

Reborn Through Fire By Kazuya Higan

Chapter 1461-1470

Chapter 1461

The two of them burst out laughing as they walked out together.

Kisa's expression was neutral as she sat down next to Adrien. "Hey, Uncle Adrien, is there something you need from me?"

"I just wanted to check in and see if you've managed to get your hands on any information about

1. That way, I can help you come up with a revenge plan against Gilbert."

Adrien handed her a cocktail, but Kisa pushed it away with a smile.

"Sorry, it's that time of the month. Can you get me a glass of water instead, godfather?"

The term "godfather" melted Adrien's heart, and he quickly obliged.

Kisa leaned back on the couch and got down to business. "I stole a ton of confidential files from

GK."

Adrien raised an eyebrow. "Where are they?"

"I gave them to Risen Enterprise. They are GK's sworn enemies, so it makes sense to let them take care of business. Gilbert won't suspect us, and I won't drag you down either. Plus, if Risen Enterprise can take over GK, it will be a sweet victory for Jensen, who created it in the first place. My ultimate goal is to crush Gilbert and hand over GK to Jensen. That is why I went with Risen Enterprise."

Adrien took a puff from his cigarette, pondered for a moment, and grinned. "Sure, whether GK falls into anyone's hands, your goal is still revenge against Gilbert."

Kisa beamed with satisfaction, "Right, I have been wracking my brain and I don't want to drag you down with me, so that's why I thought of them. By the way, you aren't pissed at me, are you?"

Adrien burst out laughing, “Hahaha... Why would I be pissed at you? I just wanted to help you get back at him, but now you have an even better plan. I’m thrilled. Why would I ever be mad?”

Adrien patted her on the shoulder, his touch affectionate and kind.

“Anyway, no matter what happens, I’m here for you. If Risen Enterprise can’t be trusted, you can always turn to me for help.”

Kisa nodded and raised her glass to clink with Adrien’s.

“Mmm-hmm... I’ll keep you informed of our progress against GK. We’ll take down Gilbert together.”

Her face was a mask of bitter hatred, no trace of falsehood.

Adrien chuckled inwardly, a glint in his eye flashing by.

For three consecutive days, Kisa sneaked into the study to steal confidential files from GK. Strangely, every day, the safe would contain new confidential files. Upon checking the dates on the documents, some of the data had even been collected in the past two days. Kisa was convinced that Gilbert was intentionally leaving these files there, tempting her to steal them.

“But what’s his motive? Is he not afraid that I’ll destroy GK?”

These past two days, Gilbert had been acting strangely, staring out the window lost in thought. It was impossible to tell what was on his mind. Sometimes Kisa wanted to ask him what was troubling him or strike up a conversation, but she was always discouraged by his cold and distant

demeanor.

One morning, as Kisa descended the stairs, she saw him sitting in the dining room having

breakfast. It was rare to catch him there since for the past few days, he had disappeared before

she even woke up.

“Is everything packed?” Gilbert asked nonchalantly as she walked over.

She was caught off guard. “W-What’s packed?”

Chapter 1462

Gilbert stared at her, his face dark and brooding. "Looks like you never listened to a word I said, or maybe what I say just never mattered to you," he said with a scowl.

Kisa blinked innocently, as Madalyn looked on with a smug smirk.

As Gilbert finished his breakfast, he wiped his mouth and spoke slowly, "Since you don't want to go to Oceanville—"

"Oh, I remember now! You're taking me to Oceanville today!" Kisa suddenly exclaimed, realizing her mistake. She quickly turned and rushed upstairs to pack her things.

Madalyn's face turned red with anger. "Slow down, if you hurt my precious great-grandchild, I'll make sure you regret it," she snarled at Kisa, who ignored her and hurried up the stairs.

Turning to Gilbert, Madalyn sneered. "I don't know what you were thinking, bringing that deadweight with you on your business trip."

"Grandma, have you heard any news about Uncle David?" Gilbert asked, looking in the direction of

the stairs.

Madalyn was taken aback. "Why are you asking about him all of a sudden?"

"Nothing, I just want to see him," Gilbert replied calmly.

Madalyn shook her head, sighing. "I want to see him too, but besides that letter he sent us, we haven't heard anything from him. He's probably still mad at me and hiding somewhere."

Gilbert pondered for a moment before asking, "Do you think he knows about Jensen's accident?"

"Jensen's accident was in the news, so he probably knows. But even if he does, what difference does it make? He is still in hiding, and Jensen was never really his son, just a shameful reminder of his past. If it weren't for Jensen, he and that sl*t..." Madalyn stopped herself mid-sentence, realizing she had said too much.

Clearing her throat, she continued, "Gilbert, take care of yourself in Oceanville, and watch that deadweight too. If she wasn't carrying the flesh and blood of the Kooper family, I would have kicked her out long ago."

Gilbert gently tapped her arm. "Grandma, take care of yourself. And, while I'm away, no matter what happens, don't panic."

Madalyn's face changed. "What do you mean? Gilbert, tell me honestly, did something happen?"

Gilbert chuckled. "No, just reminding you to take care of your health."

Madalyn eyed him suspiciously. "Are you sure nothing happened?"

"Nothing at all, everything's fine."

Davian drove them to the airport, and Kelvin tagged along. At the airport entrance, Kelvin stood with his hands on his hips and exclaimed, "If Gracie wasn't pregnant, I would've loved to come with you guys to Oceanville. The scenery there is amazing."

Kisa's eyes lit up. "Gracie's pregnant?"

"Yep." Kelvin grinned and glanced at her belly. "I hope she has a baby girl. If you have a baby boy, let's arrange for them to get married in the future."

Kisa nodded happily. "Sure! Take good care of Gracie during this time. The first few months of pregnancy can be tough."

"You're telling me," Kelvin pouted. "I've been taking care of her like a saint. She doesn't eat regular meals, always wakes me up in the middle of the night to get some weird food. It's torture, especially in the middle of winter. Kelvin complained, but his face could not hide his happiness.

Kisa felt sentimental, thinking, Things are great right now. When our kids are born, we can all hang out together and raise the babies."

"Kisa, Gracie has been having a tough time lately. She's been throwing up a lot and lost a lot of weight. When you were pregnant for the first time, you lived alone in that mansion without anyone to take care of you. How did you manage?"

He finished speaking and felt a sharp gaze directed at him.

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Chapter 1463

Kelvin shrunk his neck and shut up obediently.

Gilbert took the suitcase from Davian's hand and said to Kisa in a flat voice, "It's time to board. Let's go."

Without waiting for her response, he dragged the suitcase and walked away.

Kisa glanced at his back and turned to Kelvin. "Take good care of Gracie. I'll go check on her when I come back."

"Mhm, have fun in Oceanville." Kelvin watched the retreating figures and suddenly exclaimed, "Thinking back now, Kisa had it rough. We were biased against her after all."

"Hiss! Mr. Hoover, what are you doing? Are you getting sentimental since you're about to become a dad?"

"Get lost, you don't even have a girlfriend. You don't understand anything."

"I have a girlfriend. I have Felicity, even though she hasn't talked to me in days. She's definitely just busy."

Kelvin was speechless.

Kisa almost ran to catch up with Gilbert. He walked too fast with his long legs and the distance between them widened again before she could catch her breath.

"Gilbert, slow down, I-I have a stomach ache. Kisa gasped, holding her waist with one hand and the right side of belly with the other.

Gilbert ignored her. In his eyes, Kisa lied all the time, and who knew if her 'stomach-ache' was real or not. But his steps could not help but stop.

Seeing Gilbert standing nearby, Kisa was overjoyed and quickly ran up to him. But just as she ran up, he started walking away again.

Kisa quickly grabbed his arm and said, "Can you let me catch my breath?"

As Gilbert tightened his brows and grew visibly troubled, Kisa held onto his arm, leaning in close. From behind, they looked like a loving couple, inseparable and intimate.

Kisa took a deep breath and spoke up. "Gilbert, when I was pregnant for the first time, I didn't feel uncomfortable or experience morning sickness. I took good care of myself."

The only thing that was bad was that she cooked every day, waiting for him, but he never came back.

"Why are you telling me this? To make me feel guilty? Or are you afraid that I will feel guilty?" Gilbert's lips curled up in a cold, emotionless smirk.

Kisa lowered her eyes and muttered, "It is not to make you feel guilty, nor am i afraid of you feeling guilty. I'm just saying

Gilbert glanced at her, then withdrew his arm and walked away. Kisa watched him leave for a

while until her vision blurred, and he impatiently called out to her at the boarding gate, "If you don't want to go, you can leave now."

Taking a deep breath, Kisa walked over, trying to keep a calm face. Gilbert had booked first-class tickets, and the plane was relatively empty. Once on board, she leaned back in her seat and closed her eyes, not wanting to say anything, as she knew whatever she said now would be wrong.

The plane had not taken off yet, and Gilbert was on the phone. "I'll leave the company's affairs to you for the time being. Be more careful, and if there are any major issues, let me know."

Perhaps it was because the cabin was too quiet, Kisa faintly heard the voice on the other end of the phone. It sounded like Davian's voice.

"Mr. Kooper, the company has been having some problems lately, and actually, you don't need to go to Oceanville at this time. Just let Mr. Webb Sr. know-

"Okay, we're taking off now. I have to go."

Kisa's heart skipped a beat.

'So Gilbert didn't have to go to Oceanville after all. Risen Enterprise must have already started making moves. In this situation, Gilbert should have stayed at the company. But why did he decide to take me to Oceanville anyway?'

Chapter 1464

'Could it be for me? That thought vanished without a trace as soon as she recalled the icy,

mocking expression on his face just now. 'He has deep resentment toward me now, so how could it possibly be for me?'

Davian hung up the phone, feeling frustrated. "Lately, I don't know what's been going on in Mr. Kooper's head, but it seems like he doesn't want GK anymore."

Kelvin raised an eyebrow. "What's going on?"

“Risen Enterprise has been stealing all our business lately, and they’re even getting their hands on GK’s confidential information. They’re always one step ahead of us, and they even swooped in and stole that land we were eyeing. And to top it off, our data systems got hacked. It’s obvious someone’s out to get us, but Mr. Kooper insists on going to Oceanville instead of staying and fixing the mess here.”

Kelvin furrowed his brow and took a drag of his cigarette. “Could it be because of Kisa? After all, she has always wanted to go to Oceanville.”

“I have no idea, but Mr. Kooper did bring her along. Who knows what his wife’s even doing in Oceanville?”

“Rumor has it she is looking for someone.”

“Ugh, his wife’s nothing but trouble. She’s always causing problems for Mr. Kooper.”

Kelvin snickered. “Maybe it is because Mr. Kooper’s a sucker and lets her walk all over him.”

“You’re the sucker.” Davian shot Kelvin a glare and refused to engage any further. He suspected Kelvin had bullied Kisa before, so he felt guilty and defensive about her.

After three long hours, the plane finally touched down in Oceanville. Kisa slept the whole way, only waking up when the aircraft lost altitude, giving her that weightless feeling.

When she opened her eyes, Gilbert was staring at her with a complicated expression that she could not quite read.

She sat up and asked him, “What’s wrong?”

Gilbert quickly averted his gaze and spoke in a flat tone, “Nothing. The plane’s landed, and I was just getting ready to wake you up.”

Kisa stared at his cold side face for a moment before reaching out to hold his hand. He visibly resisted, but she persisted, and he eventually relented.

“When we get off the plane, there will be a lot of people, so hold my hand and guide me,” she said with a smile.

Gilbert turned to look at her bulging belly and finally relented, nodding his head in agreement.

As they left the airport, they were greeted by several people, including an elderly man in his sixties with a sharp and astute business demeanor. To his left was a strapping

young man in his thirties, towering in stature and sporting a pair of glasses that made him look sophisticated and refined

Trailing behind them were a few beefy-looking guys, who seemed to be their bodyguards.

“Hey there, Mr. Kooper Finally, you made it. It’s been a long time since we last met,” the elderly man exclaimed, shaking Gilbert’s hand with enthusiasm.

Kisa realized then that the elderly man was none other than Mr. Webb Sr., and the young man standing next to him was his eldest son, Thomas Webb. Kisa could not help but wonder where Peter was.

After exchanging pleasantries, Gilbert and Kisa got into Mr. Webb Sr.’s car, and he offered to take them to a hotel. But Kisa remembered that David disappeared from the Webb residence, so she concocted an excuse to visit Peter, claiming that they were friends. Mr. Webb Sr. agreed, and they headed straight to the Webb residence.

As they entered the mansion, several plates and bowls flew toward them. Kisa was startled and instinctively raised her hand to block them, but Gilbert was faster, pulling her aside to safety.

Chapter 1465

As Kisa looked up, she heard the sound of dishes crashing onto the ground, making a sharp and distinct noise. Suddenly, her heart leaped as she saw Peter. But something was different about him. He no longer had the same arrogant and reckless demeanor he used to have. He appeared thinner and worn, with a hint of despair and bitterness on his face.

“You ungrateful son, what’s wrong with you? Can’t you see we have guests?” Mr. Webb Sr. rushed over, taking two steps at a time, and threw a punch at Peter.

Peter shrugged nonchalantly, his gaze skipping over Kisa and Gilbert. With a light chuckle, he said, “Oh, it’s them. They’ve finally arrived.” Then he turned and walked upstairs, exuding a menacing aura that was hard to ignore.

Mr. Webb Sr. was both angry and helpless. He asked a servant beside him, “Why’s he so moody again?”

“He lost his temper at us because his upstairs guest didn’t like the food. As if it’s our fault.”

Kisa furrowed her brow slightly. ‘His upstairs guest? What did that mean?’

Mr. Webb Sr. coughed awkwardly and said, "Never mind, everyone, please get back to work. Butler, please prepare a nice room for our guests."

Kisa glanced upstairs and felt that something was off about Peter.

Thomas who was standing nearby smiled and explained, "My younger brother hasn't been feeling great lately, so I hope you won't hold it against him."

"Did something happen to him? He seemed fine when we were in Calthon," Kisa asked.

Thomas gave a gentle smile and said, "Nothing really happened. He's just upset about the arranged marriage my dad set up for him, so he's been giving him a hard time."

"Alright, let's get the guests to the dining room," Mr. Webb Sr. urged, cutting the conversation short.

Kisa pursed her lips, not giving it much thought.

"Mr. Kooper, since you've come to Oceanville, you've got to spend a few extra days here." Mr. Webb Sr. raised his glass to Gilbert with enthusiasm.

Gilbert returned the gesture and said, "That's exactly what I was thinking, but I don't want to bother you too much."

"Don't worry about that, my house is empty. You can stay here as long as you like," Mr. Webb Sr. said, raising his glass to Kisa. "Welcome to Oceanville, Mrs. Kooper."

Kisa was about to decline, but Gilbert suddenly grabbed the drink in front of her and said to Mr. Webb Sr., "She doesn't drink, so I'll take this one for her."

Mr. Webb Sr. smiled and did not mind it. He just said, "I'm too old for all the sightseeing, but I will have my eldest son take you around Oceanville tomorrow."

Gilbert nodded, and Kisa said, "Thank you, that would be lovely."

After dinner, Mr. Webb Sr. and Gilbert went to the study to discuss business, while Kisa went to the bedroom to rest. The bedroom was on the sunny side of the second floor, and the light was fantastic. Kisa sat by the window and looked at the yard.

The Webb residence was indeed quiet. Apart from two or three servants trimming the flowers and plants, there was no one else around.

Suddenly, there was a knock at the door. She got up to answer it, and Thomas was standing outside with a servant who was holding a bowl of hot dessert.

“Mrs. Kooper, this is a special hot dessert that I asked the servant to make for you. It’ll warm you up,” Thomas said.

“Thank you,” Kisa stepped aside and let the servant in.

She could not help but take a closer look at Thomas and thought that he had a gentle character, which was quite different from Peter’s. She suddenly remembered what Peter had said about his brother having the same red birthmark on his chest as her mother, and she wondered if this man really was the one she was looking for.

“Mrs. Kooper, if you have any problems, feel free to tell me. You can also tell me where you want to go for fun,” Thomas suddenly said, smiling.

Kisa snapped out of her thoughts and quickly nodded to thank him.

“Well, I won’t disturb you anymore, Mrs. Kooper. You rest well,” Thomas said as he was about to

leave.

Kisa quickly stopped him and called out, “Wait.”

Chapter 1466

“Do you know a man named David?” Kisa asked.

“David?”

“He used to be the eldest son of the Kooper family, Gilbert’s uncle. Gilbert’s dying to meet him, and I found out that he came to your house over twenty years ago. So, do you know him?” Kisa explained eagerly.

Thomas’ smile was warm and genuine, his expression lacking any trace of pretense. “Sorry, I don’t have any impression of that name. I’ve lived here my whole life without ever seeing a man named

David come to our house.”

Just then, Gilbert walked in. Thomas welcomed him, saying, “You’ve just gotten off the plane. Get some rest and let me know if you want to go anywhere tomorrow.”

As Thomas left, Gilbert closed the door and said nonchalantly, “If you could figure things that out. that easily, then my uncle’s whereabouts wouldn’t remain such a mystery.”

Gilbert sauntered over to the desk, his gaze lingering on the steaming dessert. He then picked it up and took a sip, and Kisa was surprised. "I thought you didn't like that kind of dessert?" she

asked.

"I'm testing it for poison," Gilbert replied nonchalantly. "You're carrying my child, so you need to be careful about everything."

Kisa's mood sank as she cast her gaze downward.

'Why did he have to say that? It was like he took pleasure in making me miserable.'

Gilbert sat by the window, looking at her with an indifferent expression. "If you want to find my uncle, you have to do it yourself. Asking around won't help."

Kisa moved closer to him, "Okay, how do I start?" Even though she knew that David had disappeared from here, she had no idea where to begin looking for him.

Gilbert smirked.

"Didn't you come here specifically for this? I thought you knew how to search."

His tone was mocking.

"I will find a way," she said confidently before turning and heading to the bathroom.

Gilbert, in a fit of frustration, knocked over the glass on the low table. He loosened his tie, closed

his

eyes, and leaned back in his chair. His eyebrows furrowed deeply, and a look of intense irritation filled his eyes. Davian had just called to tell him that Risen Enterprise had snatched yet another project from GK.

"Heh! She has really given away all of GK's secrets to Risen Enterprise without any reservations just because it is under Jensen's name. Well, as she wishes, I will give GK to that man. Let's see how happy she will be then."

The next day, Gilbert went out early with Mr. Webb Sr. Before leaving, he instructed Kisa to take

care of their unborn child and to not make any impulsive decisions without consulting him first. He even threatened her that if anything happened to his child, she would be

buried with him. Kisa smiled cheerfully in response. However, he did not give her a single smile or kind word.

Kisa had breakfast with Thomas. She looked upstairs and asked Thomas, "Why isn't Peter coming down for breakfast? Is he not at home?"

"When Peter's in a bad mood, he likes to lock himself in his room. We don't have to worry about

him."

Kisa nodded, but she could not help but think that it did not seem like Peter's personality at all. Peter was a bossy and dominant person, and when he was upset, he would vent his frustrations on someone. He would not lock himself in his room.

She needed to talk to Peter about it later. Jolina still had not replied to her messages, so she could also ask Peter if he knew anything about Jolina's situation.

"Mrs. Kooper, have you decided where you want to go today?"

"I haven't yet," Kisa replied, smiling. "I'm not familiar with this place, so I don't know where the fun spots are."

"How about I take you to the most famous tourist spot around here?" Thomas offered enthusiastically.

Kisa thought for a moment and shook her head.

Chapter 1467

"Adrien, you know him, right?" Kisa asked.

Thomas' eyes sparkled with recognition. "Uncle Adrien, of course I know him. The Tanner family and ours go way back. My dad would take me and Peter to visit him all the time."

"Really? Well, he is my godfather."

Thomas was taken aback. "What a coincidence! But you know what, Uncle Adrien never agrees to be a godfather. When my dad asked him to be ours, he refused. He must be pretty special to you."

"Maybe he just loves daughters," Kisa said nonchalantly. "So, what do you say we pay the Tanner family a visit today?"

“The Tanner family?” Thomas hesitated. “Uncle Adrien isn’t in Oceanville right now, and the only person at home is Mrs. Tanner Sr. She’s 80 years old and doesn’t even recognize her own shadow. It might be a waste of time.”

“Come on, let’s just go and visit her. I came all this way, and I want to see my godfather’s home.”

Thomas shrugged. “Alright then.”

The Tanner residence was just a short half-hour drive away from the Webb family home. As soon as they pulled up, the butler, Harry Bennett, came out to greet them.

“Ah, Thomas. Mr. Tanner is not at home.”

“This is Uncle Adrien’s goddaughter. I brought her to see Mrs. Tanner Sr.,” Thomas explained to the butler, who eyed Kisa suspiciously. “Harry, don’t worry. This is Mrs. Kooper from Calthon. She’s visiting and wanted to see Mrs. Tanner Sr. too.”

Harry’s face relaxed into a grin. “Oh, please come in. She’s out back, soaking up the sun.”

Thomas handed over the gifts he brought and led Kisa to the backyard. Clearly, Thomas was a regular here and knew the Tanner family like the back of his hand.

As Kisa looked back, she noticed that the butler was making a phone call, probably to tell Adrien about her surprise visit. To avoid any suspicion, she would have to call him herself later and explain everything.

Mrs. Tanner Sr. was indeed in the backyard, lazily sunbathing while cradling a cat. Kisa looked around at the vast mansion, which seemed eerily quiet. She turned to Thomas and whispered. “Doesn’t anyone else from the Tanner family come to visit Mrs. Tanner Sr.?”

“Besides Uncle Adrien and Granny, there’s no one else. Since I can remember, Uncle Adrien’s always been a lone wolf with no children.”

Kisa frowned. It did not make sense to her that someone as charming and wealthy as Adrien would still be single, unless he was pining for a woman he could not have. That was why Adrien’s interest in Carolyn seemed so strange to her.

The two approached the elderly lady, who beamed at them with a face full of wrinkles. Kisa felt a pang of sadness as she watched her.

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“Oh, Adrien, Molly. You guys are back,” Mrs. Tanner Sr. exclaimed.

Kisa looked at Thomas in confusion, and he leaned in and whispered, "Mrs. Tanner Sr. thinks I'm Uncle Adrien, and you're his ex-girlfriend, Molly."

Kisa nodded in understanding.

Mrs. Tanner Sr. suddenly reached out with her frail hand and grabbed Kisa. "Molly, you need to hurry up and marry Adrien and give me a chubby little grandson to play with. I'm so bored."

Kisa played along. "It's coming. It's coming."

"And Adrien, what is the hold up? Molly isn't about to ditch you just because you're not making money. She's sticking with you even though she's fighting with her family. You better treat her right, you hear me?"

"Yes, yes, I will," Thomas chimed in, also going along with Mrs. Tanner Sr.'s delusion.

But Mrs. Tanner Sr. suddenly burst into tears. "Why didn't you two end up together? You have such a good relationship. Why didn't it work out?"

Kisa felt perplexed. 'Is Mrs. Tanner Sr. suffering from dementia, or is her memory just mixed up?'

Suddenly, Thomas's phone rang.

Chapter 1468

As Adrien walked away to answer his phone, Mrs. Tanner Sr. grabbed Kisa's hand and said urgently, "Molly, don't leave Adrien. His sudden change of character must be due to some sort of trauma. Please don't blame him."

Kisa's eyes sparkled as she responded in a low voice, "He's becoming someone I don't even recognize anymore. It's like he's a completely different person."

"Yes, I know. But he truly loves you. He's just afraid of being looked down upon by your family, so he works hard to make a name for himself, sometimes neglecting you in the process. Don't blame him. He is just so in love with you and wants to make something of himself. He is not only distant with you, but with me as well. He used to be so close to me, so filial, but now it is like he is a stranger. He must be under a lot of work pressure. Molly, please don't blame him, okay?"

Kisa nodded. "I won't blame him, Mrs. Tanner Sr. Don't worry, I won't blame him."

Mrs. Tanner Sr. had said too much, and her spirits seemed to droop. She stared off into the distance lost in thought.

Suddenly, Harry and a few servants ran over. "Mrs. Kooper, Mrs. Tanner Sr. needs to rest now. Please feel free to make yourself at home." Harry said, motioning for the servants to help Mrs. Tanner Sr. back into the house.

Kisa narrowed her eyes and watched as Mrs. Tanner Sr. walked away.

'Adrien's personality changed dramatically, like he was a completely different person. What happened?'

She could not help but suspect that Adrien was actually David, but all the evidence pointed to the fact that he had not had plastic surgery. She wondered and decided to talk to Thomas about Adrien's past, but just then Thomas who had been on the phone a moment ago was nowhere to be found in the huge backyard. Not a single soul was in sight.

As she headed toward the front yard, a strange sound suddenly emanated from deep within the backyard. Kisa shivered and instinctively looked toward the deep woods at the edge of the yard. The sound was like a human moan, mixed with a growl. It was unclear and muffled, and it sent shivers down her spine. Despite feeling a little scared, she knew that Adrien was full of mysteries and that this house was full of them too.

"Woo...woo...woo..."

Suddenly, the sound returned. It was intermittent and unclear, but it was definitely coming from the yard. Driven by curiosity, Kisa began to walk toward the depths of the backyard. Like the Mullen residence, the Tanner residence also had many trees, especially in the backyard. Even with the sun shining, it was still eerie.

Kisa did not dare to walk too far. She looked inside and made sure there was nothing there before turning back. However, just as she turned around, the sound came back again. This time, it was even clearer, as if it was swirling around her. It sent chills down her spine. She carefully looked around, but there was nothing around her.

"Woo...woo..."

This time, Kisa heard it clearly. It sounded like a person crying, full of sadness and sorrow. She hugged herself and looked down. The sound was clearly coming from around her, but there was no living thing in sight. There was only one possibility: there was a basement nearby, and the sound was coming from it. She took a few steps forward, hoping to find some kind of marking on the ground.

Suddenly, her phone rang. She was startled and quickly silenced it. It was Gilbert calling. She looked around and then answered the phone.

“Where are you?” Gilbert asked.

“I’m with Thomas at the moment-” Before Kisa could finish her sentence, a flurry of urgent footsteps interrupted her. Startled, she quickly hung up the phone and darted behind a nearby tree trunk. Suddenly, Harry and a few bodyguards came running in her direction. Harry looked around frantically before fixing his gaze on a particular spot on the ground.

“You cry every damn day for years, never giving it a rest, as if you’re afraid people will forget you exist, right?” Harry snarled, stomping on the ground and barking orders to his men. “Get her some food later so she doesn’t keep making a fuss.”

“Yes, Harry,” they replied obediently.

Once the men left, Kisa carefully inspected the spot where Harry had stomped and discovered a hidden lock within the grass. The grass around the lock seemed to be slightly loosened, so she lifted it, revealing a hidden iron door beneath it. The sobbing sound from earlier had come from

behind that door.

‘Who’s trapped inside?’ she wondered.

Worried that someone might come, she quickly covered the iron door with grass and hurried toward the front yard.

Thomas was already waiting at the front gate and rushed over when he saw her approach. “Mrs. Kooper, where did you go? I couldn’t find you anywhere.”

“Sorry. I just went to the restroom.” Harry was watching her closely, so Kisa deliberately turned to him and said, “By the way, Harry, I heard a strange noise when I was in the bathroom earlier. It was really creepy.”

“Oh...” Harry chuckled. “That is just our Tibetan Mastiff.”

“Tibetan Mastiff?”

“Absolutely! Mr. Tanner has a massive Tibetan Mastiff. But it’s bitten someone, and he has to lock it up in the basement of the backyard. That beast keeps trying to escape and makes a lot of noise. Didn’t it scare you?”

Kisa shook her head and replied, “As long as it’s locked up, I’m good.”

“Indeed, Mr. Tanner couldn’t bring himself to put the poor thing down. After all, he’s grown attached to it over time.”

Kisa chuckled and nodded, "That's my godfather, always so kind-hearted."

On the way back, Kisa asked Thomas, "Did my godfather use to have a Tibetan Mastiff?"

"Yep, he did have one. But he stopped keeping it after it bit someone, and I have no idea where it went. If Harry hadn't mentioned it today, I would have assumed that beast was long gone."

Kisa furrowed her brow. 'It couldn't possibly be a Tibetan Mastiff locked up in that basement. The sobbing sound was filled with sadness, anger, and despair, making the emotions incredibly

complex. Could an animal even have such complex feelings?"

She could not shake the feeling that it might be a person locked up in there. 'But if it is a person, why is the person speaking up?

"Hey, Thomas," she asked, "How well do you know my godfather?"

Thomas thought for a moment and said, "I know him pretty well. I used to hang out at Uncle Adrien's house all the time when I was younger."

"So, what is the deal with him and his ex-girlfriend? I heard my grandmother talking about it earlier.

Not wanting Thomas to overthink, Kisa explained further, "My godfather has never told me about these private matters before. But when I heard Mrs. Tanner Sr. talk like that, it piqued my curiosity, you know?"

"Not much of a secret, really." Thomas gave her a warm smile and said, "Rumor has it that Uncle Adrien once had a girlfriend whom he adored, but her family thought he was too poor for her and refused to let them be together. So, he started working hard to make more money and prove himself to the family. But here's the kicker-when he finally got rich, he left his loyal girlfriend behind. I asked him why he did that, and he told me he just didn't feel the love anymore and parting ways was the best ending."

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"Did he really just fall out of love?" she wondered, but her gut told her something else.

"Mrs. Tanner Sr. said he changed completely after he struck it rich, but my father says otherwise." Thomas shook his head in response.

"Maybe his feelings just changed," Kisa mused, though she still had her doubts about Adrien.

'It's not impossible for a man to ditch his girlfriend once he becomes wealthy. But even his own mother says he has changed, and that's odd. What if he isn't even Adrien to begin with?'

The thought made her shudder, and she hugged herself tightly. It felt like she was on the brink of a significant discovery, but the more she thought, the more her mind spun.

As Kisa returned to the Webb residence, she sensed a tense atmosphere in the living room. Before she could get a closer look, Mr. Webb Sr. approached her. "Mrs. Kooper, you're finally back. Mr. Kooper was worried sick."

Just then, Kisa saw Gilbert sitting on the couch. His face had darkened, his aura was menacing.

'He's not worried, he's angry,' Kisa thought to herself.

Thomas parked the car and walked in. But the moment he arrived; Mr. Webb Sr. unleashed a

torrent of insults at him.

"You useless piece of junk! I told you to take Mrs. Kooper to Oceanville for a nice time, but you just lost her. Do you know how worried Mr. Kooper was? Don't you have any common sense? Didn't you think to report to Mr. Kooper before you left? Thank goodness Mrs. Kooper didn't get hurt. Otherwise, your life wouldn't be worth a damn."

Thomas simply bowed his head and took the verbal lashing without a word.

"Thomas did nothing wrong," Kisa interjected, trying to defend him. "You can't just berate him like that. Besides, wherever we went, it was at my request. He took great care of me on the trip. I don't understand why you are yelling at him like this."

"It's alright, Mrs. Kooper." Thomas suddenly tugged at her sleeve and gave her a faint smile. "My father was right. I acted rashly and caused Mr. Kooper to worry."

Kisa was getting worked up "Come on, Thomas. It is clearly-"

"That is enough!" Gilbert abruptly seized her arm and snapped, "You think you haven't caused enough trouble for them?"

"You can't be serious!" Kisa looked at Gilbert dumbfounded, unable to comprehend what kind of trouble she had caused.

"Mr. Webb Sr., thank you for your hospitality. Kisa needs some rest now. I'll take her upstairs if you don't mind," Gilbert said.

Mr. Webb Sr. chuckled and replied, "Not at all. I'm just glad she's back safe and sound."

Gilbert dragged Kisa up the stairs. As she glanced back, she saw Mr. Webb Sr. giving Thomas a good scolding. She started to wonder if he was being too harsh on Thomas.

As they reached the room, Gilbert shut the door and leaned against it, adjusting his tie as he gazed at Kisa with cold eyes. !

Kisa felt shivers down her spine under his intense gaze, "What's gotten into you? I only went out with Thomas. Was it necessary to make such a fuss about it?"

"Why did you hang up on me?" he asked icily.

Kisa was taken aback, realizing only then that he had indeed called her earlier. She scrambled to explain, "I was in a tight spot at the time and had to hang up. It wasn't intentional."

"At the time, I get it. But, an hour ago, I called you again. Why didn't you answer?"

"What?"