

Sir, You Don't Know Your Wife Chapter 77

Honey, I'm still at the art gallery. I'll go find you after I'm done. Mwah!"

Janet's moment of silence was suddenly interrupted by a middle-aged lady's voice. The lady continued to speak on the phone while ignoring the people around her.

"Oh well, I miss you too." The lady continued to blabber.

In the meantime, Janet looked toward the words written on the wall. 'Please be quiet!'

Not long after, her phone suddenly rang, so she took out her phone and noticed that Lee sent her a message. Just when she was about to reply to him, the lady had already ended her call and was now walking toward her.

"Can you be quiet? Can't you see that there are lots of people here?" After that, the lady even rolled her eyes at Janet.

Janet raised her eyes and looked at her with a calm expression as the lady continued to speak, "What are you looking at? Have you not seen a gorgeous lady before?!"

Janet's lips curled upward, revealing a menacing smile. Gorgeous lady? I've actually never seen a gorgeous lady like her before.

An attendant went up to both of them and asked, "What's the problem?"

"Are you asking me what's the problem? The people who come to the art gallery are uncivilized. Her phone was ringing, so I asked her to silence it, but she talked back to me!" Madam Hunt ranted.

The attendant felt aggrieved. "Can you two lower your voices? Please don't disturb others at the art gallery."

Madam Hunt's eyes widened, staring at the attendant. "Who are you talking to? She was the one who started it."

"This..." For a moment, the attendant didn't know what else to say.

After letting out a snort, Janet squinted her eyes and sneered, "Do you need me to check the security cameras and see who was the one actually speaking through the phone?"

Madam Hunt pointed at Janet's nose and scolded, "You little b*tch. I'm not afraid of you!"

Janet pushed her hand away and warned her quietly, "Don't point your finger at me; otherwise, you won't be able to fix it after I break it."

"What... did you just say?" Madam Hunt's eyes widened.

I can't believe I'm being threatened by a little girl. This little girl is going to get what she deserves.

"You wild little girl. Believe it or not, I will ask someone to throw you out of here."

The attendant could feel that the atmosphere was worsening, so he quickly went to call the manager.

Then, the manager dressed in a black suit came over. "What are you two arguing about?"

As soon as Madam Hunt saw the manager coming, she feigned that she was the victim and complained, "Look at her. Not only is she being noisy in public, but she even scolded me for correcting her."

After the manager gave Janet and Madam Hunt a thorough look, he realized that the older woman wore jewelry. She isn't someone whom I should mess with, so I'll just start with this little girl. "Alright. Alright. Stop fighting. The person who started it should apologize."

Janet smiled coldly. "Please apologize!"

"You are crazy. Stop accusing me!" Madam Hunt's high pitch voice drew the attention of the people around them, so everyone looked in their direction. "Everyone, please be the judge. This little girl not only scolded me, but she also accused me of something that I didn't do!" She made her tears clear for everyone to see how pitiful she was.

However, everybody couldn't make an evaluation of the situation because they didn't know the whole story, so all of them remained silent.

At the same time, Janet didn't want to waste more time, so she said to Madam Hunt, who was blocking her path, "Move away!" However, Madam Hunt straightened her posture and refused to move. "Good dogs don't stand in the way!"

"Oh dear, this little girl is yelling at me!" Madam Hunt knew that she won the moment Janet scolded her, so she intentionally started to cry.

Everyone saw that the lady was being bullied, so they quickly expressed their discontent.

"This little girl is so rude!"

"Both of you should just take one step back!"

"The two of them are so noisy. Throw both of them out!"

In the midst of everyone's conversation, Janet continued playing with her phone, as if she didn't listen to any of it.

Seeing how indifferent she looked, Madam Hunt became furious as she wanted to say something.

'Lara, can you please hack into Sandfort City Summerville Art Gallery's security cameras before sending it to my phone?'

In a few minutes, Lara quickly replied before sending a video.

Janet looked satisfied as she glanced at the video on her phone. Then, she raised her tender arm and showed her phone to the manager.

As soon as the manager saw the video on her phone, he was shocked to the point where he couldn't speak properly. "W-Why... Do you have the surveillance video of our art gallery?"

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Upon hearing her words, Madam Hunt snatched Janet's phone. The moment she saw herself in the video, she instantly intended to destroy it.

Janet's red lips parted as her eyes appeared to be cold. "Do you have the nerve to do it?"

Madam Hunt shuddered at her words. Frightened, her face paled as she put the phone back in Janet's hands. Who's this girl? Why does she have the capability to get hold of the surveillance video of the art gallery? Did I accidentally offend another bigshot?

Everyone noticed that she remained quiet with her head bowed.

"Looks like it was this old lady who accused the innocent despite being the one in fault."

"Hey, she just said that it was this girl who scolded her first."

Upon hearing the condemnation of the crowd, she carried her bag and immediately left with her tail in between her legs.

Seeing that, the crowd dispersed, but two figures at the corner happened to see the scene.

Shocked, Emily looked at Megan. "Mom, did I hear it wrong? Did I just hear the manager saying that Janet has the surveillance video of the art gallery? How is that possible? Could it be that she knows someone from the art gallery? Or maybe she hacked into the security system of the art gallery?"

Megan was dumbfounded as well. She couldn't even speak fluently. "I-I don't know either!"

She had a lot of things on her mind, especially when she looked at Janet's figure—getting first place in the trial exams, the champion in the competition, and also the incident today... Janet, what secrets are you hiding?

"Mom, I've always been wondering whether Janet was really raised in the countryside," Emily asked.

"How would I know about this? I'll talk to your father once we return home."

The banquet for discipleship ceremony began at about 4PM at the Capital Hotel.

Emily had changed into a white evening gown, looking as beautiful as a swan.

Seeing that Megan had gone to the washroom, she deliberately walked up to Janet and flaunted her outfit. "Janet, am I pretty?"

Janet raised an eyebrow. "Are you asking about yourself or your painting? I think that both are so-so."

Emily was stunned for a moment at her words, as if she had heard an unbelievable joke. "Janet, could it be that you are jealous of me? In fact, deep down, you despise me. Anyway, I'll become Old Mr. Collins' disciple after tonight. Do you think that you will still be worthy to be my sister?"

Janet looked at Emily as if the latter was an idiot. "What is so great about being that blind man's disciple? It's not like I haven't seen your level before!"

Her contemptuous gaze infuriated Emily.

The two of them didn't notice the man, who was not far away from them.

Joshua was astounded the moment he spotted Janet. He and Old Mr. Collins had been searching for her for the past few days, but never expected to run into her during the discipleship ceremony.

"Joshua?" When he heard his teacher's voice, he turned and saw Old Mr. Collins asking him with a stern expression. "What are you looking at?"

Joshua pointed at Janet. "Sir, do you think that she looks like the young lady from a few days ago?"

Old Mr. Collins squinted his eyes before his eyes gleamed with surprise in the next second. "I think it's her. Why is she here?"

A hint of puzzlement flashed across his eyes. The person next to the young lady seems like Emily. Could it be that both of them know each other?

"Joshua, go and ask that young lady to come to my private lounge," he quietly instructed.

“Now?”

“Yes!”

Janet was about to leave the place where Emily was, but she was suddenly stopped.
“Young lady, it’s me. Do you remember me?”

She raised her brows and glanced at him. Her gaze was so cold that it made him feel as if he was in an ice cellar—it was nothing like a student’s.

“Joshua?” Emily was puzzled. How did he know Janet?

Old Mr. Collins had introduced Joshua to her before, so she was especially friendly to him.

However, Joshua was totally captivated by Janet and did not even glance at Emily. He smiled. “Young lady, Old Mr. Collins had asked for you to meet him. I’m wondering whether you are free.”

At that moment, it was as if Emily’s world spun. Why did Old Mr. Collins call for Janet? I’m supposed to be the star for today!

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Although she was confused, she pulled Joshua's arm and asked in a fluster, "Joshua, why hasn't Old Mr. Collins called for me? I'm the star today!"

"Miss Emily, Sir didn't call for you, so don't follow us." Joshua easily shook away Emily's hand.

Janet clicked her tongue and tucked her hair before leaving together with him.

For an inexplicable reason, Emily had a sense of foreboding as she looked at their disappearing figures.

Just then, Megan returned from the washroom. When she saw Emily standing there in puzzlement, she asked, "What's wrong?"

Emily replied in nervousness, "I have no idea why Old Mr. Collins called for Janet earlier."

A stunned Megan then dragged Emily to follow them. "Come on, let's go and check it out."

However, they were both stopped outside the door to the lounge.

When Janet entered the lounge, she was surprised to see the legendary Old Mr. Collins. Isn't this the teacher who said that I know nothing?

"It's you?" She peered at the old man before her. Isn't this the teacher whom I met that day?

Old Mr. Collins awkwardly coughed before retrieving Master Nato's painting, which Janet had commented was childish when she was at the Academy of Fine Arts. He then placed the painting in front of her. "You told me a few days ago that Master Nato's painting when she was younger didn't meet your expectations, so I would like to have you amend the painting."

Janet narrowed her phoenix eyes and glanced at him. Later, she stepped forward and picked up a brush before it was placed on a few spots of the painting. "This carp... seems sluggish; it looks sleepy," she remarked in a low voice and the brush landed on the scales and eyes.

He frowned. "What is your relationship with Emily Jackson?"

Upon hearing that, she curled up her red lips. "Nothing important. Look at this. It is much better now." She pushed the painting of a carp to him.

Old Mr. Collins and Joshua's eyes instantly brightened. After her amendments, the painting seemed totally different than before. Without any comparison, the issues of the original painting would have stayed hidden; the current version made a world of difference after Janet amended it.

On top of that, her painting style was extremely similar to that of the one that Emily showed him. Could it be that... "Joshua, ask Emily to come over as well."

"Huh?" Joshua was baffled.

"Just do it."

"Alright!" He then left the room.

When he opened the door, he found that Emily was already waiting outside. "Sir has asked you to come in." His tone was calm.

Emily wore a delighted expression on her face. Old Mr. Collins has finally called for me.

"Mom, wait for me outside!" She beamed at her.

"Okay, quickly enter!" Megan was eager.

A knocking sound on the door was heard.

Upon entering the room, Emily's expression fell when she saw Janet. Why is this bumpkin still lingering here...

Old Mr. Collins pushed the white paper in front of Emily. "Emily, paint something on the spot now. You can paint anything that you want."

Feeling flustered, she tentatively replied, "Umm... Old Mr. Collins, haven't I shown you some of my paintings? You were quite satisfied with them as well, right?"

Upon hearing her reply, his voice was deep. "I know, but I still want you to paint something right now. If you fulfill my requirement, I'll head out and announce that I'm accepting you as my disciple."

"Haha, Emily, you aren't feeling guilty, are you?" Janet scoffed.

Seeing her reaction, she finally understood why Old Mr. Collins would accept Emily as his disciple—it turned out that it was her paintings that Emily had shown him.

"Why would I be guilty? What nonsense are you saying?" Emily pointed at Janet's face and furiously exclaimed.

"Then, you should paint now." She cast a glance at the piece of white paper with a raised eyebrow

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Emily tentatively replied, "Umm... Let me try, Old Mr. Collins."

She looked at the piece of white paper with a brush in her hand, but she hesitated to do anything. Raising her eyes, she looked at him pitifully. "Sir, I'm not feeling myself today. Can we do this another time?"

Upon hearing that, Old Mr. Collins seemed to be put on the spot. "If that's the case... Is this painted by you?" As he was speaking, he took out the painting Emily had given him before this.

She nodded guiltily. "Yeah, I painted it."

Janet instantly recognized the painting as the one that she had lost. Haha, Emily is expectedly a thief.

"If this is painted by you, tell me the colors that you have used. If you are able to answer correctly, I'll immediately announce that you are my first disciple."

"I... This is really painted by me..." Emily felt guilty, especially in front of Janet.

"If the truth is like how you've said it, tell me all the colors that you have used."

As Janet's painting had involved the use of color mixing, it would be difficult for Emily to identify all of the colors, especially if she wasn't particularly sensitive to colors or wasn't the one who painted that canvas.

As Emily bit on her lips, her little hand trembled, pointing at the painting on the table. "The leaves are mixed with blue and green to get cyan."

Old Mr. Collins heard her and nodded.

"The chrysanthemum petals are painted with yellow that are used by mixing red and green."

The following colors were more difficult to be identified, which forced her to think for a long time before she answered, "The greyish purple flower was painted by mixing magenta and cyan."

Upon hearing that, Janet couldn't suppress her laughter.

Emily furrowed her brows as she looked at Janet. "What are you laughing at?"

Old Mr. Collins shook his head when he heard her words as well. "It looks like the discipleship ceremony today is going to be canceled."

At that instant, Emily stood there while being dumbfounded, as if she was struck by lightning.

Before she could make sense of the situation, he left the room and headed toward the banquet hall.

She instantly came to her senses. Old Mr. Collins is going to cancel the discipleship ceremony? No, I can't allow this to happen.

Janet watched as Emily went after him. With a raised eyebrow, the corner of her lips curled upward into a beguiling smile. She doesn't even know about color mixing, but she has the nerve to take my painting as hers?

When Megan, who was outside the door, saw Emily in panic, the former stepped forward and grabbed her hand. "Emily, why are you in a fluster?"

"Mom, Old Mr. Collins said that he is going to cancel the discipleship ceremony." Emily seemed like she was about to cry.

"What?" Megan's eyes widened in shock.

"It's hard to explain much now. Mom, quickly come with me to stop him," she earnestly begged Megan.

As Megan currently couldn't afford to be concerned about the reason, she had no choice but to follow them.

When Emily and Megan arrived at the banquet hall, Old Mr. Collins was already onstage and in the midst of making an announcement with the mic in his hands. "My apologies to everyone here. Due to some special reasons, I, Steven Collins, am going to cancel the discipleship ceremony tonight."

"No, you can't!" Emily yelled.

Everyone was stunned to hear Old Mr. Collins' announcement.

She immediately went onstage and snatched the mic in his hand. "Old Mr. Collins, I really painted that painting. You need to believe me!"

"Why don't you regret your mistakes?" He blamed himself for being so blind that he nearly accepted a liar as his disciple.

"You said that you're not feeling well today, so I agreed that you don't have to paint on the spot. But you can't even mix your colors well, so how is it possible for you to paint that painting with such excellent color mixing?"

Emily frowned and carefully recalled. "I'm sure that the grayish purple flower is mixed with magenta and cyan!"

Upon hearing that, Janet couldn't suppress her laughter.

Everyone looked at where she was.

She shook her head as her exquisite red lips parted. "You know nothing about color mixing, so you aren't capable of doing that stunning artwork with beautiful colors."

Emily was annoyed and pointed at Janet, scolding, "You're just envious and jealous of me. If you said that I don't know about color mixing, then what about you?"

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"Emily, let's see what Janet has to say." Megan tugged on Emily's sleeves, feeling that the current situation was embarrassing.

Emily turned to look at Megan in a pitiful manner. "Mom, Janet is jealous of me and has intentionally belittled me on purpose."

Megan seemed troubled because she was totally clueless as to what went on. Just then, Old Mr. Collins stepped forward and said, "Janet was right—you know nothing at all. You are poor in even the most basic color mixing and, at most, only know a thing or two. Now tell me this, where did you get the painting that you showed me from?"

Right after he said that, the banquet burst into an uproar, but he continued to speak, "All in all, I realized that you were not the person who painted the painting—it was Janet instead. Therefore, I have no reason to continue with the discipleship ceremony today. Do you understand?"

Upon hearing that, Emily felt as if her feet were frozen to the spot, unable to move even a muscle. There were plenty of renowned bigshots at the banquet, such as the partners of the Jackson Family, friends of Old Mr. Collins, and most importantly, Megan.

"This can't be real. What he meant is that Emily Jackson took someone else's painting as hers and showed it to him, so not knowing the truth, he nearly accepted Emily as his disciple?"

"What he's saying is that Emily is an imposter?"

"Oh, my! It turns out that she is this kind of a person."

"She hasn't even learned to behave like a decent person, so what's the point of even learning a skill?"

"What Old Mr. Collins meant was that Emily stole Janet's painting? She really has such courage to have done that!"

While discussing among themselves, the crowd cast their gaze on Janet, who seemed calm and composed with an expression that accentuated her elegance and beauty.

As a matter of fact, the turns of events had shocked Megan the most as she couldn't have thought that such a serious incident actually happened in merely over ten minutes. Emily. It's Emily again. She was really at a loss for words. Previously, it was the incident with Brandon's blue and white porcelain. Now, it was the discipleship ceremony, which eventually turned out to be a joke. She felt so humiliated that she couldn't bear to look at her friends and relatives in their eyes. However, as it was a public occasion, she could only endure it and glared viciously at Emily.

Emily involuntarily trembled under her gaze—Megan had never looked at her in that manner.

Old Mr. Collins, who was onstage, continued, "Although the discipleship ceremony today didn't work out, I discovered another talent today. Janet, are you willing to be my disciple?" He had asked in such a direct and confident manner, intending to let everyone in attendance know that Janet would be his disciple.

Janet raised her eyebrow as a beguiling smile appeared at the corner of her lips. Before she said anything, he added, "I'll organize another discipleship ceremony and I guarantee that it will be larger and grander than the one today, but it all depends on you."

Upon hearing that, everyone at the scene all tried to persuade him to accept his offer.

"Young lady, quickly accept his offer."

"You shouldn't let such a great opportunity pass you by."

"If I had such a talent in painting, I'd definitely become Old Mr. Collins' disciple."

Anyone who saw how much Emily enjoyed showing off could tell how glamorous it was to be his disciple. After all, only the most outstanding person could bear the title of Old Mr. Collins' first disciple. If anyone else were to be in her shoes, that person would surely agree without any hesitation. However, Janet was not anyone—she never had the intention to have a master as all she had was disciples.

Seeing that she was hesitant, Old Mr. Collins didn't force her, but gave her sufficient time to consider instead. "You can head back to think about it if you can't make a decision right

now. If you have made up your mind to accept my offer, you can contact me anytime. My door will always be opened for you!"

Joshua didn't know what to say. When did he become such a kind person? He would normally pinch my ear whenever I slack off. Meanwhile, Megan was at a loss for words too. Is this real? Could it be that Janet is gradually becoming more outstanding?

Everyone started to discuss among themselves again.

"The young lady would be foolish not to accept his offer."

"It's not wise to behave arrogantly. You shouldn't burn your bridges!"

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"A capable person would have the qualifications to negotiate terms. Old Mr. Collins, do you think I have that capability?" Her red lips curled upward and everyone heard her calm words. "I'm refusing your offer."

"Why?" Old Mr. Collins was flustered. Could it be that I'm too late and this young lady is already someone else's disciple?

She tucked her hair and sluggishly replied, "I don't acknowledge your skills."

Her words stirred up another uproar at the scene.

"Has she gone mad? She's embarrassing Old Mr. Collins!"

"She's too arrogant. Old Mr. Collins is a skilled artist!"

"Is she questioning Old Mr. Collins' skills?"

Upon hearing the discussion among the crowd, his expression instantly darkened. Although he admired her talent, he disliked her haughty way of speaking.

"Young lady, on what basis do you say so? How could you speak in an arrogant manner just because I've given you an opportunity to be my disciple?"

Megan attempted to step forward to explain. After all, Janet was also the daughter of the Jackson Family. Therefore, whether it was Emily or Janet who was accepted as his disciple, it would glorify their family's reputation. Nevertheless, Janet was faster than Megan by a mere second. "No, it's just that I'm not convinced by your skills."

Everyone was rendered speechless.

With that, Old Mr. Collins was absolutely mortified as nobody had ever questioned his skills after many years, but the young lady had the courage to do so. "Hmph, what makes you think that you are so great? Such an arrogant kid!" He then rushed off in a huff.

He was pissed off and left while the crowd reprimanded her in fury.

“How could you speak to an elderly man like that?”

“You shouldn’t have said that to Old Mr. Collins. You weren’t even born when he started painting!”

“Don’t think that you can be so full of yourself just because you know a thing or two. With this attitude of yours, you will be screwed sooner or later!”

She was unperturbed by the crowd’s discussion, as if nothing had happened.

Joshua stepped forward and stopped her. “Young lady, you have angered my teacher! Aren’t you afraid that Old Mr. Collins may ignore you after this?”

He was conflicted because everyone was respectful toward his teacher and dared to talk to him in that manner.

“Don’t worry, that won’t happen.”

He uttered, “This...”

Upon hearing Janet’s words, everyone had a look of disdain on their faces.

At a corner of the banquet, Emily finally breathed a sigh of relief. Janet has offended Old Mr. Collins and it seems like her discipleship ceremony won’t happen either—just like mine.

Only God knew how staggered she was when she heard how arrogant Janet was, but at the same time, she was delighted. By offending Old Mr. Collins, you are doomed! Haha!

Megan, who stood at one side, felt helpless yet shocked. My two daughters—the incapable one likes to tell lies whereas the other one is too conceited and doesn’t know how to speak nicely. Emily’s another story; she has lied to me from time and time, causing me to be mortified. Looks like I’ll need to have a proper talk with Brian after this.

After the banquet ended, the three people, including the butler who drove, remained silent throughout the journey.

When they arrived at the Jackson residence, Megan locked herself in the room, refusing to look at Emily, no matter how hard she pleaded with her mother. Megan was deeply hurt by Emily’s actions.

It was at that time when Brian returned home. Upon seeing Emily pacing in circles in the living room, he walked up to her and asked, "Emily, what's wrong? You guys are supposed to attend the discipleship ceremony today, right?"

Janet, who happened to see the scene from the bannister on the first floor, chimed in. "It fell through." Then, she entered her room.

"Dad, please help me to console Mom..."

When he saw the guilty expression on Emily's face, he could roughly guess the reason.

Upon entering the room, he saw the reflection of Megan sobbing in the mirror and immediately rushed to her, consoling, "Darling, why are you crying?"

Upon seeing that it was Brian, she immediately threw herself into his arms. "Brian, do you think that it was the correct decision to allow Emily to stay?"

"What's wrong?" he patted her back in distress.

Megan quietly wept. "It was only today that I discovered that the painting, which Emily gave to Old Mr. Collins, was actually stolen from Janet."

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Brian was appalled. "Stolen? Was this the reason why the discipleship ceremony today was cancelled?"

"Yes, I saw Emily previously sneaking into Janet's room, but I didn't know why she did it at that time. Only now did I know that she actually went in to steal her painting. I've never told Janet that Emily has entered her room before."

"T-This... How could Emily do that? I must go and talk to her!" With that, he was angered and intended to look for Emily to question her.

However, Megan wrapped her arms around his waist. "Honey, please forget about it. If you point it out, our family will fall apart! I can't bear to see this relationship that we have built for the past 18 years crumble!"

He felt helpless. Knowing that she had always loved Emily, the person who was hurt the most by the incident would be his wife.

"Darling, just let this pass, alright?"

He resignedly stroked her head and fiercely added, "If Emily repeats this, don't blame me for being harsh on her as her father!"

"Yeah!" Megan agreed and she suddenly thought of something. "Honey, do you think that Janet was really raised in the countryside?"

"Why did you say so?" Brian was puzzled.

"It's nothing. I just think that Janet isn't as simple as we thought! She seems to know quite a lot of things."

He frowned. "Darling, maybe you are being too sensitive or perhaps she is a fast-learner. Don't think too much about it!"

She nodded. Although she was still doubtful, she brushed those suspicions aside for the moment.

At night, two black shadows leapt into Janet's room, giving her a fright when she came upstairs and opened the door.

The men, who were sitting on the couch in the room, were stunned when they saw her.

"Boss, I really missed you!" After saying that, the little boys attempted to hug her.

When she tried to shove them away, they were aggrieved. "Boss, give us a hug!"

"Silly boys!" Her red lips parted as she pushed the two boys away.

The two boys were Dexter and Tyler. Another two boys, Luke and Leo, didn't show up.

Janet had met the four of them in Markovia where she attended an underground auction and the few boys were auctioned off as slaves.

She initially had no intention to buy them. However, after seeing the desire to live in their eyes, she couldn't bear to ignore them, so she bought them and sent them to an orphanage. When they were 16 years old, she started to make arrangements for them to learn all sorts of skills.

At that time, the higher-ups gave them a period of leave, but to her surprise, they came to look for her as soon as their holiday began.

"Where are Leo and Luke?"

Dexter teared up. "Boss, they wanted to come as well, but they were afraid that too many people here might cause you trouble, so the two of them remained in the hotel."

Janet raised a brow. "How did the two of you find your way here?"

Tyler meekly answered, "It was Lara who told us."

"How are your studies recently?" Her lips curled upward.

"Boss, we really studied hard. Otherwise, how are we able to come to your room? But the recent boxing practice is really exhausting!"

“Little brats, you guys must have had a hard time.” Janet affectionately patted Dexter and Tyler’s little heads.

Tears welled up in their eyes when they received her encouragement. “Boss, Leo and Luke really miss you. Let’s go over to meet them.”

She thought that since she had met Dexter and Tyler, she should meet Leo and Luke as well and have a meal on the way.

Dexter drove her to the hotel.

As soon as the door was opened, Leo and Luke pounced on her.

“Boss! We really missed you! Sob...”

The two boys, who had beautiful eyes, red lips and white teeth, seemed to be 17 or 18 years old and were excited to see her.

She patted their heads. “I haven’t seen you two for a long time!”

“Boss, I’m really glad. You are actually here to see us!” Leo, who had the most exquisite features, skipped in exhilaration.

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It wasn't just the two of them; even Dexter and Tyler's excitement hadn't subsided.

Ever since their boss appeared, Dexter had a feeling that she was different than before. She used to send us flying with a kick whenever we seek her attention by hugging her legs. Now, she has only patted our heads. Sob...

As Janet's red lips curled upward, she looked at the few boys before her.

Those four boys were like her children as she watched them growing up... Looking at them, she thought about her friends in Markovia.

It was 12AM when she left the hotel while being supported by the four boys.

Dexter frowned in worry. "How is she returning to the Jackson Family while looking like this? What if we cause trouble for her?"

Luke glared at Tyler. "It's all your fault. I told you not to pour so much beer for her. Look at her—she's now drunk, so what are we going to do now?"

Tyler had an innocent look on his face. "Boss looks strong on the outside, but who knows that she doesn't have a strong alcohol tolerance?"

Leo quietly uttered, "Stop arguing. Should we send her to a hotel or back to the Jackson residence?"

Upon hearing their chattering voices, she gave each of them a punch in a drunken stupor. "Stop making noise! Let's head to the Lowry Residence!"

Subconsciously, she remembered that Old Madam Lowry would be going abroad tomorrow, so she had planned to pay her a visit tonight. However, she overlooked the fact that she was now in such a drunken state!

Covering their eyes, the boys wept and glanced at one another. "It hurts! Sob..."

It wasn't easy for them to find out where the Lowry Residence was. They looked at the grand villa before their eyes and exchanged glances with each other. "Is this the Lowry Residence?"

Dexter gave a simple and direct answer. "Why don't we ask them?" He then pressed on the door bell.

Soon, the front gate then opened before one of the Lowry Residence's housekeepers came out in a state of shock at seeing them. "This is... Miss Jackson. It's late; why are you here? Who are you guys?"

Tyler stupidly answered, "We are B—"

Before he could finish his sentence, Leo stomped on his foot, instructing him not to reveal their Boss's identity. "We are Miss Jackson's friends. She's drunk, but she said that she wants to come over to the Lowry Residence. Is this the Lowry Residence?"

The maid glanced at Janet and nodded. "I've met Miss Jackson before. Please come in."

A drunken Janet raised her eyes to look at the four boys and pouted in displeasure. "You guys should quickly head back. Be careful not to reveal your identities!"

"But..." The four boys exchanged glances in hesitance.

In a fuddled state, she gave each one of them another punch. "Just leave when I ask you to. Stop dilly-dallying!"

With a hand covering an eye, Dexter was the first to stand up and uttered in between sobs, "With her combat abilities, we don't need to worry for her. Let's just head back so as not to expose her identity."

Tyler, Leo and Luke nodded and gave their number to the maid so that she could contact them as soon as possible if something were to happen to Janet.

The maid then helped her into the living room.

Mason and Henry happened to head downstairs after completing their work with the former completely stunned to see Janet.

On the young lady's clean and beautiful face, her cheeks were pink and tender like delectable flowers, and her usual coldness was totally replaced by a faint smile on her face.

"You've been drinking?" Mason softly asked.

"Yeah!" Janet nodded before waving at him. "Come over and drink with me. Don't just stand there like an idiot. Hehe!"

Before he could react, she took two bottles of wine from the wine cabinet in the living room.

Those were strong alcoholic drinks. If she were to drink those, she would be practicing the boxing moves she learnt in Markovia for the entire night. "Those few brats were reluctant to drink with me..." She rarely revealed such a charming yet naïve look.

Upon hearing that, he frowned and his voice exposed his displeasure. "Those few brats? Who are they?"

"They are four little brats... They said that I'm terrifying after drinking." As she spoke, her lips curled upward into a gorgeous smile, causing both Sean and Henry to be stunned.

Henry suddenly realized, It turns out that Mason likes a girl who's as innocent as a bunny!

Sean, on the other hand, knew that Janet wasn't a little bunny—at least she wasn't as weak as she looked. However, it was his first time to see a different side to her.

"Leave!" Mason gave a cold look at those present with him.

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Sean straightened his posture and immediately left the place.

Henry was unfazed by Mason's snarl, wanting to see the kind of charm that Janet had, which enticed the Lowry Family's successor.

Upon seeing that Henry was standing still, Sean instantly dragged him away with his arm around the latter's neck. "Young Master Moss, please forgive me for being rude!"

He would rather offend Henry than his master.

In that short while, she had already popped open the wine bottle. With trembling hands, she poured the wine into a glass.

Mason narrowed his eyes in a menacing manner and unrelentingly pressed on. "Those brats you meant... are they boys or girls?"

She was engrossed in observing the wine in her hands and did not answer him.

When he walked to her to grab the wine bottle, she already drank half a bottle of it.

Janet raised her eyes and looked at the man before her in a pitiful manner as she mumbled, "You are a bad man!"

She looked exactly like a kid whose toy was being taken away from her.

Upon hearing that, the man's chiseled thin lips curved upward into a beguiling arc.

Those who were close to Janet all knew that she excelled in everything except drinking. Her alcohol tolerance was weak—and just a tad bit of it would be enough to transform her into an obedient little rabbit who would do anything that she was told.

In a daze, she looked at the eyes of the man in front of her. They seemed like an ancient well—bottomless, mysterious yet mesmerizing.

She murmured, "Really beautiful."

“Beautiful?” The man, who had a bewitching smile, was suddenly stunned. With his eyebrows raised, the corner of his lips gently curled up. “Is he the most beautiful man you have ever seen?”

Her face was flushed red before she whispered, “No.”

Mason’s question was initially a joke, but upon hearing that, the smile on his face suddenly froze. He then leaned over toward her and his cold fingers landed on her cheeks. Although there was a trace of ruthlessness in his husky voice, his voice still sounded incredibly deep and sexy. “Then, who’s the most beautiful person you have ever seen?”

Janet furrowed her brows, as if she was seriously contemplating his question. “I think it’s Monalisa.”

...

It was a rare occasion where Mason was rendered speechless.

His fair slender fingers landed on her face, gently stroking her faintly heated cheeks. “It’s late. Why didn’t you head home instead of looking for me?”

“Looking for you... Why did I come to look for you?” She was stunned for a few seconds, dumbfounded by his question. After a while, she had a sudden realization. “I’m here to visit Old Madam Lowry... to paint.”

The grin on his face instantly froze. So, it turns out that the young lady is not here because she misses me? “To paint?”

Janet firmly nodded.

Mason had no idea why she had suddenly said so; he merely thought that she spoke nonsense since she was drunk.

However, her silly yet adorable side tempted him to be a bully. “Janet, do you think that I’m important to you?” His gaze was fervent and his attitude was adamant—he was determined to get an answer out of her.

She nodded at first, but then shook her head in denial after a few seconds. “So-so!”

As she was speaking, she softly burped.

Mason smiled, pressing his thin lips. He was quite satisfied with the answer 'so-so', but at the same time, he wondered whether the young lady treated everyone in the same way. "How about Sean?"

Sean, who had heard his name from the corner of the staircase, almost stood up and answered. However, he managed to make sense of the situation in time. This is an occupational disease!

Janet shook her head and did not change her answer.

Her reaction made Mason feel delighted as it was a solid evidence that he had a special place in her heart.

The next second, the man gently took her into his arms. "Janet!" He lowered his eyes and uttered in a soft voice. "I want to bully you."

His words startled Sean and Henry, making the two of them turning to him almost instantly. What does Young Master Mason mean by 'bully'?

"Mason..." Just when Janet's lips were parted, Mason pressed his lips against hers in a light and gentle manner, as if she was his most precious jewel.

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Janet had no idea what went on; all she felt was that she could barely breathe, so she whimpered while trying to resist him.

Sean and Henry covered their ears almost simultaneously. Oh, my God! Young Master Mason actually coaxed a young lady and kissed her?

The next day, when she opened her eyes, she suddenly noticed that something was wrong with the room layout and the scent around her... This is not my room? Last night, I went to meet the four kids and drank a large can of beer. Then, in a fuddled mind, I said that I wanted to go to the Lowry Residence. Why did I suddenly want to go there?

She knocked on her own head in frustration, wondering if she had done anything foolish!

“Hiss—” All of a sudden, she suddenly remembered something. Today is Sunday, which is the day of Old Madam Lowry’s flight, but the painting is still in the Jackson residence. What should I do now?

After switching on her phone, she gave Dexter a call and instructed, “Go to my room and bring out the landscape painting on the table. Then, anonymously courier it. Don’t let anyone discover your identity!”

Dexter was extremely familiar with that sort of thing as he was trained for this, replying in seriousness, “Boss, I understand.”

Janet then responded before hanging up on the call. Just then, the door of the room was abruptly pushed open.

“Are you awake?”

She vigilantly jumped off the bed without realizing the red patch on her face and quietly answered, “Yeah.”

Mason looked at her and chuckled, “Come and have breakfast after your morning routine.”

She nodded before entering the bathroom. Looking at herself in the mirror, she tried to recall what happened last night but failed to remember anything, no matter how hard she tried. Forget it! I'll just ask the man after this.

At the dining table, she asked with her head bowed. "Did I do anything in my drunken stupor last night?"

He pursed his lips and smiled. "What do you think?"

Looking at the tentative smile on his face, she had a sense of foreboding.

He put down his fork and spoon; there was a bewitching expression in his narrowed phoenix eyes. "You said that you wanted to become my girlfriend and—"

"Wait, that's impossible... That's impossible—" Janet interrupted before the man finished his sentence. I wouldn't say this sort of thing, no matter how drunk I am, so I'm quite sure that he is making that up.

Sean was rendered speechless as well. I don't remember Miss Jackson saying something like that!

"Don't you remember?" Mason chuckled and whispered. "You even said that you want to kiss me!"

Upon hearing that, her face was flushed red all the way to her neck. She put down her fork and spoon and stared as she angrily stated, "T-That's impossible! You are lying!" It would be impossible for me to voluntarily ask him to kiss me! How could I be so thirsty for a company?

It was the first time that he saw the young lady being agitated. He chuckled and kept quiet with his lips pursed.

She hit her head in regrets, secretly vowing to herself to stay further away from alcohol.

Sean, who was hiding in a corner, shuddered. Wasn't Young Master Mason the person who asked for a kiss? He is really as cunning as a fox!

When they were eating, a sudden male voice broke the silence. "Mason, you have a delivery."

Henry waved the rectangular box in his hands at him. "I coincidentally bumped into the delivery man outside the door when I arrived. When did you learn to shop online?"

Upon hearing his words, Mason raised his eyes in puzzlement. However, he shrugged it off after a few seconds and whispered. "It should be Master Nato's painting, which has arrived!"

When Janet heard the name 'Master Nato', she curled her lips upward. Dexter has efficiently carried out the task!

Henry approached them and was finally able to clearly see the people at the dining table, greeting, "Mrs. Lowry, you are here as well!"

"Huh?" Her throat gave out a low voice.

"Sorry for saying it wrongly!" He waved his hands. It seems like she doesn't like people to address her in this way.

Mason rolled his eyes at him before taking Master Nato's painting. He then placed it on the table and carefully removed the wrapper.

"You have such slow movements. What treasure is this? Let me help you with it." Henry's hands were on the verge of reaching out, but Mason had instantly slapped it away.

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Henry awkwardly retracted his hands and laughed. "Young Master Mason, don't be selfish to the point where you won't even allow me to touch it. Is it really that valuable?"

Mason slowly rolled out Master Nato's painting. "I'm afraid that you can't afford to pay for it."

Upon hearing that, Henry withdrew his hands with a look of disbelief on his face. "Really?"

The reason why Master Nato's painting was highly regarded by the rich and famous was not only because of her exclusive method in color mixture, but also due to her realistic painting.

Everyone suspected that Master Nato could have been old with a weak body, which was why she never showed her face to the public and rarely painted after achieving fame.

Now, only the Lowry Family from Sandfort City could have her paint for them.

Anyone else besides them could never hire her, no matter how many billions were offered to her.

Upon hearing Mason's description, Janet pouted without knowing what to say.

Henry giggled and intentionally made fun of him. "Young Master Lowry, could it be that Old Madam Nato has his eyes on you, so she was willing to paint for your sake?"

Old Madam? I'm still an 18-year-old young lady! Janet secretly rolled her eyes at him.

Mason shot a cold stare at Henry. This is not something he should say in front of the young lady.

His gaze landed on the painting again. When the painting was completely revealed, he was inadvertently stunned.

The mountains and water looked unfamiliar, but he seemed to have seen the flowers somewhere.

“Young Master Mason, this p-painting is really stunning! The flowers are so realistic and the mountains look divine! Looking at this painting makes you feel that you are in it. What a leisure!”

Mason’s dark eyes skimmed across the painting before he suddenly turned to Janet. “Is Master Nato your idol? I noticed that the flowers in this painting are quite similar to the painting you brought a few days ago.”

Upon hearing that, Henry glanced at her in shock. “Janet, you can paint? That’s surprising!”

Janet scratched her head. “I’ve told you before that I only know a little about it. Maybe I’ve seen Master Nato’s painting before, so I naturally slightly imitated her style when I was painting.”

“If that’s the case... Hey, look at this stamp with Master Nato’s name. Isn’t it a little similar to Janet’s?” Henry mumbled.

Mason squinted his deep eyes and suddenly looked at her. “The name looks quite similar.”

“Yes! Janet, could it be that you are Old Madam Nato?”

She rolled her eyes at Henry. “I think you are the Old Madam instead. Our names aren’t that special, so it’s quite common to have similar names.”

He fell silent, unable to reply. What she said was quite reasonable and irrefutable.

“Alright, I don’t have the time to talk nonsense with you.” She carried her bag beside her.

“Are you leaving?” Mason asked in a soft voice.

“Yeah, I’m going out to shop whether I can get anything for Old Madam Lowry as a gift.”

“Okay, do you need me to ask Sean to take you there?”

Janet waved her hand. “No, thank you.” With that, she quickened her steps. If I don’t leave now, my secret may be revealed.

Mason stared at her disappearing figure until she completely vanished from his sight before returning to the watermark on the painting—Master Nato.

His dark eyes deepened. Some things are just getting more and more interesting...

Carrying her bag, she arrived at the largest antique market at Sandfort City again.

When she was in Markovia, she heard that Crystal Jade could cure sickness and heal wounds. It would be extremely beneficial to wear one over an extended period. However, its price was incredibly expensive, which caused it to be overlooked by many people for a period of time.

Old Madam Lowry had undergone surgery, so if she could wear a Crystal Jade on her, her body would definitely become stronger than before, especially when it was complemented with the medicine prescribed by Janet.

Perhaps, something like that could be found in Sandfort City.

She returned to the place, recalling the days where she spotted a valuable treasure amidst the trash. As she strolled, she saw the old man, who previously took the amber bracelet as scrap and sold it to her, working diligently to set up his stall. Her red lips curled upward as she couldn't suppress her laughter in her heart.

She also saw the foolish guy, who regarded the oriental jasper as garbage and threw it away.

"Hey, look at that young lady. Why is she staring at that old man without blinking?"

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“Hey, look at her. She is even staring straight at that young man. Tsk! Is she here to buy antiques or to fish a rich man for herself? Tsk, and in broad daylight as well. She's really shameless.”

“Hey, old madam, why are you so nosy? You haven't made a single sale today.”

The old madam fiercely glared at the stall owner beside her. “What does that have to do with you? Mind your own business.”

“Then, that young lady is here to shop, so why are you minding her business? That's none of your business too!” The stall owner refused to budge.

“Me making comments about the young lady has nothing to do with you too! Do you have nothing else better to do?” The old madam yelled in a high-pitched voice, causing the people around to disperse.

A sneer was returned by a scoff, and just like that, the two of them nearly fought.

The onlookers were rendered speechless by the incident; even Janet was at a loss for words.

She entered a shop, which seemed rather spacious, thinking that she could find jewelry.

“Hello, do you sell Crystal Jade?” she asked the shop assistant.

The shop assistant did not immediately answer her, choosing to appraise her from head to toe before replying in a distant tone, “Sorry, we don't have any!”

Janet was puzzled. I can't find it even in such a large shop? Then, where can I find one in Sandfort City?

She politely asked, “Do you know where can I find a crystal jade, then?”

Miss Nolan cast a look at Janet and coldly replied, "I don't know. Please ask someone else!"

Another sales person standing at one side seemed rather young—she was probably an intern and asked in puzzlement, "Miss Nolan, I think we have crystal jades here!"

The shop assistant, Miss Nolan, fiercely glared at the intern.

The intern—Stella—didn't understand Miss Nolan's gesture. Miss Nolan dragged Stella to a corner just when she was about to put down the goods in her hand to serve Janet.

Miss Nolan glared at Stella. "Are you blind? Why would you serve her when she is wearing such shabby clothes? Could you afford to pay if she breaks our crystal jade? I think she wants to take some photos and show off on IG stories, but do you actually believe her words? Are you an idiot?" As she was speaking, she even used her finger to forcefully poke on Stella's head.

Stella received a lecture from Miss Nolan, which immediately caused her eyes to be reddened. With her head bowed, she mumbled, "But, the boss told us to serve every customer in a genuine manner since they are our king."

"Are you an idiot? What he meant was rich customers. Look at that young lady—does she look like someone who is wealthy?" Miss Nolan's face expressed her frustrations.

Janet, who had sensitive ears, overheard their entire conversation and looked at Miss Nolan with her cold phoenix eyes. "Oh, your boss has taught you guys to only serve rich customers?"

Miss Nolan turned to glance at Janet and pressed her lips together out of guilt. I was actually speaking softly, but why was she able to hear us?

She carefully gauged Janet for a moment and was convinced that the person, who looked like a student, wouldn't have the money to buy the jewelry. She intentionally uttered in a loud tone, "I'm sorry. We don't sell crystal jade here. Please exit from the door and turn left to look for it in other shops."

"Are you sure that you don't have it? You don't sell crystal jades in such a large place? Ask your boss to come. I would like to speak to him," Janet sluggishly said.

"This..." Miss Nolan felt embarrassed. After thinking for a few seconds, she said to Stella, "I need to use the washroom for a moment. Why don't you attend to her?"

“Miss Nolan, this—” Looking at Miss Nolan’s disappearing back, Stella’s voice trembled. “Let me serve you.”

As Janet’s patience was running thin, she sulkily replied, “You guys really don’t have it? If you don’t, then I’ll leave. I won’t make things difficult for a young lady like you.”

“Yes, we have!” Stella firmly nodded, as if she had made up her mind. The boss once said that we need to genuinely serve all customers. Who knows there may be an unexpected surprise?

She carefully took out the crystal jades in the shop. They weren’t big—roughly the size of jade pendants, but there were many different styles.

Janet had bought plenty of high-quality goods, but none of them were of top-notch quality.

However, she could definitely select the best one by slowly perusing them. Her gaze was fixed on the crystal jades in an attempt to identify the one with the best quality. Suddenly, her eyes brightened and the corner of her lips curled upward. Found it!

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She caressed the smooth and delicate crystal jade with her fair hands, becoming extremely excited! When she touched it, it felt cooling, which rapidly eased her mood. I need to purchase this crystal jade, no matter what it takes. "Hi, may I know the price for this?"

Stella was stunned into silence when she heard that. Is this young lady standing in front of me serious about buying this? She tried her best to suppress her intense emotions. "This is slightly expensive. A gram costs hundreds of thousands, so this piece would most probably set you by a few million!"

"Go ahead and weigh it." Janet carefully placed the crystal jade back on the table.

Stella took it in a daze and weighed it on the scale, which read 30g. The unit price for 1g was 500,000, so the total cost would be 15 million. "Miss, the total is 15... 15 million."

Upon hearing that, Janet raised a brow. This small piece of crystal jade costs 15 million; it seems like there are benefits to things being expensive.

Stella thought that the girl standing in front of her couldn't afford it, so she waved her hand while explaining, "If you don't wish to buy this, it's fine—"

"I'll pay by card!" Janet immediately interrupted her.

The words, 'I'll pay by card' had witlessly scared Stella, who exclaimed in shock, "Miss, are you sure you'd like to purchase this?"

Janet lazily fished a black card from her bag and placed it on the table with a resounding answer, "Yes!"

"I-I'll w-wrap it up for you!" Stella stammered in anxiousness before moving in a state of shock as she swiped the card and wrapped the jade. "T-Take care!"

She was still in a stupor when Miss Nolan returned.

Miss Nolan took out her compact powder to re-apply her makeup while mocking, "Stella, look, I was giving you sound advice. Luckily you didn't show her the crystal jade; otherwise,

she would have boasted about it by uploading pictures on her IG Stories! She's not dressed like a person who can afford a precious gemstone like the crystal jade."

However, when she noticed that Stella did not respond to her, she approached the latter and loudly thundered, "Did you hear me? I am correct, aren't I? She couldn't afford the crystal jade!"

"But, Miss Nolan... She paid for it with her card!"

"What? Did you say that she bought it with her card?"

Miss Nolan stared at Stella in shock and almost lost her balance. Hence, she started to mumble, "How is that possible? She doesn't look rich at all! How could she possibly afford millions?"

"I have no idea, but she paid using her card and it was 15 million in a go," Stella answered as she stood rooted to the spot.

Miss Nolan's palms were coated with a layer of cold sweat. I'm done for! I missed the chance of procuring a huge business deal, and if Stella, the intern, gets this deal, I'm afraid she'll most likely be promoted to the supervisor position of some sort. She slammed the table in regret. Damn it, this is frustrating!

Janet left the shop in exhilaration. The more I rub the crystal jade, the more I feel better. I'm sure the old madam will love it.

Just when she was about to leave, she was distracted by a female voice.

"Boss, is this truly Master Nato's painting? Is this authentic?"

Janet turned in curiosity to have a look when she heard that. Since when have my paintings been on sale in stalls?

The owner of the stall cackled. "How could this not be authentic? I bought it in person from Master Nato. Tell me, who could possibly reproduce such a realistic and high quality imitation?"

"Well, that might be true, but it doesn't seem realistic for such a small stall like yours to be selling Master Nato's painting."

The owner's expression immediately soured. "Why isn't it realistic? Go ahead and buy the painting if you are interested, but leave if you aren't. Do you know how many people are competing with each other to purchase Master Nato's painting?"

Cheryl laughed awkwardly when she heard the owner's comment before she stepped forward to touch the painting.

"Miss, don't touch it if you aren't planning to buy it! What should I do if you spoil it?"

She lowered her hand after the stall owner's remark and instead turned to the man standing beside her. "Honey, do you think we should buy it?"

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Janet moved closer when she heard their conversation before coming to a halt when she saw the man. Isn't that Uncle Brandon from Leaping Dragon Hotel? It turns out that he enjoys antique so much!

Nevertheless, I'm not sure whether Uncle Brandon has been discouraged after being deceived. I can't believe he still has the courage to check out the antique market, which is filled with a mixture of authentic and fake pieces.

Her lips curled into a smirk upon glancing at the so-called authentic painting by 'Master Nato'.

What the heck? If they wanted to imitate, why can't they do a better job? This is humiliating my name.

Just when she looked over, Brandon noticed her from the corner of his eyes. Janet? Why is she here?

She crouched down to peruse the painting before glancing up at the stall owner. "Boss, where did you get this painting from?"

The owner gave Janet an once-over, immediately judging her as someone who couldn't possibly afford the painting. Therefore, he made a perfunctory comment, "I personally bought it from Master Nato!"

"Oh? I see!" The corners of Janet's ruby red lips curled into a faint smile.

"Are you guys buying this?" The stall owner glanced at the couple in annoyance.

Although Cheryl couldn't be sure that the painting was authentic, she knew that she would have procured something precious if it turned out to be genuine.

She turned to face the man. "Honey, let's buy it!"

"Well..." Brandon was obviously hesitant.

Janet squinted at them, warning out of kindness. "Uncle Brandon, you shouldn't buy that if you trust me. This painting is a fake, without a doubt!"

Cheryl was rendered speechless when she heard that.

Then, she turned to look at him. "Honey, did she call you uncle?"

He nodded. "She is the daughter whom Megan has been reunited with, not too long ago."

Once she heard that, Cheryl started to observe Janet. She does resemble Megan, but she has a cold and distant temperament unlike the former.

The stall owner panicked when he heard Janet announcing that he sold counterfeits. "Little girl, what are you saying? Do you know that I can sue you for making such accusations?"

Brandon looked at her while asking, "Why are you here? Do you have proof?"

Janet tiptoed and looked around before commenting casually, "Well, it's just a fake; there's no need for proof."

"Whoa, is it a fake just because you claim it is? Who would believe you? Tell me—are you planning to purchase this painting? Is that the reason why you are preventing this couple from buying it? Are you trying to buy it at a lower price?"

The stall owner was hinting that she was merely being jealous, so she was trying to prevent the couple from purchasing the painting. After that, she would buy it at a lower price once they left.

Cheryl was alarmed when she heard the owner's remark. "Honey, let's buy it! We can't let someone else purchase it!"

Janet jeered in disdain when she heard Cheryl's unfounded statement. "Such a fool!"

"How dare you!" Brandon was furious. "Janet, why are you so rude? You might have helped me the last time, but that doesn't mean you are well-versed in everything, isn't it?"

His loud outburst attracted the attention of other owners and random passersby.

Chery tugged against Brandon's sleeve. "Honey, didn't you say that Megan's daughter is from the village? How could she possibly be well-versed in such matters?"

Upon hearing that, the stall owner grasped onto the vital piece of information while pointing a finger at Janet. "Everybody, please judge fairly on my behalf. This little girl from the village is deliberately causing trouble here by accusing me for selling counterfeits! However, she can't prove herself! You are from the village, so how could you possibly be well-versed in such matters?" he thundered.

It was chaos in that instant.

"Little girl, it's not easy to have business nowadays. You shouldn't create problems unnecessarily—let the owner off the hook."

"The key here is that she doesn't have proof and she's claiming that it's a fake. Would she be the one to compensate if the painting can't be sold due to her comment?"

"Honestly, just look at her; she looks like a student. She doesn't look like she's at the antique market to purchase items. I'm sure she's here to cause trouble!"

"That's right, just leave. Don't hinder other people's businesses!"

Brandon was at a loss for words when he glanced at Janet, gesturing for her to head home with his gaze instead of embarrassing herself.

"Boss, how much is this painting?" Cheryl asked the stall owner.

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The boss answered solemnly, "5 million."

"5 million?" Cheryl stared at the painting in front of her and, deep down in her heart, she wanted nothing more than to take the painting home. Hence, she turned to Brandon. "Honey, why don't we bargain for the price and buy this painting?"

"But..." Brandon was hesitant. 5 million isn't a problem, but if I were to purchase a counterfeit, there's nowhere to get justice this time.

Just when the couple hesitated, a middle-aged woman appeared out of nowhere and spoke to the stall owner, "Boss, is this 5 million? I'll take it!"

Janet looked up when she heard that, noticing the middle-aged woman had a furtive look. The woman's sheepish expression alone was enough to reveal that she was guilty. She must be working with the stall owner and if my guess is correct, they are husband and wife.

Nevertheless, Cheryl was oblivious to it. Once she saw someone else trying to compete with her to purchase Master Nato's painting, she instantly lost her sense of judgment. "No way, I saw it first!"

The middle-aged woman glanced at her while commenting softly, "Have you paid for it? I noticed that you've been standing there for the longest time."

After that, Cheryl vehemently glared at Janet. If Janet hadn't stirred up trouble out of nowhere, I would have purchased the painting by now.

When the stall owner saw two people competing to buy the painting, he couldn't help but cackle evilly in secret. Soon, he went along with the flow. "Well, why don't we do this? You should each make an offer and the highest bidder gets the painting!"

The middle-aged woman agreed with the stall owner. "Boss, I'll offer you 6 million. Will you sell it to me?"

"Well..." The stall owner pretended to look as if he was caught between a rock and a hard place. "Why don't you ask the couple over there?"

Cheryl looked as if she was on the verge of tears when she spoke to Brandon, "Honey, let's offer 6.1 million."

Nevertheless, he did not immediately agree to it and instead spoke to the owner, "Boss, the agreed price was 5 million. You can't possibly increase the price just because someone else has showed up, can you? My wife loves this painting a lot, so why don't you just sell it to me?"

The stall owner snorted. "You can only blame yourself for being slow when the price of the painting was still at 5 million earlier. If you aren't interested, I'll sell this piece to the madam here."

Cheryl clutched her chest, as though she suffered and gazed at Janet. "It's your fault. I would have purchased it long ago if it weren't for you!"

The passersby's hearts went out for Cheryl when they saw her in such agony. Hence, they started to reprimand Janet. "You are a bearer of misfortune! Quickly get lost from the antique market!"

"You are too evil! This couple has been standing here for a very long time, but you showed up to cause trouble."

"I think you should pay the extra 1.1 million for her."

Janet snorted in disdain when she heard that and her reply was laced with sarcasm. “This is a low-quality imitation painting. Only fools would treat it like a piece of treasure!”

“Haha, low-quality imitation.” Cheryl cackled in frustration after listening to her comment. “What do you know about this? You should prove it!”

Janet wanted nothing more than to pry open her Aunt Cheryl’s skull to check whether her brain had been replaced with mush. She squatted down while using her slender and fair finger to brush across the watermark. Then, she chuckled quietly, “You, fool. Look at this—is this Noto or Nato?” The spelling ‘Noto’ and ‘Nato’ looked so similar that one would have missed it if they hadn’t paid attention to the details.

Cheryl went closer to have a better look, and true enough, it was ‘Noto’. “B-Boss, how could you cheat your customers?!”

The stall owner took a look and he confirmed it himself! Damn it, didn’t the middleman claim that this is a high-quality imitation? How can this be of high quality when they didn’t even get the name right?!

The crowd now shifted their attention to the stall owner and there was an uproar. “How could you cheat your customers?”

"Your asking price is 5 million!"

"How dare you claim that the little girl is accusing you!"

"This little girl has such a keen eye. I can't believe that she noticed such a minute detail!"

"I'll report you to the Trade and Industry Bureau tomorrow! How dare you lie to me!" Cheryl reprimanded the stall owner while pointing a finger at him.

Brandon was slightly shocked as well. Janet has such a keen eye and if it weren't for her, I would have been cheated once again today. It wasn't his first time to be taken advantage of, but he was even angrier. While looking at the heartbroken Cheryl, he picked up his phone to make a phone call to file a report.

The stall owner begged for mercy when he saw that. "Sir, I know you are a generous person, so please have mercy on me! Please don't report me! I have been deceived too, otherwise... Why don't I give you a pair of jade earrings?"

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Brandon and Cheryl exchanged a look when they heard that—they nodded after mulling it over.

The stall owner presented a pair of jade earrings carefully as though they were his most precious belongings. Cheryl fell in love with them the moment she saw the earrings because the color was translucent, looking like ice variants.

The ice variant was considered the best quality among all jade variants. The particular variant was rare and fetched a high price. Hence, they were gems that were hard to come by.

Janet crouched down to take the jade earrings from the owner, squinting to observe it.

“Janet, why did you take those away? The boss is giving me that pair of jade earrings,” Cheryl snapped .

Janet weighed the jade earrings in her hand before looking up at the owner. Her lips curled into a ghost of a smile. “Are you saying that these quartz stones are yours?”

“Quartz stones?” Cheryl sounded confused.

She did not know how to differentiate jade stones—in fact, the only thing she knew was that jade stones were expensive.

Cheryl looked at the stall owner with a deep frown. “Are you giving me quartz stones? Do you even have a conscience?”

The stall owner was tongue-tied in frustration, glaring at Janet. “Are you saying that these are quartz stones? Have you seen quartz before?”

Janet chuckled lightly. “Not only have I seen them, but I even know how they are being manufactured to look like jades to be sold as jade stones.”

“Its exterior usually features a certain amount of translucency with a glass luster. In the past, its color has appeared too homogenous, so it's either bluish or yellowish. This means

that it doesn't seem natural enough. However, the products nowadays look more authentic because their colors have a gradient owing to their light colors. Hence, they now look more natural. These cheap raw materials are merely nice to decrease the costs of producing imitation jade."

With that, she took out a small torchlight from her bag to shine at the side of the earrings while beckoning Cheryl. "Can you see the quartz's granular-like lace structures? Do you still believe that these are jade stones?"

"Well..." Cheryl was still hesitant. Upon noticing her doubts, Janet commented calmly, "If you don't believe me, feel free to verify its authenticity. If it's proven that these jade earrings are indeed made of jade stones, I'll buy them and give them to you as presents, no matter how pricey they are."

The stall owner's expression drastically changed when he heard Janet's suggestion and did not want her to say another word. In fact, the only thing he wanted was for her to leave as soon as possible. It's almost impossible to fool this little girl. Could she be a professional within the industry? Is she here to gather information? "You must be here to cause trouble for me, am I right? Tell me, which shop has sent you over as a spy?"

Upon noticing the stall owner's attitude, Brandon immediately knew that the owner was indirectly admitting the fact that the jade was fake. Damn it, I've wasted a few hours on this fruitless discussion.

Having nowhere to vent his frustration, he picked up his mobile phone to report the stall owner.

After half an hour, the Urban Management Bureau and Trade and Industry Bureau arrived simultaneously as they wanted to take the stall owner back to assist in their investigations. Amidst the chaos, the middle-aged woman, who was lurking in a corner, ran away in silence.

Janet indifferently made her way to block the middle-aged woman. "Why are you in such a rush? It's important for both husband and wife to share the burden. How could you abandon him when he's in trouble?"

The middle-aged woman looked up at Janet and answered in a panic, "What nonsense are you spouting? How could we possibly be husband and wife? You must be insane! Why would I buy Master Nato's painting if I'm his wife?"

Janet burst out in laughter as she casually tossed her hair. "Isn't the reason obvious? You are his accomplice!"

The only unbreakable rule in the antique market was to ask an accomplice to sell something off by encouraging a higher price with an external bidder. That method was a taboo in international antique markets.

Upon hearing her remark, the surrounding stall owners started a heated discussion.

"Damn it, Mr. Schneider! No wonder your business is booming! I suppose you've hired countless accomplices in the past?"

"Not only do you sell imitation goods, but you even went so far as to hire accomplices! Stop tainting the antique industry!"

"Get lost!" The other stall owners were clearly infuriated by his actions.

When the Trade and Industry Bureau heard the sudden uproar, they brought Mr. Schneider and the middle-aged woman back for further investigation.

Janet knew that she had accomplished her mission after witnessing that. At least the person, who sells imitation paintings of mine in the market, has received what he deserves. However, why are Uncle Brandon and Aunt Cheryl so foolish to have been easily deceived...

"Stand right there!"

Janet turned and heard Cheryl's immediate comment. "You are so young, but it seems like you know a lot!"

Janet giggled quietly. "I think anyone with a brain would have read through his tricks. If you have the time, it's best that you read more books on antiques. I'm sure you don't want to be cheated the third time."

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“Um...” Cheryl wanted to refute her statement, but she felt helpless because it was indeed the truth.

Janet’s lips curled into a faint smile as she made her way into a narrow passage. Thanks to helping the foolish Uncle Brandon, I almost forgot to send the crystal jade to Old Madam Lowry...

Brandon continued to stare at her. Megan’s information is highly unreliable. If it’s true that Janet has been raised in a village, how could she possibly be well-versed in all these matters?

Driven by his curiosity, he phoned Megan.

The phone call was connected soon enough and she politely greeted him. “Uncle Brandon, how can I help you?”

“Are you sure that Janet grew up in a village?”

“Huh?” She did not understand what he implied, so she asked. “What happened?”

He reiterated what had happened earlier to her.

“What?” Megan appeared in shock on the other end of the line. “Janet knows how to identify jades?”

Brandon acknowledged heavily. “Yeah. Do you think that she might have met someone who taught her these simple skills when she was in the village?” He made a guess.

After pausing for a few seconds, she broke the silence. “That’s possible, but it doesn’t seem impossible.”

He asked, “Why is it not quite possible?”

She answered in a hushed tone, “If she was truly so capable, she wouldn’t have worked the fields in such a small village.”

“Are you saying that Janet was just lucky this time?” That was his last guess to conclude the matter.

Megan tried to carefully recollect about what happened in the past. It is possible; otherwise, how would one be able to explain what has happened thus far?!

That day, news of Janet exposing the imitations in the antique market spread like wildfire. Even The Majestic Jeweller had heard about her.

He was extremely frustrated because he learned that his shop assistant had treated her with extremely poor service when she visited to purchase the Crystal Jade. In fact, he learned that they almost lost a rich client, so he glared at Miss Nolan. “Tell me—if it weren’t for the intern, Stella, we would have lost a huge business deal, don’t you know that?”

Miss Nolan’s shoulders trembled in fear. “Boss, I didn’t know that she was wealthy. She looked like a student from senior high, so I didn’t expect her to afford 15 million!”

The shop owner angrily glared at her. She is an experienced employee in this shop for many years; how can she make such a basic mistake? Maybe... Miss Nolan has lost several large business deals, thanks to her attitude.

The more he thought about it, the more agonized he felt.

“Are you allowed not to serve her just because she looks like a student from senior high? Some billionaires even walk around in flip-flops! Have you forgotten all the common courtesy that I trained you in serving our customers?”

“Boss, I will never make the same mistake again. I promise I will work harder!”

The boss was burning with anger. “Get lost! I don’t need you to work for me anymore! You don’t need to show up for work from tomorrow onward. I’ll transfer your salary into your account! Besides, I’ll shorten our intern, Stella’s probation period. She’ll be promoted to a manager once she works for half a year.”

“What?” Stella and Miss Nolan simultaneously exclaimed.

One sounded delighted whereas the other sounded shocked and furious!

Miss Nolan asked in dissatisfaction, “Boss, I’ve been working for many years now. You have never promoted me. What gives her the right to be promoted as a manager after merely working for six months?”

“You are shameless enough to ask such a question, I see. Have you ever sealed a 1 million deal? Get lost if you haven’t!”

His comment clearly touched Miss Nolan’s raw nerve. Seeing as the boss was determined, she couldn’t bring herself to explain further. Therefore, she left in silence! I truly shouldn’t have judged a book by its cover. That young girl has gotten me in deep trouble. If it weren’t for her, I wouldn’t have lost my job...

It was almost evening by the time Janet arrived at the Lowry Residence. I’ve not returned to the Jackson residence since yesterday evening and I didn’t phone them to inform them of my whereabouts. I see that the Jacksons aren’t bothered about my well-being at all!

Old Madam Lowry held a farewell meal at Leaping Dragon Hotel for dinner.

In the first-class private room, Old Madam Lowry grinned from ear-to-ear because the young girl, Janet, had attended the dinner as well. “Miss Janet, you should eat more! You should gain weight, so that you’ll be ready next year..” She omitted the words ‘to plan for a pregnancy’ because she was concerned that the young lady would be displeased by such remarks.

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“I prepared this gift for you.” Mason unrolled the painting in his hands carefully.

“Huh? This painting looks familiar... Is it an authentic piece from Master Nato?” Old Madam Lowry’s eyes were glued on the landscape painting in front of her.

The whole painting had an almost ethereal beauty to it—and the old lady was clearly lost in the painting. “It must have been difficult to request Master Nato to draw again!” she commented happily.

She loved calligraphy painting, so she knew that many people within the industry had heard a lot about Master Nato. As a result, she knew that Master Nato had stopped drawing for the longest time. Therefore, Mason must have had to exercise a lot of effort to procure the artwork.

He smiled slightly. "She merely asked for 20 million."

"20 million? Mason, how could you be so stingy?" Old Madam Lowry looked angry and indignant.

He cocked an eyebrow while appearing helpless. "She said that as long as the Lowry Family owes her one."

She nodded with a start. "Ah, I see."

Henry, who was nearby, blurted, "Old Madam Lowry, what's exceptional about Master Nato's painting? From what I've heard, Young Master Mason has claimed that Miss Janet's paintings are even better!"

Upon hearing that, Old Madam Lowry turned to Janet in excitement. "Janet, do you paint too?"

"Yes, but only with some basic methods!" Janet nodded without giving anything away.

Old Madam Lowry smiled happily while looking at Mason. "Mason, you are so lucky! Miss Janet is well-versed in everything!" she commented while chuckling happily.

Janet was just about to deny that when she heard Old Madam Lowry's comment, but she recalled that it was the old madam's farewell. Hence, she decided that the old madam's happiness was the priority that night.

When they were about to finish dinner, she took out an intricate box from her bag to hand it to Old Madam Lowry. "Old Madam Lowry, this is the Crystal Jade that I'd like to give you."

"Oh, my, Miss Janet. I'm already delighted that you're here. You didn't need to buy anything for me! You must have spent a lot!"

"This isn't expensive. Open the box and have a look."

Old Madam Lowry looked delighted and content. Miss Janet is such a wonderful girl. The Lowry Family is truly lucky!

Old Madam Lowry opened the packaging meticulously, noticing that there was an almost translucent jade piece in the box. According to Miss Janet, this should be a Crystal Jade.

She picked it up, suddenly feeling a cooling sensation spreading across her chest and visceral parts of her body. Old Madam Lowry exclaimed, "Miss Janet, why... does the jade have some sort of cooling effect? It feels almost comforting. What is happening here?"

Janet smiled lightly while explaining, "Rumors have it that Crystal Jades have healing effects and that they are able to treat illness. However, nobody could tell if it's true."

"That's wonderful." Old Madam Lowry stroked the jade piece continuously and wasn't willing to part with it as she wore it as a necklace. "I truly like it. Thank you, Miss Janet."

Mason observed as Janet and Old Madam Lowry happily chatted, making him exhilarated. It felt that three of them were a family and in between their conversation, he picked up a braised meat to place in the young lady's bowl.

Janet saw it from the corner of her eyes and frowned. "I don't like fatty meat." Upon saying that, she placed the braised meat into his bowl with her chopsticks.

He narrowed his eyes slightly when she did that, but he persisted. He placed some braised eggplant into her bowl while commenting affectionately, "Take a bit. I'd like to know if my cooking is better."

At the table, Old Madam Lowry was comforted by the scene with Mason and Janet bickering with each other. Mason must have worked hard. Did he cook braised eggplant for Miss Janet? I believe the Lowry Family's lineage will continue. For the past few years, I was worried that the Lowry Family's bloodline would end with Mason.

After sending Old Madam Lowry off yesterday, Janet felt down and lost for the first time in her life. It was most probably because the old madam was the first elderly to have treated her well.

At Star High School, it was Monday yet again.

Due to her discipleship ceremony, Emily became the laughing stock in school.

“Have you guys heard?”

“Didn’t Emily claim that she wants to learn from the famous artist, Steven Collins?”

“Hasn’t the matter involving Emily now spread all over school? She was still quite happy last week.”

“Haha, that’s because you didn’t know that the picture she handed to Mr. Steven was actually a stolen piece from Janet.”

“What? Did Emily steal Janet’s painting? In that case, does it mean that Janet can paint?”

“It’s not that she can. In fact, she’s awesome at it.”

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“Oh, my God! Isn’t Emily too vain? But how did she steal it? Did she do that in school?”

“How would I know? Anyway, Emily wouldn’t be able to show off in school today.”

“Emily seems to be embarrassing herself lately. She actually lost to Janet in the previous National Mathematics competition. Is she trying to win this round by stealing?”

Students in Class A were very snobbish, so they’d make pointed remarks whenever someone was involved in something horrible. On the other hand, they’d try to get in someone’s good books if the latter were to have accomplished something worthwhile. Throughout the past two years, they had been fawning over Emily.

Upon arriving at school, she heard the gossip and rumors about her and felt extremely sorry for herself. I wonder who that rascal is who spread this news. I’ll curse the person if I ever find out.

She sat in the classroom in anxiousness. Suddenly, Madelaine barged into the classroom and took her seat with her bag before handing her phone to Emily for her to have a look. "Emily, look, is this Janet from our class?"

The picture in the phone showed four young men supporting Janet while she walked.

The photograph wasn't too blurry and anyone who knew Janet would believe that it was her.

Emily stared at Madelaine in shock while asking in puzzlement, "How did you get this photo?"

Madelaine scowled. "On Saturday, it happened that my uncle was outside the hotel. Then, he saw four men holding onto a young girl. As he was worried about her safety, he took a picture and even sent it to our Messenger's 'Loving Family' chat group."

I see!

"Based on what I know of her, this must be Janet!" Emily decisively confirmed.

Madelaine nodded. "I think they look 90% alike."

Haha, in that case, why don't I use this chance to shift everybody's focus on Janet?

Emily thought of a great idea. This is thanks to Madelaine and fortunately, we are on the same side.

Janet arrived at school.

The moment she entered the school grounds, she noticed people stealing glances at her intermittently. When she looked up, they'd avoid her gaze.

Her instincts told her that it couldn't be any good news.

Nevertheless, Janet entered Class A while appearing unfazed. She noticed that the guys were leering at her whereas the girls seemed disgusted.

At that moment, Abby dragged her to a corner at the staircase outside hastily whereas Gordon followed them.

Abby asked in a hurry, "Janet, what happened? Everybody in school is talking about you."

He snatched Abby's phone while switching off the screen. "I trust Janet and the truth will reveal itself."

"No worries; show it to me." Janet took Abby's phone. She turned on the screen to have a look and it turned out to be Star High School's gossip thread on Reddit.

Little Mouse started the thread.

There was a picture attached where Beast was supporting her back while she entered the car after she had some alcohol. The caption was, 'News blast! Star High School's **net Jackson has fun with four burly men! She has a promiscuous lifestyle. Everybody, please keep a distance from her. I hope that the school authorities would investigate her thoroughly to avoid her causing bad influence within the school.'

The person, who started the thread, was extremely harsh with their wordings. However, there were thousands of comments beneath the post.

'**net Jackson? Isn't that Janet Jackson?'

'Oh my God! That's too disgusting. Will she get infected by HIV since she's having fun with four burly men?'

'I can't even imagine that this is our schoolmate in Star High School!'

'Everybody, keep a distance from her. You might be infected with some disease if you're not careful!'

At that point, Emily came forward with a comment, but she seemed to be advocating for Janet.

'You shouldn't hurt your schoolmate. They might be Janet's siblings. You are all cyberbullying. Do you know that this will cause a lot of hurt?'

Emily's comment had attracted lots of praises.

"Emily, you are such a kind-hearted soul!"

'Although Emily stole Janet's painting, it's wonderful that she came forward by taking Janet's side.'

'Let's focus on Janet for now.'

'We should stop commenting about Emily because she is a kind person, after all. I'm sure that she did not steal on purpose. Everybody makes mistakes after all!'

Janet burst out in laughter when she read the comments underneath the post. It is undeniable that this is a great strategy for Emily to divert everybody's attention!

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Emily Jackson = Little Mouse, how fitting!

Since Janet did not have a laptop with her, she could only phone Lara to ask her to help her identify the ID to check if it belonged to Emily.

After two minutes, Lara's reply confirmed Janet's suspicions.

Emily looked at the comments that defended her, feeling like a genius to have used that method. I'm sure Janet would never think that I'm the person who posted that threat, hahahaha!

Janet, I'd like to see how you will continue to stay in Star High School after such an embarrassing ordeal.

Emily smirked contemptuously, making her way to Janet's seat.

Everybody in the class warned Emily, "Emily, you shouldn't go near her. What will you do if you catch some disease from her?"

"Emily is such a nice person. I think she must be there to console Janet."

"Oh, my... Emily is too kind. I can't believe I even scolded her today after learning that she stole Janet's painting! It was wrong of me to blame her."

"Everybody made the same mistake!"

Gordon was extremely furious when he heard them accusing Janet and raised his fist while hissing vehemently, "Damn you all! Repeat yourselves if you have the guts to do so!"

Emily scowled unhappily while deliberately making a remark. "Gordon is right. You shouldn't gossip about our classmate. First, let me ask whether it's her."

She glanced at Janet as a trace of resentment flashed across her eyes, but it was replaced almost instantly with a concerned expression. "Janet, can I ask whether you are the person in the picture, who 'had fun with four burly men', in Star High School's Reddit thread?"

Janet casually raised her brow while maintaining a faint smile. She answered frostily, "You better watch what you say! Don't assume that I'm oblivious to the truth."

Emily scowled immediately, replacing her gentle tone with one that sounded aggrieved. "Janet, what do you mean? I even supported you on Star High School Reddit's thread. Do you think that it's appropriate for you to speak to me in such a way?"

Everybody in class felt that she did not receive the gratitude that she deserved and started to reprimand Janet. "Aren't you a shameless person? Why are you scolding her when Emily has done her best to support you?"

"Do you understand the concept of gratitude? You are such a heartless person!"

Janet thought, I can turn a blind eye in normal circumstances when Emily speaks ill of me with sarcastic remarks. However, I can no longer endure it since she's using my innocence as a topic of discussion. I'm a fool if I were to maintain my silence. Emily loves writing essays, doesn't she? In that case, I shall write one too.

Hence, Star High School's post regarding the 'fun with four burly men' vanished without any warning.

Soon, there was a post by Janet.

'Good day, everyone. I am the new transfer student in Star High School, Janet Jackson. Yesterday, someone took a photo of me together with four people. In all honesty, I come from a very small village and they are all my childhood friends. They knew that I came to the city and they missed me. Hence, they took the opportunity to visit me since they were having a break. However, I'm not sure how this ends up as gossip fodder since everyone seems to be spreading scandalous rumors about us. They are my peers and became extremely upset after learning that my schoolmates have used them as some sort of gossip content! They are now having second thoughts about staying friends with me. I never had many friends even in Star High School to begin with. Therefore, if everyone thinks that it's wrong of me to have friends, I honestly have no idea what else to do.'

Her post was forwarded and shared thousands of times within a few minutes.

Janet's method of embracing her identity as someone from a village evoked a lot of sympathy.

'Sigh, I feel so bad after reading that. You should stop spouting negative stuff about her since Janet barely has any friends.'

'Why did you people go overboard? You can't possibly accuse her of being promiscuous unless you have a picture of her in bed! You are all too much.'

'I agree with the comment above. Previously, Janet even received first place in the National Mathematics competition, bringing honor to our school.'

'She was in first place during the School Anniversary too.'

'My guess is that someone was jealous of her, which is why her photo was taken out of context to spread unfounded rumors about her.'

'I am Abby Shaw and share a table with Janet Jackson. I know Janet very well, so I would like for the person, who spread the rumours, to take the initiative and come forward to apologize.'

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'I sit behind Janet and I know her very well too. Whoever continues to spread these rumors will be making an enemy out of me, Gordon Yaleman.'

When Janet noticed that Abby and Gordon came to her defence, she felt warm in her heart.

As expected, many people switched their alliance following his comment, claiming:

'Since Gordon says that, I'm sure Janet isn't that kind of person. Meeting adjourned, everybody.'

'That's right; I trust Gordon. To the person who continues to spread these rumors, I'll disconnect your internet connection, hmph!'

Suddenly, users in the Star High School Reddit thread were divided into two sides—one was against Janet whereas the other believed her.

At Lowry Family Conglomerate.

"Are these the four people?"

That night, Mason had forgotten all about the 'b*stards' that Janet mentioned earlier since he was happy at that moment. In the morning, he recalled the incident after hearing rumors about her being involved with the same four guys in the Star High School Reddit thread.

"Yes, these are the four men who drank alcohol with Miss Jackson that night."

Mason's lips curled into a charming smile, but his tone was bone-chilling. "They look rather small. It's almost as if I'd be able to strangle them to death with one hand each."

Cold sweat beads formed across Sean's forehead as he knew that the calmer Mason appeared to be, the more furious he was in reality.

The hacker, who sat beside them, was about to hack into the thread to delete all the rumors related to Janet. However, he realized that there was now not a single topic involving her.

“Young Master Mason, all the negative posts surrounding Miss Jackson have disappeared... But it wasn't me. I haven't even had the chance to start.”

Mason's long and narrow eyes widened slightly in surprise. “Who did it?”

The hacker shook his head. “I can't investigate because they didn't leave any trace behind.”

“Young Master Mason, could it be Miss Jackson herself?” Sean asked in suspicion.

Henry waved his hand. “How is that possible? There are so many hackers in the world. It's impossible that Janet is well-versed in everything.”

Sean chuckled awkwardly. “Well, that's true. Miss Janet is merely in Grade 12. Maybe it's her acquaintance lending a helping hand?”

Mason did not comment further, but his almond eyes narrowed in puzzlement.

Those deep and unpredictable eyes did not reflect his thoughts.

At Star High School, there was now a new post in Reddit.

‘Oh my God! Am I seeing things?’

‘I can't believe that Little Mouse is actually Emily Jackson!’

‘Little Mouse = Emily Jackson; that's rather fitting! She won't be able to get away with her nickname as Little Mouse from now on.’

‘Emily is such a hypocrite. On one hand, she's accusing Janet by starting that thread, but on the other hand, she's being a hypocrite by taking the latter's side.’

‘I was blind to actually believe that Emily is a kind soul. I take my words back.’

‘Pfft! She even pretended to approach Janet today to check on her well-being! No wonder Janet reprimanded her! She did the right thing!’

Suddenly, those who scolded Janet earlier on the Reddit thread apologized in their replies underneath the one that she posted.

On the other side, Emily was still oblivious to the sudden turn of events. Just a few minutes ago, she used her alternate account to make a few posts accusing Janet, so she was still feeling gleeful about it.

She kept her phone while continuing to read her book, as if she had done nothing wrong. Hmph! I allowed you to steal my thunder during the School Anniversary and even let you snatch first place during our exams. I even allowed you to win the championship during the National High School Mathematics Competition.

Madelaine's head was bowed while she scrolled through the posts. However, she suddenly realized that something was amiss because the comments beneath were all clearing Janet's reputation.

She immediately panicked, showing her phone to Emily. "Emily, look! What is happening?"

Emily glared at Madelaine. What are you freaking out about?

She took over Madelaine's cellphone and clicked into the Star High School Reddit's trending thread named 'Emily Jackson = Little Mouse; she only has the guts to accuse others behind their backs.'

"Who did this?" Emily cried aloud in anger.

She turned, noting that all her classmates were giving her looks of disgust.

She took out her cellphone to enter the Star High School Reddit thread, noticing a post in which Janet appeared pitiful. After that, everybody seemed to have shifted their alliance with her since they took pity on her.

Emily scrolled further and saw that her alternate account was being exposed. Who on earth did this? How could anyone know about my alternate account?

Her eyes suddenly turned red with tears as she slumped against Madelaine's arms and started to sob. "Who is trying to hurt me? I've never done such a thing! I have been framed!"

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Although Madelaine knew that it was all Emily's doing, she knew that they were in the same boat, so she couldn't very well expose her now. Hence, she has no choice but to pretend. "Emily, I know that you'll never do such a thing. You guys shouldn't accuse an innocent person."

Emily continued to cry while appearing aggrieved, looking pitiful and pretty. She definitely possessed great acting skills.

Her classmates started a heated discussion upon witnessing her reaction.

"Could it be possible that Emily hadn't done it?"

"She did it, without a doubt. She is great at pretending. I think we should call her Little Mouse and not Emily from now on."

"She pretended to be kind to Janet while stabbing her from the back! Emily is an evil person!"

Upon hearing that, everybody shrugged indifferently at Emily's sobs. She is too evil.

She cried even more while she heard her classmates' discussion. However, she could only endure her frustration in silence. Who is trying to get me into trouble? Great! Right now, not only do I have to bear the reputation of a thief, but I've been nicknamed 'Little Mouse'.

This is all thanks to Janet; if it weren't for her, I wouldn't be in such a horrible situation. Emily glared in the direction where Janet was seated. Their surrounding classmates immediately looked away when they met Emily's eyes by accident because her gaze was too ruthless and fierce.

After the incident with the Reddit thread, Emily had behaved much better in the past few days. In fact, she no longer had the courage to mock or speak sarcastically to Janet. She would even take a detour upon seeing Janet.

She is the kind of person who needs to be taught a lesson before she behaves obediently.

The Beasts have now been staying in Sandfort City for a few days, so they were preparing to return to Markovia to continue with their boxing training. Therefore, they made plans tonight for a get-together.

Just when she met up with the Beasts' four b*stards, she received a message from Mason.

'Are you available today? There's a banquet for the Lowry Family Conglomerate and I hope that you will attend the event as my date.'

He was very careful when he asked her the question because he was extremely nervous.

Janet frowned slightly. 'I'm not free tonight; I have already made plans with my friends.'

Mason replied immediately. 'In that case, when are you returning home?'

'I'm not sure.'

'Can I pick you up once you're done?'

Janet answered without giving it much thought. 'Why would you pick me up? It's not convenient for you at all.'

'It's convenient for me as long as you are there.'

She was at a loss for words when she read his message.

It's so difficult to get this young lady to agree to things.

Sean noticed Mason's exhausted expression, so he suggested, "Young Master Mason, why don't you rest for now? You need to attend the banquet later."

Mason kept quiet while maintaining a deep scowl. He wanted to know the gender of the friends she mentioned earlier. It can't be those four b*stards again, could it?

At the end of the banquet that night, Sean asked tentatively, "Young Master Mason, should I call Miss Janet to find out her whereabouts?"

Mason looked up, but there was a slightly different expression across his face. "Forget it; she'll get annoyed with me later."

"Why don't we call her to ask her what time she'll be done?"

"It will still be a bother to her anyway."

Sean's expression fell because he did not know what else to say.

The next thing he knew, he saw Mason taking out his cellphone to dial a number.

"What is it?" He strained his ears to listen to the background noise on Janet's end. It's slightly noisy.

"The Lowry Family Conglomerate banquet has ended. How about you?"

Janet checked the time before answering calmly, "We are almost done too."

"In that case, I'll pick you up. It's along the way."

She hesitated for a few seconds before answering helplessly, "Fine. I'm at Starlight Bar." I just can't say no to him!

In less than ten minutes, Sean parked the car in front of Starlight Bar.

Mason was just about to phone her when he saw her walking out of the bar. Furthermore, there were four guys surrounding her. It's the four b*stards, indeed.

Suddenly, Mason's expression darkened significantly.

Sean started to involuntarily shake. If I knew that this would happen, I wouldn't have egged Young Master Mason on to phone Miss Janet.

"The Beasts, you guys should go back and train well. Otherwise, I'll teach you a lesson the next time I see you guys." Janet raised her fist after warning them.

The Beasts nodded obediently. Boss has already beaten us twice after we were drunk the last time and we wouldn't want to go through that the third time.

“Well, I’m leaving now.” She suddenly squinted in pain after saying that.

Upon noticing that, Dexter took a step forward in concern to check on her. “Boss, what happened to your eyes?”

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Janet rubbed her eyes while she appeared in pain. “I think my eyelashes fell inside my eye.”

“Boss, stop rubbing your eye. I’ll blow it away for you.”

Therefore, she stuck her face out to allow Dexter to blow against her eye.

At that moment, the temperature in the car dropped to a dangerous icy level.

Sean was so shocked that he was rendered motionless. It turns out that Miss Jackson has a boyfriend! It seems like her boyfriend is one of the four guys. H-How could they be kissing right now?

Nevertheless, he did not have the courage to turn to check on Mason. He did not even need to imagine to know that Mason had a frightening expression on his face.

True to Sean’s imagination, Mason’s almond-shaped eyes now gleamed coldly and his thin lips were pressed into a severe line—a clear indication that Mason was furious.

His dark and narrow eyes glued on Janet’s back view.

He clenched his fists so tightly that the veins on his arms were visibly throbbing.

He instructed Sean intimidatingly with a moody tone, “Park right here.”

Sean was puzzled. Aren’t we picking Miss Janet up?

On the other side of the street, Dexter lowered his head while asking Janet, "Boss, do you feel better now?"

Janet squinted while nodding. "I feel much better. Well, I better get going! Remember to train well when you're back home."

The Beasts promised her simultaneously. "We know!"

She approached the side of the road. Just when she was about to phone Mason, she received a text message.

Mason: 'I have something to attend to suddenly, so I can't pick you up. You should be careful.'

Janet: '...'

She was at a loss for words. What is wrong with this man tonight? He's been pestering me for the whole day, but he decides not to come pick up with just a message. Forget it; it's fine even if he isn't dropping by.

She returned to the Jackson residence while feeling a little lost.

Upon arriving home, Janet threw herself onto the bed. Suddenly, there was a swooshing sound, so she woke with a start.

She prepared herself to attack, but she caught sight of Mason when she turned.

However, she noticed that the man's eyes no longer looked pretty and charming like before; instead, they looked icy-cold. She regarded him in confusion while asking indifferently, "What's up with you?"

Mason pursed his lips together, pulling her into his arms without uttering a word.

Janet was confused by his actions. Her keen sense of smell immediately picked up the alcoholic stench emitting from his body. Did he drink alcohol today? "Let me go; what on earth..."

Nevertheless, before she could complete her sentence, he sealed her ruby-red lips with his.

Damn it!

Her eyes shot open in surprise as she stood rooted to the spot without knowing how to fight back.

She would never expect someone to kiss her by force, not even in her wildest dreams.

However, no matter how hard she struggled, the man didn't seem to plan to release her.

With that, Janet squinted and viciously bit Mason's lips before roughly shoving him away.

Upon the sudden impact, Mason was thrown back against the wall and his broad shoulders made an audible dull thud against the wall.

She asked in anger and embarrassment, "What are you doing?"

The man's eyes were bloodshot and he had a dejected look. "Janet, I can't accept it." His husky voice reverberated against her ears. "I saw it; I can't accept another man touching you."

She frowned slightly. In the beginning, she didn't quite catch what he meant. Nevertheless, she realized with a start after a moment. No wonder there's such a huge difference in his attitude in less than half an hour. It's possible that he saw Dexter blowing against my eye at the entrance of the bar. So, did he misunderstand the situation?

"Is there anything else?" She approached him and stood in front of him while tugging at his sleeve.

However, Mason did not respond to her because he knew that his feelings for her were unrequited. The girl has never mentioned that she fancies me nor has she expressed any desire to be with me. What gives me the right to say those things? However, I just can't endure to witness Janet being intimate with another man. The anger is burning and consuming me alive—and it's almost destroying me.

Janet burst out in laughter while being amused. I'm giving him a way out; why isn't he taking it? He looks almost like a new bride feeling sorry for herself and being pitiful.

She calmly explained in response to his silence, "He is my younger brother." She had to stifle a chuckle while saying that.

Upon hearing her explanation, his eyes suddenly brightened before sparkling in excitement.

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"He's not my biological brother, but he might as well be one."

Mason didn't seem quite satisfied with that answer.

Janet felt helpless, so she explained further, "I had an eyelash in my eye earlier. He was helping me to get rid of it by blowing at my eye. There's nothing going on between us."

In all honesty, she had been observing him from the very beginning. Hence, she was observing the micro expression and all its changes across his face. From the beginning to the end, isn't he... jealous? Is he jealous?

"Aren't you leaving yet?" She had barely uttered those words when he suddenly wrapped her in his arms again. Is he trying to force a kiss on me again?

Janet thought that Mason was about to lose control again, so she was completely prepared for his second attempt. If he dares to kiss me again, I'll beat him up this time.

Nevertheless, Mason did not proceed to the next step. After a moment, he heard his deep and gentle tone just above her head. "Janet, were you explaining the situation to me? Janet, can I claim that you care a little about me too? Or maybe that you are slightly in love with me?"

He sounded extra careful, as if he was afraid that he might scare her away.

Am I explaining? Do I care about him?

Janet wasn't quite sure.

I think there is some truth to all of the above.

Mason had an idea deep down in his heart when she remained silent, knowing that she wouldn't voice out her thoughts. That's fine because I can wait for her as long as she gives me a chance.

"Don't do that in the future because it makes me very scared." She took a step back from his embrace after saying that and kept a distance from him. Earlier, I actually felt relaxed and comfortable the moment he embraced me. That feeling is too strange for comfort. This isn't good because I'm used to being alone. I don't want anyone else to disrupt my daily routine.

"Sure, I'll be gentler in the future." Mason stared at Janet's red lips while swallowing involuntarily. In reality, that felt even better than my imagination. I wonder when I can try that again.

Janet saw blood slightly oozing from his lips, realizing that it was most probably a result of her bite earlier and she scowled. "Sit down. I'll apply some medication for you."

"Sure." He tried his best to suppress the surging lust within his body.

She placed the medical kit on the floor. After that, she partially crouched down. This position is sort of... suggestive... and strange.

Mason saw her hesitation, so he encouraged her with his husky and sexy tone, "I will not take advantage of you." Even if I were to do that, I'll do that in the open. Sooner or later, I'll get her to willingly accept me.

Hence, Janet did not comment further.

She partially crouched down to apply some medication for him.

At that moment, even the sound of their mingled breathing sounded especially suggestive.

It was especially true when they heard each other's breathing in the dark and confined space.

Nevertheless, it was fortunate that Mason enjoyed the torture.

Time slowly flew past, making it feel like half a century had passed when Janet finally announced, "It's done."

He looked down at her when she said that, noticing that she looked especially petite. Her shirt was obviously too large for her as her collar was wide and loose, naturally exposing her fair and smooth skin.

As a mortal male, I'd be impotent if I'm not driven by lust at all. Furthermore, the young lady is the love of my life. I have to stop looking because I'm losing control.

Janet noticed his gaze, so she covered her chest with her hand. Then, she asked unhappily, "Where are you looking at?"

He cleared his throat in embarrassment while looking away.

"Did you come over with Sean?" she asked lazily.

"I drove here alone."

She cocked a brow at him. "Were you driving under the influence?"

"I'm not tipsy anymore."

Mason felt lucky that he did not drink much in the banquet.

Since Janet was done with treating his wound, she left to have a shower. She had a bathrobe on her when she exited the bathroom. Hence, her fair and slender neck seemed especially tempting.

His originally suppressed, burning lust rose once again.

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"You..." Janet glanced at him while pointing at his nose. "Have a nosebleed."

Mason touched his nose when he heard that and, true enough, it was damp. She facepalmed and commented helplessly, "I'll help you to stop the bleeding." She supported him to take a seat while bending down to stop his nosebleed.

From his angle, he had a great view of her; the longer he stared at her, the warmer he felt. She noticed that as well and urged him, "You better take a cold shower now." Then, she placed the ointment on the table. "Take it along with you before you leave. Apply this once a day, and bear in mind to avoid spicy foods."

Right after her advice, his phone started to ring. She was already reading a book while he answered the call next to her. "Yeah, I'm not going to the company tomorrow. I'm planning to head to the stone-betting market with Henry because I heard from Old Man Wells that there are fresh stocks."

Upon hearing Mason's claims, Janet paused midway while she was flipping through the pages of her book. She had been too busy lately, so she had forgotten to purchase a crystal jade for herself. She could still vividly recall the feeling of the gemstone that she bought for Old Madam Lowry.

After Mason hung up on the call, she asked him softly, "Are you going to the stone-betting market?"

He nodded in response. "Are you interested in stone-betting too?"

She gave it a thought before answering, "Do you recall that piece of crystal jade that I purchased for Old Madam Lowry? It looks good and I feel like I have some sort of natural instincts for these stones." I can't possibly tell him that I've been blacklisted by all the stone-betting markets during the time when I was in Markovia, can I?

Upon hearing that, Mason's lips curled into a loving smile. "Sure, I'll pick you up after school tomorrow." This is just right. I've been wanting to spend more time with the young lady.

The next day, Janet arrived at school. Due to the incident involving the Reddit post, everybody now treated her much better. Therefore, she felt more relaxed and happier than before. Just when she was on the way to the washroom, she suddenly heard Madelaine's frustrated voice. "I noticed that you've been following Janet every day. Are you her shadow?"

Abby retorted angrily, "I like Janet. Is that any of your business? You better be a good dog and return to Emily."

Janet immediately entered the washroom and poked her head in to observe the situation. She saw Abby confronting a few female hooligans from Class F; they were not interested in studies and were usually involved in fights instead. Well, since Abby is voicing aloud that she is supporting me, there is no reason for me to hide or shy away.

Madelaine had her arms folded in front of her chest while she snorted in disdain. "How dare you speak of Emily! Isn't it Janet's fault that everybody is finding fault with Emily? You shouldn't be under the impression that Emily can't defeat Janet. She just doesn't want to do anything, which is why I can't just sit back without retaliating. Hence, I'm here to teach Janet's shadow a lesson."

Abby usually maintained an adorable and soft personality, but she now seemed courageous and vicious. "You are spouting nonsense! Emily is receiving her karma. Nobody asked her to accuse Janet!"

Madelaine snorted contemptuously. "You seem to be shameless, Abby. Why didn't I notice that previously? You look like a guard dog protecting its master at the mention of Janet."

Abby's face instantly flushed. Just outside the washroom, Janet's eyes narrowed slightly as they gleamed intimidatingly. She had her hands in her pockets when she barged into the washroom. She took a step forward to yank Madelaine's hair. "Tell me—who is the dog? Who is the master? Who is the shadow?"

Madelaine and the hooligans from Class F were all stumped at Janet's sudden appearance. None of them were expecting this violent woman, Janet, to show up. She's frightening when she starts to beat people up!

"You... You better release me." However, no matter how hard Madelaine tried to do so, she just couldn't free herself from Janet's grip.

Upon witnessing that, the female hooligans from Class F were about to move forward to hit Janet. However, Janet increased her strength, causing Madelaine to scream in pain. Janet's red lips parted slowly and her tone sent chills down their spine. "Whoever takes another step forward will end up like her."

Upon hearing that, the hooligans took a few steps back. They heard of her fighting capabilities before, so they knew that it wouldn't be beneficial to offend her. She had beaten Jennifer so badly that the latter dropped out of school.

Madelaine was stunned into silence. Shouldn't these hooligans be well-equipped at beating people up? Why are they scared witless when they're facing Janet?

Sir, You Don't Know Your Wife Chapter 112

Janet raised her eyebrows and didn't make any comments.

"Just give me that. Anyway, the Lowry Family has our toes in the stone-gambling industry as well." Mason took the rock from Janet while adding in a low voice, "I'll ask Sean to transfer the money to you when we get back."

Stunned for a second, Janet asked in perplexity, "When did the Lowry Family enter the stone-gambling industry?"

Why hadn't she heard about that before?

Pulling a long face, Henry replied, "Miss Janet, since you love stone-gambling, Young Master Moss thinks that you'll be bored after you marry into the Lowry Family if they don't enter the stone-gambling industry."

"Who says that I'll be marrying into the Lawry Family? I dare you to say that again!" Janet shot daggers at Henry.

Henry just loved to talk nonsense. Sooner or later, she would sew his lips up.

Looking at Janet's fierce face, Henry quickly waved his hands. "My mistake, my mistake."

Speechless at Henry, Janet turned and said to Mason, "You don't need to pay me 500 million. Since you're my friend, I'll offer you 499,990,000. Please transfer it to my card."

Upon hearing that, Mason smiled affectionately.

She was such a playful girl.

After Mason and Henry settled their work, it was almost 9 p.m. In the car, Janet waited for more than half an hour before both of them finally appeared.

She then rubbed her eyes and yawned.

Bending over, Mason asked in a deep, sexy voice, "Getting sleepy?"

"Yeah." Janet nodded without showing any expression. It was only natural that she was sleepy now because she had been straining her eyes inspecting the red jade earlier.

"Just rest now. I'll wake you up when we reach Jackson residence."

Janet nodded.

However, Henry had been talking non-stop ever since he got in the car. "Miss Janet, how did you pick out the red jade just now?" This question had been lingering in Henry's mind. How did she distinguish the red jade when the shop owner couldn't even do that?

Remaining her silence, Janet didn't reply to him as if she was asleep.

Henry had to keep his eyes on the road so he couldn't turn to look at Janet, who was in the back seat. Therefore, he called again, "Miss Janet."

Awakened by him, Janet grabbed the tissue box in the back seat and threw it at him.

Coincidentally, it hit right on Henry's head even though she had thrown it with her eyes closed.

Henry was dumbfounded. That was too accurate!

"I just thought that the black stone looked extraordinary. Anyway, no one, including the shop owner, can see through what's inside of it so I just took a bet. It can't be helped if luck is on my side," Janet replied indolently.

Henry widened his eyes. "Is that it?"

He was totally lost for words. His family had been in the jade business for years but this was the first time he had heard about this jade-picking method.

Embarrassed, he chuckled and exclaimed, "You are truly lucky, Miss Janet!"

After that, no one made a sound anymore.

It was extremely quiet in the car. Turning to look at Janet, who was asleep, Mason saw her eyelids trembling like the fluttering wings of a butterfly, the sight of which caused his heart to race.

Ever since that kiss, he couldn't forget that feeling and taste.

It was sweet and tender.

Under the flickering light, he couldn't help but bow his head.

The moment their lips touched, Janet opened her eyes, allowing her innocent yet wise eyes to meet his eyes that were filled with affection and desire.

Sir, You Don't Know Your Wife Chapter 113

Seemingly knowing what Mason was going to do, Janet placed her index finger on his lips. "Young Master Moss, please behave yourself."

Mason was slightly shocked by Janet's quick reflex so he chuckled and stopped his actions.

Then, he gently lifted her chin with his fair, slender finger and whispered, "I really like you."

When Janet got home, what Mason said in the car still echoed in her mind. Burying her head in the blanket, she tossed the pillow onto the floor.

She had never liked anything that could disturb her mind, including feelings. She was too stubborn, and in her world, there were only people who she could trust or couldn't trust, and people who she could rely on or couldn't. There was no in between.

Forget it. I should just let it be.

Things that ought to come would arrive and those that shouldn't come would leave as well.

In the blink of an eye, it was halfway through the school term. Ever since Emily made a fool of herself, she didn't dare to make things difficult for Janet anymore.

Since then, Emily had been hanging out with Madelaine, who was similarly in abjection, and both of them would curse Janet every day.

Today, the class teacher walked into the lecture hall as usual and announced, "There's a sports competition next week, which is followed by the end-of-semester exam. Then, it'll soon be the first summer vacation of 12th grade. In the second semester, you'll be sitting the college entrance exam. Therefore, I hope that all of you can participate in this sports competition and win glory for our class."

Despite the class teacher's passionate speech, the students looked contemptuous and unmoved.

The class teacher then looked at Emily seriously. "This is the last sports competition so I hope that you can take charge of the nomination list, Emily. I'm counting on you and I hope that we'll not come last."

Upon hearing that, Emily's eyes shone brightly. Lately, she had been ostracized by her classmates so she was surprised when the class teacher offered her an opportunity to represent the class.

How touching!

So, she nodded firmly. "Mr. Smith, I'll definitely make you proud!"

Meanwhile, Gordon held Abby back to ask, "Why does everyone look disgusted?"

Covering her mouth, Abby replied softly, "Although our class excels in academics, we've always come last in every year's sports competition. Therefore, the other classes' students and teachers always joke about us. We've even gotten used to that."

"I see!"

Gordon lay down on the table again. Since Janet didn't seem interested, he wasn't interested either.

Upon hearing the conversation between Abby and Gordon, Janet couldn't help but giggle. Every year, the sports competition would be held during summer. They would usually be sunburned and it was only natural that they weren't passionate to compete.

Besides, the students in Class A were all daughters and sons from wealthy families so all of them were delicate and feeble.

However, something happened out of Janet's expectation.

In the afternoon, Madelaine walked over and gave her a glance while saying smugly, "Janet, Emily signed you up for the sports competition. You will be participating in the high jump, long jump and 2000 meters long-distance run event in the female category."

Raising her eyes, Janet coldly looked at Madelaine and asked, "Who told her that I'm signing up?"

Emily didn't just sign her up without her consent, but she even signed her up for three events. She must not have the guts to confront her head-on so she asked Madelaine, who was ignorant, to convey that message.

Madelaine sneered, "Aren't you an all-rounder? You're even an expert in fighting, where you alone can fight against ten opponents. Now that you need to win glory for the class, why are you behaving like a coward and dare not compete?"

Madelaine's words caused a discussion to start in the class.

"Even if Janet is an expert, how could she cope with participating in three events?"

With a snort, Madelaine replied in disdain, "Why not? She even fought off the supporters of the campus belle alone back then!"

Puffing out her cheeks, Abby glared unhappily at Madelaine. "It's fine that you've always gone against Janet in the usual days but this isn't the time to fool around. What if something happens to her? Can you bear the responsibility?"

"Mind your own business, will you? No one signed up for these events so Janet is the best choice," Madelaine rebutted Abby.

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Madelaine then arrogantly lifted her chin. "Of course, it's up to you to join the competition. Anyway, I've written your name on the list. By that time, if you don't show up, you'll become a coward."

Previously, Janet made her and Emily a clown so now was the best opportunity to seek revenge.

Although Janet was quite impressive, she definitely couldn't cope with participating in three competitions a day. By that time, they surely could witness a hilarious scene.

Besides, it would be scorching hot in summer so once she had a sunstroke, it would be even funnier.

Abby seemed hesitant. "I think it's better if I participate in the 2000 meters long-distance run."

She honestly couldn't bear to let Janet participate in three events in a day and she definitely wouldn't allow her to be bullied.

Upon hearing Abby's words, the students around couldn't help but furrow their eyebrows while Madelaine laughed loudly.

"Can you even run, fatty? I bet that you can't even get past 200 meters."

"!!" Abby was breathless in anger. She then stood up with arms akimbo and said, "Why can't I run? I'm only 60 kg. How is that fat?"

Gordan couldn't stand it anymore and stepped forward to say, "Why are you the one to convey the message? Call Emily over!"

Upon hearing her name suddenly being called by Gordon, although she didn't know why he called her, she still happily went to him.

Beaming with delight, Emily looked at Gordan and asked shyly, "Gordan, did you call me?"

Looking at Emily without any expression, Gordon said icily, "Tell me, why did you sign Janet up?"

Upon hearing that, the smile on Emily's face instantly froze. Then, she replied in a bantering tone, "Isn't she an expert in fighting? I bet that she has great stamina too. After all..." While saying, she coughed awkwardly and swallowed those disgraceful words back, which caused others to have wild and fanciful thoughts.

Hearing that, Janet sneered. If Emily dared to say those words out, she would definitely end up direly.

"I'll participate in all three events," expressionlessly, Janet said in a flat tone.

Three events weren't a big deal for her anyway. Three years ago, back in Markovia, she trained with all kinds of weapons and martial arts, which took up more than ten hours per day. Even so, she didn't complain a word about how exhausted she was.

How could a mere sports competition be a challenge to her?

Stunned, Abby turned to look at Janet. "Janet, are you sure?"

"She has made herself clear, hasn't she? That'll be the final name list." Madelaine quickly pulled Emily away, afraid that Janet would change her mind.

When Gordan spoke up for Janet just now, she was worried that her scheme might fall through.

Unexpectedly, Janet agreed readily!

What a dumb*ss.

Even if she was impressive, she wouldn't have so much stamina.

Yet, she signed up for three events. How hilarious.

...

On the contrary, Janet wasn't bothered by the sports competition at all.

Janet went back home as usual and bumped into Megan, who was telling Emily something. "Tomorrow is your grandmother's 70th birthday. You have to acquit yourself well, do you understand?"

Upon hearing that, Janet was stunned. She had been staying in Jackson residence for years but this was the first time she had ever heard of her grandmother. She thought that the elder generations had both passed away so she had never asked about them.

Noticing that Janet was standing by the door, Megan quickly walked up to her and said, "I forgot to tell you about it earlier. Your grandmother has been travelling in Barnsford and tomorrow will be her 70th birthday. We'll be organizing a party for her and that will be the first meeting between both of you. Janet, you have to be on your best behavior, alright?"

In a flat tone, Janet looked up and asked, "Why is it so sudden?"

Megan covered her forehead helplessly. "It's my fault. I've forgotten about her birthday because I've been too busy lately."

"Have you prepared the gift?" Megan asked anxiously, unsure of what to do.

"What gift?" Janet slightly knitted her eyebrows. She had just gotten to know about this, so how was she supposed to prepare a gift?

In the living room, Emily couldn't help but feel smug when she looked at how clueless Janet was. After all, Janet not preparing any gift was beneficial to her because it would be even more impossible for her grandmother to take her as her granddaughter.

Sir, You Don't Know Your Wife Chapter 115

"If you don't have a gift, I'll go out tonight to buy it. You can pretend that it's from you. At least your grandmother won't be disappointed then."

Glancing at the night sky outside, Janet shook her head and rejected calmly, "Forget it. I'll think of something else."

Megan had no choice but to let Janet have her own way. "Alright then. As you wish."

Before Janet left, she heard that Emily was giving gold jewelry as a gift.

Perhaps her gift wouldn't be as formal as Emily's gift.

Returning to her room, Janet still couldn't come up with anything as a gift for her grandmother even after racking her brain.

She then dialed a number and a man's deep, sexy voice could be heard. "Hello."

Feeling awkward, Janet cleared her throat. In the end, she had called Mason since he must know about choosing gifts. After all, there were elderlies in the Lowry Family.

"I just called to ask what I should give to an elderly during their birthday?" Janet asked discreetly.

For quite some time, Janet didn't hear any sound from the other end. Just when she was about to hang up, thinking that he might not have heard it or was in the midst of doing something, he suddenly replied, "If it's for an elderly, the best gift would be gems or jades."

Upon hearing that, Janet felt like she had lost all hopes. Where was she going to get gems or jades in the middle of the night?

"Alright. Sorry to bother you. I'll hang up now."

On the other side, Mason could sense the disappointment in the girl's voice.

This was the first time she had called him on her own initiative ever since the stone-gambling incident.

Wait a minute. Did she mention an elderly's birthday?

Whose birthday was it?

He ought to find it out.

The next day was Saturday.

At 7 p.m., the birthday party was starting soon.

Yet, Emily was still dressing up in her room, causing Megan to be as anxious as an ant on hot bricks.

When it was almost time, Megan dashed up the stairs and opened Emily's door.

"Emily, your grandmother's birthday party is almost starting. Are you not done dressing up?"

Grinning, Emily turned around and Megan was instantly astonished. "Oh my. Emily, you're stunning!"

Emily made her proud with her dress-up and would definitely be the prettiest at the party. By that time, Brandon and his wife as well as her sister-in-law's family would also be impressed.

Receiving Megan's praise, Emily smiled even brighter. "Mommy, look at the gold necklace that I bought for grandmother. She would be overjoyed."

Megan nodded in satisfaction. After all, all elderlies loved gold jewelry.

When Emily got downstairs, she saw Janet sitting on the sofa reading the economics section of the newspaper.

Seeing that, Emily couldn't help but mock inwardly, She's even pretending in this situation.

Pretending to be kind, Emily walked toward Janet and asked her in a curious tone, "Janet, what are you planning to give grandmother?"

Glancing at Emily without any emotions in her eyes, Janet replied coldly, "This."

She put down the newspaper in her hand and pointed at a cylindrical item, which was wrapped in newspapers, on the table.

Once Emily saw that, she giggled and said in disgust, "Janet, isn't that too simple? You should at least wrap it like mine." While saying, she took out a red velvet box from her bag.

Looking in the direction where Janet was pointing, Megan's face instantly grew grave.

W-Was that the gift that Janet prepared?

A-A gift that was wrapped in newspapers?

Immediately, she asked in a helpless tone, "Janet, are you serious? How can you wrap your gift in newspapers?"

Looking up, Janet replied calmly, "It doesn't matter what it looks like on the outside. What matters the most is the item inside."

Upon hearing that, Emily chuckled. "Tell us then. What valuable item is in that newspaper wrapping? Judging from the cylindrical shape, could it be that you're giving grandmother a folding umbrella?"

Megan was speechless at that.

She couldn't bear listening anymore. If she heard a word more from Emily, she would definitely throw away Janet's gift.

Sir, You Don't Know Your Wife Chapter 116

"Janet, may I know if you hate your grandmother? Isn't this the first time you're meeting her? I'm sure she didn't offend you."

Indolently, Janet shook her head. "I don't hate her and this is indeed the first time I'm meeting her."

In fact, she didn't feel anything and only took her as a stranger that suddenly appeared in her world.

"Do you hate your father and I then? I don't expect you to give jewelry but you can't give just anything! How can you deliberately give your grandmother an umbrella on her 70th birthday? Are you cursing her to die early?"

Pursing her lips, Janet kept her silence.

Just then, Ms. Cook walked over. "Madam Jackson, it's almost time. We have to set out now."

Despite feeling speechless, it was too late to buy a new gift on behalf of Janet now. Therefore, Megan could only go with that.

Megan then took the red velvet box from Emily and the newspaper-wrapped gift from Janet.

"This is from Emily and Janet respectively. Please take care of them for now and only take them out during the party."

Ms. Cook smiled politely to indicate that she understood and took the two items. When the two items were placed together, they looked totally incompatible. One was noble and pleasant while the other was cheap and disgraceful.

A contemptuous smile appeared on Maya's face and she secretly mocked that Janet was indeed as unrefined as the first day she came to Jackson residence.

Even though she had been staying in Jackson residence for years, she still looked uncultured. How pathetic. Perhaps some people were just not meant to be the daughter of a wealthy family.

Averting her gaze from Janet's newspaper-wrapped gift, Megan suddenly noticed Janet's dress. "Janet, why didn't you wear the matching dress with Emily?"

Although Janet didn't dress up as luxuriously as Emily, her temperament and beauty weren't inferior to Megan's in the past and because of that, she was rather satisfied.

Looking calm, Janet flipped her hair and replied, "I just didn't feel like wearing it. There's no other reason."

Megan was lost for words.

Yet, she knew Janet's personality all along.

She just liked to oppose everyone else.

When the others told her to do something, she would do the exact opposite.

Holding Megan's arm, Emily sneered, "Mommy, haven't you heard of a saying in the modelling industry? Wearing the same clothes isn't the scariest but the one who wears it worse will feel utterly embarrassed. Perhaps Janet..."

Unhappy, Megan glanced at Emily. What was she trying to say? If Janet wasn't beautiful, did that mean she wasn't beautiful either?

Emily sensed that Megan was unhappy. Knowing that she hated it the most when the others doubted her beauty, Emily quickly changed her words. "Perhaps Janet didn't want me to be embarrassed..."

As soon as she said that, the dark clouds on Megan's face lifted.

Walking behind them, Janet couldn't help but sneer. Well, Emily reaped what she sowed so she couldn't blame anyone else.

At 8 p.m., the entrance of Leaping Dragon Five Star Hotel was flooded with luxury cars.

Since the host of the party tonight was the kind and benign Jade Jackson, who, along with her husband, helped many people in building their careers in the past, these current successful presidents of their own companies respected her.

Besides, the luxury cars outside represented the nobility of the guests.

At 8.10 p.m., the car of the Jackson Family arrived on time.

Megan arrived first whereas Brian came later. Since he came straight from his company, they didn't set out in the same car.

Looking at the luxury cars outside, Megan couldn't help but feel nervous. Although she had attended a lot of splendid occasions, this was the first time she attended such a grand event.

Curious, Emily asked Megan, "Mommy, why are there so many cars today? There weren't this many in the past."

“Today is your grandmother’s 70th grand birthday, which is an important event. Besides, we’ve just found the daughter of the Jackson Family this year and the other friends and family are eager to meet her. Therefore, everyone came to join the fun.”

Upon hearing that, Emily’s expression changed.

If that was the case, the spotlight tonight would be on her grandmother and Janet.

Wouldn’t she be left out?

However, when she recalled that Janet’s gift was an umbrella, which would definitely offend her grandmother, she was sure that Janet would embarrass herself tonight. Naturally, everyone would think that she was better than Janet.

Sir, You Don’t Know Your Wife Chapter 117

When Megan spotted Brian’s car that stopped behind her, she gleefully walked up to welcome him. “Honey, you’re finally here!”

Affectionately, Brian looked at Megan and asked sweetly, “Darling, has our mother’s party started?”

Megan shook her head. “Not yet.”

“That’s great.” Brian nodded while waving at Emily and Janet. “Let’s go in together.”

Both of them understood and followed him. Meanwhile, Jade had already shown up at the party and was resting in the main seat while waiting for the party to begin at 8.30 p.m.

In a black gown, Emily breezed along elegantly and confidently with Megan. When everyone saw that Emily had arrived, discussion became turbulent.

“Isn’t she Miss Emily from the Jackson Family? She’s so beautiful!”

"Indeed. When she was young, Megan brought her to my house for a visit. Time flies and she has grown into an adult."

"Not only is she beautiful, but she's also excellent in her studies. What a true beauty with wisdom and wealth!"

"Do you think that she has a fiancé? I really like her. If she isn't engaged, I would like to introduce my son to her!"

"However, I heard that the Jackson Family made a scene at the apprenticeship ceremony previously. I'm not sure if that really happened or not though."

"What apprenticeship ceremony are you talking about?"

The guests at the party bustled with discussion. Receiving attention and warm greetings from the guests, Emily couldn't help but feel overjoyed. This is awesome. She definitely enjoyed being in the limelight.

After discussing Emily, the crowd shifted their focus onto Janet.

"I heard that Miss Janet is very ugly."

"Really? Is she just ugly, or is she also unrefined?"

"No wonder Megan has never brought her to any party ever since they found her. I bet that they feel embarrassed having her around."

"Honestly, the Jackson Family is great in everything but it's truly embarrassing that they got the wrong daughter. They took care of someone else's daughter for 18 years but their own daughter suffered outside all those years. If I was in the same situation, I wouldn't be able to bear it too."

Meanwhile, Emily lifted her dress and walked toward Jade. At the same time, she smiled and reverently greeted, "Grandma."

Jade nodded. "It's been a few months since we last met, Emily. You've become prettier."

Emily pursed her lips into a smile while replying, "That's not true. I think that you've become younger, Grandma."

“Oh, Emily. You’re so sweet.” Jade knew that Emily was honey-tongued and was an expert at reading other people. However, this kind of people usually loved to scheme. When she knew that Emily wasn’t the daughter of the Jackson Family, she started to keep her distance from her. However, Megan couldn’t bear to let Emily suffer in the countryside so Emily remained in Jackson residence.

Raising her head, Jade looked behind Emily and asked, “Where is your sister? Is she not here yet?”

“Grandma, I saw her go to the drinks section just now. She didn’t seem to want to meet you.”

Upon hearing that, Jade looked slightly upset. “Sigh, youngsters nowadays tend to have soft drinks that aren’t healthy for them. I’ll give her a lecture after this.”

Hearing her grandmother’s words, Emily was shocked. She thought that her grandmother would be angry and disappointed at Janet for not coming to meet her immediately. Unexpectedly, she was angry at her for getting soft drinks. What an old fool. Hmph!

“Emily, your sister is already 18 but where is her manners? How can she go straight to get drinks like she was starving instead of meeting your grandmother once she arrives?” The one speaking was Emily’s aunt, Shirley.

Shirley wasn’t someone kind either. Everyone in the Jackson Family knew that she was two-faced and insincere. Upon hearing Shirley’s words, Jade frowned with displeasure. As usual, Shirley loved to bad-mouth others. Initially, Shirley wanted to instruct Emily to call Janet over but she overheard the discussion from the crowd.

“Is that Miss Janet from the Jackson Family?”

“She does look like Megan! I think that she’s the true daughter of the Jackson Family.”

“Ew! Look at her. She dresses so simply. It’s just a simple green dress which is completely not on par with Emily’s black gown.”

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"Megan is too biased. How can she dress Emily gorgeously but allow her own daughter to dress shabbily?"

"Her grandmother will definitely fly into rage when she sees her dressing up so poorly."

Accompanied with the criticisms from the crowd, Janet slowly yet expressionlessly walked toward the main seat of the party in light footsteps.

"Grandma Jade!"

Astonished, the guests that Janet brushed past exclaimed, "What flawless skin!"

"She's so gorgeous with her red lips and white teeth!"

In everyone's eyes, Janet had an icy yet stunning face. Although her dress was plain and simple, her chilly aura couldn't be concealed.

She was just like an angel and as stunning as a goddess.

Although Emily was already extremely pretty, Janet was obviously prettier than her in comparison, especially their aura.

Everyone couldn't stop discussing.

"From afar, I thought that she was just a country lass. Unexpectedly, she's as pretty as an angel when she's up close!"

"She's truly beautiful. Most importantly, her skin is so fair and smooth!"

"Comparing the both of them, Emily is so tasteless."

"After all, Janet is the real daughter of a wealthy family. A fake daughter will never be on the same level as the real daughter."

Hearing the criticisms from the crowd, Emily instantly flew into a rage.

When she passed by Janet, she couldn't help but mock, "Why are you so slow? Don't you know that we've been waiting for you?"

As soon as Shirley saw Janet, she was shocked as well. Although Megan was already extremely beautiful in the past, Janet was even more stunning than her.

Looking at Janet in jealousy, she lectured her as if she was a child, "Do you know how long your grandmother waited for you? As the daughter of the Jackson Family, how can you get drinks first without greeting your elderlies? Are you starving?"

Shirley totally embarrassed Janet and continued chiding, "Not only does it show that you disrespect your grandmother, but you also make it seem like the Jackson Family treats you poorly, as if we didn't allow you to drink for a century."

Hearing Shirley's words, Emily secretly smiled contemptuously.

Lifting her red lips, Janet flipped her hair and stood in front of Shirley. "Who says that I'm getting drinks for myself?"

After that, Janet handed the drink that she mixed to the elderly on the main seat. "Grandma Jade, this is for you."

"This is..." Jade hesitated but she took the drink from Janet at last.

However, Shirley hit Janet's hand away while taunting in disgust, "How can an elderly have soft drinks? Do you have any common sense? You're such a bootlicker!"

Upon hearing that, Janet's clear eyes suddenly became icy while she warned in a low voice, "Don't touch me."

"You!" Pointing at Janet, Shirley's blood started to boil.

Seeing that, Emily stood up and scolded Janet, "Janet, how can you be so rude to Aunt Shirley? Did she say anything wrong? Or do you think that grandma can have soft drinks?"

"Pfft," Janet scoffed. "The drink that I gave Grandma Jade is almond milk and I've even added a special ingredient. This drink brings only benefits and is totally harmless. Please don't assume that it's a soft drink. Otherwise, I'll think that you're ignorant!"

As soon as Janet finished her explanation, Emily looked even gloomier.

Clenching her fist, she was about to refute Janet when a voice suddenly rang from the crowd.

“What are you chatting about?”

Turning around, she found that it was Megan and Brian, who were walking toward them.

As soon as Emily saw Megan, she immediately went up to her and held her hand. “Mommy, Janet, Aunt Shirley and I are greeting grandma.”

Upon seeing Megan, Shirley taunted sarcastically, “Your real daughter is rather ‘filial’. She insists on serving her grandmother drinks when she knows that elderlies can’t have any of those. Most importantly, she even claims that the drink is good for health. How hilarious!”

Upon hearing that, Megan and Brian looked at the drink that Grandma Jade was holding and frowned. “Shirley, Janet is still young and she’s not quite sensible. If she offended you in any way, please forgive her. I’ll take this drink away.”

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After that, Megan stepped forward to take the drink from Jade.

Unexpectedly, Jade held the cup tightly and finally spoke, “Can all of you stop arguing? Today is my 70th birthday and this drink was prepared by my granddaughter. Why can’t I drink it?”

Jade had never liked Shirley’s domineering tone. In fact, she hated it.

Upon hearing that, all four people on the scene except Janet widened their eyes and stared at her.

To their astonishment, Jade gently asked Janet, "What did you add inside the drink?"

Janet raised her eyes and replied without any expression, "I added my exclusive vitamin C powder. Try it."

The kind of vitamin C was invented by Janet back in the medical institute of Barnsford. It was different from normal vitamin C products in the market because it was ten times more effective. Not only was it easier to be absorbed, but it was also extremely beneficial to people who had anemia and lacked calcium.

Upon hearing that, Grandma Jade nodded and brought the cup to her mouth to take a sip. At once, the smooth liquid glided into her mouth, filling her mouth with milk fragrance accompanied with the taste of almond. After a sip, it was tempting to take another sip.

Soon, Grandma Jade finished the drink in the cup and nodded in satisfaction. "It's indeed tasty. It doesn't taste too rich or bland..." Surprised and delighted, she looked at Janet. "Most importantly, it's warm. Did you warm it up?"

"Yes, I did." Janet nodded.

Satisfied, Grandma Jade nodded. "Janet, I'm so sorry that you suffered for the past 18 years."

Speaking about that, she was engulfed in guilt. In the past 18 years, she had never fulfilled her responsibility as a grandmother.

Looking at how Grandma Jade treated Janet, Emily had no choice but to smile. "Grandma Jade, look at the gift that I prepared for you."

Upon receiving Emily's hint, Ms. Cook stepped forward and handed the present to Emily.

"I bought this gold necklace with my pocket money for you, grandma." While saying, she opened the red velvet box.

At once, everyone on the scene couldn't help but gasp.

That necklace was made of pure gold and it was even thicker than a chain. Undeniably, it was eye-catching.

Besides, Emily had bought it with her own pocket money and that showed how filial she was!

Receiving the response from the crowd, Emily smiled smugly.

She then removed the necklace from the box and deliberately held it up to show it to the crowd.

“This necklace is the most valuable item in the shop. Most importantly, it’s made from old gold that can only be found in Myanmar. Although it’s expensive, it’s worth it as long as you’re happy, grandma.”

Looking at the shiny gold, Shirley pretended to be astonished. “Emily, you’re truly thoughtful. It’s such a precious gold and your grandma will surely like it. Heck, even I like it too.”

However, Jade didn’t look too fond of it and just nodded. “Thank you, Emily.”

Smugly, Emily sat on the stool, waiting for Janet to embarrass herself.

“Janet, what gift did you prepare for your grandmother? Why don’t you show it to us now?” Shirley deliberately urged her from the side.

Upon hearing that, Megan’s heart sank.

If Janet displayed her gift now, she would definitely be embarrassed by her.

It would be even worse if Janet gave her grandmother an umbrella in front of Shirley. That would embarrass her to the extent of wishing that the ground would open up and swallow her.

She began to regret not helping Janet buy her gift.

After clearing her throat, Megan said, “Grandma, the party is starting soon. Why don’t we save Janet’s present for after the party?”

After the party ended, the guests would leave one by one. By that time, there wouldn’t be so many people enjoying her and Janet’s embarrassment.

“Alright then.” Jade nodded. As long as it was a gift from her granddaughter, she would love it.

Throughout the party, Emily’s eyes were always on Janet.

She couldn’t wait to witness how Janet would make a fool of herself in front of the crowd after the party ended. Whenever she imagined that scene, she would feel really excited.

Halfway through the party, Janet suddenly had the urge to go to the toilet. After informing Megan, she walked away.

Emily remained staring at Janet and glared at her as she left.

When Janet came out of the restroom and walked past the stairs in the corridor, she suddenly sensed something strange—someone was tailing her.

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After taking a few more steps, the presence of the person, who was tailing her, became even more obvious. Turning around, Janet was about to raise her foot and kick that person.

The next second, she retracted her foot because she saw who it was.

Squinting, Mason asked with a faint smile, “You’re vigilant.”

He was slightly shocked by Janet’s rapid response.

Indifferently, Janet asked, “Why are you here?”

Mason’s deep voice rang again. “This hotel belongs to the Lowry Family.”

Janet was rendered speechless.

“Why did you tail me?” While walking, Janet asked.

Unexpectedly, Mason caught up with her and trapped her in one corner.

“Did you miss me?” The man’s deep sexy voice echoed in her mind.

Yet, Janet didn’t reply to him and just hit his hand aside. “Let me go. I need to go back!”

“Be obedient!” Mason’s slender finger grazed against her pink lips while asking, “Don’t you have an answer for that? Or you just don’t want to answer it?”

Then, Mason squinted and added in a sweet tone, “Well, I miss you so much.”

Upon hearing that, Janet’s heart skipped a beat.

That seductive demon. He always tried to flirt with her every time they met.

Suddenly, Janet and Mason noticed something from the corner of their eyes.

At once, Janet wanted to turn and leave.

However, Mason cupped her face in his palms, rested his forehead against hers and looked into her eyes. Then, his cold finger touched her lips.

In the eyes of an outsider, their posture looked just like a young couple that was head over heels in love with each other.

At that moment, Emily and Megan’s voices could be heard clearly from the corridor. “Did you see your sister?”

Emily shook her head because she honestly didn’t see Janet when she went to the restroom just now.

While speaking, Megan spotted a couple kissing passionately in the corner. Most importantly, that green dress looked like the one Janet wore...

Two seconds later, Megan negated her previous thought.

Judging from the man's back, he must be young. Besides, he was wearing the newest men's clothes from a brand in New York. With Janet's qualification, she wouldn't be able to hook up with such a young wealthy man.

"Mommy?" Emily looked at where Megan was looking. "What is it?"

Megan shook her head, trying to shake that thought out of her mind. "It's nothing. Let's go, Emily."

Listening to the receding footstep in the corridor, Janet pushed Mason away without hesitation.

Without her realizing, she clutched her chest with her hand and softly panted for breath.

At the same time, a rare blush appeared on her delicate face while she slightly parted her mouth, making her look extremely adorable.

That detail was completely captured by Mason, causing his eyes to instantly dim. He even had to forcefully suppress the surging heat in his body.

After a short while, he took out a necklace from his pocket and placed it in Janet's palm.

Confused, Janet looked up at him.

"Didn't you ask me what you should give to an elderly? Isn't this a suitable present?"

When he talked to her on the phone yesterday, he faintly sensed that she was dejected. He bet that she didn't manage to prepare any jade or gems in such a short time.

Therefore, he purposely asked Sean to find out the recent events of the Jackson Family.

It turned out that Old Mrs. Jackson was having a 70th birthday party at Leaping Dragon Hotel after she returned from Barnsford.

No wonder this girl had asked for his suggestion as to gifts.

Upon closer look, Janet realized that the pendant of the necklace looked like the red jade she had sold to Mason.

"Isn't this the red jade that I sold to you?"

Looking at her with his narrow eyes while smiling faintly, he lifted his thin lips and replied in a husky voice, "You're right."

"I was planning to send it to the designer in France so I could make a bracelet for you. But since you needed it now, I requested the designer in Sandfort to complete it overnight for you."

Janet's heart skipped a beat when she found out that Mason had planned to give her the red jade, which he bought from her, in his name.

"I already figured out what to give to my grandmother so you should keep this." Janet's voice was filled with indifference and distance.

However, her body betrayed her, especially her heart that pounded crazily when she heard the man's words.

Sir, You Don't Know Your Wife Chapter 121

Mason slowly traced her neck with his slender fingers, opened the lock of the necklace and put it on Janet. His relaxed posture, the glint in his eyes, and his ambiguous actions made it seem like he was flirting with her. Janet clenched her fists and wanted to pull the necklace off. She was only friends with Mason so she didn't think it was appropriate for her to accept such an expensive gift. Moreover, she never liked to get something from nothing.

Mason sensed what she was trying to do so he leaned over and gently wrapped her delicate hands with his cold, big hands. He looked at her with his usual sharp gaze and grinned as he said, "Don't take it off. Otherwise, I'll go out there and announce our relationship." Then, he added, "It suits you really well." Hearing this, Janet was furious. He's using the same trick to threaten me again...

She clenched her fist and punched him hard in the chest, then turned to leave the next second. Mason leaned against the wall and raised an eyebrow. That little girl's punch was really soft. The way she punched my chest was like a coquettish kitten. He had already started fantasizing Janet acting coquettish in his arms.

I'm sure it'll make me very happy.

When Janet returned to her table, the party was coming to an end. Just then, Shirley yelled, "Janet, what gift did you prepare for grandma?! Show us!" Emily quickly chimed in and said, "Grandma, Janet prepared a really nice gift. If I'm not mistaken, she made it herself. I'm sure you're going to like it."

A look of surprise immediately appeared on Jade's face. "Really?"

Every year for her birthday, her relatives and guests all gifted her jewelry and she was tired of receiving the same thing over and over again. However, she had never received a hand-made gift before so she looked forward to seeing it!

Seeing this, Emily secretly scoffed and smirked. It'll be a miracle if grandma doesn't get mad. Does she really think grandma will like that sort of thing? Megan clenched her fists and pinched Brian's shoulder before she softly said, "Honey, say something."

The one thing Brian couldn't stand the most was when his wife was acting coy so he hurriedly nodded and replied, "Okay. Ms. Cook, bring us Janet's gift!"

At that moment, Brian didn't know that Janet gifted Jade an 'umbrella'. "Oh my, why are you being so slow? Are you afraid that someone might snatch away your gift?" Shirley mockingly said and before Janet had the chance to show her gift, she took the initiative and removed the cover on the plate that Ms. Cook brought over. A cylinder shaped item wrapped with newspaper instantly caught everyone's attention and everyone present burst into laughter.

"Oh my goodness, this gift box is downright hideous."

"Is the gift really wrapped in newspapers?"

"It seems that Megan is really cruel to her own daughter. Why didn't she give Janet some allowance to buy a more decent present?"

“Look at the shape of the gift. Doesn’t it look like a folding umbrella?”

“Oh my! What is Janet’s intention? How could she give an umbrella to her grandma on her 70th birthday?!”

“Won’t Jade be furious?!”

When Shirley saw the cylinder shaped item, she couldn’t help but laugh out loud. She finally understood why Janet was reluctant to show her gift—it was because her gift was embarrassing! When Brian saw it, he almost fainted from anger. With a look of shock, he asked Megan, “Darling, what’s going on? Is Janet really giving her grandma an umbrella?”

Megan blushed in embarrassment and lowered her head. “How would I know?!” “I…” Brian let out a heavy sigh, feeling disappointed that Janet didn’t live up to his expectations. He spent most of his time working hard, trying hard to manage Jackson Enterprise. Brian didn’t expect that there was such a serious problem in his family. Seeing everyone’s reaction, Emily was secretly overjoyed!

After laughing for a while, Shirley pointed at the gift wrapped in newspaper and asked, “What’s in there?” Janet looked at her blankly and didn’t give her any response. Feeling impatient, Shirley laughed as she tore open the package. When a black handle was revealed, everyone in the hall burst into laughter again. Even Emily, who held back her laughter before, sniggered too.

“Oh my goodness, is she really giving Jade an umbrella as her birthday gift?!”

“It has a black handle. What else can it be, if not an umbrella?”

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"If she's really giving an umbrella, she should just put it in a bag. Why did she wrap it with newspaper?"

"Oh my goodness! How poor can the Jackson family be to give Jade an umbrella for her birthday?"

"Hey, do you think that Janet is purposely trying to provoke Jade because she has a grudge against her?"

"I don't think so. It hasn't been long since Janet's return so how is it possible that they already have a grudge against each other?"

Standing at a corner in a distance, two tall men were watching the whole thing. "Young Master Mason, is Miss Janet really giving her grandmother an umbrella as a birthday gift? How poor she must be! You can't just leave her be. If Miss Janet doesn't have any money, you should've secretly given her some!" Henry said as he laughed frantically.

I feel terrible. Even though the person giving the gift is Mason's wife, I can't help but laugh, Henry thought.

Hearing this, Mason glared at Henry with a warning look and said nothing. Then, he frowned slightly. Why did Janet rather give her grandmother an umbrella than accept my gift?

At the same time, Shirley looked at Brian and Megan and laughed as she said, "I'm not deliberately trying to embarrass you two, but do you think that it's acceptable for your daughter to give an umbrella at an occasion like this?" Shirley's mocking words had degraded Brian's dignity as a man and he accused Megan for the first time in his life. "Megs, if there is any difficulty in the family, you should've told me. If Janet doesn't have money, you should've given her some! The reason I work hard is to give all of you a better life, but why did you allow Janet to embarrass us at my mother's birthday party? Are you deliberately trying to embarrass my mother?"

Hearing Brian's accusations, a bitter expression appeared on Megan's face and tears welled up in her eyes. "How would I have known that Janet would give an umbrella to Jade at such an important occasion? How could you blame me?"

"Forget it! I don't want to talk about it anymore," Brian directly interrupted Megan to stop her from talking. The more they talked about it, the more it hurt his dignity.

Sitting on the main seat and listening to what the people at the party were saying, Jade rubbed the middle of her brows in confusion and said, "Enough. This is the first time I'm meeting Janet! She probably doesn't know what I like so I understand her choices. This matter ends here. Take the umbrella away."

Shirley immediately glared at Janet and angrily said, "Look what you did! Grandma is infuriated because of you. I really have no idea what you're planning..."

"Shirley," Jade softly said to interrupt her. "I already said that I won't pursue this matter anymore! Everyone, please enjoy your meal!" With that, everyone lowered their heads and prepared to eat. However, Janet looked up and calmly asked, "Who said that I'm giving grandma an umbrella? Aunt Shirley, why would you say that I'm giving grandma an umbrella before you even tore the wrapping paper apart? What are you trying to do?"

"Haha!" Shirley sneered. I never thought that Janet would have such a sharp tongue. "The handle is black and the shape looks just like an umbrella. What else can it be other than an umbrella?"

The corner of Janet's lips curled into a slight grin before she calmly replied, "What if I say that it's a painting? Would you believe me?" The crowd started discussing among themselves as soon as she finished her sentence. "Did Janet just say that she's giving Jade a painting?" "I think so. It makes sense because the casing of a painting is also black."

Sitting on the main seat, Jade was momentarily dumbfounded. Then, in a surprised tone, she asked, "Janet, are you saying that you gifted me a painting?"

Jade had never received a painting as a gift before but she admired artistry. Back then, her husband's favorite painter was Master Nato. However, Master Nato was so mysterious, her husband never personally met Master Nato even until the day he died.

This became a matter that weighed on her mind. Hearing Jade's question, Janet nodded in reply. Then, she glanced coldly at Shirley and with a blank expression, she said, "You'll know after you tear off all the packaging."

"Tsk..." Shirley looked at Janet bitterly before she turned to look at Jade and said, "Grandma Jade, what's so good about a painting? Who doesn't know how to paint? Giving an umbrella

is even better than giving scribbles on a paper..." As Shirley spoke, she tore the packaging into pieces. Inside there was a rolled up painting with handles on all four corners. Jade let out a sigh of relief the moment she saw it. This granddaughter of mine really did put in some effort.

Sir, You Don't Know Your Wife Chapter 123

Upon hearing this, Megan and Brian loosened their nervous and sweaty clenched palms, feeling relieved that their daughter didn't embarrass them. "Oh, turns out that Janet is giving grandma a painting. Let me see what kind of a painting it is."

With that, Emily stepped forward and laid the painting flat on the table with Shirley, and what they saw was a watercolor painting with bright colors. There was a poem written in black ink on the side and the surface was smooth and flawless.

It was a huge difference from the cheap newspaper packaging it was wrapped in. Seeing this, Shirley and Emily's eyes immediately widened in shock. The other guests at the party were also dumbfounded and they could tell that the painting was painted by a skillful painter.

No wonder there were rumors around the Jackson family that Emily stole Janet's painting and pretended that it was hers when she gave it to Old Mr. Collins. However, Old Mr. Collins saw through her lies and canceled the apprenticeship banquet. Presumably, the rumors are very likely to be true.

The crowd started talking again. "So, are the rumors that Emily stole Janet's painting before true?"

"Those were not rumors, but facts. I was present at the time. It was really embarrassing."

"Oh my goodness, the fake daughter is not as good as the real one."

"Why do you care so much about other people's family affairs?"

Standing in a distance, Henry touched his chin as he jokingly said, "This fool really does know how to save money. I can't believe she gave her own painting to her grandma!" Then, he added, "Why did she choose to give her a painting instead of accepting your necklace?"

Mason frowned slightly but he wasn't mad. After all, he knew Janet's painting skills. No matter what point of view, a painting that Janet personally painted was more meaningful than a necklace. At that moment, Mason realized that he admired her even more. When Jade saw everyone's reaction, she hurriedly stepped forward to take a look.

She stared at it intently and a bright smile appeared on her face. Then, she praised Janet again and again. "Janet, is this painting really for me?" Jade was surprised to see the painting and had a feeling that she had seen a similar painting style before.

The corners of Janet's lips curled slightly upward and she nodded and replied, "Yes. Do you like it?"

Jade smiled in reply. How could she not like a painting that her granddaughter painted?

Seeing this, Shirley snorted softly and sneered, "Mom, if you like this kind of thing, we can just buy it for you! Look at this painting... Tsk! I really can't tell what's so great about it! Is it because Megan doesn't really like Janet? She can't even afford to buy a present for her grandma! I'm pretty sure I can find something like this in the trash can."

"You! How can you say that? It doesn't matter what Janet gives Jade as long as it came from her heart! Even if it's not worth much money, there's no need for you to say such cruel words!" Megan rebuked angrily.

Janet looked at Shirley and snorted. "Well then, tell me which trash can has a painting like this? I'll go and get it!" "Hmph! My daughter can easily draw a painting like this. Don't think that you're the only one who knows how to paint!" Shirley said to brag about her daughter.

However, Jade wasn't listening to them at all. At that moment, all of her attention was focused on the painting that Janet gave her. Why does it look so familiar? I feel like I've seen this painting before.

"Hush!" Jade suddenly had a flash of memory and asked, "Janet, why does the painting style of this painting look so familiar?" Once Jade finished speaking, the whole hall instantly fell into silence and the people present couldn't help but carefully examine Janet's painting.

Under such observation, a boy with glasses among the crowd let out a gasp. Then, he rubbed his eyes and said in shock, "This painting... That can't be."

"What's the matter?" Shirley quickly looked at the boy with glasses and asked. "I think I know whose painting style is similar to this but I'm not sure whether I should say it."

Shirley glared at the boy with glasses and said, "Stop wasting our time and just tell us."

Hearing this, the boy explained. "I study art and the style of this painting seems familiar to me too. It looks... like a painting by the famous painter, Master Nato."

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Upon hearing this, everyone's eyes widened in shock and they stared at Janet's painting in disbelief. Even though they didn't study art, all of them had heard of Master Nato before. He was one of the best painters in the industry and even the famous Old Mr. Collins from Sandfort City had to pay respect to Master Nato.

The boy added, "However, Master Nato never painted this art piece before and it's really hard to find his works in the market. He disappeared a few years ago and it is a great pity in the art industry.

However, I still feel really emotional to be able to see a painting that looks similar to Master Nato's style again today. Janet, have you met Master Nato before?" Janet shook her head in reply.

After hearing the boy's description, everyone was dumbfounded. Even Jade couldn't help but pat her head in realization. "He's right! The person that I was thinking about is Master Nato! When my husband was still alive, he was a fan of his! However, looking at a painting in a similar painting style today still makes me emotional. Thank you, Janet. I like it very much." Looking at the painting in front of her, Jade's heart was filled with joy.

Unexpectedly, Shirley snorted coldly. "Oh my! What's so good about this painting? Isn't it just a copy of Master Nato's painting? All of you say that you respect Master Nato but compliment and praise Janet for copying his painting. Aren't you aware that this is infringement?" Shirley pointed at the crowd and said mockingly. Seeing this, Emily quickly added fuel to the fire. "Janet, don't you think what you've done is inappropriate? No wonder Old Mr. Collins liked your painting so much. It turns out that you were just copying Master Nato's paintings!"

As soon as this was said, the crowd thought that their remarks were reasonable and they began to whisper. "Turns out she was just copying Master Nato's painting! No wonder it looks so beautiful. Even the black ink poem is amazing. It really doesn't look like it was written by a little girl!" "I feel the same way. What a white surprise." "Do you think that this girl may be Master Nato's apprentice?"

!" "What nonsense are you talking about? I have never heard of Master Nato accepting apprentices." "In that case, it seems that it isn't that shameful for Emily to steal Janet's painting. After all, Janet is considered to have stolen Master Nato's inspiration in terms of artistic creation." "You're right! Both sisters of the Jackson family are thieves!"

Standing in a distance, Henry recalled what Janet said before and said to Mason, "I think Miss Janet has mentioned that she has seen Master Nato's painting before, so she adds some of Master Nato's painting styles in her creations." Mason's eyes narrowed slightly and his thin lips softly muttered, "Nato, Janet..."

Seeing that Mason wasn't responding, Henry added, "Young Master Mason, Miss Janet is being humiliated. Aren't you going to stop them?!"

Mason immediately glanced at him angrily, blaming him for interrupting his thought. His thin lips parted slightly and in a low voice he said, "Stop being so reckless!"

"I..." Henry saw that Mason himself wasn't protecting his lover so as an outsider, there wasn't much he couldn't say. Amidst the mocking words of the crowd, the boy with glasses walked to a corner and made a call. Old Mr. Collins was having a drink in his house when he suddenly received a call from his student.

"B*stard, why are you calling me at off hours?" Leroy anxiously said, "Old Mr. Collins, would you like to come to Jade Jackson's 70th birthday party?" When Old Mr. Collins heard the Jackson family name, he was instantly infuriated.

Among the two daughters of the Jackson family, one lies to me and the other despises me. They made me so furious previously! I'm not going to give them a chance to provoke me again. "No."

Even though the Jackson family had sent him an invitation, he was determined not to go. Leroy asked him again, "Old Mr. Collins, are you sure you don't want to come?"

Old Mr. Collins was extremely furious. After drinking two more glasses of wine, he started yelling at Leroy. "B*stard, if you want to go to the party, just go by yourself. I won't go there no matter what." Then, after a short pause, he asked, "Why are you at the Jackson family's party?"

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"I came with my parents," Leroy replied as he scratched his head, wondering why Old Mr. Collins wouldn't come. After a moment of silence, he said, "Old Mr. Collins, I just saw Miss Janet give her grandmother a painting that is painted in a style similar to Master Nato's! I'm sure that you would be interested to see it."

"What?" When Old Mr. Collins heard Master Nato's name, he immediately sobered up and asked, "Are you saying that there is a painting that looks like it was painted by Master Nato and want me to head over to appraise it?" He hadn't seen any Master Nato's painting in years. At that moment, Old Mr. Collins was extremely excited, as if he found an oasis in the desert.

Leroy nodded heavily and replied, "Yes. Old Mr. Collins, hurry over. The party is about to end soon." "I'll be there in a jiffy!" Old Mr. Collins hurriedly hung up the phone and didn't even have the time to grab the invitation before he rushed to the Leaping Dragon Hotel.

As for Leroy, he heard the phone being abruptly hung up and couldn't help but feel speechless. Didn't he say that he wouldn't come no matter what?

He rubbed his forehead in confusion and turned to look at the daughter of the Jackson family who gave Jade the painting. Even though people around her were still criticizing and mocking her, she sat there calmly, as if she was unbothered. Leroy couldn't help but admire her mentality.

Shirley and Emily were extremely delighted to hear the crowd mock Janet and they anticipated to hear how Jade was about to scold her. Unexpectedly, Jade seemed to be unbothered and she smiled and said, "What are you calling her a thief?"

My granddaughter didn't sell her painting and didn't profit in any way off this. She only did it to give me a surprise. You people are being mean to her! Besides, if I asked you to paint according to Master Nato's style, can you make such a beautiful copy?"

"But..." Shirley's eyes widened in disbelief. She never thought that Jade would be so protective of Janet, who she just met. "Grandma..." Just when Emily was about to say something, she heard a familiar voice from outside the door. "Jade, I'm sorry for making you wait for so long!"

As soon as he finished his sentence, everyone turned to look at Old Mr. Collins, who had just arrived. Jade was overjoyed to see him and she hurriedly got up from her seat. "Oh, it's Old Mr. Collins!" She and Old Mr. Collins had been friends ever since they were young and they met because her husband liked to draw. Back then, Old Mr. Collins was just an unknown painter!

Jade had asked Megan to send an invitation to Old Mr. Collins. At first, she thought now that he was famous, he wouldn't attend her 70th birthday party. However, he was here! Everyone else was also excited to see Old Mr. Collins. Even though the Jackson family was reputable in Sandfort, Old Mr. Collins was the most famous painter in Sandfort and it was difficult to invite him to any event.

Moreover, the second daughter of the Jackson family had made a mistake a few days ago, so it was even more difficult to invite him to a Jackson family event. The fact that Old Mr. Collins attended Jade's 70th birthday party meant that he treated the Jackson family with respect.

The guests of the party turned to look at the entrance of the hall. Not long after, they saw Old Mr. Collins enter the hall with a bright smile on his face. Everyone was shocked to see him. "The Jackson family is really powerful to be able to invite Old Mr. Collins over."

"I agree. Do you know how expensive Old Mr. Collins's appearance fee is right now?"

"Do you think Emily is embarrassed to see Old Mr. Collins?"

"Of course she is. Old Mr. Collins was so mad the last time that his face turned blue. Furthermore, he wanted to accept Janet as his apprentice but Janet laughed at him and said he was too old! Haha, he probably didn't know that Janet was copying Master Nato's painting style."

"That's right! Who does she think she is? How dare she look down on Old Mr. Collins?"

"Fortunately, Old Mr. Collins didn't accept any of the two daughters of the Jackson family as his apprentice. Otherwise, his reputation would be ruined."

"You're right! Old Mr. Collins got lucky!"

Hearing this, Janet chuckled softly and silently raised an eyebrow. Upon seeing Old Mr. Collins, Megan hurriedly stepped forward to greet him. "Old Mr. Collins, I didn't expect you to come. Please take a seat here." When Old Mr. Collins saw Megan's face, he felt as if he was looking at Janet's face and he couldn't help but feel upset. He waved his hand and refused, "No thanks."

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Old Mr. Collins glanced at Janet and Emily indifferently before he smiled and said to Jade, "Jade, I heard that you received a special gift today."

Hearing this, Jade smiled and replied, "Yes, I did. Look, this is a gift that my granddaughter gave me. As a teacher, what do you think?"

Old Mr. Collins didn't plan to hide his intentions so with a smile, he said, "I'm not going to lie. The only reason I came over today was to look at this painting."

"Really? How are you so well-informed?" Jade asked jokingly.

As Jade pulled out the painting Janet gave her, she warned, "Old Mr. Collins, you have to be careful. This is a gift from my granddaughter so you must not damage it!"

With a curious expression, Old Mr. Collins wondered, What kind of a painting would make her feel so nervous?

When the guests heard Jade praise and protect her granddaughter, all of them mocked her. "Grandma Jade, don't show him Janet's painting! It's embarrassing!" "He's right. Old Mr. Collins doesn't really care about it. Why are you treating it like it's treasure?" "What a joke. Old Mr. Collins's painting skills are much better than Janet's." "If I were him, I wouldn't even bother looking at it. After all, it's only a copy so how great can it be?"

Shirley joined them and said, "Mom! Don't take it out and disgrace the Jackson family! If I were you, I would've directly thrown that painting into the trash can."

However, Jade was unbothered by their words. Instead, she said to Old Mr. Collins, "If my granddaughter's painting is not that good, please don't be too rough on her!" "Jade, you're being too serious!" Old Mr. Collins said politely. Even though he knew that Janet had a bad temper and character, her painting skills were definitely not inferior to any of the students in his art academy. With that, Old Mr. Collins carefully laid out Janet's painting. As soon as he saw the style of the painting, he was completely taken aback.

Whether it was the use of colors, the layout, or the poem in black ink, all of them were similar to Master Nato's style. No wonder Leroy was so anxious to let me appraise it. However, when his gaze moved toward the bottom right of the painting, he felt slightly disappointed because it didn't have Master Nato's exclusive seal.

Everyone in the art industry knew Master Nato's style. Whether it was a small or large painting, Master Nato would always stamp on his exclusive seal at the bottom. However, the style and level of painting skills was no different from Master Nato's.

Moreover, it wasn't possible for it to be a copy. After all, no matter how hard a person tried, they could only copy the painting but not the painting style. Every person had a different and one-of-a-kind painting style so Old Mr. Collins could only think of one possibility...

“Janet, are you Master Nato’s apprentice?” Old Mr. Collins asked Janet in shock. Janet shook her head with a blank expression but she smiled inwardly. As soon as Old Mr. Collins finished his sentence, everyone present burst into laughter.

Shirley sneered, “Oh my, it seems that Old Mr. Collins’s standards aren’t that high after all. Can’t you tell that it’s a copy? Are you blind?”

“Shirley!” Jade sternly shouted at her. How can Shirley speak to Old Mr. Collins like that? Everyone looked at Jade and Old Mr. Collins with mocking smiles on their faces. “Shirley’s right. Can’t Old Mr. Collins see that this painting is a copy?”

“It is such a simple copy that even my three-year-old son would be able to do it!” “Hahaha, Old Mr. Collins is probably getting old and confused!” “No wonder he’s in such a hurry to look for apprentices. Perhaps in a few years, he won’t be able to accept apprentices anymore!”

Old Mr. Collins was not annoyed by the ridicule of the crowd. Instead, he calmly said, “It seems that all of you are professionals in painting! Laymen like you can’t tell the difference. Even though it is possible to copy the shape and colors of the painting, it’s impossible to copy painting styles! Have you ever seen two people with the same painting style?” Upon hearing this, the voices around him instantly stopped and nobody could rebuke him. Jade stood up and with a shocked expression, she asked, “Old Mr. Collins, are you saying that this painting was painted by Master Nato herself?”

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Old Mr. Collins glanced at Janet before turning his attention back to the painting. Then, he nodded seriously and replied, “Yes!”

Everyone immediately looked up at Janet with dumbfounded expressions, as if they couldn’t comprehend the series of changes. “Are you saying Janet is Master Nato? That can’t be. Isn’t Master Nato really old and around her grandmother’s age?”

“She’s probably impersonating her. Anyway, I don’t believe it.”

“I don’t believe that a young girl like her will have such great talent in the art industry either.”

In the distance, Henry looked at the man in front of him and asked, "Miss Janet can't be Master Nato, can she?" A few seconds later, he denied his own thoughts and said, "No, wait. Is Miss Janet a doctor and a painter?"

Everyone stepped forward curiously to see Master Nato's painting. However, Jade quickly hid the painting behind her back and yelled, "My granddaughter gave this to me. I'm not letting any of you take it!" Seeing Jade fangirling over Janet, Emily was mad with jealousy. All of a sudden, she had a thought and a cold look appeared on her face as she said, "Janet, how did you get this painting? I wonder what means you used to get it. There isn't a seal at the bottom of the painting after all... I'm afraid the origin of this painting is unknown!"

Janet smirked before she sneered, "What are you trying to say?"

"I'm not trying to accuse you. I'm just afraid that you were cheated by a reseller. Grandma Jade, you don't want to get a gift from an unknown source, do you? It's fine if it was an ordinary painting but this painting style is really similar to Master Nato's. I fear that the way she got it isn't as simple as we think!"

"She's right. Is it meaningful to receive something from an unknown origin?" Shirley said bitterly.

When Emily and Shirley finished speaking, the crowd couldn't help but glance at each other in shock.

"I didn't steal or snatch it from anyone so why can't I have this painting? I've done things rightfully so there's no need for me to fear being slandered. Unlike somebody who stole my painting, showed it to Old Mr. Collins as her own, and asked him to accept her as an apprentice."

Hearing this, Emily's expression drastically changed and she pointed at Janet, ready to curse and swear at her. Seeing this, Megan hurriedly held onto Janet nervously. "Janet, just let this matter go. Everyone's here at the party so you shouldn't embarrass Emily!"

However, Shirley couldn't stand Janet and mockingly said, "So what if your gift is great? You didn't paint it yourself. My daughter can easily paint a hundred paintings like this one in a day. Even though Emily took your painting before, it doesn't mean that she doesn't know how to paint! I remember my daughter, Chloe's painting skills were the same as her when they were young. If you think you have the ability, why don't you, Emily and my daughter have

a live competition? We'll let Old Mr. Collins be the judge! Otherwise, how would we know whether you copied this painting?"

Old Mr. Collins stomped his feet and excitedly yelled, "Well then, why don't we choose a day for the live competition? I'll accept whoever wins first place in the competition as my apprentice! As for Emily... If she really does have the skills, I will forget about her mistake!"

Hearing this, Emily looked at Megan in shock. "Mom, did I hear him right? Do I still have a chance?" Megan nodded in shock, truly admiring Old Mr. Collins's character!

However, Janet's red lips curled into a grin and she glared at Emily with her sharp phoenix eyes. "If you want to compete with me, you must first ask yourself whether you are worthy!"

A solemn expression instantly appeared on Megan's face and she didn't know what to say so she hurriedly turned to look at Jade for help. Jade cleared her throat awkwardly and said, "Well, this is the end of the gift-giving session. It's a good day so let's not ruin the harmonious atmosphere. As for the competition Old Mr. Collins mentioned, let the children go home and think about it!" Then, she picked up a glass of warm water and took a sip with a smile.

When the crowd saw Jade's attitude, they knew they should stop talking about it. However, Old Mr. Collins had already made a plan, as if he was determined to witness Janet paint by herself. As the party came to an end, the two tall and slender men that were standing in a distance also left.

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At the Jackson residence, Brian settled Jade in the room on the second floor. At first, Brian wanted to give Jade the master bedroom but she insisted on staying in the room opposite of Janet and said that she could use the opportunity to climb the stairs to exercise. After putting down her luggage, Jade rushed downstairs and sat next to Janet. "Janet, I have something to tell you!"

Janet looked up at Jade with a blank expression and realized that Jade's eyes were red. Jade had heard about Janet's life story from Brian just now and couldn't help but sympathize with her, especially when she heard that she had been farming under the hot

sun when Ms. Cook went to the countryside to get her. The mere thought of it made Jade feel distressed.

I'm sure Janet must've suffered a lot during her years in the countryside. Even though she doesn't know how to please people like Emily does, it is all caused by the environment she grew up in so I can't blame her. The only person I should blame is us adults for taking Emily by mistake.

Emily sat next to Megan and complained to her about Janet. "Mom, how can Janet say those things at the party today? My reputation is completely ruined. Fortunately, Old Mr. Collins decided to let it go. It would be nice if Janet agrees to join the painting competition.

That way, I won't be misunderstood as a girl who doesn't know how to paint." Hearing this, Janet immediately rolled her eyes. You were brave enough to steal my painting, so why are you afraid of being misunderstood?

Feeling a little helpless, Megan said, "Even though Janet shouldn't have criticized you in public, you were the one who made a mistake. From now on, no one is allowed to talk about this, okay? Whether or not Janet wants to join Old Mr. Collins's painting competition is all up to her. We have no right to force her to agree to it." "I understand, mother," Emily muttered in reply as she leaned into Megan, looking really intimate with each other.

Looking at Janet's lonely figure, Jade gestured her over. "Janet, come over here." Janet didn't dislike her grandmother. Perhaps it was because she naturally liked old people, just like how she liked Old Madam Lowry.

When Janet came back from her thoughts, Jade had already taken her hand and sat down. Then, the kind-looking old woman in front of her lovingly said, "Janet, I really like the painting you gave me. I've also prepared a present for you. Take it and see if you like it."

When Jade was young, she started Jackson Enterprise with her husband and after she retired, she put it under Brian's management. Because of this, Jade was pretty wealthy and the money she spent on travelling for the past few years were all her own money.

She never took any money from Brian at all. Jade carefully opened the exclusively-packed red velvet box and revealed a jade bracelet that was lying inside. Some parts of the jade were clear while some parts were murky. In the eyes of outsiders, this kind of thing

belonged in the trash can. Seeing this, Emily hurriedly stepped forward to join them. "Grandma Jade, this bracelet is stunning! Is it for Janet?"

Jade nodded and replied, "Yes, Emily. I also have a present for you." Emily was surprised to hear this. "Really?" Later, Jade pulled out an exclusively-wrapped black velvet box from the bag. There was a piece of jade inside but it was a necklace pendant. It looked crystal clear and was completely different from Janet's cheap bracelet.

When Emily saw this, she was overjoyed and her lips curled upward slightly. As expected, grandma loves me the most! Although Janet is the bloodline of the Jackson family, it doesn't matter because I'm grandma's favorite. With that, Janet and Emily simultaneously took their presents from Jade.

At first, Janet only accepted it out of politeness. Unexpectedly, the moment she touched the jade, she felt a strange, unparalleled comfort. It... It feels like the piece of crystal jade that I gave Old Madam Lowry. Is it just a delusion? Janet touched it with her other hand, feeling a warm and comfortable feeling in her palm and fingertips.

It really is made out of crystal jade... But why is this crystal jade turbid? Janet thought about it for a while. Maybe it's a different kind of jade. After all, there are many different kinds of jadeite. Emily noticed Janet's wooden expression and couldn't help but chuckle. "Janet, don't you like the bracelet that grandma gave you?"

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Emily secretly laughed at Janet. It'll be strange if Janet likes it. The jade bracelet is so turbid, I can tell that it's a failed product at one glance. I don't understand why grandma gave her such a low grade item. With a smile, Emily said in a kind manner, "If you don't like it, I can exchange mine with yours." "Haha!"

Jade laughed when she heard Emily's words and said nothing. The corners of Janet's red lips curled slightly and she said, "There's no need. I like this bracelet." Hearing this, Emily secretly mocked Janet. Janet sure doesn't know much about jades.

"Grandma, the necklace you gave me must be really expensive. It looks valuable to me," Emily said as she admired the necklace. Jade shook her head and replied, "No, it's not. I bought it in Barnsford. It only costs around 300,000." "300,000?" Emily asked in surprise.

Grandma Jade really is generous. At that moment, she felt that her status was on a higher level and only expensive things were worthy of her. As for Janet, she's trashy anyways so cheap items suit her well.

"Grandma, what about Janet's bracelet? It's probably worth less than 300,000, right?" Emily asked cautiously. Jade looked up and after giving it some thought, she calmly replied, "I personally went to the antique market to buy untreated jade for Janet.

The total cost is about 3 million." As soon as she finished speaking, Emily almost dropped the necklace in her hand to the ground and she shouted in surprise, "Grandma, are you saying that Janet's bracelet costs more than 3 million?"

Hearing this, Megan and Brian hurriedly stepped forward and examined the bracelet in Janet's hand. "This bracelet shouldn't be that expensive." Jade shook her head and with a serious expression, she said, "That's the price. I heard about this jade when I was travelling with your dad when we were young.

This is the legendary imperial jade, also known as the crystal jade. Wearing this kind of jade is good for the body." Megan and Brian were completely dumbfounded because they had never heard of such a jade before and they simultaneously said, "Mom, were you scammed?"

The vintage market was filled with scammers that loved to target old people the most. Megan wanted to say something but was interrupted by Janet.

"Grandma Jade is right, this is made out of crystal jade..." How could I forget this feeling? The grade of this jade is only a little lower than the one I gave Old Madam Lowry, but Grandma Jade is really thoughtful. "Janet, do you know about jades too?"

Jade asked happily, as she had found someone who knew her. "Yes," Janet replied and nodded. A few seconds later, she added, "When I was in the countryside, someone in the village dug up this kind of thing from the ground."

Hearing this, Jade had a sudden realization. Oh, I see. I thought Janet was knowledgeable about vintage items.

Looking at her necklace, Emily suddenly felt that it wasn't as nice as before... However, when she saw Janet wear the hideous bracelet, she felt much better. After all, she wouldn't want to wear such a hideous bracelet out in public.

Meanwhile in the Lowry residence, Mason's fingers were typing away on the keyboard at a fast speed. What happened at the Jackson party that day had directly confirmed his speculations. Janet is Master Nato. However, he didn't have any solid evidence.

He tried to find clues through the bank card that had multiple transactions on it but all his attempts were exposed and his requests were rejected. If Janet really is Master Nato, I'm sure that she has other secret identities. She might be a hacker, or maybe she has a friend helping her. But either way, it shows that her identity is not simple.

All of a sudden, there was a knock on the door and it interrupted his thoughts. "Come in." Janet pushed the room door open and saw the frustrated man in front of the computer. Mason thought that it was Sean at the door so he asked, "Do you think that little girl is Master Nato?"

Janet felt a little speechless and she asked, "What? Mr. Lowry, who is this little girl you're talking about?"

Upon hearing this, Mason looked up and immediately met Janet's gaze. Then, he calmly switched off the computer. With his eyes slightly narrowed, Mason tried his best to stay calm and collected. Otherwise, if Janet found out that he was investigating her, it would be hard for him to gain her trust.

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The most important thing a couple must have is trust. Mason didn't reply to Janet's question. Instead, he walked up to Janet's side and in a low voice, he whispered, "Do you

miss me?" Janet was rendered speechless. Then, she chuckled and said, "Mr. Lowry, you really are narcissistic..."

Janet was suddenly taken aback because before she could finish speaking, Mason had carried her in his arms, turned and walked toward the sofa not far away. Later, he sat on the sofa and placed her on his lap. Janet frowned and had a strong urge to resist him.

However, she knew that if she fought back at a moment like this, Mason would definitely doubt her identity. Furthermore, he already knew about her identity as Master Nato. She had a feeling that he had already investigated her, and it was just that he couldn't find any evidence.

Mason suddenly turned her small face to face him. "Don't call me a narcissist... It's the middle of the night. Any man would misunderstand your intentions." Janet looked at him blankly and found that she was particularly weak whenever she was with this man. All of a sudden, Mason smiled and lightly caressed her face with his fair hands. "Don't worry, you can come to me whenever you miss me."

Hearing this, Janet coldly swatted his hand away and yanked off the bracelet on her neck. "Take it back." Hearing this, Mason inaudibly gasped. Then, he suddenly leaned in slowly with a rare cold glint in his charming eyes. Janet immediately knew that Mason was angry. However, they weren't close so she was sure that giving the necklace back to him was the right choice.

Janet quickly turned away in discomfort. However, Mason instantly turned her head back around and kissed her lips. "Urgh..." Janet's eyes widened in shock and she immediately pushed Mason away. Then, she wiped her lips hard and roared, "Have you lost your mind?!" As she spoke, Janet instinctively punched Mason's eye.

Mason hissed in pain and licked his lips calmly. With a smirk, he replied, "I'm not crazy! You were the one who lied to me first!" Hearing this, Janet was taken aback. "Is there anything you would like to say?" Mason looked at Janet and asked.

"Are you talking about the painting?"

Mason said nothing and waited for Janet to speak for herself.

Seeing that it was difficult to continue hiding her secret, Janet lowered her voice and said, "I've never thought of lying to you! I'm sure that you've already investigated me and my bank

card! It was my friend who helped me with all that." If she didn't tell him that it was her friend who had helped her, she knew he would doubt the person at the bank too. Perhaps, the best solution is to tell him myself. The corners of Mason's lips curled into a triumphant smile. Just as I expected. Not only have I found out about her identity, but I even managed to steal a kiss.

"You are full of surprises. Only you can surprise me over and over again," Mason whispered as he stared at the girl in front of him with a fiery gaze.

Turns out that she's both Doctor Sandra and Master Nato. What other secrets does she have?

Mason had many questions he wanted to ask her but he didn't. No matter how many identities this girl in front of me has, she belongs to me. Janet looked at the know-it-all expression on the man's face and wanted to give him another punch on the face. However, I think I already punched his eye hard enough that it's swollen, but why does it look like he doesn't feel anything? Mason didn't feel anything when Janet first punched him but later on, the pain gradually hit him.

Janet fluttered her eyelashes and looked at him with mixed feelings, not saying anything. Mason touched his eye and asked, "Can I read your expression as regret for punching me?" Janet instantly snorted lightly. "It was not a heavy punch so you'll recover in two or three days. It's best you don't act flirtatiously in front of me during this time." After she finished speaking, she directly walked out the door. "Flirtatious?" The corner of Mason's lips twitched uncontrollably.

It was late at night when Janet jumped over the wall and entered the Jackson residence. Sitting in front of the mirror, she pursed her lips and felt infuriated. Not only did I lose a necklace, but he also found out about my identity as Master Nato. Most importantly, he stole a kiss from me!

Levi was once a man with unyielding character; he had always abhorred snobs who were easily swayed.

He would never try to pull strings, bootlick, or use underhand tactics to achieve his goals. However, it seemed like Levi had changed. He was no longer his old self.

...

Levi has yield to reality.

Zoey sighed at the thought of it. It seems like time and life experiences could really cut a person down to size and dampen his pride.

In the past, Levi used to be a man full of pride and confidence. But now, his arrogance is long gone with the wind. He is no different from any other ordinary man being weighed down by the burden and hardship of life.

But fortunately, we love each other to the moon and back.

They met Levi on the ground floor. "Where have you been just now?" Asked Iris.

Levi gave her a put-off, "Just walking around... Why are you asking?"

It ascertained their suspicions that Levi was sucking up to Neil when he evaded her question.

"Nothing." Iris decided not to pursue the matter further.

Just then, one of the employees of Morris Group came running and yelling as soon as he saw Iris, "Ms. Anabelle, something terrible has happened! We're in big trouble!"

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Damn it. If she knew things would turn out this way, she would have asked for that necklace which was worth several hundred million back.

Just as she slammed on the table regretfully, she suddenly heard someone knocking on her door.

She readied herself to offer Jade an apology, thinking that she must have woken her up because of the noise.

To her surprise, Jade just held her hands and walked into the room.

Eyeing her puzzledly, Janet asked, "What's going on?"

Jade stuffed a card into Janet's hands and muttered, "Take this. I couldn't give it to you just now because Emily was there."

Janet raised her brows at her in confusion. "You're giving me money?"

"Hush. There is one million inside the card as your allowance. If that isn't enough, you can always look for me to get more!"

"Huh?" Janet shook her head at the elderly lady and said, "I don't really need the money."

The figure in her bank account was increasing at a stable rate every day and she could actually live comfortably solely depending on the interests generated.

Jade first examined her thoroughly from her head to her toes before she shook her head and insisted, "You can't go on dressing in this way. Now, you should doll yourself up to look better than Emily so that people will know that you're the darling of our family, not her."

Janet looked stunned for a few seconds before she let out a chuckle.

Darling? That was the first time she was seen as a darling by someone.

She shoved the card back into Jade's hand and explained airily, "I'm used to dressing in this way, so I think you should just keep the money."

Looking all smiles, Jade did not try to force Janet to take it because she was worried that Janet would start to think of her as a nuisance.

"By the way, are you really not going to join the painting competition? Your Aunt Shirley sounded very adamant in the WhatsApp Group that you wouldn't dare to take part in the competition because you aren't good enough." Jade told Janet everything she saw in the group chat.

Janet raised her brows quizzically at Jade and asked, “I’m surprised you’re actually an active user of WhatsApp.”

“You bet I am. Take a look at what these people are saying in the group.”

Janet clicked the WhatsApp group open and found that all messages from Aunt Shirley were related to her.

Was she this desperate to see her daughter be embarrassed?

If that was the case, she didn’t mind fulfilling her wish.

Later that night, Janet agreed to take part in the painting competition organized by Old Mr. Collins. The participants of the competition included Chloe—Aunt Shirley’s daughter, Janet and Emily, and whoever emerged as the winner would become Old Mr. Collins’ apprentice.

At last, the contest was fixed to be held on the coming weekend.

Many from Janet’s organization were revved up for the competition and all of them were keen to show their support for Janet in their chat group.

Lara: ‘How about all of us go to Sandfort City to root for Janet this weekend?’

Desire: ‘Janet, I’m afraid I can’t make it because I just accepted a mission to sneak into the city council of Barnsford to gather dirt on some corrupted government officers and the work is still ongoing...’

The Beasts: ‘Boss, I want to apply for leave so that I can make a trip to Sandfort City to show my support for you.’

Janet: ‘No leave for all of you because you guys should focus on training in Markovia.’

The Beasts: ‘...’

Lee: ‘Seems like I can’t afford to miss out on watching the contest then? Let’s hope Janet can show what she’s got on that day.’

Janet: ‘...’

It was Friday in the blink of an eye and Star High School was having the much-anticipated sports day.

The field of the school was filled with students wearing jerseys.

Before the event even started, Abby was so frustrated with the swelteringly hot weather that she grumbled, "Our school must be the only school that will hold sports day on a day with such hot weather!"

As soon as Gordon heard her complaint, he immediately handed Janet and Abby a bottle of beverage each.

Janet took the bottle from him and put it on the ground under the shade of a tree before she noticed several guys approaching her from afar.

When they handed a few bottles of cola to her, she raised her brows puzzledly at them.

One of the boys scratched his head awkwardly. His face, which was flushed to begin with because of the heat, turned even redder when he said, "Janet, this is for you and I hope you will do well in the competition!"

Janet looked at the boys with an impassive face and nodded at them. "Thank you," she said indifferently.

Yet, she didn't take the drinks from the boys but instead, she turned her gaze back to the middle of the field.

The boys then walked away looking embarrassed before they spotted Emily from the corners of their eyes.

Emily and Madelaine were glaring at Janet while cursing under their breaths, "Tsk, tsk. Only a pile of dung is capable of attracting so many flies."

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Such a tacky way of pleasing her simply didn't work for her.

At that juncture, those boys walked over to Emily and offered the drinks to her instead.

Emily first gave them a once-over before brushing her hair back. "I'm not that cheap," she rejected their gestures with displeasure.

There was no way she would take something which had been rejected by Janet.

The boys first exchanged a glance before they turned back to face Emily. "Are you sure you don't want the drinks?" they asked.

Madelained shooed them away with a disgusted tone, "Oh, please just leave us alone. Why are you guys offering us something Janet didn't want?"

"It's because the two of you are only worth rejected goods!" one of the boys snapped back resentfully.

Who did Emily think she was and what was so special about her?

Madelaine was left so exasperated that she was speechless.

Emily waved her hand dismissively. "Forget about them because I need to get ready for my 100 meters sprint now."

Although it was very tiring to run under such torrid weather, she counted herself lucky because she was only involved in one sports event.

She might not be as excellent in sports as her academic achievements but she was still confident that she could win at least a bronze medal in the race.

The sports day officially began following an announcement by Mr. Wilson, the sportsteacher.

As the sports events Janet was involved in were arranged subsequent to most other events, she decided to watch the performance of her classmates under the shade of a tree.

Indeed, all of them turned out to be weak and were way more inferior to the students from other classes in terms of their stamina.

After watching for a while, she expected that Emily would be the second one who would be able to get a medal for Class A after Gordon who had clinched the gold medal in the men's 100 meters sprint.

Amidst the rapturous cheers, Emily successfully finished third in her race.

Her victory boosted the confidence of the entire Class A who started clapping and chanting, "Gordon and Emily are so amazing!"

Some of the students from Class B couldn't help but roll their eyes at them.

"I can't believe they still have the face to cheer even though they have such terrible results."

"Those from Class A are outright nerds with embarrassingly lousy stamina."

"Gordon is the only who's athletic and I wish he were one of us."

"Anyway, those from Class A are just a dorky bunch who don't move around much."

Ignoring their disdainful remarks, Emily checked the time and noticed that Janet's events were coming up. Feigning kindness, she cried out, "Guys, let's root for Janet who's going to compete soon!"

It was out of Emily's expectation that the high jump, the long jump and the 2000 meters race that Janet was going to participate in were all going to be held at two in the afternoon when the weather would be hottest.

She was very pleased with the arrangement because the sunlight would be the most intense at that time. After going through the 2000 meters race, she was sure Janet would end up being sunburned.

While she was feeling elated at the thought, she was taken aback to see some of the guys from Class A as well as Mr. Wilson approaching Janet.

Mr. Wilson advised her good-naturedly, "Janet, it's time you do some warm-up because the high jump event is coming up. It's completely okay if you aren't confident with the event because none of the girls from Class A have ever won any medals for high jump before."

Abby chimed in, "Janet, if you really think you can't make it, you can just duck under the pole because that's what I did last year!"

"That's right. You may just do that and you don't have to force yourself if you really can't do it."

Upset to see everyone swarming around Janet, Madelaine seethed, "What do they see in that country yokel that makes her so special? I wish she would break her legs in the high jump event later."

Madelaine's comment caused Emily to be even more pissed off and her blood was boiling. She was speechless to see her fellow classmates all flocking to Janet right after they celebrated very briefly for the bronze medal she just won.

Janet nodded at everyone and declared, "Thanks everyone for your concern, and I promise I will try my best later! Although I've never tried high jumping before, I think I should be able to nail it..."

"Janet, I trust you." Abby's eyes on her crimson face shone with determination.

"Just go ahead and shine." Gordon patted Janet's shoulder.

When Janet reached the track, she noticed that the pole was placed at a height which almost reached her ears. If she was able to jump over that pole, she reckoned all her classmates would be awestruck and freak out.

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When Mr. Wilson blew the whistle a short while later, Janet moved her slender legs and started off with a jog to build up her momentum.

Emily chuckled while she was observing Janet, "With that height of hers, I'm surprised that she didn't actually opt to sprint fast to gain enough momentum before making the jump. Let's see how badly she is gonna fall later!"

Madelaine sniggered, "Emily, what we suffered before this is going to be avenged soon."

Even those from Class B couldn't help but shake their heads and taunted, "Emily, does your class really have no better candidate than her?"

"Hahaha, Class A is going to end up at the bottom of the ranking this year again."

"Look at that pair of slender legs of Janet's. She should count herself lucky if she doesn't hurt her legs after making the jump."

"Why is she running so slowly like a tortoise now when she moved so fast to punch someone?"

In response to their remarks, Emily raised her brows and lamented with a distressed expression, "I have no clue that Janet actually registered for the event because she did it secretly!"

Madelaine chimed in, "That's true because that country bumpkin just loves to seize every chance to be in the limelight whenever she can! Have you guys forgotten how Jennifer ended up being suspended after getting punched by her? Because of that matter, she was the talk of the town for some time!"

Those from Class B snorted and shook their heads contemptuously at them.

As for Janet, she actually planned to give up by just stopping right before the pole but out of instinct and due to her muscle memory, she would automatically jump over any barrier in front of her.

After landing on the cushion on the other side of the pole, she deliberately wiped off some imaginary sweat from her neck and panted, "It's so tiring!"

The smirk on Emily and Madelaine's face disappeared in an instant.

"H-How's that possible?" Everyone rubbed their eyes thinking that they had seen it wrongly.

The moment Janet jumped over the pole had happened as fast as a lightning and her body didn't touch the pole at all.

Grabbing Madelaine's arm, Emily sputtered in a quivering voice, "H-Have my eyes failed me, or did Janet actually jump over that pole?"

Madelaine was also stuck in a trance before she rubbed her eyes and responded, "I-I've seen the same thing too."

By the time they managed to recover from the shock, Janet was already surrounded by all the students from Class A.

Abby squealed excitedly, "Janet, you're so amazing and you were as quick as lightning!"

"Janet, I'm totally blown away by your performance! You're such a surprise!" Mr. Wilson started showering her with praise.

Janet first gulped before responding shyly, "Is that so? I think I was just lucky because I only made that jump reflexively and I totally didn't expect to make it."

Cupping Janet's face in her hands, Abby kept on planting sloppy kisses on her cheeks and lauded, "You're not lucky, but outright talented! Goodness gracious, I'm so happy!"

Even Gordon looked dumbfounded because it had never occurred to him that Janet would be so good at sports.

Not only was she brilliant, but she was a talented athlete too!

"Oh, please spare me the embarrassment and stop praising me already. A-Abby, p-please fetch my water bottle over here." Janet pretended to talk breathlessly.

"Okay!" Abby scurried away from the crowd but to her dismay, she bumped into Emily who was walking over.

Emily snorted, "Didn't she just manage to do a high jump? I really can't see what's the big fuss all about! Seems like y'all have never seen much of the world, huh?"

Ignoring her, Abby rounded past her and headed straight for Janet's water bottle.

By the time she made it back, she was just in time to hear Madelaine talking to Mr. Wilson. "Sir, isn't it too early for a celebration since Janet still has two events later?"

Mr. Wilson broke into a wide grin and chirped, "I'm already satisfied with the gold medal Janet got for the high jump event. As for the rest, it's fine by me if Janet wants to pull out."

Emily retorted agitatedly right away, "Mr. Wilson, how can we do something like that? The students from the other classes will think of us as a bunch of cowards if Janet pulls out! No way, she has to take part in the other two events too..."

"Exactly. Everyone in the school will deem us as a bunch of cowards in the future!" Madelaine nodded vigorously in agreement.

"Hmm..." Slightly concerned, Mr. Wilson looked at Janet and asked, "Janet, do you think you still have enough stamina for the remaining two events?"

Looking calm and composed, Janet took her water bottle from Abby and took a swig before she announced with a nonchalant expression, "I'll give it a try!"

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Emily was secretly delighted to hear that because she didn't believe Janet could really excel in everything.

The students from the other classes, who had started to run out of patience waiting for them to decide, urged impatiently, "Is Class A still in the game? If you guys are taking so long to make a decision, why don't you guys just pull out?"

"Exactly. Janet Jackson from Class A is such an attention-seeker to register for so many events, which is more than she can cope with."

"Can you guys move faster? The sun is going to set soon!"

After listening to their remarks, Janet walked away from the congregation of her fellow classmates and handed her jacket to Abby. "Let's get on with the competition," she spoke in a crisp and cold voice.

Gordon took the chance to examine her face when she walked past him and found that her face was actually slightly pale.

Why did she look that way?

Was she suffering from a heatstroke?

Standing at the area where the long jump event was held, Janet suddenly felt a dull pain from her lower abdomen when she was staring at the pool of sand some distance away from her.

After doing some calculation, she realized that it had been more than a month since she had her last period.

Could she be having it now?

During the time she was going through training in Markovia, she could easily train for more than ten hours continuously without feeling tired but every time she had her period, she wouldn't be able to make it.

Deciding that her body wouldn't be able to withstand it after some contemplation, she waved at Mr. Wilson and announced with a poker face, "Mr. Wilson, I want to withdraw from these two events!"

The students from Class B couldn't help but mock Janet when they saw her chicken out at the eleventh hour. "Geez, her stamina must be really weak to be so exhausted after having just a game. Why was she so powerful when she punched Jennifer Lewis then?"

Sensing that something was not right with Janet from how pale her lips looked, Gordon quickly approached her and questioned her in an undertone, "How are you feeling?"

Janet placed her hands on her belly and muttered, "Bring me to the school clinic."

Mr. Wilson too walked over and asked her worryingly, "Janet, are you alright?"

Gordon cleared his throat and answered, "Sir, I'm bringing her to the school clinic now."

Noticing the awkward expression on Gordon's face and realizing what it meant in an instant, Mr. Wilson responded, "Go ahead."

Gordon bent at his waist and carried Janet in his arms before heading in the direction of the school clinic.

Abby, who was left behind, was speechless.

What was going on?

Everyone couldn't help but gasp in shock when they saw what happened.

When they finally recovered from the trance, the whole field went uproarious at once.

Janet opened her eyes and looked up at Gordon's face. Under the dazzling sunlight, his face looked even more well-defined and there was a trace of dominance in his beautiful eyes.

No wonder he was so popular among the girls.

"Goodness sake, did Gordon Yaleman just carry Janet in his arms?"

"How could something like that happen? My heart is breaking into pieces."

"Does Gordon have a thing for country bumpkins?"

"Janet is so lucky to be in Gordon Yaleman's arms."

"I'm sure this will become the hottest topic on Twitter by tomorrow."

"You should log into your Twitter account now and take a look at what is happening—the discussion has already started gaining heat."

"How could something like that happen?" Looking extremely pale, Emily couldn't figure out why Gordon would carry Janet.

Did he have a crush on her?

That was impossible. In her opinion, Janet must have pretended to be sick so that Gordon would sympathize with her.

“She’s so shameless!” she muttered under her breath through gritted teeth while watching them getting increasingly smaller as they walked further and further away.

Inside the office of Lowry Family Conglomerate, Mason was leaning against a chair made from genuine leather. Looking sleepy with his eyes half-closed, he started recalling his encounter with Janet that night and the comment she made before leaving.

She had said he was shameless.

Was that really the case?

At that juncture came the sound of someone knocking on the door.

In a deep and husky voice, he spoke, “Come in.”

It was Sean and he was sure Mason had no idea of what had gone viral on Twitter judging from how unperturbed he looked.

Hence, he decided to remind him out of kindness, “Young Master Mason, haven’t you seen what went viral on Twitter today?”

Mason looked up and raised his brows puzzlingly at him.

Sean cleared his throat before he imparted, “I just read from Twitter that Miss Jackson was carried by a guy classmate to the school clinic because she seemed to be unwell.”

Mason’s pupils shrank slightly when he heard that. Without even bothering to put on his suit jacket, he made a dash out of his room and instructed Sean, “Get my sportscar ready and let’s head to Star High School.”

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Inside his sports car, Mason made a call.

From the other end came a voice belonging to a middle-aged man who spoke in a cautious and respectful tone, "Mr. Lowry, how can I help you?"

"I heard that a student was sent to the school clinic. Is that true?"

The crease on the principal's forehead smoothed considerably when he realized that was why Mason called. He was so anxious and worried just now assuming that there was some serious trouble.

He responded in an airy tone, "Yes, we're having our sports day today and a girl was sent to the school clinic because she was exhausted. Mr. Lowry, is there any issue with that?"

The principal's answer caused a slight furrow on Mason's forehead. "I'll be there later. Please make sure no one else knows about my presence and I don't care what method you are going to use."

The principal was stunned for a second before he answered hesitantly, "Mr. Lowry, the sports day is still ongoing at the moment and I'm afraid the entire school will notice you if you drive over here."

Mason snapped frustratedly, "That's why I wanted you to come up with ways to keep it a secret. Can you understand me?"

"Y-Yes, I can. I'll do it now, Mr. Lowry." The principal was so frightened by Mason's menacing voice that he broke out in cold sweat.

Within the next minute, the principal's voice came blaring out from the speakers all over the campus. "The remaining sports day events are canceled temporarily. All students are required to return to their respective classrooms within the next five minutes and anyone who makes it back later than that will be expelled!" He added shortly after that, "Except the student who is receiving treatment in the school clinic!"

Gordon heard the principal's announcement not too long after he carried Janet to the school clinic. The doctor advised him, "Gordon, you should return to the classroom too. Don't worry because I will take care of her."

Janet too nodded at him and urged, "Go ahead. My condition is not too serious."

Heeding their advice, Gordon left and walked back to Class A several minutes later.

At the sight of Gordon, the girls in Class A started whispering among themselves.

"I couldn't tell that Janet was such a seductive slut from her face at all. She pretended to be weak in front of Gordon but everyone knows how great she is at punching people."

"I agree with you. She always sticks to Gordon like glue too."

"She's such a show-off. Why did she register for three sports events although she knew she couldn't cope? It's so obvious that she did that so that she would have the chance to be the damsel in distress saved by Gordon."

"As far as I know, she's an outright attention seeker. I heard that Emily tried to stop her from joining so many sports events but she insisted on doing so. In the end, Emily had no choice but to cave in."

As most of the girls in the class were Gordon's fans, their remarks were filled with resentment toward Janet and their tone was brimming with jealousy.

Listening to their comments, Gordon frowned in irritation. He stared at Madelaine and confronted her in a cold voice, "Wasn't the list composed and submitted by Emily and you at that time? Why do they think it was Janet who registered for the three sports events herself?"

Madelaine and Emily glanced at each other before snapping back in unison, "She could have withdrawn from the competition if she didn't want to go or thought she was not good enough, but she wanted to show off!"

"If Janet ends up having any serious injury, I won't forgive the two of you."

Madelaine and Emily shrugged indifferently in response to his threat.

What was wrong with Gordon to be so protective of that country bumpkin?

The rest of the students in Class A shook their heads and lamented, "Look at that. Janet must be a scheming b*tch to make Gordon care so much about her."

Abby stormed out of the classroom angrily as she could no longer put up with their degrading remarks about Janet.

They shouldn't talk like that even though they were Gordon's fans!

Noticing Abby leaving the classroom, Gordon followed suit.

Mr. Smith was just entering the class and he stared at the two and asked quizzically, "Are the two of you skipping my class?"

All he had in response was utter silence.

Meanwhile, another man had arrived at the school clinic just several minutes after Gordon left.

Staring at him dazedly for several seconds, Janet asked in a rigid tone, "Why are you here?"

Mason didn't answer her.

His chest couldn't help but tighten when he saw her pale face.

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Mason stared at Janet who was lying at a 45-degree angle on the bed with a deep crease on his forehead. "How's her condition?" he asked.

The doctor answered him candidly, "She's only having her period. In fact, I can see she doesn't take care of her body well enough because she should know that she has to refrain from doing vigorous exercise during her period."

The doctor then glanced at Mason and frowned with dissatisfaction as he criticized, "As her boyfriend, why didn't you remind her of that? I heard from her classmates that she just participated in the high jump event... Fortunately, her body is strong enough or she would have suffered something serious!"

Mason parted his lips intending to say something but thought better of it in the end.

Staring at Mason, the doctor jotted down something on a piece of paper before she instructed, "Please buy everything on this list."

Mason took the piece of paper with his slender fingers and glanced at it to find that everything stated inside was something he was familiar with. As he had done something similar before, he could handle the task well.

"Oh, please buy her some new panties too because she has to change the one she's wearing now. I think you should get her the disposable type because normal panties have to be washed before wearing and she can't wait that long."

Two crimson patches appeared on Mason's cheeks right away.

Janet too turned her face away from Mason in embarrassment.

Mason gulped as he was stupefied.

Seeing that he was rooted to the spot, the doctor urged him to get going. "Why are you behaving so shy about it? As a couple, I believe the two of you have already seen each other's bodies."

Turning her head around, Janet's beautiful face was as red as a tomato when she cleared her throat and clarified, "He isn't my boyfriend."

The doctor sized them up before shaking her head in confusion. "Young couples like the two of you always break up easily once you guys start fighting with each other. Why didn't the two of you just tell me that you guys already broke up with each other?"

Mason went speechless.

"Go on and buy the stuff now!" The doctor badgered Mason before turning round to advise Janet, "Girl, you're fine now and you may go back to your class after your boyfriend brings back all the things you need."

With that, the doctor walked away.

"You can take a short nap and I'll wake you up when I'm back." Mason was worried that she couldn't put up with the pain because after all, he had witnessed how hard she battled with it before.

"I'm not that weak," Janet countered stubbornly with her head tilted to one side.

Mason stared at the girl who pretended to be strong with a frown, wondering when she would drop all her pretence and show her true side to him.

"You should at least take a rest. I'll get going now." He closed the door after walking out of her ward.

Fortunately, the students were still having classes at the time he left the school clinic. Otherwise, Janet would become the talk of the town again if he was seen.

Obviously, all credits went to the principal for doing a great job at keeping his presence a secret.

As soon as he walked out of the school gate, he found Henry and Sean waiting for him.

Henry asked in a teasing tone despite knowing the answer to his questions, "Young Master Mason, how can you decide to skip the meeting at the office just like that? Why are you at the school of our future sister-in-law?"

Sean cleared his throat as a warning for Henry to tone it down before taking the driver's seat.

Ignoring Henry, Mason instructed Sean to drive him to a supermarket in order to get the stuff on the list.

All eyes were on Mason and the other two as soon as they stepped into the supermarket.

The cashiers and the staff members started whispering to one another.

"The three guys over there are so good-looking!"

"Look at the eyes of the tallest guy! They are so beautiful!"

"Goodness gracious, I swear I can do nothing but admire that pair of long legs for a year's time."

The three guys were all charming in their own unique way.

Mason was the type who could switch on his mysterious and dark charm any minute. Henry had beautiful facial features that made him look like he was capable of scoring with any woman while Sean was especially attractive with his mature and wise look.

Henry pursed his lips in resignation when he noticed that their arrival had caused a major disruption to the operation of the supermarket. "Young Master Mason, why are we shopping at such a small shop? You can just reserve the entire shopping mall if you need to buy stuff."

"Shopping malls are too far away from here," Mason answered him in an indifferent voice.

Following the signs, he made his way to the section of the supermarket where undergarments were sold.

The female staff member who served them was obviously so smitten by the three of them that she couldn't even speak coherently, "S-Sirs, w-what do you need? I-I can offer you guys some assistance."

Mason then stuffed the list into Sean's hand and asked him to read it aloud.

Sean did it despite the embarrassment.

The female staff member then quickly put all the items stated by Sean into a carrier bag.

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Just moments before Mason paid for his purchase, something dawned upon him that prompted him to make his way back to the undergarment department and scanned his surroundings.

Henry and Sean first exchanged inquisitive glances before catching up with Mason. What greeted them next was the sight of Mason picking up a pink panty with his slender finger and eyeing it puzzledly. He was wondering what size Janet wore.

Henry couldn't help but burst out laughing when he saw him. "Young Master Mason, I can see that you're buying panties for our future sister-in-law. Hmm... what color do you have in mind?" Then, he took over that pink panty from Mason and started examining it.

Mason's face turned sullen in an instant. Then, he walked out of the area and said to the cashier, "I'll take all the panties except the one that the pervert is holding."

Appearing affronted at once, Henry confronted Mason, "Young Master Mason, who are you referring to?" What he said cracked Sean up, thinking that it served Young Master Moss right for touching the stuff chosen by Young Master Mason.

Mason raised his brow at Henry and stared at him coldly. "How many women have you touched with your hands? They are disgusting." Henry was left speechless. Shouldn't he at least make some effort to protect his image in public?

When Sean was carrying one shopping bag after another into the car, the passersby eyed them curiously. In the meantime, Mason put on a pair of sunglasses because he didn't want to be bothered by their stares.

When he made it back to Star High School, he took one panty of each size because he had no idea what size she wore. At first, he thought of giving her a call to ask her but he was too embarrassed to do so...

"Wait for me at the gate." After leaving behind that instruction, he made his way to the school clinic by himself. He then found Janet lying on the bed with her back facing the door inside and she seemed to have fallen fast asleep. Listening to her steady breathing, he walked over to her bed in light footsteps and then to the water dispenser to fetch her a cup of water.

"Who's that?" Janet woke with a start and her eyes were tinged with a trace of caution. She turned around and found herself staring right into Mason's eyes.

He narrowed his eyes at her, surprised by her alertness as she could still hear his footsteps despite him having made them as light as possible.

After making sure that the man was Mason, Janet rose to her feet and took the cup of water from him. "Why are you still here?" she looked up at him and asked.

With a roguish smirk, he bent down to stroke her beautiful pointed nose and taunted, "How cruel you are. You just can't wait to chase me away as soon as I have bought you the things you need, huh?"

Janet, whose face reddened slightly, ignored him. He then threw a carrier bag onto the bed and muttered, "There are some new panties inside that you can change into." Looking at her two crimson cheeks, he closed his eyes and turned around to face her with his back. However, he didn't hear the sound of her getting changed even after a long while.

"What's the problem? Is the size not right for you?" Mason parted his lips slightly and spoke in a slightly husky and alluring voice. His voice traveled slowly into the air which was charged with sexual tension and it made her heart flutter.

Janet thought she was great at keeping her cool but at that moment, his voice sent a ripple in her heart which was usually as calm as a pool of still water. A tingling sensation surged through her body as though there were feathers brushing against her heart. "How am I supposed to get changed when you're here?" Janet sounded anxious.

"I'm not peeping," Mason raised his brows while saying calmly.

Janet ended up being speechless because she had no idea how to refute him. Closing her eyes, she took a deep breath before bellowing at him, "Just get out."

Not surprised at all by her outburst, Mason let out a chuckle instead of getting angry. "Get it done quick then. I'll be waiting for you outside."

In a deft movement, it didn't even take her two minutes to change into a fresh set of garments and she felt much more rejuvenated after taking the painkiller and a bowl of brown sugar water. Then, she opened the door and shook her head in resignation when she saw the man who was waiting for her outside. She walked over to him and patted his shoulder. "Thank you very much for your help today. You should return to your office now because I have to get back to class."

Mason responded to what she said with a frown. "Do you feel better now? Are you sure you are fit enough to attend the class?"

"Do you think I don't know myself well enough even though I'm a doctor?" Janet retorted stubbornly.

With a sly smile, Mason countered, "Are you trying to make me crazy over you by appearing weak and vulnerable in front of me on so many occasions?"

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Taking a sharp intake of breath, Janet suddenly felt a pressing urge to land a punch on Mason's face.

"Ahem..." The sound of the doctor clearing her throat came from some distance away. "Girl, do you feel better now?"

"Yes. I'm going back to class now." After saying goodbye to the doctor, Janet then made her way to the building where the classrooms were located.

"Remember to tell your teacher if you feel unwell again," the doctor urged.

"I will." Janet's figure moved further and further away.

Standing rooted to the spot, Mason had a deep crease on his forehead because he couldn't figure out why it was so hard to melt her heart.

The doctor stared at him and offered him a piece of advice with a smile, "Everything will be fine if you pay more attention to your girlfriend. As long as you're willing to make the effort, I believe you will be able to get her back."

Mason raised his brow and answered in a contemplative tone, "Yes, I will do that."

As soon as Janet returned to the classroom, her presence drew everyone's attention immediately.

“Janet, do you feel better now?”

“Janet, are you alright?”

Janet nodded in response to their questions before returning to her seat.

Emily and Madelaine were just talking about Janet. At the sight of her, Madelaine immediately snorted, “I wonder why someone insisted on taking part in three sports events although there was no way she could cope with them. In the end, she was exhausted after going through just one sports event and ended up fainting in Gordon’s arms. What a scheming b*tch!”

Emily went along with what she said by responding in a feign annoyed tone, “Madelaine, you shouldn’t think of Janet that way. Although she did register for the events herself, you can’t be so sure that it was just a part of her plan to make Gordon sympathize with her, can you?”

Abby glared at Madelaine and seethed, “Can you predict the exact day you will be having your next period? There’s no point in criticizing her. Didn’t you register to take part in the competition too? Did you win any medal for our class?”

Madelaine exchanged a glance with Emily before she asked, “Is she really having her period?”

A babble of voices broke out among the girls in the class as soon as they heard that.

“Oh, seems like her energy only ran out so soon because she’s having her period.”

“No wonder. She can easily beat three people at one go in other times.”

“I see. Still, I’m glad that we got at least one gold medal because of her.”

“Exactly. Otherwise, our class will become the laughing stock of the entire school again.”

The rest of the students started steering the conversation away from Janet and toward Madelaine as they started taunting, “Madelaine, didn’t you take part in the long jump event as Janet’s substitute? Are your knees all red and swollen now?”

It was unbeknownst to Janet that after she was brought to the school clinic, Mr. Wilson asked Madelaine to take part in the long jump event as her substitute. Yet, she ended up

suffering a hilarious fall in the pool of sand and her misfortune had become a great joke for everyone in the school.

Having listened to them describing what happened to Madelaine during the long jump event, Janet smirked and stared at Madelaine disdainfully. "I must say you are a much better athlete than me because I don't even know how to pull off such a bad fall in the sand."

Her comment sent everyone into fits of laughter.

As exasperated as she was with their jeering, Madelaine could only suppress her rage because she dared not refute what they said.

Emily then shot Madelaine a supercilious glance, thinking it embarrassing that she didn't even manage to get a medal from the event.

Yet, her mind was preoccupied with the painting competition tomorrow because many big shots of Sandfort City would be there. If she won, it would be a great chance for her to befriend those big shots and Old Mr. Collins would also accept her as his apprentice regardless of what happened before.

That was a chance that many girls out there were dying to have.

Soon, Sunday arrived.

Emily started dolling herself up in her room early in the morning, making sure she would be the prettiest among the three participants in the painting competition later.

Both Megan and Jade were very nervous. As someone from their family would be Old Mr. Collins' apprentice today regardless of the outcome of the contest, both of them were looking forward to the prospect no matter which one of the three emerged as the winner.

Deep down inside, Megan wanted Emily to win because she was the one who brought her up. She had arranged music and art lessons for her hoping that she would one day become an outstanding talent in the future.

If Janet ended up winning, she could accept it too because after all, she was her real daughter.

As for Jade, from all perspectives, she hoped Janet would win because she was her favorite granddaughter. She was very impressed with how marvelous Janet's painting was and she believed she was good enough to win the contest.

More than ten luxury cars were parked outside Leaping Dragon Hotel before the painting competition started.

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Those who had no clue what was going inside would assume a grand wedding was held inside.

As the organizer of the painting competition, Old Mr. Collins was so revved up about the event that he arrived at the hotel very early to usher the guests. He couldn't wait to see who would emerge as the winner of the contest and be his apprentice.

Standing at the gate of the lobby, Old Mr. Collins saw a red Rolls-Royce pulling up in front of him.

At the sight of the luxurious car, he immediately stepped forward to greet the guest sitting inside.

It was Henry from the Moss Family who alighted the car.

"Young Master Moss! What an honor to have you here." Old Mr. Collins was pleasantly surprised when he was informed of Henry's attendance the previous night. He was extremely thrilled to have someone from the Moss Family attending his small-scale painting competition.

Feeling awkward, Henry thought to himself that he was only here to show his support to Janet, the darling of Young Master Mason.

Yet, he still put on a composed look and said to Old Mr. Collins, "I heard that the girls who are participating in this contest are very talented painters. So, here I am to see how good they are."

Old Mr. Collins broke into a wide grin and answered, "They are very talented indeed. Young Master Moss, this way please."

Then, he had a hotel staff lead Henry to the ballroom.

Much to his surprise, he spotted Young Master Sanders as soon as he turned around.

"Goodness gracious, Young Master Sanders! Your presence really graces the occasion. Why didn't you inform me beforehand of your attendance?"

Lee dressed up for the occasion by wearing an all-black suit. He looked up at Old Mr. Collins and said, "Someone told me that the girls in the contest are all amazing painters. So, I guess I mustn't miss the chance to admire their talents."

Old Mr. Collins went speechless wondering why they all offered him a similar explanation.

Also, he was baffled as to why all of them suddenly had so much free time to be here.

Again, he put on an ear-to-ear grin and said, "Please come this way."

Still rattled by their attendance, he turned around and started pondering over who they were rooting for.

Shortly after that, he saw a red Porsche coming in his direction again.

When he took a closer look at the bunch of people getting out of the car, he found all of them to be strangers.

Although he didn't know them, he was sure they were no average people.

Frowning in confusion, Old Mr. Collins approached them and asked, "I'm sorry, you are?"

The girl standing in front of him fished out a name card and handed it to him. "I'm Lara, the top executive broker in Sandfort City."

Old Mr. Collins adjusted his spectacles as his brain had difficulty processing the information. What the heck is an executive broker?

However, he still decided to let her in for the sake of the luxurious car parked behind her. "This way please."

"Thanks," Lara replied nonchalantly while chewing on gum.

One of her underlings who was following behind her asked her puzzledly, "Lara, how did you get yourself that name card?"

Lara tapped the boy's head and answered him impatiently, "Have you forgotten what I do for a living?"

The boy instantly nodded at her with enlightenment.

When more and more big shots gathered at the lobby outside the ballroom later on, Old Mr. Collins gave up ushering them and went into the ballroom instead because he started getting confused.

He had never seen or heard of any of those big shots outside.

The fact that his small-scale painting competition had attracted so many of them left him in utter bewilderment. Were they all here because of him?

Despite the many questions in his mind, he was still overjoyed to see them there because the more people who attended the painting competition, the more respectable his social status was.

At that juncture, Emily, Janet and Chloe arrived at the hotel.

Emily was astounded the moment she stepped into the ballroom.

Tugging at Megan's arm, she exclaimed, "Mom, why are there so many people here? Henry Moss from the Moss Family is here too! Look over there!"

Megan looked in the direction where Emily was pointing at and spotted Henry.

"There! The young master from the Sanders Family is here too!" Emily nearly squealed in excitement.

Janet sneered when she listened to her exclamation and moved her eyes elsewhere.

Chloe, who had never witnessed such a grand occasion, was so shaken that her palm was sweaty. "Mom, why is the contest this year attended by so many people?" she asked Shirley in a doubtful tone.

Shirley chuckled before she gave a cursory glance at all the big shots inside the ballroom smugly. "Chloe, there's no point in being scared because all of them are here to admire your work out of respect for our family and Old Mr. Collins."

Chloe smoothed the creases on her blouse and asked, "Really?"

These bunch of people seemed to be loaded and Chloe thought it would be great if any of them took a liking to her.

Hence, she had to make sure that victory was hers by bringing her A game later.

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Shirley held her chin up smugly and glanced at Janet in a disdainful manner as she answered, "Of course. Otherwise, do you think they are all here to see a country bumpkin painted?"

Chloe too stared at Janet contemptuously after listening to Shirley.

She had heard from her mother how shabby Janet looked before. Today, it was her first time meeting Janet in person and she realized that her mother's description of her was accurate. Seeing how badly dressed Janet was, Chloe was confident that she looked way better than her.

Janet's eyes turned menacing the moment she heard Shirley's comment. In a level voice, she told Jade, "I need to use the bathroom."

Shirley snorted icily and pointed at Janet as she taunted, "Look at her. That country bumpkin must have wet her pants because of how grand this event is."

Chloe chuckled in response to her mother's remark.

Without anyone of them realizing, those bunch of big shots vanished from the ballroom at the same time together with Janet.

They gathered at a corner of a corridor where Janet glowered at them and confronted, "Why are you guys here?"

Lee curled his lips upward into a smile and said, "I heard that you're going to showcase your skill today. So, of course I have to be here to admire the work of 'Master Nato' who has not produced any new artwork for a very long time."

Janet couldn't come up with anything to say.

Shortly after that, Lara too said with a smile, "I'm here to make you look like a popular star." Then, she pointed at the group of underlings she brought with her.

Janet was left speechless. When Lee and Lara walked away, she bumped into Henry.

"Why are you here too?" Janet squinted her eyes and looked at him indifferently. After gazing at him for several seconds, she moved her eyes away.

Henry chuckled, "How can I be absent at the painting competition in which one of the contestants is my future sister-in-law?"

Janet held her chin up and shot him a supercilious glance before she cursed under her breath, "Stop talking crap!"

Henry shrugged before pointing at someone standing behind her. "Janet, look who's here."

She turned around and saw Mason flashing her a faint smile and giving her a penetrating stare.

She was not at all surprised to see him there.

"I'm going back to the ballroom," Janet spoke nonchalantly before tucking her hands in her pockets and made her way toward the ballroom.

"Young Master Mason, let's go inside too," Henry invited.

Mason nodded at him and followed behind Janet.

While they were making their way toward the ballroom, their tall and muscular bodies in suits left all the guests captivated.

"My goodness, so many big shots are here for Old Mr. Collins."

"Hey, look at that man walking beside Young Master Moss. Is he Mr. Lowry?"

"Mason Lowry? Seriously? Why is he here?"

"Gosh, all of them are so good looking! Are they here for Old Mr. Collins or the Jacksons?"

"Are the Jacksons on such good terms with those big shots including Mr. Lowry?"

While the guests were absorbed in heated discussions, the painting competition was about to begin.

Old Mr. Collins stood on the stage and declared, "Ladies and gentlemen, the painting competition will begin in no time. While the contest is ongoing later, I hope everyone can maintain a silent environment to avoid disturbing the contestants while they are painting. Next, let me introduce the contestants—Emily Jackson, Janet Jackson and Chloe Jackson. Like what I pointed out last time, whoever wins this contest will be my apprentice. I don't intend to go back on my words."

After listening to Old Mr. Collins, the guests started talking about the three contestants.

"I bet Emily will win the contest because I heard she is really talented in drawing."

"Someone told me that she has no integrity for having submitted a stolen work to Old Mr. Collins and nearly misled him into accepting her as his apprentice previously."

“Just criticize her all you want. I think she still has what it takes to be here even if she stole someone else’s work before.”

“I think Chloe Jackson will be great. Since her mother has arranged plenty of drawing lessons for her ever since she was little, I expect her to be good.”

“Who’s that Janet girl?”

“Seems like she’s the one who gave a painting which was striking similarly to one painted by Master Nato to Jade as a gift during her 70th birthday celebration.”

“How’s that possible? Can anyone actually draw like Master Nato? That must be a joke!”

“Haha, it’s unlikely enough that Janet Jackson actually knows how to draw as a girl who grew up in the countryside, let alone have the ability to draw like Master Nato. She must have copied a genuine work of Master Nato’s.”

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The lighting of the ballroom was dimmed all of a sudden while the guests were still busy whispering to one another.

Only some very faint lights remained offstage.

By the time the light was turned back on, three young girls had materialized onstage.

Wearing a black dress, Janet looked straight ahead with composure before sitting down at her designated seat.

Paint of various colors as well as paint brushes could be found on the desk.

Henry and Mason took a seat in the last row, and Henry stared at the girls on the stage with anticipation.

Then, he raised his brow and asked Mason who was beside him, "Young Master Mason, do you think Janet will win the contest?"

Mason curled his perfectly sculpted lips up into a smirk and kept his eyes glued to Janet. "What do you think?" he asked Henry back in a breezy tone.

Henry shrugged and replied, "How do I have any clue since I've never seen Janet's work? I can't say anything for sure because the other two girls from the Jackson Family are very outstanding too."

In fact, an opinion had already formed deep down inside him and he thought Janet was not here to win.

After all, the other two girls had gone through proper drawing lessons before and both of them were undoubtedly good at drawing. As for Janet, she used to stay in the countryside and it was hard to tell how great she actually was.

"Ha!" Mason let out a chuckle. His eyes did not move away from Janet for a single second.

While the guests offstage fell silent, the three contestants on the stage were busy thinking about their strategies.

This time, Old Mr. Collins wanted their paintings to be related to animals and their works would be evaluated based on two yardsticks: creativity and vividness.

The time limit was set at two hours and they were required to stop painting once the time was up.

Old Mr. Collins' requirement was quite challenging for Chloe because she was more used to painting with a point of reference. But now, she had to create the entire painting on her own which required great imagination.

Emily felt her chest tighten when she heard the requirement. Did they have to produce something creative within two hours? It was too short a time for her because she usually needed a whole day's time to complete a painting and the fact that she wouldn't have something to refer to just added to the level of difficulty.

After she heard the rules, Janet reacted to it with composure and looked fixedly at the blank canvas.

In fact, two hours to her was akin to two days to other people.

Cocking her head to one side, she stared at the blank canvas and just seconds before she was about to start painting, she put down her paintbrush again.

Shoving the papers, ink and paints all to one side, she cleared out a space on her table on which she placed her elbows to support her chin. In the meantime, she closed her eyes which looked as clear as water.

From time to time, Emily and Chloe would peek at her. When the two of them saw what she was doing, both of them covered their mouth and sniggered.

The guests offstage started mocking Janet too.

“Is Janet Jackson serious?”

“Are my eyes still functioning well or has Janet Jackson just dozed off?”

“Hahahaha, she’s so hilarious! Seems like she knows herself well enough to realize she has no hope in winning so she decided to just give up altogether!”

Shirley scoffed, “Megan, I must say I’m very impressed by how strong your daughter is psychologically. Since she can fall asleep in an environment like this, what makes her different from a pig?”

Her remark put Megan in so much embarrassment that she started wiping away the cold sweat that had broken out on her forehead.

Many of them started laughing at the girl who was snoozing onstage.

Half an hour later, Old Mr. Collins couldn’t stand it anymore and approached her to wake her up.

Janet looked up at him puzzledly with a pair of groggy eyes.

Old Mr. Collins sighed, “Aren’t you going to start painting? You only have one and a half hours remaining.”

“Okay!” Janet immediately took some paint and started mixing colors randomly.

Seeing that, Old Mr. Collins shook his head in resignation.

To him, what she was doing was pure absurdity.

As time passed, the three girls on stage churned out their works.

Because the desk was on the stage, no one in the audience could see what they were painting, which added an element of mystery to the contest.

Old Mr. Collins made an announcement as soon as the time was up and the three girls immediately stopped painting.

While Emily and Chloe modded at their works in satisfaction, Janet rose to her feet and whispered something to Old Mr. Collins.

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After Old Mr. Collins nodded at her in approval, Janet walked down the stage and left the ballroom.

All the guests were dumbfounded.

"What's going on?"

"Has Janet Jackson pulled out of the contest?"

"Hahaha, I guess she must have wet her pants because she couldn't produce anything."

"See, I told you she couldn't draw at all but you refused to believe me. Now, you can see the truth very clearly with your own eyes."

Those who didn't know Janet well were jeering at her. Only Lee and Lara, who were sitting at a secluded corner of the ballroom, exchanged a smile with each other knowing that it was a typical move of Janet before she pulled off something wondrous.

Two minutes later, Janet rushed back to the ballroom and hurried back to her seat. She was holding something in her hands which she later affixed on her canvas before covering up her painting.

Everyone was exchanging puzzled looks with each other as no one had a clue what she just did.

Looking all smiles, Old Mr. Collins announced, "I hereby announce that the contest has come to an end and the paintings will be revealed in fifteen minutes!"

The guests dispersed right after his announcement—some of them going to enjoy the refreshments and some heading to the bathroom.

Janet then went to the lounge backstage where she bumped into Emily; no one else was there at that juncture.

Judging from the sly smirk on Emily's face, she seemed to be secretly hatching some schemes.

Janet cast her a glance before asking her in a crisp and soft voice, "Are you plotting something against me now?"

Smiling smugly at her, Emily put on an innocent look and refuted in a demure and gentle voice, "Janet, how can you think of me that way? There's no way I am plotting anything against you as I'm a very kind person."

In response to her statement, Janet snickered sarcastically.

Within two minutes, Shirley, Jade and Megan arrived at the lounge too.

Looking concerned, Jade asked, "Janet, why were you sleeping on stage just now? Are you feeling unwell?"

Janet answered her with a calm smile, "Nope, I'm alright."

Shirley put on a smirk and ridiculed, "Mom, you don't have to worry about her. Perhaps she spent too much time feeding the pigs in the village that she can now sleep anytime and anywhere just like them."

"Shirley, watch your words," Jade warned in an annoyed tone.

"Did I say anything wrong?" Not looking bothered, Shirley took Chloe's hand and led her out of the lounge. "Chloe, we shouldn't stay too close to pigs. We don't want to be dirtied by them."

Emily bit her lips to suppress the urge to laugh when she heard Shirley.

Ten minutes later, the guests returned to the ballroom where they waited for the paintings to be revealed and the winner to be announced.

Old Mr. Collins had hired some helpers to reveal the paintings.

The helpers did their work professionally by wearing white gloves so that they would not smudge the painting.

Chloe's painting was the first to be shown.

Everyone gasped in shock as soon as her painting was revealed.

It was as beautiful and charming as her.

A butterfly with bright and vibrant colors which looked almost like the real thing was drawn on the canvas. Her painting was outstanding as it depicted the moment when the butterfly was harvesting for nectar in flowers and the layer of nectar that covered the end of the butterfly's body was a brilliant detail.

Although her work was not really creative, she managed to make up for it with her excellent drawing skill.

Old Mr. Collins too nodded in satisfaction when he saw Chloe's painting.

Noticing how awestruck everyone was by Chloe's work, Shirley held her head up haughtily as though her daughter was already the winner.

She was very glad that her daughter had brought her glory instead of letting her down.

Next up, the second helper stepped forward to reveal Emily's painting.

On the canvas, a school of kois in golden yellow and bright red were drawn; the colors glittered and sparkled under the spotlights.

It was drawn so vividly that the fishes looked like the real thing.

The use of colors created an illusion that made the kois look like they were swimming in a pond, forming a sight of magnificent beauty.

The pond in which the kois were swimming was clear and the water seemed like it was really flowing.

Some kois in the painting were painted in black to provide a strong contrast to the gold and red colors—it was a marvelous combination of mystery and beauty.

Staring at Emily's painting, Old Mr. Collins' eyes were brimming with surprise and pride. He was so impressed that he couldn't even speak smoothly. "The colors are so brilliantly matched!"

The guests were also staggered by the splendid beauty of her painting.

"This color combination is second to none."

"Why didn't I know that Emily was this good before?"

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"I knew I made the right bet on Emily and I'm sure she will be the winner tonight."

"You're right. Although Chloe's painting is great, it lacks creativity. Emily's work is almost perfect in terms of creativity, vividness as well as the combination of colors."

"I knew Megan's daughter wouldn't be too bad and I've never believed the rumor saying she stole someone else's work."

"Does she need to do that when she's already such a good painter herself?"

Henry, who was sitting offstage, was enamored of Emily's painting too.

At the same time, he couldn't help feeling anxious for Janet because he was afraid she might have to go back home empty-handed tonight.

Looking at the astonished and mesmerized expressions of the distinguished guests, Emily couldn't help but hold her chin up and feel pleased with herself.

With this painting, she was sure many of them would be captivated by her talent.

After observing the expressions of the rest of the guests, Jade's heart went out to Janet thinking that she was likely to end up losing the contest tonight.

Everyone started showering Emily with endless compliments.

"It's a splendid color combination and I think it's almost as good as Master Nato's work. I would be convinced if someone told me it was painted by Master Nato."

As Janet had been resting with her eyes shut throughout the entire process, she had yet to see the paintings by Chloe and Emily. At the mention of Master Nato, she opened her eyes because her curiosity was piqued.

When she opened her eyes slightly and saw Emily's work, her pupils constricted out of the blue with iciness filling up her eyes in an instant.

Lee, who had known Janet for years, knew her style of painting very well. He knew Janet was an artist known for producing eye-catching color combinations because she had a sharp eye for colors.

Staring at Emily's painting, a slight crease formed on Lee's forehead.

"What's the issue?" Lara asked.

Lee, who was gazing at Janet's ominous eyes, answered Lara in an undertone, "The style of that painting looks very similar to Janet's."

Lara was flabbergasted when she heard him. Did he mean that...

...

The guests sitting in the first row all turned to look at Megan and lauded, "Megan, I'm really impressed by Emily!"

Megan nodded at them courteously with hardly concealable joy on her face. "It's not too bad."

"Megan, you're being too humble."

The grin on Megan's face grew wider as she responded, "Emily is a really talented girl and she showed her gift in painting when she was little. However, she only managed to achieve her current standard through hard work."

"Seems like first place will go to Emily."

Someone suddenly chimed in, "It's a shame that your elder daughter is not talented. Her standard is a far cry from your younger daughter."

Megan responded to that comment with hollow laughter.

Staring at the smug expression on Emily's face, Lara's blood boiled.

The corners of her lips twitched and she leapt to her feet all of a sudden. She then turned to say to her bunch of underlings, "Let's go!"

Lee stopped her from leaving. "Lara, what are you doing?"

Glancing at Lee, Lara snapped, "What do you think? That b*tch stole Janet's idea so I'm going to teach her a lesson."

"Don't be rash. If you go up there right now, you will risk exposing Janet's real identity," Lee advised her earnestly.

"But..." Lara countered with some hesitation.

Looking unruffled, Lee replied, "There's no but. Do you think Janet has no means to deal with that issue?"

Thinking that what he said made sense, Lara sat down again.

At that juncture, Old Mr. Collins approached Emily and flashed her a jovial grin. "Emily, can you share with us what inspired this painting? At such a young age, you're really great at matching the colors."

With that, he passed the microphone to Emily.

Looking proud, Emily answered, "I've been putting in extra effort to improve my painting skill over the years. To be an outstanding painter, not only does one have to be gifted, but one

also has to work hard. I've conquered numerous obstacles along the journey to be what I am today. However, I must say that I'm only at the early phase of my drawing career and I will continue working hard."

Having listened to Emily's speech, Janet couldn't help but sneer.

Emily cast a sideways glance at Janet with a trace of contempt in her eyes.

"The painting competition tonight is unprecedentedly exciting as we got to admire the butterfly painting by Chloe as well as the koi painting by Emily, which blew us away. I'm really impressed beyond words by their excellent drawing skills despite their tender age." With joy written all over his face, Old Mr. Collins continued with a wide grin on his face, "Now, let me announce the winner of tonight."

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"The winner is..." Old Mr. Collins turned to face Emily first before he continued, "Emily..."

Emily nearly jumped in excitement when she heard her name.

"Hold on." At that juncture, a cold voice disrupted the joyous moment.

Janet strode toward the middle of the stage and stared at Old Mr. Collins with steady composure in her eyes. "Old Mr. Collins, are you really going to announce the winner without looking at my work first?" she asked breezily.

At first, Janet was in fact not too keen on winning the contest and becoming the apprentice of Old Mr. Collins. However, she couldn't accept it when somebody else won by stealing her idea, and it insulted her.

Old Mr. Collins looked stunned when he saw Janet rising to her feet.

Everyone was dumbfounded for several seconds too before they burst out laughing.

“Isn’t the outcome very obvious by now? Emily is clearly the winner of tonight!”

“That Janet girl is such an attention-seeker. Won’t she feel embarrassed by making a fuss?”

“Didn’t she see how good Emily’s work is? Does she think she can win?”

“Hahaha, I really look forward to seeing her painting which must be as awful as a pile of dung.”

“She really should reflect on her own abilities before making any noise. I don’t why she is looking for trouble despite the fact that her work won’t be better than Emily’s.”

In an instant, everyone was condemning Janet for her shameless attitude.

However, Janet was neither anxious nor angry standing in the middle of the hall. Staring at Emily’s painting indifferently, a trace of amusement was visible in her eyes.

Calmly, she commented, “This koi painting is very beautiful, isn’t it?”

To everyone’s surprise, Janet started off by offering Emily a compliment.

All of them were baffled as no one had a clue what she was trying to do.

Flashing her a faint smile, Emily pretended to sound humble when she responded, “Thanks. Is there anything else you wish to express?”

Raising her brow, Janet questioned, “May I know what inspired you to think of such a color combination for the kois in your painting?”

Emily chuckled, “Of course, I came up with it after some meticulous thinking. I’m not inferior to you in terms of my gift and effort.”

Janet first chortled in response to her statement before she continued with a cold voice, “Really? I can see you’ve really made a lot of effort trying to imitate my sketches.”

Everyone frowned in confusion when they heard Janet.

Emily's hands clutched the corners of her shirt tightly and nervously upon hearing Janet's allegation.

Indeed, the koi painting was one of the few paintings she had taken from Janet's room before.

When Old Mr. Collins announced that the theme was animals, her mind had gone blank for a moment. All at once, she thought of the koi painting she found in Janet's room which struck her as a dazzling beauty. Finding it hard to believe that the work was produced by Janet herself, she was adamant that she must have stolen someone else's idea and not Janet's.

She was sure Janet must have produced it by copying one of the masterpieces by some great artist.

However, she would never own up to stealing Janet's idea at such a grand occasion.

Emily retorted confidently, "Everyone here knows that you can't really paint. So, why do I even need to steal your ideas? The drawing lessons I've taken over the years are surely way more than yours."

Old Mr. Collins too frowned in irritation as he had never expected to see Janet making a fuss at such a crucial moment. He must not have been thinking straight at the time he wanted to take her as his apprentice.

All the guests offstage started accusing Janet.

"What did she mean by alleging Emily to have stolen her sketches?"

"Who does she think she is? Is her work even good enough to be imitated by someone else? She's hilarious!"

"Can you even draw properly? I can't believe you have the face to accuse Emily of stealing your idea while you can't even produce anything good yourself!"

"Exactly. Janet Jackson, don't you think you're being very shameless?"

Seeing that all the guests were taking her side, Emily put on a miserable face and cried crocodile tears. "Janet, do you really hate me this much to look for my trouble on such an

important occasion? Why are you doing this to me? I created the painting myself and I won't allow you to humiliate me!"

She only dared to speak so boldly and confidently knowing Janet had no evidence to prove her allegation.

If Janet managed to produce any proof, she would have to admit doing it.

Listening to how unabashedly Emily had spoken, Lara had a pressing urge to dash to the stage and beat her up right away.

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Lara found the whole situation ridiculous and she couldn't see why Janet had to put up with such humiliation.

Old Mr. Collins stared at Janet and asked in a solemn tone, "Janet Jackson, do you have any evidence to prove your allegation?"

All eyes were on Janet as everyone was looking forward to seeing what evidence she had.

Yet, Janet still looked as cool as a cucumber as she seemed to be mulling over something.

Once again, Lara stood up from her seat and snapped, "Let's go and tell everyone who Janet really is! I simply can't hold it any longer."

Lee stared at her with resignation written all over his face. "Go ahead if you feel like getting banished to Africa to do coal mining."

He could still remember the time he let slip Janet's true identity in public when they were in Markovia. As the result of his blunder, he was sent to Africa where he had spent two months in hell.

At that juncture, Janet's crisp and clear voice came, "Well, I can show you the evidence." While she was talking, she put on a pair of gloves before she revealed her own work.

A painting of a koi fish leaping over a gate emerged in front of everyone. Under the bright sunlight, the scales of the fish seemed to be shimmering with a silvery glow that made the fish look like a warrior in armor that was mustering every ounce of its strength to make a leap over the gate.

The koi fish looked like it was given a life of its own; it was a symbol of strength and determination.

Upon closer look, one could see that the tail of the koi fish was deliberately given less details and colors. In this way, the fish was made to look more colorful and lively the nearer it got to the gate which symbolized its eagerness for success.

Everyone gaped in astonishment when they saw Janet's painting.

The unique combination of colors was a telling sign of Janet's identity.

However, everything seemed so outlandish to all of them.

How could Janet be Master Nato, who was supposed to be an elderly woman?

Deeply shaken, Old Mr. Collins stared at her painting with utter disbelief. "Janet Jackson, are you the legendary Master Nato?"

With a faint smirk, Janet glanced at the guests offstage nonchalantly.

At the same time, joy was barely concealable on Lee and Lara's face.

Lee knew Janet was no pushover and she would strike back when the right time came.

Having been thinking that Janet stood no chance to win the contest, Henry's hands were trembling in shock as he stammered, "Y-Young Master Mason, is Janet Master Nato, the legendary artist who is said to be an elderly lady?"

Mason narrowed his eyes slightly and put on a slight smirk without denying it.

Judging from Mason's reaction, Henry, who was quivering in consternation, reckoned the fact that Janet was Master Nato had been within his knowledge way before this.

At that moment, Henry was having great difficulty registering that fact because he found it too incredible to be true that Janet was both a talented doctor as well as a painter.

The guests obviously didn't buy it thinking that Janet didn't fit the description of the legendary artist at all. Therefore, voices of disapproval could soon be heard.

"Janet Jackson, I'm surprised you actually have the face to proclaim yourself as Master Nato."

"Do you think you can convince all of us that you're Master Nato with that painting alone?"

"From what I heard, Master Nato would always affix a special stamp on her artwork. Can you produce that stamp now?"

"Show us that stamp to prove that you're the real deal."

"I'm sure she doesn't have it. If she has it, she wouldn't have participated in this contest because Master Nato is way more famous and her artwork is way more valuable than Old Mr. Collins'."

"I think she's just trying to impersonate Master Nato to trick Old Mr. Collins into accepting her as his apprentice."

All the guests gritted their teeth resentfully because they loathed a deception like this the most because it was way too unethical.

Emily went with the flow by scoffing, "Janet, not only did you ruin my glorious moment, but you also misled Old Mr. Collins and everyone here into thinking that you're Master Nato. Don't you think you owe everyone an apology?"

"Who told you that I don't have the stamp? Make sure you don't blink so that you can see it clearly." Slowly, Janet lifted her painting and pointed at the stamp on the bottom right corner of the canvas with her slender finger.

The whole ballroom fell silent when everyone saw the small stamp that read: 'Master Nato'.

Emily went panic-stricken at once; colors drained from her face as she stared at Janet in utter stupefaction.

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"It's impossible." Shaking her head, Emily went on to snatch the painting from Janet and examined the stamp.

Judging from her expression, something dawned upon everyone in an instant.

Everyone was gawking at Janet in shock because they just realized the eighteen-year-old young girl was really Master Nato...

Staring at Emily who was rooted to the spot, Janet stepped forward and seized the painting back. She narrowed her eyes to form a crafty expression and remarked wryly, "You shouldn't be too shocked to see that because after all..." Janet first waved the stamp in her hand in front of Emily before she continued, "it'll be even harder for you to digest this."

At the sight of that stamp in her hand, everyone was left nonplussed. Some of them were so shocked that their lips were quivering as they stuttered, "Did she go out just now to take that stamp?"

"Is it possible that the stamp is just a replica?"

"That's not possible because that stamp was carved from a piece of heliotrope stone and there's no way you can find two pieces of heliotrope stones that look exactly the same."

"Wow..."

It was hard for everyone to recover from the shock even after a long while because they couldn't associate the young girl with Master Nato.

They couldn't resist but capture the moment with their phone; it was as though they just couldn't wait to show everyone in the world the staggering sight they had just witnessed.

When Emily noticed that everyone was aiming the cameras at herself, she covered her face with her hands miserably.

Megan, who was looking sullen, glared at Emily furiously and muttered, "Emily, how could you do that?"

Megan was so frustrated with Emily that she just sighed before storming out of the ballroom.

After Emily's shady deed was exposed to the public, she simply found it too embarrassing to remain there.

Looking bleak, Brian followed Megan out.

The impact of the sudden change of events was felt most significantly by Old Mr. Collins because the young girl whom he had been looking down upon turned out to be the legendary Master Nato, whose talent in painting was insurmountable by him even after a whole lifetime of hard work.

He felt the most awful when he recalled the multiple occasions he made degrading remarks about Master Nato.

At that juncture, he wanted to kneel down in front of her and beg for her to be his teacher but then again, he was held back by fear and he dared not even look into her eyes.

Janet then strode toward him at a slow pace and put on a smirk. "What did you say before? Did you say that you wanted me to be your apprentice?" she confronted him in a menacing tone.

Avoiding her gaze, Old Mr. Collins held his head low and bowed slightly while he muttered humbly, "Of course I'm not good enough to be your teacher and I wasn't being careful with my words before. I, Steven Collins, apologize if anything I said happened to have offended you!"

"I don't want to listen to any of your excuses. Even if I win this contest, I'm still too good to be your apprentice."

"Yes, yes! Of course you are!" Old Mr. Collins answered frantically with his head held low.

Janet walked down the stage and approached Jade. "How's my performance? I hope I didn't embarrass you."

Jade was grinning so widely that her face was crumpled together thinking that she might never be able to forget what had happened for the rest of her life. Feeling touched and still in shock, Jade nodded at her vigorously in approval and beamed, "There's no way you could embarrass me."

Chloe, who was unable to take her eyes off Janet, was stuck in a trance.

When Shirley noticed the admiration on Chloe's face, she rolled her eyes at her and snapped, "Can you at least behave yourself? There's no point for you to stare at her in that way. Let's go and stop staring at her already." Shirley then led her away angrily.

Shirley thought it embarrassing that Chloe ended up being third place in the contest because it just showed that she couldn't even prevail over Emily.

As for Janet, she first exchanged a glance with Jade before leaving the ballroom.

Only Mr. Collins as well as the guests who had yet to register the shocking truth were left behind.

Gazing at Janet's slender figure, an overwhelming admiration washed over Old Mr. Collins.

In his mind, he had always pictured Master Nato to be an elderly woman and never in his wildest dreams did he think that she could be a girl at only eighteen.

There was no way he could accept that.

...

When Janet and Jade arrived at the lounge backstage, Megan and Emily were there.

Emily was seen holding her head low as if she was ready to receive a scolding from Jade.

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Meanwhile, Megan turned her face away from them; both of them did not utter a word. Jade couldn't be bothered by them because all she cared about the most was her real granddaughter, Janet. She smiled sheepishly at Janet when she asked her, "Janet, why did you keep us in the dark of your talent in painting?"

Janet first raised her brow quizzically before answering in a level voice, "I started learning to paint when I was still living in the countryside and my teacher advised me to be low-key to avoid trouble. Also, he told me that I shouldn't paint for a living because that would make my paintings lifeless and dull."

A look of enlightenment took over Jade's face when she exclaimed, "Oh, I see!"

Staring at Janet, Megan was unsure whether she should be happy for her talent or be sad for Emily's embarrassing defeat. Why couldn't she just have two perfect daughters? Why did one of them have to be so inferior to the other in a certain aspect?

At the same time, the painting competition organized by Old Mr. Collins had officially gone viral on Twitter. An article with the title 'The daughter of a retired model turned out to be the ever famous painting artist—Master Nato!' soon became one of the most trending topics. Not only had it gone viral on Twitter, it had caused a sensational stir at Star High School too.

Almost every student of Star High School watched the video of the painting competition. Because of that, Janet was the only thing everyone could talk about in Star High School's forum on Reddit. In the meantime, the protagonist was impervious to the furor and spent her days snoozing in the classroom as usual. Her classmates would glance at her enviously from time to time.

"I'm taking back all the bad things I've ever said about Janet."

"Damn it! You have no idea how psyched I was when I watched the video!"

"I certainly never thought that the glorious Master Nato could be my classmate."

"From now on, I'm gonna get on the good side of Janet so that she'll teach me how to paint."

“Oh, just get lost because that’s my idea.”

“All of you just stay away from her!” Gordon glared at them resentfully. He couldn’t stand how shameless that snobbish bunch was as they were so eager to butter Janet up after knowing that she was Master Nato.

Holding her phone in her hands, Abby glanced back and forth between Janet in the video and Janet in real life. Several seconds later, she shook her head and mumbled under her breath, “There’s no way the person in the video was Janet.”

The corners of Gordon’s lips twitched in annoyance when he patted Abby’s bulging cheeks. “Are you out of your wits due to being too shocked?”

Staring dazedly at him, Abby pinched her fleshy cheeks and exclaimed, “Goodness gracious, I’m not dreaming! This actually happened in real life!”

One of their classmates queried, “Why isn’t Emily here today?”

The rest of them sniggered, “I don’t think she dares to show up at school.”

“She must have found it too embarrassing to come to school because Janet always manages to steal her limelight in every competition she joins.”

“What pisses me off the most is how she stole Janet’s idea in the painting competition.”

“Geez, I can’t believe she’s this cheap!”

Every student of Class A was proud of Janet and saw Emily as a disgrace. Therefore, almost every message in their class WhatsApp chat group contained praises for Janet.

‘I’m in love with her!’

‘Janet will be my role model in painting from now on!’

‘Janet is the best!’

...

Emily had been staying in her room at Jackson Residence for two days to reflect on her own mistake. She dared not log into her account on Twitter, check the forum of Star High School on Reddit, browse the internet nor read the messages from her classmates. It was because she knew everyone must be lashing out on her on all those social media platforms.

Feeling disappointed in Emily, Brian fumed at Megan, "Previously, I said that I would never go easy on her if she made an embarrassing mistake again... It's all your fault that she is spoiled."

Megan looked despondent because she had received a ton of messages relating to Janet and Emily over the past two days. She had mixed feelings responding to the messages because everyone was showering Janet with compliments and Emily with criticisms.

Emily turned out to be such a huge disappointment and the reputation of their family was completely tarnished by what she did.

"Please stop criticizing Emily; she hasn't come out of her room to eat for two days already!" Wiping away the tears from her eyes, Megan wailed miserably.

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It was easy to see how apprehensive Brian was from the way he paced back and forth around the living room.

"Just let Emily stay at home for one week to think about the crap she's done before she goes back to school." He was off to work after saying that.

Dabbing away her tears with tissue, Megan nodded and tried hard to keep her grievance to herself.

At Lowry Residence, everyone, including the maids and the bodyguards, was watching Janet's painting competition video on their phones.

They were so absorbed in the video that they neglected their work and a heated discussion soon started among them in whispers.

“Miss Jackson is really amazing to be such an established painter at her age!”

“Exactly! I wouldn’t have believed it if I didn’t see it with my own eyes.”

“I must say that Miss Jackson is really low-key.”

“It turns out Miss Jackson is a very talented lady. No wonder Mr. Lowry fancies her so much.”

“I’m really impressed by the rich talent that is contained in that slender figure of hers.”

“If only Mr. Lowry wasn’t into Miss Jackson, I would have made a move on her.”

“In your dreams! With her talent, I’m sure she will have plenty of suitors after the furor.”

At that time, Mason, who happened to just finish a work discussion with Henry, overheard the bodyguard saying that he was interested in Janet, and the other bodyguard expecting Janet to be highly sought after after the painting competition.

Staring at Sean with his eyes slightly narrowed, he instructed him in a deep voice, “Get the technical team to delete all videos of Janet participating in the competition on the internet.”

Henry chuckled in response to what he said and taunted, “Young Master Mason, do you feel threatened?” Stroking his chin, Henry pretended to be lost in thought for several seconds before he continued, “If she weren’t my future sister-in-law, I would consider making a move on her too.”

Mason widened his eyes and threatened dangerously, “You may give it a try.”

Henry was very sure that he was jealous.

Immediately, he flashed him a toothy grin and clarified in an embarrassed tone, “I’m only joking because Janet isn’t my type at all!”

Mason ignored him.

What a jealous man Young Master Mason was...

As Janet experienced a meteoric rise in fame, the fact that she was a student at Star High School was soon unearthed.

On the following day, the school was besieged by a bunch of reporters who were all keen to do an interview with Janet, the genius painter. Some professors from art colleges were also there to persuade Janet to enrol in their colleges.

Once the bell rang signifying the end of school, all the students darted out of the classroom before Miss Lilian could even finish speaking and headed to the school gate to watch the excitement.

Miss Lilian was left fuming, thinking that it was certainly becoming more and more challenging to keep the students under control.

However, she could not come up with any excuse to stop Janet from being in this class.

Some of the reporters hovering outside the campus even brought telescopes with them. Once they heard the school bell, they took out the telescopes from their bags and started searching for any signs of Janet.

In the meantime, some of the other reporters, who were surprised by how well-prepared they were, remarked with resignation, "You guys from Independent Daily are really taking this a bit too far by bringing telescopes along."

The reporters from Independent Daily lamented, "It's all because Janet Jackson is the talk of the town at the moment. If I manage to capture a shot of her, my trip here will be worthwhile because my boss will be very pleased."

"Same goes to me. My boss wants me to submit my draft by hook or by crook today. He even threatened to deduct my pay if I don't manage to do an interview with Janet Jackson."

"Damn it, I didn't expect so many people to be here today. Great, now all of us are kept outside by the security guards."

"By the way, I heard from the grapevine that Janet Jackson has a dubious private life. Some time before this, she was involved in a scandal which went viral on Twitter but everything was miraculously wiped out several seconds after they were posted, which surprised the

wits out of my fellow colleagues and I. Do you think she got some big shot sweetheart to settle it for her?"

As soon as that statement was heard, some of them who were Janet's fans refuted the reporter right away, "What do you mean by that? You are really a sleazy paparazzi who will believe anything that comes your way, aren't you?"

The reporter, who was pissed off because of that criticism, countered, "Aren't you a paparazzi too? Otherwise, why are you even here?"

All the reporters were in a foul mood probably because of the scorching hot weather and also because they were losing their patience waiting to see Janet.

Inside the principal's office, the principal was about to leave his seat to fetch a glass of water for himself when he noticed two men standing outside. "P-Professor Williams and P-Professor Jones, what brings you here?"

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Right in front of him were two professors, one from the Opera Academy and another from the Painting Academy. While the principal was flattered by the sudden arrival of two professors from the Fine Arts Academy, they merely glared at each other and snorted before entering his office.

Excitement rushed through the principal's veins as he looked at the professors and asked, "Professor Williams, aren't you in Barnsford? What brought you here to our tiny school in Sandfort?"

Although he already knew that they were here because of Janet, he still feigned his surprise as to not make the situation awkward. Furthermore, Professor Williams even mentioned his appreciation for Janet in the email he sent him last night.

When he received the email from Professor Williams, he almost passed out from exhilaration. Never in his wildest dreams did he think that he would receive an email from him one day.

Albeit not as famous as Master Nato, Professor Williams was still considered as one of the top figures in the painting world and also had a respectable reputation for being in the field for so many years.

Seeing that the principal of Star High School had no intention of welcoming him, Professor Jones snorted, which caused the principal's knees to turn weak because he knew that he was not a man to be trifled with either. While he knew that Professor Jones was equally renowned in the painting field in Chestshire, the principal was merely too taken aback by the arrival of Professor Williams that he had overlooked Professor Jones for a moment.

Clearing his throat a couple of times, the principal clarified, "Please excuse me for my ill manners. May I ask if the both of you are here today because of Janet Jackson?"

"Yes, that's right. Where's she now? I need to meet her," both professors exclaimed at the mention of Janet's name, setting aside their disgruntled emotions from earlier.

"Please hold on a moment while I get her class teacher to bring her here," the principal said as he made a call to Mr. Smith and told him to bring Janet to his office.

Janet, completely unaware that she was so popular, was sleeping in the classroom until her class teacher came to bring her away.

For the past few days, Abby had been so bored that her eyes lit up at the sight of Janet.

Regarding this incident, Gordon was speechless as well. How did Janet turn out to be Master Nato all of a sudden? he wondered. With so many people hot at her heels now, she doesn't belong solely to me anymore.

This whole time, Janet had been sleeping in the classroom and had no idea about everything that was going on outside the doors until Mr. Smith came to bring her to the office. As she walked past the classroom building, she saw hundreds of reporters at the gates of the school with binoculars.

With a chuckle, Mr. Smith said, "Janet, we really didn't know that you're so talented and were all shocked to find out that you're actually the legendary Master Nato. Also, it felt like a blessing to the eyes after seeing your painting of the koi fishes!"

Janet merely grinned faintly at his words without saying anything.

Outside the school gates, the reporters could only capture pictures of Janet's figure, and no matter how they yelled, she refused to lift her head up. Every one of them was so frustrated that they berated, "I really wish to get rid of that teacher who's standing in my way of taking Janet Jackson's pictures!"

Meanwhile, the atmosphere in the principal's office was turning tensed and strained as both professors, who were usually gentle and elegant, got into an argument over Janet.

Wiping away his sweat nervously, the principal wondered if it was a blessing or curse that this was happening. Clearing his throat, he tried to gently dissuade both of them. "Professors, please calm down. Don't argue because Janet will be here soon."

Despite everything the principal said, it was fruitless as both the professors couldn't care less.

"Jones, you sly fox. Last night, I've already called the principal to show my appreciation of Janet and you're showing up now to snatch her from me? Are you purposely going against me?" Professor Williams said furiously as he glared at Professor Jones with a burning gaze.

With a snort, Professor Jones said, "Mr. Principal, I think you need to replace the school's security officers. It seems like anyone can come in easily."

Angered, Professor Williams pointed at him and lashed out, "What are you saying? What do you mean by this?"

"I mean exactly what I said!" he replied calmly.

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"Alright, Mr. Principal. If you don't throw Jones out today, I'll make sure your school suffers!"

Without showing any signs of backing down, Professor Jones sneered, "As the renowned Professor Williams, you're actually threatening people? What's the meaning of this?"

Caught in the middle of the situation, the principal hurriedly said, "Please don't get so worked up, professors. Janet will be here soon and then you can ask for her opinion. Even if I'm the school principal, I cannot make any decisions for her." Turning to Professor Williams, he continued, "Don't you agree?"

That seemed to work this time as both of them quieted down. Despite the truth in his words, anyone who was smart would want to recruit a talent such as Janet into their own institution.

"I don't care, Janet has to come to our school no matter what. Even if she's not willing to come to our school, she shouldn't attend Jones' school," Professor Williams grumbled.

All of the principal's earlier efforts to dissuade the situation went down the drain as Professor Jones lashed out in anger again, "What do you mean by that, Williams? Just because your trashy school is unable to recruit a talent like Janet, you can't stop us from recruiting her!"

"Trashy? How dare you insult the top arts institute in Barnsford?"

And again, they started an argument.

Just as the principal tried to pacify them again, Janet appeared at the office door. "Are you looking for me, Sir?" she asked as she leaned against the doorframe lazily.

Breaking into a brilliant smile, the principal chirped, "That's right, come in quickly!"

Upon hearing her voice, both professors sprang up from their seats and went forward to greet her.

"Please take a seat, Master Nato!" Professor Williams said ingratiatingly as he pulled out a chair for her.

"How are you, Mr Nato? Nice to meet you," Professor Jones said, smiling agreeably.

Nodding, she thanked him softly, "Thank you." Opening her eyes, her vision was blurry as she yawned and gazed at the two men in front of her. "Why are you looking for me?" she asked, expressionless.

"Master Nato, I'm here today to ask you if you would like to come to Opera Academy?" Professor Williams asked politely.

"Joining our Painting Academy is the correct decision, Master Nato," Professor Jones said firmly.

While both of them looked at her with anticipation and respect in their eyes, she didn't really hear their formalities and had simply heard vaguely the schools they mentioned for her to go. "Why should I go?" she asked, her round eyes filled with bafflement. "Why should I go?"

The intense emotions which both professors had earlier instantly died down with her question. Clutching his chest, Professor Williams asked bitterly, "Aren't you even going to think about it, Master Nato?"

Worried, Professor Jones said, "Master Nato, let me be honest. Our school is inviting you to be the associate professor!"

The principal, who was watching at the side, almost fell from his chair as he stared wide-eyed at him in disbelief. "What? A-Associate professor?"

"Master Nato, not only can you be a professor in our school, but you can also request for any benefits you would like. The chancellor even mentioned that he'll arrange a building solely for your classes," Professor Williams fawned.

Shocked from everything he had just heard, the principal no longer knew how to react. On the other hand, the young teen merely lifted her eyes nonchalantly and answered, "I'm not interested."

With his eyes almost popping out of its socket, the principal thought that she must have lost her mind and tugged at her shirt, asking, "Ms. Jackson, didn't you hear what they said?"

Casting him a gaze, she raised her brows slightly and said, "I heard them clearly that they're inviting me to their schools to be a professor."

The principal's mind turned blank at her reply as he was not expecting that she would reject their offers so breezily.

Regardless if it was the Opera Academy or Painting Academy, they were both institutions which many could only dream about joining, not to mention that she would be joining as a professor.

Unwilling to give up, Professor Jones decided to give it another shot and said, "Not only does our school excel in painting, but we're also offering scholarships from the government every year and millions of that will be allocated to you, Master Nato!"

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"The Opera Academy can do the same."

At this point, the principal was already speechless from the shock and his office was now the battleground for both professors, who were tempting Janet with offers in an attempt to get her to join either of their institutions.

Outside his office, Lilian, who wanted to report to the principal about how Janet's behaviour would affect their school, was also paralyzed on the spot from the surprise.

Giving Janet all of the scholarship worth millions? These people must have lost their minds, she seethed as her face turned pale from rage. Never did she imagine that Janet would be so talented for two professors to fight over her.

The argument in the office heated up and there was no conclusion even after a long time. So, Janet looked at the both of them quietly before standing up and turning to leave.

"Master Nato, where are you going?" Professor Williams asked hurriedly when he saw her leaving from the corner of his eyes.

Glancing at the time, she replied, "I have a class now. You guys can continue your argument."

"Wh-What do you mean?" Professor Jones asked, confused.

"Yeah, Master Nato. Have you decided which school you will go to?" Professor Williams asked in anticipation.

Before leaving the room, Janet saw Lilian standing outside and she answered nonchalantly, "Neither."

Her reply shocked everyone, but after a few seconds, she added, "Both are excellent institutions, but I would like to attend college normally for now! Still, I'll consider it if any of your institutions need my help in the future."

Initially, both the professors had already given up, but she gave them a glimmer of hope in the end.

With a pleasing smile, Professor Williams stopped her from leaving and said, "Of course! The position of associate professor will always be open for you."

Janet nodded with a grin and left after glancing at Lilian's disgruntled face.

After Janet and both the professors had left, Lilian complained to the principal with a look of dismay, "Sir, I don't wish to teach Class A anymore. Every time after class, the pupils will gather at the school gates to watch, which makes it harder and harder to discipline them now!"

Grasping the meaning behind her words, he asked with raised brows, "Are you sure? With Janet's results, she'll definitely make it to an outstanding college through the entrance exam. Are you giving up on your commission?"

Lilian snorted and argued impatiently, "We don't know that for sure. I don't believe that she knows everything and will excel at every exam!"

"So should I transfer you to Class B if you don't want to teach her?" he asked with a faint smile.

“Forget it,” she brushed the idea aside with a wave of her hand. Class B? Their results will definitely be worse.

That day, Janet became the trending topic on the Internet again after rejecting the offers of the two professors. This time, the public dug out even more things about her.

In the entertainment industry, many female celebrities racked their brains to become one of the trending topics but still failed to do so. On the other hand, Janet, who didn't want any of that, held the top search title with a few headlines in a day.

Among one of the many trending topics, there was one within the car racing community where a picture was posted onto their trending bulletin with the caption, 'Is this Janet Jackson? It looks a lot like her.'

Obviously, that was a picture of Janet from the last time she participated in the car race, but someone had modified the picture lewdly.

One of the servants in the Lowry Residence who was scrolling through her social media reading about Janet cried out suddenly, “Oh my god! Take a look, is this Ms. Jackson?”

“Goodness, this really looks like her!”

“Really? Let me take a look.” Everyone gathered around and thought the person in the picture was really Janet.

Coincidentally, Henry, who happened to have arrived at Lowry Residence, overheard everything and he took one look at the picture on the phone before proceeding to the second floor.

On the second floor, he smirked when he saw the man lazing on the couch. Whisking out his own phone, he showed it to him. “Young Master Mason, take a look at this.”

Opening his eyes, Mason glanced at the phone and saw the trending topic on Twitter. Then, he cast a look at Henry before pushing the phone aside.

Puzzled that he was not reacting at all, Henry stroked his chin and asked, “Aren't you surprised by this, Young Master Mason? This young woman in the picture looks a lot like Ms. Janet!”

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If she had to endure these four clingy boys sticking to her every day, she would definitely go crazy.

Seeing her reaction, Lee fell silent.

Meanwhile, Dexter and Tyler continued to show off.

"Do you know how smart Boss is? She gave the bad guy a fake key."

"Boss will protect us from now on, so we have nothing to fear."

Seeing this, Janet sighed.

Maybe I should consider Lee's suggestion. After all, there's a possibility that the four of them will get into trouble again in the future.

Janet looked at the four of them and asked, "Do you guys want to study?"

"Study?"

All four people shook their heads and refused without hesitation.

Janet nodded in relief. "Phew."

Dexter, Tyler, Luke and Leo looked dumbfounded. "What do you mean?"

Lee chuckled. "Janet wanted to ask the four of you to go to Sandfort City to study with her."

Then, the four people fell silent.

"Boss, I changed my mind! I want to follow you." A pitiful look appeared on Dexter's swollen face.

"I want to go to school too! I misspoke just now!" Luke acted like a spoiled child toward Janet.

"Boss, please agree!"

Seeing this, the corners of Janet's mouth twitched before she chuckled awkwardly.

"Boss, please agree!" said Dexter, Tyler, Luke and Leo in unison.

Then, Lee got up and laughed. Curling his lips, he said, "The fact that Janet hasn't said a word means that she has agreed."

After a moment of silence—

"Really?"

"We love you so much, Boss!"

"Mua—"

However, Dexter pushed Tyler away the next second with a serious expression. "What are you kissing Boss for? She has a boyfriend now! How can she kiss us?"

Janet spat out the mouthful of water that she was drinking before punching Dexter in the chest. "What nonsense are you talking about?"

Janet had hit him with quite a lot of force, causing Dexter to cry and scream before saying pitifully, "I'm not talking nonsense. Isn't the head of the Lowry Family Boss' boyfriend? Previously, we sent Boss to him when she was drunk!"

"Pft!" Caught off guard, Lee spat out a mouthful of water too. He looked at Janet in disbelief and asked, "Janet, when did you start dating the head of the Lowry Family?"

Janet stood up abruptly and her ears turned imperceptibly red. "Dexter, if you dare talk nonsense again, I'll make sure to sew up your mouth."

With that, Dexter finally shut up for good.

Meanwhile, Lee was looking at Janet with an affectionate smile when his cell phone suddenly rang.

He then answered the phone and listened with a serious expression.

Noticing this, Janet looked at Lee blankly and asked, "What's the matter?"

"The people of the Moss Family from Sandfort City have come here in search of you. They said that there is a car race on Sunday which they need you to participate in. You can decide the amount of your appearance fee."

"The Moss Family?"

Why did Henry come to Markovia...?

Panic flashed across Janet's face uncharacteristically. She couldn't let Henry, that big mouth, know that she was in Markovia.

"Inform the people of the Moss Family to wait for me at Enchanting Bar. Otherwise, I won't agree to meet them."

Lee nodded and redialed the number.

A few hours ago in Sandfort City—

The people of the Moss Family were locating Night Shadow. After a day of investigation, they finally found out that the bigwig was in Markovia at this time.

After Henry received the news, he breathed a sigh of relief and held his hands together as he said to Mason, "I knew that Night Shadow wasn't Miss Janet! Miss Janet has been in Sandfort City all this while. There's no way she went to Markovia. "

Hearing this, Mason put down the file in his hand, looked out the window and said in a low voice, "It's already so late. Are you sure you still want to go look for her?"

Henry straightened his back and replied, "I want to look for her precisely because it's late. Time is running out. If I don't do so now, it'll be too late."

Pursing his lips helplessly, Mason lowered his head and continued to read the document.

Just then, Henry pointed to the assistants behind him. "Let's go to Markovia to meet Night Shadow."

Seeing how firm Henry was, an unfathomable smile appeared at the corner of Mason's mouth.

With an order from Young Master Moss, five planes were sent out by the Moss Family headquarters that night to fly them directly to Markovia.

The Moss Family had never asked one for help in such a grand manner before. This time, Henry had called in five planes and dispatched about fifty subordinates.

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This battle involved the pride of Sandfort City. As for the racer from Barnsford, they wanted to completely devastate him during the finals.

In Markovia—

After receiving the message, Henry went to meet Night Shadow at Enchanting Bar.

Night Shadow probably chose to meet at such a place because she didn't want to expose the location of her base.

Henry, who was born into the business world, understood this well.

Screech!

Screech!

There were seven or eight luxury cars parked outside the entrance of Enchanting Bar.

Then, a distinguished man got out of the first luxury car.

Seeing this, the waiter outside Enchanting Bar hurried forward to greet him. "Sir, please come in!"

Then, more than a dozen men came down one after another from the next few luxury cars. They all stood in a row, forcing the waiter to stand further and further away.

As they were all in black, passerbys would misunderstand them as gangsters who came to look for a fight.

Henry nodded to the waiter, then looked for the private room according to the number given to him by Night Shadow.

Enchanting Bar was a very big place, so more than ten minutes had passed by the time he found the private room.

Henry looked at the number on the door of the private room and knocked.

Hearing the sound, Janet, who was in the private room, asked Lee to open the door.

Lee opened the door of the private room and whispered in Henry's ear, "Because of the particularity of the profession, our master doesn't want to reveal their face for now. I hope you understand, Young Master Moss."

Henry nodded, and then asked his men to wait outside.

"Hello, Night Shadow!"

After Henry entered the room, he greeted the looming figure behind the paper screen.

"Hello, please sit down!" Janet lowered her voice and said.

When Henry heard that it was a man, his suspicion that Miss Janet was Night Shadow was dispelled even further.

Janet's red lips curled up slightly as she said, "Young Master Moss, why did you come to Markovia?"

Then, Henry told Janet about the ins and outs of the matter respectfully.

After listening to him, Janet nodded and replied calmly, "Alright."

"So, what do you think?" Henry asked cautiously.

With a frown, Janet raised her eyes and said calmly, "How can you be so certain that I will win this game?"

Henry chuckled, "You and Dark Shadow are renowned in the racing world. What reason do we have to not believe in your racing skills?"

After Henry finished speaking, he was so nervous that even taking a breath made him anxious. If Night Shadow did not agree, he would be the laughing stock when he went up against the racer from Barnsford.

Lee glanced at Janet and said in a low voice, "Janet, why don't you agree? The Moss Family made such a generous offer. Two hundred million is a lot!"

Janet glanced at Henry through the screen and said calmly, "Sorry, I'll have to refuse!"

"What?" Henry almost jumped up from his stool.

"Are you dissatisfied with the reward?"

"No. It's just that I'm already occupied by some other matters recently, so I can't accept your offer."

Whenever Janet looked at Henry, the big mouth, she would be overwhelmed by anxiety.

If the Jackson Family found out about this, and this matter was leaked to the people of Star High School, how could she continue to live life as an ordinary female student?

She would get into deep trouble then.

Hearing this, Henry stopped trying to convince her.

He came here excited, but left disappointed.

After Henry walked out of the private room, Toby immediately came up to him. "Young Master Moss, was the negotiation successful?"

"No." There was disappointment in Henry's tone.

The dozen people around all looked at each other.

"Uh..."

Toby clenched his fists and said angrily, "Night Shadow is being too arrogant."

"Young Master Moss of our Moss Family personally came to ask her, and yet Night Shadow refused?"

"I think Night Shadow is a scammer. Young Master Moss offered 200 million, and still he refused."

Everyone else also agreed.

"Yes. Night Shadow acts similarly to Dark Shadow."

"No one can locate Dark Shadow, so he's even more mysterious."

"I think these two people are liars. Someone must've deliberately spread rumors in the racing world about them. These two people simply don't exist."

"Stop talking nonsense. I've watched a video of them racing, but it was from a few years ago."

At a loss, Toby said, "What should we do?"

Henry shook his head. "We have done what we should do." He then said to Toby, "Go back and practice hard so that we won't lose too badly."

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Toby was speechless.

The next day, Janet and Lee set off to return to Sandfort City while Dexter and Tyler recovered in Markovia. They would bring over the four boys when school started.

A week later, at the Royal Circuit in Sandfort City—

Same as last time, hundreds of people came to cheer for Hedd from Barnsford. More importantly, they all felt that Toby would lose miserably this time!

Whenever Hedd imagined this scene, he would have the urge to burst out in laughter.

Before long, Janet, Mason, Henry and others also arrived at the scene.

Meanwhile, Toby almost wanted to kneel and beg for mercy. He said in a panic, "Young Master Moss, we are going to lose again."

Janet looked at his worried face and wanted to laugh. She still remembered that Toby had spoken ill of her at Enchanting Bar a week ago.

He said that she was a liar, didn't he?

Fortunately, she was eavesdropping, so she heard it.

Just then, Hedd, who was opposite them, came forward to provoke them. "Oh, so Sandfort City really didn't manage to get Dark Shadow or Night Shadow to participate, huh?"

Everyone then jeered sarcastically.

"I knew that Night Shadow and Dark Shadow were glibs. They didn't even appear at such a critical moment!"

"Sigh, I was originally a fan of Dark Shadow. How disappointing it is to hear that they won't be participating!"

“Don’t make me laugh. How can you continue supporting that puss-head? You should instead support Young Master Cardiff.”

“Yes, victory to Young Master Cardiff!”

“Victory to Young Master Cardiff!”

At this moment, the morale of the people of Barnsford greatly increased.

Unconvinced, Toby clenched his fists and roared them back.

“Even if they don’t compete, I can still beat you.”

Hearing this, Hedd broke out in laughter. Pointing at Toby and raising his eyebrows disdainfully, he said, “Are you sure you can beat me? I look forward to hearing you call me Lord after today’s battle. People from Sandfort City are trash. Prepare to call me Lord!”

At this moment, the host on the stage started to call the contestants to the race track.

“There’s only five minutes left until the race starts. Contestants, please prepare yourselves!”

Listening to the voice on the speaker, Toby felt hopeless.

Five minutes later, Toby and Hedd sped off the track together.

“Young Master Cardiff, come on!”

Listening to the cheers of the audience, Hedd sped up and crashed into the car in front of him without hesitation.

Toby was completely stunned by the collision, and he frantically turned the steering wheel in a panic.

Thick smoke had begun to appear from the rear of the silver sports car he was driving.

Seeing this, Janet and Mason, who were in the audience, laughed softly at the same time.

They were definitely laughing at Toby. If everything went smoothly, Hedd would win the game within five minutes.

The silver sports car could no longer speed.

In less than five minutes, Toby would definitely get out of that car.

One of the audience said triumphantly, "It's impossible for him to defeat Young Master Cardiff. Toby is destined to call him Lord."

When Toby saw from the rearview mirror that smoke had started coming out of his sports car, he knew that he was going to lose the game.

After a while, Hedd got out of the car.

This game was over. Everything was as expected—Toby lost humiliatingly.

He could be best described as 'miserable'.

Hedd licked his lips, walked to the lounge and looked at Toby before he mocked, "Did you come here today just to humiliate yourself?"

"Hahaha, look at Toby's face. He looks so pissed!"

"Of course he would lose. His opponent is Young Young Master Cardiff, for god's sake!"

Hearing this, Henry looked embarrassed.

With a calm look in his eyes, Mason kept quiet.

Meanwhile, Janet could no longer suppress her smile. Toby's technique was embarrassingly bad.

Hedd, who noticed Janet's expression, took a closer look at her and realized that she was quite attractive.

He took a look at Janet scornfully before he curled up his lips and chuckled. "Young lady, what are you laughing at?" As he spoke, his finger reached out to touch Janet's face.

To his surprise, Janet slapped his hand off the next second, and her face took on a serious expression within a split second. "Keep your dirty hands to yourself!"

Hedd burst into laughter. "The men in Sandfort City are all rubbish. Why don't you come to Barnsford with me and be my girlfriend?"

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When the man, who was sitting beside Janet with an indifferent look on his face, heard these words, he raised his eyes and looked at Hedd coldly.

His handsome face exuded a menacing aura as he slowly lowered the red wine glass in his hand.

Coldness filled the man's brown eyes and like a snake, his whole body exuded an icy air.

He narrowed his eyes to look at Hedd. "I'll compete with you!"

Right after Mason said that, Hedd and everyone else started to roar with laughter.

"Why don't you folks from the Sandfort City just give up? Do you really want to embarrass yourself again?"

"You're trash! Let's see how you will sob and cry later!"

"If you win, I will kneel down and call you Daddy today!"

Instead of being angered after hearing this, a sneer flashed across Mason's face.

"Janet," he said suddenly, causing her to retract her gaze and look at him.

Solemnly, Mason asked, "Do you believe in me?"

Janet was stunned for a few seconds before she curled her lips upward slightly and said, "Yes, I do."

Hearing this, Mason smiled and said temptingly, "Are you coming, then?"

What he meant was he wanted to bring her along. They would either survive or be killed during the match together.

"Okay!" Janet said with a faint smile.

With a sour expression, Henry tugged at Mason's arm.

"Young Master Mason, don't be so impulsive!"

Hearing Henry's words, Mason scoffed and said softly, "Don't you believe in my racing skills?"

"Th-that's not what I meant!" Henry had naturally witnessed how great Mason's racing skills were. If he had a showdown with Hedd, he had a great chance of winning.

Five minutes later, the host on the stage announced again that there would be another match today!

Screech! The sound of a car braking pierced the air in the huge racing circuit, causing everyone to look at the screen.

A global limited edition green car appeared on the big screen.

Everyone held their breaths. "Wh-Whose car is this?"

"This car is a global limited edition!"

"You're right! There are only five of these cars in the world!"

"No way. My goodness, it's so cool."

The people of Barnsford all looked at the car.

"Who is this?"

"Is this another match?! Did another fool come to embarrass himself?"

"Look, there is a little girl sitting in the passenger seat. Perhaps he's here just to flirt with her."

"He'll be so ashamed when he loses miserably later!" someone chortled.

Ridicule and disdain sounded all around the venue.

Henry's face darkened and he said in a low voice, "Who knows who'll be the winner?"

He only agreed to let Young Master Mason have a match because he believed in him.

Henry said with disdain, "Don't come crying to me when Young Young Master Cardiff loses then!"

Hearing this, the people in Barnsford all burst into laughter!

They weren't concerned about this unexpected challenger at all.

After all, except for Dark Shadow and Night Shadow, no one else in Sandfort City could compete with Hedd, let alone this unknown cold man.

"You folks from the Sandfort City, remember to call Hedd Lord later!"

"I don't know where you got your courage to challenge him from... Was it from Fish Leong?"

"You people from Sandfort City are just cowards!"

The people from Barnsford were certain that Hedd was going to win this match.

Listening to the people around him, Mason smiled at Janet. "Are you ready?"

"Yes!" Janet nodded.

Mason's attention returned to the steering wheel, and he jerked it to the left!

With a loud bang, he slammed into Hedd's car.

Hedd's face turned pale as he pointed to Mason. "What are you doing?"

The people of Barnsford started to curse at Mason. "The people of Sandfort City are too shameless!"

"Are the people of Sandfort City all lunatics? They're playing dirty because they can't win, eh?"

Hearing this, Mason and Janet just ignored them and laughed. "Let's do it again!"

Mason started his car engine again.

The eyes of the audience as well as the host widened.

Were they going to collide again?

Unexpectedly, the car driven by Mason stopped about a hundred meters from Hedd.

"Phew! I was scared to death."

"These two people are crazy!"

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After Mason got out of the car, Janet also got out of the car casually as well.

After walking to the stage, he introduced himself, "My name is Mason, and I will compete against Hedd!"

The girls present started shouting one after another at once.

"I'm in love with his voice!"

"He's so cool and handsome!"

"Mason, we're rooting for you!"

Hearing this, Hedd was furious.

They were the fans he brought over, yet they turned around to support his opponent!

What was wrong with them?

A wicked smile appeared on Mason's face. "Hedd will be defeated by me today!"

As soon as he made this remark, the audience was in an uproar again.

"He's so hot!"

"I support you. Let's go!"

"I envy the girl next to him!"

Janet couldn't help but purse her lips when she heard their words. This man is charismatic indeed...

Toby looked at Mason's confident expression and couldn't help but put his hands together in prayer.

"Young Master Mason, you can do it!"

"You can defeat Hedd!"

"Young Master Mason, my reputation depends on you. I don't want to call Hedd 'Lord'!"

Hedd laughed disdainfully.

"You think trash like you can defeat me? I don't think that I've seen you racing before, have I?"

“Do you have a death wish?”

“If you die during the race today, I will burn incense sticks for you out of pity!”

Hedd had been in the racing industry for so long, and yet he had never seen this man before.

He didn't believe that a layman could defeat him.

Mason chuckled and said coldly, “I don't have any experience, but I still think I can beat you!”

Just then, the people in Barnsford laughed again.

“He doesn't have any experience, yet he dares to race with Young Master Cardiff?”

“He probably doesn't know that Young Master Cardiff has won countless times.”

“I'm guessing he doesn't know how long Young Master Cardiff has been racing.”

“This person is too self-confident. He even said that he can beat Young Master Cardiff without experience. What a joke!”

“Let's just wait and see how he embarrasses himself later on.”

Soon, the host on the stage began to count down.

Mason and Janet had already prepared themselves in the car.

Meanwhile, Hedd said disdainfully, “Today, I will show you what does it mean to be a racer!”

Mason asked in a low voice, “Do you believe in me?”

Janet gave him the same answer. “I believe in you!”

Their destinies had been closely linked the moment she agreed.

Although Jane thought that her answer was very irrational, she had blurted it out almost instantly just now.

“Good! Since you believe in me, I won’t lose!” Mason said calmly.

“I believe in you, because you’re Mason!”

Before long, the two cars on the race track set off.

Meanwhile, the host was reporting the real-time situation on stage.

“Hedd from Bransford is in the lead!”

“Mason is far behind Hedd!”

Instead of feeling anxious, Mason continued to drive at his own speed.

Janet, who was in the passenger seat, wasn’t bothered either. Her eyes were half closed as if she didn’t care about the outcome of the game.

In the audience seats, Hedd’s team members laughed loudly. “Do you think these people came here to cause trouble on purpose?”

“Look at that man. He’s driving so slowly, yet he thinks he can win. Keep dreaming!”

“Yeah. Hedd will be the champion.”

Hearing this, Henry became anxious. “What’s the matter? Why doesn’t Young Master Mason hurry up?! His racing skills are way better than this usually!”

Toby was also nervous. “What should we do? This is too embarrassing. We are going to lose two races in a row. I really want the ground to open up and swallow me now!”

“Hedd is just three kilometers away from the finish line, so the match is about to end soon. Yet, Mason is still far behind...” The host continued his commentary.

But before he could finish his sentence, there was a deafening sound on the track.

Vroom! The car Mason drove was starting to accelerate, and the sound of the car engine was several times louder than Hedd’s car engine.

Then, everyone fell silent.

“Wow!”

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Everyone was at a loss as to how to react to this exciting scene.

“Young Master Mason... He's finally giving it his all!” Toby yelled. Even if he didn't catch up with Hedd at this time, at least he wouldn't lose so miserably.

Henry stared fixedly at Mason's car. “He's going over 400 km per hour!”

The audience all started clamoring.

“400?”

“Will he crash his car and die?”

“This person is crazy!”

“He actually has the guts to drive at 400 km per hour. Isn't he afraid of dying at all?”

“Not even Dark Shadow and Night Shadow dare to drive so fast. Who does Mason think he is?!”

Hedd was at a loss as to how Mason, who had fallen behind by a huge distance, suddenly sped up and almost caught up with him. He clasped the steering wheel tightly and vowed that he would never let Mason overtake him. This was a duel between Sandfort City and

Barnsford, and they represented the dignity of their respective cities. Thus, he must not lose to Mason.

The audience shouted, "Unfortunately, Mason sped up too late into the race. Hedd has almost reached the finish line!"

"Even if he gives his all now, he can't surpass Hedd. After all, Hedd is a racing champion."

Meanwhile, Janet, whose eyes were half closed just now, was at a loss as to why the man suddenly increased the car's speed to 400 km per hour. It went without saying that going 400 km per hour was an incredible feat. No one in the world dared to drive this fast except her. Except... the legendary Dark Shadow.

At this moment, Mason was about to take a sharp turn, so he said in a low voice, "Sit tight!"

Janet's red lips slightly parted and she answered calmly, "Okay."

Thirst for blood filled Hedd's eyes. Looking at the turn that was coming up, he muttered, "Sorry, you guys from Sandfort City have lost!" After speaking, he immediately changed the direction of the car and slammed into Mason's car. The two cars collided, causing a huge spark in the air. The next moment, the car that Mason drove completely deviated from the track and was thrown out.

When Hedd saw this, his thin lips curled up slightly. "This is what you get for challenging me!"

At this time, the audience fell silent because they believed that not only did Mason lose this game, but he also lost his life. He had probably died in the crash.

Henry and Toby roared at the same time, "Young Master Mason!"

"Young Master Mason!" the audience shouted.

The host on the stage panicked. "What should we do?"

"How is this possible?"

However, the host's panic only lasted five seconds as Mason's car unexpectedly returned to the track. Just seconds before, the moment Janet saw the opponent crash into the rear of

the car, she wanted to take over Mason's steering wheel because unskilled racers would definitely crash the car in such a situation. However, she then saw the hand of the man, which was holding the steering wheel, turn to the right, and then it whipped to the left rapidly within a split of a second. Right after that, he slammed on the accelerator hard. He dared not relax even for a second. This action had caused the car to rotate 360 degrees, allowing the car to get back on track.

The audience widened their eyes in disbelief.

"H-His racing skills... are insane."

"To be honest, I have only seen two people with such great racing skills in my life."

"Hedd won't lose this game, right?"

"Young Master Cardiff can't lose! How can this be possible?!"

Mason slightly raised the corners of his mouth and his pupils shrank. He continued to speed up, and the speed of his cool car doubled in just a short time! Mason bore the expectations of everyone in Sandfort City. Less than 500 meters from the finish line, Mason held the steering wheel tightly and rotated it 90 degrees again while stepping on the accelerator.

Hedd looked at the car behind him that was about to pass him, and his pupils shrank suddenly. He was in shock as he muttered, "No... Impossible."

Janet already knew that this game was about to end. She suddenly raised her head and flicked her hair, looking as dazzling as ever. After being stunned for a few seconds, the host finally reacted.

"Mason won!"

Everyone present fell silent for a few seconds. Then, they erupted in cheers!

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"The man from Sandfort City won?"

"U-Unbelievable!"

"Oh my god, he's so handsome!"

The host looked at the tall and handsome man. After wiping her saliva, her sweet voice blared through the speakers, "The winner of this match between Sandfort City and Barnsford is Mason from Sandfort City! "

Hearing this, Janet curled her lips upward and raised her eyes to look at the man next to her.

Mason lowered his eyes and looked at the girl beside him, his thin lips slightly curled up too.

He said softly, "I won!"

"Yeah."

Every camera there was focused on Mason and Janet.

Seeing this, Henry hurried over.

He wanted to cry so badly. Finally, we won!

Hedd slammed his hand on the steering wheel violently, the urge to curse overwhelming him.

Seeing Hedd and a group of people approaching, Janet leaned on the car door and smirked. "Don't forget today's bet."

One of Hedd's team members looked grim. "What bet?"

Henry then said casually, "Don't you remember? Stop acting dumb."

Hedd's face turned gloomy. Furious, he said, "We didn't lose. You people from Sandfort City played dirty. You crashed into my car before the race started."

Hearing Hedd's words, the people present agreed one after another.

"Yes, he's right. They were playing dirty. If they hadn't purposely crashed into Hedd's car, he wouldn't have lost this race!"

"Yeah! There's no way that Young Master Cardiff would lose."

"That's true. Hedd has been the champion in every match he has entered for the past few years. There's no way he'd lose to you! You just have a better car than him!"

Janet sneered as her delicate little face took on a look of contempt. "You're not admitting defeat, eh? So you're blaming Hedd's loss on the car? I thought you guys said that we were trash?"

Unable to bear it any longer, Hedd pointed at Janet and said to the host, "The contestant from Sandfort City crashed into our vehicle before the match. This is unfair."

There was no way he would let the people of Sandfort City take first place today even if he had to die trying.

The host then asked the referee in the audience to judge.

When the team members of Hedd saw the referee, they were overjoyed. "Hedd has been the champion for the past few years, and he's the darling of the racing world! I believe the referee will judge the race fairly."

Crossing his arms, Hedd snorted, "Yes, I trust the referee."

At this time, the referee repeatedly watched the video before he bowed his head and said, "I watched the video and the winner did not violate the rules."

"What?" Hedd became anxious all of a sudden.

Hedd's team members also started cursing furiously at the side.

"Are you blind? He obviously crashed into Young Master Cardiff's car!"

“Are you a spy from Sandfort City?”

“That’s right. Watch the replay carefully! Young Master Cardiff has been the champion for all the matches he entered for the past few years. How could he lose to someone from Sandfort City?”

“What a blind referee. I want to beat the devil out of you!”

Janet chuckled softly as she listened to what the people in Barnsford said. “Heh!”

The referee was placed in a difficult position. At last, he raised his head and looked at Hedd. “We know that you’re a great racer, but the opponent...” After speaking, the referee looked at Mason and was suddenly stunned!

“A-Are you Dark Shadow?”

“What?” The crowd was stunned after they heard the referee.

Henry looked dumbfounded. He and Toby were absolutely speechless.

Janet’s pupils shrank slightly, and she kept mum as she fell into deep thought.

Everyone present was stupefied.

Hedd was furious as he thought that the referee was joking with him. How can the referee joke at such a moment?

“What nonsense are you talking about? Who is Dark Shadow?”

With trembling fingers, the referee pointed at the tall and handsome man in front of him. “He is.”

As soon as he said that, everyone in the room was so shocked that they started stammering. “Y-You’re saying that this coward is Dark Shadow?”

Dark Shadow and Night Shadow were equally famous, and their names made them sound like a couple. However, in fact, the two of them didn’t know each other at all.

Still, they were both equally great racers. Before they retired, they had won almost all the matches in the racing world.

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As a result, they monopolized the first place in the racing world and all the racers were jealous and spiteful of them.

However, just when the two champions became famous, there was news that they had retired.

Although Dark Shadow and Night Shadow were well-known, few people had seen their faces. In the past, they would appear in masks in both small and major competitions.

Hedd didn't believe what the referee said at all.

Did he actually compete against Dark Shadow?

Everyone did not believe that this person was actually the famous Dark Shadow either.

If he was truly Dark Shadow, why didn't he speak out earlier? He was obviously a coward.

"How can you say that he's Dark Shadow? Do you have evidence?"

"Yeah, I don't believe it either."

Hearing this, the referee hurriedly took out his phone and browsed through his photos.

"Look!" The referee held up his mobile phone and showed it to everyone.

The videos and photos of Mason participating in the annual racing competition in Markovia appeared on the mobile phone screen.

There were a few pictures of Mason holding the trophy backstage without a mask on his face.

Everyone was utterly speechless.

Henry also fell silent as well. F*ck, how is this possible? Young Master Mason has been hiding this from me all these years?

Toby also kept mum. Why didn't he speak up earlier and compete in my stead just now?

Janet kept quiet too. Luckily, she could not participate in the annual racing competition in Markovia that year as she was occupied. Otherwise...

Then, fans of Dark Shadows present started yelling.

"He's so handsome!"

"No wonder his racing technique is similar to that of Dark Shadow many years ago."

"I'm sorry, almighty Dark Shadow. I take back all the insults I said about you!"

Janet, who was in between Mason and Hedd, slightly parted her red lips and said arrogantly, "What about your bet?"

Hedd was already peeing his pants in fright, shivering by the side.

He had actually offended the greatest racer of the racing world today, not to mention he was his senior too.

Plus, meeting 'Dark Shadow' had been his goal all this while.

Unexpectedly, he had offended him by mistake...

"Daddy..." Hedd's lips trembled. He dared not look up at Mason as he spoke regretfully.

Looking at his dejected expression, Janet snickered behind his back.

Toby looked at Hedd, who had been very arrogant just now, and said angrily, "Weren't you acting all high and mighty just now? Are you going to snatch my girlfriend again?"

Hedd only admitted defeat to Mason and not to Toby, who was an even worse racer than him. "You will always be a loser to me. I called Dark Shadow 'Daddy', not you!"

"You!" Toby huffed.

Henry's face was sullen as he looked at Hedd coldly. "Speak louder. I can't hear you."

Hedd's eyes were streaming with tears. After today, he would be too ashamed to stay in the racing world.

Not only would he be looked down upon, but he had also offended the almighty Dark Shadow.

"Daddy..." Hedd continued to whisper.

Mason lowered his eyes and looked at the man in front of him, who looked like a kid who had made a mistake. "Stop calling me 'Daddy'. I don't have a son." he said calmly. After that, Janet let out a chuckle.

Seeing this, everyone was utterly stunned.

"Am I hallucinating? Young Master Cardiff actually called him Daddy!"

"I must be dreaming. This man is actually Dark Shadow."

"I can't breathe anymore!"

"Th-This is too exciting."

The arrogant Hedd, who once was named a genius racer, was now bowing his head to an unrelated person and calling him 'Daddy'.

This scene was definitely a historical moment of the racing world.

Hedd was furious and frustrated just now, but now he was plainly scared out of his wits.

A few seconds later, he faced Mason and said in a trembling voice, "Almighty Dark Shadow, I offended you today. Please forgive me!"

When he saw the cold expression on Mason's face, he immediately said to the young woman beside him, "Young lady, if you like, you can take my car."

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Hedd's teammates were a little shocked.

'Skyhawk' was Hedd's favorite car. Plus, it was modified before, so it cost millions in total!

How could he give it away so generously?

"Young Master Cardiff... This car is worth several million!"

"Yes, you can't give it away just like that!"

"What's so great about Dark Shadow? He's just an ordinary person."

"That's right, Young Master Cardiff. Don't give your car to him. Plus, he played dirty and crashed into your car!"

"What nonsense are you guys talking about? That was just part of the almighty Dark Shadow's strategy. This is also one of his strengths," Hedd interrupted everyone's discussion with anger. "If the almighty Dark Shadow can forgive me, I don't mind giving him this car. I can even give him my life!"

However, he was afraid that the almighty Dark Shadow would not accept his trashy car.

The almighty Dark Shadow had hundreds of private cars, so he had no shortage of them.

Seeing that Mason hadn't spoken and that Hedd was so frightened by his attitude, he almost peed his pants, Janet nudged Mason and asked, "Will you accept it?"

Mason raised his eyebrows and looked at Toby. "I never accept used cars. Do you want it?"

As the saying went, one should not give away one's woman and cars. Hedd had snatched Toby's girlfriend, so this time, Toby should take his car.

"Yes, I want it," Toby gritted his teeth and said.

"Then give it to him," Mason parted his thin lips and said calmly.

"I..." Hedd looked at Toby with disgust.

Someone with such trash racing techniques would destroy his car sooner or later.

Meanwhile, Janet looked at Hedd with a reluctant face and chuckled.

Suddenly, the referee on the side looked at Mason and respectfully said, "Almight Dark Shadow, are you free to come over and participate in the Autumn Car Racing Championship?"

"No," Mason calmly refused.

"But the winner will get a handsome amount as the prize money for this competition. You should consider it."

Mason still shook his head.

Janet bit her lip and looked at the referee. Suddenly, she asked, "A handsome amount? How much is that?"

The referee laughed and said, "The prize money for the Autumn Car Racing Championship is 50 million!"

Hearing this, Janet nodded thoughtfully.

Toby almost jumped in shock. Flabbergasted, he asked, "50 million?"

Hedd looked at the lousy Toby and snorted, "It doesn't matter even if it is 100 million. You won't win anyway!"

As far as Toby's racing skills were concerned, he should be grateful if he didn't embarrass himself, let alone win the competition.

The referee sighed. The famous almighty Dark Shadow wasn't going to participate, so what was the point? The other participants weren't worth watching at all.

Janet yawned and then asked, "Are we leaving?"

Mason lowered his head to help her straighten her hair and said in a loving tone, "Are you sleepy?"

"Yeah." Janet nodded drowsily, her eyes half closed.

Upon seeing this, Mason drove his car to Janet. His voice was low and gentle as he said, "Get in the car."

Seeing that the almighty Dark Shadow was about to leave, Hedd immediately walked to the car and asked, "Almighty Dark Shadow, please be my teacher."

Mason looked at Hedd from top to bottom and said blankly, "No."

Hearing this, Hedd was speechless.

Seeing the car of the almighty Dark Shadow and the others gradually disappearing from his sight, he secretly vowed that he must continue to work hard so that he could be like the almighty Dark Shadow.

On the way back, Henry, who was disoriented from the strong wind, was still in a daze. "Young Master Mason, are you really the almighty Dark Shadow?"

Mason leaned on the leather back seat and stayed quiet.

Henry swallowed and continued, "Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

Hearing this, Janet sighed and said, "With your big mouth, this matter will definitely be spread around Sandfort if you found out."

There was an awkward expression on Henry's handsome face.

Why did Miss Janet deliberately embarrass him like that...

Janet laughed when she saw this. Suddenly, she felt the warm breath of the man. His voice was pleasant and clear as he said, "Were you serious about what you said on the racing track?"

Janet turned her head around. Seeing Mason's passionate and serious eyes, her heart skipped a beat.

Then, she bowed her head again and said nothing.

The man went one step further. He gently wrapped his two slender arms around her waist and pulled her into his arms forcefully.

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Janet's eyes widened instantly.

However, she did not resist him this time. She had just gone through a life and death situation and this weird embrace made her feel inexplicably at ease.

For the first time in her life, Janet felt that she didn't hate Mason anymore for some reason.

At least, his breath and his body temperature somehow made her feel safe.

As Mason held the soft and tender body in his arms, his originally calm eyes darkened and he said in a low voice, "I want to kiss you."

"Huh?" Janet looked at those black scorching eyes with her round eyes.

However, before she could come back to her senses, the man's slender fingers were already tracing her delicate face as if he was about to kiss her.

Janet let out a soft yell. Putting her index finger against his thin, cool lips, she slightly parted her red lips and said, "No."

Mason then fell silent.

He originally thought that they would naturally kiss when they reached a stage.

But... this young woman was too sensible.

This was the second time he had been rejected.

Henry suddenly felt the atmosphere in the back seat tense up. He glanced through the rearview mirror and found that the two people were staring at each other flirtatiously, which made him clear his throat.

Janet immediately pushed Mason away lightly.

Then, she looked out the window. Her ears, which were covered by her hair, were completely red.

She returned to the Jackson residence on the very same day.

Emily was happily reporting her final exam results to Megan.

Seeing Janet's return, Megan asked, "Janet, how did you do in the exam?"

Hearing this, Janet raised her brows. "Not very good!"

Jade had heard Janet's voice and she quickly came downstairs. She said cheerfully, "Janet, you're such a humble girl. It's okay. It doesn't matter if you don't do well in the exam. After all, you paint very well. I heard that two prestigious schools went to your school to recruit you, right?"

Jade only recently learned about this.

"Yeah, but I didn't agree," Janet said calmly.

Meanwhile, Emily looked at Janet viciously in the corner.

Why did she have to mention this at such a moment?

"It's okay. You should enjoy your high school life for now!" Grandma Jade grinned.

Megan also smiled, which was unusual to her character. "Yeah, Janet. Don't put too much pressure on yourself!"

Janet responded indifferently, "Alright. I'm going upstairs first!"

After returning to her bedroom, Janet lay on the bed in boredom while recalling what Mason said today—I want to kiss you.

"Sigh!" She blushed and buried her head in the bed. She was so conflicted!

Suddenly, her phone rang.

She took a look at her phone and saw that it was Abby who was calling.

"Janet, haven't you read the messages in the Messenger chat group?" Abby said anxiously.

"What happened?"

"Go check Messenger. The final results are out." There was excitement and anticipation in her voice.

"Alright. I'll take a look!" Janet replied.

"Okay, I'm hanging up!"

Janet clicked on the lively Messenger group expressionlessly.

One of them was the head teacher's message: 'A student from our class scored 420 points, which is only 20 points lower than the previous top exam result! The top student of the year is still a student from our class.'

The messages below were the cheers of the students: 'How cool. Class A is awesome!'

'I guess it's Janet again.'

'How amazing. I only scored 300 points in the test this time. Will I get assigned to another class?'

Suddenly, Emily sent a message in the group.

The message was a picture of her own report card. Her total points were shown to be 420 points!

Suddenly, everyone in the group fell silent. However, there was a huge uproar a few seconds later.

'Why is Emily the top student this time?!'

'That's awesome!'

'Then how many points did Janet get?'

'I'm also curious. Why isn't Janet the first this time?'

Emily pretended to be indifferent. 'My results are just average. I wonder how much Janet scored in the exam? I look forward to seeing her test results!'

Seeing this, Janet smiled and ignored it, then looked at her grades with satisfaction. I no longer have to be in Class A now, right?