## <u>Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked</u> <u>Snow Chapter 1681</u>

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Heather clenched her fists at her sides.

<u>She suddenly recalled what had happened</u> <u>that morning.</u>

At that time, Jim had also brought out a tablet and recited all of the mistakes and wrongdoing she had committed over the last few months to Charles.

<u>She had thought that Jim had only started to</u> <u>target her after she took over Landry Group,</u> <u>but it turned out...</u>

<u>He had been preparing for this moment and</u> <u>lying in wait as far back as five years ago.</u>

It was obvious that Jim was the mastermind behind this disruption at her wedding.

She had underestimated this man.

It turned out that he was not idie at all and, instead, was waiting for the perfect moment to pounce!

As soon as she thought of this, Heather bit her lip, and a twinge of hatred spread through her eyes.

Finally, after a few minutes that felt like a century, the slideshow of Heather's photos ended.

<u>At this moment, Malcolm's expression was as</u> <u>dark as the night sky.</u>

<u>Beneath the stage, the crowd had erupted</u> <u>into murmurs.</u>

All of the bride's past flings had arrived at the wedding venue and even displayed their intimate photos for all the world to see. It was clear they were doing this to humiliate the groom! Some of the guests even brought up Malcolm's engagement party that he had hosted at the same hotel almost a year ago.

At that time, Luna's ex-husband had also stirred up trouble at the scene of the party.

<u>Some of them even started to lament, "Could</u> <u>it be that Master Quinn is destined to be a</u> <u>cuckold?"</u>

<u>Even though whoever had said this did not</u> <u>say it very loudly, Malcolm could still hear it</u> <u>from onstage.</u>

He clenched his fists even tighter.

All of a sudden, his assistant got on the stage and whispered next to his ear, "Because of what happened just now, the shareholders of Quinn Group are no longer in favor of your marriage to Ms. Heather Landry. Now, <u>they're outside the company, demanding</u> <u>that we give them back their money, or</u> <u>they'll come to stir up trouble here..."</u>

<u>Malcolm narrowed his eyes. He could not let</u> <u>this happen!</u>

After all, they had invited all of the most wealthy and influential people in Merchant City to their wedding. If the shareholders were to cause trouble here, the consequences would be dire.

As soon as he thought of this, he bit his lip and tried to suppress the rage in his heart. Then, he slowly walked over to Charles' side and said in a low voice, "Father, I'm not going to hold any of this against Heather, nor will I divorce her, but...you have to announce the news now, without any hesitation. "Quinn Group has lost its supply chain and our shares have plummeted, so if you don't announce the news now, Landry Group will also suffer the same consequences."

<u>Charles narrowed his eyes. "I have my</u> <u>plans."</u>

With that, he lifted his gaze and smiled at the men beneath the stage. "Everyone, I know you've been bribed by someone to stir up trouble here, but if we were to look into this issue, Heather had slept with all of you before she had gotten engaged.

<u>"She hasn't been with either of you ever since</u> <u>she got engaged to Malcolm, has she?</u>

*"Has any one of you slept with her during the last six months?"* 

None of the men could answer.

<u>The leader furrowed his brows but did not</u> <u>reply.</u>

"Well, since Heather never sought out any of you after she got engaged, then you should all know what she means.

"Since you're all here tonight because of money, then you should go to the entrance to retrieve the money you've been promised. All of the wedding gifts to the bride and groom tonight have been placed at the entrance, so feel free to take them, but after taking the gifts, you should leave this hall."

<u>The leader fell silent for a moment, then</u> <u>finally nodded. " Alright! Mr. Landry is such</u> <u>a generous man, so we'll do as you say!"</u>

With that, the entire troupe of men turned and left.

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Malcolm and Heather exchanged a nervous glance.

<u>All the wedding gifts had indeed been placed</u> <u>at the hall entrance, and there were probably</u> <u>hundreds of thousands of dollars there, so</u> <u>how could they give them to these men so</u> <u>willingly?</u>

However, no matter how disgruntled they were at this arrangement, they had no choice but to swallow their frustrations.

<u>After all, Quinn Group was depending on</u> <u>Charles to save them!</u>

<u>Malcolm and Heather watched in despair as</u> <u>the men left with the wedding gifts that</u> <u>belonged rightfully to them.</u> After these men left, Malcolm ordered the guards to close the doors behind them.

As soon as the doors closed, Charles let out an exhale. " Alright, now that there are no other unrelated people inside this room, I would like to announce my latest decision—"

<u>Onstage, Heather clenched her fists at her</u> <u>sides.</u>

Even though she had been humiliated by what happened...

<u>She turned to glance at Luna and curled her</u> <u>lips into a sneer.</u>

It was clear that Luna had deliberately dressed up for this occasion.

<u>She was wearing a navy dress, and her hair</u> <u>was draped all over her left shoulder. A</u> <u>beautiful sapphire earring hung on Luna's</u> <u>right earlobe, making her look elegant and</u> <u>poised.</u>

Heather could not help snickering.

<u>'What use is there for you to dress up so</u> <u>beautifully, Luna?</u>

<u>'Tonight, you're still going to become a poor</u> <u>little runt with nowhere to call home!</u>

<u>'Tonight, I, Heather Landry, will be the star</u> of the show!'

<u>As soon as she thought of this, Heather could</u> <u>not help curling her lips even wider.</u>

<u>Charles was about to announce the news of</u> <u>kicking Luna out of the family at any</u> <u>moment!</u>

<u>She was already looking forward to seeing</u> <u>the look of despair on Luna's face!</u> As soon as she thought of this, she bit her lip and grabbed hold of Malcolm's arm.

<u>She would let him know that from now on,</u> <u>she was the true heiress of the Landry family</u> <u>and that his decision six years ago had been</u> <u>wrong!</u>

<u>So what if the blood coursing through Luna's</u> <u>veins were Charles and Rosalyn's?</u>

There could only be one heiress to the Landry family fortune, and it was going to be her, <u>Heather!</u>

Malcolm narrowed his eyes, feeling the excitement in Heather's entire being, and said in a low voice, "You better hope nothing else goes wrong, or else..."

Even though he did not finish his sentence, Heather understood what he was trying to say from the malicious tone of his voice. <u>She curled her lips into a smirk and replied in</u> <u>a low voice, " What else could possibly go</u> <u>wrong?"</u>

<u>She had that old geezer right in the palm of</u> <u>her hands!</u>

What could go wrong?

Nothing!

As soon as she thought of this, Heather could not help raising her head and coaxing Charles in a low voice, "Come on, Father..."

Charles narrowed his eyes and sneered.

<u>He let out a small cough, clutching his</u> <u>microphone, and said solemnly, "Tonight, I</u> <u>will be making an important announcement:</u> <u>I am going to kick one person out of the</u> <u>Landry family."</u> <u>The entire room erupted into a flurry of</u> <u>activity.</u>

<u>Some of the guests predicted that Luna</u> <u>would be kicked out, whereas some guessed</u> <u>that it would be Heather.</u>

<u>Some of them even guessed that the person</u> <u>getting kicked out was most likely Jim, who</u> <u>had not tended to any of the Landry family's</u> <u>affairs in more than a year.</u>

Among the murmurs and whispers, Charles declared calmly, in a voice as clear as day, "The person I am going to kick out of the family is none other than the bride of tonight, Heather Landry!"

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<u>Charles' words were solid and powerful, and the</u> <u>entire room fell silent almost immediately.</u> <u>Pin-drop silence.</u>

Not only were Heather and Malcolm surprised, but even Joshua and Luna's faces were etched with shock.

Jim was the only person without a single hint of surprise on his face. He was still leaning against his seat gracefully as he sipped his drink.

Luna bit her lip, glancing at him, and asked in a low voice, "What's going on, Jim?"

Jim put down his glass with a smile on his face and shot her a knowing look. "Just watch the show."

<u>Luna chewed her lip.</u>

It seemed that Jim had already known what Charles was going to say, which was why he had persuaded her over and over again to attend the wedding tonight and even dress up for it.

However, Luna had never expected that...

<u>Charles, who had always adored Heather, would</u> <u>announce kicking her out of the family at such an</u> <u>occasion.</u>

<u>As soon as she thought of this, Luna lifted her</u> <u>head to glance at Charles.</u>

At the same time, Charles was staring straight at <u>her.</u>

<u>Their gazes met, and a hint of gentleness flashed</u> <u>through Charles' otherwise solemn eyes.</u>

Luna froze for a split second, then quickly turned away.

<u>Meanwhile, onstage, Heather could not believe her</u> <u>ears.</u>

She bit her lip and quickly scampered over to Charles' side. Then, she grabbed hold of his sleeve and asked in a low voice, "Father, did you... happen to say the wrong name out of nerves?

*"Isn't the person who is supposed to be kicked out...Luna? Why did it suddenly become me?"* 

<u>Charles narrowed his eyes and glanced at Heather</u> <u>coldly, a sneer playing on his lips.</u>

<u>A moment later, he shrugged Heather off and</u> <u>continued in a cold voice, "I didn't mix up any</u> <u>names; the person I am kicking out of the Landry</u> <u>family tonight is none other than Heather</u> <u>Landry!"</u>

He stared at the crowd before him calmly and explained, " All of you may be confused as to why I'm kicking Heather out of the family at this time.

*"It was already very kind of me to wait until her wedding has ended so that she has a home to go back to after she's kicked out. As for the reason I'm doing this..."* 

With that, Charles pointed at the screen, which started displaying the pictures of Heather and the men once more.

*"Firstly, her promiscuity has humiliated us and tarnished the reputation of the Landry family, and she even told every single one of the men she had slept with that she would let him become the future* 

heir of the Landry family fortune. Because of this, I do not feel the need to keep this person by my side anymore."

Malcolm's expression darkened as soon as he heard this.

<u>Charles was only Heather's adoptive father, but</u> <u>Malcolm was her husband at this point!</u>

When faced with the photos of Heather's promiscuity just minutes ago, Malcolm did not say anything to object and instead admitted to being a cuckold because he hoped the Landry family would be able to save him.

<u>All of a sudden, Charles was saying that he did not</u> <u>feel the need to keep a person like Heather by his</u> <u>side.</u>

Was he implying that Malcolm willingly chose to have a wife like this?

Not only was Charles implying that Malcolm had no standards, but he was also insulting the rest of the Quinn family! Even the Landry family, the people Heather had grown up with, could not stand her, so how could the Quinn family tolerate someone like this?

Malcolm bit his lip and clenched his fists in anger, but he had no means of sticking up for himself.

What was he supposed to say, anyway?

Was he going to tell everyone that he had gone with everything that had happened simply because of money?

Joshua could not help snickering when he saw how angry Malcolm looked and yet had no way of expressing it.

*He had clearly underestimated both Charles and Jim.* 

<u>Post navigation</u> <u>Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked</u> <u>Snow Chapter 1684</u> Joshua had thought that both Charles and Jim would never wake up to Malcolm and Heather's true nature.

<u>It turned out they had been planning this</u> <u>reveal all along.</u>

Both Malcolm and Heather would be able to experience their world being turned upside down, and none of them could escape this fate.

<u>All of a sudden, the images on the screen</u> <u>changed.</u>

<u>It displayed the chart of the financial losses</u> <u>that Landry Group had suffered over the last</u> <u>few months.</u>

All of the points on the graph had been indexed with the decision and mistakes in operations that had led to this specific financial loss. This graph was clearly pointing out Heather's incompetency in running the company.

<u>Charles curled his lips into a small smile and</u> <u>continued, " Secondly, she had no talent</u> <u>whatsoever at managing a business but still</u> <u>insisted on occupying one of the critical</u> <u>positions at the company, and we all know</u> <u>what the consequences of this are.</u>

"Thirdly—" Charles narrowed his eyes and pressed a button on the remote control.

<u>A photo of Rosalyn's ulcerated skin,</u> <u>accompanied by the wounds left behind after</u> <u>having the dead tissue removed, appeared on</u> <u>the screen.</u>

<u>Charles swiveled his eyes and turned to shoot</u> <u>Malcolm a meaningful look. "Because this</u> <u>incident includes other people that don't</u> <u>belong to the Land ry family, I won't go into</u> <u>too much detail, but the main takeaway is</u> <u>that Heather</u>

<u>was the one who had bribed someone else</u> <u>into harming my wife like this.</u>

"As for the reason why she did this..."

<u>He narrowed his eyes and glanced at</u> <u>Heather, who was slumped on the ground in</u> <u>her white dress, looking desolate. "It was</u> <u>because my biological daughter Luna has</u> <u>been the one taking care of my wife ever</u> <u>since she ended up in a vegetative state.</u>

"The reason why Heather had done this was to drive a wedge between us and let us think that Luna was the one who had been neglecting my wife.

*"Finally, all the news that accuse Luna of being in a relationship with our mortal enemy, Joshua Lynch, was Heather's doing."* 

He pressed the remote controller once more. "As for how those photos came about, let's hear what Caleb Crawford has to say."

Caleb's face appeared on the screen.

<u>The handsome man bowed at the camera,</u> <u>smiling. "Hello everyone, I am Caleb</u> <u>Crawford from Lincoln City. I am recording</u> <u>this video to clear up Luna's name.</u>

<u>"A few days ago, I received a call from Ms.</u> <u>Heather Landry asking me to go on a blind</u> <u>date with Ms. Luna in Merchant City.</u>

<u>"Unfortunately, when I was there, I was kidnapped by my enemy here in Lincoln City.</u>

<u>"However, their target was not me at all, and instead, they were targeting Luna under the pretense of kidnapping me.</u>

*"They drugged Luna and intended to rape and murder her. "Thankfully, me and Mr. Joshua Lynch used to be friends,* 

and we finally managed to save Luna after I called him for help.

"At that time, Luna was already under the influence of the drugs, and because she and Mr. Joshua had been together in the past, he took her home while she was in her intoxicated state.

"As everyone knows, Mr. Joshua is a millionaire, and he has a family doctor living with him, so I believe that they did not do anything they shouldn't have that night.

<u>"As for the photos after that, I'm more</u> <u>inclined to believe that Ms. Luna had gone to</u> <u>find Mr. Lynch to thank him for his help."</u> With that, he smiled at the camera and added, "That's all I know."

<u>As soon as the video ended, the crowd burst</u> <u>into a flurry of commotion.</u>

Joshua narrowed his eyes and could not help feeling something was wrong when his gaze fell on Charles.

If Charles had only intended to kick Heather out of the family...

Why would he find Caleb to clear up the rumors of his and Luna's relationship?

<u>Unless...</u>

All of a sudden, Joshua's pupils constricted in realization. Could Charles be planning to...

<u>Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked</u> <u>Snow Chapter 1685</u> <u>"Well, Heather is an ungrateful adoptive</u> <u>daughter! I never thought that even after the</u> <u>Landry family raised her for more than</u> <u>twenty years, she'd treat their biological</u> <u>daughter like this!"</u>

*"This is crazy... The Landry family is even so* <u>kind as to wait until she's married and has</u> <u>become a part of the Quinn family to kick</u> <u>her out..."</u>

"If it were me, I would've kicked her out as soon as I found out about what she did!"

Beneath the stage, the audience was gossiping about the news of Heather being kicked out of the family.

<u>Charles turned around to glance impassively</u> <u>at Heather, slumped on the ground. "Do you</u> <u>have anything you want to say about this?"</u> <u>Heather shrunk her neck back into her body</u> and shook her head.

<u>She was not stupid; she would not defend</u> <u>herself at a time like this.</u>

<u>She knew that Charles had already shown</u> <u>her mercy.</u>

If he were to expose the truth about her attempting to murder Rosalyn and Luna...then she would not only be kicked out of the family but even forced to go to jail!

*"Well, since you have no objections, then I'll go on."* 

<u>Charles let out an exhale and stared</u> <u>solemnly at the audience before him. "Apart</u> <u>from this, I have another announcement to</u> <u>make!"</u>

<u>He shifted his gaze to Luna, sitting</u> <u>underneath the stage. "I am hereby passing</u> on the position of CEO of Landry Group to my biological daughter, Luna!"

As soon as he finished his sentence, a beam of spotlight landed on Luna, blinding her so much that for a split second, she could not even open her eyes.

When she finally managed to open her eyes, the crowd had already erupted into thunderous applause!

<u>Next to her, Jim immediately grabbed hold</u> <u>of her, stood up, and strode toward the stage.</u>

Luna's entire body was dragged behind Jim.

Her face was pale underneath the spotlight. Her head was a little dizzy, and she could not comprehend what was happening.

Luna asked in a low voice, "What on earth is this, Jim?"

Jim narrowed his eyes. "Didn't you say that anyone who wanted you to hand over the money under your name would have to fulfill your three conditions?

*"Well, I told this to that old geezer, and he agreed to them."* 

Luna's entire body froze. She stared at the back of Jim's head dazedly. "But..."

<u>She had not mentally prepared to take over</u> <u>Landry Group as their CEO!</u>

As soon as she thought of this, she immediately glanced in Joshua's direction.

He was still sitting elegantly in his seat, his legs crossed, as he sipped his wine.

There was not a single hint of emotion on his chiseled face, but the cold aura emanating from his entire being would make anyone shudder. Luna was brought onto the stage. <u>Charles was still announcing at the top of his</u> <u>lungs, "As per my daughter's conditions, her</u> <u>brother, Jim, will be the vice president of</u> <u>Landry Group from now on, working side-by-</u> <u>side with her as CEO.</u>

"I am hereby declaring that I'll be distributing my shares of Landry Group to both my children evenly and retiring from today onward.

*"From here on out, Landry Group will be in full possession of Luna and Jim."* 

With that, he grabbed Luna, who had been brought onstage by Jim, and stood her in front of the microphone. "Luna, please give a small speech about your achievement!"

Luna's entire body froze.

Faced with the sea of people before her, Luna suddenly did not know what to say.

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In the past, Luna had always been a jewelry designer and had never assumed any roles of leadership before.

<u>All of a sudden, she had inherited such a</u> <u>large company as Landry Group.</u>

She did not even prepare for a speech at all!

At this moment, Charles shoved a piece of paper into her hand and said in a low voice, "Just read from this!"

Grateful that help had arrived, Luna quickly spread out the piece of paper and recited in a loud voice, "Good evening, everyone. From today onward, I'll be taking over as the CEO of Landry Group. My brother, Jim, and I will give Landry Group a fresh start and lead everyone toward a new and brighter future! *"We will rise to the challenge of our mortal enemy, and not only will we wipe out all the humiliation brought onto us over the past year, but we will make them pay for their actions..."* 

After reciting the contents of this paper dazedly, Luna quickly found an excuse and scampered off the stage.

When she returned to her seat, she could feel a tingle shoot down her spine.

<u>She furrowed her brows and turned around,</u> <u>only to discover that Joshua was staring</u> <u>straight at her.</u>

He stared at her with a look so cold that she felt as though she had been submerged in <u>ice.</u>

Luna froze for a moment, then felt her heart sink.

<u>She knew why Joshua was staring at her like</u> <u>this.</u>

<u>The grave situation of both the Landry and</u> <u>Quinn families was Joshua's doing.</u>

The fact that she had become CEO of Landry Group meant that from this moment onward, she and Joshua were mortal enemies and would be competing with each other.

In her speech, she had even claimed that she would make their enemy pay for his actions.

<u>The enemy that she had been talking</u> <u>about...was Joshua.</u>

<u>As soon as she thought of this, Luna felt her</u> <u>skin crawl.</u>

<u>She had thought she was just here to attend</u> <u>a wedding today, but instead, she had been</u> <u>forced by the Landry family to become</u> <u>Joshua's business competitor.</u> From that night onward...

Any conflict between the Landry and Lynch families would become a conflict between her and Joshua.

<u>As soon as she thought of this, a twinge of</u> <u>sadness spread through her heart.</u>

<u>When Charles had announced kicking</u> <u>Heather out of the family, Luna thought that</u> <u>the Landry family was finally valuing her for</u> <u>the first time and that she had now meant</u> <u>something to Charles, but...</u>

<u>Charles was taking this opportunity to</u> <u>appoint her as CEO of Landry Group.</u>

He knew fully well that Luna did not have the capabilities or experience of running a business, but he still made this decision.

Luna refused to believe that if she were not Joshua's ex-wife, Charles would have passed over the company to her just based on the conditions she had given Malcolm.

<u>He was just using Joshua's dedication toward</u> <u>her in an attempt to save the Landry family.</u>

<u>Luna closed her eyes and suddenly felt a</u> <u>little suffocated.</u>

<u>She turned around and, while no one was</u> <u>looking, snuck out of the door and onto the</u> <u>balcony for a breath of fresh air.</u>

However, to her surprise, she bumped into Cheryl on the balcony.

A severely-injured Cheryl.

At this moment, Cheryl was lying in a corner of the balcony, her back against the railing. Her entire abdomen had been split open, and blood was gushing out of her stomach. Luna was so frightened by the scene before her that she could not even say a word.

<u>This was the first time she had even come</u> <u>across such a shocking sight.</u>

<u>Seeing that someone had arrived, Cheryl</u> <u>reached out her hand toward Luna weakly.</u> <u>"Help me... Help me up..."</u>

Luna could tell that from the way Cheryl looked, she would not even be able to make it until the ambulance arrived.

However, Cheryl seemed to have something to say.

Luna bit her lip and walked over carefully as she called one of the security guards for help. However, to her surprise, as soon as she reached Cheryl's side, Cheryl immediately wrapped her hands around her neck and <u>screamed, "Why are you trying to kill me?</u> <u>Tell me: why are you trying to kill me?!"</u>

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<u>This sudden twist of events made Luna's eyes</u> <u>widen in shock.</u>

<u>She bit her lip and struggled to release</u> <u>herself from Cheryl's grasp. "I didn't try to</u> <u>kill you, Cheryl!"</u>

However, Luna had underestimated the sheer amount of strength a person could have when on the verge of dying.

<u>Cheryl gripped her neck so tightly that Luna</u> <u>felt as though her neck would snap at any</u> <u>moment!</u>

<u>Blood had stained Luna all over, and the</u> pungent smell of blood, along with Cheryl's <u>terrifyingly tight grip on her neck, made</u> <u>Luna's face turn purple, and her eyes rolled.</u>

<u>She struggled against Cheryl's grip, thinking</u> <u>that she was about to die right then and</u> <u>there.</u>

However, humans have frighteningly sharp instincts.

Just as Luna thought she was about to die, she immediately released herself from Cheryl's grip.

With a thud, Cheryl's body slammed against the railing behind her, and the contents of her stomach gushed onto the ground.

Her face was pale, and her head had tilted to one side.

With that, Cheryl died.

<u>The scene before her was so disturbing that</u> <u>Luna could not help gagging.</u>

<u>She covered her mouth with her hand and</u> <u>was retching so violently that tears started to</u> <u>form.</u>

As soon as she turned around, she realized that a few security guards were standing behind her, dumbstruck.

<u>They seemed to have been standing there for</u> <u>a while, and one of the more timid ones had</u> <u>even wet his pants out of fear.</u>

Luna turned around, not daring to even give Cheryl a second glance. She said to the guards, her hand still covering her mouth as she retched, "Call the cops!"

<u>0 ne of the braver ones among the guards</u> <u>quickly called the police and notified the</u> <u>hotel manager to evacuate the guests.</u> If the police arrived, everyone would know that a murder had occurred, and the consequences would be dire.

<u>The hotel manager stormed into the hall and</u> <u>whispered a few words in Charles' ear.</u>

<u>Charles quickly ended the wedding ceremony</u> <u>under the pretense of having things to take</u> <u>care of at Landry Group.</u>

<u>After five minutes, most of the guests had</u> <u>left the hall. Joshua glanced around the</u> <u>room, frowning.</u>

<u>Cheryl should have returned already,</u> <u>considering so many exciting things had</u> <u>happened inside the hall.</u>

However, she seemed to have disappeared into the crowd as soon as she stepped foot here and did not even return to watch Heather and Malcolm's wedding.

## <u>Even though she was a curious girl, that</u> <u>could not explain her disappearance, could</u> <u>it?</u>

Did she not come to witness this spectacular wedding?

<u>As soon as he thought of this, Joshua</u> furrowed his brows and took out his phone to <u>call Cheryl.</u>

Her phone rang on the balcony.

At this moment, the guards had placed security tape all around the balcony so that no one would be able to enter.

Luna was crouched against a wall on the side of the balcony, unable to move.

<u>Even though she was a brave person, she was</u> <u>still an ordinary woman.</u> When she was in Banyan City, the state of Dr. Robert when he died had haunted her for weeks, even though she had only caught a glimpse of it from a distance.

This time, she had witnessed Cheryl dying right before her eyes.

<u>On top of that, during her struggle when</u> <u>Cheryl had tried to choke her, Luna had even</u> <u>accidentally touched the contents of Cheryl's</u> <u>open abdomen...</u>

<u>The sticky texture made Luna shudder every</u> <u>time she thought of it.</u>

Luna crouched in a corner and could not stop retching.

Just as her throat was beginning to hurt, Luna lowered her head to glance at her blood-stained hand. <u>All of a sudden, she recalled the sight she</u> <u>had seen, as well as the sticky texture of</u> <u>Cheryl's organs...</u>

Luna did not dare to cover her mouth with her hand anymore.

<u>She slumped against the ground, retching so</u> <u>hard that she felt as though her organs</u> <u>would come right out of her mouth.</u>

Meanwhile, Joshua started searching through the hotel as he continued to call Cheryl on her phone.

<u>He had a feeling that something terrible</u> <u>must have happened to her.</u>

<u>No young woman would let her phone leave</u> <u>her sight, and on top of that, she would never</u> <u>miss any of his calls.</u>

Soon, Joshua arrived at the balcony after following the sound of Cheryl's ringtone.

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<u>As soon as Joshua got closer, he could smell</u> <u>the stench of blood.</u>

<u>A few steps more, Joshua caught sight of</u> <u>Luna, retching on the ground, and a few</u> <u>guards keeping watch over her.</u>

<u>The ringtone seemed to be coming from the</u> <u>balcony behind Luna.</u>

Joshua furrowed his brows and strode toward the balcony.

One of the guards caught sight of him and quickly stopped him. "Sir, a murder has occurred here, so you..."

<u>A murder?</u>

Joshua narrowed his eyes, circled past the guard, and strode toward the balcony—

The sight before him made Joshua frown.

<u>He turned his head away and asked calmly,</u> <u>"What happened here?"</u>

The guard fell silent, then turned to glance at Luna and said tentatively, "We received a call saying that someone had gotten hurt on the balcony, and when we arrived here...we saw Ms. Luna and the woman that had died...holding onto each other. The woman was even choking Ms. Luna and demanding to know why she wanted to kill her...

"And then, Ms. Luna shoved the woman away, and this was what happened after that..."

With that, the guard blocked the entryway to the balcony to stop Joshua from seeing anything more. "We've already called the cops." Joshua furrowed his brows and turned to glance at Luna. He was about to say something when Jim and Charles suddenly arrived.

<u>The two of them stormed over and, seeing</u> <u>that Luna was retching on the ground,</u> <u>covered in blood, thought that Joshua had</u> <u>done something terrible to her.</u>

<u>Jim pulled Luna into his arms, whereas</u> <u>Charles glared at Joshua. "What did you do</u> <u>to her?"</u>

Joshua narrowed his eyes. "Why don't you ask your daughter what she did to my girlfriend?"

Both Charles and Jim froze when they heard this. The two of them exchanged a glance and lifted their heads to look at Joshua at the same time. "Your girlfriend?" "Yes." Joshua pointed toward the balcony. "You've seen her before, Master Landry. She's the one who came to the wedding with me tonight.

<u>"Now, Luna has killed her, and her abdomen has been split open, so how dare you even ask me what I did?"</u>

Jim's entire body froze.

<u>Charles, on the other hand, did not believe</u> <u>him at all.</u>

He got up and was about to take a look when Joshua stopped him. "You'd better not go, Mr. Landry. You wouldn't want to have a heart attack and cause even more trouble tonight, would you?"

<u>Charles furrowed his brows and was about to</u> <u>shove past Joshua when Luna, who was</u> <u>slumped in Jim's arms, said weakly, "Don't</u> <u>go…"</u>

Even a healthy person like her ended up like this after witnessing what had happened. If Charles were to take a look, he could really suffer a heart attack!

<u>As soon as Jim heard this, he let go of Luna</u> <u>and went to take a look.</u>

<u>He returned, his legs weak and holding onto</u> <u>the wall for support. "It...It can't possibly</u> <u>have been Luna."</u>

<u>He waved his hands and shook his head</u> <u>furiously. "Even if she were to kill someone,</u> <u>she couldn't have done this..."</u>

The guard standing nearby pursed his lips and said, "But...it was her who did it..."

Jim raised his brows. "Who said that?"

<u>The guard replied, stammering, "The...the</u> <u>dead body...said it herself."</u>

Jim suddenly felt his world go dark, and he almost lost his balance.

<u>All of a sudden, police sirens blared outside</u> <u>the building.</u>

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The police had arrived.

The coroner was the first to storm onto the balcony, and after giving her a thorough examination, he declared Cheryl dead.

They did not even have to resuscitate her.

The coroner summoned a few policemen who were bolder than the rest and instructed them to take care of Cheryl's dead body. Just as they were about to take her body away, Joshua furrowed his brows and stopped them.

<u>He gently hugged the corpse through the</u> <u>white cloth that had been draped over it and</u> <u>said, "Don't worry, Cheryl. I'll find the person</u> <u>who killed you."</u>

He let out a small sigh and took off his jacket to drape over Cheryl's body. Then, he turned to instruct the coroner, " Please take care of her after performing the autopsy. The dress she's wearing is too revealing, so I'll use my jacket to keep her covered for now.

<u>"In the morning, I'll send someone over with</u> <u>a set of new clothes for her."</u>

The coroner nodded, then left with the body.

<u>A twinge of sadness shot through Joshua's</u> <u>heart as he watched them leave.</u> <u>Cheryl was a young, beautiful woman. Even</u> <u>though she had only recently joined his</u> <u>company, she was a highly efficient worker.</u>

<u>Apart from being overly self-assured about</u> <u>herself and getting jealous of Luna over him,</u> <u>she had never done anything to hurt anyone</u> <u>at all.</u>

<u>Because of this, Joshua could confirm that</u> <u>Cheryl's death had something to do with</u> <u>him.</u>

<u>Cheryl would never make enemies, but he</u> <u>would.</u>

If it were not for the fact that rumors of him and Luna had been flying all over the place since the morning, he would not have brought Cheryl as his plus-one to mitigate the stories. Who would have thought Cheryl would die on such an occasion?

When he found out who the murderer was...he would make them pay for this!

When Joshua turned around after watching Cheryl go, he saw that the police were putting handcuffs on Luna.

Her entire face was still as pale as a ghost, and no matter what the police asked her, she would only shake her head but did not reply.

Even when the cold, hard metal handcuffs snapped shut around her wrists, Luna did not say anything at all and instead just stared blankly at the light reflected from the metal.

Alas, the police still took her away.

<u>She was the prime suspect of Cheryl's</u> <u>murder.</u> Joshua, Charles, Jim, and even the security guards that had shown up at the scene were all taken to the police station for interrogation.

<u>During this time, Joshua instructed Lucas to</u> <u>contact Cheryl's family.</u>

After investigating, Lucas found out that Cheryl was an only child, and both her parents were already old and sick.

However, it was already 11p.m., so after discussing with the police, they decided it would be better to contact Cheryl's parents in the morning instead.

It was already past midnight by the time they were all released from the police station. <u>Lucas and the Landry family's butler were</u> <u>both waiting outside the police station with</u> <u>their respective drivers.</u>

Jim and Charles were the first to emerge.

After announcing the news of Luna's appointment as the new CEO of Landry Group, both Jim and Charles were beaming from ear to ear, but at this very hour, both their faces were as pale as ghosts.

After coming out of the police station, they did not get into the car and instead stood next to it, waiting.

Soon, Joshua came out.

After exchanging a glance, Jim and Charles strode over to Joshua. "I want to talk to you about what happened with Luna." Joshua stuck his hand into his pocket and already knew what they wanted to talk about. "There's nothing to say."

Jim furrowed his brows. "This has everything to do with Luna's innocence!"

Joshua curled his lips into a knowing smirk. "Do you truly care about Luna's innocence, or do you only care about the innocence of the CEO of Landry Group?"

<u>The color drained from Charles' face as soon</u> <u>as he heard this.</u>

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Jim did not have much of a reaction at all. Instead, he just frowned, staring at Joshua. "What on earth are you talking about? She's my sister, so of course I care about her innocence!" With that, he let out an exhale. "Even though neither Luna nor I was fond of your secretary, I know that Luna would never kill someone. I'm sure you know this better than I do.

"Besides, I heard from the police just now that they found a fingerprint on the murder weapon, but it didn't belong to Luna.

*"There was no security camera on the balcony, and the only evidence they have is the witness statement from the security guards."* 

Jim let out another exhale before continuing, "Luna has just been appointed as the new CEO of Landry Group tonight, and she is now at the height of attention here in Merchant City, so we cannot let her go to jail.

*"Those security guards' witness statements cannot prove that Luna was indeed the murderer.* 

"When Cheryl's parents arrive tomorrow, I hope that you, as Cheryl's boss, can communicate this clearly to them and let them deny that Luna was the murderer and not hold Luna responsible for this. Instead, they should request the police investigate the fingerprints of the murder weapon.

"As long as they make this request, we can bail Luna out even when the police are investigating this."

Joshua curled his lips into a smirk when he heard this. He lifted his head to stare coldly at Jim and said, "Does this mean that I have to let Cheryl die in vain?"

Jim rolled his eyes and said solemnly, "What do you mean, let her die in vain? The police, you, and we will all investigate this. The most important thing to do right now is to bail Luna out of jail!" "As long as Luna is bailed out, Landry Group will not be as demotivated as they are right now, isn't it?" Joshua interrupted curtly.

<u>He leaned against a pillar and lit himself a</u> <u>cigarette.</u>

As the smoke rose to shroud his face, he shot Jim a cold glance, then Charles. "I can help you talk to Cheryl's parents, but on one condition."

<u>Charles immediately lit up when he heard</u> <u>this.</u>

<u>Since Joshua was willing to list his</u> <u>conditions, this meant he would help them!</u>

<u>He was a little excited to hear this. "What</u> <u>condition?"</u>

<u>Joshua took a puff of his cigarette and</u> <u>exhaled a smoke ring. "I want Luna to resign</u> as CEO of Land ry Group, leave the Landry family, and return with me to Banyan City."

**Everyone fell silent upon hearing this.** 

<u>Charles glared at Joshua in frustration. "In</u> <u>your dreams! Luna has just been appointed</u> <u>as the new CEO and has just given her</u> <u>acceptance speech tonight, so how can she</u> <u>resign tomorrow?</u>

"As for asking her to leave the Landry family, that's impossible! She's my biological daughter, and I won't let her leave with you!"

*"Alright, then I guess there's no deal."* Joshua sneered, tossed his cigarette onto the ground, and put it out with his leather shoe. Then, he adjusted the cuff of his white shirt and added, "Truth be told, I'd rather you let Luna stay in jail instead of bailing her out to compete with me as CEO of Landry Group. "At least this way, I won't have to watch her being forced to stand in opposition against me."

With that, he strode toward Lucas. "It seems that after Cheryl's parents arrive tomorrow, I'll have to talk to them.

" I'll have to tell them not to give up so easily and instead insist on prosecuting Luna at all costs."

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Joshua's car peeled off into the distance.

<u>Charles was so angry that he could not stop</u> <u>patting his chest in frustration as he watched</u> <u>the black Masevati disappear into the</u> <u>distance.</u>

<u>It turned out that Joshua Lynch was just as</u> <u>cruel as his late grandmother.</u> Luna was the woman that had loved him for many years and had borne four child ren for him, even though one had died at birth.

Truth be told, even as Luna's family, they had to admit that they did not know Luna as well as Joshua did, but at this point, not only was he unwilling to help clear Luna's name, he had even threatened to let her stay in jail because of her recent appointment as CEO!

<u>"Father." Jim immediately rushed over to</u> gently pat Charles ' back. "Don't be so upset; we can think of another plan."</u>

<u>Charles gazed up at the sky and replied, "It's</u> <u>now midnight, and there are only a</u> <u>few hours left until morning comes.</u>

<u>"The person who died was Joshua's</u> <u>employee, so how can we get Luna out of jail</u> <u>before daylight comes without his help?"</u> <u>What would happen at the shareholders'</u> meeting the next day if Luna was still in jail?

<u>She was the CEO and chairman of the board</u> <u>of Landry Group!</u>

If the news of her being imprisoned were to get out...the consequences would be dire!

*"We have to take this a step at a time." Jim let out an exhale. "I will go by myself to the shareholders' meeting tomorrow.* 

*"I'm familiar with all the members of the board, and truth be told, as vice president, I'm far more experienced than the new president of Landry Group.* 

*"At the meeting tomorrow, I'll announce that Luna is sick and try to hide this from them.* 

*"After the meeting ends, I'll come to find Luna and get her to sign the papers to* 

<u>transfer the rights of the money to me so</u> <u>that I can utilize it.</u>

"After Landry Group's financial situation improves, none of the shareholders will care about why Luna didn't show up to the meeting anymore."

<u>Charles let out a sigh upon hearing this. This</u> was the best plan they had.

He let out a bitter smile and said, "I never thought that after so long, Landry Group would still end up in your hands."

Jim let out a sigh and said in a low voice as he helped Charles back to the car, "After Luna comes out of jail, I'll still have to help her run the company.

"My identity and relation to Joshua are too peculiar that I can't become the person to rise to his attacks." <u>Charles leaned against the leather backseat</u> <u>and let out another bitter chuckle. "Even</u> <u>though you have the Lynch family's blood</u> <u>coursing through your veins, you never met</u> <u>any one of them apart from Joshua...so why</u> <u>are you so unwilling to confront them?"</u>

Jim, who was about to close the door, froze when he heard this.

He suddenly recalled what had happened when he had first met Granny Lynch.

<u>"You must be a good person, just like your mother.</u>

<u>"I don't have much time left, and even</u> <u>though I'm your maternal grandmother, this</u> <u>might be the last time we ever see each</u> <u>other.</u>

<u>"The most terrible mistake I have ever</u> committed in my life was when I meddled with your Uncle Colin's car just to teach him a lesson, and inadvertently caused his accident.

*"If the Landry and Lynch families continue to be mortal enemies for the remainder of time, then I hope you can get away from all this vengeance..."* 

<u>He still remembered every word that Granny</u> <u>Lynch had told him.</u>

Jim let out a sigh and said, "Why are you so unwilling to let Luna go, even though she has only been with you for such a short time?"

With that, he closed the door behind him, and after instructing the butler to take good care of Charles, he turned and left.

The car engine started.

Inside the car, Charles could not help lamenting as he watched Jim leave. <u>This boy was growing to become more and</u> <u>more like Lucy.</u>

Inside Quinn Mansion.

<u>Malcolm and Heather kneeled in front of</u> <u>Granny Quinn. "Granny, we messed up</u> <u>everything."</u>

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<u>Granny Quinn took a sip from her tea,</u> <u>sneering. "I knew the two of you would be</u> <u>useless!"</u>

<u>She let out a scoff and continued,</u> <u>"Fortunately, I had been preparing for this</u> <u>day since a long time ago, and if I had relied</u> <u>on just the two of you, the Quinn family</u> <u>would have gone bankrupt by now!"</u>

<u>The Quinn family had already gone broke</u> <u>after their supply chain was attacked by</u> Lynch Group, but in the end, Granny Quinn had placed all of her personal savings into Quinn Group's funds and had successfully saved Quinn Group from going bankrupt.

<u>Granny Quinn let out an exhale and tossed a</u> <u>piece of paper in front of Malcolm and</u> <u>Heather. "Sign this."</u>

Malcolm picked up the paper, trembling.

Just one glance at the paper was enough to make him almost faint.

This paper was a contract denouncing that he would resign his position as the CEO of Quinn Group and leave the Quinn family with his wife and child!

"Granny..." Malcolm bit his lip, and his form trembled like a leaf. "I had just committed a small mistake today, so...you don't have to <u>let me resign and leave the Quinn family, do</u> <u>you?"</u>

Granny Quinn took another sip from her tea, smirking. "Just a small mistake? For the past six months, you had been committing one mistake after another when trying to defend Quinn Group against Joshua's attacks. The only reason I hadn't forced you to resign as CEO was that you and Heather were getting married soon.

*"The Quinn family isn't as powerful as it used to be anymore, and now, we have to rely on the Landry family to survive, but what did the two of you do?"* 

She scowled, staring at the two people who were on their knees before her. "The two of you were chased out of the Landry family after only minutes of getting married! *"Why do I need to keep you here if you no longer serve your purpose? Am I supposed to let you destroy us even more?"* 

<u>Granny Quinn got angrier and angrier, so</u> <u>much so that she started snarling, pointing</u> <u>at them with one finger, "Heather has been</u> <u>fired from her position and kicked out of her</u> <u>family because of what she did wrong.</u>

*"How are you better than her? I have to kick you out, too, considering you also committed many mistakes!* 

<u>"Oh, by the way, you did not just make</u> <u>mistakes, but you humiliated our entire</u> <u>family! Do you know what people are saying</u> <u>about us now?</u>

*"They're saying that you're a cuckold, and the entire Quinn family is raising cuckolds like you!"* 

Both Malcolm and Heather's faces were as pale as ghosts, their heads lowered as they kneeled on the ground.

After scolding them for more than half an hour, Granny Quinn tossed Malcolm a set of keys and said, "These are the keys to your key and the new bungalow that I've arranged for you. Take your wife and child away and survive on your own; you're no longer welcome in the Quinn family!"

<u>Malcolm took the keys from her and lifted</u> <u>his head to stare at her somewhat</u> <u>disgruntledly. "Are you going to let Hunter</u> <u>take over?"</u>

<u>He knew that Hunter had returned to</u> <u>Merchant City from overseas just the night</u> <u>before.</u>

<u>Granny Quinn sneered. "Of course not; I'm</u> going to take over everything from now on!" <u>She curled her lips into a smirk and added,</u> <u>"Neither you nor Hunter can be a match for</u> <u>an old lady like me!"</u>

With that, she narrowed her eyes. "In the past, I was able to drive a wedge between the Landry and Lynch families, so much so that they were so busy fighting with each other, the Quinn family managed to get a head start in accumulating our wealth...

*"If I could do that in the past, I can do that now as well!"* 

"Granny." After Malcolm and Heather left, Hunter, who had been hiding in the corner of the room, emerged. "Granny, I heard from the police station that...

*"When I killed that woman, I...seemed to have left a fingerprint behind."* 

<u>Granny Ouinn narrowed her eyes. "Which</u> finger?" "My right index finger..."

<u>Granny Quinn glanced impassively at his</u> <u>right hand and said, "Butler, please find</u> <u>something to cut off Master Quinn's right</u> <u>index finger."</u>

<u>The next morning, Lucas drove all the way to</u> <u>Cheryl's hometown to bring her parents to</u> <u>Merchant City.</u>

<u>The two elders were excited to be picked up</u> <u>by the personal assistant of Joshua Lynch,</u> <u>CEO of Lynch Group. "Assistant Lucas, a few</u> <u>days ago, Sherry told us that she and</u> <u>President Lynch were growing closer and</u> <u>closer...is that true?</u>

"You must be busy, working as President Lynch's assistant, too, aren't you? Is Sherry the first person President Lynch has ever sent his assistant to pick up her family before? "What is she doing right now? Why isn't she picking up her phone?

"Why did President Lynch send you to bring us to Merchant City? What's going on?"

<u>Cheryl's parents kept asking Lucas questions</u> <u>left and right.</u>

Lucas could not bear to deliver the bad news himself to the two elders who took so much pride in their daughter.

He had no choice but to give them vague answers as he stepped on the gas.

Soon, the car arrived at the police station.

When Lucas asked them to get out of the car, the two of them suddenly realized something was wrong.

<u>They could not help asking nervously as they</u> <u>held onto Lucas' arm. "Why did you bring us</u> to the police station, Assistant Lucas? Where's Sherry? What happened to Sherry?"

Lucas bit his lip and did not dare meet their gaze. "We... You'll find out when we go inside."

However, the more reluctant he was to tell the truth, the more impatient the elders got. "What's going on, Assistant Lucas? Where's Sherry? Why are we here at the police station? We don't want to go in!"

*"Sir, Madam." Just as the three of them were* <u>caught in their dispute, a cold, male voice</u> <u>rang out from inside the police station.</u>

<u>Mr. and Mrs. Martin immediately turned</u> <u>around.</u>

<u>They recognized the man standing at the</u> <u>entrance of the police station, dressed in</u> <u>black, from television.</u> This was Joshua Lynch, the CEO of Lynch Group!

<u>Mr. and Mrs. Martin exchanged glances, and</u> <u>then both let go of Lucas.</u>

Mr. Martin let out an exhale and walked over to Joshua after adjusting his clothes. "Nice to meet you, Mr. Lynch; I a m Cheryl's father!

*"Your assistant came to us early in the morning, saying that he had to bring us to Merchant City to find Cheryl immediately.* 

"However, he didn't bring us to Lynch Group nor did he take us to Cheryl's house and instead brought us here to the police station.

"Did anything happen to Cheryl?"

He let out an exhale and stared at Joshua earnestly. " Cheryl is just a young girl, and she has always been timid, so she'd never commit any crime. Even if she had done so, <u>someone must've framed her! You have to</u> <u>trust her!"</u>

<u>Joshua lowered his head when faced with Mr.</u> <u>Martin's gaze.</u>

<u>He, too, had a daughter of his own, and he</u> <u>could not bear to break this bad news to Mr.</u> <u>Martin.</u>

However...

Joshua let out a sigh and lifted his head to glance at the two elders before him. "Come with me.

<u>"You'll find out what happened as soon as</u> <u>you see Cheryl."</u>

The two of them exchanged a glance before finally

following Joshua into the police station.

<u>The four of them passed through a long</u> <u>hallway before finally arriving at the room</u> <u>at the end of it.</u>

"Sherry!"

"My darling Sherry!"

<u>The two elders burst into heart-wrenching</u> <u>sobs as soon as they caught sight of Cheryl's</u> <u>cold, dead body lying on the bed.</u>

Joshua and Lucas stood next to them, silent.

The first thing Jim heard as soon as he parked the car and strode into the police station was the two elders' sobs.

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Jim strode into the lobby and frowned, glancing at the hallway as he signed the

<u>visitation forms to visit Luna. " Why are they</u> <u>crying so early in the morning?"</u>

<u>The policeman let out a sigh and replied in a</u> <u>low voice, " They're the family members of</u> <u>the murder victim which your sister is</u> <u>involved in, and they just got in this</u> <u>morning.</u>

"I hear that she was the only child and had always been the pride of the family. Both her parents are old now and no longer in the best health. Who would've thought that..."

The policeman sighed again. "What a pity."

Jim's hand, which was holding the pen, stiffened when he heard this.

<u>A split second later, he, too, let out a sigh</u> <u>and continued filling in the form.</u>

When he finally finished, both of Cheryl's parents had stopped crying.

When Jim left the room, he bumped into Joshua, bringing Cheryl's parents to meet with the chief officer in charge of their cases.

<u>The two elders had to be propped up by</u> <u>Joshua and Lucas as they walked.</u>

<u>Cheryl's father was clutching Joshua's arm</u> <u>tightly as he said, "President Lynch, Cheryl</u> <u>has been in love with you even when she was</u> <u>still alive, and now that she has died, can I</u> <u>tell everyone that she was your girlfriend?</u> <u>That way, she can rest in peace...</u>

*"President Lynch, Cheryl had died while under your care, so you have to find out who did this and punish them for this!"* 

Joshua let out an exhale when he heard this. Just as he was about to say something, he caught sight of Jim walking toward him. <u>He curled his lips into a smirk and said,</u> <u>"Don't worry, Mr. Martin. I'll definitely</u> <u>punish the murderer, and I won't let them</u> <u>get away scot-free!"</u>

<u>With that, he even shot Jim a meaningful</u> <u>look.</u>

Jim narrowed his eyes and ignored them. Instead, he circled past them and strode toward Luna's prison cell.

Joshua curled his lips into a sneer as he led Cheryl's parents to the office.

Jim, on the other hand, was led to the visitation room by one of the guards.

Luna was brought out of her cell by a female prison guard. She sat down across from him and squeezed out a forced smile.

Jim let out a sigh and lifted his head to stare at Luna intently. "Initially, Father and I had

asked Joshua to help convince Cheryl's parents into letting you bail out.

<u>"After all, there's a set of fingerprints on the</u> <u>murder weapon, but..."</u>

<u>He let out a deep sigh. "Joshua didn't agree</u> <u>to that.</u>

"Not only did he refuse to help us, but he even wanted Cheryl's parents to insist that you were the murderer and keep you here, so I guess unfortunately, you'll have to stay here for a longer time.

<u>"Don't you worry, though. Father and I will investigate this case, and the murderer won't be able to stay hidden for long."</u>

Luna pursed her lips and fell silent for a long time before finally lifting her head. <u>"Joshua..."</u> <u>She let out an exhale. "Did he really say</u> <u>that?"</u>

<u>No matter what happened, she refused to</u> <u>believe that Joshua would want to keep her</u> <u>in jail.</u>

*"Yes." Jim sighed and added, "He gave us two choices; the first was to let you come out of jail, but his condition was that you have to resign from the CEO of Landry Group's position and return to Banyan City with him after leaving us, never to return afterward.* 

*"The other choice was to let you stay in jail forever, bearing the name of a murderer."* 

Luna's heart sank when she heard this.

She closed her eyes, and a bitter smile crept onto her face.

<u>This man had indeed placed much effort into</u> <u>trying to get her to return to Banyan City</u> <u>with him.</u>

<u>He knew for a fact that she was not the</u> <u>murderer, but in order to get her to return to</u> <u>his side, he would rather let her be framed</u> <u>for murder and be imprisoned forever. This</u> <u>man was just as selfish as he had been in the</u> <u>past.</u>

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<u>Seeing the glimmer in Luna's eyes disappear,</u> <u>Jim sighed, took out a contract from his</u> <u>pocket, and placed it in front of Luna. "I</u> <u>didn't manage to sleep even a wink last</u> <u>night.</u>

After settling everything here, I returned to Landry Group to familiarize myself with <u>everything that has happened and how the</u> <u>company's situation is now."</u>

<u>He lifted his head to stare at Luna. "The</u> <u>situation is far more complicated than I had</u> <u>expected.</u>

*"Heather was a total idiot. Under Malcolm's influence, she had tied all of Landry Group's supply chains together with Quinn Group's to double their profits, but this also meant that if one of us were to go bankrupt, the other would go down with them.* 

*"I'm sure you must still remember what happened to Quinn Group last night."* 

Jim pushed the contract closer to Luna and said, "Because of this, Landry Group is on the verge of bankruptcy as well. I have to first help both Landry and Quinn Group tide over this before I can untie both of the corporation's bonds. "Therefore, I need your help."

Luna furrowed her brows and lowered her head to glance at the contract.

It was almost identical to the one Malcolm had given her before, stating that if she signed this contract, it would allow Jim to unfreeze the money under her name and utilize it for Landry Group's funding.

Luna curled her lips into a smile and signed the contract without a second thought after borrowing a pen from the prison guard.

<u>She handed the signed contract back to Jim</u> <u>and said, " Thank you, Jim."</u>

<u>She knew fully well that even if she could not</u> <u>be bailed out of jail, she would still have to</u> <u>sign this contract.</u>

If the Landry and Quinn families were not on the verge of bankruptcy, Heather and

Malcolm would not have been so desperate to get her to hand over the money.

<u>Besides, even if she had not ended up in jail,</u> <u>Jim would have been the one to take care of</u> <u>all this anyway.</u>

<u>The situation she was in was not much</u> <u>different than if she had not been accused of</u> <u>murder.</u>

As soon as she thought of this, she let out an exhale and lifted her head to stare intently at Jim. "If possible, help me find Joshua and tell him to come to visit me. I want to see him."

Jim fell silent for a moment, then nodded. <u>"Alright."</u>

He did not tell Luna that Joshua was just outside, accompanying Cheryl's parents.

<u>Soon, visitation hours were over, and Jim got</u> <u>out of his seat.</u>

When he arrived at the lobby entrance, he saw Cheryl's parents crying as they held onto an elderly police officer. "This Luna must have been the murderer; it must've been her!

"She is in love with President Lynch, just like our daughter! Every time they met, something unpleasant would happen, and one time, they even ended up in the police station because of a brawl!

*"Isn't this enough to be considered a motive? Why are you so fixated on the fingerprint to deduce that Luna only has a fifty-percent suspicion of being the culprit?* 

*"Is the fingerprint really that important?"* <u>Cheryl's mother could not help grabbing the</u> <u>officer's sleeve as she sobbed. "She's our</u> <u>darling Sherry! She's the pride of our family!</u> She's only twenty years old...

*"I can't believe she's gone just like this! Can't you just prosecute that woman for murder? How are the two of us even going to survive this?* 

*"If you even dare to release that woman from bail, then both of us will kill ourselves right here at your doorstep!" Mrs. Martin howled at the top of her lungs. Meanwhile, Mr. Martin cried as he held onto his wife and could not stop going on about how good of a daughter Cheryl had been.* 

Jim did not agree with them at all.

If Cheryl had indeed been such a good person, she would not have insulted Luna by saying she was a prostitute simply because she was jealous of Luna, nor would she have spent 20 times her salary on a dress so that <u>she could stand out during the wedding</u> <u>ceremony.</u>

*However, he still had to respect the victim.* 

<u>Even though Cheryl was a bad person, all</u> <u>these were minor wrongdoings, and she did</u> <u>not deserve to die like that.</u>

Just as Jim was staring blankly at the sight before him, Joshua lifted his head.

Their eyes met.

Joshua raised his brows. "Are you looking for <u>me?"</u>

Jim nodded. He called Joshua over and said in a low voice, "Luna wants to see you."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked Snow Chapter 1696 <u>Joshua curled his lips into a smirk. "What a</u> <u>change of heart.</u>

Over the past year, every time Joshua and Luna met, whether at Tea Cottage or Luna's current residence, Joshua had approached her first.

However, since she was in jail, she was the one initiating their meeting instead.

*"There's no change of heart." Jim glanced impassively at the elderly couple behind Joshua. "It's natural that Luna would want to see you, considering you were the one who persuaded Cheryl's parents into framing her for murder."* 

Jim had deliberately lowered his voice when he said this, but to his surprise, both of Cheryl's parents still overheard this. <u>Mrs. Martin widened her eyes in shock when</u> <u>she heard this. She immediately stormed</u> <u>over to Jim, dragging Mr. Martin behind her,</u> <u>and yelled, "What on earth are you talking</u> <u>about? How dare you say we're framing</u> <u>Luna?"</u>

<u>She pointed at the surveillance footage on</u> <u>the police officer's screen and said, sobbing,</u> <u>"Everything has been recorded through</u> <u>security footage! Every time Luna and our</u> <u>daughter met, they'd get into conflict!</u>

*"Even before attending the wedding yesterday, they had gotten into another dispute right at the hotel entrance! Who else would want to kill our daughter apart from her?* 

"Not to mention that according to the witness statement, our daughter's final words were asking Luna why she killed her! How dare you even say we're framing her based on so much evidence? Where is your <u>conscience?"</u>

<u>In contrast to Mrs. Martin's outburst, Mr.</u> <u>Martin was far calmer.</u>

He furrowed his brows and glanced first at the surveillance footage, then at Jim. He sneered and said, "My dear, don't be so upset. This is the man that was with Luna at the mall and the hotel entrance who had humiliated our daughter as well. He's Luna's elder brother!"

<u>As soon as Mrs. Martin heard this, she cocked</u> <u>her arm and slapped Jim right across his</u> <u>face.</u>

Jim did not see this coming at all, so he did not manage to dodge this.

<u>Smack!</u>

<u>A loud slap echoed through the police station</u> <u>lobby, and everyone in the room widened</u> <u>their eyes in shock.</u>

<u>After all, this man was the heir of the Landry</u> <u>family.</u>

<u>However, the elderly woman that had just</u> <u>lost her daughter did not care about this. She</u> <u>glared at Jim and snapped, "Luna deserves</u> <u>to die, and so do you!</u>

"Your entire family should rot in hell!"

With that, she cocked her arm once more.

<u>However, before she could slap Jim again,</u> <u>Joshua grabbed hold of her arm mid-air. He</u> <u>said, frowning, "That's enough, Mrs. Martin."</u>

Jim was not a person that anyone could insult just like this.

*"I'm not going to hold you accountable for assaulting me like this." Jim sneered, turning around to glance at Mrs. Martin. "After all, I had embarrassed your daughter too, last night, and this is my punishment for making fun of her, but—* 

<u>He narrowed his eyes and said in a stern</u> <u>voice, "If you touch me again, I won't let you</u> <u>get away with this without consequences.</u>

<u>"Also, when I say my sister is innocent, she is.</u> <u>She'll never kill someone."</u>

With that, he sneered and glanced at Joshua. "What do you say, Mr. Lynch? "Do you think Luna could've been the murderer?"

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Joshua did not expect Jim to toss the question over to him.

<u>He narrowed his eyes and said impassively,</u> <u>"I believe only the results of the police's</u> <u>investigation."</u>

Jim sneered as he wiped away the blood trickling out of the corner of his lips. "I know that too, but I'm asking you that as Luna's ex-wife, the father of Luna's four child ren, do you, Joshua Lynch, think that Luna could have killed Cheryl, the woman that posed no threat to her at all whether relationship or career-wise?"

*"What do you mean, she posed no threat to Luna's relationship or career-wise?" Cheryl's parents could not believe this at all.* 

Mrs. Martin tried to release herself from Joshua's grip as she glared at Jim. "Luna clearly killed Cheryl because she didn't think she'd be able to compete against her when trying to win President Lynch's heart! How dare you even say she posed no threat to Luna? You're talking nonsense!"

<u>Seeing that Mrs. Martin was about to be</u> <u>freed of Joshua's grasp and lunge toward</u> <u>Jim, two police officers approached them</u> <u>and restrained her.</u>

"Me? Talking nonsense?" Jim sneered. "Even though I sympathize with you over your loss, I still hope the two of you can be awoken to the truth.

*"The reason Luna had stayed in Merchant City was that she didn't want to return home with Joshua Lynch. She longed for nothing more than to get rid of him, so why would she want to compete with your daughter for him?* 

<u>"Do you want me to play the audio clip of</u> your daughter insulting Luna and calling her a hooker?"</u> <u>He swept his cold glance over Mr. and Mrs.</u> <u>Martin's shocked faces. "Even though parents</u> <u>always think the best of their child ren, I still</u> <u>hope you have some self-awareness.</u>

*"If you continue pestering me like this, I'll expose all of the humiliating things your daughter did when she was alive, so I suggest that you refrain yourselves to show some respect to her."* 

With that, he turned to glance coldly at Joshua. "You're still unwilling to admit the truth, aren't you?"

He lowered his head to adjust his cufflinks and continued, " Eight months ago, when someone stabbed my mother in her chest with a knife, you were the prime suspect.

"At that time, Luna's first reaction was to doubt that you were the culprit. If it weren't for the fact that all of the evidence pointed <u>toward you, she wouldn't have changed her</u> <u>mind, but what about you?</u>

"Now that Cheryl's death was still a mystery and the fingerprint on the murder weapon clearly didn't belong to Luna, you chose to ignore that fact and instead insist that she was the culprit."

Jim let out an exhale and curled his lips into a smirk. "You don't deserve Luna at all.

*"Just now, she wanted me to tell you to visit her because she wants to see you, but I don't think that matters anymore now. After all, there's nothing you can do apart from upsetting her."* 

With that, he turned and strode away.

Joshua remained motionless and narrowed his eyes as he watched Jim leave.

"Mr. Lynch." After Jim disappeared from sight, Mr. and Mrs. Martin rushed toward Joshua. "The murderer must've wanted to trick you into thinking she didn't do it, and that's why she wanted to see you! You can't fall for her tricks!

<u>" Don't visit her...even if it was for Cheryl,</u> <u>you shouldn't..."</u>

Joshua glanced impassively at the elderly couple and replied, "I've told you that I'll help investigate the truth about Cheryl's death."

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*"However, you have no right to impinge upon my freedom."* 

With that, he strode over to the nearest police officer and said, "Give me a visitation form."

<u>Mr. and Mrs. Martin exchanged a glance, and</u> <u>a hint of displeasure flashed through their</u> <u>eyes.</u>

Their daughter had died because she had attended a wedding with Joshua Lynch. However, this man had no intention of bearing the responsibility of this and even stopped them from beating up a member of the murderer's family!

<u>Regard less, they knew that they did not</u> <u>have the right or ability to fight with Joshua</u> <u>on this.</u>

Therefore, the elderly couple could not do anything apart from watching quietly as Joshua disappeared into the visitation room after filling in the form. "Sir, Madam." One of the police officers approached them, smiling. "As for the dead body, if you have successfully identified it as your daughter, you'd better bring the body for cremation as soon as possible. Now that it's about to turn summer soon, the police station can't hold onto it for too long."

<u>Mr. and Mrs. Martin almost fainted when</u> <u>they heard this.</u>

<u>As soon as they thought about their</u> <u>daughter, they started sobbing, holding onto</u> <u>each other. "Our poor Sherry...</u>

*"You suffered such a cruel death, but the murderer can't even receive the punishment she deserves... There's nothing else we can do..."* 

<u>The officer narrowed his eyes and, after</u> <u>checking to make</u> <u>sure no one else was around, said in a low</u> <u>voice, "I can't help pitying you for this...</u>

<u>"I have a friend who works as a reporter for</u> <u>a radio station. If you don't mind, I can give</u> <u>you his contact details, and maybe he can</u> <u>help you."</u>

<u>Mr. and Mrs. Martin's faces lit up when they</u> <u>heard this.</u>

<u>The two of them nodded their heads</u> <u>furiously and said, "Yes, please, thank you</u> <u>very much!"</u>

Since they could not make Luna pay for her actions through legal prosecution...they would use other ways to make sure neither Luna nor the Landry family could survive in Merchant City!

Inside the visitation room.

When Luna was brought out by the prison guard, Joshua was leaning in his chair, trying to solve a Rubik's cube.

Luna recognized from first glance that this was the Rubi k's cube that Neil had made <u>himself.</u>

<u>Neil was different from other children his</u> <u>age. Other children would enjoy solving</u> <u>Rubik's cubes or other puzzles, but as</u> <u>compared to this, Neil enjoyed making these</u> <u>toys instead of playing with them.</u>

In the past, before they returned to Banyan City, Neil would always make these toys in his room.

<u>Every toy he had made would be engraved</u> with the letter N to identify him as the <u>creator.</u> <u>Because of this, Luna could recognize that</u> <u>the Rubik's cube in Joshua's hands belonged</u> <u>to Neil.</u>

She narrowed her eyes as she stared at it.

<u>It seemed that Joshua and the three children</u> <u>had grown closer during these few months.</u>

<u>She strode over and sat down in a chair</u> <u>across from him. "Joshua Lynch."</u>

Joshua gracefully placed the cube on the table and pushed it toward her. "I let the police check this just now, and it's not a prohibited item. I'm giving it to you so you'll have something to play around with in jail."

Luna took the cube from him, sneering. "Are you saying that you're definitely not going to let me out of jail now?" <u>"I know that you don't want to become CEO of Landry Group at all; they're forcing you to stand against me, against your will.</u>

*"Therefore, I hope that you can take some time off while in jail and be freed of the chaos of the outside world. That seems like a good choice for you, isn't it?"* 

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Joshua's words were just as cold as his tone.

Luna furrowed her brows as she stared at the man before her.

<u>All of a sudden, she realized that she did not</u> <u>understand this man as well as she thought.</u>

<u>She had always thought he loved and cared</u> <u>about her.</u> Even when Jim told her what he had said, she still thought that Jim was exaggerating and that Joshua could not possibly be unaware of how bad the living conditions in prison were.

If he cared about her, he would not subject her to such suffering.

<u>However, what Joshua had said felt like a</u> <u>slap to Luna's face.</u>

He had said that he would rather she be imprisoned than stand against him.

Luna bit her lip and lifted her head to stare at Joshua, not knowing whether to laugh or cry about this. "Joshua, do you think that your vengeance toward the Landry family is more important to me?"

Joshua narrowed his eyes and stared at her, smiling. "What do you think? Luna—"

He stared at her with a solemn expression. "I had been planning my defeat of the Quinn and Land ry families for almost a year now. If you hadn't been pregnant with my child for the first nine months, the Landry family would've been on the verge of bankruptcy, like the Quinn family, by now.

*"It's true that Granny Lynch had indeed* <u>killed your uncle, Charles' brother Colin, but</u> <u>on the other hand, the Land ry family had</u> <u>also poisoned Granny Lynch and almost</u> <u>made her lose her life.</u>

"After being rescued from the verge of dying, Granny Lynch kept on telling me not to cause any more trouble for the Landry family so that the vengeance wouldn't fester."

<u>As soon as he thought of Granny Lynch, a</u> <u>glimmer of hatred and malice shot through</u> <u>Joshua's eyes. "From the</u> <u>moment I took over Lynch Group, Granny</u> <u>had been telling m e over and over that the</u> <u>vengeance between our two families had</u> <u>ended, and she hoped that Lynch Group</u> <u>would become a clean and forgiving</u> <u>company in my hands, but what happened</u> <u>after that?</u>

"Granny still died in the hands of a Landry."

Luna bit her lip.

Even though Granny Lynch had died because of Michael, she could not deny that Joshua was right because...

<u>Even if Michael had not killed her, Granny</u> <u>Lynch would eventually die of Rosalyn's</u> <u>poisoning.</u>

<u>On top of that, Mickey had been to Granny's</u> <u>room the day she died.</u> At that time, Luna, who was accompanying Granny by her bedside, had passed out after inhaling the smoke bomb that Mickey had brought over.

If Michael had not killed Granny that day, what would have happened?

What was Mickey doing there?

Also, the butler had told her before that Rosalyn was the only person who had access to the poison used by the Landry family, so how else would Aura have managed to get her hands on it?

<u>All of these facts pointed toward a</u> <u>conclusion that Luna did not want to face...</u>

<u>Rosalyn had been the one who reignited the</u> <u>rivalry between the Lynch and Landry</u> <u>families.</u> Seeing that Luna had fallen silent, Joshua let out an exhale and stared intently at her face. "Luna, you know better than anyone just how much Granny meant to me. Therefore, the Landry family must pay the price of their actions. As for the Quinn family..."

He continued, still staring at Luna, "Even though they hadn't done anything wrong to me in the past, but they did, to you.

"Not to mention, the Landry and Quinn families are now merged into a single unit."

Joshua curled his lips into a smirk. "Give me one month. A month later, I'll come personally to help clear up your name and bring you back to Banyan City.

*"By that time, not even the Quinn or Landry family could stop us from being together."* 

<u>A glimmer of malice shot through Joshua's</u> <u>eyes as he said this.</u>

Luna could not help feeling that the man sitting before her was like a stranger to her.

<u>She asked in a hoarse voice, "What if I don't</u> <u>want to go home with you?"</u>

Joshua chuckled. "I'll make you want to come home with me."

<u>Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked</u> <u>Snow Chapter 1700</u>

With that, Joshua leaned against the back of his seat elegantly and said, "Don't worry, your time in prison won't be that awful.

*"I'll never let what happened in that mental asylum in Banyan City happen again; I've already asked Luke to find you a few female security guards. Today and tomorrow, they'll be sent into prison under different charges* 

and protect you every single second of the day."

Luna could not help feeling suffocated when she heard this.

*Firstly, this man had sent her into prison under charges of first-degree murder.* 

<u>Secondly, he had arranged for a few female</u> <u>inmates to be sent into prison and look after</u> <u>her.</u>

What difference was this from imprisoning <u>her himself?</u>

<u>The only difference was that what he was</u> <u>doing was legal.</u>

As soon as she thought of this, Luna sneered and stared at Joshua's face coldly. "I'm starting to think that you sent someone to kill Cheryl yourself so that you could send me into jail." The entire room fell silent.

Amid the dead silence, Joshua curled his lips into a smirk and said, "Well, if that's what you'd like to think, I won't stop you."

With that, he stood up. "Luna, no matter what happens, I'll never let you become my opponent."

*If she truly stepped up as CEO of Landry Group...* 

<u>Winning against her in battle would mean</u> <u>losing her, and losing her would mean losing</u> <u>his entire world.</u>

Joshua did not want to disappoint Aunt Lucy and Granny Lynch, nor was he willing to lose the company that his ancestors had left for him.

<u>At the same time, he did not want to lose</u> <u>Luna.</u> As soon as he finished his sentence, Joshua stood up and strode out of the room.

Luna sat in the visitation room as she held the Rubik's cube, staring at Joshua intently as he left.

"Sir." As soon as he came out of the police station, Lucas approached him and handed him the reports of Landry and Quinn Group as he followed Joshua into the car. "Just a few moments ago, Landry Group infused a large sum of money in their funding, and the amount is far more than all their money in the past.

*"Jim has successfully revived Landry Group, and as of now, he's hiring people to replenish the supply chain we had cut off.* 

*"The Quinn Group has also...announced that they had made it past this hurdle with the Landry family's help.* 

"All of our efforts yesterday...had been reduced to nothing, and it seems that both Landry and Quinn Groups would be able to turn the situation around..."

Lucas could not help frowning as he reported this. "Where o n earth did this money even come from? We've been investigating Landry Group's money flow for the past two years and never found traces of this money at all..."

Joshua was far calmer as compared to Lucas'

<u>nervousness. "No wonder Charles wanted to</u> <u>appoint Luna as CEO last night."</u>

Lucas froze, unable to understand how this was related to the situation at hand. "What do you mean, Sir?"

Joshua glanced at him and replied, "It's only natural that the person with the most

powerful monetary influence gets to become <u>CEO."</u>

<u>He had known for a long time that Charles</u> <u>and Rosalyn had left a sum of money for</u> <u>their long-lost daughter many years ago, but</u> <u>he never expected that they would have left</u> <u>so much money for Luna.</u>

<u>He had always thought this couple did not</u> <u>value their daughter at all, but he was</u> <u>wrong.</u>

As soon as he thought of this, Joshua let out a sigh and leaned against the backseat helplessly. "I guess I can't keep her by my side after all."

If Charles and Rosalyn mistreated Luna, he would still be confident that Luna would one day want to return to his side. <u>However, it seemed that the two of them</u> <u>were quite generous to their daughter after</u> <u>all...</u>

Lucas grew even more puzzled when he heard this. "Sir, didn't you say that as long as Cheryl's parents insist that Ma'am was the one who killed their daughter, Ma'am won't be able to be bailed out of jail, and she would have to be imprisoned until the true culprit is found?

*"In that case, how is it possible for you not to keep her by your side?"* 

Joshua shot him a cold glance. "Do you honestly think I'll let her be stuck in jail indefinitely just for my benefit?"

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked Snow Chapter 1701

Lucas was confused to hear this.

Joshua had been saying the same thing for the whole day, whether to Cheryl's parents, Jim, or even the police.

<u>He had claimed that if Luna refused to return</u> <u>to Banyan City with him, he would let Luna</u> <u>be imprisoned forever.</u>

He would not let her out or give her even a small taste of freedom until the Landry and Quinn families were destroyed.

<u>All of a sudden, Joshua was saying that he</u> <u>would not let Luna be imprisoned</u> <u>indefinitely for his benefit.</u>

<u>Glancing at Lucas' puzzled look, Joshua</u> <u>narrowed his eyes and said in a cold voice,</u> <u>"Luna is just one of the suspects in this</u> <u>murder.</u>

*"Even the security guards who witnessed this only saw Cheryl choking Luna before she* 

<u>died, demanding to know why she wanted to</u> <u>kill her, none of them saw Luna assaulting</u> <u>her. She merely struggled, and she didn't</u> <u>even fight back.</u>

<u>"On top of that, the cops have found a</u> <u>fingerprint that didn't belong to Luna on the</u> <u>murder weapon. Because of this, everyone</u> <u>knows that there is another suspect out</u> <u>there."</u>

With that, he curled his lips into a smirk and said, "What would you do after Luna was brought into jail if you were the murderer?"

Lucas fell silent for a moment, then suddenly came to a realization. "If I were the murderer, I'd be keeping a close eye on the investigation progress of this case.

*"If the police and the victim's family all insist that Luna is the murderer, then I will act as though nothing had happened...* 

<u>"However, if they were to come after me, I'll</u> <u>leave Merchant City immediately!"</u>

Joshua smiled when he heard this. "You're getting cleverer now."

<u>Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked</u> <u>Snow Chapter 1702</u>

<u>"There's no need," Joshua interjected Lucas</u> <u>curtly. "The Quinn family also has a few</u> <u>spies among the cops."</u>

If Lucas were to tell Luna the truth, the change in Luna's attitude toward him would surely give them away, even if no one was eavesdropping on their conversation.

<u>Glancing at Joshua once more, Lucas let out</u> <u>a sigh but did not say another word.</u>

Soon, the car arrived at Lynch Tower.

As soon as Joshua and Lucas got out of the elevator, they came face-to-face with Theo and Gwen, waiting outside his office.

<u>Seeing that Joshua had returned, Gwen</u> <u>immediately stormed forward and glared at</u> <u>him. "I hear that you were the one who</u> <u>convinced Cheryl's parents to keep Luna</u> <u>imprisoned, weren't you?"</u>

She gritted her teeth as she continued to glare at him. " Don't you know what kind of person Luna is and whether she can possibly kill someone or not? How dare you do this to her!"

Joshua glanced impassively at Gwen and curled his lips into a smirk. "How dare you talk about this with me?

"When Luna's mother was injured, didn't she also doubt my integrity? If you hadn't notified Luke and me, I would've become the murderer that almost killed Rosalyn.

<u>"When Luna mistrusted me, you didn't blame</u> <u>her at all, but now, you're blaming me for</u> <u>doubting Luna.</u>

<u>"I know you're Luna's friend, but that doesn't</u> <u>mean you can hold double standards like</u> <u>this, does it now?"</u>

With that, Joshua circled past Gwen as though she were made of thin air and strode toward his office.

<u>Gwen clenched her fists and gritted her teeth</u> <u>but could not say a single word.</u>

<u>All of a sudden, Theo walked toward her. He</u> <u>gently patted her shoulder and said, "I'll go</u> <u>talk to him."</u>

With that, he followed Joshua into his office.

As soon as the door closed behind him, he sat down in the seat across from Joshua, smiling. "How's Luna doing in there? You must've sent some people to protect her, haven't you?"

<u>He gave Joshua a gentle smile and</u> <u>continued, "I wouldn't want what happened</u> <u>at the mental asylum to happen once again.</u> <u>Luna has only nine fingers left, you know."</u>

Joshua narrowed his eyes and shot Theo a cold glance, then smirked. "Why aren't you reprimanding me?"

<u>"Because I know you too well." Theo let out</u> <u>an exhale and shifted into a more</u> <u>comfortable position in his chair, a small</u> <u>smile playing on his lips. "When I went to see</u> <u>Dr. Rachel, she told me she had met you</u> <u>before and that you were a weirdo.</u> "You were so busy, yet you had the time to wait outside her house for a week so that you could convince her to come with you to Merchant City and save a woman that was your mortal enemy."

With that, he fixated his penetrating stare on Joshua and continued, "I'm sure neither Luna nor the Landry family knows about all this.

"Since you were willing to beg Dr. Rachel to save your mortal enemy for Luna, how can you possibly not trust her and instead frame her for murder?"

Joshua fell silent upon hearing this.

He did not expect that the person who would understand him the most was the man who had once competed with him for Luna's heart. Joshua could not help letting out a bitter chuckle when he thought of this.

<u>He lifted his head to stare intently at Theo.</u> <u>"Do me a favor."</u>

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked Snow Chapter 1703

<u>"Something terrible has happened, Vice</u> <u>President Land ry!"</u>

At Landry Group Tower, Jim had just finished gathering his notes of the Land ry Group and Quinn Group's merge and was pondering how to solve this predicament when his secretary stormed into the room. "Something bad has happened!"

Jim furrowed his brows. "What's wrong? Why are you so anxious?"

His train of thought had been utterly interrupted.

<u>The secretary said, panting, "Um... Someone</u> <u>has shown up with a banner at our building</u> <u>entrance right now to cause trouble!</u>

*"They're claiming that the CEO of Landry Group, Luna, had killed their daughter, and they have many reporters with them!* 

*"They even said if Landry Group doesn't give them any compensation for their loss, they'll bring their daughter's corpse over to let everyone know the truth about us..."* 

With that, the secretary quickly took out his phone and handed it to Jim. "Look, the whole ordeal is going live on the internet right now!"

Jim quickly stood up and took the phone from the secretary.

The secretary was right. The people in the live footage were none other than Cheryl's

parents, which he had bumped into at the police station that morning.

Hund reds of thousands of people were watching this live stream, and the audience was all postulating what had happened.

[Luna is a murderer.]

[Landry Group has lost its money and killed innocent people.]

[Landry Group should get out of Merchant City.]

<u>All this news about Luna and Landry Group</u> <u>had surged to the top of the search results.</u>

Jim narrowed his eyes and looked closer at Mr. and Mrs. Martin in the livestream.

Soon, he noticed some familiar faces.

Jim recognized a few of the people that were protesting among the crowd.

<u>They were actors from a famous PR firm in</u> <u>Merchant City, and this PR firm...belonged to</u> <u>the Quinn family.</u>

Jim narrowed his eyes and strode into the control room.

According to the security footage, it took less than an hour for Mr. and Mrs. Martin to arrive at the building entrance until the entire city heard about this news.

<u>Jim narrowed his eyes. Someone had planned</u> <u>this.</u>

The only person who could do this...

It was either Joshua's work, or the Quinn family were behind this.

However, this was not the time to find out who the mastermind was.

The most important thing at hand was to reassure his employees so that they would not panic over this sudden twist of events.

As soon as he thought of this, Jim let out an exhale and said, "Contact Malcolm Quinn, and then count how many reporters are gathered downstairs. I want to sue each and every one of them for falsifying news.

"Also, invite Cheryl's parents into the VIP room and serve them well.

*"Finally, I want you to get rid of the crowd that's here to cause trouble!"* 

After giving these orders, Jim let out an exhale and rubbed his temples in frustration after returning to his office. <u>A few minutes later, he received a call from</u> <u>Malcolm.</u>

*"Jim." Malcolm let out a bitter chuckle. "Heather and I have also been kicked out of the Quinn family after what happened last night.* 

"You shouldn't contact me about anything regarding the Quinn family anymore. Contact my Granny instead; she's the head of the family now."

With that, he let out a sigh and added, "Heather and I have both been kicked out of our respective families overnight.

"Can you take us in, Jim?"

Jim furrowed his brows upon hearing this.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked Snow Chapter 1704 *"You've both been kicked out of your families?" "That's right." Malcolm did not even get the chance to continue when he heard Jim slamming the phone down without a hint of hesitation.* 

<u>On the other end of the line, Malcolm closed</u> <u>his eyes helplessly when he heard the dial</u> <u>tone.</u>

<u>"How did it go?" Heather, who was holding</u> <u>Riley in her arms, approached him. "What</u> <u>did Jim say?"</u>

<u>Malcolm shot her a cold glance and tossed</u> <u>the phone onto the ground with a thud. "He's</u> <u>not willing."</u>

<u>Jim's attitude was enough to prove</u> <u>everything.</u>

The phone landed on the ground with a loud that startled Riley, who burst into tears.

Heather furrowed her brows and gritted her teeth as she tried in frustration to shake the baby to sleep. "Shut up!

*"We shouldn't have stolen this baby! Now, we're broke and can only live in this rented house, yet we still have to take care of this one-month-old baby!"* 

<u>Heather wanted nothing more than to choke</u> <u>this baby to death right this instant.</u>

Malcolm glanced at her, frowning. Then, he suppressed the rage in his heart and strode over to take Riley from her. "We still have to look after her; she's the only thing that can give us money at this time."

<u>Heather bit her lip. "I'll go find Joshua Lynch</u> <u>right now!"</u>

<u>"No, we can't go to Joshua." Malcolm</u> narrowed his eyes. " He's too intelligent, and <u>if we use Riley to threaten him, we might not</u> <u>even get anything in the end.</u>

*"The only thing we can do now is help the Landry family get Luna out of jail."* 

<u>"She's already a sensitive and fragile</u> woman, but on top of that, Riley is her biological daughter...

*"Besides, now, as CEO of Landry Group, Luna has a lot of money and power in her hands. She's the perfect target for us to get what we want."* 

Heather pouted slightly and asked, "How are we supposed to get by now? We've already sold our cars and luxury items but only managed to get a few million dollars out of that. On top of that, we have a child with us, and we're bound to use up all this money in a matter of days!" *"I have a plan." Malcolm narrowed his eyes, picked up the phone he had tossed onto the ground, and dialed Hunter's number.* 

Hunter soon picked up the phone. "Hello, Malcolm."

*"Hunter." Malcolm curled his lips into a small smile. " Congratulations on becoming the sole heir of the Quinn family fortune."* 

*Hunter fell silent for a moment, then* <u>chuckled. "What on earth are you talking</u> <u>about, Malcolm?</u>

*"Granny is just angry right now, but by the time she gets over it, you'll be able to come home."* 

<u>As he said this, Hunter was leaning against</u> <u>the headboard of the hospital bed, staring at</u> <u>his index finger-less right hand. "I'm not as</u> <u>competent as you, so how can I possibly take</u> <u>over the Quinn family?"</u>

<u>Granny Quinn would never allow a</u> <u>handicapped person to take over the family</u> <u>business.</u>

The fact that she had ordered for his finger to be cut off not only allowed him to evade suspicion as a murder suspect but also meant there was no way he would be able to inherit the family fortune anymore.

<u>No one was more heartless than Granny</u> <u>Quinn.</u>

<u>Samuel had once claimed that Granny Quinn</u> <u>was the cruelest woman on earth, and on</u> <u>that day, Hunter had finally realized this was</u> <u>true.</u>

<u>"Of course I know that. I'll return to the</u> Quinn family eventually." Malcolm curled his <u>lips into a small smile. " Nonetheless, I'm</u> <u>having some financial difficulties now,</u> <u>Hunter, and it'd be great if you can help me</u> <u>out a little, but if you can't..."</u>

Malcolm's laughter suddenly turned sinister. "Then I have no choice but to expose everything you did in the past to the media in exchange for some money to feed my family."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked Snow Chapter 1705

Landry Group.

<u>Because Granny Quinn had already retired</u> <u>for many years, Jim had to go through much</u> <u>effort to obtain Granny</u>

Quinn's number.

By the time he managed to get in touch with her, the reporters and spectators outside the building had already been chased off.

<u>The only people that remained were the</u> <u>actors from the PR firm, who were protesting</u> <u>alongside Cheryl's parents.</u>

Jim narrowed his eyes and dialed Granny Quinn's number as he watched the people from the security cameras. "Hello, Granny Quinn."

<u>He let out an exhale and continued, "I want</u> <u>to ask you something; does the PR firm under</u> <u>Quinn Group take every job offer that comes</u> <u>its way?"</u>

On the other end of the line, Granny Quinn leaned against the sofa and took a puff of her cigar as she said lazily, "Why would you say this, Master Landry?" Jim let out a sneer. "According to my investigation, the people causing trouble at my office doorstep all belong to a PR firm under Quinn Group.

"Now that everyone in Merchant City knows about the connection between the Quinn and Landry families, I'm sure the people working at the PR firm wouldn't be oblivious either, would they?

*"If so, why did they even take this job offer to cause trouble at my office building?"* 

<u>Granny Quinn erupted into laughter upon</u> <u>hearing this. "Do</u>

you know why they accepted this job? "It was because I had sent them."

Jim's entire body stiffened when he heard this. He furrowed his brows, unable to believe his ears. "Granny Quinn, you <u>shouldn't joke about this kind of stuff; it's</u> <u>not funny."</u>

<u>Granny Quinn chuckled. "Do you think I'm</u> joking?

*"Jim Landry, you and I have never crossed paths before, so I'll forgive your naivety this time, but I hope you won't ask such stupid questions next time."* 

<u>There was a hint of arrogance and contempt</u> <u>in Granny Quinn's tone as she added, "I</u> <u>never joke around; it's true that I'm the one</u> <u>who had sent those people over."</u>

Jim narrowed his eyes and clutched his phone tightly. " Granny Quinn, the Land ry and Quinn families are a single unit now, and victory and losses are shared amongst the two. <u>"I don't understand why you'd want to hire</u> people to tarnish our name at a time like this."

<u>Granny Quinn cackled. "You're right; we are</u> <u>indeed a single unit now. But, even families</u> <u>have to decide on a leader, don't you agree?"</u>

As soon as she said this, Jim immediately understood what she was hinting at. He clutched his phone tightly and gritted his teeth. "So you're trying to use this to force the Landry family to hand over the authority, aren't you?"

This old lady was too cruel.

<u>He had just managed to revitalize the</u> <u>collaborative projects between the Landry</u> <u>and Quinn Groups after receiving the funds</u> <u>from Luna that morning, and less than a few</u> <u>hours later, this old woman had sent people</u> <u>over to make a scene at Landry Group Tower.</u> Her motive was to force Landry Group to hand over the authority of both the companies to the Quinn family!

As soon as he thought of this, Jim could not help narrowing his eyes as he asked, "What if we refuse to do as you say?"

*"Well, then the worst is yet to come." Grann Quinn let out a sigh. "Jim, you shouldn't blame me at all.* 

"After what your sister did, the victim's family will still eventually make a scene at your office building, even if we didn't give them a little push.

<u>"I'm just giving you an early warning, that's all."</u>

Granny Quinn leaned against the sofa and picked at her nails elegantly. "Even if you didn't hand over the authority now, you'll <u>eventually have to do it, considering how</u> <u>badly the Landry family is doing now.</u>

<u>"You can do it the easy way or the hard</u> <u>way."</u>

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked Snow Chapter 1706

Jim narrowed his eyes and hung up the phone with a thud. Then, he leaned against his seat as he panted.

<u>The Landry and Quinn families had already</u> <u>been bound together for a while, and he</u> <u>could not possibly untie those bonds after</u> <u>just a day of taking over.</u>

The company that had run into trouble was the Quinn Group, not the Landry Group, yet while he was busy reviving and fixing the two corporations, the Quinn family was *plotting how to take over the authority to the two companies!* 

Jim slammed his fists against his desk in anger, gritting his teeth.

In the past, Jim used to think Malcolm was cruel, but he finally knew whose genes Malcolm had inherited.

*"Vice President Landry." All of a sudden, the secretary knocked and entered his office. "We've already invited Cheryl's parents to the VIP room, but the two of them appear to be psychologically unstable... Do you want to go over and take a look?"* 

Jim let out an exhale, stood up, and followed the secretary into the VIP room.

The floor was covered in shards of porcelain.

<u>Cheryl's parents were smashing the porcelain</u> <u>tableware onto the ground as they shrieked,</u> *"What are you planning to do, inviting us here?"* 

"Let me tell you this; don't you dare think you can buy us out with money. All we want is for Luna to get the punishment she deserves!"

<u>"We'll never use our daughter's life in exchange for money!"</u>

<u>The first thing Jim heard were the sounds of</u> <u>Mr. and Mrs. Martin's screams.</u>

<u>He furrowed his eyes and entered the room,</u> <u>smiling. "Sir, Madam, I know you're not here</u> <u>for the money."</u>

<u>Seeing that the person who had arrived was</u> <u>none other than Luna's brother, a hint of</u> <u>hostility flashed across Mr. and Mrs. Martin's</u> <u>faces. "Were you the one who had asked</u> <u>these people to bring us here? What are you</u> <u>trying to do?"</u>

"I should be the one to ask you this." Jim let out a sigh, walked over, and stood in front of them. "Since you're not here for the money and instead just here to demand justice for your daughter, then you should go to the police station to find out more details about what had happened and maybe even start investigating yourself.

"By coming here to cause a scene at our office building, were you somehow hoping that the spectators and people watching online will help you crack the case?"

<u>Mr. and Mrs. Martin exchanged a glance,</u> <u>then lifted their heads to stare at Jim in</u> <u>anger. "We just want people to see your true</u> <u>colors! We—"</u> "One million dollars." Jim narrowed his eyes. "I'll offer you one million dollars, and in exchange, you'll never come to Landry Group Tower to cause a scene anymore. How does that sound?

*"I'm not going to interfere in your search for the truth, and if evidence proves that Luna was indeed the murderer, you can still press charges.* 

*"This one million dollars is just some pension money for the two of you."* 

<u>Seeing that Jim had offered them money, Mr.</u> <u>and Mrs. Martin exchanged a glance.</u>

Finally, Mr. Martin let out a cough and said, "We can agree to your terms, but..."

He extended five fingers at Jim.

Jim narrowed his eyes. "Five million dollars? Well, that's not entirely impossible..." <u>"No." Mr. Martin sneered. "Five hundred million dollars.</u>

*"The people at the PR firm told us that what we did today had caused significant financial losses to Landry Group, so if you offer us any amount less than five hundred million, we'll continue to make a scene."* 

Jim sucked in a deep breath and clenched his fists next to him.

Granny Quinn was showing no mercy at all!

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked Snow Chapter 1710

Visitors were not allowed at night, but the woman emanated such a terrifyingly sinister aura that the police on duty made an exception for her and let her in.

Luna was awoken from her sleep.

<u>She could not stop asking the prison guard</u> who the visitor was as she followed her out of the cell.

However, the prison guard could not offer her any information apart from the visitor's gender. The visitor was a woman.

<u>Luna furrowed her brows, thinking it was</u> <u>Gwen.</u>

<u>To her surprise, it was a strange woman</u> <u>dressed entirely in black and wearing a pair</u> <u>of sunglasses.</u>

<u>Luna entered the visitation room, frowning,</u> <u>and sat down across from the woman. "You</u> <u>are..."</u>

*"Let me introduce myself." The woman lifted* <u>her head to smile at Luna. "My name is</u> <u>Charlotte Jacobs, I'm about the same age as</u> you, and I was your brother Jim's first girlfriend."

Luna widened her eyes in shock.

Jim's...first girlfriend?

How did she not know that Jim had ever had a girlfriend before?

Ever since she returned to the Landry family, she had only known of Jim's reluctance to date, and even Harvey's birth six years ago was simply an accident, so where did this woman come from?

*"Jim and I were together six years ago, and at that time, you hadn't returned to the Landry family yet, so it's natural that you're unaware of my existence." The woman smiled. "I've been avoiding this for six years now, and it's about time I face the truth."*  <u>With that, she elegantly removed her</u> <u>sunglasses and mask, revealing her scarred</u> <u>face to Luna.</u>

Luna stared at Charlotte's face in shock.

This was a face that looked even more terrifying than hers after Malcolm had deliberately ruined her face.

It was clear that this woman had tried to salvage her appearance, but scars all over her face were too deep to get rid of entirely, and her wounds were still shocking to any onlooker.

*"You're different; you're not scared of me at all." Charlotte curled her lips into a smile when she saw Luna's surprisingly calm expression.* 

*"Your brother and I met at the orphanage when we were young. I used to love wearing* 

<u>red clothes and would always follow him</u> <u>around, calling his name.</u>

"At that time, he mistook me for you and wanted to take me away from the orphanage.

*"However, after that, the Landry family found Heather and brought her home instead, so I didn't get to leave the orphanage with him in the end.* 

"After we grew up, we managed to reunite again, but unfortunately, not long after your brother and I got together, Heather lured me to an abandoned warehouse and set it on fire, ruining everything that I had."

With that, she gazed at Luna and continued, "I should be thanking you. If it weren't for you, Heather wouldn't have been kicked out of the Landry family, and I wouldn't have gained the courage to return to Merchant <u>City."</u>

After she finished describing her experience to Luna, Charlotte let out an exhale and fixated her gaze on Luna. "All these years, I've been learning how to run a business while I was abroad, and I always hoped that I'd be able to stand on top of the world, right next to Jim.

"Now that the Landry family is going through difficulties, I couldn't bear to see him go through this alone, so I decided to come back."

Luna pursed her lips and let out a small sigh when she caught sight of the look in Charlotte's eyes upon mentioning Jim's name. "The reason you came to visit me so late at night...is to thank me?" "Of course not." Charlotte took out her phone and played the recording of Lucas' voice that she had overheard at the restaurant to Luna.

"I guess love is always selfish; even President Lynch is no exception. Even after knowing who the real murderer is now, he still wants to keep Ma'am locked up in jail for his benefit.

*"I know he doesn't want Ma'am to become his opponent in the future, but wouldn't doing this make her hate him even more? I don't understand what he's trying to do..."* 

When the audio clip finished playing, Luna felt as though her entire body had been submerged in ice- cold water.

<u>She bit her lip as despair filled her entire</u> <u>heart.</u> It turned out Joshua had already found out who the real murderer was...yet he would instead let the culprit get away scot-free than release her from jail.

*"I can help you get out of here." Charlotte stared at Luna intently. "But you have to agree to one condition."* 

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked Snow Chapter 1711

The entire room fell silent.

Luna stared at the woman before her, whom half of her face had been destroyed. "What are your conditions?"

All she wanted was to get out of jail.

However, Luna knew fully well that she would never be released unless Joshua changed his mind. Even though she was in jail, she was still protected by the four female bodyguards whom he had sent in, and she could not have her freedom from him, even in prison.

If Charlotte's condition was not too outrageous, what was the harm of agreeing to it?

"My condition is that after you're released from jail and take over Landry Group as CEO, you have to hire me as your secretary or assistant. As for everything you do, including strategies of running the company, you'll have to listen to what I say."

Luna furrowed her brows and stared at Charlotte with a puzzled look. She had thought that... Charlotte would want her to help bring her and Jim together again.

<u>However, it turned out her only request was</u> <u>this.</u> <u>Charlotte smiled, seemingly understanding</u> <u>Luna's confusion. "Even though Jim and I</u> <u>have been separated for six years now, I still</u> <u>believe he's a loyal man and that his love</u> <u>toward me hasn't changed.</u>

<u>"Besides, what happens between two people</u> <u>should stay between them, and there's no</u> <u>need to ask a third person for help.</u>

*"The reason I want to help you run Landry Group is that I want to challenge Joshua Lynch, and on the other hand..."* 

<u>She curled her lips into a smirk that made</u> <u>her face look even more frightening than</u> <u>before. "I think that if we don't settle what's</u> <u>going on with Landry Group right now, Jim</u> <u>would be exhausted both for you and Landry</u> <u>Group's sake.</u>

<u>"Therefore, I want to help you, and after the challenges faced by Landry Group have been</u>

<u>eliminated, Jim and I will overcome our</u> <u>differences together."</u>

Luna bit her lip upon hearing this.

<u>For some reason, Bonnie's face appeared in</u> <u>her mind.</u>

Bonnie...

Initially, she had come to Merchant City to find her long-lost son, but in the end, she did not manage to track down her son at all and instead

accidentally got involved with Jim...

<u>Truth be told, Bonnie's identity in the</u> <u>public's eye was still Jim's girlfriend, and on</u> <u>top of that, she was still in Banyan City,</u> <u>helping Jim take care of Harvey and his one-</u> <u>month-old daughter...</u> Whether it was Bonnie or the two children's existence made Luna believe that Jim was not entirely loyal at all, and he had not maintained his purity for Charlotte during the past six years as Charlotte had thought.

<u>Therefore, Luna did not believe that Jim and</u> <u>Charlotte would be able to reignite their</u> <u>relationship once more, but he was still her</u>

<u>brother, after all, and she could not bring</u> <u>herself to say any words of criticism about</u> <u>him.</u>

Luna had no choice but to sigh and gave Charlotte an earnest glance. "If the strategies and plans you help me come up with are truly beneficial to the company and will help revive Landry Group, then I'll definitely agree to them, but if they aren't, then I won't say yes to everything." <u>Charlotte curled her lips into a smirk. "Of</u> <u>course."</u>

With that, she shifted into a comfortable position in her chair and said, a small smile playing on her lips, "Are you agreeing to my condition, then?"

Luna nodded.

<u>The reason she had agreed to Charlotte's</u> <u>term was not simply because she wanted to</u> <u>get out of jail, but because she could tell that</u> <u>Charlotte was a competent person from the</u> <u>way she carried herself.</u>

<u>This woman emanated the aura of a high-</u> <u>flying, stubbornly intelligent woman.</u>

On top of that, the vengeance between her and Jim and Heather...had to be resolved somehow. Keeping Charlotte by her side to help manage Landry Group seemed like a reasonable decision.

<u>Seeing that Luna had agreed, Charlotte</u> <u>smiled and stood up. "Alright then, please</u> <u>await my good news.</u>

*"I II come to pick you up within three days."* 

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

<u>Sitting on her chair, Luna let out a deep sigh</u> <u>as she watched the woman leave.</u>

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked Snow Chapter 1712

Maybe, as Bonnie's friend, Luna should not have let Charlotte stay at all, but...

<u>There were just some things that could not be</u> <u>avoided at all.</u> <u>She did not want Bonnie to avoid her</u> <u>problems just as she had done in the past,</u> <u>which ended up forcing both her</u> <u>relationships and marriage into deep</u> <u>trouble.</u>

<u>Because of Charlotte's sudden visit, Luna</u> <u>could not fall asleep at all and instead tossed</u> <u>and turned the entire night.</u>

Luna only managed to take a short nap as dawn neared.

She was woken by the prison guard at 6 a.m. and sent to freshen up, eat breakfast, and let out into the exercise yard.

After running in circles on the field for a while, the prison guard stopped her, claiming that another woman had come to visit her.

<u>Luna was sure it would be Gwen this time,</u> <u>but to</u>

## her surprise, it was the last person she wanted to see.

## Heather.

"What are you doing here?" Luna narrowed her eyes, staring at the woman who was only a table apart from her, and said, sneering, "Are you here to jeer at me?"

<u>She curled her lips into a smirk and added,</u> <u>"If you are, then you've achieved your goal,</u> <u>and you can leave now."</u>

<u>She did not have anything she wanted to say</u> <u>to Heather at all.</u>

<u>However, as soon as she finished her</u> <u>sentence, Heather shook her head furiously</u> <u>and replied, "What on earth are you talking</u> <u>about, Luna?</u> <u>"I was devastated after finding out you've</u> <u>been framed for murder, so how can I</u> <u>possibly be here to taunt you?"</u>

<u>With that, she lowered her head and started</u> <u>sobbing.</u>

Luna furrowed her brows as she stared at Heather dubiously, not even bothering to say anything else. "Are you here just to tell me that, Ms. Landry? Well,

message received, so you can leave now."

With that, she stood up and strode toward the prison cell.

<u>Heather quickly got up and stopped her.</u> <u>"Luna, I came all the way to visit you so</u> <u>early in the morning, so you can't dismiss me</u> <u>just like that, right?"</u>

Luna could not help sneering when she heard this. She lifted her head to stare at Heather <u>coldly. "If I remember correctly, your</u> <u>biological sister is Aura, isn't it? I'm the sole</u> <u>heiress of the Landry family, and now that</u> <u>you've been kicked out of the family, you're</u> <u>no longer my sister."</u>

<u>Luna's words were like a slap right across</u> <u>Heather's face.</u>

<u>The last thing she wanted to hear at a</u> <u>moment like this was the reality of her being</u> <u>kicked out of the Landry family!</u>

<u>Regardless, this was not the time to lose her</u> <u>temper. Heather narrowed her eyes and</u> <u>suppressed her rage, smiling at Luna even</u> <u>though she was secretly gritting her teeth.</u> <u>"You're always going to be my sister."</u>

<u>With that, she let out an exhale and fixated</u> <u>her intense gaze on Luna. "Actually, I'm here</u> <u>to fulfill my promise today.</u> "I previously promised you that if Malcolm and I's wedding were a success, I'd tell you who it was... that took away your baby's corpse from the

bottom of the cherry blossom tree."

Luna's entire body stiffened when she heard this.

<u>She narrowed her eyes on Heather. "And who</u> <u>was it?"</u>

<u>Seeing that Luna was interested in this piece</u> <u>of information, Heather sighed and grinned</u> <u>at her. " You know this person."</u>

Luna raised her brows and continued staring at her coldly, silently.

<u>Heather leaned against her chair</u> <u>triumphantly and stared at Luna. "It was</u> <u>none other than the baby's father, Joshua</u> <u>Lynch."</u> Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked Snow Chapter 1713

Luna immediately frowned when she heard this. She stared at Heather and asked in a hoarse voice, "What do you mean? Are you saying that the person who dug my child's grave...was Joshua?"

"Of course." Heather crossed her arms in front of her chest and gazed at Luna impassively. " Otherwise, who else would be interested in your dead child?"

Luna bit her lip and suddenly recalled the scene where she had been desperately digging in the dirt, trying to find her child's corpse that night.

<u>At that time, Joshua did not seem as frantic</u> <u>as she did and had even calmly ordered</u> <u>Lucas to find a shovel for him.</u> At that time, Luna did not overthink this at all, but a t this point, his behavior seemed...

<u>Seeing that Luna had lapsed into silence,</u> <u>Heather knew she had fallen for her trick.</u>

<u>She curled her lips into a smirk, took out her</u> <u>phone, and found the security footage of</u> <u>Joshua heading to the DNA Diagnostic</u> <u>Center.</u>

<u>She had ordered someone to change the date</u> <u>displayed on the footage, of course, so</u> <u>instead of displaying its proper time, the</u> <u>footage showed the date of the morning</u> <u>after Luna and Joshua had buried their child.</u>

<u>The video showed Joshua entering the DNA</u> <u>Diagnostic Center to run a test.</u>

<u>Heather curled her lips into a smirk and said,</u> <u>"What do you think Joshua had gone to the</u> <u>DNA Diagnostic Center himself for?"</u> Luna bit her lip as she stared intently at the image of Joshua on the screen.

<u>She watched him get out of his car at the</u> <u>entrance, enter the building, and sit down on</u> <u>the sofa in the lobby, waiting impatiently.</u>

Her heart grew colder and colder as she watched.

Meanwhile, Heather was still going on, "Luna, you've always thought that the love between you and Joshua is indestructible and that the only reason you two can't be together is because of the vengeance between the Landry and Lynch families, but the reality is...

"Are you really that important to him?

*"He doesn't believe that your child truly belongs to him and doesn't believe that you'll never kill anyone.* 

<u>"Not only that, but he's willing to keep you</u> <u>imprisoned just to prevent you from taking</u> <u>over as CEO of Landry family.</u>

"Maybe the dead secretary was killed by his men, after all. If his grandmother was so cruel as to kill Uncle Colin, who had gone to beg for her forgiveness, what makes you think Joshua Lynch can't frame you for killing his secretary just to gain control over you?"

With that, Heather let out a sigh and added, "I heard that before the secretary died, she even choked you, demanding to know why you killed her.

"Don't you think this is strange? If the murderer hadn't told her that you were the one who sent them to kill her...why would she even say something like that as her last words?" The more she talked, the more energized Heather got. "Luna, maybe you and Joshua had indeed been in love in the past, but from the moment he made up his mind to defeat the Landry family to avenge his grandmother's death and your return to our family, a wedge has already formed between the two of you."

Luna clenched her fists next to her as she listened to Heather's words.

Her brain was telling her not to believe anything Heather said.

<u>She was not a good person! How could she be</u> <u>so kind as to tell her the truth all of a</u> <u>sudden?</u>

<u>At the same time, Luna could not stop herself</u> <u>from doubting Joshua.</u> She did not understand why Joshua would dig up the child's corpse just to perform a DNA test on her after she was buried.

Not only that, but Luna also did not understand why even after discovering the true culprit, Joshua would allow the real murderer to get away with their crimes and let her take the fall for it, even though he had claimed over and over again that he loved her!

She did not understand any of this.

Did loving someone mean that he could control her and treat her as a puppet that obeyed every single one of his commands?

Was this what Joshua thought love was?

Could it be that...Heather was right?

Had the hatred Joshua bore toward the Landry family surpassed his love toward her?

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Was Joshua starting to treat her as his foe?

<u>Seeing that Luna was about to break down,</u> <u>Heather let out a sigh and decided to tell her</u> <u>an even more shocking piece of news. "Still,</u> <u>you can't blame Joshua for not trusting you,</u> <u>Luna."</u>

She took out a lab report from her pocket and placed it on the table between them. "Look, the child that you and Joshua had buried doesn't belong to him, after all."

Luna's entire body stiffened.

<u>She picked up the lab report with shaking</u> <u>hands.</u>

It was clearly written that the two DNA samples showed no blood relation to each other at all. Luna's hands started to shake even harder.

<u>She recalled the servant named Vivian that</u> <u>had died.</u>

When Vivian died, she had told her that the child had been switched out. However, she was shot to death before she could tell her who did this and where Luna's child really was.

Luna bit her lip as her emotions battled among one another.

On the one hand, she was delighted to think that there was a possibility that her child was still alive.

There was hope!

On the other hand, she was worried about the child's whereabouts. Where was she? Was she still alive? Where would she even begin to search for the child? What if, even after searching high and low, it turned out that her child had died after all?

<u>As soon as she thought of this, Luna felt as</u> <u>though an invisible hand was squeezing her</u> <u>heart.</u>

*"Luna," Heather said, a small smile playing* on her lips as she stared at Luna's face. *"I* should tell you my true intentions of visiting you here today.

"Do you honestly think I was just here to fulfill my promise? You should know that I never stick to my word."

<u>Luna lifted her head to stare at Heather</u> <u>dazedly, her expression a little blank because</u> <u>of the confusing thoughts swirling in her</u> <u>head. "What are</u>

you here for, then?"

<u>Heather let out an exhale and replied, "You</u> <u>probably don't know this, but after I was</u> <u>kicked out of the Landry family, Malcolm</u> <u>was kicked out of the Quinn family, too.</u>

<u>"Therefore, the two of us are homeless now, and we don't have any source of income."</u>

With that, she curled her lips into a smirk and continued, "However, I know where your child is, so I want to talk terms with you.

*"If Malcolm and I can find your child and return her to you, you have to segregate a small company out of Landry Group for Malcolm and me to run."* 

As she said this, she shifted into a comfortable position in her chair. "However, if you're unwilling to do this, it doesn't matter either, because when we find the child, we can bring her to Joshua and talk terms with him. *"When that happens, we'll become a part of Lynch Group."* 

She lowered her voice and gazed intently at Luna. " After all, Malcolm and I have run both Landry Group and Quinn Group for a long time now, and we're both more than familiar with the structure of the company and its employees, so if we were to work for Lynch Group, the damage this will cause to you will be insurmountable.

"Why don't you think this over, Luna?"

Luna narrowed her eyes when she heard this.

<u>She knew what had happened to Heather,</u> <u>but she never expected the same fate to</u> <u>befall Malcolm.</u>

<u>"So the only reason you came to me today</u> <u>was to get me to take you back in?"</u> Luna lowered her voice and continued, "Actually, I'm curious about one thing: Since the child has been switched out, it's impossible that Joshua hasn't investigated this.

*"However, if even Joshua hasn't managed to find anything, what makes you so confident that you and Malcolm would be able to find her and even use this to talk terms with me? Unless...* 

<u>"You two were the ones that switched my</u> <u>child out in the first place."</u>

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<u>The entire room fell silent.</u>

<u>Heather stared at Luna with a calm</u> <u>expression, but in truth, her heart was</u> <u>thumping in her chest.</u> <u>What was going on with this woman? When</u> <u>did she become so clever?</u>

<u>Seeing that Heather did not reply, Luna</u> <u>curled her lips into a smirk. "Why aren't you</u> <u>saying anything? A m I right? Were you and</u> <u>Malcolm...the ones who had switched out my</u> <u>and Joshua's baby?"</u>

"No, no, no, how can that be..." Heather quickly denied it and added, letting out a self-deprecating laugh, "How could we possibly have been capable of doing that?

"Don't forget that I had gone into labor at the same time you did, and both Malcolm and Father were at the hospital with me, either in the hallway waiting or in the operation room with me.

<u>"How could we have switched out your child</u> while I was in labor?" <u>Luna furrowed her brows when she heard</u> <u>this.</u>

<u>Heather was right; both of them had gone</u> <u>into labor at the same time.</u>

On top of that, Luna herself had gone into labor only a few hours after hearing the news of Heather being admitted into the hospital.

According to this time frame, Malcolm had been together with Charles and Heather all the while and could not have had the time to deal with Luna.

<u>Unbeknownst to Luna, however...Malcolm's</u> <u>men had arranged for this to happen since</u> <u>the start.</u>

First, they had admitted Heather into the hospital and then drugged Luna's food with

<u>a labor-inducer medication so that she would</u> give birth at the stipulated time.

The reason they had done this was so that if anyone were to ask, they would be able to say that Heather had gone into labor before Luna, and so the switching of Luna's baby would have nothing to do with them.

<u>Seeing that Luna's attitude had changed,</u> <u>Heather let out a small sigh of relief and</u> <u>said, "Luna, we have no other choices</u> <u>anymore, so we wanted to help you out while</u> <u>making some money of our own.</u>

<u>"On top of that, neither Malcolm nor I have</u> <u>any of the power and influence that we used</u> <u>to have in the past, and we're not even sure</u> <u>if we can track down you and Joshua's child</u> <u>at all..."</u>

Luna furrowed her brows, shot Heather a cold glance, and chuckled. "I can't possibly

offer you a branch of the Landry Group's business because every single penny that we make now was a product of my mother's blood, sweat, and tears.

*"However, I can give you a small amount of money that would enable you to start your own business."* 

With that, she let out an exhale and stood up to leave. "I'm tired, so I'll be off now."

<u>Heather narrowed her eyes as she watched</u> <u>Luna being taken away by the prison guard.</u>

<u>When she left the visitation room and</u> <u>entered the lobby, she bumped into a woman</u> <u>dressed entirely in black, wearing a mask,</u> <u>sunglasses, and cap.</u>

When the woman caught sight of Heather, her entire body froze. <u>Heather, on the other hand, furrowed her</u> <u>brows in confusion.</u>

Why was this woman wearing shades so early in the morning when the sun had not even come up yet?

<u>She circled past the woman, pondering this,</u> <u>and was about to head out the door when the</u> <u>woman suddenly grabbed hold of her arm as</u> <u>she passed b</u>

"Heather." The woman curled her lips into a smirk and said in a hoarse voice, "I came back because I heard you were kicked out of the Landry family."

<u>The color drained from Heather's face when</u> <u>she heard this. She widened her eyes in</u> <u>shock. "You... Are you Charlotte?"</u> <u>Charlotte smirked and took off her</u> <u>sunglasses to reveal her eyes, full of</u> <u>contempt and hatred. "Yes, it's me."</u>

With that, she let go of Heather's wrist and said, " This time, I returned to take back what was rightfully mine.

"Also...I want to see you dead."

<u>Heather's face was as pale as the wall</u> <u>behind her. Still, despite feeling fear, she still</u> <u>narrowed her eyes and sneered. "Do you</u> <u>think Jim would still fall for such an ugly</u> <u>creature like you?</u>

*"What are you doing at the police station so early in the morning, anyway? To report a crime? Or are you here to find Luna and win her trust?"* 

<u>Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy by Inked</u> <u>Snow Chapter 1716</u> <u>Heather snickered. "Do you think that after</u> <u>I'm temporarily kicked out of the Landry</u> <u>family, you'll be able to make Jim take you</u> <u>back by sucking up to the new heiress of the</u> <u>Landry family?</u>

"Charlotte, you should go look at yourself in the mirror. Anyone who looks at you will be terrified at a single glance, so how dare you even think Jim would still like you?

"Oh, by the way—" Heather suddenly inched closer to Charlotte's ear, grinning as though she had suddenly recalled something. "You probably don't know this, but Jim has a new girlfriend now, and she even bore him a daughter not too long ago."

<u>Heather continued in a low voice filled with</u> <u>contempt as she stared at Charlotte's face,</u> <u>"Jim's current girlfriend is Luna's best friend,</u> <u>and Luna was the one who had introduced</u> <u>them."</u> <u>A glimmer of malice shot through Charlotte's</u> <u>eyes when she heard this.</u>

<u>Heather patted her shoulder with a small</u> <u>smile and said, "If I were you, I wouldn't</u> <u>have returned to embarrass myself. You</u> <u>claim to love Jim so much,</u>

but I know the reason you returned was to get your hands on the Landry family fortune.

*"If you truly loved him, you wouldn't have hid for more than six years."* 

With that, she strode away, cackling. "Charlotte, do you honestly think you can be a match for me now, after what happened six years ago? In your dreams!

<u>Charlotte remained motionless, her gaze</u> <u>filled with hatred as she watched Heather</u> <u>leave.</u>

**One day, she would destroy this woman!** 

When Heather disappeared from view, Charlotte finally let out an exhale, suppressed her rage, and entered the police station.

<u>The policeman on duty still remembered her</u> <u>from the night before and handed her the</u> <u>visitation</u>

form, thinking she was here to visit Luna again. " Same as yesterday; you'll have to fill this up before you can go in to see her."

<u>However, Charlotte curled her lips into a</u> <u>small smile and replied, "I'm not here to visit</u> <u>Luna; I'm here to turn the culprit in."</u>

<u>The policeman raised his brows. "Turn the</u> <u>culprit in?"</u>

<u>Charlotte nodded and said in a loud voice,</u> <u>"I've found out who the real culprit of the</u> <u>murder at Starhill Hotel was."</u> <u>All the police officers in the room exchanged</u> <u>nervous glances when they heard this.</u>

Finally, one of them called his superior and said, " Sir, there seems to be...a significant breakthrough in the murder of Cheryl Martin."

Half an hour later, inside a meeting room in Lynch Group Tower, Joshua's room began to ring non- stop.

Joshua paused the meeting, frowning, and picked up the phone. "What's wrong?"

<u>The chief of police sounded excited as he</u> <u>exclaimed, "Mr. Lynch, we have concrete</u> <u>evidence proving that Ms. Luna wasn't the</u> <u>one who had killed Cheryl Martin now! The</u> <u>real culprit was Hunter Quinn, the second</u> <u>heir of the Quinn family!"</u> Joshua furrowed his brows upon hearing this. He toyed with his pen as he asked, "What did you use to confirm this? The fingerprint?"

"No." the chief of police let out an exhale and explained, "Actually, apart from the news of the fingerprint, we had kept a vital piece of information to ourselves and didn't release it to the public out of concern for the victim's privacy, and this evidence is...

<u>"Before the victim died, the murderer had</u> <u>raped her, and there was tear wound on her</u> <u>body.</u>

*"This morning, a woman came in with a condom that she had found near the railing of the balcony that contained both the victim and murderer's bodily fluids."* 

<u>Joshua's hand, which was holding the phone,</u> <u>stiffened when he heard this. He asked in a</u> hoarse voice, "When are you guys going to arrest him?"

"We're already on our way, and after we capture him and confirm he was the real culprit, we'll release Ms. Luna from prison."