

She is a ceo novel -Chapter 51

“You have three chances. The preconditions are, I won’t meet you in the middle of the night, nor will I do anything that may bring harm to other people. It’s true my mother’s belongings are important, but I’m not going to break my rules for them.”

Without hesitation, Jacob agreed. Lucia gave him the answer after consideration. He did not need to bargain with her over that. If he pushed her too much, he might end up with something less satisfying.

Now that he got the answer he wanted, he said, “Okay, three chances. It’s a deal. I won’t make it hard for you. And I need you to remove my number from your blacklist. I’m sure you know my number.”

Lucia glanced at him. It didn’t occur to her that he would mention his phone number. She did blacklist his number on purpose.

“What? You don’t want to do that?” He asked intentionally, seeing Lucia staring at him.

They made eye contact for a few seconds.

Without saying anything, Lucia took out her phone and removed his number from the blacklist while he was watching.

It greatly pleased Jacob. Finally, he felt a sense of superiority before her. “Oh, right. You cannot tell anyone about our deal. I would destroy the necklace the minute I know that you disclose our secret to anyone.”

What a cunning bastard. He knew Arthur and Eduard would spare no effort to help her. If they knew Jacob had threatened her with her mother’s relics, they might find other ways to set obstacles for him.

Poppy, who was green-eyed, could not know this either. Once she got mad with him, she was even more difficult to deal with than Arthur and Eduard.

“I know. And you must keep this deal in mind. If you break it or refuse to follow it, I will tell Poppy alone.” Lucia answered with impatience and then threatened Jacob.

If he broke his word, letting Poppy know would be the biggest punishment she gave to him.

He looked sullen and stared at Lucia for quite a while before nodding in silence.

The air around them froze again. The coffee on the table was already cold. Lucia had no intention to stay there or waste her breath.

Without hesitation, she took her phone and bag aside, stood up, and was about to leave.

Jacob, who was sitting opposite her, was surprised at her sudden movement. He blurted out, "Are you leaving?"

The moment he blurted out those words, he regretted it. It sounded like he didn't want her to leave.

Lucia glanced at him, frowning. She had accepted his unreasonable requests. What more did he want?

To make himself appear less awkward, Jacob added, "I am your old friend. Shouldn't you chat more with me?"

"I have nothing to say," Lucia said flatly and turned around resolutely. She paid the bill and left the café, giving him no chance to speak more.

Jacob's eyes followed Lucia the whole time as she walked away from him and disappeared into the crowd.

Eventually, he frowned and threw himself back into the seat, "Damn it."

As soon as Lucia left, Jacob's mind functioned normally. He realized that he could have asked her for more with that necklace, but somehow he only asked her to show up whenever he called her. And he only had three chances to do it.

But, after a second thought, Jacob felt better. He could make good use of these three chances to achieve a lot of things.

'Lucia... you would regret it.' Jacob thought to himself.

While walking through the crowd, Lucia felt frustrated that her mother's necklace was still in Jacob's hands.

Honestly, she didn't believe that Jacob would keep his word.

He broke every promise he made to her. In the end, each of them turned into an ironic joke.

She was thinking about other ways to get it back, but she could not figure out a way for the time being. She could not steal it from him, could she?

The confrontation she had with Jacob greatly annoyed her.

She was leaving Athegate the day after tomorrow. Esmae's eccentricity really worried her. Her insecurity had nowhere to hide though she was now treading on the busiest street in this city.

She walked until she found out that she had passed several blocks and that the person she wanted to meet the most was Arthur.

She hesitated no more and took a cab to Branch of Davonnis. He should be working in his office at this time.

It was the second time that Lucia stepped into Branch of Davonnis. Though she was not accompanied by Arthur, she caught all staff's attention the moment she appeared in the hall.

"Isn't that Lucia, our CEO's girlfriend?" Someone exclaimed immediately.

"It's her. It's Lucia. Oh my god. It's the first time I have seen her in such a short distance. She's so pretty." Someone praised while staring fixedly at her.

"Why are you making a fuss over it? Don't forget what she has done five years ago." Someone mocked out of jealousy.

"What are you talking about? Mr. Davies spoke up for her in the press conference. What he said made sense, and we didn't know the whole picture. It's unfair to draw an early conclusion." Someone who admired Arthur reputed.

"Right. Don't be jealous. Our CEO can differ right from wrong. If he believes her, he must have his reasons. Plus, the girlfriend of our CEO is absolutely a woman of good character," someone who believed Arthur had a good eye for women reputed as well.

People held different attitudes toward Lucia, but most of them tend to support her considering Arthur's words and actions.

Whatever their view of her was, it had no influence on Lucia who walked casually.

When she was passing the hall and the crowd, she heard their remarks, but she just took no heed of them. It was silly to care about how others viewed her.

When she walked into the elevator, all the noises were isolated.

When it ascended to the top and when Lucia walked out of the elevator, she was amazed by the blue wall that came into her view and felt better.

"Lucia." When she was appreciating the light blue wall, Arthur's voice came to her.

She turned around in surprise. Why was he waiting for her?

He approached her and held her hand. Feeling the warmth of it, he stopped frowning, "The reception informed me when you entered the hall."

Lucia could not help cracking a smile. It seemed everyone in Branch of Davonnis knew her now.

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Holding her hand, Arthur led Lucia to his office. When he was passing Kyle's seat, he asked Kyle to buy some little cakes. Feeling that she might have bothered Kyle, Lucia smiled and thanked him.

Kyle was taken aback at the sight of her smile, but he was soon scared away by Arthur's angry gaze and ran to buy cakes. Lucia was amused.

"Why did you scare him?" She asked amusedly while wiping away the tears resulting from laughing too hard.

"Many people stare at me. Are you going to glare at all of them?" Lucia held his arms and laughed as they walked into the office.

"I don't have that much energy." He said, "I only have energy enough to scare this one away."

To have a relaxing Christmas holiday, Arthur had been working twice as hard as before.

Now when he saw the smile on Lucia's face, he felt all his exhaustion fading away.

After Lucia seated herself on the couch, he turned the temperature up in case she felt cold with her coat off. Then he said, "I gotta work."

Hearing that, Lucia looked at his desk where piles of documents were scattered. She nodded and checked the news on her phone, while Arthur engaged himself again in work.

Silence reigned over the office again. Both of them were doing their own business and trying not to disturb each other, but still, they cared for each other.

That was probably the most comfortable relationship.

Not long after, Kyle came back with cakes that he bought at a famous cake shop after walking through three blocks.

Lucia smiled and thanked him. This time, he almost buried his head into his chest, not daring to stare at her. He nodded and went out so that his boss wouldn't glare at him.

Amused by Kyle, Lucia looked back at Arthur only to find him staring at Kyle again.

It was when Kyle left that he smiled at her and buried himself again in the pile of documents. It felt really good that they cared for each other while both remained independent.

With that in mind, each bite was as sweet as honey.

Lucia took a piece of cake to ask Arthur if he wanted some, but when she approached the desk, she was stunned before she could speak. The things he put on the desk were different from the last time.

Arthur tilted his head and bit on the cake. His lips accidentally touched her skin, which brought great pleasure to him. Meanwhile, he felt it strange that Lucia did not react.

He looked up and found her staring at his desk.

He followed her gaze and realized what she was staring at. The corner of his mouth could not help going upward. It was a little surprise, wasn't it?

On his desk, some picture frames caught Lucia's attention. The number of picture frames was different this time, there were two more. Lucia was both surprised and moved.

The first one was apparently taken secretly. On the balcony of Lucia's house, she was sitting on a rocking chair and looking out, seemingly attracted by something.

The picture was taken on a warm winter afternoon. The tender sunlight shed a layer of dreamy yellow light upon her, making it all seem warm and fuzzy. And Arthur cared little about how he looked, merely leaving a smirky face on the right corner of the picture.

Another one was Theodore's ID photo. Lucia took him to take it, so it was familiar to her. In this picture, Theodore looked rather serious. But naughty as he was, he deliberately curved up his lips at the moment this photo was taken. It almost failed as an ID photo.

It didn't occur to Lucia that Arthur would secretly take these pictures and place them on his desk.

"Arthur, why..." For a moment, words failed Lucia.

"You and Theodore are important people of mine, so the photos of you should also be placed on the desk." He put his arm around her waist and smiled.

He had this idea of putting pictures of Lucia and Theodore there the last time when Lucia saw those picture frames, but he would not have given her a surprise unless he took the picture of her without her knowing.

So, on that warm afternoon, he secretly took a photo of Lucia. Then, he managed to find Theodore's ID photo, and put photos of them together with photos of his other family members on the desk where he could see them every day. That was Arthur's way of being tender.

"Arthur, thank you so much." Feeling touched, Lucia bent over, put her chin on his head, and smelled his hair.

"Are you crying?" Arthur said jokingly when Lucia kept silent.

"Of course not." Though moved, Lucia denied it without hesitation. She buried her face in his hair.

"I thought you would at least shed some tears," he said when gently holding Lucia's arms.

His words prompted Lucia to loosen her hands. The moment she was about to retort, she met his affectionate eyes.

He smiled faintly, raised his head a little bit, and looked tenderly at Lucia.

His affectionate gaze made Lucia's heart skip a beat.

Instead of fighting back, Lucia held his face with her hands and kissed his eyelid.

Arthur enjoyed her tenderness. He looked calm, but his hands holding her arms tightened.

With his heart throbbing, he couldn't help but frown.

Soon, the day of departure, the 20th, came despite Arthur's reluctance.

It was early in the morning and Arthur was busy packing the luggage for Lucia and Theodore.

Though Lucia had packed the things, as a prudent man, Arthur checked everything again before they left. Lucia could only let him do it.

Standing beside them, Sophie was smiling.

She knew her son best. The reason why he wanted to check everything again with Lucia was that he wanted to spend more time with her.

Arthur's apathy was always a known fact, but there was no denying that he would love someone for a long time once he fell in love.

Lucia was the first woman that Arthur had a crush on.

Now seeing her son's childish behavior, Sophie was amused and contented.

Time ticked away. There were less than three hours before the plane took off, and it took almost one hour to get to the airport. Lucia found it hard to tell Arthur about it, so she turned to Sophie for help.

She looked at Sophie and wished Sophie to persuade Arthur.

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"Arthur..." Lucia sighed resignedly.

"Arthur, Lucia, and Theodore are just leaving a few days ahead of us. Don't make it like you'll never see her again." It never occurred to Sophie that Arthur could be so indecisive. She was both amused and annoyed.

"Can we go now?" Knowing that she had pushed Arthur's button, Sophie apologized and urged him.

"Let's go. Come, Theodore. Give daddy a hug," Arthur said to Theodore, who was reading on the couch.

On hearing his father's calling, Theodore walked over and raised his arms high. And Arthur lifted him up. Though Theodore said nothing, he hugged Arthur tightly to show his reluctance to leave.

While Arthur was holding Theodore in his arms, tenderness came into his eyes. Lucia noticed it and instantly grabbed her baggage, hoping to go out first, but Arthur gripped her as soon as she made a step.

"Let me help you." He was unwilling to let her do any heavy work.

"Then I'll hold Theodore." Lucia proposed, afraid that Arthur would get exhausted, but her advice was turned down immediately.

"Don't even think about it." He glanced at her and went out with one hand holding Theodore, the other dragging the baggage.

Lucia and Sophie exchanged a look. Both of them were amused and could do nothing about it at the same time.

When they went downstairs, Lucia took the passenger's seat first. Sophie and Theodore took the back seats.

Lucia didn't want to put Arthur in a dilemma of arranging the seats, so she let Sophie be seated in the back.

Arthur was moved by her consideration. He was holding his hand while they were waiting for Theodore to fasten the seatbelt. He was really reluctant to part with her.

Lucia silently held his hand tight and gave him a big smile.

When Theodore was ready, Arthur let go of Lucia's hand and started the engine, driving them to the airport.

With Theodore in the car, the car was filled with laughter and happiness on its way. Arthur didn't want Lucia to leave, and Sophie didn't want her grandson to leave.

The elder one and the young kid chatted with each other, enjoying the rare peaceful moments.

At last, they arrived at the airport. As soon as Arthur arrived, A staff member whose duty was receiving shareholders came to help them carry the luggage, which allowed Arthur some time to say goodbye to Lucia.

Arthur's arm held Theodore and the other arm was put around Lucia's waist.

Theodore comforted Arthur, "Mommy and I will be waiting for you in the USA. Come and find us soon, Daddy."

He sensitively noticed that his parents were reluctant to part with each other.

Honestly, he didn't want to be separated from his daddy, either, but he didn't show his reluctance after he saw his mommy's red-rimmed eyes. Instead, he played a part in livening the atmosphere.

"I will. Theodore, you should be your mommy's good boy and wait for me to pick you up, okay?" said Arthur softly. He could not help kissing Theodore on his soft little cheek.

At the same time, Lucia buried her face in Arthur's neck, fearing her tears would flow down the minute she looked up.

Not long after, the airport staff came to remind Lucia that it was time for boarding.

Though Arthur found it hard to part with them, he forced himself to let them go.

Before they left, he repeatedly reminded them to be careful on the road. He finally stopped talking until the airport staff reminded Lucia to board again. But he seemed even more reluctant to let them leave.

"Take care, Sophie," Lucia said. After taking Theodore from Arthur, she looked at Arthur again with deep affection.

"You too. Theodore, you are a little man now. Take care of your mommy, okay?" Sophie nodded to Lucia and then talked with Theodore.

"Don't worry, Grandma. I will. With me around, no one dares bully Mommy." Theodore patted his chest in a manly manner.

After they said goodbye, the staff worker directed Lucia to the boarding gate. "Miss Webb, this way."

Lucia turned around and walked away without looking back, afraid that she would be unwilling to leave after taking one more look.

Arthur's gaze followed her until he could no longer see her.

Lucia had found the seats of her and Theodore in the first class. The air hostess came to ask her if she needed anything, but she stopped after saying the first few words.

She then turned to Theodore to ask if he needed something. Theodore, lying in her mother's arms, shook his head. Then the air hostess went away.

"Don't cry, Mommy." Snuggling up to her chest, Theodore patted softly on her arms.

It turned out that the air hostess left considerably after noticing Lucia's red-rimmed eyes and depressed mood.

"Teddy, Mommy is fine." Theodore's comfort was of great help. She managed to pull herself together and conceal her feelings lest Theodore would be worried.

She knew she would reunite with Arthur in a few days, but her heart ached so much when she turned around to leave in the VIP room. She even lost the courage to look back, for she was afraid that she would throw herself into his arms once she did so. With no outlet to vent her feelings, she could only shed tears silently.

"Mommy, you are missing Daddy, aren't you?" Theodore seemed to know it all.

Lucia smiled, and patted his head, "Yeah, I miss your daddy. But he will come for us soon."

"So, Mommy should stop crying," Theodore said in a childish voice while wiping Lucia's tears away.

Lucia clutched his hand and kissed it. She nodded and stopped feeling sad.

Soon, the plane took off, to everyone's expectation, heading to the USA.

On the day of the 23rd, Arthur had packed everything without Sophie's reminding him. In the early morning, he drove to her place to pick her and Jan up, so that they could return to the USA together.

Before departure, he intended to video chat with Lucia first, but she didn't answer it.

He called her, only to find her phone was off.

"What's wrong, Arthur?" The minute Sophie walked downstairs, she noticed her son staring at his phone in a daze.

"Lucia's phone is off..." There was a hint of worry in his voice, though his face looked calm.

Sophie didn't think it was a problem, and comforted Arthur, "Maybe she's busy doing other stuff. You know that Esmae is the only family Lucia has. Sure, Lucia will spend a lot of time with Esmae when she gets there. And she won't stare at her phone screen all day long. Don't worry. Let's go to New York first. You can contact her again when we arrive."

But Arthur vaguely had a bad hunch.

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"Stop thinking about it. You've packed things, so let's go." Seeing Arthur still knitting his eyebrows, Sophie changed the topic to distract him.

Right on cue, Jan walked in, leaving little time for Arthur to be worried. The three of them went to the airport together. After more than ten hours of flight, they finally arrived.

The headquarters of Davonnis Corp was in the busiest part of Wall Street, adjacent to other top financial companies, thriving modestly.

The Davies Manor, however, was low-key. A manor, which used to belong to a declining aristocrat, was renovated into the Davies Manor.

On his way home, he heard that his other three brothers had arrived home.

The one that came to pick them up at the airport was Arthur's eldest brother, Otis.

Though the Davies family had plenty of servants, Otis was the most appropriate one to pick up Master Arthur and Lady Sophie.

Though both of them developed businesses in the same country, they had their own thing to do. The chances for them to meet each other were rather scarce, so when they eventually met, they could not help embracing each other.

The warm atmosphere of family meeting together was Sophie's favorite. She looked at both her sons with a contented smile.

"Come, dad, Bailey, and Douglas are all waiting for you," Otis said and was about to lead them home, but Arthur said he needed to call someone first.

Otis was confused. Who was Arthur calling?

Sophie could not help rolling her eyes, "Did you forget Arthur now has a girlfriend and a son? Of course, he needs to call them first."

"Right. Mom, didn't you tell us you were going to come back together? Where are they?" Otis smiled.

Sophie told Otis that they went to Chicago first, and Arthur was contacting Lucia.

Otis nodded. He and his mother looked at Arthur who was making a call in the corner.

But gradually, they found something was not right.

The look on Arthur's face was getting sullen. Sophie and Otis approached him to ask what was going on.

"It's still off."

Arthur frowned.

Sophie had no idea what she could say to comfort him, "Let's just go home first, alright?"

Arthur nodded. On the way back to the Davies manor, he repeatedly called Lucia without saying a word.

Neither Otis nor Sophie knew how to talk him out of that. After three hours' drive, they arrived at the outskirts of New York. The Davies manor came into their eyes. While the car was driving in, Arthur was lost in his thoughts the whole time.

On the main staircase, Edwin was waiting for his wife and sons. Bailey and Douglas, too, were waiting for their mother and brothers. The minute the car was parked, Douglas rushed down to open the car door for his mother. Sophie got off and was surrounded by her two sons.

“Mom, you are back,” said Douglas.

“Mom, welcome back,” said Bailey.

Sophie smiled and hugged them. She meant to visit Otis, Bailey, and Arthur, but the visit was delayed, for she met Theodore in Athegate first, and then she knew the existence of Lucia. Anyway, it was good to finally see them, but...

Sophie looked back into the car, where Arthur was still making the phone call. Her worry grew.

“Arthur, get off,” Douglas said to him while noticing he was still in the car, but the latter seemed ignorant of his calling. Douglas then wanted to move closer but was stopped by Sophie.

“Just leave him alone. Let’s get inside.” Sophie said while stopping Douglas. When she saw her husband walking towards her, she opened her arms and gently hugged him, “Edwin, I’m back.”

Edwin hugged her. Though he always seemed severe and stern, there was a soft look on his face. When he noticed that Arthur was still in the car, he asked, “What’s Arthur doing in there?”

Sophie did not answer immediately, instead, she signaled to Bailey, Douglas, and Otis to get into the house and sit on the couch in the living room, then she started talking about how they lost contact with Lucia.

“So, he’s doing all these things just for a woman? He didn’t even say hello to us,” Edwin said harshly, but his care for Arthur was secretly flowing in his eyes.

“It’s not his fault.” Sophie added, “He loved Lucia. She’s his first love. Of course, he cared about her.”

“Mom,” Bailey frowned after hearing his mother’s words, “Is it possible that Arthur is fooled?”

Among his brothers, Bailey was the one that attracted women the most. He was more than annoyed by their courtship. Since he had seen a lot of money-chasing women, he was able to tell their little tricks. Therefore, he had such guesses.

The minute he finished his words, a resolute voice came from the entry of the living room, “No, it’s not.”

They turned around, only to find that Arthur, with a strange look on his face, had been standing there since they didn’t know when.

"It was just a joke." Being stared at by Arthur and other family members, Bailey tried to make up an excuse, so that he could be less blamed. He didn't mean it...

Sophie glanced at him and stood up to pull Arthur closer. Then, Arthur greeted Edwin, Bailey, whom he had not seen for a long time, and Douglas, his youngest brother. With Lucia's disappearance hanging over him like a sword of Damocles, he was not in the mood for chit-chat.

Otis and Edwin exchanged a look, and asked, "Look, Arthur. Didn't you tell us that Miss Webb went to Chicago to visit her family? Do you know whom she was going to visit? Any name or other information? I can ask some friends to help you find out where they are."

Otis' suggestions were the most practical ones. Once he proposed, both Bailey and Douglas proposed that they would do the same. And they could still count on the connections that the Davies family already had. Though searching for a local Athegate in the USA was like looking for a needle in the haystack, it would be better to have more people involved in it.

Sophie, however, slightly frowned. She looked at Arthur, who was also looking at her, frowning. Then he answered in a lowered voice, "I don't know."

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What Arthur said almost proved how little hope they had in finding her. There were almost two hundred thousand Americans of Athegate origin in Chicago, and Arthur did not even know Lucia's aunt's full name or other detailed information. Searching for them was like finding a needle in a vast ocean.

"Arthur, are you really dating Miss Webb?" Bailey bantered him.

Arthur had nothing to answer him. He had no intention to gain a wider knowledge of who Auntie Esmae was, nor had he ever imagined that he would lose contact with Lucia.

The stone that was pressing his heart became even heavier.

"Don't worry, Arthur. At least we know that Lucia and Theodore are safe. You saw someone pick them up the day you video-chatted with her, right?" Sophie was only trying her best to console him.

Arthur nodded. If he didn't know that, he wouldn't be sitting at home now.

"Right, Arthur. It's always busy during Christmas and the New Year's holiday. Though you cannot get in touch with them, it doesn't mean they are lost." Douglas's young face was clouded with worries. He adored Arthur the most, and he hated to see him like that.

“Arthur, Douglas is right. It took us so long to finally see each other. Don’t let your paranoia ruin our time. I heard Miss Webb is quite smart, and the child is a highly intelligent genius. They can surely protect themselves. It would be a total waste of time if you keep on fantasizing and worrying. Tonight, we should have some drinks and enjoy our time, okay?” Bailey finally said something soothing.

Arthur stopped frowning.

Once Edwin noticed it, he interjected, “Count me in.”

“How dare you!” Sophie, who was most concerned with Edwin’s health condition, glared at him when she heard his words.

Though Arthur was worried, he believed Lucia and Theodore were capable enough to protect themselves. To make his family feel better, he also had some drinks.

At night, Edwin and Sophie were chatting, but their topic eventually shifted to Arthur.

“Arthur is too concentrated. All these years, once he likes something, he would grow fonder and fonder of it. Nothing can talk him out of it.” When he was talking about Arthur, the look on Edwin’s face was mixed with both concern and affection.

“I know,” Sophie answered quietly. Though Bailey was constantly bothered by women, it was quite impossible for him to be impressed, which was rather a relief for them.

Edwin put his arms around Sophie’s and asked her seriously, “Do you really think Lucia is trustworthy?”

It was not strange that Edwin should have such concerns. Lucia was complicated. She lived on with a sense of hatred. Meanwhile, Arthur had the ability to help her. Edwin was worried that Arthur would be taken advantage of.

“It’s okay you don’t believe Arthur, but don’t you believe me?” Sophie glanced at him and answered calmly.

When she was still working in the company, Sophie was responsible for human resources. She had keen eyes and seldom made mistakes in selecting people.

Edwin’s doubts went away after hearing just a few of her words. Then he continued, “There must have been something wrong with Miss Webb.”

Of course, Sophie was aware of that, but what made her feel more bitter was that, Arthur pretended to be okay to comfort his family members.

“Edwin, though we have only limited resources, I think you should try to ask around and see if there’s any information about Lucia and Theodore. What if we happened to find them?” Sophie said to Edwin.

“I have already made a call. After all, Theodore is our first grandson,” answered Edwin.

Hearing that, Sophie hugged her husband even tighter.

‘Lucia, Theodore, where are you?’

Downstairs, the four sons of the Davies family were drinking and talking. At first, the atmosphere was good, but as time went by, it became a little bit intense. Arthur, the one who seldom drank, was drinking the most.

The other three were aware that he was only trying to intoxicate himself. The wines that were worth hundreds of thousands were treated like normal beverages. They were drunk one after another until eventually, Sophie and Edwin were wakened.

The next day, when the Davies family was still asleep, Arthur boarded the flight to Chicago by himself. As Christmas was coming, he didn’t want to bother his family anymore.

When he was staring at the thick clouds, the worries in his heart multiplied.

After he arrived in Chicago, he directly headed to the Francis Residence. The Francis, the biggest gang in Chicago, were his old friends. They were the most appropriate ones to help him look for Lucia.

Arthur expressed his intention after a small talk with his friend, Percy Francis, whom he hadn’t seen for a long time. Seeing that Arthur’s mind was occupied, Percy understood him and immediately sent his people to look for information about Lucia. He wanted to have a further conversation with Arthur, but all he got was Arthur’s back. Arthur had gone to look for Lucia with his people.

“He never cared for anyone like this...” Percy sighed when he saw Arthur rush off.

As Christmas was around the corner, everyone seemed filled with joy on the road. Arthur and Joel, one of Percy’s men, were driving through each block to check if there was any breakthrough, but they got nothing. It was not because Percy’s men didn’t work hard on it, but because the information Arthur offered was too scanty.

“Master Arthur, it’s already afternoon...” Joel, who had spent a whole day searching with Arthur, couldn’t help reminding him when the clock hit six.

Arthur said nothing while sitting in the back seat looking out of the window as if he wouldn’t stop until he found who he wanted to find.

“Master Arthur...” Joel reminded Arthur again when Arthur didn’t respond to him.

“Send me to the airport.” At last, Arthur shifted his eyes and said in a cold voice.

“What about Master Percy...” Joel did not expect that he would ask to go to the airport.

“I will tell him. Just send me to the airport and go home. Christmas eve is coming.” Arthur did not want to bother his friend anymore.

“Alright,” Joel answered and drove him to the airport. Arthur took the latest flight and went back to New York.

Lucia was his woman. It was impossible that he could not find her!

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This year, Juliana’s family also came to the Davies family for Christmas. With Juliana as the tomboy, the Davies family was naturally more lively.

Three days later, Lucia’s cell phone was still off, and there was no response after entrusting people to search for her.

The Davies family took down their Christmas decorations to prepare for the new year, and Arthur took the time to visit his alma mater, visiting his former mentors and classmates as part of his purpose.

The most important thing was to inquire about Lucia’s whereabouts. Arthur used his mentor’s relationship to retrieve Lucia’s personal information from the administration, but regrettably, Lucia was living in school at that time. The only home contact address was only a rented apartment near the school, so the trail was broken.

The only thing that made Arthur feel relieved was that he met Nike Federer, Lucia’s mentor. Nike told Arthur that Lucia had brought Theodore along to visit him on Christmas Eve and that she was doing well and did not seem to be under anyone’s control, so Arthur was slightly relieved.

When the New Year came, it snowed heavily in New York. The snowflakes carried the hopes and aspirations of countless people for the new year and the future, but for Arthur, it was a day of worries.

Lucia was still out of touch.

During this time, Arthur also personally contacted Eduard. After all, he was Lucia’s boss. But to Arthur’s surprise, even Eduard can not contact Lucia. Worry, suspicion, and all kinds of complex emotions were lurking in Arthur’s smile when facing his family. No one knew when it will explode.

Once the New Year's revelry was over, the whole New York was back to its usual busy and fast pace. Only some children were unwilling to leave the holidays and wore New Year's caps, which reminded people of the old year that has just passed.

The plan was to bring Lucia and Theodore home to introduce them to their parents and brothers and spend the first Christmas and New Year with them, but in the end, all Arthur's hopes were dashed.

Juliana's family also said goodbye at this time. Although Juliana was careless, she also found the unusual in Arthur. Helplessly, she asked him but gained no answer, and finally had to follow her family to leave.

The Davies family mansion had returned to its usual quietness. As soon as the company started to operate normally, Edwin also got busy and the brothers started to plan their trip back home.

According to Arthur's information, Lucia did not submit any resignation report to Jibillion Inc, which meant she will definitely go back to work after the holidays and he will be able to see her again!

When discussing the return trip, Sophie proposed to accompany Arthur back home again, back to Ategate. The future was unpredictable. She really worried about Arthur. Of course, she would miss her lovely grandson. Although Edwin was reluctant, he also knew that this was the best way. The Davies family brothers said goodbye to their father and returned to different cities where their careers were.

Because Arthur often had to travel between Ategate and USA, he had long been accustomed to the flight of more than ten hours, but this time, every minute was suffering for him in the hope that the plane would land quickly so he could see Lucia and Theodore.

Sophie sensed Arthur's thoughts and could only sigh.

Finally, at the end of the night, the flight from New York to Ategate landed smoothly.

As soon as he left the airport, Arthur said to Jan, "Jan, drive my mom home and let her rest first. I'm going to go to Lucia's house."

Sophie said, "Arthur, I will go with you."

If he got to Lucia's house and found the lights were out, Sophie wondered if Arthur will have a breakdown.

"No, Mom, you're tired from the flight. Go back and rest. I want to go by myself." Arthur said firmly.

Sophie looked at the light in Arthur's eyes and finally compromised. She knew that she couldn't actually rest until her son got word of Lucia.

So outside the airport, Arthur and Sophie split up, and he sped off in his car all the way to Lucia's house.

An hour or so later, Arthur's car parked outside of Lucia's house. Sitting in the car, Arthur never felt so nervous. He was actually afraid, afraid that no one would respond after he knocked the door, afraid that he could only face the room full of darkness after he opened the door. However, his hope to see Lucia and Theodore overcame everything. He took a deep breath and got out of the car.

Looking up, with just one glance, Arthur finally felt relieved because the windows of Lucia's house were shining with warm light.

She was home!

Arthur did not remember how he rushed upstairs. He only remembered his heartbeat like a drum when he knocked on Lucia's door.

Arthur did not wait long. The door soon opened and Lucia's beautiful face entered Arthur's sight along with the warm light of the room.

"Lucia!" His body acted faster than the brain. Once the door opened, Arthur had reached out to pull Lucia into his arms, implying that he not only missed her so much but also vented out his depressed feelings that had been suppressed so long.

The moment he held Lucia in his arms, Arthur felt alive again. Indeed, during this period of time without news of Lucia, it was not too much to say that he was living like a walking dead.

"There you are." Lucia's voice was clear and pleasant. Arthur heard it but felt it uncharacteristically calm.

Arthur, who was emotional, did not notice this. He embraced Lucia and walked into the room, which was as warm as his heart was warmed.

"Will you let go of me first?" Lucia's voice remained faint. With her words, her hands braced herself on top of Arthur's chest and pushed him back slightly, silently pulling away the intimate distance between them.

This time, Arthur was perceived.

When looking at each other, Arthur's heart clenched with some disbelief.

"Lucia, what's wrong?" For a while, Arthur stared at Lucia and asked carefully.

Lucia turned her head toward the sofa and sat down, saying indifferently, "Sit down. I have something to say to you."

Lucia's words made it foreboding for Arthur. He went over and wanted to sit directly beside her and hug her, but Lucia moved to the side as soon as she saw him approaching, and the act of pulling him away could not have been more obvious.

"What's wrong!" The uneasiness in his heart annoyed Arthur, and he asked once more. His voice was cold and no longer as fiery as it was a moment ago.

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For a while, Lucia just looked at Arthur, not saying anything and not answering.

Arthur couldn't understand Lucia's strange behavior and indifferent attitude. She obviously had no intention of talking yet, so he took a deep breath and decided to ask some questions that he was eager to know first, "You know when I went back to USA, right?"

"I know." It was a while before Lucia finally spoke up and answered.

"You know it but why didn't you contact me?" asked Arthur.

Lucia was silent again.

Arthur asked again, "Have you and Theodore been safe all this time?"

"Hmm." Lucia replied with a nod.

"Where's he?" Arthur asked again.

"Asleep. Keep your voice down." Mentioning Theodore, Lucia seemed to speak more, and Arthur seized the opportunity to ask again.

"Why haven't you been in touch with me?"

This time, Lucia chose to be silent again. Smart as Arthur soon found out. Lucia was not unwilling to talk to him, but just kept avoiding talking about the lost connection.

"Don't you have something to say to me? Say it."

"Arthur, let's break up." There was no light in her eyes. Lucia just staggeringly broke Arthur's heart without warning.

"What did you say?" Arthur heard the words, but he didn't believe them.

Lucia lowered her eyes. Her lips quirked a few times. She wanted to speak before repeating again, "I said, let's break up."

After Lucia finished her words, she was pulled into his arms the next second. He stared at her and said in a cold voice, "What did you just say?! Say it again!"

Lucia looked away. She was a little afraid to look at Arthur's eyes at that moment, but the next moment her jaw was pinched.

Arthur used brute force to make Lucia turn back to meet his eyes again, insisting that she should say the words again. Because even there were uncertainties and impossibilities, Arthur never thought Lucia would say that to him!

They had just established their relationship not long ago. They were intensely affectionate and getting more and more intimate. Did all those feelings dissipate just because of the separation of just ten days or so!?

Arthur himself did not believe it!

Being forced to meet Arthur's burning and questioning eyes, Lucia's indifference reduced finally but she seemed to be holding back. Even if her eyes looked weak, she still insisted on repeating the words that made Arthur collapse, "I said ... let's break up ..."

Only this time, her voice was low and weak.

Arthur let go of Lucia, turned around and bent his head. The bitterness in his heart was unspeakable. She had said three times the words "break up" so she was not joking ...

Seeing Arthur's sudden passive posture, Lucia tightly bite her lower lip. The indifference in her eyes were instantly replaced by bitterness. But it can not be noticed by Arthur.

Just as the air fell into a dead silence, a confused child's voice rang out in the direction of the bedroom, "Daddy, you're home?"

It turned out that just now Arthur was unable to control the volume emotionally, and his questioning woke up Theodore who was sleeping in the bedroom. Theodore heard what seemed to be Arthur's voice. Even if he was sleepy, he got up. Now, he was rubbing his eyes and standing in the living room entrance to ask Arthur.

As soon as he saw Theodore, Arthur stood up and walked over to pick him up in his arms, looking at his son in a heartfelt way.

Arthur turned his head to look at Lucia, only to see that Lucia somehow looked at the windowsill. He could not see her expression at the moment.

Trying to restrain himself, Arthur turned back to Theodore and kissed him on the cheek and asked, "Theodore, did you have a good Christmas and New Year?"

Arthur wanted to know about Lucia and Theodore on the one hand, and to learn some clues from Theodore on the other hand, but Theodore only said, "Daddy, we had a very happy Christmas and New Year. Why didn't you come to us?"

With Theodore's question, Arthur knew that Lucia did not reveal anything to the child. In order not to let the child have too much doubt, Arthur lied, "Daddy is too busy these days and can't find time to visit you. Sorry, let's spend the Spring Festival together, okay?"

"Yes!" Theodore's eyes lit up and he responded happily. Then he held up his little finger as if he was afraid Arthur would back out and said to him, "Daddy and Theodore do the pinky promise. Never break a promise again."

Arthur looked at Theodore's eyes full of expectation, and felt suffocated. In order not to let his son disappointed, he still made an appointment with him. Then he carried him back to his room, and put him to sleep before returning to the living room.

In the living room, Lucia was still sitting on the sofa. Her posture had not changed. Arthur suddenly did not want to walk over but to leave directly. Following the track of time, December 20th was the day Lucia and Theodore left. Whether it was because of being capricious or domineering, he would never let them leave alone!

He was sure that Lucia must have come back from something in Chicago to break up with him, but what was it for?

Suddenly, he stepped forward and walked straight to Lucia. At this time, she was stubbornly looking out the window. Even Arthur crouched in front of her, she did not turn back. Regardless of her indifference, Arthur grabbed her hand and asked, "Lucia, is there any problem we can solve together?"

Whatever plight Lucia had, Arthur can accept it and he believed he can solve it, but unfortunately Lucia continued her indifferent attitude

Turning her head to face Arthur's pleading eyes, the coldness in Lucia's eyes deepened. Just now during the ten or so minutes when Theodore was present, it gave Arthur a chance to calm down, but also gave Lucia time to cool down as well. She looked straight at Arthur and replied in an indifferent voice, "Arthur, I am an adult and I make my own choices out of deliberation. I'm not influenced by any other factors, but only by the space and possibilities for both of us to develop. I think that we are not suitable for each other. It is the best choice for both of us to break up early while our feelings are still not deep."

“No deep feelings?!” Lucia said so much and Arthur only caught this point. He immediately raised his eyebrows and asked this incredulous question.

“Right.” Lucia nodded, lowered her eyes and stopped looking at Arthur.

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“You think we have little affection for each other?” Arthur said coldly while slowly standing up.

His self-proclaimed deep love turned into dominance in her eyes. And his self-perceived thoughtfulness and coddling turned into clinginess, and even her emotions, which he clearly felt in deep kisses and hugs, turned into a ridiculous “no deep feelings”. Arthur did not expect Lucia to see the relationship between them in this way.

Being disappointed to the extreme was Arthur’s most real state of mind right now.

If he had continued to crouch and continued to gaze at Lucia, he might have noticed the flicker of vulnerability and pain in her eyes after she nodded, but unfortunately Arthur couldn’t see it, and Lucia hid it away quickly.

“We’ve only been together for less than two months. Arthur, let’s move on.” Sensing the disappointment in Arthur’s tone, Lucia continued to hurt him.

The sooner, the less painful it will be.

Lucia relied on this thought to anesthetize herself.

Lucia’s last words sent Arthur straight to hell.

Arthur took his jacket from the back of the sofa and put it on, moving quickly without a moment’s hesitation. After donning, he walked straight to the door. Just as Lucia finally breathed a sigh of relief, he said, “It’s okay to break up, but don’t you forget Theodore is my son.”

Lucia’s heart tightened at the words. She was unable to say a word but could only watch Arthur open the door and leave. The sound of closing the door was loud, like the door to Arthur’s heart was closed with a bang.

As soon as Arthur left, Lucia immediately stood up and went to the window sill. She pulled the curtain over her body, only to show a pair of eyes looking at the car downstairs. Soon, she saw Arthur went out of the building and got into the car. The sound of the engine roared from downstairs, and then, the Rolls-Royce Phantom went away in the dust.

Finally he left.

No longer able to see the Rolls-Royce Phantom, Lucia loosened the curtain and slid slowly into a seat. Now she was exhausted and shivering in coldness which was not from the winter chill, but from the heart.

“He’s gone ...,” Lucia said, buried her face in her knees and smiled to herself. Her voice was trembling like a falling leaf in a cold wind.

On the floor, there was a few drops of water which was spreading slowly.

Arthur did not know how he got back to the villa. On the way, he opened the car windows, with the help of the cold wind to let himself cool down as if he let the snow wrapped around his heart to make his heart cold. When he returned home, his hands were red from being frozen.

Sophie had not slept and had been waiting for Arthur. As soon as she heard the door open, she ran to the corridor to meet him, and when she saw Arthur shivering with cold, she was heartbroken and shocked.

“Arthur! What’s wrong!” Sophie scolded while pulling Arthur into the living room and wrapping his body with the blanket she had wrapped herself in earlier, but with immense anger.

As a mother, Sophie was angry and distressed when she saw Arthur not taking care of his health.

Actually Sophie herself was clear that if nothing had happened, Arthur would not have come home tonight ... He and Lucia, what had happened?

The soft blanket warmed his body, but it can not melt the frost on Arthur’s heart. He just sat like that for a long time. Suddenly, he turned his head and despite that he was strong and taller than his mother, he leaned on Sophie’s shoulders. Sophie hurried to hug him, found Arthur was slightly trembling, and then heard him say, “We break up.”

Sophie was shocked, hurriedly looked down at her son and found that his eyes were surprisingly red.

Without unnecessary words, Arthur went straight back to his room.

The next morning, Sophie opened the door and saw Arthur standing in front of the room thinking. She was both heartbroken and helpless, but hopefully Lucia really had a hidden agenda. Otherwise she did not even know if Arthur could pass this hurdle.

“You didn’t sleep well last night, did you?” Seeing the obvious dark circles under Arthur’s eyes, Sophie asked him.

“That’s okay. Mom, go to her house and ask if there’s something I don’t know about. I’ll drive you there now.” Arthur had even thought of the trip for Sophie.

“Wait, do you want to come along?” Sophie asked as she pulled Arthur’s arm.

“Hmm.” Arthur replied as a matter of course.

“Do you think Lucia will reveal anything if you are there?” Sophie wanted to roll her eyes at Arthur, whose IQ was now close to negative, but she held back and continued, “You stay home and wait for me. After I ask her what happen, I will call you over.”

When Lucia opened the door to meet Sophie, she didn’t seem surprised but just hesitant when she called Sophie.

Theodore stood next to Lucia with his little school bag on his back. Because they had been back for two days, Lucia planned to send him to school today. After seeing Sophie, Theodore immediately had a big smile and jumped into Sophie’s arms and called her grandma without thinking, making Sophie’s heart burst with joy.

“My Teddy seems to have grown quite a bit after not seeing you for so many days.” Sophie said as she hugged Theodore and gave him a serious height measurement.

“Really? Really?” Being able to grow up was the wish of countless children, and naturally it was the most cheerful thing for Theodore, who inquired in an innocent voice and stood on tiptoe desperately.

“Really, it’s true.” Sophie stood up and stroked Theodore’s little head and looked at Lucia, who was looking down at Theodore and seemed to be consciously avoiding her sight. Sophie sighed secretly and said to her, “Lucia, can you ask Jan to drive Theodore to school? I want to talk to you for a minute.”

Sophie naturally wanted to send her grandson to school, but her son was at home and he was waiting hard for her news. She was really afraid that he will be anxious to come on his own, so it was better to talk to Lucia as soon as possible.

Lucia hesitated and finally nodded. Sophie would come over today as she had expected, and even, what she would say afterwards was probably clear to her, but they still had to finish the process. The sooner, the better.

Lucia said, “Then I’ll take Theodore down. Sophie, make yourself at home first.”

After her words, Lucia let Sophie in and then sent Theodore downstairs herself. She had already met Jan before so she wasn’t afraid of mistaken identity.

Sophie saw Lucia and Theodore into the elevator before she went inside. The first thing she did was go to the dining room to see what was left. After finding out that breakfast

was indeed toast, Sophie decided to roll up her sleeves and put on her apron to go into the familiar kitchen and start making breakfast.

Ten minutes later, Lucia returned home. As soon as she opened the door, she smelled the smell of food. Lucia frowned and her feelings were complicated. She came to the kitchen door and saw Sophie was seriously making breakfast. After Sophie found her standing at the door, she smiled tenderly and said, "Lucia, just wait a little longer. I will be done in a minute."

"Sophie, I've had breakfast ...," Lucia replied reluctantly, politely indicating that she didn't need to get any more.

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"It's okay. Eat some more." Being unaffected, Sophie continued to cook breakfast and asked Lucia to wait in the dining room to avoid all the grease flying around the kitchen.

Being concerned by Sophie, Lucia felt even more uncomfortable. Out of guilt, she did not walk away, but insisted on standing at the door and waiting for Sophie.

Sophie saw her like this and did not say anything, and continued the work in her hands. Ten minutes later, two bowls of hot mushroom porridge were ready. Lucia saw the situation and rushed over to help bring the porridge to the dining room table.

"Sophie, haven't you had your breakfast yet?" Lucia asked when she saw that Sophie had cooked her own portion as well.

"Well, let's eat together." Sophie replied as she untied her apron and sat with Lucia, taking the lead in picking up a spoon and starting to have the porridge.

Lucia realized that Sophie had come here without breakfast, and her guilt deepened, so she could only pick up a spoon, but the breakfast in front of her tasted unappetizing.

After having half bowl of the porridge, Sophie thought the time was right, so she turned to Lucia and asked, "Lucia, Arthur came home last night and told me you broke up with him, right?"

She knew this would be asked, but Lucia frowned slightly when she heard it. And she suppressed her emotions before nodding.

"Can you tell me why?" Sophie continued to ask.

Lucia stopped eating with her question and this small action made Sophie more sure of her suspicions. Besides, Lucia looked like she had not slept all night. Her tired appearance was not deceiving. Since they loved each other, why couldn't they be together? What was the reason? Why they couldn't not compromise?

“Lucia, you know Arthur’s character very well. What exactly are you giving him up for?” Sophie said while carefully observing Lucia’s expression.

Sophie thought she could impress Lucia with her words, but she was disappointed when Lucia replied immediately after her words, “Sophie, I know you’re all guessing if I gave up on this relationship for some other reason, but it really wasn’t. I was emotionally scarred and had already built high walls outside my heart. I admit Arthur’s tenderness touched me at first, but it was only temporary.

This time when we were apart in different places, I found our feelings are more built on top of having a common child only. He is certainly affectionate, but I can not rely on him because I covet a harbor from him. It is not fair, so I choose to break up with him before he has deep feelings about me.”

He had long been mired in the love and hopeless!

Looking at Lucia who said these seemingly sensible words, Sophie replied quietly in her heart. However, her words really made sense, and Sophie thought twice and said again, “Lucia, a sincere relationship is very difficult to have. I believe no one knows this truth better than you, so I just want to come here today to ask the reason. I am doing this not only to defend my son, but also for you.

I am eye-witnessing you guys start dating and getting deeper and deeper in love. You said your feelings calmed down after the separation, so why didn’t you make it clear from the beginning? Christmas, New Year, during this holidays, you have more than enough opportunities to break up with Arthur directly to avoid the current entanglement, but why you directly choose to avoid, and even turn off the phone and out of touch?”

Sophie felt that Lucia was simply using that time to force herself to compromise and force herself to leave Arthur.

Sure enough, Lucia was speechless and had no answer.

Sophie felt like she was about to open Lucia’s heart, but she watched Lucia clenched her fist and continued her perseverance, “Everyone was with their loved ones during that time. I just didn’t want to break his heart at this time.”

“If you don’t contact him, does he have a good time?” Sophie’s eloquence was honed through countless business experiences, and none of the reasons Lucia said were reasons at all in her eyes.

Lucia choked again and revealed a strong helplessness in her eyes. However, Sophie did not understand what it was for.

“Sophie, I’ve made this clear to Arthur and won’t change my decision. You really don’t need to …” Lucia thought for a moment and said this, but before she could finish her words, she was interrupted by Sophie.

“Don’t I need to?” Sophie interrupted Lucia and her words implied that she was heartbroken, “Do you know what Arthur’s state was when he got home last night? He came back all the way with the cold wind. He was almost frozen when he arrived home. That was the first time in many years that I saw his eyes red. The breakup was a decision you made unilaterally, which could not erase his deep love. As a mother, I have to find you and ask you what it was that made you want to hurt him like that!”

Sophie said so and the tone of voice can not help but be stern.

Knowing Arthur’s state after leaving last night, Lucia immediately looked away from Sophie, as if she had found something. Sophie clearly saw her shoulders shaking slightly, but when she wanted to continue to ask questions, Lucia suddenly turned back as if the moment of vulnerability did not exist.

“Sophie, relationships are always between two people. I’m sorry to Arthur, but there are some principles that cannot be disobeyed. I’m sorry. I won’t change my decision.”

“You!” Seeing Lucia did not change her mind in the slightest, Sophie was furious all of a sudden, looked into Lucia’s eyes and could no longer say anything.

Lucia’s eyes looked too complex. There were too many emotions there. Sophie can only read a little helplessness, a little guilt, a little heartache. However, she could not read and understand most of her emotions.

What kind of situation would a person be in to reveal such a complex look in her eyes?

Sophie didn’t know, but she knew Lucia was on the verge of a breakdown.

It was useless to ask further. Sophie knew this clearly, so she can only sigh and say, “I know, Lucia. I don’t force you, but please do not forget Arthur’s deep love for you.”

After speaking, Sophie did not continue to eat the remaining half bowl of porridge. She stood up and left the dining room and went straight to the coat rack. She put on her coat and then opened the door and left. She wanted to give Lucia some time to think and weigh.

After Sophie left, Lucia was like a puppet with strings and slumped over the table to look at Sophie’s remaining half bowl of porridge. And she felt bitter.

An hour later, Arthur waited until his mother shook her head and sighed. Before Sophie said anything more, he said with his own understanding, “Still the same, is it?”

Sophie looked at Arthur with distress and could only reply, "Well, Lucia is like ironclad and won't change her mind."

"Yeah?" Arthur's voice sounded like he had no strength left, and his whole body leaned into the sofa, looking disheveled as hell.

"Arthur, will you give up?" Sophie sat next to Arthur and asked tenderly.

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The question made Arthur's eyes flash, and he turned his head without answering.

Sophie responded, "We'll figure it out!"

The news of Lucia and Arthur's relationship breakup soon made it into Atgate's gossip magazines, and the paparazzi who had previously given up chasing Arthur's gossip chased him crazily after he announced his romance, and, naturally, they didn't miss the sight of Lucia distancing herself from him.

The people of Athegate had not yet fully accepted Arthur's romance announcement, and then they heard the news of their relationship breakup, so one can imagine how the public opinion will be buzzing.

As the news of Lucia and Arthur's news continued to develop, Poppy saw the reports and her greatest joy was to see Lucia having a hard time. So, she went to Jacob to vent her gloating when she first got the news.

"Jacob, look, it doesn't even need us to do anything before Lucia starts to have a falling out with Arthur. If the breakup is confirm, then Lucia will have one less person to rely on."

When she said this, Poppy had an open and smug smile on her face.

In fact, long before Poppy got the news, Jacob had already read the reports. He was naturally gloating. But compared to Poppy's simple malice, he was more relaxed.

Lucia was single again, right?

"Jacob, why don't you say anything?" Noticing that Jacob had been thinking about something, Poppy stuck to him and asked.

Poppy leaned over and Jacob frowned, but only for a moment. After talking with Lucia, Jacob became more mindful of Poppy's presence than before. Smelling Poppy's strong perfume, Jacob remembered the day when he smelled the faint fragrance from Lucia as he approached her from behind.

“Jacob?” Seeing that Jacob remained silent, Poppy called out to him with some displeasure.

“Well, that’s one less person for her to lean on.” Jacob came back to his senses and responded indifferently.

“Why do I feel like you’re not very happy?” Poppy was still very sensitive.

“You’re overthinking it,” Jacob continued, giving Poppy a sidelong glance, “I was just wondering if I could do something with this.”

“Hmm? What kind of thing can you do?” Poppy heard this and became interested. She quickly stood up to ask Jacob.

“Guess what public opinion would say if Lucia comes out to meet me alone at a time like this?” Jacob said with a sudden smile.

“I’m sure they’ll think she’s got her ex-husband again, and there will be a lot of people cursing her then,” Poppy replied without thinking before glaring and asking, “You’re meeting her alone?!”

Realizing the meaning of Jacob’s words, Poppy didn’t like it and that was her limit.

Poppy had to admit that now Lucia was more attractive than before. When she was in college, she was the most sought-after woman. Now she was more mature and charming. Jacob resisted it and worked with Poppy to snatch everything Lucia had. What about now?

Poppy was unsure and afraid to try, so she was more jealous than anyone of Jacob’s attitude toward Lucia.

“What? I can’t?” Poppy’s immediate display of jealousy caused Jacob to ask back with displeasure.

Poppy pursed her lips and stared at Jacob without saying a word.

Jacob sighed and explained with a rather bitter look, “I’m not doing this to crack down on Lucia, am I? You also know that at this time, if the paparazzi finds her meeting with me in private, it would be a fatal blow to both her and Arthur. And even Eduard might doubt her character. By then, people who have changed their minds about her will definitely change their side and question her again, which will be beneficial to us in a hundred ways. Don’t you know who’s at stake?”

Of course Poppy knew that Jacob was right, but she won’t be willing to let him do so!

“Well, can’t we find another guy to ask her out?” Poppy offered her opinion that it was to avoid Jacob and Lucia meeting alone.

“Another man?” Jacob raised an eyebrow and asked, “Who’s better than me? A strange man shows up. Even if it’s reported, Lucia can say the man is a client, a friend. Who’s going to question?”

This time, Poppy can not find words to retort, but she was still not willing. Pursing her lips, she quietly made some plans in her heart.

Jacob saw that Poppy didn’t say anything anymore. He knew in his heart that she must still be unhappy, but who, in turn, could stop him?

Jacob did not explicitly say to Poppy what way would he use to ask Lucia out, but he did ask Lucia out in the evening. In a relatively complex environment of a cafe, every customer around may be his paparazzi arranged in the store.

When Lucia showed up as promised, it was Nia who was at home to take care of Theodore.

Since breaking up with Arthur, although Sophie still often came to the house to take care of Theodore, because of her insistence, Sophie no longer wanted to stay as late as before. If Sophie stayed too long, Lucia will politely remind her that it was time to leave. Every time Sophie will helplessly look at Lucia, and Lucia was gritting her teeth and resisting all the pressure.

“What do you want to see me out for?” Arriving at the cafe designated by Jacob, as soon as she walked up to him, Lucia asked directly and without mercy.

“Sit down first.” Jacob said unhurriedly.

Lucia could only sit down and was distracted by Jacob.

Seeing that Lucia sat down and thought about things, Jacob did not bother her, but, on the contrary, he liked her very much when she was quiet, which would facilitate him to talk to her.

After sitting for a long time without Jacob taking the initiative to talk, Lucia finally looked up at Jacob and asked again, “Do you ask me out just to stare at me like that?”

“Just trying to find out what’s going on with you and Arthur. You guys have been on the front burner lately.” Jacob didn’t mind Lucia’s impatient tone at all and said with a smile.

“It’s none of your business.” With Jacob, Lucia couldn’t possibly be polite or think about the words she used.

Jacob seemed to have expected her to answer this way. The smile on his face did not fade and he continued to say, "You've had a good time abroad this time, right? I couldn't even find you on the phone."

Although Lucia was distracted, she found that today's Jacob was not only not hostile to her, but also dedicated to find some boring topics. The smile on his face looked harmless. This was not his style!

Immediately the alarm of defensiveness sounded. Lucia turned her eyes and stared sharply at Jacob and asked, "Jacob, what the hell are you up to?"