

Yo Daddy 671

Chapter 671

After a brief silence, Kenneth looked at them through the rearview mirror and smiled. "What's wrong? Why are you boys so quiet?"

When the boys regained their senses, Anthony asked, "I was just thinking. Grandma must be really beautiful, right?"

The mere mention of her brought a gentle look to Kenneth's eyes. "Yeah, she is."

"Daddy, do you take after her, then?"

After pondering briefly, Kenneth nodded. "Kind of."

"In that case, I, too, have inherited Grandma's good looks. This is wonderful. We have a hereditary trait that skips a generation." Anthony's attention shifted to Benjamin as he spoke. "I got her good looks, while Benjamin received her wisdom. Grandma is such a fair woman."

Anthony's repeated mention of his grandmother warmed Kenneth's heart.

She was someone he had dearly cared for over the years. Even though he never mentioned her, she was never far from his mind.

Anthony talking about her made him feel as if she had never left.

"What about Denise?" Benjamin asked.

"What about her?" Anthony threw the question back at him.

"Who does Denise look like?"

Kenneth broke into a vibrant smile and replied, "She's the one who resembles your grandma the most!"

"Really?" Anthony was surprised.

"Back then, your grandma had plenty of suitors, just like a movie star, but she rejected all of them. She buried herself in scientific research and never regretted it." Kenneth's voice carried a hint of melancholy as he related the past to them.

Anthony responded with a thoughtful nod. "I didn't expect Grandma to be so noble."

"Is she?"

"Of course she is."

Kenneth didn't comment any further. Perhaps she is.

"Daddy, tell us more about Grandma," Anthony urged.

Kenneth took a deep breath. He was contemplating what to share when their car came to a stop.

Anthony and Benjamin looked out the window and realized they had arrived outside the castle gates.

With that, Kenneth changed his mind. "Some other day."

His response snuffed out the initial sparkle in the boys' eyes.

When Kenneth saw Mike and Luke approaching them, he alighted from the car.

"Boss, we still need to tie up loose ends at the organization. We'll be heading back, then."

Kenneth nodded. "All right. Go ahead."

"Call us if there's anything you need, Boss."

Kenneth nodded again.

Kenneth nodded again.

Just as both of them were leaving, Anthony lowered the car window and called out, "Mike."

Upon hearing Anthony's voice, Mike leaned over and gave him a cheeky look. "What's up, kid?"

"Thank me."

"Thank you? What for?" Mike was baffled.

"For saving your life just now!"

"Saving me? When?"

"Do you know that Mr. Dave's car is equipped with weapons?" Anthony asked.

Mike nodded. "I do. We came here upon receiving a notification from it."

"But Daddy wasn't aware. When your car was following us just now, Daddy would have shot you to

kingdom come if I hadn't stopped him."

Mike turned to Kenneth at once. "Kenneth, is that true?"

Kenneth bobbed his head earnestly in return. "I forgot about it."

Mike was suddenly lost for words.

"I told you, didn't I?" Anthony cocked a brow.

Pursing his lips, Mike returned his attention to Anthony. "Fine. Thank you, then."

"You're just paying lip service. Show some sincerity, will you?"

"Then what do you want?"

"Here, give me your number."

Mike took the phone and saved his contact for the boy, for he had no reason to reject his boss' son.

Upon receiving Mike's number, Anthony reassured him, "Don't worry. I won't call you unless it's important. We'll talk again some other time."

What is there for us to talk about?

Despite his doubts, Mike maintained a cordial smile. "Sure. Feel free to call me if you need any help."

"I'll definitely not be shy about it," Anthony replied.

Mike let out a chuckle. "Anyway, I gotta go now."

"Bye!" Anthony waved at him, and Mike waved back before leaving.

Alexia just stood there with her gaze fixed on Kenneth. Despite her reluctance, she had no choice but to leave too. "My savior, take care of yourself."

Kenneth didn't respond.

Once they were gone, Benjamin, who was resting his chin on Anthony's shoulder, trailed Alexia's leaving silhouette with his gaze. When she was finally out of sight, he asked, "Did you see that?"

"What?"

"That woman seems to be interested in Daddy."

"Duh, I realized it the very first time I saw her."

"Is that why you wanted Mike's contact?"

"Well, isn't it obvious?" Anthony threw the question back at him.

"Just as expected, you're still the cunning old wolf of the family."

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When she saw the three of them wearing the same expression, Natasha knitted her brows. "What's wrong? Is there a problem?"

Anthony was the first to shake his head. "No, not at all. Your sudden appearance just gave us a scare. That's all."

Benjamin nodded to second his brother's words.

Natasha swept a suspicious gaze across the three of them. "You wouldn't be on your toes if your conscience was clear."

Anthony eked out an awkward smile.

"Spit it out. What are you hiding from me?" Natasha refused to let the matter go.

The sudden question caused the three of them to exchange panicking glances.

Having little patience, Natasha turned her attention to Kenneth. "You tell me."

The question stunned Kenneth. "Me?"

Natasha nodded at him.

Anthony and Benjamin shifted their gaze to Kenneth, grinning in schadenfreude.

Kenneth cleared his throat as he walked up to her and wrapped his hand around her slender waist. "Well, the boys asked me not to tell you, so..." Kenneth put on a conflicted expression.

His sons were immediately dumbfounded.

Daddy, how could you do this to us?

The boys stared at their father in disbelief.

What was I supposed to say? It's not like I have a better choice.

He cleared his throat again and averted his gaze.

Whatever.

It was then that Natasha's gaze fell upon her sons. From the look in her eyes, she had clearly run out of patience.

Benjamin decided to take control of the situation. "Fine. I'll come clean, Nat. We met this girl called Alexia, and it was she who sent us home. After that, Daddy reminded us not to tell you about it."

What the...

This time, it was Kenneth who gave his son a stunned look, and he wasn't alone in doing so.

Anthony was equally shocked, for Benjamin had blurted out those words while he was still racking his brains about what to say.

He tilted his head and gave his brother a look of surprise.

Since when did he become so sharp in his speech? I have to admit, it's a really good alibi. Even I didn't think of it.

Ignoring his father's shocked look, Anthony nodded in agreement. "That's right."

Natasha turned to look at Kenneth, who shook his head in denial, again.

Unexpectedly, Natasha didn't seem quite bothered at all. Instead, she asked calmly, "Did you manage to find Thalia?"

Anthony shook his head. "No."

Anthony shook his head. "No."

"So why were you out for so long?" Natasha probed.

"We ran into Alexia halfway, which took up some of our time," Benjamin said in an innocent tone.

Kenneth was flummoxed.

This isn't the story we agreed to.

This time, it was Benjamin who repeated Kenneth's reaction by averting his gaze with an oblivious expression.

Upon hearing their words, Natasha nodded slightly. "All right, I understand."

"So..."

"Why don't you boys go back to your room? I'll call you if I need you," Natasha said.

Anthony and Benjamin nodded in unison. "All right."

"Go on now."

With that, the boys turned and left.

While walking, both of them whispered to each other, "Benjamin, what has gotten into you today?"

"What are you talking about?" Benjamin asked.

"Your innocent act just now," Anthony replied.

"What's wrong with it?"

"Since when did you have a way with words?"

"I was forced to speak up because you didn't say anything."

"I was still thinking of what to say."

"In that case, why were you so slow just now?"

"How is this my fault?"

"It has always been that way..."

The boys began to argue as they climbed up the stairs.

After watching the boys leave, Natasha shifted her attention back to Kenneth. With a serious tone, she asked, "Did you manage to get in touch with Spencer?"

Kenneth shook her head. "No. What's wrong?"

"I can't reach him." A crease formed between Natasha's brows.

"I'll check on him right away." With that, Kenneth gave Spencer a call.

At that moment, something dawned on Natasha, and she returned upstairs.

While waiting for the call to connect, Kenneth quickly followed her when he saw her leaving.

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Kenneth stepped outside to make a phone call.

Natasha was still busy at the computer when he returned, but the look on her face had softened significantly.

She waved at him when she saw him.

"How is it, Kenneth?" Natasha asked as he made his way over.

"I've contacted them. Everything is in order."

"When do we start?"

"They need pictures or videos of her walking before they can determine anything."

"I think Dave has surveillance cameras here. She spent quite some time here, so we should have footage of her," Natasha said after giving it some thought.

"All right. Send them to me if you find any. I'll have them process the footage," Kenneth replied.

Natasha nodded and got back to work.

"Nat," Kenneth called out to her all of a sudden.

"Yes?" Natasha said without even looking up.

"Am I overthinking it?" Kenneth asked.

"What is it?" Natasha's response was a little half-hearted because she was multi-tasking.

Kenneth frowned as he pulled her chair back and forced her to look at him.

Having been caught off guard, Natasha stared at him in confusion and asked, "What's wrong?"

Kenneth took a deep breath to calm himself down. "Nat, can you not look at me with that expression?"

“What kind of expression should I have when I look at you, then?”

Kenneth pursed his lips. “Can you at least care a little more about me? I don't even mind if it's just an act.”

Noticing that she was still confused, Kenneth continued, “Did you not hear what Benjamin said?”

Natasha gave it some thought and asked, “Are you referring to Alexia sending you home?”

Kenneth nodded in response.

“W-What about it?” Natasha was still unsure of what he was playing at.

“What about it? Another woman sent your man home! Shouldn't you be angry and jealous or something?” Kenneth exclaimed in disbelief.

“Is that what you like?” Natasha asked.

“That's not the point. Shouldn't you be reacting that way if you care about me?”

“So, you're saying I don't care about you if I don't get mad and jealous?”

Kenneth fell speechless when he heard that question.

“Since when did you become so childish, Kenneth?”

Natasha rolled her eyes and was about to get back to work, but Kenneth maintained his grip on her chair.

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“Kenneth...”

“How do you show someone that you care about them?” Kenneth asked.

“By trusting them,” Natasha replied without any hesitation.

Kenneth fell silent immediately after hearing that.

Natasha looked him in the eye as she continued, “I show someone I care about them by trusting them not to betray me.”

The look of anger in Kenneth's eyes was replaced with a conflicted one as he stared at her. While he

wasn't expecting such an answer from Natasha, her reply had left him completely speechless because it made perfect sense.

Yeah, she's right. This is the Natasha I know. Unlike other women, who throw tantrums and get all emotional, she is direct and straightforward. Sure, Natasha may be a little carefree at times, but she doesn't mess around when it comes to relationships. I was attracted to her because of that, so why am I getting all worked up over such minor issues?

The look in his eyes grew gentle at the thought of that, and his lips curled into a faint smile. "Is that so?"

"What? Do you like other women now? You don't like me anymore? Is that it?" Natasha asked.

"Why would you say that, Nat?"

"Because you keep questioning me."

"I'm not questioning you. I just want your attention, Nat. I'm really happy with what you said just now."

"That's all it took to make you happy?"

Kenneth nodded. "Yup! Aren't I easy to please?"

Natasha nodded slightly. "You're all right, I guess."

Kenneth leaned in close to build up sexual tension between them. "Since it's that easy to please me, could you maybe say a little more?"

"You want to hear more?" Natasha asked.

Kenneth nodded in response.

Natasha placed two fingers on his chest and shoved him off. "I'll tell you more when I'm done working here."

The corner of Kenneth's lips twitched slightly.

She's incredibly cold when she's serious, and yet her affectionate side makes her irresistible!

As he understood Natasha's feelings, he decided not to disturb her any further and simply gave her a kiss on the forehead. "All right. I'll wait till you're done with your work, then," he said, then got up and walked off.

Natasha's lips curled into a gentle smile as she watched him leave. After taking a moment to recollect her thoughts, she shifted her gaze back toward the computer screen and continued working.

She understood all too well how much pain that poison could cause, so she had to find Thalia as quickly as possible.

You'd better be all right, Thalia!

After brushing their teeth in their respective rooms, Benjamin and Anthony went looking for Natasha as they needed to tell her something.

To their surprise, they bumped into Denise outside their bedroom door.

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Just like that, Natasha and Anthony sat down facing each other as they worked on their respective computers.

Benjamin and Denise would ask questions from time to time as they watched from the side.

It wasn't long before Kenneth returned after making his phone call. There was a gentle look in his eyes when he saw the four of them huddled together like that.

It was a sight he had never expected to see in his life. This was the first time he had so many people whom he cared about gathered in one place.

Despite them all having differing personalities, Kenneth was willing to go through the challenges in life with them.

Noticing that Kenneth was standing there, Natasha asked, "What is it?"

"They have agreed to lend us the software."

"Really?"

Kenneth made his way toward her and said, "Let me log in to my email account."

Natasha nodded and pulled up the webpage while Kenneth read out his email address and password.

She typed in the details accordingly and logged right into his email account.

"Why did you give Nat your login credentials, Daddy? Aren't you worried that she'll go through your emails?" Denise asked curiously from the side.

Kenneth shot her a glance and replied, "I would actually welcome her to go through my emails. In fact, I'll be upset if she doesn't!"

Of course, Natasha knew exactly what he was implying when he said that. "Just because I don't go through it now doesn't mean I won't do it in the future."

Kenneth arched an eyebrow at her in amusement. "Yes, Ma'am!"

"Ooh!" Benjamin and Denise exclaimed in unison.

"Daddy, do you also use that password for your credit cards?" Anthony asked all of a sudden.

"Yes, that's right," Kenneth replied while glancing at him.

Immediately, Anthony looked at Natasha. "You heard him, Nat!"

Natasha simply nodded silently in response.

"Why would you just admit to it, Daddy? Aren't you afraid of us running off with your money?"

"Everything I own will eventually belong to all of you, so where can you guys possibly run off to?" Kenneth asked.

That question caught them completely off guard.

"What about now, Daddy? Does all of your stuff belong to us now?" Benjamin asked.

"You'll have to ask Nat about that," Kenneth replied, shifting their focus over to Natasha instantly.

"What does that have to do with me?" Natasha asked without taking her eyes off the computer screen.

"Before the kids grow up, all of this will belong to us. I'll be in charge of making money for the family, and you'll be in charge of allocating that money for all of us," Kenneth explained.

"Before the kids grow up, all of this will belong to us. I'll be in charge of making money for the family, and you'll be in charge of allocating that money for all of us," Kenneth explained.

Natasha shot him a glance after hearing that.

"What? Is there a problem with my arrangement?"

"I'm not capable of managing such a huge amount of money," Natasha replied.

"You won't know until you give it a try. Besides, you don't really need to do much. Just make sure you give us our monthly allowance on time."

"And how much would that be?"

"That depends on how much you feel like giving."

Natasha arched an eyebrow at him before shifting her gaze back toward the computer.

"Nat, don't you get what Daddy is implying with those words?" Anthony asked curiously.

"What do you mean?"

"Daddy is trying to test and see if you will marry him!"

"Why would I even need to test her? The answer is obvious, isn't it?" Kenneth asked.

"Says who?" Natasha looked up at him.

Kenneth frowned. "What else would it be?"

"I haven't made up my mind," Natasha replied.

"All of Glenport City knows about our relationship by now. Do you think anyone would dare approach you?"

"I don't have to get married."

Kenneth narrowed his eyes and glared at her in response.

"Life is pretty amazing when you're single, you know?" Natasha continued with a teasing smile.

"That would be incredibly irresponsible of you, Nat!" Kenneth exclaimed after a brief pause.

Natasha made no attempts at denying it. "I guess you can say that. I never was a responsible person, anyway."

Kenneth fell silent after hearing that.

Benjamin and Denise snickered as it was the first time they had seen him get disappointed like that.

Kenneth turned Natasha's chair around to make her face him.

"Nat, are you sure you want to treat me like this?" he asked, leaning in close.

Natasha's eyes darted around anxiously. When she saw the kids staring at them, she realized she needed to stop joking with Kenneth before he pulled some kind of crazy stunt.

A wise person will know better than to cause trouble when the odds are against them!

"Of course not! I was just kidding!"

The kids were waiting for a good show, so they groaned in disappointment when they saw Natasha give in to fear.

Kenneth flashed her a satisfied smile after hearing that.

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Natasha paused briefly, slightly taken aback. Without turning to look at him, she asked in a calm voice, "Isn't Thalia your friend?"

"So you're doing all of this because of us, Nat?" Anthony answered with another question.

"That's not the sole reason," Natasha replied.

"Then what else is it for?"

"She saved me in the past too," stated Natasha.

"Are you referring to the time when you were in the hospital?" Anthony pressed.

Natasha nodded in response. "You can say that."

Blinking at her, Anthony commented, "You sure repay every good deed that you've received, Nat."

Natasha did not respond.

At that very moment, there were new motions on the computer screen.

A few video clips popped up.

"Is it ready?" Natasha asked.

Everyone's attention was turned to the computer screen.

Anthony clicked on the videos and watched them carefully.

"It's Thalia," Anthony announced. "She's still wearing the same clothes that she wore when she left."

Upon hearing that, Natasha immediately followed up with a question. "Can you find out where she is now?"

“Let me try searching for the time of her last appearance.”

Anthony pulled aside the videos one by one until there was only one video left in the center of the screen. The video was taken most recently. The person in the video had changed her outfit, but from her gait and posture, one could easily deduce that the person in the video was Thalia.

“Found it!” Anthony suddenly exclaimed. “Here.”

Natasha leaned closer to the screen. When she confirmed Thalia's familiar silhouette in the video, she knitted her brows. “What is this place?”

The three children were instantly intrigued. They shoved their faces closer to the screen, and Benjamin squinted. “This place looks a little familiar...”

“I think so too. It does look familiar,” Anthony affirmed.

Natasha turned to look at them curiously.

Benjamin quickly whipped out his phone and started scrolling through it. After a brief moment of searching, he showed the others his phone screen. “Look at this.”

Benjamin had pulled out a photo from his gallery. The background of the photo was exactly the same location where Thalia was spotted in the video.

Anthony looked at his brother. “Where is this?”

“It's the hotel that we stayed in when we first got here,” answered Benjamin.

Realization dawned on Anthony. “No wonder the place looks so familiar.”

“So, has Thalia gone back to the hotel to stay there?” Benjamin asked.

“I think so. I remembered when we first arrived, Thalia told us she would stay in that hotel every time she came here.”

Benjamin bobbed his head. “That rings a bell, for sure.”

All the while, Kenneth had been listening in on their conversation. When he heard the boys' conclusion, he took out his phone. “I'll give Spencer a call right away.”

“Daddy, wait,” Anthony called out to him and stopped him.

Puzzled, Kenneth looked down at the boy.

Staring up at him, Anthony explained, "Thalia probably left because of some problems between her and Spencer. I know what she's like. Since she has decided to leave, that means she has probably decided to never cross paths with him. If Spencer suddenly shows up at her location, Thalia will hide somewhere else, and that'll make her impossible to find!"

A crease appeared between Kenneth's brows as he listened to Anthony's analysis.

Natasha nodded. "Anthony's right."

"Then what do you guys propose we do?" Kenneth asked.

"Perhaps I can go meet Thalia in person first to have a chat," Anthony suggested.

"Thalia cut off the signal on her phone to forbid the three of us from contacting her. Will it really make a difference for you to see her in person?" Benjamin asked.

"It's worth a shot. We can come up with something else if it doesn't work." Anthony shrugged nonchalantly.

"I'll go with you," Natasha offered.

Anthony turned to look at her and nodded. "What about Spencer?"

"We'll go to her first. Kenneth, you can inform Spencer, but make sure that he doesn't exacerbate the situation with any rash actions," said Natasha.

With a curt nod, Kenneth left to make the phone call.

"Let's go." Natasha stood up and looked at Anthony and Kenneth. Her firm tone left them no room to hesitate.

"Nat, let us tag along." All of a sudden, Denise spoke up. "I'll just sit in the car and not disturb you."

Natasha looked at Denise and Benjamin. Denise's request reminded her that she had not brought them out ever since they arrived. She had neglected them, as she was occupied with other things. Her gaze softened. "Come on. Let's go."

With that, the four of them headed outside.

Meanwhile, Kenneth had just gotten off the phone with Spencer. As he was heading downstairs, he suddenly remembered something and immediately hurried to the garage.

However, when he arrived, Natasha and the rest were already waiting for him inside the car.

Guilt flickered across Kenneth's heart as he saw the car that was parked at the side. He quickly walked over and got into the car.

Natasha and the three children were already seated inside the car.

With a hired driver at the wheel and extra room in the spacious car, Kenneth got into the backseat as well.

When he got into the car, Kenneth immediately focused his gaze on Natasha. Natasha's head was lowered as she scrolled through her phone. It was impossible for Kenneth to gauge her thoughts and emotions.

Turning his gaze to Anthony, Kenneth signaled the boy wordlessly with his eyes.

Frowning slightly, Kenneth announced, "I've given Spencer a call. He'll be heading there now too, but he'll wait for us downstairs."

"Okay," Natasha responded with a nod.

Kenneth still could not figure out Natasha's feelings. He was unsure about whether she was angry. As he walked over, Anthony immediately walked to the seats at the back, making room for Kenneth beside Natasha.

Kenneth plopped down next to Natasha and looked at her. "Nat—"

"I'm gonna take a short nap," Natasha cut him off. "Wake me up when we've arrived."

With a single sentence, Natasha managed to shove all the words Kenneth wanted to say back into his throat.

Having nothing else to say, Kenneth merely nodded. "You can rest your head on my shoulder."

"There's no need for that. Dave's car comes with a sleep function." As she spoke, Natasha pressed a button, causing her seat to incline backward. She then closed her eyes to sleep.

Kenneth turned his head around to look at the three kids sitting behind them.

The children stared back at him with similar expressions.

Kenneth frowned.

Wanting to ask them a question, Kenneth opened his mouth before closing it again. It was not a question meant for Natasha to hear. Unfortunately, she was right next to him, and there was no way to know if she had actually fallen asleep.

Kenneth took out his phone and created an impromptu group chat with just the four of them. He asked: What is going on?

All three of the kids' phones rang at the same time.

Kenneth instinctively turned to look at Natasha, worried that she would notice something was amiss.

With mild panic written on their faces, the children quickly turned off the notifications of the group chat before continuing the conversation in the chat.

Anthony was the first to reply: How do I put this? There's no easy way to say it.

Benjamin's reply followed: Yeah. It's hard to tell.

Denise wrote: I want to clarify that I have no idea what's going on.

Words eluded Kenneth.

It was obvious that they were feigning ignorance.

Kenneth asked: Cut it out. What on earth is going on?

Anthony replied: Daddy, you betrayed us this morning, but now you want to obtain information from us? This isn't a very friendly way to ask for a favor.

Kenneth retorted: Didn't you guys betray me too?

Benjamin interjected: But it was you who started it, Daddy!

Anthony agreed: That's right!

Kenneth was once again at a loss for words.

There was no counterargument that he could give.

After a brief pause, Kenneth changed his approach. He asked: Okay. What do you two want?

Anthony began: Two conditions.

Kenneth bargained: At most one each.

Benjamin accepted happily: Deal!

Anthony agreed: Fine. I'll allow it.

Kenneth asked: So, what's the request?

Denise interrupted: Hold on. Do I get a share too?

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Anthony texted: I haven't decided. I still need more time to think about it.

Kenneth replied: I'm not going to wait for you.

Anthony: I want to learn to shoot!

Kenneth: Sure, you're in. What about you, Benjamin? He fired the next question and made the conversation feel like a timed quiz.

Benjamin: I want to visit Mr. Dave's armory once more.

Kenneth: All right, I'll liaise with him on that.

Benjamin: Daddy, I want an answer now!

Kenneth: Okay, okay, I promise to bring you there.

Benjamin replied with an emoji to indicate that he was pleased with the answer.

Kenneth asked: Can you tell me now?

Right then, Denise joined the conversation: I've taken a screenshot of the above messages, and I'll send it to Nat if you don't include me.

Words eluded Kenneth.

How shrewd is this girl?

Kenneth: Denise, I guess I've spoiled you for all the wrong reasons.

Denise rebutted with another text: Well, Daddy, don't take it personally. Let's not bring familial affection into the picture and cloud the matter. I've got solid proof.

Kenneth took a deep breath to calm himself down. Judging from the way they prioritize personal gains, they are certainly my children.

He texted a question: What is it that you want? Say it.

Denise: I want to learn to shoot too.

Kenneth: What good will it do to a girl who learns to shoot?

Denise: Don't be so sexist, Daddy. Girls aren't any weaker than boys, so you must be fair to me.

Kenneth: I'm not judging you or anything. I just thought you could be better off learning something else.

Denise: I can learn other things, but I also want to learn to shoot!

After pondering for a while, Kenneth texted: Okay, you have my blessings to do so. He thought it would be beneficial for Denise to acquire new knowledge and skills so she could protect herself better, regardless of her career choice in the future.

Denise: Are you going to teach me personally, Daddy?

Kenneth replied with a question: Of course. Would I abdicate my responsibilities and pass you to someone else?

With a cute emoji, Denise replied: You're the best, Daddy!

As expected, her trick worked like magic.

Kenneth took a glance at the person next to him and typed another message: Can you tell me what happened now?

Anthony: I'll go first. Nat saw the bullet holes in the car.

Kenneth frowned and asked: And then?

Benjamin: Well, Nat didn't ask nor say a word. She just stared at the car for a moment before entering.

Kenneth: What is that supposed to mean? He was completely baffled.

Denise: I know! Nat usually acts like that when she has a tacit understanding of something. It's the same expression she wears on her face when she finds out about the naughty things the three of us have done.

Kenneth: So... does that mean she's angry?

Simultaneously, the trio sent their replies in the affirmative.

Anthony:Yup.

Benjamin: Yes.

Denise: That's right.

Upon reading all their messages, Kenneth turned around and gazed at Natasha, who was resting nearby. He felt so lost and helpless.

Moments later, he fixed his eyes on the phone screen and texted: How should I resolve this matter?

Anthony: Are you asking us?

Kenneth: What a stupid question! Who else am I talking to?

Anthony: In this case, don't blame me for being heartless, Daddy. Solutions are plenty, but it depends on your level of sincerity when you ask for help.

Kenneth: What do you mean?

Anthony: Daddy, did you realize that none of your biological children have ever received any monetary gift from you?

Benjamin chimed in: Now that you've mentioned it...

Denise: Daddy, just so you know, I'm forced to follow the majority at this point, or else I'll be excluded. May God bless you, Daddy. Ditto.

Kenneth was rendered speechless.

These three munchkins are blackmailing me, aren't they?

Kenneth: I'm happy to gift you all something, but I have a credit limit. At most, it's a million per person. Are you okay with that amount?

Anthony was the first to reply with his banking details. He texted: Daddy, this is my account number in Sumanthova.

Benjamin sent his banking details too. He wrote: Anthony, you're putting Daddy on the spot, aren't you? Fine. Since you've got the ball rolling, it won't be appropriate for Daddy to be unfair.

Needless to say, Denise followed suit and did exactly the same.

Left without a choice, Kenneth tapped the application on his phone and transferred the money to his children.

Shortly after, the trio received a notification that a million had been credited to each of their accounts.

Upon reading the transaction notification, the children shared a look and arched their brows.

Kenneth: I can only transfer that much for now. Anything beyond that amount will require me to make a personal phone call to the bank. Do you want me to wake Nat up?

Anthony had wanted to ask for more money, but he gave up after reading what Kenneth wrote. Since the triplets were afraid to wake Natasha up, they let the matter slide.

Anthony: Okay, forget it, then. Considering the fact that you're my daddy, I'll let you go this time.

Kenneth fell silent.

What did you guys do to me just now?

Anthony changed the topic and texted: Anyway, let me share a way to resolve this issue. I rarely upset Nat, so if I show her my puppy-dog eyes, coupled with a pitiful expression, I can basically appease her anger.

Kenneth: That's all?

Anthony: It's a practical move that never fails me.

Kenneth was dumbfounded.

Benjamin: I seldom upset Nat. When I do, I apologize to her sincerely. Nat always says she won't be mad at us if we admit our faults.

Kenneth kept quiet as he followed the conversations.

Denise: I, on the other hand, make Nat blow her top all the time. However, she will forgive me whenever I squirm into her arms and say sorry in an ingratiating manner.

Kenneth felt so helpless after reading their messages.

Are these three kids trying to prank me?

He texted: Which of the methods mentioned should I use?

Anthony: Any one of them! Daddy, you can go with either one you like.

Benjamin: That's right, Daddy. There are three solutions shared by the three of us. There's no problem if

you want to try them all.

Denise: Actually, I have one more idea for you, Daddy. I think it goes well with your pragmatic personality.

Kenneth scrunched his brows and replied: Enlighten me.

Chapter 677

Kenneth swiftly replied: Don't watch dramas like these anymore.

Denise was still daydreaming. When she read Kenneth's reply, she was stunned. She asked: Why?

Kenneth: Those are trash content and not suitable for you.

Denise: Daddy, how could you take away my right to enjoy them?

Kenneth: Just don't watch them anymore.

Denise: Daddy, I will not stick my nose in your and Nat's affair anymore.

Anthony and Benjamin refused to comment on anything.

The group fell silent. Kenneth turned to look at Natasha once again. Her eyes were closed, and she seemed to be taking a much-needed rest. Kenneth couldn't help but notice her delicate features. Her upturned nose and long lashes accentuated her beauty, while her fair skin and naturally pink lips gave her an effortless charm that needed no makeup to enhance.

When his eyes landed on his clenched-up jaw, Kenneth's thin lips pursed into a hard line. He knew well that Natasha was easygoing with most matters, but she loathed people lying to her.

Kenneth knew he had to find a way to explain things to her.

It took them almost an hour's drive before they finally reached their destination.

Natasha woke up when Kenneth stopped the car.

Just when he was about to say something, his phone suddenly rang. Kenneth had no choice but to pick up the call.

"Hello. We're here too. All right. Come over here." After hanging up the call, Kenneth turned to look at Natasha. "That was Spencer. He has arrived and is on his way here."

Natasha nodded.

Kenneth couldn't figure out whether she was mad from her nonchalant response.

He tried his luck and asked, "Nat, did you sleep well just now?"

"Quite well."

"Then—"

Natasha turned to look at Anthony, who was sitting behind, and asked, "How are the arrangements?"

Kenneth could only eye Natasha, as he was interrupted before he could finish his sentence.

"Let me go first," Anthony said.

"You alone?" Natasha asked.

Anthony nodded.

Natasha thought for a moment and said, "That works too."

Just when Anthony was about to leave the car, Kenneth called out to him, "Anthony, wait."

Anthony turned around to regard him.

Kenneth took something out and stuffed it into Anthony's ears.

"What's this?"

"Don't worry. We're not going to eavesdrop on your conversations. You can get in contact with us if anything comes up. Just tap it once to turn it on or off. I'll only be able to listen to you when it's turned on," Kenneth explained.

Anthony nodded in response.

"Come on. Test it out."

Anthony tapped on the device. "Hello, Daddy."

It was crisp and clear on Kenneth's end. He gave Anthony a thumbs up and said, "It's all good."

Anthony tapped on the device again, but Kenneth heard nothing this time.

"Great. It works," Kenneth said.

Anthony nodded. "I'm going in, then."

Spencer showed up when he was about to get out of the car.

Anthony was shocked when he noticed Spencer's red eyes. The latter looked as if he had pulled an all-nighter.

"Are you going to look for her?" Spencer asked.

Anthony nodded.

Spencer pursed his lips. "You must persuade her to come back. You must."

"I'll try my best."

Spencer nodded. Anthony was their only chance.

"Go on."

Anthony got out of the car.

"Be careful," Natasha reminded him.

Anthony gestured an okay sign. "Don't worry, Nat." Then he left without turning back.

Spencer watched intently as Anthony entered the hotel. Only then did Natasha speak up. "Why, are you only going to come in after Thalia sees you?"

Only then did Spencer look away and get into the car.

Spencer usually seemed indifferent, but he looked as though he had aged a decade overnight right then. Gone was his usual vigorous self.

"Don't act all innocent when you brought it upon yourself. Just remember the lesson if you really feel guilty," Natasha said.

Spencer cast a glance at her. "If that hadn't happened, I would have let her go when she wanted to leave. But now—"

Natasha pursed her lips. "I will not run away from my responsibilities."

"Nat, I didn't mean it that way."

"It's all right. I know."

Spencer looked at her and decided against saying anything.

In the hotel, Anthony had no idea which room Thalia was in.

There were blind spots, so it was an arduous task to locate her through the surveillance footage.

Anthony approached the receptionist.

"Hello," Anthony said.

The receptionist's eyes glinted as she exclaimed, "It's you! Is there anything I can help you with?"

"You know me?"

"Didn't you stay in our hotel before?"

Anthony nodded immediately. "Yes."

He did not expect the receptionist to recognize him. Even God is on my side.

"Why? Do you need any help?" the receptionist asked.

"Um, do you still remember the girl who stayed here with me?"

"Yes. That was your sister, right?"

"Yes, that's right." Anthony put on an innocent face. "She's still staying here. I'm here to look for her, but I've forgotten the room number, and I can't get in touch with her right now. Could you tell me which room she's staying in?"

Perhaps Anthony was too adorable. The receptionist didn't think much before agreeing to his request.

"Sure. Let me check."

Anthony flashed her a megawatt smile and said sweetly, "Thank you."

The receptionist smiled. "What's your sister's name?"

"Thalia Jacoway."

"We don't have a guest named Thalia Jacoway here," the receptionist said after checking the system.

"Are you sure that your sister's staying here now?"

Anthony was befuddled. Didn't Thalia use her real name?

His brows snapped together as he tried to recall the name that Thalia had used during the registration when they were here together.

“Could you check under the name Vera?”

The receptionist ran the name through the system. “I found it! It's Room 1209.”

Anthony smiled. “All right. Thank you.”

“Why Vera, though?”

“It's my sister's stage name.”

The receptionist nodded in understanding. “Ah, I see.”

“I'm going to head upstairs now, then. Thank you so much.”

“Oh, right, where's your brother who tagged along last time?”

Anthony and Benjamin had left quite an impression on the receptionist, as it was uncommon to spot people from Aploth there, and they were twins.

Chapter 678

Anthony immediately walked up to the housekeeping staff when he saw her approaching from the opposite.

“Hello! Could you open the door for me?” Anthony asked.

The housekeeping staff looked at him. “Don't you have your key card?”

“I was in a rush when I went out, so I forgot to bring it. I think my sister is taking a shower, and that's why she can't hear me. Could you help me?” Anthony asked sincerely.

He had the advantage of being a child, so others wouldn't expect him to be up to no good.

“Which room are you staying in?” the housekeeping staff asked unhesitatingly.

“1209!” Anthony answered while pointing at the room.

The housekeeping smiled and nodded before walking to the room. “Is it this one?”

Anthony nodded in response.

The housekeeping staff quickly used his access card to open the door for Anthony. "There you go."

"Thank you."

"You're welcome." With that, the housekeeping staff left with the cart.

Anthony only turned toward the door and entered the room after watching him leave.

The room was enormous, and when Anthony walked in, no one was around. This place looks exactly like before.

Upon entering the room, Anthony scanned his surroundings. Right then, he heard sounds coming from the bathroom.

Since Anthony had already scanned the surroundings, he had figured Thalia was taking a shower in the bathroom. He casually walked toward the couch and waited.

While waiting, Anthony saw some snacks on the table and went to grab some for himself.

A while later, the bathroom door opened, and Thalia was seen walking out.

She jumped in alarm the moment she turned around and saw someone sitting on the couch.

Still eating his snacks casually, Anthony flashed a smile and asked, "Are you done showering?"

Thalia was in her pajamas, and her hair was wet. She was initially shocked to see Anthony there, but she managed to regain her composure rather quickly.

She walked toward him, sat on the couch, and crossed her legs. "Why are you here?"

"Well, you're here, aren't you? Why can't I be here?"

Thalia glanced at him, then at the watch she had left on the table. Anthony knew what was on her mind, so he said, "There's no need to look at the watch. You've already switched off the GPS tracker. That's not how I found you."

Thalia looked back at him and asked, "How did you find me, then?"

"Would you believe me if I told you it was my intuition?"

"What do you think?"

Seeing how stern her expression was, Anthony frowned. "Thalia, you're mad at Spencer, not me. Why would you keep me in the dark?"

Thalia looked away. "Who said I was angry at him?"

"Although I don't know the reason behind it, I'm certain that's the case."

"I'm not."

"Fine, if you say so. Since you're not mad at him, why did you leave without a word?"

"I have private matters to attend to."

Anthony knew how bull-headed she was. "Then are you not going to bring us back to Darknetz?"

"I still have something else to deal with. Regarding your return to Darknetz, someone else will bring you back." Thalia was still looking in the other direction.

"I'll only return if you bring me back!"

"You can do whatever you like!"

At that moment, Thalia's indifference was getting strange.

"What exactly is the matter with you, Thalia?" Anthony frowned.

"Nothing! I'm done playing. That's all! I don't want to play anymore!"

"Play? What do you mean by that? Who are you talking about?"

Thalia lifted her head and looked at Anthony, but she decided to keep the harsh words to herself.

"It's getting late. You should leave." Thalia wanted Anthony to leave.

However, Anthony wasn't planning to. "I'm not leaving until you tell me what's going on!"

A hint of displeasure flashed across Thalia's face. A moment later, she nodded and said, "Fine! If you're not leaving, I'll leave!"

With that, she rose to her feet and wanted to pack her belongings.

"Thalia, if I managed to track you down and found you here, what makes you think you can hide?"

"I'll just leave and go somewhere else far away. That should do it, right?"

Anthony furrowed his brows. "Are you serious, Thalia?"

“Do I look like I'm joking?”

“Thalia, are you really going to leave everything behind because of Spencer?”

“Yes!”

“Are you going to disregard the relationship between the both of us too?”

Thalia froze momentarily while staring at Anthony's face. “Anthony, I've been feeling really burnt out for a while now. We'll talk about it after Kyle brings you guys back to Darknetz.”

Anthony instantly noticed Thalia's tone wasn't as cold as before. I knew it! She was just faking it.

“Thalia, are you facing some kind of difficulties?” Anthony asked.

“I'm not,” Thalia answered swiftly.

Anthony looked at her for a while before saying, “No. I know you are.”

Thalia was startled.

“I know you're hiding something,” Anthony added.

Thalia panicked for a second, then flashed a mocking smile. “Anthony, don't you think you're too full of yourself? What? Do you think you're God or something? Do you think you know everything?”

Thalia's words were harsh and sarcastic.

Anthony was still a child. Those words acted like daggers stabbing through his heart, making him feel humiliated.

“I'll admit that when I first met you guys, I felt as though it was a breath of fresh air. Also, I know you're very capable, but you're only good with computers. Other than that, you're nothing. Wake up, will you? Stop being so presumptuous. And stop acting as though you know me!” Thalia went on.

Anthony could only stare into her eyes in response.

A while later, he asked, “Do you mean what you said?”

Chapter 679

Anthony's expression was grim when he left the room.

He entered the elevator, walked through the lobby, and walked toward the car. Everyone in the car was waiting for him, hoping he would bear good news. When they saw him exiting the hotel, someone opened the car door.

Spencer got out of the car and looked at Anthony. "How did it go?"

Anthony gazed at him and pulled out something from his ear before giving it to Spencer. "Do it yourself."

Anthony got into the car, looked for an empty spot, and sat down.

At that moment, he was exuding an aura, seemingly telling everyone not to mess with him.

Everyone in the car was looking at him before exchanging glances with each other.

"What's the matter, Tony?" Denise asked.

"Nothing," Anthony answered coldly.

Denise merely looked at him in silence.

Anthony had always been patient with her, but she knew not to mess with him when he was angry.

Everyone in the car was still looking at Anthony. Although they didn't know what had happened, they knew Thalia was surely in the hotel. Otherwise, Anthony wouldn't have acted that way after exiting the hotel.

Right then, Natasha asked, "Anthony, what exactly happened? Is Thalia in there?"

Anthony would throw tantrums at anyone but Natasha.

No matter how angry he was, he would always try his best to suppress his anger.

He took a deep breath and nodded at Natasha. "She's inside, and she's staying in Room 1209. However, she told me that if we were to look for her again, she would leave for good."

Spencer was just about to rush out of the car, but he immediately changed his mind when he heard the last sentence.

Natasha observed Anthony's expression and assumed that his conversation with Thalia didn't end well. I think the conversation went horribly wrong. Thalia must've said something harsh. Otherwise, Anthony wouldn't behave this way. But no matter what Thalia said, I think she has a good reason for it.

At that thought, Natasha bobbed her head.

"I'll go talk to her," Spencer said.

"If you do that, you may end up making things worse," Natasha warned. "Are you really going to force her into leaving for good?"

"What should we do, then? We can't possibly leave her here, can we?"

Natasha said nothing in response.

"Thalia used to stay here on her own before, no? What's the problem?" Benjamin piped up.

Everyone froze at the mention of that.

Benjamin merely sized them up before looking away. Why do I feel there's something weird about their reactions?

Kenneth looked at Benjamin and said, "Thalia is injured, and there are a lot of people after her. Spencer is just worried about her."

That was a good explanation, but Benjamin still felt something was amiss.

Natasha gave it some thought and said, "Let's go back first."

"Go back?" Spencer cast her a confused look.

"Well, you can stay here," Natasha answered. "If you stay here, you can at least watch out for her."

"What's your plan?" Spencer asked.

"I'll get her to come to see me on her own accord!"

Everyone in the car turned to look at her.

Instead of explaining herself, Natasha gazed at Spencer and said, "Stay here and wait for my call."

Although Natasha was a woman, Spencer knew how capable she was in terms of both intellect and action.

Spencer nodded in response because he trusted her unconditionally.

On their way back, Denise would occasionally glance at Anthony. I haven't seen him so angry in a long time.

Denise wanted to ask something, but she quickly saw Benjamin shaking his head at her.

Upon getting the hint from Benjamin, Denise suppressed her urge to question Anthony.

Needless to say, the ride back was an awkward one.

Natasha was also keeping mum while looking out the window, and she seemed to have something on her mind.

Kenneth turned to Natasha, and he wanted to say something to her. However, he halted when he saw her looking out the window.

The atmosphere remained the same all the way back to the castle.

After the car came to a halt, Natasha was about to hop off when she heard Anthony saying, "Nat, there's something I need to tell you."

Natasha looked at him and nodded.

Anthony shot a glance at Kenneth, Denise, and Benjamin.

Knowing what Anthony had in mind, Kenneth said, "Come. Let's wait for them inside."

Benjamin and Denise exchanged glances and nodded before following Kenneth in.

Outside the castle, Natasha looked at Anthony and asked, "What is it?"

Anthony pursed his lips. "Nat, I don't recommend meddling in Thalia's business anymore."

"Why?"

"She doesn't need us."

"Did you guys have a fight?"

"No. It's just that we both have a mutual understanding."

It was a fight, all right. "Anthony, let's just say Thalia is in danger now. Will you help her?"

A hint of concern instantly flashed across Anthony's eyes when he heard those words. "Danger? What danger?"

"You're clearly worried about her. Why would you act as though you don't care about her at all?"

Anthony immediately pushed his thoughts to the back of his mind and replied, "I'm not worried. It's just that I'm still indebted to her. Once I've repaid her, I'll have nothing to do with her!"

Anthony sounded extremely cold and decisive.

To his surprise, Natasha started laughing.

"Nat, what are you laughing at?" Anthony frowned.

"Anthony, I don't know what Thalia told you, but I'm sure she didn't mean it," Natasha said calmly.

Anthony stared at her for a while before asking, "Nat, you've only known her for that long. How do you know what's on her mind?"

"I guess you can call it a woman's instincts!" Natasha responded.

Chapter 680

On the other side, Denise kept looking backward, and Benjamin said, "Stop looking. It's not like you'll see anything. Let's go."

"Daddy, Ben, aren't you curious about what Tony's going to say to Nat?" Denise wondered out loud, unable to suppress her curiosity.

"What else can they possibly talk about? It must be about Thalia," Benjamin said in a tone far more mature than someone his age should have.

When Kenneth heard him, the tension on his face relaxed a little, and he nodded in agreement.

Denise said, "It's been a really long while since I've seen Tony this angry. Say, what do you think Thalia said to Tony in the hotel?"

"What else? They must have fought," Benjamin answered.

"But why would Thalia fight with Tony? She loves Tony so much," Denise pointed out.

Benjamin furrowed his brows at that. He, too, found it strange.

Turning to Kenneth, he asked, "Daddy, are you hiding something from us?"

Kenneth lowered his head and asked, "What do you mean?"

"That's what I'm asking you. It seems that you all are hiding something from us," Benjamin said.

"You're overthinking this," came Kenneth's response.

Right as Benjamin was about to say something else, he spotted Anthony coming back to them, so he turned to his brother instead.

“Tony.”

“I'm going up to rest first.” With that, Anthony headed straight upstairs.

He still looked angry.

Benjamin said nothing after that as he followed Anthony upstairs.

Once Denise came back to her senses, she hurried after them. “Ben, wait for me!”

Kenneth watched them leave. Just then, Natasha came over, and Kenneth walked up to her.

“What did Anthony say?” Kenneth asked.

Natasha looked up the stairs and said, “Thalia probably believes that she'll die eventually, and that's why she left. I'm guessing she must have said some harsh things to him because she was afraid they'd be sad.”

The look in Kenneth's eyes turned somber when he registered her words.

Saying nothing else, Natasha went up the stairs as well.

Kenneth quickly shot out his arm to grab hers.

“Nat...”

Natasha turned around to look at him expressionlessly.

Kenneth pursed his lips and gazed at her with a complicated look in his eyes. “Nat, are you mad at me?”

“No.” Natasha shook her head.

“Are you not going to ask why I think you're mad?”

“I'm not angry, so this will be my answer no matter what you ask,” Natasha said in a serene voice.

Resignation bloomed in Kenneth's chest, and Natasha gave him a small smile.

“I'm being honest,” was all she said before turning around to leave again.

Kenneth pulled her into his arms. "Nat—"

Right as he was about to say something, Dave came in from the outside and spotted them. He froze for a second. Then, he instinctively covered his eyes and said, "Oh my, I didn't see anything."

Hearing that, the two turned toward the doorway.

They were greeted by the sight of Dave standing a short distance away from them and facing them.

A look of exasperation crossed Kenneth's face when he realized who the man he was looking at was.

"You guys go ahead. I'm going upstairs to wash up now," Natasha said in a low voice.

There was nothing Kenneth could say about that. He could only incline his head in acknowledgment.

Natasha made her way upstairs after flashing Dave a smile.

Kenneth shoved a hand into his pocket and straightened his back. He asked impatiently, "Did you deliberately come at this time?"

"Do you hear that tinge of jealousy in your tone? What's the matter? Are you both fighting?" Dave asked.

Another look of resignation appeared in Kenneth's eyes. "If only we were. The thing is, she won't fight with me."

Dave walked over to take a seat in the middle of the couch as he listened to Kenneth's response. "Isn't it a man's dream not to have a fight with a woman? Why aren't you appreciating this? Or could it be that you're doing this on purpose to show off your relationship?"

"Do you think I have that much time on my hands to do something like this?"

"I'm pretty sure you do."

At that, Kenneth shot him a look before walking over to the couch to sit.

After a quiet moment of contemplation, he asked, "Dave, do you know how to make a girl happy?"

Dave was momentarily stunned. "I'm afraid I'm not experienced in that field. Even if I do, I doubt my methods will be of any use to your woman."

"What methods do you have in mind?"

"Cars, houses, jewelry, and such."

A sneer grew on Kenneth's lips when he heard that. "I once gave her a car in my grandpa's name, but she came to me with the money for the car on the next day."

Hearing that rendered Dave speechless.

"She doesn't need these things or love them."

Dave replied thoughtfully, "You're right. Who is she? She can get these things anytime she wants."

Kenneth lifted his head to give Dave a side-eye. "I'm asking you to help me think of a way to make her happy, not to get you to dispirit me."

"Sorry, but I really can't help you with this," Dave said with a chuckle, then received a glare in response.

"I shouldn't have asked you. All right, let's get back to the serious topics. How goes the preparations on your side?"

A solemn expression crawled back onto Dave's face. "Boss has been at home these few days; he hasn't come out for a while now. He has added more men around his house. It's not impossible if we want to launch an assault on him, but it'll be a challenging one."

"So he's sure I'll come to him again," Kenneth said.

"Yes. As long as the poison remains, he'll have leverage over you. He doesn't need to do anything but wait for you to go to him like a rabbit to the wolf's den."

A smirk manifested on Kenneth's lips. "He must be dreaming if he thinks he has leverage over me. Besides, I'm no rabbit."

Dave nodded. "That's right. You're no rabbit; you're a grizzly bear who's going to win against his pack of wolves."

Kenneth hummed in agreement.

"Have you decided when you're going to strike?" Dave continued.

"I wanted to do it in these two days, but something cropped up on Thalia's side, so I think I'll have to postpone this for a few days more."