

Hitched 1091

Chapter 1091

At that moment, Elysia and her three little companions were all worried sick about Blossom. And with the woman wearing a mask, they hadn't noticed anything off about her behavior.

Seeing Emmett was unharmed, Elysia replied with a "It's okay."

She dusted off Emmett, hoisted him up, and continued towards the hospital wing.

The woman watched them go, her breath catching in shock.

She stayed rooted to the spot until Emmett's figure disappeared, then turned her gaze away.

Settling her daughter on a bench,

"Maria, sit tight and wait for mommy, okay? Don't wander off. I'll be right back."

The little girl obediently nodded.

The woman adjusted her daughter's coat, fitted her with a beanie, and dashed off in the direction Emmett had gone.

After a clumsy search, she finally found Elysia and the trio in a hallway.

The police were in Blossom's room, questioning him alone, leaving everyone else outside waiting.

Upon seeing Emmett, the woman's emotions surged once more!

She stood a few meters away, her eyes gradually reddening as she panted.

Elysia noticed her shortly after.

Even with the mask, Elysia recognized her as the woman who had accidentally knocked into Emmett downstairs.

Elysia approached, "Were you looking for me?"

The woman quickly looked away, wiping her tears, her voice choked,

"I was in a rush earlier and felt the bump was quite severe. I couldn't stop worrying and wanted to check on the child again. I think I might have hit his head."

Emmett, having walked over, politely shook his head,

"Don't worry, I'm fine."

Seeing how anxious she was, Elysia couldn't help but worry a little. She reached out to feel the back of Emmett's head, "Emmett, does it hurt?" "No, it doesn't hurt."

Elysia reassured the woman, "He says it doesn't hurt, so it should be fine."

The woman, still looking worried, asked in a hoarse voice, "May I feel it?"

Elysia, thinking she was just overly concerned, nodded.

The woman touched the back of Emmett's head,

"It feels smooth. I'm glad he's okay. I'm really sorry."

The woman kept apologizing, even as Elysia reassured her it was fine.

It wasn't until the police emerged from Blossom's room that Elysia and Emmett went in, leaving the woman to tearfully depart.

Stepping into the elevator, she opened her palm to reveal a strand of Emmett's hair.

Quickly, she pulled out one of her

own hairs,

before heading to the

placing them together

department...

When the woman returned to find her daughter, Maria was nowhere to be found.

Panic-stricken, she called out, "Maria! Maria!"

Not seeing her daughter anywhere, she frantically asked the nearby resting patients and their families,

"Excuse

girl sitte, have you seen a little

here? She's wearing

pink jacket and a yellow

thin

and frail." Content beanie, very

A family member responded, "A man took her away, looked like her father. I heard the girl call him 'dad.'"

Hearing this, the woman's body shuddered violently!

Her complexion turned deathly pale, as if her daughter had been swept away by some monstrous flood. She hastily thanked them and ran towards the hospital entrance, pulling out her phone to make a call.

Her hands trembled so much that it took her ages to find and dial the correct number.

The phone rang endlessly, but there was no answer.

Undeterred, she kept calling.

Finally, when the call connected, she urgently asked, "Cecil, is Maria with you?"

The man's voice was icy cold, "Come back!"

Shaking all over, she asked again, her voice quivering, "Is... Maria with you?"

Chapter 1092

"Get back here now!" the man roared furiously.

Through the phone, the girl's sobs could be heard, "Mommy, I want Mommy, waaaah... I want Mommy..."

"Shut it! Cry again and I'll beat you senseless! You're nothing but a burden!"

The woman was terrified, tears streaming down her face, "Don't scare Maria, I'm coming right now, don't be afraid, Mommy's on her way, honey... beep beep beep..."

The call ended abruptly.

Wiping away her tears, the woman hurriedly hailed a cab and left the hospital.

Half an hour later, she arrived at a rundown, neglected apartment complex.

The complex had almost no greenery, bicycles, scooters, and tricycles were scattered everywhere in disarray.

Stumbling, the woman made her way into a building and climbed up to the third floor.

Just as she was about to use her key, the door suddenly swung open.

A tall man stood in the doorway, glaring at her!

The woman looked at him in terror, too frightened even to breathe.

From inside, her daughter's voice could be heard, "Mommy, Mommy..."

"Maria, Mommy's here, oh!"

The man grabbed her hair and dragged her into the apartment, slamming the door behind them with a loud bang!

He started with a vicious kick!

The woman knocked over a small coffee table in the living room, letting out a sharp cry of pain.

The man approached her and slapped her several times, then started beating her mercilessly,

"How many times have I told you, her condition is incurable, no more hospital visits! Not a penny more should be wasted on her! Did you take my words for granted?!"

Crying, the woman pleaded for mercy, "Stop, please, stop..."

Her daughter, huddled in a corner, cried out, "Mommy, I want Mommy, waaaah..."

The man paid her no attention,

continuing until the woman could no longer beg for mercy, then he

drove his fist into her face and o

"Where's the money?!"

The woman, with a bruised face, replied, "There's... there's no money."

Another harsh kick followed,

"No money and yet you took her to the hospital?! Let me tell you, don't make me angry. I almost died

Sout

there today, I'm in no mood for this,

hand over the money now?

belongs to

Coughing, the woman coughed up blood,

"The hospital treatment was free, I really have no money..."

"Still not giving it up? I'll kill this worthless expense right now!"

The man strode over to the girl, grabbed her by the neck, and lifted her as easily as an eagle snatches a chick.

The woman, terrified, crawled to the man on her knees and clung to his legs,

"Cecil, please put Maria down, she's your daughter too, waaaah, she's your own flesh and blood!"

The woman's cries were heart-wrenching, but the man was relentless,

"I'm asking you one last time, do you have money or not?!"

Seeing he was serious about harming their daughter, the woman quickly pulled out a necklace from her pocket, "Here, take this! Just let Maria go!"

The man let go, and the girl fell heavily to the ground. The woman quickly cradled her daughter in her arms, "Don't be scared, Maria, Mommy's here..."

Though the necklace was thin, it was made of pure gold.

The man looked at it, satisfied, and pocketed it,

"Had you handed it over sooner, would I have needed to be so harsh? You brought this on yourself! I'm warning you, find a way to make some money, or be prepared for a beating!"

After his tirade, the man kicked aside a chair and stormed out.

The woman sat on the floor holding her daughter, sobbing uncontrollably...

Chapter 1093

In the hospital, Elysia and Blossom were in tears.

The gravity of the situation had nearly scared them to death.

Blossom's sobs were heart-wrenching, "I...I...I thought I was going to die, never to see you all again," she wept.

Elysia hugged her, choking back her own tears as she comforted, "It's over now, all over, it's okay."

The three little ones stood by the bed, their eyes also brimming with tears.

Elliot said, "Blossom, you can't keep crying. Your eyes will swell up and ruin your stunning beauty."

Elijah frowned, his lips quivering, "Blossom, don't cry. I'll get your game level to the top!"

Emmett wiped away his tears, his voice breaking, "Blossom...don't cry, I'll...I'll make you lots of delicious treats, will that make you feel better?"

Blossom looked at her three boys, moved and feeling pitiful, "My sweet boys..."

Evan burst into the room, eager to cheer Blossom up, "Blossom Blossom, I saw a bunch of handsome bachelors outside. I snapped some photos and sent them to you. Check them out, see if you like any. If you do, I'll get their WhatsApp for you."

Elysia couldn't help but twitch at the corner of her mouth upon hearing this.

Hollis, also in the room, couldn't help but comment, "Even the kids know you're into handsome guys, aren't you embarrassed?!"

Blossom was unfazed, "What's wrong with that? Everyone appreciates beauty, and Evan knows me best. Come here, Evan, give me a hug."

The little guy immediately moved in for a hug, "Don't be scared, Blossom. The bad guys have been taken care of. Anyone who dares to bully you will have to deal with me. I'll protect you!"

"Yeah, Evan will be my knight!"

"Yes! I'll protect Blossom, and also mom and my sister!"

Hollis looked on with tender eyes, "No wonder Blossom is always talking about these kids. They're so well-behaved. Elysia and Tarquin are blessed." Elysia, wiping away tears, introduced, "Elliot, Evan, Emmett, Elijah, this is Blossom's mother, Hollis."

The four boys chorused, "Hi Hollis!"

"Aww, that's sweet."

Hollis mused, "Elysia, you've come a long way. Misunderstandings with Tarquin resolved, and you found your biological parents. It's all good days ahead."

Then, turning to Blossom, she said, "Look at Elysia, her kids are all grown up, and you don't even have a
vel.

partner. Aren't you worried? Your parents are!"

Blossom retorted, "Why the rush?"

"It's not about being stubborn about marriage. Your parents are always busy and not around much. We just hope you find someone, so you're not so lonely."

Blossom's thoughts were filled with Axel, but Hollis suggested, "What do you think about Lancelot Spencer?"

Blossom's eyes widened in disbelief, "Lancelot Spencer?! Really?"

"Yes, we checked the surveillance. The kidnappers only wanted you, but Lancelot fought tooth and nail to save you. He got seriously injured

because of you."

"I know, but Lancelot and I share a pure, revolutionary friendship. We're like brothers."

"Edith even mentioned it to me, Lancelot has liked you since you were kids."

Blossom's lips twitched in annoyance, "You don't get it, stop making assumptions. Lancelot doesn't like me like that, and I don't like him either."

Chapter 1094

"If he's not into you, why would Edith even bother making stuff up? Besides, don't you have a thing for handsome guys? And let's be honest, Lancelot is a real looker.

Mom thinks Lancelot is a great match for you. You two grew up together, know each other inside out. Plus, once his gig here is done, Lancelot is heading back to Jindale City for his new job. He won't have to travel all the time, can stay right in Jindale City with you."

Seeing Blossom roll her eyes, Hollis pulled Elysia aside to persuade her,

"Elysia, don't you think? Lancelot and Blossom, childhood sweethearts, meant to be?"

Elysia's lips twitched uncontrollably, speechless, only managing an awkward laugh.

Lancelot, or Lancelot as everyone else knew him, was Blossom's childhood friend. They grew up together in the same apartment building.

Gabriel Spencer, like Hollis, was a professor, a colleague, and a family friend.

Both families were well matched in status.

But according to Blossom, Lancelot was her nightmare!

Because Lancelot had always been the top student, while she struggled at the bottom.

Their exam scores were always at opposite ends - he was first, and she was last.

Lancelot was the epitome of "the neighbor's kid," perfect in every way!

Blossom often lamented that half of the scoldings she received as a child were thanks to Lancelot!

Without comparison, she was just a poor student. With Lancelot in the picture, she became the ultimate underachiever!

Her parents would get even more frustrated, their scolding louder and harsher!

Lancelot, as Elysia knew him, was indeed outstanding.

Educated, personable, and handsome to boot.

After her parents finished lecturing Blossom, she would find Lancelot to vent, and he'd take it all in stride, never talking back. But, childhood sweethearts can't beat fate!

It's the curse of love; childhood friends often lose to unexpected love!

No matter how good he is, if Blossom isn't interested, it's all for naught.

As Elysia was trying to find the right words, Hollis's phone rang.

An urgent call from the archaeological team, needing her signature on some documents.

Elysia quickly said, "Hollis, you go ahead. I've got Blossom covered here."

"Alright, I'll make a quick trip to the archaeological site and be right back. Elysia, please try to convince Blossom. Lancelot is a good guy, they're perfect for each other Together, they'd be happy.

Elysia managed a strained smile, "...Sure."

As Hollis left, a shadowy figure slipped through the security door.

Axel, dressed in sleek black sportswear, a black baseball cap and a matching face mask, had a sharp gaze and a frosty aura

From head to toe, he emanated a chill.

It wasn't his intention to eavesdrop. Tarquin had called him over, and he just happened to pass by Blossom's room.

Unintentionally, he stopped in his tracks.

He caught the last bits:

"Elysia, don't you think Lancelot and Blossom are perfect childhood sweethearts?"

"...Lancelot is such a good guy, they're a great match. They'd be happy together."

Axel stood quietly behind the security door, those words replaying in his mind.

It wasn't until the elevator dinged open and closed that he stepped out from hiding.

Why he felt the need to hide, he wasn't sure.

He adjusted his cap and moved on.

Passing Blossom's room again, he heard her hearty laughter but didn't stop or look inside.

However, as he passed Lancelot's room, he couldn't help but look in.

On the bed lay a young man, battered and bruised.

Despite the injuries marring his face,

Chapter 1095

Axel furrowed his brows, pacing forward with a determined stride.

In a vacant room on the same floor, Tarquin was deep in conversation with Folly about a kidnapping case and the relocation of some artifacts.

Upon spotting Axel, Tarquin introduced him, saying, "Folly, meet Axel. He's like a brother to me, grew up together. He was the first one to dash into that abandoned building to save the day."

Folly pushed up his glasses and stood up from his chair, gratitude shining in his eyes, "Thank you, truly, you saved our Blossom. You've done the Blythe family a huge favor, we owe you big time! Anything you need, just say the word, and the Blythe family will be there for you, no holds barred!" Axel, not much of a talker, struggled to find words and eventually managed just one, "Uh-huh."

Tarquin couldn't help but smile at his friend's brevity but understood him well. He knew if it were anyone other than Blossom's father, Axel might not have uttered even that.

Explaining on his behalf, Tarquin said, "Axel's not much for words, but he means well."

Folly nodded in understanding, "It's fine for a young man to be reserved. I like that."

Turning to Axel, Tarquin shared the plan, "We nabbed quite a few people today, but the mastermind behind the kidnapping is still at large. To prevent any more trouble and to ensure the safety of the artifacts, Folly is planning to transport them to King City ASAP. We need you to accompany Folly on this trip."

Axel gave a cool nod, succinctly replying, "Sure."

After the group had made their plans, Folly Blythe went back to the crypt to pack up the artifacts.

Clayton left for the docks since the artifacts were to be shipped by sea, taking it upon himself to oversee the arrangements.

With a meaningful look, Tarquin teased Axel, "Who knows, Folly might end up being your father-in-law. Try to make a good impression, man. One word responses might not cut it."

Axel just scrunched his brows and ignored him.

Passing by Lancelot's hospital room, Tarquin hinted, "Doctor says he won't be up and about anytime soon. Looks like you'll have Blossom's company till you're back."

Axel glared at him this time, "I told you, I'm not into her."

"No, you are. Trust me, I know these things," Tarquin insisted.

Axel with a cold expression, "I'm not into dating, much less marriage!"

With that, he strode off, leaving Tarquin sighing in resignation.

With Axel's temperament, love was going to be a tough battlefield.

Elysia stayed at the hospital till nightfall.

Since Pamela was there, she couldn't spend the night with Blossom. After Hollis arrived, she took the kids and left.

Exiting the hospital wing, she spotted the woman who'd bumped into Emmett earlier.

The woman sat on a bench, looking around anxiously. Despite the heat, she was dressed in long sleeves and pants, with a hat and mask, her her and

her child wrapped up tis

belongs to

The child seemed to be sleeping in her arms, and she occasionally lifted a hand to swat away mosquitoes.

Upon noticing Elysia and her group, the woman quickly stood up, her eyes wide and somewhat agitated.

Elysia felt the woman had been waiting for them and walked over to inquire.

However, seeing Elysia approach, the woman hurried off with her child.

Elysia looked puzzled.

Tarquin approached, "What's up? Know her?"

"I saw her when we arrived. She

Qu

accidentally knocked into Emmett. She apologized then and even came to Blossom's room to check on Emmett. I thought she was waiting for us just now," Elysia explained.

"Should we go after her and ask?" Tarquin offered.

"No need. If she was waiting for us, she wouldn't have left upon seeing us. Let's head back and check on mom," Elysia decided, leading the way home.

Chapter 1096

Elysia couldn't help but worry about Pamela, but she didn't delve too deeply into it.

As the sleek black car gently pulled away from the hospital, a woman, clutching her child, hid in a corner. She watched them leave, her eyes blurred with tears.

The next morning, Elysia got up early to make breakfast.

They were staying in a luxury suite with a kitchen.

As she stepped into the kitchen, she spotted a small figure.

Emmett, wearing an apron and standing on a stool, was bustling around the kitchen.

Elysia hurried over, asking softly,

"Emmett, why are you up so early?"

"Morning, mommy. I'm making breakfast for everyone, including Blossom. I promised Blossom yesterday that I'd bring her some yummy food to the hospital this morning. She loves the meals I make, says they always cheer her up."

Hearing this, Elysia felt a warm surge in her heart and tenderly pinched Emmett's cheek,

"Our Emmett is the most thoughtful, aren't you? Let's do it together; mommy will help you."

"Okay."

The mother and son chatted and laughed in the kitchen, as close as if they were biologically related.

Once breakfast was ready, the others were still asleep.

Elysia asked Tarquin to stay home to look after Pamela and the other children, while she took Emmett to the hospital to deliver food to Blossom.

Upon arriving at the hospital, they encountered the woman from the day before again!

She was sitting on the ground, her daughter lying beside her, seemingly asleep.

As soon as she saw Elysia and Emmett, the woman quickly stood up!

Elysia hesitated for a moment, then led Emmett towards her.

As they approached, the woman became more agitated, her breathing rapid and her body trembling.

Elysia, puzzled, inquired, "Is there something you want to tell me?"

The woman paused, then shook her head hastily, "No...nothing."

"But I notice you seem very nervous seeing us. Is it because you ran into my child?"

The woman lowered her eyes to Emmett, twisting her hands nervously,

"Is... is he alright?"

"He's fine, you don't need to worry or be nervous."

Elysia glanced at the child lying on the ground, "Did you spend the night here?" "Yes."

"Why not stay in a hospital room?"

"We didn't go through the admission process."

"Why not take your child home?"

The woman's lips moved, but she didn't answer.

Elysia, not wanting to pry further, changed the subject,

"What's wrong with the child? Is she ill? She looks pale."

"She has a congenital disease."

"Would you mind if I take a look? I have some medical knowledge."

The woman looked at her in surprise, "Of course, of course."

She hurriedly bent down, attempting

to wake her daughter, budince

who ne

stopped her, "Let me check her pulse first."

Elysia crouched down and saw the child's thin wrist. She couldn't help but frown.

The child clearly suffered from malnutrition; it was heart-wrenching to see.

After checking her pulse, Elysia's expression grew grim.

The woman's eyes were already red, "Is there no hope?"

Elysia said gently, "The situation isn't good."

The woman sobbed, "I knew it, I've known it for a while."

As a mother, Elysia understood this pain and despair. She didn't know

what

1

say and after a moment of

, she suggested, Confent

belongs to

"The child is malnourished. Try to make her some nutritious meals, give her some warmth."

The woman was heartbroken, tears streaming down her face, "Okay..."

Emmett, feeling sorry for her, took

out a few muffins from the insulated

box

offered them to her, his

voice soft and childlike,

"Please, have some."

The woman, looking at Emmett, couldn't hold back any longer and burst into tears.

Her crying was heart-wrenching, startling Emmett.

Frozen in place, Emmett looked at her, unsure of what to do.

Chapter 1097

Just as Elysia was about to say something, the woman suddenly picked up the little girl and ran off.

She was in such a hurry that she knocked the hotdog right out of Emmett's hand.

Emmett, bewildered, turned to Elysia, "Mommy...?"

Elysia was just as puzzled. She watched the woman's retreating back for a few seconds before turning her attention back to Emmett.

Gently ruffling Emmett's hair, she explained, "Don't worry, Emmett. Her daughter is very sick, and she's upset. That's why she's crying."

The hotdog had fallen to the ground and was now covered in dirt, making it inedible. Elysia picked it up and tossed it into a nearby trash can, then took Emmett's hand and headed towards the hospital wing.

Emmett glanced in the direction the woman had run off and asked Elysia, "Mommy, can't that little girl's sickness be cured?"

"Well, it seems like it can't be cured right now. But she's not a little sister; she's an older sister. She's older than you."

"Ah? But she looks so small, even smaller than a baby."

"That's because her illness and not getting enough to eat have made her look tiny and thin."

Emmett murmured, "They look so pitiful. Is it because they don't have enough money for good food?"

"Maybe. Their family probably spent all their money on the sister's treatment."

Emmett furrowed his brows, "Mommy, can I give them my allowance?"

Elysia smiled, "Of course, you can."

Emmett wanted to help, and she naturally wouldn't object to such a kind gesture.

"If fate allows us to meet them again, we'll lend a hand."

"Yeah."

As mother and son chatted away, they didn't notice the woman watching them from behind.

She kept her gaze on them until they entered the hospital wing, then walked over to the trash can.

She retrieved the slightly dusty

hotdog, dusted it off, and took a bite

before quickly offering it to the waking little girl, "Maria, try this. It's tasty."

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The little girl took a bite, "Mmm, it's really good."

The woman's eyes were red, "This was given by a little boy."

"A little boy?"

"Yes, a little boy. You were asleep and didn't see him, but he looked a lot like your brother. I think he was your brother." Just then, the woman's phone rang. She quickly answered, "Hello? The results are in?... I'm free now, I'll come right away." After hanging up, the woman looked once more in the direction of the hospital wing, then left with her daughter in her arms. Inside Blossom's room.

Enjoying the breakfast Emmett had made, Blossom was nearly moved to tears, "This is so delicious. It's been a long time since I've had food this good."

Hollis, also in the room, nodded in agreement, "is tasty. Ever since Blossom arrived, she's been

complaining about the food here et

was puzzled because I know she' loves to eat, but she's not picky. Now it seems Emmett has spoiled her taste."

Elysia laughed, praising Emmett, "Our Emmett is quite the chef."

Feeling wronged, Blossom added, "Being away from Emmett for over a month, my stomach has really suffered!"

Emmett blushed with pride at the compliments, "Then let's never be apart again, just like Mommy and Emmett, forever." "Deal! Wherever Emmett goes, I'll follow. But if I stick to Emmett every day, won't you get tired of Blossom?"

"Never! Emmett loves Blossom."

Blossom's face lit up with pride and emotion, "See, see, what a

sweetheart! Once I'm out of here, I'll take you out to explore. Silver City has so many places to see

"Yeah, Blossom has to get better soon. No more being sad."

"Blossom won't be sad. Just seeing Emmett makes me happy, and eating Emmett's cooking has made me even happier."

Chapter 1098

"I'll whip up something delicious for Blossom at lunch."

"Yay!"

Right after breakfast, the enthusiastic discussion about what to have for lunch began between the little one and the grown-up.

Hollis and Elysia couldn't help but smile at their excitement.

Due to a sudden plumbing issue in the hospital, the bathroom in their room was out of service, so Elysia and Hollis found themselves washing dishes in the public restroom.

Hollis shared, "Blossom told me Emmett isn't biologically yours, but look at how close he is with you! You can tell by the way he treats Blossom. His love for her, it's all because of you. It really shows that blood isn't what makes a family."

Elysia had a tender look, "Emmett is very sensible."

"Love is mutual. You love him, so he loves you back."

Chatting away, they reached the restroom door, ready to clean up, when that strange woman appeared again!

Elysia was taken aback, "What?!"

This time, the woman was alone, without her child.

Her eyes red, she fixed her gaze on Elysia, clearly there to confront her.

Hollis asked, "Do you know her?"

Elysia shook her head, "No."

But this time, she decided to get some answers.

The woman had appeared too many times, behaving oddly each time!

All Elysia did was accidentally bump into Emmett, and it shouldn't have led to all this.

Elysia set down her thermos and approached the woman.

As Elysia drew closer, the woman clenched her fists tighter, her breathing growing more frantic.

Suddenly, she blurted out, "Leave! Just leave now! Take your child and leave Silver City!"

Elysia froze, "What?!"

The woman became more agitated, "Silver City doesn't welcome you! Leave, today! If you don't, I'll... I'll... I'll have someone take you down!"

Elysia frowned, "Why wouldn't Silver City welcome us? And what does our leaving have to do with you?"

Without offering an explanation, the

woman kept threatening, "Leave today! Don't let me see you again!

Take your child and leave Silver City, or I swear, I'll fight you tomorrow!"

Hollis had come over, frowning, "Who are you?!"

The woman, as if deaf to Hollis's question, kept repeating her threats.

It was only when she saw Emmett that her eyes welled up with tears, stopping her tirade.

Emmett raced to Elysia's side, shielding her, "Mommy, are you okay?"

Elysia lifted him into her arms, "Don't worry, mommy's fine."

The little guy frowned at the woman, "Why are you being mean to my mommy? She didn't do anything to you."

Hearing this, the woman seemed to crumble under the weight of some unseen burden, covering her mouth as she turned to run. But not before looking back at the stairs to say, "Leave! Leave today!"

Elysia's brows knitted together in concern. She handed Emmett to Hollis, "Emmett, go with Hollis to the room and find Blossom. Mommy's going to see what that woman wants. Hollis, can you look after Emmett for a bit?"

Hollis nodded, taking Emmett, "That woman seems off. Be careful."

"It's okay. I have Tarquin's bodyguards with me. If she tries anything, they'll step in."

With that, Elysia hurried off towards the stairwell.

Chapter 1099

She had to find this enigmatic lady and get some answers!

What on earth could make them feel pushed out of Silver City?

Elysia stepped through the security door, hurrying down the staircase in pursuit of the woman.

She had seen the woman enter through the security door with her own eyes; she must have taken the stairs down.

Yet, as she followed her all the way down, there was no sign of the woman anywhere.

Elysia frantically searched the hospital, checking every nook and cranny, but to no avail.

With a frown, she pulled out her phone and dialed Tarquin, "Honey, I need you to look into a woman for me."

"...

After hanging up, Elysia, restless in body and spirit, returned to Blossom's hospital room.

Blossom, having heard the whole story from Hollis, was comforting Emmett.

Upon seeing Elysia return, she immediately asked, "Any luck finding her?"

Elysia shook her head, "I've got Tarquin on it."

Blossom frowned, "What's with this woman? Had you encountered her before coming to Silver City?"

"No."

"And she's been pestering you? That's one thing, but now she's trying to drive you out of Silver City as if she owns the place! Something's not right; let Mr. Bradford dig deeper."

"Yeah, Blossom, I've got to go. I'll take Emmett home, just call me if you need anything."

Blossom understood she wanted to investigate this mysterious woman further and quickly said, "Go on, let me know immediately if there's an update."

"Sure."

Elysia left the hospital room with Emmett, glancing around one last time, yet there was no sign of the woman or her daughter.

On the way back to the hotel, Elysia was deeply troubled.

Emmett gazed at her with a worried little face.

Elysia steadied her heart and relaxed, smoothing Emmett's furrowed brow, "Is Emmett still worried about mommy?"

The little guy looked guilty, "I...I'm just not smart enough, can't protect mommy like my older brothers would have. If they were here, they'd have stopped that lady and cleared things up so mommy wouldn't have to worry."

Elysia's heart melted, and she pulled Emmett into a hug, "That's not true at all. Who says my Emmett isn't smart? My Emmett is amazing! When that lady was being mean, not only did you not cry, but you also bravely stood up to protect mommy. Lémy eyes, Emmett is a little hero, and mommy is so moved."

"But...I couldn't really help mommy."

"Of course, you did. Emmett making Blossom's favorite cookies to cheer her up is helping mommy. Playing with grandma and your sister at home is helping mommy. When mommy went to chase after that lady you didn't cry or make a fuss, which is also helping mommy. There are so many ways Emmett helps mommy, too many to count."

Elysia paused, seeing Emmett still

looked dejected, she added,

"Emmett, in this world, no two leaves are the same and the same goes for people. Everyone has their

strengths, and your older one

have theirs, but Emmett has his own too. You're thoughtful and warm-hearted, and you're especially good at taking care of others. You can cook, make perfumes and clothes, and even disguise yourself. See, when we get back to the hotel, mommy has to talk to daddy about this strange lady, and I'll need you to take care of grandma and your sister. That's a big responsibility."

Emmett quickly said, "I promise to complete the mission and not worry mommy."

Elysia smiled fondly, hugging her son and gently rocking him, "In mommy's heart, Emmett is an angel baby. Mommy knows Emmett loves her, and mommy loves Emmett too, so very much."

Chapter 1100

"Emmett loves Mommy so, so much. Always loves Mommy."

The youthful voice echoed through the car, warming Elysia's heart while simultaneously stirring an inexplicable sense of sorrow.

For some reason, thoughts of that odd woman sent her into a flurry of unease and apprehension, as if a dreadful event loomed on the horizon. Holding Emmett tighter, Elysia's grip unconsciously strengthened, fearing that loosening her hold would allow someone to snatch him away.

In the hotel, Pamela and Baby were already up and about.

Seeing Elysia return, they clung to her instantly.

Given Pamela's troubled mind and Baby being the youngest, they were the ones most attached to Elysia, constantly seeking her out if she was out of sight for even a moment.

Yesterday, when Elysia visited Blossom in the hospital, the grandmother and grandchild duo took turns calling her, their absence felt like an eternity.

Aware of his mom's preoccupations, Emmett quickly entertained the two, giving Elysia a moment of pride for having such a wonderful child. She considered herself incredibly fortunate to have him.

With a steadied heart, Elysia pulled Tarquin aside back into their room.

"Any luck? Did you find her?"

"Not yet, but we've gathered some information. The woman's name is Claire, her husband's Cecil, and their daughter, Maria. All three are locals of Silver City, living under tough conditions.

Maria has a congenital illness that's incurable, and Cecil doesn't hold down a steady job, often loafing around aimlessly. The family's income relies solely on Claire.

She works several jobs, guarding the cemetery at night, joining the city's cleaning crew at dawn, and crafting at home during the day while caring for her daughter. Every day is a struggle for her."

Elysia frowned, "Then why is she forcing us to leave Silver City?"

"We're not sure yet, but..."

Tarquin gave her a meaningful look, hesitating before asking,

"Have you never seen what this woman looks like?"

"No, she's always wearing a mask whenever I see her. Why? What about her appearance?"

As Tarquin handed his phone to her, showing a photo of a younger Claire, Elysia's body jolted as if struck, her pupils dilating in shock!

She rubbed her eyes, disbelieving, before daring to look at the photo again...

Once she confirmed the woman's features in the photo, Elysia's breath hitched, "She... she..."

Tarquin, empathetic, helped her sit down, "Looks a lot like Emmett."

Tears welled in Elysia's eyes, her body trembling, "She is... Emmett's biological mother?"

"We can't be certain yet, but it's highly likely."

In his investigation of Claire, Tarquin discovered she had recently visited a paternity testing center, submitting two hair samples for DNA analysis.

The results came back today, confirming a maternal link.

Moreover, the timing of Claire's test and her confrontation with Elysia today, urging her to leave Silver City with the child, was too coincidental to ignore.

Claire had accidentally hit Emmett before taking the DNA test.

Upon receiving the results today, she sought out Elysia.

The evidence strongly suggested that the DNA test was between her and Emmett, making Claire's likelihood of being Emmett's

biological mother significantly high!