

Yo Daddy 681

Chapter 681

Meanwhile, right as Natasha came out of the bathroom, she heard someone calling her name in a low voice behind her.

“Nat.”

When she turned around, Kenneth darted over to her and pinned her against the wall before kissing her.

Natasha's heart skipped a beat when she saw Kenneth's attractive face a hair's breadth away from hers.

She kept her eyes open at the start, but as Kenneth deepened the kiss, she gradually let her eyes flutter close.

After what seemed like an eternity, Kenneth slowly let go of her.

His forehead remained plastered to hers as Natasha panted. When he saw her reddened lips, he smiled.

“What are you smiling at?” she asked.

“Nothing. I just find you beautiful right now,” Kenneth replied.

Natasha glanced at him for a moment as she panted. “So you're hoping that this kiss will pacify me?”

“You're finally admitting that you're angry.”

“I'm not admitting anything, but aren't you doing this just to find out if I'm really angry?”

Kenneth gazed at her quietly.

A beat later, Natasha said, “Kenneth, I told you I'm not angry.”

“But you—”

“I was upset initially, but Kenneth, I trust you, and I trust that everything you say and do is for my sake, so I'm genuinely not angry.”

Kenneth was stunned for a long while. “Do you really think that?”

Natasha nodded. “Yes.”

“What if I've said some untruthful things?”

"If it's not for my sake, I'll be mad. If it is, I won't," Natasha said, shaking her head.

Kenneth smiled at that. It was then he finally felt at ease.

When he saw the damp state of her hair, he uttered, "I don't know why, but I'm feeling both relief and somewhat disappointed."

"Huh?"

Kenneth looked into her eyes and mulled over his thoughts for a considerable amount of time before answering, "Nothing. This is something you'll probably understand when the right time comes."

Natasha did not dwell on his words for long. "Then we'll leave this for the future us. I have something to attend to now."

Natasha pulled his hand away from her and walked to the side.

Kenneth ended up hugging the air. As he watched her leave, he asked, "What are you going to do?"

Natasha did not give him an answer as she walked to the computer.

Seeing that, Kenneth went to the cabinet to grab the hairdryer to dry her hair.

While Natasha was fully focused on using the computer, Kenneth would glance at the screen every once in a while as he dried her hair.

When he saw what was on her screen, he stiffened. Nevertheless, he continued blow-drying her hair. Only when her hair was mostly dry did he put the hairdryer aside to sit beside her.

"Nat, what are you planning to do?"

Silence answered him.

"Are you going to invite Thalia to a meeting as Shadow Seeker?" he continued.

Natasha turned to him slowly. "Yes."

Kenneth furrowed his brows in worry. "Nat, putting aside whether or not this will be useful, what if she still insists on not coming back even if you meet her as Shadow Seeker?"

"I'll make a promise with her before I meet her. Thalia's one to stick to her promises, so I'm sure she'll keep her word," Natasha said confidently.

Kenneth had mostly guessed what Natasha's plan was. After a period of hesitation, he said somberly,

“Nat, you'll end up in danger. As I said, the lesser people who know about this, the better.”

Natasha mulled over his words, but her response was, “I know, but I still believe in her.”

“Nat...”

“Kenneth, Thalia's like us. Maybe we're both people who don't have long to live, so the identity issue doesn't matter to me right now. What's most important right now is to have Thalia by our side.”

She knew well how it felt to be caught in the throes of the poison activating in her body.

She had to get Thalia to return to their side. That way, she would at least have someone taking care of her when she was caught in the episode. Otherwise, it would be a difficult time to endure on her own.

Kenneth held her hands and said, “Nat, you'll be fine. I won't let anything happen to you.”

Looking at him, Natasha forced herself to curl her lips. “Mm, I know. I'm just assuming the worst.”

Kenneth pursed his lips. “Okay, then. I'll respect your thoughts.”

This time, it was Natasha who reached out for his hands. “Don't worry. Thalia's been looking for me for a long time. She has been wanting to get me to join Darknetz, so she definitely won't expose my identity and let any other organizations headhunt me.”

“So you mean to say you and Thalia go back a long way?”

Natasha nodded. “Something like that, so you really don't need to worry about this.”

Kenneth bobbed his head. “Okay.”

Right then, a grumbling sound could be heard from Natasha's stomach.

Upon hearing that, Kenneth asked, “Are you hungry?”

Natasha looked down at her stomach. “Yeah.”

“You didn't skip your meals the whole day, did you?”

“Hmm... I think I did.”

Kenneth immediately gave her a frown.

Seemingly realizing something, Natasha uttered, “You go down and get ready first. I'll get changed and join you in a bit.”

Kenneth arched a brow at her. "Get changed?"

"Mm."

"Then... do you need my help? It's free."

Natasha nearly choked on her saliva. "It's fine. Just go outside." She rose to her feet and started pushing Kenneth out of the room.

Kenneth let her do as she pleased helplessly. He turned around to look at her only when he was by the doorway. "Okay, I'll wait for you downstairs. Don't take too long."

"All right."

Glancing at the time, Kenneth added, "Five minutes."

"Sure."

Finally, Kenneth exited the room.

Natasha closed the door behind him.

The smile she had on her face dropped almost instantaneously.

Chapter 682

"Ms. Watson, I finally received your call," Boss uttered on the other end of the line.

Natasha contemplated briefly before saying, "I can go and help you, but I have a condition."

"What is it?"

"I need the antidote."

"That's for sure. I'll definitely give you the antidote if you come here."

"Really?"

"Of course."

"Aren't you afraid I'll run away again?"

Boss chuckled after hearing that. "Rest assured. I've got a plan."

Natasha pursed her lips. "Wait for my phone call, then." With that, she hung up again.

Mixed emotions churned within Natasha as she stared into the distance.

Meanwhile, Benjamin and Denise followed Anthony into the room.

Anthony immediately lay on the bed and covered his head with a blanket.

Benjamin and Denise exchanged glances at the sight of his demeanor. Benjamin walked over and sat on the couch while Denise approached Anthony. "Tony, you can let us know what's bothering you. Maybe we can help."

"It's nothing. I'm fine," Anthony replied gloomily.

"You don't look like you're fine," Denise said.

"It's better if you don't know about this. There's no need to spread this misery."

Denise turned to look at Benjamin, who was seated on the couch.

Benjamin pondered briefly before uttering, "That's enough, Denise. Tony is just a little troubled. Give him some time to mull things over, and he'll be fine."

Denise knitted her brows while listening to him. Does he need to be so ruthless?

Benjamin added, "Let's go. Let's go back to our rooms and let Tony have some time alone."

She glanced at Anthony and nodded. "Okay."

Subsequently, the two ambled to the door, repeatedly turning their heads around to look at Anthony. Still, the latter showed no inclination to halt them from leaving.

When they reached the door, Anthony piped up, "Hold on."

Benjamin and Denise whirled around at once.

"Close the door behind you. Thank you."

Hearing that, Denise and Benjamin were momentarily stunned and a little disappointed.

"Okay," they responded and exited the room.

The two kids stood outside the room after shutting the door.

"I can't believe Tony didn't fall for our trick," Denise said.

Benjamin sighed. "That means the problem between them should be pretty serious." He let out another sigh while staring at the door. "Tony is a prideful person. I'm afraid Thalia has said something to hurt his dignity."

"T-That couldn't be, right?"

"Who knows? We can only know what happened when Tony is ready to tell." With that, Benjamin moved away.

Denise stood rooted in her spot and frowned at his leaving figure from behind.

Anthony lay on the bed inside the room.

He waited until his siblings left before lifting the blanket off his head.

Complicated emotions glinted in his eyes as he stared at the ceiling.

The experiences he shared with Thalia, from when they first met until they ultimately grew inseparable, flooded his mind.

Thalia had genuinely taught him too many things.

He was reluctant to believe her words, but no matter the reason, what she said had hurt his pride.

He would be lying if he said that he wasn't mad.

Anthony had always been proud of his intelligence. No one had ever criticized him in that manner, not to mention hearing those words from someone he trusted the most.

He felt a twinge in his heart.

Anthony rolled over on the bed, forcing himself not to dwell on that matter further. He shut his eyes and drifted off to sleep.

He woke up only when he heard someone knocking on his door.

At that moment, the sky outside had turned dark. Gazing at the door, Anthony said, "Come in."

Denise and Benjamin opened the door and entered the room carrying food.

"Tony, I suppose you're hungry. You didn't go downstairs for your meal, so we brought some food up for you," Denise said.

She walked over and placed the dishes on the table.

Anthony's mind felt more relaxed after he took a nap. He was no longer as sulky as before.

"Thank you," he uttered.

Denise arched her brow upon hearing that. "Tony, I'm at a loss for words because of your abrupt change in behavior."

"That's right. This is scaring me a little," Benjamin concurred.

Anthony's lips twitched as he bored his eyes into them in silence.

"That's enough. Food is one of the basic necessities of life, so hurry up and have your meal. You can get some good rest after you're done eating," Benjamin added.

Bobbing his head, Anthony got off the bed and walked over to the table.

Benjamin and Denise watched him eat without saying a word.

Although his mood had improved, Anthony still felt as though he was chewing on wax when consuming the food.

After eating a few mouthfuls, he turned around to gaze at his siblings behind him.

"What's the matter?" Denise asked after taking in the look in Anthony's eyes.

Anthony pursed his lips. "Aren't you two curious to know what happened?"

Denise froze at the mention of that.

Benjamin replied, "It's all right if you don't want to talk about it. That's not important."

Anthony thought for a few moments. "Thalia wants to cut all ties with us."

"Cut all ties?" Denise asked.

Benjamin furrowed his brows in response.

"That's right. She also mentioned some unpleasant remarks. It doesn't seem like she's joking."

Denise muttered, "Why is this happening..."

Benjamin contemplated for a few seconds before asking, "Do you believe her?"

Chapter 683

Natasha sat in front of the computer in the evening.

After a brief hesitation, she texted Thalia under the name of "Shadow Seeker."

She asked: Where are you?

After a while, Thalia replied: What's up? I thought you'd never ask such a question since you're the famous Shadow Seeker.

Shadow Seeker: Are you still in Xyperia?

Thalia replied with a laughing emoji: As expected of Shadow Seeker. You know everything.

Shadow Seeker: You sound a little upset.

Thalia: How do you expect me to sound optimistic when I'm almost dying?

Shadow Seeker: Dying?

Thalia: Yes. I've been poisoned. I probably won't live much longer.

Shadow Seeker: I can grant you a wish.

Thalia: Really?

Shadow Seeker: Yes.

Thalia: I want to meet you.

Shadow Seeker did not reply immediately.

Thalia: Shadow Seeker, I've been looking for you for three years, and we've also been friends for three years, even though we have not met. Why can't you meet me now that you know I'm dying?

Shadow Seeker: Is that your wish?

Thalia: Yes.

Shadow Seeker: What a waste. You could have asked for a better wish.

Thalia: It's not a waste at all. Being able to see your face before dying means the world to me.

As usual, Shadow Seeker remained silent whenever she came across a remark like that.

Thalia continued texting: You said you would grant me a wish. Don't tell me you regret it.

Shadow Seeker: We can meet, but I have a condition.

Thalia: What is it?

Shadow Seeker: You must agree to my condition after the meeting.

Thalia: And that is?

Shadow Seeker: I'll need you to come with me.

Thalia: Please don't tell me you're in love with me.

Shadow Seeker: Don't overthink.

Thalia: Can you blame me? We've never met, and all of a sudden, you said you wanted to take me away.

Shadow Seeker: I'll give you some time to think about it. I'll wait for your answer.

Thalia: I'll give you my answer now. I agree.

Shadow Seeker: Are you sure you don't need to think about it first?

Thalia: What for? I'm not worried even if you plan to kill me. I'm dying anyway.

Shadow Seeker: All right, then.

Thalia: Where and when?

Shadow Seeker: I'll text you again tomorrow.

Thalia: Don't keep me waiting. I don't have much time left!

Shadow Seeker: You'll be fine.

Looking at Shadow Seeker's reply, Thalia froze for a moment. She asked: What do you mean?

Yet, Shadow Seeker stopped replying to her message.

Thalia stared at her phone screen and knew Shadow Seeker would leave her hanging. She always does this to me.

Nonetheless, she was still intrigued by Shadow Seeker's last message. What's the meaning of that?

Three years ago, Thalia had an encounter with Shadow Seeker online. Shortly after, Darknetz had tasked her with recruiting the elusive hacker. From then on, Thalia had been tirelessly searching for Shadow Seeker, but to no avail. Despite her best efforts, all she could uncover was the general location of the hacker, either in a city or a country.

On the other hand, Shadow Seeker seemed to be aware of her whereabouts all the time.

At first, Thalia was worried, but after getting to know Shadow Seeker for three years, she had put her guard down. As time went by, their friendship evolved, even though she still did not know much about the hacker.

Thalia had overcome her fear of Shadow Seeker, who seemed to know everything about her. Though they had not met in person, they would contact each other, much like how people kept in touch online.

Thalia's greatest wish was to meet Shadow Seeker before she died.

That was why Natasha seized the opportunity to lure Thalia to make the first move.

Reading the chat history between Natasha and Thalia, Kenneth spoke up. "Have you made up your mind?"

Natasha nodded. "Yes. It's been three years. It's time to see her."

Kenneth looked at her with conflicting emotions. "When Thalia appeared in Glenport City, was it because she was looking for you?"

Natasha nodded. "Yes."

Kenneth gave her a grin. "It's karma, isn't it?"

Natasha responded with a faint smile. "I never thought I would stand before her as Shadow Seeker. But now, I have no choice but to do it."

Kenneth inclined his head in agreement. "Now, I understand why you trust her so much and why you entrusted the three kids to her."

Natasha looked at him and offered a silent smile.

Sometimes, silence spoke volume.

"When are you planning to meet her? I'll accompany you," Kenneth asked.

"Tomorrow," Natasha replied. The sooner, the better.

Kenneth thought about it before responding with a nod. "All right. I'll make the arrangement for the meeting."

Natasha bobbed her head in response.

When Kenneth was about to leave, he seemed to remember something. "By the way, I think the three kids may have suspected something. We should be more careful about our actions."

Natasha nodded. "Got it."

"Let's not tell them about tomorrow's meeting, then," Kenneth said.

Natasha inclined her head in acknowledgment. "Once Thalia returns, everything will fall into place, and all the problems will be resolved."

Kenneth nodded in agreement before turning around and walking away.

Natasha's eyes were fixed on the view outside the window as she remained lost in thought while sitting in front of the computer.

The next morning, Kenneth and Natasha departed.

Meanwhile, Benjamin was leaning against the window in his room, which happened to have a view of the direction of the garage. After he saw Kenneth and Natasha get into the car and drive away, he instantly became alert.

He hopped down from his bed and walked to Anthony's room. "Tony! Tony!"

Benjamin barged into Anthony's room when the latter was awake, lying on the bed and staring blankly at the ceiling.

Upon noticing Benjamin's presence in the room, Anthony looked over. "You forgot to knock on the door again."

Benjamin looked at his brother. "Daddy went out with Nat."

Anthony froze for a moment when he heard that. He immediately turned his gaze to Benjamin. "Why do you sound surprised? It's nothing unusual anyway."

“Are you not curious where they're going?” Benjamin asked.

“Where else could they...” Anthony paused right there before looking at Benjamin with his widened eyes.

“My instincts tell me Daddy and Nat are going to look for Thalia,” Benjamin deduced.

Anthony got up from the bed.

Benjamin went up and nudged him. “Now it's not the time to think about all these. Let's follow them!”

“How?” Anthony asked.

Benjamin pondered for a moment before answering, “Miguel! Let's look for Miguel!”

Chapter 684

At Miguel's words, Anthony gave him the side-eye before saying, “So?”

“So... So I can't...” Miguel trailed off while looking at Anthony, his awkward expression already revealing what he was trying to say.

Just then, Denise leaned in from behind, asking, “Aren't you afraid that my brother's going to skin you alive if you keep refusing him?”

Hearing that, Miguel turned his head to look at the little girl and emphasized, “Well, him skinning me alive doesn't sound probable, but Dave, on the other hand, will definitely flay me if he finds out about this.”

“You!” Denise huffed, “You're just bullying us because you're certain that we can't do anything.”

Miguel denied, “That's where you're wrong. It's so obvious that I'm the one who's getting bullied here.”

Denise glared at him, looking as if she wanted to refute him but couldn't come up with any retort. In the end, she could only sit back and turn her gaze away, sulking.

Subsequently, Anthony piped up, “You're right. I can't skin you alive, but I can revoke your apprenticeship.”

At that, Miguel looked at him in disbelief. “Hold on, Master, you... you're threatening me!”

Anthony nodded. “That's right. I am threatening you.”

Miguel muttered, “Can't you just be more reasonable?”

"You're my apprentice. Shouldn't you offer your assistance when your master's asking for help?" Anthony quipped.

"Of course I should help, but..."

Anthony cut him off, "No buts! Let's just go!"

Still, Miguel was still hesitant, looking as if he was in a dilemma.

Anthony persuaded, "Don't worry, if Mr. Dave finds out about this, I'll say that I forced you. I'll do everything in my power to protect your skin. I won't let him skin you."

"Really?" asked Miguel.

"Yes, really. After all, you're my apprentice. I won't let anyone bully you."

Miguel's lips curled into a smile when he heard that. "Then... I have another small request to ask of you, Master."

Anthony stared at him. "What is it?"

"I want you to make an announcement saying that I'm your apprentice," Miguel replied.

Anthony was silent for a moment before saying, "Are you trying to talk terms with me?"

Miguel smiled. "I'm just asking for a favor."

Anthony drawled, "So... does that mean you're going to keep me here if I don't agree to your request?"

"Of course not. If you don't agree to it, I'll just persuade you until you do. As for your instructions, I'll still carry them out," Miguel replied.

Anthony huffed, "Then what are you waiting for? Let's go before you lose them!"

With that, Miguel stepped on the pedal to catch up with the kids' parents.

However, because of the delay and the fact that Kenneth was a fast driver, Miguel and the kids had long since been left behind.

On the road, the three kids kept looking out the window, afraid of missing anything.

Alas, even after they had driven for a long while, Kenneth's car was still nowhere to be seen.

Denise furrowed her brows. "What should we do? We lost them."

Benjamin chimed in, "Tony, is there any other way to find them?"

With a frown marring his forehead, Anthony uttered, "Nat will definitely notice if I try to pinpoint her phone's location, and because Daddy's phone has been modified before, there's no way I can track him."

Denise's and Benjamin's frowns deepened when they heard that.

The boys swept a glance at Miguel while Denise shot daggers at him. If he hadn't stopped the car halfway, we wouldn't have lost them.

Noticing that he was being glared at, Miguel said to Denise, "Don't worry. Just because you guys have no way to track them, it doesn't mean I don't as well."

In response, the three kids trained their gazes on him.

Miguel continued, "All of Dave's cars are equipped with a location-sharing feature, so it's actually quite easy to find out where one of the cars is."

As he spoke, he pressed some options on the display screen, and soon, a moving red dot appeared on the interface. "There we go."

Seeing that the red dot was moving not far in front of them, Anthony finally calmed down. He raised his head to look at Miguel and asked, "How did you know of this function?"

"Well, I was the one who installed it in the first place," came Miguel's reply.

Anthony muttered, "No wonder."

"This is not the only function the car has. There are still a lot more, such as safety features and things like that."

"And these are all installed by you?"

Miguel replied, "Just some of them."

Anthony stared at him. "Not bad. I didn't know you had this kind of talent."

"So it's not such a loss to accept me as your apprentice, right?" Miguel asked.

Anthony retracted his gaze. "You're all right."

"Then... in view of my performance, is it possible to expedite the request I mentioned earlier?"

“What?”

“You know, the one where you announce that I'm your apprentice!”

“I was asking what performance have you shown?”

Miguel huffed confidently, “Well, I found them, didn't I?”

“But you're the one who lost them in the first place,” Anthony retorted.

“I...”

“At most, you have just atoned for your mistake.”

Miguel was rendered speechless.

At the same time, Denise couldn't help but let loose a chuckle after seeing the banter between the man and her brother.

As Miguel noticed how the situation was panning out, the gleam in his eyes dimmed, and he looked aggrieved. “Master, your words cut deep.”

Denise uttered, “You should be grateful. My brother is already very merciful with his words.”

To that, Miguel mumbled, “Why should I? He didn't spare me any mercy at all.”

Denise added, “Well, just wait and see. You'll find out what it's truly like to be merciless in the future.”

Miguel turned to look at Anthony, who was beside him, and noticed that the boy was silent with a serious expression, his gaze locked on the position shown on the display screen.

Miguel fell into deep thought. Hmm... It seems like I need to find another way. By hook or by crook, I must get Anthony to announce that I'm his apprentice!

Meanwhile, a car came to a stop some distance away from the designated location.

Just when Natasha was about to get off, Kenneth grabbed her hand. “You really don't need me to go with you?”

“It's fine. I can go by myself.”

Kenneth gazed at her, concern marring his brows.

Natasha said, "I'm just going to meet Thalia. There's really no need for you to come with me."

Only then did Kenneth release his grip. "All right. If there's anything, just call me. I'll be right here waiting for you."

Natasha nodded and alighted the car.

The place she was heading to was a coffee shop. The doors and windows were made of glass, which made it easy for Kenneth to keep an eye on both the inside and outside of the place. Soon, he settled down in the car and waited, never letting his sight wander from the coffee shop.

The reason why he was so on guard wasn't because of Thalia but Boss' subordinates.

Since they were able to tail him that day, Kenneth reckoned they had never ceased their activities. I can't guarantee they won't be able to find this place.

Chapter 685

Thalia went in and scanned her surroundings. In the end, her gaze landed on one of the corners.

Needless to say, Thalia was slightly stunned when she saw Natasha.

Thalia quickly racked her brain, but she couldn't come up with an answer.

Meanwhile, Natasha looked back at her, lifted her hand, and waved at Thalia with a smile.

Seeing that, Thalia pondered for a moment before approaching Natasha.

While looking at Natasha, Thalia asked, "Why are you here?"

"I was waiting for you," Natasha replied flatly.

Thalia took a deep breath and gazed at Natasha. "Did Anthony ask you to come—" Thalia paused because she saw a phone on the table. Right away, her gaze darkened, and she was visibly shaken.

She then looked at Natasha and shifted her gaze back toward the phone again. After a while, she walked up to Natasha and asked, "How did that phone come into your possession?"

"What do you think?" Natasha responded with another question.

Thalia stared at Natasha and said, "This phone needs to be customized through a special channel. It is only customized for certain people, so not everyone can have it. Moreover, Anthony doesn't know about this channel..."

Natasha kept mum and let Thalia analyze her way through.

"Could it be Kenneth? However, he didn't get his phone through this specific channel. Besides, you don't need such a powerful phone..." As Thalia was talking, she raised her gaze toward Natasha. All of a sudden, an unbelievable idea came to her mind.

"Are you Shadow Seeker?" Thalia asked.

Natasha's expression was calm, but she was wearing a faint smile. Although she didn't utter a single word, it seemed as though her silence had spoken for her.

"How could this be?" The corners of Thalia's mouth twitched. This is absurd!

"How could it not?" Natasha asked.

Natasha's question had confirmed Thalia's speculation.

"Are you really..." Thalia was in disbelief.

Natasha then suddenly reached out her hand and said, "Let me reintroduce myself. I'm Shadow Seeker. Nice to meet you, Thalia."

Thalia was rendered speechless. In fact, her mind was buzzing when she heard those words. Why does this feel surprising and normal at the same time? Could it be because I've known her for such a long time? Is that why I'm not weirded out?

While staring at Natasha's hand, Thalia slowly reached out her hand as well for a handshake.

In response, Natasha smiled at her.

Right then, Thalia regained her senses and asked, "Wait... Isn't Shadow Seeker a man?"

"Who said so?"

"Everyone said so! Besides, according to your profile, you're a man!"

"I wrote that on a whim," Natasha replied.

"That's why I couldn't find you no matter where I looked! I've wasted three years of my life!" Thalia exclaimed.

"I'm sorry, but I didn't mean to fool you. I did it to protect myself." Natasha smiled.

Thalia was in the same industry, so she definitely could relate.

After giving a nod, Thalia looked at Natasha and said, "I understand. So, are you really not going to consider joining Darknetz? Kyle said as long as you're willing to join Darknetz, you can name whatever conditions you want!"

"Why are you still thinking about recruiting for Darknetz now?" Natasha asked. They were sitting opposite each other as though they had been friends with each other for years.

Thalia lowered her gaze and smiled. "Darknetz has been kind to me. In my eyes, it's like a home. I think it's only right for me to be concerned about my family."

Natasha heard what Thalia said and nodded. "However, I still hold on to the words I said. I'm not joining any organization now, and I'll never will!"

Thalia took a deep breath upon hearing that. "All right. I figured you would say so. I didn't believe you then, but I do now. I've already given up hope."

Natasha chuckled and explained, "I'm sorry, but I've already promised Grandpa not to get involved in that industry. Prior to this, I did it because I was looking for my father. After that, I stopped getting myself involved in such activities."

"I understand. Still, it's such a shame. It's a great loss for the hackers' community." Thalia nodded.

"You have a never-ending supply of geniuses in this industry. Soon, you'll have new talents emerging." Natasha smiled.

"Be that as it may, no one can ever reach Shadow Seeker's height."

Natasha merely smiled in response.

"It's all right, though. Even with you out of the picture, there's still Anthony..." Thalia paused the moment she mentioned Anthony. She couldn't help but feel dejected when she recalled Anthony's retreating figure that day.

Obviously, Natasha knew what was on Thalia's mind. "Anthony was disappointed and angry after he left that day."

"Was he?" Thalia asked with an awkward look in her eyes.

"I knew you had good intentions, and I think he'll come around," Natasha answered.

Upon hearing that, Thalia lowered her gaze and mumbled, "I didn't do it for his own good, so I don't need him to come around..."

Natasha didn't dwell on the conflict between Thalia and Anthony. Instead, Natasha looked at Thalia and

said, "Thalia, trust me. You're going to be fine. You surely will."

"Yes. I hope so." Thalia flashed a smile.

"Well, follow me back!" Natasha urged.

Thalia froze for a second when she heard that. "No. Since I've already left, I don't plan to go back."

"Thalia..."

"I've already made up my mind." Thalia's eyes reflected her firm resolve.

"Thalia, I don't know what happened between you and Spencer, but you shouldn't put yourself in danger!"

Thalia's eyes darted from side to side before she curled her lips into a smile. "Don't worry. I'm not putting my life in danger. I've always been one to appreciate my life. It's just that I have other plans in mind."

Other plans? Natasha noticed the keywords in Thalia's sentence. Upon seeing the smile on Thalia's face, Natasha couldn't help but frown.

After a while, Natasha's gaze turned stern when she asked, "Are you planning to look for Boss on your own?"

Thalia's eyelashes quivered slightly, and she looked at Natasha in bafflement. I didn't even say anything. How did Natasha know what was on my mind?

"No. Why would I do that?" Thalia denied.

"Thalia, your eyes are telling me you're lying."

Thalia went quiet.

"You can't go!" Natasha advised.

"Why not?" Thalia looked at Natasha.

Although Thalia knew she could be exposed by asking that, she didn't bother.

Chapter 686

Although Thalia was faltering after listening to what Natasha had to say, she wasn't one to be fooled easily. While looking at Natasha, Thalia said, "If I go, obviously, I'm not going to let him find out about

my identity. In other words, even if I were to get caught, I won't be dragging Darknetz down with me. I'll deal with it myself."

Natasha furrowed her brows. "Thalia..."

"I've already made up my mind," Thalia uttered firmly.

Seeing how Thalia was behaving, Natasha knew she had to deal with Thalia the hard way.

"Do you still remember what I said yesterday before our meetup?" Natasha asked.

Thalia narrowed her eyes to slits. Only then did she remember what Natasha had requested the day before.

At the same time, realization dawned on Thalia. "Natasha, did you really reveal your identity because of that?"

"I know you always keep your word."

Thalia glanced at her, not knowing how to respond at that moment. I know how important a person's identity is to a hacker. That's especially the case for top hackers like us because we're always being watched. However, she's putting herself on the spot!

"You were too impulsive, Natasha. Aren't you afraid that I might sell the information now that I know you're Shadow Seeker?" Thalia asked.

"You won't do that."

"How would you know?"

"Because I've known you for three years."

"Yet, I've always regarded you as a man," Thalia replied.

"You can continue perceiving me as a man."

"What I'm trying to say is that I've never considered you a friend. My plan was to destroy you if I couldn't get my hands on you!" Thalia enunciated.

"How about now?" Natasha asked.

Thalia stared blankly at Natasha, unable to conjure a response at that moment. Even if I were to disregard the relationship I have with Anthony, Natasha is still my savior! I can't do such a thing!

Thalia was overwhelmed by mixed emotions as she stared at Natasha. I don't like owing someone favors, especially if that person is nice to me. I don't know how to repay them!

With that in mind, Thalia said, "Still, you've acted rashly. I'm willing to forget about everything that happened today. You may leave. I'll pretend as if none of this happened, and I'll keep my mouth shut!"

"Thalia, regardless of whether I'm speaking as your friend who you hadn't met in three years or as the person sitting in front of you now, I think I know you well enough. You may seem carefree on the outside, but you're actually a cautious person. Therefore, I deeply believe that you're a worthy friend that I'm willing to sacrifice for. It doesn't matter what I've done. What matters the most is that you're worthy!" Natasha uttered.

As soon as those words fell, Thalia lifted her bewildered gaze toward Natasha. I never thought a woman would say those words to me. The worst thing is that I find it hard to resist her! She's so appealing, and I can't help thinking about throwing myself at her... Yet, my rationality is telling me not to do so.

Holding that thought, Thalia retracted her gaze and said, "I know what you're going to say to me. Yes. I promised to leave with you, but I never said when. Hence, I'm still keeping my word."

Natasha knitted her brows in response.

Thalia gazed at Natasha and added, "Shadow Seeker, you've already saved my life once. This time around, I'm determined to go ahead with my plan, regardless of whether I'm doing it for you or for myself. If I'm lucky enough to retrieve the antidote, I'll fulfill the promise I made. If I can't get my hands on the antidote..." Thalia paused before continuing, "Well, I have no regrets."

Natasha couldn't help but knit her brows even tighter while looking at Thalia.

Meanwhile, Miguel's car arrived outside, and he parked not far behind Kenneth's car.

Four of them were in the car, and when they saw Kenneth's car in front of them, one of them said, "We're here!"

After that, they kept looking outside the car. "Where have they gone to?" Denise asked.

"It's such a huge area. They could be anywhere!" Benjamin exclaimed.

The four of them continued looking out the window to scan the surroundings.

Right then, Anthony said, "Benjamin, let's split up and look for them. Report back to each other if there's any news!"

"What about me?" Denise asked.

Anthony glanced at her and answered, "You should stay in the car with Miguel. If you guys see Daddy and Nat coming back, let us know immediately."

Denise knew they merely wanted to keep her safe, so she had no choice but to nod and reply, "All right."

"Master, I should follow you," Miguel said to Anthony.

"That's not necessary. Stay in the car and protect Denise. We'll be back in no time," Anthony answered.

Miguel threw a glance at Denise before nodding. "Be careful, Master."

Anthony nodded.

With that, the two boys got out of the car.

Anthony stood next to the car and said to Benjamin, "You check the back, and I'll check the front. Let's meet up here after a few minutes."

"Okay," Benjamin responded.

Right as Benjamin was about to leave, he heard Anthony saying, "Hey, Benjamin."

Benjamin turned around to ask, "What?"

"Boss' men could be nearby. We might've already exposed ourselves that day, so you should be careful," Anthony urged.

Benjamin smiled when he heard that. "I know. Don't worry."

Anthony nodded.

In the next second, Benjamin pulled the hood of his hoodie over his head to hide his face.

"I'll go now. You should watch your back as well," Benjamin said coolly.

Anthony nodded at his brother.

With that, Benjamin turned around and walked toward the back.

Anthony then looked at the car in front of him and walked ahead.

At that moment, Kenneth was staring at the coffee shop from inside his car. He would also scan the surroundings from time to time warily.

Suddenly, a familiar figure appeared before his eyes.

Kenneth was stunned when he saw Anthony striding ahead. What is he doing here?

Seeing that Natasha and Thalia were still conversing in the coffee shop, Kenneth quickly got out of his car and approached Anthony.

"Anthony!" Kenneth shouted as he was walking.

Anthony was searching along the way when he suddenly heard someone shouting behind him. He froze for a moment before gradually turning his head around. There, he saw Kenneth standing nearby.

"Hey, Daddy..." Anthony gazed at Kenneth.

Kenneth narrowed his eyes and asked, "What are you doing here?"

Anthony looked around before shifting his gaze back toward Kenneth. "I... I came here for a stroll! It's such a coincidence to see you here, Daddy!"

"Bullsh*t! Do you take me for a fool?" Kenneth sneered.

"Daddy, we're in a foreign place. Please be more civilized to avoid getting laughed at."

"Did you follow us here?" Kenneth stared at Anthony.

Knowing that he was already busted, Anthony knew there was no point in lying anymore. "I was worried about Nat, so I came along..."

Right then, they heard a loud sound coming from the direction of the coffee shop.

Chapter 687

At that moment, Kenneth and Anthony were staring in the direction of the coffee shop.

They saw a few employees huddled together, trying to stop something but unsure of what to do. Natasha's and Thalia's figures were vaguely spotted in the middle. Most importantly, there was a mess on the floor.

Kenneth paused momentarily as though he had noticed something before rushing inside.

"Daddy," Anthony called out. Then, as he stared in the direction his father left, he saw Natasha's figure through the floor-to-ceiling window.

After muttering “Nat,” he realized something as well and darted into the building.

At the same time, he contacted Benjamin. “I found Daddy and Nat. They’re in the coffee shop near the car. Come quickly.”

Upon hanging up the phone, he chased after Kenneth.

Currently, in the cafe, Thalia was struggling in agony. She had flipped over the table, causing the floor to be blanketed in sharp, broken pieces of various objects.

Some employees were screaming, and some were shouting they were going to call the police. One guy seemed to be interested in helping as he stepped forward, but in reality, he just grabbed Thalia forcefully.

Upon seeing that, Natasha narrowed her eyes and slapped his hand away.

The male employee turned to Natasha with a frown. “What are you doing?”

“Don’t touch her!” Natasha barked coldly.

“She’s definitely a drug addict! I’m sending her to the police station!”

“She’s just sick!”

“I’ve seen drug addicts before, and they all act like her when they’re having withdrawals! You can’t lie to me!” The man tried to grab Thalia again, but Natasha used her body to block his path and gazed at him icily. “Don’t you dare touch her again!”

While the man was clearly intimidated by her, he refused to back down. “Don’t blame me for what I’ll do if you don’t step away!”

Just as he tried to make a move against her, someone seized his hand, startling him.

Upon turning back, he saw an angry Kenneth glowering at him and saying, “Do you want to die?”

“Who are you?” the man questioned.

Kenneth sneered silently and tightened his grip.

It caused the man so much pain that his face twisted in agony. “Ouch! Ouch! Ouch!”

Meanwhile, Thalia was still doing her best to control herself. Natasha turned to Kenneth and said, “Don’t make a big deal out of this, Kenneth! Right now, what’s most important is Thalia!”

In response, Kenneth glanced at the male employee and spat coldly, "Consider yourself lucky today. Otherwise, I wouldn't have let this slide easily!" Then he pushed the man away, causing the latter to fall to the ground.

The man was upset, of course, but he didn't have the nerve to do anything but glare at Kenneth.

At the same time, Anthony approached the male employee and kicked the latter's leg because he saw what had transpired. How dare he bully Thalia and my mommy! He's practically asking for death!

Surprised, the employee stared at the boy. "You—" Before he could utter another word, he saw the murderous intent in Kenneth's eyes and sealed his mouth shut.

Natasha didn't want to make a big fuss out of the situation, so she spoke to the employees. "Everyone, she's just sick. That's why she accidentally broke your stuff. We'll compensate double for the losses we incurred. Everyone will get a share of that compensation. If you're willing to accept my offer, please stand back right now."

The employees exchanged glances with each other before turning away. They weren't going to say no to that.

"Help me out, Kenneth," Natasha requested.

In response, Kenneth nodded.

Meanwhile, Thalia was still struggling to endure the pain.

"Let me help you, Thalia!" said Natasha.

Tremblingly, Thalia nestled in the corner. "I-I'm in so much pain! It's so painful!"

"I know. Let me help you. The pain will be gone soon..." Slowly, Natasha stepped toward her friend.

Anthony was flabbergasted by the scene. While I don't know what exactly happened, I think this is why Thalia's attitude toward me changed so much!

Then, he noticed something and exclaimed, "Thalia!"

Just a second ago, Thalia was still curling in the corner. Then, without warning, she grabbed a glass shard on the floor and slashed her arm.

"Thalia!" Immediately, Natasha removed the glass shard from the woman's hand, but it was too late. A long streak of blood appeared on Thalia's delicate arm. As blood flowed out of her limb, Thalia closed her eyes, looking as though she was feeling better.

Afraid that her friend would do something dangerous again, Natasha knocked Thalia out by hitting the latter's nape.

Upon seeing that, Anthony stepped closer to them and asked, "What's going on, Nat?"

"We'll talk more after sending Thalia home!" Natasha replied.

The boy nodded.

Out of nowhere, Spencer busted into the coffee shop.

The instant he saw Thalia lying on the ground with a bloodied arm, he dashed toward her with widened eyes. "Thalia!"

At the moment, Thalia had passed out.

"Bring her back first, Spencer!" Natasha urged.

He nodded, picked Thalia up, and sprinted outside.

Natasha followed.

Just as Benjamin and Denise arrived at the entrance, they opened the door because they saw Spencer running toward them with Thalia in his arms.

"Over here." Natasha opened the door to the car.

In response, Spencer carried Thalia into the vehicle.

The moment Natasha turned her line of sight to behind her, Anthony spoke. "We'll take care of things here, Nat. You should leave with them first."

She nodded, jumped into the car, and left with Spencer.

Benjamin and Denise stood at the entrance, feeling confused. It wasn't until Natasha left that they returned to their senses and turned to their older brother. "What's going on? What happened to Thalia?"

Shaking his head, Anthony answered with a serious expression, "I really don't know. Although, I think we'll learn the truth soon enough..."

The trio was silent, seeming as if they had understood something without exchanging another word.

Soon, Kenneth approached them and swept his gaze across the children as well as Miguel.

Miguel shifted his line of sight away in response. I don't know anything, I didn't see anything, and I have nothing to do with this.

Upon approaching Kenneth, Denise grabbed his hand and inquired, "What happened to Thalia, Daddy? What's going on?"

He frowned and stared at her. "Why would I know about another woman's matters? Nat refrained me from doing so, you know!"

That rendered the little girl speechless. His excuse is flawless. I don't think I can get any information out of him.

Seeing that she had stopped speaking, Kenneth announced, "Let's go!"

Suddenly, Anthony recalled something and stared into the coffee shop. "What about the mess inside?"

"I've taken care of it. Let's leave!"

Chapter 688

In the car, Spencer's eyes were trained on Thalia as he held her hand, showing no signs of loosening his grip anytime soon.

Natasha drove at lightning speed, wishing that the car could grow wings and fly back.

She sped all the way, flooring the gas pedal throughout the entire drive.

Although she knew that Thalia would be fine when the latter woke after passing out, she understood that kind of agony all too well. For that reason, she was still very much anxious.

Even when they reached the castle, Thalia remained unconscious.

After bringing the car to a stop, Natasha scrutinized Spencer's worried countenance before advising, "Spencer, if you truly care about Thalia, don't relent and give her any opportunity to do such a thing!"

Spencer held her gaze. "I don't want to relent either. But then, I don't want to see her in even greater pain."

"I don't know what happened between you both, but you must make her stay here at present, even if it means lying to her! Today, she merely slashed her arm with a glass fragment, but the next time, it might be her wrist instead!" Natasha warned.

Upon hearing that, Spencer snapped his eyes up to her.

Natasha merely flashed him a smile. "Don't be surprised. I, too, had such a thought when the poison within me flared up."

Spencer pressed his lips into a thin line. Indescribable torment and conflict stained his devilish features.

"Come on, let's bring her back to her room," Natasha urged.

Spencer carried Thalia as though she was a precious treasure, carefully shielding her in his arms. He took her upstairs to her room.

Only after they had settled Thalia and dealt with her injury did Natasha's heart that had been lodged in her throat finally settle back into her chest. She then turned to Spencer and stated, "There's one more thing I think I should tell you."

Lifting his eyes, Spencer looked at her.

"If it weren't for the flare-up this time, she would have most likely gone to seek Boss out alone," Natasha divulged.

That stunned Spencer to the core.

"Therefore, it's your decision whether to have her stay." Having said that, Natasha retracted her gaze. Thereafter, she spun on her heel and walked out.

In other words, she was giving them some space alone.

As the door slammed close, Spencer's eyes fell on Thalia, the look in them growing increasingly intense.

Outside, Natasha found a quiet spot and sat down.

Her eyes were fixed on an area as though she was lost in contemplation. At the same time, it also appeared as though she was spacing out. Under the sunlight, her striking face was rendered extraordinarily aloof.

At that precise moment, Dave returned from outside and happened to catch sight of her. Startled for a moment, he asked, "Why are you sitting here alone? Where's Kenneth?"

As his voice drifted into her ears, Natasha looked up at him and forced a smile. "He's probably out and will be back very soon!"

Hearing that, Dave bobbed his head. Then, he studied her closely. "So, is something wrong with you?"

"I'm fine." Natasha shook her head.

"You don't look like you're fine," Dave pressed on.

Natasha pondered for a while before she raised her eyes and pinned them on the man. "Can I ask you for a favor, Dave?"

Since it was rare for her to speak to him in such a solemn manner, Dave was exceedingly curious to know what exactly she wanted to say. He nodded. "What is it? As long as it's within my capabilities, I'll be more than glad to help!"

"I heard from Benjamin that you have an armory."

In response, Dave bobbed his head. "Yes, that's right. What about it?"

Natasha pursed her lips lightly. "Can I have a tour of it?"

Following her request, Dave narrowed his eyes a fraction. "Of course. But are you also interested in such a thing?"

"Yes!" Natasha fibbed.

Alas, her expression and tone didn't quite match her answer. Dave eyed her suspiciously.

"Okay, then. I'll have Kenneth bring you over later."

When Natasha heard that, she ventured, "Can't I go by myself?"

Dave glanced at her. "Your intention isn't as simple as a mere tour, yes?"

At that, Natasha chuckled. "You can tell?"

"I can only say that you're indeed bad at lying!" Dave replied.

Ultimately, Natasha nodded in admission. "All right. I actually want a self-defense weapon."

"Self-defense?" Dave eyeballed her, still dubious about her claim.

"Can I?" Natasha questioned directly.

Dave's eyes remained fixed on her. "Does Kenneth know about this?"

"No," Natasha admitted honestly.

A frown marred Dave's countenance as he scrutinized her.

"It's because I don't want him to know that I'm speaking to you about this personally. If it isn't possible, forget that I ever mentioned it," Natasha said, her eyes never once leaving him.

Dave mulled it over for some time before turning his gaze back to her. "Okay, I'll get you a weapon later."

Natasha was momentarily taken aback, but she didn't ask further questions, merely murmuring, "Thank you."

"I only have one condition before doing so," Dave amended.

"What is it?"

"You can't turn the gun on yourself," Dave asserted.

Upon hearing that, Natasha abruptly burst into giggles. Her joy made for a mesmerizing sight. "Don't tell me you thought I wanted to commit suicide?"

"Well, no, but one can't be too careful."

"Don't worry. I'm not at that level yet. Even if it's for the sake of the triplets and Kenneth, I'll go all out to continue living!" Natasha vowed.

At that, Dave bobbed his head. "That's great. I understand now. I'll give you a weapon soon."

"What about Kenneth, then?"

"I'll keep it a secret from him temporarily," Dave promised.

"Thank you!" Natasha exclaimed.

"No worries. It's nothing," Dave replied.

In response, Natasha inclined her head at him.

Subsequently, Dave shot her a questioning look. "If there's nothing else, I'll go and get busy first."

"Sure!" Natasha flashed him a faint smile.

With a final look at her, Dave withdrew his gaze. He whirled around and headed into the house.

After he had left, Natasha remained sitting on the stool outside. She stared into the distance, still thinking about something or other.

Dave dragged his feet until he reached the door. It wasn't until then that he glanced back over his shoulder in Natasha's direction with an indescribably cryptic look in his eyes.

A while later, he again retracted his gaze before turning around and heading in.

Shortly after, Kenneth and the triplets came back.

As soon as the car came to a stop, they all spotted Natasha and headed toward her right away.

"Nat!"

"Nat!"

The triplets sprinted over to her. Denise threw herself into Natasha's arms before gazing up at the latter.
"Nat!"

Meanwhile, Natasha looked down at her. "What's wrong?"

Frowning, Denise asked, "What exactly is wrong with Thalia?"

At that subject, Natasha's brows furrowed.

"Don't tell me, you've got no idea either, Nat!" Denise added.

"Who else said that?"

"Daddy. He said you don't allow him to concern himself with other women's affairs!" Denise groused.

Hearing that, Natasha lifted her eyes and swung her gaze to Kenneth.

Walking right over, Kenneth sat down next to her and pulled her into his arms. "Well? Isn't that the truth?"

With her eyes on him, Natasha forced a smile.

Kenneth proceeded to turn to the triplets. "Listen up. I'll settle the score with the three of you later for secretly following me out. Now, return to your rooms first. I've got something to discuss with Nat."

"We've also got something to ask her!" Denise argued.

"In that case, let's wait for our turns, okay?" Kenneth proposed.

"Daddy, we were the ones who first asked a question. You should wait for your turn instead, no?" Denise retorted.

His brows creasing, Kenneth stepped forward and pinched her on the cheek. "You should be directing your question to the right person. The answer isn't here."

"But—"

"Denise!" Just then, Anthony shook his head at her.

Denise jerked her head back and glanced at her brothers before giving up.

"Daddy, Nat, we're going upstairs first!" Anthony declared.

Chapter 689

After the triplets left, Denise caught up to Anthony.

"Tony, you're giving up just like this without any plans to ask further?"

While walking, Anthony countered, "If not? Can you get an answer out of them?"

At a loss for words, Denise quickened her pace to match her brother's speed. "But there's even lesser hope of us getting an answer if we don't ask!"

"In that case, we'll just stop asking."

Denise's brows scrunched together. "So, you're really giving up?"

Without warning, Anthony abruptly halted in his tracks and snapped his head back to stare at her. "Giving up doesn't exist in my vocabulary!"

Denise was stumped for a moment. "What, then?"

"Then, we'll naturally do this another way," Benjamin interjected, stepping forward and resting a hand on her shoulder.

Faltering, Denise eyed both her brothers. "So, how are we going to do that?"

Benjamin pursed his lips. "We'll need your help in this."

"How so?" Denise arched a brow.

"When Thalia wakes up, ask her about it and see what she says," Benjamin suggested.

At once, Denise was rendered speechless. "Are you sure this is another way and not you making me cannon fodder?"

Benjamin snapped his eyes up and stole a glance at Anthony. Subsequently, his gaze fell on Denise.
“Tony has some conflict with Thalia, so he definitely wouldn't do it. Thus, you're the only person left.”

“What about you?” Denise demanded.

“It goes without saying that I have something else to do!” Benjamin fibbed.

“What is it?” Denise pressed.

Benjamin's lips pressed into a thin line. “Well...”

“What's wrong? Can't I know about it?” Denise questioned with her gaze boring into his eyes.

“Of course, you can. It's just that...”

“Hah! You can't think of any excuses, so you don't know what to say, right?” Denise huffed.

Benjamin merely looked at her, not quite sure what to say for a moment.

“Just admit it if you're treating me as cannon fodder, Ben. What's the point in having it so high-sounding and justified?” Denise scoffed.

That left Benjamin without a retort. “That's not true.”

“If so, why don't you go instead, Ben?” Denise proposed.

Words promptly eluded Benjamin.

At that exact moment, Anthony chimed in, “Indeed, Ben has something else to do.”

Both Benjamin and Denise jerked their heads back at him.

Anthony hooked a finger at them, upon which they leaned close to him.

He then bent and whispered something into their ears. After Benjamin and Denise heard that, understanding gradually showed in their gazes.

“Do you both understand?” Anthony asked.

“I do, but will it really work?” Denise wondered.

“Let's just try it. Perhaps it might work,” Benjamin asserted.

Upon hearing that, Denise bobbed her head in acquiescence. "All right, then."

In the room, Thalia slowly roused.

No sooner had she opened her eyes than two little heads leaned close to her.

"You're awake?"

"How are you feeling, Thalia? Are you okay?"

As Thalia looked at Benjamin and Denise before her, she felt her head spinning. However, she swiftly recovered.

She made to sit up, upon which Denise hastily hurried forward and helped to support her.

Noticing that she was in a familiar room, Thalia frowned. "Why am I here?"

"Spencer and Nat brought you back!" Denise answered.

At the mention of Natasha's name, Thalia slowly remembered the chain of events that transpired before she fell unconscious.

Just then, Benjamin asked, "How are you feeling? Are you feeling better now?"

In response, Thalia nodded. "Yeah. I'm fine."

She swept her gaze around the room, yet Benjamin and Denise were the only ones present. There was no sign of Anthony. A trace of disappointment flittered across her eyes.

At that precise moment, the door was pushed open. On the heels of that, Spencer stepped in.

When he saw that Thalia had regained consciousness, he immediately rushed over. "You're awake?"

The sight of the man had Thalia's expression change in a flash. Dipping her eyes, she replied icily, "Yeah."

"I'll check you over!" While saying that, Spencer reached out to take her pulse. Unfortunately, Thalia dodged when his hand was inches away from hers. "I'm fine," she stated coldly.

Spencer's eyes remained fixed on her, his brows knitting together.

"Thank you for the help. If there's nothing else, please excuse me!" As Thalia spoke, she got out of bed and put on her shoes to leave.

Seeing that, Denise hugged her without delay. "Thalia! Where are you going?"

When Thalia turned her eyes to Denise, her gaze instantly gentled. "This is DX's territory, so it's somewhat inappropriate for me to be here. I'm going back to where I belong."

"But Darknetz isn't here. Do you really want to leave?" Denise argued.

Thalia said nothing to that.

At the side, Benjamin interjected, "Exactly, Thalia! You aren't fully recovered yet. As such, we'll all worry if you leave. Besides, Mr. Dave definitely wouldn't say anything about it. Just stay and rest here!"

"Even if no one says anything, it doesn't mean that I should stay shamelessly. One should know her place," Thalia countered.

The instant her words rang out, both Benjamin and Denise swung their gazes at Spencer behind them.

Right then, the man had his eyes lowered, and his brows scrunched together deeply.

Even an idiot would be able to catch Thalia's drift, so he was certainly no exception.

Benjamin and Denise frantically shot him looks, but Spencer merely stood there silently.

That had them both beside themselves.

Gah! Why is he just so dense?

"Okay, take good care of yourselves. I'll be leaving first," Thalia murmured.

After putting on her shoes, she got up and walked away.

"Thalia!" Still, Denise tried to persuade her to stay.

At that exact moment, Spencer suddenly lifted his eyes and trained them in Thalia's direction. He headed toward her with great strides.

Grabbing at her, he yanked her back. In the next heartbeat, she fell right into his arms.

Thalia gaped at the man in front of her, stunned for a second.

At that very instant, Spencer was also staring straight at her. His gaze flickered, and he said to the two children nearby him in a low voice, "I've got something to discuss with Thalia."

As soon as Benjamin and Denise heard that, his meaning dawned upon them.

"In that case, we'll go out first. Take your time chatting!" Denise urged.

Thereafter, the two children astutely left. After going out the door, they even thoughtfully closed it behind them.

Denise stole a final peek of the scene in the room, the corners of her mouth lifting.

By then, only the two adults were left in the room.

Glaring at the man in front of her, Thalia struggled to break free from his embrace. "Let go of me!"

Alas, Spencer was hugging her too tightly.

With a frown marring her countenance, Thalia glowered at him. "What exactly are you doing?"

Spencer gazed at her. "I don't know what I'm doing either... But I know I don't want to let you go!"

Chapter 690

An indeterminate time passed before Spencer slowly loosened his grip on Thalia.

Thalia stared at him with a complex look in her eyes, saying nary a word.

Looking back at her, Spencer gently toyed with her hair. "Thalia, don't leave me again, okay?"

Thalia's eyes were fixed on him, her voice hoarse. "What do you mean by that?"

Pursing his lips, Spencer bore his eyes into her. "You know what? After you left that day, my heart abruptly felt hollow. Never had I been so afraid. Thalia, you've already occupied my heart completely, leaving no room for me to think about anything else."

As Thalia listened to him, her expression gradually gentled, and delight showed on her face. "Are you serious?"

"When have I ever lied to you?" Spencer asked.

Thalia deliberated for a moment, but she couldn't think of any such instance.

He rejected me in the past and used exceedingly cruel methods, but he had never lied to me.

At that thought, hope shone in her eyes.

Spencer looked down at her, his gaze loving beyond words. "I don't think I'd ever forgive myself if anything were to happen to you out there. Therefore, don't leave anymore, okay? Stay by my side, and

let me take care of you!"

Undeniably, his words moved Thalia.

After all, he had never said such a thing to her.

At that very moment, she felt that she would have no regrets even if she were to die then.

With her eyes pinned on him, she admitted hoarsely, "But I don't want you to see me when I'm in the throes of a flare-up. I'd be too unsightly. I want to leave you my most wonderful image. Even if I die, I'd still be that beautiful woman!"

"You're not unsightly, not in the least! No matter how you look, you'll always be the most beautiful to me. Also, trust in me. I'll definitely find a way to cure you. I promise!"

"Really?"

"Yes! If I can't cure you, I'll depart this life with you at the time," Spencer vowed.

Hearing that, Thalia quickly shot her hand out and clapped it over his mouth.

"I trust you, but I don't want you to say such a thing!" Thalia chided.

Spencer reached out and pulled her hand down, his gaze on her tender. "Stay, won't you?"

A long moment passed before Thalia finally nodded. "Okay."

At once, a smile bloomed on Spencer's face. In the next second, he reached out and pulled her into his arms.

His grip on her was indescribably tight.

Sensing the force of his hug, Thalia smiled as well.

That's true. Putting aside his medical skills, I'm already content that I can spend my last days on earth with him, even if he can't cure me. In my entire life, I had been abandoned and picked on. For the sake of survival, I did a lot of things, both good and bad. But now that my life is coming to an end, I want to really live for myself for once.

With that thought in mind, she hugged the man back, tears shimmering in her lovely eyes.

Outside, Benjamin and Denise were still waiting for the two adults to finish their discussion.

"Say, the two of them aren't having a row, right?" Benjamin was slightly worried.

On the contrary, Denise alternated between studying her nails and smoothing her hair. Seeing that her brother was fretful, she assured, "No. Don't worry!"

"Why not?" Benjamin questioned.

"It's evident from the expression on Spencer's face when we left the room," Denise revealed.

However, Benjamin was still puzzled. "What expression was on his face?"

"Well... the expression of hoping to salvage things immediately!" Denise concluded.

"For real?" Benjamin asked with a slight frown, still a touch skeptical.

In response, Denise exclaimed, "Of course! Spencer strode forward and grabbed Thalia. Wasn't that obvious enough?"

While at that, he almost hugged her.

Unfortunately, Benjamin proceeded to put forth an even more ridiculous question. "How is he grabbing her an obvious sign? Aren't you worried that they'd get physical with each other?"

Denise was struck dumb. "That's impossible. Thalia is injured right now. How could Spencer possibly get physical with her?"

"What if Thalia were to make the first move, then?" Benjamin pressed.

"Even so, he wouldn't fight back. He would only dodge!"

"Hence, there's still a possibility of them getting physical, right?" Benjamin insisted.

Denise was utterly speechless.

Argh! How should I explain it to him?

Holding his gaze, she bobbed her head. "Yes. While that possibility exists, it isn't the normal development of things."

"That's not necessarily true!"

Shooting daggers at him, Denise was so incensed that she nodded. Verily, she wasn't in the mood to continue arguing with him anymore. "Fine. Whatever you say, Ben!"

At long last, Benjamin likewise bobbed his head.

Subsequently, he leaned close to the door and perked up his ears. "There's no movement inside."

This time, Denise didn't even bother to lift her head. "That's because they aren't fighting."

Benjamin then glanced back over his shoulder. "Shall we knock on the door and ask?"

The instant Denise heard that, she snapped her eyes up at him. "Don't do anything impulsive, Ben! This might be the time when their relationship is warming up. Don't ruin things!"

"That's impossible!" Benjamin retorted.

"You don't believe me?" Denise arched a brow.

"It's not that I don't believe you. I just find it hard to believe," Benjamin countered.

"How about a bet?" Denise suggested.

"What do you want to bet about?"

"We'll bet whether they're making up in the room or their relationship is deteriorating," Denise replied.

Benjamin nodded in agreement. "Sure! Let's have a bet!"

"All right, then. I bet their relationship would have undoubtedly improved when they come out!"

"I bet that's impossible!"

"Okay, let's just wait and see!" Denise declared.

"I shall wait and see!" Benjamin bobbed his head and also started waiting patiently.

Time crawled as the minutes ticked past.

Just when they were at the end of their patience, the door was suddenly opened from the inside. At that, the two children instantly swung their gazes in that direction.

Spencer and Thalia walked out from the room.

They both looked at each other and even exchanged a smile.

At that sight, Benjamin and Denise similarly shared a look. Then, they swiftly hurried over to the couple.

"Thalia!"

When Thalia saw that the two children were still outside the door, she trained her eyes on them. "You're both still here?"

"How could we rest easy without laying eyes on you?" Denise quipped.

Her endearing expression had Thalia reach out and tap the tip of her nose. "You're the best!"

That compliment had Denise giggling in delight before regarding her solemnly. "Are you still leaving, Thalia?"

Thalia looked up at Spencer before shifting her gaze back to the two children. She shook her head.

"You're really not leaving anymore?" Denise asked.

"Indeed!" Thalia assured.

A grin stretched Denise's face from ear to ear, and she crowed, "This is more like it! With this, we don't need to worry anymore!"

At the side, Spencer watched as they rejoiced before interjecting, "You guys go ahead and talk. I'll make a trip to the laboratory."

In response, Thalia nodded. "Okay."

"Remember to rest," Spencer ordered.

"I will."

Spencer smiled at her before heading toward the laboratory.

Noticing that they had been flirting, Benjamin was entirely stumped.

Only when Spencer had left did he venture, "What's with the two of you, Thalia?"

Speaking of that, Thalia drawled, "What's with the two of us?"

"No, I mean, weren't you both fighting?"

"Were we?" Thalia asked in return.

"Were you not?" Benjamin did exactly the same.

In the end, Thalia burst into laughter. "You remembered wrongly. I've got no recollection of any such

thing!"

Words eluded Benjamin.

At that precise moment, Denise quirked a brow at Benjamin. "IQ doesn't equate to EQ, Ben. Am I not right?"