

Yo Daddy 721

Chapter 721 That Is Why I Am Extraordinary

Natasha's exquisite features made her seem even more attractive when she smiled.

Alexia looked at her. So what if she's pretty? I don't believe my savior is shallow and only looks at one's appearance.

Once she regained her senses, she asked, "What are you smiling at?"

Natasha's red lips were curled into a half-hearted smile, and there was an indescribably dark look in her eyes. A moment later, she suddenly put her smile away and stared at Alexia fixedly. "I will never leave him, ever."

"Why?" Alexia knitted her brows.

After some thought, Natasha responded, "Probably because I like jerks."

"You—" Surprisingly, words eluded Alexia.

She stared at Natasha and could not believe a shameless woman like the latter existed.

Mike, who was in front of them, kept his gaze on the road while holding back his laughter. As a wise man, he knew that Natasha was trying to agitate Alexia so the latter would not fall asleep. He did not expect to hear that from Natasha, though. No way! I have to remember all this and tell Kenneth after this.

The car sped down the road.

Because of the conversation with Natasha, Alexia was so pissed off that she managed to hang on until they arrived at the base.

A group of people rushed up to the car right after the vehicle stopped.

"What's the situation?" the doctor at the base asked.

"She was shot in the back. It shouldn't have hit her vitals, but she lost too much blood along the way," Natasha explained Alexia's condition to the doctor.

The doctor nodded in response and ordered the person behind him, "Have someone prepare a blood transfusion, and get two other people to come and assist me in removing the bullet."

The assistant nodded.

"Wait," Alexia said before she was wheeled away.

Once the gurney stopped, she stared at Natasha angrily and said, "I won't let you hurt my savior."

Natasha simply smiled in response.

"Just wheel her into the operating room," Mike told the doctor.

It was only then the doctor pushed Alexia away.

Just then, someone brought two bottles of water over. "Natasha, yours." Mike handed one to Natasha.

Natasha glanced at the bottle before taking it over. "Thank you."

Mike unscrewed the cap and took a sip of water before looking at her. "Please don't mind Alexia. She grew up in our base, and all of us tend to give in to her because of her young age. Despite being a little spoiled, she has no bad intentions. It's just that she's deeply obsessed with Kenneth."

Natasha flashed him a smile upon hearing that. "Well, I can understand that. If the person we meet when young is too stunning, we can't forget them even after years have gone by."

"Are you not angry?" Mike asked.

"Why should I be?" Natasha asked in return.

Mike was rendered speechless. Then, he replied, "Don't ordinary women usually get mad in this situation?"

"That's why I am extraordinary."

Words eluded Mike when he heard that.

Taking in the dumbfounded expression on his face, Natasha chuckled. "I'm just kidding."

Mike immediately spoke. "No, no, no. You really are extraordinary. Otherwise, Kenneth wouldn't be so submissive to you."

"Is he now?" Natasha asked.

Mike nodded. "Yes, of course. Kenneth was not like this when I first started following him years ago. He used to always act as he pleased and only fooled around with the girls who threw themselves at him. Never has he ever taken them seriously."

"Fooled around?"

Abruptly realizing he might have spoken out of line, Mike shot her a glance. "Ugh, that's not what I mean. I'm only trying to say that... Kenneth never took them seriously."

"Oh, I see." Natasha pretended to nod thoughtfully. The look in her eyes was signaling that she had misunderstood something, though.

"Natasha, seriously, that's not what I meant," Mike tried to explain.

"Even if it's true, it does not matter."

"No, no, no. Kenneth will skin me alive if he knows about this!" said Mike.

Seeing how nervous he was, Natasha let out a chuckle. "I'm just kidding."

Mike was stunned by her words. "Really?"

Natasha nodded in response.

Only then did Mike heave a sigh of relief. "Glad to hear that."

He unscrewed the cap and took another sip of water. I'd better talk less. It's true that one is bound to make more mistakes the more one speaks.

Regardless, after their friendly banter, Mike could finally relax his tensed body.

Suddenly, Natasha looked up at the moon hanging in the sky. Her gaze was unfathomable as she murmured, "I wonder how Kenneth is doing."

"Yeah. I wonder how they're doing," said Mike with concern.

The next moment, something occurred to Natasha, and she turned to Mike. "How far away is Dave from here?"

Without hesitation, Mike replied, "It will take half an hour to drive there, at least."

Natasha raised her wrist and checked the time. "Kenneth should need about the same time to reach there too. Let's go over there."

"Huh?" Mike looked at her in confusion.

Chapter 722 History Cannot Be Allowed To Repeat Itself

Kenneth rushed over to Boss' house as fast as he could.

The moment his car screeched to a halt, he could see the ground littered with bodies of those from Vermillion Base.

It wasn't hard to see whose handiwork it was.

Thereafter, Kenneth quickly followed the trail.

The second floor that was blown apart when he escaped back then had now been repaired. The smell of wet cement could still be detected in the air.

The moment Kenneth arrived at the door and prepared to enter, he heard a sudden noise behind him. Turning around, he saw the men who had newly arrived aiming their guns at him.

Without a moment's delay, he dived for cover.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Multiple gunshots rang out, followed by the thud of bullets peppering the wall he was hiding behind.

"Search inside and kill them all," a voice barked outside.

With his body hugging the wall, Kenneth broke into a smirk at the sound of the voice.

He could sense Boss' indignance. Despite the terrible loss he had suffered, the latter insisted on making sure all of them were eliminated.

The next moment, Kenneth gave his surroundings a quick scan. When he saw some items on the table beside him, he grabbed all of them and hurled them outside.

In response, the men outside began firing indiscriminately.

Gun in hand, Kenneth made a split-second decision the moment the gunshots ended. He then took aim and fired a single shot each at the gunmen.

When a few of them collapsed onto the ground, the rest scattered to find cover.

Kenneth had no desire to draw out the battle, for he knew that the priority was locating Dave and the others. Holstering his gun, he walked upstairs right away.

Nevertheless, he had barely taken two steps when he saw the men outside continue their pursuit.

Narrowing his eyes, Kenneth pondered a moment before an idea popped into his head. The very next second, he burst into a sprint toward the second floor.

This is the exact same position and place as last time.

Staring at the tightly closed door, Kenneth approached it to examine its lock. The facial recognition mechanism had now been replaced by one that required a fingerprint and code to unlock.

Kenneth frowned in response. I could use Natasha or Anthony's expertise in a time like this. This wouldn't stop them at all.

Kenneth walked to the door and pounded on it.

"Dave, Spencer!" he yelled.

An anxious voice suddenly rang out. "Kenneth? Is that you, Kenneth?"

Kenneth's fears were eased when he heard an answer. He shouted through the door, "It's me. Are you guys all right?"

"We're fine. It's just that Spencer didn't find the antidote after rummaging through the place," Dave replied.

"Forget about it for now. Come out first," Kenneth ordered.

"The problem is we can't!"

"What are you talking about?"

"The door has a self-destruct mechanism. If we try to break it by force, we would trigger it and be annihilated here."

Kenneth's eyes darkened at the news.

It seems that Boss still has a trick or two up his sleeve. It does make sense, though. Ever since I left the last time, Boss was certain that I would return for the antidote. Moreover, he set all this up just for me... Unexpectedly, Natasha's sudden departure foiled my original plan. Otherwise, I would be the one inside right now!

At that moment, Kenneth stared intently at the door again. He couldn't imagine how he was going to forgive himself if Dave and Spencer were killed on his account.

Clenching his fists, he instructed, "Wait for me. I'll definitely figure out a way to rescue you." With a grim look in his eyes, Kenneth swiftly scanned his surroundings.

As long as the system can be set up, there must be a way to turn it off. I cannot allow history to repeat itself!

While Kenneth was busy looking for clues, a beeping sound suddenly rang out. Thereafter, Luke yelled in panic, "Dave, that thing has suddenly begun a countdown!"

Furrowing his brows, Kenneth was lost in thought when he heard a banging on the door. Dave's voice subsequently rang out. "Kenneth, get away from here! Now!"

"What's going on?" Kenneth asked.

"The countdown suddenly started. Leave now, as it's going to blow!" Dave barked.

A frosty look quickly descended upon Kenneth's eyes. "How did this happen?"

"Kenneth, get out now!" Dave thundered again.

At that moment, it suddenly dawned upon Kenneth why the men outside didn't dare enter and kept circling the building.

Holding that thought, Kenneth shouted, "Dave, wait for me. I won't leave you guys behind!"

Thereafter, Kenneth ran to another corner and looked down from the second-floor window. There, he could still see his pursuers lingering outside.

Without a second thought, Kenneth smashed the window and leaped through it.

When the gunmen looked up, they saw Kenneth crashing down on one of their companions before rolling on the ground.

The other man fired at him without delay, but Kenneth managed to use one of their own as a shield.

Bang! Bang!

The moment the gunman ran out of bullets, Kenneth shoved his meatshield away and raised his gun to shoot the gunman's arm.

When the gunman suddenly dropped something in his hand, Kenneth lunged forward and quickly subdued him.

Chapter 723 Everything Will Be Fine

Upon grasping the situation, Kenneth turned to his hostage. "How do I disarm this?"

The man shook his head. "I don't know. Boss had someone set this up. All I did was cut the wire as instructed."

In that instant, Kenneth racked his brain to analyze the situation. The countdown started about the same time the wire was cut. In that case...

Kenneth walked up to the broken wire and attempted to reattach it without delay.

Cognizant of what Kenneth was up to, the man behind him turned tail and fled.

The last thing he wanted was to be there when the place exploded.

Meanwhile, Kenneth opened the box carefully. There was a square console inside with a red blinking light, and that was where the wires came out from. With nothing else around, Kenneth had no idea what the console was for. Since the countdown was triggered when the wire was cut, he assumed that reconnecting the wire would be the solution.

As long as the countdown could be stopped, he would have more time to figure things out.

Holding that thought, Kenneth started to reattach the wires. Despite his inherently steady demeanor, his hands trembled as he worked.

The image of Xavier dying in front of him kept playing back in his mind.

The more he thought about it, the more violently his hands shook.

Kenneth closed his eyes in that instant. "Kenneth, you definitely can do it!"

By the time he opened them, they were filled with a renewed sense of conviction.

Staring at the wire, he reconnected the cut ends as fast as he could.

The moment he did, the blinking red light on the small box began to slow down.

Kenneth could feel it in his gut that it was a good sign, triggering a sigh of relief from him.

It was then that Natasha and Mike arrived.

"Kenneth."

Kenneth turned around when he heard his name being called. The sight of the two caused his brows to furrow. "Why did you come?"

"We were worried, so we decided to check on you," Natasha replied.

"The man who ran out just now told us that you were in here. If you want someone to blame, blame me, Kenneth. It was I who brought Natasha here," Mike explained.

Kenneth obviously knew that now wasn't the time to point fingers. He gave Natasha a grim look. "It's dangerous here, Nat. You should leave now!"

"All the more reason for me to stay. Even though I'm not sure if I can be of help, I can, at the very least, face whatever is coming together with you," Natasha asserted.

"Nat..."

"Nothing you say can change my mind!" Natasha insisted.

Consequently, Kenneth gave her a solemn look.

It was then that Natasha's brows furrowed when she caught a glimpse of what was behind him. "A guidewire?"

Upon hearing her question, Kenneth trailed her gaze and asked, "You recognize that thing?"

"I've seen it before. It's usually used to control a countdown mechanism," Natasha elaborated.

"Does it mean that the countdown will stop if we destroy it?" Kenneth probed further.

Natasha shook her head and explained, "No, this device can only control the speed of the countdown but can't stop it. If you destroy it, you'll end up triggering the explosion instead."

Kenneth was glad that he didn't act hastily earlier.

Nevertheless, he had managed to buy them some time.

With that thought in mind, he turned to Natasha and suggested, "Nat, perhaps you might be able to help me."

"What?" she asked in surprise.

"Come with me." Grabbing her hand, he led her out.

"Kenneth, wait for me," Mike reminded from behind.

Just as they were about to leave, the black guidewire box began to flash rapidly.

"Kenneth..." Mike called out all of a sudden.

When Kenneth turned around, Mike indicated the box. "Why is it blinking like that?"

Kenneth's eyes narrowed slightly when he saw the red light blinking rapidly.

Natasha couldn't help but remark, "Someone must have hacked into the console to detonate it."

"Get out of here, now!" Kenneth screamed at the top of his lungs.

As he fled the room with Natasha in tow, Mike was right on their heels.

At the same time, a thundering explosion was heard above their heads.

Even though Kenneth had shielded Natasha in his arms, the shockwave from the blast threw them some distance away.

As the three of them crashed onto the ground, they were covered by debris in the next instant.

A long while after the explosion died down, Natasha began to cough. She had only suffered light injuries under the cover of Kenneth's protection.

After she pushed Kenneth's arm away, she gradually sat up. "Kenneth, Kenneth..."

Calling out to him, Natasha began to panic when she didn't get a response. She then turned her attention to Mike, who was lying on the ground nearby. She yelled, "Mike, are you all right?"

Chapter 724 He Was But A Man

His impeccable image as an invincible man crumbled right then.

The helplessness he felt in the face of death was like poison, engulfing him from the inside.

Natasha had never seen this side of him. Her eyes became teary, and at that moment, she realized that he was not an invincible figure who could do everything. He was but a man, fraught with emotions and vulnerable.

Without saying a word, Natasha walked over and started searching through the pile of debris.

Seeing that, Mike wiped away his tears and did the same.

The three of them searched in the rubble for a long time.

Even when their hands were torn and red from rummaging through the rubble, they did not stop.

The search continued late into the night. Soon, the sun began to rise.

In the end, Mike was so exhausted that he plopped onto the ground.

Then, he noticed that Natasha was still rummaging through the pile of debris. Her hands were all scratched up. He furrowed his brows and said, "Natasha, your hands..."

"I'm all right," Natasha said.

Natasha's slender and thin fingers had turned into a mess of dirt and blood.

Mike then turned to look at Kenneth with knitted brows.

"Kenneth, I know it's difficult for you to accept the reality. I don't believe that Dave would... But we have to accept it."

However, his words appeared to have fallen on deaf ears. Kenneth's eyes were blank as he continued searching the rubble pile.

"Even if you don't care about yourself, you have to think about Natasha for a second. We can go on, but she's a woman, and her hands are all torn!" Mike pleaded, looking straight into his eyes.

Kenneth abruptly stopped searching after hearing that.

Natasha turned around to look at Kenneth and said, "I'm all right."

"Natasha..." Mike's frown deepened.

"Let's continue searching," Natasha said before lowering her head to proceed.

She knew how loyal Kenneth was to his sworn brothers and how he blamed himself for what had happened to Xavier for many years. It was only not long ago when he found the letter that Xavier had left him that Kenneth started to gradually move on. If anything were to happen to Dave this time, Natasha couldn't even begin to imagine just how distraught Kenneth would be...

Hence, she just wanted to be by his side in her own way.

Natasha looked at the rock beneath her and struggled to move it. Suddenly, she felt a hand tugging at her.

The hand was a mess of flesh and blood, not unlike her own.

Natasha looked up.

"Stop," Kenneth said, almost whispering. His voice was hoarse.

Natasha eyed the man before her. Despite tears brimming in her eyes, she spoke calmly and determinedly. "We have to continue."

She turned around and continued to move the rocks.

Kenneth looked at her almost unrecognizable hands and grabbed them forcefully. He seemed to be trying to hold himself back.

Unable to move with his tight grip, she met Kenneth's gaze once again. "I believe that Dave and the others will be all right. Trust me."

Kenneth clenched his jaw as a pained look flitted across his eyes. Tightening his grip, he uttered, "I'll ask Mike to send you back home."

"You know I won't leave," Natasha said.

Kenneth looked at her. His deep, obsidian gaze was filled with restraint.

"This only happened because of me. I can't just pretend that it has nothing to do with me and leave," Natasha enunciated.

The floodgate of emotions within Kenneth burst forth with Natasha's words. Agony and guilt came pouring out as he hollered, "This has nothing to do with you! This is all because of me! I'm the reason Dave was here. If it wasn't for me, he wouldn't have come here and died!"

He turned around after the outburst, so furious with himself that veins were popping on his head.

It was apparent that he was still trying to hold himself back, perhaps because he was afraid that he might hurt her.

Natasha said nothing. She understood how Kenneth felt right then. Hence, no matter what he said, she wouldn't take his words to heart.

A bead of tear rolled down her cheek, and she wiped it off immediately.

She kept mum and continued with the search.

Kenneth looked in her direction when he noticed she was still searching. An inexplicable rage exploded within him as he screamed, "I said stop! Stop searching!"

He dashed over and dragged her out of the rubble. With both hands on her shoulders, he bellowed, "Didn't you hear what I said?"

Natasha merely looked at him and said nothing. Her eyes were full of compassion as she stayed by his

side calmly.

Natasha looked at the rock beneath her and struggled to move it. Suddenly, she felt a hand tugging at her.

The hand was a mass of flesh and blood, not unlike her own.

Natasha looked up.

"Stop," Kannath said, almost whispering. His voice was hoarse.

Natasha eyed the man before her. Deep tears brimming in her eyes, she spoke calmly and determinedly. "We have to continue."

She turned around and continued to move the rocks.

Kannath looked at her almost unrecognizable hands and grabbed them forcefully. He seemed to be trying to hold himself back.

Unable to move with his tight grip, she met Kannath's gaze once again. "I believe that Dava and the others will be all right. Trust me."

Kannath clenched his jaw as a pained look flitted across his eyes. Tightening his grip, he uttered, "I'll ask Mika to send you back home."

"You know I won't leave," Natasha said.

Kannath looked at her. His deep, obsidian gaze was filled with restraint.

"This only happened because of me. I can't just pretend that it has nothing to do with me and leave," Natasha announced.

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Chapter 725 False Alarm

Mike couldn't help but be intimidated by Natasha's aura.

She appeared laid back and calm, but in crucial situations, she always caught people off guard and impressed them.

Mike narrowed his eyes. As if influenced by Natasha, he turned around and looked behind him. "That's right. Since they insist on coming, we will make sure they won't be able to return!"

He held his gun and prepared for the incoming attack.

They were going to kill everyone who came out of the forest.

Natasha looked into the distance, vigilant and on guard.

Right then, there was movement in the forest again.

Mike was about to start shooting when Natasha said, "Save your bullets. Let's wait until they come out of the forest."

Upon hearing that, Mike nodded.

And so, they continued staring at the trees.

The noise in the forest grew louder, causing Mike to grip his gun tightly as he waited for the opportunity to start shooting.

The sky gradually lit up, and their vision became clearer. Mike's gaze was fixed on the forest, as he still didn't know the number of incoming enemies or their weapons.

However, he was ready to fight them till the end, no matter what.

At that moment, his sharp eyes immediately caught movement in the forest as a figure emerged. He quickly aimed his gun at the person.

Suddenly, the person shouted, "If you fire again, don't blame me for not showing mercy!"

Mike was momentarily stunned upon hearing the voice.

Why does it sound so familiar?

He stared into the distance, but he couldn't see the person's face clearly.

However, he recognized the person's gait.

"Luke?" he muttered to himself.

"What's wrong?" Natasha asked.

"It seems like Luke..." Mike replied.

Upon hearing that, Natasha glanced at the person.

"Luke, is that you?" Mike yelled.

"Mike?" the other person shouted back.

Mike was ecstatic. He glanced at Natasha and exclaimed, "It's Luke! It's really him!"

Natasha was still unsure since they didn't know whether Luke was with Dave.

"Natasha, I'll go take a look!" Mike stated.

Natasha nodded, and Mike quickly ran toward the forest.

Even though the sky was getting brighter, it was still dawn, and the light wasn't strong enough for Natasha to see the facial features of the opposite party.

Mike ran over, and a moment later, the two figures hugged.

Upon seeing this, Natasha was relieved.

Natasha glanced at Kenneth and patted his back. Just as she was about to say something, she realized her hands were covered in crimson blood.

Stunned, she reached out to touch his back again and noticed that his clothes were drenched in blood.

"Kenneth, Kenneth!" Natasha cried.

Natasha rushed to support Kenneth when he suddenly slumped down. "Wake up, Kenneth..."

However, Kenneth's head remained lowered. He was unresponsive, and his face was also as pale as a sheet.

"Kenneth, hold on!" Natasha tried to place him on the ground. Just then, Mike came running back.
"Kenneth, Natasha, guess who's here!"

His voice was full of delight. Natasha froze momentarily when she looked up and saw Dave and Spencer walking over.

Dave and Spencer smiled at her.

"You guys—" Natasha was about to say something when Kenneth's body slid down and fell to the ground.

"Kenneth!"

Dave and Mike immediately approached.

Although Kenneth was covered in dirt, the blood on his back was still a ghastly sight.

"What happened?" Dave questioned.

"He must have gotten injured during the explosion just now," Natasha replied.

Upon seeing this, Spencer walked over with a serious expression. "Let me take a look."

After a thorough examination, he said, "His internal organs are fine, but he got too agitated and lost too much blood. We should talk more after we return first."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Just as Spencer was going to load Kenneth on his back, the latter suddenly opened his dark, bright eyes.

"Kenneth," Dave called out.

Kenneth grabbed onto his hand tightly and uttered, "Dave..."

"It's me." Dave smiled at him. No one could understand Kenneth's feelings better than him at the moment.

Kenneth's lips twitched, and emotions flashed across his reddened eyes. He wanted to say something but felt himself getting choked up.

"I know what you want to say. I'm fine. It's okay," Dave uttered.

After staring at Dave for a long time, Kenneth could finally confirm that he wasn't dreaming. It's not an illusion. It's real.

Mika ran over, and a moment later, the two figures hugged.

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Natasha glanced at Kannath and patted his back. Just as she was about to say something, she realized her hands were covered in crimson blood.

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"Kannath!"

Dava and Mika immediately approached.

Although Kannath was covered in dirt, the blood on his back was still a ghastly sight.

Chapter 726 No Cure

When Natasha ended her sentence, the others turned to her, including Luke.

He asked, "How do you know that, Natasha?"

Facing him, she answered, "It's just standard analysis, isn't it?"

That rendered him speechless. Are you sure it's not because you and the others are smart?

Kenneth spoke up. "There are no other plausible explanations for how you lot emerged from another

place.”

It was then Dave nodded. “That was how it went. Still, it's thanks to Luke that we escaped. Otherwise, you might need to dig us out of the ruins.”

In response, Kenneth turned to Luke.

“It was unintentional on my part. I didn't expect to save everyone when I was saving myself. I bet I'll get lucky strike lottery after I return!” Luke chuckled.

Casually, Kenneth inquired, “Lottery? How much prize money are you expecting to get?”

“Not much. I'm happy with three or five million. With that money, I can buy a sports car to pick up girls!”

“That's all you want?”

“Don't make it sound like it's easy, Boss. I'm not as handsome as all of you, so I have to make up for my inadequate looks with something else.”

When Mike heard that, he couldn't help but tease, “I am sure you have good self-awareness.”

In response, Luke shot a glance at him. “Aren't you the same?”

“I think I look okay.” As Mike studied himself in the mirror, he smiled with satisfaction.

Luke snorted. “I can't believe you have the nerve to say that in front of Boss, Dave, and that doctor behind us. Do you have any shame at all?”

Mike wanted to offer a retort, but when he saw the handsome faces behind him in the mirror, the words he wanted to utter were stuck in his throat.

Then he smiled politely, thinking he had overstepped his boundary.

Upon guessing Mike's thoughts, Luke couldn't help but laugh. “What's the matter? Are you okay?”

Mike rolled his eyes at him. “Why are you asking for it? Instead of the bunch behind us, we should compare ourselves to ordinary folks, considering normal people will never look as attractive as them.”

“Are you saying Kenneth and Boss aren't normal?”

“Of course!” The instant Mike detected the grim atmosphere behind him, he quickly added, “Only those descended from the heavens have stunning looks. That's why they aren't normal, because regular mortals like us don't have alluring appearances like them.”

“Bootlicker!”

“I'm simply stating the truth.”

Luke gave him the side-eye.

The bunch sitting behind wasn't that affected by the duo's conversation. However, the lively atmosphere did help to remind them of the fact that they escaped death and were still alive.

Staring at the front seats, Kenneth uttered, “Luke.”

Promptly, Luke turned to him. “What's the matter, Boss?”

“Do you have a car you like?”

“Err...” Slightly confused, Luke nodded. “I do.”

“What car?”

“Bugatti.”

“All right. We'll go and pick up one tomorrow.”

Luke was flabbergasted.

Thinking his ears were playing tricks on him, Mike glanced at Kenneth through the rearview mirror with widened eyes.

“W-What do you mean by that, Boss?” Luke blinked at Kenneth with disbelief. Did I hear that right?

Despite his pale lips, Kenneth was still undeniably charming as he gazed at him. “That's a reward for you.”

“A reward for me? For what?” Luke was seriously wondering if his ears were working correctly.

“You deserve a reward for bringing everyone out alive.”

The edges of Luke's lips curved upward when he heard that, but he still responded humbly, “It was something I did unintentionally. Besides, I was only focusing on saving myself. Everyone else just so happened to—”

“Only the result matters, not the process.”

Hearing that, Luke just turned to look at Dave quietly.

Dave replied, "You should accept his reward for you. If you don't, I'm afraid he'll feel uneasy."

"But... I don't think I deserve this."

"You don't have to think that way. Your boss is rich, so if he feels at ease by gifting you a car, it's his gain too," persuaded Dave. I bet if any of us suffered severe injuries because of the incident, I can imagine how Kenneth would bear the pain for the rest of his life. That's why I'm sure he's willing to give out eight or ten cars if necessary. At this point, money's not the most important thing to him anymore.

A realization dawned on Luke before he turned to Kenneth. "In that case, thank you, Boss!"

"Oh, so you're only willing to accept my gift after Dave asked you to, hmm?" teased Kenneth.

"I—"

"It sounds like you no longer have any respect for me."

Chapter 727 Telepathy

While Kenneth didn't seem upset by the news, Spencer's expression turned grim.

After all, Spencer did his best this time, yet he had nothing to show.

A bitter and complicated feeling bubbled in his heart when he thought about how that meant Thalia's suffering would be prolonged.

Based on what I know about him, his current reaction doesn't fit his temperament. Dave scrutinized Kenneth and asked, "You knew?"

Upon raising his eyes, Kenneth glanced at Spencer. "I assumed that was the case based on what Boss said. Since he knew I would show up, it was natural he wouldn't keep the antidote there."

Dave nodded. "That's true. Boss is a wary and cruel man. Since he wanted you to die with despair, why would he keep the antidote there?"

In response, Kenneth grinned.

Meanwhile, Spencer lowered his head while exuding a depressive vibe. I can't help but feel sad whenever I think about Thalia's continued torment. If possible, I would rather bear the pain in her stead.

Kenneth glanced at him and removed a small bottle from his pocket.

The moment Dave saw that, he asked, "What's this?"

Kenneth played with the bottle with one hand and uttered with an icy look, "I snatched this from Boss. He said it was the antidote and attempted to threaten me with it. Sadly, he failed."

Just as Kenneth ended his sentence, Spencer turned to him and peered at the bottle with a complicated look.

"If my guess is correct, the thing inside this bottle should be medicine. However, I can't guarantee that it's the antidote."

Slowly, Spencer stretched his hand toward the bottle to grab it.

Kenneth handed it to him. "You still need to analyze it."

The bottle dominated Spencer's attention for a long time before he thought of something. Then he turned his sight toward Kenneth, wanting to say something.

As though he understood what was going through Spencer's mind, Kenneth said, "My guess is that this is the antidote. As for why I think that way..." Glancing at Natasha, he sighed. "He met up with Nat today. So, I speculated he must have the antidote on him for either one of the reasons. One, it's to prevent Nat's poison from triggering. Two, he expected her to ask for the antidote."

Upon hearing that, Spencer looked away, thought about it momentarily, and nodded. "In that case, it's very likely it is the antidote."

"It's just speculation, though. You still need to analyze it."

"I know, and I'll inform you of the result as soon as possible."

Kenneth nodded.

At that moment, Spencer held the bottle like it was a valuable treasure. If this is the real antidote, then there's hope for Thalia to be saved. I really hope it is.

Words danced on the tip of Kenneth's tongue as he gazed at Spencer, but he ultimately swallowed them back. I think it can wait until after the result is out.

Also, he lost a lot of blood, but because Dave seemed fine, he pretended to be okay for the rest of the long ride, too.

...

Meanwhile, the children were extremely quiet during the night.

They were sleeping soundly in their bedrooms.

Suddenly, Anthony opened his eyes as though he had a nightmare.

He stared at the ceiling as a terrible feeling surfaced in his heart.

After a long while, he calmed down. It was just a dream. Nothing bad happened. Nat's fine, Daddy's fine, and everyone's fine.

He tried his best to convince himself.

Still, he couldn't ignore the unease he felt.

Thus, he picked up his phone, checked the time, and frowned.

It was then he heard a knock on his door.

Anthony looked at the door and asked, "Who is it?"

After pushing the door open, Denise stood at the entrance with a toy in her arms and said, "Tony."

"Denise?" Anthony sat up. "What's the matter?"

"I had a nightmare. I can't sleep."

Furrowing his eyebrows, he invited, "Come in."

After Denise sat on his bed, he asked, "What did you dream about?"

"In my dream, I saw someone trying to kill Nat. Then, Daddy was shot when he tried to save her. There was blood all over his body..."

Anthony was flabbergasted. That sounds almost exactly like the dream I had earlier!

Pursing his lips, he comforted, "It's fine. It's just a dream."

"When I checked Nat's room earlier, I didn't see Daddy or her inside," Denise replied.

Chapter 728 Three To One

Nonchalantly, Thalia looked away. "Who wouldn't be afraid when they suddenly heard a voice coming from their back in the middle of the night?"

Upon glancing at the sky, Anthony gazed at her. "Are you sure?"

In response, she surveyed her surrounding and realized it was already morning. It had been four hours since they left! I didn't realize it had been that long!

After being exposed, she felt somewhat guilty. Hence, she gave him a side glance and uttered, "The sun hasn't completely risen yet!"

Of course, Anthony knew Thalia was a stubborn woman. I need something much more effective.

It was then Denise sat beside her. "Have you been sitting here since midnight, Thalia?"

"No way! I only came out not too long ago," Thalia denied.

"Is that so?"

"Of course. Do you think I'm lying?"

The girl sighed with disappointment.

"What does that mean?" Thalia raised her eyebrow. Why does she look disappointed?

In response, Denise turned to Benjamin, who was behind her. "Have you gotten the surveillance footage yet, Ben?"

Benjamin was holding his phone when he heard that. Immediately, he nodded and ambled toward her. "I did. As you can see, she has been staying here all night."

Stunned, Thalia swept her gaze past them and asked, "Is that really necessary?"

"Then why did you lie to us?" interrogated Denise.

Pursing her lips, Thalia stared at the trio before saying, "Do you have to make such a big deal out of a casual remark?"

"Thalia!" Denise exclaimed.

"All right, it's getting late. I'm feeling drowsy, so I'll return to my room and rest now." As she spoke, she stood, yawned, and prepared to slink away.

Before she could take one step away from them, Denise pulled her clothes.

"I really am tired. If there's anything you want to talk about, wait until I wake up, all right? Good girl." Thalia patted the girl's head before attempting to escape.

"It's futile to avoid us, Thalia. Tell us the truth." Anthony's cold voice rang behind her.

She ceased her movements and stared at the girl who was still pulling her clothes.

In response, the latter peered at Thalia with a pleading look.

Thalia took in a deep breath. Why am I so weak against these three? I'm confident I can win if I only need to deal with them one at a time. However, it's three against one right now, which caught me off guard. Then again, I guess it's expected that I can't win against the three of them when they are Kenneth's and Shadow Seeker's children. Both of them are exceptionally smart, so it's natural that their children are, too.

When her train of thought ended there, she felt relieved.

It was then Benjamin approached her and stated, "The cars in the garage are gone. Daddy, Nat, and Mr. Dave aren't around either. Aside from the housekeeper, the four of us are the only ones left in the house. What happened last night, Thalia?"

The children's serious and stubborn expressions spurred her to relent. "Fine, fine. I'll tell you three what happened."

Upon hearing that, the children stared at her with excitement.

Thalia returned to the swing and took in a deep breath. "I believe all of you know about what's going on with me. Last night, they went out to find the antidote. I was worried, so I've been waiting here."

"The antidote? Where?" asked Denise.

"Vermillion—" Thalia instantly cut herself off when she realized she shouldn't have said that.

Anthony was a sharp kid, so when he heard that, he narrowed his eyes. "Do you mean Vermillion Base?"

"No, I said it because..." Shaking her head, she clarified with a grave expression. "It's because that place kept getting brought up recently. That's why I slipped."

"Where is it, then?"

Her mind raced as she searched for an answer. How do I weave a convincing lie?

Unbeknownst to her, Denise was observing her reaction with a frown. Seconds later, the girl spat, "You're lying again, Thalia!"

"I did not!" Thalia refuted.

"You always avoid eye contact when you're lying! Not only that, your eyes will wander around."

Chapter 729 Too Difficult

Thalia's eyes glinted as she stared at them with an aggrieved and upset expression. "So what if I'm lying? Are you three going to tell me you've never deceived me before?"

In response to Thalia's drastic change in attitude, Denise objected, "No, we told you all our greatest secrets. We aren't lying to you about anything."

"Truly?"

The girl turned to her brothers and reaffirmed, "Nope. We didn't lie about anything!"

It's time for me to show off my acting skills. Gazing at the children with a sneer, Thalia made her first move. "What about the fact that your mommy's the Shadow Seeker? Why didn't any of you tell me about her identity before?"

Err...

The trio was stunned.

That matter had almost been completely erased from their minds.

"You... don't know?" Denise asked.

"Don't give me that. You three should know the answer," retorted Thalia.

The girl pursed her lips. It does seem like we're in the wrong for this...

Seeing that the children were staying quiet, Thalia took one step further. "All of you knew my mission was to locate Shadow Seeker, yet you three hid that information from me, making me look like a fool. Does it make you happy to do that to me, hmm?"

"We didn't mean to—"

Thalia interrupted Denise by raising her hand. "It doesn't matter what you three's intentions were because it doesn't erase the blow dealt to me. I spent so much time looking for her like an idiot. You know, I've been through thick and thin with you three, and I value your lives more than my own. How could you three be so cruel to lie to me? "

When she ended her sentence, the children grew silent as they believed they were at fault.

Due to the children's soft-hearted nature, Thalia handily made them feel guilty with her speech.

Moments later, Benjamin said, "Yes, we're wrong to hide Mommy's identity from you, but it's not like we lied. We merely concealed the truth."

Ugh... With how things have turned out, I must keep going! When her train of thought ended there, she raised her eyes. "Yes, but someone promised me in the past that they'll never hide anything from me again!"

As she spoke, she gazed at Anthony. Clearly, she was referring to him. If I can subdue Anthony, then it's basically my victory, considering he's the leader and the toughest nut to crack among the three of them. Once he's dealt with, I can handwave the rest with the other two.

Unfortunately for her, Anthony didn't care about that. "I admit I hid Nat's identity from you, but I still don't think I did anything wrong. After all, it concerns Nat's privacy and safety. I trust you and am willing to put my life in your hands, but I can't afford the risk of revealing her secret. If given another chance, I'd still do the same without regrets."

"You—" Thalia was speechless.

Her initial plan was to make the children feel guilty. However, she didn't expect him to come up with a perfectly logical explanation afterward. Furthermore, he was so sincere in his explanation that she was touched.

Feeling exasperated, she thought, These children are so difficult to deal with!

At the side, Denise nodded in agreement. "Tony's right, Thalia. It's not that we don't trust you. We discussed amongst ourselves whether to tell you about that before. In the end, we concluded that if Nat doesn't want us to let you know her secret, we can't reveal it to you."

Upon taking a deep breath, Benjamin nodded. "That's right. So, if you're angry about this, we have nothing else to say."

The trio had identical expressions and looks in their eyes as they stared at her.

Why do they look like they've just been bullied? In any case, I can't do this anymore. I didn't plan to reprimand them. I just wanted them to stop asking me questions. If I were in their shoes, I think I'd do the same. Just as Thalia was about to speak, she heard noises coming from the gate.

Soon, two cars drove into the premises.

Joy flashed past her eyes when she saw that.

"They're back!" she uttered before approaching the vehicles.

In response, the children followed her.

After the cars were parked in the garage, the passengers left the vehicles.
In response, the children followed her.

After the cars were parked in the garage, the passengers left the vehicles.

The moment Thalia saw Spencer, she pounced toward him, caressed his cheeks, and inspected him from head to toe for any wounds. "Are you hurt, Spencer?"

Spencer felt a sense of warmth upon seeing her. "I'm fine."

Then, when Thalia noticed how wretched everyone looked, she asked again, "Really?"

Chapter 730 Not Far From The Truth

Spencer followed the doctor into the room to tend to Kenneth's wound.

Meanwhile, the three children stayed outside and waited quietly.

After a few moments, Denise couldn't stop herself from turning to look at her brothers. "Don't you find the circumstances peculiar? They went out to help Thalia look for the antidote, yet Daddy ended up injured to this extent?" She voiced out the doubt in her mind.

"It's not just weird. It's bizarre," Benjamin chimed in. Compared to Denise's anxious demeanor, he appeared much calmer.

"Putting aside Daddy and Thalia's hostile relationship, would he take such great risk for her even if they get along?" Denise asked.

"That's why there must be something we've yet to ascertain," Anthony uttered.

Hearing that, Denise let out a long sigh. "I feel so stuffy in my chest right now, like someone is smothering me. Why can't these adults be honest with us?"

"As they always put it, they have our best interests at heart and didn't want us to be worried," Benjamin replied.

"That's the only point the adults are lacking. They are always so presumptuous." Denise pouted. Why do they need to complicate such a simple matter?

"This is similar to how we keep secrets from them. We don't want them to be worried about us, impede our plans, or fear they may not understand our intention. That's it," Anthony said. In that aspect, he behaved like a big brother, concluding his younger siblings' confusion with just a few sentences.

Hearing that, Denise and Benjamin fell silent, basically admitting Anthony's words made all the sense.

After being quiet for a few moments, Denise asked, "Who do you think could hurt Daddy so severely?"

My heart aches when I see him in this state.”

Benjamin questioned, “Does Daddy have any enemies here?”

A trace of doubt flashed across Denise's face. “What about Vermillion Base?”

“If I'm not mistaken, they should be the culprit. The only force capable of resisting DX Group here is Vermillion Base. Therefore, they are probably the ones who could've harmed Daddy.” Benjamin inferred.

“So, Daddy went to Vermillion Base to seek the antidote? In that case, when did Vermillion Base poison Thalia?” Denise probed further.

That was also something baffling Anthony and Benjamin.

“Or, they didn't go to Vermillion Base to get the antidote. Instead, they were ambushed by Vermillion Base on the way there or on their way back,” Benjamin suggested.

“That could be one of the possibilities. However, I can't shake the feeling that we've overlooked something,” Anthony uttered pensively.

Staring at the boys, Denise said, “I think we should find out how Thalia was poisoned and who the person responsible was. We can eliminate some of our doubts by doing that, right?”

Benjamin nodded in agreement. “Denise is right. I think Thalia's poisoning is the key here. As long as we figure this out, all our problems can be solved.”

Anthony narrowed his eyes and shifted his gaze onto them. “That's right, but how can we make Thalia confess?”

Denise and Benjamin stopped talking.

“Thalia repeatedly changed the topic of our conversations today, so her poisoning is the key to the truth we want to uncover,” Anthony added.

“But I think we are getting closer to the truth now,” Benjamin said.

Anthony took a deep breath. “Anyway, fortunately, Daddy and the others returned safely. We can slowly investigate this matter.”

Benjamin and Denise bobbed their heads.

“Look.” At that moment, Anthony jerked his chin, motioning his siblings to follow his gaze.

...

At the same time, Thalia bored her eyes into Natasha in silence until the latter finally conceded.

Naturally, Natasha fathomed Thalia's intention, so she said, "I'm sorry about last night. I had no other choice."

"What did you say?" Thalia piped up. Then, she realized she had spoken too loudly. Thalia turned her head to look at the three kids standing nearby before lowering her voice. "Do you know I'll forever live in guilt if something happened to you because of this?"

"Why would you feel guilty?" Natasha asked.

"Why would I feel guilty? I..." Thalia was infuriated until her mind went blank. "I would think it was my if you were met with mishaps because I failed to stop you."

Natasha smiled. "I did this on my own accord. There's no way anyone will place the blame on you."