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"In Theisia, you probably don't get to see domestic newspapers, right? It's a big deal for you. You've gained a brother-in-law. Do you know who it is?" His eyes lit up as he adored her pale face. The more frightened she seemed, the more he wanted to tease her.

"Who?" Alita's voice involuntarily trembled.

"Kim Andrews." Jaydon's smile reached its peak brilliance. He even felt like he had found her fatal weakness.

That long-forgotten name suddenly reached her ears. 'How could he and Annabel ever end up together?' she murmured inwardly. Alita was stunned and stared at him in shock, unable to utter a word, her lips slightly pale from staying up late.

"Surprised, huh? Poor thing. How painful must it be? Your long-loved first love is now your brother-in-law. I wonder how you'll feel when meeting him again." Jaydon leaned in, his green eyes gleaming with a malicious light.

Alita closed her eyes for a moment, then calmly opened them. "Well, I look forward to it."

Jaydon never knew that, besides him, there was no one else who could affect her. But she didn't want him to know, not even a hint.

"Looking forward to meeting him again? What next, a secret

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date?" Jaydon remained smiling, but a hint of danger lurked in his eyes, as if he could tear her apart at any moment.

"Possibly," Alita responded nonchalantly, meeting his gaze fearlessly. She wasn't afraid of him, never had been. Over these 14 years, she learned to endure, to not cry, and to resist him. If she couldn't break free from this fate, she had to adapt.

Jaydon's smile faded, replaced by a fierce look. "Dare you." His roaring voice echoed in the elevator as it reached the top floor.

Alita walked out first, wearing a triumphant smile. 'Jaydon, you're angry. You've lost,' she thought to herself.

"Damn it." A low curse echoed in the elevator. 'How come I got angry in front of her? She must be feeling quite smug now,' he thought.

## \*\*\*\*

In the afternoon meeting, Alita led her team to the conference hall 20 minutes early. As soon as she entered, a tall figure in deep gray embraced her. "Alita, long time no see!"

Alita was startled but quickly recognized who it was. She happily called out, "Samuel."

Samuel Lewis released her and smiled, his face full of indulgence. "Having a good time in Theisia?"

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"Yeah, not bad. How about you, enjoying life in Ocraolia?" said Alita.

They had a shared destiny and were both excluded by the Lewis family from childhood. Samuel was only nine years older than her and was the illegitimate son of Mike Lewis, Jaydon's grandfather. He was handsome and gentle, always wearing a warm smile, never losing his temper. Alita considered him her closest confidant in the Lewis family. Words had it that his mother was extraordinarily beautiful, captivating Mike.

"Same as you, not bad." Samuel smiled at her, his narrow eyes revealing a hint of affection.

"Couldn't wait to catch up on old times, huh?" A male voice, rich and mocking, came from behind them.

Jaydon, with his heavyweight team, walked in confidently. Among them were veteran shareholders of the company, Jaydon's uncle Marcelo, his two sons Brandon and Scott, his daughter Valeria, and son-in-law Sam, as well as the two daughters of Jaydon's aunt, Kyla and Amira.

Alita and Samuel both turned around.

She ignored Jaydon and instead fixed her gaze on the couple who had just entered behind him.

The two locked eyes with each other. However, the man's gaze was calm and indifferent, as if it were their first encounter.

