

Hitched 871

Chapter 871

Trying to hold back her tears proved futile as they cascaded uncontrollably down her cheeks, no matter how hard she tried to stop them! Her little one was anxious, "Mommy, why are you crying?"

Elysia choked up, "Mommy... Mommy's just so happy! Baby, seeing you... makes me so happy!"

These were tears of excitement!

Tears of guilt!

And also, tears of being deeply moved!

Her daughter was safe and sound, and Elliot and the rest had successfully found her, filling her heart with tumultuous emotion.

But no matter the reason they had been apart all these years, the result was that she hadn't given her baby a single drop of motherly love!

She had failed to fulfill any of her responsibilities and duties as a mother towards her baby!

She felt a profound sense of guilt towards her daughter!

And so, hearing her baby say she missed her, she was moved!

Her baby didn't hate her, nor did she blame her, she even missed her!

Elysia was sobbing hard, her whole body trembling, "Mommy misses you too... so much..."

"Mommy, don't cry, baby will give you a kiss."

Her baby leaned towards the screen and planted a kiss on Elysia, displaying a level of understanding that could bring tears to anyone's eyes.

The four little ones furrowed their brows, their eyes reddening.

Their sister's sensible and understanding nature moved them.

Their mommy's tears made their hearts ache.

Mother and daughter cried across the screen, while the four little ones worked together to comfort them.

"Mommy, no more tears. Sister's been found by us, and once mommy returns home, you'll get to see her. Don't worry, mommy, we promise to take good care of sister."

"Baby, stop crying too. Mommy loves you and misses you a lot. That's why seeing you made her lose control. Mommy's crying because she's happy. Let's all stop crying, okay?"

Elliot wiped away the baby's tears, affectionately ruffling the top of her head to soothe her.

The baby's little shoulders hitched, "I love mommy too. Seeing mommy makes me happy too."

Elysia was overwhelmed with emotion!

The baby asked, "Mommy, are you and daddy together?"

The baby was asking about Keith, but Elysia instinctively thought of Tarquin.

"Yes, we're together. He's just not here right now because of some urgent work. Be a good girl and go home with your brothers. Stay there safely, and mommy and daddy will be home first thing in the morning. If you want anything, just tell your brothers."

The baby nodded, "I'll be good and listen to my brothers."

Elysia's heart warmed again at how sensible and understanding her daughter was!

The four little ones grew even fonder of their sister. How could anyone not love such a sensible and understanding little sister?

"..." Mother and daughter chatted for a while longer before ending the video call.

The baby handed the smartwatch back to Elliot, blinking up at her brothers, a bit shy, "Brother, I... I'd like..."

The four little ones looked at her eagerly, asking, "What do you want, baby?"

Her eyes blinked, "..."

The four little ones declared boldly, "Whatever you want, just say it. Don't be shy with your brothers. We've got money, and as long as it can be bought, no matter the cost, we'll get it for you!"

Spoiling their sister was their prerogative, a matter of pride!

The baby's stomach growled aloud!

The four little ones: "?"

Rubbing her tiny belly, she said softly, "I'm hungry, I want some meat."

The four little ones were stunned, "?!"

The baby blinked again, asking quietly, "Brothers, can't we afford meat?"

The four little ones: "..."

The baby, ever so sweet, added, "Then, I won't eat meat. Let my tummy have some bread instead."

The four little ones realized, hurriedly replying, "No, no, no, you'll have meat! Brother will get you some meat to eat!"

Of course! If the baby wanted the stars in the sky, they'd seriously consider how to pluck them. So, getting some meat was hardly an issue! They quickly called Heath, competing to be heard,

"Heath, get some meat ready! My sister's hungry, she wants to eat meat!"

Chapter 873

Let's make sure our little darling stays clear of Keith and finds solace in Tarquin's arms.

But the thing is, Keith truly loves our little darling!

Every inch of her, every healthy laugh, her neat appearance, her polite and understanding nature, her carefree life, screams of Keith's nurturing love. It's all an embodiment of his affection for her.

So, yeah, this is a tough nut to crack!

It's destined that on the path to recognizing his daughter, Tarquin's heart will be the one to bear the scars.

Sigh-

The gang of four couldn't come up with a solid plan either, leaving Tarquin to figure it out on his own.

After hanging up the video call, the four lingered in our darling's room a bit longer before dispersing to their own spaces for some rest.

Evan had just returned to his room when he suddenly remembered Blake. He dashed back to Elliot's room,

"Almost forgot to tell you, bro, I ran into Blake today while I was out..."

Evan recounted how Blake had attempted to kidnap him, leaving Elliot shocked,

"Blake got out of prison? And he plotted to kidnap you?"

"Yeah! Luckily, our darling and her bodyguard stumbled upon us, and she had her bodyguard save me."

Elliot frowned, "..."

At that fancy dinner party where the family acknowledged their relationship, Elijah had handed the Thorne family over to the police.

Blake had extorted a hefty sum from the Bradford family, a serious offense that could lead to severe punishment!

And with the elite circles all aware that the Thorne family had crossed Tarquin, who would dare to bail them out?

To do so would be to cross Tarquin too.

Elliot asked, "How did they get out?"

"I have no idea."

"Where are they now?"

"In police custody, but after I gave him a beating and our darling's bodyguard did too, he's probably in the hospital with serious injuries, not recovering anytime soon."

Elliot had never taken the Thorne family seriously before since they lacked any real influence to threaten them.

But now, he sensed something off about the Thorne family.

Elliot decided to be cautious, making a call to have someone look into the matter.

Just as he finished, Elijah came by,

"I just called the Future Community, about those men in suits who tried to snatch our darling today. We still haven't figured out who they are. They won't spill, and Keith's bodyguard is keeping mum too."

Elliot wasn't worried,

"Whoever they are, our darling is safely back with us now. As long as she's safe, we don't have to worry.

As for their identities, Keith surely knows. Even if we don't intervene, for our darling's safety, Keith won't let this slide.

If he can handle it, he will. If not, he'll surely reach out for our help!

Even though Keith has a vendetta against dad, when it comes to protecting our darling, Keith's goals align with ours."

Elijah nodded, his expression grave as he asked,

"Do you guys think Keith could be the mystery man?"

Elliot's instincts told him no, but...

"We better hear Keith's side. But getting Keith to open up means we first need to understand the feud between him and grandpa."

They might only get to the bottom of the mystery man issue if they could resolve Keith's grudges.

They needed to figure out what exactly happened that stormy night years ago on the mountain that made Keith hate Kendrick so much.

So much so that even after Kendrick's death, Keith sought revenge on Tarquin!

And yet, Tarquin insists Kendrick was not the villain he's made out to be. Could there have been a misunderstanding, or did Tarquin misjudge Kendrick's character?

Elliot pondered over their next move to uncover the truth about that night's events.

With our darling now safely in the Number One Mansion, Keith is bound to show up tomorrow!

Tomorrow...

Chapter 874

Elliot mulled over the situation for a while before turning to Evan,

"Where's White?"

Evan glanced at his wristwatch, then patted his pockets, his eyes widening, "Not with me!"

"Where could he be?"

Evan's eyes rolled around in thought, frustration coloring his tone, "I've got it!"

He spun on his heel and marched out, with Elliot and Elijah trailing behind.

Together, they headed to the nursery, finding White comfortably snoozing on the baby's pillow.

White was curled up on the baby's favorite dinosaur pillow!

Evan pursed his lips, rolled his eyes, and scurried over to pick White up by the tail, whispering sternly, "You trying to give your sister a heart attack?"

He wasn't sure if the baby would be scared of a small snake, so he hadn't introduced White to her yet.

And there White went, sneaking off to cuddle with the baby on her own!

If the baby woke up to a snake staring her down, it would be tears for days!

White opened its eyes, flicking its red tongue in annoyance at Evan, wriggling to break free.

The more White struggled, the angrier Evan got!

Frustrated, he grabbed White firmly, bringing him face to face for a scolding!

For every word of reprimand, White responded with a defiant flick of its tongue.

Clearly, White wasn't taking this lying down.

Elliot and Elijah could only shake their heads at the scene.

Pets often take after their owners, and with Evan being so protective of his sister, it was no surprise White felt the same.

So when White saw the baby, he was instantly smitten!

But since Evan hadn't formally introduced them, White took it upon himself to sneak into her room and snuggle up on her pillow.

White had no idea it could potentially scare the baby!

Thinking it was quite charming, White was sure the baby would love it.

Wanting to avoid waking the baby, Elliot ushered them out and suggested to Evan, "Let's treat White to a feast tonight."

Evan was puzzled, "Reward him after he misbehaved?!"

White shot him a look, then coiled around Elliot's wrist.

Evan turned away, irritated, and White matched his cold demeanor.

Pet and owner, their friendship momentarily capsized!

Elliot chuckled, "White has a task to perform tomorrow. I need his help, so let's pamper him a bit today."

Evan's interest piqued, "What task?"

White lifted its head towards Elliot, tongue flicking, as if to say: "Bro, lay it on me!"

After Elliot outlined the plan, Evan puffed out his chest,

"Don't worry, White's a champ. We'll nail it, right, White?"

White flicked its tongue, brimming with confidence.

Pet and owner, reconciled.

Elliot sent Evan to treat White to his feast, then called Elijah to the study.

"Elijah, you've got a mission too. I want you to dig deeper into the residents of Hill Village, based on what dad has already found. List everyone who's still alive."

Elijah understood Elliot was probing into Kendrick and Keith's history, his brow furrowing,

"That night, the storm was fierce. No villagers were out and about, and nobody saw Grandpa dragging Keith up the hill. It's unlikely any villagers know exactly what happened up there."

This was something Tarquin had already looked into.

Digging further into the Hill Village residents wouldn't unearth any new clues.

Elliot proposed a new angle, "I know. Let's not focus on what happened on the hill. Let's find out what Grandpa was doing that night."

Elijah was puzzled.

Elliot elaborated, "Keith resents dad because of something Grandpa did. It implies Grandpa must've wronged Keith in some way.

But dad insists Grandpa wouldn't do anything atrocious!

So, the person who took Keith up the hill that night might not have been Grandpa after all.

If we can clarify Grandpa's actions during the incident, we can determine whether he was the one who took Keith up the hill.

If someone impersonated Grandpa, then whatever happened on that hill has nothing to do with him! Keith's grudge against dad would naturally dissolve, redirecting his vengeance towards Gideon and the Bradford family instead!"

Chapter 875

Elijah's eyes sparkled with realization. Yes, they had been so wrapped up in figuring out the beef between Gideon, the Bradfords, and Keith, they'd completely overlooked the obvious!

Their focus had been, "What on earth went down on that mountain all those years ago?"

But they'd totally missed a simpler angle!

All they needed to know was whether it was Keith's granddad who had dragged him up that mountain. That was it!

Regardless of what happened on the mountain, if it was indeed granddad who had dragged Keith up there, indifferent to his well-being, then it would prove that there was something seriously off with granddad. It would validate the grudge Keith held against him!

And if it wasn't granddad? Well, that would mean Keith got it all wrong!

"I'm on it now!" With this new direction, Elijah immediately fired up his computer to start digging.

"Let me know as soon as you find something."

Elliot patted Elijah on the shoulder and left to find Lowell.

Lowell had just woken up, shocked to learn that the precious one had been brought back, his eyes wide as saucers.

After allowing Lowell a moment to freak out, Elliot waited for him to calm down before getting down to business, "Mr. Lowell, I need you to make another trip to Joy Residence, have a chat with the Tylers."

The Tylers were Keith's neighbors back in Hill Village.

Elliot and Lowell had visited them a while back during their investigation into Aiden.

Lowell was puzzled, "We've already asked everything we could, what's left to talk about?"

Elliot clarified, "This time, it's not about Aiden. Ask about what went down in the village around the time granddad arrived at Hill Village. If nothing out of the ordinary happened, just get them to reminisce about everyday life back then. Whatever they can remember, you record it. I want to hear everything."

Lowell was bewildered, still in the dark about Elliot's motives. But he knew well that Elliot's brain worked in mysterious ways, much like Tarquin's: brilliant, composed, and utterly inscrutable.

After setting everything up, Elliot returned to his room.

He jotted down all the questions swirling in his mind, his pen dancing across the page in thought. Eventually, his gaze settled on a chilling thought: Someone's behind Keith!

Elliot frowned, eyes narrowing in contemplation.

The next day, just as dawn was breaking, Number One Mansion came alive with commotion.

The darling little princess had a nightmare and was in tears!

Her sobs were loud and relentless, desperately seeking her daddy.

The four little ones took turns trying to soothe her to no avail.

The housemaids also tried their best to calm her, sweating bullets, but the darling's cries didn't stop.

Her voice was hoarse from crying, yet she persisted...

"They're back, they're back! Mr. and Mrs. are back!" Heath rushed in to announce.

Hearing this, the kids quickly reassured her, "Don't cry, darling, daddy and mommy are here."

The darling scrambled out of bed, not even bothering with shoes, and ran towards the door.

A troop followed behind, cautioning, "Careful, darling, don't trip."

As they reached the bottom of the stairs, Tarquin and Elysia had just walked in, Keith in tow, looking weary from the journey.

Upon seeing the darling, all three exclaimed in unison, "Darling!"

"Daddy!" The darling, in her cartoon pajamas and messy hair, ran towards them with open arms.

Tarquin, watching his little girl run to him, felt his heart skip a beat. This was his daughter, his little sunshine, his past life's sweetheart!

But as she neared, Tarquin hastily wiped his sweaty palms on his sides and stepped forward to greet her.

However—

The darling bypassed him, leaping straight into Keith's arms!

His little sunshine, it seemed, had found a new favorite.

Chapter 876

Sweetie hadn't even spotted Tarquin; she was clinging to Keith's neck, whining,

"Daddy, daddy, I had a nightmare, I'm scared, so scared, waaah..."

Keith held her tight, his voice trembling with concern,

"Don't worry, sweetheart, Daddy's here! Daddy will protect you, there's nothing to be afraid of."

A touching moment of father-daughter bonding...

Tarquin stood frozen in place, watching, his heart sinking to rock bottom!

The kids had somewhat anticipated this, but they hadn't expected Tarquin to enter with Keith.

They thought he'd come back with Mommy first, and then Keith would be allowed to see the little one.

But here they were...

Tarquin arriving with Keith, wasn't that just asking for trouble?

Sweetie would obviously prefer Keith!

To him, this was a disaster movie in the making!

The kids could only sigh in resignation. Emmett, feeling sorry for him, walked over and tugged at Tarquin's hand, trying to ease his awkwardness and heartache,

"Daddy, hug?"

Only then did Tarquin tear his gaze away, trying to steady his emotions, and bent down to pick Emmett up.

Emmett kissed him, wrapping his arms around his neck, "We all missed you, Daddy."

Tarquin felt a lump in his throat, touched by Emmett's empathy and comfort.

But at that moment, he was too overwhelmed to speak.

Holding Emmett, he couldn't help but glance over at Keith and Sweetie...

Sweetie was still crying, Keith was patiently soothing her.

He could only stand quietly to the side, not even daring to make clear who he was, fearing it would upset Sweetie.

Elysia, too, stood silently by, quietly shedding tears.

It was her first official meeting with Sweetie, and she was emotionally stirred, wanting to hold her. But at that moment, Sweetie's eyes and heart were only for Keith.

In the living room, only Sweetie and Keith's voices could be heard.

Keith's voice was hoarse, "What did you dream about that scared you so much?"

Sweetie sobbed, "I dreamt... dreamt Daddy was bleeding, bleeding so much! Daddy was... was lying on the ground, and I was beside him, calling him, but Daddy wouldn't answer me. I tried to blow on the wound to make it better, but it didn't heal, I kissed Daddy, but he still wouldn't respond... waaah..."

Sweetie cried bitterly, tears falling like pearls off a string!

Her shoulders shook,

"I heard someone say... say Daddy died, Daddy didn't want me anymore, waaah... I don't want Daddy to die, I don't want Daddy to die..."

Her childlike wailing filled the entire living room, moving everyone to tears.

Even though Keith was the adversary, seeing him and Sweetie so lovingly together still touched everyone.

Keith's eyes were bloodshot, swollen with emotion.

He struggled to control himself, wiping Sweetie's tears as he spoke,

"Daddy's not going anywhere, what would I do without my Sweetie? I want to watch you grow up, see you start your own life. I promised to always be there for you, so Daddy's not going anywhere."

Sweetie sniffled, "Daddy, you're not leaving?"

"Mhm, Daddy's not leaving."

"Daddy, you still want me?"

Keith's lips quivered, tears streaming down his face,

"Daddy wants you, as long as you want Daddy, I'll never leave! No, even if you don't want Daddy, I'll never leave. Daddy loves you! Loves you more than life itself!"

"Daddy, don't cry, Sweetie kisses."

The little girl wiped Keith's tears, then kissed him, once on the left, once on the right.

Keith looked at her lovingly, "Sweetie, don't cry either, Daddy kisses."

Keith kissed Sweetie twice, wiped her tears and her nose, and gently said,

"Remember, don't be scared of nightmares anymore, they're all fake. See, you dreamt Daddy died, but here I am, alive and well, right? Only sweet dreams are real."

Chapter 877

"Okay, got it."

Keith gave his little one's cheek an affectionate pinch, eyes brimming with fatherly love, "Daddy's gonna take you home."

"Huh?! Isn't this our home? Mom and my brothers all live here, oh, where's Mommy?"

Keith was momentarily at a loss for words.

Elysia quickly wiped away her tears, "Sweetie, Mommy's here."

Only then did the little one notice Elysia, her eyes lighting up, "Mommy!"

Elysia reached out and took her daughter from Keith's arms, holding her tight for the first time in what felt like forever.

It was only then that she felt truly at peace.

Her heart, which had been hanging by a thread, could finally rest.

The little one's curiosity was piqued by Tarquin, tilting her head adorably.

Tarquin's heart tightened as he cautiously called out, "Sweetie."

"Do I know you?" she asked.

Tarquin was speechless.

Turning to Keith, she inquired, "Daddy, why does Mr. Handsome look so much like my brothers?"

Tarquin's heart shattered.

His daughter called him Mr. Handsome, but Keith was Daddy...

The atmosphere in the living room shifted dramatically.

From touching to melancholic.

After a brief pause, Elliot, seemingly ignoring the awkward question, suggested to Elysia and the little one, "Mom, why don't you and sweetie go upstairs for a chat? Maybe wash her face and do her hair."

"Sweetie, head up with Mom for now. We'll come find you later."

It wasn't the right time to address certain issues with the little one present.

The emotional moment was over; it was time to tackle the real issues at hand.

Without further questioning, the little one obediently nodded, "Okay."

Elysia gave Tarquin a sympathetic glance before leading her daughter and Emmett upstairs.

Keith instinctively wanted to intervene, but before anyone else could speak up, the little one said:

"Daddy, Mommy and I will wait for you upstairs. After you finish talking with Mr. Handsome, come find us." Everyone in the room was left speechless.

Elysia, with the little one and Emmett, headed upstairs, and the servants discreetly made themselves scarce. Only Tarquin, Keith, and the trio of Elliot, Evan, and Elijah remained in the living room.

Tarquin, still reeling from his daughter's unintentional jab, slumped onto the couch and lit a cigarette in silence.

Keith glared at him furiously, matched by Evan's equally intense stare.

Elijah, feeling sorry for his father, frowned deeply, his expression somber.

Elliot was the only one who remained relatively calm.

Before Elliot could say anything, Keith declared, "I'm taking my little girl with me!"

Tarquin looked up with a deadly glare.

Keith remained resolute, his eyes flashing with determination, "No one's stopping me!"

In the next instant, Tarquin snuffed out his cigarette and lunged at Keith, landing a punch. Keith was no pushover, and the two quickly came to blows.

Evan made a move to intervene, but Elliot held him back, "Let them have it out. Cool off a bit." Both men were burning with rage, needing to vent before any real discussion could happen. Keith was livid that his carefully hidden treasure had been returned to their custody so easily. To Tarquin, the fact that his own daughter called someone else Daddy was infuriating. Despite Keith's genuine affection, Tarquin couldn't help but resent him.

In his eyes, Keith was a kidnapper since his daughter had been taken, not found.

And now that his daughter didn't recognize her real father, Keith was to blame!

Both men were seething, so Elliot let them fight.

They were bound to come to blows over their daughter eventually. If not today, then someday.

Better to let them hash it out now. Fighting can be cathartic, and once the dust settles, they might be ready to talk. With grievances aired and anger vented...

Chapter 878

Time seemed to stand still before Elliot finally broke the silence:

"Stop it, guys. You're gonna scare the little one into tears if she sees you fighting."

The two men, previously locked in a fierce battle, paused at his words.

Elliot had a way with words, hitting right where it hurt.

A scuffle between them was one thing, but upsetting the little one? Now that was a serious matter.

Both Tarquin and Keith were fond of the little one and ceased their fighting.

They sat down on the couch, a coffee table between them, panting and glaring at each other, sweat dripping down their faces.

Elliot looked from his own father to Keith, biting his lip.

No bias here, but both men were schemers!

They fought ferociously yet neither had a scratch on their face. Clearly, they were avoiding facial hits, probably fearing the little one would feel sorry for the injured party and resent the attacker.

So they aimed for places out of sight!

Neither wanted to be blamed by the little one!

Elliot brought them some iced tea, "Here, drink some tea and cool off."

After a long journey and then jumping straight into a fight, they indeed were thirsty.

Grabbing their cups, they took a sip.

The iced tea did its job, calming them down.

Tarquin was the first to break the silence,

"My little girl belongs with me, Tarquin. I won't let you take her away again!"

Keith snapped back instantly, "She's been under my care since she was born. What right do you have to claim her?"

Tarquin clenched his teeth, "Do you think if it weren't for your proper care, you'd be standing here arguing with me? That's called stealing!" Keith couldn't deny his affection for the little one.

But that wouldn't make him hand over his daughter, not even to Keith!

Firstly, a person blinded by hatred would eventually be consumed by it. With Keith, the little one's future would be fraught with danger.

Secondly, even if Keith was a decent man, Tarquin wouldn't hand over his daughter.

She was his flesh and blood, his precious little girl. How could he possibly give her away?

Keith, furious, retorted, "I'm taking her with me, whether you like it or not!"

Tarquin's face darkened, "Just try!"

The conversation was far from peaceful, tension rising once again. Elliot intervened,

"Keith, the safest place for the little one is with us right now. It's not suitable for you to take her away, at least not until those people are dealt with. You shouldn't even think about taking her."

Keith frowned, and Elliot continued,

"The people who tried to snatch her from your place today were professionals, outnumbering and overpowering her bodyguards. If we hadn't arrived in time, they would have taken her.

Do you really believe she would be safer with them or here with us?"

Keith remained silent.

Elliot added, "If they attempted once, they'll do it again. But they wouldn't dare confront me directly. For now, this is the safest place for her.

Plus, with her not by your side, you can focus on dealing with those people. Once the threat is eliminated, then you can reconsider her situation."

Keith's brows were furrowed, his reluctance evident, but Elliot's logic was sound.

Whether he liked it or not, the little one was indeed safest with Tarquin at the moment.

Here, she was not only safe but happy.

She had her mom and brothers, whom she adored.

And with Elysia and Elliot doting on her, Keith had no worries about her well-being.

The only thorn in his side was Tarquin's presence!

He didn't want the little one having any contact with Tarquin!

Seeing Keith's silence, Elliot knew his words had made an impact and asked,

"Do you know who was behind today's attempt to take her?"

Keith's expression tightened, a clear sign he knew something.

But all he said was, "I'll deal with them."

Chapter 879

Elliot probed, "Were they... arranged by that person behind you?"

Keith froze, a flicker of surprise in his eyes.

Elliot pressed on, "You're so fond of treasures, and you adore kids. You'd never hurt me. That injury I got during the spring picnic, it was orchestrated by that person behind you, wasn't it?"

Keith's brow furrowed, a shadow passing over his face. He had indeed prepared a Plan B that day, but it wasn't meant to harm Elliot. Elliot's near- death experience was not part of his plan. He hadn't expected Elliot to notice the discrepancy, much less confront him about it directly!

Keith realized he couldn't measure Elliot's intelligence against that of an ordinary child. Elliot was far too sharp for his age!

Without directly answering Elliot's question, Keith simply said, "Please take care of the treasure for a few days. Once I've settled my affairs, I'll come to pick her up."

As Keith turned to leave, Elliot stopped him, "Keith, I can understand your hatred towards the Bradford family. The sins Gideon and the Bradfords committed are unforgivable."

Keith was taken aback.

Tarquin was equally stunned.

Neither had expected Elliot to bring this up so openly.

Elliot didn't pause at their surprise and continued, "If my grandfather truly did something unforgivable, then he, like Gideon, doesn't deserve pity. But can you be absolutely certain it was my grandfather who led you up that mountain?"

Keith's agitation resurfaced, "Of course, I'm certain!"

Tarquin's face darkened, "How can you be so sure? You were just a kid, and it was pouring that night. How could you see clearly? You hardly knew my father. How can you be so sure it was indeed him, and not someone impersonating him?"

Keith glared at Tarquin, his anger palpable, "What right do you have to question me? Why should I have to prove anything to you? Gideon was a scoundrel, and your father, Kendrick, was no better than a beast! No matter how you try to cleanse his name, it's futile!"

Hearing his father insulted, Tarquin's temper flared, but before he could retaliate, Elliot interjected, turning to Keith, "Have you considered my grandmother? She was not only kind but also wise and independent. She wouldn't blindly fall for my grandfather if he were a bad person. If my grandfather was such a villain, my grandmother wouldn't have loved him."

Keith was visibly angry, "She was deceived! Kendrick was a wolf in sheep's clothing!"

Elliot reasoned, "Whether my grandmother was mistaken or deceived by my grandfather can be discerned from their life together. My grandfather took good care of her, showering her with all his love.

Also, my grandfather's character in his youth is something you could look into. These things are traceable."

Elliot had his doubts about Kendrick but decided to do some digging. After researching till late into the night, he too concluded Kendrick wasn't a malevolent man.

Of course, this didn't absolve Kendrick of the past, but it did suggest something unusual. Why would a man of integrity and kindness suddenly harm a child?

Elliot shared this with Keith hoping to prompt him to reevaluate the past events. Only if Keith harbored doubts would he consider investigating the truth and be more inclined to discuss the past.

This would enable them to extract more useful information from Keith and unravel the full story.

Their ultimate goal was to expose the person manipulating Keith from the shadows as quickly as possible.

Chapter 880

Keith remained silent, leaving Elliot to continue pressing,

"Besides, after Mr. Inkster and Ms. Blackwood's incident, how did you even survive to end up in the hands of those traffickers? Given Gideon's ruthlessness, it's a miracle you're still breathing.

And the traffickers you encountered weren't just into child selling; they were involved in much more heinous activities! In such circumstances, why would they think to sell you off, allowing you to live?

And there's my granddad. If he didn't want grandma to adopt you, he wouldn't have made the trip down to Hill Village to talk to your foster parents personally.

If his kindness was just an act, merely to show off in front of grandma, then why didn't he just kill you on that stormy night on the mountain?" Keith's eyebrows knotted in tension, "...!"

Elliot looked him straight in the eye,

"Wouldn't it have been easier to just silence you forever? Keeping you alive, wasn't granddad afraid you'd eventually tell grandma everything? If granddad could do such monstrous things, it's unlikely he'd spare you out of mercy. So, why didn't he silence you?"

Keith remained speechless.

Elliot added, "We're all in the dark about what truly happened on the mountain that night, but you must have some idea. Think hard about the biggest impact that night had on you.

And all these questions I've raised, give them a good thought, piece them together. Why have you managed to escape death so many times? Is it purely luck, or is there a conspiracy? Could someone be orchestrating all this from behind the scenes?"

With Elliot's words, the living room fell silent.

Keith and Tarquin shared a look, both deep in thought.

It's often said that it's easier to see clearly from the outside, and while both Keith and Tarquin were too close to see, Elliot was the outsider with a clearer view.

The insiders, blinded by their proximity.

Tarquin and Keith had considered these questions separately, never piecing them together for a comprehensive review.

Individually pondering these questions, they focused on isolated answers.

But when compiled together, the focal point shifted, just as Elliot concluded, why did Keith keep surviving against all odds? Was it sheer luck, or was there a deeper plot?

Elijah looked at Elliot with admiration brimming in his eyes.

Following Elliot's instructions, he had been investigating the surviving villagers of Hill Village since last night.

He had been brainstorming ways to get Keith to open up, to coax information out of him, but to no avail.

Then, this morning, Elliot laid out the plan perfectly!

A series of questions, topped with that guiding one, was bound to make Keith doubt the events of that night.

Keith's doubt was their breakthrough!

Elliot truly was the leader!

Evan remained silent, not thinking as deeply, but he watched Keith like a hawk, ready to protect Elliot and Elijah from any sudden moves.

After what felt like an eternity, the piercing sound of a phone ringing shattered the silence.

Tarquin and Keith's phones buzzed almost simultaneously.

Snapped back to reality, they both answered their calls.

"Tarquin, Keith's guys... they've been silenced."

Tarquin was taken aback, "Keith's men, or someone else?"

"Keith's men. The bodyguards he had for the kid."

Tarquin was genuinely surprised. Keith's people being targeted was unexpected.

If someone was out for blood, why target Keith's circle?

"How did it happen?"

"Somebody posing as a doctor poisoned them. Today, Evan instructed us not to mistreat them, to get them medical attention for their injuries. So, we sent them straight to the hospital, never imagining this outcome."