

Chapter 31

The manager was really grateful that this gentleman and the lady were so easy to deal with.

“Forget about the doctor. I’ve already called for one.”

As Shane finished speaking, a lax-sounding voice echoed from behind, “Shane, who’s the wounded one you’ve just mentioned?”

Natalie turned towards the voice and saw a baby-faced young man approaching.

He was clad in bright-colored casual outfits, with curly hair and a cheeky smile that revealed his protruding upper canines, causing him to appear very cute.

The word “cute” might not be an appropriate adjective to normally describe a man, yet in his instance, it was an absolutely apt description that matched his look.

In fact, the word “cute” was probably made just for him.

Natalie kept staring at the man, who turned out to be none other than Jackson Baker, with an unflinching look - something that caught Shane’s sight as well.

Noticing her intent stare at the other guy, Shane’s gaze darkened as his heart felt inexplicably uncomfortable.

“Ah, this person,” Connor blinked in surprise when he saw Jackson.

Turned out this mister was a doctor.

who stopped us outside the restroom.”

already stopped crying, but she could not speak clearly

strange man. He’s with Mr. Shane earlier.” Connor

was about to utter his greetings, he saw Natalie standing beside
glance,

Jackson asked, narrowing his eyes,

him curiously and shook her head, "But mister,

you sure you don't? Take a closer look," Jackson pointed at his nose
and brought his

awkwardly, Natalie could only utter, "Mister, I never meet

memory since her childhood. If she had seen him somewhere, surely
she would

deeply as he rummaged through his own

this

recall where he had

knows him? Does he like our Mommy and wants to be our father?"
Sharon whispered curiously to Connor

forget about those blond-haired misters while living abroad in the
past. This was how they

Jackson from top to bottom before replying, "I don't want him as our
father. He doesn't give me that sense of security at all. I still prefer

a discreet smile stretched across

In fact, he looks like you, Connor," Sharon noted as she

Her casual remark had no particular intention, however to a listener, it
sounded suspicious.

Connor's IQ was far above those of his same age. He had always suspected that his and Sharon's biological father was somewhere in the country.

After all, he had once overheard unintentionally his mommy's conversation with Uncle Stanley. He asked her if she ever wanted to search for their biological father upon their return to the country.

She had replied to him, saying that she did not know who was the children's biological father. Since Mr. Shane bore the same look like him, could it be possible that he was their real father?

Thinking of this possibility, Connor glanced cautiously at Shane, his eyeballs were rolling around in an ominous way.

No, I have to find a way to get Mr. Shane's DNA sample.

Then, I would have to wait for Uncle Stanley to come back to help with the paternity test.

Meanwhile, over at the side, Jackson had checked the wound on Natalie and was currently bandaging it.

After the bandage was securely done, he handed a business card over and advised, "Be careful not to expose the wound to water for few days. This is the address of my hospital. Do drop in tomorrow to change the dressing and get a tetanus jab."

"Aight. I understand. Thank you Dr. Baker," Natalie said as she took the business card with both hands.

Taking a few tissues and wiping his hands, Jackson noticed Connor alongside Sharon and proceeded to ask, "Are you their mother?"

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"Yes, I am," replied Natalie as she held her children in one hand and patted their heads with another.

“They are very cute, especially this little guy here,” Jackson looked at Connor as he said his compliment before continuing, “He looks exactly like Shane. If I haven’t known that Shane has no children, I would have thought that both of them were father and son.”

Stealing a glance at Shane subconsciously, Natalie replied, “It’s all a coincidence.”

As the matter of fact, when she first saw him for the first time, she had felt that he looked strangely similar to Connor. However, she knew he could not have been Connor’s father.

The reason being, the man back then years ago was an old man who was almost fifty years old.

“By the way, I haven’t ask you for your name,” Jackson asked as he threw away the tissues in his hand.

“Natalie Smith,” she replied curtly.

“Natalie... last name Smith...” Jackson read it out in a low voice. Suddenly, he thought of something, his expression changed to one that was utterly shocked as he exclaimed, “Shane, it’s wrong! We are all wrong!”

“What’s going on?” Shane quickly asked coldly.

Jackson quickly pulled him aside, “Shane, do you remember that a few years ago, your grandfather got you engaged with a certain lady from the Smith family out of the blue?”

“Her name’s Jasmine Smith. So what are you trying to get at?” Shane queried as he looked at him seriously.

Jackson chuckled bitterly, “That’s the issue, my man. The problem is that Jasmine is not the one engaged to you, but rather, it’s her!” That said, he pointed directly at Natalie who was not far away.

her head in

talking about me? Why did he point

are talking about?" Shane narrowed his eyes dangerously and stared at Jackson

now that she looked familiar? That's because she is your real fiancée. Your grandfather once showed a photo of your fiancée, and I happened to be there then. I remember that you did not look at the photo but I peeked a look. She's the one

praised the lucky lady of the

was

childhood friend. A good

with his life

must have lied

his thought, Jackson answered, "I don't know, but the only certainty in this matter is that Jasmine definitely is not your fiancée. Her identity as a lady of the Smith family is indeed

the Smith family only has one daughter and one

many years ago, hence

for Jasmine, her identity was to

was similar to what was going through Shane's. He started walking in world

"I

countenance turned serious, "I was.

do you mean?" Shane

grimaced bitterly and replied,
trailed off as he looked totally dissatisfied
he did not mean to force her

Since she had refused to spill the beans, he would have to check on the facts by himself!

After all, he must get to the bottom of this convoluted mess and figure out between the real and fake fiancée!

Deep in thought, Shane got out of the restaurant while taking out his cell phone

“Mommy, isn’t the Smith family mentioned by Mr. Shane where Mommy grew up?” Connor curiously asked.

Blinking innocently, Sharon chipped in and said, “Sharon wants to know too.”

Without a word, Natalie touched the heads of the two children.

Truth be told, she had never told her two children anything about the Smith family, nor did she intend to do so. That was the pain that she bore alongside her mother and younger brother - something that all of them decided not to bring up.

Over a long period of time, even she had forgotten that she was from the Smith family.

Right at this moment, the restaurant’s manager, who was a middle-aged man came over with a meal cart.

The meal cart was full of gift boxes in different sizes. Noticeably, the most conspicuous one being the big teddy bear.

Sharon’s eyes gleamed with excitement when she saw the teddy bear.

“Dear miss, this is something our restaurant has prepared for you. Please accept it as a sign of a heartfelt apology from us,” said the middle-aged man sincerely as he rubbed his hands.

Nodding her head, Natalie said, “I’ll accept the apology. However, I shall leave now.”

After Shane came back from his call, he overheard what she had said to the manager. Taking out the car key from his pocket, he threw the key to Jackson who was behind him. “Go, drive my car her,” he commander.

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Jackson knew what he was expected to do. Twirling the key around in a carefree style, he agreed.

After he left, Shane looked at Natalie and offered, “Allow me to send you all back.”

“Thank you. I guess we’ll be troubling Mr. Shane then,” said Natalie as she accepted the offer and smiled politely.

If she were not injured in the first place, she might have rejected his offer.

As her feet could no longer walk, she naturally would not make a fool of herself by bringing her two children to hail a cab.

Shane carried her up just like he had done just now and headed towards the exit of the restaurant.

Meanwhile, the two children walked hand-in-hand behind them. To any by passers, the four of them looked like a real, happy family.

As they exited the restaurant, unbeknownst to them, a man with a camera was hiding behind the bushes just outside. Recognizing Shane, and seeing him carrying a woman as well as getting into a car

with two children, the stalker excitedly raised his camera and started snapping away at the scene.

“So, where are we heading?” Shane asked after putting on his safety belt in the car.

“Blue Court Apartments, please,” Natalie mentioned the address of her apartment.

Raising his eyebrows, Shane felt surprised.

Such a coincidence!

unit was in the same building as hers. Judging from the lot number of her unit, his was located right opposite

in a daze and decided to reach

eyes flickered.

way home, yet Connor was still full of energy. He looked at Shane who was

to ask Mr. Shane?” asked

as he swiped down the hand his mother had placed on his head. Looking at Shane intently, he asked, “May I, Mr.

and said, “Sure.

you married, Mr. Shane?” Connor

would ask such personal questions, and both were caught

in a gentle way

she gently reprimanded her son, Natalie glanced at Shane who was driving, and smiled embarrassedly as she apologized, “I’m sorry, Mr. Shane. He is still young and

problem,” Shane assured as he broke into a smile and replied, “To answer

That’s great!

two little hands together gingerly and cheered in

at her son’s daring question and exclaimed in a

rascal. Surely he has something

angry. I have my reasons,” Connor tried to coax Natalie in a mature

and sarcastically remarked, “What good

tongue out playfully, Connor chided, “I won’t tell you for

Shane had a family. Depending on his answer, he might dismiss

After all, he had suspected that Mr. Shane was very likely their biological father.

He did not want to acknowledge a biological father who already had his own family.

“You!” Natalie sighed helplessly as she peered intently at her son whom she had brought up since he was born.

Her son was too smart and too mature. As a mother, she felt like she had missed out on some fun in motherhood.

“Mr. Shane, regarding my last question, you haven’t reply to me yet,” Connor pointed out, refusing to give up, thus decided to pursue the matter to its end.

Shane raised his eyes and glanced at the rearview mirror at Natalie nonchalantly before replying, “Nope, I don’t have a girlfriend either.”

Except that he had a fiancée!

Caught by the issue, he suddenly felt desperate enough to want to know what actually happened a few years ago.

Why did Natalie, who was supposed to be his fiancée, ended up being replaced by Jasmine instead?

Also, in the past few meetings, Natalie did not seem to know that he was her fiancé too.

“Okay, Connor, that’s enough for now. I forbid you from asking Mr. Shane any more questions of any sort. Mommy will be really angry if you keep asking,” warned Natalie as she sternly squinted at her son with a death stare.

Realizing he might have crossed the boundary, Connor nodded obediently, “Alright. I won’t ask anymore. Mommy, please don’t be angry.”

Meanwhile, he was rather happy. This is such good news! Mr. Shane is not married and has no girlfriend. I can now proceed to try to confirm whether he is my father or not.

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As Connor pondered, his eyes were zooming into Shane’s hair from time to time, readying himself and eyeing for a chance to pull out a couple strands of Shane’s hair.

However, before he could do anything, Natalie pulled him onto her lap and ordered him to sleep.

Connor found himself held down and could not move, hence he secretly sighed and resigned to the situation.

Seemed like all avenues had been closed and the next opportunity could only be found next time.

Mommy is really holding me back.

Suddenly, the cell phone in Natalie's bag started to vibrate.

She took out her phone and saw that there was a message.

Seeing the sender's name, she smiled slightly, and quickly opened the text message to check the content.

Are you home yet?

Natalie typed her reply: Not yet. Will be home soon!

Awesome! The person on the other end sent a one-word voice reply. No other audio message followed after that.

gotten used to it. Calmly

half an hour,

and asked them

back seat door and carried Natalie out of the

the door of her house. Just as she was about to answer, the

Breaking into a smile, Natalie remarked, "Thanks for your good

followed the direction of her look and was surprised

handsome man wearing a grey trench coat

one she mentioned

Is he her husband?

can put me down first," Natalie

say much as he gently lowered her to the ground. As she stood up, he held

junction, Sharon also saw the man. Her eyes brightened and she tugged Connor before

and picking up the two children, kissing both of

could not help but feel a little uncomfortable all of

belonged to him was suddenly snatched away by this man who had appeared out of

while holding Sharon in his arms. With a gentle smile on

ask, "Why are you back here? I thought you're

surgery popped up and I had to attend to it. By the time I disembark from the plane, the

"No wonder you texted me just now asking if I'm already back home. I thought you

"All this is to give you a surprise." Having said that, Stanley put down the two children before stealing a glance at Shane. When his eyes saw Shane's face, he could not stop staring as he trembled slightly.

Why does his face look so similar to Connor's? Can it be...

Stanley's eyelids drooped slightly, hiding the grimness in his eyes.

Soon, he recovered his cool and acted as if nothing had happened. Feeling suspicious, he inquired, "So, this gentleman here is..."

"This is my boss, Mr. Shane Thompson of the Thompson Group," said Natalie as she introduced Shane to Stanley.

Nodding his head, Stanley reached out his hand to Shane and said, "It's a pleasure to meet you. I'm Stanley Quinn, a surgeon by profession."

Shane looked at his outstretched hand yet did not shake it. After replying with a casual “Hello”, he looked at Natalie and said, “Since this person is here to pick you up, I’ll take my leave first.”

For some inexplicable reason, he really disliked this man!

At the same time, his “man-alarm” was ringing in his head, warning him that there was more to Stanley than it met the eyes.

“Sure. Thanks for everything and goodbye, Mr. Shane.” Nodding her head, Natalie patted the heads of her two children and commanded, “Say goodbye to Mr. Shane, you two!”

Her two children obeyed respectfully.

Connor waved his hands vigorously as he shouted, “Mr. Shane, I’m looking forward

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The next time we meet, I must get a sample of Mr. Shane’s hair.

Getting into his car, Shane drove off. While on the way, Silas Campbell gave him a call.

Stopping his car by the side of the road, Shane took out his cell phone. His voice, unnoticed by him, was a mix of anticipation and eagerness as he blurted out, “How’s the investigation?”

“I’ve found the information. Just as you have suspected, the one who was supposed to be in the marriage arrangement with you is none other than Ms. Natalie Smith and not Ms. Jasmine Smith. The latter is responsible for impersonating Ms. Natalie’s identity.”

“Impersonating?” Shane uttered as he frowned, “What’s the reason behind this?”

“It’s...” Silas found himself at a loss of words.

Pursing his lips impatiently, Shane commanded, “Just say it!”

“Alright!” responded Silas quickly. No longer hesitating, he poured out all the information he had found, “Seven years ago, after your marriage arrangement with Ms. Natalie had been made, she eloped with another man.”

“Eloped?” Shane could not help but gripped the phone tighter.

“Yes, Ms. Natalie used to have a lover. After she learned that her engagement had been decided without her consent, she ran away with the help of Mdm. Yulia, her mother. When her father Mr. Smith found out, he was enraged and divorced Mdm. Yulia. He married his current wife, Mdm. Susan Sullivan, who brought Ms. Jasmine back to the Smith family.”

Susan

He also concocted the lie that Ms. Natalie had changed her name to Jasmine, and Ms. Jasmine had no choice but to tell the outside world that Mdm. Susan is her

her. Such scandalous is she that the

He was crestfallen, his eyelids drooped as his mind became a total mess. After a short

He was surprisingly calm.

are we going

replied before continuing, “Since this engagement is a mistake from the

and the same person who had rescued him five years

did not love her, he also did not have any feelings for anyone else either. In the end, it did not matter who he married anyway. Marriage was just a contract to him -

investigation was to find out what had happened in the past. As for Natalie, since they were nothing but strangers in the past, they

phone onto the passenger seat and started

second day, at the

to scour the database for any information on Thompson Group's design style, so she could

she could not access

to her and asked, "Ashley, is there something wrong with the database? I

on my side. Maybe you entered the wrong ID?" Ashley cocked

Natalie shook her head and replied, "I've checked letter by letter, number by number. There's absolutely nothing wrong."

"In that case, probably the system has never stored your ID in the first place. Why don't you ask Ms. Jasmine about this?" Ashley suggested.

Natalie furrowed her brows, feeling reluctant to go. "Ashley, what about I borrow your ID to log in instead?"

"No, that won't do!" Ashley refused immediately. Surprised by her own over-the-top reaction, Ashley piped down and explained, "Nat, it's not that I don't want to help you, but this information is classified as top secrets. They can only be accessed once a week and cannot be printed out. If I lend my ID to you, then I won't be able to access the database whenever I need to."

"I see..." Natalie could only bit her lips and gave in.

Seemed like the only solution was to bring this up with Jasmine.

Heaving a sigh, Natalie picked up her crutches beside her seat and limped towards the supervisor's office.

When she reached the door to the office, she knocked on the open door and called out, “Ms. Jasmine!”

“What are you doing here?” Jasmine’s expression soured immediately.

“I need to access the information in the database. However, I can’t log in with my ID. Just want to check what is going on?” Natalie said flatly while staring at Jasmine with cold indifference.

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Natalie could feel that Jasmine certainly had a hand in the matter.

She was able to log in yesterday, but not today.

Hence, she must have something to do with this.

Sure enough, Jasmine admitted almost immediately, “I’m the one who deleted your ID from the system.”

Pursing her lips, yet knowing that her instinct was spot on, Natalie could only ask, “Why?”

“You dare to ask me why?” Jasmine leaned back in her chair and folded her arms in front of her. Straightening her posture to express dominance, she haughtily remarked, “Because you’re not a formal employee of our Thompson Group. You’re just someone we outsource, therefore I can’t let you access the database. What if you’re here to steal the confidential data?”

“Oh, please! Of course, I won’t!” Natalie’s face was serious, bordering anger.

Jasmine snorted, “Have you ever encountered a thief who admits to stealing something?”

That left Natalie speechless.

It was obvious that Jasmine was making things difficult on purpose for her. But she would not surrender without a fight.

Staring at Jasmine with a deep gaze, Natalie decided to leave instead.

turn around, Jasmine squinted her eyes, feeling that the scene seemed familiar. In a sharp voice, the latter sternly called out, "Stop! You're

up with Mr. Shane. I believe Mr. Shane will

up and took a few large strides

problem arising from Natalie's two children had been temporarily

let her guards down

truth of the yesteryear might be divulged at any time. Therefore, she must minimize the frequency of them meeting as much as possible. After that, she would find an

as she stared at the hand that was grabbing her arm. With an impassive expression, she goaded, "I'm a poor, injured person. If anything were to happen to me here in this office, or if my injury worsened, I'm sure

her

expression changed immediately as she retorted, "Are

be resorting to such an unrefined manner,

reaching the top floor, Natalie stepped out of the elevator. At that

Campbell!" she

in his tracks and looked at her. A fleeting look of disgust flashed across his eyes as he smiled and nodded. "Ah,

see Mr. Shane on something related to work. Can you help me inform him of that to arrange the

as he

to work,

of the

proceeded to push the doors to the

“Mr. Shane.”

look. “Silas told me that

“This is what happened...” Natalie related the whole reason for her coming up.

As he finished listening to her account, he clicked the desktop on his screen with his fingertip and concluded. “So, you just want me to issue a directive to ask someone in charge to re-enter your ID into the system, right?”

“Yes!” Natalie nodded.

Before she came up, she had learned that she needed a directive from her immediate superior to be able to re-register. Her immediate superior was Jasmine.

Seeing that her ID was deleted from the system by Jasmine herself, it was impossible to get her to issue the directive. Having no choice, she had decided to come up to Shane.

“I understand. I’ll inform Silas to bring you to the personnel department.” Shane gave his approval.

Natalie was so elated that she almost forgot her manners. She said, “Thank you Mr. Shane. I’ll take my leave then,” as she turned and went out of the office.

“Wait a minute!” Shane stopped her suddenly.

Natalie paused dead in her tracks. “Is there anything else, Mr. Shane? Perhaps you have some instructions for me?”

“How are you recovering?” Shane stood up and peered at her wounded foot.

Natalie jiggled her ankle around and replied with a smile, “Much better than yesterday. As long as I don’t touch or put undue stress on it, it won’t hurt.”

“That’s good to know. I’ll take you to the hospital for a tetanus shot after work.” Upon saying that, Shane sat back down on his chair.

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He had promised Connor that he would bear the responsibility until the end. And it was his obligation to take her to the hospital.

“Oh, you don’t have to trouble yourself.” Waving her hand, Natalie revealed, “I’ve already taken the shot.”

“You did?” Shane frowned.

Natalie mumbled an affirmative and explained, “Stanley is a doctor. He has given the shot last night.”

So it was him, again!

Recalling the man he had met last night, Shane pursed his lips as his voice turned cold. “Off you go then. Also, get Jasmine to come up.”

“Sure thing!” Natalie jovially replied as she turned around and left, not caring or even noticing the change in his attitude.

Ten plus minutes later, Jasmine appeared before Shane nervously. “Shane...”

“Can you not target Natalie from now on? Your blatant immaturity irks me. Stop it,” Shane said in a deep tone as he purposely glared at her.

In fact, since yesterday in the warehouse, he had noticed that she was hostile towards Natalie. He had no idea where the source of the hostility sprung from.

However, now that he knew that one of them was the illegitimate daughter while the other was the product of actual proper marriage, he wondered how the two of them could ever reconcile. Therefore, he could understand the reasons why she targeted Natalie specifically.

someone using work duties to oppress others, especially Natalie. Such unprofessional

her. As she’s not our full-time employee of our company, I’m worried that letting her having

interrupted Jasmine as he stared at her with his

little ashamed, having been seen through by Shane. After all, he had seen her ugliest side.

to the company under the recommendation of Mr. Moore. Suspecting her means you are suspecting Mr. Moore and me. So put away your schemes and shenanigans, or I’ll have you sent back to your own studio. After all,

hearing this, Jasmine

him. If she were to be sent back to her

she cultivate a

squeeze her hands and relented. “I get what you mean. From now on,

do anything to Natalie in front of everyone but she made no guarantees or promises if

whatever information she needs in the future.

felt reluctant. “Shane, did you really give her Project Rebirth? Although she hails from Laurent Academy of Design, she doesn’t have and said, “This has nothing to do with her fame, but rather her talent. I’ve seen her work. She has the creativity and motivation, and that is why I want to give her a chance to prove herself.

First draft, eh?

twinkle of light shining briefly in

as Natalie messed up, Shane would definitely

had to find a better way to prevent Natalie’s first

she saw Natalie was having a happy conversation with Ashley. An idea suddenly popped

Jasmine called out in a loud

Ashley, who was chatting with Natalie, immediately stood up and greeted, “Yes, Ms. Jasmine?”

“Come with me now.”

“Yes!”

Ashley followed Jasmine out in a jiffy.

After a while, Ashley came back to her seat and looked at Natalie with a hint of guilt.

Natalie did not notice her abnormal behavior. Smiling at her, she pulled out the chair for her and asked inquisitively, “What did Ms. Jasmine tell you?”

Ashley tried to avert her gaze as she replied, “She merely follow up with me regarding my draft design from yesterday.”

“Oh, I see,” nodded Natalie.

Sitting down, Ashley decided to take a risk and asked Natalie casually, “Hey Nat, do you and Ms. Jasmine have a beef against one another by any chance?”

Hearing her words, Natalie’s smile faded as she tried to explain, “It’s not vengeance. It’s just some petty grudges. Why are you asking this suddenly, Ashley?”

“Nothing. Mere curiosity. After all, you were targeted by Ms. Jasmine yesterday. The curious side of me just wants to know,” explained Ashley.

Natalie did not suspect anything and was soon engrossed with her work of reviewing

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Right at this moment, a colleague suddenly exclaimed, “Holy crap! Our CEO actually has illegitimate children outside!”

“Huh, what? Illegitimate children? Where?”

All of a sudden, the entire main office descended into chaos, as everyone rushed to the colleague who was the source of the breaking news. Natalie was the only one who sat there motionlessly, too stunned to join in the excitement.

Shane has children born out of wedlock?

How can it be!

Even though she did not know him very well, her intuition told her that he was not that kind of irresponsible person. It must be the work of some social media accounts deliberately spreading sensational rumors and click-baits for the sake of popularity.

Natalie shook her head and laughed as she zeroed in on that thought.

Although she was not interested in gossips about Shane, her ears picked up her colleagues' excited chatters, and several words caught her attention.

Two illegitimate children and a woman being carried in his arms. Got into a car...

For some reason, these phrases sounded really familiar.

"Don't tell me..." Natalie's expression changed like the weather. Quickly, she minimized the current page on her screen, clicked into her browser, and searched for news about Shane's illegitimate children.

Her search immediately turned up a lot of matches.

the top search results, she entered the site, only

threw away the mouse in her

the moment when

the photos were censored and others could not recognize

fiancé, the latter would certainly not

the outcomes

she was still caught up in her thoughts, Jasmine's voice rang out from the

CEO actually has illegitimate children outside," a

moment she heard the phrase "illegitimate children", Jasmine's heart nearly jumped out. She retorted, "What nonsense are you clamoring about? Since when Shane

with the nonsense. It's all over the news.

her face was burning with fury, yet her heart was

to the male colleague, he pointed to the photo on his computer screen

squinted her eyes at the direction he was pointing. The next second, her

them very well indeed!

Shane with Natalie and

be carrying

over her. Jasmine's eyes were bloodshot as she furiously printed out

printed photo at her face. Livid with anger, she asked loudly, "Care to explain what is going on in

could not

It must have meant that the person in the photo is

"No way. You mean Natalie was secretly involved with our CEO and even gave birth to two children for him?"

"Shhh. Shut up and watch quietly."

Everyone fell into silence. They were watching the unfolding scene with great interest.

Having predicted that Jasmine would react in such an overwhelming way, Natalie could feel a headache coming up and sighed. "This is a misunderstanding. Let me explain."

"Misunderstanding?" Jasmine snickered bitterly before continuing, "You lay in my fiancé's arms and you dare to tell me this whole thing is just a misunderstanding?"

She had made up her mind to prevent Natalie and Shane from ever contacting one another.

Unexpectedly, as fate would have it, not only did they meet one another, they even shared such an intimate moment.

This was totally unacceptable!

“This is really a misunderstanding. It all started like this...” Natalie gazed into Jasmine’s bloodshot eyes and started relating everything that had happened last night.

As expected, Jasmine did not believe a single word from Natalie. In fact, she was getting more and more agitated that her nails even digging into her clenched palms. “Enough! What a lame excuse about finding a pretend-father for some children’s games. All of them are just excuses! Can’t you find other men in such a huge restaurant? Why must it be my fiancé? Natalie, do you dare to say that you have no other intentions?”

Despite her anger, Natalie suddenly broke into a chuckle.

And that chuckle made Jasmine even more uncomfortable. In her sharp, furious voice, Jasmine questioned, “What are you snickering about?”

“I’m laughing at your imagination, your emotionally biased judgment, and your needless worries. Even though your deduction may be sound, I will still stick to my stand that this is all a misunderstanding. If you still don’t believe me, you can ask Mr. Shane whether I’m lying or doing anything intentionally.” Natalie calmly explained.

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After finishing her explanation, she made a “be my guest” gesture.

Her generosity and open-mindedness had made some people in the main office chose to believe her.

Although Jasmine was really enraged, she was not totally irrational. Seeing Natalie’s earnest and fearless eyes, she knew that there was really nothing between Natalie and Shane.

Except that she was unwilling to let it go.

Why did Natalie always get to meet Shane during those crucial moments? No matter how she prevented them from meeting, they would always bump into each other somewhere and somehow.

Did the heavens support them being together? Was this the work of fate?

Thinking about this sent Jasmine into a jealous craze.

Right at the moment, the guy who broke the news to her just a minute ago suddenly announced loudly, “Ms. Jasmine, our CEO Mr. Shane has just issued a clarification statement on this matter!”

“What?” Jasmine was taken aback for a brief moment. Ignoring Natalie, she quickly walked over to the male colleague.

Natalie followed behind.

She was curious as well about what had transpired as well as Shane’s clarification.

When she came to the computer of her aforementioned male colleague, Natalie gazed at what he was pointing at. Shane’s social media, which was never updated before, had posted a piece of the message which read: They are not illegitimate children. A subordinate was injured. Just sending the subordinate home.

were also two

dim restaurant lights, Connor was seen pulling Shane

second video showed the scene where Natalie rescued Shane and

Shane’s succinct and straight-to-the-point explanations, were enough to prove that all

not the secret mistress and the two children were not the illegitimate offspring

my dear Ms. Jasmine. Do you have anything more to say?” Natalie blend of anger, embarrassment, and defeat.

from the very beginning that it was all a misunderstanding, she had intended to exploit the opportunity to

to come up with a clarification for the matter in such a short

fiancé into such an uproar. As his fiancée, I won’t

that, Jasmine gave Natalie a long cold look and strutted away on her felt a creeping

Jasmine would continue aiming to make her life miserable

choice but to go with the flow. As long as she remained swift as the coursing river and forceful

had left, all the colleagues began

amazing! You didn’t even think twice and just rushed towards against such a heavy support beam! If it were me, even if there’s a generous reward awaiting for saving Mr. Shane, I would still

is only proper that he sent you back home. It’s all the paparazzi’s fault for sensationalizing the gesture. However, Nat,

mine.” Natalie

gasped and exclaimed, “At such a

Natalie could only smile but said nothing.

As such, the curtains were drawn as the matter was put to rest there and then.

As afternoon drew around, Natalie turned off her computer and got off work.

The moment she walked out of the building, an unassuming black car stopped in front of her.

As the car window was rolled down, Shane, who was wearing sunglasses, showed his face. "Get in the car!"

Looking around in confusion, Natalie saw that there was no one else and pointed to herself hesitantly, "Me?"

In a cool voice, Shane offered, "Let me send you home."

Waving her hand dismissively, Natalie tried to reject, "It's okay, Mr. Shane. I'll just take a taxi."

On a serious note, should he be photographed sending her back again, the paparazzi would surely have a field day cooking up yet another sensational scandal to pin it on them.

And should that happen, Jasmine would definitely hound her, mayhap even attempt to swallow her whole!

Seeing Natalie's unwavering rejection, Shane frowned slightly and remarked. "You're going to take a taxi in that condition?"

"Is there any problem with that?" Natalie looked down and examined herself absent-mindedly.

Even though she was limping on crutches, she could not understand why that would

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Shane pursed his lips and replied, "No problem at all. However, I have promised Connor to be responsible for you until the end. Therefore, unless you call for someone to pick you up, I'll insist on sending you back every day until you get better."

"Surely you can't take a child's words seriously!" Natalie smacked her forehead in disbelief.

Seemingly not hearing her, Shane raised his wrist and looked at his watch, before saying, "I have been parking here for the past five minutes. The cars behind me are currently blocked by me. If you don't want the cars behind to be riled up, you'd better get in my car right away."

Hearing his words, Natalie instinctively turned her head back. She could feel a headache creeping up as she caught sight of a line of cars behind them honking unceasingly.

"In that case, I'll trouble you to send me to the kindergarten first." Forcing a grin, Natalie reluctantly opened the door and got into the car.

During the journey, Shane suddenly piped up, "I have heard what happened today. Jasmine has been troubling you. On her behalf let me apologize to you first."

"It's okay. No biggie. After you've clarified the matter with your social media post, she left and did not do anything to me," Natalie replied as she winded up the car window and tied her wind-blown hair, revealing her nice, long neck.

Shane glanced at her with a willful look before revealing, "Silas has found out that a paparazzi who recognized me was lurking outside the restaurant. As a result, that happened today."

"I see. So that's the reason." Natalie acknowledged.

"I have imposed a gag order on the internet. No one will disturb your nor your children's life again.

Smiling gratefully, Natalie thanked Shane sincerely.

gruffly acknowledged

the end, she fell silent as

reached the

call, and soon

two children got into the car together and

nodded slightly, his stern demeanor softened a

peered at him. Rolling his eyes, he suddenly pulled Sharon closer and whispered

Sharon did not know what her brother planned to do, she still nodded her head obediently and whispered back, "Don't worry Connor. I'll remember. Rest assured and count

her chest

head, Connor patted her and

amused and

children shook their

Natalie peered meaningfully at

shrugging, Connor said,

definitely won't tell Mommy that he was planning to get a few strands of

chubby cheek lightly, Natalie retorted, "Forget

out at her before turning his head towards

go back and

turned his face slightly. Noticing a lock of hair sticking out and swinging on Connor's head, he

cold expression, no

“Sure. Sit tight and buckle up.” Shane tapped the steering wheel and instructed.

Connor nodded and sat back beside Natalie obediently.

As the car started, Sharon yawned immediately, “Mommy, I’m sleepy. I want to sleep.”

“Go to sleep then. Mommy will wake you up later,” soothed Natalie as she pushed Sharon onto her lap.

Sharon’s pink cheeks rubbed against Natalie’s thigh. She closed her eyes and fell asleep in a mere short while, even started to snore.

Seeing this, Connor’s mouth twitched a little.

Very good. My sister is a pro in this.

He had asked her to pretend to be sleeping. Later, upon getting off, he would have a reason to trick Mr. Shane to step into their house. He just did not expect his sister would actually fall asleep in such a manner.

He was okay with it though, since it was easy to tell if someone was pretending to be asleep. If she really was sleeping, then he would have one thing less to worry about.

Throughout the whole journey, no one said a word. Very soon, they got to the apartment.

Shane helped to put Sharon onto the sofa. After that he got up and took a look at the apartment.

There are only two rooms in this apartment and it was much smaller than his home. However, the furnishings were all very cozy and heartwarming, which was suitable for a family.