

## **Yo Daddy 431**

### **Chapter 431**

When Kenneth turned around to look at Dave, he couldn't help but chuckle. "No worries. The person who can kill me isn't born yet!"

"It'd better be!" Dave replied.

Kenneth left without saying anything further.

His tall figure elicited a feeling of profound forlornness at night.

Dave didn't turn around and remained seated on the couch. One could hardly see his handsome face in the dimly-lit room.

After the conversation ended sometime, Anthony stood rooted at the same spot and hadn't left.

Although Anthony had no idea about Kenneth's plan, he could tell from their conversation that Kenneth was ready to put everything on the line.

With that thought in mind, his heart skipped a beat.

Anthony knew Kenneth better after getting along with him and witnessing the sacrifice he made for Nat. Hence, even though he used to be dissatisfied with Kenneth, his perception of Kenneth gradually changed.

Now, His heart wrenched after he listened to Kenneth's words.

He knew it was because Kenneth was part of his family.

Although he had never imagined living with Kenneth, he couldn't accept the thought of not seeing Kenneth anymore.

No! Never! We must save Nat! At the same time, Daddy must also be safe!

Anthony began racking his brain to come up with a way to do that.

I must find a way!

After thinking about it for quite some time, a thought flashed across Anthony's mind.

He gazed at Dave, who was already downstairs, for seconds before walking up to him.

"Mr. Dave."

Dave was startled for a moment before he tried to find out who it was.

When Anthony walked closer, Dave frowned and looked at him. "Why haven't you gone to bed at this hour?"

After hesitating for a while, Anthony gazed at Dave and said, "I heard your conversation with Daddy."

Dave was dumbfounded.

Despite his childish face, there was a sense of maturity about Anthony that most people his age did not have.

Dave cleared his throat and came up with a random explanation. "Your dad and I... had a little chat."

"Mr. Dave, I might not be of age, but I'm not a kid anymore. I understand many things!" Anthony shouted.

Dave gazed at him, not knowing how to respond at that moment.

"Hence, you don't have to treat me like a kid!" Anthony added firmly.

While looking at Anthony, Dave somehow felt he was the mini version of Kenneth.

He knew Anthony was different from other kids when Kenneth said Anthony had joined Darknetz.

With that thought in mind, Dave said, "Have a seat!"

Anthony sat on the chair where Kenneth was seated earlier.

"Do you have something to tell me?" Now, Dave sounded like he was talking to an adult instead of a kid.

"Is Daddy going to look for Nat himself?" Anthony asked right away.

Dave hesitated because he recalled Kenneth's reminder.

"Mr. Dave, although I'm not sure what happened between you and Daddy, I can tell Daddy trusts you. You surely won't watch idly as something terrible happens to him, right?" Anthony asked.

Dave narrowed his eyes upon hearing it. "Of course!"

"In that case, please let me know what is happening. Who knows if we can think of another solution together?" Anthony said.

Dave chuckled. "Another solution... Your dad won't choose to do it if there is another way."

Immediately, Anthony argued, "Adults often have a fixed mindset. I might be young, but it doesn't mean I can't find a way! Besides, how do you know for sure without trying it?"

Dave felt his stomach drop as Anthony was talking.

However, after pondering it for a moment, he said, "Your dad doesn't allow me to tell you!"

"But I think you won't listen to him, right?" Anthony quickly asked.

"What do you want me to tell your dad if something happens to you guys!" Even though Dave was worried about Kenneth, he was determined to do as Kenneth asked.

"I promise you I won't act on impulse. Besides, I know my abilities and won't die so easily!" Anthony said.

Dave really thought Anthony wasn't an ordinary kid.

After all, Anthony could quell his worries with only a few words.

Moments later, Dave gave it some thought and said, "All right. I'll tell you—Boss wants your dad to see him alone!"

Anthony narrowed his eyes. "In that case, is Daddy going there alone?"

"Of course. You know he won't risk Nat's life!" Dave said.

## **Chapter 432**

Dave couldn't help but frown at Anthony's words. "What did you say?"

Anthony flashed him a determined gaze. "Vermillion Base's sheer existence is a disaster. Hence, rooting it out will benefit a lot of people!"

"Are you saying you want to get rid of Vermillion Base?" Dave asked him with doubt.

"Yes. You can put it that way!" Anthony responded in a deep voice.

At that moment, Dave couldn't help but think he was building castles in the air.

He is a kid, after all. He didn't think it through.

As Kenneth's best friend and Anthony's elder, Dave couldn't let Anthony behave in such a way. He

hesitated for a while before giving him some advice. “Anthony, I know you're clever. Considering Darknetz has chosen you at such a young age, you're undoubtedly competent. Despite that, I have to advise you—It's good to have dreams, but one can't be full of hot air!”

Meanwhile, Anthony wasn't surprised, for he expected Dave wouldn't believe him. Unperturbed, he took a firm stance on it. “Mr. Dave, I'm not full of hot air or joking. I'm being serious!”

“Anthony, do you know how old you are? I mean, even your dad, a prominent figure, dare not say that!” Dave reminded him.

“That's because Daddy doesn't have a unique advantage!” Anthony argued.

Dave gazed at him in bewilderment. “Oh? What advantage do you have?”

“Mr. Dave, I know you think that I'm swanking. I did say I will destroy the organization. However, it doesn't have to happen right now. I will go up against the organization for the rest of my life. Anyway, I think it won't be long for me to make it happen!” Anthony explained.

“Oh? Is that so?”

“Yes! Believe me,” Anthony responded resolutely.

Although Anthony sounded determined, Dave still thought he was building a castle in the air. Hence, Dave decided to give him an overview of the situation. “Anthony, I have some questions for you. Do you know Vermillion Base's background and why it exists? Why has it lasted for so long and never collapsed? Moreover, Vermillion Base is different from other organizations such as ours—”

“I guess Vermillion Base is related to the anti-government forces. All the more so, it is likely to be supported by the government,” Anthony interrupted before Dave could finish.

Instantly, Dave was stunned and gazed at Anthony in disbelief. However, Anthony looked composed.

Dave said after coming to his senses, “You know... all these.”

“I went out with Thalia these few days and visited many places. Many people are displaced due to Vermillion Base's evil acts. Hence, I collected some information about Vermillion Base to understand it better!” Anthony explained as though it was an easy task.

Dave couldn't believe his ears, but he soon calmed down and nodded. “You're right. Why would you have the thought of destroying Vermillion Base since you know its background?”

“Shouldn't we think of destroying the organization once we understand how evil it is?” Anthony questioned him back.

The next moment, he added, "We won't know who the next victims will be as long as it exists. As such, we can only solve the crux of the problem by destroying it once and for all."

Dave couldn't help but feel curious and impressed by Anthony's words. His lips curled into a smile when he thought Anthony was different from other kids. "Your temperament and character are exactly like your dad's!"

"Otherwise, I am not fit to be his child!" Anthony said proudly.

Dave nodded and lazily leaned back against the couch. After gazing at Anthony for a moment, he said, "You're indeed very resourceful. However, we can't accomplish it simply by talking about it. Given the sheer size of Vermillion Base, it's immensely difficult to root it out!"

"Yes. It will be difficult if we count on a person or an organization to root Vermillion Base out..." Anthony concurred.

Fiddling with the ring on his finger, Dave replied, "Good that you know."

Immediately, Anthony proposed, "What about a few organizations teaming up to do it?"

Dave gazed at him upon hearing it. "What do you mean?"

"Mr. Dave, what are the odds of defeating Vermillion Base if we can combine DX and Darknetz?"

Dave eyed him in puzzlement. "What did you say?"

"What? Is there something wrong with it?" Anthony asked him back.

With a wry smile, Dave said, "Anthony, I know you're part of Darknetz. However, you probably don't know the feud between Darknetz and DX. Let me give you an overview—"

"I know!" Before he could finish, Anthony interrupted composedly.

With a doubtful look, Dave asked, "Is that so?"

"It's related to Daddy and Holden, right? I know a bit of it," Anthony answered helplessly, yet there was a glint of firmness in his eyes.

Dave nodded and said firmly, "In that case, you should know the feud between Darknetz and DX is insoluble. There is no way the two organizations can cooperate!"

Unperturbed, Anthony replied, "It was impossible in the past, but things might already be different now!"

While Dave looked at him in puzzlement, he added, "I will find a way to persuade Darknetz!"

Dave's interest was piqued once Anthony finished. He sat straight and leaned closer toward Anthony. "You sound confident about it. Do you still have a say in Darknetz?"

"To a certain extend!" Anthony answered firmly. At that moment, Dave felt like he was talking with Kenneth.

### **Chapter 433**

Anthony seemed to sense Dave's uncertainty from the change in the latter's countenance. Thus, he stated sincerely, "Mr. Dave, I'm not pulling your leg. I'm serious about it."

He claims he's not pulling my leg, but should I take his words seriously?

Even though Dave was impressed with Anthony's eloquence moments ago, he could not help but feel that the boy was building castles in the air.

"Anthony, don't you think you're overly optimistic? It is easier said than done. Things might not be as simple as how you think!" Dave refuted warily.

"Mr. Dave, you think that I'm bragging, don't you?" Anthony retorted. He could sense the unmissable hint of doubt in Dave's tone and countenance.

The latter did not utter any words. Evidently, Anthony made the right speculation.

With that, Anthony added, "However, I'm not bragging. I mean it, and I have a plan in mind!"

Puzzled, Dave stared at him. "Plan? What kind of plan?"

After pondering for a while, Anthony leaned closer and whispered something to him. Moments later, Dave furrowed his brows and looked at him in sheer disbelief.

"I'm fully aware that my plan might not work perfectly. However, I'm convinced it can at least disrupt Boss' scheme. Most importantly, we must give our all to save Daddy and Nat. In my opinion, we can give it a try!"

"Have you thought about how you could mobilize the others?" Dave asked quizzically.

"Mr. Dave, don't you know that money can do magic?" Anthony asked.

Dave narrowed his eyes as he fixed his gaze on Anthony.

"I believe that someone will be willing to do so. In fact, there will be quite a number!" Anthony replied

confidently. After all, nobody could survive without money. The majority of people were desirous of authority and wealth. Hence, he was sure as hell that someone would do so willingly as long as they were well paid.

Dave continued to stare at Anthony with narrowed eyes. He was impressed with the boy's intelligence a while ago, and now he was even fully convinced by his words at the moment. Regardless of whether things would turn out as expected, Dave had to admit that Anthony had a point.

As mentioned earlier by Anthony, the unique advantage is the key to success. None of us possesses it but him!

Dave could not fathom why Anthony had such a sense of superiority and conviction. Notwithstanding, at the sight of the latter's utter confidence, he believed in him uncontrollably. At the same time, his curiosity about the boy was piqued as time went by.

After much contemplation, Dave looked at him. "Is there anything that you need me to do?"

"I'll start making the necessary arrangements. Mr. Dave, I'll let you know if I need your help at any time," Anthony responded courteously.

Hearing that, Dave nodded. "Okay!"

Anthony finally plastered a smile on his face after Dave agreed. "Mr. Dave, my daddy is blessed to have such a wonderful friend like you."

The latter's lips lifted into a smile as he was pleased with Anthony's compliment. "Remember to repeat this statement to your daddy. I reckon he needs his close ones to enlighten him on that. Otherwise, he'll keep thinking that I owe him a lot."

Anthony's lips curled up. "Okay! I'll surely tell him that after we manage to save Nat."

Dave smiled pleasantly.

"It's getting late, and I have to go back to my room first. Mr. Dave, good night."

"Good night!"

The next moment, Anthony headed upstairs.

Seated on the couch, Dave gazed at Anthony's retreating figure with inexplicit emotion. He had a hunch the latter would have a bright future beyond imagination if his plan turned out successful.

At that very moment, he could not help but mock himself. No doubt, we are incomparable to the highly competent young ones!

Once Anthony was back in his room, he turned on the laptop and accessed Hacker Community.

After contemplating for a while, he finally decided to post a bounty list with Boss' information, offering a bounty of at least a hundred million.

On top of that, he did not limit the number of people joining. In other words, the hackers could work in groups, and the reward would be calculated based on the number of people who joined. It could vary according to Boss' condition after they accomplished their mission. Nevertheless, Anthony assured them that the minimum amount paid to them would be one hundred million regardless of whether Boss was captured alive, severely injured, or offed.

After going through what he had typed, Anthony pressed a button to post it right away.

He had intentionally chosen a time when most hackers actively accessed the site. The moment his bounty list was posted, it created an uproar.

Not to mention, he posted it in the name of Anonymous, who had been lying low. Furthermore, nobody else had ever come up with such a bounty list after Shadow Seeker's previous post. Hence, it whipped the other hackers up instantly, and they started gossiping fervently.

Undeniably, Shadow Seeker's post to track down Vermillion Base was followed by Anonymous' to capture Boss. Subsequently, the others could not refrain from suspecting that Anonymous had done that solely for Shadow Seeker.

It was known to everyone in the hacking world that Anonymous had been flattering Shadow Seeker. Nevertheless, Shadow Seeker had never responded so far. Inevitably, they sensed some changes after the duo's previous intense competition.

Everyone in Hacker Community was open-minded and did not mind much, even if any among them was homoromantic. Many were only worried about the invincible team formed once Shadow Seeker and Anonymous were in a relationship. With that, the duo would be ranked the top in the hacking world. By then, everyone else would be no match for them.

## **Chapter 434**

At that very moment, Anthony's phone rang. It turned out to be a call from Kyle.

He hesitated for a while before answering it.

"Hello."

Just as Kyle was about to say something, he was stunned when a kid's voice sounded from the other end of the line. "What happened to your voice?"



“Why? You don't like it?”

“Good gracious! Why are you using a voice changer?”

Anthony was utterly speechless.

Hmph! Now that I'm thinking of revealing my true identity when liaising with him, he doesn't believe me!

“What is it? Cut to the chase,” Anthony urged him without making any explanation.

His words reminded Kyle of something. “How could you still have the cheek to say so? Why did you post the bounty list on Hacker Community?”

“You saw it?” Anthony drawled.

Kyle took a deep breath. “How can I overlook such an eye-catching post?”

“Since you'd seen it, what's the point of asking me again?” Anthony snapped.

“You—I want to ask what you intend to do.” Kyle finally went straight to the point.

“Didn't you see that? I'm trying to track down Boss!” Anthony hissed with intense abhorrence in his tone.

Kyle could not sense that on the other end of the line. He said, “Vermillion Base has nothing to do with us. Don't you think you'll only put yourself in deep water by acting impulsively?”

Anthony lowered his voice. “There's nothing between Darknetz and him, but there is something between him and me!”

Kyle frowned. “What do you mean?”

Anthony did not utter any words. There was a hint of hostility in his eyes.

Dumbstruck, Kyle only asked hesitantly after a while, “Did they inflict any harm on you?”

After remaining silent for a while, Anthony lowered his voice and enunciated, “They didn't lay a finger on me but targeted someone who is the most important to me instead!”

In a split second, realization dawned on Kyle. After remaining silent for a while, he asked, “So that was why you went to Spaunia?”

Without hesitation, Anthony answered, “Yes!”

"I got it!" Kyle blurted out.

"No! You don't understand! Apart from tracking him down and offing him, I vow to eliminate Vermillion Base!" Anthony stated resolutely. His childlike voice was not loud, but Kyle could sense the intense fury in his tone.

"Anthony—"

"Don't try to stop me if you treat me as your friend!" Anthony cut him off.

"I'm not trying to stop you. It's a rule that Darknetz should never step on anyone's toes, but it doesn't mean we are scaredy-cats. If he has the gall to provoke you, the whole Darknetz won't let him off!" Kyle emphasized solemnly.

Flabbergasted, Anthony asked tactfully, "Aren't you angry?"

"Of course, I'm still mad at you!" Kyle snorted.

"Then why did you—"

"I'm mad because you didn't mention a single word about this matter!"

Anthony was rendered speechless. He was caught off guard by the sudden change in Kyle's demeanor.

"Is that the reason you have been stopping me from looking for you?" Kyle asked again.

"No. That's not the sole reason..."

However, Kyle assumed his instinct was right and tried to appease Anthony.

"Anthony, I admit that I had been standing in your way before this as I did not wish to see you end up being chastised by the others. However, things will be different if they have gotten on your nerves first. Heed my words. Darknetz is fearless. If they dare to provoke you, they are actually going against the whole Darknetz too. Just hang on. I'll meet you right after resolving Holden's matter. Let's discuss this in detail later!"

"It's all right—"

"Enough of that! There's no need for formality now. Wait for me, okay?"

"But—"

"All right. I have a call from Holden. Just wait for my call." With that, he hung up on Anthony.

Looking at his phone, Anthony could not help but let out a resigned sigh.

He knew he would have to meet Kyle in person sooner or later. Thus, he had been looking for ideal timing. But when will be the right time?

Nevertheless, no matter how he racked his brain, he did not have any conclusion.

Forget about it. I'll just go with the flow then.

At the thought, Anthony caught a glimpse of the increasing number of the names registered in the bounty list displayed on the laptop screen. He lowered his gaze and posted a contact detail before closing the laptop.

The following morning, Anthony overslept as he went to bed much later than usual the previous night. Subsequently, Benjamin had to wake him up.

"Anthony Watson, wake up!"

Sensing someone was shaking him, Anthony finally opened his eyes and stared groggily at Benjamin. "What's the matter with you?"

He rolled over and planned to sleep again.

"How could you still sleep at this hour?" Benjamin yelled behind him.

"What's the time now?" Anthony mumbled.

"Ten o'clock! The clock has already struck ten!"

Just as Anthony was about to drift off to sleep with his eyes closed again, he opened his eyes abruptly and sat on the bed. "What did you say?"

Benjamin let out a sigh as he stared at Anthony. At the same time, the latter took the watch from the table to have a look. "Good gracious! It's ten o'clock now..."

Anthony looked dazed as he sat on the bed. It was as though he was deep in thought.

Meanwhile, Benjamin teased him, "Ha! Even though you don't look like Nat, you're obviously a sleepyhead like her..."

"Are you sure I don't look like Nat? Don't you know what recessive genes are? Undeniably, I still bear a resemblance to her!" At that moment, Anthony came to his senses and rolled over to get out of bed.

Next, he got changed swiftly before striding out of the room.

## **Chapter 435**

Anthony snapped his head back. The instant he caught sight of Kenneth, his eyes brimmed with delight.

“Daddy!” With his eyes pinned on the man, he promptly trotted over.

Kenneth merely stood frozen on the spot. He could distinctly perceive the joy in Anthony's eyes as the latter gazed at him.

That was something he had never seen before.

“What's wrong?” he inquired, holding his son's gaze.

Upon seeing that he hadn't left and was perfectly fine, Anthony immediately shook his head. “Nothing. I'm just glad to see you!”

Kenneth was rendered speechless.

When has he ever cherished me so much? This is the very first time. Has hell frozen over?

Right then, Benjamin was also watching everything from the side. Verily, he found Anthony's remark utterly nauseating.

When did he start flattering Daddy in such a manner?

Subsequently, Kenneth swept his eyes over them both. “Have you had breakfast?”

“Nope!” Anthony shook his head.

“Go and eat something.”

“I'm not hungry, Daddy!” Anthony stared at Kenneth, contemplating how he should tell the latter about his plan.

“You two are still growing, so you must eat. If Nat were to learn about this, she'd shove the blame on me again,” Kenneth countered.

“I've got something to tell you, Daddy!”

“Put it on hold until after you've eaten,” Kenneth asserted.

Anthony's eyes remained fixated on him. “Then, Daddy, you won't be going out today, right?”

At once, something seemingly dawned upon Kenneth. He looked right at Anthony, his ebony eyes scrutinizing for more information.

Anthony did the same. They both stared at each other.

A moment later, Kenneth closed his eyes and admitted softly, "Not necessarily."

Anthony's brows abruptly furrowed. "What does that mean? You're going out, Daddy? Where are you going?"

Kenneth eyed him probingly. "Why? Is something the matter?"

After pondering for a while, Anthony decided to lay his cards on the table. "Regarding Nat, Daddy, I've figured out a method."

No sooner had his words rang out than Kenneth frowned. "Hadn't I said that you two are not supposed to get involved in this matter anymore?"

"But—"

"If you refuse to listen to me, I'll have no choice but to have someone send you both back!" Kenneth warned, glowering at Anthony.

Anthony went silent for a moment.

Aggrieved, he was just about to argue further when Benjamin saw that and instantly clapped a hand over his mouth.

Then, Benjamin turned to Kenneth. Smiling, he explained, "Daddy, Tony has always been stubborn. Go and get busy. I'll watch over him!"

Kenneth nodded at him before he swept a gaze over Anthony and left.

When the man had disappeared into the hidden room, Anthony pushed Benjamin's hand away and demanded impatiently, "Why did you stop me?"

"Why would you continue arguing when Daddy has already made things clear? Or were you really planning to force Daddy to send us back?" Benjamin retorted.

He has always been exceedingly rational.

To his surprise, a frown marred Anthony's countenance. He appeared to have something to say yet was hesitant to speak. "That's because you don't know..." He wanted to reveal the truth, but ultimately, he

swallowed the words on the tip of his tongue.

By then, Benjamin had noticed that something was amiss. He's rarely in such a panic. There was only twice that he was in such a state. That was back when something happened to Nat and Denise. This is the third time...

In a flash, he regarded Anthony suspiciously and questioned, "Is there something I don't know?"

Anthony's brows were knitted together, his lips pressed into a thin line. He wore a conflicted expression on his face.

"Also, you said something about Daddy earlier... What exactly were you trying to say?" Benjamin pressed, eyeballing him.

Still, Anthony kept his lips pursed. He deliberated for a long while before lifting his eyes to meet Benjamin's gaze.

"Benjamin..."

After mulling it over, he eventually told him about the conversation he overheard yesterday.

Sure enough, Benjamin's expression darkened in the blink of an eye when he heard it.

Anthony inhaled deeply. "I initially planned to seek Daddy out and talk to him this morning, but I overslept. I thought he had left, so I was overwrought."

Frowning, Benjamin paced back and forth.

Just when Anthony was going to speak, he lifted his eyes and looked at his brother. "No, we can't allow Daddy to go alone. What if he fails to save Nat and even gets himself in hot water instead?"

"Do you think he doesn't know that? But do you think he'll give up saving her? Even if there's a glimmer of hope, he'll still go. Even if we were the ones in his shoes, would we not do the same, much less him?" Anthony riposted.

Words eluded Benjamin.

Indeed, that's the truth. But right now, it's precisely because we aren't the ones going that we can act as rational bystanders.

"Well, what are you trying to say then? Are we to simply stand idly by and watch as Daddy court... without stopping him?" Benjamin interrogated, the word "death" stuck in his throat.

He was likewise panicked then, so his attitude wasn't all that pleasant.

At that, Anthony glared at him. "It was because I wanted to stop him that I went looking for him as soon as I woke up. And I only told you about it now because I want to discuss it with you. Why are you in such a tizzy?"

"I'm in such a tizzy..." Benjamin swallowed the words on the tip of his tongue before enunciating, "I only think that this is a bit too cruel. Why must things be like this? If we don't stop Daddy, disaster might very likely befall him. But what about Nat if we do stop him?"

"That's why we've got to discuss my plan together!" Anthony declared.

## **Chapter 436**

"Are you saying... that this is your plan?" Benjamin ventured, goggling at Anthony.

"Well, duh. Do you think I'm so foolish as to employ such a method to take my revenge against him?" Anthony retorted.

Nonetheless, Benjamin frowned at him. "No, I don't quite understand your plan."

Anthony motioned for him to take a seat. "Sit down, and we'll talk."

Thus, they both walked over to the dining table and sat down.

Just when Anthony was about to speak, the housekeeper approached with breakfast. His brows creased as he eyed the food in front of him. He asked bluntly, "Is there steak?"

Upon hearing that, the housekeeper gawped at him. She then inclined her head in affirmation. "Yes."

"I'd like to have steak, please. Thank you!" Anthony stated.

The housekeeper nodded. "Sure! Give me a few minutes!"

Anthony bobbed his head.

Seeing as the housekeeper was going to leave, Benjamin chimed in, "I'd like to have steak, too! Medium-cooked, please. Thank you!"

The housekeeper's gaze roamed over them. Thereafter, she dipped her head and left.

At once, Anthony swung his gaze at Benjamin.

Without realizing it, they had both been speaking in Capstone.

They didn't know a single word when they first came over, but by then, they could have basic conversations in the language.

Anthony regarded him with a smirk on his lips "When did you learn it?"

"Huh?" Benjamin grunted, feigning ignorance.

"Stop faking it!" Anthony huffed.

Arching an eyebrow, Benjamin decided to admit to it. "It's no big deal. I just picked it up during the few days you were wearing earphones for no reason."

Anthony was struck dumb.

It looks like he knows everything though he said nothing.

At that thought, the corners of his lips turned up. "Well, well, well... You're increasingly shrewd now!"

"Right back at you!"

Even then, the two brothers didn't forget to bicker with each other.

Only when the housekeeper brought two plates of steak over did they revert to normal.

"All right, let's put that aside first. Let's talk business. What exactly is your plan?" Benjamin inquired, pinning his eyes on Anthony.

Anthony pondered for some time before answering, "I'd been thinking about this since I overheard the conversation between Daddy and Mr. Dave yesterday... But after turning it over in my mind, this was the only method available to me."

While saying that, he trained his eyes on Benjamin. "That person wants Daddy's life, and Daddy will definitely go alone in order to save Nat. But it doesn't matter what Daddy's plan is for he'll still end up taking damage even if he wins by a slight edge. And even then, he might not be able to save her."

"That's true." Benjamin sighed.

"I brooded over it yesterday, but I couldn't involve Darknetz in this either. You know the grudge between Daddy and Darknetz. Hence, this was the only method I could use," Anthony explained, holding his gaze.

In a trice, understanding dawned upon Benjamin. "So, you're not doing this for revenge. Instead, it's to muddy the waters to make the person worried and fearful. Then, Daddy will have a greater chance of saving Nat."



Anthony nodded at that. "Even if we can't kill that person, it's still an opportunity if we can strike some fear into him and inflict damage on him!"

"This is undeniably a great method, but did you ever consider that you'd be placing yourself at risk by doing so? Yes, I know they might not necessarily be able to find you, but what if they succeed in doing so? After all, nothing can remain a secret forever in this world. By that time, you'd be the one in danger."

"So what if they were to discover my identity? It doesn't matter as long as it can save Nat, and she and Daddy are both fine. Besides, they'd need time to look for me. Furthermore, I'd have gone for training at Darknetz. Would they still be able to find me?" Anthony defended.

Benjamin narrowed his eyes a fraction. On second thought, that's true.

"Therefore, you've already taken everything into consideration?"

"But of course! Do you really think I'd lost my senses?" Anthony retorted.

Hearing that, Benjamin bobbed his head. "But still, you've got to be more careful when you go out after having posted that bounty list yesterday. Even Thalia phoned about this matter, so you should be aware of its gravity!"

Needless to say, Anthony was well aware of that. "Kyle phoned me as well yesterday."

Benjamin lifted his eyes to him. "And?"

"I made my stance clear. While I didn't tell him the specifics, ultimately, he's still on my side!" Anthony announced calmly.

"That's because he doesn't know your relationship with Daddy, right?" Benjamin questioned.

Anthony nodded.

"If he knew, things would've probably been different," Benjamin muttered. The thought of that alone gave him a headache.

"Yeah. But no matter what, I'm still very glad about his attitude. He truly regards me as a friend!" Anthony commented.

"There's no doubt about that," Benjamin seconded. All of a sudden, something occurred to him. "Oh yes, he must be determined to rush over to lend you a hand after learning that you're going head-to-head with Vermillion Base, huh?"

Anthony bobbed his head. "He said he'd come over after settling Holden's matter."

Benjamin was startled for a second. "Then, our relationship with Daddy won't be able to remain under wraps anymore at that time, no?"

"It doesn't matter any longer. We'll take things one at a step then. The most important thing at present is to save Nat," Anthony asserted.

Benjamin heaved a sigh. "I mean, what if Kyle insists on going against Daddy even after learning the truth?"

Anthony went silent.

Truth be told, that possibility had never crossed his mind.

"That wouldn't happen, would it?" he riposted.

"Why not? The grievance between Darknetz and DX runs far deeper than we can imagine. I think anything might happen!" Benjamin argued.

Anthony's brows scrunched together.

#### **Chapter 437**

Both Anthony and Benjamin froze for a moment. They exchanged a look, uneasiness written clear in their eyes.

"We saw him earlier. He went to the hidden room," Anthony answered. Then, he stared straight at Dave. "What's wrong, Mr. Dave?"

"I've asked those in the hidden room, but they said he came out after going in for a cursory look. Then, he disappeared. I just came back from outside, and a car is missing from the courtyard!" Dave exclaimed.

"Are you saying that Daddy... has left?" Benjamin ventured.

Dave said nothing, but his meaning was evident.

Without a single word, Anthony whirled around and hurried off.

Dave eyed him in puzzlement. "Where are you going?"

"I want to go and look for Daddy!" Anthony strode right toward the door with a determined look in his eyes.

Seeing that, Dave stepped forward to stop him. "Do you know where he went that you're charging off to look for him?"

"I don't care where he went! Anyway, I'm going to look for him!" Anthony insisted.

When Dave saw that he was still adamant about it, he blocked his path directly. "No, you can't go out."

"Mr. Dave, Daddy couldn't have gone far yet. Thus, we can still find him if we want to do so. But as time goes by, we won't be able to find him anymore!" Anthony uttered urgently, his eyes fixated on the man.

"Nothing will happen to him at the moment, but if you were to step out of this door and run into danger, I wouldn't be able to explain things to him!" Dave maintained.

"That's unnecessary!" Anthony argued.

"Even so, you can't go out!" Dave remained firm without showing any signs of budging.

Panic swamped Anthony. He was determined to leave by all means, but Dave couldn't possibly allow him to do so. The latter stood in his path, his absolute height and physique making it clear that Anthony wouldn't be his match.

"Step aside, Mr. Dave!" he ordered, glowering at the man.

"Be good, Anthony!" Dave hissed lowly.

"I've never been a good boy!" It was clear as day that nothing could get through to Anthony right then.

When Dave saw he was still intent on barging out, he had no other choice left. He scooped the boy right up.

That promptly took Anthony aback.

"What are you doing, Mr. Dave? Let go of me!" He struggled wildly.

"I'll take you to someplace for you to calm down."

"I don't need that! Let me down, Mr. Dave! I want to go and look for my daddy!" Anthony continued struggling.

Regretfully, Dave turned a deaf ear to him then. Hoisting the boy over his shoulder, he made to leave.

Before doing so, however, he cast a glance at Benjamin at the side. "Why, do you want to go out as well?" he inquired bluntly.

Under such circumstances, Benjamin naturally didn't dare admit to that.

He hastily shook his head. "No!"

"Then, come with me!"

"Do I still need to go with you even if I'm not going out?" Benjamin asked tentatively. He initially planned to have Anthony kick up a fuss while he took advantage of the chaotic situation to sneak out. Alas, things seemingly weren't developing according to his plan.

"Are you going to come with me willingly, or do you want me to carry you in my other hand?" Dave threatened.

Benjamin was a smart cookie, so he immediately replied, "I'll come willingly!"

With that, Dave walked ahead with Anthony over his shoulder while Benjamin trailed behind.

"Let me go, Mr. Dave! Are you just going to watch idly by as my daddy goes to his death?" Anthony bellowed.

"Don't worry. Not just anyone can take your father's life."

"Did you forget our chat yesterday? You promised to help me!"

"Yes, I did promise to help you, but I now suddenly feel that my decision yesterday might have been a mistake."

"Why?"

"Because you're too impulsive!"

"I—"

Before Anthony could argue further, Benjamin, who was at the back, threw a look at him, signaling him to quieten down.

Eyeing his brother, Anthony wavered for a long moment. In the end, he chose to zip his mouth.

Nevertheless, Dave wasn't surprised that he was no longer making a fuss and had quietened down instead. These two kids are too smart, so who knows what tricks they've got up their sleeves? Following that thought, he quickened his steps as he headed toward the bedrooms.

It wasn't until they arrived at Anthony's room that he placed the latter down.

“Mr. Dave—”

“I know what you want to say, but whatever you say right now isn't going to work. Stay here today and dwell upon things!”

Anthony pinned his eyes on the man. “What do you mean by that, Mr. Dave?”

Dave said nothing, answering with his actions instead. He walked out of the room and shut the door.

Anthony and Benjamin were both stunned. They instantly dashed forward, but no matter how they twisted the handle, the door simply wouldn't open.

“Stop wasting your energy. I've already locked the door from the outside!”

“Hey, how could you do this, Mr. Dave?” Anthony demanded.

“Don't blame me for doing this, Anthony. I'm only doing this in consideration of your safety. It was also your daddy's instruction to me when he left. I promised him that I'd keep you both safe.”

Through the door, Anthony stilled for a heartbeat. “You said it was daddy who instructed you to do this?”

“Yes!”

Anthony proceeded to search his mind for something.

At that precise moment, Benjamin interjected, “Mr. Dave, you know our daddy went to the lion's den alone. What's the meaning of you locking us up in such a manner? We promise not to run away. Open the door, and we'll talk things out nicely, okay?”

## **Chapter 438**

Benjamin promptly rushed over.

Anthony dug a black rope out of his bag.

“Although this isn't rock-climbing equipment, it should work just fine!” Anthony crowed.

There was a hook-shaped item that appeared very exquisite on one end of the rope.

Taking it, Benjamin turned it over in his hands. A glimmer of surprise showed in his eyes. “Why does this look just like those ropes thieves use in movies?”

“It's about the same. It's a bit different but functions similarly,” Anthony replied.

"No, I don't get it. W-Why would you carry such a thing with you?" Surprise inundated Benjamin.

"Back when something happened to Denise, we had to climb down the cave. After that, I had someone customize this. I've been carrying it with me ever since. Never had I thought that it'd really come in handy now!" Anthony explained.

Words eluded Benjamin.

"Come, let's try it out!" Anthony gushed, heading to the window with the rope in hand.

"Wait!" Stretching out a hand, Benjamin stopped him.

"What's wrong?"

"Wait for a while longer. There are people down there right now!" Benjamin warned.

Looking at him, Anthony hesitated for a moment before nodding.

"Calm down first. Think about where we'll be going and what we'll be doing after we get out of here. Even if we go and look for Daddy, can we still find him?" Benjamin questioned.

As he spoke, he strolled over to the couch and sat down. He held Anthony's gaze.

By then, Anthony had already calmed down. "Even if we go out now, we definitely won't be able to find him. But still, we've got to look for him, no?"

Benjamin was silent for a while, seemingly thinking about something. Subsequently, he lifted his head and looked at Anthony. "Mr. Dave said that Daddy drove off in his car. Didn't we track his car previously? Can't we use the same method now?"

His remark was a timely reminder to Anthony. "We can, but how would we know which car when he has so many cars?" he wondered.

"We'll just try one by one, then."

Feeling that it made sense, Anthony turned on his computer in the next second.

"Do you remember the license plates?"

"When I walked past previously, I took a few glances, so I somewhat remember."

Upon hearing that, Anthony immediately placed his hands on his computer. "Let me check the previous car first!"

Benjamin got up and walked over, watching beside him.

A moment later, the location indicated was two hundred meters away from them.

"This isn't the one!" Anthony groaned.

"Try this one!" Benjamin typed in a license plate on the keyboard.

Again, the location indicated was two hundred meters away from them.

"This isn't it either!"

Glimpsing the pen and paper at the side, Benjamin snagged them and jotted a few license plates down. When it came to the final figure, he wavered slightly.

"It's seven!" Anthony interjected.

Benjamin stared at him.

"I didn't pay attention to the other cars, but I've got some impression of this one!" Anthony maintained.

After noting down the figure "seven" on the paper, Benjamin turned to him. "This is all."

"I'll try each one," Anthony remarked.

Benjamin didn't budge but continued watching from the side.

There were five to six cars in total.

Only when they reached the last car that the location indicated was a distance away from them.

"Bingo!" Anthony exclaimed excitedly.

Benjamin bent down and leaned closer for a look. Sure enough, the car was presently on the move.

"Say, could it be this one?" Anthony inquired.

"My instincts say yes!" Benjamin gazed at him, seemingly seeking affirmation.

A while later, Anthony echoed, "My instincts say the same!"

"Then, this is it!" The corners of Benjamin's lips turned up, and he shifted his gaze back to the screen.

They both fixated their eyes on the screen and studied the direction in which the car was moving.

Half an hour later, the car came to a stop.

"It has stopped!" Benjamin cried out.

"Where's this place?" Anthony wondered, his eyes pinned on the screen.

"Send it to Thalia and ask her. Perhaps she knows," Benjamin suggested.

"Great idea!" Thus, Anthony sent the location to Thalia.

At the same time, Benjamin phoned the latter.

After a few rings, the call was connected.

"Hey, Thalia!"

"What's the meaning of the location you sent?" Thalia asked.

"Do you know where it is?"

"Judging from the location... it seems to be an uninhabited zone."

"An uninhabited zone? What does that mean?"

In response, Thalia elucidated, "Many years ago, this was a prosperous area. Later on, there was war, and the area became barren. For that reason, it's known as an uninhabited zone. But that was years ago. I haven't been there recently either. What happened? Why are you asking?"

"My daddy went there."

"Kenneth Hamilton? Why did he go there?"

"If I'm correct, that person with the codename Boss asked to meet him there. Daddy went there to save Nat!"

"How many people went along?"

"He went alone."

A brief pause came from Thalia. "Did he go to die?"

Benjamin went speechless.



## Chapter 439

Seeing that Anthony hung up on Thalia, Benjamin asked beside him, "Are you mad?"

Anthony shook his head. "No."

"You're still denying it when it's written all over you?" Benjamin didn't believe him.

Inhaling deeply, Anthony closed his eyes and admitted, "I'm mad at myself for being too young and weak. Actually, Thalia is right. Her identity is inherently sensitive in regard to Daddy. We can't impose this on her. I understand the principle of treating others as you want to be treated. I was just too reliant on her out of habit."

Benjamin nodded as he listened. After all that reasoning, he had ascertained that Anthony was indeed not angry.

"But why did you hang up on her?"

"That's because realization suddenly dawned upon me, and I was a tad upset. This isn't her responsibility and she has no obligation in the first place. In fact, we should be grateful that she accompanied us here and went around with us, investigating this and that. We shouldn't have demanded more from her," Anthony answered.

Hearing that, Benjamin bobbed his head. "Then, you should have talked to her nicely. With you having hung up on her, she'll probably—"

Before he had even finished his sentence, the phone rang again.

Lowering his eyes, Benjamin stared at the caller ID. "Speak of the devil!"

Anthony realized his mistake as well. He took the phone away from Benjamin's hand and answered the call.

"You've now gotten brazen, huh, Anthony Watson?" Thalia lambasted as soon as the call was connected.

"Sorry about earlier!"

"Uh..." Thalia was still venting when she abruptly stopped upon hearing Anthony's sudden apology.

Anthony was exceedingly arrogant and had never apologized. Thus, she was promptly stumped.

"Hey, what other tricks are you up to now?" Thalia only managed to gather her thoughts after a long time had passed.

Unexpectedly, Anthony remained solemn as he admitted, "I failed to consider the matter from your perspective earlier. You're right, and I indeed shouldn't be troubling you. As such, I apologize!"

Thalia was entirely lost.

She still had some tantrums in her if he hadn't apologized. But when he had done so, she couldn't shake off the feeling that she was abandoning them and leaving them to their fates.

"What is wrong with you, Anthony?"

"What do you mean?"

"Why are you saying that you shouldn't be troubling me? I've said that I'd always go all out and never back off when it's something to do with the two of you. That aside, I promised Nat to take good care of you both. What do you mean by saying that now? Are you trying to provoke me deliberately?" Thalia demanded in return.

"No!"

"What a lie!"

"In that case, I'll apologize once more—"

"Anthony Watson!"

"All right, I'm really serious. I don't mean to provoke you at all. Really!" Anthony vowed earnestly.

On the other end of the line, Thalia had nothing else to say to that.

"Okay, I've still got something to do over here, so I'll be hanging up. We'll meet again when everything is over. At that time, I'll leave with you," Anthony uttered.

At that, Thalia really didn't know what to say on the other end of the phone. "Then..."

"Then, that's it. It's decided! So long!" With that, Anthony hung up the phone once more.

Looking on beside him, Benjamin couldn't help but admit that he harbored some admiration for Anthony at that instant.

He admits it when he makes a mistake, willing to humble himself. On top of that, he can calm down quickly even when he's at the height of fury and is able to comfort those who care about him. That alone had him impressed to the core.

Subsequently, Anthony handed the phone to Benjamin. "Don't answer first if Thalia calls again."

“Why?”

“I'm worried that she still won't be able to resist coming over in the end.”

“Isn't that exactly what you want?”

Anthony shot him a glare, upon which Benjamin quirked an eyebrow. “What are we going to do if she isn't going?”

“Why worry about going anywhere when we've got money? If there's no other way, we can hire someone and rent a car. Anyway, we don't have any problems making simple conversation now,” Anthony replied.

In response, Benjamin nodded. “Okay!”

“Go and see how are things below,” Anthony urged.

Benjamin walked over to the window and looked down, but there were still people coming and going beneath.

Standing by the window, he shook his head at Anthony.

Anthony frowned, racking his brain for a solution.

“Otherwise, we can only wait until evening to make a move. It's now broad daylight, so we're too conspicuous.”

After mulling it over, Anthony nodded. “That's our only recourse, then.”

“Let's check and see whether Daddy's location has changed,” Benjamin proposed.

Once again, they both fastened their gazes on the computer.

“It isn't moving anymore,” Anthony answered.

“I remember that this watch has a positioning function back when we searched for Denise. Can we send the location to our phones?” Benjamin queried.

“Yup!”

## **Chapter 440**

As Anthony was about to head down, Benjamin reached out to stop him.

"Tony, let me go first," he said as he looked worried.

Anthony gazed at him and feigned nonchalance. "Why? Do you not trust me or the rope?"

"That's not it," Benjamin responded. I was worried about him.

"That's enough. I won't argue with you if we are elsewhere, but today, I'm your elder brother. I'll go first, and you'll be the second." With that said, he didn't give Benjamin a chance to speak and walked past him to grab the rope.

He was acting like the elder brother he was.

Indeed, Benjamin fell silent and shot Anthony an indescribable look.

After Anthony went down, he inched nearer and urged, "Hold on tight. Be careful!"

Anthony glanced at him and turned to look at the ground. A corner of his lips lifted as he said, "Don't worry. I'll be fine." Grabbing the rope, he lowered himself slowly.

Benjamin held the rope rightly and stared at Anthony, afraid that the latter would be in danger.

He only heaved a sigh of relief when Anthony landed on the ground safely.

"You can come down now," Anthony's voice rang from his watch.

"Got it!" Benjamin replied.

"Be careful. I'll meet you down here," Anthony told him. Benjamin flashed a grin. Without hesitation, he leaped out to hold the rope and lowered himself to the ground.

There was no hesitation on his end at all.

Anthony stared at Benjamin. He trusted that Benjamin was able to complete the feat but couldn't stop himself from worrying.

Fortunately, they had learned rock climbing previously and weren't afraid of heights. They were also good at leveraging their weights, so Benjamin soon reached the ground.

Anthony's lips curled. "Not bad. That was a good drop. You were two seconds faster than me."

Benjamin turned over his shoulder. "You'll be fast if you get to be the second one."

"I can't believe you didn't feel a sense of superiority over me!"

"I prefer a fair competition," Benjamin replied.

Anthony chuckled. "Fine. I'll give you a chance for a fair competition next time!"

Benjamin looked down. "Anytime!"

Anthony immediately chirped, "No matter what, you're still my younger brother. That won't change."

Benjamin fell silent.

Seeing that, Anthony burst out laughing.

It was a joyful victory for him.

Benjamin remained unfazed. "I can't decide to be born first, but I can be first for everything I do in life. Anthony, just you wait. I won't lose to you!"

"Oh? Is that so?"

"Of course!"

"Okay. I shall wait for that day to come!"

Benjamin glanced at him. "Let's go."

The brothers chatted as they headed out.

As they had assumed it was a successful escape, they were shocked to see some people appearing at the door.

"Why is this happening?" Benjamin asked in a voice so low that only both of them could hear.

Anthony clenched his jaw and muttered, "How would I know?"

They exchanged a look and immediately spun on their heels to run in different directions.

That was how in sync they were.

The people at the door were surprised to see them escape. They then separated into two teams to go after the kids.

Ten minutes later, Anthony and Benjamin reunited again, each accompanied by dozens of men.

They shared a dejected look, having failed to flee the scene.

Before they could say anything, Dave showed up.

“Mr. Dave!” Anthony greeted him at once.

Dave glanced at them before looking at the men. “You may leave now.”

The men filed away as told.

When they were left alone, Dave looked at them. “You tried to escape, huh?”

“Mr. Dave, I know you want to protect us, but I don't think this is a good way to do it.”

“I don't call the shots. You can tell your daddy later. I'm just carrying out his order,” Dave told them.

“But you promised to help us yesterday!!” Anthony protested.

“Yes. I'm going to help you!”

“Then why did you—”

“Are they conflicting issues? Offering you help and listening to your daddy's order are two different matters!”

Anthony was rendered speechless. Is this how adults trick people?

He took a deep breath angrily but was at a loss.

Dave didn't really want to tease them, so he went over and gazed at them. “I know you're worried about him, but he's concerned about you, too. Please cooperate with us, all right?”

Anthony looked up at him. “Have you found Daddy?”

Dave nodded. “I'm making progress.”

“Is he in the uninhabited zone?” Anthony inquired.

Dave froze. “How do you know that?”

A smug look flickered in Anthony's gaze. He concealed it quickly and pretended to be calm. “Mr. Dave, I know more than you can imagine!”

Dave's gaze landed on him.

"Mr. Dave, I promise not to act recklessly and will listen to your orders. Can you bring us along with you?" Anthony pleaded.

Dave was about to reply to him when Benjamin cut in, "Or you can stop restricting our freedom!"