

Chapter 377 The Only One I Want

After leaving Wendy's apartment, Ryan threw away the garbage, headed straight to the apartment next to Wendy's, entered the password and walked in. The apartment had almost the same layout as Wendy's place.

When Ryan entered living room, he saw Luke working on his laptop on the sofa.

Tomorrow would be the New Year's Eve. While others were preparing to celebrate, he was still working. Seeing Ryan there, Luke felt a little better.

Chuckling, he closed the laptop and said, "Ryan, why didn't you stay at Wendy's? Did Ray kick you out?"

Ryan's face darkened. Luke seemed to be enjoying his misfortune.

Taking off his down jacket, Ryan glanced at him and asked, "So you have nothing to do now?"

Luke quickly sat upright. "No. I'm quite busy, actually!"

"Is that so? You look like you still have time to gossip, though."

"Nope. I'm going back to work now. Don't disturb me, alright?"

Luke turned the laptop back on and pretended to be busy.

Now that he was on New Year vacation, Ryan didn't have much work to do and finally had some free time. After pouring

himself a cup of hot tea, he sat in the armchair beside the French windows. He felt relaxed as he watched the snowflakes falling outside. After all, it was very rare for him to have some leisure time.

Luke loved gossip, and he couldn't hold his tongue anymore. He moved closer to Ryan and asked, "Hey, Ryan. Does Ray know that you live right next to them?"

Taking a sip of hot tea, Ryan glanced at him again and said, "He won't know as long as you don't tell him."

Seeing Ryan's threatening glance, Luke said, "Don't worry. I swear I won't tell him."

Satisfied with his answer, Ryan looked away. Suddenly, his phone rang.

Ryan took the phone out of his pocket and frowned when he saw who was calling him.

"Who is it?"

"Mom." Ryan tossed the phone to Luke. "You answer it."

"Okay." Luke answered the call immediately.

As soon as Luke answered, Josie's soft voice came through.

"Ryan..."

"Mom, it's me, Luke," he corrected her.

"Oh, Luke. Where's your brother?" Josie's tone immediately changed.

Noticing this, Luke let out a sigh and said, "Mom, why are you so gentle when it comes to Ryan? Am I not your son?"

"Oh, I wish that was true. You ungrateful little bastard."

'Mom hates me just because I stood up for Wendy? It is ridiculous. Ryan is with Wendy all the time, and Mom never scolds him.' Luke had a lot of doubts. He wondered if he really was Josie's son.

"Mom..."

"Tell your brother to answer the phone."

Luke glanced at Ryan, who was enjoying his hot tea. Ryan pretended not to hear Josie's words.

Luke faked a cough and said, "Ryan is busy now."

"Luke, do you think I'm stupid? Tomorrow is New Year's Eve. Why would he be busy?"

"He's working on a transnational case right now. Foreigners don't celebrate the New Year's Eve, remember?"

"Be honest. Is he really busy?"

"Mom, why would I lie to you?" Luke said calmly.

"If you say so. Pass him a message for me. Tell your brother to take Precious back for the New Year's Eve tomorrow."

"And what about me?"

"You can come with them if you want."

Luke froze for a few moments as he took in what his mother said. He was furious. He wondered if they were even a family.

"Mom, this is so unfair!"

"Cut the crap, Luke. Just remember to tell your brother."

Luke looked at Ryan, and the latter shook his head firmly.

"Mom, what if he doesn't go back?"

"You'll see what happens," Josie said threateningly.

Even without tears, Luke felt like he was crying deep inside. He felt like he didn't do anything to deserve this treatment. No wonder Ryan asked him to answer the phone. He must have known that it was a trap. He wondered why his brother was like that. Raymond just called him his uncle, and Ryan felt jealous. Luke decided not to show off next time.

"Ryan..."


Seeing that Luke was in a dilemma, Ryan slowly put down the teacup and stretched out his hand. Luke quickly gave him the phone and ran away.

Ryan put the phone to his ear. "Ryan speaking."

"Ryan..." Josie's voice softened again. "It's the end of the year. Don't work too hard. You need some rest too, you know. Anyway, it's New Year's Eve tomorrow. Bring Precious home so we all can have dinner together. We will cook her favorite food."

"No, thanks," Ryan said calmly. "Precious and I won't be back to celebrate with you this year."

"But why? Where will you be?" There was a noticeable change in Josie's voice. "Don't tell me that you're going to spend the New Year's Eve with that woman!"

Hearing her mother talk about Wendy like that, Ryan got mad. He said in a cold voice, "Mom, watch your language!" 

"Ryan! I don't understand what's so good with that woman."

"Tell me what you like about her. I'll find you a better one, okay?"

"Sorry."

"Ryan—"

"She's the only one I want!"

Josie was so infuriated by what she heard that she didn't speak for a long time.

Ryan added, "I'll hang up now if there's nothing else."

"How dare you!"

Ryan frowned. "Anything else?" he asked.

Fuming, Josie said to him, "I am your mother. How can you be so disrespectful to me? You don't even want to spend New Year's Eve with your parents just so you could be with that woman?"

"First, it's you who is disrespecting my children's mother! Second, that woman has a name, and it's Wendy. Third, it's you who won't accept us as a family and spend New Year's Eve together."

Josie didn't say anything for a long time.

"It's getting late. Maybe you should go rest now," Ryan said in a low voice. After that, he hung up the phone.

Beside him, Luke silently gave Ryan a thumbs up. He was amazed the Ryan could talk to their mother like that. "Ryan, aren't you worried that Mom will only hate Wendy even more? Let me tell you. Women are quite unreasonable. In the past, you always took Precious to spend New Year's Eve with them

no matter how busy you were. Now that you aren't going to spend it with them this year, she might think that Wendy is behind this. She's our mother. She will never hate you. She will put the blame on Wendy."

Ryan tossed the phone away casually. "And do you think she would stop hating Wendy if I was nice to her?"

Luke thought about it for a while before coming to a conclusion. "You're right. She wouldn't."

There was no way their mother could be so easily swayed. It would take a lot to win her over. Ryan knew that he must stand firm and show her how determined he was.

