

Conflict of interest

SNU Lecture Classroom – 8.35 AM

As the second semester started, Lexi rushed to class. She took her usual seat in the front row and got busy with a new transcript. Meanwhile, indistinct chatter filled the room; students were telling stories about their spring break plans. 35 minutes has passed and Pr. Jenkins was nowhere to be found: He was always on time throughout the whole year, which made his absence somehow worrisome.

A few minutes later, the door opened. As he entered the room, everybody went back to their respective seats. Lexi was too busy having her nose in a book to notice that the lesson was about to start.

“Hello everyone. I am here on behalf of Pr. Jenkins” the substitute initiated “He is on a mission abroad and he entrusted me with the task of teaching his class while he’s gone. Don’t worry, he will be back just in time for the final exams”.

As much as the students were glad to take a break from the wise man’s unorthodox teaching methods, reminding them of the final exams made them frown instantly. Lexi refused to leave her book until she reached her pre-bookmarked page. She was saddened by her teacher’s sudden nonattendance, but at the same time she was relieved to know that they will proceed with the program.

The substitute put his backpack on the desk and headed to the board “My name is Lee Jae Suk and I will be your teacher for the time being”.

Upon hearing the name, Lexi hastily closed her book and looked up. Of all the coincidences in the world, this one had to be her fate. For the first time in her life, she felt like Karma hit her and it hit her hard. “Please be a different Lee, please be a different Lee” was all she kept saying inside her head. The minute her eyes scanned the new teacher, a loud gasp left her mouth.

“Is there something wrong, Miss?” he urged her.

“*Animnida Dav-, Seonsaeng-nim*” she corrected herself before the word escaped her mouth.

BIGHIT Recording Studio – 2.18 PM

Today was dreadful and tiring for Lexi. This morning's encounter with David was more awkward than the confrontation they had a few days ago. Luckily for her, her new assignment was waiting in the studio and hopefully it would keep her mind preoccupied.

"Annyeonghaseyo, Unnie" a carefree Shinah greeted her coach.

"Hey there Shinah, what are we working on today?" Lexi asked, totally brainwashed by what happened earlier.

"It's about the debut song. I finally finished the English verse and we were supposed to verify it today before I can submit the final version" the trainee enthusiastically brought her teacher up to speed.

"Alright, let's hear it" Lexi demanded as she stood up and started walking in circles. Whilst she worked comfortably in one place, she had a hard time focusing on other people's work unless she moved around.

"Madness, sadness, I see the whole world around us
They acting like we('re) careless
But we know who's the reckless
You hear me, define me, no wait and just defy me
I won't show you how strong I am 'cuz I'd like you to fight me
My daddy said he'll take me home, my momma said I'd never be alone
My sis knew what was going on, my bro's too young to even know
That what we had was a matter of time with them street full of cruel crimes
Then people looking me in the eyes and telling me please don't cry
I said no worries my tears went dry the moment I knew where I had to survive
So look (at) me now and tell me, myself and I that you'd like to apologize"

"Ouah, *Daebak*" Lexi exclaimed, forgetting for a second the coach/trainee code "Are you sure you're a newbie?"

"Do you like it, *Unnie*?" Shinah asked with eagerness.

"Well, it is safe to say that your rap will definitely make a name for you in the industry" she added "I think it's time for us to do a brainstorming session to brand your image. Shall we?"

BIGHIT Entertainment, Roof Top – 4.12 PM

After a couple of hours of thorough training, Lexi took a break allowing both her and Shinah to recharge. She went to the building's roof top to get some fresh air. With everything that has been going on, she needed a change of venue.

While she drowned in her own gloomy thoughts, Namjoon accessed the roof top.

"Of all the places Alexandra Martinez, why must it be a roof top?" he wondered in a satirical tone.

"Why not?" she casually responded "How did you know I was here?"

"A little birdie told me" he riddled "and by that I mean a little sunshine".

Lexi gazed at the scenery before them. A gloomy climate placed itself around the city as dark clouds ornamented the sky. She groaned, comparing her current situation to that of the weather.

"Does it make you feel better?" he swiftly asked "Overthinking with that pouty face, does it work?"

She chuckled "Not always, but it never hurts to try until it does. Don't you think?"

"I have a better idea" he suggested "Talk to me".

Lexi opened up to Namjoon about her recent quarrel with David. She told him about his confession, her rejection and the awkwardness that illustrated itself between them on campus. She expressed her sentiments of regret that she let it come to this without suspecting anything.

"Well, it took him long enough" Namjoon finally spoke "Judging from the way he looked after you, anybody could see that he really cares for you".

"You're mistaken. David and I were close friends for so long, it's normal to mistake our relationship for something else" she objected.

"Sometimes, the answer is right in front of you. All you have to do is open up your heart" he pinpointed.

"And let the sunshine in ... But of course!" she yelled "Namjoon-ssi, you're a genius!"

Lexi sprinted back inside the building, leaving a puzzled Namjoon behind.

BIGHIT Dance Studio – 7.15 PM

Lexi ran down the stairs and looked everywhere for her trainee. Finally spotting her in the dance studio, she waited until her break was due before she stormed in.

“Shinah! *Yatta!* I found it!” she informed her “Are you ready?”

“I think so, but *Unnie*” she shyly intervened “*Yatta* is a Japanese word, you know that right?”

“*Ara Ara!*” Lexi shushed her “Now, its concept is easy but its meaning is grand. It refers to both your first name and your aura, and on top of that it makes a fine signature and a finer wordplay”.

“What is it *Unnie*? *Ppali* tell me, *juseyo!*” Shinah impatiently manifested.

“From now on, you will be known as **Sunnie**. Have fun trying to crack your new given name” Lexi eventually revealed “And carry it with pride”.