Chapter 19

From the angle of the photo taken, they did seem intimate.

Kenneth wanted to pull Thea to a stand, but her body kept slumping against his. She couldn't stand straight no matter how much he supported her.

"Kenneth, I'm sorry..." Her whole body went limped against his.

"Thea? Thea!" Kenneth tried to wake her up, but she didn't respond. Without a choice, he picked her up and set her in the passenger seat of his car.

With her settled in, he rounded the car and got in the driver's seat. With the click of his belt, he pulled away from the venue.

As he drove to Thea's condominium, he didn't notice the paparazzi following him.

Kenneth placed Thea's finger against the condominium door's sensor. After a couple of beeps and a buzz, he opened the door and headed straight to her bedroom. Since he had been there before, he knew his way around.

He was about to leave after depositing Thea on the bed.

"No! No! Get off me! Let go of me!" Thea suddenly shouted.

Kenneth looked over his shoulder and saw Thea flailing her arms as though she was having a nightmare.

He rushed back to her side and held onto her hand.

"Thea? Thea, you're okay. You're safe now. We're at your condominium."

After a few bouts of comforting words, Thea finally opened her eyes. She looked into Kenneth's eyes with tears swimming in hers. "Kenneth..." her voice cracked as she wrapped her arms around him.

"I'm scared! I'm so scared!" she sobbed as her grip tightened around Kenneth.

Patting her back gently, Kenneth comforted her. "You're okay now, Thea. You're safe."

They remained in the position for a while. Kenneth wasn't sure how much time had passed, but he gently unwrapped her arms from his neck when her weeping stopped.

"Thea, you should get some rest for the rest of the

night. You don't have to go to the office tomorrow," Kenneth said.

Thea stayed silent and continued staring at him with a pleading look.

"It's getting late, and I have to go now," he explained as he got to his feet.

However, Thea grabbed onto his arm and put on a fearful expression. "Kenneth, can you stay here with me? I'm scared. Or at least stay here until I fall asleep, please? I don't think I can sleep here alone tonight," she pleaded.

Kenneth gave in and nodded. "Okay. I'll stay here with you. I'll be in the living room."

Thea nodded, plastering a grateful smile on her face.

"Get some rest." He got up and went to the living room after reassuring her.

Thea knew Kenneth was a man of his words. He would stay since he promised her.

When the door clicked shut, the fearful look was gone from her face. The pleading gaze had faded from her eyes and was replaced with a look of determination.

Kenneth, I'll make you stay by my side using whatever means I can.

Thea finally came out of her room before dawn.

After washing up, she changed into a comfy silk pajama that was soft to the touch.

Meanwhile, Kenneth was stretched out on her couch in the living room with his eyes closed. Thinking he was still asleep, she retrieved a blanket and walked over to him with light steps, wanting to cover him with it.

Right when her hands touched him, Kenneth's eyes snapped open instantly.

"Did I wake you?" Thea asked.

It was such a close distance; Kenneth's heart skipped a beat when he caught a waft of her sweet scent.

"Mm-hmm," he grunted and quickly averted his gaze.

"I'm sorry for waking you up. I was worried you would be cold, so I wanted to give you a blanket," Thea explained.

"It's fine." Kenneth was pushing himself up to a sitting

position when Thea fell onto him as though her legs accidentally gave out on her.

With a soft and sweet-smelling body against his, Kenneth felt something stirred within him.

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean to..." Thea apologized, but her body didn't move to get off of him.

As their gazes met, the look in Kenneth's eyes changed.

"What's wrong, Kenneth?" Thea breathed gently into his ear, keeping her gaze locked with his.

Kenneth didn't say anything and merely stared at her.

Thea's heart began pounding. Her desire to have Kenneth was rooted deeply within her after all these years of chasing after him. There was nothing she wanted more than to be his woman.

She reached her fingers out to trace his face gently and slowly bent down to meet his lips. "Kenneth, can I..."

Out of the blue, the satirical look in Natasha's eyes and her impassive face popped up in his head.

He reflectively turned his head to the sides, and Thea's lips grazed his cheeks.

"What's wrong, Kenneth?" Thea questioned.

"It's getting late. I should go." Kenneth pushed Thea away. "Rest for a couple more days. You don't have to rush back to the office." He shot to his feet, crossed the room to the front door, got out, and shut it before she could say anything. Thea was disappointed and infuriated at seeing him slip away.

I saw the lust in his eyes. I've already taken the initiative. I can't believe he managed to hold it in.

Thea picked up a pillow from the couch and hurled it across the room.

A cool breeze hit Kenneth the moment he stepped out of the lobby and woke him up.

Kenneth, I'll make you stay by my side using whatever means I can.

Thinking back, I felt like I couldn't control myself when I was with Thea earlier. However, the weird thing was Natasha's face would spring into my mind at such a crucial moment. Indeed, that woman has become my nightmare. She serves as a constant reminder to me.

Without thinking further into it, Kenneth got into his car and pulled away from the parking lot.

While he was washing up and changing his outfit, news of him and Thea kissing passionately in public, then spending their night together had spread all over the news media. Kenneth's brows furrowed as he looked at the news on the internet and listened to the report from his assistant.

"Mr. Hamilton, were you really with Ms. Jarman yesterday?"

"Are you calling me for gossip?" Kenneth asked instead of answering.

Kenneth didn't take the rumor seriously because he had numerous scandals with Thea over the years. Another addition to the growing pile wouldn't affect him either way.

"No, sir. I'm calling to inform you about today's meeting schedule. I've already sent it to your phone."

Kenneth glanced at his phone before hanging up the

call.

Looking at the news, something indescribable glinted across his eyes.

Anthony had been staring dazedly at his phone since the early morning.

Benjamin came up and sat beside him. "What are you staring so intently at so early in the morning?"

Anthony merely turned the phone's screen to him in response.

Benjamin was rendered speechless after reading the news. After a long silence, he asked, "He's quite rich, isn't he?"

Anthony shot him a disdained look. "I believe this woman is his fiancée."

"So he's about to get married?" Benjamin inquired.

"Just look at his scandals all these years."

Benjamin took the phone and typed a simple query into the search engine. A long list of scandals popped up as the search result. Kenneth was a prominent figure with a handsome face. He was more goodlooking than celebrities. Despite his lack of appearance in public, the masses would always pay attention to his every movement.

After going through all of them, the children noticed that although Kenneth did have numerous scandals affiliated with him in the past, Thea was the only one closely associated to him in the recent years.

"It looks like this woman is quite important to him. I don't see any other scandals of him other than with her. If he's really our daddy, does that mean we're about to have a step-mom soon?" Benjamin questioned.

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