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That was the first time Sonia called Toby after their divorce, so he wondered what she was up to.

"Tyler is at my place. President Fuller, please take him home." The sight of the boy on the doormat was giving Sonia a headache.

Toby frowned. "Tyler is at your place again?"

"Yeah, and he's not budging no matter what I do."

"I get it. I'll be there in a moment," Toby replied.

Since Sonia had nothing else to tell him, she hung up directly after that. Toby glanced at the screen that had already reverted to the menu page while pulling his lips into a thin line. Then, he stood up to head out of the office. Around an hour later, he arrived in front of Sonia's apartment unit.

"Toby?" Tyler shot up from where he sat, frightened by Toby's arrival. "Why are you here?"

"I came to bring you home," Toby answered solemnly after taking a look at the door behind Tyler.

With his head hung low, Tyler dared not disobey his brother. "Toby, how did you know I'm here?"

Instead of replying to Tyler's question, Toby stepped forward to knock on the door, which opened soon after. Sonia leaned against the shoe cabinet while supporting herself with a crutch.

There was a look of concern in Toby's eyes when he took in the state that Sonia was in; even his tone softened when he spoke. "How's your leg doing?"

"It's fine. At least it's not broken," Sonia answered nonchalantly.

Meanwhile, Tyler glanced at Sonia, and then at Toby. "You don't seem all that surprised by her injury, Toby. Did you already know that she's injured?"

Still ignoring Tyler, Toby watched Sonia in silence. "I'll have someone send you some nourishing food later."

"That won't be necessary." Sonia declined his offer directly.

Toby kept a straight face. "Sonia, can't you be less stubborn?"

"Am I?" Sonia huffed an exasperated laugh. "Is not accepting your offer a show of obstinacy? What nonsense is that?"

"Like I said, you got injured in my hotel, so I'm responsible for that," Toby explained in all seriousness.

Sonia waved her hand. "I won't hold you accountable. All I want is to stay away from you. Besides, isn't Tina going to be displeased by the fact that you keep coming after me? I don't want her to plot against me again and make me end up all bruised and battered."

"She won't do that." Toby frowned, feeling displeased by her accusation. Tina already promised to never repeat those same mistakes.

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Sonia chuckled. "Suit yourself if you're so certain about it. Alright, gentlemen. It's getting late, so I would like to get some rest. You can see yourselves out." She gestured at the exit to indicate that it was time for them to leave.

After staring at Sonia for a moment, Toby took Tyler with him, ready to leave. All of a sudden, Sonia called out to them. "Hold on."

Toby felt joy for some reason, but he contained it well when he turned around. "Is there something else?"

Sonia pointed at Tyler. "President Fuller, please watch over your brother in the future. Make sure that he doesn't come here to disturb my peace and give me trouble all the time."

Discontented, Tyler shot back, "I'm not giving you trouble!"

"Oh, is that so?" Sonia tilted her head. "Do you believe that your mother will accuse me of seducing her son if I call to tell her that you're with me?"

"I—" Tyler choked on his words while a blush crept onto his youthful and handsome face. He didn't have a comeback for that, nor could he deny Sonia's claims, for he knew his mother was definitely capable of that.

"So, stop coming to my place. I've done all I could after helping you out twice. All I wish for by this point is to cut all ties with your family. Got it?" Sonia swept a cold glance at Tyler before fixing her gaze on Toby's face. After a few seconds, she averted her gaze without hesitation before shutting the door.

While looking at the door in front of him, all Toby could imagine was Sonia's eyes. They used to contain feelings for him, but it was all gone; all that was left was a cold stare. It meant that she already got over him.

Upon realizing that, Toby's heart wrenched in pain. Shouldn't I be glad that Sonia finally let go of me? It means I will be free from the burden of her feelings, but why don't I feel happy? Instead, my heart is aching and hollow. It's as if I have lost something important.

Meanwhile, Tyler gulped when he noticed Toby clenching his fists. "What are you doing, Toby?" he inquired carefully. Is he feeling like punching someone to vent his anger after being treated by Sonia so harshly? This won't do! The moment he thought of that, he tried to placate Toby. "Say, Toby—"

"Let's go!" Toby cut him short before turning to walk toward the elevator.

Startled by his reaction, Tyler glanced at Sonia's door before picking up the basketball and running after Toby. Behind the door, Sonia heaved a sigh of relief after seeing the two of them leave. Then, she covered the screen of the surveillance camera before retiring to her room.

The next day, Sonia was roused by a phone call. After taking the phone from the bedside table, she didn't even check the caller ID before sticking the phone to her ear. "Hello, who is this?"

"President, Reed, it's me!" Daphne's bright voice came through.

Sonia opened her eyes while sitting up on her bed. "What is it?"

"I have good news. The banks called to express their consent on offering us the loans. Those that already offered a loan also agreed to stick to the schedule we agreed on for the repayment scheme." Daphne could hardly contain her excitement.

Sonia smiled gladly. "That's great."

"Yeah. The banks even offered to cut the interests by 0.5% after causing us trouble last night. The representatives are already at the company. When will you arrive at the office, President Reed?"

"I'll be there after getting myself ready for work. In the meantime, show them some hospitality."

"Sure." Daphne nodded.

With that, Sonia set her phone aside while heaving a sigh of relief. Since the company's crisis is averted, Melody should also have paid for her actions. The thought of it prompted Sonia to search for related news online.

Sure enough, articles of what happened to the Stryders popped up immediately. Melody's father was demoted, while her uncles were removed from their respective positions. Having lost half of their power, the Stryders were no longer the most prestigious family in Norfolk, for they had declined into one of the weakest ones.

Such an outcome was only possible because Matthew was still alive. If he were gone, even Melody's father would be removed from his position as well. If that was the case, the Stryders would be kicked out of the ranks of the upper class society and become a normal family. All of that happened because of Melody, who would in turn hold a grudge against Tina.

"Haha." Sonia laughed, apparently in a good mood.

Just as what she had expected, Melody indeed abhorred Tina. She was standing in front of Southfield Estate. Her face was contorted with rage as she held up her phone to give Tina a call. By that point, she was nothing but a shell of her former self as an arrogant young lady. All that was left within her was vicious hatred that made her pretty face look terrible.

Soon, Tina picked up her call before asking in a gentle voice, "What's the matter, Miss Stryder?"

"Tina Gray!" Melody was seething.

Tina froze for a second before she forced a smile. "What happened, Miss Stryder?"

"How dare you even ask, Tina?" Melody yelled at her without a care for her image. "It's all your fault! I wouldn't be used as leverage against my family if I didn't try to teach Sonia a lesson for your sake! Now that my family has fallen from grace, they're all pointing fingers at me! Peter is demanding a divorce too! Are you happy now that I've become the target of everybody's insults and disdain?"

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Lowering her eyes, Tina hid the grim look in them and replied in a panicky tone, "I didn't do that. You've misunderstood me, Miss Stryder! I—"

"Say no more!" Melody cut her off coldly and sneered at her. "Mark my words, Tina Gray! We're no longer friends from now on, and I won't let you off! Just you wait!" With that, she hung up on her.

As Tina stared at the screen of her cell phone, she pursed her lips, which had turned a little pale.

In fact, she had already seen the news about what happened to the Stryder Family in the morning, and she had also prepared herself that Melody would blame it on her. However, she wasn't expecting Melody to have such a deep hatred for her and even threatened that she wouldn't let her off.

Tina's fist tightened as her heart started to beat anxiously. Although the Stryder Family was in trouble now, they were still influential and could easily deal with her and the Grays. Therefore, she had to do something about it.

At the thought of this, she bit her lower lip and gripped her arms tightly. Tears rolled down her cheeks suddenly, and she left the room after grabbing her handbag. Then, she instructed the driver to drop her off at Fuller Group.

As the employees all knew her, nobody stood in her way, so she reached the top floor smoothly before opening the door to Toby's office.

"Toby..." she muttered in a choked voice, her face tear-streaked.

Meanwhile, Toby was in the midst of a work discussion with Zane, and just when they had reached the most important part, she had barged in out of the blue, forcing them to stop.

"Oh, what happened now, Miss Gray?" Zane asked, stroking his chin and looking at Tina with an amused glint in his eyes.

Ignoring him, Tina merely stared straight at Toby, tears brimming in her eyes.

Setting down the document in his hands, Toby then stood up, a frown on his face as he asked, "What happened, Tina?"

Tina pouted and dashed directly into his arms. For the first couple of seconds, Toby's arms were raised mid-way in the air before he placed them on her shoulder and back before patting her gently.

"Leave the room for now," Toby said to Zane. Zane simply shrugged and cast a thoughtful look at Tina in Toby's arms before turning to go, leaving the both of them alone in the office.

After pulling herself away from Toby's embrace, Tina lifted her head and said in an aggrieved tone, "Miss Stryder's family is in trouble, Toby. She's placing all the fault on me, even saying that she won't let me off. The fact is... I wasn't the one who asked her to get even with Sonia. Why is she shifting all the blame on me? I don't get it."

"Get even with Sonia?" Toby repeated, his eyes narrowed. "What happened?"

Tina was feeling rather frustrated as she thought, After I've said so much, all that he heard was 'get even with Sonia'?!

Although that was on her mind, she didn't have the nerve to show it, so she sniffled before explaining, "Miss Stryder came to visit me at the hospital yesterday and asked me how I ended up there. So, I told her that I was abducted by Miss Reed's suitor. Miss Stryder said she would avenge me by causing trouble for Miss Reed. I tried to stop her, but she refused to listen, and she's blaming me now, saying that I'm the one who got her and her family into trouble..."

As though she had suffered a great grievance, she broke into tears again as she spoke.

Seeing how sadly she was crying, Toby felt a stab in his heart. He lifted her head, drew out a piece of tissue and wiped away her tears. "There, there. Stop crying."

"Toby, what should I do now that Miss Stryder said that she won't let me off? I'm so scared," she whimpered while looking at him with reddened eyes.

Toby's lips were pulled into a thin line and he told her, "Don't worry, I won't let her harm you."

"Mmh. I trust you, Toby." She sniffled and leaned against his chest, looking like she was dependent on him. However, her lips were curled ever so slightly into a smirk when he couldn't see her face, and a triumphant look flashed in her eyes.

With his protection, Melody wouldn't be a threat to her anymore because the Fuller Family was anything but a regular family running their own business.

"So you're no longer scared anymore?" he asked, wiping away the last trace of tears from the corners of her eyes with his thumb.

Shaking her head, she answered, "I'm not afraid anymore. You're so good to me, Toby."

"You're my fiancée, so of course I have to treat you well. Moreover, when we first met six years ago, I already said that I'll protect you all my life. Did you forget about that?" he asked, gazing at her with a gentle look in his eyes.

She smiled through her tears and nodded. "Of course I remember it, but I didn't think that you'd still remember it as well."

"I won't forget it. I remember everything about you in my heart," he said, pointing at his own temple.

Her eyelids fluttered as the smile on her face turned a little unnatural. "Actually, everything is in the past and I've changed a lot of my habits since then. You should just forget them, Toby."

"Forget them?" he asked, confused.

Circling her arms around his neck, she said, "Yeah, isn't it good to just remember me for who I am now?"

As he stared into her expectant eyes, his lips parted and he said, "Okay."

"You're so good to me, Toby!" she exclaimed. Then, she went on tiptoes and kissed him on his cheek. Her gaze fell upon his lips and she slowly leaned in.

Toby didn't dodge and lowered his head as well, but just a second before her lips were about to touch his, Sonia's face flashed across his mind and he suddenly pushed her away.

Shocked, Tina stared at him blankly with reddened eyes. "You're pushing me away again, Toby?"

Even Toby knew how his actions had hurt her, so he lowered his eyes apologetically. "I'm sorry, Tina, but this is the office..."

"Do you dislike me?" she asked before biting her lip.

Fixing his eyes on her, he asked in return, "What makes you think this way?"

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"Isn't it true?" Once again, tears began to well up in her eyes. "Are you pushing me away because you dislike the fact that I was touched by other men before?"

"No."

"Then why did you push me away? Tell me!" she demanded, looking at him sadly.

Toby rubbed the space between his brows, for he had no idea where to begin to explain himself, but right at this moment, Tom came into the room. "President Fuller, all the directors have arrived. Are you going over now?"

After letting out a sigh of relief at Tom's arrival, he answered, "I'm going now."

"Okay," he said and closed the door.

Placing his hands on Tina's shoulders, Toby said, "Alright now, Tina. I'm going for a meeting first, and we'll speak afterward."

"Okay," she answered while nodding her head reluctantly.

With that, Toby left the room with peace of mind as Tina stared at the direction he had left, her hands tightening into fists slowly. This is the third time already, she thought. This is the third time he has rejected me.

She had no idea why he was turning her down, but she couldn't leave things as they were now. Even though he said that he loved her, he wouldn't touch her, and that made her feel really insecure. I have to find a chance to go all the way with him, she thought. Only then can I keep him by my side completely.

On the way to the conference room, Toby suddenly said to Tom, who was behind him, "Later, head to the finance department and claim for yourself a month's bonus."

"Huh?" Tom blurted, bewildered. Why is he giving me a bonus out of the blue?

Without explaining himself, Toby added, "Also, buy some supplements which are helpful for a sprained injury and send them to Sonia."

Knowing about the accident with the elevator the previous day, Tom nodded and answered, "I got it."

With no other instructions left, Toby then pushed the door open and went into the conference room, whereas Tom stayed outside and called someone on the phone to buy the supplements.

Soon, Sonia received a call from her receptionist. "President Reed, someone sent a lot of things to you. Should I send them upstairs?"

Sonia, who had just sent off the officers from the bank, stepped out of the guest lounge and asked, "What did they send?"

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"I don't know, either," the receptionist answered, shaking her head.

Sonia was silent for a couple of seconds before saying, "Alright, I'm coming downstairs now."

After she hung up, she kept her cell phone away and hobbled toward the elevator in crutches while Daphne followed behind her.

When they reached the reception desk on the first floor, Sonia asked, "Where's the package?"

The receptionist took out a big cardboard box. "Here it is."

Sonia's gaze fell on the sealed box on the desk, but she couldn't see what was inside, and there wasn't any information on the outside about the sender either.

Reaching out her hand, Daphne then lifted the box from a corner and said, "It's quite heavy, President Reed."

"Open it up and take a look," Sonia instructed the receptionist.

With a cutter, the receptionist opened the box and everyone saw that it was filled with exquisitely packaged bottles.

Taking out a bottle, Daphne took a look at it and exclaimed in surprise, "President Reed, this is the most famous supplement overseas and works amazingly for the healing of bones. Just one bottle easily costs more than ten thousand. Look how many bottles are in here. The sender is really generous."

To spend so much just to buy supplements for President Reed, the sender must be her loyal suitor, she reckoned.

Hearing that, Sonia frowned. "Put back the bottle and reseal the box."

"Huh?" Daphne blurted, stunned. "Aren't you going to keep them, President Reed?"

"No, I'm not," she answered, turning to leave. "Get someone to return everything to the Fuller Group."

"Fuller Group?" Daphne repeated, her jaw hanging in surprise. So all these are a gift from President Fuller. No wonder President Reed doesn't want to accept it.

"Daphne, why do you think President Fuller is sending these supplements to President Reed? This isn't the first time that he's sending her gifts, is it?" the receptionist asked in a gossipy manner. "Could it be that there are still some leftover feelings between them?"

"How should I know?!" Daphne snapped and returned the bottle into the box. "That's it. Don't spout nonsense about your superior and arrange for someone to send these back."

"Yes," the receptionist answered with a nod.

Daphne chased after Sonia, who had already returned to her office and was calling Toby on the phone.

"What do you mean by this?" she asked.

"What are you speaking about?" Toby was just finished with his meeting and was also on his way back to his office.

Taking a deep breath, Sonia had an annoyed look on her face as she said, "You're the one who sent those supplements, aren't you?"

Last night, he already mentioned that he would send her some supplements, and she had already turned him down, but he still did it.

"Yes, it's me," he admitted, nodding his head.

Sonia snorted. "President Fuller, didn't I already tell you that I don't want it? Why did you still send them?"

Is she questioning me? he wondered as his face turned glum. "I also said that I'm partly responsible because you had an accident at my place."

"Responsible?" she repeated, and chuckled sarcastically as though she had just heard the biggest joke. "President Fuller, you hadn't been responsible to me when I was your wife, but you want to be responsible now that we're divorced. Don't you find it ridiculous?"

Hearing the sarcasm in her tone, Toby lowered his eyes without a word because he had no rebuttals for her words. Even he himself didn't know why he had to be responsible for her.

"I've already asked someone to return the supplements to you. Don't send me anything else in the future. I don't need it!" she said and hung up on him.

Stopping in his tracks, Toby stared at the screen of his cell phone with an inexplicably complicated look in his eyes.

Seeing that he had stopped walking, Tom stopped as well and asked, "President Fuller?"

"Say... What's wrong with me?" Toby asked suddenly, lowering his cell phone. Why am I so concerned about Sonia?

Confused, Tom asked, "President Fuller, what do you mean by that?"

Toby's lips wavered, and just as he was about to speak, an attractive woman came out of his office and hugged him by his arm intimately. "Are you finished with the meeting, Toby?"

Looking a little surprised, Toby muttered, "Tina, why are you still here?"

Pouting her lips in dissatisfaction, she answered, "I've been staying here the whole time just to wait for you. How could you ask me something like that?"

"I'm sorry," he apologized, stroking her hair. "I thought you'd already left."

After taking a glance at the time on her cell phone, she said, "Toby, what do you think if I go to your place tonight? Your mom just sent me a text saying that she had bought foods which I like."

"Sure," Toby agreed, nodding, and Tina beamed.

Just then, a security officer stepped out of the elevator holding a box in his hands. "President Fuller, this is from Para—"

"Just put down the package on the floor," Toby interrupted him before he could finish speaking.

It was the supplements that Sonia returned. If Tina found out about it, he was worried that she would overthink again.

After dropping off the box, the security officer left.

Tina looked at the box on the floor curiously. "What's in that box, Toby?"

"Supplements," he replied curtly.

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Suddenly, it dawned on Tom why he suddenly broke off the security officer's words.

"What supplements?" Tina paced over and opened the box. Her eyes gleamed when she saw what was in it. "Oh, it's these supplements! This is really difficult to buy on the market. Even my dad wasn't able to get any the last time when he pre-ordered them, but you bought so much in one shot, Toby."

"I'll get someone to send this to your father's place later, then," Toby offered.

Returning to his side, Tina said, "Thank you, Toby."

"You're welcome," he said, giving her a smile.

So be it, he thought. Sonia's right. Since we're already divorced, we shouldn't be in contact anymore. In addition, he had a hunch that the situation would be out of control if they kept in contact.

Suppressing the emotions in his heart, he held Tina's hand and said, "Let's go to my place."

With a smile, Tina nodded her head enthusiastically. "Okay."

Then, Toby instructed Tom to have the supplements sent to Tina's place before leaving with her, and an hour later, they arrived at the Fuller Residence.

As Jean had heard the sound of the car even before they walked in, she rushed out of the house to greet them with a handful of sunflower kernels still in her palm. When she saw Tina getting out of the car, she went to her happily and grabbed her hand. "You finally came, Tina."

"Hi, Mrs. Fuller," Tina greeted in a gentle voice, and lowered her gaze to look at Jean's hand that was holding her own hand.

There was still a piece of kernel peel covered in saliva stuck on her hand, and the sight of it made her nauseous.

The smile on her face turned stiff, and a look of disgust flashed across her eyes, but she drew away her hand without revealing her emotions.

Toby, who had just parked the car, came over and saw the both of them standing there. "Why didn't you go in?"

"We're waiting for you." Tina took a step closer to him to distance herself from Jean before she held him by his arm.

Chuckling, Jean said, "Toby, Tina is so clingy to you. You have to treat her well."

"I know, Mom. Let's go in," he said and led Tina into the house.

With the presence of the three of them, the huge living room suddenly became lively. Releasing Toby's arm, Tina said, "I'm going to the washroom, Toby."

I have to wash off the disgusting bacteria on my hand, she thought, unable to stand it for even a second longer.

"Go ahead," Toby said, lifting his chin a little and thinking that she really wanted to use the toilet.

Then, she quickened her steps and strode toward the washroom.

After taking off his jacket, Toby asked, "Mom, where's Tyler?"

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"He's upstairs now," Jean replied in a huff.

"What happened?" Toby asked, looking at her.

"I'm angry because of that kid. Instead of listening to my advice to withdraw from the basketball team and focus on his exam for the university, he's now throwing a tantrum at me, going as far as locking himself up in the room," she complained while munching on the sunflower kernels.

Rubbing the knot between his brows, Toby said, "I'll go check on him."

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"There's no need to check on him. You should just let him stay on his own since that's what he likes best." Although Jean spoke in a harsh and resentful tone, she didn't physically hold Toby back as he headed upstairs. Tyler was her biological son, after all; no mother would have the heart to act so cruelly toward their child! Toby headed for the stairs after finishing his sentence as he knew that Jean didn't truly mean what she said.

"Open the door, Tyler." Toby stopped outside Tyler's door before rapping his knuckles against it. Toby was greeted with Tyler's swollen eyes once Tyler opened the door. "Toby," Tyler muttered.

"Did you cry earlier?" Toby raised an eyebrow.

Tyler hastily raised his arms to rub his eyes furiously. "No, I didn't," he replied in an indignant tone. His words put a slight smirk on Toby's face, but Toby decided not to expose his lie. "Can I come in for a talk?" Toby asked instead.

"Sure." Tyler nodded and stepped aside for Toby to enter the room, and he followed behind Toby after Toby went in. "Didn't you promise me that you'd help me convince Mom to let me focus on my basketball? Mom's nagging me to quit the team, and she doesn't even allow me to join the training now. The U17 Youth Expedition Competition happens the day after tomorrow, and I have been missing my training. My coach is mad at me." In fact, Tyler's coach had called him earlier and told him that he would be removed from the team if he were to miss more training. Tyler had put in a lot of effort to get into the basketball team, and he didn't want to get kicked out so soon.

Meanwhile, Toby twisted his features into an exasperated look. "Mom did promise me that she would allow you to play basketball—I don't know what drove her sudden change of mind. Don't worry; I'll talk to her later."

"What's the point of talking? What if she agrees now but changes her mind later?" Tyler plopped on the edge of the bed as he spoke in an annoyed tone.

"Don't worry. I'll get Grandma to pay a visit when that happens," Toby said as he strode over to lean against the desk.

Tyler's eyes lit up immediately. "That's right. We should get Grandma to come. Mom's terrified of Grandma."

Toby grunted in agreement and was about to say something when he noticed something from the corner of his eye. There was a letter on the table that looked like it had been around for a while. Its paper was yellow and worn. However, that didn't matter much to Toby. What mattered was that the envelope looked really familiar to him.

In the past, when Toby and Tina were still pen pals, they would use the exact same envelopes. "Why do you have one of my letters to Tina with you?" Toby held the envelope up and shot Tyler a look of displeasure.

Tyler jumped in surprise before he snatched the envelope away from Toby. "That's not one of your letters to Tina." Tyler had gotten the envelope from Sonia, so it couldn't have belonged to Tina.

"Isn't that one of the letters I wrote to Tina?" Toby frowned. He didn't bother to conceal the disbelief in his eyes.

Tyler simply kept the letter away. "It isn't."

"Why don't you tell me whose letter it is, then?" Toby narrowed his eyes as he glared at his brother. His gaze made Tyler feel rather self-conscious, and Tyler quickly looked away as he spoke. "All you need to know is that it doesn't belong to you. I'm not going to tell you who the letter is from—that's a secret," he uttered.

Initially, after Tyler got hold of the letter, his plan was to tell Toby that Sonia had been writing love letters to others ever since she was in high school. However, Tyler changed his mind and decided to help Sonia keep her secret after she helped him to get his contract with the basketball team. That was why Tyler refused to tell Toby that the letter belonged to Sonia.

Toby looked like he was about to say something else as he glared at Tyler's rather reserved and cautious expression. Tyler hastily stuffed the letter into his trouser pocket before he pushed Toby out toward the door. "Alright, Toby. You can go out now. Please help convince Mom about this."

Toby pressed his lips together as he headed downstairs.

"Phew..." Tyler pulled the letter out once he shut his bedroom door. "That was close. I nearly got caught. I should just return this letter to her." With that said, Tyler pulled his phone out to call Sonia.

Sonia had just reviewed an entire stack of files, and she was already sprawled across her desk in exhaustion. Charles let out a hearty laugh as he watched her. "Are you tired after such a minor task? Wouldn't you be lying on the bed all the time if Paradigm Co. further develops their business? What if the company becomes as renowned as they once were in the past?"

"That might just happen." Sonia let out a little laugh, but her voice sounded relatively flat. All of a sudden, her cell phone that she had placed beside her head began to ring. Before Sonia got a chance to see the caller, Charles craned his neck to glance at her phone. "It's your ex-husband's brother."

"Tyler?" Sonia lifted her head instantly.

Charles let out a light scoff. "Why would he call you?"

"How am I supposed to know?" Sonia held the phone up and ended the call.

"Aren't you going to answer it?" Charles looked Sonia in the eye.

"There's no reason for me to do that," Sonia replied calmly as she gradually lowered her phone. Right then, a new message popped up on her screen. 'Your letter is with me.'

My letter? Sonia knitted her brows before she returned the call that she had ignored earlier. "What letter?"

Pride was written all over Tyler's face when Sonia called him. "Didn't you reject my call earlier?"

Sonia sniggered when she heard the hint of cockiness in Tyler's voice. "I'm going to end it again if you don't tell me what you're calling for."

"Wait, wait, wait!" Tyler hastily stopped her. "I'll tell you. I'll tell you what it is. The last time I was at your house, I saw that you have a lot of letters that John wrote to you. I stole one of them."

"You searched my room?!" Sonia's face darkened as she felt anger bubbling in her chest. "Is this what the Fuller Family taught you to do? Do they teach you to trespass and poke around in other people's rooms?"

Tyler knew that he had made a mistake, so he lowered his head and replied in a meek voice, "I know that I was wrong. That's why I'm calling you—to admit my faults and to apologize to you."

"Hah." Sonia scoffed once more.

Tyler scratched the tip of his nose. "I'll return you the letter in the future," he mumbled.

"It's fine. Just throw it out. I don't need it anyway." Sonia ended the call after finishing her words.

Charles came forward with a curious look on his face once Sonia got off the phone. "Why is he looking for you?"

"That guy stole one of the letters that John used to write to me." Sonia pinched the bridge of her nose as she spoke.

Charles seemed rather intrigued by this answer. "Based on what I recall, you and John haven't been in contact in a while, huh?"

Sonia nodded as a hint of nostalgia surfaced in her gaze. "It's been nearly seven years." Sonia would've forgotten about her pen pal if Tyler hadn't brought it up with her.

"What's the reason you guys stopped talking? I thought you and John were pretty close in the past. You guys would send two or three letters each week." Charles's tone seemed a little salty as he spoke. Charles and Sonia grew up together, so they were extremely close. However, he felt like he had been neglected ever since she became pen pals with John.

"Who knows," Sonia shrugged. She didn't even know why John stopped writing to her. Six years ago, John sent her a final letter to explain that he would stop communicating with her. Since then, she never heard from him anymore. She even wondered if she had written something to offend him and if that was why he ignored her after that.

Charles assumed that Sonia didn't want to give any further details, so he stopped grilling her for answers after that. "It's time to get off work. I'll send you back," he offered after taking a look at the time.

"Okay," she replied with a nod.

Charles drove off after he dropped Sonia at the Bayside Residence. Sonia used a walking stick to help her into the bedroom, where she began to dig out the letters that John had sent her in the past. A wistful look surfaced in her gaze as she gently ran her fingers across the letters. However, she was quick to suppress her emotions before picking the letters up to throw them into the trash. She had been keeping the letters for years, anyway—it was about time for her to give up and let go. Yet, for some reason, Sonia felt unable to let go of the letters in her hand even as she held them up above the trash can. She couldn't bear to do such a thing.

After a while, Sonia let out a huge sigh before returning the letters to their initial spot. Forget it. I'll just leave it around since I know I'll miss them if they're gone. I'll just stop reading those letters. Sonia massaged the space between her brows as she stepped out of the bedroom and headed into the shower

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Meanwhile, in the Fuller Residence, Tyler was doing some letter-reading as well. Even after going through the letter a few times, he still managed to find something new each time. Specifically, he realized that most of the daily routines and hobbies that John described in the letter sounded similar to Toby's. The most obvious similarity between them was John's handwriting. However, John's handwriting looked just a little messier than Toby's neat and straight words.

If Tyler weren't aware of the fact that Toby's pen pal was Tina, he would've thought that the person Toby used to write to was actually Sonia. After a while, Tyler folded the letter and put it back into the envelope to keep it away. Sonia must've told me to throw it away only because she was angry that I took the letter without her permission. I'm not going to throw it away; I'll just return it to her in the future. Tyler let out a scoff as he placed the letter into his drawer.

Someone knocked on his door right after that. "The food's ready, Young Master Tyler."

"I'm coming!" Tyler replied as he stood up from his chair.

He was greeted with Tina's gentle smile once he got downstairs. "Tyler."

"You're here, Tina." Tyler returned the smile.

Tina nodded while she spoke. "Madam White invited me over for a meal."

"I see," Tyler said as he shot Jean a glance. "Mom," he muttered flatly. Jean simply let out an uninterested grunt. She ignored his greeting and walked off to the dining area. Tyler shot Toby a helpless glance, and Toby responded with a slight nod.

Tyler's eyes lit up immediately. "Great! Thanks, Toby!" He jumped in excitement. Toby's the best indeed—I knew he'd be able to convince Mom about this.

"You should thank Tina as well. She spoke up for you too," Toby said as he held onto Tina's hand.

Tyler froze for a moment before he turned around to stare at Tina with a look of disbelief. "Did you speak up for me as well, Tina?"

Tina tucked a strand of hair behind her ear as she flashed Tyler a warm smile. "I simply gave Madam White a few words of advice." Tina was secretly pleased that Tyler enjoyed playing basketball—that way, he wouldn't fight for the family inheritance with his elder brother. She would be Toby's wife in the future, and she would never allow the Fuller Family's wealth to fall into the hands of someone else. Not even if that someone was Toby's younger brother!

Meanwhile, Tyler was still stunned over the fact that Tina had been willing to help him. Although he couldn't believe it, he obediently thanked her for the help. For some reason, I still feel like she's a little fake. When I last asked her

to help me sign the contract for the basketball team, she rejected me and said that she didn't want to make Mom unhappy. Yet, she voluntarily spoke up for me this time. Isn't she afraid that my mom would feel unhappy this time?

Tina sensed that Tyler wasn't genuinely thankful toward her because of his rather monotonous 'thank you.' She scrunched her face into a sad expression as she felt rather uneasy. "Are you displeased by the fact that I spoke up for you, Tyler? Why do I feel like you're not actually happy about this?"

"What?" Tyler was confused. Since when did I say that I'm displeased? Since when did I put on an unhappy expression?

Tina bit onto her lower lip when Tyler didn't respond to her immediately. Then, she turned to look at Toby with a helpless expression on her face. "Did I do something wrong, Toby?"

"No, of course not." Toby stroked her hair before he shifted his gaze to his brother. "I think you owe Tina an apology, Tyler."

"But... Why should I apologize to her?" Tyler was utterly dazed. I didn't say or do anything wrong. She's the one who's overthinking it—what has that got to do with me?

"It's fine, Toby. Forget about it." Tina tugged on Toby's sleeve to hint him to drop the matter. Toby patted the back of her hand before darkening his expression and addressing Tyler in a stern tone. "I told you to apologize. Do you hear me?" he barked.

At that moment, Tyler felt wholly misunderstood. However, he couldn't go against Toby's strong aura, so he ended up apologizing to Tina. "I'm sorry, Tina."

She waved it off. "It's fine."

"Is that good enough for you?" Tyler hissed as he shot his brother a glare. He then stormed off into the dining area. Tina clung onto Toby's arm tightly. "It's all my fault, Toby. I'm the reason both of you ended up fighting; I placed you guys in a tough spot."

"It's nothing. Come on; let's have our meal." Toby massaged the space between his brows while speaking in a rather tired voice. Tina nodded and smiled at him.

Tyler was silent at the dining table—he was evidently still mad about what happened earlier. He couldn't understand the situation at all. Tina was the one who misunderstood him, yet she ended up being the victim while he somehow turned into the perpetrator. Toby even expected him to apologize to Tina. What logic is this?! Tyler couldn't help but feel rather annoyed at Tina at that point. He even felt rather conflicted toward the idea of having her as his sister-in-law. He was certain that these odd incidents—like the sudden apology he had to make earlier—would become more frequent if she actually became his sister-in-law.

Tyler lost his appetite at that thought. He slammed his utensils onto the table with a loud smack. Everyone was shocked by this sudden gesture, and all their gazes turned toward him immediately. "What is it, Tyler?" Tina blinked a few times before questioning him in a concerned voice. "Are you feeling unwell? You seem really pale."

"That's none of your business!" Tyler spat at her.

Tina's face dimmed for a moment before she put on a forced smile. "Okay. I won't ask about you anymore..."

"How could you treat your sister-in-law like that, you brat?!" Jean smacked Tyler on his shoulder. Right after that, she turned to beam at Tina. "Don't get mad, Tina. This boy just needs to be taught a lesson or two."

Tina shook her head as she smiled. "Don't worry, Madam White. I won't take it to heart." Despite uttering such nice words, Tina was secretly sneering in her heart. Tyler is an ungrateful brat indeed. I can't believe he treated me that way when I was just trying to be nice to him. Well, just you wait, Tyler! I'm going to limit your allowance once I get married to Toby.

"That's great, then." Jean heaved a sigh of relief. She definitely did not wish to lose a daughter-in-law as wonderful as Tina. "Why aren't you apologizing to your sister-in-law?" Jean urged Tyler to speak up.

Tyler parted his lips to protest—he wanted to point out that Tina wasn't his sister-in-law. However, his words remained stuck in his throat when he saw the ice-cold look on Toby's face.

Toby looked away once he was sure that his brother had gotten the message. "Have some of this. It's your favorite, isn't it?" Toby scooped some mango salad into Tina's bowl as he spoke. For a split second, Tina's expression hardened at the sight of the mango in her bowl. Even her grip around her chopsticks tightened along with the change in expression.

When Toby noticed that she had stopped eating and looked rather uncomfortable, he narrowed his eyes and checked on her. "What is it?"

"It's nothing. I just can't have mangoes because it's the time of the month for me," she uttered in a rather shy voice. Tina took a sip of water to contain the panic and nervousness she felt within her.

"I see. If that's the case, you shouldn't eat it then." Toby didn't suspect her words—he simply took the mango salad out of her bowl. Tina finally heaved a sigh of relief then.

After the meal, Jean fixed her gaze on the couple in the room. "You're not leaving tonight, are you, Tina?"

"Yeah. I've already told my mom that I'll stay the night here," Tina replied with a smile.

"Well, what should we do then?" Jean twisted her face into a rather troubled look.

An icy look flickered across Tina's gaze at that moment. "What do you mean, Madam White?" This old lady isn't going to chase me out of the house, is she?

"I'm talking about the room that you stayed in in the past, of course! I've got someone to renovate and refurbish that entire room, and it's not completely ready for someone to stay in there." Jean let out a long sigh as she spoke about her troubles.

Tyler was munching on an apple, but he felt the need to interrupt their conversation. "Mom, when did you— Ouch!" Before Tyler could finish his words, Jean had already sent a flying kick in his direction.

After shooting Tyler a cautionary glare, Jean quickly schooled her expression into a kind and sweet one. "How about this, Toby? Why don't you let Tina sleep in your room tonight?"