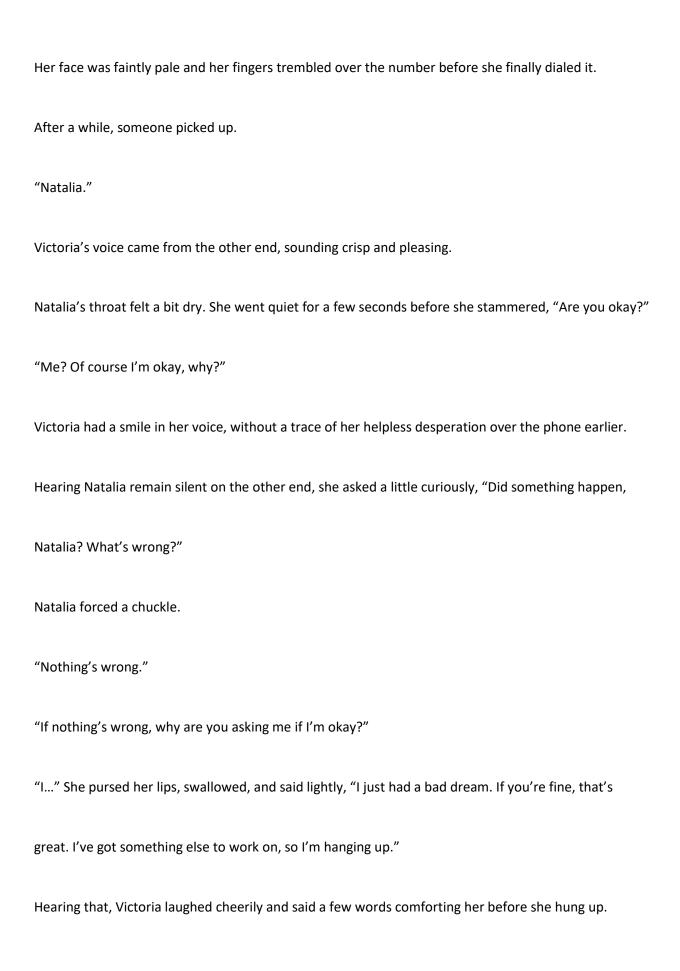
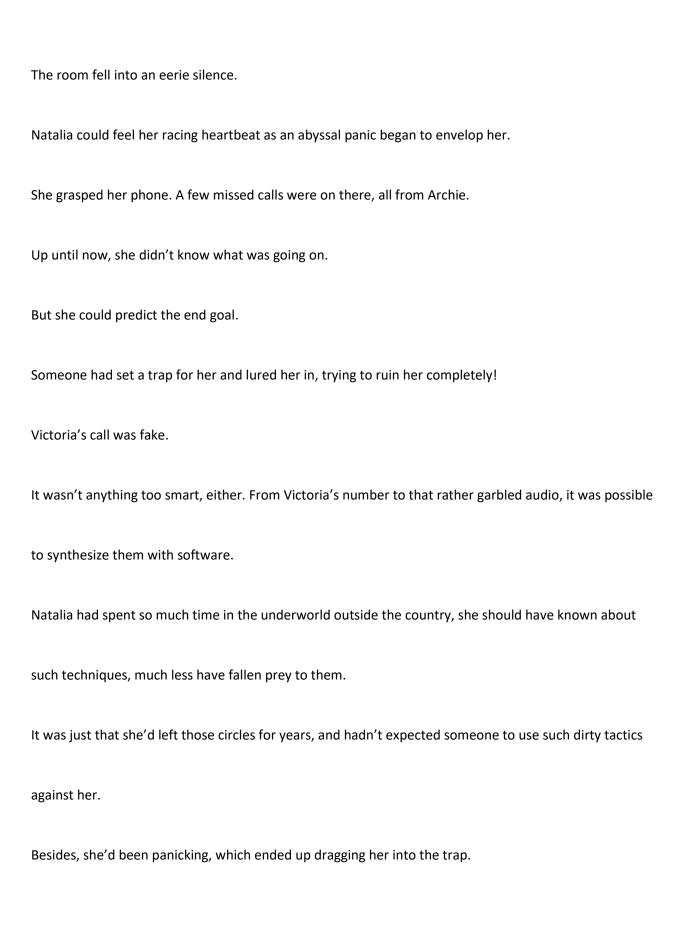
## **KINDA SWEET 391** Chapter 391 Framed Natalia's head hurt. It felt like someone had split her skull open with an axe. She was incredibly tired, too, with a faint, sharp pain coming from the base of her spine. She grunted painfully under her covers and instinctively laid her hand on the person next to her, eyes closed as she murmured, "Archie..." After a while, there was no reply. Finally sensing that something was wrong, Natalia slowly opened her eyes. The room was dimly lit, with simple architecture and décor of black and white stripes instead of the interior she knew. Where was this?

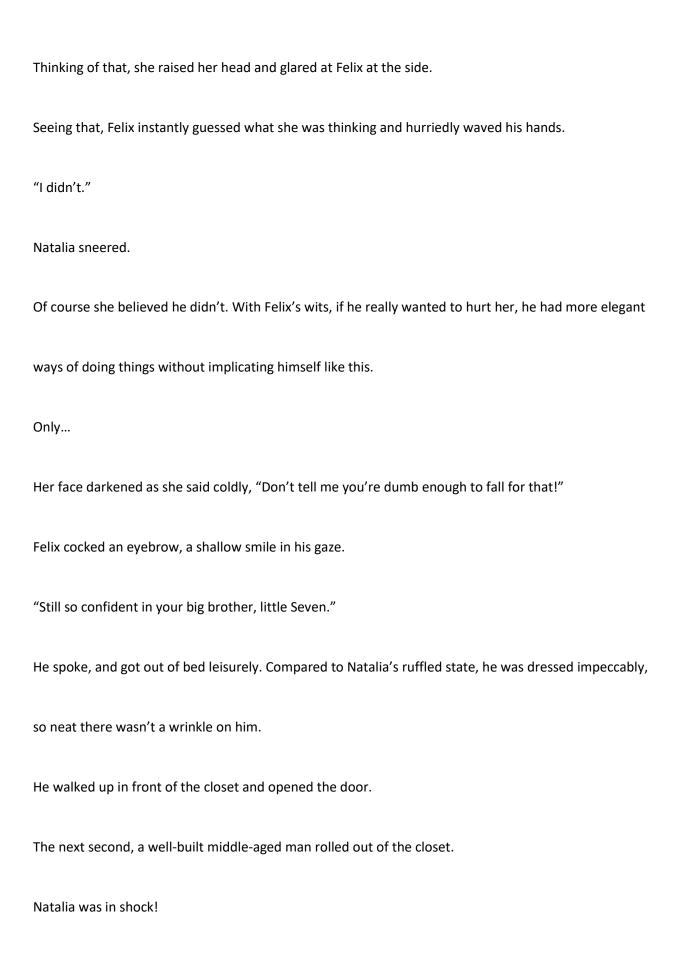
Her memories from before she'd lost consciousness slowly returned. As she muddied through them, her gaze fell on a menu logo at the end of the bed, and she trembled, waking up completely in an instant.

This was the Musi Hotel!

Natalia jolted with shock and stood up. But the moment she moved, she found that there was one other
person on the bed than her.
Felix Bissel!
Her face shifted!
Felix was waking up slowly too. He frowned, looked at the woman sitting in front of him, blinked, then
smiled slowly.
"Even if you wanted to sleep with me, little Seven, you didn't have to go so far. Drugging my drink to get
me here? My, my. Such a direct method. I like it, though."
"Shut it!"
Natalia was going insane.
She clutched her head and thought back, then looked sharply to the side. Her bag and phone were still
there.
She hurriedly picked up her phone and checked the message that Victoria had sent her.
The message was still there, and the number was definitely hers.







And the person who'd rolled out of the closet was almost in tears seeing her.
There was a rag stuffed into his mouth, and his hands and feet were bound. Because he couldn't
speak, he was mumbling indistinctly.
Natalia looked at him in disbelief. "Shawn? It's you!"
Shawn was trying his utmost to get a word out, but he simply couldn't say anything clear.
Natalia frowned and was about to take the gag out of his mouth when a series of hurried footsteps
came from outside.
"Are you sure the person inside is Natalia McCarthy?"
"Positive! I saw her go in with a man earlier."
Natalia and Shawn's faces both changed.
Felix, though, standing at the side, had his arms crossed and a grin on his face. He obviously just
wanted to be a fly on the wall!
And at a time like this, Natalia was sure that this was the people behind the scenes trying deliberately
to get her.

What big news would it be to have the lady of McCarthy Properties meeting her ex-boyfriend in a hotel?
And those people could use this chance to blow the entire topic out of proportion. She didn't even want
to think about it!
There was already knocking from outside the door. Natalia didn't have any more time to think. She
kicked Shawn back into the closet, then dragged Felix with her to the window and leapt up.
"This is the fifteenth floor, little Seven, I like you, but I'm not going to die with you."
Felix was still there hesitating when Natalia pulled him up.
"Quit with the nonsense! Follow me!"
She said, and took his collar as she dragged him with her towards a balcony next to theirs.
Seeing that, Felix narrowed his eyes, then shook his head.
"Tsk. So uncivilized."
The door was forced open.
Among the people rushing in, besides the reporters, there was also the hotel staff.
But everyone was taken aback at the empty room.
The person who'd leaked the info and gotten people to come with saw the situation, expression

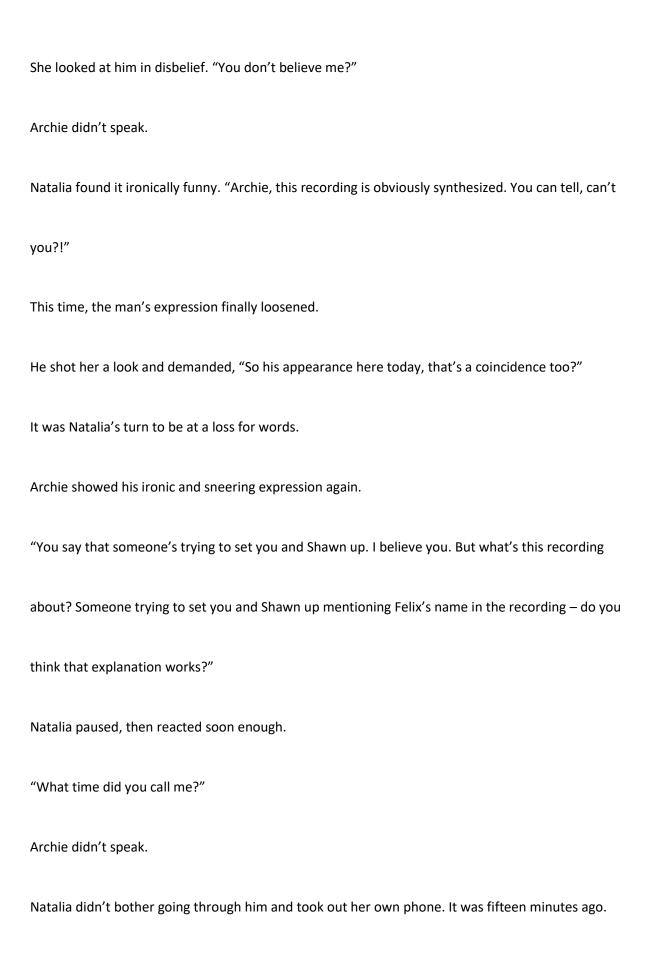


they forgot that Shawn was still tied up and gagged and couldn't speak.
It was until the end before a reporter finally found that something was wrong.
He hurriedly walked up and took the gag out of his mouth.
But the moment he did, Shawn raged, "What are you babbling about? I've been kidnapped! I haven't
even seen Natalia at all!"
The reporters were speechless.
The hotel staff members were speechless.
Shawn wasn't stupid, after all. With her status now, Natalia wasn't someone he could make an enemy
of.
Besides, the two had long since become past tense. If he admitted he still had a private affair with
Natalia, it wouldn't benefit him.
Because of that, Natalia was fine leaving him there.
At this moment, on the other side.
Natalia took Felix with her as she jumped into another room through the balcony, finally escaping the
hotel while there was nobody outside.

Considering that she'd been set up like this, the reporters wouldn't just be swarming around outside the
room, they ought to be downstairs at the hotel too. So the pair had taken the back door.
But the moment they walked out, a black sedan screeched to a stop in front of the two.
Felix cocked an eyebrow.
"What do you think your husband would do if I told him that the man you were having an affair with was
me and not Shawn Miller, little Seven?"
Natalia glared at him impatiently and snapped, "Quit playing around!"
She released his hand and walked towards the car.
The car window rolled down by half, revealing the side of the man's ice-carved face.
He didn't look at them, but his tightly-wound expression and the low pressure in the surroundings
already explained everything.
Natalia bit her lip and said, "Archie, I can explain."
Archie didn't speak.
Soon, Natalia pulled open the door and got in, and the car vanished from Felix's sight.

He looked at the direction the car had left and finally curled his lip, laughing self-deprecatingly. At this moment, in the car. The atmosphere was so tense it was hard to breathe. Archie still hadn't spoken. The aura of cold emanating around him was enough to freeze someone solid. Even Brian, who was sitting in front driving, felt a bit of a chill up his spine, and couldn't suppress a shiver. Natalia pursed her lips and opened her mouth after a while. "I've been set up. Someone tricked me with a recording of Victoria's voice. I came here because I thought something had happened to her. Then I was knocked out, and woke to see Felix there, along with Shawn, who'd been tied up. I suspect someone's trying to use Shawn to ruin my reputation, as for the rest, I'm not sure. But I woke up quickly enough and escaped. They shouldn't have gotten what they wanted." She thought she'd explained it pretty clearly. But Archie still asked, "So, you mean that this was all a misunderstanding?"









Natalia opened her mouth, wanting to say something, but not sure exactly what to say.
She knew what Archie didn't like about the whole situation, but sometimes, it wasn't up to her whether
they met or not.
As opposed to promising she could and being unable to keep that promise, she might as well tell it like
it was.
Considering that, she pursed her lips and murmured, "I'm sorry, Archie. I know you care a lot about it,
but I really do have my own troubles. I promise you, though, when this is over, I'll tell you everything.
Can you wait until then?"
Archie frowned.
In his deep gaze, there was icy judgement.
After a long pause, his lips twitched with irony.
"As you please."
Ever since that day, Natalia and Archie fell into a cold war.

The two had been married for a year and a half and usually stuck to each other like glue. This was the first time such a huge rift had come between them. Even Mrs. Dottie and Anne could feel something was wrong between the two.

Mrs. Dottie was worried. After all, she'd seen the two get up to this point from the beginning, and knew their feelings and temperament better than anyone.

Unless something huge had happened, it wouldn't have gotten this far.

So Mrs. Dottie had tried to get them to make up in private.

But the two wouldn't tell her their reasons, and as an outsider, there was a limit to how much she could do or say.

Mrs. Dottie could only sigh and pray that the two made up soon before anything bigger happened.

On the other end, Natalia also knew that it wouldn't do to carry on like this.

She knew what kind of personality that man had. With his ability, and with something like this

happening, he could have asked investigated himself without asking her opinion.

But he didn't. He'd chosen to respect her, and allow her to choose.

Since he'd done that much, how could Natalia continue to disappoint him?

After considering it for a while, Natalia decided to tell him the truth.

When it came to the Dragon Club and Mr. K, she didn't know what Archie would think after he knew, but it couldn't get any worse than this.

So, Natalia found a chance to come out clean.

The man, though, didn't behave like she'd thought as well.

He didn't act surprised or shocked, only remaining so calm that Natalia thought he didn't understand.

But he clearly did.

A bit of a smile appeared in his eyes as he murmured, "Why did you keep this to yourself before?"

Natalia pursed her lips, hesitated, and said, "I lost a part of my memory. I don't know what happened to

me in those few months; what I've been through, who I've met, what I've done. By the time I woke up,

I'd already been saved by Felix. For those few years, he taught me to fight, to race. He saved my life,

so I can't go back on what I owe. But that's all there is between us. Do you believe me, Archie?"

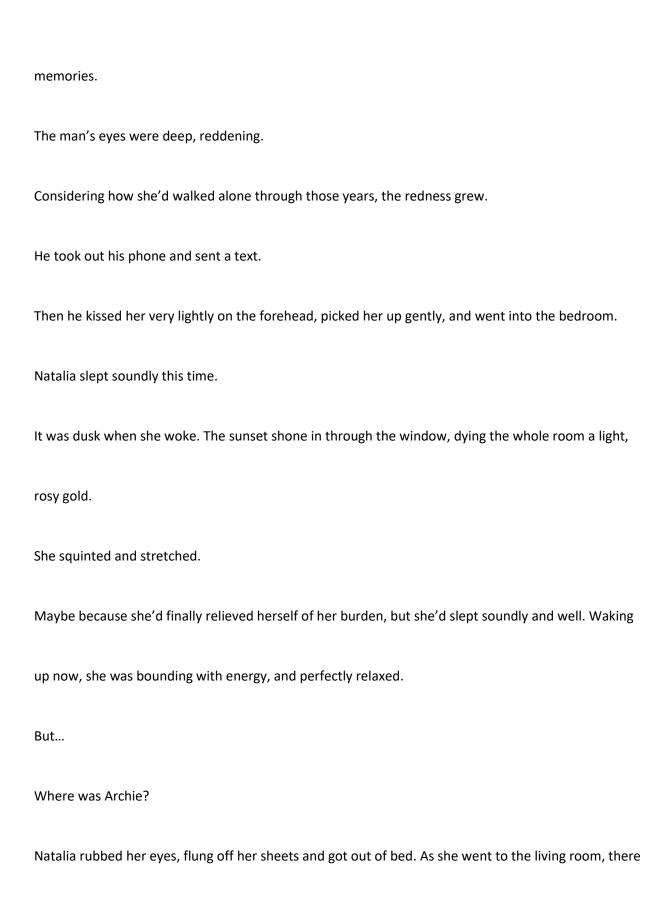
Archie looked at her deeply and nodded. "I do."

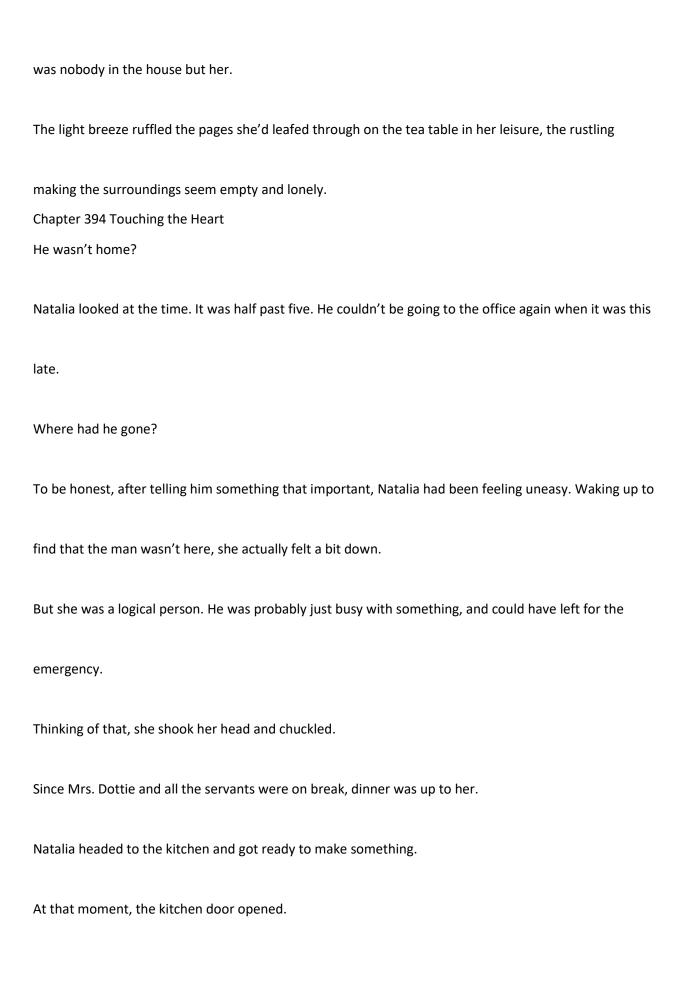
Natalia heaved a sigh of relief.

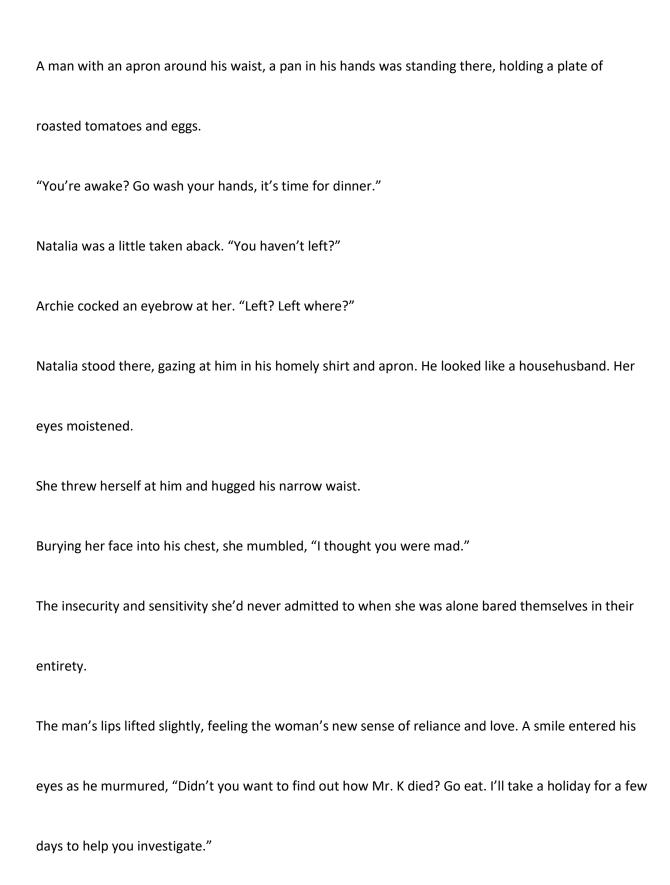




Time trickled by slowly. Natalia tired herself out. Perhaps it was because of how she'd completely
relaxed her heart, and how fully she trusted him, but she actually drifted off to sleep right there in his
arms.
It was a tranquil, moonlit night.
The woman laid peacefully in his arms as the man lowered his head to look at her resting face.
His eyes dimmed.
Memories whistled like wind, seemingly returning him to that night, that year.
He thought he'd been through enough trials and tribulations over the years. Enough danger and pain to
settle his heart. But right now, a storm of emotions was rushing through him.
His slightly coarse palm caressed her slender hand, feeling her soft warmth, his heart seemingly
splitting under a chisel.
l'm sorry, Natalia!
She'd come clean to him about where she'd been and what she'd done in the few years he couldn't find
her.
But he couldn't do the same. Not about that accident, and those few months' worth of missing

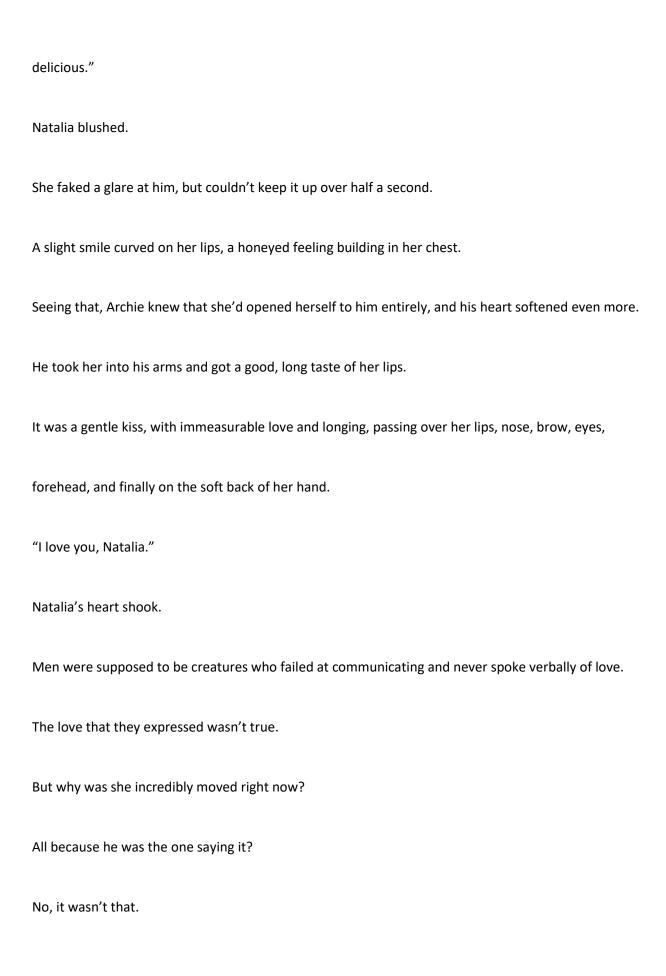












It was because he had more depth and discipline than any other man she'd seen, but only when he was facing her did he lose control of his emotions, doing or saying things that he normally wouldn't.

Those three simple words, stripped of all elegant disguise and all additional decoration, were the three words that most touched the heart.

Natalia smiled, but her eyes were moist as she hugged his waist and said sincerely, "Me too."

They didn't know how they finished the meal.

The two doted on each other and the simple dinner took over two hours to finish.

After the meal, Natalia was adamant that she did the dishes instead of Archie.

After all, it couldn't just be one side always making the effort. Even if he was willing and able, she still

felt like she should do something to make it fair.

The man didn't stop her, but his gaze on her grew more loving than ever.

At that moment, Natalia's phone wrong.

She was too busy to take it, so she called, "Can you pick it up for me?"

Archie walked over to the lobby and took up her phone. Looking at the caller, it was Max.



national treasure, and everything went to the nation in the end. As for the earnings of the auction, a portion went to the Red Cross.

It was nominally an auction, but it might as well have been a charity sale.

And this Violet Group was said to be quite mysterious.

Natalia had heard the name by chance before, and she knew that it was one of the three great families

of the world. The family's authority extended across the whole world, with several centuries of history.

And it was said that this family had a lot to do with Ambario. As for what it was, she wasn't sure.

The auction that the Violet Group was holding this time was to be attended by big names on the

national level, and obviously, it wasn't a scene that regular people could attend.

Chapter 395 A Mysterious Family

The phone had been on speaker all the time, so Natalia had heard what Max had said as well.

She'd always been interested in this Violet Group. It was just that she'd never had the chance to get in

contact before. Now that an opportunity had presented itself, of course she wanted to attend.

Most importantly, according to her understanding, the emblem of the Violet Group was a realistic violet

flower. It was possible they were related to Mr. K's death.

She shot Archie a look, and seeing that, he agreed.

The following day, the auction was held as planned at the International Summit.

Since it was an important scene, Natalia was in a deep-colored tuxedo dress, with her hair made up;

she looked positively elfin.

And Archie was in a white suit. The man's hair was short and clean, and he looked straighter than a

board in his suit. Compared to Max's refined look, Archie gave off a feeling of cool purity, someone you

could look on but not touch.

Natalia took his arm and their group arrived at the International Summit right on time.

The doorway was set up with strict security. Only people with an invitation were allowed inside.

Naturally, those of the four families had that right, Archie among them. Passing through security, it was

a broad exhibition hall inside, with plenty of people having already arrived, not just natives of Ambario,

but from other nations as well.

Natalia looked at the faces inside she usually only saw on international news, and was taken aback.

She grew even more curious abut this Violet Group now.

It was still early, and the auction hadn't officially started yet.

The three found a spot and sat down.

Natalia couldn't hold in her curiosity and asked, "What's with this Violet Group? They could get together so many bigshots on the international stage."

Max chuckled. "Makes sense that you wouldn't know! Have you heard of the Lafayette family?"

Natalia blinked. "Isn't that the surname of the previous imperial dynasty?"

"That's the previous imperial family, all right."

Natalia froze there.

Archie stroked her hair. "The Violet Group are the descendants of the Lafayettes. After the previous empire fell, the Lafayette family members scattered across the world and established the Violet Group, which leads us to now."

Natalia was dubious. "But doesn't the history books say that the Lafayette family all died along with their empire in the Imperial city?"

The recent history of Ambario was a bloody, war-torn one. At the end of the previous empire, the country grew weak, and foreign nations invaded, directly causing the end of the empire. According to

history, all members of the royal family had died with their empire.

And after the end of that dynasty, there came over half a century of warlords feuding with each other, with champions claiming territory everywhere, dividing up the country.

Later on, with the birth of a hero who led his brothers to end the chaotic fighting, this flourishing, peaceful country had been born.

To think of it now, even though the establishment of the nation had only been for a few decades, the half-century of chaos in the middle put the previous empire at over a hundred years in the past. Archie explained, "The history books aren't necessarily real. In truth, at the end of the previous dynasty, its rulers had already sensed the danger the empire was in. They'd tried to think of a way to change, but the house was crumbling, and it wasn't something that could be reversed by human power. So they sent a small team out to leave with the young emperor and a large collection of national treasures. That team was sent out in secret, so almost nobody knew. Not long afterwards, those in power declared the young emperor dead. During the chaos of the warlords, there were rumors claiming that the young emperor wasn't dead, and had instead fled out of the country. But in that day and age, rumors in general were flying all over the place, so nobody paid attention. That's how the bloodline was



better to live in disgrace than die with honor. Wouldn't you say, Archie?" Archie didn't speak, while Natalia rolled her eyes contemptuously at him. "Someone like you, Max, would probably turn trailer the moment the nation was in peril." Max floundered, a little upset. "How's that make any sense? How am I a traitor? Do you know how much GDP I've made for the country..." Natalia grinned. "On women? I've only heard about the Nixon family GDP being made by the big brother of the family. As the second son, you probably put it all in casinos and brothels!" Max went red and pointed at Natalia, unable to muster a rebuttal. Finally, he harrumphed. "I won't argue with a woman." Natalia made a face at him. Max growled, "Manage your woman, Archie, I'm about to blow my top." Archie smirked and laid his broad palm on Natalia's head, patting it softly. "Good work." As for Max - "..." Gaaaaaahh! Somebody tell him why he'd brought those two here today?

Was he just a glutton for punishment?
Seeing that he really was mad, Natalia stopped teasing him, and the group waited patiently for the
auction to start.
Because there were a lot of international bigshots coming to attend, the seating was all arranged
according to status.
Natalia and gang had been sat at the second row, and with everyone seated, soon, the auction began.
Item after item of incredible rarity was exhibited. There was rich cultural heritage, antiques, and all sorts
of unique treasures.
Natalia couldn't stop watching, and of course, the starting prices of those items were ridiculously high.
Of course, those items had been priceless to begin with. It was said that this auction every four years
was held because those treasures were mostly the ones carried out of Ambario's royal palace back
then.

The Lafayettes were history, but the Violet Group still had close ties to the land of Ambario, which was clear from how the auction was always held on Ambario soil.

Natalia was getting a good look when Max suddenly leant over and said, "There's going to be some private accessories on auction later, Natalia. If you take a fancy to any, you can have Archie buy it for you." Chapter 396 He's Rich Natalia looked at him and muttered, "If I take a fancy to anything, I can buy it myself." She wasn't as she'd been before. With Star Entertainment and her own filming, she'd made plenty of money. No match for a full aristocrat like Archie, but she could still accord to buy things she wanted for herself. Archie smiled faintly. "That's right. If you want anything, you can get them yourself." Natalia blinked and looked at him. There was a smile on his brow. She recalled that she basically had all his cards and land rights.

That was equivalent to having all of this man's properties in her hands. If he wanted to buy her anything now, he'd probably have to ask her for money.

Her face burned, and her heart swelled with contentedness.

Max, though, didn't know their situation, and his eyes widened with shock.

"You're not that stingy, are you, Archie! Not even buying your wife a gift."

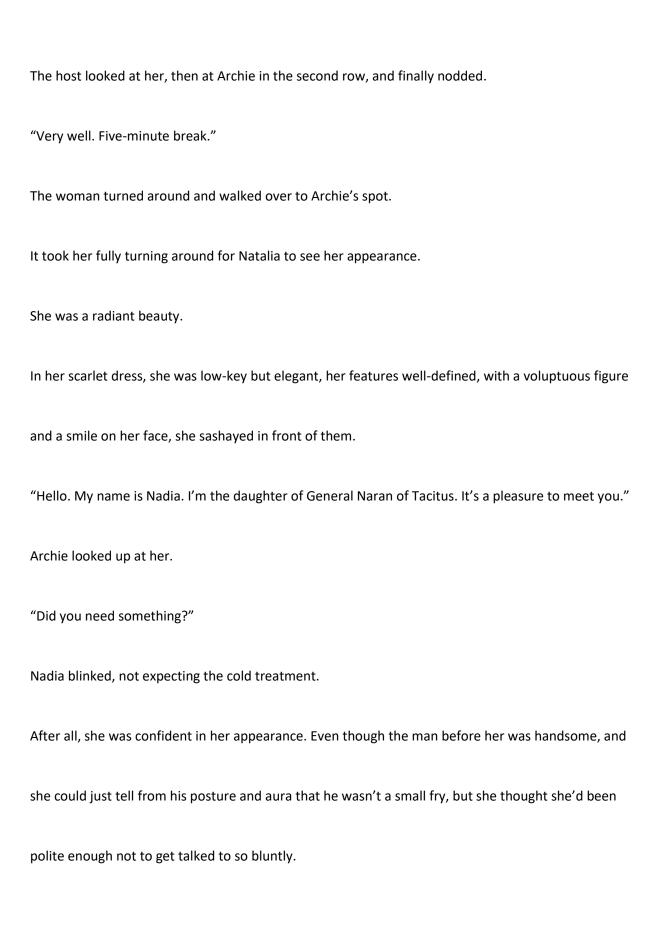














She was about to say something when Nadia sighed and continued, "I'll be honest, sir. This is a hairpin
I'm preparing to give to my sister as a gift. She's been sick for years. Jade is healing, and my sister's
seen a photo of the hairpin. She likes it a lot, which is why I'm asking for your kindness."
Seeing her let her feelings out, Natalia felt a surge of sympathy.
It was just a hairpin, after all. If she bought it for herself, she'd just keep it around without much
practical use.
If her sister was so sick and she liked it that much, she could have it!
Considering that, she tugged the man's sleeve.
"Archie"
Archie already knew what she meant by that and frowned slightly.
He looked at Nadia with a bit of a mocking glance.
"Since you're saying that, madam, then as you please!"
Finally seeing him relent, Nadia's face registered joy.
"Right, what's your name? I must thank you for your kindness today if I get a chance later on."





She was a bit irritated.
She felt like those two were hiding something from her, having fun being in the know while she was in
the dark.
Her face darkened and she snapped, "Max!"
Max couldn't help it and ended up laughing out loud. Still, they were in public, and he couldn't go too
far. He only reined it in after a while. "Natalia, do you know who that woman was?"
Natalia was befuddled. "Didn't she say her name was Nadia? The daughter of some general in
Tacitus?"
"Ha ha ha ha"
Max clutched his belly.
<i>u_n</i>
Was it that funny?
Max only stopped after a long while. Suppressing his laughter, he explained, "General Naran of Tacitus
lost his manhood during a war when he was young. He can't even marry a wife, so where'd he get a
daughter from?"



Archie frowned, seemingly not knowing how to explain.

Max couldn't hold it in anymore and interrupted, "You know how many daughters General Naran has adopted?"

Natalia shook her head.

She'd only heard the name Naran today, so how would she know how many daughters the man had?

Max made a gesture. "Twenty-eight."

Natalia gaped.

Sure, adopted daughters weren't flesh and blood, but twenty-eight? That was a bit too much!

Max continued, "Those are his daughters in name, but in reality, all they are is a set of Naran's tools,

raised to get people on his side. These girls have been trained since they were small in all the tactics to

bend men to their will, and when they come of age, they're released to seduce important figures in the

military and business worlds. All these years, countless people have succumbed to that trick and ended

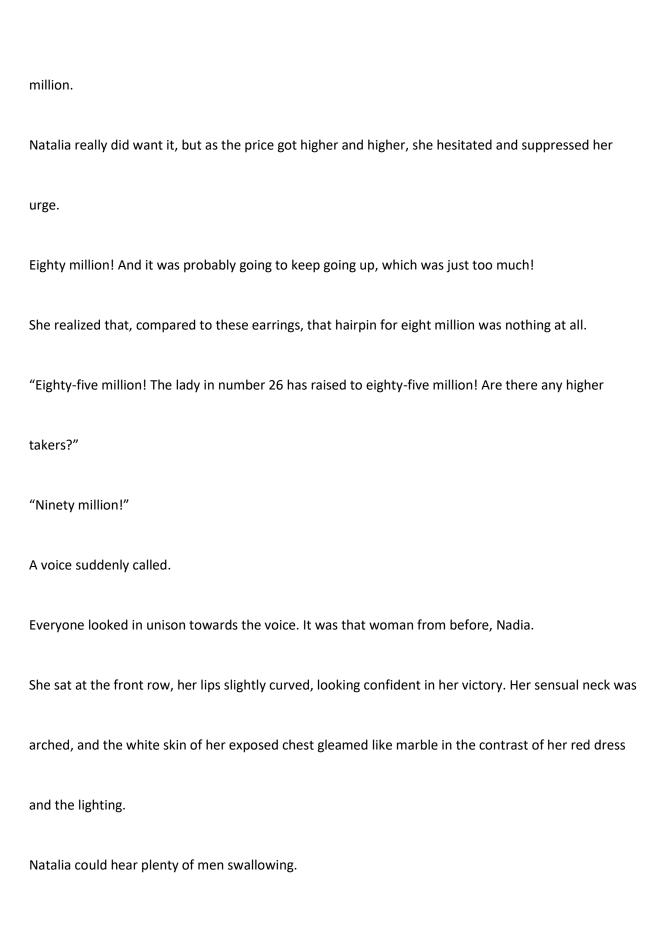
up on his side as stepping stones to power. Heh! Trying a trick like this on Archie – still too green!"

Natalia was left speechless.

There were such methods, too?



caught her attention.
Chapter 398 Not Taken In By Her
She quickly flipped open the pamphlet in her hands and looked at the introduction of the crescent moon
earrings.
It was a pair of natural sapphire gems just discovered in a new mine down south. A rare and unique
fine, it had only gotten to be this way after careful cutting and polishing by a designer.
To be honest, Natalia really wanted it.
Not just her, but every woman there let out a cry of wonder the moment the earrings were revealed.
Clearly everyone was taken in by it.
Nothing could be done about that. Everyone liked pretty things.
And this was just too pretty!
Max wanted it too, but seeing Natalia's enthused gaze, he finally suppressed his own desire.
Never mind. It wouldn't be gentlemanly to fight over it with a woman. And with this many women who
wanted the earrings, if he stepped in, he'd be hated.
As expected, soon enough, people started bidding.
From a starting price of ten million, they went up by millions, and soon, they'd reached a price of eighty



She sneered with a bit of contempt and looked at Archie beside her.
Fortunately, this man didn't seem to notice the attractive view at all and kept his gaze on the stage, his
face expressionless.
"Ninety million! All right, number 16 has raised to ninety million! Can anyone up the bid?"
There was a dozen seconds of silence.
As the host got ready to strike the gavel, a cool voice called, "One hundred million!"
What?
One hundred million???
Everyone looked over in disbelief, but when they saw it was Archie, everyone's faces registered
understanding.
It was Archie who'd put up one hundred million. Well, that was to be expected.
Everyone looked enviously at Natalia.
And the people who didn't know Archie could only gasp as they saw his face.
What a handsome man!
Rich and handsome, always the most irresistible combination for women. Besides, someone who could





Even a goldfish wasn't this forgetful!

Nadia could feel how deliberate Archie was being, and forced a smile. "I'm sorry, I know it's bad manners, but I really..."

"Miss Nadia, you're not telling us your other sister's sick and likes these earrings too, are you!"

Max couldn't help but mock.

Nadia had already noticed Max. After all, the second son of the Nixon family was a regular in the tabloids, so of course she'd recognize him.

But her target wasn't this sort of rich but whimsical playboy, but Archie, someone who could be of great

help to her father's political and financial power. That was why she hadn't talked to Max at all.

Seeing him speak now, she smiled faintly. "It's not like that, Mr. Nixon. The rest of my sisters are well.

It's just one of my sisters who's sick. I like these earrings personally, which is why I'm asking Mr.

McCarthy to show some mercy."

Natalia looked at her and suddenly said, "But why should he let you have it?"

Nadia blinked, seemingly not expecting her to speak.

She smiled sensually, "That's where you don't understand, little sister. It's gentlemanly for a man not to squabble with a woman. It's fine that you're still young and don't understand. You will when you grow up.

The meaning behind her words stung Natalia.

"Oh? And if we just won't let you have it today?"

Nadia smiled. "That's up to Mr. McCarthy."

She turned her dancing, suggestive gaze on him. "If you would step aside for me, Mr. McCarthy, I

would be endlessly grateful. If I have a chance in the future, I will repay you heavily."

Looking at her moist eyes, Natalia scowled.

Max smirked. "Repay him how? With your body?"

Nadia didn't even deny it and giggled, "If Mr. McCarthy is up for it, that's fine too."

Natalia couldn't hold it back anymore. This Nadia woman was saying all this with her right there. Did

she really think she was a statue?

She scoffed, "Miss Nadia, I think you should understand that Archie is a married man. Isn't it a bit too

much to seduce him right in front of me? Is the Naran family upbringing this slack?"

Her words were very blunt. If it had been someone else, they would probably have lost their temper at that. But Nadia simply covered her mouth and smiled, "My, Mrs. McCarthy's feathers are ruffled. It was just a joke. Why so serious? Do you not trust Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. McCarthy?" Chapter 399 Put On the Spot Natalia was furious. "If you can joke about such things, I can see what you are like in your personal life, Miss Nadia." Nadia's face didn't change. She'd probably heard that sort of talk enough not to care. Her eyes still gazed straight at Archie. "Consider it, Mr. McCarthy?" Natalia wanted to pounce on her and claw her face off. She grit her teeth, grabbed Archie's elbow and said, "Darling, I like those earrings." Archie nodded pamperingly. "Okay. I'll buy it for you." Seeing that, Nadia seemed a bit disappointed.

Archie finally looked at her. His eyes were chilly. "Miss Nadia, I know what you're planning, but

apologies. I'm not your prey. A woman like you..." He thought about it until he landed on a more appropriate phrasing. "I'm not interested in a woman I can buy." Nadia's face changed subtly. "What do you mean by that, Mr. McCarthy? I..." Max cut in. "All right, fine, skip the explanation. We all know what the Naran family gets up to. You're coming up to Archie over and over today not for that hairpin or this pair of earrings, aren't you! You just want to attract Archie's attention, because he's already on your list of people to make connections with, isn't he?" Nadia's expression was quite stiff. All these years, this was the first time she came up on someone like this. Not only rejecting her advances, but putting her on the spot in front of so many people. Max seemed to think that wasn't enough and mocked, "Don't worry, lady, Archie's always been a straitlaced guy. A woman even I don't want, he wouldn't take even if she was gift-wrapped."

Natalia smiled and didn't speak.

Nadia's face shifted about, and she maintained a stiff smile at the end. She replied, "If you like joking around this much, Mr. Nixon, I'll invite you to drink someday, where we can joke around as much as we want. In a scene like this, however, it's best to be cautious. I'm representing the Naran family as I attend the auction today, and I'm not here to trade insults!" Max grimaced and didn't reply to her. Nadia finally returned to her seat. Archie got the earrings in the end. Later on, Max also bought up a delicate little thing in the form of a red coral bracelet. She asked him why, but he didn't reply, playing up the mystery. Natalia suddenly remembered that it was Laura's birthday in a few days, and she understood. But she didn't call Max out to his face. After all, if they wouldn't say it, he probably didn't want people to know, so Natalia wasn't going to put it up for discussion. With the auction over, the three were about to leave when a man walked over.

"It's been a while, Mr. McCarthy."

The three stopped. The man was in his thirties, wearing a silver-grey suit, appearing noble, even royal.

His skin was pale and smooth, and he had a gentle smile that seemed to speak of spring comfort.

Natalia's first impression was that this man must be quite high in status.

He might have had a smile on his face, but his aura of irreproachable power and authority was

Archie nodded mildly at him. "It's been a while, Mr. Lafayette. I didn't think you'd be here personally."

Mr. Lafayette smiled. "I haven't been back to Ambario in a hot minute. I was just taking this opportunity

to tour the place. I have to say, the nation's changed a lot. I don't recognize a lot of place anymore."

Archie chuckled. "The country has been developing rapidly these few years. If you're interested, Mr.

Lafayette, you could stay Ambario for a while longer."

Mr. Lafayette nodded. "I actually was planning on that. If you're free, Mr. McCarthy, I might disturb your

household for a time."

undeniable.

"If you would attend, Mr. Lafayette, it would be an honor."







Wilhelm looked at Natalia, a longing expression in his eyes. "All right! If you're saying that, Archie, I won't press. But Natalia, remember to tell me if you come up on any trouble in Eqitin. With me here, no one will hurt you." Chapter 400 Requesting An Audience Natalia was taken aback and looked quite awkward. She couldn't fathom why Wilhelm's attitude towards her had suddenly gotten this way. Max was similarly confused at the side, and didn't react to what was going on until Wilson and Wilhelm left. He turned to look at Archie. "What's this all about, Archie? I keep feeling like old man Kawn is being strange towards Natalia." Natalia didn't speak. It wasn't just Max. She felt that way too. Archie's gaze dimmed slightly. But he didn't take over the topic and just muttered, "All right, it's getting late. We should go." With that, he took Natalia with him and left.

On the way back home, Natalia wondered, "What could Grandpa Kawn and Wilhelm want to talk to me





Natalia, naturally, didn't go over the second day. Wilhelm had been disappointed, but there was nothin
he could do about that. He'd wanted to come out regardless and say it, but Wilson had stopped him.
As Wilson meant it, Natalia had already developed some opinions about the Kawn family because of
what happened before. If the truth came out at a time like this, she might not accept that identity, nor
accept him as a grandfather.

After all, with this time they had to get to know each other, he'd seen through a bit of Natalia's personality.

Her likes and dislikes were clearly defined, and she didn't like to step on other people to get to a higher place. Besides, she was a McCarthy lady now, and might not consider the Kawn granddaughter that high of a position.

Wilhelm wasn't too pleased with Wilson's assessment, but the truth had told him that it might just be like that, and that Natalia didn't care to use the Kawn family as a stepping stone.

That much was clear just from her declining today's banquet invitation.

If any other girl had received that invitation, they'd probably have been overjoyed, but she didn't even care, and was even a bit against it.



Wilhelm's face was tightly strained and his gaze darkened as he said coldly, "Bring me down there." The old man's sickness was flaring up today and his knees were hurting, so he could only sit on the wheelchair. As the butler pushed him into the living room, he could clearly feel the old man's body tremble slightly. The man in the living room stood. Wilhelm waved his hand and sent the butler and servants away. There was only the two of them left in the broad space of the living room. "It's been a long time, Mr. Lafayette." The old man's voice was icy. Pierre looked at him, his face as cool and collected as ever. "Have you been well these years, old Mr. Kawn?" Wilhelm sneered. "No thanks to you!" Pierre smiled slightly. "Seems like you still haven't let go of your grudge against me." Wilhelm's eyes exploded into flame as he raged, "You've got the nerve to speak about letting go of grudges? It wasn't your daughter who died, so of course you can talk so casually about it! I'm telling

you, Pierre Lafayette! I'll always hold a grudge against you Lafayettes!"

The old man had spoken too quickly and his emotions were roiling, so after he finished his spiel, he fell

back into his wheelchair, face red as he panted.

Pierre looked at him mildly and urged, "Your body is not in a good condition. I suggest you keep calm."

The old man scoffed and didn't speak.

But he did try slowly to smooth over his temper.

Pierre suddenly said, "You're hung up over your daughter's death, but you seem to forget, I lost my big

brother too. If we really were to split hairs, neither of us got off the worse!"

The old man bit down hard on the inside of his cheeks and glared at him.

"That was karma! He deserved it! My daughter only ended up the way she did because he fooled her

into it!"

Pierre didn't seem like he wanted to debate the matter. After all, it'd been over a decade. The dead

couldn't return to life, and fighting over it was pointless.

He said lowly, "What happened between them is not for us to judge. I've only come back to the nation

to ask you one thing. Where is the child?"

Wilhelm's face changed.

"What child? I don't know what you're talking about!"

"The child that Miss Kawn gave birth to. My big brother's daughter. Over twenty years ago, you told me the child had been lost. For these two decades, we've always been searching without turning up any clues. A while back, I heard that the granddaughter of the Kawn family had been retrieved, and felt like I had to come back and see no matter what. Old Mr. Kawn, please produce the child!"