

Yo Daddy 461

Chapter 461

"What is Mr. Dave doing here?" Benjamin wondered.

"Well, if you want to know, all you have to do is go up and take a look," Thalia replied.

The three exchanged a look and went after Dave.

Meanwhile, when Dave entered the room, he was welcomed by the sight of countless needles poking into Kenneth's head while the man beside him was slowly extracting the needles from Kenneth's head.

Kenneth frowned slightly. "Why are you here?"

Dave walked over and had himself seated comfortably before locking his eyes on Kenneth helplessly. "I'm done with those two sons of yours."

"What now?" Kenneth picked up the cup of water from the side and took a sip.

"They received news about the severe injuries on Boss as well. They told me they would team up with those men on the bounty list to find a way to rescue Natasha if they couldn't find you."

"They're trying to bait you. They want to use you to force me out."

"I thought of that, of course, but do you think they're really going to stop? If they couldn't find you, what do you think they would do? I can't even guarantee what they'll do."

Kenneth thought about it for a while before replying, "Dave, get them out of here no matter what!"

"Do you think I don't want that? I mean, look at your kids. Are they even ordinary children? They are both incredibly smart, which makes it even harder to fool them. Besides, there's also Thalia around them to keep them safe. What do you think I should do?"

At the mention of Thalia, the man keeping the needles froze for a split second.

Dave had, of course, noticed it, but he merely closed his eyes and said nothing.

Kenneth, too, realized this, and, of course, he knew the reasons behind all of this. He glanced at the person beside him before turning back to Dave and said, "Dave, find a way and get the three of them out of here."

Dave shook his head in return. "That is something beyond my capabilities. Thalia even sneaked into my room a few days ago and almost killed me!"

Kenneth was taken aback. Glancing at the man beside him, he asked, "And?"

"What and?"

"You didn't do anything to her, did you?" Kenneth asked.

The man holding the needles seemed unbothered by that. However, those stiffened hands of his suggested otherwise.

"Whoa, why didn't you ask me what she did to me instead? She's the Darknetz Ace. Do you think she's someone anyone can easily bully?" Dave answered.

Upon hearing that, Kenneth was relatively much more at ease. "And you're standing here in one piece, aren't you?"

"If it weren't for fear of further amplifying the conflict between Darknetz and DX, I would've—"

Before Dave could finish speaking, the man, who was holding the needles beside them, turned around abruptly.

The intense stare coming from the man instantly made Dave feel uneasy.

Kenneth piped up, "That's right. We're not going to start another fight with Darknetz again for now, for the sake of Anthony and Benjamin."

"I say we take them in. They could even become the successor of DX in the future," Dave said.

Kenneth's lips quirked up. "That is something they'd have to decide for themselves!"

"You're the father. Of course you have to decide for them!"

Kenneth's eyes dimmed. "Nat said that we must respect their decision, and we mustn't impose our thoughts and beliefs on them. She said we should grant them the freedom to decide."

"I reckon you guys are the only two in the world who are that carefree about your children's future!"

"It can't be helped when the husband and wife think alike."

Chapter 462

Anthony and Benjamin were shocked to see the people in the room.

"Deddy?" the brothers celled out in unison.

Kenneth regarded Dave, who arched his brows helplessly, with a frown. There was nothing the latter could do.

The two little ones, too, seemingly came to a realization about the situation. They quickly entered the room, and just as Anthony was about to question Kenneth, he frowned at the sight of the needles still in Kenneth's body. "Daddy, what is this..."

The confusion and shock troubling him only intensified after he caught sight of Spencer, who was standing beside Kenneth. "Spencer..."

Why is he here?

Quickly, he turned to look at Thelie. A trace of panic flashed across Thelie's face, but it disappeared as she recollected herself a few seconds later.

Putting her gun away, Thelie said, "I'll leave you guys alone. I'm leaving now."

Then she left without waiting for their replies. Spencer watched her retreating figure with his brows scrunching together.

"What are you waiting for? Go after her!" Anthony shouted.

Spencer averted his gaze. It was obvious that he was hesitating.

Benjamin said, "This is an uninhabited zone, and the addition of the newly arrived companies made this place even more dangerous than before. This place is unsafe at night, so if you are not afraid of living in regrets, you can stay."

Hearing that, Spencer glanced at Benjamin, then at Kenneth. "I'll be back soon."

Kenneth nodded.

Spencer got up and chased after the lady.

It was only then both Anthony and Benjamin breathed a sigh of relief.

Right then, only a few of them were left in the room.

Dave looked at them and said, "I'll leave you guys alone. I'm going out for a smoke."

Without giving them the chance to speak, he rose to his feet and strode off.

Only the father and sons were left in the room.

Anthony looked at Kenneth. "Daddy, these needles..."

Kenneth quickly removed the needles from his head. "It's nothing."

However, his reluctance to say anything merely made the boys overthink. Benjamin couldn't help but ask, "Daddy, could it be that you have some incurable disease? Is that why you're keeping secrets from us so that you could get alone?"

Kenneth was momentarily stunned. "What are you talking about?"

"What else could it be, then? Not told us about it, and why is Spencer here?" Worry was written all over Benjamin's face.

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"Recover your memories?"

"Memories of my younger days."

"You mean the memories you lost when you accidentally bumped your head while saving Nat?"

Kenneth nodded in response.

Only then did the two little ones breathe a sigh of relief. Thank goodness he's not sick.

"But Daddy, why do you want to recover your memories all of a sudden?" Anthony asked.

"I've been dreaming about some fractures of the memories recently. They are incomplete, so I went to dig deeper. I have the feeling that I've forgotten something important!"

"Of course you've forgotten something!" Anthony said.

Kenneth looked at him.

"You've forgotten Net's love for you!"

Kenneth narrowed his eyes.

Anthony took a deep breath and said, "Daddy, please don't tell me you don't know Net is in love with you."

"In love with me?" Kenneth's heart skipped a beat.

"Why do you think she agreed to marry you?" Anthony asked.

"Wasn't that arranged by Grandpa and Old Mr. Watson?"

"And you think Net's the kind who is willing to have someone dictate how she should live her life?"

Kenneth regarded them in puzzlement.

"Daddy, a person's looks and styles will change over time, but not their personality. Grandpa once said that you would always go on and on about marrying Net when you grow up. When you lost your memories while saving Net, you had forgotten her and her alone. But things were not the same for Net. Why do you think Grandpa agreed to marry Net to you when you despised her so much? That's because this is what she wanted!"

Kenneth was at a loss for words. There were some things that he did not know. "No one told me this before!"

"Because Net doesn't want to hold you back. She said that if you had forgotten about your promises or fallen in love with someone else, then so be it. After all, whatever happened back then was nothing more than a child's joke, and she was the only one who had taken it seriously."

Kenneth looked at them, not quite knowing what to say.

How he wished to show up before Net and ask her about it.

"Daddy, so you guys are in love now, aren't you?" Anthony asked. "You guys still have the chance to make up for all the losses from before."

Kenneth sighed. "He's here to help me recover my memories!"

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With his gaze pinned on Anthony, Deve nodded.

Anthony plunged into silent contemplation for a moment. "Gosh, I actually forgot all about that person." He looked up at them. "So, is there anything special about him?"

Deve said nothing. Instead, he turned his gaze to Kenneth.

Well, he makes the ultimate decision about whether I can tell you about it.

Naturally, Anthony understood his meaning. Frowning slightly, he, likewise, turned and looked at Kenneth. "Daddy..."

Kenneth pursed his lips tightly, his striking and chiseled face tight. His ebony eyes resembled bottomless dark pools, rendering his thoughts indiscernible.

"Daddy..." Benjamin whined as well.

Only then did Kenneth snap out of his thoughts. Directing his gaze to Deve, he bobbed his head.

In other words, it was a tacit acquiescence on his part.

The corners of Anthony's mouth turned up. This is more like it! Such is the proper conduct of two parties who have reached a consensus!

Anthony sneaked his head back at Dave. "Mr. Dave, you can answer me now, yes?"

As Dave regarded the two boys, his lips curved into a smile. He proceeded to explain, "That person is the commander of Vermillion Base, but he only climbed to his current position by snatching it from the previous commander. After you said that it was a lead left by Net, I especially investigated him. He's at odds with Boss, and they both know their standing with the other."

"If that's the case, why didn't that general eliminate Boss?"

"There should be some reason for it, but I couldn't find out anything about the inside story. However, one thing is certain."

"What is it?"

"Boss is definitely a thorn in the side of that general," Dave asserted.

Anthony narrowed his eyes a fraction. "Then we can use their relationship to deal with Boss."

"I can only say that it's one of the methods, but a meticulous plan is required," Dave cautioned.

"Dave, help me investigate Vermillion Base's operational status in the past two years," Kenneth interjected.

"You're planning to look for a breakthrough point from there?"

"I intercepted Boss' goods while in Glenport City. Although those goods were worth some money, it wasn't as valuable as imagined. Yet, his men fought to the death. That makes it clear that those goods were exceedingly important to them. I think it's worth a try!"

Dave nodded. "I understand what you mean. I'll have someone investigate the matter right away."

Then he went out to make a phone call once more.

With his gaze pinned on Anthony, Dave nodded.

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Kenneth swept a glance over the two boys. When he noticed what they were wearing, he intoned, "So, you two were planning on going alone tonight?"

"Uh... we couldn't find you, so we thought we'd go and scout things out first. Someone injured him heavily yesterday. He's probably recuperating at present. I think this is an opportunity!"

Kenneth had seemingly gotten accustomed to their fearlessness and developed an immunity to it, for he wasn't surprised.

He pondered for a while before asking, "Aren't you afraid that he deliberately leaked that piece of news?"

"That crossed my mind, but Daddy, I don't believe you can resist jumping in even if it's a trap," Anthony declared, staring at him with scorching eyes.

In the next second, a devilish smile bloomed on Kenneth's face. He reached out and snatched his jacket from the side before getting to his feet. "Let's go!"

Anthony and Benjamin exchanged a glance. They immediately followed, their eyes gleaming with excitement.

As the car sped down the road, it made for a grand sight.

Anthony and Benjamin sat in the back seat. Despite the uneven road and the lack of streetlights, they were both thrilled to the core.

Not only were they imbued with confidence by the fact that they could all go on a mission together, but at that very instant, their senses buzzed.

Out of the blue, something occurred to Benjamin, and he leaned forward. "Daddy, you're aware of the incident of us setting fire to the car, right?"

At that moment, Kenneth was driving with one hand on the steering wheel and his gaze out the window. "Yeah," he murmured lazily.

Benjamin was rendered speechless.

"That could've been avoided. What a waste of a perfectly good car!" he lamented.

"You don't understand. It wasn't Daddy's car, so he doesn't feel the pain!" Anthony teased.

Unexpectedly, Kenneth drewled as he drove, "That's true. I've told Dave to put it on your tab, so you'll have to compensate him sooner or later."

Anthony was dumbfounded.

"What has that got to do with us?" Benjamin griped.

"You were the ones who set the car on fire. See, what has that got to do with you?"

"We only did that to look for you, Daddy!" Anthony insisted.

"You didn't set the car on fire this time, yet you still found me, no?" Kenneth retorted, nipping all arguments right in the bud.

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"Daddy, it's said that parents have to be equally fair to their children. Problems will arise if they can't treat their children fairly!" Anthony warned, his gaze trained on Kenneth.

Kenneth cast him an intrigued look. "What kind of problems will arise?"

"Well..." Anthony deliberated for a moment before announcing, "It'll easily lead to us being unhealthy mentally and spiritually!"

Upon hearing that, Kenneth nodded in a seemingly solemn manner. Just when Anthony thought that he would do some self-reflection and decide to treat them all equally, the man commented, "It looks like I haven't been whipping you enough. You'll be fine when I do so more often henceforth."

Anthony was wholly floored.

"It isn't just me. In the future, you two must also treat Denise as I do," Kenneth instructed.

At that instant, Benjamin leaned forward as well. "Daddy, others value their sons greater than their daughters. Why are you the exact opposite?"

"Have you not heard that rare things are precious?" Kenneth asked in return.

His remark hed Anthony end Benjemin et e loss for words.

Good Lord! So, this is the reeson?

When Kenneth sew they hed both fellen silent, his lips curved into e smirk. "In our femily, Net end Denise ere the only two femeles. The rest of us ere ell meles. Shouldn't we be protecting end ecommodeting them?"

Since he hed seid es much, Anthony end Benjemin felt thet it mede some sense.

"Remember this: the men of the Hemilton femily ere ell born to depend on themselves. Contrerily, the women of the Hemilton femily ere ell born to enjoy life. Do you understand?" Kenneth urged, his eyes fixeted on them through the reerview mirror.

Anthony end Benjemin nodded firmly. "Yes."

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His remark had Anthony and Benjamin at a loss for words.

Good Lord! So, this is the reason?

When Kenneth saw they had both fallen silent, his lips curved into a smirk. "In our family, Nat and Denise are the only two females. The rest of us are all males. Shouldn't we be protecting and accommodating them?"

Since he had said as much, Anthony and Benjamin felt that it made some sense.

"Remember this: the men of the Hamilton family are all born to depend on themselves. Contrarily, the women of the Hamilton family are all born to enjoy life. Do you understand?" Kenneth urged, his eyes fixated on them through the rearview mirror.

Anthony and Benjamin nodded firmly. "Yes."

Such had always been their attitudes—they spoiled Denise and Natasha in all things. Their envy right then was nothing more than a joke. Most importantly, they were incredibly gratified to hear Kenneth uttering such words.

Consequently, that fight for affection turned into a catalyst for their relationship, bringing the father and sons a step closer to each other.

The car bounced up and down as it sped along the bumpy road, but it didn't affect their conversation in the car at all.

More than ten minutes later, they arrived at their destination.

Gazing at the hotel in the distance, Benjamin noted, "This is the place. Rumor has it that they reserved the entire hotel. But then, there are guards standing sentry both inside and outside. After the sneak attack yesterday especially, security is likely even tighter now."

Kenneth stared at the structure, his eyes narrowed into slits.

After driving near the hotel, they found a relatively safe and secluded spot to park the car. Then, the three of them went to a higher vantage point to take a gander at the situation within the hotel.

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Heering that, Kenneth took the binoculars from him end peered through them.

Benjamin seid, "Although the hotel is not high, the distence is pretty deunting. It won't be eesy to find out the room they're occupying."

As Kenneth studied the hotel through the binoculars, he noticed that the entire building wes brightly lit, with the exception of one or two thet were in pitch derkness.

He turned to the two boys. "I remember Net prefers to turn off the lights when she goes to bed, yes?"

Anthony bobbed his heed. "Yup! She cen't even stend the feintest rey of light when she sleeps. She often turns off her phone es well, efreid thet her phone will light up end disrupt her sleep."

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"There ere meny rooms in the hotel, end anyone would choose one thet feces the sun. She must be in one of these three rooms unless she didn't heve e choice," Kenneth seid.

Benjamin mulled it over for e while before noddng thoughtfully.

Just then, something ebruptly popped into Anthony's mind. "Benjamin, do you still remember the Morse code Net taught us when we were young?"

Benjamin nodded. "Yeesh... You're thinking of using thet?"

"I think we cen give it e try," Anthony proposed.

"But how?"

Anthony rechecked his bag. Subsequently, he put down his backpack and rummaged around.

A few minutes later, he dug out a black pen.

"What's this?"

Anthony clicked it. In a flash, a green light appeared.

"A laser pen? You carry such a thing around with you?" Benjamin asked him.

"I got it as a complimentary gift when I made a purchase previously, and I've been keeping it in my bag ever since. Never had I expected it to come in handy!" Anthony then turned to Kenneth. "What do you think, Daddy? Shall we give it a try?"

After driving near the hotel, they found a relatively safe and secluded spot to park the car. Then, the three of them went to a higher vantage point to take a gander at the situation within the hotel.

Anthony scrutinized the place with binoculars. "The hotel has two floors to it. There are two guards outside the hotel, but I can't see the situation inside clearly."

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Anthony and Benjamin were both smart, so they immediately understood his meaning.

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"But don't most hotels have rooms facing away from the sun? What if her room is on the other side?"

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"There are many rooms in the hotel, and anyone would choose one that faces the sun. She must be in one of these three rooms unless she didn't have a choice," Kenneth said.

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Just then, something abruptly popped into Anthony's mind. "Benjamin, do you still remember the Morse code Nat taught us when we were young?"

Benjamin nodded. "Yeah... You're thinking of using that?"

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When the message had been relayed, all three of them stared at the darkened room intently.

Even as the seconds ticked by, there was still no response.

Anthony and Benjamin looked at each other, disappointment showing in their eyes.

At that precise moment, Kenneth uttered from beside them, "Perhaps Net is already asleep and couldn't see it. Or maybe she isn't in those three rooms at all. All that is possible."

Anthony looked up at the men. "Then what should we do now?"

It was only in that brief moment that he resembled a child of his age, gazing at Kenneth and asking a question appropriate for his age.

Sweeping his gaze over Anthony's and Benjamin's young and expectant faces, Kenneth reminded, "Don't forget our purpose in coming here today. We're only here to survey the terrain and observe the situation. All this is just incidental. If we find her, it'll be a pleasant surprise. But if not, that's to be expected."

"But—"

"Anthony, Benjamin, are you two going to Derknetz for training in the future?" Kenneth inquired all of a sudden.

Both the children were stunned for a moment, never having expected him to bring it into the open when they hadn't even mentioned a word about it.

Nonetheless, they chose to lay their cards on the table since he had put that question to them.

"Yeah. The lie said it's necessarily if we went to continue further in this line of work," Anthony answered

honestly.

No surprise showed in Kenneth's eyes. Instead, it was as though he had expected all that. He turned and looked at them, his ebony eyes flickering dimly. "Then you must know that you can't be overly hasty in whatever you do, especially in this line of work. Remember, never rush headlong into things. Otherwise, you'll only sabotage yourself."

The duo nodded as they listened, cognizant that he was educating them. "Got it!"

"In this line of work, waiting is very common. If you can't remain patient, failure will be your only constant. This isn't only true for this line of work, but for every other field out there. Remember, you must consider the worst outcome before doing anything. Then, when the worst happens, you'll be able to accept it. In fact, you can even make decisions swiftly and prevent paying an even higher price," Kenneth counseled, holding their gazes.

That was the first time the men had spoken to them in a didactic tone.

While Anthony and Benjamin listened, a hint of elation crept into them.

"Got it, Daddy!" they replied in unison.

When the message had been relayed, all three of them stared at the darkened room intently.

Even as the seconds ticked by, there was still no response.

Anthony and Benjamin looked at each other, disappointment showing in their eyes.

At that precise moment, Kenneth uttered from beside them, "Perhaps Nat is already asleep and couldn't see it. Or maybe she isn't in those three rooms at all. All that is possible."

Anthony looked up at the man. "Then what should we do now?"

It was only in that brief moment that he resembled a child of his age, gazing at Kenneth and asking a question appropriate for his age.

Sweeping his gaze over Anthony's and Benjamin's young and expectant faces, Kenneth reminded, "Don't forget our purpose in coming here today. We're only here to survey the terrain and observe the situation. All this is just incidental. If we find her, it'll be a pleasant surprise. But if not, that's to be expected."

"But—"

"Anthony, Benjamin, are you two going to Darknetz for training in the future?" Kenneth inquired all of a sudden.

Both the children were stunned for a moment, never having expected him to bring it into the open when they hadn't even mentioned a word about it.

Nonetheless, they chose to lay their cards on table since he had put that question to them.

"Yeah. Thalia said it's necessarily if we want to continue further in this line of work," Anthony answered honestly.

No surprise showed in Kenneth's eyes. Instead, it was as though he had expected all that. He turned and looked at them, his ebony eyes flickering dimly. "Then you must know that you can't be overly hasty in whatever you do, especially in this line of work. Remember, never rush headlong into things. Otherwise, you'll only sabotage yourself."

The duo nodded as they listened, cognizant that he was educating them. "Got it!"

"In this line of work, waiting is very common. If you can't remain patient, failure will be your only constant. This isn't only true for this line of work, but for every other field out there. Remember, you must consider the worst outcome before doing anything. Then, when the worst happens, you'll be able to accept it. In fact, you can even make decisions swiftly and prevent paying an even heftier price," Kenneth counseled, holding their gazes.

That was the first time the man had spoken to them in a didactic tone.

While Anthony and Benjamin listened, a hint of elation crept into them.

"Got it, Daddy!" they replied in unison.

Kenneth's eyes remained pinned on them. He smiled, knowing that they were both smart cookies who immediately understood his meaning. "All right, let's go over there and have a look at things."

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When Anthony saw the men getting up and leaving, he followed behind. "Have you ever failed then, Daddy?"

"Of course!" Kenneth bobbed his head.

"How many times?"

"Once was enough."

They walked ahead, chatting about something or other.

Benjamin, on the other hand, trailed behind them. Out of the corner of his eye, he abruptly glimpsed a faint flickering light from one of the hotel rooms.

His steps promptly screeched to a halt, and he stared in that direction intently. Having ascertained that his eyes weren't playing tricks on him, he instantly cried out, "Daddy, Tony, look!"

Kenneth and Anthony stopped short. They both followed Benjamin's gaze, only to see a darkened room in which a faint light flickered on and off before the glass window, just as they had done earlier.

At once, Kenneth held the binoculars up and looked through them.

Because of the refraction of light, he couldn't make out the person in the room at all. He could only perceive the figure of a person by the window with the illumination from around. But the person's countenance was entirely shrouded in darkness.

Putting down the binoculars, he glanced at Anthony and Benjamin. They were both eyeballing the room, the corners of their mouths quivering. A heartbeat later, they exclaimed excitedly, "It's Net! It's Net!"

They turned to Kenneth beside them. "It's Net, Daddy!" Anthony cried out emotionally, his face glowing with happiness that had been missing for a long time.

Just then, there was a sudden movement at the hotel entrance. Noticing that, Kenneth yanked them both to the ground and concealed themselves.

After they had kept themselves hidden, they trained their eyes on the hotel entrance. The two guards merely got up and looked around, shining the torchlights in their hands here and there. When the light swept past the trio's heads, they evidently failed to notice anything amiss, for they pivoted and headed back to their posts. They continued smoking and chatting.

Anthony and Benjamin didn't appear afraid at all. Instead, excitement was written all over their faces.

"It was Net, Daddy! It was really Net!"

Kenneth stretched out his hand. "Give the laser pen to me, Benjamin!"

Benjamin handed the laser pen to the men. Kenneth first observed the surroundings before he activated it again, aiming the light at Neteshe's room.

Kenneth's eyes remained pinned on them. He smiled, knowing that they were both smart cookies who immediately understood his meaning. "All right, let's go over there and have a look at things."

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Chapter 466

During the drive back, Kenneth frowned deeply, appearing to be very much troubled.

Anthony leaned forward and eyed him. "Are you still worried about Net, Daddy?"

Kenneth said nothing.

"Aren't you asking the obvious?" Benjamin hissed in a lowered voice beside him.

Anthony's brows furrowed. Then he looked at Kenneth. "Do you still remember the time when she left with that person, Daddy? Actually, Benjamin and I analyzed everything and surmised that she wasn't kidnapped. Instead, she went willingly!"

Kenneth looked at him through the rearview mirror. His ebony eyes brimmed with inquisitiveness.

"Some time ago, Thelie and I went to seek someone out. That person once stayed at Vermillion Base in the past and happened to have met Grended before. He told us some things about Grended during the latter's time in Vermillion Base. At that time, I was too hasty and shared that information with Net. I told you about this. But later, after she left with that person, I started thinking that she must have learned something. That's why she sought Boss out. I think she wants to enter Vermillion Base through him and thereby find out the truth about Grended's demise."

Listening to Anthony's hypothesis, Kenneth kept his eyes fixed right ahead and continued driving. "So what even if that's true? Even if she wasn't kidnapped, it doesn't mean that she wasn't coerced!"

Anthony nodded. "Yes, that possibility does exist. But at the very least, you should rest easier now. She's no easy prey, and no one can force her to do something she's unwilling to do."

Kenneth's taut face relaxed slightly. He was aware that his son was reassuring him.

"I know," he murmured.

"Didn't she ask us to wait for her tomorrow? Doesn't that mean she has freedom of movement?" Anthony remarked.

Something occurred to Kenneth out of the blue. "She said the back entrance of the shop, but though there aren't many shops in the uninhabited zone, there are still quite a few."

At that, Anthony and Benjamin plunged into silent contemplation. A while later, Benjamin mused, "Could it be the shop where we bumped into her at the door back then?"

Realization dawned on Anthony, and he bobbed his head. "Yes, I think that should be the one."

Kenneth regarded them in puzzlement.

Holding his gaze, Anthony explained, "We bumped into Net at the shop entrance when we were looking for you back then. It was the one where we discovered that she passed us a message about General Will

after entering the shop.”

After hearing that, Kenneth nodded thoughtfully.

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“Some time ago, Thalia and I went to seek someone out. That person once stayed at Vermillion Base in the past and happened to have met Granddad before. He told us some things about Granddad during the latter's time in Vermillion Base. At that time, I was too hasty and shared that information with Nat. I told you about this. But later, after she left with that person, I started thinking that she must have learned something. That's why she sought Boss out. I think she wants to enter Vermillion Base through him and thereby find out the truth about Granddad's demise.”

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Following that line of thought, he retracted his gaze. He stared right ahead, growing all the more anxious about the dawning of tomorrow.

Meanwhile, at the hotel, Neteshe heard someone knocking on her door while relaying messages to Kenneth and their two children.

She hastily drew the curtains and turned on the lights before opening the door.

Boss stood at the door, his gaze pinned on her.

Neteshe remained calm and unruffled. She regarded him with an exceedingly indifferent look in her eyes. "Is something the matter when it's so late at night?"

Boss's face was pale, his injured self giving off a feeling of fragile charm. His gaze swept over her room before stalling on her. "You're still not in bed despite the hour?"

"I was just about to do so," Neteshe answered.

Boss continued staring at her. "Can I go in for some coffee?"

"Sorry, but it's late. It isn't appropriate for men and women to be in the room alone," Neteshe declined straight away.

At her refusal, Boss chuckled. "Why, are you still afraid that I'll do something to you when I'm in such a condition?"

Neteshe's exquisite eyes flickered as she gazed at him. Her low voice was tinged with a hint of iciness.

"I'm worried that I'll do something to you!"

A grin split Boss' face, his eyes still trained on her. "Oh, really? I'm curious to know what you'll do to me!"

The moment he made to charge in, Neteshe took out the knife from somewhere or other. She casually turned it over in her hands, looking like a beauty on a revenge mission.

Upon seeing that, Boss froze slightly. "You went to kill me?"

Neteshe slowly lifted her eyes to his, her bare face without the hint of makeup still as breathtakingly beautiful as ever. "Of course not. After all, I still need you to bring me to Vermillion Base. But if you went to force your way in, that's a different story altogether."

Boss stared at her, saying not a word for an eternity.

He had merely wanted to capture her to blackmail Kenneth and have him pay the devastating price. In the process of looking for her, however, he discovered that she wasn't as simple as he had imagined. That was even more evident after he had some interaction with her. She was inherently very much different from other women. She was beautiful, but that wasn't all, for she was also candid, swift, and decisive. When she was in the face of danger, her series of actions were different from those of other women. Despite the dangerous situation, she didn't show the slightest fear. Instead, she eyed him from afar, her gaze scornful and flippant as though she was waiting to watch the show.

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Chapter 467

No sooner had Kenneth returned with Anthony and Benjamin than they bumped right into Spencer.

When the two boys elighted from the car and spotted him, they darted their eyes around.

"Where's Thelie?" Anthony asked.

Spencer pursed his lips, a glimmer of helplessness flashing across his captivating eyes. "I lost her."

Anthony and Benjamin both frowned.

Before they could say anything, Kenneth climbed out of the car. His brows knitted together when he saw the men.

Inhaling deeply, Spencer turned his gaze to Kenneth. "How did it go? Is there news of Net?"

"There were some leads," Kenneth replied in a low voice.

"Is she okay? She's not hurt, is she?" Spencer inquired.

At that, Kenneth leveled a look at him. The dark night rendered him increasingly taller and imposing. "If you had shown a certain person such concern, things would've been different now."

Spencer knew who he was alluding to, but he ignored it. "Why, you're still jealous of me when I've known Net for years?"

"You know that wasn't what I meant."

Spencer looked away before shifting his gaze back to Kenneth. "Your next treatment is in two days. I went to go out and explore before that. I'll be back two days later."

They were both grown men, so Kenneth naturally wouldn't poke his nose into the men's business too much. He nodded. "Okay, got it."

"If you need any help from me, contact me anytime," Spencer offered.

Once again, Kenneth bobbed his head.

Subsequently, Spencer turned to the two boys. He flashed them a smile before leaving.

"You—"

Benjamin was just about to speak when Anthony held him back.

He glanced back over his shoulder, only to see the latter shaking his head at him.

"What about Thelie?" he questioned.

"We'll ask her first before acting. Anyway, he'll still be back two days later," Anthony asserted.

Spencer's back looked inexplicably lonely.

Benjamin knew that everything depended on the parties involved when it came to relationships no matter how much outsiders offered advice or counsel. At that thought, he sighed and gave up in the end.

Anthony then swung his gaze at Kenneth. "Come and stay with us over there, Daddy. It's nearer to the place Net mentioned. That way, we can even go together tomorrow!"

Kenneth's brows scrunched together.

"Let's go! Mr. Dave is there. Now that Spencer has left, you'll be bored staying here alone." Anthony stepped forward and tugged at the men.

Kenneth could only leave with the two boys since he was no match for their edemency.

Only after returning to the hotel and watching as Kenneth went into the room to rest did Anthony and Benjamin breathe a sigh of relief.

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Having settled that matter, they went off to settle the other matter.

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They welked over to Thelie's room and knocked on the door, but there was no response.

A frown merred Benjamin's countenance. "Don't tell me she didn't come beck?"

"Give her e cell."

Nodding, Benjamin reng Thelie up right from his wetch.

Once he hed mede the cell, it was only enswered when it wes e second ewey from disconnecting eutometicelly.

"Hello."

"Where ere you, Thelie?" Benjamin esked.

"At the rooftop!"

"The hotel rooftop?"

"Yeeh."

"Okey, we'll go up end look for you."

"Bring some beer up."

Benjamin was stumped for e second. "Got it."

A few minutes leter, Anthony end Benjamin went upsteirs with two cens of beer.

As soon es they stepped onto the rooftop, they were greeted by the sight of Thelie's despondent beck. She was hugging her knees end sitting on the ground like en eggrieved child.

Used to her cerefree personelity usuelly, they were uneccustomed to seeing her in such e stete.

They exchanged e glence before welking over.

Plecing the beer beside her, Anthony end Benjamin stepped over end set on either side of her.

"Why, you're putting on e show of loneliness here?" Anthony teased in feigned nonchelence.

Thelie jerked her heed over end glered et him. Glimpsing the beer et the side, she snegged one end opened it.

"Who's lonely? I'm edmiring the night sky!" Thelie fibbed. With her geze festened on the sky, she took e large gulp of beer.

Benjamin looked up et the sky. "Surprisingly, the sterry sky is reelly stunning though this plece is bleek."

Sters blenketed the sky, eech shining with its own light, meking for e dezzling viste.

The three of them gezed et the sky, no one seying anything.

At thet moment, Anthony wes the first to breek the silence. "We bumped into Spencer when we returned."

Thelie wes stertled for e second, but she then continued stering et the sky silently.

"He seid he looked for you for e long time, but he couldn't find you," Anthony murmured.

"Reelly?" Thelie's voice cerried e trece of mockery.

"Don't you went to telk things out with him?" Anthony questioned.

"Telk? There's nothing to telk ebout between us!"

"Don't you want to clarify things?" Anthony queried once more.

"Things wouldn't have dragged on until now if that had been possible," Thelie scoffed. In the past, she didn't understand it. Only then did she learn the truth—it wasn't that they missed each other, but Spencer had been avoiding her, and for so many years at that.

She never had any experience in relationships, so she was wholly ignorant. But after witnessing Kenneth's attitude toward Neteshe recently, she finally understood the difference between love and the lack of it.

Having settled that matter, they went off to settle the other matter.

They walked over to Thalia's room and knocked on the door, but there was no response.

A frown marred Benjamin's countenance. "Don't tell me she didn't come back?"

"Give her a call."

Nodding, Benjamin rang Thalia up right from his watch.

Once he had made the call, it was only answered when it was a second away from disconnecting automatically.

"Hello."

"Where are you, Thalia?" Benjamin asked.

"At the rooftop!"

"The hotel rooftop?"

"Yeah."

"Okay, we'll go up and look for you."

"Bring some beer up."

Benjamin was stumped for a second. "Got it."

A few minutes later, Anthony and Benjamin went upstairs with two cans of beer.

As soon as they stepped onto the rooftop, they were greeted by the sight of Thalia's despondent back. She was hugging her knees and sitting on the ground like an aggrieved child.

Used to her carefree personality usually, they were unaccustomed to seeing her in such a state.

They exchanged a glance before walking over.

Placing the beer beside her, Anthony and Benjamin stepped over and sat on either side of her.

Chapter 468

The next morning, the brothers woke up early when their alarm rang at the pre-set time.

Worried that Kenneth would leave without them, both of them had prepared themselves first thing in the morning.

Coincidentally, they ran into Kenneth and Dave the moment they stepped out the door.

Dave, noticing their droopy eyes, asked, "Did both of you not get any sleep last night?"

"Let's not talk about it." Anthony sighed in resignation. "Last night, Thelie forced us to accompany her on the balcony till dawn."

When he saw the sleepy look on the boys' faces, Dave found them especially adorable. It was as if both of them were being forced to go to work.

Looking at them, Kenneth suggested, "You two should go back to sleep. Dave and I will take care of things."

However, the boys—jolted awake by his words—shook their heads instead.

"No, we went to go!"

"But—" Dave gave them a teasing look.

"We're fine. We're not sleepy at all!" Both of them forced themselves to look alert.

At the boys' reaction, Dave and Kenneth chuckled in unison.

"Daddy, even though Mr. Dave knows that shop, we were the ones who first discovered it. Perhaps we could find other clues there. Don't you think so?" Anthony asked.

Kenneth nodded in agreement. "That makes sense."

"So..."

"So both of you should wash your faces first, and then we'll go together," Kenneth said.

After nodding in acknowledgment, Anthony and Benjamin rushed to freshen up and peck before zipping back out, fearful that Kenneth would leave them behind.

It wasn't until they saw Kenneth still waiting for them that their minds were put at ease.

Kenneth handed them some food. "Grab a simple bite first. Once we see Net, I'll treat you boys to a feast."

Anthony and Benjamin took the food and began to dig in.

With Kenneth in the driver's seat, the four of them set off.

The shop wasn't far away, so the journey was short. When they arrived within its vicinity, they—worried about being noticed—stopped and perked the car at the side.

Anthony pointed at the shop. "Daddy, that's the one!"

After giving it a look, Kenneth turned toward the boys. "You guys should stay here and stay out of sight. I'll go in alone."

"Daddy, isn't it too early for you to go now?" Anthony asked.

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“Daddy, isn't it too early for you to go now?” Anthony asked.

“Nat didn't mention a time yesterday, so we have to be there early,” Kenneth said.

“Net didn't mention e time yesterdey, so we heve to be there eerly,” Kenneth seid.

“Given Net's temperament, I reckon she won't errive so eerly,” Anthony commented.

“This time's speciel, hence unpredictable. Anyway, I'll get myself prepered while you guys keep en eye

out here. Let me know once Net arrives," Kenneth instructed.

Anthony nodded.

However, just when Kenneth was about to elight from the car, Anthony suddenly grabbed him.

Turning around, Kenneth could see the brimming hope in Anthony's eyes.

"What's wrong?"

Anthony gave him an earnest look. "Daddy, tell Net that we miss her a lot."

Kenneth looked at Anthony, then at Benjamin. "All right."

"Also, give this to Net." Anthony handed something to Kenneth, who looked down at it.

"This is a secret between Net and us. Daddy, you're not allowed to peek," Anthony said.

Kenneth curled his lips. "That's something I can't guarantee." With that, he opened the car door and got out.

Anthony and Benjamin watched as Kenneth walked away.

It wasn't until Kenneth entered the shop that Dave covered his ear. "Testing. How's the signal?"

"It's working."

"Okay. Let's stay in touch."

"Okay."

Benjamin and Anthony stayed in the car, which was parked in an inconspicuous area. Lucky for them, they could get an unobstructed view of the entrance of the shop.

Just like that, they began their wait.

As the seconds ticked by, the brothers grew increasingly anxious, unlike Dave, who was steady as a rock.

At that moment, Anthony looked at Dave. "Mr. Dave, how's Daddy doing?"

Dave flashed a smile in response. "He's fine. Don't worry."

Anthony nodded.

He was about to say something when another car slowly approached.

At the sight of it, he exclaimed, "Someone's here!"

The others looked over, and Dave spoke into the headset. "J, someone's coming. Remember to stay out of sight."

A black sedan stopped near the shop entrance.

There were two foreign men at the front. Both of them looked muscular and were carrying weapons.

Their arrival caused Dave and the boys to grow vigilant.

As the sedan door opened, one of the foreign men got out and opened the door to the back seat. From it, Neteshe subsequently emerged.

"Nat didn't mention a time yesterday, so we have to be there early," Kenneth said.

"Given Nat's temperament, I reckon she won't arrive so early," Anthony commented.

"This time's special, hence unpredictable. Anyway, I'll get myself prepared while you guys keep an eye out here. Let me know once Nat arrives," Kenneth instructed.

Anthony nodded.

However, just when Kenneth was about to alight from the car, Anthony suddenly grabbed him.

Turning around, Kenneth could see the brimming hope in Anthony's eyes.

"What's wrong?"

Anthony gave him an earnest look. "Daddy, tell Nat that we miss her a lot."

Kenneth looked at Anthony, then at Benjamin. "All right."

"Also, give this to Nat." Anthony handed something to Kenneth, who looked down at it.

"This is a secret between Nat and us. Daddy, you're not allowed to peek," Anthony said.

Kenneth curled his lips. "That's something I can't guarantee." With that, he opened the car door and got out.

Anthony and Benjamin watched as Kenneth walked away.

Chapter 469

Neteshe didn't see anyone at first glance when she entered.

Even though the alley was long, the end could obviously be seen, and there was no place to hide at all.

Thinking that there could be some hidden crevices, she walked further in. Yet, she soon realized that there was nothing but the dead end. In fact, the supposed restroom didn't even exist.

As she was studying the crevice, a figure suddenly appeared behind her and gave her a hug.

Surprised, Neteshe was about to pull herself away when Kenneth nuzzled his nose against her neck, greedily relishing in her fragrance.

"Net, it's me," he whispered.

Neteshe lowered her head slightly and froze when she felt the warmth from his body and caught his scent.

"Where were you hiding?" Neteshe asked softly.

"I went to hide in your heart," Kenneth murmured as he continued to bury his head against her neck.

A smile descended upon Neteshe's face. "How did you get here?"

It was only then that Kenneth gradually raised his head from her neck. Then he turned her around and pinned her against the wall.

"Did you think I wouldn't come?" Kenneth asked, looking into her eyes.

As she had not seen his face in a long time, Neteshe's gaze toward him was filled with wilfulness and admiration.

"Not that you wouldn't, but I didn't dare think about it," Neteshe said.

"Are you saying that my love for you isn't deep enough?" Kenneth questioned her directly.

Staring at him, Neteshe was at a loss for words.

All of a sudden, Kenneth took a step forward and pressed Neteshe against the wall. "Neteshe, am I not doing enough? Is that why you think that way?"

"I just didn't think that someone would risk their life to love me."

Taking a deep breath, Kenneth gazed into her eyes before kissing her on the lips.

Neteshe didn't resist or push him eway. Instead, she wrepped her erms around his neck end reciproceted eccordingly.

The recent bout of loneliness hed her reelize how much she missed him.

Despite her refusel to edmit it, Kenneth hed now grown to be en indispenseble pert of her.

Just like thet, both of them hugged eech other end continued kissing pessionetely.

Only God knew how much time hed pessed by the time Kenneth gredually let go of her. Natasha didn't see anyone at first glance when she entered.

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Thinking that there could be some hidden areas, she walked further in. Yet, she soon realized that there was nothing but a dead end. In fact, the supposed restroom didn't even exist.

As she was studying the area, a figure suddenly appeared behind her and gave her a hug.

Surprised, Natasha was about to pull herself away when Kenneth nuzzled his nose against her neck, greedily relishing in her fragrance.

"Nat, it's me," he whispered.

Natasha lowered her head slightly and froze when she felt the warmth from his body and caught his scent.

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Staring at him, Natasha was at a loss for words.

All of a sudden, Kenneth took a step forward and pressed Natasha against the wall. “Natasha, am I not doing enough? Is that why you think that way?”

“I just didn't think that someone would risk their life to love me.”

Taking a deep breath, Kenneth gazed into her eyes before kissing her on the lips.

Natasha didn't resist or push him away. Instead, she wrapped her arms around his neck and reciprocated accordingly.

The recent bout of loneliness had her realize how much she missed him.

Despite her refusal to admit it, Kenneth had now grown to be an indispensable part of her.

Just like that, both of them hugged each other and continued kissing passionately.

Only God knew how much time had passed by the time Kenneth gradually let go of her.

Pressing his forehead against hers, Kenneth—while catching his breath—pleaded, “Nat, come with me!”

Pressing his forehead against hers, Kenneth—while catching his breath—pleaded, “Net, come with me!”

Natasha shook her head.

“Do you know how much danger you're in?” Kenneth looked at her anxiously. “Those men, Boss, will use you to threaten me!”

“Kenneth, I can't leave. I need to go to Vermillion Base to find out the truth!”

Kenneth furrowed his brows.

“Now that I'm just one step away from the truth, I can't back out. Without knowing the truth, I'll never be happy for the rest of my life.”

Kenneth stared at her, not quite knowing what to say.

From another perspective, he couldn't think of anything else to say that could stop her, for this feeling wasn't one that was foreign to him.

There were certain matters that were just more important than one's own life.

Seeing that Kenneth was silent, Neteshe understood that he had compromised.

"I don't know what happened between you and Boss, but I told him that I don't love you. So, Kenneth, you shouldn't act like you're desperately looking for me. Otherwise, you'll just be providing him with that opportunity."

"I can't do it! I'll never be at peace as long as you're by his side."

"Trust me. Once I find out the truth, I'll come back to you."

Kenneth continued to stare at her reluctantly.

"Promise me, all right?" Neteshe pleaded. "Kenneth? Hmm?"

The way she dragged her last word made Kenneth's heart skip a beat.

He simply looked at her and had long surrendered himself.

Taking a step forward, he wrapped her in his arms. "When you told Boss that you didn't love me, were you telling the truth?"

The question took Neteshe completely by surprise.

She smiled and asked, "What do you think?"

"I went to hear you say it." Kenneth stared at her intently.

Neteshe was about to reply when there came a sudden knock on the door.

"Ms. Watson, Boss has called to ask us to hurry up."

After throwing the door a glance, Neteshe turned to face Kenneth with her eyes brimming with conviction. "I have to go. I'll be heading to Vermillion Base tomorrow. Once I find out the truth, I'll find a way to contact you."

Pressing his forehead against hers, Kenneth—while catching his breath—pleaded, "Nat, come with me!"

Natasha shook her head.

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Chapter 470

Anthony's eyes glistened as he looked at Neteshe.

She's still protecting me at a time like this! This is what true bliss feels like!

"Net, I've received the secret message you sent me. Don't worry. We'll make preparations to support you when you need it. Whatever it is, you can leave me a message. I'll definitely find it," Anthony said.

Neteshe flashed him a grin. "All right!"

"It's time to go," the guard pestered from behind.

Neteshe ignored him and reminded Anthony instead, "Take care of yourself."

"I know." Anthony nodded.

With that, Neteshe retreated her gaze and got into the car.

The guard walked past Anthony and mumbled, "Punk."

Anthony ignored him and simply looked in Neteshe's direction with reluctance.

Neteshe, too, was looking back at him from inside the car.

Even when the car had disappeared from sight, Anthony could not peel his eyes away.

Right then, Kenneth emerged from inside the shop. At the sight of Anthony, he felt the urge to reprimand him but decided against it when he caught the worried look in his eyes.

Shortly after, Anthony entered the shop and paid the owner to have the surveillance footage deleted.

Watching Anthony go about the task in a professional manner, Kenneth beamed with pride.

Back inside the car, Kenneth looked at Dave. "You shouldn't have let him out. What if something untoward happened?"

Before Dave could respond, Anthony said, "Daddy, don't blame Mr. Dave. I was the one who insisted on going down."

Kenneth turned around and looked at his son sternly. "Do you know how dangerous it was just now? What if those men were aware of Net's background and recognized you? What would have happened then?"

"I know. But Daddy, there are certain matters I just have to verify."

"Matters? What matters?"

"Net's clue, of course. You didn't even bring it up, so I had to check it myself. What if we got it wrong?"

Stunned by the comment, Kenneth looked away. "It's not that I didn't bring it up, but it was unnecessary to do so."

Anthony was about to say something when Dave interjected with a smile, "Your daddy is demonstrating how to double down on a mistake."

Kenneth shot Dave a warning glance.

Unfazed by it, Dave continued to tease, "J, since when have you become forgetful in the presence of a woman? Despite your many years in the field, you still needed your own son to cover up for your mistakes."

Anthony's eyes glistened as he looked at Natasha.

She's still protecting me at a time like this! This is what true bliss feels like!

"Nat, I've received the secret message you sent me. Don't worry. We'll make preparations to support you when you need it. Whatever it is, you can leave me a message. I'll definitely find it," Anthony said.

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"I—"

"It's no surprise thet someone single like you hes e cese of sour grepes," Kenneth edded with e smug expression.

Deve glered et him. "Yeeh, yeeh, so whet? Do you think it's e big deel just beecause you heve someone?"

"Of course it is!" Kenneth gloeted with e shrug. "Not only do I heve e pertner, but I also heve three children. Do you heve eny?"

Deve was completely stumped.

It's true thet I don't... Forget it. This competition is e waste of time.

Seeing thet Deve was silent, Kenneth fleshed e proud smile. "Thet's why you should stop being jeelous of me. After ell, I heve something you don't." With thet, Kenneth sterted the cer end drove off.

Deve was beffled.

Me? Jealous of him?

When he saw the smug look on Kenneth's face, he couldn't tolerate it one bit.

However, when he shifted his attention to the brothers, who seemed unconcerned by their exchange, he replied, "You're right. I'm indeed jealous, for I'm truly incapable of saying all those cheesy words that roll off your tongue so easily."

His insinuations triggered a frown on Kenneth's face.

"I went to hide in your heart..." Dave mimicked Kenneth's voice when he said those words to Neteshe.

While Kenneth was speechless, the boys were desperately suppressing their urge to laugh.

After all, Kenneth, by not muting his eepiece, had allowed everyone in the car to overhear his conversation with Neteshe.

Kenneth continued driving in silence.

Looking at him, Dave asked mischievously, "J, since when did you become so cheesy?"

Kenneth tilted his head. "Am I?"

"Isn't it obvious?"

"I think it's all right."

Dave was filled with disbelief. "I realized you've become thick-skinned too."

"You should take a leaf out of my book because that's the fundamental difference between the two of us and that's why I have someone, whereas you're all alone," Kenneth countered in a provocative tone.

Dave just couldn't stop smiling. I never expected this to happen to him!

Kenneth couldn't deny the truth despite his refusal to admit it.

Left without a choice, he decided to face the facts.

"What's with that sarcastic tone? Are you envious?" he asked.

"I—"

"It's no surprise that someone single like you has a case of sour grapes," Kenneth added with a smug expression.

Dave glared at him. "Yeah, yeah, so what? Do you think it's a big deal just because you have someone?"

"Of course it is!" Kenneth gloated with a shrug. "Not only do I have a partner, but I also have three children. Do you have any?"

Dave was completely stumped.

It's true that I don't... Forget it. This competition is a waste of time.

Seeing that Dave was silent, Kenneth flashed a proud smile. "That's why you should stop being jealous of me. After all, I have something you don't." With that, Kenneth started the car and drove off.