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On the other hand, Old Madam Lowry led Janet to the sofa while asking her cheerfully, "Janet, you sure worked hard. It must have been tiring to go on a business trip with Mason. How's your body feeling?"

With how enthusiastic Old Madam Lowry sounded, Mason couldn't help but think to himself, Uh... Hello? I'm supposed to be your grandson here.

"It's alright. It wasn't that hard to handle." There was a gentle look on Janet's face, which was a rare sight to behold.

As soon as Janet said that, Old Madam Lowry noticed something. "Janet, why are you wearing a high-collared shirt on such a hot summer's day? Did you catch a cold?"

"I'm feeling alright, Madam." Janet averted her gaze to avoid eye contact with her.

Casting a glance at Mason, Old Madam Lowry was about to question if he had bullied Janet when the hickey on his neck caught her attention, and she instantly blushed upon noticing it. Youngsters these days are so bold! But isn't Janet pregnant? If my memory serves me right, they shouldn't be having sex during the initial months of pregnancy. Therefore, she turned to double confirm with Janet. "Are you really feeling fine?"

With a light nod, Janet answered, "I'm alright. Is something the matter?" Even when she was in Markovia, she had been curious about why Black Python, Sean, and Old Madam Lowry were always glancing at her belly.

Meanwhile, Old Madam Lowry covered her mouth with a look of disbelief before whispering into Janet's ear, "You're a doctor; don't you know you shouldn't be having sex during the initial months of your pregnancy?"

As soon as she said so, Janet was momentarily startled, visibly lost and confused when she replied, "What?"

At that, Old Madam Lowry pointed at her flat stomach and giggled. "You're pregnant, so you should be more careful."

Pregnant? Did she just say I am pregnant? Why don't I even know about that? Besides, Mason and I never got to have sex! In a faint voice, she muttered in confusion, "But I'm not pregnant..."

Upon hearing what she said, everyone was dumbfounded. Black Python, White Python and Sean exchanged a glance, and the living room was quickly filled with an awkward atmosphere.

What did she just say? Was the nausea that happened when she was eating that day not morning sickness? Sean's scalp tingled as trepidation hit him.

On the other hand, feelings of disappointment gradually grew within Old Madam Lowry, as she was so eager to have a grandchild. Knowing that he had given the old lady false hope, Sean dragged Black Python and White Python out of the living room. After exchanging glances between themselves, they left the living room, for they were fully aware of the position they were in. Meanwhile, despite Mason's attempts to focus on reading the newspaper, his hands were trembling.

In the meantime, the smile on Old Madam Lowry's face had frozen. What? Is Janet not pregnant? With a look of suspicion on her face, she searched for Sean, but he had already left the place alongside Black Python and White Python. Stunned, Old Madam Lowry couldn't regain her senses until a long while later. "Is it true that you're not pregnant? Why is it that someone saw you feeling nauseous when you were eating a few days ago?"

"Nausea?" Janet blinked before recalling the reaction she had after drinking some soy milk. With a calm look on her face, she explained in a soft voice, "It was because of the soy milk I drank."

The revelation stunned Old Madam Lowry so much that she was frozen, drained of her energy in an instant. For two whole days, she was both elated and worried, only to wound up being informed by Janet that she wasn't in fact pregnant; nobody would be able to accept such a harsh reality.

Meanwhile, Mason chuckled after grasping the situation. He never expected the soy milk to cause such a huge misunderstanding. How can I possibly have a child when I am still on first base?

"How dare you laugh?" Old Madam Lowry stared at him with discontent. "I haven't scolded you for bringing Janet with you on a mission in Markovia yet!"

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Mason pouted without saying anything. On the other hand, Janet cried out awkwardly while grabbing Old Madam Lowry's hand, "I was the one who insisted on going, so don't blame him for that."

Upon hearing that, Old Madam Lowry spat begrudgingly, "Janet, don't you pamper him too much. I'll stand up for you if he ever bullies you!"

Narrowing his eyes, Mason merely shook his head in resignation before smiling. The more being said, the more derailed the situation gets.

"Madam, why don't you go get some rest? It's getting late." Janet tried her best to persuade Old Madam Lowry to go get some rest in a calm and gentle voice.

Liking how nice Janet's voice sounded, Old Madam Lowry nodded her head in satisfaction. "Sure. You should also get some rest!" With that, Old Madam Lowry's personal caretaker helped her up. When she got back to her room, she heaved a sigh as she sat on her bed. Mason is so disappointing. I got pregnant within a few months after getting together with his grandfather. Janet and him have been together for quite a while now, so why are things progressing so slowly between them?

"Ma'am, are you still worried about not getting your great-grandchild?" her caretaker asked with a smile.

"Yeah." Old Madam Lowry sighed. "The great grandchild that I assumed I might be getting turned out to be just a fantasy."

"But youngsters nowadays prefer getting children after their marriage."

As soon as the caretaker said that, Old Madam Lowry exclaimed while slapping her thigh, "Good lord! Why have I never thought of this? I'll talk to them about this tomorrow!"

Seeing that Janet and Mason had been dating for a few months, she figured she should push for them to get engaged when Janet was in university. She was certain that Janet must have a lot of suitors given her physique, personality and appearance. Besides, she heard that there were a lot of outstanding students in Woodsbury University, so Mason couldn't possibly stand a chance against them. Therefore, she was determined to hold on to Janet for him.

On the other hand, Janet gave Desire a text as soon as she got back to her room. 'Tell Aquila that the bullet I put through Baldy's leg is but a warning. Make sure he doesn't go rampant while in Markovia.'

Desire texted back almost immediately. 'Miss Jackson, I forgot to report back that Aquila had sent his men to apologize to us. He promised to not make the same mistake again.'

After a moment's pause, Janet continued typing. 'By the way, the casino that he had been running had been giving people a lot of trouble, so you should keep an eye on it. Report it to the authorities immediately if you notice anything abnormal.'

'Sure.' Desire texted.

After reading that final text, Janet turned her phone off while thinking about the gun. Just when she wasn't paying attention, Mason snuck in after opening the door. Then, he sneaked his hand around her waist, which startled her. After inhaling sharply, she chided coldly, "Stop that. Old Madam Lowry is in the other room."

Mason arched his brow while continuing to touch her soft body. A moment later, he said suggestively, "So you should keep your voice low."

His response rendered her speechless. How dare he tell me to keep quiet when he's the one trying to get a feel of me? This is unreasonable!

"I suppose my grandmother does hope to be able to see her great-grandchild soon." Mason breathed on the back of her ears that were flushed.

Instantly, it caused her face to turn all red, but she maintained an indifferent tone. "Yeah."

"What do you mean by that?" he whispered into her ear, all the while purposely touching his lips against it. Sounding defeated, he said in a lowered voice, "You're a doctor, but don't you know a pregnancy requires both the man and the woman to do their part?"

"You rascal!" Janet pinched him on the waist, but she was surprised at the firmness. His muscles are toned! They feel so good to the touch!

Grabbing onto her small hand, he pressed his lips against her hair while asking, "Are you getting addicted to pinching me?"

In response, Janet clicked her tongue before posing a question in disdain. "Is a man like you somehow afraid of the pain?"

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With raised eyebrows, Mason said, "Don't you know that those soft, little hands of yours tickle me every time you touch me?"

How could those hands hurt me? he thought. It's only ticklish!

Janet's heartbeat quickened. "Alright, that's enough! Go to bed quickly now. Old Madam is just right opposite our room. We shouldn't disturb her!" she said, trying to chase him away even though that wasn't what her heart wanted.

"No, I want to sleep with you tonight!" Lowering himself, he then picked her up and went toward the bed.

With a soft groan, Janet was dropped on the bed, and when she lifted her gaze, she found herself staring into his deep, dark eyes. As though his eyes had gravity, she felt herself being drawn into those eyes. Silently, they stared at each other with only the sound of their lips touching.

The next morning at the dining table, Old Madam Lowry looked at Mason and then at Janet with a smile, asking, "Isn't your birthday coming soon, Mason?"

Popping the last piece of beef into his mouth, he then wiped his mouth gracefully with a napkin. Smirking, he cast Janet a suggestive look and asked, "So tell me, Janet. Do you know when is my birthday?"

His question caught her by surprise, and she thought about it for a while before answering tentatively, "Is it 29th of November?"

His smirk widened as he nodded in satisfaction. "Yes!"

"Mason..." Old Madam Lowry began. "Should we throw a birthday banquet and introduce Janet to everyone during the occasion?" If the world knew that Janet was a member of the Lowrys, no one would bully her or look down on her again.

With a raised brow, Mason said in a light tone, "Well, that depends on her."

In just a second, he redirected the question to Janet, and she found it difficult to turn Old Madam Lowry down when she saw that her eyes were filled with anticipation.

"It doesn't have to be so intentional. We'll just go with the flow!" she said casually, a hand holding her chin.

"Alright." Old Madam Lowry clapped and the smile on her face widened. Looks like I'll have to make a trip back to Markovia and invite the other nobles so they could see just how pretty the wife of my grandson is! Old Madam Lowry thought. Her spirits were high up in the air when she imagined the looks on everyone's faces when they saw Janet.

Still with a smile on her face, she said, "Janet, Mason, I'm going to Markovia to prepare for the banquet. Maybe it will take me a while to come back again!"

Since she had no luck with the idea of a great-grandson, she had to give them more time to spend with each other. The next time she returned, it would already be close to Mason's birthday. By then, she wanted to bring all the rare treasures of Markovia as gifts to Janet and also make a trip to her place to discuss the engagement. Is her family friendly though? she wondered.

"Don't put your body through such trouble. I'll send someone to prepare it," Mason said with a frown. It was worrying that she would travel around when she just had her craniotomy recently.

"I'm really fit," she argued. "And it's all thanks to the snow lotus from Janet!" Since she took the snow lotus from Janet, she did become physically fit in comparison to the past.

"Oh, is that true?" Janet asked with a smile. "I'll get you some more then."

"Really?"

"Yeah." She blinked, her eyes filled with tenderness.

When the Lowrys announced to the world that Mason, the heir to the Lowry Family Conglomerate, would be holding a huge banquet for his 26th birthday at the Lowry Residence, almost all the company presidents in Sandfort City had sent their blessings within the day and said that they would definitely attend the banquet.

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Hence, everyone started the preparations for this banquet because it was a good opportunity for a collaboration between businessmen.

Those who couldn't even get in contact with the Lowrys during normal times couldn't wait for the arrival of this banquet. Furthermore, it was even rumored that Old Madam Lowry, who had been bed-ridden for a long time, would also be attending.

She was a person of status whose words carried weight in Sandfort City. Anyone who got into her good books would no longer have to worry about not getting to collaborate with the Lowry Family Conglomerates.

In addition to that, the socialites from all over started their preparations as well just to stand out among the others during the birthday banquet of the heir to the Lowry Family Conglomerate!

Rumors had it that not even a female creature had appeared around this heir who would turn twenty-six soon. In fact, there wasn't even a single piece of gossip about him with any woman—a suspiciously clean background.

Thus, the socialites carried with them a glimmer of hope that Mason would take a liking to them and make them Mrs. Lowry.

Of course, such a good piece of news and opportunity reached the ears of Rebecca in Markovia as well, and she read the headlines on her cell phone over and over again just to be sure.

"Mom, looks like I'll have the chance to meet Mason Lowry now!" she cried cheerfully. She hadn't been so excited for a while now. A long time had passed since Mason rejected her call, but the more she couldn't get the man, the more she wanted to conguer him.

"Exactly! Your father has some collaboration with the Lowrys, and they'll definitely invite him when the time comes!" Esme exclaimed happily, thrilled at this rare opportunity to meet the Lowrys in person.

Next to her, Rebecca pursed her lips into a worried look and swung her legs idly. "But what should I do so that he would notice me?"

After all, there would definitely be many women who would want to suck up to Mason at that time, and she would need to have an extra special thing about her in order to stand out amongst them.

Even though her figure was already perfect as it was, and it would be difficult to find another woman with such physique to match hers at the banquet, she was still unsatisfied with herself. It would be much better if she could show off her talent. However, where would this opportunity lie?

Upon hearing that, an idea struck Esme suddenly and she lifted her head slowly. "I have an idea, Rebecca."

Rebecca's tightly knitted brows relaxed when she heard that and she asked, "What's your idea, Mom?"

Giving her a gentle look, Esme said, "If you play the piano on stage on Mason's birthday, he'll notice you for sure."

The atmosphere would be very lively on the day of the banquet, and an unexpected chemical reaction between them might be sparked if Rebecca were to play the piano that day.

Smacking her lips, a delighted look flashed across Rebecca's face as she found it to be a good idea as well. A man like Mason must have seen all sorts of beautiful women, but it would be rare to find one who was talented and could play the piano like herself.

Nodding her head demurely, she said, "I think that's an amazing idea, Mom."

Moreover, the elderly preferred girls who were talented, and she might even win over Old Madam Lowry's heart by playing a piece on the piano. Once I've won over Old Madam Lowry's heart, I don't have to worry about winning over Mason's anymore, she thought.

While they were chatting, Magnus came downstairs after washing up and asked casually, "What are you chatting about?"

At the sight of him, Esme immediately went up to him and smiled while tilting her head. "Did you see the news? Mason Lowry will be holding a grand birthday banquet on the 29th of November."

It was still early in the morning, and Magnus hadn't even read the news yet. Still, when he heard this information, his eyes crinkled as he grinned. "Is this announced by the Lowrys?"

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"That's right! Many companies and groups have already started preparing their gifts, so you should also do the same!"

Everyone wanted to have a strong backing like the Lowry Family Conglomerate. Hence, Davis Corporation shouldn't lose to the others.

"Okay, I'll prepare it!"

"But... will they invite our family?" Esme asked, still worried that the Lowrys had no intention of inviting them at all. After all, the Lowrys were the most influential family in Asia, and they were even nobles who had some influence with countries and governments. No other noble family could match up with any one of the positions some of the Lowrys held.

Chuckling, Magnus waved his hand with a confident expression on his face. "Don't worry! They will show me some respect." Magnus was sure that their family would be invited because the Lowrys still had business to expand in Markovia, and they would need him for things to work out!

Overjoyed at her father's assurance, Rebecca said, "Dad, could you arrange for me to perform onstage on Mason's birthday? I would like to..." Lowering her head, she drifted off and was too shy to finish her sentence.

However, Magnus was able to understand her intentions without her finishing her words, and he nodded. "I understand what you want to do. I'll try my best!" If Rebecca could attract Mason's attention with her performance onstage and become Mrs. Lowry, then he would be helping himself as well.

"Great!" She pressed her lips together and smiled, thinking that the likelihood of this happening was almost certain by now. Previously, she was jealous when Emily went to Yobril, and she was also envious when Janet was the top scorer in the entrance exam of Woodsbury University. But when she thought about it now, it all seemed like nothing. Not even their titles can compare with the status of Mrs. Lowry! Once I become Mrs. Lowry, Janet and Emily would probably be full of jealousy, she thought. But are they even fit for that? They might not even be qualified to be jealous!

At the thought of Janet, Rebecca couldn't help but feel something was amiss about her. Just how did she manage to know someone from the three biggest families of Sandfort?

If it was Henry from the Moss Family, then he would never fall for Janet's looks, but at the same time, Lee from the Sanders Family didn't have any rumored girlfriend either. Besides these two families, the only other family left was the Lowrys, and that would be even more impossible.

But why was there a rumor saying that Janet got into a limited edition car which is only owned by the three biggest families? Rebecca pondered on this, unhappy that she wasn't able to get to the bottom of it.

Looking at Esme, she murmured, "Mom, do you think that Janet will be attending the birthday banquet of the Lowrys?"

Esme snorted at her question. "You mean Janet Jackson? The country bumpkin everyone detests?" Rebecca nodded, then Esme went on to say, "You can forget it. Megan doesn't like her this whole time, does she? So what if the Jacksons are invited? Megan would definitely not let her go!" Grinning, she thought that her opinions were making sense.

"But..." Rebecca frowned. "It was reported that she knew one of the three biggest families of Sandfort! I'm just wondering if that family could be the Lowrys?"

Esme found it even more hilarious now as she patted her daughter's cheeks and said, "You would even believe that, my silly child? I think it'd be more likely for a country bumpkin like her to know someone from the top three families in a village rather than the three biggest families of Sandfort. That news report had to be purely rubbish!"

"You're right!" Rebecca exclaimed, thinking that Esme had a point. Looks like I'm just overthinking things, she thought.