

## **Yo Daddy 811**

### **Chapter 811 Traitors Must Be Expelled**

Kyle narrowed his eyes as he scrutinized the boy before him. "I've barely warmed the seat, and you're already chasing me away?"

"Don't you have anything better to do?" Anthony asked.

"On the contrary, which goes to show just how much I value you! Even with my busy schedule, I was still determined to find the time to meet you," Kyle replied, unashamed of putting his bootlicking skills to use.

A glint of mischief flashed across Anthony's eyes. "So, you're here because you wanted to see me... Now that we've met, is there anything else?"

"Of course! I don't even know where to start!" Kyle exclaimed. Ha. The more Anthony wants me to leave, the more I refuse to... Something's up with him. I'm sure of it.

"Oh? What is it?"

"Well..." Kyle uttered as he raised his eyebrows. "For example, I still have no idea what you're doing here."

Even though he had meant that as a joke, everyone else was so taken aback that the atmosphere turned somewhat awkward.

Anthony quickly shot a glance at Thalia. Since the latter wasn't saying anything, he pondered the question before looking up at Kyle determinedly. "I'm here because I have some personal matters to settle."

"Personal matters? Like what?" Kyle asked before dropping his voice to a whisper. "Perhaps I could be of some assistance."

After a brief moment of hesitation, Anthony replied, "I want to build my own team."

"Huh? What did you say?" Kyle muttered in disbelief. Given Anthony's personality, he'd either deny everything or beat around the bush. I can't believe he answered me so readily!

"I said I want to build a team that I can mobilize anytime," Anthony repeated, his voice loud and clear.

Still not believing his ears, Kyle stared at the boy before turning to Thalia.

I knew Anthony came here for a reason, but I never imagined it'd be this.

By then, the atmosphere in the room was undoubtedly tense and frigid.

From the look that Kyle gave Thalia, it was apparent she had not told him anything.

"You don't need to look at Thalia," Anthony piped up. "I was the one who tricked her into coming here. She knows nothing about this."

Upon hearing that, Thalia furrowed her brows. "He didn't trick me. I do know a little about this matter."

"No, you don't. I never told you anything!"

Judging by the interaction between Thalia and Anthony, Kyle was sure that the two got along very well. However, he also knew Thalia wasn't a dim-witted person who could be easily manipulated.

Despite that, he tamped down his irritation and looked at Anthony. "Are you saying you want to leave Darknetz?"

"I don't intend to."

"But isn't that the whole point of building your own team?"

"My team won't pose any threat to Darknetz."

Kyle couldn't help but let out a wry chuckle. "How can I trust you?"

"I don't have a way to prove that now, so you'll have to take my word for it. I always mean what I say," Anthony answered.

"In that case, are you aware of the rules of Darknetz? Anyone who breaks the rules will be expelled!"

Anthony suddenly fell silent.

Ah. I guess we just can't avoid this grim subject...

With that, the boy pursed his lips and spoke up. "I'm aware of the rules. That's why I won't put you in a spot. I'll quit voluntarily."

Needless to say, Kyle and Thalia were shocked by Anthony's decision.

"Anthony!" Thalia exclaimed.

Kyle might not have understood the situation, but one thing was for sure—he was furious. "Are you serious?"

“Yes!”

“This is our first meeting in person, and here you are, telling me you want to quit?” Kyle growled out. He had managed to keep his voice down, but not even that was enough to suppress the anger in his tone.

Anthony slowly lowered his gaze. “I don't want to either, but I have no other choice!”

“Do you really not have a choice, or did you plan this from the start?” Kyle snapped. At that moment, he could no longer treat Anthony like a child.

I've always known he's an ambitious person, so I willingly gave him the company shares to make him one of the core members. Alas, who knew he'd spring this news on me? I bet he's leaving because he isn't satisfied with the status quo. He wants to run his own show!

Having realized how serious things had gotten, Thalia quickly interjected, “Boss, Anthony has his reasons!”

“Reasons? What reasons?”

Thalia, however, was stumped. Oh, dear. How am I supposed to broach the subject of Kenneth Hamilton? That'd be an invasion of Anthony's privacy! Besides, the information might also ruin Anthony and Kyle's relationship. I'd better watch what I say...

“You say it, Anthony,” she mumbled as she turned to the boy.

Chapter 812 It Is Not Just Your Problem

Thalia's gaze turned gloomy, but she kept mum and looked at Anthony.

As Thalia remained silent, Denise began to feel that something was off. “Come on, Thalia. Tell us!”

Thalia narrowed her eyes, took a deep breath, and said softly, “Because anyone who wishes to quit Darknetz will have to swallow a pill...”

“Poison?”

“Something similar,” Thalia said. “If one abides by Darknetz's rules, the antidote will be delivered on time. Or else...” She did not finish her sentence, but it was clear what she meant.

Upon hearing that, Denise knitted her brows. “That's so twisted. That demand is too unreasonable!”

“Rules are there for a reason, and this is just one of Darknetz's. If we start breaking rules, it will only lead to chaos within the organization. Don't you think so?” Thalia countered.

What she said was not wrong, but Denise had a different opinion. "I always believed that Darknetz was a humane organization. I never expected them to resort to such dirty tactics. What if Kyle is in our shoes? Would the same thing happen to him if he wants to leave the organization?"

"Darknetz was founded by a few people, so to ensure fairness, each of them added a unique ingredient to the medicine. Anyone can leave the organization, but they must obtain approval from everyone before coming up with the antidote. Otherwise, even Kyle himself will not be able to leave Darknetz unscathed," Thalia explained.

Upon hearing that, Denise froze for a moment, somehow understanding what Thalia had implied. "So, does that mean Anthony could still have a chance if they agree to let him go?"

"I supposed you can say so." Thalia nodded.

"So there's still hope!" Denise exclaimed. She tilted her head to look at Anthony, "Tony, we might be able to get their approval. We just need to talk to them nicely!"

Anthony glanced at her calmly and spoke in a deep voice. "Denise, this is not a child's play. Leaving the organization is not an easy matter. Besides, they would see me as a traitor, as it will undermine their benefits and safety. What makes you think they'll agree to my request so easily?"

"What should we do, then?" Denise asked.

Anthony lowered his eyes. "Leave it to me, don't worry. I'll figure something out."

"But what good plans can you come up with?" Denise knew Anthony was merely saying that to console her. What else can we do under such circumstances? It's either we give up or die.

That being said, Thalia was aware that Anthony would not give up easily once he set his mind on something.

At that moment, Anthony lowered his eyes as if something had popped into his mind.

Thalia glanced at him. "Anthony, I think we still can make this work. Go and talk to Kyle nicely. We don't have to burn bridges with him."

"I've never thought of burning bridges with him," Anthony uttered.

"But you also didn't tell him about your thoughts. If Kyle knows you're doing it for your mom, I'm sure he can understand. We might not figure out a solution right away, but you can at least ease the tension with him," Thalia said.

Denise nodded in agreement. "That's right. What Thalia said made sense."

Benjamin, too, chimed in. "Tony, I know you have your own perspective on things, but I could tell Kyle is a decent guy, even though I've only met him for a short time. Maybe you should try talking to him."

"What if Kyle finds out about Dad? The tension between us is just going to escalate!" Anthony voiced his concern.

"As long as we keep it a secret and don't mention it, it's unlikely he'll find out within a short period. However, if he does eventually find out, we'll have to deal with it then. What do you think about that?" Benjamin said while looking at Thalia.

Thalia bobbed her head in agreement. "Benjamin's suggestion is also a solution. We can handle it when he finds out about it. And when that happens, it will be treated as a separate matter. At least from their perspective, you didn't betray the organization."

Denise nodded upon hearing that. "Exactly!"

Anthony pressed his lips and said nothing.

"All right, let's go with that plan," Thalia said while glancing at them. "I'll go out and take a look." She got up and left the group.

Denise, Benjamin, and Miguel got up to Anthony and continued persuading him.

Anthony remained seated in an upright position, his gaze fixated and pitch black, as if lost in deep contemplation and not uttering a single word.

A few minutes later, Kyle came in with Thalia.

Kyle looked at Anthony before walking over and sat in front of him.

Just when Anthony was about to speak, Kyle suddenly looked at him seriously and said, "Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

Anthony was stunned for a moment. He did not expect to hear that from Kyle.

Kyle's question instantly disrupted the emotions that were brewing inside him.

"W-What?" Anthony asked.

Chapter 813 Lies

Anthony was stunned after listening to Kyle.

According to the latter, they could gather their men tomorrow and confront Vermillion Base the day after.

Although Kyle was rather impatient, Anthony had to admit he was quite touched.

Their interaction felt familiar, just like the time when they used to chat online. At the same time, it also filled Anthony with a sense of absolute security.

Even so, Anthony spoke up to halt him. “No. You shouldn't be impulsive.”

Kyle frowned at him. “Why?”

Anthony stared at him. “Although Vermillion Base is not as powerful as it used to be, we still shouldn't underestimate them. Moreover, things have just settled down, so now is not the time for a head-on confrontation.”

Kyle curled his lips into a smile after hearing that. “Do I seem like a dimwit who would clash head-on with them?” He arched his brows. A knowing look flashed across his handsome countenance as he continued, “I'll deploy some men over so you can command them and also to ensure your safety. That way, even if something happens, we can buy some time.”

“Uh, don't do that first. Allow me some time to think for now and let's discuss this matter later,” Anthony tried to stop him. Once he transfers his men over, they may come into conflict with DX Group. If that happens, this situation won't be as simple as facing Vermillion Base, as a chaotic fight involving all parties may happen. In that case, the circumstances will spiral out of control.

However, to Kyle, it seemed Anthony was just pretending to be courteous to him.

He furrowed his brows at Anthony. “What's the matter? Why are you acting distant from me? I admit I was a little agitated earlier, but that was because you hadn't told me what had happened, so I was clueless. We can let this matter slide now that we've laid it out.”

Anthony regarded Kyle with a troubled expression. “I'm not being polite. I—”

Anthony was momentarily at a loss for words. If I speak further, the secret will easily be exposed.

“What is it, then?” Kyle asked.

Anthony pursed his lips and looked at Thalia. Why is she quiet now? No one is stepping up to say something.

Sensing his gaze on her, Thalia chimed in, “Boss, since we've discussed this openly, you should respect Anthony's wish. He has always been crafty and creative. Perhaps he's harboring a different plan.”

Hearing that, Kyle shifted his attention to Anthony. “Regardless of how many ideas you have, we still need to rely on our fists to solve problems. This matter is inevitable.”

Anthony took the opportunity and said, "I know you're trying to help me. Don't worry. If I truly need assistance, I won't hesitate to ask for your help."

Kyle sized him up as he knew Anthony was hiding something else from him. Still, he figured he shouldn't put too much pressure on Anthony. Ultimately, he nodded. "Fine. I shall respect your decision since you've said that. However, you must remember Darknetz has your back, no matter the circumstances. You must not hesitate to ask for my help or think you'll burden us."

Anthony bobbed his head in response. "Okay. Rest assured. I won't." If it weren't for Daddy and Darknetz's relationship, I wouldn't have wanted things to progress to this stage.

Taking in Anthony's reaction, Kyle let out a sigh of relief. Then, he appeared to have recalled something. "In that case, do you still want to do your own thing?"

Anthony fathomed if he persisted at that point, it would undoubtedly lead to another argument. After contemplating briefly, he said, "We still need to discover new talents. Even if we don't form our own team, these people can still be useful to Darknetz afterward, right?"

Kyle's eyes shone after he listened to Anthony.

"I knew I chose the right person."

Anthony flashed a faint smile at Kyle too.

"Oh, by the way, speaking of which, I am curious about something. How did your mum end up having a feud with Vermillion Base?"

Kyle put forth another difficult question to answer.

While everyone ruminated on what to say, Anthony piped up, "Do you really need to specify a reason to make enemies with Vermillion Base?"

Kyle raised his brows. "You have a point."

He added, "Speaking of this reminds me of something. Do you still remember Shadow Seeker I mentioned to you before?"

Thalia, who was feeling relieved after sensing that the atmosphere had eased, picked up the glass of water on the table and took a sip. However, when Kyle asked that question, she immediately spat out the water.

She coughed and ended up spewing the water all over the place.

Kyle instantly frowned in disdain. "What are you doing, Thalia?"

Thalia hastily replied, "I'm sorry. You guys carry on..."

He swept his eyes across her before looking away, shifting his attention back to Anthony.

Anthony shot a meaningful glance at Thalia. I knew it. One will always end up fabricating more lies to cover up the first lie. What should we do now? There's no other choice but to brace ourselves. At most, we'll stay silent or provide him with ambiguous responses, neither admitting nor denying anything.

With that thought in his mind, Anthony nodded. "I remember. Why?"

"They were also investigating Vermillion Base previously. If I'm not mistaken, that person must also have a grudge against Vermillion Base. I think you can consider joining forces with him or her," Kyle suggested.

Chapter 814 Achieve Great Things

When Kyle kept staring at him, Anthony felt guilty, but he pretended to be calm. "What's wrong?"

Kyle approached him and whispered, "Do you not know?"

"About what?" retorted Anthony.

Kyle pursed his lips and studied him for a few seconds before a meaningful look flashed across his eyes. "Darknetz has a blood feud with DX!"

Even though Anthony knew what was going on, he had to put on a front and asked, "Blood feud?"

"That's right." Kyle nodded. "This thing started because of Holden and J from DX. Back when DX was set up, the person in charge caused the death of Holden's girlfriend. From then on, there is bad blood between them. As such, Darknetz and DX also hated one another. If you contact them, they will either think you are mad or they will kill you to stake their claim!" explained Kyle.

Anthony frowned when he heard that. "I doubt it will go to that extent, right?"

"You don't think so?" Kyle's voice went up a few notches before he scoffed. "I don't think you have ever heard or known about the person in charge of DX. Let me tell you what kind of person J is. He's a two-faced b\*stard who is worse than an animal!"

Kyle was cursing happily at J.

The three of them, on the other hand, were cursing at him in their hearts.

Forget it. If we get upset now, it will spoil our great plan.



The three of them controlled themselves and did not say a word.

Denise took a look at the coffee that was on the table, picked it up, and began to sip it. I didn't hear anything. I didn't hear anything.

Likewise, Benjamin pretended to cough and stayed calm. That is just a complaint from the "enemy." It isn't real. As children, we shouldn't interfere with their business.

Kyle, on the other hand, did not detect anything odd. He looked up at Anthony and continued, "Anyway, he isn't a good man. When you get to meet him, you will understand what I mean and that I'm not exaggerating." Kyle seemed to be talking through gritted teeth. When he saw Anthony's innocent face, he added, "Anyway, I doubt you will get a chance to meet him."

Anthony raised his brows and asked, "Why not?"

"He has already retired. Nobody knows his whereabouts. Holden has been hunting for him for many years now, but there has been no news of him." Kyle shook his head. "I suppose he must be living in seclusion."

"Doesn't this man have any good points?" asked Anthony.

"No!" Kyle replied swiftly.

"If that's the case, how did he set up DX all by himself? How did he get so many people to work for him?"

At the mention of that, Kyle took a deep breath and said, "He isn't a complete scumbag. If not, he won't be able to survive until now."

"Then he must have his strong points, right?" asked Anthony again.

When Kyle heard his question, he frowned and looked at Anthony. "Whose side are you on? Why does it matter if he has any strong points or not?"

"I'm just curious. That's all. Just because he has a grudge against Holden, it doesn't mean we accept things as they are, right?" retorted Anthony.

Kyle sneered and said, "That isn't important. What's important is that he's an enemy of Holden. Therefore, he's an enemy of Darknetz as well. The same goes for Vermillion Base. They are your enemy, so they are also Darknetz's enemy!"

Well, well, well... What else can I say?

People from Darknetz are too loyal.

They share a bitter hatred of the enemy!

Then again, Anthony understood that it was quite impossible at the moment to ease the tension between the two sides.

Kyle lowered his gaze when he saw Anthony become quiet. "What's wrong?"

Anthony regained his senses and said with hesitation, "Now that J has retired, then the relationship between Darknetz and DX—"

The moment he opened his mouth, Kyle knew what he was trying to get at. He raised his brows and asked, "Why? Aren't you giving up yet?"

"No, I'm just curious. That's all..." replied Anthony with a smile.

"Let me tell you. Although J has already retired from DX, the men who used to follow him are still very loyal to him. After his retirement, things can still get worse if the incident is mentioned. So, please don't attempt to cross that line. Once they know who you are, they may gang up with Vermillion Base and destroy us," warned Kyle.

"No way!" Anthony exclaimed.

Kyle asked, "No way? Why not?"

Anthony then responded, "Vermillion Base's actions for the past years have caused public outrage. I heard the people from DX are more just, so I don't think they will gang up with Vermillion Base to go against us just for the sake of some personal grudges!"

Kyle smiled coldly when he heard what Anthony said. "That being said, but no one can guarantee anything. What if they decide to gang up just to get back at us?" retorted Kyle.

"You sound very biased. They're your old enemy. Therefore, you should know them very well. No?" asked Anthony.

Kyle thought about it and sighed. "Yes, they are more just. But, it has been a long time. Who knew if they have changed?" All of a sudden, Kyle seemed to realize something. He looked up at Anthony and asked, "Why are you speaking up for them?"

Chapter 815 Forgetting His Identity

Denise calmly cocked a brow upon hearing the words. "That's why the same applies to them. Given the possibility of the matter escalating, it is impossible to just let it slide."

Kyle's eyes darkened in response. "This is different. He is now alone, and we have the backing of Darknetz!"

"Not necessarily. You just said so yourself that he has a group of die-hard followers. If Darknetz were to strike, these men would not stand idly by and watch," Denise rebutted him.

She had tried her best to tolerate Kyle's maligning of her father and pretended not to care. Yet, Kyle's increasingly arrogant words had crossed her threshold. After all, that was her beloved father the former was disparaging.

Nonetheless, Kyle didn't think much of it as he refuted her, "That's why I don't think there's a solution to the issue yet."

Denise raised her brows. "In that case, there's no need to solve it at all."

Her statement confounded Kyle.

Why do I sense something amiss?

His eyes narrowed at Denise. "Why are you speaking strangely? Whose side are you on anyway?"

"I..." Staring back at him, Denise realized that she had almost forgotten that she was a member of Darknetz after getting carried away. With that thought in mind, she changed her tact by declaring with a smile, "On our side, of course!"

"But you don't sound like you are!" Kyle countered.

"Exactly! I'm thinking from their perspective. Only by knowing what the enemy thinks can we defeat them. Haven't you heard of the saying 'know thy enemy' before?" Denise threw the question back at him. "All I'm doing is reminding everyone not to underestimate the enemy. What if he didn't retire and grew more powerful instead?"

Her words drew a suspicious look from Kyle. Despite having doubts about her stance and attitude, he didn't think too much about it on the account that she was still a child.

As for the points she raised, he did see the reason in them.

"We can't discount that possibility. After all, it wouldn't be easy for someone like him to retire," Kyle commented.

Denise nodded in agreement. "That's what I thought."

After taking a deep breath, Kyle retracted his gaze and looked at them. "Enough talk of this. No matter what, you guys shouldn't bother yourself with DX. It's also for the sake of your own safety," He finally

concluded the discussion with a brief summary.

Despite exchanging glances with each other, Benjamin, Anthony, and Denise didn't comment any further.

It was then that Kyle looked in Miguel's direction and asked abruptly, "By the way, who is this?"

"I..." Sitting opposite Kyle, Miguel had no idea how to introduce himself.

He sensed a potential problem after listening to their conversation. Although he was considered a member of DX, it wasn't official. Thus, he was afraid of having his head lopped off in the event his identity was discovered.

"Oh, he's my apprentice." Anthony took over the introductions.

Miguel nodded immediately, "That's right. I'm his apprentice."

"Since when do you have one?" Kyle asked.

"What's wrong? Is there a problem?" Anthony retorted.

"No, you're invincible. Whatever you say goes," Kyle replied.

Before Anthony could breathe a sigh of relief, Kyle added, "When will he be joining us?"

"Huh? What do you mean by 'joining us?'" A baffled look descended upon Miguel's face.

"As his apprentice, it goes without saying that you'll be one of us," Kyle explained.

Thalia, who was in the midst of drinking water, couldn't help but cough.

This relationship is getting increasingly complicated. It's going to be difficult to clean up this mess!

Upon hearing Kyle's words, Anthony, too, glanced at Miguel, who looked shocked. Dave would kill me if he found out about it.

Noticing the latter's hesitation, Kyle questioned, "What's the matter? Do you not want to join us?"

"I..." While Miguel was still racking his brains for an answer, Anthony stepped in. "Are you that desperate to recruit just about anyone? Do you even know his background?"

"What does it matter when you're the one who has vetted him?" Kyle questioned. "Besides, am I the one trying to recruit someone indiscriminately, or are you the one who has done so without checking?"

“What has my taking in an apprentice got anything to do with you?”

Kyle gave him the side-eye before explaining flatly, “Anyone in our field is not going to accept him once they learn that he's your apprentice.”

“That's not true. I'm not going to listen to your nonsense anymore!” Anthony interrupted. “Why would someone not want my apprentice? They should feel honored that he has received my guidance!” he disputed the assertion vehemently.

Chapter 816 Anthony Appreciates Kyle As A Friend

“I've given you the core position in the organization. How can you claim that I lack sincerity?” Kyle asked candidly.

Anthony cocked his brow in response. “How is this my fault now?”

Amused by their banter, Kyle gave Anthony the side-eye.

Back then, Kyle had assumed Anthony was of similar age after both of them had chatted on the internet. Little did he expect the latter to turn out to be a child. If that wasn't shocking enough, Anthony's intelligence was also off the charts.

It was a testament to the fact that the next generation would always outdo the previous one.

An indifferent smile emerged across Anthony's face as he stared at Kyle.

Chatting face-to-face was just different from doing so online—it felt a lot more real.

Anthony liked Kyle a lot, both online and in the real world. Even though the latter had a crafty mind, he had an easygoing character. Thus, Anthony didn't want to lose a friend that he considered to be loyal.

With that in mind, he decided to keep the truth from Kyle until there was a better time to tell him.

Even then, Kyle could sense that something was up.

As he swept his gaze across the three siblings, a myriad of emotions filled his heart.

On his way to meet them, he had considered all possibilities but was still caught off guard in the end.

I'll have to groom these children from young, but what is this inexplicable sense of anticipation I feel?

Finally, the silence in the room was broken by Thalia. “Boss, are you leaving today still?”

Kyle turned around to give her a look. “Why? Are you looking forward to me doing so?”

"I... Of course I rather you stay!" Thalia denied it despite hoping otherwise. Although she wanted to spend more time with Kyle reminiscing the past, his stay would complicate matters with the three children.

Kyle raised a skeptical brow. "Is that so?"

Thalia frantically nodded as she replied in a serious tone, "Definitely!"

Kyle chuckled in response. "Only a kid would be fooled."

"Kids are not as gullible as you think," Thalia mumbled under her breath.

After letting out a snort, Kyle checked his watch. "I'm afraid I can't stay. I'll be leaving in two hours."

The children were surprised to hear that.

Anthony was the first to ask, "What's wrong? Did something happen?"

Kyle nodded as he elaborated, "Holden has encountered some trouble. I'm going over to check on him."

Anthony's brows furrowed upon hearing the news. "I must admit that I've been too busy to go online recently. What happened? Do you need my help?" he asked.

It was natural for them to worry about their teammates.

However, Kyle flatly replied, "You can barely handle your own problems, so there's no need to get involved. I'll deal with Holden's problem."

"I might be busy, but do let me know if you need my help. I can still make the time if necessary," Anthony insisted.

When Anthony's words sparked an idea in his mind, Kyle leaned forward to suggest, "Why don't you come with me? Once we're done over there, we can go straight to your place to resolve your problem."

"You're making it sound like it's a walk in the park!" Anthony commented.

"Obviously, it's not going to be easy, but it doesn't mean we have no means of dealing with it." After a brief pause, Kyle added, "Don't you want to see how Holden and the others will react upon seeing you?"

After giving it some thought, Anthony shook his head. "Thalia told me back then that it would be interesting to see your reaction when you first saw me, but it turned out to be anti-climactic."

Before Kyle could reply, Thalia preempted him, "That's because you don't understand Boss. The calmer

he appears to be, the more turbulent the emotions raging inside him are. If the three of you hadn't appeared at the same time, the result would have been even more fascinating."

Anthony was a little doubtful. "Really?"

"Of course!" Thalia subsequently lowered her voice. "After all, Boss needs to act tough when facing trouble."

The three children couldn't help but burst into laughter.

As for Kyle, he simply closed his eyes while maintaining his calm.

He couldn't deny the shock and disbelief he felt upon learning Anthony's identity.

Even now, it still felt surreal to him.

Nonetheless, as someone with strong adaptability, he quickly came to terms with the shocking revelation.

## Chapter 817 Stay Out Of It

Seeing no refusal from Anthony and even agreeing to it, the others cast him confused gazes.

Anthony kept his expression stoic, looking calm and confident.

However, from their understanding of Anthony, they were sure he would never give in without a fight.

Dropping their gaze, none of them said a word.

At that time, Kyle was still talking about Vermillion Base with Anthony. After asking some basic questions, Kyle put forward a few more proposals.

More than an hour had passed between their discussion.

Kyle looked at Anthony and said, "Let's go with that for now, and we'll talk again once I get there. All in all, you don't have to worry too much. I won't let anything happen to your mom, I swear."

Anthony merely nodded.

Suddenly, the ringing of Kyle's phone interrupted their conversation.

Kyle picked up his phone, glanced at the number flashing across the screen, and immediately picked up the call.

"Hello?" After a short pause, he said, "Got it. I'll head over once I'm done talking with Anthony."

Kyle arched his brow and turned to Anthony. "How does Anthony look like?" Kyle laughed and answered, "You'll know once you meet him."

After another short silence, he said, "All right. I'll talk to you later." The call ended at the heel of those words.

Anthony looked at him. "Are you leaving?"

Kyle nodded. "Yeah, Holden is rushing me."

Anthony nodded. "All right, then. I won't keep you."

Kyle narrowed his eyes at him. "Now you know how important you are to me? Even though it was only an hour, I still came over and met you first."

Anthony raised his brow. "Are you sure it wasn't to satisfy your own curiosity?"

"Anthony, do you know how boring it is to talk with you?"

"Is it because the others don't expose you, but I do?" Anthony asked.

Kyle stared at him and conceded, "This is my first time meeting you, so I'm not going to be petty. We have more time to talk in the future."

"If I'm not wrong, I think I heard the same words out of your mouth many times already," Anthony exposed.

Kyle inhaled deeply, stamping down his rising irritation. "All right, I'm leaving. Catch you later."

Anthony smiled and rose to his feet to send Kyle off.

It was dark and the breeze was blowing outside.

The helicopter's rotors spun slowly and were ready for departure.

Despite the short meeting, Anthony felt a sense of longing for Kyle, as though he had a brief reunion with an old friend.

Anthony pressed his lips into a line and uttered, "Safe trip."

Kyle looked over his shoulder at him. "These are the nicest words I've heard from you throughout our meeting."



Anthony burst out laughing.

Kyle swung his gaze to Denise and Benjamin beside Anthony.

He walked over to them and offered, "Time was a bit tight today, so we didn't get a chance to chat. Let's have a nice, long one when I head to your place later."

Denise's lips curved into a small smile. "Sure."

Benjamin nodded. "Yeah."

"Till next time," Kyle said.

Following behind him, Thalia noticed he was already bidding goodbye, so she went up to him. "Boss, do you need me to head over to Holden's side?"

Kyle looked over his shoulder and replied, "If you join Holden, what about the three of them?"

"They have others with them, right?" Thalia questioned.

Even though she knew Kyle wouldn't let her go, she still wanted to try her luck.

"I don't feel at ease by handing them over to someone else." Seeing she opened her mouth to refute, he immediately cut her off. "They are Darknetz's future. Your mission here is very important. You must take them back to Darknetz safely."

"But Boss—"

"Enough. I know what you want to say, but both Holden's side and here are equally important. Since I'll be there, I'll leave everything here to you," Kyle ordered.

Seeing the finality on his face, Thalia complied, "Call me if anything happens."

Kyle nodded.

With a gush of breeze, his windbreaker fluttered.

He looked down at the time displayed on his watch. "All right, it's getting late. I'm leaving."

The others nodded.

Kyle cast one last glance and a knowing smile at Anthony before walking toward the helicopter.

Once he strapped into his seat, the helicopter's door slid close, and rotors spun at full speed, taking off slowly.

Sitting by the window, he waved at them one last time.

Anthony and the others stood on the ground and stared as Kyle's helicopter disappeared from view. A moment of silence later, Thalia asked, "What? You don't want him to leave?"

Anthony retracted his gaze from the dark sky and turned it to her. "Nothing of the sort. We'll meet sooner or later anyway."

"Then what were you looking at?" Thalia questioned.

Anthony lowered his eyes. "I was just thinking what a shame it'll be if I'm no longer a friend of Kyle's one day."

#### Chapter 818 Nearly Blurt It Out

In his room, Anthony lay on the bed. He stared blankly at the ceiling.

At that moment, sleep evaded him.

Before meeting with Kyle, he thought his only choice was to pull out from Darknetz if both sides couldn't resolve their feud.

In his opinion, it wasn't a betrayal, nor was it abandonment. He simply had no choice as his hands were tied.

After meeting Kyle, he felt his thoughts earlier were too naive. At that moment, his mind was filled with a sense of longing coupled with conflict.

He loved Darknetz and liked Kyle as a friend. Despite their argument upon meeting, he could sense Kyle's admiration and favor for him, so he wasn't mad over the dispute.

Instead, it was the opposite. After having a taste of what it would be like to have a real friend by talking to Kyle, the sense of longing in his heart deepened.

He tossed and turned in bed, unable to fall asleep.

At that moment, a knock came from the door.

With a frown, he glanced at the door. "Who is it?"

"It's me." Benjamin's voice carried through the door.

Anthony closed his eyes. "Come in."

With Anthony's permission, Benjamin opened the door and walked in.

Seeing the lights were still on, he smiled. "I knew you hadn't slept yet."

Anthony maintained his posture on the bed but moved his gaze to Benjamin. "What is it?"

Benjamin crossed the room to him. "Do you mind if I climb in?"

"Climb in where?" Anthony asked.

Right after he finished, Benjamin kicked off his home slippers and climbed into Anthony's bed.

Realizing what he was doing, the crease on Anthony's forehead deepened with disapproval. "You—"

"What? It's not like we never shared a bed before. What's more, I already took a shower and changed my clothes. I'm clean," Benjamin stated, then rolled to the other side of the bed.

Anthony looked at him with a resigned look.

Benjamin lay down by his side, propped his head on his palm, and met Anthony's gaze. "We even came from the same womb. Sleeping in the same bed is nothing compared to that."

Anthony replied, "Well, I didn't have a choice."

"You could've chosen not to be a human," Benjamin argued.

Anthony asked, "Are you here to spew nonsense?"

"Of course not. I saw you couldn't sleep, so I specifically came here to have a chat with you," Benjamin explained.

"Who said I couldn't sleep?" Anthony refuted.

Benjamin's gaze swung to the lit lights and jerked his chin in that direction. "Is that not proof?"

Anthony dropped his gaze and rebutted, "What? I like sleeping with the lights on. Can't I even do that?"

"Well, it's not that you can't, but who was the one that said he couldn't sleep with the lights on?" Benjamin asked.

Anthony couldn't think of a comeback to his question.

"You're not here to chat with me. I think you're here to find fault with me," Anthony said as he looked pointedly at Benjamin.

Benjamin chuckled. "What about it? Are you angry?"

Anthony plastered a fake smile on his face. "I see that you're keen for a beating since we haven't fought for a while."

Benjamin arched his brow. "I'm not necessarily the one keen for a beating."

"Want to go?"

"Let's go then!"

Anthony rolled toward him and started wrestling with Benjamin.

Twenty minutes later, the two panted heavily as they lay on the bed, staring at the ceiling.

Benjamin slid a side glance at Anthony. "Tony, did you gain weight lately? Why are you stronger now?"

Anthony turned to look at him. "What? Do you fear me now?"

Benjamin looked him up and down and realized Anthony didn't gain weight. He noted the outline of muscles along Anthony's arms.

"You've been training secretly?" Benjamin questioned.

Anthony didn't deny his claim. Instead, he merely raised his brow, shooting a what-about-it look at Benjamin.

"Okay! You're getting more and more cunning these days," Benjamin exclaimed.

"Your gunmanship is good enough, so I can't work hard on other aspects?" Anthony questioned.

Benjamin raised a brow at his query. "Fair enough."

Dropping his head back to bed, he looked up at the ceiling.

Benjamin felt his displeasure had eased slightly after working out from the play fight earlier.

He called out, "Tony."

"Hmm?"

"Have you thought it through?" Benjamin asked.

#### Chapter 819 A Good Chat Between Brothers

Anthony knew Benjamin was merely worried about him and also felt anxious due to the tension between Kenneth and Darknetz.

He was torn between speaking out and keeping mum, and his tense expression betrayed his hesitation.

Benjamin detected that something was amiss, so he leaned forward and asked, "Are you keeping something from me, Tony?"

Although Benjamin was a boy of few words, he had always been observant and sensitive. Thus, it was never easy to hide anything from him.

"Nah, how is that possible?" Anthony knew he had unwittingly aroused Benjamin's suspicion, so he looked his brother in the eyes, gave him a smile, and assured him.

"I can tell you're not your normal self," Benjamin insisted.

Anthony pursed his lips, pausing to organize his thoughts before explaining, "Benjamin, the matter is no longer just between me and Vermillion Base. It involves Daddy and DX Group as well. Haven't you realized that they have already openly declared war on one another since the last incident? Do you think the matter will be resolved if I stop what I'm doing?"

Benjamin frowned slightly and mumbled, "That's true."

However, a brief moment later, he fixed his gaze on Anthony again and asked, "Now, I am less concerned about Holden and Vermillion Base. We are just doing our best to get rid of the bad guys. But what about Kyle? If Daddy really goes all out to fight against Darknetz, we'll be caught in between. Whatever the outcome is, we don't want to see any party getting hurt."

"You're right..." It was Anthony's turn to frown and mumble to himself. He looked troubled.

Seeing that, Benjamin couldn't help but ask, "So you've not sorted it out?"

"Sort what out?" Anthony could not comprehend that sudden question.

"You mean you agreed to let Kyle get involved even though you don't have a foolproof solution to the problem?" Benjamin was taken aback. He thought Anthony had a backup plan.

Anthony gave him a side eye and retorted, "At this point in time, do you think Kyle will let things be just because I refuse to give my consent?"

"But... does that mean we sit back and do nothing at all?" Benjamin was worried.

"Can you come up with a solution?" Anthony raised his eyebrow and threw his brother a challenge.

"I..." Benjamin knitted his brows and said, "What can I possibly come up with? You are always the problem solver. Moreover, you are the one closest to Kyle among us."

Although they were all members of Darknetz, they had always served in different fields. Kyle was involved in the overall operations while Anthony was the expert in technology systems. Benjamin was the backup whom Kyle would go to for help whenever Anthony was not available. As Anthony was the main person Kyle worked with, the two had always been closer.

"It is precisely because he knew me well that he can easily tell when I'm hiding something from him," Anthony replied as his eyes dimmed.

What Anthony said was a fact that Benjamin could not refute. He fell into deep thoughts, then asked, "How about we tell him the matter is resolved when we get back there?"

"If the matter is resolved, he'll ask Thalia to bring us back for further training," Anthony countered.

"In that case—" Benjamin was about to explore further when Anthony interrupted.

"Forget it, we'll take it as it comes," Anthony said, staring into the ceiling. "If it is inevitable that Daddy will go into confrontation with Holden, then it is only a matter of time before we'll have to face it. Let's mentally prepare ourselves for that day."

Benjamin followed Anthony's lead and lay down on his back to stare at the ceiling. "I've been mentally preparing myself since the day I knew about this. Unfortunately, as the days passed, I couldn't help but worry and stress over it."

"I never thought it'll be so serious. The situation is more dire than we have ever imagined," Anthony said.

"Do you think we can just run away, Tony? Let's not take sides and let them do whatever they want," Benjamin suggested.

"Where can we run away to? Can you disappear from the surface of the earth?" Anthony returned.

Benjamin pursed his lips, unable to refute his brother. "That's true. Where can we run away to? So long as there's network available, we can't escape from them."

Anthony fell into silence, and Benjamin turned around to gaze at him quietly for a while.

Finally, Benjamin broke the silence and said, "Tony, I know you must be more troubled than I am. After

all, you are much closer to Kyle. Denise and I merely followed your lead and joined Darknetz on a whim. We were not as devoted and had not poured our heart and soul into it.”

Anthony did not speak a word, which proved that Benjamin was right in his assessment of Anthony's inner conflict.

Anthony was doing something he was passionate about, and he had devoted himself to Darknetz's work. He was the one responsible for Darknetz's rapid development in recent days.

There was no doubt he was most affected and torn by what was happening.

“I'm glad you see that,” Anthony confessed with a sigh.

He was expecting Benjamin would console him, but instead, Benjamin lazily raised his brow and said, “That's it. It's enough to have you worry over the matter. Denise and I shouldn't really be concerned about it.”

Anthony was at a loss for words, dumbstruck by that unusual reasoning.

“Yup, everything will be fine. It's getting late, so let's get some sleep!” With his thoughts sorted out, Benjamin looked relaxed and relieved. He got into a comfortable position, ready to get to sleep.

Anthony stared at him in disbelief and demanded, “Wait a minute. I don't get it! Explain yourself.”

“Isn't it obvious? You've always been the strong one, the tower of strength in our family. That means Denise and I can afford to take it easy!” Benjamin said, matter-of-factly.

“Are you serious? How can you speak with such imprudence?” Anthony gasped.

“I meant what I just said. Don't you know that?” Benjamin responded shamelessly, causing Anthony to grimece.

Then, Benjamin gave him a smile and a pat on his back before saying, “Good night, Tony! Sweet dreams!”

With that, he turned around and got ready to sleep.

Anthony's eyes narrowed, unable to believe what he saw.

Not only was Benjamin leaving all the worrying to him, but his brother also had the cheek to decide on spending the night on his bed without his permission.

“Aren't you going back to your own room?” Anthony hurriedly protested.

"Nope. It's late. I'm too tired to move!" Benjamin mumbled.

"No! You get back to your own room!" Anthony was in distress.

Benjamin showed no intention of getting up and just sleepily grouched, "What's the problem? We've slept together countless times before."

"That was when we were young! It's different now, so get back to your own bed," Anthony insisted.

"Get up!" Anthony nudged Benjamin, uncomfortable with the thought that he had to share the room with his brother again after such a long time.

There was no response from Benjamin. Soon, all that could be heard in the room was the soft sound of his even breathing.

An incredulous Anthony leaned over and found his brother was already fast asleep.

He was left speechless, but despite being disgruntled, he resignedly pulled over the blanket and draped it over Benjamin, who had the talent of being able to fall asleep anytime and anywhere.

After making sure Benjamin was okay, Anthony switched off the lights and settled down for the night as well.

## Chapter 820 More And More Like A Leader

The first thing Benjamin saw when he woke up early the following morning was Anthony's face right in front of his. The latter's expression was as black as thunder.

Benjamin knew Anthony's biggest pet peeve was others sleeping in his bed, so he immediately shot his older brother a sugary smile upon seeing him. "Good morning, Tony."

Although Anthony returned the smile, it did not reach his eyes. "Did you sleep well?"

"Pretty well," Benjamin answered, nodding.

However, Anthony's face darkened further at his reply. "But I didn't sleep well."

"Why not?" Benjamin asked.

Without saying anything, Anthony shifted his gaze to Benjamin's body. Upon noticing that, Benjamin followed his brother's line of sight and saw that he had the thick blanket tangled around him. Then, he looked back at Anthony, who did not even have a small corner of the blanket covering him.

Uh-oh...



Benjamin felt a shiver run down his spine, and he immediately let go of the covers wrapped around him. He lifted his eyes to look at Anthony. "I probably only just did that... Right?"

"What do you think?" Anthony retorted through clenched teeth.

Benjamin chuckled sheepishly. What can I do? It's a sleeping habit I just can't change...

Alarmed to see how Anthony was glowering at him, he quickly held up his wrist to check his watch. "Gosh, look at the time! Oh, dear. I'm a bit hungry, so I'll go and have breakfast first."

Before Anthony could respond, he had already rolled off the bed, put on his slippers, and hurried to leave the room. He moved as deftly as though he had practiced it beforehand.

He waited until he was at the door before pausing and turning toward Anthony with a smile. "Tony, if I recall correctly, you were the one who covered the blanket over me. Am I right?"

After saying that, he broke into a triumphant grin, then closed the door behind him and dashed off.

Anthony sat on the bed and watched as the door closed. After Benjamin left the room, his grim expression gradually turned into a look of resignation.

Sighing, he got up and quickly made the bed before going to wash up.

By the time he went downstairs to the dining room half an hour later, everyone else was already there, leisurely having breakfast.

Denise stopped midbite as Anthony walked over and asked, "Do you know what time it is? Why are you so late today?"

Exasperated, Anthony settled into an empty seat and took some food before replying in an unhurried tone, "Ask Benjamin."

"Ben?" she echoed, looking toward her other brother.

Hearing that, Thalia and Miguel also turned to Benjamin. What does he mean? What's going on?

Benjamin, who was engrossed in eating, froze when he heard Anthony's reply. He lifted his gaze and stared at Anthony, then replied helplessly, "It's not like I did it on purpose..."

"So are you saying what you did is okay because it wasn't on purpose?"

"If it's such a big deal, you can have it all to yourself tonight!"

"No need for that. Just stay out of my room from now on," said Anthony, giving him a dirty look.

Benjamin nodded. "Okay, okay. I won't go into your room anymore, okay?"

Here, Thalia jumped in to enquire, "What happened? Did you two sleep in the same room last night?"

The two boys looked at each other upon hearing her question, neither uttering a word.

Thalia frowned.

Seeing the scene before her, Denise could not help but laugh.

"What's going on? Would someone care to explain?" Thalia asked.

Denise answered softly, "Ben has an odd sleeping habit. He likes sleeping with the blanket wrapped around him. I'm guessing he hogged the blanket and left Tony to suffer last night."

"Really?" Thalia turned to Benjamin for confirmation after hearing that.

"I... I didn't mean to. Who knows how that blanket got wrapped around me?" Benjamin was not about to admit that he was the one to blame in the matter.

Thalia burst out laughing at his response, then said to him, "Well done!"

No sooner had she said that than Anthony shot her a glare. Unfazed, she replied, "What's the matter? It wasn't me who made you suffer, so why are you glaring at me?"

Anthony glanced at her before turning away helplessly and continuing to eat.

"Someone like him should be made to suffer a little," Thalia whispered to Benjamin, leaving him at a loss for words.

I really didn't do it on purpose!

The atmosphere around the dining table was rather relaxed, and Miguel also joined in the laughter as he watched them banter with each other. However, after they stopped teasing and joking, he asked, "Master, what are our plans after breakfast?"

At the mention of that, Anthony replied promptly, "We're going to look for recruits, of course."

"We're still going to look for those people you mentioned?"

Anthony nodded. "That's right."

Thalia looked at him at once. "Wait a minute. Speaking of which, I haven't asked you about that yet. Didn't you hear what Kyle said yesterday?"

"I did."

"Then, why are you still going to look for them?"

"That end building e team are two different matters, aren't they?" Anthony retorted.

She stared at him, momentarily bereft of words. Well, if he wants to be technical, there's no problem indeed.

Fixing his gaze on her, he continued, "I don't think me paying someone to do something is considered violating Derknetz's principles, does it?"

That may be true, but from what I know about him, he's just switching up his argument. After pondering for a moment, Thalia said, "You can sway me with your rhetoric, but that doesn't mean it'll work on Kyle."

He nodded at her response. "If it works on you, that's enough. I never thought of convincing Kyle."

Thalia went quiet, finding that his words carried a hint of an insult.

Anthony looked straight at her and added earnestly, "You can act as though you don't know anything or choose to tell Kyle, but regardless, there's no way I'm giving up on this matter."

"Well, can you at least tell me what are your plans?"