

Chapter 21

“That’s enough!” Shane was sick of her being unreasonable. He impatiently admonished her, “Since you are of little help here, you should leave now.”

“Shane, I...”

“Get out!”

Jasmine’s face fell. She had no choice but to leave the warehouse.

After that, he dismissed the rest, leaving only two designers as Natalie’s helper.

Without loss of time, Natalie instructed them to categorize those fabrics that they were familiar with while she would take care of the rest.

Forty minutes had passed when the two helpers had finally finished their task.

At that time, there were more than a hundred bolts of fabrics left scattering on the floor. Pondering for a while, Natalie put the project document aside and started pointing at the rest of the fabrics, directing her helpers in sorting them out. “This is silk mousseline, this one is rayon satin, that one over there is artificial cotton, that one is poplin...”

the two helpers, who were intermittently exclaiming in awe while cross-referencing with the warehouse catalog, he could tell that she had not made a single mistake in identifying the fabrics. Looking at her in admiration, he started to set hopes on her. Maybe she is the chief designer

Natalie seemed to have faced a problem at

his

sure of the origin of this fabric. Mr.

was going to, he unhesitatingly took his lighter out of his

“Thanks.”

one of the helpers to fetch her a glass of water. Then, she instructed them to lift the fabric while she lit its corner. When a scorch mark appeared, she immersed it

after they are being burned will differ as well. If we are unsure of

Ah... So that's why she asked for

continued with her explanation. “This is a new type of fabric. It is made up of interwoven fiber and leather material using 3D technology. Its pattern

labeled as “Aqua Ruri.” From the picture in the catalog, it looked exactly

this fabric before?”

heard of it from my mentor. I didn't expect that you have it in your warehouse. Isn't it beautiful?” She wrapped the velvety fabric on her body,

a perfect and harmonious combination. The fabric had accentuated her beauty so much so

The helpers were utterly dumbfounded.

Compared to the helpers, Shane had a better grip of his composure while amazement gleamed in his eyes.

Soon, he recollected himself and looked away before saying, “Yes, it's indeed beautiful.”

“This type of fabric is the best material for making gowns,” Natalie commented while keeping the fabric, taking no notice of Shane’s abnormality.

Half an hour later, they had all of the fabrics sorted out. Soon after that, the contracting party arrived on time and collected the fabrics.

Natalie returned to the main office after accomplishing her mission. The designers crowded her the moment she appeared. “Nat, we’ve heard from George and Gary that you can distinguish the fabrics just by touching them. How did you do that?”

George and Gary were the very two helpers who helped her just now.

“Yeah! You’re awesome! Tell us how you did that.”

Chapter 22

Not surprised by the drastic change in their attitudes, Natalie said calmly, “That’s what my mentor taught me. Before I learned how to design, I was first taught how to discern between the different fabrics. My mentor told me that being able to imagine a design just by looking at the fabric is the first step to fashion designing.”

The audience was stunned after listening to her. As expected from Stella’s student. The teaching principles are completely different from what’s usually taught in this country...

“What are you doing? Are you all having a meeting?” They suddenly heard Jasmine’s furious yell.

Not daring to crowd around Natalie anymore, they quickly returned to their seats, and Natalie was left all alone.

Seeing that only Natalie was there, Jasmine walked toward her grimly and instructed, “Follow me.”

“I’m sorry, Ms. Smith, but I have work to do.” Natalie patted her file with a smile.

Her current priority was to quickly understand Project Rebirth and complete the initial drafts as soon as possible. Hence, she did not plan on wasting more time with Jasmine.

Furthermore, it was obvious from Jasmine's expression that she would not be in for a good time.

Her refusal caused Jasmine to feel a little humiliated. Narrowing her eyes, she spat, "Well then, show me what type of work you have to do!"

She snatched the file away and flipped it open. After reading the contents, fury crossed her face. "Shane actually made you in charge of Project Rebirth?"

Seething with fury, her eyes reddened.

for a long time. However, Shane refused to give it to her and said that he had already hired

right mind would she expect him to

I must ask Shane

shot Natalie a vicious glare before briskly striding

reached the door, she could vaguely

a background check on the

check on

What's going on?

mid-action. Suddenly recalling that child who resembled Shane, she started to feel

the documents in his hands, and his eyes widened

younger sister is called Sharon

door

name "Smith," it

surprise, Shane became suspicious just after meeting one of the children. Judging from his personality, he would definitely persist with the investigation once his suspicion was aroused.

then, he would definitely not

What should I

face turned pale as she started to

moment, Shane was in his office, staring at the documents about

After a while, he placed the documents down and instructed, "Tell the staff at the kindergarten to arrange for a health checkup. Before the day ends, get your hands on the two children's blood samples."

"Mr. Shane, are you planning to conduct a paternity test with the children?" asked Silas.

Yet, Shane kept quiet.

Nonetheless, Silas was quick to understand the situation, so he nodded and replied, "Okay, I'll arrange for it now."

As his approaching footsteps neared the door, Jasmine became even more anxious. Just then, she spotted the secretarial department's office beside her, so she opened the door and dashed into it.

The secretaries inside the room were taken aback when she suddenly barged in.

"What's the matter, Ms. Smith?" The head of the secretarial department asked her with a smile.

However, Jasmine ignored her. Leaning against the door and peering through the peephole, she watched until Silas had gone to the lift lobby. Only then did she open the door and leave.

Whew... That was close!

Jasmine patted her chest in relief. However, in the next instant, her expression became gloomy.

Shane wants to conduct a paternity test with Natalie's kids and see if they're his.

Chapter 23

Regardless of whether it's to suppress Natalie or to secure my position as the future Mrs. Thompson, I must stop this.

"Sunshine Kindergarten, huh?"

A vicious smirk spread across Jasmine's cheeks as she recalled the address she had heard earlier. A plan was already hatching in her mind.

In the meantime, Natalie was just finished with her work. Glancing at the clock on the wall, she saw that it was almost 5 p.m. Thus, she quickly packed her bag and headed to the kindergarten to fetch her children.

By the time Natalie arrived, classes were already dismissed by then. Most of the students had left, with only a handful of children left in school, waiting for their parents to fetch them after work.

When Natalie rushed over, Connor and Sharon were playing with Lego bricks in the classroom.

The moment Sharon spotted her mother, she tossed her Lego bricks away, threw herself into her mother's arms, and started wailing.

Natalie's heart ached when she heard Sharon's sobs. Patting her daughter's back gently and coaxing her, she glanced at Connor anxiously. "Baby, what's wrong with your sister?"

Connor sighed deeply as though as he was an adult. With an exasperated tone, he replied, "It's from the shot."

"Shot? What shot?"

a health check-up in the afternoon. Everyone had a shot and a blood test." Connor rolled up his sleeves

a sigh of relief

Sharon had been bullied by the other children and was terrified. However, it

Mommy will kiss on the boo-boo, and it won't hurt

Mommy." Still sobbing, Sharon lifted her chubby arm for

and kissed it gently. Not forgetting her son, she beckoned him over. "Come here, Connor.

what Connor claimed, he still lifted his

glanced at him in amusement, wondering where he got his pride and reluctance to admit his true

on their arms, Natalie held their hands and left

watched as Natalie and her children walked away. He whipped out his phone and dialed a number. "Mr. Shane, their mother had just picked up

Shane expressionlessly before hanging up

never asked who the children's

the two children. As for their mother,

the results are out.” At that moment, Silas entered the office with narrowed his file to Shane.

that, he paused briefly while opening the file. However, a few seconds later, he took out the paternity

Looking at the words “Biologically Unrelated” at the bottom of the report, he pursed his lips.

He was not surprised by this result at all as he had already guessed it.

For the past thirty years, he had never let any woman come close to him. The only exception was five years ago when he accidentally slept with Jasmine. Hence, it was impossible for him to have any children.

However, for some inexplicable reason, he felt that it was a pity.

But instead of mulling over it, Shane calmly tossed the paternity test report into the trash can under his table. “So be it. Tell the others to come back. There’s no need to keep an eye on the kids anymore.”

“Understood,” replied Silas.

Shane leaned against his chair and asked, “How’s the investigation about my kidnapping going?”

“We discovered some of Sean’s traces.”

“Sean...” Shane muttered his name under his breath as a cold gleam flashed across his eyes. “As expected. Looks like he hasn’t given up yet.”

“I heard from some of our men overseas that he’s recently planning to return.” Silas glanced at him.

He narrowed his eyes coldly. "It's time for him to come back after five years anyway. Instruct the others to monitor him closely and report to me immediately when he returns."

Chapter 24

Silas nodded upon Shane's orders. Suddenly remembering something, he piped up, "Mr. Shane, there's still one more thing."

"What is it?"

"When you were in the meeting earlier, Mr. Baker called and asked you out for dinner. He probably wants to ask you about the paternity test."

"Okay," replied Shane curtly.

At night, Joyce had just arrived at the Moonlight Restaurant, carrying two huge gift bags. "Sorry, Nat. I'm late."

"It's fine. We've just arrived too! Take a seat." Natalie pulled a chair out for her.

Joyce sat down and passed a bag each to Connor and Sharon. "Happy birthday, darlings!"

"Thank you, Aunt Joyce!" The children received the gifts happily and kissed both of her cheeks.

Joyce laughed jovially, her eyes crinkling into tiny crescents. "Have you ordered anything yet?"

"Nope. We can't possibly order when Aunt Joyce hasn't reached yet. Here you go." Natalie passed the menu to Joyce.

Taking it over, Joyce flipped the menu open and ordered two dishes that Connor and Sharon liked. Then, she passed the menu back to the waiter.

Soon, the waiter pushed a trolley over and served the dishes.

a candle in the

I'm sure it's delicious." Staring at the cake,

his arms over his chest, Connor snorted in disdain. "Don't all cakes taste

said, his eyes had never left the cake

siblings, Natalie and Joyce shared an amused

help but squeeze Connor's

his words muffled because Joyce was squishing his

on him, Natalie quickly interrupted, "Alright, Joyce.

Joyce released Connor

off the chair and chose a seat further away from

is awesome, except when

won't sit next to

and I wish the both of you a very merry birthday and will have all the joy a day can bring." After singing the birthday song, Natalie pushed the cake toward the

puffed up their cheeks and blew out the candle. Then, they closed their eyes and

affectionately, Natalie's

their fourth birthday today. Soon, they would turn five

by so

ago, they were still little toddlers who could barely walk. Within the blink of an eye,

could not help but feel emotional

moment, Sharon, who

Returning to her senses, Natalie was about to say something when Connor placed down his fork and offered, "I'll bring you there."

Hand in hand, the siblings went to the washroom.

Just then, Joyce suddenly gave a hearty chuckle. "That kid's probably afraid that I'll squish his cheeks again after you're gone."

"Well, I don't blame him." Natalie cut up a slice of cake and passed it to her.

"I can't help it! His cheeks are so soft, so it's fun to squish them. If you don't believe me, you can try..."

Before she could finish her sentence, her phone suddenly rang.

She placed the cake down and took out the phone. When she glanced at it, there was worry written all over her face.

"What's wrong?" Natalie gazed at her, confused.

Joyce kept her phone and replied, "My mom sent me a message, saying that something has happened at home. I might have to leave now, Nat."

"If that's the case, you should go quickly. Be careful on your way back!" Natalie nodded empathetically.

After that, Joyce grabbed her bag and left in a hurry.

When the children returned and saw that she had disappeared, they asked, "Mommy, where's Aunt Joyce?"

"She left because she has something to do," replied Natalie as she carried them to the

Chapter 25

Sharon sat down, picked up her fork, and stuffed some cake into her mouth. She mumbled incoherently, “Mommy, just now when I came back with Connor, we met a strange man.”

“A strange man?” Natalie instantly became anxious. “Did he do anything to both of you, Connor?”

Although this was a high-end restaurant, there still might be some bad people here.

A few days ago, she had read news about how some human traffickers would especially go to high-end places and kidnap the children of the wealthy.

“No. But he kept blocking our path, staring at us and saying how we look so similar. Then, I stomped on his feet and quickly rushed back with Sharon.” Connor shook his head and relayed what happened earlier.

Natalie heaved a sigh of relief before a strange expression appeared on her face.

So similar?

Only their biological father would look similar to the kids. Could it be that the strange man knows their father?

In that case, is he here too?

At that thought, Natalie’s heart beat rapidly as her face turned pale.

noticed something amiss with his mother and asked, “Mommy, fine.” Natalie squeezed out a smile on

must not stay here

here and that strange man informs him that he

tries to take them away from me? No... I won't

she became. Hence, she stood up abruptly and asked, "Connor, Sharon, let's go home,

did not quite belong to a child of his age, appeared on

in confusion. "Why? But I haven't even finished my cake,

bring it home." With that, Natalie beckoned

in

What's going on?

was confused as

velvet suit walked to the center of the restaurant with a microphone in his

to participate in our restaurant's anniversary event. We'll be playing a game now! The spotlight will shine

to stop, a bright beam of light landed

stunned that

What's going on?

snuggled into Natalie's

She lowered her head and consoled Sharon, "It's alright. Mommy's here."

"Mommy, I think we're chosen to participate in a game." Connor pointed at a middle-aged man, who was walking towards them.

The man, who had overheard Connor, smiled and explained, "That's right. It's our restaurant's first anniversary today, so we specially

organized this event. If you participate, you'll receive a prize regardless of whether you win or lose. Are you interested?"

"A prize?" Sharon no longer felt afraid after hearing that word. She left Natalie's arms and gazed enthusiastically at the middle-aged man.

"Sure, old sir! But what prize is it?"

Old sir?

The middle-aged man's lips twitched. He could not help but raise his hand and stroke his balding head. Despite feeling disheartened, he had no choice but to continue smiling. "It's a huge teddy bear!"

"A teddy bear?" Sharon's eyes lit up. She quickly tugged Natalie's shirt and said, "Mommy, I want a teddy bear."

"Well..." Natalie was at a loss for what to do.

On one hand, she did not want to disappoint her daughter, but on the other, she was afraid that their biological father might be present.

Hence, if the three of them participated in the game, they would attract more attention.

"Mommy!" Connor suddenly raised his head. "Since Sharon wants it, let's join in. I want to play too. It's been a long time since we played a game together."

Chapter 26

Since her daughter and son wanted to stay, Natalie had no choice but to relent.

After thinking for a while, she quickly took out two red caps and placed them over their heads. Then, she made them wear their coats and covered their faces with the collar.

In that case, they would look less noticeable.

“Okay, we’ll join the game. However, we will leave right after getting the prize,” reminded Natalie.

“Hooray! Thank you, Mommy!” Sharon leapt in joy.

Then, Connor followed the middle-aged man to choose the game.

In a private suite on the second floor of the restaurant, a handsome man was peering through the window and watching the event downstairs.

When he spotted Connor, he quickly spun around and patted the man sitting on the sofa with an elegant demeanor. “Shane, come and look who it is!”

Shane turned his head and disdainfully stared at the hand on his shoulder. “Move your hand away!”

Jackson rolled his eyes and pouted. “What’s wrong? I know you dislike women touching you. But you’re not even letting men touch you now?”

focused on his tablet and scrutinized the economic

the charts and numbers were giving him a headache. He quickly averted his gaze and scoffed, “I don’t know what’s so interesting about that. I’d rather look at

reacted

right there. I almost didn’t recognize him because he’s wearing a hat. Luckily, as a

the tablet down, Shane walked to the window and glanced over in the direction Jackson was pointing at. Indeed, he spotted the

sister outside the washroom. She doesn’t really look like you, but he’s literally your miniature version. When I conducted the

a huge pity. “Both of you look so similar, but why isn’t

scolded

Shrugging, Jackson fell silent.

because their gazes were too intense and they did not even bother hiding, Connor could obviously sense people

raising his head, he met Shane's cold stare and recognized

man whom I met in the

Shane, causing the latter to be

waving

the first time someone greeted him like that, Shane could not help

he raised his hand, planning to wave back at Connor, the child had already

Jackson, who witnessed everything, could not help

Shane instantly shot a cold glare at him.

Meanwhile, Connor was oblivious to what was going on the second floor after he ran away. He returned to Natalie and passed her a piece of paper that stated the game they had to play.

Glancing at it, Natalie felt troubled. "A three-legged race?"

"What's wrong, Mommy?" Sharon stood on her tiptoes, trying to steal a glimpse of the paper.

Unfortunately, she did not know how to read yet.

"I'm alright." Natalie patted her daughter's hand and asked Connor, "Baby, can you tell that man to change the game?"

"We can't. I've asked him earlier, and he said that there must be two groups: Mommy and Daddy will form one team, while Sharon and I will

form the other. We'll have to compete with each other and see who reaches the finishing line first." Connor wagged his finger sideways like an adult.

"But we don't have a Daddy here." Natalie's palm clasped her forehead helplessly.

Connor pursed his lips and fell silent for a few seconds. Then, as if he had suddenly recalled something, he flashed her a mysterious grin.

"Mommy, I'll find a Daddy for you."

"Huh?" Natalie was stunned. "Find a Daddy? How are you going to do that?"

Is he planning to find that strange man and invite his biological father?

Chapter 27

"He's just upstairs!" replied Connor before dashing towards the staircase.

When he reached the second floor, he stood outside a private suite. He then mustered his courage and knocked on the door.

Luckily for him, the door was quickly opened. When Jackson stuck his head out and spotted the little boy outside, he blinked in astonishment. "Hey, aren't you..."

"Hello! I'm looking for that man." Connor glanced past him and stared at Shane, who was sitting in the suite.

Shane raised his eyebrow. "You're looking for me?"

"Can you do me a favor?" Connor smiled earnestly.

He stood up and walked over. "What favor?"

"Can you pretend to be our Daddy? We're playing a game, and we need one more person," asked Connor as he stared at him eagerly.

Shane was stunned. "Your Daddy?"

He never expected this little child to ask him for such a favor.

"Yes!" Connor nodded vigorously.

Jackson whistled teasingly. "Shane, just go with him. Anyway, didn't you suspect that..."

up!" Shane scolded

to face Connor, his strict voice became gentler. "If I pretend to be your Daddy, won't you be scared that your real Daddy

where my Daddy

Shane did

go." Not giving him a chance to refuse, Connor dragged him down the

his excited expression, a

child acted so boldly. In fact, he would have

some reason, he could not

surprise, he did not even want to fling his hand away from

just like that, Shane was forcefully

over!" Connor yelled at Natalie from

When she saw the man whom Connor had brought over,

"Mr. Shane?"

had also spotted

She nodded awkwardly. "Yeah."

to bring Shane over as his

as he glanced

also staring at Shane intensely as if she had discovered something shocking. All of a sudden, she pointed at him and exclaimed, “Mommy,

stop fooling around.” Natalie quickly pushed Sharon’s arm down and apologized, “I’m sorry, Mr. Shane. They’re

not bothered by what the little girl said to him. Instead, he was intrigued by how

“You’re their mother?”

“Yeah.” Natalie stroked her daughter’s hair.

Shane pursed his lips.

This is such a coincidence. She’s actually the sibling’s mother!

“Are you married?” Shane asked.

Natalie cast her gaze downward and mumbled guiltily, “Yes...”

Although she did not want to lie, she had no choice.

Regardless of whether she was back home or overseas, premarital pregnancy was not looked upon so favorably.

Hence, to prevent others from criticizing or treating her children differently, she always claimed that she was married whenever someone asked her this question.

When Shane heard her answer, a hint of disappointment flashed in his eyes. For some reason, he felt a bit upset.

However, before he could figure out why he was feeling that way, Connor suddenly said, “Mommy, it’s time. Let’s bring him over, play the game and win the prize!”

Clapping her hands, Sharon urged as well, “Mommy, hurry up! I want my teddy bear.”

“Just a moment.” Natalie gestured for them to stop. Then, she glanced at Shane and explained, “I’m really sorry that my kids dragged you here, Mr. Shane. I’ll tell you what happened. Previously, we...”

Chapter 28

“I know. Connor told me just now,” interrupted Shane.

Connor raised his head and stared at him suspiciously.

That’s odd!

Why does he know my name?

However, Natalie did not mull over it, simply assuming that Connor had introduced himself when he looked for Shane.

“Since you know everything, I won’t hide it from you anymore. Actually, this is the kids’ idea. I didn’t intend to find a father for them to join this game.”

“So, you don’t need my help?” Shane stared at her.

“Yeah.” Natalie nodded.

Actually, it did not matter much if the kids found a stranger to act as their father. After all, it was just a game.

However, the person could be anyone but Shane!

Not only was he her superior, but he was also Jasmine’s fiancé. Thus, she must not interact with him in a private setting outside of work. Otherwise, if Jasmine found out, she would definitely seek her out. Although she was not afraid of Jasmine, she found it to be extremely troublesome.

“Okay, then I’ll...”

finish his sentence. "If you

bear." Sharon was

a while, Natalie came up with an idea and tried to negotiate

that

lips,

you'll help me win the teddy bear,

with her chubby legs. She grabbed his hand and

Sharon, who was on the verge of tears,

glanced at Natalie

not want to see

said earlier. Meeting her children's eager gazes, she sighed deeply and

for your help, Mr.

Forget it.

just this

from him in

a small favor,"

was overjoyed. She quickly dragged Shane to the venue, afraid that Natalie would change her mind again

she shook her head, held Connor's

and Shane walking in front, her gaze

Both of them really look like father and daughter.

“Connor, where did you find Mr. Shane?” asked Natalie.

“Upstairs!” Connor pointed towards the second floor.

Natalie raised her head and glanced at it. “I see. You shouldn’t do this in the future, okay? It’ll cause trouble to them and also make Mommy embarrassed.”

“I understand. Don’t worry, Mommy. I won’t do it again,” promised Connor as he patted his chest.

Smiling, Natalie stroked his head gently and said, “Alright, baby. I believe you.”

As they spoke, they reached the venue.

The middle-aged man from earlier walked over with two red ropes and passed one each to Connor and Natalie.

Connor grabbed the rope, bent down, and tied his leg with Sharon’s.

Then, the twins eagerly waited for the game to start.

On the other hand, Natalie stared at the gap between Shane and herself. Feeling troubled, she did not know how to make the first move.

How do I tie this when he’s standing so far away?

Rubbing her forehead exasperatedly, she mustered her courage and moved closer to Shane. “Mr. Shane, I’m going to tie our legs together. Just tell me if you feel uncomfortable.”

Chapter 29

Shane grunted.

Natalie knelt down and began to tie the rope.

After she was done, she clapped her hands before standing up. Feeling satisfied with herself, she asked, "Mr. Shane, try moving a little. Does it feel tight?"

She was worried that her knot was too loose and that the rope would fall off easily. Hence, she tightened it slightly.

Unintentionally, as her words fell upon Shane's ears, her innocent intention took a whole different meaning.

"Try moving a little, does it feel tight?"

Doesn't she know that her suggestive words can be easily misunderstood?

Shane felt a hot flush creeping up to him. Tugging his tie to loosen it a little, he whispered in a low and hoarse voice, "It's okay. Let's go with this."

At this moment, a middle-aged man stood upon the referee's stand with a starter pistol and jovially announced, "Now, since the children's group and the parents' group are ready, I shall count to three. After the count, the race will begin. If the parents' group loses, there will be a penalty awaiting!"

Penalty?

Natalie was stunned.

there was no announcement whatsoever regarding penalty since

started," Shane's cold voice rang in her ears, jolting her from her thought. "He mentions that only the parents' group will face the penalty. Plus, he has just given us a hinting glance on purpose. That obviously means that he intends for us to lose. If you don't want to be the loser, the best way

I understand." Nodding her head, Natalie became more

not want to be on the receiving end of some
waist,” Shane

aback, thinking that she might have heard it

and flatly explained, “In a three-legged race, the most crucial things are the tacit understanding and cooperation. Since don’t understand each other well, we can only rely on cooperation. Seeing that you are not tall enough to put your arm around my shoulders, the alternative is for you to hug my waist. We shall

to place her hand. Now, she wrapped

fresh mint passing by her nose, causing her
have I

It is so familiar.

still trying to remember where she had sniffed
on the race and

The middle-aged man raised the starter pistol and pulled
Bam!

Shane led the first step with the tied leg and
keeping up with him so as to not hold both
they were still

but they had also grown up together, therefore possessed great rapport with one another. The moment the gunshot was heard, they were already rushing ahead, leaving the two adults behind

her head back and excitedly shouted, “Dad! Mommy! Both of you

“Dad, mommy! You are both going to lose!” Connor echoed his sister as he enthusiastically taunted.

Natalie could sense the two cheeky kids were mocking them, leaving her nonplussed.

“We must hurry up,” Shane said as he squinted at the finish line, which was still far away, before staring at the two children who were nearly reaching the half point of the race.

Natalie knew that they would lose if they did not speed up, so she took in a breath and agreed.

Adults had longer legs than children. After speeding up and taking bigger strides, both of them managed to catch up and raced past the two children.

Seeing their victory was right ahead, Natalie was encouraged. However, her expression suddenly froze.

She had just witnessed the support beam that was supporting the finish line shaking.

In the next moment, a screw came off, and the support beam fell towards both Shane and her.

Natalie’s eyes widened in surprise, and before she even had time to think, she instinctively pushed Shane to the ground. However, her leg was hit by the falling support beam.

This scene frightened everyone in the restaurant. The middle-aged man who was hosting the event was terrified as he quickly called for assistance.

Soon, the restaurant’s guards came and lifted the support beam away.

Shane quickly untied the rope binding their legs together before helping Natalie up. Seeing her bleeding ankle, his heartbeat

quickened, almost skipping a beat, leaving him to mutter with a dazed look, "You..."

Chapter 30

"Mr. Shane, are you okay?" asked Natalie with a pale face and a forehead covered with cold sweat.

Shane moved his lips and said, "I'm okay."

"That's good," she said, heaving a sigh of reprieve.

Looking at her grimly with a conflicted expression, he asked, "Why did you save me?"

He saw firsthand how she rushed to rescue him without any hesitation the moment the beam fell down.

She seemed overly concerned about him getting hurt.

"Isn't it normal to save others?" Natalie weakly replied while smiling to shrug it off.

After all, he was only here to help. If he had been the one injured, she would feel really bad.

"Mommy, are you okay?" Connor asked anxiously as he raced over with Sharon tagging behind.

Sharon was in tears. "Mommy, you're bleeding. Boohoo..."

Watching the two young ones getting all nervous and concerned about her, Natalie felt the warmth in her heart. Biting her lips to endure the pain, she comforted them, "All right. You two don't worry. Mommy is totally fine."

fine? Look, even the skin has been punctured," said Connor. Clenching his little fists, he glared at Shane and accused, "This is all on you. Mommy

face as she scolded, "How can you talk to Mr. Shane in this
red as he

head to look at Connor, Shane admitted, "You are right. Your Mommy
injures herself trying to save me. I shall take full responsibility

head and stared at Shane for a few seconds. Snorting

his reaction, Shane raised his

this child really a

too smart and too mature

seems more

Natalie. His voice, devoid of the cold tone previously, had warmed up
considerably as he asked with concern, "Can you

injured

was well within

down, he picked her up

and was startled. Staring at Shane with her eyes wide open, she
questioned, "Mr. Shane, what are you

He continued carrying her and headed straight to the row of

Sharon's hand and trailed

Natalie down. After that he

the falling of the beam, he bowed and apologized profusely to both
Natalie and Shane then tried

Hearing the justification, Shane could not help but pressed his lips
tightly, his eyes flashing with eminent anger. "So this is an accident?"

“Yes, it is. Our staff did not see the loosening screw. That is the cause of the accident. Whatever it is, I’m really sorry!” As he spoke, the middle-aged man held a handkerchief to keep wiping the sweat from his head. His mind was a bundle of nerves.

Who exactly is this Mr. Shane?

The aura emanating from this man is incredibly imposing!

“This is such a prestigious restaurant and yet you have such irresponsible staff! What a joke!” Shane sternly stared at the middle-aged man with his piercing glare.

The middle-aged man dared not to look at his eyes. Swallowing his saliva with a gulp, he replied, “Yes, yes. This is our restaurant’s fault. We will bear full responsibility. As a show of our sincerity, we will waive the payment for your order. In addition, we will grant this lady a lifetime membership card as compensation for her injury. What do you think?”

“What do you think?” With the emphasis on the word “you”, Shane did not agree on Natalie’s behalf but rather redirected the middle-aged man’s question to her to gauge her thoughts.

Natalie knew that it was a genuine accident yet decided to hold onto the matter. She nodded her head and agreed, “So be it.”

“Okay. I’ll go and prepare the necessary things and call for a doctor as well.” The middle-aged man was overjoyed when he heard Natalie’s acceptance of this apology.

After all, their restaurant was a prestigious one. Diners who came here for their meals are all either wealthy or powerful.

If the compensation were not up to par and the customer decided to pursue the issue, not only his position as the manager would be jeopardized, but the restaurant might also even have to face a lawsuit filed against