

Sir, You Don't Know Your Wife Chapter 451

Why does Janet look like she's familiar with this place? Has she been to gambling places like this? No matter how much he thought about it, it just seemed impossible.

"Haha! Try it on me then. It's not like you'll lose anything even if you don't win." Janet flipped her hair after that, and the way she did it made her appear confident and somewhat intimidating.

"Stop spouting nonsense and follow me!"

The two men outside of the door seemed pissed off with what Janet said. How dare that ignorant little girl say something so presumptuous? Looks like it's time for us to teach her a lesson.

After they reached the backstage, the atmosphere of the dimly lit place felt rather depressing due to the cold air that Mason was emanating while he was holding Janet's hand as he sat down slowly.

The two men smirked disdainfully as they stared at Janet. "What do you want to play? Poker? Dice? Or Texas Hold 'em?"

Janet raised her eyebrows before she questioned purposely, "Huh? There are so many types of games? I'm having such a hard time choosing right now."

At the same time, Henry and Sean, who were standing at the side, felt rather speechless at that. From her tone of voice, they couldn't believe that they had really trusted this girl's ability as she looked just like an oblivious little girl.

Then, the waiters in the room laughed along as well before they asked, "Bro, are these people here to challenge you?"

The man chuckled heartily. "Nah, she's just some ignorant girl."

"Come on, girl. Do you know that even our security guards here are trained by Master Ace?"

"Don't you feel ashamed when you say that you're here to challenge us when you can't even differentiate the types of games here?"

“How can someone who looks normal be so dense?”

The waiters started teasing her.

Right then, Mason clenched his fists as he felt the urge to beat something up rising within him. On the other hand, Henry interrupted them and suggested, “Janet, why don’t you play the dice game? It’s more suitable for girls anyway.”

“Sure!” Janet nodded in agreement before she turned around and gave the two burly men a cold and cruel look. “I’ll go along with his suggestion then. Let’s play dice.”

Then, the two men started laughing after giving each other a look. “Do you know that we are the best at playing dice? ”

“Is that so?” Janet nodded, her face devoid of any expression while she chuckled. “It’d be embarrassing if the person who is the best at this game loses to me.”

Everyone was taken aback when they heard Janet, then they all started sizing her up. “You’re a big talker for someone who doesn’t look like she’s good at this.”

“Come on, girl! Stop lying anymore. Don’t let us see you crying after you lose!”

All of the workers there started laughing as they stared at Janet.

“You two really talk too much. Have you decided on who should go first?” Mason gave the two men in front of him an annoyed look.

One of the men immediately stopped laughing and declared arrogantly, “I’ll go first!” The man believed that he alone could win against this little girl without needing to work together with his sibling.

Right then, Janet smiled faintly as a knowing look appeared on her face. After they all got seated, the croupier prepared the dice and set all of them on the table.

“How about this? Each of us will cover our eyes and roll the dice. The one with the highest points within the best-of-three sets wins. If you win this, you can meet Master Ace right after this!”

At that, Janet raised her eyebrows slightly before she frowned. Best-of-three sets? That's a waste of time. Nevertheless, she still nodded and looked up before she spoke lightly. "Sure. It's settled then."

At that moment, the man cracked his knuckles loudly and called out impatiently, "Let's get this over with quickly."

Upon hearing that, Janet stretched lazily, looking bored and seeming like she had full confidence that she could win this gamble. For some reason, Janet just had this intimidating charisma about her when she did it.

Since no one was left to guard the door after the two men entered, those who wanted to enter the underground casino had to watch their match first before they could contend against the men after they won against the previous player.

"Holy sh*t! The challenger today is just a little girl!"

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"Huh? Does she really think that it's that easy to win against those two guards?"

"Exactly! Those two guards are Master Ace's best disciples."

"But seriously, I had never expected Aquila to be able to hire Ace to place him at the casino."

"I know, right?! This underground casino belongs to Aquila now."

"Still, I heard that dice games are these two guards' specialty."

"Haha! Let's watch how that little girl is going to embarrass herself later on."

"Can we start now?" Janet leaned back on her seat lazily as she crossed her legs and looked relaxed.

At that instant, even the guards felt like the little girl was one of the frequent visitors at the casino as her attitude was too much like an experienced gambler.

The man shook his head and tried to snap out of his daze before he spoke to one of the waiters next to him loudly. "Let her go first. I'm worried that she might start shaking so much that she can't play once she sees my skills."

Right then, Janet's eyebrows lifted as she chuckled lightly. "Is that so?" She smirked as she grabbed the dice. "Thanks, I guess!"

After that, Janet threw the five dice that she was holding into the dice cup and looked for a good angle before she started swinging it in the air.

Everyone looked surprised when they saw what she was doing as she seemed like she was quite good at it. Even the man's eyes widened when he noticed how the girl's technique didn't look like that of an amateur. Instead, she seemed more like an experienced gambler.

Right when everyone thought Janet was done, she suddenly stood up and increased the swinging amplitude of the dice cup, causing the dice cup to look blurry from the motion and none of them could see how fast she was going.

At the same time, a hint of shock flashed past Henry's eyes. Her technique and speed... You really can't find another person like this in this casino!

Even Sean, who didn't usually play with dice, looked taken aback, while a glimpse of surprise flashed across Mason's cold gaze. It seems my girl is pretty good at this.

When Janet finally placed her dice cup down, everyone there stood up excitedly.

Meanwhile, the man looked pretty uneasy as his eyebrows were knitted together tightly.

Then, Janet raised her eyebrows before she gave Mason a knowing look with her bright eyes. "Guess what's the number inside?"

Mason smirked calmly before he leaned closer to her ear and whispered, "I'm not sure about the numbers, but baby, you don't look like an amateur from the way you swung your dice just now."

"Really?" Janet acted as if she had just come to a realization before she raised her eyebrows. "Maybe it's because I'm talented in gambling, so I managed to master it within one lesson."

Upon hearing that, Henry reached out to wipe off the cold sweat that was dripping from his forehead. That was what Janet said as well when they went to the stone-betting market, but she'd manage to get herself a top-grade jade during her first attempt. Don't tell me that all of the dice in the dice cup are sixes...

The guard chuckled when he heard her, but an unnerved look flashed across his gaze before he tried to calm himself down. "Are you seriously trying to embarrass yourself by showing off your mediocre skills?"

"Exactly! Show us the numbers inside if you dare!" Another guard, who was standing by a side, went along with him and shouted that out as well.

Therefore, Janet started opening her dice cup slowly before seeing the numbers on the dice that were ordered neatly in a line.

One, two, three, four, five; all five dice are lined up neatly in a row. It's a total of fifteen points! The guard was surprised to see this, but for him, it was still an easy task to surpass a total of 15 points using five dice. Nonetheless, he couldn't seem to cheer up, for his facial expression darkened almost immediately when he saw the series of numbers. How did that little girl manage to get the entire row of dice to show a series of continuous numbers?

The crowd stared at the dice that were lined up with increasing numbers before someone jeered, "Pfft! What's there to brag about with just 15 points?"

"Exactly! For all we know, it might just be a coincidence."

"Have you seen that girl's proud look just now? I really thought she would have gotten five sixes!"

Annoyed by the crowd's loud chattering, the guard snapped impatiently, "Shut up!"

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That little girl had completely messed up his mind the moment she showed her points. His intuition told him that this little girl was definitely not an amateur.

Janet couldn't help but chuckle when she noticed that he looked annoyed. "I just got 15 points, so I'm sure it won't be hard for you to surpass me."

Cold sweat started forming on the man's forehead before they slowly dripped onto the dice.

After wiping off his sweat, he started swinging the dice cup just like how Janet did just now. In a while, he placed the dice cup back on the table before a wild smile appeared on his face as he boasted arrogantly, "You think I'd be scared just because you've gotten 15 points?"

Then, he opened his dice cup—two, four, five, five, six; it was a total of 22 points. As expected, the guard managed to win against Janet's 15 points with his 22 points in the first round. However, even though everyone was cheering for him, he was the only one who knew that he didn't manage to win perfectly!

Following that, Janet gave Mason a disappointed look. "I lost the first round!"

Still, Mason only smiled lightly and patted her head as an act of consolation. "Play properly. I believe in you."

At the same time, Henry's lips twitched slightly. Is she seriously saying that she had never played with dice? One, two, three, four, five; who could get results like that besides her?

"Alright!" Although Janet looked demure, she was actually a scheming person. The reason why she did that during the first round was to mess with her opponent's mind so that he couldn't predict her true ability; this was also part of the skills required in gambling.

After that, Janet stopped hesitating and pushed the dice cup toward the man before saying nonchalantly, "You can go first this time."

The man looked confused for a moment before he said in an amused tone, "What's wrong? Scared of losing now?"

"Can you f*cking stop talking sh*t?!" Henry glared at the man in front of him while Mason snaked his arm around Janet's shoulder and pulled her into his embrace.

The man licked his lips as he stared at Janet intently before he threatened, "F*ck off if you lose this round again!"

Upon saying that, he immediately started swinging the dice cup with both his hands quickly and accurately while the sound of dice colliding against each other within the dice cup rang out.

Within thirty seconds, the man placed the dice cup down and opened it slowly. Everyone's eyes brightened when they saw the points on the dice. Oh my God! He actually managed to get a good result of four, five, six, six and six. That's a total of 27 points!

The man's eyebrows lifted slightly at that as he did not expect himself to get such good results. Then, he gave Janet a taunting look. "You'd better shake it well. Make sure you don't tremble too much after seeing that!"

"Haha!" Janet laughed along before she rolled her sleeves up slowly. This time, her actions had completely changed as she moved more slowly and cautiously.

From the other people's perspective, it seemed like she had already given up on this match, and some of them got so bored that they were starting to doze off.

"Little girl, are you sure you can win? You'll have to leave if you lose again this time!"

"Why is she not done yet? I'm still waiting for my turn, man!"

"I know, right? How can she win against Master Ace and enter the casino when she can't even win against the guard?"

"Come on! We don't have all day for this!"

However, Janet glanced at the entire crowd with a cold look from the corner of her eyes. Caught by surprise at her frosty look, they immediately shut up, afraid to say anything further. This little girl looks so murderous!

A minute later, Janet suddenly halted her movements before she slowly placed the dice cup back onto the table. Her expression was one of calmness, but she exuded utmost self-confidence.

Still, the man gave her a disdainful look as he pointed at the dice cup and remarked, "It's time for you to open the dice cup."

Janet slowly opened the dice cup in front of everyone—six, six, six, six. Then, there was still one more dice left.

This time, her lips curled up into a smirk while her fingers moved slowly to open the dice cup. When Janet revealed the number on the final dice, the man's pupils constricted as he tensed up again.

Suddenly, everyone's breathing started quickening as their hands were clenched into fists while they stared at the last number—five.

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The sum, 29, is two points higher than that of the guard's! What the f*ck? Was she trying to tell us that she is an amateur when she can manage to get 29 points just like that? No one would believe it even if we told them!

As the man stared at the numbers of the dice on the table, his face darkened a few shades. How can that girl be so lucky?!

Without any doubt, Janet managed to win the second round with a high score of 29, and the crowd was in an uproar at this.

"How lucky can she be to do that twice in a row?"

"What the f*ck? Is she even an amateur? That's impossible!"

"It looks like there's a chance for her to beat Ace tonight!"

"No way! A newbie winning against the guards and heading right at Master Ace?! That's delusional!"

"Have you considered the possibility of Master Ace not wanting to go against a newbie like her?"

While everyone was discussing what happened, the man in front of Janet still hadn't recovered from the heavy blow he received during the previous round.

At the same time, Mason, Sean and Henry, who were standing behind Janet, were still in shock as well.

Henry gulped in disbelief as he blinked with slight difficulty. "Miss Janet, are you for real?"

Even Sean was taken aback for a moment as he mumbled to himself, "It's over. Looks like we have no choice but to enter the casino tonight." He still felt that things were fortunate for them when Janet lost the first round as he figured that he could send her back to Sandfort City safely later. Now, it seemed like the lady had gotten lucky, so going back to Sandfort City would be impossible.

Right then, Mason grabbed Janet's hand and said gently, "Babe, are you seriously calling yourself a newbie? I bet you frequent the casinos behind my back."

Janet's face twitched slightly when she heard him. "Do you think I have any spare time to sneak out behind your back?"

When Mason heard that, he was amused. "Otherwise, how else could you have gotten nice numbers like that?"

Still, Janet's facial expression remained indifferent. "I've already told you guys that I'm really lucky when I gamble, but none of you believed me."

Mason was speechless at that. Those who believe what she has just said can only be fools.

During the second round, the results clearly took the guard by surprise, and he went into a trance for a long while before he finally calmed down.

Watching the mentally disturbed man, Janet chuckled lightly before she taunted him by saying, "Someone else can replace you if you really can't play anymore."

This was what the man initially told her during the beginning, but this time, it came out from Janet's mouth.

Immediately, the man got pissed off, so he snapped in annoyance, "Ha! How can I lose to a little girl like you? Stop getting too full of yourself!"

Upon saying that, the man grabbed the dice cup and started swinging again.

Despite the cold sweat that kept forming on his forehead, he couldn't bother to wipe it off now and allowed them to drip onto the dice cup. He appeared terribly flustered, and it was obvious that he had lost his cool. What he said just now had come back to bite him in the face.

The guard was extremely dissatisfied as he had never gotten humiliated so badly by a little girl like this before.

As Janet managed to win the second round, everyone started doubting the guard's ability now. They were looking at him with suspicious and worried gazes; even those who initially admired him also started to give him weird looks.

Feeling annoyed, the guard slammed the dice cup onto the table. Under everyone's close inspection, he slowly opened the dice cup to reveal the dice one by one. The first one was six, then the second one was six as well. Same went for the third and the fourth, but when he reached the fifth one, everyone watched with bated breath; they couldn't wait to see it revealed.

Under everyone's watchful gaze, the fifth dice was revealed to be a five.

Six, six, six, six and five—that totaled up to 29 points, which was the same as Janet's results during the last round. If Janet could manage to get another 29 points, this round would end in a draw. As guests, if Janet lost the match, she and the others would have to leave the underground casino.

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The crowd started cheering when they saw that the guard managed to get 29 points. "Oh my God! What a comeback! If the girl gets points less than 29, she'll have to leave this place!"

"Tsk, tsk, tsk. The guard is indeed experienced. He will surely win this time!"

"Yeah! I'm rooting for him for this round!"

"I'm rooting for him as well! Maybe that girl just won the second round out of pure luck, so she'll surely lose the third round this time!"

The guard raised his eyebrows when he heard everyone discussing and praising him before he gave Janet a pleased look as he declared, "It's not too late for you to admit your defeat now! At least it won't end too badly for you!"

No matter how much the man tried to use his voice to intimidate her, the girl in front of him just looked completely unfazed. Right then, Janet opened her mouth and answered, "What are you even talking about? We're already in the middle of a game."

After that, she slowly swung the dice cup. However, no one could read her thoughts as her eyes looked devoid of any emotion.

At the sight of this, the crowd started discussing again.

"Who do you think will win this round?"

"Can't you tell? The guard, obviously! Do you know that he was personally trained by Master Ace?!"

"That's right. A newbie can't just win against him easily, so just wait and see."

Mason pursed his lips before ruffling Janet's hair gently as if he was trying to console her. In response, she grinned knowingly before placing the dice cup back on the table.

At that moment, everyone held their breaths as they waited to see what the numbers in the dice cup were; even the man who threatened Janet looked way more nervous than she was, for his hands had started shaking.

Right at that moment, he barked at Janet, "Open it!"

A look of amusement flashed across Janet's eyes as she slowly opened the dice cup to reveal what was inside. Obviously, the first dice showed a six, but so did the second, the third and the fourth.

Suddenly, Janet paused and turned toward the man before she smirked and asked, "Can I meet Ace now?"

Instantly, the man had a bad feeling. Nonetheless, he chose to calm down before saying, "You still haven't revealed the fifth dice, and I don't believe that you'll get a six there."

"You'll see." Upon saying that, Janet revealed the last dice.

When the man saw the number on the last dice, he immediately tensed up and looked back at the previous dice; he seemed to be on the verge of fainting now. Even the crowd was taken aback as well.

When they finally snapped out of their trances, someone spoke up in disbelief. "Oh my goodness. You can say that the previous two rounds were out of pure luck, but getting five sixes during the third round? That's pure talent!"

"How can someone so skilled be a newbie? That's impossible!"

"Could she be one of the top gamblers in the world? How else could it be possible for her to be this skilled?"

"No way! There aren't any women among the top gamblers!"

"No. There's one..."

Everyone looked at each other simultaneously before falling into silence. There weren't any women among the top gamblers, except for Jasmine, who had dominated the gambling world.

However, none of them wanted to believe that Jasmine would come to an underground casino like this. Moreover, it had been a long time since Jasmine vanished from the world of gambling, and no one had heard anything about her for two years now.

Hence, everyone shook their heads as they thought it was impossible for this lady to be Jasmine.

On the other hand, the three men had proud smiles on their faces as they stared at Janet. They just couldn't help but feel like they were seeing a shining halo on her head, as if she was literally an angel.

Henry pursed his lips. "Looks like I was worried for nothing!"

At the side, Sean gulped. "Miss Jackson's gambling technique today really made me feel ashamed of myself!"

Right then, Mason turned around and gave Sean a cold look before pulling Janet into his arms. "That's for sure. She's my woman, so how could she be bad at anything?"

No one knew how to answer that.

Meanwhile, Janet smirked as she flipped her hair. "Can you bring me to Ace now?" There just seemed to be something charismatic about her as she said that.

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Her charisma was so incredibly captivating that the others couldn't stop staring at her.

On the other hand, the man's lips were pale as he wiped his sweat away. Right now, he seemed rather dejected, but he could only blame himself for underestimating his enemy, which was what allowed the little girl to beat him easily. If he had treated this seriously, he would have been able to defeat her.

Right now, he felt completely humiliated, and he thought that he had let Ace down terribly for all the guidance he had received. Then, the man glared intently at Janet before he gritted his teeth and instructed the waiter behind him, "Go upstairs and bring Master Ace here."

On the other hand, a man was standing next to the railing around the room on the second floor while he drank his tea and watched the other gamblers walking around downstairs. The man named Ace had a scar on the left side of his face that made him look somewhat fierce in spite of his cold and emotionless eyes.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door. Ace, who was about to drink his tea, paused in his movements. Although his face looked devoid of any emotion, a trace of annoyance flashed across his eyes when he said, "Come in!"

"Alright!" The waiter then entered the room and closed the door again.

"What's wrong?" Ace asked the waiter with an impatient voice.

In response, the waiter lowered his head and said respectfully, "A gambler came and I'm here to get you to go downstairs to deal with her!"

Immediately, Ace froze before he asked suspiciously, "Aren't there two guards downstairs? Why do you guys need me?"

Although the guards' skills weren't as good as his, they were still trained by him, so they naturally couldn't be that bad. It wasn't easy to win against those two downstairs, so it had been a long time since he last had a match against anyone.

"Master Ace..." The waiter hesitated for a moment because he explained awkwardly, "The guards downstairs had already lost!"

"They lost?" Ace tightened his grip on the cup of tea, and the veins on the back of his hand were bulging. Who is it that came to the casino? These two people that I have high expectations for actually lost to this person?

Shocked, he asked, "What did they play?"

"Dice. Best-out-of-three!" the waiter answered truthfully. "Moreover, the girl said she's just a newbie!"

At that, Ace inquired again, "Tell me the details!"

After a moment of hesitation, the waiter told him everything that he witnessed just now. "During the first round, the guard won against the girl with 22 points against 15 points. During the second round, the girl won against the guard with 29 points against 27 points. During the last round, she actually managed to get 30 points."

"30 points?" Ace's pupils constricted. "She got five sixes?"

"That's right!" The waiter was still rather agitated when he recalled what happened.

Right then, a woman's figure flashed across Ace's mind. He had once lost to that woman during a gamble, and now, it seemed like he was given a chance to prove himself again. I am a man after all, so how can I possibly lose to a woman?

"Alright. I'll head over now!" At that moment, there was a wild look on Ace's usually calm countenance. He really wanted to see how capable this new gambler was to manage to take down his guards.

After the waiter finished reporting, he went downstairs to the guard and whispered into his ear, "Master Ace is coming down now!"

Upon hearing that, the guard started laughing as he stared at Janet and exclaimed proudly, "Master Ace is coming down now! I can't wait to see you crawling out of this place!"

However, Janet just smiled along without saying anything.

Henry, who was standing by the side, sighed before he asked in a worried tone, "Miss Janet, Ace's skills are not to be underestimated. I really don't feel good about this!"

"Babe, are you certain about it?" Mason reached out to caress Janet's cheek affectionately while she slowly reached out for her cup of water on the table before taking a sip from it. "About Ace? I'm not sure!"

It has been two years, so I wonder if Ace's gambling skills have improved... Janet thought to herself as she played with the dice and narrowed her eyes slightly.

At the same time, the crowd started cheering. When Janet looked up, a man wearing a long robe with an ugly scar on the left side of his face was walking toward her.

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Although this man had an ugly scar on his face, it didn't stop the gamblers from taking a liking toward him. To them, the man standing in front of them right now was their god; the presence that they longed for. Because of his arrival, the crowd started cheering.

"It's Ace! Master Ace looks really good today!"

"This is my first time getting so close to Ace! I must get him to teach me a few gambling techniques later on!"

"He's really a godly presence. Although Master Ace has a scar on his face, he's perfect in my heart!"

"Now that Ace is here, that little girl will probably lose so badly that she starts crying!"

"Haha! I guess we will see what happens later on!"

"Master Ace is the best in my heart!"

"Even so, Master Ace is known as the second best player in the gambling world. He still isn't the best though."

"Tch! I don't care about that. Ace is the best! That Jasmine is probably just a gimmick anyway. We don't even know if she's dead or not by now."

"Well, you're not wrong, but I'd die without any regrets if I could watch a match between Ace and Jasmine!"

The mutterings went on and on. When the crowd started praising Jasmine, Ace got slightly upset, so he raised his eyebrows disdainfully. Jasmine, the Queen of Gamblers? She's nothing but a joke to me.

Two years ago, she won against him, but she had vanished ever since. Not being able to find her, it meant that he was forever her defeated opponent as he wasn't able to have a rematch with her.

Although Ace had been asking around for news regarding Jasmine these two years, it was as if she had completely vanished from the grid, for he couldn't get any news about her whereabouts at all.

He figured that if Jasmine wasn't avoiding him simply because she was a coward, then she must have gotten herself framed by someone else and died out there in the wilderness. If it weren't so, why couldn't anyone find out any news about her?

At this point, the mention of Jasmine's name only made him feel disgusted.

"Who wants to gamble with me?" Ace's eyelids twitched slightly as he spoke, his attitude domineering and his tone inducing fear in the others.

After all, Ace's gambling skills were ranked number two in the gambling world and many wanted to bet against him. However, he never managed to find anyone worthy to be his opponent, and he had already gotten tired of trying to find one.

From the start, he had always had a clear goal, which was to defeat Jasmine, who had disappeared a long time ago.

When the guard noticed Ace walking over, he immediately got up and greeted him reverently. "Master Ace! It's her!" Then, he pointed at Janet, who was sitting on the couch.

Ace looked at the guard. "You lost?"

When the guard heard that, he started wiping his sweat using a tissue and his expression was one of uneasiness as he answered with a low voice, "She tricked me."

Upon hearing this, the man sitting on the couch got upset. Mason got up and rolled up his sleeves as he smirked and gave the guard a taunting look. "You're saying that you got tricked?" Janet obviously won with her own ability.

"It was an accident!" The guard glared at Janet with dissatisfaction. "Now that Master Ace is here, I believe that luck won't be with you this time!"

He was certain that the girl couldn't possibly win more than three times in a row. Now that they had just played for three rounds, he was sure that she would definitely lose from then on! He really wanted to see if that little girl could still smile later on.

In response, Janet chuckled lightly before she said stiffly, "Didn't Master Ace lose to a woman once? Maybe he might lose to me as well."

Immediately, Ace clenched his fists together as he stared at the girl in front of him coldly.

On the other hand, Janet seemed rather indifferent and languid. Although Ace couldn't see her face underneath her mask, she looked somewhat familiar to him.

At the sight of Ace's lack of movement, Mason smirked before he asked teasingly, "Mesmerized by her?" Does he even know whose woman is he staring at? How dare this Ace guy stare at her like that.

When Ace heard that, his expression darkened, and his scar made his face appear even more menacing. With a frosty look and an unfathomable emotion in his eyes, he stared straight at the girl as he said, "I hope that you can still smile later!"

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This woman was poking fun at his scars! Everyone knew that he had lost to a woman two years ago, so what that woman said right now was another blow to his ego. When Ace heard her, he was literally gritting his teeth in anger.

"Stop bullsh*tting with me." Janet pushed her mask. "Don't delay my entrance to the casino!"

"Pfft!" Ace couldn't help but snicker when the woman in front of her spoke with alacrity. "I've seen people who are masochists, but I've never seen one as desperate as you! Seeing that you're a newbie, I'll let you pick a game for us to play."

While Ace thought he was giving her a generous offer, what he said was merely a joke in Janet's ears.

Right then, Henry leaned over toward her and reminded, "Janet, I think it's best if you pick something easy!"

"Like what?" Janet raised her eyebrows.

"The dice game, obviously! Aren't you good at that? I believe that you can do this!" Henry even did a fist pump after saying that.

"You can't do that!" Sean yelled right then. Under everyone's scrutiny, he moved over awkwardly and whispered into Janet's ear, "Miss Jackson, why don't you pick something else? It would be more meaningful if you do so." In reality, what he was really thinking about was for her to lose; only then could he only send her and the baby inside of her back to Sandfort City safely.

The corner of Janet's lips lifted up slightly before she turned toward Ace, who was standing in front of her, and remarked, "I'm really new with this, so it's better if you pick the game."

It had been a long time since she played any of these games, so she didn't know how good she could perform now.

When Ace heard her, he relaxed his frown slightly. It looks like this girl is really a newbie. Now this is going to be fun. She's going to pay for everything that she has said!

"Let's play blackjack then. You should know how to play that, right?"

Blackjack was a well-known game globally and most people knew how to play it.

In response, Janet pushed her mask slightly before replying calmly, "I know how to play this."

Right then, Ace waved his hand and the server immediately caught on as he started shuffling the cards.

"Let's settle this within one round this time!" Janet's facial expression was covered by her mask at that moment, so no one could see her emotions. Earlier, she had already wasted too much time with the guard, so she was getting rather anxious now since they still hadn't managed to meet Aquila after such a long time.

"Sure." Ace gave her a look of mockery. One match to decide the outcome? Is she seriously not embarrassed for saying that herself? She needs to know her place! Even if Jasmine the coward was here, I'm sure she wouldn't have said anything like that. How dare a newbie like her say something so arrogant? She's really making me laugh!

In no time, the waiter had already shuffled the cards. After Henry checked the cards and made sure that there was nothing wrong with them, the match started.

Janet, as the guest, was naturally the first to take a card.

Blackjack's rules dictated that everyone had to first take a card and then continue taking cards. If the sum of the cards totaled up to more than 21 points, the player would be said to have busted, and that would mean that the player had lost; if the points were exactly 21, the player would win.

When Janet reached out with her fair hands to get the first card, she managed to get the King of Hearts.

Next, Ace reached out for his card as well; it was a five.

While Henry was holding his chin and looking on with a worried expression, Sean was praying silently, hoping that Janet's cards would bust.

"Aw, man! I'm up to a bad start!" Janet cried out purposely before pouting to make herself look upset.

At the same time, Mason stared at the card that she was holding before smiling knowingly. On the other hand, Ace gave the woman a cold look as a look of disdain flashed across his eyes.

During the second round to get more cards, Janet managed to get the Queen of Diamonds, whereas Ace had gotten the King of Diamonds.

Right now, Janet had 20 points, so she was in a risky position. If she managed to get one more point, this game would be her win. However, if she got more than one point, she would have busted, and without a doubt, it would be her loss.

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Henry frowned before he lowered his head and asked, "Do you want to take another card?"

Upon hearing that, Janet smiled lightly and covered her cards before watching Ace to see if he would take another card.

After taking a deep breath, Ace took another card, his expression dark.

When everyone saw Janet slouching on the couch lazily, they all started mocking her.

"This girl's mentality is really weak. I can't believe that she has already given up!"

Someone else sighed and said, "I was still thinking that she might actually be able to win against Master Ace. It seemed like I overestimated her!"

"Seriously? Why is she wasting Master Ace's time?!"

"I knew she would lose before the match even began, so I'm not surprised!"

"Exactly! After all, Master Ace is still the second best gambler in the world!"

When Ace got his third card, he sighed in relief before raising his eyebrows as he taunted Janet, who was in front of him, by saying, "Are you going to take any more cards?"

Right then, Janet frowned and acted as if she was feeling conflicted. However, after a few seconds of consideration, she agreed. "Sure!"

After Mason and Henry heard her, Henry immediately grabbed Janet's hand and exclaimed, "Janet, that's enough!"

At the same time, Mason frowned when he noticed the huge tanned hand on Janet's fair one. Then, he shot Henry a glacial look.

Terrified, Henry quickly retracted his hand before he tried to convince Janet against it. "Your points are already enough, and you'll go bust if you take more!"

However, Janet had already taken another card from the table before Henry could finish what he was saying. Immediately, Henry's face darkened and he thought to himself, It's over. We should just pack up and go home!

After that, Janet blinked before she revealed her first two cards slowly.

It was a King of Hearts along with a Queen of Diamonds. At this moment, she already had 20 points with her, but she was still holding another card.

When Ace noticed that, he couldn't help but laugh. "It seems like you still haven't understood the rules of this game!"

Now that Ace had said something, everyone else started chiming in as well.

"I've never seen any gambler taking more cards after getting 20 points. What a fool!"

"Haha! Oh she's a fool for sure! She still hasn't even understood the rules of this game!"

"Exactly! What an embarrassment! This is seriously such a waste of my time. I'm leaving."

Still, Janet, who was sitting on the couch, looked nonchalant as she blinked and told Ace, "I'll reveal my card now."

In response, Ace pursed his lips and smiled. He really couldn't be bothered to entertain her further, so he would rather not say anything.

However, the crowd went dead silent the next second as Janet revealed her last card. She then raised her eyebrows before exclaiming firmly, "I'm sorry to disappoint you, but my cards did not bust!"

The card that was revealed was the Ace of Diamonds, and all three cards totaled up to a sum of 21 points.

Everyone gasped. This girl actually managed to pull it off?!

Even Ace's face had darkened so much that it was downright scary. He glared at the girl in front of him intently while thinking, She dared to take another card when she already had 20 points! Is she a genius or just a lucky fool?

This was a great psychological war. Janet smirked before she turned to Ace and commented, "It's your turn to reveal your cards now."

Right then, Ace tightened his grip on the cards that he was holding before revealing them one by one, while everyone held their breath and focused on the cards on Ace's hand.

However, he retracted his hand slightly when he was left with the last card; it seemed like he was trying to avoid something.

On the other hand, Janet was staring at the two cards on the table. A five and a King of Diamonds. He has a total of 15 points. If the card in Ace's hand is more than six, it would mean that he has lost without a doubt.

Upon noticing that Ace was hesitating, Janet raised her eyebrows before picking up a sweet and throwing it at Ace's card to make him drop it.

"You—" Ace stared at her intently. How could she force me to reveal my card like that?

The crowd started voicing out for Ace when they saw that.

"Is there something wrong with you?! How could you reveal his card without his consent? You should know that it's an honor to be able to play with Ace in the first place!"

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"Exactly! Who do you think you are to treat Ace like that?"

"Do you think that Ace, the King of Gamblers, is someone that you can humiliate for fun? Why don't you look at yourself in the mirror?!"

Seeing that everyone was voicing up for him, an arrogant look appeared on Ace's face before he gave Janet a harsh glare.

"The King of Gamblers?" Janet laughed. "Look at his cards!"

Everyone's expression—including Ace's—turned grim when they saw the number eight on Ace's final card. All of them stared at it in disbelief until someone gasped.

"Ace actually went bust? Holy sh*t! That girl's luck is insane!"

"To be honest, Master Ace could have chosen not to take another card just now. Maybe his luck is just not that great after all!"

"That girl really pulled a psychological warfare on Ace! What the f*ck? Her tricks were so underhanded!"

"Tsk! How shameless could she get to pull such an underhanded move just to win against Ace?!"

In spite of those criticisms thrown at her, Janet simply grinned as everyone naturally made way for her to walk past them.

"We can finally enter the casino, right?" she asked the guard.

Meanwhile, the dumbfounded guard stood at where he was before he gave Ace a look to signal for help. "Master Ace, what—"

"Let them enter!" The ugly scar on Ace's face made him look even more menacing at that moment.

Upon hearing what Ace said, the guards' faces turned pale. It was the first time someone actually managed to enter the casino under Master Ace's permission. Even Master Ace was no match to her? Who on earth is this woman?

While watching Janet and the others entering the casino, the guard went forward and said, "Master Ace, it seems like that girl is not just any ordinary person, huh?"

Since she was able to win all four rounds of dice and Blackjack, of course Ace knew that this girl was special without needing anyone else to remind him about it. In fact, the way she pulled a psychological trick on him was similar to another person's tactics; even the aura she exuded was somewhat similar to that person's!

Could it be that... Ace's dark gaze narrowed as a hint of shock and viciousness flashed across his eyes. Since Jasmine had vanished from the field for a long time now, could this person possibly be... Jasmine's disciple?!

Ace hesitated for a moment before he spoke up gruffly. "I'll follow along to take a look!"

At the same time, Henry, who was walking in the front, asked, "Miss Janet, have you ever learned how to gamble?"

"No, but I've seen other people gambling." Janet looked around casually as she walked, as if she was looking for her prey.

"You've seen people gambling? Who?" Henry looked suspicious.

Janet blinked before she answered him nonchalantly, "It was a long time ago, so I've already forgotten who it was."

When Henry heard her explanation, he actually believed her as he nodded. Then, with a regretful expression on his face, he exclaimed, "At that moment, I really thought you were a disciple of a certain master!"

"A master's disciple?" Janet couldn't help but laugh. "You're not talking about the Queen of Gamblers, Jasmine, are you?"

However, Henry nodded. "I am talking about her indeed!" Then, he started babbling about Jasmine's glorious history back at Markovia's casino.

In the meantime, Mason pursed his lips as a knowing look flashed across his eyes. "The Ace guy just now is probably super pissed off from what happened right now."

"He had always been like that anyway. There hasn't been much improvement to his gambling skills!" Janet chuckled before realizing a few seconds later that she had accidentally said something out of context, so she quickly changed the topic. "Are you sure that AQ will be here?"

Mason, who was dumbfounded when he heard Janet saying that Ace hadn't improved much, resumed his usual calm demeanor when he heard the mention of AQ. Then, he stated curtly, "The Lowry Family's surveillance system can't possibly be wrong."

Henry nodded in agreement at that. "Let me bring you guys around this place!" He was familiar with the internal structure of this underground casino. Since he had managed to make a few friends here previously, he might even be able to get an answer from them.

At the same time, a few waiters were discussing how Ace lost to a little girl in a certain game room.

"I really didn't expect Master Ace to lose just now."

"I didn't expect it either. I just can't believe that the little girl was actually that skilled."

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"But Master Ace has such impressive skills! It's not likely for him to lose to an ordinary lass."

"If you ask me, I think there's something more about this lass. I overheard someone saying that she is the Queen of Gamblers, Jasmine's disciple."

"You don't say! Two years ago, the Queen of Gamblers was here for a game or two, and I was the one who shuffled the deck for her. Besides her height, her temperament and calmness does seem awfully familiar."

"Are you serious? If she is the real deal, then why is she here today?"

Aquila, who was playing poker in the room, overheard the entire conversation between the waiters. With a darkened expression, Aquila gazed at the waiter and asked in his gravelly voice, "Did you just say that Ace had lost to a little lass?"

"That's impossible!" Chuckling, Baldy added, "Ace is our trump card. Besides, it has been a long while since the Queen of Gamblers appeared, so it can't be her."

From Baldy's statement, two deductions could be made. Firstly, Ace couldn't have possibly lost, and secondly, the Queen of Gamblers wouldn't turn up without a reason.

"Master Aquila, it's true! I saw it with my very own eyes!" The waiter dared not joke about it as he nodded seriously.

Upon hearing that, Aquila lifted the corner of his mouth and said enthusiastically, "Then I guess we should go and meet her."

"But..." Baldy hesitated. "What if the Lowry Family came over as well?"

With a smirk, Aquila asked, "I don't suppose you're suspecting Jasmine and the Lowry Family are a team?" How can the Lowry Family possibly invite someone like the Queen of Gamblers? What a joke! he thought.

Scratching his head, Baldy noticed what he said did sound absurd, so he kept quiet.

Meanwhile, Janet, Mason and Henry were exploring the casino. Just then, a waiter appeared out of nowhere. “Miss, someone wishes to meet you. Please come with me,” said the waiter in a respectful and hasty manner.

Startled, Janet could feel someone was staring down at her from somewhere up there. Lifting her gaze, she saw Aquila standing near the railing on the first floor. The man bobbed his head, signaling her to join him.

As Janet retracted her gaze, she deliberately asked Mason who was standing beside her, “That person up there, is he Aquila, the boss of AQ?”

Repeatedly sizing the other man up, Mason nodded and confirmed her suspicion. “You’re right.” Then, Mason told her, “Let’s go up.” As he spoke, he held her hand to signal her to relax herself and not reveal her true purpose in coming here.

Upon noticing that Aquila didn’t show any unusual expression when he saw Mason and Henry, Janet figured perhaps he had never met Mason in person before. From the looks of it, their plan might work better than expected.

With Henry and Sean following closely behind them, Mason held tightly onto Janet’s hands as they walked—each of them exuding murderous intent.

The waiter was leading the way, and when he was about to walk up the stairs, Janet said softly, “I need to go to the washroom.”

With the corner of his mouth raised slightly, Mason stopped abruptly. “Go ahead. I’ll wait for you here.”

“It’s alright. You guys can go without me. Just let me know the room number when you’re there.”

“Alright, you be careful.” Pressing his lips together, Mason then whispered in her ears, “You still remember what I taught you in the plane, right?”

“Yes!” Janet nodded.

Gazing at the back of Janet’s disappearing figure, Mason turned around and followed after the waiter.

As soon as Janet entered the washroom, she undid her ponytail and shook out her wavy long hair, which made her appear rather mysterious. Taking down her mask, she looked at herself in the mirror. With her eyebrow raised, she seemed to carry a vicious and murderous air about her that was somewhat terrifying.

Reaching out for the gun that was hidden at her waist, she installed a silencer onto the gun and kept it back to its place; the whole process was smooth and quick. In fact, Mason didn't teach her how to fasten the silencer onto the gun.

As her expression darkened, Janet put on the mask once again. After walking out of the washroom, she headed toward the direction which the waiter had led them just no

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Perhaps it was because they were walking too slowly, or because the route to the room was too far, Janet managed to catch up to them pretty quickly.

"Anything happened?" Mason asked while rubbing her head.

"Nope. I just went to the washroom." Janet shook her head and blinked her eyes, looking adorably innocent.

With his lips curved up in a smile, Mason grunted lightly in response.

A while later, they had come to the end of the corridor. Knocking on the last door, the waiter said in a respectful manner, "Boss, the people you asked for are here."

Then, someone in the room replied, "Let them in."

Upon hearing the voice, Janet knew for sure that it was Aquila in there.

"This way please!" The waiter courteously opened the door. After ushering all of them into the room, he closed the door once more.

"Serve some tea for our four guests!" Aquila ordered, wanting to take the chance to dismiss his subordinates out of the room.

"Mister, if you don't mind, may I ask why did you call me over?" Janet asked in an aloof manner. She was now sitting on the soft chair, an indifferent look in her eyes.

Meanwhile, Mason had taken a seat beside her, and their hands were still held tightly together.

With a smirk, Aquila confessed, "I heard from my men that you defeated Ace in a game? By any chance, have you heard of Jasmine, the Queen of Gamblers?"

When Janet heard that, she merely grinned without uttering a word. A moment later, she said slowly, "Well, I don't consider myself her official disciple, but I do have a lot of respect for her. Why? Are you interested in gambling too?"

"No! That's not it." Aquila shook his head. Then, with a smile that didn't show much of his emotions, he continued, "Considering the fact that you're not even her official disciple but you still managed to win against Ace, then I guess Jasmine's skill is probably on the next-level, right?"

Jasmine rarely showed herself, so not many had seen her in person; there weren't many pictures of her as well. Rumors had it that Jasmine had someone backing her up, for all information about her had been erased completely.

On the other hand, Aquila was thinking that if he could convince Jasmine to work under his organization, not only would he have someone to guard the casino, but he could even get the person behind her to lend him a hand as well. If this would work, he would no longer have to give a sh*t about MX.

Then again, from the moment she walked in just now, Aquila felt that her temperament was awfully familiar. It's almost identical to that person... And that person was none other than the one whom he had met in MX—J'Adore.

He didn't know if he was being paranoid, but his gut instinct was telling him that the woman under the mask wasn't that simple.

Suddenly, Baldy, who was standing aside, gasped while he stared at Sean as though he was about to say something. With that, Baldy whispered something in Aquila's ear. When Aquila heard it, he instantly froze and his eyes widened. The moment he was about to say something, however, a black gun was aimed right next to his head.

"You..." Aquila shuddered as he glared at the man before him. "You're from... the Lowry Family?"

"Mason Lowry at your service," said Mason. His lips were curled up as he spoke, and he didn't bother to hide his identity.

The moment Baldy gasped, Sean knew that he had recognized him. Coincidentally, when the Lowry Family's stuff was robbed in Markovia, Sean and Baldy had their first encounter with one another on that day.

Hence, while they were having a conversation just now, Sean had touched the gun on Mason's waist, signalling him to make his move.

"F*ck!" Aquila cursed. Initially, his intention was just to meet the Queen of Gamblers, but he didn't expect to invite the Lowry Family into his territory.

"So, how should we account for the things you robbed from the Lowry Family?" Janet said with a wry smile on her face. "Your casino seems to be making a killing. Perhaps we can deduct what you owe us from here?"

"Who... Who are you?" Aquila gazed at Janet maliciously, as though he was attempting to see through her mask.

"Whoever she is has nothing to do with you!" Henry retorted. At the thought of how he was insulted by the gamblers just now, Henry's temper sparked as he gave Aquila's head a few knocks with his gun. "A bunch of morons who are as dumb as a post like you all should know better than to rob the Lowry Family!"

"Tie them up! And go downstairs to check their accounts!" Mason commanded as he grabbed a hand towel and stuffed it into Aquila's mouth so that he couldn't yell.

Swiftly, Henry tore down the curtains and tied Aquila and Baldy onto the chair.

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Seeing that Aquila and Baldy were all tied up like mummies, both Mason and Janet had a contented smile on their faces. Then, they turned around and headed downstairs.

"D*mn it! Let us go!" Aquila and Baldy cried as they stared at the other two people's backs, their voices muffled by the cloth in their mouths.

As soon as Mason and Janet went downstairs, the crowds had been dismissed, and only people from AQ were left.

Meanwhile, Sean was startled when he saw Black Python, Red Python and White Python lazing on the couch with their legs crossed.

Once they noticed Mason walking down the stairs, all of them stood up and bowed toward him. "Young Master Mason, Miss Jackson, we apologize for startling you!"

Knitting his eyebrows together, Mason asked doubtfully, "Why are you all here?"

All three of them instinctively took a quick but meaningful glance at Janet's belly and smiled. "Old Madam sent us here."

The moment Mason and Sean turned off their phones, Old Madam Lowry had commanded Black Python, White Python and the rest to make a trip to the underground casino in Markovia. Fortunately, they managed to get here just in time.

That made Mason rather speechless. Grandma never used to bother about stuff like this, so what made her change her mind this time?

Darting a frosty glare at Black Python, Mason said, "I'm fine. Tell her not to worry about me."

Upon hearing that, Black Python tried to suppress a smile and thought, Old Madam isn't worried about you. She is actually worried about the baby in Miss Jackson's womb.

"Miss Janet, you're quite good with numbers, right? Come over here and help us with this account. Geez! This rat b*stard has earned so much dirty money, yet he still has the nerve to rob Young Master Mason. He really is trying to dig his own grave."

After exchanging glances with Mason, Janet grinned and headed to the counter in the casino to check on the accounts.

In the meantime, Aquila succeeded in taking out the knife from a secret compartment after a long struggle. Soon, he managed to cut through the curtains that were tying him down.

With a hardened expression on his face, he balled his fists and said gruffly, "Our men downstairs are probably under the control of the Lowry Family by now."

If they were to rush downstairs without a plan, it was likely that they wouldn't have any advantage in winning against them. Worse still, Baldy and him would likely be held by them too.

"What should we do now?" Frowning, Baldy regretted his decision so much. "F*ck this! If I had known the Lowry Family was this powerful, I certainly wouldn't have robbed their things."

Initially, he thought that those from Sandfort City were all weaklings, but he didn't expect to meet such a tough opponent.

"Go and gather the rest of our men here!" Aquila ordered.

"But... But there are not many of us left. I'm worried that before they get here, we will be seized by the Lowry Family," said Baldy as he pursed his lips. He was having a rough time schooling his expression.

At the mention of that, Aquila was suddenly reminded of a person.

"Contact MX now. Tell them that if they send us back-up, I'm willing to give up half of the 30% of the land I own!" said Aquila in his raspy voice, sounding a little excited. With such a tempting offer, Aquila was confident that MX would not turn it down, and would gladly cooperate with him to defeat the outsider.

"Right away!" Baldy nodded and immediately went to get things done.

As Baldy spoke, Aquila abruptly thought of what that lass said just now. She may not be Jasmine's official disciple, but she respects the Queen of Gamblers very much. If I can just get Jasmine here, then I guess the Lowry Family might let me go for Jasmine's sake.

The more Aquila thought about it, the more he felt that the plan might work. If he had asked, then surely, Jasmine would come and lend him a hand.

“Go and invite the Queen of Gamblers here now. Regardless of the price, just get her here.”

“Understood, boss!” said Baldy as he immediately went off to get things done.

Meanwhile, Janet was still on the computer downstairs, checking on the casino’s business turnover. That was when Aquila came walking down the stairs.

Upon seeing that, Mason and Janet raised an eyebrow as they had already expected this. Still, they were surprised to see that he was not that dumb afterall, as he knew how to escape.

Putting on a mirthless smile, Aquila slowly made his way down the stairs and said in a cold voice, “A bunch of suicidal idiots!”

When Black Python, White Python and Red Python heard that, they instantly raised up their guns and aimed it at him.

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Mason threw them a cold look. At present, there’s no need to kill anyone yet.

Upon receiving his look, Black Python and the others lowered their guards.

Staring at Janet and Mason, Aquila snarled viciously, “How dare the worthless Lowry Family act impudently here in Markovia?” This Lowry Family from Sandfort City is truly courting death! How dare they blatantly restrain my men? We’re not to be pushed around by people from Sandfort City when we’re Markovians! This is utterly ridiculous!

Henry chuckled. “Aren’t you worthless as well? After all, we got the better of you!”

At that, Aquila's hands clenched into fists, and he guffawed. "Haha... You're about to die, yet you still dare talk back to me, huh? Your head will be the first one I take later." Well, well... These worthless people actually dared to step all over us. And... And that masked woman has actually colluded with the Lowry Family! If Jasmine sees her disciple doing this, she'll definitely be heartbroken. The only thing I can do now is to drag things out until J'Adore and Jasmine arrive. As soon as they're here, I'll immediately eliminate this group of worthless people! After all, they're better off dead!

While they were at a standoff, the ringing of a cell phone suddenly cut through the air.

Janet thereby reached into her pocket and took out her cell phone. Lowering his head, Mason glanced at it, only to see a single word on the caller ID—Lee. He pursed his lips before murmuring, "Go and answer it."

Janet was startled. Finding the atmosphere rather tense, she nodded before walking away with her cell phone in hand. The moment she answered the call, she heard Lee asking anxiously, "What's going on between you and Aquila, Janet? Why is he looking for you everywhere like a headless chicken?"

"Looking for me?" Janet's lips curved upward, for she found it very much amusing.

"He's requesting that you bring some men over to Markovia's underground casino, and he'll be giving you 15% of the land in return."

When Janet heard this, she truly couldn't stifle her laughter anymore and chortled aloud. "Tell him to clean up after himself instead of looking for me shamelessly." He wants me to make a move against the Lowry Family and fight against my own kin? Am I that stupid?

Nodding, Lee added, "He also wants you to make an appearance at Markovia's underground casino as Jasmine. The payment is one billion!"

The moment she heard those words, Janet's eyes danced with laughter. I've never heard anything as hilarious as this! Just because I said, 'Jasmine is half my master, so I respect her quite a bit', Aquila is spending one billion to look for me and have me settle this matter with Jasmine's identity. I've never crossed swords with him in a long while, but never had I thought that he has grown so dumb.

Lee became all the more puzzled upon hearing the chuckle from the other end of the phone, which made him frown. "Janet, what exactly is going on between you and Aquila?"

Upon hearing that, Janet smirked, her eyes glittering diabolically. "I'll tell you later." Then, she paused for a few seconds before ordering, "Tell Aquila that I'll make an appearance at Markovia's underground casino." But I won't be doing so for the sake of helping him.

As Aquila looked at Janet who was answering her call at the corner, he couldn't help giving a bark of laughter and declaring derisively, "Stop trying to get backup, you worthless dogs! You won't be able to leave this city!" They want to call for backup? Their backup is probably lousy as hell.

As he was laughing uproariously, Baldy scrambled down from the first floor. At the sight of him, Aquila asked, "J'Adore has asked her men to come over, yes?" His face shone with elation. I just knew that she'll do me this favor!

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However, Baldy then shook his head in full view of everyone. Biting the bullet, he leaned close to Aquila's ear. "J'Adore asked us to clean up after ourselves."

At this moment, the smile on Aquila's face froze. He was stunned for a few seconds before he demanded incredulously, "What? Repeat it again."

While all eyes were fixed on him, Baldy repeated Lee's words again.

"F*ck!" Snatching up the wine glass at the side, Aquila flung it onto the ground viciously. That d*mn woman usually loves sticking her nose into other people's business, but now that an issue has cropped up, she's hiding like a coward! How shameless! I've always respected her, but never had I thought that she'd refuse to do me this favor when I'm in hot water!

Janet had her arms crossed, the corners of her mouth tilted upward. Not only is he dumb, but he's also hot-tempered. It's truly an insult to Markovia for him to be the second strongest force here.

Stepping forward, Baldy again leaned close to Aquila's ear and said, "Don't be angry, Boss. J'Adore might not be coming, but Jasmine said she's coming, so just wait for a while longer."

Upon hearing Jasmine's name, Aquila seemed to have found his assurance. "Jasmine? Is this for real?" he instantly demanded. She's truly coming? If Jasmine comes, perhaps she can help to keep this group of impudent people in line. It's worth it even if I've got to spend tens of billions, let alone one billion!

At that, Baldy nodded firmly.

Glimpsing the certainty in his eyes, Aquila shot Mason a wintry glare, his gaze radiating danger and savagery. "B*tch!" He subsequently stared at Janet, his voice glacial. "I wonder if your master will be heartbroken when she comes and sees you siding with the Lowry Family from Sandfort City." The change in his addressing of her from the initial 'd*mn girl' to 'b*tch' made it glaringly obvious that he was livid.

When Mason heard this, he stared at Aquila with a dark look on his face. He indeed hadn't planned on killing Aquila in the first place, but the latter had just committed a huge faux pas that had a murderous intent gripping him all at once.

Conversely, Janet wasn't bothered. She languidly reclined back against the lounge chair while rolling a dice in her hand. Lifting her eyes, she nonchalantly cast him a glance. "Oh? My master? When did I have a master? I don't remember having one."

As soon as she said those words, Aquila's nerves instantly stretched taut. "Didn't you just say that Jasmine is considered half your master?" His countenance was contorted with rage and his eyes were stained red. Sure enough, this b*tch is a coward! The moment I said she's going to see her master, she immediately denied her remark earlier.

"What? Jasmine is this girl's master?"

"I thought it was a mere rumor. Never have I expected it to be true!"

"No wonder she defeated Ace just now. It turns out that she's really the Queen of Gamblers' disciple!"

Meanwhile, Ace, who was standing at the corner, was feeling startled. He narrowed his eyes and thought, This girl is truly Jasmine's disciple?

Although Aquila's men were restrained, it didn't affect their curiosity at all. However, everyone quickly discovered a problem; Jasmine had never said anything about having a disciple, nor did she ever host a discipleship ceremony! In the gambling world, any great masters who took a disciple needed to host a discipleship ceremony or the like to make things official.

Then, Janet pursed her lips and snickered at Aquila.

When Aquila heard the soft snicker in front of him, his expression abruptly tightened. "Don't rejoice too early." Turning, he hollered at the person behind him. "Where's Jasmine, Baldy?"

Trembling, Baldy wiped the cold sweat off his forehead. "I'll rush her." Time ticked by, and he finally got hold of Lee once again.

However, Lee merely stated in an indifferent tone, "Jasmine says that she's already in the casino." After saying that, he hung up.

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His expression dumbfounded, Baldy was rooted to the spot for a few seconds in a daze. Subsequently, he dragged his feet over to Aquila, his hands trembling as he reported, "Jasmine is already in the casino."

"What?" Aquila's heart sank upon hearing that, and he darted his dark eyes around. She's here? He gazed over at the door, but it was empty, not a soul to be seen. What the hell? Don't tell me Jasmine is also playing me for a fool? "Where is she? Go and look for her!" he ordered.

Hence, Baldy weaved his way among the crowd with his eyes squinted. In the end, he shook his head. "I don't see any unfamiliar faces."

A wave of chilliness engulfed Aquila, and he muttered viciously, "This Jasmine is also a liar! How dare she stand me up? They're both b*tches! Both are b*tches!" Jasmine is dead, for she has gone past my bottom line! When I've gotten out of here, I'll pursue that b*tch to the ends of the world!

Staring at the two men in front of her who were close to losing their minds, Janet sneered, "Are you looking for someone? As luck would have it, Jasmine is truly in the casino!" She smoothed her hair, her expression languorous.

When Ace, who was standing at the corner, heard this, he instantly stiffened. After a few seconds of stunned silence, he called out, "Jasmine?"

The moment she heard that address, Janet instinctively looked back over her shoulder, an intriguing smile tugging at the corners of her mouth.

Upon seeing that the girl before him had reacted, Ace continued, "Two years ago, you defeated me in a competition. I've been searching for you these few years to prove that my skills aren't beneath yours, but..." At this, he dipped his eyes. But I was wrong. His sentiments toward Jasmine weren't merely hatred, but also respect. The only thing he hated was her sudden disappearance that caused him to lose the opportunity to prove himself again. Only now did he realize that he was truly wrong. I'm indeed beneath her, regardless of whether it was two years ago or now.

Meanwhile, Janet didn't answer him, merely listening to him silently.

However, everyone present jolted in shock. Thanks to Ace's remark and Janet's lack of denial, they all started whispering again. "Huh? Has Ace lost his mind?"

"This girl is Jasmine herself? Isn't she her disciple?"

"Ace, blink if you're being threatened!"

And so it went on.

The hand with which Henry held the pistol almost squeezed the trigger accidentally, and a profanity escaped him. "F*ck! Janet is Jasmine?"

Mason, on the other hand, was plunged into deep contemplation.

At the same time, Aquila's vicious expression stiffened at once as dread gradually swamped him.

Before anyone could react, Janet flashed Ace a smile. "Since the incident two years ago became your regret, why don't we play another round today?" Her tone was indifferent.

"No, thanks." Ace shook his head resolutely. "The match earlier has already proven that I'm indeed beneath you. With that, I no longer have any regrets!"

As soon as he said those words, the crowd again went into an uproar, and whispers were starting up again. "F*cking hell! Master Ace actually admitted defeat? So, is this person truly Jasmine?"

"Isn't that obvious? She's the Queen of Gamblers herself! Her legendary streak of victory hasn't even been broken today."

When Aquila heard Ace's words, he felt a pounding headache assailing him.

Meanwhile, the crowd again started exclaiming, "This girl is truly brilliant though she doesn't look like it!"

"My word, we were really blind to look down on her earlier!"

"F*ck, I knew it! I just sensed a unique aura on her, and it's as though I've seen her before. It turns out that she's truly Jasmine."

"Then, why didn't she reveal her identity just now? Instead, she was just playing dumb!"

"Hah! This is simple. Big shots always keep a low profile!"

"Exactly! It's equivalent to inviting trouble for a big shot to reveal her identity."

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Upon hearing the crowd's admiration toward Jasmine, Aquila almost passed out again. They're all my men, yet they're singing my enemy's praises to the skies! He couldn't accept how they were lauding her while living off him.

As Henry listened to the crowd's compliments, he was bursting with pride as though he was Jasmine herself. Puffing up his chest, he winked at Janet. However, Mason then stared at him coldly, his voice tinged with a hint of chagrin. "What was that? Is there a problem with your eye?"

Henry, Sean, and Janet were all struck dumb. He's always inexplicably jealous!

At this time, Black Python stared at Janet's stomach for a while before he deferentially asked, "Shall we send you back to Sandfort City now, Miss Jackson?" After all, he hadn't forgotten the mission Old Madam Lowry entrusted him. I must ensure that no harm comes to the baby in Miss Jackson's stomach. Of course, the safety of Miss Jackson herself takes precedence. As for Young Master Mason... I haven't gotten any orders regarding him.

Raising her eyes, Janet glanced at him. "This depends on whether Aquila is going to cooperate." Then, she languidly shifted her gaze to Aquila. "Do you still have any more backup?" she asked, her voice mild.

Aquila didn't answer her question directly. The thing is, I can't afford to offend her! I called for two people to back me up, but one ignored me, and the other is my rival! There's probably nothing as bizarre as this! As he thought about this, he clenched his hands tightly, the fury within him on the verge of explosion. Suppressing his rage, he stated in a deep voice, "I'll return the Lowry Family's shipment as promised."

"That's it? We rushed here from Sandfort City, yet this is the sum of your sincerity?" Janet snarked, feeling both amused and irritated.

Aquila was fit to be tied at this moment, but he could only feign a calm and unruffled expression. "What else do you guys want, then?"

Although this remark sounded placid, Mason could hear the resentment within it. His thin lips curved upward as he arched a brow, looking very much nefarious. "I also want 10% of your casino's profits!"

Ever since Aquila had taken over the management of the underground casino, the daily profit had reached hundreds of millions. Thus, he most probably made more than tens of billions in these few days. Asking for 10% of the profits was tantamount to demanding an arm and a leg, but Aquila had no choice but to agree reluctantly due to the situation here right now.

Lifting her eyes, Janet looked over at Mason. Her pink lips tilting up, she picked up the laptop beside her and did the calculations. A minute later, she ended up with a figure; in these few days Aquila had taken over the management of the underground casino, he made a total of eight billion in profits, and this was merely the net profit. Unhurriedly flipping the laptop closed, she stood up. "10% from 8 billion is 800 million. Round it up, it's a total of 1 billion! Transfer it directly to Lowry Family Conglomerate's account," she ordered in a cold voice.

Henry was rendered speechless. Janet is really good at mathematics to even round up the figure when it's a difference of 200 million! Could it be that 200 million is merely a number in her eyes?

Aquila swallowed hard, reluctant to accept this fact.

"Why, you don't want to do it?" When Janet saw hesitance written all over his face, her gaze turned wintry, and she stared at him fixedly.

For some reason, her stare struck fear into Aquila. It's as though I'm seeing J'Adore from the MX! Such glacial eyes petrified and repulsed him. How dare that d*mn woman refuse to help me? I'll definitely settle the score with her when I've gotten out of here!

At this time, Henry grew impatient upon seeing Aquila hemming and hawing. "Can you make it quick? Time is money, so one hour is a hundred million."

"Young Master Mason, could it be that he doesn't want to give us the money?"

"He's dragging his feet when he just has to transfer one billion to us after taking up so much of our time. Is he even a man?" Black Python and White Python chimed in as well.

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As Aquila listened to his enemy's urging, his fists clenched tightly. Why do I have to give them money when they are the ones who came here to steal my territory? Is that d*mn woman, J'Adore, dead? How dare she decline to help me?

Noticing Aquila's expression, Janet chuckled. Turning her gaze on Mason, she deliberately commented smilingly, "I heard that Lowry Family Conglomerate has a collaboration with J'Adore from MX. Why don't we ask her to come over so that he can meet up with her?" I don't believe he doesn't fear me at all.

Sure enough, Aquila jolted upon hearing J'Adore's name, and the shirt on his back was instantly drenched in cold sweat.

Mason's eyebrows lifted, and he snickered. Then, he said to Sean, "Give J'Adore a call. I believe she'll do the Lowry Family this favor."

Sean's acting skills were superb, for he nodded and took out his cell phone to make a call without revealing the slightest flaw.

"Wait!" Cold sweat broke out on Aquila's forehead. "I'm willing to pay you one billion as per your request, Mr. Lowry." As he said that, he gritted his molars and furiously said to Baldy beside him, "Go and get Mr. Lowry's shipment ready. I'll meet you at Star Harbor at four."

Baldy nodded grudgingly. "Understood."

Although the crowd was under Aquila's command, they were still stunned by the other party's capability. They all stared at Janet, Mason, and the others with wide eyes.

Meanwhile, Aquila slumped onto the sofa as though a weight had been lifted off his chest. The incident on this night was such a huge blow to him that he couldn't quite accept it at once. Jasmine is actually with the Lowry Family! This was a severe slap to his face. If he hadn't seen it with his own eyes, he would have never believed that Jasmine had a close relationship with the Lowry Family. However, that was the truth of the matter. And the fact that Jasmine is in good standing with the Lowry Family means that this casino is going to go to the dogs. If she intends to bankrupt my casino, she can totally do it. Then, the money I invested before will go up in smoke!

While he was paralyzed on the sofa, Black Python walked up to him with a tablet in his hand and ordered expressionlessly, "Transfer one billion into the Lowry Family's account, not a single cent less."

Aquila pursed his lips, disdain and reluctance etched on his face. Nonetheless, he still transferred the money in the end.

After verifying the Lowry Family's accounts, Black Python nodded at Mason. "The money has been received."

Mason nodded in return. Just when he was about to tell Janet that it was time to leave, he saw that she'd long since packed up in preparation for leaving.

"Let's go!" Janet's wintry voice echoed in the underground casino.

Upon hearing this, Aquila breathed a long sigh of relief even though he was still gripped by resentment and rancor. He hated J'Adore, Jasmine, and the Lowry Family!

When Janet was about to leave, someone abruptly trotted over. It was the flat-track bully—Ace. Surprisingly, his eyes shone with relief and respect instead of detestation. "Thank you for realizing my dream!"

This utterance hit Janet in the chest mildly, but in response, she merely smiled without saying anything, circling around him to leave.

"Jasmine!" Ace suddenly called out to her once more.

Janet halted, yet she didn't look back, her gaze languid.

"I'd like to become your disciple!"

When Janet heard that, she arched a brow while her eyes danced with humor. "I'm sorry, but I don't accept disciples."

Ace froze for a moment behind her. In a rare moment, a flash of tenderness manifested on his face, negating the unsightly scar above his left eye. As the crowd watched on, they were all moved. In the past, Ace loathed Jasmine because she stole his title as the ultimate gambler, but the moment he saw her, all the hatred within him melted away. Rather, he's regarding her with adulation in his eyes.

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"Jasmine's remark is so imposing! Sure enough, it's Master Jasmine's style!"

"It's a pity that she doesn't accept disciples. If she does, I'll definitely stick to her all day to learn some skills!"

"Hah! It's more likely that you've taken a fancy to her figure!"

"Ace seems a bit pitiful. Actually, I ship them together. Don't you all think they make a good match?"

Thus, the discussion continued in this direction.

As Mason listened to them, his face twitched, and the temperature of the air around him abruptly dropped, turning chilly. In the next instance, he pulled Janet into his arms in a possessive manner.

After they'd walked out, Henry patted his chest and breathed a sigh of relief. "Phew! My heart is pounding out of my chest."

"Myocardial infarction?" Janet turned her head to the side and stared at him expressionlessly.

"No, no!" Henry waved a dismissive hand. "I just never expected you to be—"

Before he could utter those two words, Janet changed the subject, saying, "Didn't Aquila say that he'll be waiting for you at Star Harbor at 4:00 to return you the shipment?" That

chatterbox, Henry, has been flapping his lips non-stop in there, yet he's still wanting to reveal my identity out here. Utter exasperation inundated her.

"Yup." With an arm wrapped around her waist, Mason helped her into the car. "Have Black Python and the others drive you back to the hotel to rest for a bit. I can manage with Henry."

"I can go with you. I'm not sleepy." Shaking her head, Janet climbed out of the car.

When Sean, Henry, and the others saw that she wanted to tag along, they all exclaimed in unison, "We'll drive you back to rest, Miss Jackson!"

Then, Black Python even emotionally gesticulated as he said, "Miss Jackson, your eye bags are showing, so you must be feeling very drowsy."

As soon as his words fell, Mason's heart tightened as distress flooded him. He bent down and scooped her up, depositing her into the car again. "Listen to me and sleep for a bit first. I'll be back soon." He pressed a kiss to her eyebrow.

The gentle touch stunned Janet for a moment, her face reddening a shade. Since he'd said as much, she could only nod helplessly. "You and Henry be careful, then. Aquila..." She paused before continuing, "Anyway, you and Henry must be on your guard."

Chuckling, Henry interjected nonchalantly, "Don't worry, Janet! He won't dare play any tricks since he's such a coward."

"Sleep earlier," Mason murmured softly with his back to Janet. Then, he climbed into the other car.

They were in the same place yet in two different cars, both harboring different thoughts. Frowning, Janet glanced out the window, and it so happened that Mason happened to gaze over as well. Stifling the urge to go to her, the man ordered in a deep voice, "Let's go." The sooner we leave, the sooner I can get back to the hotel and see her.

Janet, on the other hand, still had reservations about this. An obstinate person like Aquila might not hand the shipment over docilely. Rather, he might suddenly renege on his word and set a trap. After all, that dumb f*ck never thinks before he leaps.

While worrying throughout the drive, Janet finally arrived at the hotel. This hotel had been handpicked by Mason from the very beginning. It was a five-star hotel, so everything one

could possibly want was there, and he'd even booked the entire building. Black Python and White Python escorted her all the way to the door before stopping outside and standing guard. Janet quirked a brow in puzzlement, but she didn't inquire about it. After all, she had nothing to lose if they escorted her.

Entering the room, she then took a bath. Although her eyelids were heavy and she wanted to sleep badly, she just couldn't sleep when she thought of Mason. My concern back then came true. Compared to the Janet now who was worried about many matters, she preferred her past self who didn't care about anything. However, she only loved him, so she accepted her present self.

Ten minutes later, she exited the bathroom in a bathrobe. Lying on the bed, she deliberated for a moment before picking up her cell phone to give Desire a call. Usually, Lara went with her on missions, but Lara was now in Sandfort City, so she could only phone Desire.

On the other end of the phone, Desire's voice was deep and hoarse as though she'd been awakened from her sleep. "What's wrong, Janet?"

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Janet's brows furrowed slightly, and her voice was slightly apologetic when she spoke. "Did I wake you?"

Desire startled. When did Janet become so considerate? This isn't at all like the Janet Jackson who didn't care about anything in the past! "You're my superior, so don't be so courteous if you have orders for me."

Upon hearing this, Janet reverted to her usual solemn manner, her voice turning cool and placid. "Accompany me on a mission."

The moment Desire heard the word 'mission,' she almost jumped out of bed. A mission! I love taking risks! If Lara is also in Markovia, such an interesting task would definitely be hers. "Sure! Where are you? I'll pick you up!" Freeing her hands by clasping the cell phone with her chin, she swiftly changed into suitable clothes.

"Euphony Hotel. Bring a mask over." Her lips curving into a smile, Janet likewise changed swiftly. She was initially feeling quite dejected, but at the thought of seeing Mason, her mood improved greatly. With the corners of her mouth unconsciously tilted upward, she opened the room door and walked out.

"Miss Jackson!" Black Python was taken aback when she swung open the door soundlessly.

Janet didn't expect them to be still standing outside the door, so her expression turned a touch awkward. "Why are you two standing guard here?"

"Markovia isn't as safe as Sandfort City, so we're afraid that you might be in danger," Black Python explained grudgingly after an awkward chuckle.

"Are you thinking of going out, Miss Jackson?" White Python asked. "If so, Black Python and I will protect you."

"Nope," Janet answered, her face devoid of expression. Then, she closed the door before her eyes shifted to the window. The night is dark, and this is the 12th floor, so it'll be quite a good warm-up exercise. Her lips turned up. In the next instance, a beautiful figure cut across the air before descending slowly.

Outside the door, Black Python and White Python exchanged a glance, relieved that she obediently went back in to sleep.

Star Harbor was quite a distance away from the hotel. Anxious, Janet ordered Desire to move over and took the driver's seat herself.

Desire had never seen her in such a frenzy. Fortunately, there weren't many people or cars on the road at night, for Janet floored the gas pedal and drove close to 200 km/h. Such an ordinary car couldn't possibly withstand the strain exerted by a professional racer like her, so by the time they arrived at Star Harbor, Desire's car had also gone kaput, the tail end of it smoking.

Snagging the binoculars, Janet took a look, only to see that Mason and Henry were already here though Aquila hadn't yet arrived. She threw the binoculars to Desire, her gaze chilly. "Drive the car over to the junkyard. I can manage things alone here." Her voice was a tad hoarse and frigid.

Desire nodded. "Sure." The tail end of the car is smoking, so I'm afraid that the car will explode and catch fire if I don't drive it over to the junkyard.

Slipping on the mask hanging on her hand, Janet then adjusted her cap and covered all her exposed skin.

As Desire stared at her back, she couldn't help shuddering. Boss is really scary when she's protecting her man! If Aquila truly dares to play any tricks, she'll certainly raze his territory to the ground. "Do you need a gun?"

Whipping out a gun from her waistband, Janet brandished it in her hand. "I have one." After saying that, she loaded the gun and strode toward Star Harbor without any expression on her face.

Simply flinging the binoculars down in the car, Desire inhaled deeply as she gazed at Janet's cold and menacing back, her red lips curving upward. Mr. Lowry, what's so special about you that Boss loves you this much?

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Meanwhile, Aquila was seething. As Janet had predicted, he was indeed reluctant to return the shipment.

At this time, Aquila and Baldy had also arrived at the harbor. "Boss." Gritting his teeth, Baldy snarled furiously, "One million isn't a small sum, and we've also been played a fool by the Lowry Family tonight. How can we just take this lying down? Why don't we teach them a lesson?"

A dejected air hung about Aquila. He stared at Baldy coldly. "What do you propose?"

Sniggering, Baldy darted his gaze around. "Boss, while you go and return the shipment, I'll lay in wait and get that good grandson of the Lowry Family." From his words, he meant something along the lines of having Aquila handle the return of the shipment, while he himself set up an ambush and secretly picked Mason off.

"Idiot!" Aquila slapped the back of his head. "If we make a move here today, they'll know that we're the ones behind it. Do you have any brains?"

Although that was true, Baldy was still feeling resentful. "So what if they know that we're the ones behind it when they have no proof? Markovia is our territory, so he can't do anything to us," he huffed furiously.

Upon hearing this, Aquila cocked an eyebrow and threw Baldy the gun at his waistband. Then, he walked over to Star Harbor without saying a single word, his actions undoubtedly a tacit agreement to Baldy's words.

Baldy was stunned at first before he realized what Aquila meant. He licked his lips, very much confident that he could pull it off.

When Aquila arrived at Star Harbor, Janet who was hiding nearby went on her guard. She stared at him for a while, finding things rather strange. Where's the bald man who always follows behind him? In the past, he always brings him along. Thus, it was quite odd that Baldy wasn't here tonight.

She swept her gaze around in search of Baldy. A few seconds later, she narrowed her eyes before silently heading toward a spot that was even more hidden than hers. She didn't seem to make a single peep, and even her shadow wasn't quite discernible.

At this time, Mason stared at Aquila who was walking toward him alone, vaguely sensing something amiss. His eyes narrowed a fraction, and his relaxed nerves again went taut. "Where's the shipment?" He looked at Aquila expressionlessly.

"Do you mind going with me to retrieve it, Mr. Lowry?" Aquila put on an exceedingly friendly expression without betraying the slightest flaw.

Lifting his head, Sean gazed out a short distance away. His lips parting, he offered, "Why don't I go, Young Master Mason?" He, too, could vaguely sense something amiss. It's best to keep our guard up with Aquila.

"Alright, you go."

When Aquila heard that, the fierce-looking expression on his face twitched as though he'd accomplished something.

Baldy, on the other hand, was aiming a gun right at Mason without any inkling of the woman approaching him silently. He had earbuds plugged into his ears, his voice deep and slightly roguish as he commented, "Boss, that Lowry man's legs are quite long. What about crippling him?"

The corners of Aquila's mouth tilted upward coldly when he heard the voice drifting out of his earbuds. It's quite good if he's crippled. At that time, he won't even be able to come to Markovia.

When there was no response from him, Baldy continued, "Boss, I'm going to take the shot now. Don't make any sudden moves to avoid getting hit by the bullet." After saying that, he screwed on the silencer before loading the gun and pressing the trigger with his index finger.

Subsequently, a slight whizz of a gunshot cut through the air from the corner. Quirking a brow slightly, Mason reflexively swung his gaze in that direction even as he swiftly darted to the side and dodged the bullet.

Aquila feigned shock as well. "What was that?"

Mason strode toward the spot where the shot sounded. As he walked, he replied sarcastically, "I would like to know as well!"

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Sure enough, Janet was right! Aquila indeed has some tricks up his sleeve. It's fortunate that I was on my guard, else that bullet might have ended up embedded in my leg.

Baldy froze for a moment. Upon seeing Mason's glacial eyes swinging in his direction, he slipped off his earbuds and started retreating. However, before he could even take half a step back, a black shadow suddenly flashed to his front. He instinctively wanted to fire, but the other person didn't give him that opportunity, instantly choking him. Even his hands and legs were restrained by the person's body, while his gun was flung away.

"You've got quite the guts to fire at my man!" Gritting her teeth, Janet slapped the man hard across the face.

This blow rendered Baldy dizzy and disoriented, his mind turning fuzzy. For that reason, he didn't quite hear what the person said either.

Recalling the scene earlier, Janet's eyes seemed to be blanketed in a layer of ice, turning glacial, savage, and terrifying. Gritting her molars, she again punched him, and this blow landed on his eye.

The pain was so excruciating that Baldy stumbled back. Damn! If she hadn't said anything just now, I never would've believed that she's a woman! Isn't she just too strong?

Janet then dropped into a crouch, her eyes murky like frozen pools, her voice wild and wintry. "That Lowry man's legs are quite long, so you want to cripple him? Who said this?" Despite the smile in her words as she said this, her voice was threaded with abject chilliness.

Baldy felt as though he'd be dying at this woman's hands in the next second. "Who are you?" he questioned at the risk of his life. The woman was covered from head to toe, her aura one he'd never encountered. Even her voice was frigid, so he couldn't tell who she was.

Chuckling lowly, Janet pointed the gun at his head, her voice petrifyingly arctic. "Who I am isn't important. Remind Aquila that I'll ensure that he can never stay in Markovia anymore if he ever makes a move against anyone from the Lowry Family in the future." As she said this, she fired at his leg.

"Ahh! F*ck me!" Staring at the blood gushing out of his leg, Baldy felt as though his heart was about to stop.

The gunshot succeeded in leading Aquila and Mason over even more quickly. Nonetheless, Janet had long since prepared for this eventuality, for she swiftly shot to her feet and left in a flash, leaving her back to them.

When Aquila saw Baldy slumped on the ground, he abruptly exclaimed, "What happened to you, Baldy?"

At this, a hiss escaped Baldy. "I was shot by a woman!"

Staring at Baldy who was lying on the ground pathetically, Mason sneered.

"A woman?" Aquila's eyes narrowed. "Who was she?"

Baldy shook his head. "I don't know, but she said not to make a move against anyone from the Lowry Family in the future," he replied.

Upon hearing that, both Mason and Aquila were stunned. Gritting his teeth, Aquila threw Mason a hateful look. What the hell? Why is there someone protecting this man wherever he goes? It was only him and Baldy here at this moment, so now that Baldy was shot, it truly wasn't the time to make a move. Thus, he could only retreat. "Let's go."

Mason was likewise stunned by Baldy's remark of not making a move against anyone from the Lowry Family, so much so that he ignored their intentions and allowed them to escape with their lives. Who was it? Who on earth would say such a thing?

Fixing his eyes on the petite figure, he hurriedly chased after her. The night was pitch-dark. When he caught up to her, she suddenly stopped by the roadside as though waiting for something. Stilling his step, he asked in a cool voice that was slightly distant and detached, "Who are you?"

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Janet, who just stopped in her tracks, was feeling sheepish about it. Her heart was racing. Not expecting Mason to come after her, she waited for Desire by the road. She didn't even hear his footsteps approaching her.

Noticing her silence, Mason asked again, "Why did you help me?"

A sheen of sweat covered her forehead as she was overcome by a nervousness that was unprecedented. She wasn't even that nervous when she was discussing matters with him regarding the base. It was an emotion that she had never encountered throughout the past few years.

At the same time, she was also afraid that Mason might suspect her identity, so she faked a shrill voice. "Don't you forget about your collaboration with MX, Mr. Lowry. I was worried that nobody will be able to take over Lowry Family Conglomerate if you're dead, since your assistance will be required for MX to survive in Sandfort City."

Hearing that, Mason narrowed his eyes. To be honest, he had been wondering since just now if the woman before him was Janet, as nobody else would want to protect him out of love. However, Janet shouldn't be able to subdue a well-trained expert like Baldy. Besides, the woman's apathetic voice didn't sound like Janet at all. Therefore, he quickly scratched that idea.

It's true that MX needs the support of the Lowrys if they want to thrive in Sandfort City, so what she said makes full sense. "How did you know I'll be trading with Aquila here?" Mason pressed on, still intent to uncover some sort of loophole in the woman's words, since no one other than his babe knew about the fact that he would be meeting up with Aquila at Star Harbor at four o'clock in the morning.

Pulling her lips into a thin line, Janet said in a low voice, "I'm J'Adore, and Markovia is my turf, so getting a grasp on your whereabouts is a piece of cake."

"Oh?" There was a cold glint in Mason's eyes when he spoke again in an aloof tone. "Does this mean you know about what happened in the underground casino?"

"Somewhat." Janet cleared her throat. "The moment Aquila came to me for help, I knew he must've stirred up some trouble again." Staring at the view before her, Janet relayed everything in a bone-chilling voice, as if the man behind her was but a stranger.

Upon hearing that, Mason nodded. "Yeah, he intercepted a batch of our goods that was on its way to Markovia."

With a chuckle, Janet deliberately exclaimed, "I knew it!" By right, she was supposed to help Aquila settle the matter. It would be beneficial to her, as Aquila and MX were the two major

factions in Markovia. At the same time, however, her decision to refrain from helping Aquila wouldn't seem out of place due to MX's collaboration with the Lowrys, thus working to her advantage to avoid Mason's suspicion.

Just when Mason was about to say something, a red sports car drove toward them from the dark. Janet paused for a moment before getting into the car. Seemingly devoid of emotion, she didn't even look back when the car drove away.

Meanwhile, Sean hurried over from his position after hearing sounds of a gunshot. Seeing Mason's tall stature standing unharmed under the night sky by the road, he heaved a sigh of relief. "Mr. Lowry, I heard a gunshot just now. Was the shot fired by Aquila's men?"

Averting his gaze from the sports car that was driving away, Mason turned to face Sean. "It's J'Adore from MX."

"J'Adore?" Sean seemed perplexed.

Just when Mason was about to explain, Henry jogged over from behind after finishing his tasks. Still panting from the exertion, he asked, "Did somebody shoot?"

With narrowed eyes, Mason nodded. "Someone from MX caught Baldy and shot him in the leg. He fled while being escorted by Aquila."

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"I see." It dawned on Henry as to what happened.

"Let's go." While on his way to leave the harbor, Mason turned around to glance at Henry. "Have you told your men to come retrieve the goods?"

"Don't you worry." Henry yawned. "You can trust in my abilities."

Mason let out a soft chuckle. "Thanks for your hard work. You can ask for anything you want."

Sean lowered his head before replying respectfully, "Mr. Lowry, this is part of our job."

Upon hearing that, Henry gave Sean a pat on the shoulder. "Don't be silly!" He then turned to tell Mason, "I want the sports car that's parked at the basement of Lowry Residence!"

Turning to meet his gaze, Mason agreed to his request. "Come get the keys at my house when we're back in Sandfort City."

Henry stared at Mason. All of a sudden, the latter seemed dazzling to him. Wow, that remodeled sports car is worth more than a billion! Bold of him to be willing to give it away just like that!

Back in the car, Henry, who was beaming with pride while seated in it, noted that something felt off regarding what happened back at the harbor as he delved deeper into it. Therefore, he looked back at Mason before directing a question at him. "Why would J'Adore help us deal with Aquila's men?"

Hearing that, Mason pulled his lips into a thin line, but before he could explain, Henry cut him short. "Might she be your wife?"

"That's impossible!" He bit his tongue while refuting Henry's claim.

Henry also agreed that his conjecture sounded absurd. If J'Adore were one and the same as Mason's wife, she wouldn't have needed to negotiate for a base with the Lowrys. It was just illogical.

Sean, on the other hand, nearly grazed past the road sign as he had a hard time focusing on driving. What is Henry even thinking? Mr. Lowry only met J'Adore a few times. They wouldn't have met more than two times, so how could he possibly fall for her? Besides, he already has Miss Jackson, so he would never associate himself with J'Adore.

Mason rolled his eyes at Henry before warning him, "Unless you're giving up on the sports car, you'd better not mention this in front of Janet!" It was an effective threat that sounded both sinister and aloof, which managed to silence Henry.

It wasn't until after a while that Henry found an acceptable excuse. "Oh, I remember that MX is working with the Lowry Family! She must've helped you out because of this! How silly of me! Why didn't I ever think of this? Oh, I must not be in my right mind!" While Henry was talking to himself, Mason was staring intently at the scenery passing by the window with narrowed eyes.

On the other hand, after Janet had had a shower to clean up as well as gotten herself a change of clothes in her mansion, it was already five o'clock. The sun was already rising when she checked on her phone, only to find a text from Mason. "Are you asleep? I'm on my way back after my task."

Her heart sank the moment she read it. Shoot! He's almost at the hotel! If I don't get back there in time, he'll definitely see that the room is unoccupied! If things went down that way, Mason would suspect where she went, with the worst case scenario being him uncovering her identity as J'Adore. However, it was too late for her to hurry back to the hotel, so she had to come up with another solution.

Meanwhile, Mason's black Maserati pulled over in front of the hotel. The bodyguards standing in the lobby bowed at him respectfully as soon as he entered. With a smile on his face, Mason dismissed them. "Thanks for your hard work. You guys can go get some rest."

His reaction surprised all of them.

Huh? Is this really the Mr. Lowry we know? Why has he become so gentle and kind?

Tsk tsk tsk. Love does make a man turn kind.

Mason merely arched his brow before marching into the elevator. It was already six o'clock by then, so the hotel also began getting some sunlight. As quietly as possible, Mason unlocked the door to his room to enter with light steps, as he didn't want to disturb Janet.

However, a glum look loomed over his features as soon as he approached the large, white bed to see that Janet was nowhere in sight in the room. Other than that, not a wrinkle could be seen on the neatly-made bed, which meant that Janet didn't even rest on the bed during the time that he was away.

Still holding out hope, he searched the bathroom, but neither was Janet in there. He wondered if Aquila had kidnapped her, but seeing that they were dealing with the goods not two hours ago, they shouldn't have had the time to abduct Janet.

Meanwhile, in another presidential suite, Black Python and White Python heaved a sigh of relief upon Mason's arrival, as it meant that they could get some sleep instead of needing to watch over Janet. Without warning, someone came knocking on their door, causing them to exchange a glance. "Who is it?"

"It's me!" A cold voice came through, so Black Python sprang up to answer the door.

On the other side of the door, Mason had a morose look on his face as he gritted his teeth furiously. "You have an hour to find Janet!"

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"What happened?" Black Python blinked as he kicked his legs to spring up from the floor. Did Miss Jackson escape? But how could she possibly escape when White Python and I had been standing guard outside the room? However, he dared not voice his doubts upon seeing Mason's sullen expression, so he nodded hastily. "Yes, sir! I'll go check on the surveillance records!"

Markovia was almost as huge as Sandfort City. Since Mason only brought a dozen of his men with him this time, he had no choice but to mobilize his men from Sandfort City to Markovia for the search. The chilly gaze in his eyes was appalling.

Meanwhile, Janet was driving her red sports car at a speed of over two hundred kilometers per hour. Fortunately, there weren't a lot of vehicles on the road during the wee hours. Desire was holding her phone that had been ringing nonstop while gulping hard. "Miss Jackson, should I, or should I not?"

Gritting her teeth in frustration, Janet figured she should try to bullsh*t her way through this since both options would lead to her doom. "Pick it up!"

With a nod, Desire tapped on the answer button, but the screen blacked out as soon as she did so, leaving her hanging awkwardly. "F*ck, did the phone just switch off?"

Janet thumped her hands on the steering wheel. "I think it ran out of battery!"

Giving her a nod, Desire cast a glance outside the window before crying out in surprise. "Miss Jackson, isn't that you?"

Upon hearing that, Janet shifted her gaze to see photos of her all over the advertisement boards and skyscrapers, as if someone had put up a search notice.

"Quickly have someone withdraw those photos!" she shouted. Seeing that Mason had set out to search for her, a conflict was bound to happen.

Meanwhile, back at Lowry Residence in Sandfort City.

Old Madam Lowry already got back to the house the previous day after catching a flight from Markovia. Upon receiving news that Mason needed to mobilize his men to search for Janet in Markovia, she nearly fainted due to anger.

While she might be able to overlook the fact that he had brought her granddaughter-in-law along to Markovia for such a dangerous mission, he ended up losing her. Old Madam Lowry was pissed. "Tell that brat that he can die there if he doesn't find Janet!"

"Y-Yes, Ma'am!" The servants began packing, getting ready to head to Markovia once again.

Meanwhile, Desire threw Janet's phone back to her after she parked her car near the hotel. Taking the phone, Janet told her, "Remember to delete the surveillance record that filmed us along the road. Thanks for your work!"

Desire nodded meekly. "No problem, Miss Jackson! Leave it up to me!" However, she probed afterward, "Miss Jackson, don't you plan on revealing to him your true identity?"

There was a moment's silence as Janet weighed her options. While she didn't initially plan to do that, she was tempted to do so after Desire made mention of it. The reason being that she was already in an established relationship with Mason, so she felt guilty for harboring secrets from him. However, she merely put on a smile before replying, "I have my plans. For now, you should drive the car away."

With that, Janet turned around to head in the direction of the hotel while coming up with excuses for her recent absence. All of a sudden, she was curious if Mason would help solve the problems regarding MX setting up a base in Sandfort City. She wouldn't need to expose her identity if he was willing to help.

At this time, in the hotel.

Mason hadn't slept a wink ever since last night, as his mind was occupied by her helpless expression. However, he was at a loss of what to do. Markovia was huge, and he hadn't an inkling of her whereabouts.

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A name flashed across Mason's mind when he was still brooding on the subject. Perhaps MX might be able to help.

At that same moment, Sean's voice came through. "Mr. Lowry, Miss Jackson is back!"

Janet stood by the door while glancing at him furtively, but she had to pretend as if nothing happened. Meanwhile, Mason marched toward her with a chilly aura about him, but his dark eyes seemed to hold grief. "What's the matter?" Janet asked, feigning ignorance as to the reason he was upset.

Upon hearing her question, Mason pulled her into an embrace so tight that it felt like he was trying to merge their figures into one. He didn't know, nor did he dare imagine how painful it might be to lose Janet.

Janet yawned in an attempt to hide something. "I'm so tired. I want to sleep." Despite her attempts to break free, Mason didn't let go, causing her to regard him with a frown.

"There's no hurry in doing that. You'll have plenty of time later on!" Mason dragged her into the lobby before heading upstairs.

The sight of it came as a relief to Sean. Good gracious! Miss Jackson is so naughty! First, she didn't inform us beforehand where she was going, then didn't pick up our calls. And now, she just pops back in front of us after such a long period of silence?

Seeing that things were more or less settled, Sean gave a call to inform his subordinates in Sandfort City that they were no longer required to set off to Markovia as Janet had returned safe and sound. Besides, one of the people who were most worried about Janet was an elderly woman, so he figured he should soothe her nerves as soon as possible.

"We've found her. You can now remove the search notices," Sean instructed the advertising company.

However, the man on the phone said, "We already did so early on! You can rest assured of our efficiency."

The man's response brought a frown to Sean's face. He raised his voice to question in puzzlement, "Why would you do that? We are just calling you now!"

As soon as he said so, truth dawned on the man on the other end of the line. "So you weren't the ones who gave us a call just now?"

His frown taut, Sean had an odd feeling regarding the situation. Suspicion arose within him when he thought, Might Miss Jackson's disappearance be somehow connected to the incident at Star Harbor?

Meanwhile, in the presidential suite on the twelfth floor, Mason led Janet to sit down on the bed, a calm confusion showing on her face. The screen of the phone she left on the table was black, seemingly indicating that it was switched off. It was her attempt to show him that she didn't answer her phone because it was switched off. Nonetheless, he asked a few seconds later after glancing at it, "Tell me. Where have you been?"

"What's wrong?" Janet seemed indifferent to his question.

Taking a deep breath, he rubbed her hands with much force while staring at her delicate face. "Why didn't you inform me that you needed to go out? Why didn't you pick up my calls?" While he didn't mind if she wanted to have fun, he deemed her recent outing last night inappropriate given the circumstances. She should've waited for him in the hotel.

Janet lifted her gaze to look at him, at the same time requesting, "Can I not answer your question?" She seemed conflicted.

Upon noticing that, Mason didn't feel like prying any further, since he understood that everybody had secrets, and that even intimate couples needed their own space. Therefore, he decided that he would respect her wishes. There's nothing I can do if she's gonna be like this. After a moment's silence, he pulled his lips into a thin line. "Have you been to Star Harbor?"

Silently, Janet hung her head low before locking eyes with him again without a word.

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"Before that, I have a question for you." She crossed her legs before throwing a question at him nonchalantly. "How will you react if I tell you I did go to Star Harbor?"

She did? So she is J'Adore of MX? Mason's body stiffened at the thought. "Is that why you risked yourself to save me?"

Knowing she wouldn't be able to cover up what happened, she already scripted a response accordingly. All of a sudden, she put on a wretched look, seemingly on the verge of tears. "I don't know, but I saw nothing."

Although Mason was angry and astonished by her response, he panicked as soon as he saw her reddened eyes. "What did you see?"

"How do you expect me to reply to that? Should I tell you that I saw you talking with another woman, as well as seeing that woman save you?" Janet averted her gaze in reluctance.

"You knew about everything that happened at Star Harbor last night?" He wondered if she meant that she went after him to Star Harbor, but didn't show herself as she saw him talking with another woman. Does this also mean she's unwilling to tell me of her whereabouts because she's feeling jealous?

At that moment, Janet turned around to sneakily wipe her tears, but Mason noticed it, causing him to fall into silence. Although there were too many coincidences, he decided to release his doubts upon witnessing someone as headstrong as her crying.

Seeing that he stood unmoving, Janet tugged on his sleeve while hanging her head low. In a low and slightly hoarse voice, she probed, "Are you angry because I didn't inform you that I went to Star Harbor?"

"Why would I?" Mason hugged her while patting her shoulders, looking at her from where he stood. "I'm overjoyed that you would think of coming to find me, so I have no reason to be angry."

A smile tugged on the corner of Janet's lips upon hearing that, as she was sure that he believed in her. Subsequently, she poured a glass of water from the dispenser to hand it to him. "But I left the hotel without telling you."

Taking the water from her, Mason sounded both defeated yet still loving. "Next time, you should stay put instead of sneaking out, okay?"

"No!" Janet was quick to put her foot down. "I won't allow myself to sit around idly when you're exposed to danger! You have to bring me along no matter the situation! I fear nothing!" Even if she had a second chance, she would still go after him to Star Harbor, as he was her man.

Hearing her dedication brought a gentle smile to his face. "But I fear for you."

After he said so, an equivocal silence hung thick in the air. Janet held his hand in hers before sliding her hand to his sturdy waist. Then, she planted a kiss on his lips. "I'm sorry."

Mason was momentarily startled before taking the initiative to kiss her back. It wasn't until her body went limp and she was desperate for oxygen that he let go of her. By then, her lipstick was already ruined, staining both their lips.

Panting, he reassured, "The Lowrys are all well-trained, and every one of us has capabilities on par with a special force personnel, so I'll be alright. Nobody will be able to hurt me."

Taking a deep breath, she said, "I know that, but nor am I weak, so you have nothing to worry about."

They exchanged a glance before Mason let out a chuckle. While he knew she could stand on her own, there was no place for a girl on a battlefield. It was especially unbecoming of his girl. "Are you tired?" He felt sorry for her when he noticed the bags under her eyes.

"Yeah."

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Mason smiled before scratching her nose. In a tone that sounded both reprehensive yet loving, he chided, "You didn't even spend a minute in here before sneaking out, you rascal!"

Knowing that someone cared for her had Janet feeling warm and fuzzy all of a sudden. After saying that, Mason tugged on her hand to lead her to the bathroom.

"What's the matter?" Her face turned a pinkish hue. Is he planning on bathing with me?

"Let's bathe!" Mason chuckled, then carried her on his shoulder when she had her guard down. There was a shift in Janet's countenance when she fell backward onto his shoulder.

Ever since they got into the bathroom, Janet had been shrieking nonstop for twenty minutes straight. "Hey, d-don't stare! Close your eyes!"

"Let me help you!"

"I don't need your help!"

"You got me all worried, you rascal!"

After ten or so minutes of the ordeal, Janet's face was flushing a deep crimson red. She felt like she was about to meet her creators while her heart palpitated like never before, as it was their first time ever seeing each other naked. Although she had been trying to cover herself with a towel, the thin fabric was torn when Mason tugged on it.

It wasn't until then that she knew how horrid he could be. In the end, she managed to escape after a desperate struggle. She had her eyes closed all the while. It was thanks to her excellent sense of direction that she didn't slip and fall on the floor.

When Mason got back out from the bathroom, Janet was already fast asleep on the bed with a towel wrapped around her. He toweled his hair dry while staring at her tiny frame on the bed with a deep gaze, the sight of it disturbing the tranquility within him. Putting the towel aside, he straddled the bed while dragging his slender fingers across her delicate face.

Janet could feel his breathing tingling her ear. Turning her head to face him, she had a gentle gaze in her eye when she inquired, "What's wrong? Aren't you going to bed?"

Upon hearing that, Mason reached out to caress her hair before speaking in a hoarse voice. "You should dry your hair." Sleeping with wet hair can lead to a headache. She shouldn't be stubborn about it even if she was a doctor.

Thus, she got up with narrowed eyes, but she didn't move otherwise.

In the meantime, Mason retrieved the hair dryer from the bathroom before sitting down by the bed. Upon recalling that Janet was about to resume her studies, he asked, "When do you want to go back to Sandfort City?"

She pondered on the subject. "You decide."

"Then we'll sleep through the morning. We can always return at night."

"Okay."

After giving her reply, Janet was suddenly jolted awake when she recalled a question that she had been meaning to ask. In a hushed voice that was devoid of emotion, she probed, "Will you promise to help me out if I ever want to do something in Sandfort City?"

Smiling, Mason planted a kiss on her forehead. "Of course. What do you want to do?"

"Nothing." Janet shook her head. She knew he would help settle all of her problems in secret if he ever knew about her wish to set up a base in Sandfort City, which was something that worried her.

Mason assumed that the question was but a result of her grogginess, so he paid no heed to it. Lowering his head, he took in the scent of shampoo and her bodily scent when he sniffed on her hair. It made him feel dizzy, stirring up certain notions that were taboo. He didn't expect himself to carry her into the bathroom so impulsively, which he regretted as he felt the bulging sensation of his erection.

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After he returned the hair dryer to its original position, Janet fell asleep while leaning against the headboard. A smile ghosted his lips when he stared at her sleeping face. It struck a chord in his heart that brought forth a sense of warmth. All of a sudden, he caught a glimpse of the silver gun beside the bed, which he picked up without making a sound.

As soon as he grasped it, his heart sank when he noticed that it was equipped with a muffler. Come to think of it, he had yet to teach her how to install a muffler on a gun. Moreover, the gun was loaded. When he unloaded the cartridge, he noticed that it contained only seven bullets, while the eighth was missing, which indicated that she had fired the gun.

As soon as he noted that, doubts arose within him. He observed her sleeping face before letting out an abrupt chuckle. Then, he mumbled in a low voice, "Janet, was it you that I saw?" However, he also wondered why she chose not to tell him the truth if she was indeed the woman he saw. It was fine if she didn't want to tell him, as he agreed that everybody had a right to keep secrets, but he would feel sorry for her if she was indeed J'Adore. He caressed her face and spent some time staring at her before turning to exit the room.

As soon as he stepped out of the room, he saw Sean walking up to him, who greeted him with a solemn nod. "Mr. Lowry."

Mason returned the nod before brushing past him.

While watching Mason leave, Sean hesitated if he should tell him about his suspicions. In the end, he called out to Mason. "Mr. Lowry!"

He stopped in his tracks before turning back slightly. "What is it?"

"I have a feeling that something's fishy regarding what happened early this morning," Sean said. According to Black Python, he had been standing guard in front of the hotel room all night with White Python, so Janet shouldn't be able to sneak out of the room. One possible exit remained, which was the area in the backyard that was undergoing maintenance. He realized it was obstructed from view when he checked on the surveillance records.

Pursing his lips, Mason paused for a moment before asking, "Does it have something to do with Janet?"

"Yeah."

"We'll talk about it after we return to Sandfort City." Mason narrowed his eyes, keeping a straight face as he did so. Perhaps she had her reasons. All will come to the surface when the time is right.

Sean nodded obediently, as he agreed that they shouldn't be investigating Janet behind her back. After all, she must've worked extraordinarily hard to attain the position as leader in Markovia. Due to the difficulties that she had to go through, she would of course hide her identity carefully.

It was seven o'clock at night in Markovia. Janet, Mason, and a few more people were dining in the hotel. Checking out Janet's high-collared outfit, Henry laughed before making fun of her. "Miss Janet, there's still some time before winter arrives. Don't you feel stuffy in it?"

Mason's gaze darkened while glancing at Janet, as he could see from his position the red marks on her neck. While propping her collar up, she glared at him for leaving not one, but multiple hickeys on her neck when she was asleep. It was his fault that she had to wear a high-collared outfit during summer, causing people to give her a knowing glance during the afternoon.

Being on the receiving end of Janet's glare, Mason vented his frustrations on Henry. "Focus on eating your food!"

"I'm full already, so I'll go pack my stuff," Janet said. After that, she looked at Mason while tugging on his hand. "Don't you need to pack up?"

"Alright." Mason pursed his lips before smiling at her. Later on, he followed her upstairs.

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Upon entering their room, Mason stopped by the door to watch her while arching his brow. "Are you unhappy that I left visible marks?"

Janet kept her silence while walking into the bathroom. After a while, she complained, "I can't get rid of these marks."

"Let me have a look." Hearing that, Mason chuckled before entering the bathroom.

Janet stood still, allowing him to comb her hair aside. He then tapped the back of her neck with his coarse and chilly fingers before rubbing the back of her flushed ears. "I'm sorry to have overexerted myself." After saying that, he deliberately put on a mischievous smile.

Grinning naughtily herself, Janet cried out loud, "This is unfair!"

Upon hearing that, the resulting thought of her being angry somehow made Mason nervous. Just when he was about to explain himself, Janet reached for his waist before standing on tiptoes to suck on his neck. There was a popping noise when her lips separated from the flesh on his neck. She put just the right amount of pressure behind it, making it sound sensual. When Mason heard that, his eyes darkened while he tightened his grasp around her thin waist. After that, he said in a dangerously attractive voice, "You're playing with fire." He wondered if she assumed that he wouldn't take her then and there.

"Haha!" Tilting her head, Janet laughed while arching an eyebrow provocatively. The sight of it aroused him, which gave him an erection. Although he tried to move away, he found himself nailed to the spot as if being charmed.

"Aren't you leaving?" Janet turned around to tug on his hand.

As he stared into her cunning eyes, he narrowed his own dark eyes that were filled with desire. Then, he raised his eyebrows before circling around her to bar her exit. "Why don't we stay here for another night? We can leave tomorrow morning?"

Rendered speechless by his suggestion, Janet locked eyes with him for a moment before recalling a question that she had been meaning to ask. "Where's the silver gun?" She couldn't find it when she was packing her luggage earlier.

"I took it back, It's not safe for you to carry it around."

"Okay." Janet pursed her lips while maintaining a poker face.

Later, they arrived at the airport by nine o'clock at night. Black Python, White Python, Sean and Henry were already waiting for them on the plane. Upon hearing their footsteps, Henry lifted his gaze to see the crimson marks on Mason's neck. He couldn't help but make fun of the latter. "Tch, you got stung by a huge mosquito in the span of the short amount of time we spent apart!"

Upon hearing that, the others noticed the hickey on Mason's neck as well when they raised their head to check on him. Their bodies stiffened at the sight of it before they smiled awkwardly. One of them said sheepishly, "Wow. That was quite a huge mosquito indeed."

Janet was at a loss for words; all she knew was that she sure wished to blast these idiots out of the plane.

Four hours later, the plane landed safely. Meanwhile, at Lowry Residence in Sandfort City, Old Madam Lowry had already received news of Janet's return. After she was done with her dinner, she had been waiting for them until it was past twelve midnight.

When she finally saw Janet, she was so elated that not even the joy of winning a lottery could compare to her current jubilant mood. The servants within the house were also greeting Janet with a smile on their faces. "Janet, you've gotten prettier after a few months! You look like an angel!" Old Madam Lowry brushed past Mason to snatch Janet away from him.

Henry smiled when he heard that. "She sure looks prettier than ever! How could she not when Mason was constantly being lovey-dovey with her?"

When Mason heard those words, he shot him a glare before instructing a servant in a hushed voice, "Hand the keys of the remodeled car to Young Master Moss."

"Understood, Young Master Mason!"

"Thank you very much!" Henry chuckled as he headed toward the entrance with his hands in his pockets.