

## **Yo Daddy 381**

### **Chapter 381**

Fabian dashed out of the car immediately when he saw that.

“Mr. Hamilton!”

Just when he was running over, he was blinded by a flash of light that illuminated the air. He covered his face with his hands at once.

When the fire subsided, Fabian rushed forward immediately and asked, “Mr. Hamilton, are you all right?”

Ignoring his assistant's question, Kenneth fixed his gaze on the boy in his arms and asked worriedly, “Anthony, are you okay?”

Anthony was obviously stunned as he had not expected the force of the explosion to be so strong. Despite that, since he was mentally prepared for it and had been wrapped in Kenneth's arms, he did not suffer from any injuries.

“I'm fine.” The boy nodded while answering softly.

Kenneth returned to his senses and scanned his surroundings at once. His expression darkened as he shouted, “Benjamin?”

At that moment, Thalia, who was sprawled on the ground, sat up slowly. She shook her head to clear the dizziness she was feeling and rubbed her ears, which were ringing from the explosion.

“Mr. Hamilton, there he is!” Fabian exclaimed while pointing toward Benjamin, who was beneath Thalia.

When Kenneth saw the boy, he stood up and walked toward him at once.

“Benjamin, Benjamin! Are you all right?” Kenneth called out anxiously.

A myriad of thoughts had flashed past Kenneth's mind when the explosion happened. However, as Benjamin was further away from him, he was unable to reach him in time and could only grab Anthony, who was nearer to him.

Kenneth could not imagine what he would do if something bad were to happen to Benjamin.

Half a minute later, Benjamin finally lifted his head slowly and replied, “Daddy, I'm fine.”

“Benjamin!” Kenneth was only able to heave a sigh of relief after examining the boy and making sure that he was all right. “I'm glad that you're okay.”

"Thalia," Benjamin said while looking at the woman next to him.

At that, Kenneth seemed to have remembered something and looked toward Thalia. Just as he was about to speak, Thalia got up and strode toward Anthony furiously.

"Anthony Watson! Are you crazy? Could you not have given us a heads-up before you pressed that button? My head is still ringing from the explosion!" Thalia was burning with anger as she walked over.

Anthony was sitting on the floor with his legs spread apart. With his shoulders slumped and arms crossed in front of his chest, he looked just like a big innocent baby.

As he watched the floating specks of ash that were what remained of the goods, a strange feeling rose in him.

That was his first close encounter with an explosion. Although it was dangerous, it was extremely thrilling for him. At that moment, excitement was coursing through his veins.

"What's wrong? Are you scared senseless?" Thalia could feel her anger subsiding as she looked at Anthony.

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Just then, the boy looked up at Thalia and chuckled. "Thalia, that explosion was so powerful!"

"Did you just realize that?"

Anthony nodded and replied in a daze, "It's my first time seeing it in real life."

Noticing the shine in the boy's eyes, Thalia froze for a moment before squatting down. "How do you feel about it? Was it exciting?" she asked, cocking her brows.

"Super exciting!" Anthony nodded.

Thalia was speechless when she heard that.

He's such an unusual kid.

If that had happened to any other child, they would have either burst out crying in fear or lost their senses due to shock. However, Anthony's eyes were filled with pure excitement.

"Before you get too excited, you should check out your father's expression first," Thalia said teasingly as she looked at Kenneth.

Hearing that, Anthony returned to his senses and looked toward Kenneth and Benjamin.

Kenneth did have a rather gloomy expression on his face, but it did not look too scary.

Anthony darted his eyes from side to side before asking, "Daddy, Benjamin, how are the two of you feeling?"

Kenneth had been about to explode at his son just a moment earlier. However, for some unknown reason, he calmed down after seeing the expression on the boy's face.

After looking at Anthony, he shifted his gaze to Benjamin and noticed that there was no trace of fear on the younger boy's innocent face as well.

It was as if he would have done the same if he were in his brother's shoes.

Kenneth had an unfathomable glint in his eyes as he looked at the boys.

Perhaps, they're just not meant to be ordinary kids.

As such, the man knew that he could not expect them to behave in the same way as other children.

Even though he was able to accept that fact, he still had to assert some dominance over his kids.

Kenneth narrowed his eyes and looked at Anthony before asking in return, "What do you think?" He helped Benjamin up after saying that.

When Anthony saw that, he stood up as well and walked toward his father and brother. "Daddy, I did not expect the force of the explosion to be so strong. All I wanted to do was to destroy those goods..."

Although the boy had a sincere attitude and looked just like a kid ready to receive his punishment after doing something wrong, his eyes were shining with excitement and resolve.

As Kenneth gazed at his son, he could not help but comment, "You're really daring, huh!"

Anthony looked up and said in a formal tone, "Daddy, I can't let either you or Darknetz suffer any losses, and that was the best way to solve the problem."

"Anthony Watson! Please remember that I'm your father!" Kenneth reminded the boy while casting a stern glance at him.

"I know!" Anthony continued, "But Daddy, would you let your company or shareholders suffer losses because of personal reasons?"

Kenneth was at a loss for words when he heard that.

Although he behaved arrogantly and seemed to disregard rules, Kenneth had always ensured his subordinates' well-being. That was also the reason why his company continued to grow and flourish all these years.

Noticing that his father was quiet, Anthony beamed as he said, "Daddy, haven't you heard of the saying 'like father, like son?' Well, everyone is always saying how much I'm like you, so... I'm sure you'll understand me."

Kenneth was utterly speechless.

He had never expected that one day, he would lose to his son in an argument.

After taking a deep inhale, Kenneth fixed his gaze on Anthony and said, "It's true that these goods are not that important to me, but aren't you worried about wasting your efforts?"

To Kenneth's surprise, the boy replied nonchalantly, "I don't really care. Anyway, my intention was just to teach Vermillion Base a lesson. They are merely a target and not a mission."

When Kenneth heard that, he narrowed his eyes and asked, "You know about Vermillion Base too?"

After giving it some thought, Kenneth seemed to come to a realization and continued, "Ah! Now I understand. Given that Darknetz is currently still in the development phase, there's no way they would challenge Vermillion Base, let alone go after their goods... So, this must be your idea!"

That was a statement and not a question.

"Yup," Anthony admitted to it directly.

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Noticing that his father was in a rush, Anthony called out to Kenneth at once.

"Daddy."

Kenneth turned around and looked at Anthony's innocent face as he replied, "Is there anything else?"

"Are you going to look for Nat?" Anthony asked expectantly.

"Yes." Kenneth nodded.

"Why don't you bring us along too?" Anthony asked.

Kenneth narrowed his eyes as he scrutinized both Anthony and Benjamin. Even though the boys did not

say much, they were clearly communicating the same message with the look in their eyes.

Kenneth had no idea what would happen during his trip there. However, he was certain that there were potential dangers he might encounter. That was also the reason why Natasha had left without a word. If that was what she had chosen to do, there was no way Kenneth would risk putting the kids in danger.

Anthony and Benjamin were indeed different from other kids, and Darknetz was also a powerful organization. However, to Kenneth, it would always be his duty to protect the boys as their father. That was the tacit understanding between him and Natasha.

At that thought, Kenneth glanced at the two of them and replied lowly, "No."

"Why?" Anthony asked, frowning.

He had expected Kenneth to agree to let them tag along after knowing their identities. However, it was just his wishful thinking.

Kenneth looked at the kids with a solemn expression and said, "Boys, I know that the two of you are very worried about Nat, but do you know why she left without saying goodbye?"

"Because she was worried that we would follow her if we knew about it?" Anthony replied.

"Since you are aware of her intentions, you should know that I am on the same page as her on this. To both Nat and I, your safety is our priority. As such, you should listen to Nat and stay here. I'll definitely bring her back safely!" Kenneth said.

"We can protect ourselves!" Anthony argued. "Perhaps, we could even help you."

Benjamin nodded in agreement before adding, "That's right. We also promise to take care of ourselves and not get into any trouble."

Seeing that the boys were not intending to give up, Kenneth furrowed his brows and said, "How are you going to promise me that? Although you are members of Darknetz and are under its protection, it might be difficult for Thalia to protect the two of you. Besides, you're just kids, after all. If you get captured by the enemy, Nat and I would have no choice but to do as they say. As such, you need to listen to me and stay here and wait for us to come back. I promise that I will bring Nat back safely!"

By then, it was obvious to the boys that Kenneth would not take them along no matter what they said. If they tried harder, it would just seem as if they were immature and wasting his time.

At that thought, Anthony looked at his father with dim eyes and replied, "All right. We understand."

At that thought, Anthony looked at his father with dim eyes and replied, "All right. We understand."

Kenneth knew that they were bright kids and would understand the situation. With that thought, the corner of the man's lips curled up into a smile.

"Wait for me to come back!" Kenneth said.

Anthony and Benjamin nodded.

Even though Kenneth was reluctant to leave the boys and still had many unanswered questions, he knew that it was time for him to go.

As such, he turned to look at Fabian, who had been spacing out, and said, "Let's go."

Fabian snapped out of his daze at once and followed closely behind Kenneth.

After Kenneth drove away in his car, the group of men who had come before him also departed.

Moments later, only Thalia, Anthony, and Benjamin were left standing there.

Thalia looked at the boys and asked, "So, do you have any other plans?"

When Anthony heard that, his eyes suddenly lit up as he replied, "Of course."

Thalia simply stared at the boy.

"We're sticking to the original plan," Anthony continued.

"Does that mean you're still going?"

"Of course!" Anthony replied.

"But didn't you hear what Kenneth said just now? Besides, haven't you agreed as well?"

"Yeah, I heard what he said, but I didn't agree to it!" Anthony shrugged and answered.

Thalia was at a loss for words when she heard that.

Indeed, she did not remember him agreeing.

"You're really sneaky." Thalia looked at the boy and said.

Anthony looked toward Benjamin and asked, "What do you say, Benjamin?"

"Let's go!" Benjamin replied without hesitation.

The brothers got into the car after the decision was made.

Thalia looked at the two boys and was utterly speechless. She could hardly believe that she could not even handle two kids.

After watching the boys get into the car, Thalia turned to look at everything that had been destroyed. All that money, down the drain!

Anthony and Benjamin were sitting obediently in the car when Thalia got in.

After settling down, the woman picked up her phone and called someone. The call got through after just a few seconds.

"Hello, who's this?"

"It's me!" Thalia answered.

There was a brief moment of silence on the other end of the phone. Obviously, the other party had recognized Thalia's voice.

"Umm, hi, Ms. Jacoway. Have you changed your number?"

Sneering, Thalia replied, "I was worried that you wouldn't dare to pick up my call if you knew it was me. That's why I called using a different number."

"You must be joking, Ms. Jacoway. Why would I do that? It's really late now though. Is there anything I can help you with?"

Thalia let out a scoff before replying in a chilling voice, "It's nothing important. I just called to tell you that you should bring your bodyguards along whenever you go out. It's also advisable for you to get someone to watch over you while you sleep. That's because I'm going to blow your brains out after I finish settling some matters. No one has ever dared to betray me. Just you wait!" After saying that, the woman hung up without waiting for the other party to reply.

That was the first time Anthony and Benjamin had seen Thalia this furious.

Then again, it was natural for her to be enraged at being betrayed at such a crucial moment. If it had happened during some other transaction, she could have died.

As such, the boys completely understood the way she reacted.

Ultimately, there was nothing they could do when faced with a more formidable opponent.

Thalia felt better after venting, and immediately after she hung up, she floored the accelerator. The car

sped off.

Anthony checked the time and asked, "Will we make it in time?"

"If Kenneth can make it in time, we will be able to as well," Thalia replied grimly while keeping her eyes on the road.

### **Chapter 383**

When Thalia reached the airport and got onto the airplane, her expression darkened.

She frowned when she saw her tiny seat. "Anthony Watson, did you have to be so stingy? Why on earth would you get economy seats?" complained Thalia before she pressed the button to hail the stewardess.

Seeing that, Anthony turned to her and demanded, "What are you doing?"

"I'm getting an upgrade. I haven't flown in economy class since I was eighteen!" said Thalia.

"How may I help you?" asked the smiling stewardess who made her way there at that moment.

Thalia was about to answer when Anthony spoke up first. "Please get us some bottled water."

Confused, Thalia stared at him.

"Okay, please wait for a moment," replied the stewardess before leaving.

Thalia glared at Anthony. "Why did you ask for water? I told you I don't want this seat."

"My daddy is in first class right now," replied Anthony.

Thalia froze. She had forgotten all about Kenneth being on the same plane.

"If we upgrade and go there now, he will see us," answered Anthony.

"We've already gotten onto the plane, so it shouldn't matter that he's not happy with us being here. He can't exactly get the plane to turn around," retorted Thalia.

"No, but he'll force us to take the next flight back as soon as we land," answered Anthony in all seriousness.

Thalia stopped talking for a moment after hearing that response.

It did sound like something Kenneth would do.



Still, she was uncomfortable. "D\*mn it. I never fly economy unless it was necessary for the mission."

"I know this is tough for you. Please bear with it for just a bit. I'm sure Benjamin will go all out to help you if you are ever in need in the future."

Thalia arched a brow. "Anthony Watson, do you see me as an idiot?"

Anthony, who was sitting beside Thalia, frowned in exasperation after hearing that.

"Umm, no," replied Anthony.

"Then will you help me if I'm ever in need?"

"Of course, I will. Should the day come, I won't even complain as I help," promised Anthony.

"That's it?"

"I'll do whatever it takes."

Thalia kept staring.

"I'll help both financially and work in person."

"And?"

"Oy, you're crossing a line here, Thalia."

Thalia reached out to press the button and call the stewardess again. Anthony stopped her immediately. "Okay, okay, you win. I won't complain, will do anything necessary, help financially and work in person, and obey every word you say."

Thalia grinned in amusement when she heard that. She nodded in satisfaction before glancing in his direction. "That's better. That's a good attitude for a kid. You should keep this up."

Anthony took a deep breath.

Anthony took a deep breath.

He kept reminding himself to stay calm. Don't stoop to her level. She's just a bully who is too dumb to win an argument any other way.

Anthony turned to Thalia and grinned when that thought ran through his mind.

"Hey, don't insult me in your mind. I can tell when you do that," warned Thalia.

"I would never," denied Anthony who was still smiling evilly.

"Uh-huh... be good now," ordered Thalia before she reached out to stroke his tiny head. "It's late, and I need my beauty sleep, so be quiet." After saying that, Thalia fished an eye mask out of nowhere, put it on, and lay down in a comfortable position to sleep.

"I'll sleep now, too," said Anthony as he turned to Benjamin.

Benjamin nodded. "Okay."

"What about you?"

"Nope. I'm not tired, so I won't go to sleep yet. Just ignore me," replied Benjamin.

Anthony didn't pry. He simply put on his eye mask and drifted off.

Time always seemed to travel ridiculously slowly when on the plane.

Thalia didn't know how long she slept, but she was aching everywhere and wasn't comfortable. The tiny space was so irritating that she almost lost her temper.

She took her eye mask off in frustration and was feeling horrible when she suddenly caught Benjamin doodling away on the table.

"Benjamin, you're still up?" said Thalia.

"I took a nap earlier and am not tired now."

Thalia inched forward when she noticed how he was doodling without even looking away. "What are you drawing?"

When she saw what he drew, however, she was stunned. "Hold on. Let me see that," said Thalia before she took the sketchbook away from Benjamin.

The second she saw the blueprint of a gun, her eyes bulged. "D-Did you draw this?"

Benjamin thought nothing of it, so he nodded. "Yeah."

"Seriously, of all the things to copy, did you have to learn how to draw a blueprint for a gun?"

"It's not a copy. I designed it myself," replied Benjamin.

Thalia was momentarily stunned. "You designed this?"

"Yeah," replied Benjamin.

In disbelief, Thalia stared at the boy for a bit before flipping through the sketchbook. The more she saw, the more excited and disbelieving she was.

"Are you sure you designed all of this?" asked Thalia in an uncertain tone.

She had seen him in the act of doodling, but she still couldn't believe what she knew was true.

Benjamin nodded once more. "Yes, I'm sure. The earlier ones are from a few years ago, so those designs are a little childish."

Thalia was speechless.

A few years ago? You're still a kid! A few years ago meant you were just a baby at the time! What the hell is wrong with this family? Is everyone a genius or something?

Thalia felt as though someone had shoved an invisible apple down her throat and made it impossible for her to utter a single word.

Her speechlessness made sense since she knew many countries would regard those blueprints as national treasures.

She flipped through the pages some more and got to a page that captivated her. The design on the page made her ask, "What is...?"

Benjamin inched over. "That's not a gun; it's just a weapon I'm designing. So far, I've only gotten the outline ready. I haven't decided how everything will work yet."

Thalia asked, "Have you ever seen blueprints like this before?"

Benjamin shook his head.

"Then how did you get the idea for these blueprints?"

"There are tons of stuff on the dark web, and some of those websites have blueprints to show you how to build your own gun. I examined them and thought that they were ineffective, so I designed my own for fun," replied Benjamin.

Thalia was silent when she heard that.

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Benjamin stared and was a little confused, but he nodded anyway.

He understood the nature of the problem. What he couldn't understand was how the problem could be as grave as Thalia made it out to be.

It's just some doodles...

"Your talent is what the world desperately needs now, so if you are exposed but can't or won't work for someone, they will send assassins after you to prevent you from working for their competitors. You understand that, right?" asked Thalia. She was careful and truly meant it when she warned him.

"Yeah, I understand," replied Benjamin.

Seeing how calm Benjamin was, Thalia raised her brow. She seemed uncertain when she looked at him. "Benjamin? Do you really understand what I just said?"

Benjamin nodded. "Yeah, I understand. I will protect myself and won't expose my secret until I'm certain of what I want to do in the future."

"Okay... If that's the case, then can you at least pretend to freak out a little? You're making it look as though I'm an overreacting idiot who doesn't understand how the world works," replied Thalia.

Benjamin frowned. "How am I supposed to behave, then?"

"Excited or maybe proud? Do what Anthony does all the time. The tiniest praise will get him smiling like an idiot," suggested Thalia.

That was when Benjamin turned his attention to Anthony, who was still asleep. It seemed the siblings were wildly different in that sense. Anthony had always been firm and confident when he was complimented, but Benjamin would always be cautious or calm when others praised him or gave him a gift.

Still, Thalia had already requested it, so Benjamin felt compelled to smile.

Seeing that forced smile rendered Thalia temporarily speechless. "Nevermind. Let's pretend I never said anything."

Benjamin put his smile away immediately.

As Thalia stared at Benjamin, she felt weirdly happy and proud. It was as though she was watching her baby grow up.

She took another look at the design he had been doodling and quickly closed the sketchbook before looking around. It seemed she was worried that someone would see it.

"Benjamin, put it away. Now," instructed Thalia.

Benjamin obediently did as he was told and put everything into his backpack.

Thalia remained on edge until everything was put away. Her eyes glowed with the warmth and pride of a mother when she looked at him.

"This has got to be my lucky year because I got to meet all three of you. You kids keep surprising me at every turn. I wonder if there is anything else I don't know about you three. Maybe you should just come clean all at once. That way, my heart won't have to endure this level of shock again," said Thalia.

Benjamin frowned before answering, "That's probably all the surprise there is."

"Probably?"

"Definitely no more surprise," answered Benjamin.

"Probably?"

"Definitely no more surprise," answered Benjamin.

It was undeniable that Anthony was a genius, but so was Benjamin. The only difference was that Benjamin was unaware of his own extraordinary intelligence.

Thank the heavens that I'm the one who discovered his talents. Who knows what would happen if he had remained careless and someone else learned about this?

Thalia had lost all desire to sleep by then. She kept her eyes on Benjamin as though he would suddenly disappear if she were even a little careless. "Benjamin, I think you can continue exploring this and developing your skills. If Kyle ever finds out about this, he will surely take you away and—"

"Then don't tell him about it."

"Why not?"

"Because I don't want to be taken away."

Thalia couldn't help chuckling a little. "Benjamin, you don't know this, but this world has always been extreme. You will only be protected if you can be of use to someone else. If you cannot contribute, death will come for you because, as far as your enemies are concerned, your mere existence is a threat to them."

"So what you're saying is that Kyle will kill me unless I work for Darknetz?" asked Benjamin.

“Uh, no. That is not what I meant at all. Kyle is not that kind of person. If he finds out about this, he will likely worship all three of you. What I'm truly worried about is that Darknetz might not be able to handle you three geniuses,” replied Thalia before she sighed.

The truth was that the matter was easily solved once it was laid out. Darknetz specialized in hacking and assigning tasks. It knew nothing about building machinery, and expanding into that field would require a lot of resources. On top of that, their efforts wouldn't bear any fruits until years later. Many governments, who had long been in that field, would be their competitors as well. Under those circumstances, it would not be wise for Darknetz to get involved at all. There was also the part where they would have to compete against military personnel. That was, perhaps, the worst part of them all, because those people had no problem with killing and would not hesitate to annihilate those in their way.

Darknetz would attract a lot of attention if they were to dabble in weapon construction, and Thalia could already imagine the danger it would bring.

The more she thought about it, the more uneasy she became. I better meet up with Kyle as soon as possible to discuss this matter in detail.

Thalia was still excited about her discovery, but her worries had drowned that excitement out. She knew, at that moment, that anxiety would keep her company the entire journey.

Just then, Anthony, who had been sleeping, woke up because their conversation was getting too loud. He pulled his eye mask away and revealed his exhausted gaze. “What are you two talking about? You're so noisy!”

Thalia turned to look at Anthony. She whispered into his ear, but to her surprise, he simply responded with a simple “okay.”

After that, he requested, “Keep your voices down while you talk. You keep waking me up.” After saying that, he put his eye mask on, turned around, and went back to sleep.

Thalia was dumbfounded.

Must he be that calm? Or do they simply not know what I'm talking about? This is such an incredible discovery, so why are these boys acting as though it's just an everyday issue? D\*mn it, they make me look like an overreacting idiot.

Thalia turned her attention to Benjamin. The latter couldn't help defending his big brother. “As far as my brother is concerned, there is nothing more important than sleep.”

Thalia replied, “Yeah, I can see that.”

“Thalia, I understand what you're worried about, but you can rest assured. I will keep myself safe and

will think long and hard about what my future holds,” said Benjamin suddenly. He kept his eyes on her the entire time to show her how earnest he was about it.

Thalia turned her attention to him when she heard what he said. She nodded firmly and sighed. “I thought that Darknetz would be a home for you three, but now... Ah, forget about it. We'll cross that bridge when we get there.”

Benjamin nodded.

“Okay, it's late, and you should get some sleep,” said Thalia.

“Okay.” With that said, Benjamin put his backpack on the table. Thalia snatched it away immediately.

Benjamin stared at her in confusion.

“D-Don't leave it there. It's not safe,” said Thalia.

Benjamin didn't respond.

“I'll hold it for now and give it back to you after we've landed,” said Thalia.

The boy didn't comment on that. He simply nodded.

“Okay, go to bed now. A brain like yours should not be strained,” said Thalia. She looked cautious and seemed on edge about his amazing brain suffering even the tiniest bit of stress.

I guess it makes sense. Precious resources shouldn't be wasted.

Benjamin didn't say anything else before closing his eyes and going to sleep.

Thalia smiled like a proud aunt when she saw Benjamin going to bed.

She sat in the middle, so she could check up on Benjamin and then on Anthony. Her eyes shone with pride, glee, and worry all at the same time.

The complexity of her emotions could not be expressed with words.

In a way, she was holding all the trump cards in the world.

It was at that moment that she felt something strange. It was as though she was invincible so long as she had them with her. She even fantasized about being the queen of the world for a moment there.

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It was a long flight, but after discovering the truth, Thalia became too excited and couldn't rest well.

She had an irrational fear that someone would kidnap the kids if she fell asleep, so she would check up on them every now and then.

It was an exhausting journey, and she practically suffered all the way to Zaewora, where they got off the plane.

When they disembarked, Anthony and Benjamin appeared energetic because they had rested well. It was as though they weren't burdened at all.

They followed Kenneth until he got into a car. That was when Anthony stood there and thought about the situation.

"Aren't you going to go after him?" asked Thalia.

"He'll catch us spying if we get too close," replied Anthony.

"Can you locate Nat from here?" questioned Benjamin while staring at his brother.

Anthony shook his head. "Nat planned for everything when she first left. She will surely have covered her tracks well, so there is no way there are any clues for us to find her."

"Then what do we do?"

Anthony pointed in the direction that Kenneth's car had left. "I can try to trace Daddy instead. At worst, we can take advantage of that car," said Anthony. His eyes glowed in a way that was way too mature for a kid his age.

Benjamin realized what Anthony was talking about right away, so he nodded.

That was when a voice came from above their tiny heads. "So what do we do now? Where to next?"

Anthony thought about it, then answered, "Let's get a hotel room and shower. We'll decide what to do after we eat something."

Thalia arched her brows and said, "That sounds great." She was in urgent need of a shower and a nap.

She put her hand out to hail a cab immediately.

After they piled into the car, Anthony gave in to his curiosity and asked, "Thalia, you've traveled all around the world, so why don't you know anyone in Zaewora?"

"Oh, I have friends here. Plenty of them, actually."



"Then why didn't you call them and have them come to pick us up?" asked Anthony.

Thalia grinned and replied, "Because then we won't live long enough to make our way out of the airport."

Anthony was a little speechless. "Seriously? You aren't on good terms with anyone here?"

"Oh, I'm on good terms with them," answered Thalia as she shifted her gaze to the kids. "When I say we won't survive, I meant we will die of embarrassment when we hear them laughing their butts off after seeing me here with two chubby kids."

Both Anthony and Benjamin were speechless.

"So we're an embarrassment to you? Is that it?" challenged Anthony.

"Yes, obviously," answered Thalia while nodding.

"Then why were you so excited about Benjamin's weapon blueprints that you couldn't sleep earlier?" asked Anthony.

Thalia immediately clamped a hand over his mouth. She whispered, "Keep your voices down. You'll get Benjamin in trouble if you don't."

Anthony rolled his eyes at her.

Anthony rolled his eyes at her.

Thalia let him go before softly saying, "Also, never say those words out loud in public again, okay?"

"Oh, come on. It's not that bad."

"Yes, it is," insisted Thalia. "Zaewora is a chaotic place, and their military has eyes everywhere. On top of that, many countries send their spies here to conduct business, so you never know if someone will overhear you."

Anthony sighed when he saw how serious Thalia had gotten. "So what if someone overhears it? No one would believe that someone as young as Benjamin actually did all that."

"All the more reason to keep it a secret. That is the best protection we can offer him now. Even then, if we ever run into someone who is knowledgeable in that field, he will be in deep trouble," replied Thalia.

Anthony turned to Benjamin, who remained so calm that it was as though he had nothing to do with what they were discussing.

The former glared and complained, "Seriously, dude. Of all the things to be talented in, you had to be good at this? Ugh, now I have to protect you, too."

Benjamin glanced at Anthony and replied, "Oh, puh-lease. You should focus on protecting yourself instead. Given the current trend, we are likely moving toward a technological age where the internet will dominate everything. Your existence is a threat to many as well."

"All I have to do is remain good enough to hide my trail. No one will be able to find me then," said Anthony.

"Yeah? Well, all I have to do is keep my doodling to myself, and no one will be any the wiser," argued Benjamin.

Anthony had more to say, but he swallowed his words before they left his lips. In the end, he nodded and agreed, "I guess you're right about that."

Benjamin didn't say anything else.

Naturally, Anthony wouldn't joke about or mess with matters that could endanger Benjamin. Still, he couldn't resist teasing a little. "Ah, forget about it. It's the big brother's job to protect the baby brother, anyway. Don't worry, pal. I've got your back, and you don't need to thank me or anything."

Benjamin was speechless.

At the end of the day, the elder sibling still held more responsibility and was the boss.

Being born one second later had doomed Benjamin's entire life.

He looked at his brother and grinned politely but in irritation.

Anthony, on the other hand, smiled brightly. He was suddenly in a much better mood.

Thalia, who had been watching them from the side, couldn't help curving her lips into a smile. She didn't comment on anything. Instead, she looked out the window.

Zaewora... It's been a while. Spencer, do you still remember our past here?

Meanwhile, a man in his thirties was wearing a long-sleeved shirt and a pair of trousers. He looked regal and had one hand on the steering wheel as he drove down the road. An exquisite ring rested on one of his long fingers while a small grin sat on his lips. Everything about him showed just how undisciplined and carefree he was.

Ear-deafening music roared within the car, and the driver was tapping to the rhythm.

"So, how does it feel to be back here, J? Do you feel at home?" asked Dave.

Kenneth was sitting beside him and felt a complex emotion burning in his heart. Hearing that question prompted him to reach out to turn the music off.

Taken aback, Dave asked, "What was that for?"

"It's too noisy."

Dave sighed in exasperation. "J, I haven't seen you in a few years, but dang, you sure have changed a lot. Look at what the world has done to you. You've lost your youthful side."

Kenneth paused for a moment before challenging, "Oh, as if you're still young?"

"Am I not young? Many claim that I still look as though I'm in my twenties," said Dave.

"It's only been a few years since we last saw each other, and you've already turned into an idiot. How sad."

Dave took a moment before commenting. "You are just as heartless as you have always been."

Kenneth smirked without saying anything.

"Regardless, now that you are here, I will show you around. The place has really changed and is nothing like the way it was before," said Dave.

Unfortunately, Kenneth wasn't interested in that at all. He simply turned to Dave and asked, "Have you located the person I asked you to find?"

Dave frowned when he saw how eager Kenneth seemed. The former asked, "Must you be so direct? It's been years since we last saw each other, so shouldn't you at least ask how I've been?"

"Your face has gotten rounder, and your tummy has gotten bigger. That suggests that you have everything you need and more, so why would I bother asking about your life? It's obvious that everything is good," said Kenneth.

Dave sighed and sat up a little, complaining, "Boring."

He thought about it a bit before answering, "I haven't found the person you are looking for. There is no way to track her down."

Kenneth frowned. I guess Natasha has been extra careful since she came here. It makes sense. She is Shadow Seeker, so there is no way she'd let anyone find her that easily.

## Chapter 386

Kenneth frowned upon hearing that, his eyes looking incredibly cold.

"In that case, they have not met each other yet, right?" Kenneth asked.

"Of course. My men are keeping an eye on them all day. Rest assured that we will stop them before they have the chance to meet each other face to face!" Dave replied.

Kenneth's eyes glinted when he heard the response. With his mind at ease, he turned to gaze at Dave and said, "Thank you."

Dave glanced at him for a moment and continued driving. With his eyes peeled on the road, he said, "Why don't you tell me what happened?"

"What do you mean?" Kenneth asked.

Dave knitted his brows. "Stop pretending to be ignorant. You know that I don't help anyone. If you don't make it clear, don't blame me when one of our men screw things up..."

With a grim look, Kenneth said, "Didn't I say it before? She's more important than my life!"

Instantly, Dave's lips curled into a grin. "Is she your girlfriend?"

Staring at him, Kenneth answered, "She's the mother of my children!"

Finding it difficult to believe, Dave snorted and said, "Tsk! You're indeed shameless!"

Since he didn't want to believe it, Kenneth was too lazy to explain further.

"If she's your girlfriend, why would she be here? Could it be that... she isn't fond of you?" Dave guessed.

"Do you think your hypothetical question will ever happen to me?" Kenneth asked him back.

Dave scanned him for a while and said playfully, "Although it's unlikely to happen, life is full of surprises. What else is impossible when you, Kenneth Hamilton, value a woman more than life?"

Kenneth was rendered speechless and didn't respond to that.

Suddenly, a thought flashed through Dave's mind. He quickly gazed at Kenneth and said, "By the way, do you remember we met a master when we were on a mission many years ago?"

A moment of thought later, Kenneth said, "I vaguely remember that, yes."

"Well, do you still remember what the master told us back then?"

Kenneth looked at him and asked curiously, "What did he say?"

"Once the master saw you, he said you're born to be a leader and will possess power your whole life. Although your life is generally smooth, the only obstacle is romance. You can avoid it by staying away from women, or a calamity awaits you!" Dave said and flashed him a mocking smile.

After Dave finished, Kenneth looked at him and said, "Well, what are you suggesting?"

"I'm reminding you about what the master said before. Stay away from women, and you'll avoid the obstacle. Otherwise, a calamity would befall you!" Dave repeated mockingly.

When the image of his loved one flashed through his mind, Kenneth narrowed his eyes and rumbled, "I'd rather face the calamity."

When the image of his loved one flashed through his mind, Kenneth narrowed his eyes and rumbled, "I'd rather face the calamity."

Although Dave had meant to tease Kenneth, he knew that the latter wasn't joking in his reply.

After a while, Dave said playfully, "It seems like you're serious this time."

"Of course! Do you think I'm here to visit you?" Kenneth retorted.

Dave nodded in response. "I'm curious about what kind of a woman can make J, who used to stay away from women, become so loyal."

Meanwhile, an indescribable feeling arose as Kenneth thought about Natasha again.

I'm also curious about how Natasha captured my heart, so much so that I'm willing to come from afar to find her.

As the car zoomed steadily on the road, Dave glanced at Kenneth. "Do you want to make a brief visit to the headquarters? The moment they heard you were coming back, our friends expressed their eagerness to meet with you. Besides, the newcomers have heard about your stories and were impressed. They wish to see the real you too."

After giving it some thought, Kenneth declined the invitation. "It's okay. You can drive straight to the hotel."

Deep down, Dave understood Kenneth's temperament and why he was reluctant to go. As such, Dave didn't force him to do it. "All right. Anyway, why should you stay in a hotel? Since you're here, you must come to my place."

With that, Dave stepped on the gas.

Half an hour later, he drove the car into a castle.

Both got out of the car after it stopped.

Far away from them, a helicopter was parked on the grass field in the garden.

Upon noticing the helicopter, Kenneth teased him, "Why haven't you scrapped the thing?"

Dave quickly responded, "I still have to use it to pick you up and only scrap it when necessary!" When a thought flashed through his mind, he added, "Speaking of which, I initially planned to pick you up with it to make you feel at home. However, I chose to drive a car after considering that you might have an unusual motive for visiting here. By the way, I haven't driven my car for many years. You should not feel bad but honored instead because I became your driver today."

Raising his brows, Kenneth said, "I don't know about feeling honored. Nevertheless, I know that luck is probably on my side because I'm still alive."

Dave turned and looked at him. "Well, the master was right about you. Not only do you have a smooth life, but you can also overcome all sorts of challenges."

Kenneth flashed him a smile but didn't take it seriously.

"Let's go." With that, Dave walked toward the castle.

Soon, a housekeeper came to welcome and greet him. "Sir, welcome home."

Dave casually threw his bunch of keys to the housekeeper and instructed her, "I have a distinguished guest today. Please prepare some high-grade tea."

"Understood."

Then, Dave and Kenneth entered the hall and sat in the living room.

Kenneth noted the all-female group of housekeepers and raised his brows lazily. "Is it appropriate for me to stay here?"

"Why not?" Dave asked him back.

"Wouldn't I disturb you?"

It was not until then that Dave got what Kenneth meant. He inched closer and whispered, "I don't crap where I eat. Besides, I prefer oriental ladies. I just... It feels weird if men serve me." The next moment,

he continued in a normal tone, "Just make yourself at home."

Kenneth chuckled. "Remember what you said, okay? Don't mind if I do."

Dave picked up his cup of tea and glanced at him. "Stop pretending to be polite." Then, he gestured for Kenneth to drink the tea. "Try it. It's my hundred-year-old collection. I won't take it out for any guests."

A glint flashed across his eyes when Kenneth picked up his cup and observed the tea. After a while, a faint smile grew on his lips. "I'm afraid you have been conned."

Dave was startled upon hearing that. "How is it possible? Someone gave it to me when he requested my help. Why would he give me a counterfeit?"

With that, he took a few sips of the tea and frowned. "Besides, it doesn't taste like a counterfeit."

"The genuine tea tastes slightly bitter," Kenneth said, looking solemn.

Dave stared at him with suspicion. "Are you sure?"

Noticing Dave was beginning to take him seriously, Kenneth chuckled. "Of course not! I was kidding!"

"J! How childish of you!"

## **Chapter 387**

"Where are we going?" Kenneth asked.

Acting all mysterious, Dave pointed at the first floor and went upstairs with a smile.

Kenneth frowned in bewilderment but followed him anyway.

Upstairs, they continued to walk for some time before arriving at a bedroom.

At this point, Kenneth's expression was tense.

After entering the room, Dave turned around and shot him a teasing look. "Well, do you want to get some rest here?"

Kenneth glanced around the room and responded, "I dare not stay in your room. After all, I don't want anyone who comes in to think that I'm you."

Dave narrowed his eyes. "You have a dirty mind!"

Kenneth did not reply to that.

Dave walked toward the wardrobe and touched the back of it. Slowly, it opened and revealed a hidden room.

Then, he glanced at Kenneth and said, "Let's go."

Kenneth followed him silently.

It was not a simple hidden room but rather an independent suite. Kenneth smelled something as soon as he got in.

"Dave."

"Dave."

Sitting in front of the computers, a few young men rapidly typed away on their keyboards. A series of codes appeared on many screens that differed in size.

Dave came up to Kenneth and asked, "What do you think? Is the environment okay?"

"I think you're the only one who would build a hidden room in your bedroom," Kenneth scoffed.

"Is there a problem?"

"I'm curious to know if you ever feel worried that they might see you sleeping naked."

Dave answered calmly, "Well, it's a one-way device. They can never walk out of my bedroom without my fingerprint."

Raising his eyebrows, Kenneth couldn't help but commend him, "What an awesome design!"

Dave rolled his eyes at him and asked, "How about it? Do you want me to design a similar one for you?"

"Please don't. I'm afraid I don't deserve it."

"I suspect your hidden room is bigger than mine!" Dave whispered.

Kenneth listened without saying anything.

After a while, Dave walked toward the young men and looked at one of them. "Miguel, how is the investigation going?"

"The information you need is all here."

"All right. Please come over and explain to us," Dave instructed.



As a thought popped into his mind, Dave introduced Kenneth to the young man. "By the way, this is... Mr. Hamilton. He's a lot older than you."

Kenneth shot Dave a bewildered glance.

In response, Dave added, "This young man is a Gen Z! Aren't you a lot older than him?"

"In that case, you're also a lot older than him," Kenneth argued.

"Well, I'm younger than you," Dave replied smugly.

"Is that so? In that case, shouldn't you show me some respect?" Kenneth asked.

"Should I bow to you?"

"I'm willing to accept it if that's what you want."

"You can't tolerate even the slightest of teasing, can you?"

"Why should I?"

Dave nodded, for he admitted that Kenneth was better at exchanging jabs.

"You win," Dave said.

"Thank you."

Dave stopped dwelling on it and turned around to walk toward the central control panel.

After sitting around the control panel, Dave rested his legs lazily on it. Moments later, he snapped his fingers and instructed, "You may start now."

Miguel nodded in response. As soon as he touched the control panel, a picture of Boss appeared on the screen.

"After conducting a thorough investigation for a few days, we've finally dug out some information about the background of the person with the codename Boss."

Kenneth turned his gaze to the control panel upon hearing it.

"This is Boss. His real name is Yosef Smith. He is a mixed race man and has Spaunian nationality. His parents died in a war, and he joined Vermillion Base when he was young. He planned many terrorist attacks and contributed a lot to Vermillion Base. However, he is always undermined by someone called

General Will. As such, they are believed to be friendly on the surface but are dissatisfied with one another deep down.”

“Who is General Will?” Kenneth questioned with narrowed eyes.

“He is the right-hand man in Vermillion Base. However, we haven't found out who the real leader is, and thus no one knows his identity for now,” Miguel explained.

Kenneth frowned upon hearing it. “In that case, Boss is an influential figure in Vermillion Base!”

## **Chapter 388**

After mulling over it briefly, Kenneth said, “Stop looking for them.”

Dave was confused. “Why?”

“You won't be able to find them, and even if you do, they're not going to work for you,” Kenneth claimed.

Dave frowned. “How do you know that?”

“I just do.”

“You know them?” Dave smelled something fishy.

Kenneth lowered his gaze and instinctively hid the truth. “I don't.”

“Then, how do you know they won't work for me?”

“Didn't you say so yourself? You spent years searching, so do you think they're oblivious to the fact that you're looking for them? There's only one possibility, and that is they refuse to work for you,” Kenneth explained.

Dave's brows furrowed as Kenneth's explanation swayed his opinion. After pondering for a long while, he finally said, “I can't give up even if that's the case. Everyone else is looking for them too. If I give up now, the others will have a higher chance of finding them. Shadow Seeker and Anonymous better be smart and continue to stand firm as they are right now. Otherwise, any movement they make will attract the pursuit of every organization. Things won't be as peaceful as how it is now by that time.”

Kenneth's gaze darkened. “What about you?”

“What?”

“What are you going to do if someone else succeeds in recruiting Shadow Seeker?” Kenneth asked.

His question stunned Dave at first. Then, the muscles along Dave's jaw tensed, and a fierce glint flashed across his eyes. "I'll do what anyone else will."

"And what is that?"

"Kill them." Dave continued, "I won't give them the chance to go against me."

Kenneth narrowed his eyes at Dave's declaration.

I'm starting to understand why Natasha hides her identity, but I also now know what it means that she was honest with me.

He dropped his gaze to the floor before swinging it to Dave. "The same goes for you then. You won't get that chance," Kenneth said with a smirk.

Even though Dave hadn't met Kenneth over the years, he understood the latter's character and knew he wouldn't state something confidently without reason. "What do you mean?"

Kenneth thought about it for a while before he spoke. "What I'm saying is, don't even think about it. They're not someone you can even think about."

Dave sensed that he was implying something. "J, are you sure you don't know who Shadow Seeker is?"

Kenneth is like a walking miracle to me. When we established DX Group together, he could make things I deemed impossible happen. After a while, I slowly grew accustomed to it. I'm not surprised if he says he knows Shadow Seeker since it's not entirely impossible in Kenneth's case.

However, Kenneth staunchly denied it. "I don't."

"Then why can't I even think about them?" Dave asked.

"That's because Shadow Seeker won't favor any one organization."

"How do you know that?"

Kenneth turned his gaze to Miguel. "Well, everyone in the hacker community knows about it. Ask him if you don't believe me."

Miguel nodded. "He's right. Shadow Seeker did declare on the web they wouldn't favor any one organization and even made a vow. I don't think they'll go back on their words." His eyes sparkled as he explained.

The creases on Dave's forehead deepened. "What good does it do if they made a vow? If taking an oath

works, we wouldn't need the police.”

“You might not believe it, Dave, but the hacker community does. After all, Shadow Seeker's the god that every one of us admires,” Miguel justified.

Kenneth stayed silent at Miguel's remark, but his face softened, and a faint smile played on his lips. There was even some pride gleaming in his eyes.

He looked at Miguel. “From your tone, I guess you admire them too?”

“Of course!” Miguel laughed. “They're my idols.”

“Who do you admire more? Shadow Seeker or Anonymous?” Kenneth questioned.

“Um...” Miguel was caught off guard by his question. “How do I say this? They're both top hackers, so I admire them both.”

“What if you have to choose one?” Kenneth was persistent.

“Then...”

Kenneth stared at him intently, adamant about getting a solid answer.

How can Anonymous compare to Natasha? Anonymous is nothing.

Miguel frowned, clearly troubled over making a decision.

Dave couldn't help but say, “Why are you troubled over something like this? It's not like something will happen after you make a decision.”

Kenneth objected, “What if something does happen?”

“Like what?”

“What if... one of them decides to take him as their apprentice?” Kenneth suggested.

Miguel's eyes brightened. “R-Really?”

Dave eyed Kenneth suspiciously.

Dave eyed Kenneth suspiciously.

“I'm just saying,” Kenneth insisted.

## Chapter 389

Kenneth said sarcastically, "That's a good plan you have there. I come out of retirement, take over Darknetz, then retire. I get to do all the work while you can just sit there and have everything served to you on a platter. Do I look that dumb to you?"

Dave retorted, "Let's not put it that way. DX is also your baby. You can't just ignore it after giving birth to it. Sometimes, you have to shoulder the responsibility of a parent."

Kenneth narrowed his eyes at Dave. "I'm not going to take that credit. You're the one who nursed and nurtured that baby to what it is today, so you're the one responsible for it. I'm not going to interfere in any of its affairs so that it doesn't grow distant from you."

Dave didn't know how to respond to that.

After that brief interlude, Dave regained his serious attitude. "I'm just thinking about your safety. Holden will find you sooner or later, even if you're retired. What are you going to do then?"

"That's none of your concern."

"Fine, I'm not going to worry about you, but what about your girlfriend? Have you thought about her and your future kids? What if Holden targets your girlfriend to get revenge?"

A murderous glint flashed across Kenneth's eyes. "He won't dare!"

"I don't know whether he dares or not, but he might actually do it," Dave said.

It's fine with me even if he doesn't come out of retirement. I hope this serves as a warning to him, though.

The viciousness in Kenneth's gaze lessened slightly, but some anger was still simmering beneath the surface. His expression was still stony.

A moment later, he said, "I won't let him have that chance."

"He has been looking all over for you all these years. Despite my best efforts to stop him, I'm afraid I can't stop him forever." Dave added, "All in all, you watch your back."

"Is Holden still finding trouble with DX?" Kenneth asked.

"Not so much after you retired, but we still don't see eye to eye. There's still animosity between us beneath the surface," Dave explained.

"Darknetz has been developing rapidly for the past few years and has people all over the world. You better be careful. Ring me up anytime you have a problem," Kenneth uttered.

Dave instantly narrowed his eyes. "You mean..."

"Even if I have washed my hands of DX, I'm still the founder. I'm not going to let anyone bully it," Kenneth said.

"Now, that's good to hear."

"However, I'm not going to interfere in everything that happens either," Kenneth added.

"Don't worry. I'm just glad you're not going to neglect DX completely. I won't go to you for small matters," Dave promised.

In the end, I just wanted his promise. It isn't that I can't manage DX by myself. I just missed the time when I founded DX with Kenneth. DX felt complete and was filled with life when he was around. Even though he turned a blind eye and deaf ear to everything that happened to DX all these years, I knew his heart was still here, and that was enough for me.

Dave's spirits lifted when he thought of that.

He turned to Miguel. "Check again. See if you can find that group of hackers from Vermillion Base."

Miguel nodded.

"Also, how's it going at Boss' side of things?" Dave asked.

"He's still in the Vermillion Base headquarters."

"What about the person I asked you to find?" Dave questioned.

Miguel shook his head. "It's strange, you know. I couldn't trace the location of that phone call, no matter how long I tried. I even asked a few of my friends for help, yet none of them could trace it. It was like a pro was pulling the strings from the back. However, there aren't many hackers that are more skillful than us on this planet."

"Do you have a suspect?"

"Other than Shadow Seeker and Anonymous, there are seven to eight people with better skills than me, so I can't say for sure." Miguel shrugged.

Dave glanced at Kenneth with a frown. "J, one thing is for sure. That woman has a pro helping her. After we failed to pursue her the last time, we immediately switched our target to Boss, but it would be easier if we knew who was helping her. Do you have any idea who that might be?"

Kenneth lowered his gaze.

Who else can it be? It's the joke of the century if they think they can find her with such means.

Kenneth didn't give him a straight answer. "Use the most primitive method to find her."

"The most primitive... Are you sure?" Dave inquired.

"Since technology won't work, let's employ the most primitive method." Kenneth said, "It never gets old."

Dave raised his brow casually, not opposing his suggestion.

"All right, but it may take a long time."

"It's better than waiting helplessly," Kenneth said.

Dave nodded and cast a glance at Miguel, who then went to do as ordered.

Dave nodded and cast a glance at Miguel, who then went to do as ordered.

"Wait." Kenneth stopped him.

Miguel looked over his shoulder.

After thinking over it for a while, Kenneth cautioned, "She might not use her personal information, so watch out for that. Focus on the person, not the information."

"Got it." Miguel nodded and left.

Dave started, "Your woman knows quite a few counter reconnaissance methods." He paused briefly before looking at Kenneth. "What kind of person is she?"

## **Chapter 390**

A tense expression crossed Dave's face when he heard Miguel's words. "What do you mean?"

"Someone hacked into the Overseer System and tracked where your car was heading from the airport. I'm guessing that you are being followed," Miguel informed with a stern expression.

Dave and Kenneth exchanged worried glances at the same time.

"Can we find out who it is?" Dave asked grimly.

Miguel shook his head. "Our men tried to track the perpetrator but failed. Whoever the hacker is, he's more skilled than us and swiftly withdrew once he knew we were on to him."

Narrowing his eyes, Dave inquired curiously, "If the hacker is as sophisticated as you say, why was he discovered when hacking into the Overseer System? Miguel, I remember that no one noticed when you hacked into it the last time."

"I was thinking about this inconsistency too. There can only be two possibilities. Firstly, someone noticed the network freezing. Secondly..."

"What is it?" Dave asked.

"The hacker deliberately left tracks for us to find," Kenneth suggested.

Miguel glanced at Kenneth before nodding in agreement. "These are the only two possibilities."

Dave broke into a smile. "It looks like the party in Spaunia is getting livelier." Just as he spoke, he looked in Kenneth's direction. "J, do you think I'm the target or you?"

Kenneth wasn't surprised by the question. "Is there a difference?"

"Of course there is. I can't allow a friend on a rare visit to be dragged into my affairs," Dave answered.

An indiscernible glint flashed across Kenneth's eyes. "I'm afraid I'm the one who got you involved."

"Do you mean he could be from Vermillion Base?" Dave asked but quickly answered his own question.

"That's unlikely. If they knew who you were, I probably would have heard of it. Besides, how would Boss, who's extremely busy now, have time to keep an eye on you?"

"He doesn't have to because he knows that I would definitely come," Kenneth remarked with certainty.

"Are you saying that it was his men?" Dave asked.

Kenneth shook his head. "I can't say. It feels more like an entirely new faction."

Dave's eyes narrowed. "That's what my hunch says too. If it were Boss, he would have openly declared war instead of using such clandestine methods. Furthermore, he would let us know that he was watching us."

Kenneth concurred with a nod.

Unfortunately, no matter how hard they wracked their brains, they couldn't think of anyone else.

Dave looked at him. "Aren't you supposed to be retired? How did you end up offending so many



people?”

Kenneth quipped, “I can't help being born attractive.”

“That's true. You never fail to attract enemies!” Dave teased.

Not disputing the statement, Kenneth curled his lips in response. After all, he couldn't deny that was largely how his life turned out to be.

At that moment, Dave broke into a mischievous smile. “From my perspective, it seems that God is on my side. Look at how many experts are gathered here. Fate has evidently brought you here to help me take them all down. Say, do you think DX will stand at the top once all of them are wiped out?”

Kenneth was cognizant that when Dave mentioned “all of them,” it naturally included Shadow Seeker.

Kenneth calmly reminded him, “Be careful of getting carried away, for you might end up biting off more than you can chew.”

Dave ignored the warning with a smile. “With you around, what have I to fear? Furthermore, peace has reigned too long in Spaunia. It's time to shake things up a little.” At that moment, a bloodthirsty glint faintly flashed across Dave's eyes.

Kenneth threw him a glance without making a comment.

After all, Dave might not follow through with his words.

If he did, he would run the risk of being attacked by the combined strength of the other organizations. That was a development that brought no benefit to DX at all.

Nevertheless, Kenneth could vaguely sense that there were many different factions hidden within Spaunia itself.

He didn't know why they had come and couldn't care less about them. However, he had a strong hunch the matter with Vermillion Base wouldn't be easily resolved. More importantly, there was a sense of impending chaos just beyond the corner.

As for how it was all going to end, no one had any idea.

Regardless, he would keep Natasha safe, come what may.

At that moment, his train of thought was broken by Miguel's question. “Dave, in that case, do we need to make any preparations?”

Dave's eyes sparkled momentarily. “Didn't you say that the hacker is more skilled than you are? What's

the point in preparing?”

“I can gather a few of my friends to launch a combined attack. We'll stand a better chance that way.”

Dave furrowed his brows upon hearing Miguel's suggestion. “Is there really such a big difference among the skills of hackers?”

Miguel nodded. “A small variation makes a world of difference.”

“In that case, is there a way to differentiate those among you? For example, even though people have different characters and methods of doing things, we are still able to stereotype them. A person of a certain character has a fixed way of doing things. Therefore, aren't you able to tell after battling each other so frequently?” Dave asked.

“There is. Some like to attack aggressively, while others prefer a more indirect approach. However, I have never come across someone like that amongst all my opponents. His method might look ordinary, but his sequence is illogical, making him unpredictable. Furthermore, the way he attacks is extremely ruthless—” Midway through his explanation, Miguel suddenly froze with his brows furrowed.