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He knew that his head was wrapped in gauze, but what was so funny about that?

Besides, what was wrong with a man not shaving his beard? Was it hilarious?

He looked at Adina gloomily and noticed that she was pursing her lips, trying to hold in her laughter. Did this mean that he had confessed to Adina with such a hilarious appearance last night?

"Mommy, you find dad funny too, right?" Harold tugged on Adina's arm as he laughed and asked.

Duke's expression darkened.

Adina cleared her throat and said, "Hal, don't laugh at your dad like that."

"Yeah, I can't laugh at Dad, or else he'll beat me up after he recovers."

Harold stuck his tongue out and hid behind Adina.

Duke was at a loss for words.

When did he beat this brat up? Harold really knew how to create rumors and ruin his reputation! Duke cast a glance at Adina and explained, "Addy, I never

beat the kids. I'm telling the truth."

"Yes, Dad never beats us. He just punishes us by making us stand at attention." Harold made a face. "We would have to stand for two hours. Our legs hurt."

George also nodded. "This does happen."

Adina looked at Duke.

Duke was speechless.

He felt so guilty that he dared not look Adina in the eyes.

"Alright, George, take your brothers and sister out to play," Mrs. Winters smoothed the situation over and said, "Addy, I brought some chicken soup for Duke. Please take it out and get the caretaker to heat it up."

Adina knew that Mrs. Winters might have something to discuss with Duke, so she immediately picked up the soup and took the children out.

Once the door of the ward was closed, Mrs. Winters finally sat down by the bed and asked, "How's your injury?"

"It was Earl Winters."

As soon as Duke said that, Mrs. Winters froze.

She had expected her other son to be involved, but she still found it hard to believe when it came out of Duke's mouth.

She clenched her fist and muttered, "How can it be? Early

promised me that he would change. How could he do such a thing?"

"Mom, only you would believe him. He also used your trust and found a chance to hurt me," Duke firmly said." This is the last time, Mom. This is the last time that I'll allow you to trust Earl Winters. I don't want there to be a next time."

Mrs. Winters chuckled in resignation. Her lips were bitter.

When she received a call from Earl yesterday, she really thought that her son wanted to get along with the Winters family, and she believed that he was truly fond of Melody.

She took Melody to see the pink alpacas. She even took some photos of Melody feeding the alpacas and sent them to Earl. Earl must have secretly criticized her for being foolish after he received those photos.

She had put Duke in danger because of her trust in Earl.

Both of them were her sons.

Mrs. Winters closed her eyes, held back her tears, and slowly said, "Duke, don't worry. I won't see your brother again... No, he isn't your brother. Since your father passed away, he no longer had ties with the Winters family. Even if it's for the children's sake, I won't trust him anymore."

When Duke saw the tears at the corners of Mrs. Winters'

eyes, he slowly sighed.

Some things were just a twist of fate.

It was a twist of fate that he and Earl, twin brothers, would end up like this today.

Since things had gotten to this point, they should just accept it.

"Mom, Addy and I are about to be engaged. Please prepare for the engagement party."

Mrs. Winters instantly widened her eyes. "Are you serious?"

"Of course, I am." Duke flashed her a smile. "I proposed, and she said yes."

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After Adina placed the soup in the microwave, she turned around and looked at the four children who were standing behind her.

When the sunlight shone in, the children smiled at her innocently. The smiles on Harold and Melody's faces were incredibly bright.

George and Alden had matured early, and their faces gave off a sophisticated and precocious air, which did not suit their ages. But there was still some childlike wonder in George's gaze, while Alden looked like a boy who was nearly ten years old.

Among the kids, Alden was still the most mature one.

Adina sighed. If she had not experienced such a hard time in the past, would Alden have been forced to grow up?

This was not a good thing for a kid.

Luckily, there would be one more person to protect the children with her, and Alden no longer had to work so hard to grow up.

Adina squatted down and held Alden's hand before she softly said, "Alden, I have something to tell you."

Alden raised his head obediently. "Go ahead, Mommy. I'm listening."

"I…" Adina moved her lips. She slowly spoke after she hesitated for a while. "I said yes to your dad's proposal."

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Alden was stunned. Before he could wrap his mind around what Adina meant, Harold jumped around happily." Wow, Mommy! Are you serious? Are you really going to marry Dad? I can live with you every day, right? Can you tell me bedtime stories every day? Wow! I'm so happy!" The boy danced with excitement. Although Melody did not understand what she meant by "said yes to your dad's proposal," she twirled and laughed as well. George's eyes lit up. "Mommy, our family of six can reunite now, right?" Adina gently smiled and nodded. "Yes, our family of six is going to live happily together, and we won't be apart anymore." 1 They had been apart for four years, so it was time to make up for the loss of their parents' love.

George narrowed his eyes, and his face was filled with joy.

Adina turned around and looked at Alden.

This boy was really mature. When he heard the news, his first response was not to be happy but to fall into deep thought. She raised her arm and smoothed the frown on her son's forehead. "Alden, this is the second time that your dad's

lying in the hospital for me. He truly cares about me. If I marry him, I'll be very happy. Don't worry, okay?" she said softly.

Alden held Adina's fingers, pursed his lips, and said, "I just want to know one thing, Mom. Did you say yes to Dad's proposal because of the four of us or because you really like him?"

Harold blinked in confusion . "Aren't they the same? Is there any difference?"

But George became silent.

He always thought that he loved his mom a lot. Right then, he realized that his love for his mom was less than one-tenth that of Alden.

When he heard that his mom and dad wanted to get married, his first thought was that their family would

reunite and he could finally be with his mom.

Meanwhile, Alden's first response was whether their mom really loved their dad.

Was their mom willing to marry into the Winters family because of the children or because she loved their dad?

The difference between the two factors was huge. George felt a little guilty as he clenched his fists.

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Adina stroked Alden's soft hair and answered in a gentle yet firm voice, "Alden, if it were just for my children's sake, I would have found a man and gotten married a few years ago. There's no way I would give away my happiness like that. I really like your dad, and I'm willing to give myself to him. I'm willing to spend the rest of my life with him and watch over the four of you together with him."

As soon as she spoke, she felt a burning gaze behind her.

When she turned around, she saw that Mrs. Winters had helped Duke to stand in the corridor. The man's black eyes were like blazing flames that burned the deepest part of her heart.

Her face instantly turned red.

She had run away after the man confessed to her last night. She did not speak so straightforwardly to him.

However, Duke had heard all her sincere words to Alden.

No matter how calm and composed Adina was, she was just a young woman in her early twenties. Hence, she was still a little shy and uncomfortable when facing such situations.

Mrs. Winters supported Duke as they walked over.

He looked away from Adina and stared at Alden. "Alden, I swear on my life that I'll love your mom for the rest of my life. I'll love, protect, and guard her until the day my life ends."

Alden's frown gradually loosened.

He raised his chin and looked at the man in front of him for a long time before he finally spoke. "Okay, Dad. I believe you."

Adina finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Duke also flashed him a faint smile. He held his fist out and said, "You can trust me for the rest of your life because I'll never fail you."

Alden extended his small fist and bumped it against Duke's. Then, he looked up and said, "If one day you fail to live up to these words today, I won't be polite."

Duke smiled. "That day will never come."

"Okay, stop. Why are there harsh words between a father and a son?" Mrs. Winters said with a smile. "Since all the children are here, let's discuss the date for the engagement. I just checked on the Internet, and there are three auspicious days this year. They are the sixth of next month, the fifteenth of the month after next month, and the eighteenth after that." Harold smiled cheekily. "I think the sixth of next month is pretty good!"

Adina was speechless.

She had just said yes to the proposal yesterday, and today, they were already discussing the engagement date. Was it not too soon?

Besides, there were less than ten days before the sixth of next month.

Mrs. Winters felt that it would be too soon as well, so she frowned and said, "Sixth of next month is in nine days. I'm afraid we won't be able to arrange a grand engagement party." "Oops, Grandma, you're mistaken." Harold shook Mrs. Winters' arm and said, "The Winters family isn't short of money. As long as we have money, forget nine days, even if it's nine hours away, we can still have a luxurious and grand engagement party. Am I right, Dad?"

Duke finally thought that raising a son was somewhat beneficial after all.

He cleared his throat and said, "Actually, we can definitely make it in nine days."

In fact, he wanted to have the engagement party tomorrow. He did not want to wait another day.

However, Addy would certainly not want that. Besides, he was still injured. Even if he was engaged, he would not be able to do anything for now.

Adina moved her lips, and just as she was about to say something, Melody came over.

Her eyes were bright, and she spoke softly. "Can I be the flower girl?"

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The engagement date was confirmed before Adina could say anything. It would be on the sixth of next month, which was in less than nine days. Melody secured an opportunity to be the flower girl, while the other three boys secured an opportunity to help lift the gown.

But Adina was puzzled.

Was a flower girl needed at an engagement party?

Did she have to wear a gown at an engagement party?

Did it not seem similar to a wedding?

"Addy, the engagement party in a family like ours has to be grand. After you become Duke's fiancee, you'll be the future Mrs. Winters. We have to let everyone in Sea City know who the future Mrs. Winters is." The senior Mrs. Winters smiled happily and said, "Il arrange everything for the party. You just need to do one thing." Adina was dazed and confused as she asked, "What is it?"

"Inform your family and friends to attend the engagement party." Mrs. Winters grinned. "It's on the sixth of next month. Don't get the date wrong."

Harold jumped up high. "I'll go with Mommy to inform

them!"

George pursed his lips. "I'll go too!"

"Okay, all of you will go together!" Mrs. Winters smiled and touched the children's heads before she looked at Duke. "Let's go back to the ward and discuss the details of the engagement party."

Adina was totally speechless.

Was everything confirmed just like that? Why did she feel like she was in a dream?

She just said yes to his proposal yesterday, and they were having an engagement party in nine days? She only snapped out of her daze when Harold shook her arm. Adina pursed her lips, smiled, and said, "Okay, I'll take you to the Daugherty family's home first." She had cut ties with the Daugherty family, but no matter what, Mdm. Daugherty had shown her love. So, she really needed to inform Mdm. Daugherty about her engagement. Her car stopped in front of the Daugherty family's mansion.

Adina then pushed the door open and got out of her car. She felt a sense of desolation when she looked at the mansion, which seemed different than it was previously.

In the past, no matter when she came over, there would be busy servants walking around in the mansion's

courtyard. But the courtyard was full of bushes now, and no one was there to clear it up,

The mansion was empty. She could tell that all the servants had been dismissed.

Daugherty Corporation's owner had changed, and Dew was in prison. Aaron and Ruby had thrown all their money into getting their only daughter out of the prison. The Daugherty family was no longer the same as before.

Adina felt conflicted as she stood in front of the mansion, and she pressed the doorbell.

Mdm. Daugherty struggled for a long time to walk out of the mansion with the help of her walking stick. Her eyes became teary when she saw Adina.

She stumbled as she walked over and opened the door of the mansion.

"Grandma."

Adina called out to her with an expression filled with complex emotions. Mdm. Daugherty looked at the four children.

The moment she saw George and Harold, she sighed deeply. She clearly knew that Dew had not gotten pregnant, but she still kept a blind eye to it. She was also an accomplice. When Dew ended up the way she did, she, the

grandmother, also held some responsibility. "Great-granny," George opened his lips and softly greeted her.

Back when he was Dew's son, he would call Mdm. Daugherty "Great-granny whenever he visited the Daugherty family's mansion.

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Now, Adina was his mom. If his mom was willing to call Mdm. Daugherty "Grandma," then he would also be willing to show the same respect.

"Oh, good boy." Mdm. Daugherty sighed and said, "Addy, take the kids inside and have a seat."

"No, Grandma," Adina said, "I came over today because I wanted to tell you that I'm getting engaged. The party will be on the sixth of next month. I'll deliver the invitation card to you in a few days."

Mdm. Daugherty was stunned. "Engaged? To whom?"

"With our dad!" Harold raised his chin and pridefully said, "Mommy's getting married to Dad!"

Mdm. Daugherty chuckled in resignation again.

Dew used to put in so much effort, yet she never managed to marry into the Winters family.

However, when Addy came back, the Winters family treated her generously.

Something stolen would not last long indeed.

"Addy, you've suffered a lot, and the good times have just begun. There will be better things to come for you. You'll be very happy," Mdm. Daugherty muttered. "Dew... She's

still in prison. Your dad's been working down to the bone, trying to come up with a solution for her, but I don't know if Dew-"

"Grandma, if there's nothing else, I'll take my leave first."

Adina interrupted Mdm. Daugherty and smiled with an indifferent gaze before she brought the children into the car.

She would be happy, but that did not mean she could forget the pain she had suffered over the past five years.

If she had been the only one who suffered, fine. Perhaps she could try to forgive Dew. But the four kids had also suffered at the same time.

She did not have the right to forgive that vicious b*tch, Dew, for her kids.

As soon as Adina entered the car, she noticed that the children were staring at her with their black eyes in unison.

She chuckled and said, "Okay, now we're going to meet Great-grandma and tell her the good news of my

engagement!"

Melody smiled. "Oh, yeah! I like Great-grandma!"

Harold and George had met the Xavier family before, but they did not have a chance to get along with them. The two of them straightened their backs and secretly tidied

their collars. Since they were people whom their mom and Melody cared about, then they would have to appear in front of those people with the most perfect images.

The car soon stopped in front of the Xavier family's mansion.

Mdm. Daugherty was alone in the Daugherty family's mansion, but it was extraordinarily lively in the Xavier family's place today. About five cars were parked in the courtyard. Sounds of conversation could be heard even before they entered the mansion.

After Adina brought the four children out of the car, she smiled gently and said, "Once you go inside, you have to greet them, understand?"

Harold nodded hard. "Okay, Mommy. I'll greet them nicely because I'm the most polite baby in the world!"

Alden glanced at him coldly. "Are you still a baby?"

"Hmph! I'm just four years old. Why can't I be a baby? What do you think, George?".

George pursed his lips and looked at Melody. "Mel, do you think you're a baby?".

Melody shook her head. "I'm a grown-up. I'm a big girl now, not a baby."

Harold was speechless.

Melody was younger than him, yet she was not a baby. Could he still shamelessly be a baby then?

Adina chuckled because of her kids. "All of you are my babies. No matter how old you are, you're always my babies."

The group of five walked toward the mansion and pressed the doorbell. Then, a servant came over and opened the door. As soon as she saw Adina, she smiled. "Ms. Daugherty, the madam was just talking about you yesterday. Please come in. Master Alden, Miss Melody, and who are these two?"

Harold blinked and introduced himself. "I'm Harold Winters."

Following that, George obediently said, "I'm George Winters."