

Yo Daddy 691

Chapter 691

Thalia was taken aback to hear Denise's words.

She knew they would ask questions but hadn't figured out how to answer them yet.

What should I tell them?

She noticed Anthony walking past her and called out, "Anthony!"

Hearing his name being called, Anthony halted in his tracks and turned over his shoulder. Thalia immediately gave him a smile.

However, Anthony walked away as if he did not see or hear her.

Seeing that, Thalia parted her lips to say something but ended up letting out a helpless sigh. "Anthony is still mad at me!"

Denise stared at Anthony's retreating figure and nodded. "Yes. After failing to find you at the hotel that day, Tony went home and locked himself in his room for a long time. He ignored everyone and refused to say a word."

Thalia looked down at Denise as a complicated look flashed across her eyes. "Really?"

Denise bobbed her head eagerly. "Of course! If you don't believe me, ask Ben!"

Thalia glanced at Benjamin, who shot her a curt and stern nod.

The smile on Thalia's lips disappeared as she muttered under her breath, "It looks like I've hurt him with my words."

"So we need to find out what happened. Thalia, what's wrong with you? Why did you suddenly say that to Anthony?" Benjamin asked, his gaze fixed on her.

Hearing that, Denise trained her gaze on Thalia and inclined her head. "Yes. If you make yourself clear, Tony won't be mad anymore."

Thalia lowered her gaze and replied despondently, "It's not necessary. Anthony is a very competitive person and wouldn't tolerate anyone speaking ill of him."

"I don't think so—"

"I don't want to talk about it. I'm tired and want to go to bed. You should leave," Thalia said as she spun

around on her heels and made her way back to her room, shutting the door behind her.

“Thalia!” Denise cried out as she took one step forward, but the door had already been closed.

Denise had to swallow the rest of her words. She blinked her eyes twice innocently before turning to Benjamin. “Did we just get brushed off?”

Benjamin sighed and stared at the closed door. He said helplessly, “Isn't that obvious? She's avoiding the topic.”

“She's a better actress than I am,” Denise remarked.

“Let's go. Since we can't get her to tell us anything, we should resort to Tony's tactics,” Benjamin urged.

“That's the only way,” Denise agreed.

They then left.

Thalia leaned against the door and pressed her ear to it in an attempt to hear the noise outside.

She heaved a sigh of relief once it was quiet once more.

Opening the door cautiously, she peered outside to make sure there was no one there before shutting the door firmly. She then pulled out her phone to text Natasha: The kids asked me about it. What should I tell them?

After a long wait, she still didn't receive any reply.

Thalia gazed at the door, afraid that the two little ones would return. In the end, she lay down in bed and pretended to sleep.

That way, they wouldn't trouble her anymore.

Meanwhile, Anthony headed straight to Spencer's lab.

Spencer was busy fiddling with something on his board. When someone knocked on the door, he didn't bother looking up and said, “Come in.”

Anthony pushed the door open and walked into the lab.

“What is it?” Spencer asked without lifting his head.

Without a word, Anthony went over and sat across from him.

As there was no response for a long time, Spencer looked up and was startled to see Anthony. "Why is it you?"

"Are you surprised?" Anthony asked.

Spencer looked down and continued fiddling with his experiment. In a low voice, he inquired, "Do you need something from me?"

"What happened to Thalia?" Anthony cut straight to the chase after a brief deliberation.

Spencer paused momentarily before continuing with his work. "What do you mean by that?"

"Don't pretend you don't know anything. I may be young, but I'm not like my peers, who can be easily brushed off with poor excuses. I saw everything with my own eyes back in that coffee shop. Without a valid explanation, I refuse to believe that nothing happened," Anthony said firmly, fixing his unwavering gaze on Spencer.

Spencer pursed his lips and said nothing.

Anthony continued, "That day, the bathroom door was broken. It was the same situation as yesterday, right?"

Spencer remained silent, but he was obviously distracted as he wasn't focused on handling his apparatus.

I have to admit that Anthony is smart. I can't brush him off easily.

The more stubborn he was, the more patient Anthony got. "Is something wrong with her health?"

Hearing that, Spencer paused in his tracks and looked at Anthony hesitantly.

He knew how much Thalia adored the kids. She would rather upset Anthony than reveal the truth to them, so he wasn't in a position to divulge the truth.

Spencer looked away and bit back his words.

"What did you want to say?" Anthony urged.

Perhaps he'll spill if I question him incessantly.

Spencer looked up, his handsome face calm. "There's nothing to reveal. Didn't you have a fallout with her? Why are you still concerned about her?"

Anthony froze.

Even though he didn't anticipate Spencer's question, he responded quickly, "Those are two different issues. I simply want to know what you're keeping from me."

Spencer raised his eyebrows and asked, "So, you're not worried about her but interested in what we kept from you?"

Anthony frowned. "Whatever you say. I just want to know what is going on."

Spencer pursed his lips. "If something has happened to Thalia, what will you do?"

Anthony's frown deepened as he couldn't tell if Spencer was being serious or merely teasing him.

"You were just trying to divert my attention with all that unnecessary talk, weren't you, Spencer? Your response only confirms my suspicion."

"So? What was your suspicion?" Spencer asked.

"She's sick," Anthony revealed. "In fact, she's seriously ill."

Spencer initially wanted to tease him, but the little boy looked serious. It also concerned Thalia, so he couldn't bring himself to joke about it.

"My guess is correct, right?" Anthony asked calmly. Despite his age, he looked mature beyond his years.

Spencer gazed at him wordlessly for a few moments before saying, "I'm sorry, but I can't answer your question. You should ask her directly. That's the best way to get answers to your doubts."

Chapter 692

Anthony gave Spencer one last look before getting up to leave.

Before he could leave, he noticed what Anthony was doing and halted in his tracks.

"I have one last question," Anthony stated.

Spencer looked at him.

"What is your research about?" Anthony inquired.

Spencer never expected that question.

To be precise, he never expected Anthony to suddenly think of asking that.

Anthony fixed his gaze on Spencer as though he had guessed something.

Spencer pretended to cough before responding, "You won't understand even if I explain it to you."

"Are you saying that I won't understand or that you can't say anything?" Anthony asked.

Glancing at him, Spencer pursed his lips tightly.

Strangely, talking to Anthony made him feel like he was talking to Kenneth.

Right. It's natural for Natasha and Kenneth's kid to be a genius. I can't treat him like a normal kid.

"You can think and interpret the matter however you want. It's up to you." With that, Spencer returned his attention to the apparatus.

Anthony's lips twitched. "Thanks for telling me the truth." He then turned to leave.

When the door clicked shut, Spencer glanced at the door.

Whether or not Anthony knew the truth wasn't important to Spencer.

He was more inclined to reveal the truth to them. After all, they would eventually learn the truth, and it would be better for them to learn it sooner rather than later.

However, what he thought didn't matter.

He respected Natasha's and Thalia's decision.

Thus, he looked down and resumed his experiment.

When Anthony stepped out of the lab, Benjamin and Denise immediately went up to him.

"Tony, how did it go?" Denise asked.

Anthony pursed his lips in silence.

Benjamin urged, "Tony, what happened?"

A long while later, Anthony finally looked at them. "Nothing."

"If nothing happened, what's with your expression?" Benjamin inquired.

Anthony's lips thinned. "I was thinking that the truth might be even worse than we anticipated," he explained.

Hearing that, Benjamin chimed in, "If it weren't that serious, they wouldn't have kept it a secret from us."

Anthony met his gaze. "You think the same way, too?"

"Of course. Thalia's reaction yesterday made it pretty clear. We may not know exactly what's going on, but we can make an educated guess, can't we?"

Anthony's gaze remained fixed on him. "I tried to sound Spencer out earlier, and he didn't deny it."

"So is Thalia really sick?" Benjamin asked.

Anthony shook his head. "I'm not sure, but I have another suspicion."

"What is it?"

"Spencer's experiment is related to Thalia," Anthony revealed.

Benjamin pondered over his words. "Why do you say that?"

"If it had nothing to do with Thalia's illness, he wouldn't have left her alone in her room and continued his research in the lab. The only plausible explanation is that his research is related to Thalia," Denise answered on behalf of Anthony.

The boys turned their attention to her.

"What if it's something else?" Benjamin guessed.

"We cannot completely disregard the possibility that it could be something else, but that other thing must be more crucial than Thalia's life. Otherwise, why would Spencer leave her alone in her room to conduct his experiment if Thalia is dying?" Denise questioned.

Comprehension dawned on the boys.

"That makes sense!" Benjamin bobbed his head.

"I only came to the same conclusion after I left the lab. At first, I wasn't certain if Spencer's research was related to Thalia's illness. Now that Denise has spoken, we can be certain of it," Anthony concurred.

"We are closer to the truth!" Benjamin exclaimed.

Anthony inclined his head in agreement.

Denise murmured, "It's strange how the closer we get to the truth, the more anxious I feel."

The boys looked at her.

Denise gazed at them, worry etched on her tiny face. Placing a hand on her chest, she added, "I also have this feeling that there is something bigger waiting for us."

Denise's instincts had always been accurate. She had proven herself over the years.

Benjamin extended his hand. "Regardless of what lies ahead, we must confront it instead of evading it like cowards. That is part of the process of growing up."

Denise nodded obediently. "I understand."

That very night, Spencer and Kenneth stood opposite each other in the lab.

"When are we going to take action? I can't wait anymore. If this goes on, they won't be able to withstand the torture!" Spencer said in a low voice.

Kenneth fired back, "Do you think I'm just sitting here twiddling my thumbs?"

"Then how long do we have to wait?"

"Boss refuses to reveal his whereabouts and remained hidden. Yesterday, he happened to show up. If you hadn't provoked Thalia, making her leave, perhaps we would have an outcome by now," Kenneth told him.

Spencer paused in his motions before his brows furrowed together. "I didn't see that coming!"

Kenneth gazed at him. "Spencer, our enemy isn't an ordinary person. If we want to protect them, we must ensure that our minds are always alert and calm. Do you think I am not worried? I am just as tormented as you. No one knows when the poison will strike Natasha again. I am also anxious, but we have to wait until Boss reveals himself willingly."

"What if he remains hidden?" Spencer asked.

"Do you think he'll reveal himself willingly?" Kenneth questioned in return.

Spencer looked at him. "Are you saying that..."

Right then, Kenneth's phone rang. He fished it out of his pocket and realized it was a call from Dave. "Hello?"

"Good news, Kenneth. The fish has bitten the bait," Dave reported.

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, though the scheduled time falls at two in the morning tomorrow."

A smile nudged Kenneth's lips. "Okay, got it."

Chapter 693

Kenneth was unfazed by Spencer's compliment and merely stared at the latter. "Make sure to prep your men before the operation to avoid any unexpected event or accident from happening later on."

"Don't worry. I'll do that," Spencer replied.

"That's all, then." With that, Kenneth got up to leave.

"Hold on," Spencer piped up.

Kenneth turned around. "Is there anything else?"

Spencer contemplated for a few moments before looking at Kenneth and said, "Anthony visited me today, seemingly trying to fish for information. I think he might've figured out something."

At the mention of that, Kenneth narrowed his eyes. "What about it?"

"I just want to let you know that even though they are young, that doesn't mean they lack endurance. Besides, they also have the right to know the truth."

"This matter could drive even me and you mad, so why must the kids suffer too?"

Spencer was slightly taken aback upon hearing that.

"You'll understand when you have children in the future." Kenneth didn't linger after saying that. He got to his feet and left.

Spencer narrowed his eyes as he watched Kenneth leave. Recalling matters related to the operation, he stood up and went to make the necessary preparations.

Upon exiting the laboratory, Kenneth went straight to Natasha's room.

However, he saw Anthony walking toward him after taking a few steps forward.

"Daddy," Anthony greeted.

Kenneth nodded. "Why aren't you asleep so late at night?"

"I can't sleep, so I went to Nat's room to look for her, but she wasn't there," Anthony replied.

Kenneth knitted his brows in response. "She's not in her room?"

Anthony shook her head.

"Perhaps she's taking a stroll outside. I'll go and find her." Kenneth spun on his heel and strode away after saying that.

"Daddy." Just then, Anthony called out to him.

Kenneth gazed at his son. "What's the matter?"

Anthony pondered briefly before uttering, "When do you plan to bring us shooting?"

"Anytime."

"What about tomorrow?" Anthony asked.

Kenneth fell into a momentary daze before replying, "I'm not available tomorrow."

"Why?"

Kenneth feigned nonchalance and said, "I have something to attend to with Dave tomorrow. I'm free to bring you shooting anytime after that."

"May I know what will you be doing?"

Kenneth shook his head. "No."

"Why?"

"Perhaps you want to consider Dave's suggestion to take over DX Group?" Kenneth raised his eyebrow.

"Daddy!"

"If you can't, quit probing," Kenneth uttered firmly.

"If that's the case, you're not a member of DX Group too!"

"But I'll never do anything to harm DX Group."

"I won't either!"

"You won't, but we can't say the same for the force supporting you."

"I will never tell them."

"No one can guarantee that."

"Fine. You simply don't have faith in me, after all."

"Kinship should not be an affecting factor in this matter. I need to follow the rules."

"Fine." Anthony arched his brows in resignation.

"Rest earlier if there's nothing else," Kenneth reminded.

"I got it."

Kenneth glanced at Anthony before turning around and leaving.

After seeing Kenneth headed outside, Anthony lowered his gaze and immediately took out his phone to send a message in the group chat: Come to my room. Now.

Meanwhile, Natasha sat outside the house, gazing up at the night sky and seemingly deeply absorbed in her thoughts.

Kenneth finally found her after searching for some time. Tenderness filled his eyes the moment he saw her.

He walked over and sat beside her.

"What's the matter? You didn't sit here long enough in the daytime?" he asked.

Natasha looked sideways. She grinned when she saw Kenneth. "Why are you here?"

"Anthony told me you weren't in your room, so I came out here to look for you. What are you thinking about?"

Natasha lifted her head, allowing her long hair to hang loosely on her back, and stared at the sky. "I suddenly realized the night sky here is quite pretty."

Kenneth looked up as well and took in the countless dazzling stars adorning the sky.

"It is quite pretty," he said.

"Do you think Grandpa is also gazing at this beautiful sky?" she asked.

Kenneth shifted his gaze onto her, turned his body sideways, and placed one hand on her back. "What's wrong? Are you missing home?"

Natasha held his gaze. "Don't you miss home?"

He thought for a few seconds before answering, "I didn't have a place to call home in the past. However, now that you mention this, I think I do miss home a little."

She chuckled.

"Nat, let's get married when we return," he announced all of a sudden.

Natasha froze, her gaze still on him.

"I want to build a home with you. One that I will miss no matter where I go."

Natasha narrowed her eyes. "Kenneth, are you proposing to me right now?"

"If I say that I am, will you say yes?"

Natasha stretched out her hand.

"What?" He stared blankly at her.

"Where's the ring?" she said. Her long and slender fingers appeared exceptionally attractive.

He furrowed his brows.

"How is this a marriage proposal if you don't even have a ring?" Natasha teased him and was about to retract her arm.

Unexpectedly, at that instant, Kenneth reached out to grasp her hand. The next second, he took out a ring from his pocket using his other hand.

Without hesitation, he helped her put on the ring on her finger.

Natasha was stunned when she looked down and saw the sparkling diamond ring.

Then, she gazed up and bore her beautiful eyes into him. "You—"

"There's no backing out from this now that you've accepted the ring," he uttered solemnly.

Natasha regained her senses after a long while. "When did you prepare the ring?"

"I did it right after you asked me the same question previously," he answered.

She hesitated to speak and, at the same time, couldn't stop smiling ear to ear.

"Initially, I wanted to pick a more suitable occasion or make this proposal more formal to provide you with the ceremonious vibe that should accompany this significant moment. However, I couldn't contain my urge just now. Nat, I've been waiting for you to ask me that question for so long." He spoke softly while gazing at her.

Natasha suddenly laughed upon hearing that. "Mr. Hamilton, are you sure you're not just taking advantage of the circumstances?"

"Perhaps a little." He didn't deny that. "Still, I will seize every opportunity I have. If I can't do it in one try, I'll do it twice. If twice doesn't do the trick, I'll make ten attempts. I'll keep trying until you finally say yes."

"Really?"

He nodded in response.

Chapter 694

The moment Natasha finished talking, Kenneth paused for a while before letting her go.

"Nat, I don't want to just be with you in the present. I want to be with you forever!" exclaimed Kenneth.

She looked at him. Although she was smiling, there was a hint of sadness in her at the same time.

"Believe me. Nothing bad will happen to you," said Kenneth as he looked at her.

Natasha did not say much. She had no wish to add to the negativity. Instead, she nodded and said, "Yes, I believe you."

The more she smiled, the sorrier others felt for her.

Once again, Kenneth pulled her into his arms. "Nat, in the future, I hope you can have complete trust in me and know that you can always rely on me."

"Okay." Natasha bobbed her head.

With her in his arms, it took him quite a while before he calmed himself down. After that, he looked at her and whispered, "Nat, how would you like the wedding to be?"

"Honestly, I haven't thought about it," she replied.

"Now, you should give it some serious thought."

"Shall we do away with the wedding?" asked Natasha.

"Why?"

"It feels quite awkward to be stared at by so many people."

At that, Kenneth laughed. "When the day arrives, you won't feel that way because you won't have the time or energy to bother about them."

"That's true."

"Nat, you'll be the most beautiful bride on that day," said Kenneth.

"All right, then. Since you say so, I won't argue with you!"

"So, what kind of wedding do you want to have?"

"Hmm... A beach wedding?"

The two of them sat on the bench. Their shadows were elongated as the moonlight cast down on them.

Meanwhile, the three children were huddled together in the room.

"What's wrong, Tony?" asked Denise as she yawned. She was so exhausted that she was about to fall asleep, but the moment her oldest brother arrived with the news, she became alert immediately.

Benjamin also looked at him. "Tony, did you find out something?"

Anthony looked at both his siblings and nodded.

In that instant, Denise became wide awake and asked, "What have you found out?"

Anthony answered, "I bumped into Daddy just now and chatted with him. I managed to get a piece of information out of him."

"Tony, will you just get to the point?" uttered Denise impatiently.

I can't believe he's keeping us in suspense!

Anthony glanced at her and said calmly, "Daddy has something on tomorrow night."

When Denise heard that, she frowned. "That's it? What's so strange about that?"

Just then, Benjamin spoke up. "Are you suspecting that Daddy is going to make a move tomorrow night?"

Anthony nodded.

"Make a move?" Denise frowned.

Benjamin went ahead and explained, "Have you forgotten that Tony has mentioned overhearing a conversation between Daddy and Spencer? They are planning something. Tony suspects that they are going to carry out their plan tomorrow night."

It was obvious that Benjamin knew Anthony very well because it took him only a couple of sentences to convey the message.

Denise came to a realization when she heard her brother's explanation. "Yes, I have forgotten all about it."

Just then, Benjamin looked at Anthony. "Then again, Tony, you only heard a small portion of their conversation. You aren't very sure of what they were talking about. Furthermore, just because Daddy has something on tomorrow doesn't mean that he's going to carry out any plan, right?"

Anthony pursed his lips and appeared very serious. "But my instinct tells me that Daddy's plan tomorrow night has something to do with Spencer. If Spencer is involved, then surely it must have something to do with Thalia. Anything related to Thalia will ignite my curiosity and bring about more questions."

Both Benjamin and Denise became quiet when they heard that.

"What you say makes sense," agreed Benjamin before continuing, "Actually, I have always wondered if Daddy will care so much about Thalia's business. It's quite unbelievable."

"I can't figure this out either."

"It's not that difficult to figure out. All we need to do is to wait and see if Spencer is with Daddy. If they are together, then it must have something to do with Thalia. If not, perhaps, Daddy has nothing to do with this matter," analyzed Denise.

Anthony concurred. "You're right."

"Tony, has it ever crossed your mind that Daddy's plan has something to do with Vermillion Base?"

That took Anthony aback. "Naturally, we can't eliminate that possibility."

"Let's not forget about taking revenge for Nat and the attack we suffered earlier on. Even though we didn't incur any loss, Daddy won't have just let it go like that, given his character. He will definitely take action and retaliate," said Benjamin.

Anthony responded, "That's right!"

"Can there be another possibility? Spencer is helping Daddy. As such, this matter has nothing to do with Thalia?" Benjamin guessed.

Chapter 695

The next day, Natasha was woken up by Kenneth's ringing phone.

She opened her eyes to see Kenneth grabbing his phone from the bedside table.

"Okay, I understand. I'll be down right away." Kenneth spoke in a low voice.

Natasha gazed at Kenneth sleepily. When she saw him return to the bed, she asked, "What's wrong?"

Kenneth immediately approached her upon noticing that she was awake. "Sorry, did I wake you?"

Natasha nodded.

"Why don't you sleep a little longer? I need to head out for a while to meet Dave," said Kenneth.

Natasha froze momentarily at the mention of Dave. She blinked her eyes as she sobered up and looked at Kenneth. "No, it's okay. I'll get up and find something to eat."

Kenneth nodded in response. "Okay."

With that, Natasha got up and headed toward the bathroom.

While washing up, she froze momentarily when she glanced at the diamond ring on her finger.

Yesterday's scene flashed past her mind. Under the starry night sky, each sentence of Kenneth's seemed to have been ingrained into her brain.

Although there was no over-the-top location or so-called romantic ceremony, to her, last night's proposal was perfect and the most appropriate.

That memory was enough for her to cherish for the rest of her life.

When Natasha thought of that, she gave up on taking off the ring and continued washing up with it on.

A few minutes later, Natasha changed into comfortable clothes before going downstairs. Kenneth had already changed and was on the phone near the window. He wore a black shirt and black pants. It was rare for Natasha to see him in a pure black outfit. The color made his handsomeness pop. Natasha was never one to ogle at others, but when she saw Kenneth, she could not help but thank the Heavens for creating such a handsome man.

This man is simply the best of the best. He's also completely my type.

At that moment, Kenneth turned to look at her. "Are you done, Nat?"

Natasha returned to her senses and nodded. "Yeah, I'm done."

Kenneth kept his phone in his pocket as he made his way toward her. He noticed the light makeup she had put on and asked, "I see that you're in a good mood today?"

"I guess."

Kenneth's lips curled into a smile, and he held her hand. "Let's go."

The duo soon headed out.

It was lively in the living room downstairs.

Natasha and Kenneth only noticed the people there when they arrived.

Mike, Luke, Alexia, and Dave were there.

At the couple's appearance, the people in the living room also turned to look at them.

In an instant, Alexia and Natasha's eyes met.

Natasha was surprised to see Alexia smiling the moment the latter met her gaze.

Naturally, she returned the smile.

As long as the other party had no ill intentions, Natasha generally would not mind it too much.

Kenneth held Natasha's hand as they continued down the stairs.

Mike could not help but stand up when he saw the couple walking toward them. "Kenneth, do you need to hold her hand while walking down such a small flight of stairs? Why are you showering us with PDA this early in the morning?"

When they reached the bottom of the steps, Kenneth replied, "I got used to it."

Everyone was rendered speechless.

Too much PDA!

The others were trying hard not to roll their eyes at the couple.

Dave abruptly chuckled before standing up. "All right. It's great that you're used to it. After all, our J is now a changed man!"

Everyone stared at Kenneth in amusement.

The man ignored them and turned to look at Natasha instead. "We're going to discuss a few things, so you go and look for something to eat. I'll see you in a bit."

"Okay." Natasha bobbed her head.

Before she left, Kenneth leaned close to her, whispering, "Prepare something tasty for me."

The man must have leaned in too close as he had nuzzled Natasha's hair. She subconsciously reached up to fix her hair before replying, "All right, I got it."

Just as she was about to leave, Mike suddenly yelled, "Wait!"

Natasha halted in her tracks, her gaze shifting onto Mike, who was behind her.

The others also shifted their gazes to Mike.

"What's wrong? You surprised me!" Luke exclaimed.

Instead of replying, Mike was intently staring at Natasha's hand. His eyes shone brightly in excitement.

Upon seeing that, Luke hurriedly inched close to Mike and muttered, "Mike, Boss will get angry if you keep staring at Natasha like that!"

"What are you talking about?" Mike retorted before asking Natasha, "Natasha, is that a diamond ring on your finger?"

Everyone else immediately shifted their gazes to Natasha's hand as soon as he said that.

There was a sparkling diamond ring on her ring finger.

How did we not notice that?

With that, Alexia's gentle expression turned grim.

Dave also stared at the duo.

Natasha held up her hand and glanced at the diamond ring. With a mere grin, she did not make a move to explain anything.

Chapter 696

"Kenneth, if you give all your assets to Natasha, can we still eat and drink for free at your wedding?" Mike asked.

"When have I ever said you guys could attend empty-handed?" Kenneth asked.

Mike and Luke were taken aback. "Boss, you said something completely different the last time..."

"Then what did I say?"

"You said we only needed to be present for the wedding, and everything else would be taken care of," Luke said as he recalled Kenneth's words.

Kenneth racked his brain, trying to remember. "I was trying to be polite. You don't need to take those words that seriously!"

Luke and Mike were rendered speechless.

How can someone change their mind so quickly?

Kenneth looked at them and stated, "I'm going to become a penniless man soon. I might even need you guys to support me in the future."

Hold up. He's going to be shameless about it too?

Natasha noticed their speechlessness and piped up, "It's fine. It's not up to him. I'll be the one to take care of everything."

Mike and Luke's eyes lit up when they heard that. "Really?"

"Natasha, are you sure?"

"Of course." Natasha nodded. "Plus, it'll be the greatest reception you'll ever attend. You all only need to present for it."

“Whoa! All hail Natasha!” Mike shouted.

“Sure enough, it's the best when Natasha's around. We don't need to be tortured by Boss anymore!” Luke chimed in.

“In the future, let me know if he bullies you. I'll scold him for you,” Natasha stated half-jokingly.

“We're relieved to hear you say that.” Mike shifted his gaze to Kenneth, his gaze seemingly saying, “It looks like I've found someone who will support me.”

Kenneth immediately leaned close to Natasha and said, “If you put it that way, they'll take it seriously.”

“But I am being serious,” replied Natasha.

At that, Mike and Luke looked even smugger as they straightened their backs while regarding Kenneth.

Kenneth turned to glance at them before nodding in exasperation. “Fine. You guys are lucky to have found such a powerful backer.”

Everyone laughed at that.

It was then Natasha suddenly said, “All right. I'll leave you to your business. I'm hungry, so I'll look for something to eat.”

“Bye, Natasha.”

“Have a good breakfast, Natasha!” Mike and Luke exclaimed happily.

Natasha merely smiled without saying a word.

She was about to leave when Kenneth suddenly grabbed her wrist and muttered softly, “Don't forget to prepare my share.”

“I know,” replied Natasha.

Kenneth smiled.

Natasha left without saying another word.

After Natasha left, Mike remarked, “Kenneth, I can't help but say you've struck gold. Not only is Natasha beautiful, but she's got a great personality.”

“That's right. It makes me feel like you're not worthy of her, Boss,” Luke added.

Upon hearing that, Kenneth turned to look at them. "Your backer isn't here anymore. Will you shut yourselves up, or must I do it myself?"

Mike and Luke immediately zipped their mouths.

Suddenly, Alexia cut in, "All right. Enough fooling around. Should we get down to business?"

Mike answered, "You said that at the right time. That's right, let's get down to business."

"Yes, let's do that."

Alexia turned to face Kenneth. "Savior, we've already prepared the things according to your instructions. When are we going to take action?"

Kenneth stared at her silently before shifting his gaze toward Dave, Mike, and Luke.

"Will she be joining in on the plan?" he asked.

Dave was about to say something when Alexia interrupted, "I'm the one who asked them to let me in on it. It has nothing to do with Dave!"

Kenneth frowned and asked, "Aren't you a little young?"

Alexia looked into his eyes and said in a serious tone, "I'm already of age. Besides, I've always gotten good results. Dave is aware of this too."

At that moment, Dave walked over and nodded. "That's right. Although Alexia is young, she's always had a good record at DX Group. She's a brilliant one."

Kenneth furrowed his eyebrows and was about to say something when Dave quickly added, "The main reason for her participation is that there isn't enough manpower, and Alexia wanted to volunteer, so I agreed to it!"

"Dave..."

"I know what you're about to say, Kenneth. Since Alexia wants to do something for you, you should just let her. If she can't do anything, she'll take it to heart and try to do something similar in the future if there's a chance. Why not let her join in on the plan? That way, she can also pay you back for saving her. It'll be killing two birds with one stone!"

Alexia immediately nodded along to Dave's words. "Savior, don't worry. I definitely won't get in your way. Please believe me. I'll play my part well in this plan."

Kenneth stared at Dave. Under numerous subtle hints from the latter, Kenneth reluctantly agreed.

He then shifted his gaze toward Alexia. "But I must remind you that tonight's mission will be dangerous. If anything happens, I won't be responsible for it."

Chapter 697

Kenneth stared at the man before him. "You should've brought this matter up to me earlier!"

"Well, you should've anticipated that things would come to this," Dave replied, prompting Kenneth to glower at him.

Knowing that he was indeed in the wrong, Dave sighed and continued, "I'm sure you can also tell that what Alexia feels for you is more than pure gratitude. I did give it a lot of thought before making my decision. That's how I realized the only way for her to get over you is by letting her repay your kindness. Otherwise, it's just a matter of time before she gets carried away by her emotions."

Kenneth couldn't help but furrow his brows as he listened intently.

"Don't worry. I'll take responsibility for it when the time comes," Dave reassured.

"You'd better not go back on your word."

"Oh, relax. I won't pass the buck to you!" Dave replied before being hit by a sudden realization. "Wait a minute... Are you this worried because a certain someone has lost her temper?"

"Lost her temper?" Kenneth muttered, the exasperation in his voice palpable. "How I wish that were the case."

"What do you mean?"

"Even now, she still doesn't see this as a big deal," Kenneth sputtered, clearly unhappy and vexed.

"Really?" Dave asked. "Aren't women naturally more sensitive and paranoid about these matters? There's no way they'd tolerate them."

"Ha. That may be so, but she's a rare specimen who refuses to play by the book!"

Dave, who had had similar experiences, shot Kenneth a wary look. "In the past, my partner would've turned green with envy if I got close to anyone of the opposite sex. Even if they didn't feel that way, they'd still pretend to be jealous and angry. Otherwise, it'd seem like they didn't care at all..."

Upon hearing that, the latter quickly turned around. "Now that you've said that, I feel much more at ease."

"Why is that?"

"I suppose Nat is different from everyone else, so we can't compare her to others. That's all the reassurance I need, isn't it?" Kenneth quipped, nodding confidently to himself before walking away.

Dave eyed the man in puzzlement. "Where are you going?"

"It's time to eat."

Despite being struck speechless, Dave couldn't help but chuckle at Kenneth.

Well, I must admit Kenneth has a point. After all, how can Natasha be compared to other people?

With that thought in mind, Dave put his smile away and left.

Meanwhile, at the dinner table, Natasha was scrolling through her phone while eating.

When Kenneth walked up and sat opposite her, she lifted her head to meet his gaze. "Done chatting so soon?"

"Yes," Kenneth said with a nod.

With that, Natasha continued eating, her eyes occasionally darting to her phone.

Kenneth, however, couldn't stop scrutinizing the woman before her. Hmm... From what I can tell, Natasha isn't putting on an act. She just isn't angry at all.

The next second, he pretended to clear his throat, and it wasn't long before his cough caught Natasha's attention.

"What's wrong? Do you have a sore throat?"

Kenneth merely looked at her and nodded.

Without further ado, Natasha handed her cup of water to him. "Here, drink up. It'd help to soothe your throat!"

After inspecting the cup and the lipstick stain left behind, Kenneth lifted it to his mouth and drank from the same spot.

Of course, his actions didn't go unnoticed by Natasha.

Even though there was nothing special about drinking from someone else's cup, it was impressive how Kenneth could still make it seem like an intimate and titillating act.

Natasha smiled and said nothing more.

After putting the cup down, Kenneth gave a satisfied nod. "Ah, that was good. My throat does feel better now."

Grinning from ear to ear, Natasha uttered, "Drink more, then."

Just then, Kenneth leaned forward and clutched her hand. "You must let me know if it bothers you, Nat!"

"Speaking of that, I haven't felt any pain in the past few days. There haven't been any signs of the poison taking effect, either. In fact, I think the durations between attacks are getting longer."

"That's not what I meant..."

"What is it, then?"

Kenneth stared into Natasha's eyes and let out a heavy sigh. "It's nothing. I'm overthinking things."

"Are you talking about Alexia?" the latter asked.

Kenneth nodded.

"I can sense what she's feeling for you, and it's not as simple as wanting to repay her gratitude."

For a moment, Kenneth was dumbstruck. "Is that so?"

"That's what my intuition's telling me."

"Do you really not mind at all?" Kenneth asked.

After a few moments of contemplation, Natasha looked back up at Kenneth. "How do you think they saw the diamond ring today?"

Chapter 698

Natasha went to see Thalia after she was done eating.

"How are you? Feeling better?" she asked upon entering the room.

When Thalia saw the woman, she sat up at once. For some reason, after learning of Natasha's true identity, she felt much closer to her despite the slight awkwardness. "Yup. I'm much better now," she said.

"I haven't felt any discomfort since I woke up," Natasha informed, looking at Thalia, who nodded in

response.

Noticing that Thalia was staring at her, Natasha asked, "You have something to tell me?"

Thalia stammered, "Shadow... Miss..."

She wanted to speak but wasn't sure how she should address Natasha. Finally, she decided to ask directly, "I was wondering if I should address you as Shadow Seeker or Ms. Watson?"

After a brief moment of contemplation, Natasha replied, "You can just call me Nat."

"Nat?" Thalia seemed slightly surprised to hear that.

"It's just a name. If you're not comfortable with that, you can call me anything you like," Natasha said casually.

She had always given off a relaxed and carefree vibe, and it was easy for one to feel comfortable in her presence.

Thalia gazed at the woman and replied, "No, it's all right. I just need to get used to it."

She had grown up without anyone by her side and had no other family apart from Spencer. As such, she was rather touched that Natasha had asked her to call her by her nickname, which was a sign of intimacy, trust, and friendship.

"Why don't you give it a try?" Natasha suggested.

"Nat." Thalia let out a chuckle after saying that. "It's funny that I'm addressing you the same way the kids address you. Will they think I'm crazy?"

"Nah. They won't."

Thalia thought for a moment and said, "In that case, I will just greet you casually from now on!"

"Sure."

Just then, Thalia shifted in her bed. When she moved her body, a crease appeared between her brows.

"What's wrong?" Natasha asked.

"Nothing. My legs just feel a little numb," Thalia answered.

Natasha regarded the woman. "Go for walks outside when you are free. It's good to get some sun. Staying indoors all day is bad for your health."

When Thalia heard that, she replied helplessly, "I want to go out too, but I don't dare to do that."

"Why?" Natasha asked with narrowed eyes.

"It's because of Benjamin and Denise. Whenever they saw me, they would ask me what was going on. I'm not sure if you had told them anything, so I didn't dare to say too much. I'm worried that they would start having suspicions," Thalia explained.

"They can be really curious at times," Natasha remarked.

"I texted you about it, but you didn't reply."

"Did I not reply?" Natasha took out her phone and started scrolling through her messages. When she realized that she had indeed not replied, she said, "I didn't have my phone with me then. When I wanted to reply, I ended up being distracted by other things. I must have thought that I had already replied."

"Did you reply telepathically?" Thalia jested.

"Well, you can think of it that way."

Thalia could not help but be amused by the woman's reply.

The next moment, Natasha spoke. "Actually, I did consider telling them the truth since they would find out sooner or later. But the thought of them being upset made me want to delay it for as long as possible. One additional day of them not knowing is one more day of them being happy."

Upon hearing Natasha's words, Thalia gave a small nod. "I understand. I guess that's what all mothers would choose to do."

"How about you? I know you care about them as much as I do," Natasha said.

Thalia replied with downcast eyes at the mention of that, "I didn't think that much. I just... I just don't want others to pity me."

"Is that so?"

Thalia nodded.

"If that's the case, you don't have to tell them anything."

"But I can't do that," Thalia said.

After knowing each other for three years, Natasha knew Thalia's character very well and was aware of

her stubbornness.

Nonetheless, she decided not to insist as a sign of respect.

Fixing her gaze on Thalia, Natasha said, "Feel free to say anything you want. It's okay even if you want to tell them the truth. Perhaps, after knowing what happened to you, it would be easier for them to accept my situation."

Thalia looked at her and replied, "How can that be the same? You're the most important person to them in the world. I can't even start to describe how much you mean to them."

Natasha remained silent as she knew that as a fact.

She was aware of how much she mattered to the three little ones, and it was exactly because of that that she did not dare to tell them the truth.

It would break her heart to see the kids sad.

Chapter 699

Oblivious to what Natasha was implying, Thalia nodded after giving it some thought. "That was my original plan. Why are you in such a hurry, though? Don't you want them to stay with you a little while longer?"

Natasha froze as she realized she was probably rushing things a little. Not wanting Thalia to get suspicious, she said in the calmest tone possible, "Their growth matters more to me than anything else. Besides, they'll miss out on the training if we send them over any later, right?"

Thalia stroked her chin. "Fair enough. If they join right now, they'll probably be considered older than the others."

Natasha looked her in the eye as she said, "Please promise me that you'll take good care of them, Thalia."

Thalia let out a chuckle. "I'd promise you that if I could survive, but—"

Natasha cut her off, "You'll definitely survive. I know you will."

"All right, then. I have no reason to be pessimistic if you're that optimistic about it. We'll see how things go," Thalia replied after a brief pause.

Natasha breathed a sigh of relief when she saw that Thalia had agreed to it without getting suspicious. "You don't plan on leaving anymore?"

Thalia shook her head. "Spencer wants me to stay with him."

"Does that mean you two are on good terms now?" Natasha asked.

Thalia nodded with a smile. "I suppose you could say that. Back then, I didn't want him to see me suffer from intense pain. Now, I can't help but be a little selfish. Even if I don't make it somehow, I'd at least be able to spend my final moments with the person I love, so my life would be complete anyway."

"You'll definitely get what you wish for. May the love you share today grow stronger as you grow old together," Natasha reassured her.

"Thanks!" Thalia said with a smile.

"All right; you should get some rest. I'll be taking my leave now," Natasha said as she got up and prepared to head out.

Thalia stepped forward before quickly grabbing hold of her arm. "Wait up, Nat!"

Natasha had barely socialized in her years of investigating the cause of her father's death, so she didn't make any friends, especially female ones. As such, Thalia grabbing her by the arm all of a sudden caught her completely off guard, causing her to freeze up as an inexplicable sensation formed deep inside her heart.

"What's wrong?" Thalia asked when she saw Natasha's strange reaction.

After taking a moment to snap out of her dazed state, Natasha shook her head and said, "N-Nothing. What is it?"

Thalia stared at her in silence for a few seconds before asking, "You and Spencer are friends, right? Could you tell me what happened to him over the years? I want to know more about him."

"It's true that we were friends, but we didn't see each other that often. We mainly kept in touch via phone calls and texts," Natasha replied.

Thalia frowned after hearing that. "Isn't that the same as my situation, then?"

Natasha nodded. "More or less."

Thalia let out a sigh. "All right, then. I was hoping you would know some interesting things about him."

"I may not have met him often, but I have heard him mention someone's name a lot," Natasha said when she noticed how disappointed Thalia looked.

Thalia's eyes lit up the moment she heard that. "Whose?"

"Yours."

Noticing that Thalia was frozen in shock, Natasha continued, "That was how I first heard about you. Although he had been avoiding you all this while, he had been asking me about you throughout these years. That's why you were able to find me and not get blocked."

Thalia was so shocked that it took her a while to collect her thoughts.

"Y-You mean he has always been up to date on my affairs?"

Natasha nodded. "Yes, that's right."

Thalia fell silent instantly.

And here I thought my feelings had been one-sided all this while. I can't believe Spencer has been watching over me all this while...

"He would help treat my condition, and I would provide him with your information. That was our deal. So far, Spencer has mentioned your name the most," Natasha added.

Thalia shifted her gaze back toward Natasha as she asked, "Really?"

"Would I lie to you?" Natasha asked.

Thalia shook her head as she knew Natasha had no reason to lie.

"Don't worry; Spencer only has eyes for you. I don't know what he's being so conflicted about, but I believe you are the only one he cares about," Natasha reassured her.

The look in Thalia's eyes grew gentle when she heard that. "So, you don't know why he has been avoiding me either?"

Natasha shook her head. "No, I have never heard him mention it. Spencer would never talk about something unless he felt like it, so I have also been curious about it."

Chapter 700

Meanwhile, Spencer was tidying up some stuff in the laboratory when the door abruptly swung open.

"Spencer!" Thalia called out to him as she came running in.

Spencer froze upon seeing her appear behind him. "What are you doing here?"

Thalia's eyes lit up like the stars in the night sky as she reached out and hugged him tightly.

Confused and surprised, Spencer asked, "What's wrong?"

"Nothing's wrong. I just felt like hugging you all of a sudden," Thalia replied.

Spencer frowned as he tried to push her off, only to have Thalia tighten her hug even further. "Don't push me away, or I will leave immediately."

Sure enough, Spencer put his hands back down.

Thalia grinned gleefully when she noticed his response and nuzzled against his chest. As she listened to the strong beating of his heart, hers was filled with a sweet sensation like never before.

Just like that, Thalia continued hugging Spencer, who didn't dare move a muscle.

After what seemed like forever, Thalia looked up at him. "Spencer, tell me that you love me."

Spencer was about to say no to her request, but the words were stuck in his throat when he saw the look of happiness in her eyes.

It was also possible that he didn't actually want to turn her request down at all.

Thalia pressed her chin against his chest as she continued, "Well? What are you waiting for? Say it!"

Spencer's lips twitched as he struggled to get the words out, but all he said in the end was, "All right, stop fooling around. This is a laboratory. Go get some rest in your room. I'll head over in a bit."

"No! I'm not going anywhere unless you say it!" Thalia insisted.

Spencer lowered his gaze, muttering, "Thalia..."

Thalia shook her head stubbornly. "No! I'm not leaving until you say it!"

Spencer let out a helpless sigh as he scooped her into his arms and carried her like a princess.

Thalia instinctively wrapped her arms around his neck.

"What are you doing?"

"I'm carrying you back to your room so you can get some rest!"

"Spencer! Why won't you just tell me that you love me? Are you planning on waiting until my final moments or something?" Thalia questioned in frustration.

As Spencer remained silent, Thalia knew she had no choice but to give up.

“Okay, fine, I won't force you to say it!” she exclaimed when he started walking out of the laboratory.

Spencer paused in his tracks when he heard that. He then met her gaze.

“I'll go as soon as you answer my question,” Thalia continued.

“What is it?” Spencer asked.

“Have you been asking Natasha about me back then?” Natasha asked.

Spencer frowned instantly. “Did she tell you that?”

“Just answer my question, Spencer. Did you ask her about me?” Thalia pressed on.

Spencer pursed his lips. “I only did that because—”

“You don't need to explain your reasons. I just want to know if you actually did it.”

“Yes, I did.”

Thalia looked into his eyes and asked with a grin, “Why?”

Spencer lowered his gaze as he whispered, “You said I would only have to answer one question. That's the second question you've asked me.”

Thalia was about to protest when he put her down.

“I'll go right away if you answer me this!” she exclaimed.

“The deal was to only answer one question,” Spencer reminded her.

“Spencer!”

“Would you prefer if I carried you back instead?”

Thalia knew that pressuring Spencer too much would only do her more harm than good, so she had no choice but to back off for the time being.

“Fine! I'll go, then!” Thalia shouted.

Spencer simply stood there and stared at her in silence.

She was about to start walking off when she recalled something and turned around. “There's one more

thing I'd like to tell you."

"Go ahead."

Because Spencer was about six feet tall, there was quite a height difference between them.

"Lower your head, will you? It hurts my neck to have to keep looking up at you like this!"

Spencer leaned forward a little bit.

"Still too high up for me. Go lower!"

Spencer frowned suspiciously at her, but he did as told anyway.

Thalia's lips curled into a gleeful smile as she got on her tiptoe and kissed Spencer on the lips, leaving him completely frozen in shock.

Having gotten what she wanted, Thalia quickly ran away, saying, "This is your reward for today!"

By the time Spencer regained his composure, Thalia had run out of the laboratory.

Spencer could feel the lingering warmth of her kiss even after she was long gone.

There was an inexplicably conflicted look in his beautiful eyes as he rubbed his lips.

Thalia did not return to her room immediately after leaving the laboratory.

Seeing as the weather was looking great with the sun shining brightly in the sky, she recalled what Natasha had said and decided to go for a walk.