

## Yo Daddy 471

### Chapter 471

Upon returning to the hotel, Neteshe saw Boss the moment she elighted from the car.

Looking as if he was waiting for her, he approached her and asked, "Did you manage to buy it?"

Neteshe raised the item she was holding.

"I don't suppose you still need to go there again after today?" Boss asked.

"What do you mean?"

"Didn't you realize that the uninhabited zone has been getting more crowded recently?"

Neteshe thought about it, and it soon dawned on her that Boss' observation was correct. "What are you trying to say?"

"Do you know anything about hackers?" Boss suddenly asked. Despite the pale look on his face, he exuded an authoritative aura.

Struck by an epiphany, Neteshe responded, "Of course I do. I'm a programmer myself. Even though we're different from hackers, the work we do has plenty of similarities."

"These hackers have a website where they gather and interact with each other. It's also a place where they are offered special missions too."

His words were redundant to Neteshe, for she knew it better than anyone else.

"What's your point?"

Boss looked at Neteshe calmly. "There's also a function where one can post a reward to get something done. Just a few days ago, the hacker named Anonymous posted a bounty on my head."

The news caused Neteshe to freeze. When she heard Anthony's moniker, a hint of uneasiness flashed across her eyes, as she was oblivious to the matter.

Over the past two days, she didn't dare log in because she knew that firstly, the line was blocked, and secondly, she was worried about being found out. It never crossed her mind that Anthony would do something like that.

He must be really desperate.

With that thought in mind, Neteshe asked, "Is the bounty the reason for the assassination attempt on

you?"

Boss hesitated for a while before replying in an uncertain tone, "I'm not sure. It's still under investigation, but I'm not ruling it out."

Neteshe smirked. "So what's the price the person behind the bounty put on your head?"

"It's really high. Unbelievably high, in fact!"

Pursing her lips, Neteshe said sarcastically, "In that case, you should inquire if you'll get the reward for suicide."

Upon returning to the hotel, Natasha saw Boss the moment she alighted from the car.

Looking as if he was waiting for her, he approached her and asked, "Did you manage to buy it?"

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His words were redundant to Natasha, for she knew it better than anyone else.

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"What? Did I say something wrong? Since Vermillion Bese is desperate for funds, you might as well claim the reward instead of letting someone else do it."

"Who told you that Vermillion Bese is short on funds?" Boss asked.

"Isn't it obvious? Just from your words alone, I can tell that your leader is forcing you to cough out money. Isn't that right?"

Boss gave her a probing look.

Despite being a woman of few words, she's extremely sharp to have seen through the situation so clearly.

After a momentary silence, Boss commented, "You're really smart!"

"You guys were the ones who made it so obvious."

A glint flashed across Boss' eyes. "In that case, do you know what my plan is?"

Netesha pondered upon it. "Kenneth?"

Boss' gaze darkened further as he stared at Neteshe silently.

"What is it? Did I get it wrong?" Neteshe asked.

Looking at her, Boss broke into a smile, but it was one that could send a chill down one's spine.

"No, you're right. So, what do you think? Since you hate him so much, do you want me to cheat him of his money so that you can get back at him?"

As if both of them were making their moves against each other, Neteshe, too, curled her lips into a grin. "If you want to swindle his money, why do you need to pretend to do it on my behalf?"

"What's wrong? Are you worried about him?"

"I just want to let you know that whatever you plan to do, don't do it in my name. I don't need help from anyone."

"Can I take that as a license to do whatever I want?"

"Of course!" Neteshe cocked a brow.

"Okay!" Boss nodded. "In that case, I'm going to go sell out."

A faint smile flashed across Neteshe's face. "But let me remind you that Kenneth isn't some pushover. In fact, he's someone who's full of schemes. You'd better not end up having your own plan backfiring on you."

"Really?"

"I'm just sharing my experience."

"Thank you. I'll take the necessary precautions."

"I'm going back to my room."

Boss nodded slightly.

Subsequently, Neteshe got up and left.

Boss' eyes dimmed as he scrutinized her.

"What? Did I say something wrong? Since Vermillion Base is desperate for funds, you might as well claim the reward instead of letting someone else do it."

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## **Chapter 472**

Upon returning to her room, Neteshe locked the door behind her and poured everything she had bought onto the table.

She set down and retrieved the note Kenneth had stuffed into her hand.

She then opened it up to reveal a string of numbers, which she subsequently keyed into her phone.

When she looked at the row of words, a faint sense of gentleness flashed across her frosty-looking eyes.

After reading it, she set the paper aside and chucked it into the wastebasket.

Amidst the burning note in the background, she heeded into the bathroom to shower. By the time she came back out, her eyes were cold.

She walked up to her desk, then took out her laptop from her backpack. Once she turned it on, she rummaged through her bag and retrieved the flash drive which she proceeded to plug into the computer.

As strings of letters and numbers emerged on the screen, Neteshe's slender fingers danced furiously across the keyboard. Soon, the interface evolved into what looked like a website.

Once she logged in, the chatting interface popped up.

Anthony's eyes sparkled in delight as he typed: Net!

Neteshe: What you did today was extremely dangerous!

Anthony: Some risks are just worth taking. Benjamin was just complaining that he wasn't the one to go just now.

Before Neteshe could reply, a few more words popped up in the chat.

Anthony: Net, we miss you!

Neteshe's heart was filled with warmth and pain when she saw those words.

Neteshe: I miss you guys too!

There was a one-minute pause before Anthony typed: Net, we know what you're planning to do. Don't worry. We'll support you in any decision you make."

A long while passed before Neteshe replied: Okay.

Anthony: However, you must allow us to help!

Neteshe: You talk as if I'm capable of stopping you.

Anthony: Does that mean you agree, Net?

Neteshe: I know about the bounty list, and so does Boss.

Anthony: I wasn't trying to hide it from him at all. In fact, I want him to know that I'm after his life!

Neteshe: Anthony, no matter what you plan to do, you must protect yourself.

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Natasha: What you did today was extremely dangerous!

Anthony: Some risks are just worth taking. Benjamin was just complaining that he wasn't the one to go just now.

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Neteshe was relieved upon reading his reply. She replied: Also, tell Kenneth to be prepared. Boss is going to make a move against him soon.

Anthony: You can rest assured that Daddy is ready to face him.

Neteshe contemplated for a while before replying: I'll be back soon.

Anthony: I know.

When she saw his answer, Neteshe felt as if she could visualize Anthony nodding at her with conviction.

Smiling, Neteshe replied: All right, now, I'm logging off. We'll be in touch if anything comes up.

Anthony: Okay.

Neteshe logged off and shut her laptop, then looked out the window before letting out a heavy sigh.

At that moment, the dejection she previously felt seemed to have been replaced by a desire to survive.

I must get to the truth, but at the same time, I must also come back alive.

As she thought of that, a sly glint flashed across her eyes.

Meanwhile, Anthony—sitting in front of the computer at the other end—felt relaxed after watching Neteshe log off.

After all, he had learned that she was safe and could also be contacted.

Switching off his computer, Anthony turned around. "Come on. Let's go and see Daddy."

Benjamin nodded.



In Kenneth's room, Anthony updated him on the situation.

Kenneth's eyes narrowed. "How did you know?"

"Um..." Stunned by the question, Anthony exchanged glances with Benjamin. Should we just tell him?

Unexpectedly, Kenneth inquired, "Was it Anonymous again?"

Um... Now that he has given us the excuse, what else can I say?

Steeling himself, Anthony nodded. "You can say that..."

Kenneth sneered, "Anonymous seems to care an extraordinary lot about Net."

Daddy sounds jealous. What can I say?

"I guess so... He and Net are both highly regarded in the hacker community. That might be the reason they're concerned for each other," Anthony said before throwing Benjamin a glance, signaling the letter for help.

"Concerned for each other?" Kenneth scoffed.

Benjamin turned toward Anthony and rolled his eyes at him. Of all things, why did he have to say that?

Anthony: Don't worry, Nat. We know how to take care of ourselves.

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### **Chapter 473**

After reeking his brain, Anthony reassured Kenneth, “Daddy, there's no need for you to be worried about Anonymous. He doesn't pose a threat to you whatsoever.”

“Worried?” The words caused Kenneth to raise his brow. “Do you think I'm worried?”

“Um, are you not?” Anthony questioned, for the jealousy Kenneth was emitting couldn't be any more obvious.

Unexpectedly, Kenneth let out a chuckle before a contemptuous expression descended upon his face. “Despite his capability on the internet, he's just someone who hides behind a computer. In real life, do you think I'll see him as a threat?”

Anthony was taken aback.

Even though Daddy doesn't know that I'm Anonymous, no one can take such words lying down. After all, a man's pride can never be challenged.

At that moment, Anthony felt as if there was something stuck in his throat. He suppressed his emotions and calmly rebutted, “Daddy, how do you know that he's incompetent in real life? Considering how capable he is on the internet, I'm sure he's equally impressive in real life.”

Kenneth merely laughed with disdain.

Nevertheless, Anthony continued to endure the humiliation.

“Remember, a really ambitious man will never be satisfied by staying behind the scenes. That's the reason why he's incompetent,” Kenneth said confidently, his eyes brimming with certainty.

Anthony's mind went blank as he looked at his father.

Kenneth's words had hit the nail on the head.

It was true that he never wanted to stay behind the scenes forever. Not only did he want to dominate the internet, but he also wanted to do his best in real life.

Unfortunately, he was still a child and was not strong enough yet. Thus, without the ability to protect himself, he had no choice but to hide behind the screen.

Despite that, he never planned to hide forever.

Holding that thought, Anthony felt inexplicably depressed. Hence, he abandoned his initial plan to come clean.

Daddy, I'll let you continue feeling exasperated.

Noticing the minute change in Anthony's gaze, Kenneth asked, "What's wrong? Am I mistaken?"

Anthony maintained a faint smile on his face. "Daddy, let's not jump to conclusions. How do you know that he doesn't want to make himself known? Since you're unaware of his identity, you wouldn't recognize him even if he was standing in front of you."

After racking his brain, Anthony reassured Kenneth, "Daddy, there's no need for you to be worried about Anonymous. He doesn't pose a threat to you whatsoever."

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He threw the question back at Anthony. "If he was indeed standing right in front of me but refused to reveal his identity, wouldn't he be even more of a coward?"

Anthony was lost for words. He turned toward Benjamin and noticed that the latter was trying to hold back his laughter.

Anthony gave him a warning look, and Benjamin nodded, signaling that he would try to control himself.

Then Anthony returned his attention to Kenneth. "Daddy, the internet is the future, and Anonymous is a famous hacker. Do you know how many people fear and respect him? Aren't you being too harsh with your criticisms?"

"I don't look down on his capability, but aren't his skills inferior to that of Net?"

Anthony was enraged at Kenneth's scathing comments.

"Daddy, he isn't less skilled than Net. He's just letting her get ahead on purpose."

"Oh? How do you know about that?"

"I..." Anthony stared at him. "Anonymous told me."

Kenneth gave him the side-eye. "In that case, there's less reason for me to worry."

"What do you mean?"

"If a man submits to a woman, he no longer stands a chance with her. Moreover, Net—with her inherently dominant character—will not fall for someone like that."

Anthony fell silent. He was in the midst of figuring out how to turn things around when Kenneth added, "Also, Anthony, when he says such things, he's probably just making excuses for his incompetence. You need to take his words with a pinch of salt."

Anthony took a deep breath.

Argh, Daddy's words are just killing me!

At that moment, Anthony felt the full force of Kenneth's sharp tongue.

He had planned to reveal the truth and give Kenneth a scare. However, he now decided against doing so.

For the time being, I'll just keep it to myself. Only when I'm finally standing at the pinnacle of the world will I come back and revisit this topic with him.

Holding that thought, Anthony—with an awkward smile on his face—took a deep breath and said, "Daddy, don't worry. Just as how Net has praised me for my observation skills, I'm confident that Anonymous isn't how you're making him out to be."

Kenneth narrowed his eyes. Anthony seems to be adamant about defending Anonymous today.

He threw the question back at Anthony. "If he was indeed standing right in front of me but refused to reveal his identity, wouldn't he be even more of a coward?"

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## **Chapter 474**

Benjamin bumped into Deve when he went out.

“Mr. Deve.”

Deve nodded, and Benjamin continued welking without saying anything else.

Seeing that they had left, Deve looked at Kenneth. “What happened?”

“It's nothing. I just heard something,” Kenneth said.

"Is it about Anonymous?" Deve guessed.

Kenneth glanced at Deve and couldn't hold back anymore. "No one knows me better than you do!"

Deve walked in and found a place to sit. He crossed his legs and set lazily. "So? Did you manage to get any answers?"

Kenneth shook his head.

"No?" Deve found it strange.

Kenneth thought for a moment before saying, "Not only that, he got angry with me!"

Deve narrowed his eyes. "Why would he act that way? You're his daddy. There's no way he wouldn't stand with you."

Kenneth took a deep breath. "I don't know what they've experienced before, but I'm sure what happened between us. Perhaps he hasn't forgiven me."

Kenneth was very open-minded about that matter. Although he wasn't happy that Anthony kept siding with Anonymous, he wouldn't say anything.

After all, it was his fault that things turned out this way. What right did he have to complain?

At that thought, Kenneth gave a chuckle.

"Then what do you plan to do?" Deve asked.

"What do I plan to do? I didn't even plan to use him in the first place. I was just asking."

Deve laughed. "Are you jealous?"

"We can only win a battle if we know ourselves as well as our enemy."

Deve leaned against the couch with his legs crossed. He stared at Kenneth and teased, "This is interesting. Just interesting! The arrogant J gets jealous and worried too!"

Kenneth didn't deny that statement. After pouring himself a glass of wine and drinking it, he turned to look at Deve calmly. "That's right. When the woman you love is too excellent, you'll definitely be envious. A single dude like you won't understand."

Deve took a deep breath and glared at Kenneth. "You don't feel good if you don't show off your love, do you?"

"Were you envious after listening to our conversation the other day?" Kenneth asked.

Dave was speechless.

He's so unpredictable. As usual, no one knows what he's going to say next.

Dave looked at him. "Indeed, she's beautiful and elegant. But how do you define excellence?" Benjamin bumped into Dave when he went out.

"Mr. Dave."

Dave nodded, and Benjamin continued walking without saying anything else.

Seeing that they had left, Dave looked at Kenneth. "What happened?"

"It's nothing. I just heard something," Kenneth said.

"Is it about Anonymous?" Dave guessed.

Kenneth glanced at Dave and couldn't hold back anymore. "No one knows me better than you do!"

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"What do you think? According to how well I know you, what else could shock you to death?"

Deve narrowed his eyes, looking curious.

However, Kenneth didn't say anything else. Instead, he turned and poured another glass of wine before he walked over and passed the glass to Deve.

Deve looked at the wineless and took it and stopped talking about that.

"So, what do you plan to do next?"

"Anthony sent a message that Net said Boss might attack me anytime."

"And?"

"I'll just counter his every move."

Dave smiled, knowing Kenneth had always been like this.

Meanwhile, after Anthony left Kenneth's room and went back to his room, he took several deep breaths to force himself to calm down.

Benjamin followed Anthony in and couldn't help laughing when he saw how Anthony looked.

Indeed, only the same kind of people can piss each other off in this world.

Anthony turned and looked at Benjamin murderously when he heard his laughter. "Stop laughing!"

Benjamin raised his eyebrows. "Why should I? The person Daddy was talking about isn't me anyway!"

Anthony clenched his fists when that topic was brought up. "Benjamin, are you even my brother?"

"What does being your brother have to do with that?"

"You didn't even stand up for me when Daddy spoke that way about me."

"Daddy only said that because he doesn't know you're Anonymous. He thinks Anonymous is his love rival. What did you expect? Do you want Daddy to compliment his rival? Why don't you tell him the truth? Let's see if he'll still act the same."

Anthony pursed his lips and thought about it. "I'm not going to tell him! Hmph! That'll teach him to speak like that about me? I'll never tell him for the rest of my life!"

It's rare to see him throw a tantrum. Daddy's pretty amazing. Benjamin looked at Anthony and said, "See? Daddy's speaking ill of you, and you're hiding the truth from him. You're not suffering any losses!"

"But it feels horrible when he said it straight in my face!" Anthony clenched his tiny fists and stomped his feet angrily.

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Dave chuckled. "Shock me to death? I'm still alive even after you suddenly told me you have three kids. I wonder if there's anything else that could shock me to death."

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Heering the knock on the door, Anthony shot Benjamin e look, indiceting for the letter to go end open the door.

Benjamin got up without e word end welked towerd the door. Meenwhile, Anthony set down end fixed his geze on the door.

When Benjamin opened the door end sew the person standing on the other side, he sighed with relief. "Oh, it's you."

Thelie looked et him. Arching en eyebrow, she asked, "Who else would it be?"

"I thought it wes Deddy," he replied with e grin. As he spoke, he stepped eside to let her in.

"Even if he ceme, whet's there to be nervous about?" she asked es she welked in.

Anthony wes sitting on the bed, end he breethed e sigh of relief when he sew it wes Thelie.

She nerrowed her eyes. "Heve you done something wrong?"

"Of course not," Anthony replied.

"Then whet ere you feeling so guilty ebout?"

Anthony could not be bothered to tell her thet he hed gotten e scolding from Kenneth. There's no wey I'm telling her thet.

However, his reluctance to say anything merely heightened her curiosity. She turned to Benjamin and asked, "What's with him?"

He chuckled as he looked at Anthony. "Nothing much. It's just that he got an indirect scolding from Daddy."

Thelie's eyes narrowed.

Benjamin walked over to her and whispered something in her ear.

Thelie's furrowed brows slowly relaxed as she listened to him. Looking straight at Benjamin, she mouthed the words, "Really?"

Thelie laughed after seeing him nod in response. "Serves him right."

Even though Benjamin had not spoken loudly, Anthony heard every word. He looked up at them and muttered, "Would you mind lowering your voice if you went to talk about others behind their backs?"

Thelie turned toward him and quipped, "Did we talk about you behind your back? We did it openly right in front of you."

Anthony pursed his lips, scowling. He was not in the mood to argue with her.

Thelie strode over and looked at him. "I thought you came clean to him before persuading him. I had no idea he still didn't know."

Anthony met her gaze and responded, "That just goes to show I can achieve what I want without relying on my allies as Anonymous."

"Brevo. Kudos to you." Thelie clapped as she spoke, but her tone did not match her actions.

Anthony shot her a sour look, then asked somewhat impetuously, "What are you doing here anyway? Did something happen?"

"Actually, yes." Thelie gazed at him, her expression suddenly turning solemn.

"What is it? Is it serious?" Anthony asked.

Hearing the knock on the door, Anthony shot Benjamin a look, indicating for the latter to go and open the door.

Benjamin got up without a word and walked toward the door. Meanwhile, Anthony sat down and fixed his gaze on the door.

When Benjamin opened the door and saw the person standing on the other side, he sighed with relief.

"Oh, it's you."

Thalia looked at him. Arching an eyebrow, she asked, "Who else would it be?"

"I thought it was Daddy," he replied with a grin. As he spoke, he stepped aside to let her in.

"Even if he came, what's there to be nervous about?" she asked as she walked in.

Anthony was sitting on the bed, and he breathed a sigh of relief when he saw it was Thalia.

She narrowed her eyes. "Have you done something wrong?"

"Of course not," Anthony replied.

"Then what are you feeling so guilty about?"

Anthony could not be bothered to tell her that he had gotten a scolding from Kenneth. There's no way I'm telling her that.

However, his reluctance to say anything merely heightened her curiosity. She turned to Benjamin and asked, "What's with him?"

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Anthony met her gaze and responded, "That just goes to show I can achieve what I want without relying on my alias as Anonymous."

"Bravo. Kudos to you." Thalia clapped as she spoke, but her tone did not match her actions.

Anthony shot her a sour look, then asked somewhat impatiently, "What are you doing here anyway? Did something happen?"

"Actually, yes." Thalia gazed at him, her expression suddenly turning solemn.

"What is it? Is it serious?" Anthony asked.

"Kyle just sent word that the people at Vermillion Base want you dead."

"Kyle just sent word that the people at Vermillion Base want you dead."

Anthony froze for a moment after hearing that. "They want me dead? How much money are they offering?"

Observing his calm and composed demeanor, Thalia knew she had worried needlessly.

"Not a single cent," she replied.

Anthony was stunned. "Not a single cent? Are they not offering a bounty, or is it because I'm not worth anything?"

Thalia was silent.

"And to think I set such a high bounty on his head. Damn it! What a major loss!" Anthony muttered.

Seeing him muttering to himself without showing the slightest hint of fear, Thalia could not help saying, "Anthony Watson, can you take this seriously? Do you think I'm joking around with you?"

Lifting his gaze and noticing how angry she looked, Anthony pondered for a moment before putting on an innocent expression. "Not at all. Don't I look like I'm taking it seriously enough?"

"You—"

"Or do you think I need to pretend to be scared to show that I'm taking it seriously?" Anthony queried, fixing his gaze on her.

Thalia frowned and stared at him for a long time, not knowing what she should say.

That's true. What reaction was I expecting from Anthony? He's only a boy, but he's already a top hacker. Despite having never met, he dared to meet with me alone. More importantly, he dared to destroy Vermillion Base's goods. So, why would someone like that be afraid after hearing something like this? Ultimately, I underestimated him.

Thalia relaxed a little as that thought crossed her mind. "Well, you should at least be a little nervous, don't you think?"

Hearing that, Anthony responded immediately, "I am. I'm nervous. But weren't you the one who said to remain impassive and conceal one's emotion?"

Just as Thalia was about to say something, he arched an eyebrow as he continued, "Besides, my nervousness now will be a sign of disrespect toward you. Will you allow anything to happen to me when you're around?"

His response rendered Thalia speechless.

He's getting better at buttering people up, so much so that I don't even know what to say.

Thalia furrowed her brows and said, "Don't give me that nonsense."

Anthony chuckled. Then, he looked at her and said reassuringly, "I know you're worried for me. However, the only ones who know about my identity are you, Net, Benjamin, and Denise. Even Deddy doesn't know. You say that Vermillion Base wants me dead, but don't they need to find out who I am first?"

"Kyle just sent word that the people at Vermillion Base want you dead."

Anthony froze for a moment after hearing that. "They want me dead? How much money are they offering?"

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"Or do you think I need to pretend to be scared to show that I'm taking it seriously?" Anthony queried, fixing his gaze on her.

Thalia frowned and stared at him for a long time, not knowing what she should say.

## **Chapter 476**

Anthony was still wondering how to selvege the conversetion when he noticed Thelie's inquisitive eyes boring into him.

"Did you just sey you know Shedow Seeker's identity?" she esked, enunciating eech word cerefully.

"I..." Anthony treiled off. Argh! Me end my big mouth! Why on eerth did I blurt thet out?

"Whet?" Thelie fumed. "You know, don't you?"

"Meybe e little?"

"Why ere you esking me thet?"

"Well then, I do know e little!" Anthony replied with e grin.

Thelie took e deep breeth to celm herself down. Oh, please! Who's going to believe thet? "When did you find out about it?"

"Uh, not too long ego..."

"Okey, end how long ego wes thet?"

"It wes pretty eerly on. I don't remember the exect moment..."

Thelie took enother deep breeth es she peced around the room end tried her best to hold her temper.

Seconds leter, she finelly opened her eyes end glered et Anthony. "You knew my mission in Glenport City wes to look for Shedow Seeker, so why didn't you tell me?"

"It's not thet I didn't went to," Anthony mumbled, pretending to be in e dilemma. "But it wes e metter of morelity. Since I've promised to keep it e secret, wouldn't I be betreying my morels if I divulged it?"



"Morels? Whet about the morels between us?" Thelie retorted.

"I-It's not like I've betrayed you!"

"Whet about your conscience, then? Cen you live with it?"

A smile tugged et Anthony's lips. "Well, from whet I know, Shedow Seeker hesn't done anything. I guess my conscience is cleer!"

"Y-You—" Thelie sputtered with rege. "Fine! You've got some guts, Anthony Wetson! To think I've been so open end genuine with you!"

"I know you went to persuede Shedow Seeker into joining Derknetz," Anthony hestily seid when he sew how enry Thelie wes. "But didn't I tell you before thet Shedow Seeker won't egree to it? I even checked end confirmed it for you! Long story short, there's no wey Shedow Seeker would join eny orgenizetions. Not now, not ever!"

Ales, thet wesn't enough to quell Thelie's rege, end Benjemin hed long since shrunk into e corner.

After ell, given the tense situetion, one would be wise to stey ewey from it es much es possible.

When Anthony reelized it end gestured for his brother to return, the letter shook his heed defiently.

Oh, hell no! Going out now would be esking for trouble, end I'm no fool!

Exespereted et Benjemin's leck of loyelty, Anthony shot him e helpless look before turning beck to Thelie. "I know you're med, Thelie, but Shedow Seeker hes e hold on me too. If I reveeled their identity, they'd undoubtedly leek my informetion. Wouldn't everyone just end up suffering heevy losses?" Anthony was still wondering how to salvage the conversation when he noticed Thalia's inquisitive eyes boring into him.

"Did you just say you know Shadow Seeker's identity?" she asked, enunciating each word carefully.

"I..." Anthony trailed off. Argh! Me and my big mouth! Why on earth did I blurt that out?

"What?" Thalia fumed. "You know, don't you?"

"Maybe a little?"

"Why are you asking me that?"

"Well then, I do know a little!" Anthony replied with a grin.

Thalia took a deep breath to calm herself down. Oh, please! Who's going to believe that? "When did you find out about it?"

"Uh, not too long ago..."

"Okay, and how long ago was that?"

"It was pretty early on. I don't remember the exact moment..."

Thalia took another deep breath as she paced around the room and tried her best to hold her temper.

Seconds later, she finally opened her eyes and glared at Anthony. "You knew my mission in Glenport City was to look for Shadow Seeker, so why didn't you tell me?"

"It's not that I didn't want to," Anthony mumbled, pretending to be in a dilemma. "But it was a matter of morality. Since I've promised to keep it a secret, wouldn't I be betraying my morals if I divulged it?"

"Morals? What about the morals between us?" Thalia retorted.

"I-It's not like I've betrayed you!"

"What about your conscience, then? Can you live with it?"

A smile tugged at Anthony's lips. "Well, from what I know, Shadow Seeker hasn't done anything. I guess my conscience is clear!"

"Y-You—" Thalia sputtered with rage. "Fine! You've got some guts, Anthony Watson! To think I've been so open and genuine with you!"

"I know you want to persuade Shadow Seeker into joining Darknetz," Anthony hastily said when he saw how angry Thalia was. "But didn't I tell you before that Shadow Seeker won't agree to it? I even checked and confirmed it for you! Long story short, there's no way Shadow Seeker would join any organizations. Not now, not ever!"

Alas, that wasn't enough to quell Thalia's rage, and Benjamin had long since shrunk into a corner.

After all, given the tense situation, one would be wise to stay away from it as much as possible.

When Anthony realized it and gestured for his brother to return, the latter shook his head defiantly.

Oh, hell no! Going out now would be asking for trouble, and I'm no fool!

Exasperated at Benjamin's lack of loyalty, Anthony shot him a helpless look before turning back to

Thalia. "I know you're mad, Thalia, but Shadow Seeker has a hold on me too. If I revealed their identity, they'd undoubtedly leak my information. Wouldn't everyone just end up suffering heavy losses?"

"Do you think I'd betray you if you told me?" Thalia asked.

"Do you think I'd betray you if you told me?" Thelie asked.

"But how can you be sure that Shadow Seeker's information is accurate? What if it's fake, and they get alerted when you try tracking them down?"

For a moment, Thelie was rendered speechless. "Oh, please. Do you honestly think everyone's as petty as you?"

"That's a common tactic, isn't it? When you don't know someone well enough, it's only normal to resort to that to protect yourself."

"Even so, that doesn't change the fact that you hid the truth from me!"

"All right, tell me, what must I do to resolve this matter?"

To Anthony's surprise, Thelie said nothing.

"Should I admit my mistake and apologize?" he added with raised eyebrows.

"No. I'm sick of hearing apologies."

"Then what do you suggest?"

Thelie turned to look at him with a twinkle in her eyes. "Will you do anything I say?"

"Of course! As long as it's within my power!"

"Easy! Tell me Shadow Seeker's identity!"

"You can continue being angry, then."

"Anthony Watson!"

"Thelie, I really can't do that," Anthony muttered helplessly. "But I'll fulfill any other requests of yours!"

"Are you closer to Shadow Seeker or me?"

"That's not the issue here. This matter concerns Shadow Seeker's safety, so I have to keep it on the down low. I'd do the same for you too!"

Mireculously, Thelie's fury dissipated when she heard what Anthony said. "Reelly?"

"Of course!"

Thelie began pondering the boy's words. Well, it's not like I have to force him to spill the truth. I was just taken aback by the sudden news. Besides, I was angry that he kept it from me, especially since I thought we were on good terms. Then again, I'm not an unreasonable person. I can live with this as long as we've cleared everything up.

"At least you aren't completely heartless," she quipped as she glanced at Anthony.

Seeing that Thelie was no longer angry, Anthony quirked an eyebrow. "That goes without saying. How can I forget your kindness to me? When I grow up, I won't neglect my filial duties to you!"

He! I'm pretty good at coaxing people too!

"Do you think I'd betray you if you told me?" Thalia asked.

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## Chapter 477

Having noticed his father, Benjamin couldn't shake off the feeling that something was wrong and quickly ran after him.

"Daddy, where are you going?"

Kenneth turned around and looked at his son, his brows slightly arched as he feigned nonchalance. "I'm just going out for a walk."

Benjamin didn't buy that. Judging by his father's expression earlier, he knew something must be up.

Since Kenneth didn't say anything else, Benjamin decided not to press on either and merely nodded. "Oh, okay."

With that, Kenneth smiled and went on his way.

After a moment of quiet contemplation, Benjamin turned to look at Anthony and Thelie, both of whom were still playing and laughing away.

"Tony!"

"What's up?" Anthony answered.

Benjamin shot him a look. "Daddy just went out. When I asked him where he was going, he said he was only going for a walk."

Even though Benjamin hadn't suggested anything more, it was enough for Anthony to pick up on his concerns. Seconds later, the smile was gone from the latter's face. "Come on. Let's follow him."

Benjamin nodded.

Seeing how well the two brothers worked together, Thelie stared at them, bemused. "Have you guys gotten addicted to stalking people?"

"I'm sure Daddy's hiding something from us, and since he's not saying a word, we'll just have to find out for ourselves!" Anthony said.

Thelie scrutinized the boys, not knowing if she should believe them.

"All right, we'll be on our way now. I'll leave Kyle to you. Now that I can take a breather from Vermillion Base, we must ensure Kyle stays in his place," Anthony reminded. "Don't let him come over!"

Thelie pursed her lips. "I got it."

Anthony and Benjamin soon left to follow their father. However, Thelie couldn't stop worrying about them. "Do you guys want me to come along?"

"No. We're only following Daddy. It shouldn't be much of a problem. Besides, the more people there are, the more likely he'll be alerted to it!" Anthony reasoned.

"All right. Be careful, then."

After giving her a reassuring nod, Anthony promptly left the room with Benjamin in tow.

As soon as they walked outside, Anthony suddenly recalled something. "Oh, by the way, where's Mr. Deve?"

"I haven't seen him," Benjamin replied with a look of surprise.

"I want you to head back and check on Mr. Deve. See if you can get any information from him.

Meanwhile, I'll continue to follow Daddy. We'll keep in touch."

Having noticed his father, Benjamin couldn't shake off the feeling that something was wrong and quickly ran after him.

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"I haven't seen him," Benjamin replied with a look of surprise.

"I want you to head back and check on Mr. Dave. See if you can get any information from him. Meanwhile, I'll continue to follow Daddy. We'll keep in touch."

"Sure," Benjamin answered without hesitation and returned to the hotel.

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Anthony followed his father closely, and after walking down several streets, he began to find his surroundings strangely familiar. Upon nearing the destination, he finally realized they were at the place where Kenneth used to stay with Spencer.

Seeing his father walk up the stairs, Anthony became even more intrigued. Huh? What is Daddy doing back here?

Even though his original plan had been to wait downstairs, Anthony became so curious that he eventually decided against it.

After making sure he had put some distance between himself and his father, Anthony carefully crept up the stairs.

Keeping as quiet as he could, he stuck his head around the corner, thinking he'd scope out the area before advancing further.

The next moment, however, he got the shock of his life.

Kenneth was nearby, leaning casually against the wall and looking as though he had already been waiting for a while.

Anthony could feel his heart pounding as he slammed his back to the wall. Oh my goodness! I almost died of fright!

After composing himself, he sighed and stuck his head out once again. As Kenneth stared at him, Anthony squeezed out an ingratiating smile. "Daddy, what a coincidence!"

"Indeed, what a coincidence," Kenneth replied, mimicking his son's smile. "What brings you here?"

Anthony's smile grew wider. "Well, since we got you over in such a hurry the other day, I was worried you might have left something behind. That's why I decided to drop by and help you clean up."

"Is that so? How sweet and considerate of you," Kenneth quipped as a smirk crept across his face.

"Oh, yes..."

"In that case, would you like to head inside and tidy the place up?"

"Sure!" Anthony exclaimed before marching toward the apartment.

"Good. Take your time, then. I'm going back first."

When he saw his father walking away, Anthony knew he had to stop him. "Daddy..."

Kenneth slowly turned around. "What is it?"

"Since we're both here, why don't we clean up together?" the boy suggested, a megawatt smile once again plastered on his face.

Alas, all Kenneth did was scrutinize him silently.



As expected, it didn't take long before Anthony felt overwhelmingly guilty and lowered his head sheepishly. "Okay, I'll admit. I followed you here..."

"Sure," Benjamin answered without hesitation and returned to the hotel.

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## **Chapter 478**

Kenneth said nothing as he continued to wear a complex look on his face.

Anthony quickly fell into step beside his fether, but when he reelized the letter didn't seem interested in telking, he decided to breek the silence. "Deddy, ere you teking this money to heve e showdown with Boss?"

Upon heering thet, Kenneth froze for e moment.

I don't went the kids to be involved in this metter, but how on eerth do I stop them?

Undeterred by his fether's silence, Anthony edded, "Hes he contected you egein?"

Instead of replying, Kenneth begen welking fester, to the point where Anthony struggled to keep up. Left with no choice, the boy ren forwerd end grebbed his fether's erm. "Deddy, heven't we just reeched en agreement? Why ere you doing this egein?"

Kenneth finelly stopped in his trecks end lowered his geze to Anthony. "Do you know whet Net reminded me the most when we met?"

"I do! She told you to protect Benjemin end me!" Anthony replied. Thanks to the microphone, I heerd their conversetion loud end cleer!

"Good thet you know."

"Deddy, we're not seying we went to get involved. As long es you tell us whet's heppening, we won't ceuse eny trouble. But if you continue the silent treetment, we cen only keep guessing end trying until we figure things out ourselves. Who knows whet might heppen if we go down thet route?"

Kenneth gezed et his son.

The kid's not even et my weist, yet he deres stere et me with so much persistence end stubbornness.

"Yes. I'm using this money to heve e showdown with Boss."

"But hesn't Net elreedy given you ell the informetion about Boss?" Anthony esked.

"If I suddenly teke e step beck from everything end put on en eir of indifference, don't you think it'll only erouse Boss' suspicions even more?"

"Well, thet's not wrong..."

"Moreover, whet heppens if Boss reelly thinks I've given up on Net end decides she's no longer useful to him? Do you think he'll let her off eesily?"

After pondering for e while, Anthony reelized his fether's words mede e lot of sense. "So, the best plen now is to work together end buy time for Net, isn't it? Only then cen we creete opportunities for her."

Kenneth gezed et Anthony es e smile slowly crept ecross his fece. "Thet's right."

Anthony, too, noddend broke into e smile. "I got it!"

Kenneth said nothing as he continued to walk, a complex look on his face.

Anthony quickly fell into step beside his father, but when he realized the latter didn't seem interested in talking, he decided to break the silence. "Daddy, are you taking this money to have a showdown with Boss?"

Upon hearing that, Kenneth froze for a moment.

I don't want the kids to be involved in this matter, but how on earth do I stop them?

Undeterred by his father's silence, Anthony added, "Has he contacted you again?"

Instead of replying, Kenneth began walking faster, to the point where Anthony struggled to keep up. Left with no choice, the boy ran forward and grabbed his father's arm. "Daddy, haven't we just reached an agreement? Why are you doing this again?"

Kenneth finally stopped in his tracks and lowered his gaze to Anthony. "Do you know what Nat reminded me the most when we met?"

"I do! She told you to protect Benjamin and me!" Anthony replied. Thanks to the microphone, I heard their conversation loud and clear!

"Good that you know."

"Daddy, we're not saying we want to get involved. As long as you tell us what's happening, we won't cause any trouble. But if you continue the silent treatment, we can only keep guessing and trying until we figure things out ourselves. Who knows what might happen if we go down that route?"

Kenneth gazed at his son.

The kid's not even at my waist, yet he dares stare at me with so much persistence and stubbornness.

"Yes. I'm using this money to have a showdown with Boss."

"But hasn't Nat already given you all the information about Boss?" Anthony asked.

"If I suddenly take a step back from everything and put on an air of indifference, don't you think it'll only arouse Boss' suspicions even more?"

"Well, that's not wrong..."

"Moreover, what happens if Boss really thinks I've given up on Nat and decides she's no longer useful to him? Do you think he'll let her off easily?"

After pondering for a while, Anthony realized his father's words made a lot of sense. "So, the best plan now is to work together and buy time for Nat, isn't it? Only then can we create opportunities for her."

Kenneth gazed at Anthony as a smile slowly crept across his face. "That's right."

Anthony, too, nodded and broke into a smile. "I got it!"

"Now that you know the plan, I don't want you acting recklessly on your own. Do you understand?"

"Now that you know the plan, I don't want you acting recklessly on your own. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Daddy!"

With that, the father and son continued walking away, but this time, Kenneth made sure to slow down for Anthony to keep up with him.

A few seconds later, Anthony's voice rang out again. "I only followed you earlier because I didn't know what you were up to, Daddy. As long as you keep an open line of communication with us, I can assure you we won't do anything reckless."

"As parents, we only want to protect our children and give them the best."

Anthony felt his heart skip a beat, and for some inexplicable reason, he was happy to hear those words from his father.

"But Daddy, you know it's just a matter of time before Benjamin and I embark on our training with Derknetz. That's not something we can change. Are you going to keep following us and protecting us?"

Hearing that, Kenneth lowered his head to look at the boy, only to have the latter meet his gaze.

"Instead of protecting us, why don't you teach us something more practical, Daddy? That way, we can deal with new situations and even defend ourselves if the need arises!"

"Is that what you think?"

Anthony nodded excitedly, all wide-eyed and sincere.

After giving it some thought, Kenneth finally nodded. "Okay."

"Does that mean you've agreed to it?"

"Of course."

Anthony smiled. "That's more like it, Daddy! If you teach the men to fish, you'll feed him for the lifetime!"

"For someone who grew up overseas, you sure are good with these popular Cheneen sayings."

"Of course! Net has always told us that we should learn Cheneen well," Anthony said proudly. "I've even memorized the entire dictionary."

Kenneth looked at his son in astonishment. "You memorized the dictionary?"

"Yes!"

Unable to hold it in any longer, Kenneth let out a chuckle.

"What's wrong? Is there a problem with that?" Anthony quizzed.

Kenneth turned to his son and shook his head. "I did the same when I was your age, except it was the Ustrenien dictionary that I memorized."

Needless to say, Anthony felt just as shocked. Is that what fate is? That's so amazing!

"Daddy, both Greet-grendpe and Gremps have said I'm a replica of you. Do you think we're alike?"

"Now that you know the plan, I don't want you acting recklessly on your own. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Daddy!"

With that, the father and son continued walking away, but this time, Kenneth made sure to slow down for Anthony to keep up with him.

A few seconds later, Anthony's voice rang out again. "I only followed you earlier because I didn't know what you were up to, Daddy. As long as you keep an open line of communication with us, I can assure you we won't do anything reckless."

"As parents, we only want to protect our children and give them the best."

Anthony felt his heart skip a beat, and for some inexplicable reason, he was happy to hear those words from his father.

"But Daddy, you know it's just a matter of time before Benjamin and I embark on our training with Darknetz. That's not something we can change. Are you going to keep following us and protecting us?"

Hearing that, Kenneth lowered his head to look at the boy, only to have the latter meet his gaze.

"Instead of protecting us, why don't you teach us something more practical, Daddy? That way, we can deal with new situations and even defend ourselves if the need arises!"

"Is that what you think?"

Anthony nodded excitedly, all wide-eyed and sincere.

After giving it some thought, Kenneth finally nodded. "Okay."

"Does that mean you've agreed to it?"

"Of course."

Anthony smiled. "That's more like it, Daddy! If you teach a man to fish, you'll feed him for a lifetime!"

"For someone who grew up overseas, you sure are good with these popular Chanaean sayings."

"Of course! Nat has always told us that we should learn Chanaean well," Anthony said proudly. "I've even memorized the entire dictionary."

## **Chapter 479**

Kenneth nodded before turning to Miguel and the rest. "Thank you so much!"

Perky as always, Miguel smiled. "Don't mention it, Mr. Hemilton. Feel free to call us if you need our help!"

Given how energetic and charming Miguel was, no one would ever guess that he and his friends had the power to control the world from behind their computers.

After a moment of contemplation, Kenneth gave them another nod.

"All right, let's head inside first," Dave suggested. "We can discuss further once we've gotten everything set up."

"Sure!" Miguel replied before leading his team into the hotel.

As the six of them walked in with their hands full of boxes and black bags, there was no doubt it was quite a spectacle.

Anthony couldn't help but turn to Dave. "Mr. Dave, don't you think this will only draw more attention to ourselves?"

"Many people have gathered in the uninhabited zone recently. Miguel and the others being here won't matter much."

"But they're still very eye-catching in the hotel!"

Even though they're from different countries, they're all so young and handsome that even I am envious of them! How I wish I could grow up immediately. That way, I'd be able to help out more.

Just then, Benjamin piped up, "Don't worry. Mr. Deve booked this entire hotel floor ten minutes ago. The hotel staff has already cleared everyone out."

As soon as he heard that, Anthony drew back in surprise.

Deve, however, remained calm and composed as though what he had done was no big deal.

"It's more convenient that way," he said. "Besides, they'll be sitting at their computers most of the time. So as long as they stay out of trouble, they won't draw attention to themselves. Don't worry!"

Anthony nodded before a teasing smirk flitted across his face. "You know what, Mr. Deve? The way you spend your money is a lot like my daddy!"

"Is that so?"

"Yes! You two are exactly the same!"

Deve laughed and shook his head. "Oh, that's where you're mistaken. This money is from your daddy!"

Anthony was stunned.

"Once everything's settled, I'll send him the bill," Deve added.

"Well, that might be rather difficult..." Anthony teased.

"How so?"

"Yes, Daddy's rich, and sometimes he behaves like one too. However, there are also times when he guards his money so fiercely that he'd rather die than give a cent away."

Kenneth nodded before turning to Miguel and the rest. "Thank you so much!"

Perky as always, Miguel smiled. "Don't mention it, Mr. Hamilton. Feel free to call us if you need our help!"

Given how energetic and charming Miguel was, no one would ever guess that he and his friends had the power to control the world from behind their computers.

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"All right, let's head inside first," Dave suggested. "We can discuss further once we've gotten everything set up."

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Even though they're from different countries, they're all so young and handsome that even I am envious of them! How I wish I could grow up immediately. That way, I'd be able to help out more.

Just then, Benjamin piped up, "Don't worry. Mr. Dave booked this entire hotel floor ten minutes ago. The hotel staff has already cleared everyone out."

As soon as he heard that, Anthony drew back in surprise.

Dave, however, remained calm and composed as though what he had done was no big deal.

"It's more convenient that way," he said. "Besides, they'll be sitting at their computers most of the time. So as long as they stay out of trouble, they won't draw attention to themselves. Don't worry!"

Anthony nodded before a teasing smirk flitted across his face. "You know what, Mr. Dave? The way you spend your money is a lot like my daddy!"

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Dave instantly looked up at Kenneth. "J, you aren't like that, are you?"

Deve instantly looked up at Kenneth. "J, you aren't like that, are you?"

To his horror, Kenneth gave him a wry smile. "My son clearly knows me better!" he mused before striding into the hotel.

"What? Does that mean you're going back on your word?"

"Spare a thought for me, will you? I have to care for two seniors, three kids, and a woman who still refuses to be with me," Kenneth replied without turning around. "I'm really poor!"

Deve found himself at a loss for words.

Argh! What's going on? Has Kenneth lost his principles? He was once so spirited and invincible! What happened to him?

The next second, Deve turned to Anthony, still in disbelief. "Tell me, what on earth happened to your father?"

Anthony merely shrugged and smiled before running after Kenneth.

Deve then turned to Benjamin, who mimicked his brother and quickly followed behind him.

As he frowned and watched them, Deve eventually couldn't help but burst out laughing.

Oh, Kenneth, you've truly changed. Not only have you become less frivolous and hostile, but you're also more loving. Despite being different from the J I used to know, I must admit you're more charming now. Is that what people mean when they say love can change a person? How interesting. That makes me want to be in a relationship even more.

Back in the hotel, Anthony and Benjamin grabbed a quick meal before scurrying off to look for Miguel and his team.

The moment they stepped into the hotel room, they were immediately blown away by the impressive setup of computers, monitors, and various gadgets.

The team was busy typing away on their keyboards, and even though the hotel wasn't as luxurious as their hidden room, it came close enough.

Dave began giving out instructions and Miguel, who was sucking on a lollipop, nodded while listening intently.

Seconds later, he replied, "Got it, Dave!"

Having heard their conversation, Anthony quickly walked over to Dave. "Mr. Dave, are you guys planning to fight against Vermillion Base?"

Since the boys had heard everything, Dave knew there wasn't any point in hiding information and gave a firm nod. "It's not just a fight. We're wiping them out."

Dave instantly looked up at Kenneth. "J, you aren't like that, are you?"

To his horror, Kenneth gave him a wry smile. "My son clearly knows me better!" he mused before striding into the hotel.

## **Chapter 480**

Amidst their discussion, Miguel, who was staring at the surveillance footage, suddenly straightened himself on the chair.

"Dave, something is up," Miguel said.

Dave turned his head around and looked at the large display behind him. The screen was showing a car slowly leaving the hotel exit at that moment.

"Aren't they scared of dying to go out now?" Dave asked.

"Perhaps they are going to Vermillion Base," Anthony suggested.

Dave turned around to look at him.

"Nat gave him ample time. If he still doesn't bring Nat to Vermillion Base today, she will go there on her own," Anthony added.

Dave frowned after hearing that. Before he could probe further, he shifted his gaze to Miguel again. "Is he in the car?"

Miguel's fingers flew across the keyboard. Then, he said without turning his head around, "Yes. One of the surveillance cameras caught him entering the car."

After a momentary daze, Dave ordered, "Great. Tell our men at the scene to follow them. Make sure to keep a safe distance and do not lose them."

Miguel nodded and continued typing rapidly on his keyboard.

Dave picked up the phone and was about to contact Kenneth when the latter entered the room.

"J, Boss is up to something," Dave said.

Kenneth strode over with his eyes fixed on the screen. Despite not saying a word, he seemed to have understood the circumstances.

He looked down and uttered, "Miguel, regardless of how you do it, follow Boss and find out Vermillion Base's headquarters."

"I'm sure I can locate the headquarters as long as he is willing to go there," Miguel replied.

Kenneth nodded after hearing Miguel's reassurance.

At that moment, Anthony, who was standing at one side, looked up and regarded Kenneth with a complex look.

Meanwhile, inside the car, Boss' injury had mainly recovered, but he was still looking sickly.

Natasha sat on one side with her legs crossed. She was playing with her phone while wearing a nonchalant expression as if everything that was happening had nothing to do with her.

Boss glanced at her and asked, "Did you meet up with J?"

Natasha was slightly taken aback. Her eyes gleamed for a split second before she hastily rearranged her facial features into a poker face and looked at him. "Are you talking about Kenneth?"

"Who else could I be referring to?" Boss' yellow eyes glinted inquisitively.

Natasha chuckled. "Are you sleep-talking?"

Boss bore his eyes into hers as if he was trying to see through her lies.

"Aren't you well aware of my whereabouts these few days? Besides, why should I meet with him?" Natasha asked.

Boss merely gazed at her in silence. The unfathomable look in his eyes caused Natasha to fail to discern whether he believed in her words.

She did not elaborate further because she knew how exhaustive explanations could, at times, expose one's guilt.

After a few moments, Boss uttered, "I went to that shop last night."

Natasha, tapping her phone screen with her fingers, froze. She looked up at him and asked, "What shop?"

Boss smirked. "Ms. Watson, you don't have to play dumb in front of me. You know very well what I'm talking about."

Natasha narrowed her eyes. "Are you referring to the shop I went in to buy some things?"

Boss nodded. "That's right."

"So? What are you trying to say?"

"The owner of the shop has informed me of the truth behind what you did there and who you met with."

Natasha suddenly laughed after hearing him. "Is that so? What did he say then? What did I do, and who did I meet with?"

"Why don't you tell me? You should know better than anyone else."

"I certainly do. I merely went there to use their restroom. However, I am curious about what the shop owner said to you."

Boss sized her up while wondering if it was because Natasha had a robust mental capacity or that he was overthinking the situation.

He smiled and continued staring at her in silence.

Natasha met his eyes confidently. A second earlier, she had wavered and almost believed his words. However, at that instant, she regained her confidence.

He's most likely lying to me about his meeting with the shop owner. No, wait. It isn't most likely that he's lying. I am sure he's lying to me.

"Although I don't know what you're trying to say, I hope you can be clear on this matter. I am not your prisoner or hostage. If you have to define our relationship, we are, at most, acquaintances collaborating for our own benefit. Putting aside the fact that I went shopping, even if I did meet up with anyone, that remains my freedom to do so, and it has nothing to do with you. Don't look at me as if I have betrayed you. I don't accept this!"

She's always so level-headed and eloquent at crucial times like this, never allowing others a chance to doubt her.

"Ms. Watson, I am not trying to restrict your movements. I'm just wondering why you are not admitting it."

"What do I have to admit?"

"Your relationship with J."

Notosho narrowed her eyes while scrutinizing Boss. Then a contemptuous expression spread across her face. "You're referring to that?"

Boss nodded.

"Why, do you like me?" she asked all of a sudden.

Boss was stunned after hearing her question. Despite his calm mien, his heart did skip a beat.

A few moments later, he uttered coldly, "Do you think that is possible?"

"Then why are you so interested in my personal matters? Putting aside my relationship with Kenneth now, even if we decide to get married again someday, there will not be any issue with that as long as we are both single and I am willing to remarry him. There's nothing I am fearful to admit!"

Inexplicably, Boss' eyes turned frosty. "So, you are admitting your feelings for him?"

"Feelings? I didn't say that. But it's undeniable that he's quite attractive. He may still be within my consideration if I don't have any other choice." As Notosho spoke, a faint smile spread across her face as if he was fantasizing about Kenneth's face.

Her tone and demeanor were sassy and sensuous.

Notosho had always given off an indifferent vibe. At that moment, as she uttered those words unbecoming her usual bearing, Boss thought it added a slightly different aspect to her.

It was as if she had gained clarity of the ways of the world and decided to live her life more relaxedly.

More importantly, her speech prompted all the doubts Boss harbored toward her to dissipate completely.

Honesty and acceptance of one's true character could paradoxically be the best way to convince others of one's deceit.

Boss narrowed his eyes at her. "Don't all women wish for a loyal man to stay by her side forever? What's the matter? Did you forget his mistakes so soon and decide to forgive him?"

"A loyal man who can stay by a woman's side forever... How many men can possibly accomplish that?" Notoho curled her lips into a sneer. "Besides, I didn't mention that I am forgiving him. I'm only telling you that it is my freedom to make my own decisions, and no one is allowed to interfere. No one!"

Boss gazed at her quietly for a few moments before suddenly asking, "What if there is?"