1. Adel trembled as she began to speak, "Do you mean I seduced them?" Cesare's tone was cold, "You should know that yourself." Adel frowned and denied, "No, it's not true." "Not true?" Cesare asked, then he chuckled and soon couldn't hold back anymore, he threw his head back and laughed loudly. This took Adel by surprise.

"Signora Flavia has been quite ruthless, hasn't she?" Cesare spoke while moving the tip of his shoe on Adel's swollen foot, humiliating her. "Such a small matter and you can't handle it yourself? If you don't want to gain favor by flattering, there are still many better ways." Adel could only lie on the ground, groaning in pain. "You are very good at discarding your pride and begging. Why not act like you always do?"

Adel frowned and said, "I was wrong, it was all my negligence." Cesare's tall shadow covered her on the floor, like a demon, but then it let go of the miserable girl. "It's good that you understand. Treat your wound carefully, avoid leaving scars."

Suddenly, Ebony burst through the door. "Master, Miss Adel..." Cesare abruptly interrupted, "If you want to explain anything, speak in my room." He walked out and quietly said, "Stop all the lessons for three days." Cesare seems cold and cruel, but he is very sharp; he is smart enough to know what has happened. Deep down, he does care about Adel; avoiding any contact with Flavia will give Adel some time to rest. The door slammed shut behind Adel, leaving a dark, silent void.

That evening, Cesare slowly smoked a cigar while opening a stack of documents. Among them was a photo, a portrait of Henry Fetch. He was the second son of the Fetch family, but couldn't carry on the lineage. Cesare sneered and cursed silently, "What a useless piece of trash. Someone like that causing trouble in the Buonaparte garden?"

Cesare thought to himself, "I don't know what they talked about, but I have to clean up this mess myself. Everything has gone off track. Adel has been unintentionally exposed. Replacing her with another girl is impossible. Now, no matter what happens, I must turn the shoe-shine girl Adel into a member of the Buonaparte family."

The image of Adel appeared in Cesare's mind, she was as beautiful as a mermaid. Her green hair shimmered like seaweed, her skin as white as salt grains, her chest overly ample... Thinking of this made Cesare angry. Those scoundrels must have been very excited to do such a vile thing to Adel. Cesare recalled the scene then. He was also surprised when Adel suddenly kissed him on the cheek. Her beauty was so enchanting that he was a bit captivated. Thinking back, Cesare was also a bit excited then. Even he had those feelings. So everything will end when Ezra Della Valle meets Adel.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door. It turned out to be Flavia. Upon seeing Cesare, she greeted him with a blessing from the sea goddess. Cesare smirked with a knowing smile. Both remained silent for a long while without speaking. Suddenly, Cesare spoke first, "Signora, I don't mind you educating a rebellious child like that, but I don't want to clean up the mess afterward. Flavia could only apologize, but Cesare didn't forget to add a threat, "Don't cause me any more trouble. You're clever enough to understand that, right?"

Flavia's face had turned pale. As she left the room, she gritted her teeth, determined to take out her anger on Adel. She believed that Adel had deliberately exhausted herself by wearing those tight shoes to gain the Buonaparte family's sympathy, leading to her being treated this way. Flavia silently cursed Adel as a cunning brat.

The next morning, a strange rumor spread throughout the noble circles that Lord Cesare had fallen for a certain young lady and would not associate with anyone else but her. He had never brought a girl into the mansion before, and unlike his usual self, he seemed very affectionate. It was likely not an ordinary relationship.

After hearing this shocking news, a girl slammed the table in astonishment. She quickly excused herself and left the tea party, leaving the other young ladies puzzled. As she walked, she thought to herself, "This is serious. I must quickly inform Lucrezia."

As soon as she got home, she wrote a letter detailing everything to her best friend, "Lord Cesare has embraced an unknown woman in his arms, and she is now in the Buonaparte mansion. How many times does he have to torment your heart before he's satisfied? What kind of despicable woman dares to seduce him? I want to meet you as soon as possible to soothe this sorrow." The letter was immediately sent to the Della Valle house as quickly as possible.

2. After reading it, Lucrezia threw the letter into the fireplace. The bright flames from the aggressive fire shone on a young, beautiful face with straight brown hair. Her big, round, purple eyes looked like two marbles, emphasizing an innocent look on the surface but pure evil underneath. Lucrezia spoke in anger, "Cesare, what is the meaning of this ridiculous letter? Are you testing my patience again?"

Elsewhere, people were also gossiping about Cesare. "Have you heard? Lord Cesare is hiding a girl in his mansion. Three days ago, when the Orquenina delegation brought the mermaid's heart and announced it publicly, someone saw him holding a girl very carefully. There's a rumor that Lord Henry Fetch teased her and was punished. The Buonaparte family withdrew the entire large sum of money that the Fetch family had borrowed for business. Who could she be? Who is it that has made Lord Cesare Buonaparte fall so deeply in love?"

The rumor spread, making Mrs. Flavia restless, unable to sit still. She silently resolved, "I must quickly expel that cunning, arrogant shoeshine girl from the Buonaparte house." As she flung open the door, Flavia shouted loudly, "Adel!" But her eyes suddenly froze, "Impossible! It's only been three days, how could that girl have become so stunningly beautiful? Her gaunt cheeks have gradually become fuller. Is it because the wounds on her filthy body have almost healed? She looks like a siren, luring sailors in the legends."

Suddenly, Adel's voice brought her back to reality. As soon as she returned to the present, she continued to scold Adel, "You deliberately wandered around to seduce the noblemen with your soaking wet body and those coarse bare feet." Although Adel couldn't bear to hear those insulting words, she still lowered her face and said, "I'm sorry."

Ebony respectfully asked to interject, "I don't know much about etiquette like Signora, but I think the young lady's manner of walking is already quite like a La Bella Figura. I believe all these achievements are due to Signora's dedicated teaching. So why doesn't Signora move on to the next lessons so the young lady can learn even more?"

Flavia was extremely annoyed, "So that girl has enlisted Ebony to gain sympathy. But Lord Cesare is still watching me, I can't do anything." In the end, she conceded to Ebony's suggestion, but Flavia would not forget to educate Adel thoroughly, just as she had taught her how to walk.

The lesson ended in the afternoon, and Flavia returned to her residence. Today's lesson went so smoothly that it made her feel very uncomfortable, but she had to marvel at Adel's speed of learning and proficiency. Unlike other young ladies who would whine and sulk when they made mistakes, Adel did not show any laziness, giving her no chance to criticize.

While fuming, a high-pitched voice called out to her. It was Lucrezia Della Valle. She looked so charming and beautiful that few could compare. Even Mrs. Flavia was very pleased because this was a girl admired by many women. "May the sea goddess bless you. Signora Flavia, you still look very healthy."

Flavia inquired, "Do you have business at Buonaparte?" Lucrezia replied, "I heard that everyone in the upper class is coming here, so I dropped by. It seems there will be a grand party for the Orquenina envoys, right?" Flavia responded, "I suppose so." During the conversation, Flavia mentioned Cesare, causing Lucrezia's cheeks to blush slightly. She put on a sad and weak expression and recounted, "I wonder if Lord Cesare is well? I've been grounded and haven't seen him for a long time. Nothing special has happened, right?"

Flavia was certain Lucrezia had heard about it. Anyway, it would be revealed eventually, so just say it was Lord Cesare's sister. Thinking this, Flavia began, "It seems you have heard the rumors. She is..." But suddenly, she paused, and a silent void enveloped the two. Lucrezia, with a bright and polite tone, asked, "Signora Flavia, was it rude of me to ask about that?" Flavia stood still, reflecting, "Sending that shoe-shining girl away doesn't necessarily have to be my job."

Flavia smirked slyly, "Lord Cesare has warned me once already. I don't know what will happen if I persist like this. But what if Lady Lucrezia intervenes? Although she is elegant and polite, if she only has that naivety, she won't be able to monopolize the position of Lord Cesare's fiancée."

Thinking of this, Flavia now didn't hesitate to drop some hints, "Lady Lucrezia, listen carefully. The girl in the rumor carries the direct bloodline of the Buonaparte family." Lucrezia's eyes widened, and she exclaimed, "Oh my, so Lord Rowan and Signora Katarina have a daughter? I guess I misunderstood. How embarrassing!"

"It's not just a misunderstanding, Adel is clearly a member of the Buonaparte family, the sister of Cesare." Flavia turned to leave, her elegant hat covering half her face, only her mouth moving slightly, "Nominally, yes, but in reality, who knows if she came from a street urchin. Shouldn't we ask Lord Rowan and Signora Katarina directly?" She glanced back at Lucrezia, "If she's perceptive, she'll surely catch the implication." Lucrezia was silent for a long moment, then she looked up, her eyes smiling as she said, "Thank you for telling me, Signora. Thanks to you, I have been enlightened."

Adel's life became peaceful for a short while. One day, Adel really wanted to go for a walk, but after that incident, she was very afraid Lord Cesare would scold her. But Ebony said that since the Buonaparte family's guests would be frequenting the lion garden, Adel could stroll in the aquatic garden.

After that day, Ebony had researched the schedule of each guest in the mansion and she also became friendlier than usual. Adel smiled softly, of course, it was out of gratitude. She said thank you and took a sip of tea. Ebony quietly watched the girl in front of her with affectionate eyes. Just as Ebony said, the aquatic garden was a very beautiful place. Thanks to the cool atmosphere, people's spirits also became more pleasant.

3. "Oh heavens, is there someone here?" Adel turned towards the source of the sound, and it was Lucrezia. She didn't expect her to show up here. Ebony frowned and whispered, "That's Lady Lucrezia Della Valle." Hearing that name, Adel's eyes widened. She clutched her dress and became tense, "We've already met." Despite feeling pressured, Adel lifted her dress and performed a greeting ritual, "May the goddess of the sea bless you." Adel's perfect noble demeanor left Lucrezia visibly astonished.

But immediately, she regained her composure and smiled, "I don't think I've seen you at any social gatherings or balls?" Adel replied, "Because I have never appeared before the upper class." Lucrezia continued to introduce herself, "I am Lucrezia of the Della Valle family. May I ask which family you belong to?" Adel looked tense, but then she regained her radiance and responded, "I am Adelaide Buonaparte." Lucrezia feigned a surprised expression, "What? Buonaparte? Is this the rumor circulating in the upper class? Although it's a bit embarrassing, I was just recently released from confinement, so I didn't know."

Adel gently replied, "As you heard, I am a member of the Buonaparte family. Due to many events, I haven't lived with my brother Cesare since childhood." Lucrezia's tone turned cold, "Brother? Are you staying with Cesare, in the Buonaparte mansion?" Adel responded, "Yes." But before she could say anything more, Lucrezia interrupted with a cheerful smile. "By the way, since you became a Buonaparte, do you intend to leave Fornaty and explore the land of Sant’nar?"

Adel didn't understand her intention, so she simply replied that she just wanted to stay close to her family. Lucrezia's tone turned cold again, "Family?" A stifling silence enveloped the beautiful garden. Some pressure from Lucrezia made Adel feel oppressed. "Is it because she is a true noblewoman that I feel so tense?" Another obstacle, Lucrezia's harsh tone startled Adel, making her look up at her, but she only saw Lucrezia putting on a fake polite face as she excused herself. She smirked and said with hidden meaning, "May the heavens protect you from murderers."

Adel felt as if she was in a daze, sensing a whirlpool pulling her down. Lucrezia surely knew something. Ebony couldn't help but feel anxious, saying she would report this to Lord Cesare. Although Lady Lucrezia wouldn't confront him directly, hidden dangers are more frightening than visible waves. On the way home, Lucrezia cried in the carriage, muttering to herself, causing her maid to worry. "Hazel? It seems Cesare has been bewitched by that wild woman."

The maid was alarmed, "Yes, what do you mean, miss? But she is his sister." "No, she's not," Lucrezia continued, wiping her tears, "That hand is not of a lady. He hates me so much that he calls someone who is not a lady his sister. Moreover, if he wasn't enchanted by her, he would definitely intend for her to marry my brother." Hazel exclaimed, "Then you must do something before she completely takes over Lord Cesare. Furthermore, if you give up now, that woman will become a member of the Della Valle family."

"By all means, you must get rid of her." Lucrezia whimpered, "But how?" Hazel exclaimed, "Eliminate her!" Lucrezia shook her head, "No, I don't want to harm anyone, I'm too scared." The maid saw her mistress as truly weak, "Don't worry, I will help you." Hazel's determination made Lucrezia delighted, "Oh my, are those words true?" The maid sincerely expressed her loyalty. This made Lucrezia very happy; she hugged the maid to show gratitude, an evil smirk shown on her face. The poor maid did not know that she had fallen into a trap designed by Lucrezia herself.

4. One morning, a procession of carriages arrived at the Buonaparte castle. The guests were very impressed by the grandeur of the mansion. All the servants were extremely busy decorating and tidying up the rooms. Today, Adel wanted to meet her brother. She was about to knock on the door when she remembered she was instructed not to do so. Just then, a stranger saw her. That person informed Cesare, "Sir, there is a guest." He turned to look at his fake sister and smiled brightly, "Well, my sister, how is your leg?"

Adel replied, "Thanks to your care, my leg is completely healed." Cesare mocked, "Oh, did I care?" Adel responded, "I just said that out of courtesy." Seeing Adel suddenly come into his office but still hesitating to speak, Cesare asked, "Is there something you want to say?"

Adel stammered, "Can I attend the social party tonight?" Both Cesare and the stranger were surprised. Cesare said, "Alright, is that all you came to ask?" Adel replied, "I just moved here and want to socialize." Cesare chuckled, "I didn't know my sister was so cute. It seems you have adapted to everything here."

After talking for a while, the stranger standing next to Cesare kept looking at Cesare expectantly. Finally, Cesare introduced them to each other, "This is my sister, Adelaide Buonaparte."

Adel courteously bowed to the guest, "May the sea goddess bless you." "And this is Gigi Manfredi." The young man cheerfully introduced himself, "Hello, I am Cesare's personal assistant. I am also the president of the Stellone trade guild under the management of the Buonaparte family. Please take care of me in the future." Gigi seemed to be someone who loved to socialize and make friends. He admired Adel's beauty so much that he even thought she was a mermaid. Cesare was speechless upon hearing this.

Seeing Cesare comfortably chatting like that, Adel could only suppress all the resentment in her heart. From the moment she met him, every corner of her mind felt like it was being severed piece by piece with a sharp knife, and she decided to forget the leather shoe that had trampled on her feet along with the words that pierced her heart like thorns. Suddenly, Cesare asked, "You have met Lucrezia, haven't you? I heard you received a warning. Quite interesting."

Adel gently clenched her hand, "Yes, if it was indeed a warning." Cesare confirmed, "It must be, because Lucrezia is more adept at the subtle language of the nobility than a shoeshine girl on the street. How fascinating. I wonder where those people got this information from."

"How about this, after this party, I will send a brach to accompany you." Adel hesitantly said, "Yes, alright," and then asked to be excused. When the door closed, Gigi worried that if a hound was sent as a bodyguard, it would take at least two days for them to arrive. During that time, no one would be there to protect Adel, and she might encounter Lucrezia at the party. "Will she be alright during this time?"

Cesare turned away, "I believe nothing will happen at the Buonaparte mansion. One more thing, prepare a 'Galley' ship.” Cesare emphasized. “An old one." Gigi hesitated a bit but then accepted the order. He knew he would have to do something not very pleasant.

At the Buonaparte family's party, everyone was buzzing about Signora Flavia Loredan. It seemed she was trying to reclaim her position at the center of the upper class when invited by the Buonaparte family. She knew that the Loredan family was falling behind, but if they could rely on the Buonaparte family, everything would be resolved. "May the sea goddess bless you. Is Signora Flavia enjoying herself tonight?"

Flavia turned around to see it was Lucrezia. She politely greeted her back, "May the goddess bless you, are you enjoying yourself, young lady?" Lucrezia smiled brightly and replied, "Of course. This is the Buonaparte family's party. The decor is very sophisticated and pleasing to the eye. Cesare truly has an eye for beauty. So, at this beautiful Buonaparte, should we talk about the person who needs to be eliminated?"

Flavia's face immediately turned dark, I have nothing more to say about that. Everything is decided by the lady. Lucrezia gave a threatening smile, “Then it would be better if I just talked to Cesare. I think I have no other choice but to reveal that Signora has confessed about Lady Adel's origins.” Flavia frowned and widened her eyes, “What do you mean? Clearly, I did it with good intentions towards you.”

Lucrezia said maliciously, “I'm just reciprocating your good intentions. Lord Cesare trusted you so much, yet you told me that secret.” She moved closer to Flavia, “Signora, I have no intention of confronting you. We have only one enemy. I just want Signora to help a little. Our agreement will be carried out very secretly.” Lucrezia gave a bright smile. That fox-masked face made Flavia extremely angry but she couldn't do anything. She gritted her teeth to restrain herself and then faced her directly, “What do you want?”

In the banquet hall, couples danced together to the lively music. Meanwhile, Adel was still preparing to attend the party. “Ebony, why can't you come with me?” The maid replied, “I'm not a noble, so I can't attend. What about you?” Adel responded, “I'm not sure.” Ebony complimented, “You look beautiful. I'm sure many eyes will be on you.”

Adel murmured, “Really?” She worried that revealing her weakness would only make others want to harm her more. Seeing her mistress's hesitation, Ebony revealed that attending such parties was very interesting. A lady of the Buonaparte family would never wear the same evening gown twice. Even hats, parasols, gloves, dresses, necklaces, earrings, stockings, and high heels would all be newly purchased. The lady would visit Bella Stella Street every day to choose them.

Hearing about that street, Adel was very surprised. When she was in the Kimura slum, she had never visited that street even once. It wasn't a place that banned shoeshiners, she just felt it was too bright and beautiful to visit. The names of the shops lined up like romantic verses. Adel suddenly exclaimed, “That street must be very beautiful!”

Ebony replied, Of course. Suddenly, there was a knock on the door. Who could be here at this hour? The maid went to check. A familiar face appeared, “May the goddess bless you.” Ebony exclaimed, “Signora Flavia!” The woman appeared urgent, “Ebony, I have something urgent to discuss with you. The master wants another report related to Lord Cesare. She needs your notes.”

When Ebony heard the two words "house master," she immediately obeyed. The maid informed Adel that she would be away for a while and then looked at her with some hesitation. Under Flavia's urging, Ebony turned and left. The door to the room slowly closed, and no one noticed the deep, sinister look in Flavia's eyes.

Sitting in the room, Adel could still hear the melodious music drifting in. Her curiosity about the Bella Stella neighborhood surged, making it impossible for her to concentrate on reading her book. Suddenly, there was a knock on the door. Adel thought to herself, "Could it be Ebony? But how could she return so quickly?" Adel hesitated. The knocking grew louder.

Suddenly, a voice from nowhere said, "Don't open the door." Adel looked around in confusion, "What is this? I heard this voice before. There's no one else in the room but me, or am I imagining things?" This could be a danger warning from the Sea Goddess. Suddenly, the person outside opened the door without permission, revealing a young maid. "I apologize, miss, but I had to open the door due to an urgent matter."

Adel was surprised to see that this was a rather young maid. "Is there something wrong?" The maid replied, "The master of the mansion has summoned you." Adel asked again, "My brother?" But she suddenly felt the atmosphere was very strange. This maid, compared to the other servants in the Buonaparte household, seemed younger, and her clothes looked looser. But she still felt uneasy when the maid said Cesare wanted to see her. "Alright, let's go."

Adel quickly grabbed a shawl and left with the maid. The shawl had the letters K and B embroidered on it. Strangely, the maid led Adel upstairs, saying that the master of the mansion was on the rooftop. Adel felt an inexplicable sense of foreboding and didn't really want to go, but Lord Cesare was not the type to explain everything to others. "We've arrived." The rooftop door was opened, and immediately a strong wind blew, causing the shawl to be swept away. Adel hurriedly chased after the shawl. Seizing the opportunity, the maid used both hands to push Adel forcefully and shouted, "I'm sorry!" Adel was terrified, her whole body plummeting from the rooftop. A loud rustling sound echoed in the bright moonlit night.

In the banquet hall, everyone raised their glasses to toast Lord Cesare. They marveled at how he, at such a young age, was already a member of the council and had helped the neighboring emperor ascend to the throne. This not only aided diplomatic relations but also strengthened his voice in the council. Overall, he lacked nothing from looks, family background, business acumen to political prowess. Everyone was curious about who such a well-rounded person would marry.

Cesare, feeling exhausted, stepped out onto the balcony to breathe in the fresh air. He leaned back in his chair and lit a cigar, finally finding some peace. Suddenly, Cesare noticed something engraved on the ceiling. He smirked, "Ah, Katarina Buonaparte and Rowan Buonaparte. On nights like these when they hosted parties, those two would always be lost in their own world, dancing together. Meanwhile, they would place their son on the most prestigious chair in the middle of the ballroom and hand him a cookie to hold. They spent hours together, immersed in their own world, untouchable by anyone." Cesare puffed on his cigar and mused, "Places like this always feel strange whenever I visit."

Suddenly, a young man burst through the door, exclaiming, "Cesare, the ladies are eagerly waiting to meet you. What are you doing here?" Cesare frowned at the madman before him, "Hey, what's with that look? You come to my party dressed like that? Are you sober, Jude?"

Jude paid no mind to Cesare's sharp words and instead tried to flaunt his good looks even more, which only infuriated Cesare. Jude pointed to the scarf and said, "I was just passing by when this thing fell from the sky. Just a brush against my coat, and it's destiny." Cesare frowned, "Are you so poor that you have to pick things up off the ground?" Jude glanced at him, "After you're done with Miss Lucrezia, shouldn't you entrust your heart to a woman? Just as I found this scarf, it might be fate."

Cesare scowled, "I'm more worried about any girl who gets her hair pulled by that Lucrezia. I probably won't get married." Suddenly, he noticed the initials K and B on the corner of the scarf, "Katarina Buonaparte, mother's item is being used by Adelaide. But why did it fall from the sky?" Cesare asked, "Where did you find it?"

Meanwhile, a hand was desperately clinging to the rough edge of the wall. The maid from earlier let out a startled cry. Adel frowned, exposed her, “Now I remember. You're the maid serving Lucrezia, aren't you? Did Lucrezia tell you to do this?" The maid immediately panicked. Adel seized the moment to command, "Pull me up, and I'll keep your master's secret." The maid trembled and muttered, "No, I can't, the lady will be disappointed."

Adel shouted, "How foolish! Do you think Lucrezia will spare you after this?" The maid frowned, "What?" Adel continued to yell, "Lucrezia will kill you to silence this!" Hearing this, the maid was stunned, "No, no, the lady wouldn't do that." The maid gritted her teeth and looked at Adel before cruelly stomping on Adel's hand, "Die, just die!" With each stomp, she cursed and screamed at Adel until both of Adel's hands could no longer hold on. She fell freely from the roof.

5. A loud thud echoed throughout the quiet moonlit night. Only a bird perched on a broken branch could be seen, and Cesare Buonaparte, the man who received immense love from fate and the gods, was grimacing on the ground with a leaf on his head. He strained his face and frowned, "Ahh, my spine! Hey, sister, are you okay?" Suddenly, he widened his eyes when he saw Adel trembling in his arms. After the fall, Cesare smirked, "If you don't want me to touch you in a similar way, then don't touch my chest again."

Adel quickly distanced herself from this man. Cesare, feeling dejected, thought to himself, "Who's going to eat her up anyway?" Adel frowned and looked up, "I was pushed down by a girl wearing the Buonaparte family's maid outfit. She said you called for me, so I followed her to the rooftop." Cesare asked again, "I called for you?" He looked up at the higher floor, the silhouette of the girl gradually disappearing. Cesare silently assessed, "Definitely. She is Lucrezia's maid!"

Jude quickly ran up to the rooftop to catch the culprit, but by the time he got there, she had already fled. He waved his hand, "Hey Cesare, the culprit ran too fast, I couldn't catch her." Cesare sighed, "Of course, she has already escaped." "Why did you climb up there?" "What? I can't hear anything. Speak louder!" Cesare ignored his friend and subtly reminded Adel, "Are you planning to meet me in that state?" Adel hurriedly covered herself and said, "Because my shawl flew away." Cesare had to give up on this girl, he said, "A shawl is not armor, don't get it confused." She replied, "Because it was an urgent matter..." Cesare smirked, "If I needed you for an urgent matter, would you run to me without thinking like this?"

Looking at Adel's expression at this moment, Cesare suddenly couldn't guess what she was thinking anymore. He took off his coat and draped it over her. While holding his forehead, lamenting her foolishness, a sudden pain surged. Cesare gritted his teeth and clutched his back. Adel immediately realized something was wrong. She bent down and asked worriedly, "Are you okay?"

Cesare frowned and thought to himself, "Look at yourself, now you're really worried about me?" He smirked, "She didn't even care about how I stepped on her own foot." He grinned mischievously and asked, "If I say I'm in pain, will you treat me in my private room?" Their faces were closer than ever. Just as they were about to kiss, his friend Jude rushed over, shouting loudly, "Cesare, miss, are you both okay?" Cesare glared at him irritably, making Jude see but not understand anything. Cesare said, "Let's go to my office."

At this moment, a doctor had been called to tend to Cesare's wound. Fortunately, it wasn't too serious, but he was advised to avoid strenuous activity for the time being. Additionally, the doctor recommended that he quit smoking for a while. Cesare could only sigh in regret at this suggestion, as it meant giving up one of his favorite pastimes.

While the doctor was giving instructions, Adel remained standing there. She felt very guilty for having followed the maid despite her suspicions. Suddenly, Ebony burst through the door and shouted, "Master!" She hurriedly explained, "Since the young lady wasn't in her room, I went to look for her. What on earth happened?"

Cesare turned to respond, "Perfect timing, now explain everything." With that, Ebony recounted the entire incident without missing a single detail. After a while, she bowed deeply and apologized, "I was a bit suspicious when the house master asked for a report, but it was on Signora Flavia's orders." Cesare listened and couldn't help but sympathize with her.

Just then, his assistant Gigi entered and informed him, "As you instructed, I have ordered the guards to detain Signora Flavia Loredan. I have also ordered the arrest of anyone attempting to flee." Cesare asked coldly, "Is the Galley ship ready?" Gigi hesitated before replying, "Yes, it is. We will take Signora Flavia to that ship." Cesare extinguished his cigar and smiled cunningly, "Now, bring Lucrezia here. Immediately!"

That night, the moon had not yet set. There was a knock on Cesare's door, "Master, it's me, Gigi." Adel was extremely surprised, "Knocking? Clearly, Cesare told me when entering his room, do not knock." Cesare responded warmly, "You're here?" Adel couldn't believe it; he didn't seem to mind. She now deduced that the reason for not knocking on his door was that it served as a warning signal for danger, requiring preparation for action.

6. Cesare glanced at her and commanded, "Adel, come here and sit next to me." She slowly approached him and sat beside him, about a hand's breadth away. Shortly after, the door opened with an announcement, "Miss Lucrezia Della Valle has arrived." Cesare reminded her, "You should sit a bit closer."

Lucrezia slowly stepped in, her face flushed with joy at seeing him. Cesare greeted her, "May the sea goddess bless you, daughter of the Della Valle family. I sincerely apologize for meeting you in this state." Lucrezia was stunned by the scene, her eyes wide with shock, "Cesare?"

Lucrezia glanced sideways at the person next to him, who was Adel, being embraced by him. She began to emit a terrifying aura. Cesare invited her, "Don't just stand there, please sit down." Lucrezia finally snapped out of it, her face blushing as she smiled again, "Um, yes." Cesare smirked at her range of expressions. Following her was a maid, but Adel suddenly froze when she realized it was a different maid. "Already changed maids!"

Cesare interrogated, "Is she the maid always by your side?" Lucrezia gracefully replied, "Yes, her name is Anes." Cesare deliberately asked again, "Isn't that right?" Lucrezia hastily covered up, "What do you mean? My maid has always been Anes, right Anes?" The maid trembled and responded, "Yes, my lady." Cesare gave her a sidelong glance and sarcastically remarked, "Indeed, Lady Lucrezia acts very swiftly. If it weren't for the engagement, we would be a great team in business."

Lucrezia broke out in a cold sweat, "Ah, thank... thank you, sir." Cesare immediately mocked, "Really? Do you truly want to thank me for that?" Lucrezia continued to feign innocence, "Yes." Adel felt Lucrezia was utterly disgusting, as if Lucrezia had completely forgotten her intent to kill Adel. So, her mind was filled only with the image of Cesare.

After a moment, Lucrezia spoke up, "Sir... are you in pain?" Cesare replied, "Oh, this?" He glanced towards Adel. She seemed to sense he was signaling something and played along, "I caught a mermaid falling from the sky."

Cesare embraced Adel and placed a kiss on her forehead. He began to speak tenderly, "Compared to you being hurt, it's better if I am." Adel responded, "I am very happy. But I don't want you to be hurt either." Lucrezia glared at the sweet scene between the two of them. In her mind, Lucrezia immediately thought of tearing the girl being caressed by Cesare into a hundred pieces.

Suddenly, Cesare's voice interrupted Lucrezia's thoughts, "Lady Della Valle?" Lucrezia snapped back to reality and gracefully said, "Well, I think I can take care of..." Cesare cut her off, "This is not your fault, so you don't need to trouble yourself. Besides, my sister is here to take care of me."

Lucrezia trembled and said, "To let a beautiful girl take care of you? And in a private room, I think people will misunderstand." Cesare laughed loudly and teasingly replied, "She is my sister, Lady Della Valle. Of course, I think it's a waste for her to marry your brother." The room suddenly fell eerily silent. Cesare continued, "I will let this slide this time, but I won't turn a blind eye again. If you pull such a dirty trick once more, our families will truly turn against each other."

7. Meanwhile, lady Flavia was locked in a room, fumbling around not knowing what to do. She was certain that Lucrezia's plan had failed and her name had been exposed. Suddenly, the door behind her opened, startling her. A tall man slowly entered, wearing a cloak that covered his head. His brown hair and cold blue eyes accentuated his handsome but icy demeanor.

You... you are... Flavia stammered, unable to utter a coherent sentence. The man spoke, “Signora Flavia Loredan, this is an order from Buonaparte. Please follow us.” Flavia was taken somewhere by carriage. Despite her screams, the young man from earlier remained silent. “I want to see lord Cesare! I can explain this!” The man did not utter a single word.

Flavia began to tremble and fear, “Where on earth are they taking me?” She tried to gather all the surrounding sounds while being blindfolded. Suddenly, Flavia heard the flapping of seagulls' wings along with the sound of waves crashing against the shore. Could it be the harbor? The blindfold was removed, and Flavia finally saw the light. In front of her stood another man who spoke mockingly, I have been waiting for you for a long time, Signora Flavia.

Her face turned dark as she shouted, “Please, take me to Lord Cesare. This is all a misunderstanding. Let me explain. I was threatened, I had no other choice.” The man smirked, “Threatened? Wasn't it Signora who revealed the lady's identity? Have you forgotten the Omerta oath? As a retainer, haven't you violated the most important rule to follow?”

The Omerta oath is a code of silence. Those who take the oath cannot reveal anything they have seen or heard to the outside world. It represents the commitment of each noble. Anyone who breaks this oath will be duly punished. Flavia cried out, “No! It's not like that! I... I only gave a hint!”

Gigi made a troubled expression, “Then I guess Signora gave a very clear hint.” He turned away and ignored her, “Well, that's not my concern. Let's proceed to the next step.” Gigi extended his hand to introduce, “This ship is a Galley built in 840. The provisions on board include flour, hardtack, salt, sugar, biscuits, and a few other items. Daily necessities include soap and candles. With these supplies, you can reach Sorek on your own.”

Flavia's eyes widened, “Sorek? Isn't that the farthest place from Sant'nar?” Crossing the sea on such an old ship, even a small wave could capsize both the ship and me. The bow doesn't even have a figurehead of the goddess, so how can it receive blessings? This is no different from sending me to my death.

Gigi added, "If you return here safely, Lord Cesare will forgive you. After all, it is the will of the sea goddess." "Alright, Sir Egir, I've explained everything, so please proceed." Flavia was dragged away, only able to scream in despair, "Please give me a chance, just one chance. Let me meet him just once!" Gigi smiled and waved, "Have a pleasant journey. Be careful with the guidance of the sea goddess." "No, no, it's for you. It's for the Buonaparte family." The old ship set sail towards the dawn.

Meanwhile, Adel was being helped with her bath by a maid. She asked in a low voice, "Have they found the maid who pushed me down the roof?" Ebony showed a sorrowful expression, "She was found in a nearby drainage ditch. It was hard to identify her with her face slashed multiple times, but her hair matched your description. Her clothes were stripped off, probably to destroy evidence, and she had a large wound in the same spot where the young master was injured."

Upon hearing this, Adel guessed that Lucrezia had taken revenge on the maid for injuring Cesare. Adel inquired about the punishment for Lucrezia but was told that Lord Cesare couldn't do anything due to a lack of concrete evidence to accuse her. Imposing a financial penalty would cause public outcry since Lucrezia was very popular and beloved among the upper class and commoners alike. "You must be very troubled and upset, my lady." Adel replied, "No, I understand."

Seeing this, Ebony changed the subject and shared some good news, "Starting today, there will be no classes for a while. This is an order from the young master after reviewing everything you have learned. You can rest for a while. During this time, you can focus on recovering your legs." Adel asked, "What about Lady Flavia?" Ebony only showed a sad expression without saying a word. A soap bubble suddenly burst and disappeared. It seemed to symbolize the fate of Signora Flavia.

Ebony mentioned that the young master was looking for a new teacher for Adel and that the schedule was delayed due to busy work. The lessons would resume once the Orquenina delegation left. Observing the maid's expressions and attitude, Adel quickly realized that Lady Flavia had been dealt with. "By the way, when would you like to change clothes to go outside?" Adel was puzzled, "Go outside?" Ebony was also surprised, "Isn't it you who is responsible for taking care of the young master's wound?" Adel's eyes widened, "Me? For Lord Cesare?"

8. At this moment, Cesare was smiling, revealing his dimples, "You've arrived, my little sister." Adel stepped towards the man and placed the medical kit on the table, "So, the wound..." Before she could finish her sentence, Adel was utterly surprised when the man suddenly took off his shirt, revealing part of his body. A broad shoulder with a slim waist and alluring curves. There were a few scars on his biceps, indicating that he had encountered dangerous situations before.

Above the waist, near the waistband of his pants, there was a large mole on the left side of his spine. Cesare turned back and spoke slyly, "You've been staring at me for quite a while." Adel snapped out of her daze and blushed, silently scolding herself, "Am I crazy?" She tried to explain, "That..." Cesare interrupted her with a laugh, "Don't get too excited when you see beautiful things." Adel exclaimed, "I am not!"

But Cesare didn't care, he leisurely turned around and lay face down on the bed for Adel to tend to his wound. Adel couldn't explain anything, so she just turned to get the medical kit. "Why did you ask me to treat you when I'm not a doctor?" Cesare casually replied, "Because Giotto is too noisy, and Ebony is always grumpy. Besides, I got injured because of you, so you have to take responsibility for it."

Adel couldn't argue back. She turned and said, "First, I'll cut the bandages for you." Adel carefully removed each bandage. The room was now filled only with the sound of scissors snipping. Cesare continued to lie there, enjoying the attention. After all the bandages were removed, Adel wiped the sweat off her face. "Why do I feel so anxious? It feels like I'm in the same room with a monster."

She picked up a box and said, "I'll apply the medicine for you." But the wound was larger than she thought. It extended from his back to his front side. Cesare could feel all her actions. Adel applied the medicine and then said, "Brother, I can't reach the wound in the front, so please turn over a bit." Cesare indifferently replied, "I don't want to."

Adel pleaded, "Just a little bit." But he still refused. "Can I sit on your bed for a moment?" Cesare paused, "You don't need to ask my permission for things like that." Adel blushed slightly, "Oh, thank you, then please excuse me."

Adel tried to bend over to reach the wound. But her oversized breasts and long hair, like seaweed, unintentionally made him itchy, "Stop teasing me." The entire medical kit was knocked to the floor, and Adel was pinned down by him, letting out a soft "Ahh..." She slightly opened her eyes, and Cesare's figure immediately came into focus.

Cesare thought to himself, "Ever since she fell from the roof, no one has asked if she's okay. Despite being ignored by everyone, she doesn't feel wronged. Instead, she looks at me with a worried expression. How can she be so foolish? Without me, she would have been dead already. Now she's worried about me? She must have another motive for coming to me in this state. She's just pretending to be more concerned about me than herself, wanting me to protect her with those trembling shoulders. Now I understand everything. No girl would worry about a guy who has trampled on her injured feet like that."

Adel softly called, "Brother..." Cesare corrected, "Call me Cesare, I don't want you to call me that when we're in the same bed." Adel exclaimed in shock, "Brother, why are you acting like this?" Cesare chuckled, "I want you to stop these cute acts, Adelaide. I'm a man and you're a woman. I've been observing you for a long time. You're very cute, and your foolishness is equally adorable. I'll give you the love you want, so stop pretending to be naive."

Countless women have appeared in Cesare's life, so many that it's unimaginable. Therefore, a pretend sister like her doesn't necessarily have to be among them. But in the end, this happened. Cesare smirked, "Looks like I've chosen an excellent actress, haven't I? You're really good at acting, sister." Cesare thought that this girl was just pretending to be useless, as her main goal was to seduce the son of the Buonaparte family and drag him into a miserable life.

Cesare spoke, "I'll do as you wish. So open your mouth." As their lips were about to touch, Cesare suddenly woke up, thinking, "Wait, if I go further with this sister, what about the contract with the Della Valle family?" Cesare frowned and looked at Adel's heaving chest. He hesitated for a moment before he could restrain himself. Cesare told himself, "Well, I can loosen the belt next time. I'll compensate her if she feels treated unfairly. This girl is stunningly beautiful, such a waste. If I just taste it once and then end everything..."

9. Swish! The sound interrupted Cesare's thoughts. A sharp pair of scissors was pressed against Cesare's neck, leaving him stunned, "How dare she?" Looking at Adel's sharp eyes, it seemed she wanted to kill this man immediately.

Cesare suddenly became elated, " "What an utterly insane woman!" Cesare exclaimed, "Why are you holding such a dangerous thing, planning to cut my throat?" Adel replied, "Yes, if I have to." Cesare glared, "Are you sure you're confident enough to do this?" She responded without hesitation, "Have you forgotten I come from Kimura?" The two sharp ends of the scissors separated and dug deeper into his neck.

Cesare still kept a smiling face, but he knew this girl was extremely serious about making a move. He grinned slyly and quickly subdued the arm of the girl holding the weapon to his neck. Adel could only tremble and resist, "You're too easy to control. So stupid!" Adel angrily cursed the rogue. Cesare didn't get angry when cursed but felt even more excited when she got so mad, and she didn't seem to be pretending.

He suddenly glanced around and realized that he had never done this with any woman before. Cesare released her hand and leisurely asked, "So, does Miss Adelaide hate me?" Adel hesitated for a moment and then frowned, "I don't hate you." That answer made Cesare pause, but Adel showed a determined face, "However, that doesn't mean I want to do that dirty thing with you."

Cesare became astonished and laughed heartily. "She should have said she hated me." Laughing too much made his pain flare up again. Cesare asked her to apply the medicine again so he could leave soon. He sat upright on the bed and slyly glanced at Adel, "What should I do with this girl? Now I really don't want to hand her over to the Della Valle family anymore."

10. At the parliament meeting, eight people were sitting around a round table. Everyone praised the Buonaparte family for warmly welcoming the Orquenina delegation. "But I heard you invited Miss Lucrezia to your office at the end of the ball. Might we hear some good news?" Cesare leisurely replied, "There's nothing special about that, I just had a few things to discuss with the lady."

A curious man asked, "What could that be?" Cesare smirked, "It's about my sister. My sister was born to my parents after they left the family, and now they have sent her back home." Everyone was extremely astonished, "What do you mean? A sister?" Cesare replied, "I understand that everyone has a lot of questions, but it won't be long before my sister makes her debut before the nobility at the coming-out ball in a few months. Then, I guess she will be able to meet the son of the Della Valle family."

The other members in the office were all taken aback. Cesare turned to glance at an older man. "I am preparing everything to marry Adel into the Della Valle family. I can't keep hiding my young and vibrant sister for myself forever." A middle-aged man sitting next to Cesare, named Luca Della Valle, looked at him with a very complex expression. Cesare continued to jest, "Isn't that a good thing for your family? Because Miss Lucrezia won't have to marry the playboy from the Buonaparte family."

Another day has come, while a pair of birds were singing joyfully at the Buonaparte mansion, a piercing scream suddenly made them fly away. "Oh my lady!" Gigi rushed over with a very radiant face. Early in the morning, this guy was already full of energy and greeted, "Adel, you look very beautiful today. You never cease to captivate me every time I come to see you. Even the mermaids in the sea would be jealous when they see you."

"Ahh, ouchh!" Cesare, after bumping Gigi’s head, leaving it a red lump, warmly greeted, "May the goddess bless you." Seeing this, Adel also bowed in return. Cesare suddenly remembered, this was the first time he saw Adel again after the incident in his bedroom. Adel had been waiting for him since earlier, frowning in discomfort because she knew he was staring at her.

Cesare smirked, "I called you here because there's something else to do. Don't look so annoyed." Adel paused slightly, her demeanor causing both Gigi and the maid Ebony to feel puzzled. Cesare ordered, "Come in! Sir Aegir Korer. From today, he will be your bodyguard." Adel thought to herself, "Korer? His last name is Korer, could it be...?"

Seeing her doubtful expression, Cesare added, "Aegir is Ebony's younger brother." Adel still found it very strange, "He is said to be her younger brother, but doesn't he look too young compared to her?" Suddenly, Adel snapped back to reality, almost forgetting to properly greet Aegir. Gigi behind her praised, "She is really perceptive." Cesare sarcastically remarked, "If she wasn't perceptive, she wouldn't have discovered that the maid doesn't belong to the Buonaparte family." Gigi exclaimed, "She has only been at this mansion for less than a month."

Suddenly, the young man looked at the clock and exclaimed, "It's time to move." Cesare regretfully said, "Time flies so fast. That's it for today." He suddenly forced a smile and muttered to himself, "Even if she is my sister, I can't keep her by my side forever." Hearing this, Adel paused, looking uneasily at the man who had just uttered such a meaningful statement. The other three people didn't understand what was going on.

While pacing in the lobby, Adel silently cursed that man, "That crazy, depraved scoundrel is always so full of himself. At first, he seemed charming and exciting, but then he completely changed his attitude." For the first time, I noticed the mole under his eye so clearly; it looked so alluring that I couldn't think of anything else.

Suddenly, Adel turned to blame herself, "What on earth am I thinking? Right, he's just a philandering scoundrel and a rogue. But why do I feel excited thinking about him instead of telling myself I don't like him?" Suddenly, the butler approached. Ebony, the maid, hurried down to ask, "Sir Ernst, uh, what brings you here?"

The man seemed hesitant. The two whispered something, and Ebony's face looked horrified, "Tell them we need time to tidy up our attire." The butler respectfully complied. Ebony immediately returned to Adel, "Miss, the lady of the house has arrived and wants to meet you. You must go to the Room of the Stars immediately."

What could the head of the Buonaparte household want with Adel? What incidents will she have to face? Please like and subscribe to the channel to find out in the next episode!