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With that, Rosalyn got back into the car.

Joshua sat in the garden as he listened to Rosalyn and Jim's conversation outside and could not help feeling even more curious about what Mrs. Landry looked like.

Her voice sounded like a gentle, mild-mannered woman, so how could a woman like this...be married to a monster like Charles Landry?

How could she raise a daughter like Heather and give birth to someone like Aura?

All of a sudden, the garden gate was pushed open.

The man named Mickey handed a few thermal food containers to the servant waiting at the gate. The servant did not manage to hold them all, and the man furrowed his brows as he helped her steady the remaining containers. "Be careful."

The man's voice sounded low and deeply alluring. Along with his voice came the disturbing stench of herbs.

Joshua could not help frowning when he realized how familiar this voice and stench was.

He immediately lifted his head and met the gaze of the man dressed in black.

The man was wearing a pair of gold-rimmed glasses. He did not seem surprised to see Joshua there and instead lifted his head to give him a wave. "Hello. We

meet again." That voice...

Those glasses and that uncomfortable stench...

Joshua's pupils dilated as he realized who this man was.

He immediately stood up and exclaimed, "It's you! "

It was him! This was the man he had seen in the elevator the day Granny Lynch was murdered by Michael!

The man did not seem reluctant to let Joshua know who he was. "Yes, it's me. I've already told you we'll meet again."

With that, he closed the garden gate behind him and left.

Rosalyn's gentle voice rang out from the other side, "What took you so long?"

"I ran into someone I knew and was just saying hi to him."

"Oh, who is it? Do I know him?" "Sorry, but I don't think you do."

Joshua remained motionless and clenched his fists.

Granny's death...had something to do with the Landry family, after all.

Even though Granny had been killed by Michael's stabbing, the Landry family were still involved in all this!

After sending Michael into jail, Joshua and the police had attempted to reconstruct the crime scene.

Truth be told, even if Luna had been utterly exhausted, she would never have slept so soundly that she could not even notice someone being murdered right next to her.

The cops had managed to find traces of a sedating drug that had been sprinkled in corners of Granny's ward. On top of that, they had discovered some needle marks on Granny's body that had previously gone unnoticed.

At that time, Joshua had concluded that this drug and needle marks...had something to do with the suspicious man he had bumped into downstairs.

However, even after looking through all the surveillance tapes both within the hospital and the surrounding area, he could not find that man in the gold-rimmed glasses again.

Joshua had thought that he would never be able to find that man again, nor discover what had truly happened that day...

Never had he expected to come across that man again in Merchant City.

On top of that, this man was none other than Mrs. Rosalyn Landry's subordinate!

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The next morning, when Luna woke up, she heard noises coming from the garden.

She furrowed her brows and pulled the curtains open.

Downstairs, Harvey, dressed in yet another red hoodie, had his hands on his hips while he instructed a group of workers who were carrying bunches of roses into their designated spots, arranging the bouquets into a heart shape.

Meanwhile, Joshua stood aside, holding a gigantic bouquet of roses and talking into his phone. He seemed to be on a video call with Nellie.

Luna could vaguely hear the sound of Nellie's cheers coming out of his phone.

Coincidentally, just as Luna pulled the curtains open, Joshua lifted his head to glance in her direction.

Their eyes met.

Joshua tucked his phone away and smiled at her. He was wearing a grey trench coat over a white sweater and khaki pants. He even had on a pair of rimless glasses.

Under the morning sun, Joshua's smile no longer carried its usual aura of dominance and coldness, and instead, it had a hint of warmth and gentleness.

Luna had never seen Joshua like this before. She stared at him for a good five seconds in shock.

Finally, she blushed and put the curtains back down.

Despite that, she could still feel his penetrating stare on her through the thick fabric of the curtains.

She was blushing, probably because of the hot morning sun.

Downstairs.

Joshua watched as Luna put down the curtains and could not help furrowing his brows. He glanced at Harvey and asked, "Are you sure this will work? Why did she put down the curtains?"

"Mr. Lynch, you have to trust my taste. The outfit I put together for you is that of a male lead in a drama! No woman can resist this!"

With that, Harvey let out a sigh and added, "Initially, I bought this outfit so that Mr. Landry could use it to woo my mother back, but it's already been so long, yet he still hasn't managed to find my Mommy."

Joshua curled his lips into a smile. "Why do you call your father Mr. Landry?"

This was the first time he had ever heard a child call his own father a 'mister'.

"He used to call me Daddy," said Jim as he got out of the car impassively and strode toward Tea Cottage. "He and June grew up without their mothers, and neither of them thought there was anything wrong with that, but a year ago, he found out that other children had mothers. Ever since that, he has been pestering me to track down his birth mother and even claimed that he wouldn't call me his father if I didn't manage to find her."

Harvey could not help crossing his arms in front of

his chest and turning his face away when he heard this. "Well, it's already been a year, and you have yet to find Mommy! "

Jim shot him an impassive glance but did not reply. Instead, he walked into the villa.

Inside the villa, Bonnie was lounging on the sofa in her pajamas, having a video conference call with Lucas. "Um... Didn't I already send you the file yesterday? All the information is inside; you don't have to ask me everything! "

Lucas grew even more puzzled when he heard this. "But Ms. Craig, about the Quinn family's next move..."

"What the Quinn family have been trying to do is lure you to bring Joshua back to Banyan City, so you shouldn't have to worry."

Suddenly, Jim's voice interjected Lucas and Bonnie's conversation.

The both of them turned around simultaneously and stared at Jim, who had entered through the door in shock.

Bonnie's eyes widened. "You..."

Lucas fell into silence for a moment, then chuckled. "I've been wondering how Ms. Craig, a woman who grew up in Banyan City, would be so familiar with the ins and outs of Merchant City, so much so that she was able to give us instructions on what to do.

"It turns out the man behind her back is none other than Master Quinn. I apologize."

With that, Lucas hung up the phone.

Bonnie was still staring at Jim in shock. "You... The person who has been contacting me and teaching me the inner workings of Merchant City...was you?"

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Jim sat down next to Bonnie and pressed her head down onto his shoulder, then quickly snapped a few photos on his phone.

Bonnie sensed the unfamiliar scent of male pheromones wafting off Jim's body, and it felt as though she had been electrocuted.

She removed herself from his arms and, out of instinct, extended her arm out and brought her palm down toward Jim's face—

However, Jim grabbed hold of her arm mid —air. He curled his lips into a smirk and dangled his phone in front of her. "Didn't I tell you yesterday that Malcolm sent away all the men who have been following you and me? Do you know why?"

Bonnie furrowed her brows, her arm still hovering mid-air. She wanted to smack him, but Jim was resisting her, yet at the same time, she could not pull her arm back either.

She glared at him somewhat awkwardly and snapped, "What do Malcolm's actions have anything to do with you sexually harassing me?"

"You call this harassment?" Jim curled his lips into a smirk and pressed Bonnie down against the sofa.

He restrained her arms above her head, and her body was pressed so hard against the sofa that she could not move an inch.

Jim hovered closer to her ear and chuckled. "This is what I call harassment."

The warmth of his body, as well as the tickling sensation of his breath, made Bonnie feel suffocated.

Jim watched her face blush scarlet, curled his lips into a smirk, and inched closer to her ear. "Don't worry, Ms. Craig, I'm not interested in you at all.

"The only reason I took those photos with you was so that Malcolm would think I was really trying to woo you.

"If it weren't for the fact that we have to cover up Joshua and Luna's tracks, I won't be willing to put on such a show with you either. Do you understand?"

He released Bonnie and stood up, then readjusted his collar. "Well, since I've gotten the photos I want, I'll see you tomorrow."

With that, he strode out of the room without looking back.

Bonnie was both embarrassed and exasperated by this. She grabbed one of her cushions from her sofa and flung it in Jim's direction. "Get out of here—!"

Because Malcolm's men had loosened their watch on Jim and Bonnie, Joshua could finally stay longer at Tea Cottage. He lingered for almost an entire day.

On the first day, Luna thought his presence was more than annoying.

On the second day, she got somewhat used to him being there.

On the third day, the first thing she did upon waking up was check whether Joshua had arrived yet.

As soon as she flung the curtains open, she saw him standing downstairs in the autumn breeze in a khaki sweater.

She could not help feeling a surge of warmth spread through her body at this sight.

She told herself that if he could do this for seven days...she would go down and talk to him.

Luna counted the days off her fingers and could not help feeling that seven days would be too long and that Joshua would not be able to last this long.

However, on second thought...

The pain she had suffered for him was seven years. If he thought that seven days was too much for him to handle, then it meant that he really did not cherish her at all!

Luna let out a sigh and gently stroked her flat belly. "Baby, even if it's for your sake...I'll still make him wait seven days."

As soon as she finished her sentence, her phone rang. It was a call from Malcolm.

"Luna, please don't forget our meeting tonight. I'll be waiting for you at Lucky Den tonight at 7 P.M., and I'll bring the jade ring with me."

Luna pursed her lips and glanced at the man waiting outside. "Alright, I'll be there."

Since the jade ring was something that Lucy had left for the Lynch family...

She had to get it back and return it to Joshua.

Not only was this for his sake, but also Granny Lynch's.

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Joshua waited in the garden of Tea Cottage for an entire day.

When evening came, Harvey wailed that he was hungry and demanded Joshua and Jim to bring him for some good food.

Joshua glanced at the time and realized that it was already 6 p.m.

He had no choice but to say a few quick words of farewell into the recording device, then packed his things and left.

Luna let out a sigh of relief after seeing they had left.

Thank God they had all left. Otherwise, she would not know how to sneak out to Lucky Den to see Malcolm without Joshua noticing.

She let out an exhale and tucked the recording device away, then changed her clothes and went downstairs.

Downstairs, Bonnie furrowed her brows and glanced at her. "Are you sure you want to go?"

Luna nodded and replied as she put on her coat, "That ring is extremely important, so I have to get it back as soon as possible."

When seven days had passed, she would hand the ring to Joshua when she met him.

Perhaps this would be the key to unlocking the mystery of Lucy Hamilton's death.

Bonnie pursed her lips in disapproval. "But Nigel and Neil said that they had hidden your signal here. If you go out, they'll be able to track your location, and you...won't be safe anymore."

Luna smiled. "Well, it's more dangerous for Malcolm to come find me here."

She strode out of the door and called out behind her, "Don't worry, it's not like I'm meeting anyone dangerous anyway. Malcolm will keep me safe and protected. Just wait for me to come home."

With that, she closed the door behind her and left.

Bonnie pursed her lips as she lay on the sofa, watching Luna leave.

They had been here for almost a month, and they had been safe and sound.

Was the ring really worth Luna taking such a big risk? At the thought of the ring...

Bonnie smacked her forehead in realization.

She seemed to have a ring with her that belonged to Harvey and had forgotten to return it!

As soon as she thought of this, she quickly got up and rummaged in her suitcase.

When she picked up the ring, she had wanted to return it to Harvey as soon as possible, but every time she saw him, it slipped her mind.

Therefore, when she came to Merchant City, she placed the ring in her suitcase and brought it along.

She knew that Harvey and Jim were from Merchant City, so she was bound to run into them. Over time, she somehow forgot about it as they spent most of their time together.

Bonnie placed the ring on the coffee table and could not help worrying about Luna's safety.

She had a feeling that Malcolm was not a good person at all.

She pondered this for a long while and finally took out her phone to dial Jim's number.

He soon picked up. "Are you here to talk about business or private matters?" he asked in a curt voice.

What he meant by 'business' was her helping Lucas run Lynch Group.

Bonnie pursed her lips and replied, "Private." Jim immediately hung up the phone.

As soon as she heard the dial tone, Bonnie widened her eyes in exasperation and redialed his number.

After a long time, he finally picked up the phone again. "Spit it out."

Bonnie snapped, "Jim Landry! What do you think I'm calling you for? Even if it's something private, it won't be about you! Where's Joshua? I'm looking for him! "

Jim furrowed his brows, glanced at Joshua, who was video calling the three children on his phone, and put Bonnie on speaker. "Alright then, you can talk now."

Bonnie suppressed her rage toward Jim and said, "Well, Luna left the house just now to meet Malcolm at Lucky Den.

"I don't think he's a reliable person at all, so do you want to keep an eye out on them?"

As soon as she finished her sentence, Joshua and the three children fell silent.

Harvey, who was munching on a chicken drumstick, furrowed his brows and pointed at the writing on his plate.

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"Aren't weat Lucky Den right now?"
"Alright, noted," Jim replied curtly and hung up the phone.
By the time he hung up the phone, Joshua had just gotten off his call with the three children
At this moment, they were sitting in a private booth on the second floor.
"Master Quinn is here! " All of a sudden, the high – pitched exclamation from one of the waiters rang out from downstairs.
Joshua and Jim exchanged glances, and Jim immediately handed him a set of bodyguard uniforms. "Let's hide your identity first, then we'll see what he's up to."
Joshua nodded and went into the washroom to change his clothes.
When he came out of the washroom, he bumped into one of Malcolm's men.
The man was standing in a corner outside the washroom, barking orders into a walkie-talkie, "Do you remember Master Quinn's instructions? When the woman arrives

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"Alpha, you're in charge of fabricating an accident and installing a tracker onto that woman's bag and clothes.
"Bravo, you're in charge of keeping an eye on the tracker and finding that woman's hiding spot as soon as possible.
"Charlie, you're responsible for following her after she's left Lucky Den. You can't lose her.
"Delta, you're responsible for keeping an eye on things here at Lucky Den. Master Quinn has said that Joshua Lynch might be following the woman here, so we're on orders to kill him as soon as he appears.
"The person who kills Joshua Lynch will receive a hundred million dollars from Master Quinr as a reward! "
With that, the man tucked his walkie-talkie away and strode off.
Joshua came out of the washroom dressed in a uniform and a pair of sunglasses, a cold smirk playing on his lips.
He, Joshua Lynch, the CEO of Lynch Group, had more than a hundred billion dollars in assetsbut to Malcolm, his life was only worth a hundred million dollars?
Did Malcolm think too lowly of him, or was quinn Group only capable of forking out this amount of money?
However

Joshua narrowed his eyes slightly.

Malcolm had prepared four different teams for today's mission. This meant that he was determined to find Luna's hiding spot no matter what.

Joshua could even guess that Malcolm wanted to know Luna's hiding place so that he could trick Luna into pitying him and marrying him again.

Therefore, he could not let Malcolm's plan succeed!

Joshua returned to the private booth and came up with a plan with Jim.

First, they would let Harvey find Luna and place a signal-blocking device on her.

On the other hand...even though Malcolm had assigned many men on this mission, they knew that to him, tracking Luna's location was less of a priority than killing Joshua.

If Luna left and Joshua appeared, Malcolm would choose to let his men chase after Joshua instead of following Luna.

Therefore, Jim would be able to switch out Luna's car with his and bring Luna to safety.

After finalizing the plans, Jim lit a cigarette and glanced at Joshua. "Are you sure you want to let Malcolm see you? If you do this, you won't be safe in the future anymore."

Joshua lowered his head and replied, "That's fine by me."

After all, he could not possibly hide from Malcolm forever.
Besides
He knew that Luke had already brought some of his men over to Merchant City to buy out all the gangs within the city.
As long as he wanted to, Joshua would be able to
make Merchant City his territory. It was just a matter of time.
A hint of admiration passed through Jim's face. However, he still raised his brows and asked, "Are you sure Luna is really worth you doing this?
"You've been waiting for her for so many days now, and she isn't willing to see you, but now, despite knowing how dangerous it is to come out to see Malcolm, she still chose to do so."