

Yo Daddy 411

Chapter 411

Meanwhile, Kenneth had been frequently visiting the rooftop restaurant ever since that night.

Each time he was there, he would scan his surroundings with the hope that Natasha would appear once more.

However, the receptionist told him that Natasha did not return since that day.

It was hard for him not to feel disappointed at the news. If only I wandered around the other day, I might've run into her.

Right then, Dave returned after making a phone call. When he saw Kenneth's dejected expression, he patted the latter's shoulder to console him. "This is just like the saying in Chanaea—waiting in the wings, right?"

Kenneth forced a smile and side-eyed him. "What is it?"

"I've got both good and bad news for you. Which one do you want to hear first?" Dave asked.

"Unless she shows up in front of me right now, all news is considered bad news," Kenneth replied indifferently.

Raising a brow, Dave uttered, "Okay."

He then sat beside Kenneth and continued, "We've combed all the hotels nearby but came out in vain."

Kenneth's brows furrowed when he heard that.

That's impossible! I know her well enough, and she's definitely still in the area. She won't go far unless...

"The men have searched high and low for her everywhere they could. Unfortunately, she's nowhere to be found," Dave reported.

Instantly, Kenneth's frown deepened. "Did anything happen during the search?" he queried.

"What do you mean by that?"

"Was there any sudden emergency? Did you notice anything weird or peculiar?"

Dave whipped out his phone and set it on the loudspeaker. "Did you encounter any special incidents when you guys were ransacking the place?"

“Special incidents? Nope.”

“Are you sure about that?”

“Oh, there was this one hotel where the staff recalled seeing a gorgeous lady. However, she wasn't able to confirm when we showed her the photo, so we headed to the room to check. Suddenly, a fire alarm sounded, and everybody was urged to evacuate. Does this incident count?”

Kenneth listened with knitted brows.

Upon noticing the slight change in his expression, Dave queried further, “Was there a fire at the hotel?”

“Nope. They announced it was a fire sensor malfunction,” the man replied.

Without saying anything, Kenneth got to his feet and darted outside.

Knowing what was going on inside Kenneth's head, Dave requested over the phone, “Send me the hotel address immediately!”

In the car, Dave looked at Kenneth and said, “Don't put all your hopes on this. It might not be her.”

The latter shook his head and stared at Dave intently. “It's her. It must be her!”

Since he was resolute and unswerving, Dave did not want to rain on his parade. Instead, he floored the accelerator pedal and sped off.

It took about twenty minutes for them to arrive.

They headed straight to one particular room, but it was completely empty.

“This is the room that the lady stayed in for one week,” informed the hotel staff.

Kenneth looked around, only to realize that the room was spick and span. There were no signs of her presence.

However, he seemed to be able to imagine what it was like when Natasha was occupying the room.

“When did she check out?” Dave asked.

The hotel staff thought for a moment before replying, “When you came searching for her the other day, the fire sensor was faulty, and this room was unsearched. It's listed as available after that. I think she must have checked out then.”

Upon hearing that, Kenneth scrunched his brows.

"You mean this room wasn't looked into?" Dave asked to clarify his doubt.

The staff nodded. "We knocked for quite some time, but no one answered the door. At that moment, we thought nobody was inside. By the time I wanted to open it using the access card, the fire alarm went off, and all the guests were instructed to leave the premises."

Dave turned to Kenneth. "If that was her, our men had made a careless mistake. Anyhow, what are the odds?"

Kenneth said nothing, knowing that it was not an uncanny coincidence at all.

He was convinced that Natasha did it intentionally.

Seeing that Kenneth was quiet, Dave took the liberty to ask for more information. "The hotel has surveillance cameras, right?"

The staff nodded and answered in the affirmative.

"Show us the surveillance footage."

With another polite nod, the staff led them to the control room.

She cooperatively pulled out the footage requested. As per her description earlier, the fire alarm went off when the staff was about to open the door. Subsequently, everyone left the building.

There was no movement detected outside that particular room until the door opened slightly over ten minutes later.

A figure was seen exiting the door wearing a long black trench coat and a hat, covering herself from head to toe. Her wavy hair draped over her shoulders until her waist. Everything about her was a dazzling display of beauty.

Kenneth's forehead creased the moment he saw the silhouette.

It's her!

Although only her back profile was shown, Kenneth could recognize her at first glance.

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Just as Natasha entered the hotel, her phone rang.

Taking a glance at the caller ID, she fell into deep thought. Moments later, she answered the call.

“Hello.”

As she spoke, she walked toward the elevator.

Meanwhile, the hotel staff, who assisted Kenneth and Dave in the search, came from opposite directions. As she walked past Natasha, she had a good whiff of the woody scent of Natasha's perfume. Instantly, she looked up and was immediately stunned.

Eh? Isn't she the one they have been looking for?

Frowning, she quickly recalled the image from the surveillance footage. Unfortunately, the elevator doors slid shut when she wanted to check further.

Rushing to the elevator, the staff pressed the button. By the time she got upstairs, Natasha had disappeared from the hallway.

She checked every nook and cranny, but her effort was futile.

It was as though she was delusional.

Didn't she check out already? Why is she still here? Could I have made a mistake?

In confusion, the hotel staff paced around the hallway to check again. However, as Natasha was nowhere to be found, she gave up in the end.

Once Natasha was back in her room, she removed her shoes and walked inside barefooted.

She had her phone to her ear, listening attentively to the incoming call while taking a seat in front of her laptop.

“Ms. Watson, I found something related to your father when I made a trip back to base camp! Indeed, heaven helps those who help themselves.”

“Oh? Is that so?”

“Yes, I've forwarded it to your phone. Please take a look. I believe you won't doubt me a bit this time,” Boss proclaimed over the phone.

Then, Natasha's phone buzzed.

Immediately, she brought it down to eye level and clicked on it. Upon seeing what the message was about, she froze.

A flabbergasted look crept up on her face as she straightened her body. Her trembling hands held onto her phone tightly.

Boss had sent her a photo, and it was none other than Theodore.

He looked exactly like how she had remembered him—young and handsome. Dressed in black, he sat in front of the computer, looking regal and classy.

It seemed to be an old photo. Though taken sideways, one could still see Theodore's face vividly.

Day and night, she had been longing to see that familiar face. At that instant, she was washed over by an indescribable feeling as her eyes reddened.

Initially, she had thought her memories of him would fade away as time passed and that she would forget about him in time. However, she realized none of those presumptions were true.

On the contrary, Theodore's face, figure, and everything about him was forever etched on her mind.

Natasha gently brushed the face on the photo with her fingers. Indeed, the man in the photo was her father, whom she could never meet again.

“How is it, Ms. Watson?” Boss suddenly broke the radio silence and snapped Natasha out of her daze.

She was reminded that she was still on the phone.

“I'll call you back,” she muttered before hanging up.

She tried to suppress her emotions, but her quavering voice sold her out.

After ending the call, Natasha continued staring at her father's photo, totally engrossed.

When she was little, she could not understand why he refused to have his photo taken. As she missed him dearly, she persistently persuaded her father to do so. Finally, Theodore obliged, and they took a family photo on her fifth birthday. Unfortunately, a fire occurred, and she lost that precious photo.

Therefore, the one on her phone was the only photo she had of her father.

As she stared at that photo, her face went blank.

She finally had the answers to all the perplexing questions she had back then.

Her father refused to take any photos because he wanted to protect her.

Dad, I'm finally seeing you again. If it weren't for the existence of Grandpa and me, no one else on earth could ever prove that you had ever lived.

She stared at the old photo and spaced out for two hours.

Subsequently, she saved it in her album.

After recollecting herself, Natasha made a call to Boss.

"Ms. Watson, done reminiscing the past?" Boss teased.

"I want that photo," Natasha stated directly.

Boss was dumbfounded. "Don't tell me you don't have a single photo of your father?"

"None of your business!" she snapped coldly.

"I see... So, the rumor about Theodore is true. He never had his photo taken," Boss remarked.

Natasha tightened her grip on the phone. "Are you going to give it to me or not?"

"Okay, you can have it if you want. I'll deliver it to you personally," answered Boss.

Natasha knew there was no room for discussion.

If I delay this further, he surely won't keep waiting for me.

After pondering for a moment, she agreed, "Okay."

Chapter 413

They had been searching for Natasha for a few days but to no avail.

In the hotel, the three of them were on the verge of frustration.

Thalia looked at Anthony, who was busy in front of the computer while lying on the couch. "Do you think something has happened to Nat?" she asked.

Upon hearing that, both Anthony and Benjamin turned to look at her simultaneously.

Noticing their anxious expressions, Thalia clarified, "I'm just guessing. Don't get so nervous!"

"What makes you say that?" asked Benjamin.

"Think about it. We've been here for a few days, but there's no news at all. Even Anthony is unable to find her. Isn't it reasonable for me to think so?"

After hearing that, both Anthony and Benjamin heaved a sigh of relief.

"That's not possible. We just had a phone call with Nat yesterday," said Benjamin.

"Really?"

Benjamin nodded.

Thalia immediately sat upright. "Did she say anything?"

"No..." Benjamin shook his head disappointedly.

Seeing their disappointed looks, Thalia could feel them. She paused for a moment before saying, "Maybe Nat doesn't want to get you into trouble, so she dares not contact you. Since she can avoid Anthony's tracing, that means she's probably capable of protecting herself, too. Don't worry too much."

"That's not what you said just now!" Anthony responded

"That's because I didn't know the situation!"

Anthony said nothing else and continued to look at the computer.

After thinking about it for a while, Anthony decided to hack into Miguel's computer, wanting to see if there was any news on the latter's side.

As soon as he hacked into Miguel's computer, he found that the man was investigating a location.

Seeing that, Anthony instantly perked up. He knew Miguel was helping Kenneth to find Natasha. Hence, this was probably a new lead for him.

Anthony started tracing the same location that Miguel was investigating.

He narrowed his eyes when he found the exact location.

Just then, Benjamin looked at him. "What's wrong? Why are you in a daze?"

"Miguel is checking on a location. Do you think this has anything to do with Nat?" asked Anthony.

Upon hearing that, Benjamin immediately stepped forward to look at the location that was shown on the computer screen. Instantly, he showed the same expression as Benjamin.

Thalia stared at them and asked curiously, "What can you see from the computer?"

Anthony and Benjamin looked up at her.

Raising her brows, Thalia added, "We have to go there and have a look!"

Half an hour later, the three of them arrived at the location.

Looking at the place, Benjamin frowned. "Are you sure this is the right location?"

Anthony looked at his watch. "Yes, I'm sure!"

"Why is it a bar?"

"How would I know?" Anthony retorted.

At the same time, Thalia looked at the entrance of the bar, and her eyes lit up. She had not been to a bar here for a long time, and she kind of missed it. At the thought of that, her red lips twitched. "Maybe Nat is inside?"

"Nat doesn't like places like this," uttered Anthony.

"I didn't say she's here to have fun. Maybe she's here to meet someone?"

None of them dared to make any conclusion at this moment.

"Let's go check it out!" With that said, Thalia took the lead and walked inside.

Anthony and Benjamin exchanged gazes and followed Thalia.

The atmosphere in the bar was very lively.

It was Anthony and Benjamin's first visit to a bar. The situation was similar to what they saw in television dramas. It was full of loud music and people of all kinds. The two followed behind Thalia while observing the environment of the bar.

Fearing she would lose the kids, Thalia turned over her shoulder and reminded them, "Follow me closely, and don't get lost. It'd be hard to find you in here if you get lost."

Anthony rolled his eyes. "Do you think we are three-year-olds?"

"Not three years old, but it's at most double three years old!"

Anthony was speechless.

Benjamin remained silent and followed Thalia to an empty seat.

Raising her hand, Thalia called a waiter over.

“Give me a beer and two glasses of...” Thalia turned to look at the two before darting her eyes back to the waiter, smiling. “And two glasses of juice.”

The waiter nodded before walking away to get their drinks.

The three of them sat on a bench. Anthony and Benjamin were busy looking around as though they were searching for something.

Thalia looked at them. “It'd indeed be good if you can find her here. But if you can't, don't get too disappointed. We can just regard this as an outing to relax, okay?”

The two said nothing and just nodded, knowing that Thalia cared about their feelings.

Thalia suddenly narrowed her eyes and scrutinized the two of them. “Have you never been to a bar before?”

Anthony frowned at that. “Is that weird?”

When Thalia was about to say something, Benjamin interjected, “Nat doesn't like this kind of place, so she never brings us here.”

“What about Kenneth?” Thalia asked.

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Inside the bar, Anthony walked around, thinking there was a chance to meet Natasha.

However, after walking for a round, he found nothing unusual, not to mention Natasha's figure.

On the contrary, as he wandered around in the bar, he attracted many people's attention.

After all, he was a “foreigner” over there.

As he found nothing, disappointment flashed across Anthony's face.

When he was about to return to his seat after letting out a sigh, a bulky man suddenly walked up to him and said something.

The man was a local in Spaunia, and he was speaking in his native language. Hence, Anthony could not

understand him at all.

With a frown, Anthony asked him in Ustranian, "What did you say?"

The man continued to speak in his language.

"Do you speak Ustranian?" Anthony queried.

Clearly, both of them could not understand each other.

Since Anthony had no idea what he was talking about, he decided to just walk away. All of a sudden, the man grabbed his arm.

Furrowing his brows, Anthony turned and looked at him cautiously. "What are you doing? Let go of me."

The man continued to talk non-stop. It even seemed as though he wanted to pull Anthony out.

Due to the man's brute look, Anthony was worried the former would harm him.

Anthony wanted to shake his arm off, but he failed to do so no matter how hard he tried.

Right then, Anthony secretly stretched out his hand to reach his watch and was about to switch it to attack mode. Looking at the man, Anthony warned him, "Let go of me now. Otherwise, you'll regret it!"

However, the man ignored his warning and continued babbling.

Anthony became anxious, but he was unable to break free at all.

Just as Anthony was about to attack, the man seemed to know what he wanted to do and immediately grabbed his hand, stopping him from attacking.

Frowning, the kid looked at the man in puzzlement.

The man smiled as if he had seen through Anthony.

Anthony lost his chance to attack, and it was impossible to ask Thalia for help, too.

"Let go of me!" Anthony struggled, but his strength was no match for the man. At this moment, Anthony was completely at the man's mercy.

He was left with no other option but to shout out for help from the people around him.

"Help! Help!" Anthony shouted in a pitiful voice, trying to arouse sympathy and seek help.

Unfortunately, the people around just looked at him, remaining motionless.

Anthony frowned at that. Why are the people here so cold-hearted?

Anthony looked at the man in front of him again. The latter showed him a devilish smile as if all of this was under his control.

Trying to calm himself down, Anthony thought of all kinds of ways that could save himself. He knew he had to stay calm at this moment.

As he was thinking, the man suddenly picked him up and threw Anthony over his shoulder, casually walking away.

Anthony was utterly befuddled.

What is going on?

Anthony began to struggle. Just then, he passed by several people who were drinking. As one of them was on the phone, Anthony fixed his gaze on the device. When he was close enough, he grabbed the phone over and smashed it hard onto the ground.

Crash!

The phone was smashed into pieces.

Finally, the owner of the phone reacted and stood up to block their way.

Just when Anthony thought he could be saved, the man carrying him took out some cash and handed them to the phone's owner without hesitation.

That was the charm of money.

The phone's owner was immediately pacified and put on a smile.

Although Anthony did not understand what they were saying, from the man's expression and body language, he could pretty much guess what was going on.

It seems the attraction to money is the same for everyone, regardless of where they come from and what language they speak.

When the phone's owner gestured for the bulky man to get out, Anthony completely understood.

What a materialistic world!

Letting out a sigh, Anthony yelled for help once again. Sadly, everyone else ignored him as though he was invisible.

Knowing that it was hopeless to get help, Anthony looked at the man and punched him fiercely. The man just looked at him with a surprised expression but did nothing.

Anthony gave him a thumbs down.

Seeing that he was about to be taken away, he suddenly thought of Thalia.

He shouted her name in Chanaean with all his strength, but his voice was drowned out by the loud noises in the bar.

With that, he was taken out of the bar.

Anthony's eyes were filled with despair as he was carried by the man over his shoulder.

Am I really going to be kidnapped by this man? Am I doomed now? I haven't found Nat! I can't die yet!

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However, as soon as he moved, Kenneth immediately grabbed him by the collar.

"Where do you think you're going?" Kenneth's cold voice sounded from above Anthony's head.

Anthony looked at him with a sheepish smile. "Daddy..."

"Oh, so now you remember I'm your daddy," stated Kenneth sarcastically, glaring at the kid.

"Of course I do! I mean, how could I not? Every time I look in the mirror, the reflection keeps reminding me that I'm your son!" Anthony gave him a flattering smile.

Seeing that he was still able to joke around, Kenneth knew Anthony was not frightened by the incident earlier, which meant his efforts went down the drain.

Kenneth was unsure if he should be happy or angry at that moment.

Staring at Kenneth, Anthony frowned. "Daddy, did you arrange the stunt just now?"

Kenneth looked at him and said nothing.

"Daddy, if there's anything, couldn't you talk to me properly? Why did you have to use such a method? Do you know how much mental harm you've caused to my little heart?" Anthony started accusing Kenneth before the latter could even have the chance to teach him a lesson.

Kenneth, who had initially prepared to lecture him, was suddenly rendered speechless.

He was both infuriated and exasperated.

"How much harm?" Kenneth gazed at him.

"A lot! I'm your son, your beloved son! How could you treat me like that?" asked Anthony.

"Then how should I treat you?"

"You should wrap me in your arms as soon as you see me and ask me if I'm hurt or scared. Do you know how fragile I am in a foreign country?" said Anthony.

Letting out a chuckle, Kenneth looked at him. "Since you brought this up, now let's talk about it!"

"What?" Anthony pretended to be oblivious.

"What did I say when I left?" Kenneth questioned.

Anthony went silent.

I finally know how it feels like to shoot myself in the foot! Why am I so stupid to mention it myself?

After pondering for a while, Anthony uttered in a faint voice, "I was just worried about you and Nat!"

"Do you think Nat and I won't be worried about you when you came over?" asked Kenneth.

"I—"

"What you encountered today was just a very small and common incident. Had you met a real enemy, do you still think you'd have a chance of walking away alive?" Kenneth gazed at him intently.

Although Kenneth normally spoiled them a lot, this situation was an exception. If Natasha were here, he would definitely do the same thing.

This time, he had to teach Anthony a lesson.

Looking at Kenneth's serious expression, Anthony knew he was indeed angry.

Anthony thought for a while before retorting, "That's because you gave him a heads-up! Otherwise, I could've used my weapon to protect myself!"

"Even so, your weapon can only be used once. Is there even a chance to use it a second time?"

"Maybe there is..." Anthony mumbled.

"Even if you're given ten chances, do you really think the enemies are stupid?" Kenneth asked.

Anthony stared at Kenneth, now knowing what to say.

An innocent expression appeared on his cute little face.

When Kenneth saw that, his anger dissipated a bit.

Just as he was about to say something, Anthony whispered, "Things certainly wouldn't have turned out like this had you just brought me along."

"What did you say?"

"I mean, I can help you!" Anthony raised his head and looked at him.

"Help me? How?" asked Kenneth.

Before Anthony could answer him, Dave came out of nowhere. "J, what happened?"

When he saw Anthony in front of him, he was stunned. "Oh, who is this kiddo?" Dave turned to look at Kenneth before his eyes darted toward Anthony again.

"Is there something wrong with my eyes?" asked Dave in disbelief.

Anthony looked at Dave and remained silent. Is this Daddy's friend?

When Dave noticed the way Anthony was looking at him, he was even more shocked. With his eyes still on the kid, he asked Kenneth, "I... I didn't know you have a little brother."

Letting out a sigh, Kenneth revealed in a low voice, "He's my son."

It took a long while for Dave to react. When he did, he turned to Kenneth in shock. "What!"

Kenneth looked at Anthony. "Say hello."

Anthony immediately flashed a smile at Dave. "Hi, Mr. Handsome!"

Puzzled, Dave stared at Anthony for a long time before he asked again, "Since when did you have a son?"

"Since he was born, of course."

"By you?" Dave was shocked.

"Do you think I can give birth to one?" Kenneth narrowed his eyes at Dave disdainfully.

"No, I mean... Is he your biological son?"

"Don't we look alike?" asked Kenneth. Whoever can't see that is blind.

Dave looked at the two again and felt that his question was unnecessary.

"Why didn't you tell me about it? I didn't prepare a gift for your child!" remarked Dave in a low voice.

"I just found out about it this year as well," replied Kenneth indifferently.

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Kenneth stared at Benjamin for the longest time as he contemplated a suitable reply. They were in public, after all.

Eventually, he asked, "Are you hurt?"

Benjamin shook his head and answered, "No. I'm okay."

Just then, Thalia stepped forward and asked accusatorily, "What are you playing at, Kenneth? How could you whisk him away at a whim? You could've frightened the poor kid to death!"

Thalia's accusation prompted Kenneth to explain, "I've been kind enough not to accuse you of abducting my son to this place. Why are you turning the blame on me now?"

"I..."

"Daddy, I wanted Thalia to accompany me!" Anthony piped up.

"No, it was me!" Benjamin argued, fighting with his brother to shoulder the blame.

Thalia subconsciously smiled at the young boys' antics. She was delighted to see how they were protecting her.

Looks like I didn't adore them for nothing.

Then, she arched her brow smugly and shot Kenneth a challenging look. "See that? I didn't kidnap them. In fact, they kidnapped me. I suppose you should pay me some protection fees instead, Mr. Hamilton."

"You call that protection?" Kenneth fired back.

Thalia argued, "They're safe and healthy!"

Scoffing, Kenneth replied flatly, "Okay. I'll settle the score with you soon."

"Fine! I'll be waiting!"

Please! I'm not scared of Kenneth at all!

Meanwhile, Kenneth refrained from commenting on Thalia's behavior after realizing how protective his sons were of her. Doing so would only backfire and hurt his relationship with them instead.

Dave, on the other hand, was still overwhelmed with shock.

"J, this is your son too?" Dave croaked, utterly incredulous.

Calmly, Kenneth nodded and said, "Yes."

"Your biological child?"

That earned Dave a disdainful look from Kenneth, who questioned, "What's with your question? Do you have a child who's not your biological offspring?"

Dave sputtered in reply, "I don't have a kid!"

As an afterthought, Kenneth added, "I have twins." He realized his mistake and corrected himself. "To be accurate, I have triplets."

"Triplets?" Bewildered, Dave stammered, "T-There's another one?"

He spun around and surveyed his surroundings as though worried a third child would materialize out of thin air.

Anthony declared, "You can stop looking, Mr. Handsome. My younger sister isn't here."

Dave turned to look at Kenneth's eldest son and asked, "So the two of you have a younger sister?"

Nodding, Anthony added, "Yes! She's really pretty and adorable!"

Dave had no words to express his astonishment.

What on earth happened to Kenneth these past few years? How did he suddenly end up with three kids? Two sons and a daughter! What kind of luck is this?

Before he could ask further questions, Kenneth said, "I know you're bursting with questions, and I

promise to answer them on the way back.”

He firmly put a stop to Dave's otherwise-imminent onslaught of queries.

“Let's go!”

Anthony stared at them and asked, “Where are we going, Daddy?”

“Well, for starters, we're going somewhere safer than this place!” replied Kenneth.

“Our luggage is still in the hotel.”

“I'll get someone to retrieve it for you.”

Eventually, Anthony nodded and went along with his father's wishes.

Suddenly, Thalia declared, “You all go ahead. I won't be joining.”

“Why?” asked Anthony.

She glanced at Kenneth and Dave before saying softly, “It's not convenient.”

Dave retorted, “What's so inconvenient? Because we're all male?”

Thalia remained silent, but the boys immediately understood her reasons.

She addressed Anthony and Benjamin, “It's fine. Don't worry about me. I have some business to attend to anyway. You can call me anytime. I haven't been to Spaunia for many years, so I'll take this time to do some sightseeing as well.”

Unconvinced, Benjamin protested, “But—”

“I won't change hotels. You can come here to meet me anytime,” reassured Thalia.

At that juncture, Anthony and Benjamin had little choice but to agree with her decision.

Thalia said, “Well, stay safe. I'll be going back in!”

Anthony nodded, drawing a smile from Thalia.

Before she left, she glanced at Dave, who suddenly thought she looked familiar. He wondered if he had crossed paths with her in the past.

On the way home, Kenneth arranged for the children to have a car to themselves while he sat in another

with Dave.

Away from prying ears, Dave asked Kenneth, "Did you say she was from Darknetz?"

Kenneth nodded.

Dave mulled over the revelation. Suddenly, he connected the dots and recalled why Thalia seemed so familiar. "Is she Darknetz Ace?"

Kenneth nodded in response.

Confused, Dave questioned, "Why didn't you say so earlier? We should've captured her and impaired Darknetz's capabilities. Wouldn't that have been better?"

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Once they arrived at Dave's house, Kenneth settled the boys in a bedroom.

Before he left, he said, "Rest earlier tonight. We'll talk tomorrow morning."

"Do we have to talk about it?" asked Anthony.

Kenneth turned around and asked, "What do you think?"

"Why don't we talk about it now instead of leaving it for tomorrow? How can I sleep well if I'm worrying over it all night?" argued Anthony.

His father replied drily, "You didn't seem that worried when you were sneakily trailing me."

Anthony wisely remained silent.

His silence drew a smirk from Kenneth, who turned to leave the room.

Suddenly, Benjamin asked, "Daddy, is there any news on Nat yet?"

He turned around and stared at his younger son. Hesitation flashed through his eyes before he said reassuringly, "We have news, but I always arrive a step too late. Don't worry. She's safe now, and I'll make sure I'm not late again!"

Benjamin nodded. "Okay."

"Get some rest."

Finally, Kenneth left their room.

Once the door closed, Anthony heaved a sigh of relief and turned to his brother. "Why did Daddy put us in the same room tonight?"

"How should I know?"

"Don't you think Daddy's acting strangely tonight?" asked Anthony.

Benjamin gave his brother's question some serious thought before nodding. "He's a little weird."

Anthony hopped onto the bed and muttered, "I'm sure Daddy has something up his sleeves for tomorrow!"

"I'll be counting on you tomorrow!"

Benjamin's cryptic comment befuddled Anthony. "Why?"

"Because you're the only one who can play Daddy at his own game!"

Anthony narrowed his eyes and asked, "Is that a compliment?"

Benjamin merely retorted, "What do you think Thalia would say to answer your question?"

His older brother immediately lost interest and said, "Don't pick up bad habits from Thalia."

"I think Thalia's words make a lot of sense!"

"Don't blindly follow other people's lives. Everyone is unique and has their own path to follow!" With that, Anthony flopped down on the bed.

Benjamin realized the problem with their sleeping arrangement as he watched Anthony bunching up the blankets. Frowning, he asked, "How can I sleep if you do that?"

"Ask Daddy to give you your own room, then," came Anthony's muffled reply.

"Why don't you go instead?"

Anthony insisted, "I took the bed first."

Unwilling to back off, Benjamin crawled onto the bed and began fighting with his brother for the blankets.

Meanwhile, Kenneth had headed downstairs after leaving the boys' room.

Dave was resting on a couch in the living room. When he spotted Kenneth, he could not help but

comment, "I'm still struggling to digest everything I've learned today!" He met Kenneth's gaze and mused out loud, "Has this all been a fantastical dream?"

Kenneth plonked himself on the couch and deadpanned, "Why don't you shoot yourself? Then you'll know!"

Dave was not amused.

He abruptly approached Kenneth and blurted, "I always thought you were a firm believer in bachelorhood. I can't believe your values have changed so much. You even have kids now! Three kids!"

Cautiously, he continued, "Actually, how do you feel about the whole situation?"

"What feelings about what situation?" Kenneth side-eyed his curious subordinate.

"Having children, of course! How does it feel like?"

Dave truly struggled to wrap his head around the whole idea.

Kenneth has always been the farthest thing from a fatherly figure. How did he suddenly end up with two kids? Wait, it's three kids!

Dave's curious expression brought a frown to Kenneth's expression. "Erm, it feels kind of strange yet wonderful?"

"How so?"

"Do you really want to know?"

"Yes!" Dave nodded vigorously.

"Why don't you have a kid yourself?" Kenneth replied.

That effectively shut Dave up.

That's not something I would even remotely consider!

"Enough with the jokes!"

Kenneth explained himself, "I'm not kidding. Having a son is nothing special, but once you have a daughter, you'll know exactly how wonderful it is!"

"In what way?" Dave was perplexed.

Kenneth thought of Denise. His gaze softened as he said, "She'll stick to you twenty-four-seven. She's always adorable and cares about you; she'll say the sweetest things to lift your mood. She's sensible, cute, and caring. Once you look at her, all your worries will disappear in an instant."

Alas, Dave remained as baffled as ever.

He simply could not picture Kenneth cuddling a daughter lovingly.

Dave asked disbelievingly, "Are you sure it's that magical?"

"Of course! In fact, you'd feel compelled to give her the best of everything in the entire world." The tender expression on Kenneth's face seemed genuine enough.

Even Dave's doubts began to waver.

Noticing his subordinate's thoughtful expression, Kenneth said, "Trust me. Once you have a kid, you'll understand how it feels. That kid will be your entire world."

Dave snapped out of his thoughts. After a pause, he replied, "Have a kid? That won't do! I'll need to have more kids than you!"

Chapter 418

Dave thought Kenneth had waxed poetic about the joys of having children just to tease him.

However, after seeing the adorable and lovable Denise on the video call, Dave realized Kenneth had been telling the truth.

Kenneth's joy had been indescribable, and he evidently missed his daughter dearly.

Nonetheless, Dave griped about Kenneth's behavior earlier. "Why did you move away? What's wrong with letting me look at your daughter?"

"I don't want you to scare her!"

Exasperated, Dave argued, "Why must you talk about such nonsense?"

Kenneth could not help but laugh while Dave added, "Your sons are in Darknetz, and here you are worried that I'll frighten your precious daughter?"

After some thought, Kenneth nodded and admitted, "I guess you have a point."

"And since when have you become so stingy?"

Kenneth returned, "I'm not going to let just anyone meet my daughter, you know!"

His expression caused Dave to frown, and the latter asked, "Are you just boasting now, Kenneth?"

"Am I?"

"Yes, judging by your expression!"

Kenneth raised his brow but did not deny Dave's words. "Maybe I am!"

Despite his irritation, Dave's thoughts soon moved to another matter.

He stared at Kenneth with slightly narrowed eyes and asked, "What's your daughter's name?"

"Denise!"

"D? It starts with the fourth letter of the alphabet?"

"Yes!"

"Why not start with 'C?'" Dave added, "Do you have another kid that I don't know about?"

Kenneth pondered his question and replied, "Just didn't feel like giving her a name starting with 'C.'"

"Why?"

"Do I need a reason?"

Dave shrugged and let the issue go.

"Why didn't you go for a more aristocratic name?" he asked next.

Kenneth explained, "I think Denise is a simple and beautiful name."

Dave stared at him and deadpanned, "Are you sure you're not simply blinded by the owner of that name?"

Displeased, Kenneth fired back, "What do you know? You won't understand since you don't have kids."

"I feel as though you're attacking my bachelorhood."

"Your instinct would be spot on if you removed the words 'I feel.'"

Once again, Dave was speechless at Kenneth's glib response.

Kenneth clearly would not allow anyone near his precious daughter.

Some thought later, Dave suggested, "I have an idea. Could I run it by you?"

"No!" came Kenneth's swift rejection.

Dave knitted his brows and argued, "You haven't even heard it yet!"

"I don't need to!"

Dave fixed Kenneth with an annoyed glare and said, "Don't you think you're overreacting, Kenneth?"

"You know me better than that."

At last, Dave had nothing to say to that. He decided to change tack and play the friend card. "Hey, we're closer friends than that. Can't you let me say my piece?"

"Of course, but I'd advise you to drop whatever idea you've cooked up in your head right now," warned Kenneth.

Dave did not heed his advice and suggested, "Can I be your children's godfather?"

"No!"

Dave frowned and whined, "Come on. Aren't you going to give it a little consideration?"

"Not a chance!" Kenneth was firm.

Dave pleaded, "I may never have kids in the future. I'm happy to give everything I have to your kids if I'm their godfather. Why won't you allow me to do that?"

Drily, Kenneth retorted, "Can't I give them enough?"

"The more, the merrier, right?"

Finally, Kenneth mulled over the suggestion and said, "If you truly have no idea what to do with your possessions, I can try to convince the children to accept them. But everything else is a firm no."

"Why not?"

He replied honestly, "I guess I can't put up with my kids calling someone else daddy."

"I'm asking to be their godfather, not their daddy!"

"It's the same to me," replied Kenneth stubbornly.

Dave was frustrated beyond belief. Eventually, he complained, "Your possessiveness hasn't changed one bit, Kenneth!"

"That just means I haven't changed at all!"

Dave wondered if he would ever be as infuriated as he was at that moment.

"Have you forgotten what you said when we first met? You promised I could be your children's godfather if you ever had any kids." Dave added, "Are you going back on your promise now?"

Kenneth carefully considered his claim and realized he might have made such a thoughtless promise in the past. The conversation likely occurred on a drunken night when they had just established DX Group.

As that recollection crossed his mind, Kenneth insisted, "Drunken words should never be taken seriously."

"Drunken words? Were you even drunk that night? Kenneth, you're even a blatant liar now!"

"Oh? Am I?"

"And utterly shameless!" Dave added indignantly.

"I had no choice but to become more shameless," Kenneth declared.

If I weren't this shameless, Natasha would've run off with another man long ago. She would hardly entertain my attention now.

Dave could only nod sarcastically in response.

He promptly grabbed the glass of red wine off the table and finished it in one gulp.

Kenneth stood up and patted his friend on the shoulder. "It's late. You should get some rest."

Chapter 419

Anthony and Benjamin exchanged a look before they glanced back over their shoulders helplessly.

As they stared at Kenneth behind them, they both nudged each other, signaling the other to speak.

Right then, Kenneth lifted his eyes and pinned his gaze on them. He murmured, "Well?"

"Of course, we're eating!" Anthony asserted with a smile.

Subsequently, they both headed over to the man.

Just when they had reached him, Anthony abruptly clutched his stomach. "Oh, no! My stomach hurts! You two go ahead and eat. I'll be back in a moment!"

After saying that, he sprinted off like an arrow without waiting for them to respond.

Left there all alone, Benjamin wavered between taking a seat and leaving.

Anthony Watson!

Inhaling deeply, he ventured, "I'm also—"

"Sit down!"

Following that, Benjamin plopped right down on the chair.

In the next instant, the housekeeper came with breakfast and placed it before Benjamin.

Kenneth continued eating his breakfast methodically, his movements exceedingly elegant with the knife and fork held in his long and slender fingers. He had his sleeves rolled up three-quarters, rendering his wrist an artwork beneath them.

At that very moment, he appeared just like those nobility on television.

Benjamin eyed him, having something to say yet hesitant to speak.

Just then, Kenneth cast a glance at him. "Are you not eating?"

Only then did Benjamin pick up his knife and fork and started eating as well.

Neither of them spoke, merely eating silently. Nonetheless, Benjamin knew that Kenneth must have something to say to him.

"How did you sleep last night?" Kenneth asked out of the blue.

"Terribly."

At his answer, Kenneth lifted his eyes and looked at him. "Oh?"

"It's been a long time since I last shared a room with Tony. We fought over the blanket last night," Benjamin replied.

When Kenneth heard that, the corners of his mouth turned up.

"Why did you arrange for me to share a room with him yesterday?" Benjamin questioned suddenly.

Speaking of that, Kenneth studied the little boy. "Is there a problem with that?"

"I think you've got something to say," Benjamin remarked with his eyes trained on the man.

Instead of waiting for him to voice his questions, it's far better to take the reins and end this stalemate as soon as possible!

Sure enough, Kenneth studied him intently after he had said that.

Upon seeing that he was seemingly mulling it over, Benjamin knew that he had made the right choice.

A while later, Kenneth fixated his eyes on him. "Do you realize the gravity of the incident yesterday?"

Benjamin seemed to have surmised that he would bring that up. He pondered for a moment before admitting, "Yeah, I realize it now."

At his easy admission, Kenneth's brows furrowed. "What did you realize, then?"

"The world is a dangerous place. As such, one has to be powerful enough. I've got to become stronger before I've got a say in things."

Kenneth was promptly rendered speechless.

Contrarily, Benjamin wore a solemn expression on his face. "What's wrong?"

Kenneth took a deep breath. "Benjamin, I know the two of you might have learned plenty about the outside world with Thalia. It was your choice to join Darknetz, and I won't stop you from doing so. But regardless of that, you and Anthony are both my children. To me, your safety supersedes everything. Therefore, I can't disregard that."

While listening, Benjamin nodded. "I know."

"You're right in that one has to be powerful enough, and the incident yesterday proved that. Even if you both are sufficiently smart, you're still weak before absolute power. Thus, I hope the two of you only execute your plans if you can ensure your safety, no matter the situation."

Benjamin merely stared at Kenneth without saying anything. He knew all those principles, but it was the first time someone ever laid it out for him so bluntly and clearly.

For a moment, he didn't quite know what to say.

"You may discount my feelings, but do you also not consider Nat's feelings? What is to become of her if something happens to either of you? And what is she to do?" Kenneth queried.

At once, Natasha's countenance popped into Benjamin's mind.

He was fully aware that she actually placed great emphasis on relationships despite appearing taciturn and indifferent. If something really happens to us... Verily, I can't imagine it.

At that instant, he was inexorably brought into an illusory atmosphere by the man.

After a brief pause, he murmured, "I understand what you mean now, Daddy. In the future, we'll first consider our safety at all times."

It was only when Kenneth heard that did he nod in satisfaction.

"Then, I'll drive you both to the airport tonight after dinner," he declared.

Chapter 420

Following Anthony's appearance, Benjamin breathed a sigh of relief.

At the same time, he wanted to roll his eyes at his brother.

What a timely appearance! But then, he'll indeed save me much trouble since he's facing off the man now.

Sure enough, Kenneth's gaze shifted to Anthony as soon as the latter appeared. He scrutinized his son through narrowed eyes. "You both found leads? What kind of leads?"

Anthony walked over and sat down across from the man. At that moment, the housekeeper brought another set of breakfast over and placed it before him.

Anthony was in no hurry to eat. Instead, his gaze remained on Kenneth. "I don't mind telling you, but I've got a stipulation."

Kenneth narrowed his eyes a fraction. Without Anthony having to voice it, he knew what the boy was planning.

"Spit it out!"

"Does it mean that you've agreed, then?" Anthony asked.

Kenneth swept a gaze over him. "That depends on whether your information is worthy of such an exchange!"

"If that's your answer, I don't dare tell you," Anthony threatened.

In response, Kenneth frowned. "Are you bargaining with me?"

"I'm fighting to share a community of interests with you, Daddy. Only then can the benefits of our collaboration be maximized. Your actions are only an exercise in futility!"

Upon hearing that, Kenneth chortled lightly. "You know the meaning of a community of interests?"

"I know a little bit. Of course, it's nothing compared to you, Daddy," Anthony replied, his voice tinged with a hint of flattery.

After all, he still needed to curry favor with the man if he wanted to stay there.

At that, Kenneth snorted.

"So? Do we have a deal?" Anthony inquired, his eyes twinkling.

Kenneth deliberated for a while before he quirked an eyebrow. "Deal."

When Anthony saw his decisiveness, he grinned from ear to ear. "You said that, so you can't go back on your word!"

"Of course!" Kenneth nodded.

Anthony contemplated for a moment before he started, "This is what happened. When Thalia came here on a mission a few years back..."

After briefly telling the man everything, he looked straight at him. "That's all to it, and we only learned about it two days ago."

By then, Kenneth's eyes had been narrowed into slits. "So, your grandfather was really a member of Vermillion Base?"

"Yes, that has been confirmed now. But it's uncertain whether the truth of his demise has anything to do with Vermillion Base," Anthony answered.

"According to what you both said, Vermillion Base is callous and cold-blooded. How could they possibly allow someone so talented to leave so easily?" Kenneth muttered.

"Thus, you share our sentiments as well, Daddy?" Anthony queried.

"Isn't that obvious?" Kenneth chuckled softly.

"That's what Benjamin and I think, too. We only lack a witness right now!" Anthony stated.

"Don't tell Nat about this first," Kenneth urged.

"Uh..." Anthony faltered.

Noticing that his expression seemed off, Kenneth frowned slightly. "You told her?"

Speaking of that, Anthony stammered in a whisper, "After learning about it that day, I was worried that Nat would be duped, so I panicked and told her about it."

Words eluded Kenneth.

"I was worried that those people from Vermillion Base would lie to her, so I told her about it for her to better guard against them!" Anthony defended.

"Judging from her personality, she would only risk herself all the more to find out the truth after learning about that." Kenneth had no doubts about it.

Likewise, that possibility occurred to Anthony. "Therefore, we've got to find her even faster and stop her!"

Kenneth nodded firmly.

Anthony leaned forward and trained his eyes on the man. "So, do you have news of her now, Daddy?"

When that came up, Kenneth lifted his gaze and eyeballed him. "Don't worry about that anymore!"

The instant Anthony heard that, he sat upright. "What do you mean by that, Daddy?"

"What do you think?"

"Hey, are you going back against your word, Daddy?"

"What do you mean?"

"You promised not to send us back!"

"Yeah, I didn't say I'm sending you both back."

"Then, what are you trying to say?"

"Just stay here and don't go anywhere," Kenneth ordered.

“And that means?”

“It's best that you both stay within this castle before we find Nat.”

“This is illegal confinement, Daddy!” Anthony exclaimed.

“There are no delicious foods and drinks if it's illegal confinement,” Kenneth countered, his eyes fixated on him.

“Daddy!”

“Either go back or stay here and don't go anywhere. It's your choice!” Kenneth asserted, holding his gaze.

Anthony was promptly left without a retort.

He stared at the man wordlessly.

Well, a wise man adapts to the circumstances, so we'll stay and see how it goes.

No longer saying anything, he lowered his head and buried his head in the food.

Just then, Kenneth turned and looked at Benjamin at the side. “What about you?”

Benjamin couldn't say anything else when even Anthony had gone silent. He could only relent as well.

Dipping his head, he ate docilely.

Relief suffused Kenneth as neither of the children argued further.

The three of them sat and ate together.

Sometime later, Kenneth abruptly asked, “Are you two acquainted with Anonymous?”

Cough! Cough!

Anthony suddenly started coughing while eating.

Benjamin similarly stilled for a second.

Narrowing his eyes, Kenneth studied Anthony.