

## **Yo Daddy 441**

### **Chapter 441**

Before Dave left, Anthony called out, "Mr. Dave!"

Dave turned over his shoulder to look at them. "I need to deal with something. Do as you please."

Having said that, he strode out.

Anthony and Benjamin immediately went after him.

Outside, Dave belatedly realized they had tagged along with him. "What's the matter? Do you need anything else?"

Anthony said, "Mr. Dave, let us come with you. We might be able to help you."

Dave frowned.

"Mr. Dave, don't doubt us. We can help you. Just think of it as a test. If we can't do anything, you can ignore our suggestion and assume we're just kids. Will that do?" Benjamin suggested.

Despite their adorable looks, they are exceptionally smart. I can't think of them as ordinary children. Just look at how persistent and eloquent they are.

After thinking over their suggestion, Dave gestured for them to follow him.

Anthony and Benjamin promptly broke into huge grins and went after him.

Dave walked into the hidden room to see Miguel in front of the computer. The latter was sucking on a lollipop and seemed nervous.

"What's wrong?" Dave asked after coming to a stop behind him.

Miguel looked up, seemingly stumped. "Dave, the car you told me to keep an eye on disappeared."

"What? When did that happen?" Dave demanded.

"Just a while ago. I called you right after I realized it went missing. Only five minutes have passed since its disappearance," Miguel replied.

The kids raised their hands and glanced at the location on their watches.

They exchanged a look silently.

"How did that happen?" Despite his scowl, Dave was concerned.

"The GPS tracker was discovered, or he had entered an area where the signal was disrupted," Miguel guessed.

Dave's expression was dark. Never mind if Kenneth had discovered their GPS tracker. If he had entered an area where the signal was disrupted, it would be hard to find him again."

They were deep in thought when Anthony broke the silence. "Mr. Dave, we have Daddy's address!"

Dave whirled around to look at him.

Without further delay, Anthony raised his arm and clicked on his watch. A map with a red dot indicating the car's location was cast to the screen.

Dave narrowed his gaze when he noticed the location was similar to the location they tracked down.

"How did you get this?" he questioned.

"You tracked his car down using a GPS tracker, and I found his car using his license number. As long as I hack into the local Overseer System, it will be pretty easy to find his car. However, there are lesser surveillance cameras in the uninhabited zone, so the location isn't that accurate," Anthony explained.

Dave looked him in the eye. "Did Anonymous provide the location to you?"

Anthony paused before nodding. "Yes."

It's good that Anonymous can be the scapegoat.

Miguel stiffened when he heard Anonymous being mentioned. Gazing at them, he asked, "Anonymous? Are you talking about the legendary hacker, Anonymous?"

Anthony gave a calm nod. "Yes."

"Y-You know Anonymous?" Miguel could barely hide his amazement.

"Is that strange?" Anthony asked.

"Of course! You're too young to know Anonymous!" Miguel insisted. Many hackers wanted to get to know Anonymous but got disappointed.

Anonymous might be a hacker just like him, but he was on a different level.

Anthony didn't take his words to heart. "Is that strange? He's a member of Darknetz, and so am I. Isn't it normal that we know each other?"

"You're a member of Darknetz?" Miguel was even more surprised as he widened his eyes.

"Is that shocking?" Anthony got curious.

Miguel turned to look at Dave. Did he just allow a member of Darknetz to come in?

To his astonishment, Dave remained unfazed and replied, "It's fine."

Anthony assured Miguel, "Don't worry. I have my own principles. I might be a member of Darknetz, but I'm also my daddy's son. I won't betray his best friend."

Hearing his words, Miguel turned over his shoulder and looked at the kids. Flashing a grin, he said, "I don't mean anything. It's just an occupational habit of mine."

Anthony wasn't bothered.

Dave asked, "Those from Darknetz are willing to help your daddy?"

"They aren't helping my daddy. They are helping us," Anthony corrected him.

"Then does Darknetz know about your daddy and your previous identity?" Dave probed.

"Besides Thalia, the woman you saw that day, the others don't know anything," Anthony said honestly.

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Dave had barely left the room when Miguel approached Anthony and Benjamin.

He smiled at the boys and produced two lollipops. "Here, these are for you!"

He was clearly after something.

Anthony glanced at him knowingly but accepted the lollipop all the same. He unwrapped the sweet and placed it in his mouth.

Benjamin, on the other hand, stared at the offering suspiciously.

"Come on. It's yummy!" Miguel promptly unwrapped the lollipop and stuck it in the boy's mouth.

Benjamin's face scrunched up in displeasure, though he quietly ate the lollipop since it tasted all right.

By then, Miguel had taken a seat beside the boys. He hemmed and hawed before asking, "Hey boys, do you know what Anonymous looks like? Is he handsome? Is he exactly like how the rumors on the web paint him out to be?"

"Rumors? What rumors?"

Miguel elaborated, "Well, everyone says he's cold and cruel and unpleasant. Is that true?"

His words immediately brought a frown to Anthony's face, and the boy demanded, "Cold and cruel and unpleasant? Who said that?"

"Everyone! And based on Anonymous' working style, it's not completely unlikely. I mean, he acts swiftly and mercilessly whenever he performs a hack."

Benjamin turned to look at his brother, whose brows were knitted tightly in displeasure.

Anthony piped up, "But I heard that Anonymous is super smart, shrewd, talented, and knowledgeable."

"Really?" Miguel blinked a few times and questioned, "Who told you that?"

Are we even talking about the same person here?

Anthony insisted, "Everyone says so!"

Benjamin tried his best not to laugh.

He's just extolling his own virtues!

Noticing his expression, Anthony elbowed Benjamin hard in the ribs.

Benjamin hastily swallowed his laughter and looked away.

In the meantime, a clueless Miguel scratched his head and muttered, "Really? I've never heard anyone say that. Are you sure we're talking about the same person?"

"Who else could I be talking about? How many hackers out there are called Anonymous?"

After some thought, Miguel agreed with Anthony's argument. "That's true."

"If you haven't heard of it, that just means you don't know enough!" Then, to back up his statement, Anthony asked, "Didn't you chat with Anonymous before?"

"How do you know?" asked Miguel defensively.

"I know much more than you could ever imagine!" Anthony shot Miguel a cryptic look and continued, "Don't worry. I'll share all these rumors you've heard with Anonymous and get his thoughts on the matter!"

Miguel immediately protested, "Please don't tell him! I was just joking! I swear!"

Anthony sucked his lollipop quietly in response.

Just then, Miguel looked at him and asked, "Could you introduce me to Anonymous? I'd like to know him better."

With nary a hint of hesitation, Anthony retorted, "Whatever for?"

"I want him to teach me!" Miguel offered shyly.

Baffled, Benjamin sputtered, "Teach you?"

"Of course!" Miguel nodded earnestly and added, "Anonymous has been my idol for the longest time, and I would be honored if he would pass down his knowledge to me. Well, I'm not sure if he's open to the idea of accepting students, so I'd like the two of you to ask him for me."

"I can't deny that you have good taste!" teased Benjamin.

The sarcasm was lost on Miguel, who declared proudly, "I think so too! Well, will you help me?"

"I don't think you need our help..."

A sharp elbow dug into Benjamin's ribs once more. After collecting himself, Benjamin smiled weakly at Miguel and said, "Perhaps you should ask Anthony. He's closer to Anonymous."

Miguel's gaze immediately moved to Anthony.

"Well..." Anthony trailed off as he contemplated a suitable reply for his admirer. Just then, Dave re-entered the room.

A lightbulb went off in Anthony's head, and he said, "You're from DX Group, and Anonymous is a member of Darknetz. Don't you know these two groups are enemies?"

Miguel replied, "I'm under Dave, but I'm not an employee of DX Group. Dave mentioned that he would never interfere with our activities outside of work as long as we don't reveal company secrets."

Stunned, Anthony stared at Dave and asked, "Is that true?"

Miguel also looked to Dave for confirmation.

Dave paused for a moment before nodding at his audience. "That's right. As long as my subordinates perform their jobs properly, I won't restrict their freedom in pursuing other activities!"

"Aren't you worried about losing your subordinates to competitors?"

"If that happens, it merely shows that I didn't do enough to retain the talents around me," explained Dave confidently.

Impressed, Anthony exclaimed, "Mr. Dave, you're a great boss!"

Dave chuckled in response. "That's not up to me to decide but rather, what my employees think of me!"

Anthony appraised Miguel, who positively exuded youthful energy and motivation.

In hindsight, Dave's lack of restriction was probably a great incentive for retaining talent.

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Anthony and Benjamin looked serious as Dave unbuckled himself and stepped out of the car.

In the car, the boys looked ahead warily.

Just then, a slender woman stepped out from the other vehicle and approached Dave.

The sassy Thalia accosted Dave and asked, "Where are they?"

Dave narrowed his eyes and replied, "It's you?"

"In the flesh!" Thalia smiled at him half-heartedly before demanding, "Hand them over!"

"Who?"

"You know who I am talking about—Anthony and Benjamin, of course. It's not as though I can ask you to hand Kenneth over to me," retorted Thalia.

Narrowing his gaze, Dave asked, "Why are you looking for them?"

Coldly, she replied, "I know you've locked them up. Hand them over!"

"Oh. So you're here for a confrontation?"

"Yes!"

Dave scoffed and taunted, "What if I refuse to do so?"

Thalia shot him a dangerous glare as she approached him menacingly. She seethed, "Then don't blame me for what I'm about to do next."

He scoffed again, scarcely frightened by her threat.

Naturally, his behavior infuriated Thalia, who slowly moved her hand behind her back. Before she could do anything more, Dave's car door suddenly opened.

Anthony yelped, "Thalia!"

His shout prevented the stand-off from escalating further.

Thalia turned around and was surprised to see Anthony and Benjamin alighting from Dave's car.

She looked at Benjamin and asked, "W-Why are you here? Didn't he lock you up?"

The boys were moved when they realized she had come for them.

Anthony approached Thalia and pulled her aside. He reassured her, "We're fine. Why are you here?"

Thalia's gaze swept over the boys. Once she ascertained that they were safe, she retorted, "Why else? You suddenly hung up on me. Do you know how worried I was?"

Anthony dared not hold her gaze as he mumbled, "I said I didn't want to drag you into this mess."

"I'm afraid it's not as simple as that!"

"Well, what do you want?"

Thalia stared at the boy for a moment before muttering, "Never mind. I'm here to accompany you. Go on then. Lead the way!"

When she noticed Anthony staring wordlessly at her, she added, "Just to make things clear, I'm only here to protect you and Benjamin. I don't care about anything else!"

The boys stared at her agape, unsure of what to say.

At last, Thalia reached out and mussed their hair, chiding, "Why are you daydreaming? Let's go!"

Benjamin suddenly exclaimed, "Thalia!"

"Yes?"

"You don't need to come with us. We'll just go with Mr. Dave. It's not appropriate for you to go!"

Thalia instantly whirled around and stared at Dave, sputtering, "Did you just say he's going with you?"

"Yup!" Benjamin nodded.

"Didn't he lock you up before this?"

Benjamin explained, "Mr. Dave only locked us up because he was worried we would act rashly. We've already talked things through. That won't happen again."

Thalia glanced suspiciously at Dave before asking, "So you trust him but not me?"

"This isn't a matter of trust..."

"Then let's go together!" Thalia interjected before Benjamin could finish his sentence. "You can focus on whatever you need to do while I protect you!"

Flustered, Anthony protested, "Thalia..."

"Okay, that's enough. Let's go!" Thalia turned and got into Dave's car, occupying the passenger seat.

Anthony and Benjamin scrunched their brows in unison before staring at Dave.

He raised his brows in amusement and got into the driver's seat.

Dave's non-reaction merely deepened Anthony's frown.

His brother stepped forward and tapped him on the shoulder. "Even Mr. Dave has agreed. Let's go!"

The boys had no choice but to board the car.

Thalia relaxed in the passenger seat while Dave drove. The boys in the backseat exchanged a knowing glance.

What happened to all that talk about DX Group and Darknetz not getting along? They're literally in the same car now! It looks like we could even work together in the future!

Suddenly, Thalia's stomach grumbled from hunger.

She clutched her stomach as Benjamin asked, "Are you hungry? Didn't you eat anything?"

Annoyed, she rubbed her stomach and retorted, "I sped here as soon as the call cut off. What makes you think I had time to eat?"



Stunned, Benjamin sputtered, "So you were waiting outside the whole time?"

Thalia shot Dave a sidelong glance and declared loudly, "Of course! If you didn't come out any sooner, I would've stormed the place!"

Anthony and Benjamin were speechless.

Neither could lie about how touched they felt by her care.

In fact, her words now merely amplified the gratitude they felt since they saw Thalia outside the castle.

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Thankfully, Thalia and Dave no longer fought with each other for the rest of the drive.

However, Thalia's stomach grumbled from time to time.

Benjamin suddenly rummaged through Anthony's bag as though he remembered something.

Perplexed, Anthony asked, "What are you doing?"

"I remember you have some chocolate in your bag!"

"Impossible! I don't even like chocolate in the first place!" denied Anthony vehemently.

Benjamin ignored his protests and continued digging through the bag. His lips curved into a smug smile a moment later.

"I said I don't have any..."

Anthony trailed off as his brother whipped a chocolate bar out of his bag.

Stunned, Anthony stared agape at the chocolate and then at his bag. He mumbled suspiciously, "W-Where did this come from?"

"I put it in your bag!"

Anthony was speechless.

Meanwhile, Thalia was almost drifting off to sleep from her hunger.

Benjamin reached out and tapped her on the shoulder.

She opened her eyes and looked at him, asking groggily, "What?"

He passed her the precious chocolate bar, and Thalia's eyes immediately lit up.

"Where did this come from?"

Benjamin replied, "I always carry some chocolate around with me. Since I didn't bring a bag with me this time, I stuffed it in Anthony's bag."

Thalia smiled and received the chocolate gratefully. "You're the best, Benjamin!"

The car screeched to a sudden stop.

All three passengers turned to stare at Dave.

"I'm going to buy something!" Dave declared and abruptly left the car.

Anthony and Benjamin just stared at him without saying a word, while Thalia rolled her eyes and muttered, "Urgh, so pretentious!"

She promptly tore open the wrapper and ate the chocolate.

The chocolate was a lifesaver to the half-starved Thalia.

Though she was still hungry after eating the chocolate, her stomach no longer felt as uncomfortable as it was before.

Just then, Dave returned to the car with a bag in his hand.

He passed the bag to Anthony and Benjamin once he got in.

"Erm, what's this, Mr. Dave?"

"I went to get a coffee and bought some food too. We don't have time for dinner, so we'll have to make do with some light bites for now!"

The boys nodded blankly.

Dave started the engine and drove off without a further word.

Anthony almost passed some of the snacks to Thalia when he suddenly paused in thought.

He elbowed Benjamin, who was about to dig in.

Benjamin stared at him and asked, "What?"

Anthony's gaze darted from Dave to Thalia, and Benjamin immediately understood him.

"No. Really?" Benjamin mouthed the words at his brother.

Arching a brow, Anthony mouthed back, "Who knows?"

He shot Dave a final glance before handing some snacks to the woman in the passenger seat. "Have some, Thalia!"

When she saw the food in Anthony's hands, she immediately turned her head away and declared pettily, "I'm not eating that!"

"Why?"

"I won't simply eat food offered by my enemy!" drawled Thalia, who crossed her arms across her chest and stared ahead stubbornly.

Anthony was struck speechless by her attitude.

Did I just open a can of worms?

Dave suddenly chuckled, and Thalia immediately spun to face him. She scrunched her brows and demanded, "What are you laughing at?"

"It's funny!"

"Funny? What's so funny?" retorted Thalia. A hint of displeasure flashed through her beautiful face.

"Darknetz sure has some pretty funny rules!"

Thalia's frown deepened as she barked, "What did you say?"

"Am I wrong? The rules are really funny. You can't eat your enemy's food, but you can sit in your enemy's car."

Thalia's indignance instantly vanished.

She pursed her lips and pondered a response for the longest time. At last, she sputtered, "I-I'm just trying to protect them."

Dave smirked and drawled, "They may be members of Darknetz, but they're technically half-members of DX Group. I would never harm them."

“Half-members in DX Group? What are you implying? Are you trying to scout them or something?”

“Scout?” Dave glanced at Thalia and continued, “They're Kenneth's kids. That makes them DX Group's future heirs. It's not wrong to call them half-members.”

Outraged, Thalia spat, “Does DX Group follow some royal hierarchy or something? What's with the whole heir appointment?”

“Oh? Doesn't Darknetz have the same thing in place or will it simply go to anyone who wants it?”

Outmaneuvered, Thalia could only stammer, “W-Well, the leadership of Darknetz will naturally pass on to the most capable member!”

Dave scoffed and said, “I can't wait to see that!”

“But of course!” Thalia arched a brow and added, “Anyway, Kenneth has already left DX Group. That severs the boys' only ties to your little organization. So, I'd advise you to drop your little scheme!” She even shot him a smug, triumphant smile.

## **Chapter 445**

Thalia remarked sarcastically, “I've never come across anyone who would force another person to take something he or she doesn't want.”

“It seems Darknetz is made up of a bunch of shallow-minded, ignorant people.” Dave glanced at the rear-view mirror. “Darknetz might not be the best for you. I think DX suits you better. I'll take you guys to the DX headquarters once we have settled everything.”

His suggestion rendered Anthony speechless.

“Hey! You—” Thalia was about to throw a fit.

“Come, have some food!” Benjamin interrupted and shoved a packet of snacks into her hand.

“I don't feel like eating!” Thalia expressed her dismay.

“You're gonna get hungry, though,” Benjamin whispered.

Thalia looked at the snacks. He's right.

“Fine. I'll just eat it since someone has already bought it.” She slowly opened the packet and munched on the snacks.

Dave gazed at her but remained silent and kept driving with one hand on the steering wheel. He looked

more like a prince than someone involved in an underground organization.

"Mr. Dave, would you like some?" Anthony asked.

"No thanks. I'm not used to eating these snacks," Dave replied.

Thalia rolled her eyes upon hearing that. "What a pretentious man," she said before looking out the window.

Instead of arguing with her, Dave acted as if he did not hear what she said and continued driving.

Anthony and Benjamin heaved a sigh of relief when Dave and Thalia were no longer at each other's throats.

The two brothers were worried that the war of words would not end every time one of them uttered something.

They might look chill now, but the tension between Darknetz and DX was real.

After hitting the road for nearly forty minutes, they arrived at the borders of the uninhabited zone.

The so-called uninhabited zone was merely a common name the locals used to describe the area.

After stopping the car, Dave looked at them. "Should be somewhere around here!"

Anthony glanced at his wristwatch and noticed their location overlapped with the GPS coordinates. So the place should be around this area.

Yet, upon looking around for a while, they found nothing.

Suddenly, Anthony pointed at the road in front and asked, "How about that area, Mr. Dave?"

"That's the actual uninhabited zone!" Dave replied after following Anthony's line of sight.

"The actual uninhabited zone? What do you mean?" Anthony was confused.

"That's the battlefield!" Dave's answer was brief and concise.

"Battlefield?" Anthony knitted his brows.

"It was where the two parties had exchanged fire!" Thalia piped up sluggishly.

Anthony's eyes darted from side to side. "You mean now?"

"Yes, even now!"

"Do you think we can find Daddy there?" Anthony asked.

"People have deserted that land for a long time, and the place is covered in overgrown grasses and shrubs. You won't find anything there!" Thalia said.

Anthony could only picture how the land looked like as he had only seen it in films but not in real life.

Dave drove around the area but did not find Kenneth and his car.

"Mr. Dave, since Daddy came all the way here, does that mean the person set this place as their meeting venue?" Anthony asked.

"I suppose so."

Anthony continued asking, "Do you think they have met?"

"Probably not." Dave shook his head.

"Why's that?"

"He said he'd text me before meeting the person," Dave answered.

Anthony nodded although he had no clue why Kenneth did that.

After parking the car by the road, Dave turned around and looked at them. "Your daddy must have parked his car in a secluded place, so I don't think we can find it while driving. You guys wait for me in the car. I'll go down and take a look."

"Mr. Dave!" Anthony called. "Let's go together. We should be able to cover more areas within a shorter period."

Dave looked at them and frowned, as he was worried about them.

"We won't go missing, Mr. Dave, so don't worry. We used to live with Nat when we were overseas. Let's meet here again later," Anthony proposed.

"But—"

"We have Thalia with us. I'm sure we'll be fine!" Anthony added.

Dave nodded without looking up. "All right, then. Let's meet here later!"

"All right!" Anthony responded.

They got down from the car and started looking for Kenneth.

Dave was on his own, while Thalia, Anthony, and Benjamin were together.

After Dave left, Benjamin looked at them and said, "We should go separate ways to speed things up!"

Thalia frowned upon hearing that. "No. What if something bad happens to you boys?"

"What could possibly happen to us?" Benjamin asked.

## **Chapter 446**

Anthony followed Benjamin's line of sight and saw Natasha from quite a distance.

Clad in a dark blue coat and a pair of short boots, Natasha, who exuded a domineering aura, looked exceptionally stunning as her long hair draped on her shoulders.

Although she was standing far away, they immediately recognized her side profile and the unique aura she exuded.

"That's Nat!" Anthony's eyes gleamed with excitement.

"Nat—" Just when the boys were about to run toward her, Thalia covered their mouths, stopping them from advancing, and dragged them to a secluded place.

"What are you doing?" Anthony looked at her with a scowl.

"Just wait for a while," Thalia said in a low voice, bending down before looking in Natasha's direction.

A man emerged from behind Natasha and spoke to her. There were also two muscular, tough-looking men standing beside them.

It was hard to tell if they were protecting her or monitoring her every move.

Anthony and Benjamin froze for a moment. After a brief observation, Anthony said, "They're the men from the port!"

Thalia bobbed her head in agreement. "That's right."

Anthony stared still at the men. Upon noticing the man who was talking to Natasha, he narrowed his eyes. "That man is the boss!"

“Which one?”

“The man who's talking to Nat right now. Mr. Dave and I read about him in the hidden room. That's the guy!” Anthony said.

Thalia narrowed her eyes as she fell into deep thought.

Suddenly, a car drove in Natasha's direction and stopped in front of her. She got into the car when the door opened.

Seeing that, Anthony wanted to dash out and run toward her.

Thalia immediately gripped his arm. “What do you think you're doing?”

“They're leaving now! We can't let this opportunity slip away!” Anthony said.

“You're just gonna get yourself killed!” Thalia warned.

“I'll go up and stall them. Benjamin, you try to contact Mr. Dave. We'll look for Daddy after this. There are four of us. I'm sure we can do this!”

Benjamin nodded.

Thalia looked at the brothers with a frown and refused to let him go. “No. You stay here and do nothing!”

“Thalia!”

With a stern look on her face, Thalia looked around. “You only saw these three men in front of you, but do you know how many people are hiding around?” She tilted her chin, gesturing for the boys to look at a road nearby. “Look at the crossroad right there.”

Anthony turned around and noticed quite a number of men had gathered around the multiple crossroads in front of them. Although they dressed differently, they all looked like those men Anthony had met at the port in Glenport City.

Anthony regained his composure right away.

“If I'm not mistaken, Boss is trying to lure your daddy out!” Thalia deduced.

Anthony looked around and said, “So Daddy must be somewhere around here.”

The three of them then started looking around.



“Daddy had better not fall into their trap!” Benjamin mumbled.

The three of them looked around but did not see who they were looking for.

“The car is leaving!” Benjamin said all of a sudden.

They turned their attention to the car again. The black car drove off after Natasha had gotten into it.

Anthony pressed his hand against the wall and watched the vehicle depart. He knitted his brows while scratching the wall hard with his nails.

Thalia, who was standing behind him, felt sorry for the boys.

Seeing their loved one in danger but not being able to do anything was torture. She understood how helpless Anthony and Benjamin were.

Yet, she could not put the boys' lives in jeopardy, as she had promised Natasha to protect them.

Thalia walked up and gently tapped on Anthony's shoulder.

## **Chapter 447**

After the car left, Benjamin and Anthony intentionally went over to take a look.

It was an ordinary shop that sold general stuff like food and beverages. There weren't a lot of products sold inside, but the building was pleasantly clean.

They walked around the shop, and it was then Thalia raised her eyes and saw the surveillance camera above her.

“Anthony!” she shouted and used her eyes to signal him to look at the surveillance camera above them.

Following her line of sight, Anthony saw the surveillance camera and narrowed his eyes in response.

“Return to the car!” Anthony was ready to leave.

Upon shooting a glance at him, Thalia said, “There's no need to make things complicated!” Then she headed to the cash register and chatted with the shop owner.

After talking with him for a while, Thalia bribed the owner. He immediately smiled and agreed to let them watch the surveillance footage.

The boys promptly approached her when they saw that.

As the owner retrieved the footage she asked for, Thalia lowered her voice and asked, "What do you think? My way is faster, right?"

Anthony glanced at her. "It's possible to do that without spending any money."

"Then would you have known the frequency of these people showing up here?"

"Are you saying..."

Thalia nodded at him with a grin.

Immediately, Anthony asked, "What did the owner say?"

"Didn't you say it's doable without spending money? Give it a try yourself!"

Knowing when to eat humble pie, Anthony quickly said, "That's because I know how excellent you are. I just don't want to admit it."

"Then why are you admitting it now?"

"Well, that's because... you're just so excellent that nothing can hide it! Even if I don't want to admit it, I have to."

Despite knowing that he didn't really mean it, Thalia still felt great when she heard it. She was greatly satisfied, especially when she saw how unwilling Anthony was to say it.

"It pleases me when you humble yourself before me, Anthony." Thalia smiled.

"All right, that's enough. Don't go overboard, Thalia. You have money, but I have money too. I could've gotten the same answer!" Anthony warned.

"Try it, then. I want to see you try!"

That prompted him to withdraw his smile and raise his head to stare at the person in front of him. "Sir—"

"Do you think his fear of death is less than his desire for your money?" Thalia interrupted.

Anthony forcefully swallowed his words and turned to look at her, who was currently smiling brightly.

Anthony knew what the store owner would pick, of course. People naturally had a hard time resisting the allure of money, but when faced with the possibility of death, money would lose its value almost completely.

At that thought, Anthony could not be bothered to continue arguing with Thalia. "You really are incredible, Thalia!"

The speed with which he changed his expression was comparable to that of a performer.

However, Thalia knew Anthony was feeling pretty anxious about the matter, so she didn't push on.

"All right, since you have said so, I'm going to be nice and tell you what the shop owner said. Otherwise, someone like you, who's far removed from the ordinary folks, won't understand it!" Abruptly, Thalia replaced her smile with a serious expression. "When I asked the store owner earlier, he said those people had been passing by the place often recently. While those people weren't the ones who showed up today, it's obvious they belonged to the same group."

There was an indescribable look in Anthony's narrowed eyes.

"This means they probably live nearby!" Thalia speculated. "It's possible that this place isn't far from Vermillion Base."

Anthony frowned when he heard that.

Right then, the owner retrieved the footage. He spoke to Thalia briefly before leaving.

Thalia, Anthony, and Benjamin gathered in front of the computer and watched the footage.

The first thing they saw was Natasha. She was seen exiting a car and entering the shop. Following her were two people maintaining a one-meter distance from behind her. Even though they seemed like they were her bodyguards, they were actually there to keep an eye on her. However, it was as though Natasha didn't care about it at all because she just shopped around normally after stepping into the building. She appeared very focused as she picked what to buy.

Seeing that, Thalia couldn't help but say, "Even though these two people were keeping an eye on her, it seemed that they didn't want to offend her with how far they were standing away from her. She doesn't look like she's been kidnapped at all."

Benjamin and Anthony simply stayed silent as they stared at the screen.

In the footage, Natasha stopped for a moment in front of a shelf. When Anthony saw her picking up an item, he suddenly went over to the same shelf.

"What are you doing?" Thalia shouted as she watched him leave.

Benjamin whispered, "This is the signal that Nat left us!"

"Signal?"

"Nat's a lazy person, so she rarely goes to the supermarket. When she does, she rarely shops around because she already knows what she wants to buy."

Thalia lifted her eyebrows. "You two assumed that's what she was doing just because of that? That seems kind of reckless. Besides, how did Nat know you two would be here?"

Unsure of how to explain that, Benjamin simply said, "Nat just knows."

## **Chapter 448**

When the trio left the shop, Anthony brought the bottle of drink Natasha touched with him.

While he hadn't figured out what the message was, it didn't mean it wasn't there. He simply needed time to think about it.

After looking around the area and not finding Kenneth's tracks, they went back to their previously agreed-upon location.

When they arrived, Dave was already there.

Anthony knew what the result was when he saw Dave alone.

It was the same for Dave when he saw them.

"I think this is enough for today. We can stay here for the night and keep searching afterward. Your daddy's not going to be easy to find, so we need time," Dave suggested.

It saddened Anthony to hear that, but he still nodded.

At this moment, Dave noticed the drink in Anthony's hand and furrowed his eyebrows. "You like to drink that kind of stuff, Anthony?"

Staring at the drink in his hand that Natasha had touched, Anthony frowned slightly before answering, "No. We ran into Nat over there earlier."

A puzzled look flashed past Dave's eyes. "What did you say? You ran into her? Where is she?"

"She was with Boss. I only saw her from afar. Thalia mentioned it was very possible that it was a trap, so we didn't go forward."

Dave glanced at Thalia and nodded. "That's a good judgment."

"After they left, we went into the shop she was at. The building has surveillance cameras. Based on the

footage we've seen, we determined that this is the signal Nat left us!"

"Did she notice you guys too?"

Anthony shook his head.

"Then how are you so certain this is the signal she left you?"

"Because those who are close to her will understand she doesn't drink this. Yet, she bought this at the shop."

"Maybe she bought it for someone else?" Dave speculated. The possibility was low but not zero.

"Like who? Boss?"

"Maybe it's because there wasn't a better beverage choice, so she picked this one? In any case, there are a lot of reasons."

"Nat's not that kind of person. She would rather drink plain water than this. That's why I'm sure this is a signal she left us."

"Okay, if that really is the case, how are you so sure this signal is left specifically for you?"

Just as Anthony was about to explain, Thalia interjected impatiently, "Why are you asking so many questions? They just know that it's true when it comes to matters like this because they're blood-related. They can sense it. Why is it so hard for you to believe that a mother and her children understand each other very well? It's a matter of instinct and feeling between people who are very familiar with each other. Are you going to tell me you never felt that way before?"

Dave turned to her. "I just want to confirm it. After all, how did she know they would come?" That was the most important thing he was curious about.

Pursing her lips, Thalia wanted to reply, but Anthony went first. "It doesn't matter if you believe it or not, Mr. Dave. This is the truth. She wasn't sure if we would see her message, but we did."

Thalia nodded. "That's right. Besides, they may be young, but they're intelligent."

Hearing that, Dave shifted his gaze to the drink in Anthony's hand. "Let me see."

Without hesitation, Anthony gave it to him.

Dave grabbed the drink and examined it. It was a can the size of any ordinary beer can. The brand name that was printed on the can was Wilser.

"Wilser..." he muttered. As though he thought of something, he looked up and stared at Anthony.  
"Which shop?"

"The one at the crossroad."

"Take me there. I want to see the surveillance footage."

It was then Benjamin spoke up. "There's no need for you to go there to do that. I have it here."

Dave turned to the boy.

"I recorded it." Benjamin pulled out his phone and showed Dave the surveillance footage.

Dave looked at Benjamin meaningfully. These two are pretty brilliant. Not only that, they're thorough.

He then withdrew his gaze and watched the surveillance footage. The moment the screen showed Natasha picking up the drink, he paused the video, rewound it back by a few seconds, and watched it again.

He repeated the process twice to confirm what he saw was correct. It does seem that Natasha's trying to convey a message.

"Look at what Nat did." As Dave spoke, the boys approached him.

Thalia leaned over curiously as well.

It wasn't until Dave replayed that specific part of the video a couple more times that Benjamin asked, "Nat was trying to cover up the last part of the word?"

Dave nodded. "That's right."

"Wilser... Will..." Anthony muttered. "What's Will? Or who is he? What is Nat trying to say?"

## **Chapter 449**

Meanwhile, Natasha had just reached the hotel. Just as she was about to get out of the car, Boss said, "It's not safe around here lately. If you need anything, ask someone to get it for you. Try not to go out unnecessarily."

Natasha turned around and looked at the man coldly. "Why? Are you going to start restricting my freedom now?"

"I'm just concerned about your safety," Boss replied in a deep voice.

"There's no need for that. I will be responsible for my own safety," Natasha said softly.

Boss felt a flash of irritation at how the woman was always keeping people at a distance.

He got out of the car and walked toward her. "Recently, there have been a lot of crimes happening. A foreigner like you would be an easy target. I'm doing this for your own good."

"For my own good?" Natasha let out a chuckle when she heard. "But we are at most acquaintances, not even friends. Why are you so good to me?"

An unfathomable glint appeared in Boss' eyes as he looked at her.

A moment later, the man spoke. "What if I tell you it's because I find you attractive?"

"But there are so many attractive women in the world. Are you really good to me because of such a superficial reason?"

"Because you're not only pretty, you're also very sassy! I like that!"

"Sorry, but I don't! Besides, I don't think I'm sassy at all. I'm just good at rejecting people. I think it's quite sad if you consider that sassy. It means that there isn't a single genuine person by your side."

Not only was the woman sassy, but she was also extremely sharp with her words.

However, even if that was the case, Boss still found Natasha extremely appealing, and he could not help but feel attracted to her.

"You're right. It's true that there aren't any genuine people around me, but I don't need that," Boss replied slowly with a meaningful gaze.

"If you don't need that, don't try to act genuine toward me. I don't appreciate that."

The man merely looked at Natasha without replying.

"So, when are you taking me to Vermillion Base?" Natasha asked directly.

When Boss heard that, he shut his eyes for a moment before saying thoughtfully, "I've already told you, General Will is occupied with some matters lately. I'll take you there after he's done with his work."

"How long more will it take?"

"I'm not sure yet, but it won't be too long."

"If that's the case, maybe I can come back again when he's free?"

A crease appeared between Boss' brows as he looked at her.

Natasha was well aware of her situation. It was clear that the man was keeping her under surveillance, but he was trying to act like her friend, telling her that he wasn't restricting her freedom when it was obviously not true.

Natasha did not know what Boss' intentions were, but she was clear that he was scheming something.

At that thought, she looked at the man and said, "I'll wait for two more days. If the situation is still the same, I'll be heading to Vermillion Base myself."

Boss looked up at the woman incredulously and asked, "You want to go there yourself?" He chuckled. "Do you even know where it is?"

Natasha surveyed her surroundings. "If I guessed it correctly, it should be not too far from here, right? Around fifteen miles toward the east?"

A smirk, which was somewhat stiff, appeared on Boss' face as he looked at Natasha with a complicated expression.

A while later, he answered, "Nope."

Natasha fixed her gaze on the man as the corners of her lips curled into a confident smile. "You hesitated for ten seconds before replying. That means you're lying!"

Indeed, Natasha was extremely smart. In fact, she was so smart that she could see through any pretense.

Boss stared at the woman and smiled. Feigning nonchalance, he said, "There's nothing you can do even if you know the location of Vermillion Base. Do you think you can walk through the gates freely? Or do you think you will be able to get close to General Will? Let me tell you, before you could even step foot into the compound, you would have already been shot dead!"

Even if what the man said was true, Natasha had already made up her mind. With a fearless expression, she said resolutely, "Even if that's my fate, I will be responsible for my own choice!"

"Aren't you afraid of death?" Boss asked, scrutinizing her.

"I am!" Natasha replied, smiling at the man faintly. "Of course I'm afraid to die. Otherwise, why would I look for you?"

Although it was just a subtle smile, Boss found it extremely alluring.

Taking a moment to compose himself, the man asked, "If that's the case, why do you still want to go?"



"It's natural for us to be scared when we're venturing into the unknown. However, being afraid should not stop us from doing what needs to be done," Natasha enunciated each word slowly.

Boss looked at her with a strange glow in his eyes and asked, "Your father has already passed away for so long. Isn't it easier for you to let everything go and move on with your life? Why do you insist on finding out the truth?"

"Good question. Then why is there a need to have family or blood relations in this world?" Natasha asked in return.

Boss pressed his lips together when he heard the woman's reply. He knew that there was no way he would be able to convince her.

After a brief moment of contemplation, the man looked at Natasha and said, "General Will is not somebody to be trifled with. Let me give you a word of advice. It's better for you to stop pursuing this matter. I can pretend that nothing happened. Otherwise, things might progress to a stage where no one will be able to save you!"

## **Chapter 450**

After entering the room, Natasha took off her shoes at the doorway and walked inside.

She sat on the chair with her slender legs crossed. With one hand supporting her chin, she gazed outside while wearing a tight frown, seemingly in deep thought.

A few moments later, she regained her senses and shifted her eyes to the newly purchased items on the table. She got to her feet, took out a can of drink from the grocery bag, and narrowed her eyes at the name on the can. Hopefully, they will see this.

With that thought in her mind, Natasha opened the can and poured the drink into the pond before throwing the empty can into the rubbish bin.

She then casually tied her hair into a bun and went into the bathroom.

When she exited the bathroom half an hour later, she had changed into a more comfortable casual sports attire with her hair hanging freely on her back. Despite being a mother of three children, she had the appearance of a pure and innocent maiden with a hint of maturity lacing her beauty.

She had wanted to take a shower, but she went downstairs in search of food instead, as she suddenly felt a little hungry.

When she descended to the first floor of the hotel, she ordered some food and sat at a table next to the window to enjoy her meal.

At that moment, a commotion erupted behind her.

She turned her head around and saw a knife-wielding man dressed in the hotel employee's uniform chasing after Boss.

She raised her eyebrows slightly in surprise.

What is this? An assassination?

Natasha continued to enjoy her food unperturbedly. She did not show any inclination to call anyone to help Boss and merely resumed eating while watching the scene.

The two men fought in the corridor. When Boss noticed Natasha and how she looked at them in amusement, he knitted his brows. As he was distracted, his opponent managed to take the opportunity of the split second to stab a knife into his chest.

“Argh!” Boss returned to his senses and furrowed his brows at the sight of the knife protruding from his chest.

Even though he was infuriated, there was nothing he could do because he was at a disadvantage.

However, just as the killer was about to end Boss' life with a final hit, Boss struggled mightily until his face turned crimson.

Natasha could have rescued Boss if she had provided him with the slightest assistance. Still, she remained an observer and ate her meal in a relaxed manner, showing no desire to lend a helping hand.

Instead, the amused look in her eyes intensified.

Inexplicable complex emotions glinted in Boss' eyes as he gave her the side-eye.

In the end, Boss was gradually overwhelmed in the brawl as his muscles grew weaker. Just as the assassin was about to stab the knife into Boss' eyes, a loud bang sounded. The man threatening to end Boss' life froze with his widened eyes fixating on Boss.

Bang! Bang!

Two more gunshots rang out. Blood gushed out from the killer's mouth as his grip around the knife slowly slackened. He ultimately fell to the floor with his eyes still open as he expired in reluctance.

Someone jogged over a few seconds later. “Boss, how are you? Are you all right?”

Boss did not respond, seemingly used to experiencing such situations. He stared at the man on the floor and said, “Get rid of him.”

"Got it."

Boss applied pressure on the wound on his chest, but blood continued to pour out continuously.

His subordinates hurried over. "Boss, are you hurt?"

"I'm fine."

"I'll get the doctor right away!" One of his subordinates immediately left after saying that.

Boss stood rooted to his spot with his gaze fixated on Natasha, who was sitting nearby and enjoying her meal calmly with a hint of disdain and mockery on her face.

He strode up to her, sat down, and asked, while staring at her food, "So, how's the food?"

Natasha nodded. "It's not bad."

"What about the show earlier? Was it entertaining?"

"It was a little boring."

"Boring?"

"The ending is predictable, just like all the shows on television." Natasha shook her head regretfully.

Boss sat in front of her with blood trickling down her chest and colors draining from his face with every passing second. Yet, when he heard her words, he chuckled. "You seem disappointed with the outcome?"

"Really?" Natasha smiled at him. "I'm still counting on you on the search, so I'll never harbor that kind of thought."

"Oh? Then why didn't you help me just now?"

"Me? Help?"

Boss stared at her in silence.

"Shouldn't I allow you to handle a matter between men on your own? If I had assisted you, how embarrassed would you have looked in front of others?"

"Then should I be thanking you instead?"