

Yo Daddy 651

Chapter 651

Spencer looked at her. "That's not what I meant—"

"I know." Natasha met his gaze. "Though it wasn't my intention to let this happen to Thalia, I was still the cause, which means I have to claim some responsibility for it. So, I should be the one to deal with this matter. You don't have to be very torn about it."

Pursing his lips, he remained silent.

It was then Kenneth, who was at the side, turned to her with a dark look in his eyes. Moments later, he piped up, "All right, Nat... Call someone here to clean the place up first. We can talk about the other stuff at a later time."

With that, Natasha retracted her gaze from Spencer, turned to gaze at Kenneth, and nodded.

After she left, Kenneth's gaze fell on Spencer, and he uttered in a low voice, "I hope you understand this is just an accident, Spencer. Without Nat, Thalia may not have survived until now. Thus, she's not responsible for this matter."

Spencer retorted, "I didn't mean to blame her—"

"You didn't, but she's blaming herself, and you know very well what kind of person she is, don't you?" Kenneth interrupted, his voice deeper than before.

Again, Spencer remained silent while pursing his lips. Of course, I do. I've known her for so many years. I was just... expressing my worries. It was never my intention to sound like I was blaming her.

Upon taking a deep breath, Kenneth continued, "You're a man, so I hope you can remain composed and rational instead of letting your emotions get the better of you. As for the antidote, I will find a way to get it, by hook or by crook, even if it costs my life."

"Kenneth, that's not what I—"

"I don't care what you mean. This discussion ends here." Kenneth said abruptly, cutting Spencer's attempt at an explanation short. Throughout it all, his eyes bored into the other man.

After staring at Kenneth quietly for a moment, Spencer nodded and ultimately swallowed all his negative emotions.

Soon, a housekeeper came upstairs to clean up the room.

Natasha also returned to help the housekeeper out since the room was a mess. There did not seem to

be any trace of anger in her countenance.

The two men kept quiet as though nothing had happened between them.

Kenneth watched Natasha as she tidied the area without uttering a single word, then he walked over and grabbed her hand to lead her out of the room.

“What's the matter?” she inquired.

Despite that, no response came from the man, who did not stop walking until they arrived outside.

“What's the matter?” she asked again, gazing at him.

Without warning, Kenneth pulled her into his arms.

Natasha was stunned for a moment before she squeezed out a smile. “What's this? Are you trying to comfort me?”

“It pains me to see you like this,” he answered.

His reply stupefied her. While his actions had gone beyond what he was saying, it still made her feel warm to hear him say it for the first time.

“Why? It's not like I was the one having an episode earlier,” she said flatly.

At that moment, he released her and gazed at her fair, delicate face. A tranquil smile was still playing on her lips. She's always like this, showing a smile to everyone no matter what sort of situation she's facing. But the more she does it, the more it pains me to see it.

Kenneth touched her face and spoke. “You don't need to disguise yourself before me, Nat.”

The smile on Natasha's face stiffened for a beat, but she soon composed herself. “I really am fine,” she assured, still smiling.

“I know you feel guilty because you believe you've dragged Thalia into this. I also know that you're aggrieved because Spencer's your best friend, and you feel responsible. However, you should realize he wasn't blaming you for what happened, Nat. He was just venting his emotions,” he explained.

“I know. I'm fine, really. I'm not angry either.”

The man remained unconvinced and was still worried. Thus, he did not retract his gaze from her face.

“I've known Spencer for years, so I won't get angry just because he said those things. Yes, I do feel guilty because I didn't expect my good intentions to go awry... But I'm not that fragile. You don't have to worry

about me!” Natasha reassured, meeting his eyes.

It was not until Kenneth was absolutely certain she was all right that he eased up.

“I swear I won’t let anything untoward happen to you, Nat. Don’t worry,” he promised.

She beamed at him. “I believe you.”

Although they were looking into each other’s eyes, they were actually thinking about different things.

Unbeknownst to them, two pairs of eyes were staring at them from a corner nearby.

Meanwhile, the smile on Anthony’s face vanished after he returned to the bedroom he shared with his siblings.

He paced back and forth in the room while mulling over the conversation between Kenneth and Spencer.

While they did not state it explicitly, based on that conversation, Anthony was sharp enough to conclude that they were hiding something from them.

Furthermore, he knew it was an extremely grave matter and that the two men would do something about it soon.

However, the boy had no idea what it was.

It was then that the door to the room was pushed open abruptly, and in came Denise and Benjamin.

“Did you hear something earlier, Tony?” Denise asked.

They made so much noise during their arrival that it startled Anthony. When he saw it was the two of them, he heaved a sigh of relief. “What are you two doing? You scared me half to death!”

Benjamin approached his brother. Upon seeing that the latter indeed had a frightened expression, he questioned, “What’s the matter? Were you doing something bad?”

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Looking at Denise, Anthony sighed in resignation.

It’s pointless to say anything now.

As he remained silent, Benjamin piped up, “Although we didn’t see what happened inside, we could hear that there seemed to be some sort of conflict between them, as if something had vaguely

transpired. Daddy also promised Nat that he won't allow anything untoward to happen to her."

That caused Anthony to furrow his brows.

Coupled with the conversation between Kenneth and Spencer, he knew they must be keeping a secret for a certainty; it was no longer just a mere suspicion of his.

"What happened afterward?" the boy then asked.

"Spencer is still in Thalia's room right now. The housekeeper went to the room to tidy up some things a few moments ago, but she hasn't come out yet," Benjamin informed.

Anthony listened with a thoughtful look on his face.

His younger brother eyed him. "Do you know something?"

Anthony looked upward to meet his eyes, then nodded.

"What do you know?" Benjamin immediately pressed on.

After taking a deep breath, Anthony told his siblings about how he had followed their father earlier that day and heard the conversation between Kenneth and Spencer.

Benjamin knitted his brows tightly after hearing the divulgement from Anthony. "Based on what you've said, we can be a hundred percent sure that they're keeping something from us," he reasoned.

"But despite all we've heard, we still can't figure out what it is!" Denise chimed in.

Benjamin deduced, "They probably did that on purpose. Maybe they communicated in that manner because they were worried that we would find out. After all, they didn't have to be overly explicit to understand one another."

Anthony nodded. "Yes. We can't rule out that possibility."

"What should we do, then?" Denise asked. "Just what is it that we cannot know?"

He froze momentarily before murmuring, "I'm just afraid that it's something bad..."

"Something bad..." The incident of Natasha fainting flashed through her mind. On second thought, that's unlikely. If it had something to do with Nat, Daddy would've long been restless, and he wouldn't be as calm as he is now.

At that moment, Anthony piped up, "Based on what we've heard, we know that Daddy will certainly

take action, but as to when that will happen, it remains unclear. For now, we shall stick to the plan—we'll split up and ask to see if we can find out something."

Benjamin and Denise nodded in unison.

"Come on. Let's go and visit Thalia now," Anthony suggested. "Perhaps we can still find out something if we head there now."

In response, his siblings bobbed their heads again.

While Anthony was the most perverse of the three, he was also the best at solving problems, so with him taking the lead, Benjamin and Denise naturally did not have to think as much.

With that, the trio set off together.

"We'll just pretend that nothing is going on, and we just came to play with Thalia as usual," Anthony said.

"Acting is what I'm best at," was Denise's response.

Benjamin merely stated, "I'll just keep my mouth shut."

"Mm. You seem to know yourself quite well," Anthony commented.

"You simply can't go without insulting me, can't you?" Benjamin retorted.

Anthony replied, "That's not true. I'm just used to it."

At that, Benjamin found himself at a loss for words.

Subsequently, he cast his brother a side-eye and said no more.

Just as they were approaching Thalia's room, they bumped into their parents.

"Daddy, Nat," Anthony greeted.

A grim look flashed across Kenneth's eyes when he saw the trio. "What are you three doing here?"

Frowning, Anthony responded, "We came to see Thalia, of course... Is there a problem?"

With his eyes cast downward, Kenneth stated, "Spencer is examining Thalia now, so it's not convenient for the three of you to go in. Head back to your room first."

"Is that so?" Anthony queried, a small frown creasing his forehead. Then, he looked toward Thalia's

room and continued, "How long will it take for the examination to be completed? We can just wait here."

Words eluded Kenneth.

Anthony is determined to oppose me.

Staring at the boy, he was about to say something when Natasha beat him to it. "If that's the case, stay here and wait then."

Stunned, Kenneth tilted his head and stared incredulously at her.

"They won't stop worrying if you don't let them wait, so just leave them be," she remarked with a faint smile.

Since she had already put it that way, he could only go along with it. He then turned back to the children. "All right, then. Be quiet so that you don't disturb Spencer."

"Got it," Anthony responded.

Right at that moment, Kenneth directed his gaze to Natasha. "How are you feeling? Are you tired? Do you want to go back to the room to rest?"

"No need for that. Spencer should be almost done, so let's just wait a little longer," she replied.

With his eyes trained on her, he nodded.

Hence, the family of five stood outside Thalia's room and waited.

The three children occasionally peered inside and shuffled their feet bit by bit in that direction to observe what was happening.

They dared not be too overt, though, as Kenneth would cast a glance their way from time to time.

After what seemed like forever, Spencer's voice came from the room.

"Thalia, are you awake?"

When Natasha and Kenneth heard his voice, they exchanged glances with each other before striding toward the room with the three children following closely behind.

Chapter 653

The moment Anthony spoke, his father understood his intentions. While walking out the door, Kenneth abruptly uttered, "That's a private matter between two people who're in love with each other. There's

no need for unnecessary questions.”

With that, the boy was rendered speechless.

Natasha failed to stop herself from smiling when she heard his answer, as it sounded rather absurd.

In the meantime, Anthony rolled his eyes at Kenneth, not bothering to mask the deep annoyance in his expression. I can't believe he said that just to keep it a secret from us.

Despite that, through that response, he was well aware that the latter would never tell him the truth.

After pondering for some time, Anthony commented, “Well, that's quite wasteful of them. I wonder if Mr. Dave will feel upset over that.”

“It's fine. Dave will ask Spencer to compensate him,” Kenneth said.

“As he should!” The boy nodded in agreement.

Sounding like they were bantering with each other, the father-and-son duo chatted as they left the room.

At the same time, Thalia and Spencer heard every word of their exchange from inside the room.

Even though they knew Kenneth was evading Anthony's question, they still found his words somewhat embarrassing.

Thalia trained her gaze on Spencer and said, “I'm fine now. You should get back to work.”

The worry in the man's dark orbs was evident as he gazed at her and said softly, “I won't leave. I'll stay here with you.”

“You don't have to do that. I truly am fine—”

“Thalia,” Spencer interjected, his eyes filled with complicated emotions. “Promise me you won't hide like that again, please? I was so worried about you.”

Thalia gazed at him, feeling as though she could drown in his eyes.

“Let me help you. I can't bear the pain for you, but at least I can keep you company,” he added.

For a long time, she gazed at him wordlessly. “Spencer, I'd like to know the reason. Why can't we be together?” she asked in a faint voice.

At once, Spencer went quiet.

“Stop running away from this question every single time it's brought up. Spencer, you know very well that silence isn't the solution!” Thalia enunciated firmly as sadness flashed across her beautiful eyes. The whole time, her gaze never left his face.

He let his eyes roam her body a few times before responding, “Thalia, I'm so much older than you. In fact, I could be your uncle if I were a few more years older. You're still young, so why waste your time on me?”

“Why can't I prefer older men?” she snapped. “Spencer, I don't believe that's the real reason you've been hesitant and conflicted this whole time. If you're being honest, then fine. Let me make it clear that even if you're old enough to be my grandfather, I will still be interested in you. It doesn't bother me, and it won't be an issue between us.”

“But it bothers me!”

“Why? Rich men prefer young and pretty ladies. There is one right before you, so why would it bother you?”

Spencer avoided her gaze. “Well, it just does bother me!”

His insistence stunned Thalia, who gave him the once-over. “Don't tell me that you can't...”

Upon meeting her eyes, he immediately understood what she was referring to. With his brows furrowed together, he chided, “Thalia, what nonsense are you thinking about?”

“What else could it be, then?” Thalia questioned, knitting her brows together. No matter how hard she mulled over it, that was the only possibility she could come up with.

Spencer looked away, saying nothing.

“If that's the real reason, it's fine. I don't mind—”

“Thalia Jacoway!” The man cut her off in frustration. He was almost at his wits' end.

“Tell me the reason, then!”

“I told you—I'm older than you, so I don't want to waste your time,” Spencer replied, pronouncing each and every word clearly.

Thalia merely stared at him and remarked coolly, “That's nothing but an excuse.”

Naturally, he knew it was an excuse and a very poor one at that.

But I don't have a choice. As long as there's an excuse, she'll never learn the truth and will never grow to hate me...

With that thought in mind, Spencer calmed down. "All right, let's stop dwelling on that. I'll tend to your wound now."

When he stretched his hand out, Thalia pushed it away.

"I don't need it," she said icily while looking at him.

He frowned. "Thalia, this isn't the time for you to be willful."

"Spencer, I don't know what your concern is, but I can tell you this straight up—whatever the issue may be, it won't be an obstacle between us. It doesn't matter to me. All I want is to be with you! Now, I only want your answer. Do you want to be with me or not? This will be my only and last time asking you this question," she articulated each word clearly.

In that split second, Spencer had the impulse to say yes.

He wanted nothing more than to embrace Thalia and bring her to the ends of the earth where no one knew them so that they could start a new life together.

However, he was cognizant of the fact that the concerns he had could not be evaded even if they were to escape to the ends of the earth.

In the end, his rationality prevailed over his impulse.

Gazing at her, he said apologetically, "I'm sorry, Thalia—"

Before he could finish his sentence, Thalia interjected, "All right, I got it! You don't have to say anything else."

Spencer's lips twitched. He was about to say something when she added, "You can leave now. Please get the doctor for me. Thanks!"

Her attitude and tone changed vastly in an instant. She was so courteous toward him as though he was nothing but a stranger to her.

Chapter 654

"Did you see that? Daddy was obviously feeling guilty." Anthony told Benjamin and Denise when they were back in their room.

"Yeah, that was a little strange." Denise nodded in agreement. "Why must the adults do this? Instead of

being honest with us, they insist on making us find the truth ourselves bit by bit!"

Right then, Benjamin piped up, "They don't want us to know because they're afraid we'll take action on our own and get into danger. At the same time, they don't want us to worry."

"They don't want us to worry?" Denise echoed, falling into deep thought.

"Benjamin's right," Anthony agreed.

"But Nat is the only person we'd be worried about..." his sister murmured. Looking up at him, she asked, "Is it related to her?"

"We aren't sure about that yet, so we'll have to discover that ourselves," Anthony voiced.

Benjamin bobbed his head. "What happened outside Thalia's room earlier was rather strange as well. If it were just a simple checkup and changing of medicine, Nat wouldn't have waited before the door for that long."

When Denise heard his suspicion, she chimed in, "Yes, I was curious about that, but just as I was about to bring it up, Thalia regained consciousness, and Nat walked into her room."

"So they are hiding more than one thing from us?" Anthony speculated.

"Daddy and the others will definitely be going into action again in the next few days. We have to keep an eye on them," Benjamin declared.

Anthony nodded. "Let's do that, then. If there are any updates, post them in our group chat."

"Sure."

"Okay!"

His two siblings concurred with his decision.

Just then, Anthony's phone rang.

Benjamin and Denise turned to look at him.

"It's Miguel," Anthony informed them before he answered the call.

"Hello," he said into the receiver.

"Master, where are you?" Miguel's piteous voice sounded over the line.

"I'm upstairs. Why?"

"Help!" Miguel yelled.

"What is it? Just say it straight out."

"That person hacked into my phone. What should I do now?" Miguel asked.

Hearing a trace of nervousness in his voice, Anthony assured him, "I'll head over right now."

"Okay!"

After the call ended, Benjamin asked, "What's wrong?"

"That person caused trouble again. This time, they hacked into Miguel's phone. I need to go and take a look," Anthony revealed.

"Let's go, then. We can't fish for any information now, so we might as well check out the situation together," Benjamin suggested.

Hence, the trio headed to the hidden room together.

Just as they arrived at the doorway, they saw Miguel slumping on the floor right before the door, looking downcast.

Anthony went over to him. "What's going on? Are you giving up this soon?" he asked, shooting him a glance.

"Master, what should I do? I've been insulted!" Miguel cried. He acted as though the boy was his lifesaver.

"Why? Were you raped?" Anthony retorted.

Miguel was rendered speechless. It took him a few seconds to recover his voice. "I was talking about my phone getting hacked!"

"Oh, that's nothing," Anthony replied, his voice dripping in disdain.

"That's nothing? Master, I'm among the top five hackers in the world! What will people think of me if word gets out that my phone got hacked?" Miguel complained.

Anthony stared at him. "How impressive. You don't have skills, yet you value your pride, huh?"

"Master!"

"All right. Give me your phone!" Anthony urged.

Instantly, Miguel offered his phone to him without hesitation.

Anthony took it and perused his phone. A while later, he said, "It did get hacked. What did you do? Did you browse an illegal website?"

"Of course not!" Miguel replied hastily.

"Then why did it get hacked for no reason?" Anthony inquired.

"I-I don't know. I merely used my phone to enter a forum and saw people chatting on it. I then clicked on a link... Was it that link?" Realization dawned on Miguel suddenly.

Seeing his reaction, Anthony remarked, "Clearly, it was that link."

"D*mn! I can't believe they pulled such a despicable trick on me!" Miguel cursed.

"Let's go!" Anthony ordered and strode into the hidden room.

Upon arriving before the computer, he stretched his hand out and said curtly, "Cable."

Miguel gave him the cable immediately.

The boy then connected the phone to the computer with the cable. At once, lines of codes and a progress bar appeared on the computer screen.

"It's a Trojan horse," Anthony said.

"Yes, it's a Trojan horse. I tried many times but failed to remove it!" Miguel revealed.

Anthony swept his gaze over him. "Don't tell anyone I'm your master."

"Why?" Miguel asked curiously.

Denise piped up, "Why else? You're embarrassing, of course!"

Words eluded Miguel then and there.

He quickly turned to Anthony and vowed, "Master, you'll always be my master!"

The boy did not bother replying to him. With his gaze fixated on the screen, Anthony started to remove the software.

Chapter 655

"Who is it?"

"Who is it?"

From behind, Denise and Miguel asked in unison. Following that, they exchanged glances and quickly looked away disdainfully.

"It's that fellow who hacked us the other time!" Anthony's voice sounded.

Denise seemed to have recalled something. "The one who got rooted out by Nat in a second?"

"That's right." Anthony nodded. He was visibly pleased with the description she gave.

Denise snickered. "What an interesting fellow. Isn't it embarrassing enough the other time? Why is he delivering himself to us again? There's no end to his shenanigans, huh?"

Anthony stared at the computer screen as he fell into deep thought. Benjamin peeked at the screen and analyzed, "After Nat weeded that fellow out previously, she already got the system's loopholes fixed, leaving him no way of getting in. Finding an opportunity to hack Miguel's phone was probably his only option left so that you'll actively seek him out." His gaze landed on Anthony as he finished speaking.

At that, Miguel shifted his gaze to Anthony as well.

Is that so?

Anthony, nonetheless, had his eyes fixed on the computer screen. At that precise moment, the other party sent over a message that read: You've finally shown yourself.

"You're absolutely right," Anthony said to Benjamin while nodding.

Benjamin curled the corners of his lips up.

Behind him, Miguel was at a loss for words. So, what on earth was I taken for? Cannon fodder? Or a foot pedal?

"But why did he do that? What motive does he have to look for you?" Miguel wondered aloud.

"He's probably unwilling to accept the reality," Denise reasoned.

As if trying to seek verification, Miguel turned to look at Benjamin, to which the latter nodded and said, "Yeah, that's possible."

At that very moment, Anthony got connected with the other party.

Anthony straightforwardly wrote: Tell me, what is it again this time?

That person cut to the chase and replied: Who is that person from the other time?

In their profession, it was possible to tell apart one from another based on their skills even without meeting face-to-face. Everyone had different areas of expertise and distinct ways of maneuver. That was why Anthony had already figured something out when the other party popped the question.

Nevertheless, as Natasha's identity concerned her safety, there was no way Anthony would expose her.

Anthony: What do you mean by the person from the other time? What are you talking about?

The other party: Don't tell me it was you previously.

Anthony: Well, what do you expect?

The other party: That person's skills are exceptional. Even though it was less than a minute, I could tell there was a difference. That's the first time I came across someone who can do great at both offense and defense.

His explanation made Anthony and the rest turn solemn.

The fact that he could discern it was another person's skills within a minute was enough to prove that he was not an ordinary person.

Staring at the computer screen, Anthony pondered briefly and replied: Thank you for your compliments. I'll gratefully accept it!

The other party: Your skills are impressive too, but you're only good at offense.

Anthony stilled for a split second before responding: What exactly are you trying to say?

The other party: I want to go head-to-head with you guys again!

Anthony: I don't have time for that.

The other party: Let's do it again. I may not lose this time.

Taking a deep breath, Anthony typed: Even if we compete another ten times, you'll still lose!

The other party: Aren't you a little too confident?

Anthony: Confident or not, can't you tell?

The other party: I admit I'm no match for that person. As for you, I think we have to compete again to see.

It was the first time someone had dared to doubt Anthony's capabilities.

Just as Anthony wanted to say something, Benjamin held him back. "Don't fall for his trick."

Anthony turned to look at him.

"Since he has doubts, it'll be easy for him to find a flaw if you compete against him now," Benjamin analyzed.

After a brief moment of hesitation, Anthony bobbed his head.

Anthony: You want to compete?

The other party: Of course.

Anthony: Sure. Bring it on!

"Tony..." Denise stared at her brother from behind.

Anthony kept silent and continued to look at the computer.

The other party: You'd better keep your word!

It was clear that the other party was pretty excited.

Anthony: My time is precious. Hurry up.

The other party: Let's play something fun and simple this time!

Anthony: What is it?

The other party: I have a piece of software that I just bought from someone. There's a flaw in it. Let's see who can locate it first.

Anthony: Sure.

Soon, their battle began.

"Tony..." Denise watched closely from behind.

A mischievous grin formed on Anthony's face as he pinned his eyes on the computer screen.

The other party: Let's begin.

With that, he took the lead and made a false start. As much as they both seized the time to begin the mission, Anthony became increasingly slower with his progress after his initial lackadaisical lunge forward. Eventually, he came to a point where he completely stopped doing anything.

Several minutes went by quickly. Suddenly, the other party typed: What's going on? Why aren't you moving?

Anthony: Carry on! I'm letting you win!

The other party: W-What's with that attitude?

Anthony: Nothing. You'll stop bothering me if you win, won't you? Hurry up, I'm busy.

Only then did realization dawn upon Denise about what was going on. Unable to hold herself back, she chuckled. "Tony, that's gonna drive him mad!"

Chapter 656

Anthony had intended to repair Miguel's phone but upon second thought, he decided not to. He tossed the phone back to Miguel. "If he comes looking for you again, tell him how to reach me."

Miguel frowned. "Why?"

"Just do as I say."

Miguel felt uneasy. "Are you going to take another apprentice, Master?" I am concerned about where I stand.

Anthony rolled his eyes at his words. "He's more skilled than I am. Who am I to teach him things?"

"Then what are you..."

Anthony pondered for a moment and said, "I know what I'm doing."

"You wouldn't cast me aside, would you, Master?" Miguel asked meekly, a sorrowful look dampening his usual cheeriness.

Anthony stared at him. "If you're going to keep making assumptions, don't ever mention that you are my apprentice. I can't bear the embarrassment."

"I won't. I promise you I won't," Miguel said hastily.

Anthony sighed. He was about to leave when Miguel grabbed his shirt.

Anthony turned around to glance at him. "What is it?"

Miguel grinned. "Are you finally going to admit that you are—"

Before he could finish his sentence, Anthony placed a finger to his own lips to hush him.

Upon coming to his senses, Miguel glanced around furtively. The others were so used to his daily proximity to Anthony that none of them looked over.

Aside from me, nobody else in the house knows about his true identity.

Turning back to Anthony, Miguel lowered his voice and amended himself. "You've finally admitted your identity, so when are you going to acknowledge me?"

"Acknowledge you? As what?"

"As your apprentice!"

Anthony glared at him in annoyance. "Is my silence not a tacit agreement?"

"You have agreed tacitly, but the world doesn't know!"

"What are you getting at?"

"Aren't you going to announce to the world that you have taken on a charming apprentice?" Miguel gave an ingratiating smile.

Anthony grimaced. "Is that necessary?"

Miguel nodded. "Of course. It pertains to my identity, which is the first among any other apprentices you may have in the future." As he spoke, Miguel laughed at the pleasantness of the prospect.

Anthony was rendered speechless.

Aside from a glare, he did not deign to respond but rose to leave instead.

"Master!" Miguel hastened to block him before regarding him with a confused expression. "You should at least say something."

Anthony shut his eyes in resignation. "You want me to acknowledge you, is that it?"

Miguel nodded eagerly.

"We'll see about that after you brush up on your techniques. If you don't do something about your abysmal typing speed, I will disown you!" Anthony threatened.

Without waiting for a response, he turned and left Miguel rooted at the spot.

What does that mean? Did I shoot myself in the foot? Instead of getting the recognition I deserve, I now face the possibility of being disowned!

Miguel came back to his senses at that alarming realization.

No! I cannot allow that to happen!

Upon making up his mind, he strode purposefully to his computer and got to work. I must work on my speed and technique!

The triplets were having a stroll outside when Denise broached the subject. "Are you really going to accept Miguel as your apprentice, Tony?"

"Since I can't get rid of him, I might as well keep him around," Anthony replied after considering the question momentarily.

"That doesn't seem like your style."

"What is my style?"

"Hmm... You work better alone."

Anthony chuckled.

"I must say, this fellow, Miguel, is rather handsome. He's a burst of sunshine, though lacking in some brains," Denise added.

"He's rather accomplished for his age, but that will change in time," Anthony said.

"Hey, are you defending your apprentice?" Denise teased.

"I'm just stating facts."

"Facts they may be, you're commenting on your apprentice's tender age despite being younger than him," Denise pointed out.

Anthony raised his brows, and a hint of pride flashed across them. "This isn't the same."

"How is it not the same?"

"I am the chosen one. How can you compare him with me?"

Denise cast him a scathing glare. "You should work on your modesty, Tony. Be more down-to-earth and humble like Ben."

Anthony glanced at Benjamin beside him. "Him? Humble?"

"Mm-hmm!"

"We all shared a womb. How are you that clueless about him?" Anthony asked.

"How am I clueless?" Denise asked.

Chapter 657

Anthony caught up with Benjamin, who was walking slowly, and said, "Benjamin, whatever it is you want to say, just say it. What's with that expression?"

"Nothing."

"Do you really think I don't know what you're thinking about?"

Benjamin side-eyed his brother and replied, "Is it what I am thinking about or what you are thinking about?"

Upon hearing his double-edged remark, Anthony narrowed his eyes slightly and said, "Benjamin, did you secretly pick up mind-reading skills?"

Benjamin let out a chuckle. "So, are you finally admitting to it?"

Anthony sighed. "Why is it so hard to keep anything from you?" He nodded. "Yes, it's true that I have selfish intentions. I've been wanting to form my own hacker organization. His skills are not worse than mine, so I wanted to try to get him to join me."

Benjamin seemed to have expected it. He was not surprised at all when he heard that. He fixed his gaze on his brother and analyzed, "His skills are indeed not worse than yours, and it's definitely beneficial for your organization with him joining. But we don't really know him well, and considering his links with Vermillion Base, even if he pledges his allegiance to you, do you really think he will remain loyal?"

Anthony furrowed his brows. "I've thought about what you said as well. That's why it's just an idea. Let's see how it goes. Besides, he's not going to be the only person in my organization. I won't recruit him if I have any doubts about him."

Benjamin nodded and replied, "Mm. You should give it some careful thought. It's better to be safe than sorry. We can't afford this loss."

"I know." Anthony nodded, then looked at Benjamin. "So, do you want to be the first member of my organization?"

Benjamin chuckled. "Bye."

Staring at his departing figure, Anthony said, "Won't you even consider that? As long as we brothers unite, there's nothing we can't accomplish."

"I'm not interested," Benjamin rejected directly.

Knowing that his brother was not interested in this, Anthony asked, "Anyway, what are your plans?"

Benjamin thought about it for a moment and replied, "I don't have any plans yet, but no matter what it is, I will continue doing what I enjoy doing."

Anthony nodded. "All right. Our family is very democratic, and we will never stop you from pursuing your dreams. Although research requires a huge amount of time and money, our family is rich, so you don't have to worry. Besides... even if Daddy and Nat don't care, you still have me. I will always support you unconditionally!"

"Are you going to fund my research?"

"Are you going to fund my research?"

"Do you even have to ask?"

"Really?"

"Of course. It's a given."

Benjamin looked up at the sky at once as if he was searching for something.

Anthony looked up as well and asked, "What are you looking at?"

"I'm trying to see if there are pigs in the sky."

Anthony was rendered speechless. He withdrew his gaze and said, "Seriously, Benjamin, you're so ungrateful!"

Benjamin flashed a cheeky smile and replied, "Is that not the case? After all, you have always been so

stingy toward Denise and me. I'm just surprised at your sudden generosity, although it's only all talk at the moment."

"How could you call me stingy? I did all of that to help the two of you learn and make sure that your lives are fulfilling. It's all for your sake. Now that you have grown up well and are ready to take on the world, it's time for me, as your elder brother, to show you some love!"

"Is that so?"

"Of course!" Anthony stepped forward and put his arm around Benjamin's shoulder. "Maybe you should call me your big bro from now on. The more you call me that, the more funding you will get from me."

So this is what he's after.

Benjamin looked at Anthony with an innocent expression. "Really?"

"Of course. C'mon, try it." Anthony looked at his brother expectantly.

Benjamin inched closer to his ear and paused for a second before saying, "Anthony Watson, stop dreaming!"

Anthony did not expect that.

"You need to try harder if you expect me to believe your nonsense! Do you really think I'll buy that?" Benjamin left after saying that.

Anthony sighed in resignation as he gazed at Benjamin.

It's getting harder to fool Benjamin.

Following behind his brother, Anthony said, "Fine. It's okay if you don't want to call me that, but as your elder brother, I still want to let you know that, no matter what you choose to do in the future, I will always support you, both morally and financially!"

Benjamin cast a glance at Anthony. "Thalia said that there aren't many talents in this field. If I decide to venture on this path, I will definitely be a hot commodity, and money will come naturally."

Anthony frowned at the mention of that. "But we don't know much about this field yet. I need to find out more about it and see if it's really as impressive as how Thalia described."

"No need. Don't worry. I can handle it myself," Benjamin said.

"All right, then. It's fine, as long as you know what you're doing." Anthony nodded.

"I've always known what I want to do," Benjamin said with determination flashing in his eyes.

Anthony fell into a daze as he looked at Benjamin.

Noticing that Anthony was looking at him with a blank look in his eyes, Benjamin asked, "What is it?"

Chapter 658

Benjamin climbed out of bed early the next morning. He had been tossing and turning on the bed, unable to sleep from the overwhelming thoughts of the things that had happened over the past few days.

First, he was up to carry out their mission. Second, something about what happened the day before made him suspicious. Since he could not sleep, he decided to get out of bed early.

After eating a simple breakfast downstairs, he took a set of breakfast back upstairs.

He stood in front of Thalia's door and knocked on it gentlemanly.

Silence answered him.

Benjamin knitted his brows and knocked again, but there was still no response.

Am I too early?

Benjamin leaned his ear to the door, only to hear nothing from inside.

"Thalia, are you awake? I've brought breakfast for you," he said.

Alas, there was no response whatsoever.

After a moment of contemplation, Benjamin concluded that Thalia was still asleep, so he decided to come back a while later. Right as he turned around, he froze.

Did something happen to her?

Alarm bells began ringing in his head.

He turned around and continued knocking on the door.

"Thalia, are you awake? I'm going to come in if you're not going to answer me."

The only thing that answered him was still silence.

Benjamin panicked, and he turned the doorknob. The door was unlocked, so he opened it and walked right in.

The inside of the room was neat and tidy, and so was the bed.

Benjamin's brows snapped together.

Where is she?

Thalia is the type to sleep until her body clock wakes her up much later in the day if she doesn't have anything to do. There's no way she's going to wake up early in the morning.

Benjamin placed the breakfast tray on the table at the side before taking out his phone to call Thalia.

Unfortunately, her phone seemed to be switched off.

Right then, the housekeeper walked past the room. When she saw the opened door, she asked, "Are you looking for someone?"

Hearing her, Benjamin turned around and nodded. "Yes. Do you know where the person who's staying in this room went?"

The housekeeper smiled and replied, "Of course."

"Where is she?"

"She left early in the morning."

"She left?" Benjamin froze. "Where to?"

"I'm not too sure either. I only saw her heading toward the exit."

"So you're saying that she has left this place?"

The housekeeper inclined her head. "That's right."

While Benjamin was reeling in from the shock, the housekeeper left.

While Benjamin was reeling in from the shock, the housekeeper left.

Once he came back to his senses, he immediately went outside.

Anthony was still sleeping on the bed.

Benjamin rushed into his room and roughly pulled his blanket away. "Wake up, Anthony!"

Anthony frowned. "Can't you be a little more civilized and knock on the door before you come in?" He pulled his blanket over himself, turned around, and went back to sleep.

"Stop sleeping! Wake up! Something has happened!"

"We can live on a different planet if this planet's about to die. Nothing as important as me getting my precious sleep, so let's talk when I'm awake again," Anthony mumbled, unable to even open his eyes.

"Thalia left," Benjamin said.

"Oh..."

Benjamin stared at him for a while.

A few seconds later, Anthony shot upright and whipped his head in Benjamin's direction. With a groggy look and messy hair, he asked, "What did you say? Who left?"

Benjamin sighed at his appearance. "Thalia."

"Where to?"

"I don't know. I brought her breakfast this morning, but she wasn't in her room by then. The housekeeper told me she left early in the morning."

By then, Anthony had sobered up. "So you mean to say that she left this place?"

"Yeah."

Anthony grumbled something under his breath before pulling his blanket away.

"Did you call her?" he asked.

"I did, but I couldn't reach her," Benjamin replied.

After sobering himself up a little more, Anthony asked Benjamin, "Does Spencer know about this?"

Benjamin shook his head. "I don't know. I haven't gone to him yet."

Anthony fell deep in his thoughts for a moment. "Something must have happened between the two of them last night. Otherwise, she wouldn't have left without saying a word."

"That's what I thought too. I wanted to ask her about it in the morning. Who knew I was still too late?"

Right then, a thought popped into Anthony's head. "Right, were there any missions from Kyle lately?"

"Nothing that I've heard of."

"Find out if Kyle has assigned Thalia to a mission and if that's the reason she left without saying anything. I'll check on Spencer's side."

Benjamin furrowed his brows before bobbing his head. "Okay."

The two of them went separate ways on their tasks.

Spencer had spent the entire night in the lab.

However, he was distracted the entire time to the point he kept making mistakes. He was evidently absent-minded in his work.

Chapter 659

At Spencer's reaction, Anthony said, "No, wait, what do you mean? You think I hid her away somewhere?"

"You know where she has gone to, don't you?"

Anthony took a deep breath before uttering, "Spencer, if I know where she has gone to, do you think I'd have come to you? Also, do you think I have the time to mess around with you all like this? I'm genuinely worried about her, and that's why I came to you!"

Spencer narrowed his eyes.

Right then, Benjamin came in and said to Anthony, "I've talked to Kyle, and he said he hasn't assigned any missions to Thalia. He also said he doesn't know Thalia's with Mr. Dave right now."

Upon hearing Benjamin, Spencer finally realized it was not a prank from the boys.

Anthony turned back to Spencer. "Do you hear him? I'm worried about her too! I'm looking for her too!"

Spencer pursed his lips. "I'm sorry."

With that, he went out of the room.

Looking at his retreating figure, Benjamin asked, "Where are you going?"

"Out to find her, obviously."

"But do you know where to look for her?" Anthony asked.

Spencer furrowed his brows. "I'll find her even if it means searching every corner of the earth."

"If she has left of her own volition, she's not going to let you find her that easily. Besides, it's not as if you can find her just because you want to."

Spencer turned around. "Do you know how to find her, then?"

Anthony arched a brow. "I don't have a way to find her, but I might be able to track her down via other means." He slowly took off his watch. "This is a watch Thalia gave to us to ensure our safety. It has internet and location sharing function."

"Are you saying you can find out where she is?" Spencer asked.

"Of course." Anthony inclined his head.

"Then hurry up and track her down!" Spencer hurried back to Anthony.

Anthony glanced at him and said, "Then you must tell me if something happened between the two of you first."

Spencer's frown deepened.

"Spencer, I don't mean to pry into your private matters, and I won't ask you the details. I only have one question: do you care about Thalia?"

Spencer just kept looking at him.

"If you don't care about her, then I'll tell you to let her go. It'll be a moment of pain for her, but it's better than wasting her time," Anthony added.

Spencer pursed his lips. "If anything, I'll use my life to exchange for hers."

Spencer pursed his lips. "If anything, I'll use my life to exchange for hers."

His answer was a clear indicator of how important Thalia was to him.

Truth be told, Anthony knew that too. He knew that ever since he saw how Spencer had nearly gone mad when Thalia came down from the helicopter.

However, he could not understand what went on in Spencer's mind.

"If Thalia's that important to you, why can't you be nice to each other? Look at my daddy and Nat. If they can let go of their past, why can't you?" Anthony asked.

A complicated look crossed Spencer's face. "We have a blood feud between us. We won't be able to let go just like that."

"Blood feud? What do you mean?"

At that moment, Spencer realized he had said a little more than he wanted to. "Nothing. You won't understand it even if I tell you about it. So, are you going to check your watch or not? If you're not, I'm going to look for her myself."

At the sight of Spencer's impatience, Anthony gave him a look and remarked, "How impatient."

He then lowered his gaze and fidgeted with his watch. In no time, a map showed up.

The three of them studied it for a while. Anthony frowned.

"What's wrong?" Spencer asked.

"Thalia has turned off the sharing function," Anthony said.

"What? What does that mean?"

"That means Thalia isn't letting us see where she is. She really doesn't want us to track her down this time."

Spencer stiffened for a while before taking the watch from Anthony. A moment later, he pointed at a spot and asked, "What does this mean?"

"This is Thalia's last-seen location. She must have turned off the sharing function here three hours ago," Anthony answered.

Spencer glanced at the address, then returned the watch to Anthony. "I'll go and check out the place. Keep an eye on the watch and see if you have any ways of finding her. Inform me immediately if you can get in touch with her."

Anthony nodded.

Spencer turned to leave, but Anthony suddenly called out to him.

Spencer turned around.

Anthony pursed his lips and mulled over his words for a moment before saying, "Spencer, Thalia is

someone very important to me besides Nat and Denise. I don't know what happened between the two of you that neither of you can let go of, but I hope you can settle this properly this time, whether the ending is a reunion or a separation. Just don't do anything to hurt her. Otherwise, we'll be enemies even if you're Nat's friend."

Chapter 660

Several minutes later, Anthony slammed his hand on the keyboard.

Benjamin, who was staring at Anthony from behind, sighed in resignation. "Like what you said, if Thalia did it on purpose, it's only normal we can't find her."

"It would've been fine if this were under normal circumstances. The problem right now is that she's wounded, and she has many enemies out there. She'll be in real danger if someone finds her!" said Anthony with frustration.

"What can we do, then? There's nothing we can do about it if we can't find her."

Anthony knitted his brows with worry.

"Maybe we can contact Kyle? Thalia may be avoiding us, but it might not be the case for Kyle. We can get Kyle to contact her and make sure she's safe," suggested Benjamin.

Anthony mulled it over and nodded. "Okay. You contact Kyle, while I stay here and try again."

Benjamin glanced at him. "Why me again?"

Anthony looked up and cast his brother an innocent glance. "You were the one who made the suggestion. Shouldn't you call him?"

Benjamin took a deep breath and complained, "He interrogates me every time I call him. I'm not making this call, and this call is not happening if you keep avoiding him."

Anthony stared at Benjamin intently and advised, "Think about it, Benjamin. He's already giving you such a hard time when you call. How do you think he's going to treat me?"

"No matter what, this is still your problem."

Anthony was rendered speechless.

His original plan was to earn Benjamin's pity, but Benjamin rejected the request mercilessly.

"Benjamin..." Anthony said in a cute voice.

Benjamin merely scrutinized Anthony with no ounce of empathy in his eyes. "Perhaps if you address me as your big bro, I'll force myself to make that call."

Anthony cast Benjamin a stern gaze. "Are you serious?"

"Of course!" Benjamin bobbed his head.

Narrowing his eyes, Anthony rose to his feet. "Forget it. I'll call him myself." He grabbed the phone and made the call.

Benjamin merely arched his brow lazily. After Anthony walked off to make the call, he approached the couch and sat with his legs crossed.

Anthony hesitated for a moment but eventually dialed Kyle's number.

Before he could even utter the sentence he had spent a long time constructing, Kyle asked, "Wow, I thought you'd disappeared. I didn't expect you to call me."

Before he could even utter the sentence he had spent a long time constructing, Kyle asked, "Wow, I thought you'd disappeared. I didn't expect you to call me."

Anthony was momentarily at a loss for words.

Thankfully, he had already expected to hear that. "What are you talking about? I'm just a little busy these days."

"Really?"

"Of course."

"What are you busy with? I don't see you being active in anything recently. What can you be busy with?"

"I-It's personal stuff."

"Hah. Personal stuff? Does that mean you've forgotten about public affairs over personal matters?"

Every word Kyle uttered was laced with an oppressive tone as if he had been waiting to say that for a long time.

However, Anthony knew he would keep getting nagged if he did not let Kyle vent it out.

"How could I? I've completed everything you gave me, haven't I?" asked Anthony.

"True. If you can complete it, why can't you come and meet me in person?"

"You're being a little overbearing now."

"You're just feeling guilty."

"Fine. I am feeling guilty."

"Oh? You're actually admitting it shamelessly?"

"How is this being shameless? Tell you what. Not only am I a prideful person, but I am also good-looking!"

Kyle was rendered speechless.

"Enough. I wouldn't be so scared of you if you didn't keep saying you'd come over to see me."

"What are you so scared of? I don't bite."

"I'm afraid I'll scare you to death."

Kyle snickered. "I'm quite looking forward to that."

Taking a deep breath, Anthony said, "Fine. Just wait. I'll scare the living daylights out of you one day."

"Why not now?"

"I've got lots to deal with. I'll meet you once I'm done with them."

"Hmph, I doubt that. Do you really think I'd let you trick me again?"

"Fine. There's nothing I can do about it if you don't believe me. Anyway, let's put this aside for now. I have some proper business to talk to you about."

"When do you not come to me for proper business?"

Ignoring the sarcastic remark, Anthony said, "Thalia left my place, and I can't get in touch with her. If you manage to get a hold of her, ask for her address and send it to me."

Kyle fell silent instantly. "What do you mean?"

"Thalia's in danger. If you manage to get in touch with her, make sure you don't tell her it was I who told you to ask her that. And you must inform me first thing when you contact her."

"Anthony, did you guys do something to her?" asked Kyle bluntly.