

Yo Daddy 291

Chapter 291

Truth was, Neteshe had the urge to kill Thee at some point.

The thought of Denise having a high fever and reviving gave Neteshe the urge to make Thee disappear from the face of the earth.

No parent could expect someone treating their child that way, including Neteshe.

However, her last shred of sanity prevented her from reacting rashly.

Neteshe knew Thee deserved to be punished, but death was not the answer.

Most importantly, Thee was right about something. The three children could not have a murderer as a mother.

At that thought, Neteshe tempered down her desire to kill Thee.

Yet, in order to vent her anger, Neteshe could only torture Thee repeatedly.

Every time Neteshe watched Thee struggle in the water, the look of fear and helplessness on the latter's face made her feel much better.

Just like that, the entire "game" lasted till midnight.

Thee was in so much torture that she wanted to kill herself. However, Neteshe did not give her the chance to do so. In the end, Thee started crying and begging for forgiveness.

Soon, it got deeper into the night.

Neteshe's phone rang. Seeing Denise's name on the screen, Neteshe released Thee into the water and answered it. "Hello?"

"Net, when are you coming back?" Denise asked.

"What's up?"

"I miss you!"

Neteshe's heart melted at those words, and she beamed. "Okay. I'll be right back."

"I'll be waiting!" Denise responded, grinning. Evidently, she was feeling much better.

"Okey!" Neteshe hung up and put the phone away.

Realizing the woman in the water was on the brink of death, Neteshe pulled her back up again.

This time, Thea did not have the strength to struggle.

Neteshe tightened her grip around the rope and steered the speedboat in a specific direction.

Meanwhile, the man was trapped in the water from another speedboat not far away. When he saw Neteshe's speedboat approaching, he called out excitedly, "H-Help me!"

Disgust flashed through Neteshe's eyes when she saw his face.

However, he was not bothered by it and simply held onto Thea for support.

He had thought that someone was rescuing him, but when he saw Neteshe using the same method to bring Thea over, he froze.

When Neteshe shoved Thea over, the man, Hans, was shocked. At the same time, he seemed to have understood something.

Truth was, Natasha had the urge to kill Thea at some point.

The thought of Denise having a high fever and raving gave Natasha the urge to make Thea disappear from the face of the earth.

No parent could accept someone treating their child that way, including Natasha.

However, her last shred of sanity prevented her from reacting rashly.

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Without uttering a word, Natasha started tying both Thea and Hans together. It was at that moment when Hans came to his senses and admitted, "Yes! That's her! She's the one who paid me and made me

do that. It's all her!"

Natasha was unmoved.

Thea looked up exhaustedly when she heard a man speaking beside her. The moment she spotted Hans, she had a bad feeling about it.

With strenuous effort, she lifted her head and fixed her eyes on the person on the speedboat. "Natasha, what exactly are you trying to do? Why are you putting me with this man?"

"What do you think?" Natasha responded with a question.

"You—"

Without waiting for Thea to finish her words, Natasha raised her hand and looked at the time. She then returned her gaze to them and stated coldly, "I hope someone finds you after two days, and I hope both of you will still be alive by then." With that, she eyed them grimly and spun on her heels.

Seeing her leave, Thea shouted with every last ounce of energy left in her, "Come back, Natasha! Let me go! Natasha, come back! Natasha..."

All that shouting had used up her energy. She shouted so much that it made her cough her lungs out.

Despite that, Natasha never turned back. She leaped into another speedboat and sailed off.

Thea stared at the leaving speedboat in hopeless despair.

Just you wait, Natasha! I'm going to get my revenge for what happened today!

Just as Natasha had stepped on the shore, tied up the speedboat, and was about to get into her car, a black car pulled over.

Kenneth alighted from the car and hurried over to Natasha.

Chapter 292

When Neteshe and Kenneth returned to the hospital, it was already close to midnight.

Denise was still experiencing a mild fever, and she dozed off again after eating some food.

Anthony, Benjamin, and Thelie stayed inside the ward the whole time.

Anthony and Benjamin were wide awake while Thelie was sound asleep without a care.

When Neteshe and Kenneth entered the room, Anthony leaped to his feet. "You're back, Net?"

Perhaps it was a huge commotion. Thelie jolted awake and nearly slid off the couch.

She scanned her surroundings groggily and felt relieved when she noticed the newcomers were Neteshe and Kenneth.

"Yes!" Neteshe nodded at Anthony and Benjamin. Then, she shifted her gaze onto Thelie and tossed her the car keys. "Thank you!"

Thelie received the car keys and yawned. "You're welcome!"

Staring at his mother, Anthony walked over and asked, "Net, where is she?"

Neteshe's eyes gleamed as she replied honestly, "She's with Hens!"

Anthony was stunned.

It seems that Mommy not only hecked Hen's phone but also anticipated his movements. She even led Thee to him. Mommy is truly living up to her reputation.

Anthony smiled sheepishly and fell silent.

At that moment, Thelie piped up, "You arranged for them to be together?"

Neteshe nodded.

Thelie could not resist giving Neteshe the thumbs up. "Amazing! I reckon Thee will be exasperated beyond measure."

Thee has always put on a pure and virtuous pretense. Now that she's tied together with a man like Hens, waiting to be discovered by others... I suppose she'll lose her mind when she realizes that.

Neteshe did not consider that matter from that perspective. She merely uttered nonchalantly, "I hope she still has the energy to be mad." With that, she strode directly toward Denise.

Neteshe's gaze softened as she looked at the girl lying on the bed.

Thelie turned to Anthony and Benjamin and whispered, "Your mother is ruthless."

"Thee brought that upon herself after all the sins she committed," Anthony said.

Benjamin chimed in as well, "Is she ruthless? I think Mommy is too generous for sparing her life!"

Thelie was rendered speechless.

What's the matter with this family? They're all merciless and brutal.

However, on second thought, Thelie agreed that Thee deserved to die.

Even in their field of profession, they would not lay a finger on the family members of their targets. Outrageously, Thee had tried to harm a child. Her actions were simply inhumane. When Natasha and Kenneth returned to the hospital, it was already close to midnight.

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Anthony and Benjamin were wide awake while Thalia was sound asleep without a care.

When Natasha and Kenneth entered the room, Anthony leaped to his feet. "You're back, Nat?"

Perhaps it was a huge commotion. Thalia jolted awake and nearly slid off the couch.

She scanned her surroundings groggily and felt relieved when she noticed the newcomers were Natasha and Kenneth.

"Yes!" Natasha nodded at Anthony and Benjamin. Then, she shifted her gaze onto Thalia and tossed her the car keys. "Thank you!"

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Despite Darknetz's prohibition for its members to kill the innocent, Thalia might have chosen to end Thea's life if she had been in that position.

At that moment, Kenneth turned to look in their direction and walked over. "All right, it's getting late now. Anthony, Benjamin, you two should go back earlier and get some rest. It'll be sufficient for your mommy and me to stay here and take care of Denise in the hospital."

Hearing that, Anthony gazed at Denise and said, "I'm not tired. I'll just wait here."

He could not stop worrying about Denise until she made a complete recovery.

He was truly a little perturbed after that incident. Fortunately, they managed to retrieve Denise. Otherwise, Anthony dared not imagine the consequences.

Benjamin nodded in agreement. "Yes. I can't sleep even if I'm back home. I'll be more at ease waiting here."

Kenneth uttered, "I know you two are worried about Denise, but you two are still growing up. You need plenty of rest. Besides, Denise is fine now, isn't she?"

Anthony looked in Natasha's and Denise's direction with a frown.

Right then, Natasha piped up, "Your Great-grandpa is still uninformed about Denise's condition. He's been calling me the whole day. You two should go back and update him so that he's not distraught."

The two kids had no choice but to agree compliantly since Natasha had spoken. "Okay. We got it."

Following Natasha's instruction, Anthony, Benjamin, and Thalia left together.

Kenneth walked up to Natasha after they were gone.

Denise was sleeping. Natasha used a piece of cloth to wipe the little girl's hands gently, which Kenneth had never seen on Natasha.

After hesitating briefly, Kenneth said, "Anthony and Benjamin don't seem to be afraid of me."

Chapter 293

The next morning, Natasha was lying at Denise's bedside, sleeping, when the door was pushed open.

Liam entered the ward while scolding loudly and furiously, "Why didn't anyone inform me after something as significant as this happened? Does any of you still take me seriously?"

Hearing the commotion, Natasha woke up with a frown. She fell into a daze at the sight of the coat wrapped around her body.

"And that evil woman! We must not let this matter slide!"

Then Natasha regained her senses. She stood up when she saw Liam and Terence walking into the room together. "Grandpa. Old Mr. Hamilton."

Liam had wanted to vent his anger initially. However, he froze momentarily after noticing Natasha was alone inside the ward. He asked, "Where is that brat, Kenneth?"

Natasha scanned her surroundings as well and replied in a diminished voice, "I think he went out."

Liam had no choice but to suppress his wrath.

He gazed at Denise, who was lying on the bed, and walked over with an aching heart. After sizing her up, he said, "She lost so much weight in just a few days..."

Liam looked up at Natasha. "How is Denise, Nat? What did the doctor say?"

Natasha answered honestly, "She's fine now. She experienced a fever induced by dehydration and cold, but her fever has already subsided last night."

Liam sighed in relief after hearing that. Still, he felt brokenhearted when reminded of Denise's sufferings. He uttered spitefully, "We cannot let go of this matter just like this. I will never forgive that woman!"

At that moment, Terence strode over as well. He placed his hand on Denise's forehead to ensure she was no longer feverish. Only then did he relax.

When he turned to look at Natasha, a hint of disapproval flashed across his eyes. "Nat, how could you leave us out on a matter as serious as this? We wouldn't have known until now if it wasn't for Anthony and Benjamin. I know you're afraid that we'll be worried. But regardless of when we learn about this, we will still be anxious."

Natasha nodded while listening to him. "I know now, Grandpa. I will not repeat this mistake in the future."

She was always very open to criticism and willing to learn from her errors.

At the sight of her sincere demeanor, Terence could not bring himself to reprimand her further.

Just then, Denise opened her eyes. "Don't blame Nat, Gramps. I am at fault for allowing others to bully me because I'm still too young."

Terence and Liam immediately shifted their gazes to Denise upon hearing her voice.

"You're awake, Denise!"

"Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere, Denise? Let me know if you do."

The two older men hastily shuffled over and bombarded the little girl with questions.

Denise smiled faintly while staring at them. "I feel much better since Gramps and Great-grandpa are so concerned about my wellbeing. I'm fine!"

She had always been honey-tongued. She had successfully coaxed Liam and Terence with a single sentence, rendering them speechless.

"You!" Terence gently flicked her forehead.

"Daddy and Nat are not at fault in this matter. Don't scold them, Gramps, Great-grandpa!" Denise said

skittishly.

"All right, okay. I'll listen to whatever you say, Denise," Terence replied.

Then she looked at Liam, seemingly waiting for his response.

Liam let out a deep sigh. "Of course. I wasn't blaming your daddy and mommy. I'm mad at that person who harmed you. I'll definitely avenge you for what happened!"

Hearing that, Denise smiled and said proudly, "Daddy and Mommy have already avenged me yesterday!"

The two old men were stunned. Terence turned his head around to gaze at Natasha.

Natasha did not deny that. "Don't worry, Grandpa. I know where to draw the line."

She had always been a sensible person. Naturally, Terence had faith in her if she said so.

Liam piped up maliciously, "That evil woman deserves to die!"

Terence knitted his brows instantaneously. "What is that nonsense, Liam!"

Liam uttered unreservedly, "That's the truth. Anyone who dares to lay a finger on a member of the Hamilton family must be tired of living. I will pursue this matter further!"

"Why are you saying this in front of the child..." Terence shot a disapproving glance at Liam.

Liam looked at Denise and said, "These children should be equipped with this amount of courage as descendants of the Hamilton family, and they should also know that someone is here to support them if others ever bully them. Are you scared, Denise?"

Denise was not at all fearful as she shook her head cheerfully. "You're so cool, Great-grandpa!"

Terence was at a loss for words.

Liam was very satisfied. He gazed at his great-granddaughter and said with all seriousness, "Denise, you must remember that no matter what happens, the entire Hamilton family will always have your back. If anyone dares to bully you, I will take vengeance for you even if I need to exhaust all the Hamilton family's resources!"

Denise nodded firmly. "I'll keep that in mind!"

Despite his usual genial appearance, Liam was someone who genuinely despised evil. He was a relatively straightforward person without many complicated life principles. But if anyone dared to take advantage

of people who mattered to him, he would never let the culprit go.

Terence was well aware of that.

The two had known one another for many years, so Terence understood Liam's temperament. Under normal circumstances, Liam was friendly and easygoing, but he could turn into a savage whenever a situation arose.

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Natasha's eyes narrowed slightly, and she cut straight to the chase. "All right. When and where?"

"No rush. I'll contact you again once I've decided!" With that, the person hung up.

Natasha stared at the phone in her hand. After pondering for a moment, she began tracking the source of the phone call with her phone.

After a series of operations, she realized that the person who had called her was at the center of Glenport City.

Just as she was tracking the phone call, Natasha suddenly noticed that her phone activity was being tracked by others as well. She froze as realization hit her. She quickly stopped tracking the call and erased all traces of her phone activity.

The phone call was merely a test.

They were testing her.

Natasha thought back to what they had asked her. It appears that they are starting to suspect me...

However, it did not matter to Natasha. As long as she could find out the truth behind her father's death, she did not care about the price she had to pay.

Just as Natasha was lost in thought, Fabian walked over from the other end of the hallway.

"Good morning, Ms. Watson!" Fabian greeted with a huge grin.

Coming back to her senses, Natasha looked at Fabian. "Morning." At the sight of Fabian holding things with one arm with the other arm in a sling, Natasha frowned. "What happened to your arm?"

Fabian was taken aback. "Haven't you heard, Ms. Watson?"

"About what?"

"Didn't Mr. Hamilton tell you?" Fabian was dumbstruck.

Natasha knitted her brows. It was evident that she had no clue what Fabian was referring to.

Even Fabian himself was getting bewildered. "That shouldn't be. Didn't Mr. Hamilton go around asking for information because of you?"

Upon hearing those words, Natasha immediately pieced together the fact that Kenneth had done something behind her back.

"What on earth happened?" Natasha asked while staring at Fabian.

Hesitation was written all over Fabian's face as he found himself in a dilemma. "Um... since Mr. Hamilton didn't say anything, wouldn't it be out of my place to tell you?"

"Tell me. What's the difference between not telling me and telling me now?" Natasha raised an eyebrow.

"Uh, there would still be certain differences by the essence..." Fabian faltered.

Unexpectedly, Natasha was not at all frantic. She nodded calmly. "Okay. In that case, I'll ask Kenneth myself!"

"B-But... if you go ask him, he'll know that I've revealed something that I shouldn't." Fabian was beginning to feel anxious.

Natasha didn't say a word in response. Instead, she continued staring at him.

Fabian knew that if Natasha were to ask Kenneth, there truly would not be much difference between telling her the truth and keeping it from her.

After a few seconds of hesitation, Fabian sighed resignedly. "I-If I tell you, can you pretend to be clueless when Mr. Hamilton tells you what happened?"

Natasha nodded in response. "Sure!"

Fabian took a deep breath and checked his surroundings. Once he was sure that no one was around, he turned his focus back to Natasha and said in a lowered voice, "Didn't you bump into a few foreigners at the entrance of the hotel a few days ago? Mr. Hamilton was worried about you, so he had specially investigated them."

Natasha's gaze turned serious.

"Those people were not your average citizen. Mr. Hamilton and I went to meet them and managed to dig up some information. I was accidentally wounded at that time," revealed Fabian.

When Natasha heard Fabian's recount, she drew her brows together and stepped forward to examine Fabian's wound.

"Gunshots?"

"I was merely grazed by a stray bullet. It's nothing serious!" After a brief pause, Fabian looked at her quizzically. "H-How do you know?"

It's just a graze. She couldn't have known from the wound, could she?

Natasha's frown grew deeper.

Even though Fabian had recounted the situation in such a light-hearted manner, she knew that reality was far more severe than what he had described, especially since guns were involved.

Natasha lifted her head and look at Fabian. "What about Kenneth? Was he injured?"

Fabian instantly shook his head. "No! No! Mr. Hamilton wasn't injured!"

Natasha finally let go of the breath she didn't know she was holding after learning that Kenneth was fine. Her gaze softened as she looked at Fabian's arm. "Thank you, Fabian. I owe you one."

Uh...

It was Fabian's turn to feel embarrassed.

"You don't have to thank me, Ms. Watson. I was just following Mr. Hamilton..."

"What information did you guys manage to get?" Natasha changed the subject curtly.

Fabian was still emotional about what Natasha had said. When he heard the sudden change in topic, he blinked.

Well, that was fast...

Nevertheless, Fabian began to tell her what they had discovered at the sight of Natasha's anxiousness. "I was on watch at that time, so I didn't hear much. I think I heard someone mentioning something about being members of Vermillion Base. If I'm not mistaken, they're from Spaunia. They came to Glenport City to transport something."

Vermillion Base?

Natasha felt she had heard that name before, but she could not be sure.

Was Father related to this organization?

Were they the ones who called just now?

Chapter 295

“Ms. Watson, you don't know how hackers are. Shadow Seeker really is like a god in the world of hackers. You can even call her omnipotent. If she wants to, she can easily hack into a company, a corporation, or even a nation within minutes! I'm not exaggerating!” Fabian continued to praise Shadow Seeker. His eyes shone fanatically as though he had seen it happen with his own eyes.

Natasha was at a loss for words.

She should be happy that someone had so much confidence in her and would defend her.

Staring at Fabian, Natasha could only maintain a polite smile.

“Never mind. You won't understand!” Fabian sighed dejectedly.

His words rendered Natasha speechless.

“What won't she understand?” Just then, Kenneth's voice rang out from behind them, startling Fabian. Subconsciously, he hid behind Natasha.

“M-Mr. Hamilton, when did you get here?”

Upon seeing his reaction, Kenneth frowned.

“What's the matter? Am I not welcomed here?”

“N-No, t-that's not what I—”

“What are you hiding?”

“N-Nothing!” Fabian quickly tossed a look at Natasha, begging her not to reveal anything.

Kenneth narrowed his eyes. “Nothing?” His voice turned hoarse as he pressed on.

Kenneth knew Fabian inside and out. From the way Fabian was acting, Kenneth had no doubt that Fabian was hiding something.

Seeing Kenneth marching over to Fabian, Natasha spoke up. “It's me. I asked him how he injured his arm.”

Kenneth halted in his tracks. It was obvious that Natasha was covering for Fabian.

He rolled his eyes, quickly figuring out what was going on.

Natasha changed the subject and informed him, "Grandpa and Old Mr. Hamilton are here. They're inside."

Kenneth looked toward the door of the ward.

"Old Mr. Hamilton seems livid," warned Natasha.

Solemnity flickered across Kenneth's handsome face. "I know. I figured." With that, he pushed the door open and entered the ward.

At the sight of Kenneth entering the ward, Fabian heaved a sigh of relief.

"Thanks for saving my life, Ms. Watson," whispered Fabian.

"You're welcome!"

Natasha went into the ward after Kenneth with Fabian tailing behind her.

Inside the ward, Denise managed to reassure the two elders and comfort them.

However, the moment Kenneth appeared, Liam could not get a hold of his wrath and started lashing out at Kenneth.

"Where have you been?"

Before Kenneth could answer, Liam continued, "Why didn't you tell me when such a big thing happened? Do you still see me as your grandfather?"

Kenneth remained silent.

"I'm telling you, this is not the end! You're the one who provoked that woman. Tell me, are you going to deal with her yourself, or should I?"

Denise's heart clenched in pain when she took in the scene. "Great-grandpa, you said you wouldn't blame Daddy!"

Liam's anger quickly subsided. "I-I'm not blaming him. I'm just stating facts!"

"Then you shouldn't scold Daddy!"

“All right, all right, all right! I won't scold him!”

Liam could not find anything to say to Kenneth any longer. In the end, he could only glare at him with his lips pressed into a thin line.

Just then, Kenneth broke the silence. “Don't worry, Grandpa. I will sort this out!”

“You said it yourself! If you can't do it, don't blame me if I do it myself!” Liam huffed.

Kenneth turned to look at Denise. “I can do it. Them laying their hands on Denise was the last straw. Don't worry. I got this!”

Liam merely snorted and dropped the subject.

Terence remained silent as he sat at the side.

Denise, who was on the bed, looked at Kenneth with sparkles in her eyes.

Daddy's the best!

Upon noticing how Denise was looking at him, Kenneth smiled and walked over to the bedside. He then took out the breakfast he had bought for the girl.

“Hungry? I went out early and bought you the breakfast you have been craving!”

At the sight of breakfast, Denise wanted nothing more than to throw herself into Kenneth's embrace. However, with so many eyes watching her, she held herself back. “Thanks, Daddy!”

Kenneth took out the variety of food and laid them out in front of Denise. Everything looked scrumptious.

“You're the best, Daddy!” Denise whispered in Kenneth's ear.

“Would you like me to feed you?”

“In front of everyone? No, thank you. Otherwise, they're gonna say I'm a spoiled child,” mumbled Denise.

Seeing Denise's small face and shimmering eyes that were full of life, Kenneth laughed and reached out to pat her head.

He then turned to look at Natasha. “Let's eat together!”

Chapter 296

After a long time, Sharon's sniffles became softer and softer and her tears dried.

She felt immensely better after crying.

Turning her eyes to Denise, Sharon took a few deep breaths to compose herself. "No matter what, Denise, I should still be held accountable. No matter what you say, I was still somewhat responsible for all that had happened. Your parents entrusted you to me, yet I failed them—and you—by allowing such things to happen! Because of that, I'm willing to do anything you want me to do and accept every punishment you think I deserve. You decide!"

Denise's brows knitted together. "So you'll do everything that I say, no matter what it is?"

Sharon nodded her head in determination. "Mm-hmm! I will try my best to fulfill your wishes!"

"Your words, not mine!" Denise looked at Sharon up and down.

Staring back at Denise, Sharon nodded. "I promise!"

Denise mulled it over for a few seconds before looking back at Sharon. "I've always liked the sunglasses you're wearing now. Can I have them?"

Sharon was dumbfounded. "J-Just that?"

"Yup!" Denise nodded vigorously. "You were wearing the same pair of sunglasses when I saw you the last time. I tried looking for the same brand or even a similar style, but I couldn't find any. So... can you give it to me?"

Sharon was rendered speechless as she did not see that coming.

"Are you sure that's all you want?"

"Why are you asking? Are you reluctant to give it away?" Denise questioned.

"Of course not!" Sharon denied it immediately. "I-It's just that... Do you want it now?"

"Yup!" Denise nodded.

Sharon hesitated. She knew that Denise was like a princess. Kenneth would do anything within his power to get her what she wanted. The pair of sunglasses was just Denise's way of letting herself off easily.

But...

Sharon reached up and touched her sunglasses hesitantly.

"You really do seem attached to it." Denise pouted.

"No, I'm not!" After a brief pause, Sharon sighed in resignation and took off her sunglasses before handing them to Denise. "Here you go!"

Denise had originally intended it as a joke. However, at the sight of Sharon's swollen and bloodshot eyes, Denise froze.

Her eyes were so red and swollen that they seemed to be bruising.

Denise was at a loss for words. After a long moment of silence, she called out softly, "Sharon..."

"What is it?" Sharon lowered her head.

"Did Daddy give you a hard time?"

It would be no surprise to her if Kenneth had poured out his rage on Sharon after she had gone missing.

Sharon kept her head low. "He didn't. And even if he does, I deserve every bit of it!" Guilt overcame Sharon once again. She had promised to take good care of Denise, only to lose her.

Denise turned to look at Kenneth, who was standing next to her. Unable to blame him for his reaction, Denise looked at Sharon once again. "I apologize on Daddy's behalf. He must have been extremely anxious at that time. Please don't be mad at Daddy."

Upon hearing those words, Sharon lifted her head and stared at Denise in disbelief. This girl is truly an angel. She was the one who went missing. She should be the one who's making a fuss right now, yet here she is, comforting me instead.

"I was afraid that you'd be mad at me!" Sharon smiled bitterly.

"Why would I?" Denise looked at Sharon. An innocent grin broke out on her tiny face. "All of you care for me so deeply! It's truly a blessing to have known all of you!"

At the sight of Denise's huge grin, Sharon felt her heart being filled up with warmth.

It was as though everything was perfect.

Finally, Sharon's lips curled up into a smile as well.

Upon receiving the news that Denise had been found, the director of the film crew came to visit as well, bringing baskets of fresh fruits and bouquets of flowers.

Ever since he had found out Denise's identity, the director had been thoroughly shaken. He had originally thought that she was just a normal girl with impressive talents. Yet little did he expect her to be the favored child of the Hamilton family.

In the ward, the director apologized profusely for what had happened.

As for Denise, she truly was an angel, comforting everyone and anyone.

Before he left, the director turned to look at Kenneth and Liam. "Don't worry. For the rest of the film production, the entire crew will keep their eyes on Denise. We will definitely not let something like this happen again!"

All of a sudden, Liam frowned. "Hold on a second!"

The director turned to look at Liam.

"Who said that we're going back?" Liam asked.

The director was dumbfounded. "I-Is she not going back?"

At that moment, Sharon and Denise shifted their gazes toward Liam as well.

"Denise went missing! Do you think she's going to return to the set and continue shooting for the film?"

"B-But the shooting of the film is already in progress! A lot of Denise's parts in the play have also been shot. If she doesn't go back, it'll be a huge loss for the film crew..." The director tried to object. However, he did not dare to finish his sentence.

Losing money was not a huge deal. If he angered the Hamiltons, not only would the filming be stopped, but he would risk being blacklisted in the entire industry.

Liam looked at him coldly. "I haven't even held you guys responsible for what happened to Denise, and you have the audacity to talk to me about loss?"

"No! No!" the director quickly explained himself. "That was not what I meant at all! You've mistaken me, Old Mr. Hamilton!"

Chapter 297

Seeing that Liam went silent, Denise said, "Great-grandpa, I don't wish to be a good-for-nothing scion and live under the protection of others forever."

Liam knew that Denise was making a sound argument. However, he was still worried about her safety.

“Denise, you're still young. You don't fully understand how the world can be a very dangerous place. You will understand better when you're older,” Liam said in an attempt to change her mind.

“I will never truly understand the world that you claim to be dangerous if I'm always living under your protection!” Denise said.

Liam was rendered speechless.

He could find no words to refute the little girl.

Liam pursed his lips and scanned the room before finally setting his gaze on Natasha.

“Nat, what do you say?” Liam asked. He desperately needed someone to support his stance.

However, to Liam's surprise, Natasha said calmly, “Old Mr. Hamilton, I respect Denise's decision.”

Despite getting a bit of a scare from the incident, Natasha knew that there was no other way to get around some things. If Thea truly had the intention to harm Denise, she would see that her goals were accomplished, one way or another. Hence, there was no point in hiding Denise away because of this incident.

After all, Denise had hard truths to learn in life. Nobody would be spared from the cruelties of reality, not even Denise. Natasha thought it would be wiser to raise Denise to be stronger so that her daughter could fend for herself.

Liam raised his brows in response after Natasha was done talking. It had never occurred to him that Natasha would go along with Denise's choice.

After debating with himself for a moment, Liam turned to Kenneth and asked in a displeased tone, “Kenneth, what do you say?”

Everyone's gaze fell on Kenneth right then.

Kenneth was sitting beside Denise and crossing his legs, eyeing Natasha the whole time. He furrowed his brows when he was suddenly called upon by Liam.

Just when he was hesitating, Denise reached out to tug at his shirt and gave him a puppy-eyed look.

Of course, Kenneth was worried as well. He so wished that he could protect her and let her grow up without having to be plagued by any worries in life. However, he also knew that he could not stay by her side twenty-four-seven, nor would he be able to protect her till the end of time. Hence, the best way to protect her was to let her learn how to protect herself.

Kenneth reckoned Natasha thought the same when she said that she would respect Denise's decision in

the matter.

With that thought in mind, he said, "Grandpa, I know you love Denise. But I'm afraid there is no place truly secure enough to hide her away and we can't protect her forever. It is best that she learn how to protect herself."

Liam did not bother listening to all the arguments laid out. He looked at Kenneth and said, "Quit spewing this nonsense. Are you saying that you agree to let Denise return to shoot the movie?"

Kenneth nodded.

Denise beamed with delight in response.

However, Liam was not having it. He shot up from his seat and said in a defeated manner, "Since all of you have decided that this is for the best, I have nothing else to say. I don't ask for much. I just want Denise to be safe and sound."

Before they could respond, Liam had already stormed out the door. They exchanged glances with one another, unsure of what to say.

"Great-grandpa is angry..." Denise pursed her lips.

Kenneth comforted her, "It's all right. He's just worried about your safety. It's hard for him to accept this right now. I'm going to talk to him."

Denise nodded.

Terence stood up when he saw that Kenneth was about to head outside. "Let me talk to him instead. I know that you youngsters are making a sound argument, but you have to try to at least see things from our perspectives, too. Liam almost got a heart attack when he knew about Denise's incident. It makes sense that he's opposed to the idea."

"I've failed to consider his feelings in this matter..." Natasha mumbled.

"No, it was my fault. This has nothing to do with you," Kenneth said.

Terence was glad to see Kenneth jumping to Natasha's defense right then.

"Old Mr. Watson, I think it's best that I talk to Grandpa about this," Kenneth said.

"You're going to add fuel to the fire if you talk to him. Let me. I know what's on Liam's mind best."

Kenneth did not insist. "Thank you."

"Take good care of Denise," Terence said before he headed outside.

The director dared not utter a word and stood aside.

After all, he was the one to bring up the topic, and the spat between the two great families could tear him apart. Hence, he thought it best to keep his mouth shut.

Just when he was thinking of the best way to excuse himself, Kenneth turned around and looked at him.

"Is there anything else?"

The director shook his head and replied, "N-No."

"Well, then you may leave," Kenneth said. It was clear that he wanted the director out of the room.

The corner of the director's lips twitched as he said, "I'm going to take my leave, then."

Then, he glanced over at Denise, who was on the bed, and said, "Denise, you take good care of yourself, all right? I'm going to leave now."

"Goodbye," Denise said.

Chapter 298

Denise stayed at the hospital for one more day. She was only discharged after the doctors confirmed that everything was all right with her.

Kenneth drove her home. On their way back, he stole furtive glances at the rearview mirror and noticed that Denise was clinging onto Natasha like a koala bear.

"Nat, you have not hugged me like this for a long time," Denise cooed.

"Well, I could say the same for you," Natasha said.

"I'm sick, so I need a lot of hugs to feel better."

Natasha knew that it was the comfort and sense of security of having Kenneth around that made Denise feel so at ease.

Her lips curled into a smile at the realization. She held Denise tighter into her embrace and said, "All right. Plenty of hugs for you!"

It had been a long time since Denise had acted in such a pettish manner to Natasha. The little girl smiled in contentment and noticed that Kenneth was staring at them from the rearview mirror. "Daddy, are you jealous that I get these hugs from Nat?"

Natasha lifted her gaze, and Kenneth's gaze coincidentally met hers as well. The two locked eyes with each other, and there was an inexplicably ambiguous tension hanging in the air.

Natasha averted her gaze, breaking the tension.

Kenneth's lips curled into a grin as he said, "Yes, I am very jealous."

Denise raised a brow. Is Daddy playing along with me now?

She grinned and continued to tease him, "Are you jealous that Mommy is getting hugs from me, or are you jealous that I'm the one getting hugs from Mommy?"

"Is there a difference?" Natasha asked.

"Of course there is!" Denise said and turned to Kenneth.

He immediately replied, "Of course I'm jealous of you getting to hug Mommy like that."

Denise pouted. "Daddy, you've changed..."

Kenneth chuckled. Then he turned to look at Natasha with an enigmatic glint in his eyes.

Natasha did not deign to reply to them. She merely stared out the window and pretended as if she did not understand what they were saying.

Meanwhile, at home, Anthony was chatting online with Kyle.

Anthony: Vermillion Base? This organization's name sure is weird.

Kyle: Don't they sound like a bunch of rebels?

Anthony: Yes, that's exactly it!

Kyle: Even though the organization has seen better days, they're still not to be taken lightly. I heard that they're doing some kind of transactions lately. A batch of goods will be in transit right at Glenport City.

Anthony's eyes narrowed as he replied: Glenport City?

Kyle: Yep!

Anthony stared at the computer screen and fell into deep thought.

Kyle had a bad feeling when he noticed Anthony's silence. He replied: Don't you dare tell me you have

something weird planned!

Anthony read the message and replied: Wow, you can read minds now.

Kyle: Right. You'd better stop with that nonsense. You're going to start a war if you stop the transit of the batch of goods.

Anthony: Who said I was going to stop their transit?

Kyle: Then what are you planning to do?

Anthony: I haven't got a hint myself. I'll see how it goes.

Kyle: Anthony, I'm not kidding. They're not ordinary people, and they have no mercy toward others. If they find out about this, they will get rid of you right then and there!

Anthony: Now that you've put it this way, I definitely have to go check it out myself.

Kyle was lost for words.

So it's true then, what they say about men, that they have an innate sense to conquer and rebel. Telling men not to do something will only result in them doing the exact opposite.

Anthony: Don't worry. Nothing is going to happen to me.

Kyle: How are you going to guarantee that?

Anthony: I'm going to swear it on my character.

Kyle: At least swear on something you have.

Anthony: My upbringing has forbidden me from hurling profanities at you.

Just when they were teasing each other, Anthony heard the sound of the door opening.

He heard Denise's voice and knew that they were home.

Startled by their sudden return, Anthony replied: Let's call it a day. My mommy's back. I'm going offline.

Kyle was puzzled as he replied: Mommy?

Anthony realized he had made a blunder in his haste when he saw Kyle's reply.

However, he did not have time to explain as Natasha was back. Anthony went offline right away.

On the other end of the chat, Kyle could not help but shudder at the image of a one-hundred-and-eighty-centimeter-tall man calling out “Mommy” as he stared at Anthony's chat.

Kyle was starting to wonder if Anthony was a pervert.

Just how old is he? Isn't calling his own mother mommy a little disgusting?

Anthony headed out of his room after turning off his computer.

They were already in the living room.

Chapter 299

Over at the hospital, Benjamin was wheeled into the emergency room.

It was a case of when it rains, it pours.

Natasha sat on a bench by the door in silence. Although she appeared completely fine, her trembling hands betrayed her.

Seeing that, Kenneth walked over and sat next to her. Then he placed his hand over her slightly quivering ones.

She looked up at him.

“Benjamin will be fine,” he said.

Gazing at him, she smiled. “Mm, I know.”

At that moment, Denise turned to Anthony with reddened eyes and asked, “Tony, Ben will be okay, right?”

Anthony returned to his senses and glanced at her before replying, “Of course. He's strong, so he's definitely going to be fine!”

Denise seemed to gain a renewed sense of hope upon hearing that. She fixed her eyes on the doors to the emergency room and prayed silently. You have to be okay, Ben...

Just then, the doors opened, and the doctor walked out.

They sprang to their feet immediately when they saw the doctor.

“Doctor, how's my son?” Kenneth enquired at once.

The doctor took off her surgical mask as she gazed at Kenneth. "The child's left arm was found to be fractured. After checking his left arm, I noticed several abrasions. By the looks of how the injuries are healing, he must've sustained them a few days ago. He's in shock now. If he'd been brought in any later, he would have been in critical condition."

Kenneth's heart skipped a beat when he heard that. Then, he looked at the doctor and echoed questioningly, "Fractured?"

"That's right. It looks like it happened at least two or three days ago. I've no idea how the child managed to endure that, but you don't have to worry. Fortunately, he got sent to the hospital in time and should be okay," the doctor replied.

Despite not knowing what had happened, Kenneth was relieved to hear that Benjamin was not in any danger.

"Okay. Thank you very much."

"Don't mention it, Mr. Hamilton. If there's anything, feel free to let me know," the doctor responded.

Kenneth nodded. Then, the doctor put her mask back on and turned to go back into the emergency room.

"Fractured..." Anthony murmured as he gazed at Natasha.

Natasha also glanced at him. It was evident that something had occurred to both of them.

I was so preoccupied with Denise over the past couple of days that I had completely forgotten about Benjamin's fall...

When Kenneth turned to look at Natasha, she turned away immediately.

He could tell that she was filled with remorse.

Then, he turned toward Anthony, who said, "During our search for Denise at the foot of the mountain, we were coming out of a cave when Benjamin accidentally fell... It must've been then, but he never said anything. We didn't think much of it because we were in a panic searching for Denise. I didn't think it would turn out like this..."

As the boy spoke, he was also racked with guilt.

After finding Denise, we should've gotten a doctor to do a thorough checkup on Benjamin. However, it slipped our minds. I even had Benjamin running around with me, looking for that man. A fracture... How did Benjamin endure that?

While lost in his thoughts, Denise started crying softly. "No wonder Ben was still worrying about me when he was unconscious. It turns out that it's all because of me..."

Kenneth was at a loss for words as he listened to Denise's sobs. All he could do was reach out a hand to stroke her head and take her in his arms.

Holding onto him, Denise wept even more bitterly.

He turned and gazed at Natasha. She had her back toward him, so he could not see her expression or how she felt. Nonetheless, he knew that she had to be berating herself.

At that moment, Kenneth gained a deeper understanding of the difficulties and pain she had to face.

Three children, three hearts. This must be how she had to live all this while...

Benjamin was transferred to a ward half an hour later.

His arm was in a plaster cast, and seeing the bandages on his small figure made for a distressing sight indeed.

Natasha and Denise kept watch over Benjamin, one on each side. Denise's eyes were red-rimmed, and she would occasionally tuck the covers around her brother and talk to him.

Natasha also looked down at Benjamin. Although she knew he was doing fine, she could not help being fearful.

It was also then that she suddenly realized she had not really paid any proper attention to Anthony and Benjamin lately. When did it start? Probably when they started getting more mature and sensible... I used to think I was a competent mother. However, it's only dawning on me now that I probably don't even pass the minimum requirement.

A hint of derisive laughter directed at herself flashed in her eyes.

Time ticked by as they continued keeping watch over Benjamin.

Anthony and Kenneth did not leave either. They waited in silence until Benjamin regained consciousness.

As soon as Benjamin's eyes fluttered slightly, Denise said immediately, "Ben..."

Everyone looked over when they heard her voice and saw Benjamin slowly opening his eyes.

"Ben, you're awake!" Denise exclaimed joyfully.

Natasha also gazed at Benjamin, a flicker of light in her eyes.

Chapter 300

Early the following morning, Benjamin's physical condition was still progressing well, and his fever had subsided after a night's sleep.

Natasha had stayed up the night before looking after Denise, then the previous night watching over Benjamin. Hence, her eyes were bloodshot from barely getting any sleep. It was only after the doctor declared that Benjamin's fever had gone down and he was doing fine that she felt as though a heavy weight had been lifted from her shoulders. As she continued tending to Benjamin, she decided to take a short nap. However, she ended up falling into a deep slumber.

Kenneth had also stayed up, and his heart ached when he saw her go without rest. Nonetheless, he knew that even if he tried to persuade her to rest, she would not listen to him. Hence, he waited until she had dozed off before going over and picking her up in his arms.

Anthony, who was asleep on the couch, woke up just as Kenneth was about to leave.

Their eyes met. Looking at him, Kenneth instructed in a low voice, "Take care of Benjamin. I'm taking Mommy to the room next door to get some rest."

Anthony nodded. "Okay."

Only then did Kenneth carry Natasha out of the ward.

He had just left when Denise opened her eyes. After looking around sleepily, she asked, "Where's Daddy and Mommy?"

"Daddy took Mommy next door to rest," Anthony said.

Denise nodded at that. Then she appeared to think of something. Glancing toward Benjamin on the hospital bed, she walked over there immediately.

She touched Benjamin's forehead with her hand, then exclaimed excitedly, "Ben's forehead isn't hot anymore!"

Anthony also went over. As he gazed at Benjamin, who was still sound asleep, there were many mixed emotions within him he could not express.

Benjamin had always behaved as if everything was fine, so it was true that Anthony usually did not bother much about him. But after what happened, Anthony could not help blaming himself a little. I should've paid more attention to him. Even if his injury wasn't serious, I should've gotten a doctor to check on him. Instead, I ignored him...

"Denise."

"Hmm?"

"He really dotes on you," said Anthony.

Upon hearing that, Denise shifted her gaze to Benjamin and nodded solemnly. "Mm, I know."

"That's why you have to be nicer to him."

"You make it sound as though I don't treat him well," Denise replied indignantly.

Anthony laughed. "You can do even better in the future!"

"Okay," Denise responded.

While they were talking, the sky turned lighter as the sun rose in the east.

Benjamin also happened to wake up then. After regaining consciousness, he was afraid that Natasha would be angry. Hence, even though he had woken up, he only cracked open his eyes slightly and scanned his surroundings to survey the situation.

Although Anthony and Denise were chatting, they noticed what Benjamin was doing and exchanged glances.

Anthony feigned a cough and asked, "Are you awake?"

Benjamin squeezed his eyes shut immediately, pretending he was still fast asleep.

"That's enough. You don't have to pretend. Nat and Daddy aren't here," said Anthony.

Benjamin remained unmoving.

"You're still pretending, are you? Very well. Denise, go and tell Nat that Benjamin is awake," Anthony instructed.

"Okay!" Denise answered, playing along and acting as though she was about to leave the room.

Hearing that, Benjamin opened his eyes at once. "Denise!"

She turned back and looked at him with a grin. "Are you done pretending?"

Benjamin sighed helplessly and asked, "Is this how you treat a patient?"

While Benjamin was speaking, Anthony had already raised the head of the hospital bed so that the former could sit comfortably.

Denise fixed her gaze on him and retorted, "You're one to talk. Why didn't you say anything when something so serious happened? You gave us all such a fright!"

"I was afraid of worrying Nat!"

As soon as those words left his mouth, Anthony slapped the back of Benjamin's head.

Although it seemed that Anthony had struck his younger brother hard, he had not actually used much force.

Benjamin raised his head and turned to Anthony. "What was that? I'm a patient."

Anthony stared at him. "I can't believe you still have the nerve to say that. Do you think Nat wouldn't worry about seeing you like this? Or us, for that matter? Did you know you gave Nat such a scare that her face turned as pale as a sheet? If you dare to do something like this again, you bet I'll give you a piece of my mind."

Indeed, Benjamin had not considered that. He muttered, "I thought it'd be fine if I just tough it out. Who knew it would get so serious?"

Anthony gazed at Benjamin, unable to bring himself to blame the latter too much. If it were me, I'd probably have done the same.

He poured a glass of water and handed it to Benjamin. "Whatever it is, don't let this happen again."

"Okay!" Benjamin answered. However, as he stared at the glass of water Anthony held out to him, his eyes lit up. An idea had popped into his mind.

Putting on a pitiful expression, he said, "Tony, I can't move this hand. How am I going to drink..."

His words implied that he wanted Anthony to help him.