It made him clench his fists impatiently, and at this moment Lucia said indifferently, “Your temper has gotten worse.”

Though the old Jacob was also hypocritical, he was modest in his dealings with others.

It seemed that power and money could indeed change a person’s character. From a tolerant man to an extremely arrogant jerk, he must have come a “long” way.

There was no way Jacob could bear Lucia mocking him. Jacob immediately countered, “Aren’t you too?”

At this time, Jacob, although annoyed, had hidden joy within himself. Lucia was willing to talk to him, and it was not like the first time when they only talked about business affairs, which made him finally feel like he was talking to an “old acquaintance.”

Lucia found it hard to understand, so she stopped talking and turned to look out the window, preferring to be dazzled by the sun than to look at Jacob.

Jacob looked at Lucia’s slightly hazy and delicate profile, and couldn’t help but think if the conspiracy five years ago was true love, would they sit here today, snuggling with each other, talking about life and the future, and even already have children of their own?

Jacob unconsciously fell into the picture he made up in his mind. Now he was successful, but the person staying with him was Poppy, who had an increasingly domineering personality.

The love between them had been worn away by countless conjectures and power struggles, so the tranquility and beauty shown by Lucia were exactly what Jacob lacked now – something used to be within his reach. This was incredibly ironic.

Not hearing Jacob speaking again, Lucia got a little bit impatient. She knew he came here to question her, so he should just go ahead. But why was he so silent?

Frowning slightly, Lucia turned her head and saw Jacob's weird look at a glance.

'Why is he looking at me so weirdly?' Lucia thought to herself.

Lucia frowned and said impolitely, "If you have something to say, say it now. Why are you looking at me like this?"

Lucia pulled Jacob out of his head with her snappish voice.

After Jacob realized what he was thinking, his expression became very unnatural, but seeing the impatience in Lucia's eyes, Jacob felt anger surge up again, thinking, 'Why does she always look at me with such aloof and indifferent eyes!'

Jacob was completely unaware that he was the one that had hurt Lucia the most!

If Lucia hadn't been a civilized person, she would have wanted to slash Jacob with a knife every time she saw him!

"Why on earth are you coming back?" Jacob's anger dispelled his previous expectations, and his attitude became worse.

At that moment, the waitress happened to come over to serve coffee, and unsurprisingly, she got frightened by Jacob again.

This time, before Jacob speak anything, the waitress put the coffee on the table, and fled without even saying "Sir, please enjoy."

Lucia felt what she had seen was ridiculous. Jacob's self-restraint did not match his current status.

At this thought, she said in a much colder tone, "I told you, this is my home."

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"So what? You just came back with no scruples and no purpose?" Jacob couldn't believe that Lucia returned to Athegate only because of homesickness, knowing that under his and Poppy's defamation, Lucia had been notorious in Athegate right now. Lucia would also be used as a negative example of adultery.

“Why can’t I?” Lucia lowered her eyes and responded coldly.

Every word of What Lucia said was true, but Jacob who naturally had a suspicious mind thought Lucia was lying.

Although Lucia had hatred for Jacob and taking back the Webbex Group was a plan she had yet to implement, her return to Athegate this time was indeed a coincidence. The offer from Jibillion Inc itself was beyond her expectation, and even the city where she would work was out of her control before. Since she had the chance to come back home, Lucia wouldn’t hesitate, let alone fear Jacob and Poppy.

Because this was her home!

This was Lucia’s most honest answer.

“Okay, of course!” Jacob sneered and sarcastically said. “As soon as you came back, you became the CEO of Jibillion Inc. You have a close relationship with Eduard, and now Arthur is deeply in love with you. Don’t tell me that all this is going with the flow, or it will pose no threat to JTP Group!”

The most difficult thing in the world was talking sense into a madman.

Lucia wanted to take a deep sigh, but since Jacob was so wary of her presence, it meant that he was worried that she would dig up what happened five years ago. Besides, she could see that JTP Group was not without flaws now. If he had nothing to lose, there was no need to guard her.

Lucia showed a rare sly smile and deliberately stared into Jacob’s eyes and said, “Why, are you afraid?”

Lucia was provoking Jacob. Anyway, even if she didn’t deliberately target JTP Group, Jacob would still keep getting her into trouble because of his suspicion. he and Poppy were the ones who planned the scandal ten days ago, weren’t they?

“You!” Jacob didn’t expect Lucia would say such a thing, so he didn’t know what to say for a while to fight back.

“If you are afraid, then you can go ahead and play all the schemes and tricks to attack me. Anyway, justice will prevail. What happened ten days ago has proved this. If you are not afraid, then you should sit in your president’s office and take good care of all of the things you’ve got ‘with great difficulty’. Don’t worry about what I might do all day long.”

Lucia stared at Jacob fearlessly, warning him coldly.

Jacob was extremely angry, but his thoughts got clear, "Lucia, it seems that you have made a lot of progress in these years..."

Jacob looked at Lucia, saying these meaningful words.

"I do," Lucia answered without hesitation. "I have grown a lot. Now I can read people well, and I can tell good from the bad."

The only ironic side of Lucia in her life was probably all shown when she was with Jacob.

This time, Jacob choked once again.

He came to question her purpose of returning to Athegate, but now it seemed that he was losing ground and being ridiculed by her.

Jacob knew very well that such an argument was meaningless, and the most sensible move now was to stand up and leave proudly. However, he just couldn't move his body.

The two fell silent again.

Lucia's patience slowly wore out over time. She thought Jacob could say something weighty this time, but now it seemed that she had overestimated him. This kind of dialogue was like a childish argument, meaningless and disturbing.

"Is there anything else you want to say?" Lucia asked indifferently, looking away at the crowd outside the window.

Nothing. Jacob didn't know what to say anymore. He didn't have any confidence to deal with Lucia now, but he was unwilling to accept the fact that he was defeated and had to flee. And he seemed to remember something, and a vicious smile touched her lips, so he spoke.

"By the way, you have something important left with me."

Something important?

After hearing this, Lucia turned around and happened to see the smug smile on Jacob's face. For a moment, she couldn't figure out what Jacob was talking about.

Seeing Lucia's face full of doubts, Jacob became even more complacent, feeling that he had finally pulled a game back, and he slowly said, "Did you forget what your mother left behind?"

Bracelet! And a ruby necklace!

Lucia's eyes widened suddenly, and her memory was instantly pulled back to the scene five years ago when Jacob stepped on his mother's relic and threatened her to sign the divorce agreement.

Seeing that Lucia finally had something other than indifference in her eyes, even if it was hatred, Jacob was overjoyed.

"It looks like you haven't forgotten," Accepting Lucia's fierce and vivid hatred directly, Jacob deliberately said.

Eduard was right, any other man might be able to pursue Lucia without any scruples, but only he himself could make Lucia never forget him, even if it was out of hate.

Jacob was complacent at this time, not realizing how perverted his thoughts were.

Lucia glared at Jacob, and her calmness was completely destroyed.

Five years ago, Jacob used his mother's relics to threaten her to sign the divorce agreement. After signing, not only did he kick the ring into pieces, but he did not return the ruby necklace.

He just promised not to damage it anymore. At that time, she had no choice but to do whatever it took to protect it. Over the years, this necklace had always been a concern within herself.

It was a beautiful thing left to her by her mother, but it witnessed the most miserable moment in her life.

"Give it back to me," Lucia said word for word, hatred slashing at Jacob like a knife.

"Of course, I can." Jacob readily agreed, ignoring Lucia's gaze, but his eyes flashed and he said slyly, "But not now."

He finally remembered what could threaten Lucia, and there was no way he would hand it over easily.

"Conditions." Lucia didn't want to waste her time with Jacob.

"Conditions?" Jacob laughed, "Actually, it's not a condition. I have what you want in my hands, but I won't touch it. I just want you to come out and see me whenever I make a phone call."

Jacob knew that he could make more demands having her mother's relic in his hand, and it was not impossible to ask her to leave Athegate. But instead, he was more concerned about the fact that he could not reach Lucia before, and he just wanted her to be on call!

Lucia couldn't help but sneer when she heard Jacob's words.

"Do you think I'll agree?" she asked.

"You don't have to," Jacob continued with a false smile. "That necklace means nothing to me anyway, and it takes nothing to destroy it."

The anger and hatred in Lucia's eyes were burning even more, but... she couldn't renounce her mother's relics.