

The Tide 541

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Early the next day. Jasper, his heart set on the toy airplane, woke up very early. Even his cozy bed didn't seem as enticing as the airplane.

Holding onto the stair railing with his short legs, he made his way downstairs. When he saw the airplane on the table, he couldn't wait to pick it up and start playing with it, controlling it with the remote. Seeing the plane hovering in the living room, the little one was ecstatic and kept praising his dad for being amazing. A child's smile would be the purest, and the praise came from the heart. "Daddy is amazing."

Theo, sitting beside them had already finished breakfast and was now sitting in the living room reading the newspaper. Seeing his great-grandson so happy, his face, full of years, broke into a smile. But he didn't quite believe in the abilities of his grandson, Trevon. He cast a suspicious glance at him. "Did you cheat when you fixed it?"

Trevon sat opposite Theo, and calmly replied, "Where could I cheat so late at night? I have no magic to conjure another one."

Natalie looked at the man who was lying with a straight face, thinking that it was such a waste for not going into acting as his acting skills were incredible. She had no intention of exposing him. First, Trevon didn't want to disappoint his son, and second, he didn't want to be criticized by Theo.

After playing with the toy airplane for a while, Jasper got tired and put down his toy to start building with Lego blocks. Trevon knew that his son loved Lego, so he would occasionally bring some back. As a result, there was no end to the Lego building.

After receiving criticism from Theo for a while, Trevon went to the company. Natalie decided not to go to work today and thought of taking her godmother, Lena, for a checkup.

Natalie pulled her son over, hugged him in her lap, and patiently asked, "Jasper, can you tell Mom why you lied to Dad last night? Wasn't it your little sister who broke this airplane?"

Theo didn't interfere with Natalie's education, just sat quietly, and looked at Jasper expectantly, waiting for his answer. Jasper didn't expect his mother to ask today. He nervously touched the Lego pieces in his hand and remained silent. Natalie continued to guide, saying, "Mom doesn't mean to criticize you, Mom just really wants to know why you said you accidentally broke it. Can you tell me the reason?"

Neither Theo nor Natalie rushed Jasper for an answer. They just waited quietly, patiently allowing the child to build his mental resolve. After a moment, Jasper spoke softly, "I was afraid Dad would get angry and not like Ruby."

So that was why. That was why he took the blame for breaking the airplane. Theo smiled as he said, "Good, it's right to protect a girl, but children shouldn't lie. How many times have I told you?"

Natalie said, "Great-grandpa is right. You can't lie anymore. Mom and Dad won't stop loving Ruby. We love her so much. Why will we stop loving her just because of an airplane? Besides, Ruby broke it by accident, right?"

Jasper nodded, remembering Theo's teachings, and spoke more, "Mom, I understand."

Theo nodded with satisfaction, thinking that Jasper had much better emotional intelligence than that brat, Trevon Jasper might have had a lot of girls chasing after him when he grew up. Theo knew there was no need for him to worry about Jasper not having a wife. Plus, he was too old to be concerned about this future matter.

Natalie chatted with Theo in the living room for a while, and played with her son for a while, but still didn't see Lena coming down. Rachel came out of the kitchen, carrying a plate of fruits for Jasper and placing a child's fork next to it. "Natalie, go upstairs and see if Lena is not feeling well. I've noticed her complexion hasn't been great these past few days." Putting the fruit plate on the table and instructing Jasper to eat some fruits first, she continued. "I asked her yesterday if she wasn't feeling well, and she said her leg hurt, nothing else. You

go

ask."

"Rachel, I didn't go to work today specifically to take her for a checkup."

Theo nodded in agreement, saying, "Yes, take her for a checkup to rest assured, Lena is just too considerate. She wants to handle everything herself and doesn't want to trouble anyone."

Half an hour later, Lena still hadn't come downstairs, so Natalie had to go upstairs. "Theo, I'm going to check on her." Theo waved his hand. "Go ahead."

Rachel's voice, caring for Jasper, came from behind. "Have a bite of the watermelon. Here, another piece."

Upstairs.

Lena's bedroom door was tightly closed, and Natalie rudely pushed it open for the first time. Inside the room, Lena was hunched over, clutching her stomach and rummaging through a drawer for medicine. When she saw Natalie come in, she hurriedly pushed the drawer back and put on a forced smile, avoiding eye contact. "Natalie, why did you come upstairs? Aren't you going to work?"

Natalie didn't respond to Lena's words. She had a bad feeling. The stomachache wasn't severe enough to require painkillers. She had seen something when Lena closed the drawer, and she was pretty sure it was a painkiller.

"Lena, why are you hiding your discomfort? Is it very painful? Let's go to the hospital." Natalie squatted down next to Lena,

helping her up. Lena was sweating profusely from the pain, and she was trying to lie, not wanting to worry Natalie. "It's nothing, maybe I hurt my stomach when I was eating."

Seeing Lena still wanting to avoid the topic and get away with it, Natalie was genuinely angry, but she didn't dare to be harsh. She closed her eyes and said, "Lena, have you forgotten what I do for a living? I'm a doctor." Her tone was calm, but even Lena could sense some anger in it.

With just a few words, Lena, who had wanted to continue lying, immediately closed her mouth, lowered her head, and pursed her lips without saying a word. The painkiller couldn't be taken in time before it was discovered, so the pain in her stomach was still there, and she continued to hold it. Without further ado, Natalie understood that this situation definitely required a thorough examination. She decided to take Lena to the research base for the checkup because it was well-equipped and had many experienced experts. "Let's go for an examination. If there's an illness, we'll treat it. If not, consider it a peace of mind."

"Natalie..."

Natalie didn't give Lena a chance to back out. She asserted, saying, "We're not discussing this matter. I can agree to other things, but not this. Putting aside the fact that I'm a doctor, I'm still your goddaughter. Knowing that you're unwell, I can't just sit by and watch you in pain with sweat on your forehead. Allow me to fulfill my duty as a goddaughter, okay?" Her tone softened and carried a pleading undertone.

While death was an inevitable part of life, Lena hadn't reached old age yet, and Natalie didn't want to let go. Besides, there were conditions for treatment now, and even if the worst-case scenario came true, she wanted to give it a try.

A tear slid down from the corner of Lena's eye, and Natalie wiped it away with her hand. She helped her up door, saying, "Lena, can you walk? If not, I'll carry you."

and opened the

"I can walk, let's go," Lena replied, wiping her face, her emotions complex. Natalie assisted her downstairs. Downstairs, Rachel heard movement on the staircase, and both Theo and Rachel raised their heads to look. Rachel immediately got up to help support Lena when she saw her slightly red eyes, basically confirming that she was unwell. Comforting her with a casually light tone, Rachel said, "Natalie is a doctor, so listen to her. She can make the necessary arrangements."

Lena responded, "I am too old. My body is of no help and just cause more trouble."

Theo noticed Lena's self-blame. After all, nobody could avoid getting sick, and Lena was exceptionally considerate, always thinking of others and shouldering self-blame for any trouble. Theo, leaning on his cane, tried to console her. "Lena, we older folks have parts that wear out over time. How can we maintain the same quality as when we were new as a newborn? Look at my phone. After a while, even the circuit board needs replacement. As long as it's not a complete overhaul, we fix what's broken."

"Alright, if it's broken, we'll fix it." Lena agreed.

Theo was attentive, and when he saw Lena was unwell, he had the driver send them over. This way, Natalie could sit with her in the back to support

her.

The car arrived at the research base. Natalie personally guided Lena through various examinations, and she asked her colleagues to be extra thorough in their assessments, thanking them along the way.

After undergoing a gastroscopy, to ensure Lena's comfort, they used anesthesia. Once the procedure was over, Natalie took Lena directly to her own relaxation room, saying, "Lena, take a break. We're not in a hurry. We'll wait for the results to come

out."

"Okay, I'll listen to you."

"That's the way. I'm your goddaughter, and this is my duty. You know that," Natalie said, gently wiping Lena's face and hands with a towel.

After a while, the door to the office was lightly knocked, and a doctor in a white coat stood outside, holding the examination report. He gestured for Natalie to come out without entering. Natalie knew right away what was happening. The scene was all too familiar, and it was clear that there were unusual findings in the test results. Without showing any emotions, she stood up and said "Lena, I'll step outside for a moment. You lie down and rest, I'll be back soon." Lena nodded obediently, following Natalie's instructions.

As the door closed, the doctor outside handed the report to Natalie. The results were clearly written on it. The doctor spoke up, "The results from the biopsy taken during the gastroscopy don't look very promising. I recommend doing a further biopsy to assess the extent."

There was silence for a while, and it took Natalie some time before she lifted her head and met the doctor's gaze. In her current role as a family member accompanying Lena, she put on a forced smile and said, "Alright, please make the arrangements. Thank you."

The doctor comforted her. "It's okay, don't worry. What we have plenty of here is good doctors."

"Okay, thanks."

In that instant when Natalie closed the door, Lena had already figured out the general situation. A while later, Natalie

returned to the room with a reassuring smile. She helped Lena up, and all the necessary tests had been completed/Natalie wanted to conduct a biopsy as soon as possible to determine the severity and proceed with treatment.

Without waiting for Natalie to speak, Lena smiled and said, "It's alright. I already have a rough idea. Just tell me what to do, and I'll cooperate with you. Just as Theo said, if a part is damaged, we'll replace it. As long as the hospital can replace it, we'll do it, alright?"

Natalie finally let her guard down and embraced Lena. Her shoulders trembled slightly as she suppressed the urge to cry, taking deep breaths. She eventually let go, crouched in front of Lena, and held her hands, maintaining her reassuring smile. "That's the way it should be. This place Edward prepared for me is just for replacing parts. Everything will be fine. I'll be with you."

As lunchtime approached, the doctor conducted the biopsy on Lena, and after a short break, Natalie had the doctor prescribe some pain relief medication.

Inside the research base were renowned doctors invited by Edward, along with researchers. Among them were experts from the Turner Corporation who specialized in developing high-end medical

equipment and professionals skilled in analyzing unique components. They excelled at researching complex and rare medical cases, making daily discoveries, and contributing to breakthroughs in the field of medicine, which delighted several senior individuals passionate about the medical profession.

Natalie had plans to have interns from Athana Hospital join in for surgical observations during the spring. They would learn together, with the hope of nurturing more outstanding doctors. She was increasingly drawn to the career Edward had prepared for her and was discovering a new aspect of herself.