Davin was speechless.
"So you knew that they went together? Then you should know who they went to meet, right?"
Evan nodded. "They're meeting Nina's teacher."
"Oh, so that's it. You should've told me sooner. And here I am thinking that they went to meet some important business partner."
"He may not be as simple as you think."
"Huh? What do you mean?"
Evan caught Davin up on everything that happened. Davin was so shocked that he slammed the table. "F*ck, how could this happen? Do you think he has bad intentions?"
"We'll know after they get back."
Davin sighed. "Should I talk to Nina?"
"She won't listen to you."
"Regardless, as her uncle, I should still try."
With that, Davin made his way to Nina's bedroom.
He knocked on her door.
"Nina, it's Uncle Davin. Open the door, I need to talk to you about something."

The door was shut firmly, and what met him was silence.

"Nina..."

He knocked on the door a few more times but was met with silence once again. Seems like she has made up her mind not to talk to anyone. Davin could only walk downstairs feeling dejected.

In the café, Sheila suddenly became downcast and let out a sigh.

"What's wrong?" Nicole put their coffee down on the table and looked at her curiously.

"Have you ever heard what happened between Davin and his ex-girlfriend?"

"No." Nicole had only heard half the story and was not very clear on the details, so she decided it was best not to run her mouth.

"I heard it from Sophia. His ex was really pitiful, and she even got a miscarriage to save him. Because of that, she lost the ability to reproduce, and she was afraid that this would upset him so she chose to leave him. Her love for him sure was so great and selfless. This made me think, why can't I be the same? Ever since I fell in love with him, I've never let him out of my sight, and wouldn't let him go over my dead body."

"So what? What matters is that you're together with him now."

"Then do you think I'm too selfish in my love?"

"Do you want to be selfless, or do you want love?" Nicole asked.

"I want love!" Sheila answered determinately.

Nicole brought her coffee up and took a sip. "Then you don't need to overthink. Even I've done something similar before. When I had hallucinations, I was afraid of hurting Evan, so I chose to stay far away from him. Afterward, he made me realize that love isn't about arbitrarily deciding to sacrifice yourself for the sake of the other person, but rather, it's about respecting the other party's wishes, and that any problem done so much for Davin, but you've never given up. I think this is quality of your is something that's very hard to come by."

"Ever since I decided to be with Davin, I made up my mind that even if I were to die, I would want it to be with him."

"Your love is really brave."

Sheila laughed. "Well, I'm not great or selfless. All I have, is bravery."

At the Imperial Garden, Davin was pacing around in the living room, anxiously awaiting Sheila's return.

"What's going on? Why aren't they back yet?"

Evan looked at him, then to his watch. They've sure been gone for a long time. "Call them."

"Let me do it." Davin immediately dialed Sheila's number.

When she saw that her husband was calling her, she immediately accepted the call.

"Why aren't you back yet?"

"What? It has only been a while. Do you miss me already?"

"As if! Hurry up and come back soon!" Davin urged impatiently.

"m not done enjoying myself yet!" Sheila imitated him.

Enjoying herself?

After meeting Chris, she's out enjoying herself again?

Sheep's been rather unruly lately huh!

"Come on, Sheep. I wouldn't even bother urging you to go back if it isn't because Evan is eager to see Nicole!"

Sheila pursed her lips in annoyance. Why doesn't Mr. Seet give Nicole a call if he misses her? Judging from Davin's restless tone, Sheila thought he was more like the one who couldn't wait for her to be back.

"Fine, we'll go back after we finish the coffee."

"You'd better finish it as fast as you can, alright?"

"Just shut up, will you?" Sheila dissed and then hung up on him directly.

Amused by their conversation, Nicole broke into a faint smile. In her opinion, Davin and Sheila were definitely the most humorous couple on earth.

As soon as Sheila and Nicole returned to Imperial Garden, Davin immediately bombarded them with a deluge of questions.

"What did Chris say? Is he in love with Nina too? Does he want Nina to give him a hand in his career?"

Sheila shook her head in response.

With a frown, Davin pressed on, "No? What does he want then? Why isn't he interested in a girl as talented as Nina?"

"As much as he admires Nina's personality, he doesn't have any romantic feelings for her."

Davin looked dumbfounded. "I'm surprised by how virtuous a man Chris Sanders actually is!"

Nicole then relayed Chris' plan to Evan. After a moment of consideration, Evan agreed with carrying out the plan if that was going to help Nina get back on track.

But why can't Chris just turn Nina down directly? Why does he have to do it in such a circuitous manner and put on a show for her?

Evan decided to voice his doubt to the rest of them. Davin mulled over what his brother had said and opined, "I guess Chris is doing this to make sure Nina gave up on him for good. If he merely turned her down by telling her that he already had a girlfriend, Nina might not believe him. Without witnessing his girlfriend in person, Nina might think that she still stood a chance of becoming his girlfriend. By getting a gorgeous girl to play as his girlfriend, Nina would likely be discouraged and be forced to give up when she sees the woman."

Sheila nodded. "Indeed, Chris did say that Nina will understand the situation as soon as she sees him with a gorgeous girl."

"Evan, I think this plan is worth a try. Nina has had a big ego ever since she was little. After seeing that Chris is taken, I believe she will be able to move on from him eventually," Nicole said.

Davin chimed in, "I agree, and I think we should give it a try. Nina didn't even bother giving me a response when I knocked on her door just now. If we don't do something to help her, I'm worried that she might be stuck in this debacle forever."

For some reason, Evan had a feeling that there was something fishy with Chris' decision. However, Nicole, Sheila, and Davin had all approved the plan. As there was no other better way to help Nina at the moment, it seemed like the only thing they could do was to carry out Chris' plan.

"Alright. Go ahead and make the arrangements then. Let's bring Nina over when everyone is ready."

"Sure."

Sheila was efficient in her execution. In no time, she managed to enlist the help of a girl who was both beautiful and talented to star alongside Chris. To make sure Nina would truly get the message to move on, Sheila reminded the girl to behave as intimately as she could with Chris in front of Nina.

The beauty promised to do exactly as was instructed, but she also demanded a handsome reward in return for her effort.

"Don't worry. As long as you nail this, I'll foot the bill for all the limited edition cosmetic products and branded clothes you've been eyeing!" Sheila offered.

"For the sake of your generosity, it's a deal!"

As soon as Sheila ended the phone call with the beauty, she immediately sent Chris' phone number to her. Before the actual event, Sheila wanted the girl to meet Chris and spend some time getting to know him. It was to help ensure that their act would look more natural and convincing.

"Well, for the sake of the reward you just promised me, I'll go and meet that guy in a jiffy."

After Sheila finished liaising with the beauty, the rest of them started working on a plan to ensure that Nina would show up.

They reached a consensus after some discussion – Sheila and Davin were entrusted with the task of visiting Nina's room later. They would tell her that they understood how she felt, which was why they would bring her to meet Chris in secret. They would lure Nina to the designated place, where she would chance upon the scene that they have staged.

"Evan, just leave this to Sheila and I."

"Yes. We're the best candidates for the task, as it's likely that Nina won't feel like talking to the both of you at the moment."

"Thanks for doing this for Nina," Nicole said to Sheila and Davin.

"Don't mention it, Nicole. This is what uncles and aunts are for, after all!" Evan responded breezily.

Sheila added, "That's right! In fact, preparing for this plan had not been troublesome at all. I like Nina a lot, and I'm happy to be able to do something for her."

After that, the duo headed upstairs and knocked on Nina's door.

The result replicated Davin's last attempt exactly, no one answered the door, and they could not hear Nina's voice at all from the inside of the room.

At that moment, Sheila thought of another idea. She whipped out her phone and sent a message to Nina via WhatsApp to tell her that she understood the predicament that she was in. She also expressed her support for her to date Chris and promised that she would play the matchmaker for them.

Lying prone on the bed, Nina was doubtful when she saw the message from Sheila.

Is Aunt Sheila really going to help me?

Shortly afterward, Nina received a message from Davin, who offered to bring her out to meet Chris. If Nina's feelings for him were reciprocated, Davin promised that he would help her convince Evan to allow Chris to continue working as her tutor.

Can Uncle Davin really manage to convince Daddy?

Thinking of how strong-headed her Daddy was, Nina was doubtful of that point.

Yet, resorting to Davin and Sheila's help was the only option she had at the moment. If she continued locking herself up in the room, she might not be able to meet Chris again after he left the country. Thus, she decided to make a last-ditch effort in fighting for the love of her life before it was too late.

She got out of bed, slipped into a pair of shoes, and opened the door.

At the sight of her sunken face and disheveled look, Davin's heart ached for the young girl. "Nina, why are you torturing yourself like this? How many meals have you skipped? Oh, what a silly girl you are!"

"Nina, your Daddy is not at home now. Let's bring you out to grab something to eat before we take you to meet Chris. How does that sound?"

Nina regarded the two of them suspiciously. "Are you guys really going to bring me to meet him?"

"Of course. I'm a man of my words," Davin reassured her.

"Nina, we'll go after you get dressed."

Overjoyed by Davin and Sheila's seemingly genuine offer to help, Nina dashed back into her room and put on her favorite pink dress. After applying some light make-up to cover her pale complexion, she went out with Davin and Sheila furtively.

Nina was jittery throughout the entire journey. "Will Daddy pin the blame on the two of you if he finds out about this? Uncle Davin, will Daddy give you a hard time because you're helping me?"

Davin couldn't help but feel guilty deep down inside. While I'm helping Evan and Nicole to plot against Nina, Nina is worried about me. Why do I feel like such a huge asshole?

Yet, I'm doing this for her good, so that she will have the chance to meet her Mr. Right in the future.

"Don't worry about me. I'm your Daddy's brother so he won't be too harsh on me."

"Exactly, Nina. In fact, you should spend the time thinking about what you want to tell Chris later instead of worrying about your Uncle Davin," Sheila commented.

Nina nodded and got lost in her own thoughts.

Nina looked nervous and edgy for the upcoming meeting with Chris, and Sheila couldn't help but feel bad for her. All the effort which she was putting into thinking about what to say to Chris will all be for naught.

"Nina, why don't we drop by that cafe to have something to eat first before we go and meet Chris?" Davin suggested.

Nina hesitated because she neither had the appetite nor the mood to eat.

"Nina, your Uncle Davin's right. You really should eat something. You've starved yourself for so many days after all."

After their persistent persuasion, Nina finally agreed to head to the cafe.

They stepped into the cafe and settled down at one of the tables. After making their order at the counter, Davin made use of the chance to phone Chris, asking him to rush to the cafe as soon as possible with the beauty. "Please channel more emotion into your acting later. You have to make sure Nina believes you really love that girl very deeply and she won't stand any chance of being your girlfriend. That's the only way she will give up on you for good. You get me?"

"Yes. I understand."

After the phone call, Davin returned to their table with Nina's favorite dessert – cupcakes.

"Nina, go on and take a bite! They are fresh from the oven, and I'm sure they're going to taste heavenly."

Nina nibbled on the cupcake listlessly.

Sheila offered her a cup of milk. "Nina, have some warm milk first. It's good for your stomach."

Obediently, Nina sipped on the glass of milk.

Both Davin and Sheila felt bad seeing how weak and haggard Nina appeared. Davin had an urge to send Chris to somewhere far away from Nina the moment their show ended. That was the only way to prevent Nina from ever bumping into him again in the future. Seeing Chris again would only trigger sad memories in her mind.

"Uncle Davin, Aunt Sheila, I'm full."

"Are you sure you're full? Nina, you really should eat more," Davin persuaded.

"I can't. I'm too full to stuff anything else."

"Nina, you need to have more milk to replenish the nutrients you've lost. You look so haggard, like a wilted flower," Sheila urged.

Nina pondered over her aunt's words before she slowly sipped the milk using a straw.

Meanwhile, Davin was getting impatient as Chris was still nowhere in sight. He glanced briefly at his watch to check the time. Logically speaking, Chris was supposed to be there already, considering that Davin had asked him to stand by for their arrival somewhere nearby the cafe when they left Imperial Garden.

Nina downed the entire glass of milk and wiped her mouth clean in an elegant movement. Then, she looked up at the two of them with anticipation in her eyes. "I guess it's time for us to go since I've eaten and drunk as much as I can? I hate to seem impatient, but the clock is ticking. If Daddy finds out we're doing this, I'm worried that he might ream the two of you out."

"Don't worry about us because I'm not scared of being scolded by him. Why don't we take some time to rest first? My waist is hurting badly." Davin came up with a lousy excuse.

While Davin was massaging his waist to buy more time, he couldn't help but curse Chris in his mind. Is that rascal facing some issues that dragged his arrival?

"Uncle Davin, let me give you a massage."

"You don't have to! I think it will get better by itself after I get some rest. Perhaps, I just sprained it on our way here. I know you can't wait to meet Chris, so just give me five minutes, and then we will go."

At the same time, Davin's fingers were furiously typing away under the table as he sent a message to Chris: You won't wanna know what will happen to you if you can't get your butt here within the next five minutes!

Just seconds after he sent the message, Sheila pointed at the counter. "That girl looks familiar. Davin, do you know her?"

Davin looked in the direction where she was pointing and spotted a couple ordering coffee at the counter.

Is that girl the one Sheila has arranged to play as Chris' girlfriend?

Seeing the confusion in his eyes, Sheila gave him a reassuring look. When Nina was not paying attention to them, she mouthed to him, "We should get rolling."

Meanwhile, Davin gave Chris a once-over. The young man, who looked clean and tidy, was giving out a warm and approachable aura. Nina really has quite a good taste in men as this guy is indeed quite outstanding!

"Davin, can you hear me? I'm asking you whether you know that girl or not?"

Sheila did not really mean to question Davin. It was only her way of directing Nina's attention to Chris.

To her dismay, Nina was unfazed. She had been sitting at the table in silence as if she were lost in her own world. Sheila, who was getting anxious about the stalemate, kept glancing at Davin for help.

Suddenly, Davin banged his fist down on the table and denied vehemently, "Why do you think I might know that girl? Nina, you must back me up here. Uncle Davin doesn't know that girl at all."

Stunned by the sudden burst of outrage, Nina quickly nodded. She was willing to do anything that could be beneficial to Uncle Davin and Aunt Sheila's relationship.

Davin whispered a reminder to her, "Nina, you have to at least turn around and take a look at that girl before helping me out. Otherwise, your Aunt Sheila isn't going to buy our story."

Nina then turned around and became stupefied at once.

Seeing how Nina froze the moment she saw Chris and the girl, Sheila and Davin exchanged a gesture. The climax of the show was about to begin.

Then, they saw Nina rising to her feet and making her way to Chris. Immediately, they stood up and followed her.

"Mr. Sanders, what a coincidence." Nina stood behind Chris and greeted him in a nonchalant tone.

Chris whirled around and feigned a look of surprise. "Nina? What a coincidence indeed."

Nina's gaze traveled from Chris and then to the beautiful woman standing next to him. Looking aghast, she sized the beauty up.

Just then, Sheila shot a look at the beauty, reminding her to give her all to convince Nina that she was really Chris' girlfriend.

The woman returned a look of reassurance to Sheila with composure. Following Sheila's cue, she quickly took one of Chris' arms.

"Chris, who's this?" The woman's voice sounded so sweet and gentle, and it was capable of melting any man's heart.

Chris went on to introduce Nina to her. "This is Nina. She's my student."

"Your student?" Curling her bright red lip upward into a pleasant smile, the woman introduced herself, "Hi, I'm Chris' girlfriend. It's a pleasure to meet you here."

Girlfriend?

Chris actually has a girlfriend?

The discovery came as a heavy blow to Nina. As though she had been struck by lightning, she stood petrified and remained motionless for quite some time.

"Nina, Mr. Sanders' girlfriend is talking to you! You should show your manners and greet her back," Sheila walked up to Nina and reminded her in an undertone.

Only then did Nina come back to her senses. Then, she began examining the girl who claimed to be Chris' girlfriend.

The woman's face was covered with thick make-up, and she had a beautiful body that was curvy at all the right places. Chris really has quite a good taste in women, huh? This girl is very attractive and charming. They look good together too.

Glancing down at her own body, Nina couldn't help but feel inferior for the first time in her life in the presence of Chris' girlfriend.

The woman looked around the same age as Chris. Nina couldn't help but wonder whether she would blossom into a lady as beautiful as her in the future.

"Are you guys having a date?" Davin spoke to break the silence.

The woman answered shyly, "Yes. Chris told me last night about how he adored the coffee here, and he insisted on bringing me here to have a taste. He loves the pastries and desserts prepared by the chef here too. If it weren't because the shop had been closed last night when we were talking about it, he would have rushed out to buy everything back for me to taste! He is always eager to share the things he loves with me!"

Nina's heart sank when the woman started talking about the time she spent with Chris the previous night. Was Chris with her last night when I was wallowing in sadness all by myself?

All at once, Nina felt a throbbing pain in her heart. It was as though someone had smashed it with a hammer. It seems like Chris and his girlfriend have been staying together...

Seeing how pale Nina's face was and how devastated she looked, Sheila couldn't help but feel sorry for her. At the same time, she was impressed by the beautiful girl's acting too.

A few sentences from her were enough to reduce Nina to a battered soul. If she did something else to spice up her performance, Sheila believed Nina would be left so heartbroken that all her feelings for Chris would be nipped in the bud.

As if she could read Sheila's mind, the beautiful woman suddenly leaned toward Chris and gave his cheeks a light peck. In a kittenish tone, she said to Chris, "Dear, since we've got the coffee and desserts ready, shall we head to our private room? I'm not eating unless you feed me."

Chris nodded at the girl. Giving Nina a long look, he muttered an 'excuse me' before heading upstairs with the woman.

Standing rooted to the spot, Nina clenched her fists tightly in an attempt to calm herself down.

In fact, she had a pressing urge to run after them so that she could have a word with Chris. However, she quickly aborted the idea because she had no ground to do something like that.

That woman is his girlfriend. I'm just his student. Of course, his girlfriend is more important to him than me. I'm a nobody.

Besides, his girlfriend is so much better than me in all aspects. There's no reason for him to choose me over her. Nina, you should know by now that being Chris' girlfriend is only your wishful thinking...

Davin, who felt sorry noticing how bitter Nina looked, walked over to her. "Nina, as you can see, Chris already has a girlfriend, and they seem to be quite in love with each other too. Do you still want to talk to him?"

Dazed, Nina shook her head.

In the meantime, Sheila drew Nina into an embrace. "Nina, since he's already taken, it shows that the two of you just aren't meant to be. However, I believe you will meet an even better quy than him soon!"

An even better guy...

At that moment, Nina was adamant that no guy in the world could be better than Chris.

As perfect as a man Chris was, he did not belong to her.

For the first time in her life, Nina realized how agonizing it was to realize that the person she loved was not meant for her.