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"Okay!" Cecilia answered, spooning two greasy meatballs onto her plate as she spoke.

The expression on Mason's face immediately turned even darker, but he did not say anything else.

Xander and Jerome, who were sitting on the other side as well, were whispering to each other. They seemed to never run out of things to say to each other.

Sweeping my gaze across everyone, I grew bored and lowered my head to eat several mouthfuls of the food Theo had piled onto my plate before I lost my appetite.

Cindy gave Theo a meaningful look before turning to look at me. She had a soft smile on her face as she said, "Wanda, I never knew you were so popular. Not only are you friends with an actor, but your other friend is so handsome as well. Do you make friends with people because of their looks?"

with people because of their looks?"

Although Jerome was usually a carefree person who did not care much about anything and teased us daily, he could be even more protective of us than Cecilia was when outsiders were around.

I had noticed the sly look on his face ever since Cindy walked in. He had been waiting for his chance.

Sure enough, he took the lead once Cindy finished speaking.

"Not only is Wanda beautiful, but she has a kind heart as well. There are all sorts of wonderful men who are willing to be friends with her. Unlike someone else at this table, an unwanted woman who only knows how to badger another man's wife. You have Wanda's good temper to thank for tonight's dinner! If I were her, I would have already made sure you landed in serious trouble."

His words were so brutally honest that they made everyone at the table sink into awkwardness. No one said anything else.

Only Zedd, sitting on the other side, could not bear to watch his beloved get insulted. He glared at me and said, "It's

insulted. He glared at me and said, "It's true when they say birds of the same feather flock together. The people you mix with are all like you, rude and with a penchant for hurting others."

"You're President Nichols, right? I wholeheartedly agree with your statement. Let's take you as an example. You're only fit to be in the same category as a b*tch like Cindy. Do you think it's cool to yell at another woman? Marry her and take her home with you if you have the guts to do it. That way, she'll stop thinking about snatching another woman's husband from her. If you do that, I'll be willing to address you as a man."

"Do you think he'll like her as much as he does now if he marries her? Some men are total b*stards, and they only like the ones they can't get. The minute they succeed, she becomes nothing to him," Cecilia said abruptly.

She stared at Mason as she said that, the corners of her lips curling up into a mocking smile.

I was stunned. Given the way she was acting now, it looked like there was

acting now, it looked like there was indeed some history between the both of them.

In an instant, the atmosphere at the dinner table grew even weirder.

Theo picked up a napkin and wiped his mouth elegantly before he stood up and said, "This venue is not suitable for pregnant women, as it's a terrible place for prenatal education. Please enjoy your meal."

I clapped a hand to my forehead. Since when were hosts able to leave before their guests departed?

"Theo Grant, kudos for your favoritism at such a crucial moment!" Jerome gave him a thumbs-up as he glanced gleefully at Cindy and Zedd.

Cindy had an aggrieved expression on her face, seemingly debating with herself on whether she should say something. In the end, she stomped her foot and did not say anything.

Xander flung a calm gaze at me. When he saw the food Jerome had put on his plate, he said unhappily, "I don't like this!"

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he said unhappily, "I don't like this!"

"Preferences change over time. Just because you didn't like something before doesn't necessarily mean you won't like it now. Besides, how will you know you don't like it before even trying it?"

Jerome did not seem to mind Xander's protests and continued ladling food on his plate as he spoke in a voice thick with affection.

Although Theo did not leave the table early because of my insistence, he wore an ugly expression on his face for the rest of the meal and did not say anything else. Thankfully, everyone present knew him well, otherwise, they would have thought he was throwing a tantrum because he did not want to treat them to dinner.

Everyone went their separate ways after dinner.

Mason's health had not fully recovered, so he returned to the hospital.

Jerome returned the car keys to me, saying he would be flying overseas to take care of some things.

Xander made plans to meet me at Whaldorf City.

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When a middle-aged man wearing a suit and waiting in the arrivals hall saw us come out, he immediately came forth and took Theo's suitcase from him as he said respectfully, "Mr. Grant, the car is waiting outside."

Theo nodded and handed the suitcase to him before he took my hand and said, "This is my cousin's butler. You can call him Mr. West."

I nodded to pay my respects before getting into the car with Theo. After journeying for a while, I rested my head against Theo's shoulder and fell asleep.

Before I fell asleep, I thought about what I should say when I met Theo's cousin.

However, I fell into such a deep sleep that I did not even know how I ended up back in my bedroom.

When I woke up the next morning, I opened my eyes to realize I was in my bedroom in Salt City. It shocked me.

Hadn't I gone to Whaldorf City with Theo

room in Salt City. It shocked me.
Hadn't I gone to Whaldorf City with Theo
last night? Why was I still at home?!

Sitting up in shock, I rubbed my eyes in
disbelief. What I saw in front of me did
not change.

Could I be dreaming? I pinched myself
hard.

Ouch! I was not dreaming.

I got out of bed and walked into the
bathroom, which also looked identical, u
p to the very way I arranged my toiletries.
I had a vague sense that something was
not quite right, but I could not place my
finger on it.

I was still deep in thought when Theo
pushed the door open and came in. He
smiled and asked, "You're awake?"

"Theo, why are we back home?" I
hurriedly grabbed his shirt and asked
frantically.

"Do you want to take a closer look?" His
lips curled upwards into a smile.

I took another careful look around the
room and finally realized what was off
about it. Although everything in the room

I took another careful look around the room and finally realized what was off about it. Although everything in the room was arranged the same way they were back home, they were all new and unopened.

"What?" I stared at him in confusion.

"I was worried you would not be used to a strange environment, so I got someone to decorate the room to look like the one in Salt City," he said loftily.

My heart skipped a beat. I had not expected him to be so thoughtful and even take something like this into account.

"You don't like it?" When he saw me staring into space, the look in his eyes darkened as he asked.

"No, I just thought we'd be staying at your cousin's house." After all, her butler had been the one to pick us up last night. I thought we had gone to their house last night.

He said quietly, "I'm not used to staying in other people's homes. I bought this mansion in the past, and it has always been left empty. I began decorating it

mansion in the past, and it has always
●en left empty. I began decorating it
when we started considering coming
here. There were some delays as I wanted
it to be decorated exactly the same way as
our place back in Salt City.

"Let's go downstairs and have a look
around. This house is slightly bigger than
the one back in Salt City. We'll have to
hire more servants once the kid is born, s
o it'll be more convenient if we have a
larger house." When he finished
speaking, he dragged me downstairs.

I was shocked and surprised to hear he
had made plans for so far ahead in the
future. A warm feeling washed over me,
and I smiled as I asked, "Is Miss Woods
here as well?"

"No." He pulled me out of the bedroom a
s he said, "I needed someone to stay in
Salt City and take care of things. But I
hired a new nanny and a doctor to live in
the house next door so they can take care
of you whenever you need it."

I frowned when I noticed he was going to
go downstairs without changing. "You're
wearing this outfit again?"

"You only bought two sets. I sent the

You only bought two sets. I sent the other one to be washed, so I have to wear this one," he said matter-of-factly as he spread his hands out.

"It's not like you don't have anything else to wear."

"But you didn't buy those clothes for me."

I did not know what to say in response. Was he eating his words from before? I recalled how he once would not spare the clothes I had bought even a second glance, and how he had judged the clothes when they had been brought back to the house. Now, those sets of clothes were the only two outfits he wore. What a joke.

As Theo took my hand and led me downstairs, I finally understood what he meant when he said the house was slightly bigger.

It was a duplex-style mansion, and it consisted of three bungalows in total. The main one had three floors, while the remaining two houses were the servant's quarters. It looked like the houses that wealthy officials would live in during the

Remaining two houses were the servant's quarters. It looked like the houses that wealthy officials would live in during the olden days.

Theo pointed to the house on the right as he said, "Three cleaning ladies and two gardeners live here, as well as a servant in charge of preparing meals. We'll hire a midwife once the child is born."

I turned my gaze to marvel at the size of the house and at the gardens both in front of and behind it. Indeed, it would require many people to tend to its upkeep.

Then, he pointed to the other house and said, "This is where the driver, the bodyguards, and the doctor live. If you want to go out, you have to get them to accompany you."

"Theo, don't you think this is a little wasteful? Is there really a need to hire this many people?" How much money would need to be spent to have so many people employed?!

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Although I did not know exactly how rich Theo was, I still felt that this was wasteful and pointless behavior.

Most importantly, I was not used to having so many people in the house.

“Don’t worry, your husband has earned so much money over the years that you wouldn’t even be able to spend it all if you tried. Anyway, their daily activities will be within the parameters of these two buildings, so they won’t be disturbing you.”

Theo was like a mind-reader, he immediately knew what I had been thinking about.

He tugged on my hand and took me around the gardens. The one in front of the house was a flower garden filled with blooming flowers. As you walked along the garden, you would come across a small pond filled with blooming lotuses.

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There was a small pavilion built in the middle of the pond. It would be nice to sit there to admire the lotuses and watch the fish.

A path led from the pavilion to the back garden. It was different from the one in front as all sorts of in-season vegetables had been planted here. Fields of green spread as far as the eye could see, and there were also lots of fruit trees planted along the sides.

“You like eating home-grown fruits and vegetables, right? This way, you won’t have to go out and buy them anymore. I think it’s a good idea too as it’s safer and healthier.” Theo stared at the large patch of vegetables, despite his words, the expression on his face did not look pleasant.

I knew he was thinking about the last time Tyler had sent me vegetables.

Reaching out to hold his large hand, I said sincerely, “Theo, thank you!”

Not only had he been very considerate of my feelings, but he also remembered what I liked. I knew there was only one reason behind his actions. He wanted to dispel my feelings of unfamiliarity and

son behind his actions. He wanted to dispel my feelings of unfamiliarity and rejection toward Whaldorf City.

“What matters the most is that you’re happy,” he said as he put an arm around my shoulder. “Let’s go back in and eat. We’ll meet my cousin later.”

After finishing breakfast, Theo drove his car, bringing me out with him.

It was my first time in Whaldorf City, and there was no question about why it was the city’s capital. The scenes of prosperity and development I saw along the way were truly wondrous, nothing that a second-tier city like Salt City could ever compete against. No wonder everyone was fighting for a chance to come and build their career here.

Although it was not peak traffic hours, it was still pretty congested along the way. As we drove with many stops along the way, I turned to look at the scenery outside the window. I could not help but feel a little worried.

It felt like Theo thought very highly of his cousin. I wondered what sort of person she was, and whether she would be easy t

...cousin. I wondered what sort of person
● she was, and whether she would be easy to
get along with.

We finally arrived after being stuck in traffic for two hours. Although I had not been here in person before, it was still the capital city, so I had some knowledge of the place from the internet and television broadcasts.

I had not imagined that Theo's cousin would be living in the city's most prosperous and affluent area. I would not be exaggerating if I were to describe it as a place where every inch of land cost a fortune, and whoever could afford to live here was probably some sort of dignitary.

Compared to your usual mansions, the mansions here were built right in the city's center. No one would have expected the neighborhood to be completely different from the bustling city when it was only separated from it by a single wall.

Walking through the portico and along the small path, you could see all sorts of precious trees and valuable flowers planted on both sides. The lush and beautiful greenery made you feel as if you were walking into a forest

Beautiful greenery made you feel as if you were walking into a forest.

After walking for a long time, we finally saw a red brick mansion built in a classical style some distance away. Even from this far away, it looked majestic and imposing.

I had seen all sorts of mansions in recent years, but mansions as majestic and elegant as this one still made me gasp in wonder.

A young woman was standing at the door. She had exquisite features, and the silk summer dress she wore gave her an air of elegance. Her beauty made her look like she belonged in a painting, and the house behind her complemented her wonderfully.

Upon spotting us from afar, an excited expression appeared on her face, and she smiled as she came up to us and said, "I've been waiting for you guys for so long, and you're finally here! I was planning to have breakfast with you guys, but it seems like we'll have to switch to having lunch together now."

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She had his usual frosty look on his

“Traffic was pretty bad on the way.”

Theo had his usual frosty look on his face, but his voice sounded exceptionally gentle.

He pulled me over and said to the woman, “This is Wanda Lane.”

The woman smiled as she naturally stretched her hand out and took mine in hers. “Wanda, I’m so happy to finally meet you. You look just like how I imagined you would! Beautiful looks and breathtaking elegance! No wonder my grandmother dotes on you so much. I’ve been asking this little rascal to introduce me to you for the longest time, but he’s always said he’s too busy and postponed things.”

Somewhat embarrassed, I pursed my lips and chuckled as I said, “It’s nice to meet you too, Quinn. Forgive my tardiness for not coming to visit earlier.”

On the way here, Theo had told me his cousin was named Quinn Grant.

She was about three to four years older than he was and had always been smarter than the average person since she was a child. Back then, Theo’s grandmother

than he was and had always been smarter than the average person since she was a child. Back then, Theo's grandmother had planned to groom her into becoming the family's successor. However, she had not returned home after finishing her studies at Whaldorf City, and she had also gotten married after that.

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Theo's grandmother had flown into a terrible rage because of that and had forbidden Quinn from ever returning to the Grant family. Everyone who stayed in the Grant household dared not to even mention her name.

That was why I had never seen Quinn in the five years I had spent at the Grant household.

I could tell that Quinn had married into a well-to-do family just by looking at her house. No wonder she had been alright with cutting ties with the Grant family.

Quinn pulled me along with her as we walked into the mansion. It was much larger than the mansion Theo had bought at Whaldorf City. One look at the interior decoration and its accessories told me they were of top-notch quality.

There was a massive, private swimming pool beside the gorgeous open-air garden.

Next to the swimming pool was a beach umbrella and a young, muscular man

Next to the swimming pool was a beach umbrella and a young, muscular man with a pair of sunglasses on lying underneath it. He was basking in the sun. On the patch of grass beside him laid a large golden retriever.

I had always been terrified of dogs because I had been bitten by one when I was younger. To me, all dogs looked terrifying.

At that moment, the golden retriever's tongue was hanging out of its mouth as it stared at me. My heart rose to my throat as I instinctively clutched Theo's hand tighter.

Noticing my panic, Theo swept his gaze over to the man. An unpleasant expression appeared on his face, but he did not say anything as he held my hand tightly and silently comforted me.

Quinn turned to look at the man and smiled as she said, "That's Matthew Zimmer, my husband's kid. He's the same age as you are."

Theo retracted his gaze and nodded slightly before he began walking again.

slightly before he began walking again.

After hearing Quinn's introduction, I felt I understood why Theo's grandmother had cut ties with her granddaughter.

According to her introduction, that young man was her husband's child, which meant he was her stepson. Moreover, the stepson was Theo's age, while Quinn was only slightly older than Theo was. In that case, it meant that she, the stepmother, was about the same age as her stepson.

I could not help but turn around to take another look at Matthew. Although he was wearing sunglasses, I could tell from the shape of his features that he was extremely good-looking. He also had a pair of long legs, and I estimated him to be about six feet tall.

Even at first sight, I could tell this man was someone who had the best of all worlds, much like Theo did.

Perhaps it was because he sensed my gaze on him, but the man turned around a little and directed his gaze towards us. Although he had sunglasses on, I could still feel a severe frostiness sweep across us.

Two seconds later he turned back and

US.

I was so scared I jolted backward and quickly averted my gaze.

"What's wrong?" Theo asked in a cold voice.

"Nothing. Just felt a little cold all of a sudden," I said as I lowered my head.

"Is it heatstroke?" Quinn asked concernedly as she put a hand on my forehead. "It's alright, you aren't burning up with a fever. Quick, come in and I'll make you a cooling cup of tea."

When she finished speaking, she pulled me into the lobby.

The interior of the house was even more timeless-looking. The majestic decorations within it did not take away from its air of elegance, and it was clear that they were top-quality pieces as well.

Quinn made a cup of tea and handed it to me. "Here, drink this. We have a doctor here as well, and I can get them to take a look at you if you still feel unwell."

There was nothing very wrong with me. After taking several sips, I saw how worriedly Quinn and Theo were looking a

After taking several sips, I saw how
●rriedly Quinn and Theo were looking a
t me, so I smiled and said, "I feel much
better now. It was probably the intense
sun that made me feel unwell for a bit."

"Have some more to drink. Do you want t
o go upstairs and lie down for a while?"
Quinn gazed at me with concern.

I shook my head. "No, I'll be alright after
sitting for a while."

Quinn nodded and got up to instruct the
servants to begin preparing lunch. Then,
she sat back down beside us and said, "M
y husband has a meeting today, but he'll b
e rushing back home to have lunch with u
s today."

Theo nodded but did not say anything
else.

When Quinn noticed, she turned and said
to me, "Look at your stomach. You
should be due soon, right? Are you
planning to give birth at Whaldorf City?
Have you contacted a hospital and doctor
yet? It's important to have frequent
checkups during these two months, and
you will feel much more at ease if you get
yourself a good doctor."

I chuckled and said, "Yes, Theo has

...rself a good doctor."

I chuckled and said, "Yes. Theo has arranged everything."

"He's a man. There will inevitably be things he does not think through or completely misses out on. Come to me if you face any troubles. After all, I have a lot of free time and nothing to do with it. I can accompany you," Quinn said as she held my hand and smiled gently.

Somewhat unaccustomed to her enthusiasm, I smiled slightly and said, "Sure."

Perhaps it was because she had not seen any family for a long time, but Quinn seemed to be in a great mood. She chattered away nonstop, asking about every member of the Grant family. She asked about her parents, the office, and everyone who spent time with Theo, but she never asked about her grandmother.