Bring Your A Game, Mr Chapter 136

Chapter 136 Elli Is Indeed Amazing

Danny figured that she made sense, so he immediately took out his phone and handed it to Elise. "How about you play first, Boss? Let me see how strong you are."

Elise was speechless, but she gave him a smile. "There's no need for that. Go online. I already have an account."

Upon hearing her say that, Danny scratched his head sheepishly, then took back his phone and logged in to his account. However, when Elise was about to log in to her account, which hadn't been accessed for a long time, she realized that she had forgotten her password.

Hence, she simply signed up for a new account and logged in.

"I'll add you as a friend," Elise said, then asked for Danny's username. After a while, he received a friend request. Although he already had the conception that Elise was just a rookie, when he saw that her account was still at the lowest level, the corners of Danny's lips twitched. However, he didn't think it was nice to destroy Elise's enthusiasm, so he figured that he could help her a little later when they formed teams so that she wouldn't lose so terribly.

"How are we playing?" Elise asked. Danny thought that she didn't know how to play and was planning to explain it to her, but she continued, "Are we playing 1 vs 1, 3 vs 3, or 5 vs 5?"

Danny was stunned. He usually played the 5 vs 5 version with his teammates.

After taking a look, he found that those teammates were all online, so he answered, "Let's play 5 vs 5. It's more exciting. I'll ask my friends to join."

As soon as he finished speaking, he sent a message to his group. When his friends heard that they were teaming up with a novice player, they lost interest.

'Young Master Danny, you're not trying to trick us, are you? I don't want to play with someone who knows nothing and who will only hold us back.'

'That's right, Young Master Danny. You should at least find someone with similar strengths as us. Everyone will be more interested then.'

Danny knew that he was forcing them with his request, but Elise was his boss nonetheless. She only agreed to play games together to motivate him to study, so he couldn't disregard her kindness.

Danny's fingers flew across the keyboard. 'If you guys join this game today, I'll send each of you a full set of skins later.'

He could be so capricious simply because he was rich.

After a few seconds of silence, his teammates replied in unison, 'All right. Let's play one round.'

Danny breathed a sigh of relief when he saw this and hurriedly called Elise, "Boss, they're here."

Elise hadn't played this game for a long time. Fortunately, she didn't have any issues navigating it and was still as good as before. The five of them quickly formed a team to match their opponents before entering the game.

"Boss, you can just follow me later. Your movements aren't that fast, so don't run around."

Elise didn't speak, but her fingers quickly moved her character in the game so that she was running forward with huge strides. As soon as she met an opponent, she quickly settled them. Her movements were natural and smooth, not at all sluggish. The moment she attacked, she defeated the opponent's main force.

"Wow, well done," Zedd, one of Danny's teammates, marveled.

Even Danny was caught by surprise. "Boss, that trick was amazing! You don't seem like a rookie at all. "

Elise said nothing as she continued to pursue their opponent, and Danny hurriedly followed. The opponent's movements were stable, and it could be seen that his skills were average. However, Danny didn't pay attention and was attacked by the other party.

"Damn it!" Danny couldn't help but curse as his character died and fell to the ground.

At this moment, Elise came over to give him blood, then she chased after the opponent without saying a word. Her movements were so fast that the opponent didn't even see how she attacked before they were finished off. Danny was stunned when he saw this, and he completely forgot to operate his own character. Elise hurriedly ran to his side and planned to wipe out any players who were going to attack him.

"Boss, lead the way!" Danny finally realized how good Elise was and followed her. Not at all bothered by this, Elise led Danny as they completely demolished their opponents. In the end, they won the game with an absolute advantage.

After the match was over, Danny stared at Elise in disbelief. "Wow, Boss, you handled it so smoothly. You're simply amazing. It's hard to believe that you're a rookie."

Setting down her phone, Elise raised her eyebrows and asked, "Who told you that I'm a rookie?"

Danny widened his eyes in shock, then looked at Elise before murmuring, "But your account is obviously a new one..."

Elise was ashamed to tell him that she had forgotten her password, and so she randomly gave a reason. "I've played too much on my main account, so I'm just practicing on this extra account."

Only Danny would believe such statements.

Afterward, his other teammates added Elise's account one after another.

'KK wants to add you as a friend.'

'Fortuner wants to add you as a friend.'

'Wilder wants to add you as a friend.'

When Elise saw the friend requests, she asked, "Who are they?"

Danny took a glance and answered, "We play games together. They're the top ten players on the leaderboard, and they're all my friends."

After hearing this, Elise accepted their requests.

At this moment, KK sent her an invitation message: 'This user has invited you to join the group chat.'

When Elise saw that the group picture was one of four stickmen, she couldn't help but laugh. "Danny, that's quite a unique group picture. What do the four stickmen represent? Does it mean that all four of you are bachelors?"

Danny didn't expect that Elise would expose them so straightforwardly, so he hurriedly tried to redeem himself. "What's wrong with being bachelors? Bachelors have dignity too. We even have a really nice name—'The Aristocratic Bachelors'."

Elise laughed, then accepted the invitation to join the group chat.

When KK saw that Elise had joined them, he took the initiative to greet her. "May I know what's your name, Miss?"

Elise subconsciously typed 'Ellimane', but felt it was inappropriate. After all, the title was given to her by other people and not self-penned, so she simply used the one she was used to—'Elli'.

Unexpectedly, after she typed out that word, KK said, 'Elli, can you change your name? Your name overlaps with my idol's name."

KK's idol happened to be Ellimane.

Danny quickly piped up, 'That's okay. You can still call her Elli.'

Immediately afterward, Fortuner greeted her as well. 'Hello, Elli. I'm Fortuner.'

Elise replied with a smiling emoji. 'Nice to meet you.'

The last member, Wilder, hurriedly wrote, 'Elli, you were amazing. It's been a long time since I last saw a girl playing games so well. Your skills are almost comparable to Ellimane's.'

KK was dissatisfied with this statement. 'Elli is indeed amazing, but she's still not as good as my idol.'

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Chapter 137 It's Time for Her to Go Back

Upset, Wilder answered, 'We know. We know. Your idol is the most powerful one; no one can break the record she had set back then. But there's been no news about your idol for so many years. When do you think she'll start playing games again?'

As soon as he said this, the group fell silent.

After a while, KK said, 'My idol is just resting. When she's done resting, she'll definitely come back.'

KK was absolutely certain of this. He believed that his idol, Ellimane, would definitely return.

'I still have something to do, so I'll go offline first. Let's play together another day.' After Elise sent the message, she immediately quit the game. Danny, who was beside her, was dissatisfied. "Boss, if I had known you were so good at playing games, I would've asked you

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to play a few more rounds with me. I haven't had enough of it yet, yet you're already going to quit?"

Elise wrapped her arms around her chest and looked at him. "You still want to play games with me?"

Danny nodded without the slightest hesitation, so Elise agreed and said, "Okay. When you get into the top three in the class during the final exam, I'll play with you for an entire night."

Danny's eyes widened. "Boss, are you serious?"

Smiling, Elise replied, "Dead serious."

Danny was as excited as a kid in a candy store. "Boss, just wait and see. I'll definitely get into the top three. When the time comes, don't forget to play games with me all night as you promised."

Elise nodded. "Don't worry. I won't forget."

Having gotten her word, Danny didn't have any interest in fooling around anymore. He went back to get his homework done, vowing to study hard, improve every day, and work hard to achieve his goals.

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Elise returned to the Griffith Residence. The house was extraordinarily lively today because Robin and Laura were there.

Jonah was in the living room, greeting Robin and Laura. "Thanks for coming all the way here. This time, stay here for a while longer before going back."

Robin gave him a bright smile. "I'll say, Jonah, when I sent my granddaughter over, you swore to me that you would definitely bring the two children together. It's been more than half a year, but there's still no news. Both of us old bones are still waiting for a grandchild."

Hearing this, Jonah repeatedly patted his head. "Robin, the children's relationship matters can't be rushed. Besides, I think those two have some feelings for each other, but someone just needs to give them a little push. Only then will they take it a step further."

As soon as Jonah finished speaking, the servant came over. "Miss Sinclair is back."

In an instant, the three elderly people in the hall looked at each other, and it was as if something had sparked inside them.

"Since Ellie is back, we need to carefully sound her out to find out what's going on," Robin said in a low voice, and Laura chimed in as well, "Let's get this straight first: No matter what, we'll respect Ellie's choice. We can't interfere too much."

Robin reassured her, "Don't worry about that! As long as Ellie likes him, as her grandfather, I'll give my full support no matter what. I'll never cause them additional trouble."

Laura dropped the subject, while Jonah said, "Don't worry, you two. I'm concerned and have been watching whatever's happening between those two. But I'll admit that I'm at my wit's end too."

As he spoke, Elise came in. Upon seeing Robin and Laura, she was instantly surprised. "Grandpa, Grandma, what brought the two of you here?" Striding forward, she threw herself into Laura's arms. "Grandma, I missed you so much."

As Laura studied her granddaughter, she couldn't stop her eyes from turning red. "My lovely Ellie."

Robin, on the other hand, pretended to be calm. "Ellie, have you gotten used to living here yet?"

Elise nodded. "Yes, everything is well here."

When Robin and Laura heard this, they felt like a heavy weight had been lifted. The family continued chatting, and after a while, the servant came over again to report, "Sir, the young masters are back."

Immediately afterward, with Alexander leading Jack, Danny, and Brendan, the four young masters of the Griffith Family entered the hall. Jonah called out, "Come here. This is Mr. Robin, and this is Madam Laura."

The brothers greeted in unison, "Mr. Robin. Madam Laura."

Robin and Laura swept their gazes over them one by one before finally stopping on Alexander. "Such good boys! Jonah! Your grandsons are all marvelous young men."

Jonah replied with a smile, "You don't have to praise them. Compared to Ellie, they're not even worth mentioning."

"Robin, Laura, it isn't often we get you two here, so let's enjoy the evening together." Jonah invited them all into the dining hall. The whole family sat together, and the atmosphere was extremely lively.

Robin looked at Elise, then said to Jonah, "Actually, we made this trip here to bring Ellie back. She's been here for so long that it must be causing you trouble."

As soon as he said this, the Griffith brothers exchanged looks. Danny was the most anxious one. "Elise is leaving already?"

Robin nodded. "It's time for her to go back."

Elise was confused about this too, because Robin had never mentioned this to her. Now that he had announced it in front of so many people, Elise felt a strange sense of reluctance.

"Can't she stay for a while longer?" Danny asked in a somewhat pleading tone as he looked at Elise with a pitiful look.

Elise's lips curled up into a smile. "Why? You can't bear not having me around?"

Danny nodded without hesitation. "Boss, if you leave, who's going to teach me math? Who's going to play games with me? And who's going to look out for me?"

Elise slightly raised her eyebrows. "But sooner or later, I'll have to go home."

This upset Danny even more. He didn't even realize that amongst his brothers, he was the most reluctant to let Elise leave.

Alexander didn't say a word throughout the entire meal, and he had a calm expression on his face, as if this matter had nothing to do with him. At this moment, Jonah said to Robin, "Ellie has brought a lot of joy to our family during this period. Now that you're taking her home so suddenly, I'm quite unwilling to let her go."

Looking up at Jonah, Elise said in a melancholic tone, "Grandpa Griffith, I'll come visit you often."

When Jonah heard this, he was rather relieved. Despite that, he couldn't help but glance at Alexander, only to realize that his grandson had no reaction whatsoever, which caused the anger inside him to rise.

Just then, Alexander set down his cutleries. "Grandpa, Mr. Robin, Madam Laura, I'm done eating, so I'll excuse myself to go upstairs first."

With that, he got up and left the dining hall without a second thought.

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Chapter 138 Perhaps She Could Stay

Elise watched his departing figure as her eyes revealed a shade of inexplicable sensation, which she covered up perfectly as no one noticed it.

After dinner, Elise and her grandparents took a stroll around the yard. Aware that she was obviously distraught, the senile couple peered at each other. Laura then quizzed, "Ellie, you don't wanna go home yet, do you?"

Elise pursed her lips when she was so easily seen through. Yet, she remained wordless.

Laura suggestively eyed Robin, who then stretched his back and hastily claimed, "It's getting cold. I should go get my coat." Finished, he went into the house.

Right when he reached upstairs, he coincidentally bumped into Alexander. "Care for a game of chess, Mr. Robin?"

Robin was visibly delighted at the invitation. "Sure! It's been a while since my last game."

And so, he headed to the games room under Alexander's lead. Meanwhile in the yard, Laura was goading her granddaughter into a heart-to-heart. "Now, Ellie, be honest with me. What's troubling that mind of yours?"

After glancing at her, Elise embraced her grandmother's arm. "Can I stay a little longer for now, Grandma?"

Laura smilingly looked at her. "It's that Griffith boy, isn't it?"

Although Elise never intended to hide it from her grandmother, she was certainly astounded by her keen observation. "I may be feeling something, Grandma."

A sentence so simple, yet was able to convey all in her heart. Laura was overjoyed to hear that, but she showed not even a tinge of her ecstasy. "Oh, dear Ellie, are you sure? That it's not just a heat of the moment?"

Elise took a deep breath. "That's the thing, Grandma. I'm not even certain whether it's real or simply infatuation, which is why I wish to stay a bit longer to make sense of my feelings. Aren't you all always worried about my love life? This time, I wish to take things into my own hands."

Elise was always an opinionated girl, and Laura knew that very well. Thereupon, Laura held Elise's hand. "I trust you, Ellie. But I do have to warn you that often in love, it's the girl that's always blinded. Therefore, when you get anxious about it, I hope you'll be able to stand your ground and not lose sight of everything. Don't drown yourself and blindly allow yourself to be vulnerable."

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"Thanks, Grandma."

Laura heaved a sigh. "It's about time, huh. If you truly want to stay, Ellie, I won't stop you, but there's a catch."

Having said that, Laura whispered something else in Elise's ear, to which the latter flickered her eyes before staring at her grandmother and sternly nodded her head.

Comforted, Laura stated, "My baby Ellie has turned into a full-grown woman. Sure, you'll make your decisions yourself. No matter what answer you find yourself with, your grandfather and I will always be here for you."

Elise shoved herself into her grandmother's embrace. "You're the best, Grandma."

Meanwhile, Robin and Alexander were playing chess in the games room upstairs. The two were exceptional, and their levels were indistinguishable. It had been a while since Robin last played someone on par with him and he couldn't help but be thrilled by Alexander's moves as they played the game.

"Say, Alex, I'm sure chess isn't the only reason you called for me." Robin broke the silence.

Despite that, Alexander grabbed a chess piece and brushed it off, slowly voicing, "Say, Mr. Robin, you're very good at this."

Robin raised his line of sight to Alexander and chortled. "I've been doing this for decades. Guess that's only natural. You, however, are still so young yet you're already putting me on edge. What a prodigy!"

"You flatter me, Mr. Robin."

Robin calmly smiled as he pondered before making another move on the chessboard, to which Alexander countered with another move shortly afterward.

Eventually, the former opened up, saying, "Ellie has been through a lot ever since she was a kid. Her parents died in a car crash when she was eight, and she's been living with us since. I still remember the first time I saw her after her parents were gone. She was all devastated

and not even a trace of energy was left in her, like a spiritless body that purposelessly existed. She didn't cry nor blurted a sound. It pained us to see her like that."

Upon those words, Alexander's eyes sank. At that moment, he didn't know where to position the chess piece that was in his hand.

Robin continued, "That time, she was so petite. It wasn't until I carried her that she started crying her heart out in my arms. Instantly, my heart was crushed and I couldn't help but wonder why God would punish the little girl so mercilessly. And that was when I swore to protect her and provide her a happy, healthy life."

Alexander placed down the chess piece and replied, "She grew up very well."

It was a simple answer, but it was enough to reassure Robin. He nodded his head and agreed. "Yes. She has never let us worry about her. She was always independent in her studies and in life overall, though a few headaches is only inevitable. However, her grandmother and I are almost at the end of our chapters. Who knows how much more time there is for us to be by her side? So, we deeply wish that someone else can come and look after her in our stead when we eventually leave."

As those words were laid out, Robin's message became pretty much apparent. On the other hand, Alexander, who was hesitating on his chess move, seemed to have calmed down also.

"It's your turn, Mr. Robin..." Alexander reminded Robin. Seeing how the young man had no response to his message, Robin felt as if he couldn't grasp his thoughts, clueless whether he had heeded his words as he was so focused on the game.

Robin then gazed at the chessboard in front of him, feeling a little dispirited. Little did he expect, Alexander suddenly proposed, "Elise is indeed a fine lady. I was thinking, perhaps she could stay for a little longer?"

After having expressed that, he felt a minor tremble in his heart. All the things he faced in life could never shake him even for a little. Yet, something else that day was able to stagger him.

Regardless, there wasn't a hint of joy on Robin's face. He strictly glared at the young man. "Do you mean it? You better not joke about this."

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Chapter 139 Played

Alexander gazed back at Robin and said earnestly, "We wouldn't be discussing this if I weren't. I wish to take care of her. For as long as I can."

Every single word that came out of his mouth clearly traveled into Robin's ears. Robin then grinned. "So you're into our Ellie, huh?"

Before Alexander could reply, he added, "You best think this through. Although our Ellie doesn't possess the most repellant face, she's not exactly a beauty either. All the provocations in the outside world, are you sure Ellie is the woman you want?"

Hearing that, Alexander started to wonder. Elise's appearance never stood out in the crowd, and her face wasn't what he was attracted to in the first place. Nevertheless, for some reason, he was captivated by her. He couldn't even trace back to when it was that he started paying attention to her.

"Rest assured, Mr. Robin, I responsibly promise you that I like Elise for what she is and not for her appearance nor her family background. I genuinely adore her for her being."

Robin was satisfied with his answer. Regardless, it pertained to his granddaughter's future, so it was nothing to joke about. Thus, he did not make any promises. After all, their destiny belonged to them, so it should be up to them to fulfill it. "Understood. Now, it's all up to you whether you can keep her. Either way, her grandmother and I will not influence her in her decision-making."

With that, Alexander acknowledged that Robin had expressed his position in the matter. As for the result of their relationship, it still solely depended on him.

"Thank you, Mr. Robin. I know what I should do now."

Robin then started to cackle. "Time shall tell!"

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It was late at night. Nothing but silence filled the Griffith Residence—except for the living room on the second floor. In the merry space, Robin and Jonah were gregarious exchanging insights. "Splendid indeed! Your kid Alex finally opened up with me. It seems our wish for a great-grandchild is nearing!"

Excited, Jonah could not hide the grin on his face. "Haha! We were messing around back then. Who would've known things are getting set in stone!"

"Hold your horses, buddy! We're not supposed to rush these youngsters' affairs. Sometimes, things need time to develop or it'll fall apart. Whether they can make it work entirely depends on them. And if it doesn't work out, I'm sure we can help mend things by then."

Having reached an agreement, the two grandfathers were rapturous.

The next morning, it was only Alexander left in the dining room when Elise walked down the staircase. Subconsciously, she slowed down her steps and took a glance at him. Strangely, she felt rather agitated. Thereupon, she took a deep breath and collected her feelings before greeting, "Good morning!"

In response, Alexander raised his head and looked at her. His brows obviously relaxed. "Morning."

Then, Elise went over and pulled her chair out before sitting down. Seeing all her favorite breakfast foods laid down in front of her, she took a couple of bites. Suddenly, Alexander stated, "Your grandparents had me relay to you that they have something to take care of, so they left first and will come back to visit you another time."

Despite hearing that, Elise showed no surprise, as if she had already gotten used to Robin and Laura's tricks. She simply blurted an "oh" in acknowledgment before placing down her cutleries. "I'm done. I'm off to class now."

Unexpectedly, Alexander stopped her. "Hold up. I'll send you."

"Okay," Elise replied. She casually walked in front of the line while Alexander closely followed beside her. And so, the two exited the house in a line. After sending Elise to school, Alexander wasn't in any hurry to leave. He took out his phone and made a call. "Lily, are you done with the draft I had you do last time?"

"Good morning, President Griffith. It is finished. I'll send it over to your office shortly after." After taking a glimpse at the school gate, Alexander started his car and drove off.

Meanwhile, Elise had just walked into the school compound when her phone started vibrating. She pulled it out from her pocket and saw a blinking red dot, which made her eyes sink. The red dot was a secret signal between her and Jamie. Therefore, she hurriedly picked up her phone. "What's wrong?"

With haste, Jamie said, "Boss, somebody has breached our security system. They've broken through the fourth wall. If they were to break the fifth, all of our confidential information will be leaked!"

Elise revealed a frown. "How did this happen?"

Jamie knew nothing about the attack, except for the fact that it was too late when he realized it.

"Hurry over, Boss! I'm on the 16th floor of Ferry Building."

Right after Jamie divulged the address, without any hesitation, Elise stormed out of the school gate before stopping a cab and hurried over to Ferry Building.

At that moment, the entire 16th floor of Ferry Building was in turmoil. Jamie and the rest of the team were doing all they could to fend off the attack. Unfortunately, the offenders were too strong, and the team was in grave disadvantage.

Immediately, Jamie voiced an ultimatum, "Whatever it costs, hold them off, just for 15 minutes more!" Drops of sweat were wetting the foreheads of the team's technicians, fighting hard to defend their territory. On the other hand, Elise started triangulating the location of the attackers while en route to Ferry Building with her phone that was always with her. Sadly, apart from a cell phone's technological deficiency, the attackers were cunning enough and slipped out of Elise's grasp.

When she finally arrived at Ferry Building, she sat down before a computer. Her fingers rapidly tapped across the keyboard. Beside her was Jamie who held his breath as if the storm had passed. The attackers seemed to be deliberately waiting for Elise with how they sent a series of digits to the team, to which her commissures lifted as she brutally launched a counterattack toward the opponents' security system and instantly penetrated through seven layers of defense.

Jamie silently clenched his fist and revealed a delighted face. In that instant, the screen in his eyes turned blue. Shocked, Elise furiously slammed the keyboard. "F*ck! We got played!"

For the first time since forever, Elise found a rival in hacking, who appeared to have no intention to spar with her. Rather, they simply wanted to fool around with her.

When the computer reactivated, it functioned properly as usual, as if the blue screen never occurred. Elise speedily ran a check, only to find out that the offenders had vanished without a trace.

"What's going on, Boss?"

Elise glared at Jamie, explaining, "We were targeted, but they don't seem to be very hostile. Weird. Based on the skills they possess, they could have demolished our security system with ease, but they chose not to. It's as if they're doing this to draw our attention."

Jamie was stunned. "But who could it be?"

Who else in this world could possess hacking skills that were even greater than Elise's?

Bring Your A Game, Mr Chapter 140

Chapter 140 Look Into a Person

"No matter who it is, we'll have to be on guard. Upgrade our security system right away and set up firewalls around our connectivity to the internet. Then we'll be able to track their IP down the next time they attack."

At once, Jamie answered, "Got it. I'll do it right away."

Then, Elise ran another check on the internal system and repaired some loopholes before giving it a final check. The attackers must have been well prepared with how they left no traces after the breach.

Having been preoccupied by the incident until afternoon, she proceeded to leave the building. She took the elevator and descended to the first floor, only to find out the building was crowded by someone's fans. Baffled, she halted her steps and read the sign in the fan's hand—Charlene Rivers.

Many memories from the past flashed across her mind when she saw that name. They lived in the same world, yet Elise had always managed to neglect her. What a small world!

"Charlene! Charlene!" The fans, cramped in one space, chanted Charlene's name in unison. Shortly after, Charlene walked up the stage under her bodyguard's escort. She grabbed a microphone and smilingly greeted the audience, "Hello, everyone. I'm Charlene Rivers. It's an honor to see you here."

Elise, standing amidst the crowd, watched as the elegant, dashing Charlene walked up the stage. There was an indescribable emotion in her eyes.

Now, Charlene had become an A-list singer who had published numerous albums that topped charts and received multiple music awards. She had become a musical icon of the era. Regardless, Elise had no interest in her, so she simply turned around and left.

Unexpectedly, not far away stood Noel, who saw Elise and hurried over to her, grabbing her by the wrist. "Why are you here?"

Immediately, Elise scowled and turned her head, gazing at her constricted forearm. "Do I need to report everything I do to you?"

Quickly, Noel let go of her. "I didn't mean it like that. I'm just surprised to see you attending Charlene's fan meeting."

Elise's face was rather emotionless, even when it came to the person who she once was the closest to. Monotonously, she answered, "You're overthinking it. I'm only here by chance. I have no interest in her affairs."

Noel was visibly unconvinced. The Elise that was currently in front of him was as stubborn as the one he knew in the past. "Nevermind. Charlene said she misses you very much and wishes to explain to you what happened back then. Why don't I arrange a meeting for the two of you?"

Elise gave him a mocking smirk and pursed her lips. "Do you think there's still a need for that now?"

Hearing that, Noel assumed that she was still holding grudges on the incident many years back, but Charlene was innocent in the matter as well. They could've sat down together and had a proper discussion about it. If they had done that, perhaps Elise would have given up on the resentment and returned to her singing career, which was the dreams of many music enthusiasts.

"H, in spite of everything, you're old friends. Just see it as a reunion, can you?"

Elise remained silent. All of a sudden, a familiar tune was played on the stage, and she heard Charlene saying, "Next up, I'll be presenting a hit of mine—Stargazing."

It was Charlene's most popular song since her debut. After so many years, it was still one of the top songs in pop music charts—one that was familiar to many.

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And so, once the song's prelude played, every single fan that was present started chorusing.

"Be it composition or lyrics, this song of Charlene is recognized as an all-time classic. Thus, it's always everyone's go-to song despite having been published after so many years," Noel generously praised as he failed to notice Elise's tensed fists. Originally, she just wanted to pass by Charlene without having to recall anything from the past with her. Nevertheless, having heard the song, she couldn't help questioning, "If she's that talented, why does everyone only remember this one song of hers?"

Her statement dazed Noel. Indeed, although Charlene had released countless albums and singles after the hit, none of them could surpass Stargazing.

Despite her questioning, Noel said, "It's impossible to turn every song into classics. It's already difficult to have even one."

Elise knew that Noel had always unconditionally believed in Charlene, so she didn't attempt to argue, though his words were rather irritating to hear. "Then is there a possibility that this one classic of hers is a product of plagiarism?"

At that, Noel chose to remain wordless.

Memories started flushing in his mind. He opened his mouth as if he was about to refute, but knowing further debate would be pointless, he simply replied, "Charlene is a talented singer. She would never do such a thing."

Elise raised her gaze toward Charlene, who was smiling sweetly on the stage. She, too, once believed in what Noel just said. But sadly, humans were prone to make mistakes, including judging others.

"I'm leaving," Elise blurted and immediately walked away. Watching as she walked into the distance, Noel blurted, "Even if I knew what you said was the truth, there's nothing I can do to change it. I'm sorry, H."

Withdrawing his stare, he walked toward backstage. After Charlene was done with the song, she went backstage to get changed. When she saw Noel, she trotted to him. "How was the performance? Was I good?"

He soundlessly looked at her. After hesitating for a while, he eventually revealed, "H was here."

Surprisingly, upon the information, her brows tensed. Even her voice clearly shivered. "Really? H? She came? W-Where is she? I wanna meet her..."

Noel stared at the familiar expression. At his stare, Charlene felt somewhat embarrassed and quickly looked away. "Why are you staring at me like that, Noel?"

He answered, "She left already."

Visibly, Charlene let out a sigh. Noel, however, observed every gesture and word of hers assiduously, yet he didn't attempt to confront her.

"Didn't she quit music? Why is she here? Oh, by the way, what's her relationship with Jack Griffith? Why did she write a song for him?"

Although she was feeling uneasy, she appeared to be concerned about Elise. At that moment, her behavior made Noel feel as if she was a stranger to him.

"Ask her yourself if you wanna know. I'm heading back."

Charlene hastily called for him, "Wait! The event's not over yet. Then-"

However, this time, Noel didn't even care to turn around as he marched away, leaving her standing still, biting her lips. All the gentleness in her eyes instantaneously dispersed as it was replaced with darkness.

Then, she pulled out her phone and made a call. "I want you to look into a person for me. I want her latest details. Every single one."