

Love OT 241

Chapter 241 Pretending to Be In Pain

At the thought of this, the group of punks turned around in an attempt to run away.

At this moment, Larry arrived at the scene with those from the police department.

Seeing Hanson surrounded by a group of punks, the chief of the police department was instantly frightened out of his wits and immediately said to his officers, "Subdue and arrest all of them! How unforgivable of them to publicly commit robbery!"

Dozens of policemen captured the punks with a few swift cuffs and kicks.

The chief then hurriedly ran up to Hanson and apologized, "President Luke, I'm really sorry that such an abominable incident happened under my jurisdiction. I'll find out everything and give you an explanation as soon as possible." Then, he looked at Hanson and Vania worriedly, "President Luke, Ms. Greyson, are you two alright?"

To be honest, he felt like crying. In just a couple of days, the police department had received reports of two cases about the couple. The danger brought by the incident last time had just been solved, but before he could heave a sigh of relief, the police department received another call tonight. These punks are really tired of living! Of all people, why do they have to rob President Luke and Ms. Greyson? Are they trying to suffocate me? He had cursed these punks in his heart; now, he was praying that the couple before him were not injured.

1

Vania nodded her head in response. "I'm fine." As she recalled how Hanson had stepped before her to shield her with his body, she asked softly, "What about you?"

Now that his date had been spoiled by the few hoodlums, his anger was welling up. A frosty Hanson responded, "If you can't find out who the real culprit is, you better resign."

"Yes, yes. I'll definitely find out who was behind this as soon as possible." The chief promised as he broke out in a cold sweat. Still, he had to express his care for the couple. "These bad guys came at you two in large numbers. President Luke, are you sure that you're not injured after fending them off alone? How about I send you to the hospital for a checkup so that I can put my mind to rest?"

If anything bad were to happen to Hanson or Vania, it would not take long before he was removed from his position as chief of the police department.

Hanson's eyes narrowed. Even if there are ten more of those punks, they won't be able to do anything to me. Though he was not injured at all, he instantly came up with an idea when he heard the chief's suggestion. He waved his hand like an emperor declaring a total amnesty. "You don't have to follow us anymore. Larry, go with the police to deal with the case."

"Yes, President Luke," Larry answered before leaving with the chief.

Still, Vania was looking at Hanson out of worry. "How is your hand? Let's head to the hospital now for a checkup." She was worried because she had clearly seen how his hand had been hit by the purse.

He frowned on purpose while clamping his left hand over his right wrist. "I'm fine."

However, the look on his face gave Vania the feeling that he was obviously in pain.

He was still clasping his hand but his inner displeasure earlier had vanished, thanks to Vania's concern. "Are you so worried about me?" The smug smile on his face was visible under the bright moonlight.

"How can you still be so crafty with words at a time like this? I see that you're fine now. Well, in that case, I'll leave you alone. I've got to go home to take a shower and sleep." She turned around and pretended to leave.

How could Hanson possibly let her go? In a theatrical way unlike his usual steady self, he immediately cried out, "Ouch! It hurts!"

With that, Vania immediately turned her head. "What's wrong? Does it hurt now?"

Chapter 242 Hanson's Injuries

Although Hanson was amused, there was a grimace of pain on his face instead. "It hurts very bad."

Vania became worried instantly. "Then, why are you still moving around? Let's hurry and get you to the hospital." Without missing a beat, she immediately drove his car to Hammond International Hospital.

The clear fatigue was evident on April's face as he yawned by the hospital entrance. Surprised by the couple's arrival, he immediately went up to them and examined Hanson. "Hanson, what happened?"

Vania stepped forward and explained, "We've encountered robbers on the road. Hanson got injured fighting them off and is in unbearable pain right now." With how much Hanson was groaning all the way to the hospital, she had assumed he was in tremendous pain.

The mighty Hanson injured against a few punks? Is this a joke? April thought after he processed what Vania told him. Refraining from speaking his mind, he assured her. "I will immediately examine his injuries. Mrs. Luke, you don't need to worry." As he said that, he noticed the delight leaking from Hanson's expression instead of the pain feelings from the alleged injury. April could not help but become nosy in this 'drama'.

Vania nodded and followed Hanson while April took him into the hospital for a full body checkup. While following Hanson every step of the way, she noticed how every doctor had frowned after their examination of him, which led her to think that he had some sort of internal injuries.

After the examinations were concluded, April sat in his office while holding Hanson's wrist with a thoughtful expression. Then, he directed his gaze at Vania before he cleared his throat and said, "Mrs. Luke, you don't have to worry. You can see from this X-ray that Hanson's hand—"

Is fine. The last of his sentences ended in his thoughts as he was interrupted by Hanson's cough. Understanding what Hanson was implying, April continued, "Mrs. Luke, take a look at this. The X-ray shows that his hand has a serious fracture. I'll be prepping for the surgery to surgically align his broken bones."

That serious? Vania thought with a worried expression. Since she had no medical knowledge, she did not understand what she was looking at. All she could see from the X-ray before her was that the bones seemed fine with no sign of fractures. Just as she was about to ask where the fractures were, Hanson interrupted her with his cough. "What's wrong?" she asked.

"It's nothing."

She looked at him puzzled and wondered why he had coughed if nothing was wrong. She then turned her attention back to April only to find the X-ray had been replaced by a test result that she understood even less.

"Mrs. Luke, due to the reason how Hanson had discharged without fully recovering from his prior stomach ailment, it has worsened from the fight he had today. That's why he has to be cautious in his recovery as he is riddled with several conditions. Just one look at his weak body has is all we need to know about his condition right now."

After he finished his explanation, Hanson glared daggers at him as April had been speaking nonsense without any prior thinking. Ridiculously stupid.

On the other hand, it was the first time Vania had heard that a fight could exacerbate one's stomach ailment. Furthermore, she failed to see just how weak Hanson had become from where she stood. Nevertheless, since it was April who had said so, she then asked, "What should we do now?"

Seeing how worried she had become, April gave Hanson a delighted expression that somehow read, Thanks to me, your Vania is now caring for you! However, he remained stern as he engaged with Vania. "I'll first correct the position of his bones before arranging with an orthopedic surgeon to give him an emergency surgery."

Chapter 243 Coordinating With April

As if his exaggerated story was not enough, April added, "I'm afraid this month would be hard on you, Mrs. Luke, as Hanson would not be able to move his right hand."

Hanson coordinated with April by covering his right hand with his left hand, but he had forgotten it was his left hand that he used to block the bag.

Looking at the grimacing Hanson, Vania was flooded with sympathy for him as he reminded her of her babies. Without thinking much of April's explanation, she reached an agreement. "Alright, then. Let's hurry up with the surgery."

"Then, I would have to ask you to wait outside for a while, Mrs. Luke."

Although she felt odd to not be allowed in a simple bone-correcting procedure, she agreed before taking a glance at Hanson. "Then, I'll be waiting outside. Feel free to call me if anything happens."

Resembling a child, he nodded his head obediently at Vania, who then exited the room. Moments after that, he instantly returned to his usual dignified and indifferent expression, as though he had just changed his mask.

4

April heaved a sigh of relief before he walked over to his office door. After he confirmed Vania to be a distance away from his office, he turned around and gave Hanson a thumbs up. "Hanson, this play you made up is amazing."

As he was no longer grimacing in pain, Hanson stretched out his legs with his usual calm expression. Since he was in a delightful mood now, he was not as furious as he was before with April's teasing.

Then, April noted admiringly, "I can't help but be impressed with how you're completely unscrupulous when it comes to Mrs. Luke. So, what's next?"

Hanson did not answer the man's question. "You just have to coordinate with me."

April was extremely nosy at this point. "If you don't tell me what's next, how will I be able to coordinate with you? What if I accidentally let slip at some point because of this?"

However, Hanson knew well that April was just being nosy. "I believe with your intelligence, you'll be able to figure it out."

April could not keep up with the charade any longer as doing so would be the same as admitting to his lack of intelligence.

Pleased with April's reaction, Hanson ordered, "Bandage my hand and don't let anyone else in on this." Those four from the Greyson Family are really something else. He then reminded April once more, "Remember to make my condition seem serious. The worse the better."

April scoffed as Hanson was the very picture of health. However, against the pressure Hanson was radiating, he could only nod in affirmation. "Fine. Then, I'll be correcting your bones now."

A calm Hanson then cooperated and extended his arm toward the doctor.

At that point, April sighed upon realizing Hanson's courting skills were not all that. He then said, "Hanson, right now you're having a fracture in your hand. Do you know just how painful it's supposed to be? Don't you think Mrs. Luke would find it odd that there is only silence now when you were just grimacing in pain earlier?"

Realizing that he had a point, Hanson immediately let out a scream, which startled the unprepared April, who helplessly sighed at the fake patient thereafter. "You didn't need to be so loud. This is just too much. Just some noise is fine."

Only then did Hanson's scream soften.

At this time, the team from the orthopedic department arrived at the operating room. Soon after, the operation was over with the sickly-looking Hanson escorted out.

Vania had assumed that the pain was so unbearable that Hanson's lips went white. Out of concern, she went up to him and asked, "How are you feeling?"

Since Hanson wanted to maintain the pretense, he put up a rough front and nodded his head. "Don't worry. I'm fine."

At the sight of the 'melodrama', April could not help but be impressed with Hanson. With a performance like this, the man could definitely be a movie actor.

Chapter 244 Taking Him Home

April cleared his throat before he said to Vania, "Mrs. Luke, Hanson is extremely weak now after the surgery, so you would need to prepare something light for his consumption. Oh, since Hanson is a very stubborn person and may not heed the doctor's orders to recuperate properly, you'll need to persuade him to do so, as the condition of his hand won't permit him to work right now."

Although Vania nodded in affirmation, she secretly thought to herself why she was the one who needed to prepare Hanson's meal. I mean, I'm not even a chef. Doesn't he have his own housekeeper? However, she reluctantly agreed since Hanson was injured from protecting her.

Hanson was very pleased with what April had told Vania. As a result, he decided to slightly raise his pay since he was satisfied with April's execution of his orders.

If April was aware of what Hanson was thinking, he would definitely become frantic as it was not a situation where he would have his salary docked again.

That same night, Vania had messaged her babies that she would be staying the night in the hospital with Hanson. Due to how mentally fatigued she was, she fell asleep on the bed beside Hanson in no time.

As his eyes were closed, Hanson smiled as he listened to Vania's steady breathing. Opening his eyes, he walked over to her and lightly kissed her on her forehead. "Goodnight, my lady."

2

Early next morning, just as Vania was pondering on what she should serve Hanson for breakfast, the doctor told Hanson that he could be discharged to recuperate at home without the IV drips. Listening to what the doctor said, she decided to take Hanson home with her and would have Larry come by to pick him up after breakfast.

When Hanson heard Vania was going to take him home, his heart burst with joy. Despite how he felt, he kept an apologetic expression. "Won't it be taxing for you? You've been here with me all night, after all."

She took a glance at the man, pondering on what the man was thinking as she felt he was not being truthful. Then, she explained, "Since you were injured because of me and hadn't been eating since last

night due to your stomach ailment, I figured home-cooked meals would be better for you. Just bear with it for now.”

However, he thought otherwise. If possible, he would like to have all of his meals prepared by her since he saw it as a joyful matter. “Then, I’ll be intruding on your kindness,” he said while taking care not to let slip his expression of complacency, as he had already decided to move into Vania’s house.

Unfortunately, Vania hadn’t a clue as to what the man was thinking. Otherwise, she would never have invited the fox into the chicken’s coop at such a time. After she had packed his things and taken his medication from the hospital, the two then went back to Haling Villa.

At this time, the four little children were already wide awake and were sitting in the living room waiting for Vania’s return. As soon as they heard the door opening, they immediately ran over in excitement to greet her. However, their smiles vanished upon realizing that Vania wasn’t alone. Why is this guy here? What happened to his hand?

Noticing her babies’ cold expression toward Hanson, she explained, “He got injured while trying to help me. That’s why I brought him back.”

When they heard that Hanson was injured, they directed their attention at Hanson’s bandaged hand and became anxious as he was still their father despite everything else. Since there was a kinship between them, it was inevitable for them to worry after seeing his injured state. However, though there was turmoil in their hearts, the four kept their poker face.

Chapter 245 Staying at Her Place

Vania took a while to come to her senses before pondering in her mind, Is this guy really that weak? Then, she gave Hanson another probing look as she wanted to know whether his injuries were genuine.

Meeting the four kids’ gaze of scrutiny, Hanson explained with a somewhat hurt expression, “I was badly wounded, so your mom went with me for a checkup. Just ask her if you guys don’t believe me.”

“Geez,” the four kids responded. How childish of him to pull such a face as a grown-up! Believing him for the time being, they stopped eyeing him with scrutiny.

Jack said haughtily, “Well, in that case, just leave as soon as you finish your meal.”

Jacob nodded in agreement. “Jack is right. It’s really improper for a man like you to stay here.” Even if he really wants to stay, there’s a different price for that.

Jack nodded. “That’s right. Treating you to breakfast is already the best we can do.”

However, Hanson immediately interrupted them to say, “I’m afraid that’s not possible.”

The four kids were just about to turn around and leave when they heard Hanson say so. “Hmm?” Immediately, they stopped in their tracks and turned to look at him simultaneously, as if to ask him what his words meant.

Hanson explained unhurriedly, “The doctor said that I can’t touch anything with this hand of mine for a month.”

The four kids were dumbstruck at once. They looked at Hanson, wanting to see what kind of barefaced exaggeration he could make. Even Vania blinked her eyes at this moment. What does he mean? Don’t tell me he means he wants to stay in our place for a month. She and the four kids waited for his reply.

He nodded under their stare without feeling guilty in the slightest. “That’s right. I’m afraid I’ll be staying here for the next month. Thanks for letting me stay at your place.”

The instant these shocking words came out of his mouth, Vania and her four kids were stupefied; they stared at him motionlessly as if they had been struck by lightning. No way! How can he stay here for a month? Well, I’m indebted to him because he got injured in order to save me, but he can’t keep staying here. If word gets out about this, what will that make of me? thought Vania. Unable to accept such a reason for their ‘cohabitation,’ she had opposition written all over her face.

Coming to his senses, Jack asked in refusal, “Can’t your servants take care of you?”

Hanson replied, “My servants have been on leave since a week ago. They had to go home to harvest the wheat crops. If you don’t believe me, just head to the Luke Estate anytime to ask about it.”

James eyed him with incredulity. “Is there such a coincidence?”

“Yeah, such a coincidence does exist.”

If Finley and Georgina—both of whom were busy working their butts off in the Luke Estate’s villa—were to know this, they would probably say, “Since when do we have wheat crops at home? Why don’t we know that?”

Jacob refused him as well and insisted, “Still, that won’t do.” The Devil hasn’t even paid for the breakfast yet, and now he wants to stay in our home? No chance.

Vania nodded in agreement. “Yeah, that’s right. It’s really inconvenient for a man like you to stay here with me.”

Hanson glanced at the five people before him. Feeling that there was no way he could win if he kept on arguing with them, he had no choice but to fish for sympathy. “Do you guys really have the heart to let me go back alone?” he said while pointing at them. Then, before Vania could speak, he shouted, “Ouch, my hand! It hurts so much...”

Seeing how he screamed all of a sudden, she immediately came forward to check on him. “Are you alright?”

He replied, “It hurts whenever I try to move my hand.” In other words, he was saying that he couldn’t move.

The four kids were stunned. To think that he’d pull off such a trick!

She let out a sigh, not knowing how she should explain the situation to him at this moment. The four kids also felt sorry for him when they saw how he grimaced with pain.

Chapter 246 Are They Really Not His Kids

However, the four kids looked at Hanson with suspicion a moment later. Wasn't he quite perky just now? Is he really in so much pain? After exchanging a brief look, they suddenly thought it was better to let him stay. They wanted to see whether his hand was okay or not. After all, they didn't think he could do anything in their presence.

James immediately waved his hand with an expression that said never mind, saying, "Well, since you got injured while trying to save our mom, we'll let you stay. But you have to do as we say and not do whatever you like while you're here."

Hanson was inwardly pleased with himself. To think that I managed to stay here so easily! Seems like these little kids are gonna put me under observation, he thought. Then, he raised his heavily bandaged hand, saying, "Look at this. What else can I do with this?"

At this moment, there was a knock on the door. Vania answered the door, only to see Larry standing at the door with an ingratiating smile while dragging two suitcases.

"Good morning, Ms. Greyson," he said. Then, he greeted the four kids cordially, saying, "Hi, nice to meet you all." Despite his outward exuberance, he was inwardly astonished. Are they really not President Luke's kids?

The four kids merely nodded coldly and politely. Inwardly, however, they were thinking, How did the Devil's assistant get here so quickly?

Seeing their aloof expressions, Larry felt that they looked even more like the doubles of Hanson. He couldn't help but shudder inwardly. How could Vania possibly have kids of such an age with President Luke? I must've been seeing things.

On the other hand, Vania looked at Larry in puzzlement. Could they have prepared for this beforehand? Otherwise, how did Larry come here so soon? She turned sideways and invited him in, saying, "Come in and have a seat."

He was inwardly pleased at being invited in to have a seat by his dream girl. Still, fearing that he might mess up Hanson's plans, he had no choice but to reply with a grin, "Sorry, but I still have something to deal with at my office. I'll come again some other day." Then, he said to Hanson, "President Luke, I've brought you all the stuff you often use. I gotta go."

Hanson sat calmly on the sofa with the smugness of being able to move into Vania's place written all over his face. Looking at Larry, he asked, "Are you trying to make me go over and grab the stuff myself by putting them at the door?"

As he spoke, he raised his bandaged hand with an air of importance, signaling that he couldn't do anything at the moment.

Realizing his mistake, Larry immediately entered the house with the suitcases in his hands before putting them in front of Hanson. "President Luke, I wish you good luck," he said with an animated expression that didn't match the situation right now at all. Then, he swiftly left Vania's place.

Noticing his strange behavior, Vania darted a look at Hanson's hand without saying a word.

Seeing how Hanson acted like he owned the place, the four kids snorted coldly. The Devil must have prepared for this in advance. Just wait until his cover is blown.

As he was still rejoicing, he was still unaware that Vania and the four kids had seen through his tricks. He looked at his suitcases, then at Vania, asking, "Van, where am I gonna stay?"

Van? Vania only felt goosebumps all over her body when she heard him call her like that. "Just call me Vania instead." My heart can't take it when he calls me like that.

"Cough!" The four kids hemmed, reminding Hanson not to shoot his mouth off.

He merely smiled, asking, "Where should I place these things?"

Vania had yet to fix Hanson up with a room to stay. However, now that all his stuff had been moved here, it seemed inevitable that he would be staying here. She stepped forward and dragged one of his suitcases with her hand before instructing him, "Drag the other suitcase yourself with the uninjured hand."

Chapter 247 Staying Close to Her

Hanson complied. Carrying his suitcase, he followed Vania to the guest room while saying to her, "I'd like to stay closer to you." It'd be even better if we could stay together, he thought to himself. Nevertheless, he didn't say that out loud for fear that Vania might get the wrong idea that he was taking liberties with her.

What is he up to by wanting to stay so close to me? She only felt that he was up to no good. The question didn't cross her mind a moment ago, but now it seemed that she mustn't let him have his way. She walked all the way to the innermost part of the hallway and stopped. "This is it."

He looked around him; there was only a room in sight, which was surrounded by walls. With a frown of displeasure, he asked Vania, "Where are you staying?" Fearing that she wouldn't tell him which room she was staying in, he added, "I'm asking so that it's easier for me to come to you in case there's suddenly something wrong with my hand."

Vania pointed at the frontmost room.

That's so far away! Hanson immediately dragged his suitcase there and opened the door to the adjacent room, only to find that it was a study connected to the master bedroom. The outer room of the study had a clean and tidy bed that was obviously unused. Not only that, but the study was also equipped with everything one might need. In an instant, he was very satisfied. He didn't like to sleep on a bed that someone else had slept on. Most importantly, this room was connected to Vania's master bedroom.

As a result, he decided at once that he would be staying here. Without asking for Vania's opinion, he lowered the suitcase in his hand right away. Then, he turned around and went to her, standing close to her while taking his other suitcase from her. "I've picked my room. I'll be staying here." After that, he dragged the suitcase into the study.

She reminded him, saying, "This is the study. I'm afraid it's not very good for you to stay here." In particular, she couldn't help finding it somewhat inconvenient that her own room was so close to the study.

"What's wrong with me staying here? I think that's pretty nice." Hanson purposely leaned close to her again. "What are you worried about? It's not like we've not shared a room before."

Vania turned red at once as some adult scenes suddenly crossed her mind. Immediately, she quoted a few lines from the Bible in her mind to calm herself. We only shared a room in Eastland back then due to unexpected circumstances. And besides, didn't he stay awake all night at the time?

Seeing how she blushed shyly, Hanson explained with a chuckle, "Don't worry. I won't do anything to you without your permission."

Hearing this, Vania felt even more embarrassed. What else does he want to do? However, seeing that he insisted, she had no choice but to compromise. Pointing at the two suitcases, she said, "Just decide for yourself where you'd like to put your stuff. If you lack anything, just tell me and I'll prepare it for you."

Hanson nodded. The next instant, he raised his injured hand again. "I'm afraid that I need you to help me put things in order, too."

She let out a sigh. Ah, never mind. I'll help him as much as I can. "Okay, I'll help you to place things in order. Just point it out if there's something wrong."

He nodded like he was the man of the house. Sitting on the sofa, he watched tenderly as Vania bustled around. In his mind, she gave the feeling of a pretty and young wife that he felt very close to. Not only that, but he seemed to have been cured of his mysophobia, for he at least liked it very much when Vania touched his possessions.

On the other hand, Vania was somewhat embarrassed when she saw his clothes. After all, this was her first time helping an adult man sort out his things. For a moment, she didn't notice what he was doing behind her. Just as she wanted to turn around with something in her hand, she accidentally bumped into someone's chest.

Chapter 248 Interrupted

His chest was sturdy, and his breath was warm. Not only that, he held her tightly in his arms, making her unable to free herself from his embrace.

"Ah..." Vania was startled for a moment. "Let go of me! You scared the hell out of me."

Hanson didn't let go of her, though. Instead, he lowered his head and said emotionally, "Vania, I—"

However, before he could finish his sentence, he heard several coughs behind him. "Cough! Cough..."

He immediately looked back and smiled at the four kids with embarrassment.

Taking advantage of the situation, she broke free of his embrace and explained to her kids, “We weren’t doing anything.”

Hanson nodded in agreement to indicate that they really didn’t do anything. What Vania had said was indeed true; just as he was about to do something, he was interrupted by the four kids. How regrettable. How could I forget about these little brats? Seems like staying here is only the first step. I still have four little kids to win over in the Haling Villa, he thought to himself while massaging his temples with his hand.

The four kids eyed the pair before them up and down with folded arms and identical expressions. They weren’t doing anything? Like hell we’re gonna believe that. We saw with our own eyes that they were locked in an embrace, especially the Devil. If we hadn’t come in, we’d say he’d have kissed Mommy just now.

Jack instantly fixed Hanson with a haughty look and warned, “Don’t get physical with Mommy. We’ll be watching your behavior at all times. If we find you doing that once again, we’ll chase you out of here.”

Jacob nodded. “That’s right. Don’t think you can do whatever you like now that you’re staying in our house.”

Then, Jack reminded Vania, “Mommy, you’ve to watch out for this guy. He’s got evil designs on you.”

Despite being ripped by the kids, Hanson was in a good mood. Evil designs, huh? Well, they’re right about that.

James looked at the man with composure and added, “Isn’t your left hand uninjured? We’ve learned to do things by ourselves since we were little. Can’t you even do that as an adult?”

Jack agreed with him. “James is right.”

Even Jude nodded as well.

It never occurred to Hanson that there would be one day when he would lose ground and lose all standing in front of four kids. Seems like I’m not gonna be able to get intimate with Vania without dealing with these four little brats first. That won’t do. I’m staying in the Haling Villa for the purpose of making substantial progress in my relationship with Vania. If I get nothing in the end, won’t I be feigning injury for nothing?

Consequently, he decided at once that he had to win over these four problematic children one by one. He first decided to target Jacob, who was a little money-grubber. After all, anything that could be solved with cash was pretty much nothing to him. He raised his chin, signaling that he’d like to have a word with them outside.

The four kids agreed to his request with a nod.

Jack said to Vania, “Mommy, we want to talk to this guy in private.”

She agreed without forgetting to say, “Don’t talk nonsense.”

He nodded. “Don’t worry, Mommy.”

At this moment, Jacob pointed at Hanson's injured hand and said, "Mommy, since his hand is wounded, we're allowing you to help him this time, but you mustn't do that again."

Vania nodded. Jacob is indeed the most tenderhearted as I think he is, she thought.

Hanson didn't think so, though. The one who seems the most harmless usually hits the hardest, he thought.

Chapter 249 Trafficked Abroad

Jacob is an example of that, Hanson thought to himself. Hearing that the boy had agreed for Vania to help him sort out his clothes, he subconsciously touched his wallet. Luckily, I've got plenty of cash.

With that, the four kids and Hanson left the room right away before sitting face to face on the couch.

James asked, "What would you like to say? Shoot."

Hanson smiled at the four kids without his usual commanding air as the president of the company. He suggested, "Why don't you make a list of how much you're gonna charge me? I'll pay you guys in advance."

The instant he said that, Jacob immediately lost himself in thought.

Seeing how he frowned as though he had yet to reach a conclusion, Jack spoke. "Go outside and wait for us. We'll discuss it for a moment before telling you our conclusion."

Hanson cooperatively stepped aside to leave the space for the four kids.

Jacob asked thoughtfully, "What do you guys think?"

"Why don't we agree to it first? We don't have to worry that he'll really do anything in our presence, anyway," James replied as he analyzed the situation.

Jack agreed as well. "That's right. Let's get his money first before anything else."

Jude nodded as well.

After some discussion, the four kids finally reached a unanimous decision. Jacob called Hanson over from the outer room, saying, "We agree to your conditions for the time being. We'll send the list to your cell phone later on."

Jack then added with a frosty expression, "Be sure to keep it a secret. If we find you snitching on us to our mom, we'll definitely snitch on you to her in return. By then, you won't be able to keep on staying here anymore."

Hanson immediately put up his hand in agreement. "That's of course. This is a secret between us men."

Seeing that the immediate danger was averted for the time being, he stood up to leave. Just as he was about to leave, however, he recalled something and asked puzzledly with a smile, "Could you guys tell me why you are so hostile toward me?"

Because you're a jerk, that's why, thought the four kids to themselves, but they didn't say it out loud. Instead, they replied frostily in chorus, "Nope."

"Alright then, I'll wait patiently. You guys are gonna tell me the reason sooner or later, anyway," Hanson replied. These four little kids saw everything in black and white, so he didn't believe that they'd pick on him for no reason. There must be some misunderstanding behind this, he thought.

Meanwhile, the instant Hanson and the four kids stepped out of the room, Vania, who was putting his things in order, received a text message on her cell phone. It was a text from Melanie that read, 'Are you going out with Hanson?'

Vania sneered for a moment. Then, not bothering to answer Melanie's boring question, she locked her phone right away.

However, a few seconds later, Melanie sent her another text message. It read, 'I'm warning you, Vania, stay away from Hanson. I'm forbidding you to go out with him.'

Vania's sneer deepened. However, before she could turn off her phone, she saw another text message right below it. It read, 'If you still want your daughter, then stay away from Hanson. Otherwise, don't expect to find her.'

Seeing the word 'daughter,' Vania instantly flew into a rage; she blocked Melanie's phone number right away.

Meanwhile, Melanie was looking bitterly at her cell phone at home. She waited for a long time, but she didn't get a reply from Vania. She impatiently dialed Vania's number, but the phone call was disconnected after a beep. Not realizing what had happened, she called Vania again, but the same thing happened several times in a row.

Only then did she realize that Vania had blocked her number. Slapping her cell phone, she uttered Vania's name while clenching her teeth in hatred.

Shortly after blocking Melanie's phone number, Vania received a WhatsApp message from Linda. It read, 'Boss, we just received word from there.'

Vania was surprised. She texted, 'What is it?'

Linda replied, 'The kidnapper admitted that he had indeed trafficked Little Miss abroad.'

Chapter 250 Entering Show Business

Seeing the word 'abroad,' Vania knitted her brows at once. The world was so big out there. How were they supposed to find her daughter without any reliable clues? However, she had no choice but to settle for second best. To her, it was already a surprise that they obtained such information. This was much better than them searching blindly for her daughter like a headless chicken, after all.

She immediately texted, 'Keep your eyes peeled and don't let off anyone who knows anything.'

'Roger that,' replied Linda.

Meanwhile, Melanie was now at her wits' end. Vania had blocked her phone number, and she had no reason to meet Hanson either. If such a situation were to continue, she'd probably really be finished for life. At the moment, she was going crazy like an eagle that had lost its wings. How dare Vania block my phone number! Does she really not want to find her daughter anymore? Or could it be that she's found out information about that girl? No, that's impossible, she thought. Not only was the girl abroad, but she was in the hands of that person. Not even Melanie knew of her present situation, so there was no way Vania could find her.

Still, what Melanie feared the most was that Vania would tell Hanson about this. If that happened, things would get tricky.

She impatiently flung the purse she had carelessly tossed onto the couch to the ground, causing the handbag's contents to be scattered all over the place in an instant. Naturally, the business card fell out of the handbag as well.

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Seeing the name and the phone number on the business card, Melanie was lost in thought. Then, she picked up the business card. After contemplating for a long time with her cell phone in her hand, she finally dialed the phone number printed on the business card. After a long time, the phone call was finally answered.

An hour later, Melanie and Chris sat face to face in a private dining room with neither of them touching the food on the table.

She spoke first. "Surely you've figured out my purpose in asking you out for a meeting. In that case, I'll get straight to the point and speak my mind."

He nodded. "It's best this way to avoid wasting each other's time."

Looking him in the eye, Melanie asked frankly, "I'd like to enter the show business. Do you have any means for that?"

Hearing her say so, Chris was startled at first; he never expected her to actually come to him. However, he was only surprised for an instant. After that, he sized her up with no hurry to say yes or no.

Seeing how hesitant he was, she grew somewhat impatient. She said with a frown, "Like I said, I'd prefer that we speak our minds."

He gave a chuckle. "What's the hurry, Miss Melanie? It won't be too late to wait for me to finish speaking. And besides, there's no way you can gain the upper hand in show business with such an impetuous temperament. Even if you're asking someone for favors, you can't do it like this."

They were meeting for the first time, and neither of them wanted to appear inferior to the other. As the daughter of a wealthy family, Melanie naturally turned up her nose at Chris, a talent agent. However, he was an experienced talent agent. If he couldn't even establish his superiority at their first meeting, he wouldn't be able to make his artists comply with his arrangements in the future.

As a result, Melanie turned pale at his words, and she stopped speaking.

Chris had looked into Melanie's information after their encounter at the celebratory party the other day. Seeing how eager she was for instant success, he had a rough idea of what might have happened. Still, he was willing to do something challenging. A person would only get motivated if they had a goal to achieve. If he were to help Melanie make her debut in show business right now, she would definitely strive to get ahead in her career for the sake of her social standing, upon which his standing would rise as well.

Therefore, he only hesitated for a moment before saying to her, "Ever since I saw you playing the piano at the party last time, I'd been thinking that you must have a particular liking for music. I have a show named 'The Voice' at the moment. If you want to participate in the show, it'll be a good opportunity to enter show business."