

Hitched 821

Chapter 821

Soren, the boy next door who grew up with Elizabeth, was always there for her. From sharing ice cream cones on hot summer days to cycling down the leaf-strewn paths of their neighborhood, they did everything together.

Soren knew Elizabeth inside out - her every joy, her every sorrow.

He had secretly been in love with Elizabeth since they were kids, promising himself that she was the only one he'd ever want to marry.

But then, out of the blue, Kendrick arrived on the scene.

And what's worse, Elizabeth fell for Kendrick. They started dating, got married, and even had a child together.

Soren was like a character out of a tragic love story, the childhood friend who couldn't compete with the charming newcomer.

Despite the heartbreak, Soren's love for Elizabeth never wavered. He loved her from the start, and he loved her till the end, never marrying anyone else.

Soren was always busy, but mention Elizabeth, and he'd make time, plenty of it, ready to chat about anything related to her.

"You missing your mom again?" Soren would say, lounging back in his chair. "Well, shoot, I'm all ears."

Tarquin, with a clear agenda, said, "I want to talk about my mom's so-called 'bastard child'."

The story of Elizabeth's "bastard child" was something Tarquin had heard whispers about from the Bradfords, a tale that followed him from childhood. The Bradfords loved to tarnish Elizabeth's

reputation with the story, accusing her of being promiscuous before she met Kendrick and even suggesting that she had a child out of wedlock - all reasons, according to them, why she wasn't good enough for Kendrick.

From a young age, the Bradfords tried to instill in Tarquin a disdain for Elizabeth, hoping he'd join in their verbal attacks against her.

But Tarquin knew the Bradfords' dislike for Elizabeth wasn't truly about any illegitimate child.

The Bradfords had always wanted Kendrick to marry into another powerful family to bolster their own influence and benefits, not because of any moral indignation.

Elizabeth was well-read, fiercely independent, and led by her own moral compass, qualities that made her difficult for the Bradfords to control or manipulate.

Moreover, Elizabeth lived her life with a freedom and ease that the women entangled in their high-society web could only dream of. Their lives were dictated by countless rules and the absence of true love, unlike Elizabeth and Kendrick's genuine, deep affection for each other.

Jealousy and envy fueled the Bradfords' efforts to drive a wedge between Kendrick and Elizabeth. When those efforts failed, and Kendrick severed ties with the Bradfords to start a life abroad with Elizabeth, they resorted to slander and defamation.

Tarquin never believed the rumors of a secret child; his mother had only ever loved his father. But recent clues had led him to question the validity of the Bradfords' accusations regarding Keith and his mother's relationship.

He knew better than to expect the truth from the Bradfords. Soren, who knew his mother well, was the best person to ask.

Surprised by the question, Soren responded, "A bastard child? Your mom doesn't have any other child but you! Oh, you mean Aiden?"

"Aiden? Who's Aiden?" Tarquin's curiosity peaked.

Soren explained, "Aiden was a kid your mom met while teaching in the Sky City mountains. She'd write about him in her letters, how smart and kind he was, but also how he suffered at home, often coming to school bruised and battered.

Eventually, she wrote that she wanted to adopt him. The poor kid was growing bitter and angry from his ordeal. Your mom believed that hate could warp a person's soul, and she couldn't stand by and watch Aiden's life be destroyed by hatred. She wanted to save him."

Chapter 822

"You know, your mom was always the rational type-kind and good-hearted, but no saint.

Deciding to adopt, she must've thought it through, thoroughly.

If that kid had just regular problems, or if your mom simply took pity or liked him, she wouldn't have considered adoption. She wasn't even married back then, didn't have you. Suddenly adopting a child, that'd change her life completely!

She definitely weighed the consequences but still chose to adopt.

That just shows how much she really, really loved that kid named Aiden!

It also means the kid's situation was pretty dire!

Just then, the Bradford family was vehemently against her and your dad being together. Oh, do you know why she decided to teach in the rural areas?

First, to fulfill a promise she made to herself, to be there for those kids in the mountains.

Second, to give your dad time to think.

She and your dad were truly in love, but the Bradford family was strongly opposed.

Before she left, she told your dad, if he chose to break up because of the Bradford's interference, she wouldn't hold it against him.

If your dad refused the arranged marriage and still chose her, she'd be loyal to him for life.

Later, she also discussed adopting Aiden with your dad.

If your dad wanted to be with her, besides considering the Bradford family's stance, he had to think about Aiden."

Soren paused, then continued,

"What touched me most about your dad was this very thing. He not only supported your mom in adopting Aiden but even personally talked to Aiden's parents.

Adopting a child is a big deal, and he had no relation or emotional bond with Aiden. Agreeing to adopt was all for your mom.

He loved your mom, deeply, to the point of loving what she loved.

He not only respected your mom for being her own person but also supported her in doing what she wanted!

From that moment, I was completely at ease entrusting your mom to him.

He was the best man for your mom in the world!

During that time, your mom was so happy. In her letters, she mentioned that your dad and she had decided to settle abroad and take Aiden with them.

But then, for a long time, I received no letters from your mom.

Worried, I managed to contact your dad.

He told me they had moved abroad without Aiden, and your mom hadn't yet recovered from the heartbreak.

I was surprised and asked why they didn't take Aiden.

He sighed, saying it was a matter of fate but didn't wish to elaborate.

Later, due to avoiding misunderstandings, tense border situations, and the challenges of living abroad, my communication with your mom dwindled... When I saw her again, she was no longer with us."

Soren paused again, taking a while before continuing,

"The Bradford family claimed your mom had an illegitimate child, which was pure slander! Their thoughts were filthy!

They assumed a normal student volunteering in the mountains must have an ulterior motive, thinking your mom was there for Aiden.

And when your mom wanted to adopt Aiden later, they immediately concluded Aiden was her illegitimate child!

They criticized your mom for being improper, and your dad for being weak.

But I can assure you, Aiden was not your mom's child. She didn't have an illegitimate child. Your mom's life was clean and honest, loving only your dad and having just you."

Tarquin listened quietly, taking his time before asking,

"Did you hear anything about Aiden afterward?"

"No, after learning from your dad that the adoption didn't go through and how it saddened her, I didn't dare ask anymore, afraid to reopen her wounds, to upset her.

After that, my communication with your mom became even less frequent, and when we did talk, it was only about significant events—like her marrying your dad, her pregnancy, your birth, and ensuring you both were safe and healthy."

"...Do you know Aiden's full name?"

"I don't."

Tarquin asked again, "Do you have a photo of Aiden?"

Chapter 823

"No, when your mom was teaching in Green Valley, I was stationed at the southern border. I didn't know much about her situation there; everything I heard was through her letters.

I never met Aiden, nor his parents. Why are you asking about him? Did the Bradfords get to you again? Don't listen to them, your mother was a wonderful woman!"

"I know."

Tarquin didn't bring up Keith's situation, knowing that Soren was swamped with military duties and he didn't want to add to his worries.

"Do you have the exact location where my mom was teaching? I need to check something."

"Yes, we kept in touch through letters all that time. I'll send it to you later."

"Thanks, Soren."

"Don't mention it. If you need anything, just let me know."

"Will do."

After hanging up, Elliot and Elijah eagerly approached,

"Did you find out anything?"

Tarquin looked serious, "Keith's original name might have been Aiden."

"Aiden? We've gone through all the people close to Grandma, but there was no Aiden."

Tarquin didn't reply but started to re-examine the information about Elizabeth teaching in Green Valley with the boys.

They still couldn't find any mention of Aiden.

Nor could they find anything about Elizabeth adopting a child.

It was as if the passage of time had erased the records, or someone had deliberately wiped this chapter from history.

Tarquin had heard his father mention Elizabeth's teaching stint in Green Valley when he was a child.

He talked about a time they were apart, though not broken up, which was the most torturous, painful, and anxious period for him. While missing his mother, he was also wary of the Bradfords plotting against her.

But he never mentioned Aiden.

Occasionally, when he talked about the teaching period, it was about his and his mother's complicated feelings.

His mother never mentioned it either, not Aiden's name, nor the teaching stint. And his father never brought it up in front of her.

Without a doubt, Aiden was a scar in his mother's heart.

Who exactly was Aiden?

Since his father had also rushed to Green Valley, why wasn't the adoption successful?

Was it because Aiden's parents were totally against it, or was there another reason?

But since his father had made the trip, it indicated that Aiden's parents might not have been entirely opposed, or else his mother wouldn't have let his father go for nothing.

If the adoption of Aiden wasn't successful, the problem likely didn't lie with Aiden's parents.

So, what exactly happened?

After leaving Green Valley, where did Aiden end up?

Another thing, if going by age, Aiden would be several years older than himself since his mother met Aiden before he was born.

That means Aiden should be much older, but Keith appeared to be around his age, his public birthdate even a few months younger than Tarquin's.

Could Aiden be Keith as a child?

Soon after, Soren sent the information.

Besides the exact teaching location, there were some other documents.

Tarquin immediately made a call to arrange for someone to head to Green Valley for a thorough investigation.

There were many mysteries surrounding Aiden, and although it wasn't certain he was Keith as a child, the suspicion was strong.

Thus, it was crucial to clarify Aiden's story!

If online searches turned up nothing, then they would have to investigate locally.

He was eager to find his daughter, with Keith being the only lead. Only by uncovering Keith's background could they possibly trace his daughter's whereabouts!

Elysia found herself unable to sleep that night.

She still didn't know that Keith was the one who had messaged her.

Given just one day to arrange a divorce, she was anxious about what the next day might bring.

Even knowing her daughter was safe for now didn't ease her fears.

Afraid they might not find him, afraid he might vanish without a trace, afraid she might never see her daughter again.

"What if we staged a divorce to trick him into revealing our daughter's location?"

Tarquin looked down at her, "You don't want me anymore?"

Elysia was startled and quickly shook her head,

"No, I meant a fake divorce. After we get our daughter back, we can remarry."

Chapter 824

Tarquin pulled his beloved closer into his embrace, whispering a promise of steadfastness, "Never apart."

He was convinced that Keith's demand for a divorce from Elysia was a ploy to whisk her away and then force her into marriage with him. The very thought was laughable. Divorce? Over his dead body. As long as Elysia needed him, he would never let her go, not in a million years. And the idea of staging a fake divorce as bait to catch Keith? Out of the question. The inherent risk was too high, and Tarquin would never gamble with Elysia's safety.

"Divorce is just a trap. Whether we get our daughter back has nothing to do with our marital status. Don't worry about his threats. I'll find our girl. Just focus on taking care of yourself. Listen to me."

Elysia, nestled in his arms, felt a pang of helplessness. She wanted to contribute, but felt utterly useless beyond her worry.

The following day, she spent anxiously waiting for a call that never came, trying her best to appear normal so as not to worry Tarquin or the kids. She locked herself in the study, pouring over the cases of three kidnapped children. Her mind wandered, and tears often fell for the plight of these children and the fear for her own daughter's fate.

Meanwhile, Tarquin hadn't left the house in days. The search in Sky City was hitting dead ends. Even with addresses provided by Soren, no traces of Aiden were found, as if he had vanished into thin air.

Tarquin divided his time between digging up useful information with Elliot and keeping an eye on Elysia, understanding her fears and the maternal instinct driving her anxiety. Unlike with Elijah, Elysia had no contact with her daughter, no clue of her whereabouts or condition, making the uncertainty unbearable.

Worried for her mental well-being, Tarquin stayed home, dedicating his time to support her.

Days later, a call from a charity organization offered a distraction. They asked if Elysia could accompany a therapist to visit a child's home where there had been an incident of self-harm. Concerned for the child and seeking to help, Elysia agreed immediately.

Before she left, Tarquin made a call to ensure Keith was still at his residence, a precaution to keep Elysia safe. Despite his agreement to let her go, he arranged for a team of undercover bodyguards to follow her and personally drove her to the location. He stayed behind, respecting the sensitivity required for the visit.

Just as Elysia entered the building, Tarquin received a pivotal call, "Tarquin, we've finally found a lead on Aiden!"

This twist in their ongoing struggle against time and uncertainty added another layer of tension to their quest. With Tarquin's unwavering protection and determination, they navigated through the complexities of their predicament, fighting for their family's reunion against all odds.

Chapter 825

Tarquin furrowed his brows, a hint of urgency in his voice. "What's the scoop?"

The person on the other end of the line was nearly bursting with excitement, "We've tracked down Aiden's neighbor's details. He's currently in Jindale City. If anyone knows what happened to Aiden, it's him!"

After days of dead ends, they finally had a lead. The past few days had been a grueling marathon of frustration.

Upon arriving at Sky City, they learned that the school where Elizabeth had once taught was long gone.

The village Soren had mentioned had vanished off the map. Locals recounted a devastating fire from over two decades ago that had consumed the elementary school and nearly half the village. The survivors had gradually abandoned the place, leaving it to ruin.

Years of heavy rains, landslides, and other natural calamities had erased any remnant of the village. Now, not even a brick remained.

Their extensive inquiries around the area initially turned up nothing. Mention of Aiden drew blank stares.

It felt like they were chasing ghosts until an elderly local finally shed some light.

"Aiden? Oh, I remember him. Poor yet fortunate kid from the next village over. His parents were no good, always beating him black and blue. Such a tiny thing, always covered in bruises.

He wasn't born Aiden; we all used to call him 'the mute' because he never spoke. We all thought he was actually mute.

That changed when a beautiful teacher arrived. Someone heard her talking to him, and that's when we realized 'the mute' could speak after all.

It was she who named him Aiden. But old habits die hard, and he remained 'the mute' to most of us. If you'd asked about 'the mute,' you'd have had your answers sooner."

That explained why their queries about Aiden had led nowhere. Before, he was known simply as 'the mute.'

"Was the teacher's last name Gonzalez?" they asked.

"I can't recall her last name, but she was as pretty as a picture and just as kind-hearted. She taught the kids to read, write, and draw, all for free. Told them stories of the world beyond these hills. Even made them backpacks and toys with her own two hands.

She was especially kind to Aiden, probably took pity on him. Heard she even had a falling-out with his folks over him. Imagine, such a gentle soul pushed to her limits by those people. Tells you all you need to know about Aiden's parents.

Later, word was she adopted Aiden. Her boyfriend showed up, paid the parents a heap of cash, and took Aiden away."

"Are you sure they took Aiden with them?" Tarquin's associate pressed.

"Well, I can't say for sure; I'm from a different village. But after the teacher left, Aiden vanished too. Where else would a little boy go, if not with her? As for his parents, rumor has it they sold him and moved to the city with the money. Heartless, the lot of them. They'll get theirs in the end." "Do you know Aiden's full name?"

"Never knew it. His dad's last name was Miller. Everyone called the boy 'the mute,' only the teacher called him Aiden."

They showed the elderly man a photo of Elizabeth and Keith, asking, "Are these the teacher and Aiden?"

Squinting, the old man took his time, his vision not what it used to be.

Chapter 826

"Mmm, that's the schoolteacher, a real looker, isn't she? But this one, can't quite make him out. All I know is Aiden, that boy's got looks that could kill. If he grows up keeping those looks, he's gonna be a heartbreaker. If you're looking to find him, you'll need to ask around his hometown folks; only they would know the ins and outs."

Eventually, they stopped asking about Aiden and started inquiring about a kid known as 'the mute'.

Sure enough, a significant clue popped up soon after!

They couldn't find the mute's parents, but they did find his neighbors.

Coincidentally, the neighbors lived in Jindale City!

The local community leader said:

"Their family's done quite well for themselves, struck it rich in the big city. They've been donating money back home every year. This tarred road, the inte cables, and the newly built Hope Elementary are all thanks to their generosity. The whole family's got good hearts, never forgetting where they came from."

The community leader even provided the neighbor's full address.

After gathering all the necessary information, Tarquin decided to check it out himself.

This clue was crucial, the only lead they had in their investigation into Keith's identity.

Being neighbors, they were bound to know a lot.

Elysia was still upstairs, providing counseling to the abducted children, and knowing her phone was on silent, Tarquin didn't call her.

After briefing his bodyguard and driver, he left.

Twenty-something minutes later, he and Lowell showed up at Joy Residence.

It was an old apartment complex, lacking even an elevator, forcing them to take the stairs.

Lowell grumbled as they ascended,

"They said they made a fortune, right? Then why live here? This place has seen better days."

It was a natural assumption; striking it rich usually meant moving to a more upscale area, not staying here.

Tarquin didn't bite, pocketing his hands and continuing upward with a stern look on his face, lost in thought. Aiden's neighbor, Tyler, lived on the sixth floor.

At first, Tyler was reluctant to talk, but then Lowell fibbed, claiming they were reporters from a TV station.

The government was planning to feature a documentary on acts of kindness, and they came after speaking with the community leader.

Hearing it was an official visit and for a good cause, Tyler opened up.

"We can't take credit for such deeds. Imagine if the truth came out; the whole country would be up in arms against us! To be honest, it wasn't us who donated the money!

Look at our living conditions; how could we afford to donate so much? That money, all of it was from Aiden!"

Lowell was shocked, casting a glance at Tarquin.

Tarquin just frowned, seemingly unsurprised, as if he had expected this all along.

With a chuckle, Lowell prodded for more, "Who's Aiden, exactly?"

Tyler's wife quickly fetched a photo album, proud as can be,

"This is Aiden, handsome and kind-hearted, a real good Samaritan!"

Upon seeing the photo, Lowell couldn't help but freeze!

The man in the album was Keith!

Lowell turned to Tarquin, who had a dark look on his face, remaining silent.

Steadying himself, Lowell asked Tyler's wife,

"Donating is noble, but why didn't he donate directly? Why go through you?"

Tyler's wife explained,

"Aiden just wanted to do something good for his hometown without attracting attention. I guess he didn't want to bring up the past. If he became famous, people would start digging into his history."

Lowell pressed on, "What about the past?"

Tyler's wife glanced at Tyler, hesitating.

With a heavy sigh, Tyler finally said,

"Aiden, that kid, had a rough childhood..."

Chapter 827

In the countryside where the Tylers lived, not having kids after marriage was a topic of ridicule.

Back in the day, three years into their marriage, Aiden's folks hadn't had a child. This became fodder for gossip among some spiteful neighbors who whispered that the couple must have committed sins in their past lives, hence their barrenness.

Aiden's father, known for his temper, blamed his wife for their childlessness, leading to domestic disputes that were far from rare in their household. Eventually, the couple vanished, rumored to have gone to the city in search of medical help.

Years later, they returned, their pride and joy Aiden in tow. They paraded him around like a trophy, not just because they'd finally had a child, but a boy at that—and a strikingly handsome one, no less. In their poverty-stricken community where sons were prized over daughters, Aiden was a slap in the face to their detractors.

But then, it became apparent that Aiden couldn't speak. The same folks who'd been silenced by his birth now jeered, calling him defective despite his good looks.

Gossip swirled that Aiden's parents must have been cursed for some past wrongdoing, hence their child's muteness. In their frustration, they even resorted to violence in desperate attempts to make him speak, mistaking abuse for discipline.

The Tylers, living just next door, could hear everything through the thin walls. Mrs. Tyler recounted, tears in her eyes, how they once found Aiden bound and suspended from the ceiling, being whipped by his father who hurled insults at the boy, calling him a bastard and a waste. His mother joined in, beating him with a broken shoe.

Even as outsiders, the Tylers were heartbroken by the sight.

Lacking awareness of their legal rights and fearing retaliation, the Tylers could only offer clandestine support, sneaking food and medicine to the boy. Then, Ms. Gonzalez, a new teacher, arrived in town. Aiden, not yet of school age but eager to learn, would listen to her lessons from outside the classroom. Ms. Gonzalez invited him in, and it was she who named him Aiden, insisting it was improper to call him "the mute boy."

The Tylers, seeing her kindness, confided Aiden's plight to her, hoping her education could make a difference. Ms. Gonzalez even clashed with Aiden's parents, offering to take him in herself.

Everyone thought Aiden's parents would refuse, clinging to their only child to avoid the shame of having no heirs.

Chapter 828

Can you believe they actually agreed?

Our guess? Ms. Gonzalez's boyfriend must've greased their palms pretty well for them to sell Aiden off like that!

On one hand, we couldn't stand Aiden's folks for what they did, but on the other, we were kinda happy for Aiden. Ms. Gonzalez is a gem, after all. With her, Aiden was sure to dodge the beatings and live the good life.

But then, just when Ms. Gonzalez was about to whisk Aiden away, disaster struck!

For reasons unknown, Aiden was like a ticking time bomb that day. He went berserk and even bit Ms. Gonzalez's boyfriend's hand.

His folks had been rough on him, but he never lashed out, never even cried out loud. Yet, that day, he completely lost it."

Lowell couldn't help but interject,

"Did something trigger him that day?"

Tyler was just as puzzled,

"Nothing out of the ordinary, as far as I can remember. Ms. Gonzalez and her boyfriend came over to pick him up, and Aiden seemed pretty stoked when he stepped out of the house. But then, out of nowhere, he just snapped, bit the guy, and with eyes ablaze, he ran back inside, refusing to leave."

Tarquin chimed in, "Who all were there at the scene?"

"Just Ms. Gonzalez and her boyfriend, Aiden's folks, and us."

"He only bit Ms. Gonzalez's boyfriend?"

"Yeah, Aiden was like possessed, grabbed Ms. Gonzalez's hand to pull her aside. Her boyfriend probably tried to hold him, and wham, got a nasty bite. Drew blood and everything."

We couldn't pry him off for the life of us, until Ms. Gonzalez sternly called out his name. That's when he let go.

After releasing his grip, he just stared at Ms. Gonzalez with those teary, pitiful eyes, then turned and ran back home." Tarquin frowned, asking,

"Was that his first time meeting Ms. Gonzalez's boyfriend?"

"Yep, first time. Ms. Gonzalez's boyfriend only showed up in the last few days, talked adoption details with Aiden's folks in private. They only introduced him to Aiden on the day they were supposed to leave."

Hearing this, Tarquin's expression grew even more somber, "..."

Tyler continued,

"After Aiden ran back inside, Ms. Gonzalez followed him. It was quite a while before she came back out, saying Aiden wanted to think it over and that they'd come back for him the next day. And so, they left the next day."

Lowell was surprised, "They left the next day? Did Aiden go with Ms. Gonzalez then?"

"Yeah, we were up early for the farm work, didn't get back till the afternoon. When we returned, we heard Aiden's folks ranting about how ungrateful he was, leaving without saying goodbye after all they've done for him, calling him an ingrate."

"He left without saying goodbye?"

"That's what his folks said."

"So, you're not sure if Aiden actually left with Ms. Gonzalez?"

"We're certain. We didn't see it ourselves that day, but Aiden came back to visit a few years ago. We asked him, and he said he did leave with Ms. Gonzalez.

He mentioned being upset with his birth parents, which is why he left quietly. He also said that ever since he went with Ms. Gonzalez, he's never been hit again. Ms. Gonzalez treated him well, loved him a lot."

Lowell: "... Clearly, that was a lie.

Soren had already confirmed that Elizabeth never successfully adopted Aiden. He never left with them at all.

Chapter 829

Lowell asked, "After Aiden left, what happened to his parents?"

"Who knows, they must be living the good life, enjoying the money they got from selling their son, huh!"

"Have you heard from them?"

"Nope, no idea if they're dead or alive. We lost touch long ago, and Aiden never reached out to them either."

Lowell continued, "When did Aiden come back to look for you?"

Tyler replied, "It's been several years. We were working in the fields when he suddenly showed up out of nowhere. We didn't recognize him at first, but when he said he was Aiden, you could've knocked us over with a feather! My wife even hugged him and cried for a long time."

Tyler's wife gave an embarrassed smile,

"I was just so overwhelmed. Never thought I'd see him again in my lifetime."

Lowell asked, "What did he want?"

"Aiden said we were kind to him back in the day, and he remembered it. He wanted to repay the favor. He asked if we wanted to leave the countryside. If we were willing, he'd help us get out, find us jobs."

We didn't think we did anything special for him, but of course, we wanted to leave the countryside. Especially since my son was struggling to find work at the time. Considering our family's future, we followed him to Jindale City.

The flower business my son is running now was all Aiden's doing. He taught us to buy flowers at a low price from Sky City, then sell them to florists in Jindale City for a profit.

After bringing us to Jindale City, Aiden had everything set up, even provided the initial capital. My son's been able to make a life for himself here, buying a house, a car, getting married, all thanks to Aiden's help.

If it weren't for our attachment to the old neighborhood, Aiden would've moved us into a mansion! He's really treated us well!

Later, Aiden said he wanted to contribute to his hometown anonymously, so he made donations in my son's name."

Lowell asked, "Do you know where his money came from?"

"Ms. Gonzalez and her boyfriend were wealthy, after they passed away, they definitely left Aiden quite a fortune."

"...Did he ever mention Ms. Gonzalez after he came back?"

"Yeah, he said Ms. Gonzalez and her husband died in a car accident, ah, good people die young."

Lowell: "...Keith even knew about this.

Tarquin suddenly spoke up, "Why did he bite Ms. Gonzalez's boyfriend back then?"

Tyler's wife quickly answered,

"I know this one, I asked him. Aiden said he was young and foolish back then. He just wanted to live with Ms. Gonzalez, didn't want to go with anyone else.

Seeing a big guy around Ms. Gonzalez, he was worried that man wouldn't love him.

And he was afraid that man would take Ms. Gonzalez's love away, so he bit him in a moment of anger."

""

Leaving Tyler's place, Tarquin immediately lit up a cigarette as they got into the car.

Lowell, sitting in the driver's seat, turned and said,

"Now we know for sure, Keith is Aiden! His hostility towards you must be related to Elizabeth!

But I can't figure it out. From his story with Elizabeth, he should have really liked her.

And you being Elizabeth's biological son, he must know that. Shouldn't he see you as a brother out of love for her?

Why would he still want to harm you? Where does the problem lie?

Plus, Soren said that Elizabeth never successfully adopted Keith, so why did he lie?

What exactly happened the day Elizabeth left Sky City?

And another thing, back then, everyone called him 'the mute' and bullied him, treated him poorly. Why would he still want to contribute to his hometown?"

Lowell's head was filled with question marks, utterly confused.

Tarquin, legs crossed, sat in the back, his brow furrowed, his expression dark.

He took a hard drag on his cigarette and said,

"Start with my father, investigate the entire Bradford family's enemies!"

Chapter 830

The next second, Tarquin's phone rang out,

"Tarquin, it's a disaster! Keith has taken your sister-in-law!"

Tarquin's heart tightened, "What did you say?!"

"Just now, she was coming down from the upstairs, and Keith was controlling her, coming down together. He had a shotgun in his hand. We were worried about her safety and didn't dare to act rashly. He drove off with her, and we are chasing them now!"

Tarquin's heart raced, his expression changing rapidly, he snapped, "Send the location to Lowell!"

After hanging up, he quickly called Elysia.

Elysia's phone was still reachable, but no one answered.

Tarquin was frantic, arranging for Lowell to chase after them in the car, while continuing to try and contact Elysia. Axel's call came through, he quickly answered,

"What the hell is going on? Wasn't Keith supposed to be at home all this time? How did he end up with Elysia?"

Axel explained, "Keith played us. I just had someone kick down Keith's door and take a look inside. There was just a man who looked like Keith, who said Keith paid him a few days ago to stay at the house for a few days, free to do whatever as long as he didn't leave!"

After Keith went to the jail that day, he never returned home. The one who went back was his look-alike, all to fool us. In fact, he was outside all this time!"

Axel had indeed arranged for people to monitor Keith's every move, but to avoid alerting him, they kept their distance.

They saw a figure in the house that looked like Keith through the windows and naturally assumed it was him!

Axel added, "Before your sister-in-law went to that kid's house today, Keith was already there waiting."

Hearing this, Tarquin tugged at his tie in frustration and swore,

"Block all the exits out of Jindale City, trap him inside Jindale City!"

Jindale City was his territory, making it easier to find someone. Once out of Jindale City, it would be troublesome.

After hanging up with Axel, Tarquin continued to call Elysia.

After a dozen attempts, the call finally went through.

Tarquin, sweating with urgency, asked, "Elysia, are you okay? Where are you?!"

"I'm in my car." Keith's tone was relaxed, in stark contrast to his.

Tarquin's heart tightened, his voice turning ice cold, "Keith, if you dare to touch her, I guarantee you'll regret it!"

Keith chuckled, "No need for threats, I won't hurt her."

"What do you really want?"

"You should have guessed by now."

Tarquin: "You want to take her to see my daughter?"

Keith clarified, "I want to take her back to see my daughter, not yours. The babe is mine."

Babe?

Tarquin pressed, "Are you that mysterious person?"

Keith neither confirmed nor denied, simply stating,

"My babe likes Elysia, has been waiting at home for her, so no matter what, I'll take her away.

If you don't want her to suffer, then call off your men, and don't block my way. After all, she's with me now. The easier my path, the less she suffers.

If you keep on dogging my steps and block all routes, I can only take her on a risky path!"

Tarquin blurted out, "Do you have a vendetta against the Bradford family?!"

Keith was silent for a moment, sidestepping the question,

"And stop bothering Tyler and his family. They're decent, honest folks. Whatever they knew, you've probably wrung out of them by now. Whatever you want to know, they don't know it, and threats or bribes won't change that."

Tarquin stuck to his previous question,

"If you have a beef with the Bradford family, come at me directly. Whatever revenge you want, I'll take it on! Let Elysia and my daughter go. Men should fight their own battles without dragging women and children into it."