looked at Kelvin . Then , with a sigh of resignation , she said . " To be honest . Mr. Adler , Yvonne was originally the child we planned to adope " But something happened on the day we were supposed to take her in . Maybe it just

Nina shifted her gaze away from Yvonne , her expression turning complicated as she

wasn't meant to be

Yvonne in Jeremy's arms posted , looking aggrieved , and nestled her head against his shoulder.

Supporting her small frame , he felt an unpleasant tightness in his chest . His gaze swept over Nina before he lowered his voice . " Do you want to go to the Yates family

Jeremy immediately sensed her disappointment .

What's so great about them anyway? Jeremy thought Yvonne shook her head at once , her arms tightening around his neck . Her soft , childish

voice sounded pitiful "No. Jeremy

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Jeremy seemed distracted . He absentmindedly ran his

then suddenly felt an intense gaze directed at them .

icked over .

back slightly, quickly averting her gaze.

Jeremy thought about it the more likely it seemed .

Truth be told , she still liked Yvonne .

coincidence rather amusing .

with it

silent .

and

1/2

Chapter 21

, so she had a bad temper . I was scared of $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left$

Marian nodded. "Yeah that was her

hurriedly . " Mr. Adler , you might

best "

momentarily stunned.

His eyes

Marian, the little girl Nina had brought along, was staring at Yvonne with a sharp, almost hostile look - both threatening and full of disdain .

ngers through her

uffy hair , but

Marian and Yvonne were the same age Jeremy couldn't understand how a three - year - old could have such an expression And why was she looking at Yvonne like that?

Jeremy's stomach twisted . Right then , Marian must have noticed too because she shrank

They were both from the same orphanage . Did Marian bully Yvonne back then ? The more

But Nina had accepted that the Adler family had adopted her , and she didn't see a problem

just weren't meant to be Thinking about why she had come today , Nina found the

Nina smiled . " Marian and Yvonne already know each other . Marian says they were best

friends at the orphanage . Since they'll be going to the same school , they can look after

Meanwhile , Nina had already explained everything about Yvonne and their past connection . There was nothing to hide .

Some things j

Oliver, who had been quiet until now, added. That preschool is right next to our school. Jeremy and I can drop them off on our way in the mornings "

each other . I even asked the teacher to place them in the same class .

The Yates family didn't notice anything off . They already knew from their phone calls with Yvonne that she was a shy child. Maybe she was just overwhelmed by all the people.

Hearing this , the Yates family members nodded in satisfaction . And Kelvin remained

Yvonne clung to Jeremy's neck even tighter, resting her head against his chest. From

where everyone stood, all they could see was the small, round curve of her back - like she

was trying to shut herself off from the whole scene .

Jeremy couldn't talk back to the Yates elders , but Oliver Oliver was fair game . They were used to messing with each other at school .

Only Jeremy realized that her little hands were shaking . She didn't like Marian. Then he

shot back at Oliver, Tim not taking your sister to school, and you're not taking mine."

Oliver just brushed it off, assuming Jeremy was being his usual overprotective self.

rst to react . Quickly , she asked . Na was the

" Oh my God " Nina's face paled with shock and concern Turning to Kelvin , she explained

know , but a while ago , the orphanage director came to our house demanding money from

Her wide , clear eyes locked onto Marian's tearful face , her small voice trembling with

Marian wasn't backing down and replied . " Of course , you'd say that ! She always liked you

" That's not true Yvonne was so upset she was nearly in tears . Her big , dark eyes

It was obvious that these two were not friends . If anything they were like those feuding

Yvonne was on the verge of tears . She couldn't believe Marian was twisting things like this

. Dani never showed favoritism . In fact , she didn't believe what Yvonne said last time .

shimmered with frustration . " You're lying " Ms. Harrison was kind to you too !"

The adults in the room were taken aback by the sudden argument .

sisters in TV dramas, always at each other's throats.

try too, she thought.

don't want to be around her ."

irritation

that kind of kid .

been bullied .

Chapter 21

Go to Kelvin

Jeremy said

Yvonne's red - rimmed eyes

Huh? "Yvonne looked baf

aring again .

probably assuming Yvonne had bullied her .

If anything, with the bruises she'd had when she

"You mean the director who came to our house asking for money last time

Just then Marian who had been sitting beside Nina, suddenly spoke up in a soft, pitiful

voice " Mom Dad . I don't want to be Back at the orphanage , the director liked her the most

Hearing this , the Yates family members froze . They glanced between her and Yvonne ,

anger . " You're lying Ms. Harrison isn't like that "

Marian . No one was home at the time , and the scared Marian to tears "

At that moment , Yvonne's head snapped up in disbelief .

When Marian sa Yvonne's distressed face, a icker of something dark passed through her eyes . Now , we're both kids . I can

Marian pinched herself secretly, and in an instant, her eyes welled up with tears. Then,

Marian's voice trembled as she whimpered, "Dad, Mom, she has such a bad temper. I

Nina comforted her quickly , frowning in embarrassment . She had hoped the two girls

would get along , but somehow , they had ended up as enemies instead . Now what ?

with a choked sob , she buried herself into Nina's embrace . " Mommy . I'm scared . *

Yvonne was crying too - but she was silent , her tears simply falling down her cheeks . A crying child gets sympathy . But when two cry at the same time , the louder one wins .

Seeing the sadness in her big , innocent eyes , Jeremy thought Marian's expression , his

right now . Marian was crying too loudly . The Yates family had already taker her side ,

This was what a real three - year - old should look like - clear - eyed , if a linle dumb . But

Jeremy knew that wasn't true . He had spent enough time with Yvonne to know she wasn't

rst arrived , she was the one who had

oor.

lled with confusion . In a small , hesitant voice , she asked , "

Jeremy lowered his voice, leaning down to whisper in Yvonne's ear, "Cry louder.

Yvonne blinked, lifting her tear - streaked face to look at him in confusion.

Nina, Robert, and Oliver rushed to console Marian, whose soft cries tugged at their hearts

lowering his voice further . " When I put you down , go to my dad and cry . Make sure you're louder than Marian, got 2/3

"Idiot, Jeremy muttered." Don't call him Kelvin. Call him Dad.

ed .

Before Yvonne could process what was happening, Jeremy set her down on the

Cry while you do it . He's obsessed with daughters "

rmly , " Trust me "

The problem was that Yvonne was too quiet - even when crying . Jeremy exhaled ,