

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 1042

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"We've tried our best to ensure her safety, but the doctors and nurses can't be keeping an eye on her at every moment..." With that, he sighed.

"Last night, Ms. Luna was completely fine, our nurses never expected that she would...in the middle of the night when everyone else was resting...she would...snap her own finger into two." Snap her own finger into two. Even though he would like to think of himself as a worldly man who was no stranger to violence, hearing those six words shocked Joshua so badly that he could not speak.

Snapping her own finger into two...how badly must it have hurt?

Seeing Joshua remain silent, Mr. Chase knew that Joshua had accepted his explanation, so he sighed and said, "You saw it too, we made her wear gloves today to stop her from hurting herself again. You said that she has pretty hands, you don't want them to be scarred. I remember." Joshua's fists tightened beside him. He grabbed the other man's collar and lifted him up as if he

was holding a slab of pork chop. "You remember and yet you allow her to get hurt? I think you're tired of your job! "

Mr. Chase was starting to panic. Knowing Joshua for so many years, this was the first time he had seen the elegant, noble, and steady man become so angry that he resorted to violence!

His lips trembled; every word that escaped his mouth sounded shaky. "This, this, this... This is our fault for not supervising her properly, we..."

Joshua gave a cold snort and released his grip indifferently. With a loud bang, Mr. Chase fell directly to the ground. Joshua turned away from him and said, "Arrange for her discharge. Since

you are unable to supervise her properly, I will take her home right now.”

Luna’s face, deadly pain and writhing in pain, appeared before his eyes. Joshua’s heart hurt so badly, as if someone was plunging a knife into his chest repeatedly. Since Mr. Chase and the many members of his staff were unable to supervise Luna, to the extent that she would snap her finger in half when she had an attack...

Then he would take care of her himself. He would not allow something like this to happen to her!

Seeing that Joshua seemed to be serious, Mr. Chase bit his lip and hurriedly climbed off the floor. “Mr. Lynch, Mr. Lynch, please. I know Ms. Luna is very important to you. The fact that her finger was broken is indeed our oversight. I’ll order four or even five times more nurses to take care of Luna! Please don’t discharge her, at our hospital, she can receive the most systematic treatment. We also have sedatives and other medication to calm her down when she suffers an attack. If you discharge her, then when she suffers an attack... Hurting herself will not be your major concern. If she accidentally hurts your two children, it will not be worth the loss!”

Joshua’s eyes narrowed slightly at the doctor’s words. He knew very well that he was not a professional doctor, facing Luna’s current symptoms...

What could he do?

The man sighed and lowered his voice and said, “Mr. Chase, I can consider the condition you mentioned earlier. But only if you take good care of her. I’ll make another visit in a few days, if she’s hurt again Joshua turned and looked at the other man coldly. “I don’t mind snapping your fingers into two, one by one either.”

Joshua's cold voice and stern gaze made the other man shudder. He could tell that Joshua was serious. He really wanted to snap his fingers in half! So he nodded hurriedly. "Yes, yes, of course! We will take good care of her, make sure she never hurts herself again..." Joshua closed his eyes and sighed, "Let me see her."

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Because of Joshua's appearance, Luna who had been in pain the entire day, finally received a painkiller.

When the medicine took effect, the pain faded, and Luna was finally able to lie on the bed, quietly looking at her smashed little finger. The finger that originally belonged to her now hung from her hand lifelessly, like a piece of décor. Luna remembered the words that the man said that morning when he smashed her finger. "Boss said, one finger a day. The number of fingers she can preserve depends on how long Mr. Lynch wants her to stay here." She looked at her fingers sadly. After staying here for ten days, would she become completely disabled? But who knew that her hands were capable of creating world-class jewelry designs...

At that moment, the door to her hospital ward opened. Joshua stood there, sorrow and despair written clearly on his face. Hearing noises from the entrance, Luna paused and turned toward the door unconsciously. Immediately, she saw the tall and lean man. Previously when she saw him, her mind was addled from the pain. She rejected him and even asked him to leave...

But now, when she saw him again, she climbed off her bed and smiled sweetly at him. "Joshua." Seeing the smile on Luna's face, Joshua's entire body stiffened for a second. How long had she not smiled at him like this? How long had she not

called him by his name?

How nice it would be if she was not mentally ill...

He sighed, walked into the room, and sat down by her bed, his eyes falling on her little finger wrapped in bandages. "Don't hurt yourself like this anymore."

A chill ran through Luna's chest. Joshua thought that.. her little finger became like this because she was hurting herself?

What a joke!

Even if she was indeed mentally ill, was she numb to pain? Did he know how much pain she would have to ensure to snap her own finger into two like this?

How careless and indifferent was he toward her that he would take her as a crazy woman who would snap her own finger in half when she suffered an attack!

But even though those were her innermost thoughts, the smile on her face remained in place. She was gentle and obedient. "Alright, I won't do it again."

As she spoke, she tugged on his sleeve with her uninjured hand and whined at him, just like Fiona. "Joshua, can you take me out of here, please? I'll do anything you ask, I'll obey your every order, okay?"

She wanted to leave. She wanted to leave this place so badly. She was worried that if she stayed, her fingers would slowly be smashed with every passing day, and one day she would become a disabled person who was unable to take care of herself! She still had to take care of Nellie and Nigel, and Neil and Theo were waiting for her to rescue them. She could not become disabled, she could not!

But right now, she did not have other chances to escape from this place. She could only beg Joshua.

Beg him to consider their history together, the fact that she gave him three children, and that her love for him in the past was pure and sincere, beg him to take that into consideration and have mercy on her and take her out of this hellhole.

“Joshua.” Seeing him remain silent, Luna tugged on his sleeve harder. “Take me out of here, I’ll get treated outside, okay? In the day, I’ll be with Granny Lynch and the children, and at night you can either tie me up or lock me up, anything. Or...” She bit her lip, and a hint of shyness even appeared on her face. “If you want me to accompany you, I can do it too. We can have another child, to make up for the one we lost, okay?” Luna forced down her nausea, to leave this place, she was willing to say anything. “We haven’t slept together in a long time, and I, I want you...”

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Joshua’s entire body stiffened. He turned and looked at Luna. Her eyes were filled with her desperate plea. She tugged at his sleeve, both her voice and her gaze seemed equally inferior. He looked at her and pain flashed through his eyes.

Even though in the past, he wished countless times that she would stay by his side in such an obedient manner...but he knew she was just doing this because she wanted to escape, to avoid treatment. He heaved out a long sigh and removed her fingers that were grasping onto his sleeve one by one. ”

Luna, I know you don’t mean what you said. Instead of talking to me, you should cooperate with the doctors and receive treatment, that way, you can recover as soon as possible.”

He stood up and turned, looking at Luna, his words loud and clear as he said, ”After you recover, I’ll bring Nellie and Nigel along, the three of us will welcome you home. I will also personally send all

of you away from Banyan City, to live the life that you want. Don't torture yourself anymore, and don't try to escape." Then, he swallowed the pain and despair deep into his stomach, and turned and left.

Luna sat on the hospital bed, watching his retreating back, her heart felt as if it had been torn into tiny little pieces and shredded, then thrown into the icy cold depths of a frozen river.

Even if...even if she discarded her pride, it was still not enough?

She pursed her lips, forcefully preventing her tears from over pouring.

"Joshua Lynch! "

Following her roar of anger, a loud bang was heard from behind him, the sound of a heavy object falling onto the ground.

Joshua had just set one foot out of the ward when he was shocked by the loud noise and immediately turned back.

At that moment, behind him, the scene that met his eyes made his pupils dilate in shock.

In the sickly-white hospital ward, Luna wore a blue and white striped hospital gown and knelt on the ground on her knees, her eyes pleading with him. "I'm begging you." She raised her head and looked at him. "I'm on my knees, begging you. Please take me out of here, please."

She lifted her hand and folded two fingers, leaving three fingers pointing skyward. "I swear that I will never fight with Ms. Blake again, I will never try to weaken Ms. Blake's position in your heart. All I want is a chance to live, please take me out of here."

With that, she completely discarded her pride and started to kowtow to him. "Mr. Lynch, in the past, I might have angered you countless times, please don't take them to heart... I ,,m begging you, please

take me out of here. I really don't want to stay here anymore..."

Joshua lowered his eyes and looked at Luna acting in such an inferior manner, how could his heart not ache?

But...if he took her away now, what would happen the next time she suffered another attack? Better to suffer a little now than risk any long-term damage to her health.

He ignored her pleas, lifted his legs, and strode away. With a loud bang, the thick metal door to her hospital ward was slammed shut.

With that loud bang, Luna who still had her forehead to the ground, felt as if her entire heart had exploded into bits.

She could not escape. She was completely stuck here.

Her mind was blank, hearing nothing but white noise in the background.

So...as long as Joshua believed that she was sick, she had to stay here. It was useless no matter how she begged...

She closed her eyes and was just about to climb back onto the bed when she heard Mr. Chase's voice drifted faintly from the corridor outside.

"Mr. Lynch, don't worry, we'll definitely send more staff to guard her. She's an important patient.

From now on, I will assign six nurses to take care of her! "

Six nurses... Luna scoffed. This time, even sprouting wings might not help her escape.

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Outside the asylum.

In the black Masevati, Nellie crossed her arms over her chest and curled up in a corner of the car in anger. "Nigel, how could you? I didn't even have much time to talk to Mommy! "

Not far away from her, Nigel had his laptop open

on his lap, his short fingers tapping away at the keyboard as if he could not hear her at all.

Nellie felt even worse now. She snatched Nigel's laptop out of his lap. "Stop playing! Didn't you see what Mommy looked like just now! "

The little girl bit her lip, aggrieved tears swimming in her eyes. "Daddy lied! Mommy is suffering here, I can tell! Nigel, you're a bad guy too! You stopped me from spending more time with Mommy! "

She came here happily today, thinking that Mommy was really just sick. But after she arrived, she realized this was not a hospital at all, it was more like a prison that kept her Mommy locked up! Seeing his sister's reaction, Nigel sighed faintly. He took his laptop out of her hands and showed his sister the information displayed on the screen. "I looked into it. Mommy was locked up here because a group of internationally renowned doctors conducted a psychiatric assessment on Mommy and she was diagnosed with mental illness. That means, Mr. Lynch only sent Mommy here because he truly believes that she is mentally ill. And what's interesting is that Mr. Robert Jenson not only diagnosed Mommy with mental illness, he also diagnosed Ms. Fiona Blake to be critically ill." Nellie's eyes widened instantly. "Both reports are fake?"

"Most probably." Nigel lowered his head and continued tapping away at the keyboard, his eyebrows furrowed as he spoke, "Don't forget our goal in coming here today. We're not here to bond with Mommy, we're here to confirm her location and the things she experienced."

The little guy handed a pen and a piece of paper to Nellie. "You have a good memory, almost perfect and you're good at drawing. Did you take a good look at the structure of the building and the directions? "

Seeing her brother's serious expression, Nellie wiped at her tears and nodded. "I remember." The moment she wanted to put pen to paper, Nigel stopped her. "Just draw a rough sketch, in case Joshua becomes suspicious." With that, he took a deep breath and said, "I contacted Aunt Bonnie and our cousin Christian. I know what happened now. Mommy didn't tell us about a lot of things, she didn't want us to worry." Finally, Nigel drew up a photo from one of the files on his computer. "This old lady is Janice Yale. We have to get in touch with her by today. She has quite a good impression of Mommy, she might provide us with a breakthrough."

Nellie memorized the woman's face and was about to say something when the sound of footsteps was heard outside. The two children exchanged meaningful glances. Nellie returned to her spot next to the door and pretended to doodle on the paper in anger. Nigel on the other hand continued tapping away at the keyboard quietly.

A tired Joshua opened the door and got into the car. "Lucas, head home."

"Yes, sir." Lucas, who had been standing outside waiting for Joshua, got into the car.

The car engine started.

Nellie sat by the window, watching as the asylum drifted further and further away behind her, her eyebrows furrowing slightly. "Daddy, what took you so long, were you exchanging secrets with Mommy just now?"

His confrontation with Luna exhausted him both mentally and physically. He sighed faintly and pulled the little girl into his arms. "Yeah. I was encouraging her to cooperate with the doctors, so she can be discharged as soon as possible and travel the world with you." Sitting in her father's

arms, Nellie could not help but pout. "I don't want

to travel the world.”

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“My biggest wish is that I can look for Neil together with Mommy and Nigel.”

Hearing Nellie mention Neil, Joshua's arm that was wrapped around her trembled slightly. A moment later, he turned and glanced at Nigel. “You think that Neil isn't dead too?”

Nigel's fingers continued tapping away at the keyboard. He glanced at his father deeply and said, “If I told you now that I think Neil is still alive, would you think that I'm crazy and lock me up in an asylum?”

Joshua's eyebrows screwed tightly together. “I'll repeat myself, your mommy was sent here for treatment because she is mentally ill.”

Nigel laughed, “Mr. Lynch, do you really think that the doctors' diagnosis of Mommy is correct?”

Joshua nodded. “Mr. Robert Jenson has been practicing medicine for more than two years and

has diagnosed hundreds of thousands of patients. He has never misdiagnosed a patient's condition.” How could his diagnosis be wrong?

Nigel narrowed his eyes. That old man was a master at hiding.

He sighed, closed his laptop, and finally raised his eyes to look at his father. “I heard there's a newly opened water park in Banyan City, it seems fun. I want to bring Nellie there before autumn is in full swing.”

Joshua was surprised. Nigel was always quiet and prudent. Nellie was always the one who suggested going out on trips or any playdates. This was the first time he suggested taking Nellie out to have some fun.

Seeing his father's confused expression, Nigel laughed faintly, “After visiting Mommy, Nellie is in a bad mood, she thinks that Mommy is suffering.

So I want to take her out to relax.”

Joshua frowned for a second, then ordered Lucas to turn the car back. The children were too worried about Luna. Maybe a fun day out would be a good distraction. Besides, the water park was integrated with Bonnie’s hotel. They could go to the hotel to

get some rest after having fun at the water park. It was very convenient too.

The car slid to a stop at the Yacht Club Hotel.

Joshua ordered Zach and Yuri to accompany the children then returned to his office.

Nigel and Nellie pretended to have fun at the waterpark, but in truth, they were busy searching for their target, Janice Yale. Finally, around 3 p.m. or p.m., they finally found her sitting beside the pool.

The two children walked to her side on the excuse that they could not unscrew the cap on their drinks and fluttered around them, addressing her sweetly as grandma, making her very happy. She and these two little guys hit it off and even bought them ice cream. The three of them sat at the side of the pool and watched the setting sun.

Janice was curious. “It’s just the two of you? Where are your parents?”

Nigel sighed, “Our father is very busy, he rarely has the time to look after us, we were always with mommy.”

Nellie on the other hand, wiped at her tears. “But unfortunately, our mommy was locked up in an

asylum even though she isn’t sick... I told Daddy that Mommy isn’t sick, but he didn’t believe me. He even produced an assessment report written by a renowned doctor and said that she’s mentally ill! Without Mommy beside us, we can’t even unscrew the cap on our drinks, woo woo woo! “

At the little girl’s cries, Janice’s sympathy overflowed. She scoffed, “How can he do that, how

can he insist that she "s sick when she "s not!"
"Exactly." Nigel sighed and took out Luna "s photo and showed it to Janice. "Grandma Janice, look, our mommy doesn "t look like a mentally ill patient at all!"

Janie took the photo furiously...

"Luna?! "

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Even though Mr. Chase from the asylum promised Joshua that he would arrange for nurses to supervise Luna to prevent her from „harming herself“. But he knew better than anyone that Luna "s finger was not the product of her self-harm.

But even so, pretenses had to be upheld, he might not be able to handle it if Joshua decided to take action against them.

So, he recruited a few temporary workers from a recruitment agency in the city center and interviewed them briefly. He did not even bother reading their resumes and immediately ordered them to supervise Luna. After all, Luna had been injected with the medication that they prepared, she

would be exhausted. Even getting out of bed would be a struggle, it was impossible for her to escape, what more hurt herself. Hiring these extra workers was just a show to placate Joshua. In the evening.

Luna lay on the bed, watching as the nurse arranged for a few dark-skinned men to guard her door, and a cold sneer appeared on her lips.

What sort of misunderstanding was there between Joshua and herself? Even if she was a monster with three heads and six arms, she would not be able to escape from this place. Did he have to station so many people outside her door? As if she was some sort of monster that had to be guarded tightly even in her sleep.

She closed her eyes, sighed deeply, and lay on the bed to get some rest. Even though one of her fingers had been snapped in half today, but luckily, in the evening a nurse gave her another shot of pain killers. She would be able to sleep through the night. She would worry about tomorrow when the time came.

Sometime later, she heard the rustling sound of the door opening. She opened her eyes in confusion and instead, saw a pair of clear, bright eyes. The intruder was wearing a mask, so Luna did not recognize him for a second.

Seeing that she was awake, he pulled his mask down, exposing his cold, handsome face.

Luna was so shocked that she was rendered speechless for a long while. This face belonged to...

“Luke Jones?! “

“Hush.“ Luke looked at her calmly. “What happened?“

Luna bit her lip and lowered her voice. “That“s a long story.“

“Well, tell me when you“re out of here then.“ Luke sighed, “Gwen heard from Anne that you“re in

trouble and kept pestering me at home. I had no choice but to rush here immediately. But I have no influence in this area, I can“t do much, so I could only smuggle myself in here disguised as a nurse.“ Then, he gestured to the woman standing behind him, also dressed from head to toe in a nurse“s outfit. “Come on.“

The woman removed her mask, it was Gwen. After being apart for a long time, and the next time she saw her, Luna was in this sad condition. Gwen could not hold back her tears any further. She helped Luna change into a nurse“s gown and wiped at her tears. “ The last time we talked, you said both Nellie and Nigel have recovered and that you would be leaving the country soon? How...how could this happen within two short weeks?“

Luna laughed bitterly, "This is all thanks to Joshua."

Very soon, Luna was dressed in the nurse's gown. Luke ordered one of his men to carry Luna on his back. The moment they left the hospital ward, Luna raised a question. "It won't be long before they realize I've escaped."

Luke raised his lips and barked out an evil laugh, "Don't worry, I've arranged for someone to take

your place. At least before tomorrow, they won't realize you're gone."

Luna bit her lip. "But. "

It was a small matter if Joshua realized she had escaped, but if the person who took her place was discovered, would he...

"She's someone special. They won't hurt her.

Besides " Luke sighed, "she owes it to you."

Luna paused. Before she could read the hidden message in his words, the man carrying her on his back strode away quickly.

At the door, the group gave an excuse that one of the nurses had suffered heat stroke and had to leave.

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The guard at the entrance never expected that the few temporary workers recruited from the recruitment agency would kidnap one of the patients, so he just registered their names in the visitor's log and allowed them to leave.

The minivan flew across the expressway in the wee hours of the morning. When the effects of the painkillers faded gradually, Luna was in so much that she curled up in Gwen's arms, trembling in pain.

"Hold on, Luna. Hold on." Gwen hugged her friend tightly, tears streaming down her face, the van flying toward Sea City. "We'll be there soon! "

They did not dare to stay in Banyan City for too long, what more looking for a doctor to treat Luna. In the past, both Luke and Gwen did not believe that Joshua would be so cruel and ruthless to Luna. Until today... only now did they realize how cold-blooded he could be!

The minivan drove on for a few hours and finally when the sun peeked on the horizon, they arrived at a private hospital owned by Luke in Sea City. An X-ray was finally taken of Luna's smashed finger. When the film was finally developed, Luna had already fainted from the pain.

"The bones have been completely smashed." The old doctor looked at the X-ray film and sighed continuously, "It looks like it was smashed with a heavy object, but judging from the girl's appearance, she doesn't look like a laborer..."

Gwen covered her mouth in shock and despair. "So her finger...can it recover to its original state?"

"I'm afraid not." The old doctor shook his head. "At the moment the best option is to amputate the finger. Otherwise, when it gets infected, her entire hand will be affected. Signs of infection can already be seen, I would suggest amputating it immediately. Please make a decision as soon as possible, but the surgery would require the patient or her family member's approval." With that, the old doctor turned and left.

After the doctor left, Gwen finally dissolved into tears. Luna had a pair of beautiful hands. And her hands were capable of designing the most beautiful pieces of jewelry in the world!

But now...

"Just cut it off." At one point, Luna who lay unconscious on the bed had regained consciousness. Her deadly-pale lips trembled as she spoke, her voice was low and hoarse, shaking with the effort it took to endure the pain. "I can survive with one less finger..."

Compared to staying in the asylum and having a finger smashed every day, amputating this little finger now was the best option for her.

Seeing Luna make this decision with feigned resilience, Gwen sobbed and threw herself onto Luna. "You decided to cut it off? Just like that? Do you want some more time to consider? We...we might have other options..."

Luna shook her head and smiled bitterly. "What other options do we have?"

She was not a child anymore. How can something that had been smashed to bits be reassembled once more? Just like her, could her heart that had been smashed to pieces by Joshua become whole again?

After signing the consent form for the surgery, Luna was wheeled into the operating theatre. Gwen fell on the cold marble floor of the walkway, bawling her eyes out. Seeing her so heartbroken, Luke could not help but feel slightly fidgety. He walked to the end of the corridor, taking a puff at his cigarette as he sent a photo of Luna's X-ray to Joshua. "What do you think caused this?"

By then, the morning sun was already shining brightly in the sky. Because he was worried about Luna, Joshua had been tossing and turning throughout the night. After hearing the news that Luna was fine, he silently heaved a sigh of relief

and was about to head downstairs for breakfast when he received Luke's message.

He studied the picture of the X-ray and smiled. "I'm not a professional doctor, how can I know? But seeing as the bone fragments are in such tiny pieces, it must be the work of a hammer of a big piece of rock, right? Whose is this, yours?"

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Luke did not reply. Joshua did not put much

thought into it. Both of them were busy men, they often forgot to reply to each other's messages. He headed downstairs and had breakfast with the children, then departed for his office. The moment he sat down in his chair; he received a call from Robert Jenson. "Mr. Lynch! I would like to ask, where did your son and daughter take my wife, Janice? Why did she disappear after eating ice cream with your two children yesterday? Her phone, passport, and wallet are still in the hotel, but she's gone." On the other end of the phone, Robert was furious. "The CCTV cameras in the hotel last spotted her

going to the ice cream shop next to the waterpark with your two children. Don't you think you owe me an explanation?!"

Joshua's eyebrows knitted together tightly. "Mrs. Jenson was with Nellie and Nigel yesterday?" How come they did not mention this to him? Yesterday, he had been occupied throughout the afternoon and the two children were enjoying themselves at the waterpark with Zach and Yuri. Last night when he returned home, he even asked them whether they met anyone special, but they both said no...

At this thought, he ended the call and called for Zach and Yuri. "Yesterday afternoon, the young master and the little princess indeed met with a woman they addressed as Grandma Janice. They hit it off immediately and spent the whole time together. Later in the evening, they went to the ice cream shop beside the waterpark... Afterward, the young master and the little princess came out by themselves, we didn't see the old woman."

Joshua rubbed in between his eyebrows. He did not think that Nigel and Nellie were capable of

keeping someone in hiding. But the people that Mrs. Jenson last met before going missing were the two children. No matter what, he could not escape liability.

“Seal the entire city, make sure Mr. Jenson finds his wife!”

In the mental asylum outside the city.

“Luna, wake up!” Outside her hospital ward, the nurse called out to her coldly. Wearing Luna’s hospital gown, the disheveled woman carefully crawled out of bed. “Okay.”

Her movements as she climbed out of bed were very slow, her gestures did not look like they belonged to a woman in her 20s. The nurses thought her movements were slurred because of the side effects of too much medication, so they did not take notice at all. They only saw the woman’s face when they started undergoing treatment for her in the morning. She was not Luna!

The few nurses looked at each other guiltily and finally reported this to Mr. Chase. Mr. Chase looked at the strange woman in front of him and frowned.

“Should we inform Mr. Lynch?” His subordinate asked him.

“Not now.” Mr. Chase hurriedly stopped him. Yesterday Joshua threw such a big fit after he found out one of Luna’s fingers had been broken, he was even about to cut off Mr. Chase’s fingers! If Joshua found out today that Luna had been smuggled out... Then he might even lose his head!

“Treat her as you would Luna, give her all the appropriate treatment! Hide this from Mr. Lynch, and in the meantime, send some people out to look for her!”

It was already evening by the time Luna awoke. Gwen lay on the edge of Luna’s hospital bed, busy wiping her tears. She had been crying the whole day,

her eyes swollen till they were the size of tennis balls.

The moment she opened her eyes, she saw her friend's tearful face and could not help but lift her lips in a soft smile. "Gwen." Her voice was unbelievably weak. "Thank you."

Only then did Gwen gather her wits about her.

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She rushed over and hurriedly grabbed Luna's hand. "You're awake?! Are you thirsty, hungry? I'll get Luke to hire the best chef and cook for you, okay?"

Seeing her friend's apparent concern for her well-being, Luna smiled bitterly. "Now that you mention it, I am hungry. Can you order something light for me, please?"

Gwen nodded quickly, turned around, and left the ward.

Luna leaned back on the hospital bed and listened as Gwen ordered the guard at the door to keep a tight eye on her, her lips lifting into a faint smile.

But even if she smiled, it still hurt.

After being tortured for the past few days, her lips were dry and cracked, even slight movements of her lips brought piercing pain.

Luna licked her lips and silently raised her left hand. There was a gap on her left hand where her little finger used to be. It could never return. The gap would remain for the rest of her life. Just like

her heart. After a part of her heart was cut off by Joshua, the gap would always be there.

A whole day had passed. She wondered if he found out that she had made an escape? If he did, would he seal the entire city to look for her? What a pity, she had escaped out of Banyan City, out of his sphere of influence.

Luna knew that she should be happy. But

somehow,
she could not manage a smile or a laugh. Her children, Nellie, Nigel, and Neil...were all still in Banyan City. She could not hide in Sea City forever. Sooner or later, she would have to return to that cage.

At that moment, a phone that sat at the head of her bed rang. It did not belong to her, but the caller ID indicated that it was a call from Nigel. She could not help but answer the call immediately. She was desperate for her children's voices.

"Mommy! How are you?"

The moment the call was connected, words poured out of Nigel's mouth before Luna could say anything. "Aunt Gwen left you this phone. This is an encrypted call. You have to hide, only come

back after you manage to find evidence that Fiona Blake is pretending to be ill! Don't worry, Nellie and I will be fine! "

Listening to Nigel's voice on the other end of the phone, tears streamed down Luna's cheeks. With these few simple sentences, even without explaining, Luna understood... Nigel had been behind last night's plan. But they were living with Joshua, anything they did or said could easily raise Joshua's suspicions.

She did not want them to get involved in this. That was why she pretended to be very relaxed when they visited her at the asylum yesterday, or when she dealt with the issues with Fiona. But...her son knew her the best.

All of her feigned resilience and strength did not escape Nigel's sharp eyes. The little guy knew about everything. Not only did he know, he even worked with Luke and Gwen to help her escape out of that hellhole.

She bit her lip. "Nigel, thank you." "Mommy..." Before she could finish, the sound of a door opening drifted from Nigel's end of the phone.

After the door opened, Joshua's low and cold voice was heard. "Nigel, what did you do yesterday?"

Once these words were heard, the call came to an abrupt end. Luna held the phone, biting her lower lip firmly.

What was he going to do Nigel?

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Listening to the beeps of the phone, Luna felt confused and upset. She did not know what Joshua did to Nigel on the other end of the phone, but judging from Joshua's tone when he entered the room, he sounded as if he was there to accuse Nigel of a crime.

Did he...find out she had escaped and knew that Nigel was somehow involved?

Luna rested against the headboard, gripping the phone tightly in her right hand, trying to calm herself but failing repeatedly.

Would Joshua give Nigel a hard time? If he did, what could Luna do?

Her fear grew the more she thought about it, but she did not dare call him.

If... If Joshua did not realize that she had escaped, calling Nigel would just serve to expose herself.

While she was in the middle of her frenzied thoughts, Gwen pushed open the door with a tray of food in her hands. Seeing her uneasy expression, she set up the bed tray and frowned as she spoke, "What are you thinking about?"

Luna raised her head and told Gwen about Nigel's call. "I'm worried that Joshua knows..."

"Most probably not." After pondering the issue for a moment, Gwen patted Luna lightly on the back and handed her the spoon. "Don't worry. We have spies in Banyan City. If Joshua finds out you're gone, he'll conduct a city-wide search. At the moment, we haven't received any such news yet."

The woman's words finally calmed Luna's racing heart. She nodded. "That's true." Gwen had a point. If Joshua started combing the city for her, the entire city would know. At this thought, she finally lowered her head and started eating. Since Nellie and Nigel came to visit her yesterday, she had not eaten anything. 25 hours had passed, and she was starving.

After drinking the warm soup, Luna felt as if she had been resurrected from death. As if she had

suddenly remembered something, she lifted her eyes and glanced at Gwen. "Yesterday, Luke said that the woman who took my place in the asylum...owes it to me?"

She smiled. "Why don't I remember anyone in Banyan City owing me anything?"

Gwen paused and smiled. "Actually, I don't know who she is either. She approached us and said that she „owed it to you“ , so she wanted to take your place in the asylum. Besides being older than you, her figure and everything else is quite similar to yours, so we asked her again whether she really wanted to help you, then brought her to the asylum." Gwen scratched her head. "The situation was urgent yesterday, and we couldn't find anyone else at such short notice, so we didn't ask her too many questions Luna bit her lip. An elderly lady with a similar figure to hers, saying that she owed her a favor... She had no idea who it was either.

"Don't worry about her. The doctors at the asylum won't give her a tough time once they realize she's not you." Gwen advised her and added, "Focus on your own condition. Look at you!"

Luna sighed. At the moment, that was the only thing she could do, but she was still worried about

Nigel. Nevertheless, she did not dare to contact him so casually.

After Gwen left, she laid down on the bed, tossing and turning, sleep eluding her. Finally, she took out the phone and scrolled through the news, trying to distract herself. Somehow, she discovered the piece of news reporting Janice Yale's disappearance.

The video showed a clip taken from the recording of the CCTV camera located outside the ice cream shop beside the waterpark. The screen showed Janice leading Nellie and Nigel into the ice cream shop. Half an hour later, only Nellie and Nigel walked out of the shop.

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Janice Yale was nowhere to be seen. No matter how the police investigated, they failed to discover where the woman went.

At the end of the video, Robert Jenson's lying face appeared. He was sobbing in front of the camera, looking heartbroken. "My wife and I have loved each other for years, and we just got married a few years ago. She's still so young! How can something like this happen to her...? Her phone,

wallet, and keys are all in the hotel. I tried everything but failed to get in touch with her, and the only clue we have is this video clip...but the two children in the video denied ever meeting my wife..."

Luna watched the video, her heart beating furiously in fear. How did Nellie and Nigel get to know Janice Yale? Why would Janice disappear all of a sudden? Her husband tried everything but failed to get in touch with her, and there was no record of her leaving Banyan City, and even up until this very moment, she was still missing...

Luna closed her eyes. This was the same situation as when she herself was locked up in the asylum. No matter how Bonnie and Anne searched for her, they could not find her.

Suddenly, Luna's eyes flew wide open. She remembered Gwen's words. The woman who took her place in the asylum was quite elderly, her figure was similar to hers, and she even said...she owed it to her.

Could it be...that the woman who took her place in the asylum was Janice Yale?

At this thought, she hurriedly saved the photo of Janice from the news report and sent it to Gwen. [The woman last night, is this her?]

[It's her.] Gwen's reply came within minutes.

[Right, I just remembered. Last night she asked us to address her as Aunt Janice.]

Reading Gwen's reply, Luna felt her mind exploding with a bang. The woman who took her place last night was Janice... In other words, it was no coincidence that Janice was with Nigel and Nellie yesterday. Her disappearance was indeed related to

the two children! Joshua's stern and accusing tone on the phone just now...was most probably because of Janice.

At this thought, Luna grew even more anxious and fidgety. Janice, Gwen, and Luke... Nigel was the one who contacted all these people, so Nigel was the mastermind behind last night's escape.

If Joshua found out, what would he do to the six-year-old child?

Nigel was not Neil or Nellie. He had only spent a short amount of time with Joshua, and they did not have any father-son love for each other or

interaction. Luna closed her eyes, her chest aching as if someone had plunged a knife into her chest.

Orchard Manor.

Joshua threw the tablet computer playing the video clip onto the sofa, his expression dark and stormy, gazing at Nigel with cold eyes. "You're getting braver and braver. You even dare hide and kidnap people now?"

Nigel sat silently across from him, his laptop on his lap, and met his father's eyes fearlessly. "I don't know what you're talking about."

"You don't know?" Joshua looked at the boy coldly, his tone even colder and more unforgiving than the snowy winds in the middle of winter. "You know better than anyone! "

He narrowed his eyes. "Robert Jenson's team is leaving Banyan City today. Once he leaves, you'll have a hard time getting him to come back to change Luna's psychiatric assessment report. That's why you pretended to bring Nellie to the waterpark wherein your true goal was to approach Janice Yale who was staying in the Yacht Club Hotel. You kidnapped her. This way, you have a hold over the man, and can threaten him to edit

Luna's assessment report and release her. Am I right?"

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At the man's words, the air in the living room grew so quiet and heavy that it felt difficult to breathe.

Nigel looked at Joshua, his laptop still on his lap, his big eyes blinking repeatedly as he stared at his father. "Mr. Lynch, I don't know what you're talking about."

He set the laptop down and wore an innocent expression on his face. "I'm just a six-year-old kid, and I don't know what you're talking about. I don't understand anything."

Joshua narrowed his eyes, and a chill flashed across his eyes. Other six-year-olds might not know anything, but his two children...

He took a deep breath, forcing his fury down his throat. "Nigel, I'll ask you one more time: were you the one behind Janice Yale's disappearance? All of the evidence is pointing toward you, so explain yourself truthfully! You're just a boy, but

you're already kidnapping women?"

Nigel narrowed his eyes and looked at Joshua's clearly defined features, finally abandoning the innocent act. He crossed his arms over his chest and leaned back on the sofa, his voice so cold and indifferent, not sounding at all like a six-year-old child. "You know better than anyone why I did this. Mommy was fine, but because of his assessment report, she was locked up in an asylum. I want him to know what it feels like when someone dear to you is lost. Is that wrong?"

The little boy's righteous and haughty expression made Joshua furious. "Your Mommy is sick! That's different !

"

"Do you think she's really sick just because he says she's sick? I think he made a mistake! "

"Nigel ! " Joshua glared at his son, the fury and power in his eyes were enough to make anyone tremble in fear. He looked at his mini -me in front of him, and said word by word, "Kidnapping is illegal, and you're only six. How can you do something like this?"

Nigel met Joshua's enraged gaze with unyielding stubbornness in his eyes. "Mr. Lynch, you and Mommy have known each other longer than us, so I thought you'd know and trust her more than us! Just because of that person's report, you

believe that Mommy is ill and needs to be locked up in that hellhole! You know I'm just six, but if you didn't force Mommy and me into a corner, I wouldn't have come up with such a bad plan! "

"You! "

"Joshua." Right when Joshua's fury reached its peak and was about to explode, Fiona pushed open the door and entered the room. She comforted Joshua, pressing him down to sit on the sofa.

"Don't get angry. Nigel is just a six-year-old child.

Even though he did something he shouldn't have done and took the wrong path, he's still a good kid at heart."

She handed him a cup of tea as she spoke, "Luna was always in charge of educating Nigel—maybe she planted these bad ideas in their mind. It's fine, the kids will change for the better after we take them under our wing in the future." She stroked Joshua's back as she spoke, "Don't get so angry." The woman's words made Nigel's eyebrows screw together tightly in an instant. What was this woman saying? She was implying that Mommy had misguided them!

The little boy's hands twisted together tightly as he glared at Fiona wordlessly. Nellie however, who

was on her way downstairs, frowned. The little girl ran down quickly, stood in front of Fiona, and glared at her. "What did you say? Our Mommy is the best person in the world! She didn't lead us astray! "

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Although Nigel kept reminding her to remain calm, Nellie could not contain herself any longer.

Since they were young, Mommy protected them from all the evil in the world, but now, they could not protect their mother. She was locked away in an asylum, and...even endured such suffering!

At the thought of the news that Nigel found out from the hospital records in Sea City, Nellie could not help herself and bit her lip, anger burning in her chest.

Mommy had a finger amputated today!

Among the two people in front of her, one was responsible for locking her up in an asylum, while the other wrongly accused her mother of being ill. These two were still fine; all of their fingers remained intact!

Facing the two enraged children, Fiona bit her lip, her eyes turning red. "Nellie, Nigel... That's not what I meant, I..."

Her eyes flashed and she hurriedly poured another cup of tea for Nigel and handed it to him. "Don't be angry. I shouldn't have said that; I should've been more tactful..." As she spoke, she brought the cup of tea before Nellie.

"I don't want it!" Nellie angrily overturned the teacup that Fiona handed her. "What a fraud!" "Ah—!" The boiling hot tea spilled on Fiona, dirtying the white linen dress she wore. Fiona screamed exaggeratedly and hurriedly grabbed some paper towels to wipe herself.

Nellie rolled her eyes at her and sneered. "What a good actress you are." She touched the cup when she overturned it, and it was not that hot.

With that, the little girl pulled at her brother's arm. "Nigel, let's go!"

Joshua sat on the sofa and glanced at the two children who were about to leave, then shifted his eyes to Fiona who was anxiously wiping at her at the spots of her skin that had turned pink from the hot tea.

"Stop!" The man's voice is cold and unforgiving. "Nellie, apologize to Aunty Fiona!" No matter what, Nellie's actions toward Fiona who just offered her a cup of tea was rude and ill-mannered!

Nellie bit her lip, turned, and glanced at her father coldly. "You never taught me my manners, so I won't apologize. If you want to, you can apologize to her yourself!" With that, the little girl wiped at her tears, dragged her brother behind her, and stomped up the stairs.

Joshua's eyebrows furrowed together in anger. "Joshua, forget it." Fiona intentionally placed the side of her hand that had been burned in front of Joshua, sighing and rubbing at it, acting as if she was in pain. "The children are still young, but if we

try our best to take care and educate them, these bad habits will go away soon." Then, she could not help but sigh. "I thought... Since Luna cares about them so much, she'd educate them well. But now..."

Fiona shook her head helplessly. "They're just six, and they're already liars. They even kidnapped someone old enough to be their grandma! "

As she spoke, she lifted her eyes and studied Joshua carefully. "Joshua, say... Do you think Luna

is mentally ill, and that's why she secretly instilled a lot of bad ideas in the children?"

Joshua's expression remained ugly and did not speak, but Fiona could tell from his gaze that his conviction was wavering. Thus, she sucked in a deep breath. "Joshua, in the future, I don't think you should bring the children to visit Luna—in case she gives them any more bad ideas. What do you think?"

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Joshua massaged his temples and remained quiet.

Fiona sighed. "Actually, I think both Nigel and Nellie are good children... In the past even if Nellie didn't like me, she was never this rude..."

As she spoke, she patted Joshua's shoulder, her voice full of feigned sadness. "Cheer up, Joshua.

The children are still young, and they can be re-educated. " With that, she stood up, turned, and left.

Joshua leaned back on the sofa in exhaustion, lifted his hand, and rubbed at his aching temples.

Nellie and Nigel... Had Luna misguided them after all?

"Ms. Blake, according to netizens' analysis, the two children that took Mrs. Jenson are apparently Mr. Joshua Lynch's son and daughter, is that correct?"

“Ms. Blake, how does Mr. Lynch plan to handle his children’s rumored kidnapping of Mrs. Jenson? And what are your thoughts on this issue?”

“Ms. Blake, Mr. Jenson said that if Mr. Lynch’s children don’t release his wife within twenty-four hours, he’ll report this to the police and have them captured. How does Mr. Lynch plan to respond to this?”

Early the next morning, a clip of Fiona being interviewed exploded across the internet. In the video, Fiona stood at the entrance to Orchard Manor with red-rimmed eyes, her eyes bright with unshed tears. “The children shown appearing with Mrs. Jenson in the video are indeed Joshua’s children, but. Please don’t spread false rumors; Nellie and Nigel are two very obedient and sensible children. Even though they’re only six years old, they are more mature than most adults. They’d never do something like this. As for the two of them leaving with Mrs. Jenson and yet didn’t return home with her, Joshua has already punished

them. The two children are getting punished right now at home.

Nellie and Nigel are two extremely obedient children, and they’d never kidnap Mrs. Jenson. I pray that everyone will not spread false rumors about them.”

Finally, she sighed at the camera. “I also hope that the police can solve the case as soon as possible. Mrs. Jenson doesn’t have her phone, wallet, or room keys with her, and she’s not local either. I heard from Mr. Jenson that she doesn’t travel around much, and if she wasn’t led by someone she trusted, I believe she wouldn’t come out either... I hope she’s fine...”

Clang!

Anne was so angry she threw the spoon in her hand into her bowl of soup. “This woman is so shameless! On one hand, she says that Nellie and

Nigel would never kidnap Mrs. Jenson, then she keeps emphasizing that they're very mature, not your average six-year-old children and that they're even more mature than most adults! She also said that Mrs. Jenson didn't take anything with her, that she wouldn't leave if she wasn't led by someone she trusted. She's obviously hinting that

Nellie and Nigel are the ones who kidnapped Mrs. Jenson!

"

John nodded. "The most important thing now is to stop Luna from watching this video."

With that, he raised his eyes and glanced at Anne.

"Nigel is a good hacker, right? Do you want to contact him and see whether he can delete the source video? Even though Luna is in Sea City, she'll definitely keep an eye out for news involving Banyan City."

"You're right!" Anne patted her forehead and immediately called Nigel.

Unexpectedly, Fiona was the one who answered, "Ms. Zimmer, long time no see."

Fiona leaned back on a chair in Joshua's office, her tone sounding elegant and casual. "You didn't expect that I'd be having Nigel's phone, am I right?"

Anne's entire body trembled violently. She frowned. "Where's Nigel?"

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"Nigel?" Fiona curled her lips into a sneer. "He's at home right now, receiving punishment for what he did. Children should be punished if they're disobedient and go against their elders' orders." She shifted into a more comfortable position gracefully and continued, "Joshua has already decided last night to adopt a stricter approach to the children, so now, he has confiscated all of their

devices. Not only are you unable to contact them, but even if you go to Orchard Manor or Blue Bay Villa right away, you won't be able to see them either.

"Joshua said that since they've been brainwashed by Luna, they're now psychologically unsound, so he wants to send them to a professional education center. Even though it's called an education center, in reality, it's just a place to keep them shut in a windowless room... "

Anne bit down on her lip when she heard this. Her hand gripped the phone so hard that her knuckles turned white. "Nigel and Nellie are Joshua's children. How can he treat them like this?"

Fiona chuckled upon hearing this. "You should know by now that Joshua has never taken a liking to him and Luna's children... Now that I've gotten pregnant, Joshua has no choice but to get rid of

them now so that my child can have a better life in the future.

Don't you think that makes perfect sense?"

Anne was so outraged that she immediately snapped, "Where's Joshua Lynch? Get him to answer the phone right now! I want to give him a piece of my mind! "

Fiona shrugged, then stood up gracefully. "He's not around. He left this morning for the mental asylum outside Banyan City to question Luna. After all...Luna is the one responsible for the way Nigel and Nellie were raised."

She curled her lips into a smirk. "Well, I shouldn't waste any more of my time talking to you. I'd better focus my energy on planning my future together with Joshua. Goodbye now! " With that, she hung up the phone.

After deleting the call history from Nigel's phone, Fiona carefully placed the phone back into Joshua's office drawer.

Meanwhile, Courtney watched from the door rather

nervously and said, "Ms. Blake, you'd better come out of there soon. President Lynch ordered me to forbid you from entering his office..."

Fiona snickered. "What are you so afraid of? I'm going to become Joshua's real wife soon anyway. " With Luna admitted into a mental asylum, and Nigel and Nellie had kidnapped Janice... There was no way Joshua would take their sides. After all, this was a deranged woman and two rebellious children!

Fiona knew it was only a matter of time before she became the new Mrs. Lynch.

"I'm so frustrated! " As soon as she heard the dial tone, Anne was so outraged that she hurled her phone onto the floor.

How could Joshua do this to his own children?

On the other hand, John was calmer and more level-headed as compared to Anne. "Did she just say that Joshua went to the mental asylum to talk to Luna?"

Anne's eyes widened upon hearing this. Oh, no. Joshua had left to find Luna!

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Meanwhile, at the mental asylum located on the city outskirts...

As soon as the director, Mr. Chase, found out that the famous Joshua Lynch had arrived, he was so startled that he rushed out to greet him without even putting his clothes on properly.

"I want to see Luna, " Joshua ordered coldly as he strode through the entrance.

Mr. Chase was so nervous that he broke out in cold sweats. "Mr. Lynch...um... Ms. Luna doesn't want to see you..."

Joshua scoffed. "I don't care. I want to see her! "

Mr. Chase could not help shuddering when he saw the cold, hard look in Joshua's eyes.

He knew there was no hiding the truth anymore, so he gritted his teeth and got down on his knees in front of Joshua with a thud. "Mr. Lynch! I'm sorry to disappoint you, but I didn't keep a strict eye on Luna, and she...ran away..." Luna ran away? Joshua was so shocked by this that he immediately stood up from his chair. He grabbed hold of Mr. Chase's collar and snapped, his handsome features

contorted in anger, "Didn't you say you would assign more people to keep guard of her? How did she run away, then?"

This was the first time Mr. Chase had seen Joshua so livid and the first time he had ever seen this otherwise calm and elegant man look so furious. He was so terrified that he stammered, "I... I did assign more people to keep guard of her...but the problem was with the guards..."

Mr. Chase tilted his face away so as not to meet Joshua's seething gaze. "The men dressed up as nurses to look after Luna... Then, in the middle of the night, they switched Luna out with another person while everyone was asleep... This isn't our fault, Mr. Lynch!

"They claimed that one of the nurses had suffered heatstroke, and we believed them... After they left, we went to check on Luna's ward, and there was another woman in there. She looked identical to Luna! Because it was so late at night, we didn't check on her for fear of waking her, but then morning came.. and we discovered we had been tricked..." Joshua narrowed his eyes fiercely. Did this mean there was an entire group of people who came to break Luna out?

Joshua let go of Mr. Chase's collar without warning, causing him to fall onto the ground with a loud thud.

However, Joshua took no notice of this and instead circled him and headed straight to the door. "Take

me to the impostor right this instant.”

“Alright, alright! “ Mr. Chase hastily picked himself up from the ground and caught up with Joshua.

“It’s a slightly older woman, but when we tried to question her, she refused to say anything at all...

She’s very stubborn...”

As Mr. Chase continued to describe the situation, the two soon arrived at Luna’s ward.

Inside the room, a woman in a striped hospital gown was leaning against the wall in silence.

Although her hair was tousled and messy, her eyes still shone clear and bright.

As soon as she saw Joshua, the woman lifted her head and smiled. “Hello, Mr. Lynch.”

Joshua’s pupils constricted when he made out the woman’s face.

It was none other than Janice!

The same woman that he and Dr. Robert’s men had been searching for an entire day!

Joshua strode into the ward. “What are you doing here, Mrs. Jenson?”

“I volunteered to come in here, “ Janice replied, smiling at Joshua. “I’ve met Luna myself, so I know better than anyone how her mental state is. She’s perfectly normal.

“Since my husband was the one who misdiagnosed her and forced her to suffer, then I should take her place and bear the pain for her.”

Joshua furrowed his brows upon hearing this but did not reply.

Meanwhile, Mr. Chase was so stunned by this sudden confession that he could not say a single word.

After a long while, he managed to squeeze out a few sentences.

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“Are you Dr. Robert’s wife? How can you say he

misdiagnosed Luna? Dr. Robert has never made this kind of mistake before in his life! “

Janice sneered and replied, “What do you mean, he has never done this before? All he did was cover up his tracks and was never discovered.”

With that, she smiled and glanced at Joshua.

“Didn’t you agree with Dr. Robert’s diagnosis that Luna has a mental illness, Mr. Lynch?”

Joshua narrowed his eyes but did not say anything in reply.

Janice curled her lips into a smirk and snickered. “I didn’t know how rigid and unrelenting of a person you are, Mr. Lynch. I guess in the end, you’d rather believe some words on a page than a living, breathing human being, don’t you? Can’t you tell the difference between someone who’s really sick and who’s not?”

As soon as he heard this, Joshua’s expression darkened, and he replied in a low voice, “Mrs. Jenson, you shouldn’t be here at all. Dr. Robert has been looking for you the whole day.”

“Is that so?” she replied with a smile. “Why don’t you pass on a message for me and tell him that I

won’t leave this place unless he changes Luna’s diagnostic result.”

She chuckled and added, “I’ve been ignoring this kind of wrongful action for too long. Nigel is right; we all should act more like adults and admit to things that we did wrong and do what’s right in return.”

She turned and lifted her head to stare at Joshua.

“Joshua, I’m correcting my wrong decision for retribution. How about you?”

Joshua glanced at her and replied, “I don’t think this is any of your business.” With that, he turned and strode out of the room.

Mr. Chase quickly caught up to him. “Mrs. Jenson was acting like a crazy woman! How dare she accuse the most reputable doctor in this field of

misdiagnosis. Dr. Robert has never misdiagnosed anyone before in his forty years of career! The fact that she's his wife makes this even more ludicrous!

Joshua frowned and barked an order as he walked, "Find me a new team of psychiatrists."

After that, he paused for a moment, then added, "Actually, get me three teams, in secret, of course."

If anyone else finds out about this, I'll burn this place down."

Joshua thought that getting three different teams of doctors would allow him to obtain a more accurate diagnosis this time.

Mr. Chase widened his eyes in shock upon hearing this. "Mr. Lynch, do you really trust what that crazy woman said? You're questioning Dr. Robert's reputation and expertise! If people found out about this, it'll be a humiliation to the medical field!"

Joshua calmly rubbed his eyebrows and replied curtly, "Do you think I care?"

Mr. Chase wanted to counter this statement but did not dare to, so he simply pursed his lips and remained silent.

After a moment, he recalled something and asked, "Mr. Lynch, you wanted to get a new psychiatric team to give Luna a new diagnosis, but we don't even know where she is now."

Joshua thought about this for a second, then suddenly recalled the X-ray that Luke had sent him this morning.

He remembered the broken little finger on the left hand.

He narrowed his eyes as he recalled this. "I think I know where she is. "Lucas, get the car ready. We're heading to Sea City."

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At the hospital in Sea City.

No matter how hard Gwen and Luke tried to stop Luna from seeing the news in Banyan City, she still found out about Fiona's interview.

What Fiona said in her interview made Luna feel anxious and worried. Every single sentence she said had a double meaning to it, as though she could not wait to tell the entire world how bad Nigel and Nellie were for kidnapping Dr. Robert's wife!

She even mentioned something about Joshua keeping Nigel and Nellie locked up at home for reeducation...

What kind of reeducation did she mean?

Luna clutched her phone and called Nigel and Nellie nonstop, but no matter how many times she called, there was no answer.

Finally, she had no choice but to dial Anne's number.

Initially, Anne had wanted to hide everything from Luna as well. Still, she was a straightforward and outspoken person, so after a bit of coaxing and trickery on Luna's part, Anne soon lost control of herself and blurted out everything, including what Fiona told her during the phone call.

As soon as she hung up the call with Anne, Luna felt her breathing become more labored.

Since she could not seem to get in touch with Nigel and Nellie, combined with what Fiona said about Joshua sending the children away to a youth education center...

Luna knew how cruel and heartless Joshua could be toward the children.

When Nigel and Nellie were sick, he was unwilling to pay a single dime for their medical bills...

Since he thought Luna was a psychiatric patient and that the children had committed a crime, Luna

decided that it was entirely possible that Joshua had sent them away.

After contemplating for a moment, Luna got out of bed.

She could run, but she could not hide forever. Her children were still with Joshua. Finally, she decided that it was better to return voluntarily instead of waiting until it was too late in letting Joshua find her.

If she returned on her own accord, maybe the children would suffer less.

Luna got out of bed and staggered to the door. Before she could walk out of the room, however, she came face-to-face with Gwen and Luke.

“Where are you going?”

Luna’s body was still weak, and her face was as pale as a sheet of paper. Upon questioning, she answered in a feeble voice, “I’m...I’m going back to Banyan

City. I can’t let Nigel and Nellie continue to be under Joshua’s guard. I...”

Gwen furrowed her brows and pulled Luna into her arms. “Luna, did you forget everything that you went through in Banyan City? Do you think nine fingers is too much?”

Luna froze, then lowered her head to glance at her left hand.

Where her little finger used to be was a small stump.

She recalled the pain she had felt when her finger was smashed with a hammer. It was so excruciating that every time she was reminded of it, she felt as though the bones in her entire body trembled as well.

Despite this harrowing experience, she still thought she should return as soon as possible.

Was her finger...as important as Nigel and Nellie? Even though Nigel had always been an intelligent child, Luna knew he was afraid of the dark. On the other hand, Nellie had been spoiled all her life, and she had only just recovered from her autism...

They could not afford to go through another round of torment again!

If Luna's return to Banyan City could make Joshua change his mind about punishing the children, then she would gladly do so, even if it meant losing a few extra fingers.

As soon as she thought of this, Luna bit down on her lip and shoved Gwen aside, then staggered forward. "I'm going back... Since I was the one who brought them into this world, I should be the one protecting them, too. If I can't even protect them... What kind of mother am I?"

Gwen felt a twinge of pain shoot through her heart as she watched Luna's thin frame move slowly through the hallway. She immediately glanced meaningfully at the bodyguards.

The two bodyguards rushed forward and stopped Luna.

Initially, Luna tried to struggle from their grasp emotionlessly. "Let go of me... I want to find my children. Let go of me!"

However, her struggles were to no avail. She finally realized that her efforts were futile, and it was as though something had broken loose inside of her. She wailed in sorrow, screamed, and cried, "Joshua Lynch...! What do you even want from me?!"

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"What do I need to do to make you leave me alone and treat me and the children better? What did I do wrong? Even if it was a mistake to fall for you, that was such a long time ago! Why do I still have to suffer the consequences now..."

Her anguished cries echoed through the entire hallway.

All the sadness and torment that she had gone through all this while finally burst out of her.

Gwen, too, could not help but feel like crying. She immediately rushed forward to pull Luna into her embrace. "Everything will be better. Things will look up soon, Luna! Please don't..."

However, Luna shook her head in denial. "No, things will never get better..."

No matter how hard she tried, she could not escape Joshua's wrath at all, and she could not protect her children.

Initially, she did not manage to protect Nigel, who was gravely ill. Then, after that, she failed to keep Neil safe, and he went missing amid the explosion.

Finally, she failed to protect Nellie, who ended up with autism.

With Nigel and Nellie already cured and Neil had finally returned, things seemed to be progressing in a good direction.

However, as soon as Fiona and Neil falsely accused her of being mentally insane, Joshua instantly believed them and forced her to go through such inhumane torment and forced her to separate from her children!

The sight of the two women crying together made Luke tilt his head away.

He was not an emotional person, but at this moment, he could not bear to watch or listen any longer for fear of crying himself.

All of a sudden, his phone chimed with a message from Joshua.

[I'm outside the private hospital that you own in Sea City.]

Luke furrowed his brows upon seeing this and immediately strode over to the window and looked out.

A black Masevati was parked at the hospital entrance. At this moment, a man dressed in full black had opened the door and was strolling toward the entrance!

Luke shuddered upon seeing this and quickly turned to look at the two women still crying in the distance. "Please stop crying; Joshua is here." As soon as they heard this, both Luna and Gwen stopped sobbing. Gwen widened her eyes in shock. "Why would Joshua be here?"

Luke furrowed his brows and decided not to tell them about the X-ray that he had shown Joshua. "Maybe he guessed that Luna's here. Luna doesn't have many friends here, and since she's not in Banyan City, she must be with us. Besides, she suffered injuries, and the first thing anyone would do after breaking her out is to take her to a hospital."

Gwen cursed when she heard this, then quickly helped Luna up and dragged her into a nearby room.

As soon as the door closed behind them, the elevator doors slid open.

Joshua's slow, graceful footsteps echoed through the empty hallway. He made his way to Luke's side with Lucas following closely behind and curled his lips into a smirk. "Long time no see, Luke."

Luke's expression was a little stiff. "That's right. It's been a while since we last met." He let out a somewhat awkward cough, turned to dismiss the bodyguards who had been restraining Luna just a few minutes ago, then smiled at Joshua. "What brings you here today?"

Joshua curled his lips into a sneer.

If Luke had been the only one here, then there would not be so many guards in the hallway. Since there were so many of them around, he guessed that they had probably been assigned to protect someone.

Joshua glanced at the closed door on one side of the hallway, then turned and sat down on the bench across from it. He crossed his legs on top of each other gracefully and said, "Well, since you

touched something of mine, I'm here to talk to you about it."

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Meanwhile, Luna and Gwen were hidden inside the room. They tilted their heads and eavesdropped on the conversation happening outside the door.

The color drained from Luna's face as soon she heard what Joshua said.

As soon as she heard that Joshua had arrived, Luna guessed that Joshua had probably found out she was here and rushed over to talk to her.

Otherwise, he would not have arrived without giving Luke a heads-up, considering how close he and Luke were.

What he had just told Luke, however, was that the reason he came was that Luke had meddled with something that belonged to him.

Luna pressed her lips into a thin line.

It turned out that she was nothing more than an object to Joshua.

"What do you mean by this? What thing of yours did I touch?" Meanwhile, in the hallway outside the door, Luke gave Joshua an impassive glance and spoke, a cold smirk playing on his lips, "I can't seem to remember what it is."

"Is that so?" Joshua curled his lips into a sneer and fixated his cold, penetrating gaze on the closed door behind Luke. "Do you need me to remind you? A few nights ago, you brought your men to Banyan City and took something from me. Don't you remember?"

With that, he shifted his icy stare onto Luke. "Luke, you should know that the only reason you're the person you are today is because of me. Is this how you pay me back for helping you in the past?"

Luke narrowed his eyes upon hearing this but did not say a word.

He knew that since Joshua had come all the way to the hospital, he must have been 100-percent sure that Luna was here.

Yesterday, when Luke showed the X-ray to Joshua, it was actually a form of reminder. However...

Since Gwen was inside the room with Luna, eavesdropping on their conversation, he could not possibly tell Joshua the truth and hand Luna over to him.

Seeing that Luke did not reply, Joshua curled his thin lips into a smirk and said, "Since you don't

know why I'm here, let me tell you what's been happening, then.

"Luna has been diagnosed with severe mental illness. Not only does she abuse the children during her episodes, but she'd also harm herself and even broke her own finger.

"However, after I sent her into a mental asylum, someone came and broke her out of there. I've already looked into this incident and found out that both she and my son, Nigel, were involved in this. Nigel even kidnapped the wife of the doctor who diagnosed Luna, Dr. Robert, in an attempt to get the doctor to redact his psychological evaluation. "Therefore, as Nigel's father, I am responsible for educating him."

Luke narrowed his eyes upon hearing this. "How are you going to do that?"

"I have two choices." Joshua lifted his gaze to stare at the closed door. "The first one is after I find Luna, I'll let her re-educate the children and let them know that this behavior was entirely wrong. Then, I'll observe to see if there's any improvement.

"The other one is..."

Joshua raised his voice and continued, "If I can't find Luna, then I'll have to send the children to a youth education center and let them be schooled in

a strict, no-nonsense approach. That "I'll show them how to behave like good children."

Inside the ward.

Luna balled her right hand tightly when she heard what Joshua had said.

It turned out that everything Fiona told Anne on the phone was true.

Joshua had decided to send the children to an education center, where they would be locked in a windowless room!

Luna gritted her teeth in anger. How could this man be so cruel and heartless?

Was this because Fiona had successfully gotten pregnant with his children, so he did not like Nigel and Nellie anymore?

Even though Luna had never been to the youth education center that Joshua mentioned before,

she knew that this kind of school was no different from prison!

Nigel and Nellie were only six years old! How could Joshua do this to them? Meanwhile, outside the door, Luke had the exact same reaction as Luna.

"A youth education center?"

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"Why don't you just say you're sending them to jail?"

Joshua let out a chuckle and replied impassively, "Well, that's another way of putting it.

"If the two children still haven't realized their mistake and don't think they've done anything wrong, then it's about time they need to get treated as well. After all..."

He raised his eyebrows. "They're involved in breaking a mentally insane patient out of her treatment facility." With that, he stood up and continued, "Luke, I know what you took from me, and I even know where it is, but if you don't want to hand it over, then it's okay.

“I heard Dr. Robert say that if he doesn’t find his wife before this evening, he’s planning to sue Nigel and Nellie in court. Even though I’m their father, I’ve never been emotionally close to them, so I won’t get involved in this potential lawsuit at all. “If he indeed sues them, then it’s up to the legal system to determine their outcomes. Whether they go to prison or get sent into an education center, it’s none of my business anymore.”

With that, Joshua turned and strode away.

Luna’s entire body was now pressed against the door. As Joshua’s receding footsteps echoed through the hallway, she felt as though someone had pierced a knife into her chest and stirred its contents around.

Dr. Robert was going to sue the children.

Joshua was going to send the children into a youth education center.

Was she going to continue hiding?

All they wanted was for her to come out of her hiding spot. If that was what they wanted, then she would do as they please.

As soon as she thought of this, Luna let out an exhale, flung Gwen’s hand away, and pushed the door open with a slam.

Meanwhile, Joshua had just reached the elevator, with Lucas following behind him.

His figure was tall and lean as always and looked as cold and unapproachable as Luna remembered.

Luna bit down on her lip and clenched her teeth, still staring at Joshua’s retreating figure. “Joshua Lynch! “

Joshua, who was just about to get into the elevator, froze when he heard her voice.

He curled his lips into a smirk, and a triumphant smile flashed across his face before he regained his composure and turned around with a steely

expression.

Luna was standing at the end of the hallway, dressed in a white hospital gown.

Her entire frame was bony and frail, like a limp paper kite caught in a strong breeze.

Joshua suppressed the urge to rush forward and pull her into his arms and instead said impassively, "I was right—you are here."

"Yes, I am." Luna met his gaze without a single ounce of fear. "You're right. The „thing“ that you lost has been right here all along."

She let out an exhale and staggered toward him somewhat unsteadily. "I'll go back with you, but please, don't send Nigel and Nellie away..."

At first, she was too far away from him, so Joshua could not see her face properly, but as she got closer and closer, Joshua suddenly noticed how pale her face was.

Luna's eyes were red and swollen, as though she had been crying not long ago.

Joshua suddenly recalled the cries he heard downstairs when he and Lucas had gotten out of the car.

At that time, Lucas had even commented on how miserable this woman sounded and said something

about how hospitals were where the living and the dead were separated.

It was not until this moment that Joshua realized... The heart-wrenching sobs he had overheard downstairs were possibly Luna's...

"Joshua." Just as he was caught up in his thoughts, Luna had already made her way over and was now standing in front of him.

She stared at him and offered a bitter, doleful smile. "I'll go back with you."

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Seeing that Joshua was staring at her, Luna curled

her lips into a feeble smile. "What's wrong? Didn't you want me to appear before you so that you can bring me back to the mental asylum?"

The mental asylum: the place where she was locked in a windowless room and was subjected to inhumane tortures.

Joshua paused for a moment, then asked in a hoarse voice, "What happened to you?"

He knew that Luna was here, but he never imagined this was how she would look.

He had seen her only a few days ago. At that time, she was full of life, with pink cheeks and clear eyes. This was a stark contrast to what she looked like as she stood before him: colorless and frail, as though she would break into pieces at any moment.

Joshua thought that after being rescued by Luke and Gwen, Luna would be happy and carefree.

While on his way here from Banyan City, he even thought to himself how selfish Luna was. He thought she was a self-centered, inconsiderate mother who did not care about her children.

After all, there was no way Luna did not know that the children had kidnapped Janice to take her place in the psychiatric ward. Therefore, how could she possibly subject her children to everyone's suspicion without feeling even an ounce of guilt? Contrary to his beliefs, the woman before him at this moment was nothing like he had imagined.

She was bony, sallow, and sickly, like a porcelain doll that could break into smithereens at a single touch.

Luna curled her lips into a smile.

She lifted her head to gaze at Joshua's chiseled face, then let out a bitter smile. "Isn't this what you wanted, Mr. Lynch? You abided by Dr. Robert's diagnosis and treatment advice...and sent me to living hell."

She exposed the wounds on her arms, as well as the section of burnt scalp hidden beneath her hair. “Electric shocks, acupuncture, physical stimulation, injection of sedatives...” Luna rattled off the various methods of torment she had suffered these past few days in the mental asylum with a cold, expressionless face.

Finally, she lifted her left hand, displaying her broken little finger to Joshua, and smiled at him. “Didn’t you say my hands are pretty? Well, because of this, they smashed my left little finger with a hammer.”

Luna’s tone was so calm that it was as though she was describing something that happened to someone else.

Joshua widened his eyes in shock. “Your finger...“ Did she not break it herself?

All of a sudden, he recalled the X-ray that Luke had shown him the day before. He immediately turned to glance at Luke.

Luke nodded at him.

Joshua immediately took a step back, and a harrowing realization dawned over him.

How could this be...? How could they do this to Luna? He had specifically asked Mr. Chase to look after her and provide her the best care possible...

Mr. Chase had even promised that he would assign more nurses to look after her!

“They even told me that if I stayed in there a day longer, they’d smash another one of my fingers. “

Luna let out a self-deprecating snicker. “Do you know what I was thinking at that time, Mr. Lynch?”

“

She chuckled again as Joshua continued to stare at her incredulously. “I was thinking to myself, thank God Mr. Lynch complimented my fingers instead of my eyes, nose, or head. Otherwise... Otherwise...”

Luna was about to continue when all of a sudden, she felt as though something was about to come

out of her throat.

“Cough— “ After shuddering severely, Luna coughed out a mouthful of blood, then immediately slumped onto the ground.

“Luna! “ Joshua could not suppress his emotions any longer. He immediately lunged over and grabbed hold of Luna.

Luke furrowed his brows at this sight. “The emergency room is on the first floor! “

Joshua clung onto Luna tightly, as if she were a piece of valuable treasure, and stormed toward the elevator.

However, both the elevators were stuck on the first floor.

They were on the 15th floor.

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Joshua stormed into the stairwell without any hesitation, with Luna still in his arms.

“Let go of me...“ Luna protested weakly.

However, she was too tired and in so much pain that her struggles were futile.

“I won't.“ Joshua zipped down the flights of stairs and, holding Luna tightly against his chest, said, “ I've appointed three more teams of medical professionals to reassess your mental condition. You have to go home with me right now. If Dr. Robert's diagnosis is wrong... I won't forgive him for this! “

Luna let out a bitter smile as she listened to the thumping of Joshua's heart against his chest.

“Three medical teams...“

Her voice was so hoarse that it seemed even a simple sentence like this used up all the strength in her body. “So you still need to hire some doctors to determine if I'm mentally insane or not, don't you? You don't believe me after all...“

Joshua's entire body stiffened when he heard this.

Was that true? Did he not believe her?

All of a sudden, Joshua recalled what Janice had said when he saw her at Banyan City Mental Asylum.

"I didn't know how rigid and unrelenting of a person you are, Mr. Lynch. I guess in the end, you'd rather believe some words on a page than a living, breathing human being, don't you? Can't you tell

the difference between someone who's really sick and who's not?"

Joshua felt his heart sink. He wanted more than anything to believe Luna, but...

He let out an exhale and said in a low voice,

"You're too weak now. Don't talk."

Luna curled her lips into a bitter smile and nodded.

"Okay. I'll shut up."

She should not be talking to him anyway. After all, what use was it to speak to someone who did not believe her at all?

Even though Joshua was holding her like this, Luna knew that in his mind, she was still a mentally insane patient, a crazy woman who would abuse both her own son and herself.

Luna was sent into the operating room.

Six hours passed before she was finally wheeled out of the operating room.

"The reason she vomited blood was because of an infection in her blood," the doctor explained, sighing at the same time. "She had been through so much within such a short time, and even after

her finger was broken, no one treated the wound, and it got infected. Even though the finger is already unviable, the infection didn't clear up in time, so it spread into her bloodstream and caused her to vomit blood."

With that, he lifted his head to glance at Joshua. "How are you related to the patient?"

Joshua fell into silence for a moment, then finally answered, "I'm her husband."

"Her husband?" The doctor stared at Joshua incredulously, then said in a tone that was as frosty as his gaze, "What kind of husband are you? How can you let your wife suffer like this? Don't you know how much it hurts to have your finger crushed like that?"

The doctor let out a sigh and added, "I've seen many patients in my day, but this is the first time I've ever seen anything like this. The bones in her finger were fractured into so many pieces that there was no way of reconnecting them anymore! " With that, he slammed his folder shut and turned to leave. "Talk about irresponsible!"

Joshua remained motionless, his expression dark.

After a moment, he took out his phone and barked an order, "Find Mr. Chase and lock him up immediately! I have some questions for him!"

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As soon as he hung up, his phone rang with another call.

It was from Granny Lynch.

Joshua knew perfectly who it was that was calling him. He let out a sigh and picked up the phone.

"Mr. Lynch, " Nigel's cold voice rang out from the other end of the line. "I heard you went to Sea City. Have you found my Mommy?"

Joshua's eyes narrowed slightly.

He had confiscated all of Nigel and Nellie's devices last night and asked Granny Lynch to take them to the family villa at a rural village to lay low for the time being.

The village did not have strong network coverage, so the residents could not frequently communicate with the outside world.

Despite this, Nigel still found out that Joshua had

gone to Sea City in search of Luna and even managed to find a way to contact him.

Seeing that Joshua did not answer, Nigel pursed his lips slightly and said, "Mr. Lynch, I know the signal isn't good here, but I've added a signal booster and got on the neighbors' good sides so I can connect to their phone networks... Don't try to pretend as though the connection isn't stable so you can avoid my question. How's my Mommy doing?"

Joshua knew he was caught, so he let out a sigh and answered, "She's... fine."

"Don't make things difficult for her." Nigel let out an exhale and continued earnestly, "I was the one who devised the breakout. I was the one who kidnapped Janice and contacted both Aunt Gwen and Uncle Luke."

"Please don't punish Mommy for this. If you want someone to take the blame for this, then I'm the one you should punish."

Joshua's breath caught in his throat. Then, after a moment, he curled his lips into a smirk and said, sounding somewhat helpless, "Do you really think your father is such a bad, unforgiving person?"

"I guess you can say that." Nigel sighed. "To be honest... You're so different from the father I always imagined, Mr. Lynch."

Joshua paused upon hearing this. "What kind of father did you always envision to have, then?"

"Well, I always thought my father would believe my Mommy over anyone else and wouldn't send her into a mental asylum over someone else's claims."

Nigel sighed again. "But, since you've already found her... Please take good care of her. If you want to blame someone for everything that happened, then it should be me. Goodbye."

As soon as he finished his sentence, Nigel hung up the phone.

Joshua gripped his phone tightly, then let out a deep exhale.

Did he... make a mistake?

Just as he was mulling over this question, Lucas appeared and rushed over to his side. "Sir, Luna is awake, and she wants to see you."

Joshua furrowed his brows, then strode in the direction of Luna's ward.

Inside the white-walled room, Luna leaned against the headboard, looking just as pale as the walls. As soon as she saw Joshua arriving, she lifted her head and fixated her impassive gaze on him.

"Bring me back to Banyan City."

Joshua glanced at the tubes and IV drips that were connected to her body and frowned. "You can't go back now."

She at least had to wait until her condition had stabilized. After all, even though Sea City was not far from Banyan City, there was still a distance between them. Moreover, Luna had just come out of surgery, so he was afraid that she would not be able to endure the grueling journey back to Banyan City.

To his surprise, Luna shook her head. "I want to go back."

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With that, Luna lifted her head to stare at Joshua and smiled. "Didn't Dr. Robert say that if he doesn't find Janice before tomorrow morning, he'll

sue Nigel and Nellie for kidnapping his wife? Nigel and Nellie are only six."

Joshua interjected curtly, "Even if Dr. Robert calls the cops, he won't actually sue them in court. You don't have to worry about that."

However, Luna shook her head. "People all over the internet are already talking about Nigel and Nellie now. Everyone thinks that they're far more

mature for their age and already devoted criminals at their age..."

Joshua immediately furrowed his brows. "Who's talking about this?"

"Everyone is." Luna let out a chuckle. "Ms. Fiona has been taking interviews non-stop and said that even though Nellie and Nigel are only six...they're actually far more mature than even adults."

She curled her lips into a smirk. "Didn't you know about this, Mr. Lynch?"

Joshua's expression darkened. He immediately took out his phone and pulled up the latest news in Banyan City.

He could not find anything about what Luna had said at all.

All of a sudden, Joshua had a bad feeling and snatched Lucas' phone right out of his hands. Still, he could not find anything different in Lucas' phone either, not even any news on the kidnapping.

Finally, he caught sight of Luke coming in through the door and immediately took his phone as well.

His hunch was right.

Someone had blocked the news from his phone as well as those around him.

Using Luke's phone, he finally managed to see the interview that Luna had been talking about. The video clip of Fiona's interview had been circling the internet like wildfire.

Joshua's expression grew darker and darker as he watched the video.

The only person who could implant a virus into his and Lucas' phone to block the news...was Fiona.

The things she said during the interview appeared to be in defense of the children, but on further scrutiny, she was hinting that the children were competent and planned the kidnapping on their own accord.

On top of that, she had blocked the news from

both his and Lucas" phones so that Nigel and Nellie would be subjected to the netizens" attacks without his knowing!

All of a sudden, Joshua understood why Luna was so worried and anxious.

Fortunately, he had sent Granny Lynch and the children back to their family villa in the countryside to lay low for a while. Otherwise, according to the amount of time Nigel and Nellie spent on the internet, it would not be long before they found out about the netizens" comments and felt devastated by this.

As soon as he thought of this, Joshua said in a low voice, "I"ll go back to Banyan City right now and take care of this. You should stay here and focus on getting better."

However, Luna shook her head in determination. "I want to go back and take care of this myself."

Joshua, who was about to leave, paused when he heard this. He turned and stared at Luna with a frown. "Nigel and Nellie are my children too. I"ll take care of everything and make sure they don"t have to suffer."

He glanced at the medical equipment and gadgets that Luna was hooked up to and said, "You should stay here and get better quickly. "

"I want to go back. " Luna fixated her gaze on him, her stare resolute and unyielding. "The only way I"ll be able to stop worrying and get some rest is if I go back and take care of everything myself."

Nigel and Nellie were only six. They still had a long way to go, so Luna could not let them take the blame for this and become young criminals in the public"s eye.

As soon as she thought of this, Luna ripped the IV drip out from the back of her hand and got out of her bed.

Raw, bright red blood trickled out from between her fingers.

Joshua's pupils constricted as he took in this sight. He immediately lunged forward to grab hold of Luna. "

Are you crazy? I've already said I will take care of this! Why do you insist on going back to take care of it yourself? Don't you know how weak you are now? "

He picked her up, put her back onto the bed, and then pressed the call button to summon a nurse. "Don't you trust me?"

Luna lifted her head and fixated her gaze on him. "No, I don't."

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Joshua's expression darkened almost immediately. He stared at Luna with a complicated expression and asked, "Do you think...I don't deserve your trust? "

"Yes." Luna met his gaze fearlessly; coldness and determination were etched into her clear eyes. "I won't trust anyone who refuses to listen to me and instead chooses to send me into a mental asylum."

Joshua felt as though his blood had run cold.

Finally, after a long moment, he let out a bitter smile and replied, "Alright. I'll do as you wish."

He tucked the sheets around her before saying, "I'll get a doctor right now and see if they'll discharge you... Then, we'll go back to Banyan City."

With that, he turned and left.

Luna laid down on her bed, watching him leave, and bit down on her lip. She knew that she should be hating and detesting him, but when she saw the disappointed look in his eyes when she said she did not trust him, as well as the loneliness in his footsteps as he walked away...

She could not help feeling a little uncertain of her

emotions.

Maybe Joshua was not as bad a person as she thought. Could he have had an explanation for doing all this?

After a moment, Luna closed her eyes and felt like laughing at herself.

Why was she still defending him and trying to put herself in his shoes?

Joshua loved Fiona to the extent that he was willing to protect and support her in everything.

Was all of that fake?

He did not owe Fiona anything at all. Besides, he was the CEO of Lynch Group and owned half of the properties in Banyan City. The name „Joshua

Lynch“ was also on the list of the wealthiest people in the world.

He did not need a reason for wanting Fiona“s money or power.

The only reason Luna could think of to explain Joshua“s devotion toward Fiona was that he genuinely loved her.

If he really loved her, why did Luna have to find an excuse to defend his actions?

Half an hour later, Joshua and a few of the nurses from the hospital wheeled Luna out of the ward.

They had prepared a specialized car for her, a van that resembled an ambulance, equipped with all the medical supplies and gadgets she needed.

However, the bed and medical equipment had occupied most of the car, and there were only two cramped passenger seats.

After settling Luna in, Joshua and Lucas both sat down in the tiny passenger seats.

Gwen initially wanted to come along as well because she was worried about Luna making this long journey back to Banyan City.

However, there were no other seats left in the van, so despite her reluctance to leave Luna, she was

still dragged away by Luke.

The driver started the engine.

The seat was so cramped that Joshua did not even have the space to turn around. He glanced at the time, then at Luna, and said, "It's now eight at night. You can take a nap if you want. If everything goes according to plan, we'll reach Orchard Manor at eleven tonight. You'll stay at Orchard Manor for tonight, and tomorrow, we'll go to the mental asylum to pick Janice up, convince her to explain everything about the kidnapping, then meet Dr. Robert at 8 a.m. We have plenty of time." Luna nodded, then closed her eyes.

She did not feel tired at all. However, she was so weak that she felt as though she would faint at any moment if she did not get any rest.

The van traveled smoothly along the road.

Even through her sleep, Luna could still vaguely hear Lucas and Joshua's conversation.

"Sir, it's too cramped in here. Why don't you ride in the car that we came in today? I'll be here to look after her..."

Joshua's low, melodic voice sounded in reply, "I want to keep an eye on her." "Sir... It's really too cramped in here. I've been working for you for so many years now, but this is the first time I've ever seen you in such a tight space..."

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"I can look after Luna. I think you should ride in the other car..."

This time, however, Joshua did not reply. Lucas's offer was met with deathly silence.

Despite her eyes being closed, Luna could still feel Joshua's gaze on her. She could help but feel a little flustered at being stared at like this.

With her eyes still closed, she tried to convince herself not to believe what Joshua had said.

How could Joshua be worried about her? If he was

genuinely concerned, he would not have sent her into the mental asylum in the first place...

Luna's head grew heavier and heavier as she thought of this until she finally fell into a deep slumber.

While she was asleep, she could still vaguely feel someone picking up her injured left hand.

Joshua stared at Luna's broken little finger with a penetrating yet somehow complicated stare.

To some people, a broken little finger would not affect their daily lives much, but Luna was a designer.

Joshua had witnessed countless times how Luna had used her little finger to hold her paper down while she sketched, and she would sometimes use her little finger to paint.

However...she could no longer use it anymore.

She lost a finger because of him.

She lost a finger simply because he did not believe in her.

Joshua closed his eyes, still clutching Luna's hand. That 11 p.m., the van pulled up in front of Orchard Manor.

Luna, too, jerked awake from her sleep, feeling a little more refreshed than before. Therefore, she insisted on walking into Orchard Manor by herself

so that the children would not have to see how awful she looked.

To her surprise, however, when she finally staggered into the house with the help of one of the servants, Nigel and Nellie were nowhere to be found.

The entire house was empty. Even Granny Lynch was gone.

Nellie's easel was not on the sofa, and Nigel's keyboard and mouse were missing from their usual spot on the coffee table.

A bad feeling arose in Luna's heart.

She immediately flung the servant's hand away and strode upstairs.

Nigel and Nellie's room was empty. Not only was there no trace of the children, but even their beds and closets were tidied up as though someone had cleaned up after them.

Luna was struck with a sudden realization.

Was she too late? Had Nigel and Nellie already been sent to this „youth education center“ that Joshua had talked about?

By the time Joshua finally stormed upstairs, Luna was gazing at the empty room with a vacant stare. She turned to look at Joshua, and a drop of tear trickled down from the corner of her eye, glimmering underneath the light.

She stared at Joshua and did not know whether to cry or laugh. “I came home too late, didn't I?”

He had already sent the children off without even consulting her.

He simply wanted to trick her into returning to Banyan City.

Just because she had returned did not mean Joshua would change his mind about sending the children off to the education center.

Joshua could not help but feel his heart ache when he met Luna's furious and resentful gaze. He knew that she was probably thinking the same as the children, that he was nothing but a bad person, but in reality...

Everything he did was to protect them.

Joshua lowered his voice and said, his voice cracking, “I didn't send them off to the place

you're thinking about. Can you believe me just this once, Luna? Just once.”

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Luna curled her lips into a smirk as she stared at Joshua. “Alright.”

She no longer had the energy to argue with him, so she decided to relent and instead smiled at him. "I believe you, but just this once. As soon as everything is settled, you'll bring Nellie and Nigel back and allow me to take them away from Banyan City, right?"

Joshua's heart leaped into his chest. After a moment, however, he curled his lips into a smile and replied, "I will."

He had never wanted to convince Luna to stay. After all, he was the one who had caused the death of both Neil and the unborn baby in Luna's womb. He had no right to ask her and the children to stay by his side.

Therefore, even though he knew Luna did not truly trust him and was instead just saying it for his sake, Joshua was still willing to tell her the truth.

Luna, on the other hand, was surprised by his answer. She thought that he would find an excuse to change the topic, but this was good, too.

Luna's expression darkened as she said, "Alright, Mr. Lynch. Please remember everything you told me today."

With that, she strode into Nigel and Nellie's room, slamming the door behind her. "I'll be sleeping in the children's room tonight. Please help yourself, Mr. Lynch."

Seeing that she had already slammed the door in his face, Joshua had no choice but to shake his head and turn around to leave.

The night passed by peacefully.

The next morning, Joshua and Luna arrived at the mental asylum.

Seeing that Joshua had brought Luna along with him, Mr. Chase thought Joshua still wanted Luna to be locked up. Therefore, as soon as the two stepped through the door, Mr. Chase's expression darkened, and he immediately ordered, "Lock her up right this instant! "

The guards immediately rushed forward, but Joshua stopped them. He narrowed his eyes and pulled Luna closer to him. "Who dares to touch her?"

Mr. Chase was a little surprised by this sudden turn of events. "Mr. Lynch?"

"We're here today to bail the woman inside Luna's ward out." Joshua gave Mr. Chase a once-over and added, "By the way, about Luna's finger... I want to talk to you about this, Mr. Chase."

The color drained from Mr. Chase's face upon hearing this. He first glanced at Joshua in shock, then at Luna with a pleading expression. "Didn't you..break your finger yourself?"

Luna furrowed her brows but did not reply.

Joshua let out a snicker when he heard this. "Since you think that a person is somehow capable of breaking their own finger, Mr. Chase, why don't you show me how to do it? On top of that, I want you to show me how to not only break your finger but crush all the bones within."

While Joshua was busy chewing Mr. Chase out, Luna managed to retrace her steps and found the ward where Janice was locked.

Inside the ward, Janice was sitting in silence, looking graceful and tranquil.

As soon as she saw Luna arrive, Janice curled her lips into a faint smile and asked, "Have you been recaptured again, or are you here to bail me out?"

Luna sniffed, then sat down in front of her. "I'm here to bail you out." She lowered her gaze and continued, "I was in too much of a hurry that night and didn't know that the person who would be taking my place was you... If I had known— "

"If you had known, I would've ordered them to knock you out, then continue to take your place anyway," Janice interjected with a serene smile, looking calm and at ease with her decision. "Luna,

I volunteered to take your place in the mental asylum. I owe you this much."

Luna pursed her lips, then gently gripped Janice's hands. "Please don't say that, Aunty Janice. You don't owe anyone anything."

Luna knew that this had all been part of Dr. Robert and Fiona's plan and that Janice had nothing to do with this.

"You're wrong." Janice let out a sigh and closed her eyes. "If I had been able to expose Robert for what he really is when Violet and Shaun got into their accidents, your entire family won't have to suffer like this. He's a cruel, heartless man, and he doesn't deserve to be a doctor."

As soon as she heard this, Luna's entire body stiffened. She bit down on her lip. "So, Aunty Janice."

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"I know about everything that happened to Violet and Shaun..."

Janice closed her eyes and slowly stood up. "Even though Violet's fall was an accident, her death wasn't.

"Robert is a highly skilled doctor. When Violet was sent to the hospital, her condition was still treatable, but...

"When Violet died, I thought that Robert had just made a mistake. On top of that, he was a teacher of mine that I admired, so I didn't expose him at all. However, when my ex-husband Shaun got into an accident, Robert was the doctor in charge of his operation, but he still didn't manage to save Shaun.

"At that time, I had an inkling of what Robert was doing. He had betrayed his moral values and let Violet and Shaun die just so he could be together with me again. However, I didn't want to face this

truth until...

“Until one day, I discovered that he and Fiona had devised this together, and they even destroyed the evidence of his manslaughter... That was when I finally saw Robert for the person he is, but at that time, I had already married him, so I pretended not to know and decided that I’d bear the brunt of his crimes. At least he hadn’t hurt anyone apart from me. Still, I didn’t expect that he and Fiona would grow more and more outrageous and even deliberately admit a perfectly normal person into a mental asylum.

“While I was locked in here the past few days, all I was thinking of is if I had exposed Robert’s crimes earlier...none of this would have happened.”

Luna bit down on her lip after hearing Janice’s story but did not know what to say.

After a moment, Janice let out an exhale, turned around, and handed Luna a tiny, black device. “I found this on the floor. It looks like a recording device of some sort. Is it yours?”

Luna stared at it for a long time before finally recalling what it was.

This was the device that Neil had tossed to her through the window that day. At that time, she had thought it was a communication device and even tried speaking into it for a long time...

Was it a recording device instead?

Luna had no choice but to take it from Janice. She did not think Neil had tossed her a recording device on purpose. It was more likely that he had mistaken this for a communication device and given it to her by mistake.

Luna could not believe that Neil was just as careless as he used to be, even though his memory was wiped.

After handing it over to Luna, Janice exhaled and lifted her head to glance at Luna. “I know Robert

has been searching up and down for me these past few days. Please ask him to find me here. I „ll convince him to admit his crimes and tell the truth about you and Fiona“s illnesses.“

Luna pursed her lips upon hearing this. She thought that this was a good idea as well, but... She lifted her head to gaze at Janice. “Can you really make him tell the truth about everything?“ Janice nodded her head in earnest. “The thing he cares about the most in this world is me. At that time, my parents had separated us because they thought he was too old for me. After that, I married Shaun, but Robert never took another lover and had been waiting for me all this while... “Since I“m the reason he committed all those crimes, then I should be the one to end them.“ Luna pursed her lips and glanced at Janice with a meaningful expression, then finally nodded slowly. “ Alright.“

After bidding Janice farewell, Luna came out from the ward. She pressed the button on the side of

the device and placed the earbuds into her ears, heading back toward where Joshua was.

The recording of her from the night she talked into the device started playing.

“Mr. Lynch, there has been a misunderstanding! I never ordered anyone to crush Luna“s finger; she broke it herself! “ Outside the door, Mr. Chase was kneeling on the ground, staring at Joshua pleadingly. “Don“t get tricked by Luna. She“s a mentally insane patient, so how can you believe anything she says? Everyone who works here can be my witness! “

Joshua narrowed his eyes upon hearing this. “ Everyone who works here is your employee, so how can I ask them to be your witness?“

A hint of triumph flashed across Mr. Chase“s eyes as he kneeled on the ground. However, in the next second, when he lifted his head to look at Joshua

again, it was replaced with an expression of affront. "Well, you don't have any proof saying that we were the ones who broke Luna's finger, either! You can't punish me without evidence! That's unfair!"

Luna furrowed her brows when she saw this, but just as she was about to say something, however,

a strange noise rang out from the recording device in her ear.

She narrowed her eyes and strode over to where Joshua and Mr. Chase were. "Who says there isn't evidence?"

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As soon as they heard this, both Joshua and Mr. Chase lifted their heads and shifted their gaze to Luna.

Mr. Chase clenched his teeth and glowered at her.

"What kind of evidence do you have? Did you forget that you're a mentally insane patient right now?"

None of the things you say can be taken as evidence!

"If anything you say can be taken as proof, then everything that my staff here at the hospital say can be taken as evidence as well, but what makes you think anyone will help you? Who would stand on your side and say that you didn't break your finger?"

Mr. Chase was highly confident about his power and influence in this hospital, so he did not think Luna would be able to prove him guilty at all.

Luna curled her lips into a slight smile, then strode over to Joshua's side and glanced around the room. Then, finally, she caught sight of the speaker that the hospital staff usually used for alerting the patients of lunch and dinner.

She took out the recording device from her ear and

connected it to the speaker on the table.
The recording of everything that happened on the day Luna's finger was crushed rang through the room.

Everyone could hear the nurse's scolding, Luna's wails of agony, as well as the cold snicker coming from the man who had crushed her finger. "Boss said, one at a time. The number of fingers she can preserve depends on how long Mr. Lynch wants her to stay here."

Joshua's entire body stiffened when he heard the cold, heartless conversation between the nurses. It turned out that...Luna had been telling the truth all along.

Her finger had been smashed by a hammer. Despite having gone through such tremendous pain, Luna did not say a word, and Joshua had no idea any of this had been happening at all. He even believed other people's lies and thought she had lost her mind and broken her finger herself!

As soon as he heard Luna's cries of agony through the speaker, Joshua could not stand it anymore and immediately stood up. He kicked Mr. Chase, who was still kneeling on the ground, forcefully and shot him a murderous glare. "Where is the man in the recording? Tell me where he is right now!"

The color drained from Mr. Chase's face as he stared at Joshua. "I..."

"Tell me immediately!" Joshua was so irate at this point that he could not maintain his usually calm, composed demeanor anymore. He forcefully lifted Mr. Chase off the ground by his collar and snarled, "If you tell me who it was right now, I might consider letting you off the hook!"

Mr. Chase was so terrified that he started shaking like a leaf and finally stammered a name.

Joshua's expression darkened as soon as he heard the name.

He was familiar with this person.

It was the name of the bodyguard that he had assigned to protect Fiona a few days ago, having sent her off to the hotel after what happened between her and Granny Lynch.

Joshua closed his eyes and clenched his fists in anger. After a moment, he turned and strode out of the room.

"Where are you going, Mr. Lynch?" Mr. Chase, who was still kneeling on the ground, asked when he saw Joshua leaving.

"I'm going to find Fiona," Joshua spat. He paused in his steps and added, "I'll be closing down your hospital immediately. Lucas! "

Lucas, who had been standing guard by the door all this while, immediately piped up, "Yes, Sir! "

"Smash all five of Mr. Chase's fingers with a hammer. Since he'd done this to Luna, I want him to experience the pain she has gone through."

With that, Joshua left, leaving a wide-eyed Mr. Chase staring at him. "Mr. Lynch—"

Seeing that Joshua was not turning back, Mr. Chase immediately turned around and shifted his gaze to Luna, who still remained motionless. "Ms. Luna..." Luna furrowed her brows and circled him, glancing at him with a disgusted look on her face as she passed. "I'm a mentally insane patient, so Joshua won't listen to anything I say anyway."

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With that, Luna turned and left.

Joshua walked out of the mental asylum with Luna following behind.

While on their way to Fiona's hotel, Luna called Dr. Robert to tell him that Janice was in the mental asylum.

"It must've been you! " Dr. Robert was very

agitated as soon as he heard this. "It must've been your fault! If it weren't for you, why would Janice want to take your place in the mental asylum and refuse to come out? I diagnosed you as mentally insane, and you forced my wife to take your place

as a patient instead! You're a cold, heartless b*tch!"

Luna could not help but feel amused by how distressed Dr. Robert sounded. "Me? Heartless? If you think I'm heartless, then what do you call someone who intentionally murdered Ms. Janice's ex-husband and daughter just to get back together with her?"

Dr. Robert was so astounded by this that he did not know what to reply. Finally, after a long while, he snarled through gritted teeth, "Just you wait! As soon as I get Janice out of there, I'll make you pay for this!"

Luna could not be bothered by his threats and instead hung up the phone.

However, as soon as she hung up the phone, she rubbed her temples in frustration.

She was a little worried about this. Seeing how distressed Dr. Robert was, she doubted if Janice would be able to convince him to come clean with the truth.

The car soon arrived at the hotel Fiona was staying in.

Fiona strode out of the hotel entrance as soon as the car pulled up, with the same bodyguard who had smashed Luna's finger with a hammer following closely behind.

As soon as she caught sight of the bodyguard, Luna's entire body stiffened. She bit down on her lip and clenched her right hand into a fist.

Seeing how nervous and uneasy she was, Joshua furrowed his brows. Just as he was about to say something to comfort her, however, Fiona had

already arrived in front of their car.

“Hello, Joshua! “ Fiona smiled and waved from outside the window.

Luna immediately frowned and pressed her body flat against the backseat of the car so that Fiona and the bodyguard would not be able to see her. Joshua watched all this unfold and furrowed his brows slightly, then rolled down the car window impassively.

“Joshua, I heard you went to Sea City to capture Luna.” Fiona gently laid her head against the window, smiling from ear to ear. “How did it go? Did you manage to find her?”

Joshua narrowed his eyes and curled his lips into a smirk. “No.”

“You didn’t find her?” A glimmer of delight flashed across Fiona’s eyes. However, a split second later, she regained her composure and put on an expression of regret. “That’s too bad. I thought that you’d be able to find Luna and make things right for Nigel and Nellie...

“After all, they had kidnapped Janice only a day after they saw Luna. If you managed to track her down, you might be able to tell the media that Luna was the one behind all this instead of the children. Otherwise...the children would have to go to jail on charges of kidnapping, and this will definitely affect their future.”

Joshua continued to watch her coldly. As soon as she finished her sentence, he curled his lips into a sneer and glanced at Fiona impassively. “Didn’t you already say that to the media?”

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