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With that, Joshua curled his lips into a smirk and added, $^{\prime\prime}$ Are you here to bust me?"

Luna did not feel like talking about this with him. She knew that he was just trying to distract her because he did not want her to know about his injury.

As soon as she thought of this, Luna lunged forward and pulled his pajama shirt open.

Joshua pressed her down against the floor as he leered, "Why are you desperate to rip open my shirt as soon as you walk in?"

"It's not like I haven't seen it before." Luna let out an exhale and pulled his arm away, knowing that he was hurt and did not have the force to stop her.

His pajama shirt gaped open, exposing his injured right arm.

Luna did not know how big his wound was, but judging from the length and amount of stitches used, it seemed like a fairly deep wound.

Cheryl stormed into the room and quickly picked up Joshua's fallen shirt. Then, she glared at Luna as she helped him put his shirt back on. "Even though you've slept with him in the past, it doesn't give you the right to do this!"

Luna ignored her entirely.

She stood motionless as she stared at Joshua intently. " Why didn't you tell me?"

Joshua replied impassively as he put on his shirt with Cheryl's help, "Why do I have to tell you? You're not a doctor."

"I'm not a doctor, but that doesn't mean I don't have the right to know!"

He had suffered an injury trying to help her mother, so she had the right to know about it!

Luna bit her lip as she clenched her fists next to her. "I don't want to be indebted to you..."

"That's exactly why I didn't want to tell you." Joshua raised his brows. "Luna, weren't you adamant about keeping a distance from me? If I tell you about my injury, how are you supposed to do that?"

Luna's face turned white, then scarlet.

She bit her lip and did not know what to say.

From the moment she found out about Joshua's injury, her only thought was to find him as soon as she could.

She wanted to know how serious he had gotten hurt and how he was doing.

However, as soon as Joshua said this, she suddenly realized that she should have pretended not to know about his injury.

He was right. She had been wanting to keep a distance from him, so why did she expose him when he was trying to hide this from her?

She was perfectly aware that if she exposed his lies, she would become further indebted to him, so why did she do it?

"Alright, Luna." Joshua narrowed his eyes. "Even though the cut is quite deep, it still won't kill me. You've managed to see it in person, so that should satisfy you."

With that, he turned to glance at Cheryl and added, "It's getting late now, and she and I are about to go to bed

soon. You should go back home."

Cheryl never expected that Joshua would say this to the woman who had barged in on them! She grabbed hold of his left arm in delight and said, "That's right, you'd better leave soon. It's getting late now, and it's rude to continue staying where you're unwelcome."

Luna pursed her lips and glanced first at Joshua, then at Cheryl, who had her arm wrapped around his. She curled her lips into a sneer and said, "Joshua, in the future, if you want to hire someone to trick me, you should hire a smarter one."

With that, she turned and strode out of the room.

As she walked, Luna could hear Cheryl's sweet voice protesting, "President Lynch, she called me stupid..."

Luna could not help chuckling when she heard this.

However, the next moment, tears slid down her face.

It had been such a long time since she and Joshua had separated, yet like old times, she still lost all sense of rationality as soon as she heard that he had injured himself.

When would she be able to get rid of this bad habit?

Luna sniffed and wiped her tears from her face. Just as she was about to get back into the car she had come in, another car slid to a halt next to her.

The windows winded down, revealing Malcolm's face. "Get in the car; I have something to talk to you about."

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Luna glanced at Malcolm, then curled her lips into a contemptuous smirk.

She did not get into his car and instead continued on foot. "What else are you trying to trick me into this time, Master Quinn?"

After finding out from Heather that everything that happened six years ago, including Malcolm's 'coincidental' rescue of her, had been pre-planned, Luna could not help feeling that Malcolm was a gigantic fraud.

This man disgusted her, especially the way he looked when he smiled.

In the past, Luna used to think Malcolm's smile was gentle and kind, but at this moment, she could not help feeling nauseous every time she saw it.

"Luna." Malcolm let out a sigh when he saw the repulse in her eyes. "Why are you staring at me like this? We've been friends for six years now and have even, at one point, almost become husband and wife.

"Not to mention my and Heather's wedding is tomorrow, and after tomorrow night, you'll have to call me your brother

-in-law, no matter how unwilling you are to admit that."

Luna narrowed her eyes. "Heather isn't my sister, and so you will never become my brother-in-law."

Malcolm curled his lips into a smile. "Are you really not going to get in?"

Luna rolled her eyes at him and continued on her way.

However, when she arrived at the spot where she left the car, she realized that both the vehicle and the driver had

<u>gone missing.</u>

"I sent them home." Malcolm smiled lazily as he leaned against the backseat of his car. "Luna, don't make this harder than it needs to be."

With that, he brandished his phone at her and said, "I've already taken photos of you barging into Joshua's house just now. You probably don't want me to disrupt dear Father's sleep so late at night, do you?"

Luna furrowed her brows when she heard this.

A split second later, she suppressed the rage in her heart and got into his car.

However, just to be safe, she still turned on her phone's recording app before she got into the car.

The car door slammed shut behind her.

The inside of the vehicle smelled like Malcolm's favorite diffuser scent, just as always. However, for some reason, Luna suddenly felt like vomiting, even though she used to be quite fond of this scent in the past.

Just like how she felt about Malcolm.

In the past, she would feel reassured and relieved every time she saw him, but at this moment...

She felt nauseous at the sight of this man.

"You don't have to be so scared; I'm not a monster." Malcolm opened the window to let some air in, then ordered the driver to circle the highway a few times.

With the window opened, Luna could finally breathe in some fresh air.

<u>A twinge of sadness spread through Malcolm's heart when he saw Luna</u> panting for her breath.

In the past, she used to adore him, but at this moment... Malcolm's expression dimmed.

Even though he had insisted to Heather many times that he was not in love with Luna...

Luna's face had been crafted delicately by the plastic surgeons according to his orders and personal taste.

Even Luna's talent at jewelry design, and subsequent success as a jewelry designer, had been all his doing.

Even though he had always been intending to use the three children for his personal gain, he had never mistreated them at all.

If Luna could have listened to him and let him groom her...

She would have become a rich woman that obeyed all his commands without ever needing to worry about anything for the rest of her life.

None of this would have happened. They would not have come to this point.

It was all Joshua and Jim's fault!

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If it were not for Joshua and Jim, he would not have slept with Heather by accident that night and would not have been forced to marry her!

As soon as he thought of this, a glimmer of malice flashed through Malcolm's eyes.

"Malcolm." After finally catching her breath, Luna turned to glance at the man sitting next to her. "Tell me what you wanted to talk to me about."

Malcolm finally came to and handed her a folder. "I think it's about time you sign this now."

Luna furrowed her brows as she flipped open the folder.

It was the agreement that she had refused to sign when Malcolm offered it to her at her house.

This agreement stated she would unfreeze all the assets that Charles and Rosalyn had left for her and infuse them into Landry Group for their use.

Luna knew that since Charles had fallen sick and Jim was no longer working for Landry Group, Luna's assets, if she chose to sign this agreement, would become money for Heather and Malcolm's spending instead of Landry Group's survival.

Luna put down the folder and said, "I've already told you that I do not agree with the terms listed in this contract. The only way that I will sign this is if you agree to abide by my three conditions."

Malcolm chuckled when he heard this. "Luna, I can't believe you're still thinking about your three conditions at a time like this."

He curled his lips into a smirk and handed her a tablet. "

Look at this."

Luna took the tablet from him, frowning.

She could feel her blood pressure rising as soon as she laid eyes on the video displayed on the screen.

These videos had clearly been taken without her knowing. The first one was when Joshua had carried her back to his house the night before. O n the screen, her legs were coiled around Joshua's waist; their bodies intertwined intimately and amorously. She was uttering Joshua's name sultrily as she kissed his face and lips over and over.

The next video showed her coming out of Joshua's house in a clean set of clothes.

The third video showed Joshua's men placing Rosalyn into Caleb's car that was headed to Lincoln City.

The fourth was a video of Joshua's car following behind Caleb's as they left Merchant City.

The fifth was one of her, Theo, and Joshua eating together at Lucky Den just a few hours prior.

When Luna finished watching the videos, Malcolm brandished his phone in front of her once more and said, "What do you think will happen to Charles if I show him these five videos, as well as the one I took just now of you storming into Joshua's house?"

Luna dug her nails into her palms as she snapped, "How dare you!"

"Why wouldn't I dare?" Malcolm curled his lips into a small smile. "You probably don't know this yet, do you?

"Charles got a lawyer to edit his will today, stating that all o f his assets will be left to Heather's name after he dies."

He stared at Luna's face triumphantly and added, "After the wedding tomorrow, Heather and I will become family, and what's hers will also become mine."

With that, he narrowed his eyes. "Even if I can't get my hands on the assets under your name, I can still get the rest of the Landry family fortune from Heather's side. Do you still think I care about whether Charles lives or dies anymore?"

Luna bit her lip and stared at Malcolm with a furious look. What was she supposed to do?

She could not hand over the assets under her name to Malcolm, but at the same time, she could not let Charles see all these videos, lest he die of high blood pressure!

All of a sudden, Luna's phone vibrated in her pocket.

She quickly turned away from Malcolm, took out her phone, and snuck a glance at it.

It was a message from Joshua, consisting of only five words.

[Don't agree to his requests.]

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Luna's entire body stiffened when she read Joshua's message.

She bit her lip, and confusion seeped through her heart. How did Joshua know what she was doing?

Luna immediately glanced into the rearview mirror. Malcolm's car was the only vehicle on the empty road.

Joshua had not followed them at all, nor could he possibly have set up a hidden camera in Malcolm's car.

Therefore, the only explanation was that he had seen her getting into Malcolm's car and, knowing the evidence Malcolm possessed, guessed that he was trying to use this to threaten Luna. As soon as she thought of this, Luna felt her heart lurch. Joshua Lynch was terrifyingly calm and quick-witted.

However, the fact that he had sent her this message meant that he definitely had a plan to solve this.

As soon as she thought of this, Luna let out an exhale, put down her phone, and lifted her head to stare impassively at Malcolm's face. "You said that you'd show these videos to Charles if I don't hand over the assets to help you, didn't you?"

With that, she curled her lips into a smirk and made a 'go- ahead' gesture with her hands.

<u>"Be my guest.</u>

"Since Charles has already edited his will and left his inheritance to Heather...then whether I hand over my

assets or not will not change anything. The rest of the Landry family's fortune doesn't belong to me anyway, so why would I want to unfreeze the money in my name just to save his life?

"If he dies, I'll use this money to bring my mother away

from this wretched place, so why should I interfere in any of the Landry family's business?"

With that, Luna turned her head away to stare out the window. "The money in my hands is more than enough for my mother and me to live comfortably, isn't it?"

Malcolm narrowed his eyes upon hearing this.

He could not believe that someone as loyal as Luna would claim not to care about Charles' survival anymore!

He narrowed his eyes. "Charles is your birth father!"

"So what?" Luna sneered. "Since he only cares about Heather, so much so that he wants to leave everything under his name to her after he dies...then why should I care about him?"

Malcolm's expression darkened as he stared at Luna's face.

Everything he had said, including Charles allegedly editing his will to leave his inheritance to Heather...was a lie to threaten Luna.

He wanted her to think that if she did not care about Charles, then neither he nor Heather would, and they would use the evidence in their hands to kill him.

Malcolm was confident that someone as loyal and family- oriented as Luna would definitely fall for his tricks, but it turned out...

Since when did this woman become so sharp?

As soon as he thought of this, he narrowed his eyes and asked, "What do you need us to do to hand over the money?"

Both the Quinn and Landry families were in desperate need of this money.

Joshua's financial pressure on them was getting more and more heavy, and thus they could not afford to wait any longer! If Luna refused to hand over the money to tide them over, then both Quinn and Landry Group would go bankrupt, and they would go broke before their wedding could even commence! Seeing that Malcolm's attitude had relaxed, Luna let out an internal sigh of relief.

It turned out Joshua was right.

Malcolm would not dare to harm Charles if he did not get his hands on the money!

As soon as she thought of this, Luna let out an exhale and glanced at Malcolm impassively. "I've already made my terms clear, and it has remained unchanged.

"I will not sign the contract unless you agree to my three conditions."

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With that, Luna turned to continue gazing out the window. " Mr. Driver, send me back to my home in the countryside."

The driver immediately glanced at Malcolm in the rearview mirror.

Malcolm furrowed his brows and stared at Luna with a somewhat frustrated look. "Is there really no room for negotiation?"

Luna nodded. "There's no negotiating unless you agree to my terms."

She did not intend for Landry Group to end up like this, but if she had to hand over the money to save Landry Group, she would have to be in charge of the company to monitor the distribution and put this money to good use.

The money was Charles and Rosalyn's last resort to save the Landry family in a crisis like this, so she could not allow Heather and Malcolm to squander it with their extravagant ways.

Malcolm narrowed his eyes. "Well, Luna, have you ever thought of this?

"If we abide by your terms and let you become the new CEO of Landry Group and take charge of the operations yourself...

"Your enemy will be Joshua Lynch, the man you used to love. Are you sure you will be able to handle him?

"Besides, you guys used to be very intimate with each other, and he'll be able to manipulate you easily. Our insistence on not letting you take part in the company's affairs is for your own good, you know."

Luna curled her lips into a smirk and shot him a cold glance. "How do you know Joshua is the one that will be manipulating me and not the other way around?"

Malcolm did not know how to answer this.

A split second later, he narrowed his eyes and ordered, " Driver, get off this highway at the next exit."

The driver nodded. "Are we sending Ms. Luna home, Sir?"

"No!" Malcolm glared at the driver and snapped, "Stop at the next exit and kick her out of the car!"

Having been scolded for no reason, the driver had no choice but to lower his head and obey Malcolm's commands.

He stopped at the nearest exit.

Malcolm flung the door open and spat to Luna, "Get out." Luna chuckled. "Alright then. Goodbye."

With that, she got out of the car gracefully.

Malcolm had always been a two-faced person, and no matter what happened, he would put on a facade of gentlemanly courtesy.

This was the first time Luna had ever seen him so angry, so much so that he was not willing to send her home and had instead abandoned her by the side of the road.

It seemed he was truly frustrated beyond measure.

Luna shrugged and dialed Joshua's number as she walked on the road.

Soon, someone picked up the phone.

Cheryl's sweet, gentle voice rang out from the other end of the line. "Hello, who is this?"

<u>"Are you still there?" Luna furrowed her brows, a hint of disgust in her tone.</u> "Where's Joshua?"

<u>Cheryl glanced at the man sitting on the balcony, conducting a video</u> <u>conference meeting, and lowered her voice. "President Lynch is taking a</u> <u>shower; if there's anything you want from him, you can call him tomorrow."</u>

Luna sneered. "Why didn't you help him shower?"

<u>Cheryl paused before answering, "I'm not as desperate as you; President</u> <u>Lynch doesn't like it when..."</u>

"Joshua is right-handed, and now that his right arm has been injured, he can't use his arm, and he can't get the wound wet either.

"Why didn't you help him, considering you're such a considerate girlfriend?"

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