

On the other hand, Sharon blinked cluelessly before asking, "What does that mean, Connor?" "Um, it means..." the boy trailed off while scratching his head, not knowing how to explain to his sister.

I know what it means, but how do I explain it? Connor seemed increasingly troubled by the second, trying to come up with an answer.

"It means all of you are going to be a family!" Yulia chimed in, helping the boy out.

"Weren't we always a family?" Sharon tilted her head cutely.

"Yeah, yeah. Of course you were!" Yulia was so amused that she burst into laughter.

The corners of Shane's lips also curved up as he wiped the crumbs off the ends of Sharon's lips.

Watching the wholesome scene right in front of her, Yulia put her hand underneath the table and nudged Natalie's thigh lightly, hinting the latter of something.

Understanding the meaning behind her mother's action, Natalie bit her lip before saying, "Shane, I have something to tell you on your birthday."

"Huh?" Shane raised an eyebrow. "Why can't you just tell me right now?"

Natalie let out a smile while fluffing her hair. "Because that's gonna be your birthday gift."

"I see. I'm looking forward to it then," replied the man as he took a sip of water.

Eventually, the gathering ended.

When they exited the restaurant, it was already half-past nine at night.

Shane and Natalie each held the kids as they bid their goodbyes with Yulia.

Before leaving the place, they waited until Yulia had safely gotten into a cab.

The next day, when the pair had driven the kids to their kindergarten, they proceeded to go to the Civil Affairs Bureau.

Just when they had arrived at the entrance, Natalie suddenly stopped walking, causing Shane to halt his steps too before turning to her. "What's the matter?"

"Are we really doing this?" questioned Natalie, biting her lip.

Shane frowned. "Do you not want to?"

"No. I didn't mean that," she quickly remarked while shaking her head. "I'm just a bit nervous."

We hadn't even discussed anything about this until last night. And now, here we are, a step from registering our marriage. It's normal to be nervous, right?

Shane took hold of her hand, noticing that it was ice-cold and sweaty. She really is nervous.

Acknowledging that, he squeezed her hand in comfort. "Don't overthink it. I'm here. You don't have to be nervous."

Natalie was touched after hearing his comforting words as she stared up at his serious expression. "Okay."

Once Shane was sure that she was genuinely feeling fine, he started forward. "Let's go."

With that, they both entered the building hand in hand.

About half an hour later, the couple finally walked out of the Civil Affairs Bureau.

Shane was walking at the front while Natalie followed closely behind him with a small file in hand. "Did I... get married just like that?" she mumbled in a daze.

Indeed, the item she was holding was none other than her marriage certificate. The whole situation was surreal to her.

Turning around, Shane looked at her. "Yep, you're officially married now."

Still in a daze, Natalie lifted her head and looked at him. "I feel like I'm dreaming."

Dreaming? Shane arched his brows before reaching out his hand to pinch her cheek.

Grunting in pain, Natalie glared at him in dissatisfaction. "What was that for?"

"Still feel like you're dreaming?" Shane retracted his hand.

"Not anymore." Natalie shook her head. "So, we're really married. I'm a wife now," she exclaimed while gazing at him.

Shane hummed a reply before pulling her into his arms. "Yes, you are, Mrs. Thompson." Natalie's face turned beet red as her heart palpitated upon hearing that particular title. Embarrassed, she patted her husband's back. "Alright, you can let go now. People are watching."

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Shane could not care less that people were watching, but he also knew that Natalie was easily embarrassed. As such, he pulled away from her. Right after that, he took the marriage certificate from her hand.

"What are you doing?" questioned Natalie as her eyes widened.

Instead of replying, Shane fished out his certificate and put both the papers side by side before snapping a picture of them.

When he was done, he did not return the certificate to her. "Let me keep them safe."

Natalie seemed completely nonplussed. "Sure."

With that, Shane inserted the certificates into his suit pocket before taking her hand and walking toward their car.

Once they were inside, he turned to Natalie as if he just recalled something. "Ah. Mrs. Wilson said she has a surprise for us."

"A surprise?" Natalie buckled her seatbelt before asking again, "What kind of surprise?"

"No idea. Guess we'll find out when we get home." With that, Shane put the car in gear and started driving.

Nodding in response, Natalie did not inquire any further.

It did not take long before the company came into view as Shane parked the car in front of the building.

"I'll pick you up later."

"Okay." Natalie unbuckled her seatbelt and was ready to leave. But before she hopped off the car, she turned around and, albeit slightly hesitant, placed a kiss on Shane's face.

"See you later, Darling."

Shane visibly froze when Natalie addressed him with that endearment term that it took him quite a while to regain his senses.

When he finally snapped out of his trance, he raised his hand, wanting to stop her from leaving, but alas, she had already gotten out of the car and was now running toward the building.

Feeling helpless, Shane put his hand down while staring in the building's direction.

Nevermind. I'll make her scream that name tonight.

Bearing that thought in mind, Shane rolled up the window and drove off.

Meanwhile, when Natalie entered the building with a flushed face, an employee saw her and started teasing her, "Why is your face so red, Ms. Smith? Did something good happen?"

Natalie flashed her a shy smile without saying anything.

Seeing this, the employee's eyes went round. "What? Did something actually happen?"

Her question caught the other employees' and designers' attention as they looked over, wondering the same thing.

Natalie cleared her throat upon noticing the crowd she had attracted. "Alright now, calm down, everyone. I'll tell you, but don't get too excited, okay?"

"Of course." They all nodded.

At this moment, Joyce came in from outside with a document in hand. When she noticed that people were gathering around Natalie, she could not help but get curious. "What's going on here?"

"Ms. Rivers, Ms. Smith said she has some good news to share," one of them explained.

"Good news?" Joyce's eyes lit up instantly. "I love good news. What is it, Nat?"

Natalie glanced at her before announcing, "Well, the good news is... I'm married!"

The entire office went completely silent upon hearing that, obviously trying to absorb the information.

After a while, they regained their senses one by one as gasps of shock traveled across the room. "You got married?"

"Nat..." called Joyce, visibly taken aback as her mouth went agape. "Is that true?"

"Yeah!" Natalie nodded firmly.

Dropping the document she was holding, Joyce grabbed the former by the shoulders. "When did this happen?"

"This morning. I just came from registering our marriage."

"Why so sudden?" Joyce swallowed audibly.

Not knowing how to elaborate, Natalie only smiled at her. "It just happened, I guess. Aren't you going to congratulate me?"

Before Joyce could give her response, the others already started congratulating Natalie. Some were even asking for wedding favors.

Natalie thanked them one by one and promised to give them wedding favors later. After that, she got them to disperse before she walked toward her office.

"So Nat..." Joyce started as she followed Natalie. "You and Mr. Shane are now husband and wife?"

"Yes," she replied, placing her bag down.

"When's the wedding, then?" questioned Joyce directly.

"We're not in a rush, so we'll discuss this when we're ready." Natalie sat on her chair.