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It was because of the call that the light-hearted and harmonious atmosphere in the private room immediately became heavier.

After Heather hung up, her face darkened as she considered whether to watch the video. Even though the cover of the video was pitch black, she was hesitating because she had an ominous feeling about it.

Seeing the change in Heather after answering the call, Everly felt slightly suspicious. She merely looked at Heather, not knowing what to say to console her. After all, Everly had no idea what had just happened.

"Everly, I'm full. You continue eating without me." After taking just a few bites, Heather claimed that she was already full, which made Everly unable to continue eating as well.

"Heather, I'm also full. Why don't we head home?" Everly replied thoughtfully, thinking that it would be a better option to return.

Heather shot a glance at Everly. She just started eating, so how could she be full? She must be accommodating me. I don't want my private matters to affect her emotions either.

"Eat more." She tried to persuade Everly. Even though she did not have any appetite, she still asked Everly to eat more.

However, Everly shook her head. Seeing that there was nothing Heather could do about this, she agreed with Everly's suggestion.

"In that case, let's go home." With that, Heather rose to her full height. At this moment, there seemed to be no better options apart from going home.

On the way back, Everly remained silent while Heather had no idea what to say. Both of them remained silent, as if they had made an agreement to do so.

Everly was curious about what had happened earlier, but she was also a reasonable person. Even though curiosity flooded her at this moment, she did not ask Heather any questions at all.

Heather's driving was rather unstable, which showed the uneasiness in her heart. The night had completely fallen and she did not expect that the upsetting day was about to be over just like that.

The journey that usually took 20 minutes took half an hour today. She had no idea what she had been thinking as she drove the car into the garage worriedly.

Both of them entered the living room one after another. Robert was waiting for them to return in the living room. When Everly saw him, a flicker of panic appeared on her face as she was surprised to find him waiting for their return in the living room.

Heather merely shot him a glance before looking elsewhere as she continued walking forward, as if nothing had happened.

Robert knocked his walking stick on the ground twice. The loud and clear thud entered her ears before his old voice rang.

"What's wrong with you today, Heather? Is this your attitude toward me?" He was quite displeased with her attitude, thinking that she was not respecting him.

Upon hearing that, Heather turned around. She did not want to hide the incident from Robert, but she also did not want to worry him. After thinking about it, she decided to keep it from him, but she had no idea what to tell him since her mind was completely blank at this moment.

Then, Everly quickly spoke on Heather's behalf to provide an excuse, "Grandpa, Heather is not feeling well today."

Upon hearing that, he fixed his gaze on Heather. Indeed, she doesn't look good, but not to the point of being unwell. Thinking that it was an excuse, he shot a fierce stare at Everly to tell her not to be involved in this matter.

"Everly, you have been busy with school for the entire day. Why don't you head upstairs to take a rest?" he immediately suggested. Obviously, he wanted to steer her out of the discussion.

She looked at him before looking back at Heather again. She did not dare to disobey Robert, but as she also did not want Heather to be reprimanded by him, she had no idea what to do.

Heather saw her worried expression and immediately responded, "Everly, you must be tired. Quickly go upstairs." It's better for me to face Robert privately.

Everly wanted to say something, but Heather shot her a warning look to stop her. After seeing that even Heather wanted her to leave, she did not stay any longer.

Robert watched as Everly headed upstairs before the living room was only left with Heather and himself. "What are you waiting for? Come here," he barked.

Hence, Heather could only walk to him. She stared into his eyes, knowing that he liked to look into the eyes of the person he was reprimanding, so she naturally did that first.

Noticing that she showed no remorse at all, he became even more annoyed, but she was just thinking of another important matter.

Until now, Heather had not watched the video. The most pressing matter for her was to quickly return to her room to investigate the video that the ringleader sent her.

However, Robert had stopped her in the hall to listen to his lecture. As a result, she could not pay any attention to what he had said.

He thought that she was still annoyed at what happened earlier that morning and spoke directly, "Heather, are you displeased about me trying to intervene in your relationship with Matthias?"

Heather shook her head. "Grandpa, I know you care about me and I also know I'm wrong about it. I don't have any complaints about your actions." She tried to seem gentle and obedient, as she was well aware that no good would come out of a disagreement with him at this moment.

"In that case, why have you been pulling a long face the entire day for me to see?" Robert asked. Her obedience and mellowness made him feel that something was off.

"Grandpa, since when have I deliberately pulled a long face to show you? I just encountered something today, so I'm in a rush to settle it. It's not because of you," she explained merrily. After all, she had no idea what else she could say since everything was muddled up together.

However, Robert looked at her with an expression of disbelief. Thinking that she was lying to him, he frowned and he did not want to listen to any of her lies anymore. "What did you encounter?" he immediately demanded, catching on the main point of her explanation.

Heather bit her lower lips. She had no clue how to hide the matter from him since it seemed like he did not trust her at this moment. No matter what she said, he probably would not believe her.

"It's about starting the company." She had no idea what else could be more pressing at this moment, so she used this excuse.

There were still some doubts in Robert's eyes. He still did not believe her, so he narrowed his eyes and asked in a low voice tentatively, "It's not going well?"

Heather smiled bitterly. "Yes, I'm quite lost right now and I have no idea how to continue." She pretended as though she was troubled by this matter. However, she really was quite lost and she was unsure whether she should continue to work in the business field.

When Robert saw her expression, he immediately felt sorry for her. After piecing together what had recently happened to her, the doubts in his eyes were cleared, but they were not completely gone.

"Grandpa." With that, she sat next to him. When she saw that he wavered in his resolve, she knew she had to seize the opportunity.

On the other hand, he was slightly not used to her sudden closeness, as if she did not mind about their confrontation earlier in the morning at all.

"Grandpa, what do you think I should do? Do you think I'm unsuitable for this path?" she voiced out her worries that had been in her mind for a long time. At this moment, she really was exhausted and she did not know when this would end.

"Silly girl." Robert stretched out with his hand to caress Heather's head. It was all because of her great acting skills that brought him to another level. "Don't overthink it. You are just not

confident with yourself at this moment. I've been through the same thing when I was younger. Once you overcome this, everything will be better."

He shared his experience as someone who had experienced the same thing. After reflecting on his hardships back in those days, he actively gave her his encouragement.

"Really?" At this point, Heather was no longer putting on an act since she was expressing her true feelings.

"Heather, don't you believe me?" Robert asked in return. He knew fully well that he had to boost her confidence at this moment. Otherwise, she would just throw in the towel.

She raised her head and looked at him with a pair of lost eyes. When he saw her like that, he felt sorry for her.

"Do you still remember what I told you back then? Don't take on everything alone. I will always be your strongest supporter." He told her about the words that he always emphasized to her. He did not like her overly independent character, so he wanted to find a partner for her while he was still alive.

"Grandpa, I feel like a failure. Not everyone will experience this, but I feel like giving up. I feel like a coward." Heather really felt that she was useless at this moment, seeing the distance between herself and success becoming further apart.

"It's normal to want to give up and it's good that you experience this earlier in your life. After this experience, you will understand more truths in life." Robert looked at her lovingly, as though he could see a shadow of his younger self within her.

However, she shook her head. "Grandpa, don't cheer me up now. I know that I'm a failure and I hate myself now." The emotions that were already within her flooded in that instant.

He pulled her into the same hug he always gave her when she was young. Then, he gently patted her back before gently saying, "Heather, I know that you bear a lot of pressure from society, but you can't take all of them alone. If you feel too stressed out, why don't you try relieving the burden?"

Heather did not expect that Robert would give her such a suggestion. As she buried herself into his chest in shock, she remembered the sense of security she felt from his sturdy chest when she was younger.

At that moment, someone from the second floor enviously looked at them. The gaze slowly turned vicious and jealous from the person's initial guilt.

Both Heather and Robert, who were immersed in the atmosphere, did not notice the vicious gaze at all. As a result, they were unaware that danger was just around them.

"Grandpa, who would give such a suggestion? How can you ask me to give the burden to someone else? I can't honor the hard work by others like this," she replied in amusement. Actually, he had another childish self within him.

"Don't turn the expectations from others into pressure. It will be exhausting for you to live this way and you might not even be able to catch a breather." He gave her such advice based on his own experience. After all, there was a long period of time where he also felt lost.

"I don't want to let anyone down." Heather told him about her worries. It was precisely because of her perfectionism that she felt this way now.

"Silly girl. You can't please anyone. Why are you making yourself suffer because of others?" Robert asked helplessly, not expecting that she would end up in such a dead end.

"I know the logic, but-"

He immediately interrupted. "No ifs and buts. Do what you want to do. It's only through this way that you won't have any regrets in life."

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In the end, Robert could not bear to lose his temper at Heather and consoled her instead. He had many things to tell her and continued talking to her for a long time. As a result, she could not find any excuse to leave at all.

Only when it was getting rather late that he ended the conversation with her. When she returned to her room, it was already around 10:00PM. As her reaction was quite out of the ordinary today, she was not surprised that the conversation had ended up this way.

As soon as she entered her bedroom, the first thing she did was to open the video. The visual of the video was quite shaky in the first few seconds. With a frown, she continued to watch it.

The rest of the content sent chills down her spine. There was a lone figure on top of a tall building. Heather could not clearly see the face of the person, but as the camera panned closer, she could tell that it was a woman. As Heather continued to watch the video, she found out that the woman resembled Myra.

Oh no, this is bad! As the camera zoomed in, the woman's face was shown in a flash. Heather quickly paused the video, but the frame was not clear as she could only see a vague outline of the face.

Narrowing her eyes, she tried to tell who the person was while hoping that it was not Myra. However, after carefully looking at the video, it really seemed to be Myra. The group of kidnappers actually had the courage to place her on top of a building. However, the video did not end at that moment as a group of men in black arrived.

They brusquely tied her up and used a black satin cloth to cover her face. The woman did not try to protest throughout the entire process, which caused Heather to be slightly suspicious.

Heather could not guess what they planned to do just as the video stopped right there. She clicked on her phone in annoyance. If anyone was here, they would be frightened by her furious expression at this moment.

The ringleader is becoming increasingly arrogant. I have to take some actions. I can't allow them to continue their dominance. With a cold expression on her face, she dialed the ringleader's number. He had always been using the same number to call her without worrying about anything.

Soon, the call connected and his tone remained as sarcastic as ever. She questioned coldly, "What did you do to Myra?"

However, he merely chuckled. When Heather heard his nonchalant chuckle, she wanted to crush every single bone in his body. Apart from that, she could also feel his animosity toward her.

She carefully thought about it. No one will suddenly treat another person as an enemy. Perhaps I had some grudges with the ringleader before?

"Miss Heather, you finished the video later than I expected." He continued to provoke her. After all, he had received instructions to make Heather panic.

"Answer my question," she replied patiently.

The ringleader cleared his throat and responded indifferently, "We won't treat Mrs. Hart badly." Won't treat her badly? Heather could tell his underlying meaning, even though the man was basically speaking in riddles.

"Where are you bringing her?" She tried to control her emotions so that she would not be manipulated by him. She could not allow herself to be seen through by him.

He was also quite surprised to see that she did not flare up. Judging from her personality, she ought to be quite furious at this point.

However, he quickly thought that it was normal. After all, she was not an impulsive person, so it was quite normal for her to have such a reaction. In the ringleader's mind, he thought about how he would deal with her. If she continues to remain calm, I will lose this match. I only have three days to destroy her strong will.

It was not an easy task to do. Even though he had Myra in his hands, he was quite vigilant about it. Compared to catching Myra, he would rather catch Heather instead. When he saw her glorious life at this moment, hatred surge within him.

One day had already passed and they lost control of the situation with Tony. The ringleader was worried that Tony would speak to Heather the next day. They must never meet each other.

"Sorry for making you busy for the entire day. I know that you have the capability to discover our hiding spot, so I can only play dirty. How do you feel about racing with time?" The ringleader continued to tease her.

Heather noticed his intentions to make her emotional. After all, she used to study psychology, so she immediately thought that he had hidden motives when he tried to intentionally provoke her.

"In that case, let's see who's faster then," she replied indifferently. Since they want to provoke me, I will be even calmer.

Sure enough, after seeing her remaining calm, the ringleader became slightly impatient.

"Miss Heather, if you want to see Mrs. Hart safely returning, you better not contact Tony Hart." He stopped beating around the bush and directly warned her.

"What if I do?" In the past, she would not challenge him head-on, but she did not care about it and wanted to see the ringleader lose his cool this time.

She could guess that the person whom she was speaking to was just a messenger. He did not have the authority to decide, so she thought she did not need to politely treat him anymore.

"You'll just have to bear the consequences yourself," the ringleader enunciated clearly with anger in his tone.

Heather deliberately let out a nonchalant laughter so that the ringleader would hear her. "If you guys want to play games, I'll accompany you till the end."

After they ended the call, she felt more relaxed. Perhaps the entire situation was not as complicated as what she had imagined it to be. At the very least, Myra was safe. Heather

suspected that the ringleader would make demands with Tony directly, which was why nothing was mentioned to her. All this while, he had just been teasing her.

What a way to kill two birds with one stone! It seems like they are not planning to threaten me. It all makes sense now. After all, the most important person to Myra is Tony and the Hart Family runs a huge business. Of course it makes more sense to make demands with him directly.

It was also probably the main reason why the ringleader forbade her from speaking to Tony. However, she could not understand why the man wanted to involve her in this matter.

They did not ask her for money or anything else. Why are they doing this? Just to provoke me? This is unreasonable! Provoking me doesn't give them any tangible advantage, unless they bear a grudge with me. Even if they bear a grudge with me, they will definitely request something from me. If I were them, I would totally make some unreasonable demands.

At the current moment, the only explanation was that the ringleader merely had sick, malevolent intentions. Heather wanted to wait for a while to see how everything played out. After all, kidnapping was quite a scary situation. In their circle, the chances of surviving it was only 10 percent.

I'm afraid I can't come up with any good ideas to deal with the situation at this time. She did not dare to report it to the police. It would be best if we can settle it with money.

Even if she wanted to contact Tony, she still held herself back. In the phone call, she could pretend to easily oppose the ringleader, but she did not dare to do that in person.

Since Heather was unable to contact Tony, there were many things down the line that she could not deduce and all clues stopped right there. She had no idea how to contact him without the ringleader knowing about it, so she wanted to figure out what exactly his motive was.

At this point, the most miserable person was Tony. He could not tell anyone about the ordeal he had been experiencing at this moment, so he drank glasses of alcohol one after another.

In the night, he could not fall asleep at all and he would much rather that he was unconscious at this moment. He looked at the woman beside him now. Back then, she

entered our family as a part-timer. I already thought that something was off, but I didn't expect that she would be the reason why we are in this ordeal.

"How many faces do you have?" Tony looked at her with hatred. Her demeanor would change on a daily basis. Sometimes she looked innocent and pure while at other times, she looked sexy and seductive.

There was an evil heart underneath her beautiful face. Tony regretted that he did not clearly investigate her background in the past. After he looked into her background, he realized that her identity did not exist at all. All the information she gave him had been fabricated.

"Director Hart, I know you must hate me, but I love how you look when hatred is shown on your face." With that, she stretched out with her hand to caress his face.

Tony avoided her in disgust and kept a distance between them. "Don't anger me." It was the first time he felt so useless.

"They want me to closely stick to you. Such a distance between us is not considered 'close' at all!" While speaking, she inched closer to him again as she gave a seductive smile as she looked at how he tried to hold himself back.

"I will kill you." He spoke through gritted teeth.

However, the woman merely looked at him nonchalantly. "It's worth dying in your hands." With that, she continued to provoke him again. The smile in her eyes was not genuine at all and no one could tell what she had been thinking.

"What the hell do you want?" It was not the first time Tony had asked this question. The kidnappers had not raised any request at this point and every single second was torture to him.

He remembered what happened last night. He brought Myra out for a candlelight dinner, but the place suddenly became pitch black. He could not remember what had happened after that.

In the morning, Tony was woken up by Heather's phone call. At that moment, this woman was already next to him and completely naked. Back then, he thought he had disappointed Myra by overstepping his boundary. However, after calming himself down, he was sure that he did not do anything out of line. After all, he knew his own body the best.

After that, he received news that Myra was abducted. Like Heather, he also asked the ringleader about their demands. However, the ringleader did not want anything from him.

To be precise, they did make some demands. The ringleader forced this woman to be with him and the reason was for her to keep an eye on him so that he would not report to the police.

Hence, that was how he landed in such a situation. After his conversation with her, he deduced that she was their part-time maid.

Tony had never imagined that he would be tricked by her. If I investigated clearly, this wouldn't have happened.

Remorse thickened within him. His eyes were filled with hatred, but the woman was still smiling at him seductively and mockingly.

"Did we have any grudges?" Tony wanted to peel away the fake persona that this woman wore. He wanted to see what exactly she was and what grudges she bore with him.

Instinct told him that she hated him to the core. It was the type of hatred that she simply could not hide from him.

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Her smile became increasingly seductive. The coldness in her eyes was like an infinite abyss that sent chills down one's spine. Tony tried to recall in his mind, but he did not think of any grudges with anyone.

"Director Hart, you are so suspicious." The woman flashed a wide smile at him, but her face made him feel intense hatred.

"Don't touch me," he spoke harshly. He could not wait to tear the woman into halves. If he did not have any hesitations about the situation, he would not let her off the hook easily.

She continued to smile and showed no fear for him at all. Obviously, she called the shots here, but he was being restricted by many concerns. On top of that, he could not contact the outside world here.

"Director Hart, calm down." Her voice became gentler, but upon hearing that, Tony merely felt disgust.

Both of them stubbornly faced each other and none of them were willing to compromise. Tony could not calm down at all as his head was heavy and he had lost track of time. To him, one day felt as long as a year.

"What the hell do you want? Give Myra back to me!" he yelled. He did not wish for any other thing at this moment, as long as Myra could safely return to him.

"Director Hart, only a day has passed, yet you already can't hold yourself back. I'm afraid you will break down in the coming days," the woman reminded him kindly.

Tony angrily looked at her. Up until now, he had no idea what her name was. He merely felt that his vision became more blurry and he was beginning to see doubles of everything.

The woman walked to him and took his wine glass away as she spoke, "Too much alcohol is not good for you." She played around with the glass with a lustful expression in her eyes.

"Give Myra back to me." With that, he wanted to take the wine glass from her hands, but his consciousness started to fade away as he became more unresponsive.

The woman's smile became even savage. This was exactly the result she wanted—for Tony to lose his will to live. He had probably not expected that he would become like this one day. After all, Myra was his soft spot.

When he sank into the chair after being drunk, the woman placed a blanket on him with both love and hatred in her eyes.

"Tony, you shouldn't have fallen in love," she spoke in a wistful tone. "Once you fall in love with someone, she will be your weakness. I thought that I won't be able to take revenge in this lifetime, but you gave me the opportunity to do so."

She was mumbling and didn't notice that Tony was just pretending to be drunk.

He had no idea how to make her tell him the truth, so he played a trick by pretending to be drunk. Fortunately, it worked. Now, he was sure that this woman had grudges with him, but he could not think what the actual trigger was at that moment. Apart from that, he also had no clue of her true identity.

Even though he was more or less under house arrest at this moment, he could still contact the outside world. Unfortunately, he could not keep in touch with Heather.

Tony's instincts told him that she would be the key to turning the entire situation around. Hence, he had been thinking about contacting her since the call last night.

He wanted to hear more from the woman, but she did not say anything else. In that instant, the room was completely silent and empty. He could only hear his own heartbeat while she looked at him with immense gentleness in her eyes. Perhaps we have some connections in the past that are out of the ordinary.

Slowly, he also fell asleep. The next morning, he was surprised to find that he was able to sleep without Myra beside him.

The bright sunlight hurt Tony's eyes. He tried to remember his dream from the previous night where he seemed to have dreamed of a woman with whom he had some entanglements in the past.

That dream felt like it had happened in real life. He felt slightly dazed, but he could not recall what exactly the dream was.

He could only remember the woman in his dreams wore white clothes and she stood under a cherry tree like an angel. When he tried to remember more about the dream, he felt as though his mind was breaking apart.

The woman's voice rang from behind him. "You're finally awake, Director Hart."

Tony looked at her woozily, but he quickly returned to his senses as his eyes became fierce with animosity.

She served him breakfast with half a smirk on her face. In a gentle tone, she said, "Since you are awake, let's eat something." Her nonchalance made his hatred for her grow deeper.

"Who the hell are you?" he asked through gritted teeth. The mysterious woman left him feeling quite troubled.

"Director Hart, why do you insist on knowing who I am?" Not only did she not reply to him, she asked him another question.

"Do you have a grudge against me?" he asked definitively, as if he was sure that was the case.

She laughed out loud with sarcasm in her eyes. "Director Hart, is this even important?"

"If you want to attack me, just target me. Why did you have to kidnap Myra?" he asked furiously. At that moment, he hated the fact that he could not do anything. He hated his current helplessness.

The woman merely curved her lips, as though she had heard a joke. "Director Hart, since when have you become so childish? Did your intellect and emotional quotient decrease after we caught your beloved woman?" she asked in a jealous tone.

"Let Myra go. I can agree to any of your requests." Tony just wanted to save Myra as soon as possible so that she would not be in the kidnappers' hands.

"I'm sorry, Director Hart. We haven't thought of the demands we want. You have to wait for a few more days," she spoke in a carefree tone. Rather than having a grudge with him, she looked like she hated him due to a romance gone wrong.

"Have I disappointed you before?" Tony guessed.

She shook her head. "Director Tony, before you met Myra, your romantic relationship was a piece of blank paper. No such thing happened with me."

"Do I know you then?" he continued to ask her tentatively. He wanted to figure out what was going on. At the very least, he wanted to know the true identity of this woman.

"Possibly." She did not give him a firm reply, but he had already gotten the answer he wanted.

It seemed like his guess was correct, but he simply could not remember whether he had any entanglements with other women. Just like what the woman had said, before he met Myra, he had no other relationships.

Even though it ruled out the possibility of Tony falling for other women, it was still possible for other women to secretly fall for him. It was something difficult to trace because there were far too many women who fancied him.

If they were to search through them one by one, it would be too tedious of a task. He narrowed his eyes as he wanted to see her true face, considering that it could trigger his memory of her.

How do I see her true face? Tony tried to formulate a plan in his mind, but she reminded him, "Director Hart, if you don't start eating now, the breakfast will be cold."

Thinking that it would bring no benefit if he continued to treat her as his archenemy, he listened to her words and started to eat.

The woman also ate beside him, but he was not used to eating with people whom he was unfamiliar with. The discomfort was even more prominent since there were only the both of them.

"Director Hart, do you mind eating with me?" The woman could tell his discomfort.

However, Tony denied it. I should try to be closer to her. I don't have much time now since she is controlling the entire situation. I must quickly gain control.

"Director Hart, I didn't know that you like to lie too." With just a glance, she could tell that he was lying to her.

He looked at her deeply. I have an odd feeling about her. The oddest part is that I don't even know where I should start to turn the situation around.

"Do I have a better option?" Since it was difficult to interact harmoniously, Tony just spoke what was on his mind.

She covered her lips as she smiled, thinking that he was quite cute. "If you don't like me, I can eat alone. If you don't tell me, how would I know?" Since the atmosphere between them was quite tense, she teased him. It was only after so long that she finally had the opportunity to be together with him and she wished that they weren't tense with each other.

"Just let it be." Tony no longer bothered to care. She had been teasing him since earlier. Under normal circumstances, he would not let her off the hook easily. However, since the situation had changed, he could only restrain himself.

"In that case, you have to suffer a little." The woman seemed to be delighted about this. She had shown him raw hatred just yesterday, yet she had a completely different approach today. Her behavior was making Tony quite confused.

"Do you hate me or..." he asked bluntly.

She replied in a tone that sounded like she was genuine yet joking, "I don't hate you at all. I love you." Her confession had caused his heart to tighten since it was a rather odd feeling that he could not tell whether she was serious about it.

Tony looked elsewhere. He was not used to being the recipient of a confession, especially by his enemy.

"I don't believe you have such an innocent side." The woman continued to tease him.

He usually would not have reacted like that. He knew that she was deliberately teasing him, so he was not exceptionally worried about it. The game has just begun. We still don't know who the winner will be.

"I will find out who you are," he enunciated every word clearly as he stared into her eyes.

She merely pouted. "Based on your capabilities, it's only a matter of time before you find out who I am. I'm not doubtful of that."

Upon hearing her words, he put down his cutlery and said to her, "I'm full."

When she heard him, the woman immediately rose to start tidying up the table. Even though she looked kind and harmless, he knew very well that she had an evil, hidden intention. He also knew that he had to be careful around her.

"I want to see Myra," Tony demanded. It had been a day since he last saw Myra, so he wanted to check in with her current situation.

"It's not my decision to make." The woman started to give excuses and sounded as if she did not want him to see Myra's condition.

"I will only give you ten minutes to arrange. If I can't see her, I will leave this place," he spoke with a cold expression on his face. After all, he was not someone who would take orders from others.

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In less than a minute, the woman immediately called the ringleader on loudspeaker. From the other end of the phone, Myra's voice rang.

Tony pretended to be calm, but he gradually clenched his fists. He was actually suppressing his true emotions. In fact, her voice had almost caused him to break down. The woman had no plans to let him speak to Myra as she merely and coldly eyed his facade.

"Tony, don't come looking for me." As Myra forced this sentence from her lips, his expression slightly changed as he had no idea how he should react.

However, without even giving him enough time to think about it, the woman immediately hung up. Seething with anger, he angrily glared at her.

"Aren't you satisfied about this, Director Hart?" Her teasing tone had annoyed him even more.

"How dare you tease me!" Tony immediately enunciated his words with fury in his eyes.

He tried to calm himself down, but no matter how hard he tried, it was futile. The woman had been constantly challenging his bottom line and he could not even have a proper conversation with her.

As soon as he remembered that Myra had been kidnapped, he could not remain calm. On top of that, she was pregnant. Based on the current situation that they were in, he was completely passive.

"Director Hart, don't be angry. You need to remember that your wife is still in our hands. I'm not threatening you, but I just want to kindly remind you of this fact," the woman said calmly. Her every single action was challenging Tony's patience.

"What the hell do you guys want?" It was not the first time that Tony raised this question. There are no kidnappers who won't demand anything at all! It makes no sense!

"Director Tony, calm down and wait. Give us some time to consider it." Her reply this time was better, but it was still nonsense.

Tony seldom saw any kidnappers like them, so he had been guessing their true motives. However, the woman in front of him had tight lips and there was no way for him to make her spill the beans.

He had no idea what type of strategy he should use. It was probably better for him to stay silent at this point. Of course, he would not allow himself to be controlled by them, so there were some secret plans being carried out furtively.

On the other hand, Heather, who also had no clue what was going on, did not have any appetite for breakfast at all. Both her stomach and brain had remained empty.

She was already quite a slender woman and her face became even slimmer at this point. Her sharp jaw made her facial features even more prominent. Actually, she would look better with chubby cheeks as her sharp features would make others feel as though there was a huge distance between them. Just by looking at her, they seemed to feel her power.

It was yet another day without any action. Heather locked herself in her room for the entire day and she had also reminded Everly not to head out for the next few days as well.

Even though Everly had no idea what Heather was secretly up to, she chose to believe Heather. After what happened the day before, she had a change of feelings as she trusted Heather more.

Heather did not receive any calls from the ringleader for the entire day. Not wanting to continue to stay in her room, she prepared to take a walk in the evening.

Since the ringleader had been monitoring her all along, she did not have the opportunity to speak to Tony, who seemed to have disappeared from the face of the earth.

Privately utilizing her contacts, Heather discovered that he had not been going to work for two days. It was rather suspicious for a workaholic like him to be absent from work.

However, she was more surprised to learn that there were no abnormalities in the Hart Group. It seemed like Tony had already given his reasons to the board of directors for not being able to work.

Heather considered whether she wanted to look for Tony's third brother, Shawn, who was in rather a unique position. After all, it was difficult to insert spies around Shawn.

However, it was not suitable for her to directly look for him. At that moment, she thought of Matthias, but she could not allow him to know what had transpired and she could not inform him about Myra's incident either.

Heather had arrived at a bottleneck—unable to think of other people, she thought it would be better to look for Matthias since she couldn't think of better ideas.

When he heard that she was coming over to his place, he was immediately stunned. It was her first time saying that she wanted to visit the Locke Group—something that he would never have imagined. It was simply too surprising for him that she would take the initiative to visit him.

As Matthias looked at his handsome reflection in the mirror, he thought about styling his hairstyle differently since he knew that Heather liked mature and stable men.

While looking in the mirror, he tried to comb his hair to the back of his head. He recently became a different person—as if he was a young man who had just fallen in love for the first time.

By the time Heather arrived, Matthias had already tidied himself. The reason why she had requested to meet him directly in his office was to avoid unnecessary troubles.

However, she never would have thought that the trouble she was avoiding was smack dead in the tightly secured Locke Group.

When Lara saw Heather, Lara's lips uncontrollably curled up before she gave a cold smile while standing at a spot where Heather could not see her.

"You're here, Miss Langston. Our director has been waiting for you." Lara smiled widely at Heather and politely treated her.

However, Heather did not shoot her a second glance and directly walked into Matthias' office. As she did not want anyone to recognize her, she did not plan to stay outside for long.

While looking at Heather leaving, Lara sneered with jealousy swimming in her eyes. After all, it was difficult for her not to be jealous. It was almost impossible for her to win the heart of the person she yearned for, yet it was incredibly easy for Heather. As a result, Lara hated Heather with a vengeance.

Initially, Lara thought she could give them her blessings with a smile on her face. However, no matter how hard she tried, she could not bring herself to do so. The love she had for him was so deep that she simply could not get out of it. The more Heather did not appreciate what she had, the more hatred Lara had for her.

Matthias seemed to be different than usual today, so Heather looked at him with peculiarity. "Today, you look..." she commented as she pointed at his face.

He revealed a satisfied smile, thinking that Heather had noticed the change in his hairstyle.

"Why is there a black line on your face?" she asked as she walked toward him.

Upon hearing that, Matthias was immediately speechless. He quickly looked into the mirror and saw a black line on his face. He also did not have any idea how that happened.

"Where are you focusing on?" He supported his forehead with his hands since he had no idea what he should tell Heather.

"Your new hairstyle looks good." She flashed a cheery beam at him. She had already noticed his new hairstyle in the beginning, but she just wanted to tease him.

When he heard her satisfactory praise, he smiled again. Everyone would want to be praised by someone whom they deeply loved.

"So, what's the reason for coming here today, Miss Heather?" he teased with a smile on his face.

Sometimes, there were simply feelings that one could not explain; it was just like how Heather instantly felt better as soon as she saw Matthias, even though she was deeply troubled before this.

"Am I not welcomed here, Director Locke?" she teased in return. At that moment, she needed to release the tension within her.

As Matthias rose to his height, both of them locked eyes with each other. He stretched out with his hand to hug Heather's waist. I haven't seen her in just a day, yet it feels like eternity. He could not wait to feel the softness of her body.

However, Heather avoided Matthias' embrace and pushed his arm aside. "Take care of your image in the office," she reminded him.

He took a step forward nonchalantly. "I can't help it when I see you." He still wanted to hug her, but she did not allow him to do so.

Both of them were obviously flirting with each other at this point. When Lara saw the footage on her phone, her fists tightly clenched. Even though she dug her fingernails into her skin, she did not feel the pain at all.

"I have something serious to talk to you about." Heather was not used to such interactions between them. Even though she already silently agreed that they were now a couple, she could not bring herself to be so intimate with him.

After looking at her, he stopped his actions. It made him feel as though he was forcing her to do something she did not like, as though he was forcing a good Samaritan to commit an evil deed.

"Is it because of the business collaboration between the Locke Group and the Langston Group?" Matthias immediately thought about the collaboration between both of their companies. To him, Heather was someone who placed the Langston Group as her priority.

"I have no interest in the collaboration." She had already told him about her thoughts of the collaboration before this—she was completely uninterested.

"In that case-"

Before Matthias could finish his sentence, Heather interrupted with hesitation on her face, "I don't know how to explain this to you."

Upon seeing her troubled look, he immediately became solemn. He pointed to the nearby couch and said, "Let's talk about it while having a seat on the sofa."

Whenever he discussed matters with others, he would usually sit behind his desk without moving. This time around, he took the initiative to discuss the matter with her on the couch. It showed how special she was to him.

Heather nodded. As soon as she turned, she immediately bumped into his embrace. Looking at the satisfied smile on his face, she said with exasperation, "You don't look like a director at this moment."

Matthias wrapped his arms around her into a tight embrace; he was worried that she would slip past his hug in an instant. If she resisted, she might be able to get away from him, but she also needed his sturdy shoulders at that moment. She rested her head on Matthias, who was able to give her a sense of security that no other person could.

"What do I look like then?" he spoke into her ears with a cheeky chuckle as he breathed in and out near her ears. It was rather flirtatious and arousing.

"Like a wilful kid," Heather responded in a low voice that sounded like music to his ears, making his spirits soar high.

"Indeed, I'm wilful and I want all of you," he enunciated every word clearly as he hugged her so tightly that it became slightly difficult for her to breathe.

"Cough..." She coughed slightly. Matthias is too passionate today, so much so that I almost can't take it.

"What's wrong?" Matthias asked concernedly.

"You are almost strangling me." Heather nudged him with her elbows. Her sensitive senses noticed a change in him and a foreboding feeling alarmed her.

At that moment, a terrifying thought appeared in her mind. After Myra was kidnapped, she had suspected everyone around her, but she had totally overlooked him.

Right now, the Locke Group was competing with the Hart Group. On top of that, she felt even more terrified as soon as she recalled his mafia background. Hence, she pushed him away and gave him a serious look.

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Everything had happened so quickly that Matthias couldn't understand why Heather would react in that way, so he stared at her in confusion. At the same time, she also realized that her reaction was slightly over the top. If it really has something to do with him, I should act like nothing has happened.

"What is it?" He took a step forward as he thought that his abrupt actions had startled her.

"It's nothing. I've been having a bit of a nervous breakdown lately." She tried to give an excuse.

Fortunately, he didn't persist in asking her, but his eyes were full of confusion as her sudden change of attitude earlier had filled him with anxiety.

"Is there anything troubling you?" Matthias asked tentatively.

However, Heather only gave him a smile as she couldn't bring herself to answer his question. At that moment, she didn't trust him at all and one could even say that she had never trusted him before. Even if she had built a little trust toward him, it was now completely destroyed.

Since he couldn't get any response from her smile and she obviously didn't want to reply to him, he didn't force her to answer.

Then, Heather took the initiative to sit on his couch, but he didn't follow suit after giving it a thought. Instead, he returned to his armchair because he himself concluded that he couldn't be too intimate with her; otherwise, she would do something surprising again.

Knock! Knock! Suddenly, someone outside knocked on the door, so Matthias replied, "Come in."

Heather's attention was immediately attracted by the person coming in, who was Lara, and she could see that Lara was holding a huge stack of documents. I didn't expect him to be this busy today.

However, Lara only came in for a while before she entered the room. During the entire period, she didn't bat an eye on Heather, but Heather was vigilantly staring at her. Everyone is a suspect.

Meanwhile, Matthias seemed to have noticed her gaze and he was curious as to why she was suddenly interested in Lara, but he was certain that Heather was hiding something from him.

"Heather," he called her intimately.

However, she wasn't used to him calling her this way. "Yes."

"Did you really come to see me all of a sudden for nothing?" He had seen through her act since the beginning, but he couldn't figure out her true intentions.

"It's really nothing," Heather replied with a faint smile.

Meanwhile, Matthias stared at her eyes as he tried to search for clues, but she had concealed her emotions so well that he couldn't notice anything.

"Then, I'll—"

Without waiting for him to finish his words, she interrupted him with a smile. "You can continue with your work. I'll wait for you here."

Upon listening to her, Matthias was slightly relieved inside his heart. He had important documents to deal with at that moment and he didn't want to delay it, but at the same time, he didn't want to ignore her because of his work. Therefore, he felt much relieved after hearing her words.

After that, he continued with his busy paperwork at his desk while Heather sat on the couch, surveying his office. Not many people would use such a huge space for an office, but Matthias' presidential office is much bigger than any president office that I've seen before.

The high floor had made the whole room look bright and clear. The reason why Matthias chose to have his office on the highest floor was because he could enjoy the feeling of being above everyone.

Heather was rarely this patient, so she would glance at him from time to time while he was working. The most charming thing in the world was the serious looks of a man working, so even she was starting to stare at the side of his face in a daze.

"What are you looking at?" Matthias suddenly turned his face and asked her.

Therefore, her face instantly flushed. I can't believe I've been caught peeking at him. It's so embarrassing. "Nothing." She turned away. Ever since I met him, I've realized that my face is starting to blush more often.

When he rose from his armchair, the blush on her face had already disappeared. She noticed that he was approaching her, so she quickly took a few steps back to keep a distance from him.

"Focus on your work," she uttered in a serious tone. I can't stand him approaching me whenever we disagree.

Matthias glanced at Heather with dissatisfaction after his gesture was called out, so he couldn't hug her.

"I can't work properly with you here," he teased.

Seeing that he was unwilling to return to his seat, she had no choice but to use her trump card. "It seems that I've interrupted your work. I think I should leave." She walked toward the door.

Immediately, he blocked her path with a playful smile on his face. "Don't go. Let's have dinner tonight."

It would be dinner time soon and Matthias planned to finish his work as soon as possible so that he could dine with Heather.

"When you are done with the documents on your desk, it may already be late at night." She raised her brows at him as she considered whether to leave or not.

"I'll deal with some urgent ones now, but I can leave the others till tomorrow." As an experienced businessman, he definitely knew what to do.

"That means I'm delaying your work." Heather looked as though she was determined to leave, which made Matthias even more anxious as he didn't want her to leave yet.

"Don't go." There was a hint of plea in his tone.

"You should just focus on your work!" she said to him.

"I can't focus on my work if you leave." However, he was determined not to let her leave. The two of them continued to bicker like children and were close to pulling each other.

"Director Locke, I don't think you should behave like this in your own company." This time, she really insisted on leaving. I'm not sure if anyone saw me meeting him, so I need to leave earlier and be more careful to prevent any trouble.

"If you insist on leaving..." Matthias uttered while pulling her into his arms with a smirk on his face. "Why don't we leave together?"

At the moment, he only had Heather in his mind, so he would never let her leave his office easily. I must follow her everywhere.

"Director Locke, I heard that the board of directors are not satisfied with you lately. If you don't properly do your work, they may remove you from your position." She was informed about some of the Locke Group's internal affairs, so she teased him.

"The Locke Family is still the dominant force in the company. Those pathetic old men on the board can't impeach me." He immediately felt a headache the moment he thought about the board of directors.

Matthias' recent performance had upset the board of directors, so whenever they had a meeting, the directors would find ways to criticize him.

"You will inevitably anger everyone." Heather poked his chest with her finger and felt that it was really firm like steel.

Although both of them practiced martial arts, the body of a man was still much different than a woman's. Even if she had all the muscles in the appropriate areas, they still weren't as solid as his.

As for Matthias, even though he looked slender on the outside, the muscles on his body were extraordinary. Even if he endured several punches, he would still be fine.

"It's not good to be low-key all the time," he replied suggestively. Not long after he took over the Locke Group a few years ago, he always kept a low profile, but it only made the board of directors behave even more unscrupulously.

Now, he planned to put them in their places. They are becoming more and more ignorant of my position. I need to let them understand that they'll never overthrow the Locke Group.

"The Locke Group has been in turmoil lately. I wonder what you are planning secretly inside your mind," Heather asked casually, but she was actually curious about his true intention.

"As long as the foundation is still there, I don't need to be afraid of some turmoil," he answered confidently.

Upon listening to him, she furrowed her brows in confusion as she couldn't figure out what he was actually thinking about. He had revealed many things to her before, but he was always vague when talking about the Locke Group.

"Why is the Locke Group always targeting the Hart Group?" She took the chance to ask.

Matthias looked at her aggrievedly as he couldn't explain the details to her. After all, she was intelligent. If she connects everything together, she may see through my plan.

At the moment, he couldn't let anyone know about his plan. Not only that, he still wasn't sure whether Heather would choose to side with him in terms of her own interest. I need to exact my plan secretly by myself.

"Heather, you do have many questions to ask. Do you have a thousand questions ready in your mind?" He smiled while changing the subject of the conversation.

"If you think I'm annoying, you should let me leave." She feigned anger.

While looking at her, Matthias didn't know whether to laugh or cry as there wasn't a way for him to please her, so he responded, "If you have any other questions, you can just ask me."

However, Heather shook her head. "I don't dare to ask you now because you'll say that I'm annoying." It was really funny to look at her anxious looks, so she continued to tease him.

"I won't. You can ask anything you want. I'll answer every one of them," he replied in an extravagant way.

However, Matthias' sweet words didn't have much effect on her. In a disdainful manner, Heather responded with a grudge, "You didn't give me a satisfying answer when I asked you a question earlier."

"Then, how can I satisfy you, Miss Langston?" he asked while pretending to be frustrated. At that moment, he had no intentions of continuing with his work as he only had her in his eyes.

"I don't want to force you anymore, so can you please have mercy and let me leave, Director Locke?" Heather adopted a playful tone, but she was still restrained in his arms.

"If you agree to have dinner with me, I'll let you go," he answered unreasonably. Now, he was pressing her against the wall so that she would not slip away from his hands easily.

"What if I don't agree?" She lifted her head and stared at his eyes.

Then, Matthias lowered his head and looked deeply into her eyes. Her brows are so thick that they seem like they are fake. Why is her face so naturally beautiful? No amount of plastic surgery can produce such a natural beauty.

"There is no such option." He pressed his chin against her head, but she didn't resist. In fact, close combat was her strength, so she was actually being polite to him.

"I can't believe that the great Director Locke is bullying a weak girl like me." She pretended to be frail while the light in her eyes flickered, as if she was putting on a world class act.

"Heather, can you please accompany me?" Suddenly, he softened his tone and spoke in a pleading voice that no one could reject.