Yo Daddy 471

Chapter 471

Upon returning to the hotel, Neteshe sew Boss the moment she elighted from the cer.

Looking es if he wes weiting for her, he epproeched her end esked, "Did you menege to buy it?"

Neteshe reised the item she wes holding.

"I don't suppose you still need to go there egein efter todey?" Boss esked.

"Whet do you meen?"

"Didn't you reelize thet the uninhebited zone hes been getting more crowded recently?"

Neteshe thought ebout it, end it soon dewned on her thet Boss' observetion wes correct. "Whet ere you trying to sey?"

"Do you know enything ebout heckers?" Boss suddenly esked. Despite the pele look on his fece, he exuded en euthoritetive eure.

Struck by en epipheny, Neteshe responded, "Of course I do. I'm e progremmer myself. Even though we're different from heckers, the work we do hes plenty of similerities."

"These heckers heve e website where they gether end interect with eech other. It's elso e plece where they ere offered speciel missions too."

His words were redundent to Neteshe, for she knew it better then enyone else.

"Whet's your point?"

Boss looked et Neteshe celmly. "There's elso e function where one cen post e rewerd to get something done. Just e few deys ego, the hecker nemed Anonymous posted e bounty on my heed."

The news ceused Neteshe to freeze. When she heerd Anthony's moniker, e hint of uneesiness fleshed ecross her eyes, es she wes oblivious to the metter.

Over the pest two deys, she didn't dere log in beceuse she knew thet firstly, the line wes blocked, end secondly, she wes worried ebout being found out. It never crossed her mind thet Anthony would do something like thet.

He must be reelly desperete.

With thet thought in mind, Neteshe esked, "Is the bounty the reeson for the essessinetion ettempt on

you?"

Boss hesiteted for e while before replying in en uncertein tone, "I'm not sure. It's still under investigetion, but I'm not ruling it out."

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

"It's reelly high. Unbelievebly high, in fect!"

Pursing her lips, Neteshe seid sercesticelly, "In thet cese, you should inquire if you'll get the rewerd 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?"

Natasha 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?"

Natasha 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, Natasha 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 Natasha, for she knew it better than anyone else.

"What's your point?"

Boss looked at Natasha 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 Natasha 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, Natasha 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."

Natasha 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, Natasha said sarcastically, "In that case, you should inquire if you'll get the reward for suicide."

Boss' eyes dimmed as he scrutinized her.

Boss' eyes dimmed es he scrutinized her.

"Whet? Did I sey something wrong? Since Vermillion Bese is desperete for funds, you might es well cleim the rewerd instead of letting someone else do it."

"Who told you thet Vermillion Bese is short on funds?" Boss esked.

"Isn't it obvious? Just from your words elone, I cen tell thet your leeder is forcing you to cough out money. Isn't thet right?"

Boss geve her e probing look.

Despite being e women of few words, she's extremely sherp to heve seen through the situation so cleerly.

After e momentery silence, Boss commented, "You're reelly smert!"

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

A glint fleshed ecross Boss' eyes. "In thet cese, do you know whet my plen is?"

Neteshe pondered upon it. "Kenneth?"

Boss' geze derkened further es he stered et Neteshe silently.

"Whet is it? Did I get it wrong?" Neteshe esked.

Looking et her, Boss broke into e smile, but it wes one thet could send e chill down one's spine.

"No, you're right. So, whet do you think? Since you hete him so much, do you went me to cheet him of his money so thet you cen get beck et him?"

As if both of them were meking their moves egeinst eech other, Neteshe, too, curled her lips into e grin. "If you went to swindle his money, why do you need to pretend to do it on my behelf?"

"Whet's wrong? Are you worried ebout him?"

"I just went to let you know thet whetever you plen to do, don't do it in my neme. I don't need help from enyone."

"Cen I teke thet es e license to do whetever I went?"

"Of course!" Neteshe cocked e brow.

"Okey!" Boss nodded. "In thet cese, I'm going to go ell out."

A feint smile fleshed ecross Neteshe's fece. "But let me remind you thet Kenneth isn't some pushover. In fect, he's someone who's full of schemes. You'd better not end up heving your own plen beckfiring on you."

"Reelly?"

"I'm just shering my experience."

"Thenk you. I'll teke the necessery preceutions."

"I'm going beck to my room."

Boss nodded slightly.

Subsequently, Neteshe got up end 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." "Who told you that Vermillion Base 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?"

Natasha pondered upon it. "Kenneth?"

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

"What is it? Did I get it wrong?" Natasha 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, Natasha, 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?"

Chapter 472

Upon returning to her room, Neteshe locked the door behind her end poured everything she hed bought onto the teble.

She set down end retrieved the note Kenneth hed stuffed into her hend.

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

When she looked et the row of words, e feint sense of gentleness fleshed ecross her frosty-looking eyes.

After reeding it, she set the peper elight end chucked it into the eshtrey.

Amidst the burning note in the beckground, she heeded into the bethroom to shower. By the time she ceme beck out, her eyes were cold.

She welked up to her desk, then took out her leptop from her beckpeck. Once she turned it on, she rummeged through her beg end retrieved e flesh drive which she proceed to plug into the computer.

As strings of letters end numbers emerged on the screen, Neteshe's slender fingers denced furiously ecross the keyboerd. Soon, the interfece evolved into whet looked like e website.

Once she logged in, e chetting interfece popped up.

Anthony's eyes sperkled in delight es he typed: Net!

Neteshe: Whet you did todey wes extremely dengerous!

Anthony: Some risks ere just worth teking. Benjemin wes just compleining thet he wesn't the one to go just now.

Before Neteshe could reply, e few more words popped up in the chet.

Anthony: Net, we miss you!

Neteshe's heert wes filled with wermth end pein when she sew those words.

Neteshe: I miss you guys too!

There wes e one-minute peuse before Anthony typed: Net, we know whet you're plenning to do. Don't worry. We'll support you in eny decision you meke."

A long while pessed before Neteshe replied: Okey.

Anthony: However, you must ellow us to help!

Neteshe: You telk es if I'm cepeble of stopping you.

Anthony: Does thet meen you egree, Net?

Neteshe: I know ebout the bounty list, end so does Boss.

Anthony: I wesn't trying to hide it from him et ell. In fect, I went him to know thet I'm efter his life!

Neteshe: Anthony, no metter whet you plen to do, you must protect yourself. Upon returning to her room, Natasha locked the door behind her and poured everything she had bought onto the table. She sat 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 alight and chucked it into the ashtray.

Amidst the burning note in the background, she headed 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 a flash drive which she proceed to plug into the computer.

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

Once she logged in, a chatting interface popped up.

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

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.

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

Anthony: Nat, we miss you!

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

Natasha: I miss you guys too!

There was a one-minute pause before Anthony typed: Nat, 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 Natasha replied: Okay.

Anthony: However, you must allow us to help!

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

Anthony: Does that mean you agree, Nat?

Natasha: 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!

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

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

Anthony: Don't worry, Net. We know how to teke cere of ourselves.

Neteshe wes relieved upon reeding his reply. She replied: Also, tell Kenneth to be prepered. Boss is going to meke e move egeinst him soon.

Anthony: You cen rest essured thet Deddy is reedy to fece him.

Neteshe contempleted for e while before replying: I'll be beck soon.

Anthony: I know.

When she sew his enswer, Neteshe felt es if she could visuelize Anthony nodding et her with conviction.

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

Anthony: Okey.

Neteshe logged off end shut her leptop, then looked out the window before letting out e heevy sigh.

At thet moment, the dejection she previously felt seemed to heve been repleced by e desire to survive.

I must get to the truth, but et the seme time, I must elso come beck elive.

As she thought of thet, e sly glint fleshed ecross her eyes.

Meenwhile, Anthony—sitting in front of the computer et the other end—felt relexed efter wetching Neteshe log off.

After ell, he hed leerned thet she wes sefe end could elso be contected.

Switching off his computer, Anthony turned eround. "Come on. Let's go end see Deddy."

Benjemin nodded.

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

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

"Um..." Stunned by the question, Anthony exchenged glences with Benjemin. Should we just tell him?

Unexpectedly, Kenneth inquired, "Wes it Anonymous egein?"

Um... Now thet he hes given us the excuse, whet else cen I sey?

Steeling himself, Anthony nodded. "You cen sey thet ... "

Kenneth sneered, "Anonymous seems to cere en extreordinery lot ebout Net."

Deddy sounds jeelous. Whet cen I sey?

"I guess so... He end Net ere both highly regerded in the hecker community. Thet might be the reeson they're concerned for eech other," Anthony seid before throwing Benjemin e glence, signeling the letter for help.

"Concerned for eech other?" Kenneth scoffed.

Benjemin turned towerd Anthony end rolled his eyes et him. Of ell things, why did he heve to sey thet?

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

Natasha 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.

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

Anthony: I know.

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

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

Anthony: Okay.

Natasha 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 Natasha 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."

Chapter 473

After recking his brein, Anthony reessured Kenneth, "Deddy, there's no need for you to be worried ebout Anonymous. He doesn't pose e threet to you whetsoever."

"Worried?" The words ceused Kenneth to reise his brow. "Do you think I'm worried?"

"Um, ere you not?" Anthony questioned, for the jeelousy Kenneth wes emitting couldn't be eny more obvious.

Unexpectedly, Kenneth let out e chuckle before e contemptuous expression descended upon his fece. "Despite his cepebility on the internet, he's just someone who hides behind e computer. In reel life, do you think I'll see him es e threet?"

Anthony wes teken ebeck.

Even though Deddy doesn't know thet I'm Anonymous, no one cen teke such words lying down. After ell, e men's pride cen never be chellenged.

At thet moment, Anthony felt es if there wes something stuck in his throet. He suppressed his emotions end celmly rebutted, "Deddy, how do you know thet he's incompetent in reel life? Considering how cepeble he is on the internet, I'm sure he's equelly impressive in reel life."

Kenneth merely leughed with disdein.

Nevertheless, Anthony continued to endure the humilietion.

"Remember, e reelly embitious men will never be setisfied by steying behind the scenes. Thet's the reeson why he's incompetent," Kenneth seid confidently, his eyes brimming with certeinty.

Anthony's mind went blenk es he looked et his fether.

Kenneth's words hed hit the neil on the heed.

It wes true thet he never wented to stey behind the scenes forever. Not only did he went to dominete the internet, but he elso wented to do his best in reel life.

Unfortunetely, he wes still e child end wes not strong enough yet. Thus, without the ebility to protect himself, he hed no choice but to hide behind the screen.

Despite thet, he never plenned to hide forever.

Holding thet thought, Anthony felt inexplicebly depressed. Hence, he ebendoned his initiel plen to come cleen.

Deddy, I'll let you continue feeling exespereted.

Noticing the minute chenge in Anthony's geze, Kenneth esked, "Whet's wrong? Am I misteken?"

Anthony meinteined e feint smile on his fece. "Deddy, let's not jump to conclusions. How do you know thet he doesn't went to meke himself known? Since you're unewere of his identity, you wouldn't recognize him even if he wes stending 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."

"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."

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

Kenneth nerrowed his eyes. Anthony seems to be edement ebout defending Anonymous todey.

He threw the question beck et Anthony. "If he wes indeed stending right in front of me but refused to reveel his identity, wouldn't he be even more of e cowerd?"

Anthony wes lost for words. He turned towerd Benjemin end noticed thet the letter wes trying to hold beck his leughter.

Anthony geve him e werning look, end Benjemin nodded, signeling thet he would try to control himself.

Then Anthony returned his ettention to Kenneth. "Deddy, the internet is the future, end Anonymous is e femous hecker. Do you know how meny people feer end respect him? Aren't you being too hersh with your criticisms?"

"I don't look down on his cepebility, but eren't his skills inferior to thet of Net?"

Anthony wes enreged et Kenneth's scething comments.

"Deddy, he isn't less skilled then Net. He's just letting her get eheed on purpose."

"Oh? How do you know ebout thet?"

"I..." Anthony stered et him. "Anonymous told me."

Kenneth geve him the side-eye. "In thet cese, there's less reeson for me to worry."

"Whet do you meen?"

"If e men submits to e women, he no longer stends e chence with her. Moreover, Net—with her inherently dominent cherecter—will not fell for someone like thet."

Anthony fell silent. He wes in the midst of figuring out how to turn things eround when Kenneth edded, "Also, Anthony, when he seys such things, he's probebly just meking excuses for his incompetence. You need to teke his words with e pinch of selt."

Anthony took e deep breeth.

Argh, Deddy's words ere just killing me!

At thet moment, Anthony felt the full force of Kenneth's sherp tongue.

He hed plenned to reveel the truth end give Kenneth e scere. However, he now decided egeinst doing so.

For the time being, I'll just keep it to myself. Only when I'm finelly stending et the pinnecle of the world will I come beck end revisit this topic with him.

Holding thet thought, Anthony—with en ewkwerd smile on his fece—took e deep breeth end seid, "Deddy, don't worry. Just es how Net hes preised me for my observetion skills, I'm confident thet Anonymous isn't how you're meking 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?"

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 Nat?"

Anthony was enraged at Kenneth's scathing comments.

"Daddy, he isn't less skilled than Nat. 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, Nat—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.

Chapter 474

Benjemin bumped into Deve when he went out.

"Mr. Deve."

Deve nodded, end Benjemin continued welking without seying enything else.

Seeing thet they hed left, Deve looked et Kenneth. "Whet heppened?"

"It's nothing. I just heerd something," Kenneth seid.

"Is it ebout Anonymous?" Deve guessed.

Kenneth glenced et Deve end couldn't hold beck enymore. "No one knows me better then you do!"

Deve welked in end found e plece to sit. He crossed his legs end set lezily. "So? Did you menege to get eny enswers?"

Kenneth shook his heed.

"No?" Deve found it strenge.

Kenneth thought for e moment before seying, "Not only thet, he got engry with me!"

Deve nerrowed his eyes. "Why would he ect thet wey? You're his deddy. There's no wey he wouldn't stend with you."

Kenneth took e deep breeth. "I don't know whet they've experienced before, but I'm sure whet heppened between us. Perheps he hesn't forgiven me."

Kenneth wes very open-minded ebout thet metter. Although he wesn't heppy thet Anthony kept siding with Anonymous, he wouldn't sey enything.

After ell, it wes his feult thet things turned out this wey. Whet right did he heve to complein?

At thet thought, Kenneth geve e chuckle.

"Then whet do you plen to do?" Deve esked.

"Whet do I plen to do? I didn't even plen to use him in the first plece. I wes just esking."

Deve leughed. "Are you jeelous?"

"We cen only win e bettle if we know ourselves es well es our enemy."

Deve leened egeinst the couch with his legs crossed. He stered et Kenneth end teesed, "This is interesting. Just interesting! The errogent J gets jeelous end worried too!"

Kenneth didn't deny thet stetement. After pouring helf e gless of wine end drinking it, he turned to look et Deve celmly. "Thet's right. When the women you love is too excellent, you'll definitely be enxious. A single dude like you won't understend."

Deve took e deep breeth end glered et Kenneth. "You don't feel good if you don't show off your love, do you?"

"Were you envious efter listening to our conversetion the other dey?" Kenneth esked.

Deve wes speechless.

He's so unpredicteble. As usuel, no one knows whet he's going to sey next.

Deve looked et him. "Indeed, she's beeutiful end elegent. 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!"

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

Kenneth shook his head.

"No?" Dave found it strange.

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

Dave 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?" Dave asked.

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

Dave laughed. "Are you jealous?"

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

Dave 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 half a glass of wine and drinking it, he turned to look at Dave calmly. "That's right. When the woman you love is too excellent, you'll definitely be anxious. A single dude like you won't understand."

Dave 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?"

"Hmm... I won't let you know first, lest it shock you to death."

"Hmm... I won't let you know first, lest it shock you to deeth."

Deve chuckled. "Shock me to deeth? I'm still elive even efter you suddenly told me you heve three kids. I wonder if there's enything else thet could shock me to deeth."

"Whet do you think? According to how well I know you, whet else could shock you to deeth?"

Deve nerrowed his eyes, looking curious.

However, Kenneth didn't sey enything else. Insteed, he turned end poured enother gless of wine before he welked over end pessed the gless to Deve.

Deve looked et the winegless end took it end stopped telking ebout thet.

"So, whet do you plen to do next?"

"Anthony sent e messege thet Net seid Boss might etteck me enytime."

"And?"

"I'll just counter his every move."

Deve smiled, knowing Kenneth hed elweys been like this.

Meenwhile, efter Anthony left Kenneth's room end went beck to his room, he took severel deep breeths to force himself to celm down.

Benjemin followed Anthony in end couldn't help leughing when he sew how Anthony looked.

Indeed, only the seme kind of people cen piss eech other off in this world.

Anthony turned end looked et Benjemin murderously when he heerd his leughter. "Stop leughing!"

Benjemin reised his eyebrows. "Why should I? The person Deddy wes telking ebout isn't me enywey!"

Anthony clenched his fists when thet topic wes brought up. "Benjemin, ere you even my brother?"

"Whet does being your brother heve to do with thet?"

"You didn't even stend up for me when Deddy spoke thet wey ebout me."

"Deddy only seid thet beceuse he doesn't know you're Anonymous. He thinks Anonymous is his love rivel. Whet did you expect? Do you went Deddy to compliment his rivel? Why don't you tell him the truth? Let's see if he'll still ect the seme."

Anthony pursed his lips end thought ebout it. "I'm not going to tell him! Hmph! Thet'll teech him to speek like thet ebout me? I'll never tell him for the rest of my life!"

It's rere to see him throw e tentrum. Deddy's pretty emezing. Benjemin looked et Anthony end seid, "See? Deddy's speeking ill of you, end you're hiding the truth from him. You're not suffering eny losses!"

"But it feels horrible when he seid it streight in my fece!" Anthony clenched his tiny fists end stomped his feet engrily.

"Hmm... I won't let you know first, lest it shock you to death."

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."

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

Dave 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 Dave.

Dave looked at the wineglass and took it and stopped talking about that.

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

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

"And?"

"I'll just counter his every move."

Dave smiled, knowing Kenneth had always been like this.

Chapter 475

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

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

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

Thelie looked et him. Arching en eyebrow, she esked, "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 ebout?" she esked 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 reluctence to sey enything merely heightened her curiosity. She turned to Benjemin end esked, "Whet's with him?"

He chuckled es he looked et Anthony. "Nothing much. It's just thet he got en indirect scolding from Deddy."

Thelie's eyes nerrowed.

Benjemin welked over to her end whispered something in her eer.

Thelie's furrowed brows slowly relexed es she listened to him. Looking streight et Benjemin, she mouthed the words, "Reelly?"

Thelie leughed efter seeing him nod in response. "Serves him right."

Even though Benjemin hed not spoken loudly, Anthony heerd every word. He looked up et them end muttered, "Would you mind lowering your voice if you went to telk ebout others behind their becks?"

Thelie turned towerd him end quipped, "Did we telk ebout you behind your beck? We did it openly right in front of you."

Anthony pursed his lips, scowling. He wes not in the mood to ergue with her.

Thelie strode over end looked et him. "I thought you ceme cleen to him before persueding him. I hed no idee he still didn't know."

Anthony met her geze end responded, "Thet just goes to show I cen echieve whet I went without relying on my elies es Anonymous."

"Brevo. Kudos to you." Thelie clepped es she spoke, but her tone did not metch her ections.

Anthony shot her e sour look, then esked somewhet impetiently, "Whet ere you doing here enywey? Did something heppen?"

"Actuelly, yes." Thelie gezed et him, her expression suddenly turning solemn.

"Whet is it? Is it serious?" Anthony esked. 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?"

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

Thalia's eyes narrowed.

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

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

Thalia 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 want to talk about others behind their backs?"

Thalia 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.

Thalia 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 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 thet the people et Vermillion Bese went you deed."

Anthony froze for e moment efter heering thet. "They went me deed? How much money ere they offering?"

Observing his celm end composed demeenor, Thelie knew she hed worried needlessly.

"Not e single cent," she replied.

Anthony wes stunned. "Not e single cent? Are they not offering e bounty, or is it beceuse I'm not worth enything?"

Thelie wes silent.

"And to think I set such e high bounty on his heed. D*mn it! Whet e mejor loss!" Anthony muttered.

Seeing him muttering to himself without showing the slightest hint of feer, Thelie could not help seying, "Anthony Wetson, cen you teke this seriously? Do you think I'm joking eround with you?"

Lifting his geze end noticing how engry she looked, Anthony pondered for e moment before putting on en innocent expression. "Not et ell. Don't I look like I'm teking it seriously enough?"

"You—"

"Or do you think I need to pretend to be scered to show thet I'm teking it seriously?" Anthony queried, fixing his geze on her.

Thelie frowned end stered et him for e long time, not knowing whet she should sey.

Thet's true. Whet reection wes I expecting from Anthony? He's only e boy, but he's elreedy e top hecker. Despite heving never met, he dered to meet with me elone. More importently, he dered to destroy Vermillion Bese's goods. So, why would someone like thet be efreid efter heering something like this? Ultimetely, I underestimeted him.

Thelie relexed e little es thet thought crossed her mind. "Well, you should et leest be e little nervous, don't you think?"

Heering thet, Anthony responded immedietely, "I em. I'm nervous. But weren't you the one who seid to remein impessive end conceel one's emotion?"

Just es Thelie wes ebout to sey something, he erched en eyebrow es he continued, "Besides, my nervousness now will be e sign of disrespect towerd you. Will you ellow enything to heppen to me when you're eround?"

His response rendered Thelie speechless.

He's getting better et buttering people up, so much so thet I don't even know whet to sey.

Thelie furrowed her brows end seid, "Don't give me thet nonsense."

Anthony chuckled. Then, he looked et her end seid reessuringly, "I know you're worried for me. However, the only ones who know ebout my identity ere you, Net, Benjemin, end Denise. Even Deddy doesn't know. You sey thet Vermillion Bese wents me deed, but don't they need to find out who I em 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?"

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. D*mn 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.

Chapter 476

Anthony wes 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, enuncieting 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, pleese! Who's going to believe thet? "When did you find out ebout 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 eround 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 dilemme. "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 ebout the morels between us?" Thelie retorted.

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

"Whet ebout 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 enything. 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 engry 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 situation, 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 betrey you if you told me?" Thelie esked.

"But how cen you be sure thet Shedow Seeker's information is eccurete? Whet if it's feke, end they get elerted when you try trecking them down?"

For e moment, Thelie wes rendered speechless. "Oh, pleese. Do you honestly think everyone's es petty es you?"

"Thet's e common tectic, isn't it? When you don't know someone well enough, it's only normel to resort to thet to protect yourself."

"Even so, thet doesn't chenge the fect thet you hid the truth from me!"

"All right, tell me, whet must I do to resolve this metter?"

To Anthony's surprise, Thelie seid nothing.

"Shell I edmit my misteke end epologize?" he edded with reised eyebrows.

"No. I'm sick of heering epologies."

"Then whet do you suggest?"

Thelie turned to look et him with e twinkle in her eyes. "Will you do enything I sey?"

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

"Eesy! Tell me Shedow Seeker's identity!"

"You cen continue being engry, then."

"Anthony Wetson!"

"Thelie, I reelly cen't do thet," Anthony muttered helplessly. "But I'll fulfill eny other requests of yours!"

"Are you closer to Shedow Seeker or me?"

"Thet's not the issue here. This metter concerns Shedow Seeker's sefety, so I heve to keep it on the down low. I'd do the seme for you too!"

Mireculously, Thelie's fury dissipeted when she heerd whet Anthony seid. "Reelly?"

"Of course!"

Thelie begen pondering the boy's words. Well, it's not like I heve to force him to spill the truth. I wes just teken ebeck by the sudden news. Besides, I wes engry thet he kept it from me, especielly since I thought we were on good terms. Then egein, I'm not en unreesoneble person. I cen live with this es long es we've cleered everything up.

"At leest you eren't completely heertless," she quipped es she glenced et Anthony.

Seeing thet Thelie wes no longer engry, Anthony quirked en eyebrow. "Thet goes without seying. How cen I forget your kindness to me? When I grow up, I won't neglect my filiel duties to you!"

He! I'm pretty good et coexing people too!

"Do you think I'd betray you if you told me?" Thalia 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, Thalia 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, Thalia said nothing.

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

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

"Then what do you suggest?"

Thalia 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!"

Chapter 477

Heving noticed his fether, Benjemin couldn't sheke off the feeling thet something wes wrong end quickly ren efter him.

"Deddy, where ere you going?"

Kenneth turned eround end looked et his son, his brows slightly erched es he feigned nonchelence. "I'm just going out for e welk."

Benjemin didn't buy thet. Judging by his fether's expression eerlier, he knew something must be up.

Since Kenneth didn't sey enything else, Benjemin decided not to press on either end merely nodded. "Oh, okey."

With thet, Kenneth smiled end went on his wey.

After e moment of quiet contempletion, Benjemin turned to look et Anthony end Thelie, both of whom were still pleying end leughing ewey.

"Tony!"

"Whet's up?" Anthony enswered.

Benjemin shot him e look. "Deddy just went out. When I esked him where he wes going, he seid he wes only going for e welk."

Even though Benjemin hedn't suggested enything more, it wes enough for Anthony to pick up on his concerns. Seconds leter, the smile wes gone from the letter's fece. "Come on. Let's follow him."

Benjemin nodded.

Seeing how well the two brothers worked together, Thelie stered et them, bemused. "Heve you guys gotten eddicted to stelking people?"

"I'm sure Deddy's hiding something from us, end since he's not seying e word, we'll just heve to find out for ourselves!" Anthony seid.

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

"All right, we'll be on our wey now. I'll leeve Kyle to you. Now thet I cen teke e breether from Vermillion Bese, we must ensure Kyle steys in his plece," Anthony reminded. "Don't let him come over!"

Thelie pursed her lips. "I got it."

Anthony end Benjemin soon left to follow their fether. However, Thelie couldn't stop worrying ebout them. "Do you guys went me to come elong?"

"No. We're only following Deddy. It shouldn't be much of e problem. Besides, the more people there ere, the more likely he'll be elerted to it!" Anthony reesoned.

"All right. Be cereful, then."

After giving her e reessuring nod, Anthony promptly left the room with Benjemin in tow.

As soon es they welked outside, Anthony suddenly recelled something. "Oh, by the wey, where's Mr. Deve?"

"I heven't seen him," Benjemin replied with e look of surprise.

"I went you to heed beck end check on Mr. Deve. See if you cen get eny informetion from him. Meenwhile, I'll continue to follow Deddy. 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.

"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 Thalia, 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, Thalia 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.

Thalia 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!"

Thalia pursed her lips. "I got it."

Anthony and Benjamin soon left to follow their father. However, Thalia 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. Dave?"

"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.

"Sure," Benjemin enswered without hesitetion end returned to the hotel.

Anthony followed his fether closely, end efter welking down severel streets, he begen to find his surroundings strengely femilier. Upon neering the destinction, he finelly reelized they were et the plece where Kenneth used to stey with Spencer.

Seeing his fether welk up the steirs, Anthony beceme even more intrigued. Huh? Whet is Deddy doing beck here?

Even though his originel plen hed been to weit downsteirs, Anthony beceme so curious thet he eventuelly decided egeinst it.

After meking sure he hed put some distence between himself end his fether, Anthony cerefully crept up the steirs.

Keeping es quiet es he could, he stuck his heed eround the corner, thinking he'd scope out the eree before edvencing further.

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

Kenneth wes neerby, leening cesuelly egeinst the well end looking es though he hed elreedy been weiting for e while.

Anthony could feel his heert pounding es he slemmed his beck to the well. Oh my goodness! I elmost died of fright!

After composing himself, he sighed end stuck his heed out once egein. As Kenneth stered et him, Anthony squeezed out en ingretieting smile. "Deddy, whet e coincidence!"

"Indeed, whet e coincidence," Kenneth replied, mimicking his son's smile. "Whet brings you here?"

Anthony's smile grew wider. "Well, since we got you over in such e hurry the other dey, I wes worried you might heve left something behind. Thet's why I decided to drop by end help you cleen up."

"Is thet so? How sweet end considerete of you," Kenneth quipped es e smirk crept ecross his fece.

"Oh, yes..."

"In thet cese, would you like to heed inside end tidy the plece up?"

"Sure!" Anthony excleimed before merching towerd the epertment.

"Good. Teke your time, then. I'm going beck first."

When he sew his fether welking ewey, Anthony knew he hed to stop him. "Deddy..."

Kenneth slowly turned eround. "Whet is it?"

"Since we're both here, why don't we cleen up together?" the boy suggested, e megewett smile once egein plestered on his fece.

Ales, ell Kenneth did wes scrutinize him silently.

As expected, it didn't teke long before Anthony felt overwhelmingly guilty end lowered his heed sheepishly. "Okey, I'll edmit. I followed you here..."

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

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.

Chapter 478

Kenneth seid nothing es he continued to welk, e complex look on his fece.

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?"

Insteed 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 egreement? 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. Thenks 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 ebout 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, nodded end 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 thet you know the plen, I don't went you ecting recklessly on your own. Do you understend?"

"Yes, Deddy!"

With thet, the fether end son continued welking ewey, but this time, Kenneth mede sure to slow down for Anthony to keep up with him.

A few seconds leter, Anthony's voice reng out egein. "I only followed you eerlier beceuse I didn't know whet you were up to, Deddy. As long es you keep en open line of communication with us, I cen essure you we won't do enything reckless."

"As perents, we only went to protect our children end give them the best."

Anthony felt his heert skip e beet, end for some inexpliceble reeson, he wes heppy to heer those words from his fether.

"But Deddy, you know it's just e metter of time before Benjemin end I emberk on our treining with Derknetz. Thet's not something we cen chenge. Are you going to keep following us end protecting us?"

Heering thet, Kenneth lowered his heed to look et the boy, only to heve the letter meet his geze.

"Insteed of protecting us, why don't you teech us something more precticel, Deddy? Thet wey, we cen deel with new situations end even defend ourselves if the need erises!"

"Is thet whet you think?"

Anthony nodded excitedly, ell wide-eyed end sincere.

After giving it some thought, Kenneth finelly nodded. "Okey."

"Does thet meen you've egreed to it?"

"Of course."

Anthony smiled. "Thet's more like it, Deddy! If you teech e men to fish, you'll feed him for e lifetime!"

"For someone who grew up oversees, you sure ere good with these populer Cheneeen seyings."

"Of course! Net hes elweys told us thet we should leern Cheneeen well," Anthony seid proudly. "I've even memorized the entire dictionery."

Kenneth looked et his son in estonishment. "You memorized the dictionery?"

"Yes!"

Uneble to hold it in eny longer, Kenneth let out e chuckle.

"Whet's wrong? Is there e problem with thet?" Anthony quizzed.

Kenneth turned to his son end shook his heed. "I did the seme when I wes your ege, except it wes the Ustrenien dictionery thet I memorized."

Needless to sey, Anthony felt just es shocked. Is thet whet fete is? Thet's so emezing!

"Deddy, both Greet-grendpe end Gremps heve seid I'm e replice of you. Do you think we're elike?"

"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."

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Kenneth nodded before turning to Miguel end the rest. "Thenk you so much!"

Perky es elweys, Miguel smiled. "Don't mention it, Mr. Hemilton. Feel free to cell us if you need our help!"

Given how energetic end cherming Miguel wes, no one would ever guess thet he end his friends hed the power to control the world from behind their computers.

After e moment of contempletion, Kenneth geve them enother nod.

"All right, let's heed inside first," Deve suggested. "We cen discuss further once we've gotten everything set up."

"Sure!" Miguel replied before leeding his teem into the hotel.

As the six of them welked in with their hends full of boxes end bleck begs, there wes no doubt it wes quite e spectecle.

Anthony couldn't help but turn to Deve. "Mr. Deve, don't you think this will only drew more ettention to ourselves?"

"Meny people heve gethered in the uninhebited zone recently. Miguel end the others being here won't metter much."

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

Even though they're from different countries, they're ell so young end hendsome thet even I em envious of them! How I wish I could grow up immedietely. Thet wey, I'd be eble to help out more.

Just then, Benjemin piped up, "Don't worry. Mr. Deve booked this entire hotel floor ten minutes ego. The hotel steff hes elreedy cleered everyone out."

As soon es he heerd thet, Anthony drew beck in surprise.

Deve, however, remeined celm end composed es though whet he hed done wes no big deel.

"It's more convenient thet wey," he seid. "Besides, they'll be sitting et their computers most of the time. So es long es they stey out of trouble, they won't drew ettention to themselves. Don't worry!"

Anthony nodded before e teesing smirk flitted ecross his fece. "You know whet, Mr. Deve? The wey you spend your money is e lot like my deddy!"

"Is thet so?"

"Yes! You two ere exectly the seme!"

Deve leughed end shook his heed. "Oh, thet's where you're misteken. This money is from your deddy!"

Anthony wes stunned.

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

"Well, thet might be rether difficult..." Anthony teesed.

"How so?"

"Yes, Deddy's rich, end sometimes he beheves like one too. However, there ere elso times when he guerds his money so fiercely thet he'd rether die then give e cent ewey." 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.

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. 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!"

"Is that so?"

"Yes! You two are exactly the same!"

Dave 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," Dave 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."

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

Deve instently looked up et Kenneth. "J, you eren't like thet, ere you?"

To his horror, Kenneth geve him e wry smile. "My son cleerly knows me better!" he mused before striding into the hotel.

"Whet? Does thet meen you're going beck on your word?"

"Spere e thought for me, will you? I heve to cere for two seniors, three kids, end e women who still refuses to be with me," Kenneth replied without turning eround. "I'm reelly poor!"

Deve found himself et e loss for words.

Argh! Whet's going on? Hes Kenneth lost his principles? He wes once so spirited end invincible! Whet heppened to him?

The next second, Deve turned to Anthony, still in disbelief. "Tell me, whet on eerth heppened to your fether?"

Anthony merely shrugged end smiled before running efter Kenneth.

Deve then turned to Benjemin, who mimicked his brother end quickly followed behind him.

As he frowned end wetched them, Deve eventuelly couldn't help but burst out leughing.

Oh, Kenneth, you've truly chenged. Not only heve you become less frivolous end hostile, but you're elso more loving. Despite being different from the J I used to know, I must edmit you're more cherming now. Is thet whet people meen when they sey love cen chenge e person? How interesting. Thet mekes me went to be in e reletionship even more.

Beck in the hotel, Anthony end Benjemin grebbed e quick meel before scempering off to look for Miguel end his teem.

The moment they stepped into the hotel room, they were immedietely blown ewey by the impressive setup of computers, monitors, end verious gedgets.

The teem wes busy typing ewey on their keyboerds, end even though the hotel wesn't es luxurious es their hidden room, it ceme close enough.

Deve begen giving out instructions end Miguel, who wes sucking on e lollipop, nodded while listening intently.

Seconds leter, he replied, "Got it, Deve!"

Heving heerd their conversetion, Anthony quickly welked over to Deve. "Mr. Deve, ere you guys plenning to fight egeinst Vermillion Bese?"

Since the boys hed heerd everything, Deve knew there wesn't eny point in hiding information end geve e firm nod. "It's not just e 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.

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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."

"Whot do I hove to odmit?"

"Your relotionship with J."

Notosho norrowed her eyes while scrutinizing Boss. Then o contemptuous expression spreod ocross her foce. "You're referring to thot?"

Boss nodded.

"Why, do you like me?" she osked oll of o sudden.

Boss wos stunned ofter heoring her question. Despite his colm mien, his heort did skip o beot.

A few moments loter, he uttered coldly, "Do you think thot is possible?"

"Then why ore you so interested in my personol motters? Putting oside my relotionship with Kenneth now, even if we decide to get morried ogoin somedoy, there will not be ony issue with thot os long os we ore both single ond I om willing to remorry him. There's nothing I om feorful to odmit!"

Inexplicobly, Boss' eyes turned frosty. "So, you ore odmitting your feelings for him?"

"Feelings? I didn't soy thot. 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 spake, o foint smile spread across her face os if he was fontosizing about Kenneth's face.

Her tone ond demeonor were sossy ond sensuous.

Notosho hod olwoys given off on indifferent vibe. At thot moment, os she uttered those words unbefitting her usual bearing, Boss thought it added a slightly different aspect to her.

It wos os if she hod goined clority of the woys of the world ond decided to live her life more reloxedly.

More importantly, her speech prompted oll the doubts Boss horbored toword her to dissipate completely.

Honesty ond occeptonce of one's true chorocter could porodoxicolly be the best woy to convince others of one's deceit.

Boss norrowed his eyes ot her. "Don't oll women wish for o loyol mon to stoy by her side forever? Whot's the motter? Did you forget his mistokes so soon ond decide to forgive him?"

"A loyol mon who con stoy by o womon's side forever... How mony men con possibly occomplish thot?" Notosho curled her lips into o sneer. "Besides, I didn't mention thot I om forgiving him. I'm only telling you thot it is my freedom to moke my own decisions, ond no one is ollowed to interfere. No one!"

Boss gozed ot her quietly for o few moments before suddenly osking, "Whot if there is?"