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Levant sneered, "You're thanking me too soon. I must've been way too drunk to have returned to this place. How about this? I'll leave immediately, and you can pretend that I was never here! Does that sound good to you?" With that said, he began putting on his shoes.

Davin was devastated at the situation, as he had spent an inordinate amount of effort to have Levant return to this place.

Out of panic, Davin crouched and snatched the shoes away from Levant.

"What are you doing, Davin?"

"Levant, since you've already returned, and we've all shown our gratitude toward your kindness, isn't it a little rude for you to leave again so soon?"

"I don't care if I'm being rude. I must leave Nepenthe Valley as soon as possible! Give me my shoes!"

"No!"

"Hand them over now!" Levant howled.

"I'm a man of my words and I will not back up this time!"

"Davin Seet!" Levant clenched his teeth and began chasing Davin barefoot.

Davin took off quickly, holding Levant's shoes in his hands as he ran away from the house while shouting, "Come and get them if you can! You can leave when you get your shoes back!"

"Davin, stop right there!"

Just as Levant was about to trail after Davin and exit the house, he saw Crystal Rose appear in front of him along with a few other women.

"Levant, you're back?" said Crystal Rose.

"I didn't wish to come back, and I don't want to see you or speak to you at all. I'm leaving now!"

"Levant..." Crystal Rose caught the stubbornness on Levant's face, then glanced at his bare feet. "The roads nearby are rocky. Come in and wear your shoes before you go."

Levant looked around and realized Davin was nowhere to be found. Darn it, where did Davin disappear to in such a short time? I guess I should head back inside for now.

Meanwhile, Evan, who had noticed Levant and Crystal Rose entering the house, decided to leave the two of them alone to talk. He motioned for the others to leave the room, and Nina carefully closed the door behind her.

"Daddy, do you think they'll end up arguing with each other?"

"I suppose so. Let's head back." In Evan's opinion, it wasn't a big deal as long as the argument could help solve the problem at hand.

"All right! Daddy, what do you think Mommy is doing right now?"

"Are you missing Mommy? I'll bring you home to see her as soon as you're cured of the poison, okay?"

"Okay!"

Meanwhile, Levant sat on the bed with his back to Crystal Rose in the room. He had no desire to speak with the woman who had abandoned him mercilessly when he was a child.

"Levant, I understand you hate me, but I-"

"I don't care about how you feel, and I don't hate you at all. After all, why should I hate you? Who do you think you are? My mother? You're undeserving of that title!"

You were already dead to me the moment you abandoned me!

Crystal Rose felt as if her heart was pierced by sharp knives because of Levant's words. Her lips quivered as she struggled to find words to say to him.

If I had a choice, I would never have abandoned my son!

"Levant, I really had no choice but to do what I did back then..."

"So what? That doesn't make it a proper excuse for you to abandon me! You have every right to hate my dad for cheating on you, but why did you choose to abandon me? I was only a child. What did I do wrong?"

"Levant, please let me explain... Please listen to what I have to say before you continue..." Crystal Rose teared up as she pleaded for Levant's attention.

"Explain? What else do you need to explain? You abandoning me is a solid fact. You don't have to waste time and energy looking for more excuses. I won't listen to them! Leave!" Levant stomped toward the door and flung it open. He yelled furiously, "Leave! Leave right now!"

Seeing how stirred up Levant was at the moment, Crystal Rose understood there was nothing she could say to calm him down. She wiped her tears and left the room without another word. Later, she instructed Davin to return Levant's shoes to him.

"If you pass him the shoes now, he'll leave immediately. You might never be able to see him again after he leaves this time," reminded Davin.

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"Well, you can't leave him barefooted forever, right?"

Davin looked at Crystal Rose and let out a deep sigh. He could clearly see her heartfelt concern toward Levant.

"I'll return his shoes then. Will you still be curing Nina after Levant leaves?"

Crystal Rose hesitated, reluctant to part with Levant. But what could she do if he insisted on leaving? She would accept any outcome as long as he was happy. "Give him his shoes. He can do whatever he wishes to do. Don't worry. I'll still cure Nina."

Davin's brows knitted together. Crystal Rose doesn't seem like an unreasonable woman at all. I'm sure she wants Levant to stay more than anyone else. However, she's not forcing him to do so. It seems she cares about Levant's feelings, after all. If that's the case, then why would she...

"I can tell that you care about Levant a lot. Why did you abandon him at the orphanage back then?"

"Back then..." Crystal Rose smiled bitterly. "Back then, I was poisoned, and I thought I wouldn't stay alive much longer. To my surprise, I encountered a master to cure me of the deadly poison. She was the former Lady of the Valley, and she brought me back to Nepenthe Valley to cure me."

The truth was revealed. Davin finally understood the reason Crystal Rose stayed at Nepenthe Valley and changed her name.

"How were you poisoned?" Davin continued asking.

In that instant, Crystal Rose's eyes filled with burning contempt. "Someone poisoned my drink."

"Who did that to you?"

"Who? Who else would dare to poison me at Wicked Palace? Of course it's Murphy!"

Her answer disconcerted Davin. He couldn't believe how cruel Murphy was to have poisoned his own wife!

"It's lucky I survived this incident. He must pay for what he did, and I want him to pay for it with his life!"

Davin was too stunned to speak. He had assumed her drive to seek vengeance on Murphy was caused by his betrayal toward her. However, it appeared there was more to this story than he had expected.

Uncle Morris, how could you be so ruthless toward your wife? This is a life we're talking about!

"That's enough. Return his shoes to him. It's inconvenient for him to stay barefooted." Crystal Rose left as soon as she reminded Davin to return the shoes to Levant.

With a mind full of worries, Davin wandered to Levant's house. Should I inform Levant about Crystal Rose's backstory? If he knew, would he shift his hostility toward another target? Will he develop resentment toward Murphy instead? After all, Levant's relationship with Murphy is way closer than with Crystal Rose.

After some deep contemplation, Davin was still unsure whether he should speak the truth as that would likely hurt Levant and Murphy's relationship.

"What are you doing just standing there? Are you that obsessed with my shoes?"

Levant's teasing pulled Davin back to reality from his inner conflict. He tossed the shoes in front of Levant and forced an unnatural smile onto his face.

After wearing his shoes, Levant looked up at Davin and was immediately confounded by the latter's awkward expression.

"Why were you willing to return my shoes? Did you come up with a new idea to stop me from leaving?"

Davin shook his head in silence.

He had asked Draven to bring Levant to Nepenthe Valley solely because he needed Levant to get help from Crystal Rose to cure Nina. Now that she had promised to lend a hand even if Levant left, it was no longer important for him to stay.

"You're free to go. I won't make you stay any longer if you don't want to."

Startled by Davin's response, Levant stared at him and asked, "Don't you want Crystal Rose to cure Nina?"

"Don't you worry about that," Davin replied with a strange expression on his face, then glanced at Levant. "Compared to curing Nina, I think you should worry about your father. I'm certain Crystal Rose would never give up on her mission to seek revenge on Murphy."

Levant stayed quiet. Hmph. Revenge?