

Hitched 921

Chapter 921

Keith took Baby away, leaving Evan in a sour mood!

"Why did you let him take Baby? We could've used yesterday's trick to keep her here," Evan complained, twisting a strand of his hair in frustration.

Tarquin explained, "Baby's heart is set on Keith now. She missed him after just one night apart. Keeping her here with a little bunny trick might work for a night, but any longer, and she'd be unhappy."

Going with Keith, she'd worry about her beloved pet, Lan.

Staying, she'd fret over Keith.

"So, it's better to let her go happily, snuggling Lan and leaving with Keith."

Besides, he and Elysia couldn't devote themselves entirely to Baby Garcia these days.

With the mysterious figure and Keith planning something big, likely targeting him, he needed to strategize.

And Elysia, after being playfully tormented by him last night, might need a few days in bed to recover.

With Baby around, Elysia certainly wouldn't just rest up.

Tarquin ruffled Evan's hair, "Don't be sad. It won't be long before Baby is back with us. Just focus on keeping Mom company these days. Leave Baby's situation to me; I'll handle it."

...

That afternoon, a major incident rocked Jindale City!

Gideon Bradford and the rest of the Bradford clan were kidnapped!

It was clear who was behind it; the adversaries had made their move.

However, Tarquin was surprised that they targeted Gideon and his group first.

Shouldn't they have aimed directly at him, delivering an unexpected blow?

Gideon and his people were easy targets, disposable at any moment.

Daring to strike Gideon first, were they not worried about alerting him, making him defensive?

Before Tarquin could puzzle it out, the police called.

Being a Bradford, it was natural for the police to reach out to him following the family incident.

After hanging up with the police, Tarquin instructed the little ones to take good care of Elysia, as he needed to visit the police station.

Elliot frowned, "Elijah and I will track down the Bradford clan's whereabouts. If we find anything, we'll call you."

"Alright, stay home and keep Mom company. She'll be upset finding out Baby's gone. Cheer her up, and remember, no matter what, don't leave the house," Tarquin advised, turning to Elliot, "Elliot, take good care of your brothers and Mom."

Elliot, sensing the gravity, nodded solemnly, "Be careful."

Tarquin felt reassured, "Don't worry about me. Let's keep the Bradford situation from your mom for now."

"Got it," Elliot responded.

After leaving a few more instructions, Tarquin grabbed his coat and left.

...

Meanwhile, Keith also caught wind of the Bradford family incident.

Frowning in thought, he didn't even have to make the call; the other side beat him to it. The call came from a masked number and the voice was altered,

"The prey is laid out on the cutting board for you. Go vent out, avenge your family thoroughly, and let them rest in peace."

Keith, eyebrows furrowed, asked, "Didn't we agree on the day after tomorrow?"

They had arranged a private meeting for tomorrow, with the action set for the day after.

Yet, the move was made today without informing him.

The person on the line sighed, "Didn't want to wait. You're in a hurry too, right? Once the Bradfords are dealt with, you can take Baby abroad and start your new life."

Keith's expression hardened, "Are we still going to meet?"

The caller retorted, "Eager to see me, huh? Planning to kill me to avenge your sister?"

Chapter 922

Keith's brow knitted tighter, a grim resolve setting in. He truly wanted that man dead.

He wanted him to suffer the same fate as Tarquin!

But the man had said, "After all, when I rescued you and your sister from Gideon's clutches, it wasn't with the intention to harm you later. I've helped raise you, could do the same for your sister. Why nurture two of my own only to turn against one?"

"Because you wanted to fuel the rage inside me!" Keith shot back.

The man let out a derisive chuckle.

Frustration etched deeper into Keith's face. "If not you, then who was the one masquerading as Kendrick?!"

After a few seconds of silence, the man exhaled deeply, "Once we deal with the Bradfords, I'll reach out. We should meet in person after all these years, have a proper chat. For now, go settle your score with Gideon."

Keith's tension didn't fade. His plan had always been to use this man to get rid of Tarquin and then seek vengeance for his sister!

Since a meeting was promised, his sister's vengeance could wait.

"And how do you plan to deal with Tarquin?" he asked.

"You'll find out soon enough. Focus on avenging your parents and brothers for now. Be quick about it; the cops and Tarquin are on the move. I've sent you Gideon's location."

With that, the call ended.

Keith's expression darkened.

Before he could ponder further, he received a location and a video clip.

The video starred Gideon, bound to a chair, desperately screaming for help.

Standing before his floor-to-ceiling window, the sight of Gideon ignited a fierce blaze in Keith's heart.

As the video played, someone approached Gideon, asking if he remembered Kelsey Blackwood. Keith's rationality shattered with Gideon's response. Breathing heavily, his emotions spiraled out of control, culminating in a roar as he threw and stomped on his phone, as if it were Gideon underfoot. Baby, hearing the commotion, ran to him, worried. "Daddy, what's wrong?"

Keith, eyes brimming red, looked at Baby, his expression that of a wounded child.

Baby approached, taking his trembling hand, her small face lifted to his, "Daddy?"

Keith knelt, pulling Baby into an embrace, his voice choked, "Did Daddy scare you, Baby?"

"Yeah, I was scared."

Keith held Baby tighter, comforting, "It's okay, Baby, don't be scared. Daddy loves Baby, Daddy would never hurt Baby."

Baby, in her sweet, childish voice, reassured him, "I'm not scared of Daddy hurting me. I'm scared of Daddy being sad. I love Daddy, I don't want Daddy to be sad. Are you missing grandma and grandpa, and your uncles and aunts?"

Keith broke down, tears streaming as he buried his face in Baby's small shoulder, sobbing.

Baby, not fully grasping the situation but seeing Keith cry, began to cry herself.

While crying, she kissed Keith's hair, "Don't cry, Daddy. Baby loves you. You're not alone, you have Baby. I love Daddy. Shall I sing for you? Twinkle, twinkle, little Shay..."

Baby's tender voice filled the room, her sobs intermingling with the song.

Keith hugged Baby even tighter, overwhelmed by fury and sorrow.

His heart ached unbearably-

Chapter 923

In the video, someone asked Gideon if he still remembered Kelsey.

Gideon shot back, incredulously,

"Kelsey? Who's Kelsey? I don't know her, never had anything to do with her. You sure you've got the right guy?!"

"You raped her, forgotten that?"

Gideon was visibly agitated, and it wasn't an act,

"I never laid a hand on a woman named Kelsey, you've got it all wrong! If you don't believe me, bring this Kelsey woman here, let her confront me face to face! Bring her here! Now!"

Ah, the irony-

He personally led Kelsey to her demise, and now he claimed ignorance of her very existence!

One would rather believe Gideon was denying his crime, blatantly lying!

But tragically, Gideon was not!

He genuinely did not recognize Kelsey's name!

Unaware of who Kelsey was, let alone feeling any remorse or guilt.

For years, the only one tormented by psychological agony was me!

My mother was taken from me, my father, my two brothers-all gone. I've been living a nightmare, barely surviving, enduring excruciating mental torture day and night!

And yet, Gideon, the root cause of all this misery, had long forgotten about it.

Forgotten, or never bothered to remember.

The lives of my family, in Gideon's eyes, seemed less significant than that of an ant!

Dead, just dead. That's all.

Worthless, not even worth mentioning.

Ah!

How tragic, how heart-wrenching!

How could I not feel pain? How could I not harbor hatred?

The pain was so intense it felt as though my heart was being violently ripped apart, making it hard to breathe!

The depth of my pain was equal only to the depth of my hatred!

I wished I could tear open Gideon's chest right now, rip out his heart and see for myself just how dark it truly was?!

Forget? Forgotten? Don't recognize?

What a claim of ignorance! Ah!

Overwhelmed by pain and anger, Keith suddenly laughed, a dark, almost maniacal laughter, "Gideon, oh, very well, haha..."

Baby, cautiously, asked, "Daddy, are you okay?"

Keith's sanity flickered back for a moment.

He stared at the little girl before him, his heart of stone softening slightly.

His throat ached as he struggled to speak,

"Baby, would... would you ever leave Daddy?"

Baby shook her head, vigorously, "No, Baby loves Daddy the most, Baby will always stay by Daddy's side."

"...And if one day, you found out Daddy lied to you, would you forgive Daddy?"

"Daddy said, a lie told for a good reason is okay. If Daddy lies, Baby won't be mad, Baby loves Daddy."

"...What if, one day, you discovered Daddy was actually a bad person, would you hate Daddy?"

"Hmm? Daddy knows bad people aren't happy, Daddy won't be a bad person. Daddy said, bad people live with heavy hearts, good people are happy. Daddy told Baby to always be a good person, Daddy won't be a bad person."

Keith felt a lump in his throat, at a loss for words, and pulled the little girl into his embrace,

"Baby, Daddy loves you, will always love you. No matter what Daddy's been through, what Daddy's done, my love for you will never change, I'll love you more with each passing day."

Baby responded, "Baby loves Daddy too, forever and ever, to Baby, you're the best Daddy in the whole wide world!"

Keith's eyes welled up, nearly overwhelmed by emotion.

All the sweet nothings in the world couldn't compare to Baby's simple declaration of love!

Keith sniffled, wiping away Baby's tears once more,

"I'm sorry, I scared you. Daddy was just thinking about family members who've passed away, that's why I was upset. You don't have to worry, Baby."

Baby, mimicking the comforting gestures she'd seen Keith use, gently patted his head, offering solace in her own tender way.

Chapter 924

"Daddy, don't be sad, you still have me. I won't ever go away, I'll always be here with you."

Keith smiled, "...Okay."

With plump little fingers extended, his daughter proclaimed, "Daddy and I will always be together."

"Yes!" Keith extended his finger, linking it with his daughter's in a solemn pact.

Together, they chanted, a chorus of two, "Pinky swear, hang it high, no take-backs for a hundred years! Whoever backs out is a puppy! Seal it with a kiss!"

After their brief yet innocent ceremony, Keith gently kissed his daughter's forehead.

She reciprocated with a kiss on Keith's forehead.

Keith pinched her chubby cheeks, "My little munchkin."

She giggled and pinched Keith's cheek in return, "Daddy."

Keith couldn't help but laugh.

Her laughter, infectious and pure, filled the room.

These moments of happiness, though fleeting, were profoundly beautiful.

After a short while, Keith told his daughter, "Daddy has to step out for a bit, you play with Tamsin at home, okay?"

The little girl pouted, "Why does Daddy always have to go? When will Daddy stay and play with me? You promised we'd go see the pandas."

Keith, utterly smitten, reassured her, "Soon, my love. Once I wrap up this task, there'll be no more separations. I'll take you to see all the pandas you want, and we'll go wherever your heart desires."

"Promise? No fibbing, fibbers are puppies!"

Keith chuckled, "No fibbing, I promise."

After soothing his little girl, Keith carried her downstairs to Tamsin.

"I've got to head out, could you please look after her?" Though Keith was not fond of the bodyguard Tarquin had assigned, he maintained a polite demeanor. After all, Tamsin was excellent with his daughter.

Tamsin took the girl into her arms, responding with a courteous, "Of course."

"Daddy will be back for dinner. If Daddy's not back, I won't eat!" The little girl had Keith wrapped around her finger.

Smiling, Keith assured, "Alright! You'll call me before dinner, won't you?"

"Yep, bye Daddy."

"Goodbye."

Keith gave his daughter's cheek one last pinch before turning to leave, glancing back one more time at the doorway.

Their gazes met, both smiling-a moment of pure joy and connection.

Keith left, keys in hand, confident in his daughter's safety with the guards in place, including the one Tarquin had insisted on.

No sooner had Keith left than Tarquin received the news.

"Keith's left."

"He's likely heading to see Gideon. Keep a close eye on him and ensure Tamsin takes good care of the girl."

Tarquin was deep in discussion with the police, investigating a kidnapping within the Bradford family. Like Keith, he hadn't anticipated any danger to the little girl, considering the extensive security measures in place.

Yet, disaster struck unexpectedly.

Around four in the afternoon, both Keith and Tarquin's phones lit up with the alarming message, "There's been an incident with the girl!"

Keith slammed the brakes in the middle of the road, "What?!"

Tarquin, breath caught in his throat, dropped his phone, "No..."

Chapter 925

Baby was kidnapped, and it was no accident.

Keith had barely been gone an hour when the quiet suburban home nearby suddenly exploded. Following closely, the villa where Baby was staying caught fire!

The blaze was fierce, devouring the three-story building almost instantly, leaving no time for anyone to react.

Tarquin's crew, Keith's people, and Tamsin, who was tasked with Baby's close protection, all fought tooth and nail to ensure her safety.

When Baby was pulled from the inferno, she was miraculously unscathed, save for a dusting of soot on her cherubic face.

However, disaster struck again on the ambulance.

Someone infiltrated the medical team, took out Tamsin, shook off the other bodyguards, and kidnapped Baby.

On his way to the scene, Tarquin received a call from the mysterious culprit,

"Panicking yet? Heh, I've sent you the location. Come alone if you want to see your darling Baby girl again.

Remember, come alone. For every extra person you bring, I'll chop off a limb. Once I'm done with her hands and feet, I'll start on her flesh. Bring an extra person, and I'll slice off an extra piece.

Your little girl's quite tender, seems fragile too. If you don't want her to suffer, you better behave. Don't make me angry, heh."

Tarquin's breathing became rapid, his face turned ashen, his voice trembling,

"If you dare touch her... You bastard, if you dare lay a finger on my daughter... Beep... Beep... Beep..."

Before Tarquin could finish, the line went dead.

Gasping for air, shaking, he tried calling back, only to be met with a disconnected tone.

He tried several times, all in vain.

Furious, Tarquin slammed his fist on the steering wheel, "Damn it..."

The bodyguard sitting in the passenger seat looked at him worriedly, "Tarquin, you need to calm down, you..."

"Get out!" Tarquin shouted, hitting the brakes hard.

The bodyguard, concerned for him, hesitated, "Tarquin..."

Tarquin's roar was deafening, "GET OUT!"

Startled, the bodyguard quickly opened the door and stepped out.

"Tell them, no one is to follow me!"

With that, Tarquin floored the gas pedal, and the car, like a black dragon, vanished into the bustling traffic.

Frustrated, the bodyguard stomped his foot and immediately called Axel,

"It's a mess, a big mess! That guy is using Baby to blackmail Tarquin, demanding he comes alone! Tarquin kicked me out and ordered no one else to follow!"

He's too worked up, I'm afraid he's going to do something rash because of how much he cares for Baby. This could end badly! What do we do?" Axel, who had been keeping an eye on Farmjoy Estate, was caught off guard by Baby's predicament.

Who would have thought that despite Keith's collusion with the mysterious figure, they would still target Baby?!

Annoyed and frustrated, Axel's voice was icy,

"If Tarquin said not to follow, then don't. First, get in touch with Elliot and Elijah, have them track Tarquin's phone remotely and locate Baby. Then call me back and we'll go from there."

Meanwhile, Keith's car was still parked in the middle of the road, causing a traffic jam and continuous honking from the cars behind him.

Ignoring the chaos, he grabbed a spare phone and called the mastermind.

As soon as the call connected, he burst out,

"What the hell did you tell me? Are you playing me? You dare touch my Baby? Do you have a death wish?! You think I'm just a pawn in your game, at your mercy?"

Touch Baby, and I swear I'll make you regret it. I'll destroy everything you've worked for. Try me if you don't believe it!"

The mysterious person sighed lightly, his voice calm,

"Deception is part of the game. How else could I ensure you and Tarquin wouldn't take this lightly? You know as well as I do, using Baby is the most effective way to bring Tarquin down!"

Chapter 926

Keith was a bundle of raw nerves, "I'd rather not end him, but I'm not gonna let you use Baby like this!"

"Not kill him? What do you mean, 'not kill him'? You want to snatch Baby away? Baby might like you, but she's also fond of him. Don't forget, he's Baby's real dad, and you? You're just the villain in her story! The more time she spends with Tarquin, the more she's gonna choose him over you.

And let's not overlook the fact that Tarquin has Elysia by his side, along with Baby's four brothers. And what do you have? Nothing but your lonesome self. How do you plan to compete with Tarquin?

If you want Baby, Tarquin has to be out of the picture!"

Keith clenched his teeth in anger,

"I don't need your twisted logic, just let Baby go! Now, immediately!"

The other person sighed again,

"Relax, I'm not going to harm Baby. You know I'm only using her to get a grip on Tarquin.

You don't need to worry about Baby's safety. I'll drop her off at your place tonight. And that thing you wrecked? I'll compensate you for it.

Listen to me, go settle your score with Gideon. If you miss this chance, getting your sweet revenge will be much harder. Good opportunities don't come around often. You need to seize it.

Think about Kelsey, think about Phineas Inkster, think about your two brothers who met their tragic ends."

After saying that, the person hung up.

Keith sat in his car, so overwhelmed with emotion that veins throbbed visibly on his neck.

He trembled all over, his face contorted with rage, and his teeth clenched audibly!

It wasn't until a traffic cop came knocking on his window that he managed to calm himself down, didn't explain himself, and restarted the car. With a fierce turn of the steering wheel, he made an illegal U-turn!

...

Forty minutes later.

In an abandoned factory in the suburbs.

A person dressed in a dark cloak and wearing a mask looked down at Baby with scrutiny.

Baby was tied to a chair, her eyes red and swollen with fear, trying her best not to cry aloud, her tiny mouth quivering and tears hanging at the corners of her eyes.

The masked person stared at Baby for a while, then gave her a chilling smile, "Heh heh."

Terrified, Baby couldn't hold it in any longer and burst into tears,

"Daddy, I want my daddy, wah, I want my daddy..."

The masked person pursed their lips,

"You know why I'm not fond of you? Because you're such a nuisance! Keith could've been something great, but he was ruined because of you. Such a pity. Once a demon gets a taste of human emotions, they're not fit to be a demon anymore."

Baby cried harder, sobbing uncontrollably, her voice hoarse,

"I want my daddy, I want my mommy, I want my brothers, I want Mr. Handsome, wah wah wah... daddy, mommy, brothers, Mr. Handsome, wah wah wah..."

"Enough crying. Today, you'll all be reunited, heh heh, in the underworld."

After saying that, the masked person turned to another masked figure nearby,

"Tarquin came by himself?"

"Yeah, our guys have been watching him. He told his bodyguards to leave and came here alone."

"Quite brave, heh heh."

He seemed to think of something else and added,

"Little Elysia and those kids are pretty interesting. If we get a chance today, grab them, and make sure they're alive."

"Understood!"

The masked person gave Baby one last look, chuckled sinisterly, then slowly walked towards the staircase.

Baby cried with reddened eyes, "I want my daddy, I want my daddy, wah..."

Suddenly!

A car came speeding in, crashing through the factory's old gates!

Chapter 927

Keith hurriedly got out of the car, catching the masked man by surprise.

They had been expecting Tarquin, not Keith!

When Baby saw Keith, she was overwhelmed with emotion, crying even louder,

"Daddy, daddy! I want a hug, daddy, please hug me..."

Keith followed the sound of her voice and saw Baby tied up on the second floor. His heart sank, and he felt a shiver run through his entire body, "Don't worry, Baby, Daddy's here."

Keith started to rush upstairs but was blocked by a group of thugs.

The man at the top of the stairs looked down at Keith with disappointment in his voice,

"You're not going after Gideon for revenge?"

Keith clenched his fists, glaring back with a murderous look, silent.

The man sneered, "I really feel sorry for Kelsey and the entire Inkster family. For the descendant of an enemy, you're even willing to give up on your vendetta! Keith, she has the Bradford family blood in her!"

Keith replied coldly,

"She's just my daughter, Keith's daughter, and that's all that matters!"

The man scoffed, "Lying to yourself, is that fun?"

Keith ignored him, his gaze threatening, "I'm taking Baby with me! Now!"

The man then asked, "I didn't tell you about this place. How did you find it? Who told you? Tarquin? Or did you... have someone on the inside?"

Keith repeated his demand,

"I'm here to take Baby away. Now!"

"You can take her, but not just yet. Wait until I've dealt with Tarquin. If you don't want revenge, you can wait here. Once I'm done with Tarquin, I'll hand Baby over to you."

Keith didn't engage further.

He looked up at Baby, his eyes filled with tenderness,

"Baby, Daddy's right here. Don't be scared. You're not alone; Daddy's here. Now, do as Daddy says, close your eyes, and count silently. Only open them when Daddy says so."

Through her tears, Baby nodded, her sobs breaking,

"Okay."

She obeyed Keith immediately, closing her eyes tight.

The next moment, Keith shot the man a fierce glare.

He gritted his teeth and moved forward, as the sound of intense fighting broke out.

The man watched from above, his voice chilling,

"I didn't want to hurt you. My quarrel isn't with you. Are you really seeking death?"

Keith's gaze turned fierce, and his every move was lethal.

Without hesitation, he drew his gun and aimed at the man, pulling the trigger, "Bang—"

Not wanting to hurt him? That's a lie if Keith ever heard one.

After more than two decades of dealing with each other, Keith might not know his true identity, but he had a good idea of his character.

He was ruthlessly cunning, a master of psychological warfare.

His words were always a mix of truth and lies, making it impossible to discern what was real.

But one thing was clear: you could only believe a tenth of what he said.

Another thing was certain: Keith was just a pawn to him.

Useful for now, disposable later.

Once he was done with Tarquin, Keith knew he'd be next on the list.

From the moment Keith learned the truth about that night in Hill Village, he knew a target was on his back.

No matter who had posed as Kendrick, he was involved.

His sister's tragic death, he was part of it.

His own downfall, he couldn't escape blame.

Keith knew, deep down, it would come down to him or the man. A fight to the death.

Chapter 928

The past few days had been a tense truce, simply because there was still mutual benefit in not turning on each other. The reason he was still open to dialogue rather than having a hit put on him was because Tarquin hadn't arrived yet.

His goal for today was Tarquin!

He didn't want to burn bridges just yet, much like how he had purposely lured him in by taking Gideon and the Bradford family hostage, pushing him towards revenge.

He was worried about his own plans being jeopardized!

But with his plans against Tarquin now threatening Baby, how could he possibly stand by and do nothing?

With Baby in danger, how could he focus on settling scores with Gideon?

To him, Baby was the love of his life, more precious than his own being.

He hadn't forgotten the blood feud with his family, he remembered!

But he couldn't ignore Baby; he had to save her first, then seek revenge later!

Revenge could wait.

Saving Baby was urgent!

When the man dodged Keith's direct assault, he became ruthless.

He didn't use Baby as leverage; instead, he gave the order on the spot,

"If he doesn't want to live, then let's not keep him alive!"

A group, upon receiving the command, drew their guns and opened fire on Keith.

The fight intensified within the derelict factory!

What was supposed to be a negotiation scene between Tarquin and the mysterious figure had turned into a battleground between Keith and the mysterious figure.

When Tarquin burst in, Keith was still locked in a bloody confrontation.

Seeing Keith there took Tarquin by surprise.

He hadn't expected Keith to be there, especially not before him!

Without a moment to spare on further thought, Tarquin joined the fray!

Together with Keith, they faced off against the masked assailants!

Tarquin knew very well Keith's love for Baby; he would never harm her. The plot to kidnap Baby was surely the mysterious figure's own doing!

As someone attempted to strike Keith from behind, Tarquin's gaze turned icy, he grabbed the assailant, and with a snap, rendered him incapacitated! Keith glanced over his shoulder at Tarquin with a frown.

With a quick and accurate shot, he took down another masked man behind Tarquin.

Back to back, they quickly formed an alliance.

Keith was straight to the point,

"Baby's on the second floor, temporarily safe but terrified. We need to figure out how to get her out fast!

My informant says there are dozens of gunmen in the factory, all skilled and armed. There are also snipers around, and the place is rigged with explosives. He doesn't plan on letting you or Baby make it out alive!"

Tarquin looked up to the second floor.

Baby was tied to a chair, her eyes tightly shut, her small shoulders trembling, clearly still in tears.

Tarquin's heart ached with a murderous rage!

Seeing the masked man beside Baby, he suppressed his anger to ask,

"The one watching the fight, is that him?"

"Not sure, but I think so! He's very interested in you. He'd probably want to have a word before you die."

A fierce gleam passed through Tarquin's eyes-good, if it was him!

"He's here for me. I'll draw their fire. You find a way to get to Baby on the second floor!"

Without waiting for Keith to respond, Tarquin moved away.

Tarquin made himself a target, diverting the enemy's focus from Keith.

Understanding his intention, Keith grimaced, wiping the blood from his lips as he retreated to the edge.

Any old grudges or vendettas paled in comparison to Baby's safety!

Uniting for a common cause, rescuing Baby, was the only priority!

Chapter 929

Keith and Tarquin had their roles down to a science. Keith kept his eyes glued to Baby, ready to swoop in when the moment was right. Tarquin, on the other hand, was the decoy, duking it out with the thugs!

Tarquin fought with a ferocity and precision that could only be likened to a raging bull!

The man stood hands behind his back on the second floor, his focus never wavering from Tarquin.

Today, his main interest was indeed Tarquin.

He watched, unbothered, as Tarquin brawled with a bunch of goons, as if he were watching a theater production.

A red laser dot danced around Tarquin, the sniper poised and ready, yet he never gave the order to shoot.

Even more so-

When he sensed Tarquin was in danger, he'd even shout out a warning, urging Tarquin to watch his back.

And when Tarquin landed a solid hit, he'd clap and cheer, clearly entertained!

Tarquin noticed his odd behavior and, after taking down a few more of the thugs, glanced up at him before the next wave descended.

His gaze was deep, his expression unreadable.

The man met his gaze and chuckled, 'Heh, heh.'

He waved his hand, signaling the thugs to hold off, and said to Tarquin,

"Tarquin, long time no see."

At that, a flicker of surprise crossed Tarquin's face. "You know me?!"

From the shadows, Baby's voice rang out, her eyes still shut, "Mr. Handsome, Mr. Handsome!"

Tarquin's heart clenched, and he reassured her quickly, "It's me! Don't be scared, Baby."

"Baby's scared, waaa..."

"Don't worry, don't worry. Mr. Handsome is here, you don't have to be afraid!"

"Daddy?"

"...He's here too. He's with me. We'll get you out of here soon, Baby. Just keep your eyes closed, don't open them."

"Okay." Baby's voice, small and tearful, tugged at the heartstrings.

"Heh, heh." The man's laugh was sinister. "Interesting, your own daughter calls another man daddy. Doesn't that upset you?"

Tarquin ignored him, shifting the conversation away from Baby, not wanting the man to focus on her.

He repeated his earlier question, "You know me? You've seen me before?"

The man countered, "Don't you remember me?"

"...Take off the mask and voice changer. Let me see."

"It's not about the mask or voice changer. You've just forgotten me. Look at me, I've always remembered you, no matter what you turn into, I can recognize you."

Tarquin was suspicious. No matter what he became, this man could always recognize him?

Someone close to him?

"...If you're so familiar with me, what are we to each other?"

The man pondered for a moment. "Enemies now, I guess? Why else would I want you dead?"

"And before?"

"Before... Heh, heh, it's confusing for you, and it's confusing for me. But one thing's for sure, you're going down today."

Tarquin frowned. The man's speech was erratic and nonsensical, like a madman's.

But how could a madman orchestrate such elaborate schemes for years!

Just as Tarquin was about to speak, the man continued,

"Before you die, though, I want to play a game with you, to mark our acquaintance. What should we play? How about self-harm? The game you loved as a kid, sound good?"

Self-harm!

Tarquin's brow furrowed in concern, "!"

The man chuckled, "Curious how I know? I understand you better than anyone, Tarquin."

Tarquin's breathing became labored!

After his parents died, he was taken in by the Bradford family. The pain of missing his parents, coupled with external torment, made his life a living hell.

But he couldn't die. He had to live, to avenge his parents!

Whenever he couldn't bear the immense psychological pressure, he'd hurt himself for relief!

But this was a deeply personal secret. How did he know?

"Who are you?!"

"Heh, heh, who am I, indeed? You'll have to guess. If you can't figure it out, oh well. Let's just play our game."

Chapter 930

He took out a switchblade, twirling it beside Baby with a malicious grin.

"You used to scratch yourself up as a kid, but that's boring. Let's go for something heavier, shall we? I'll decide the weight - either from you or from her. So, who's it gonna be...?"

He couldn't finish his sentence as a rock suddenly struck his wrist!

The switchblade clattered to the ground.

Tarquin's voice was like ice. "Back off from her!"

The masked man looked at him, a hint of surprise in his eyes.

"You got the nerve to hit me, not realizing the mess you're in? She's mine. I could end her in a heartbeat!"

Tarquin's gaze didn't waver. "Think again why I'd dare to do such a thing!"

"Why?" the masked man asked, puzzled.

"Don't you know? I never enter a fight unprepared."

The masked man's suspicion deepened.

"What are you implying? You think you're walking out of here alive?"

"Better question is, can you?"

There was a brief silence until the masked man's phone rang. He answered, clearly annoyed. "Talk!"

"There's been a mishap, get out now! The explosives are set to go off in less than ten minutes. Any later and it's too late!"

"What happened?"

"I'll explain face-to-face."

"Are you sure?"

"Positive. We need to evacuate now!"

"Damn it!"

After hanging up, the masked man regained his composure and turned back to Tarquin.

"Such a pity. I was looking forward to making you suffer a bit longer. But it seems fate has other plans. In another life, Tarquin. Don't forget to seek me out. We'll have our rematch."

With that, he signaled to his men and they quickly made their way to the roof where a helicopter awaited.

Seeing this, the henchmen downstairs caught on and started to evacuate.

Seizing the moment, Tarquin dashed to the second floor to rescue Baby.

But he was met with sniper fire.

While the henchmen retreated, the sniper did not.

Forced into a corner, Tarquin ducked behind a piece of machinery, scouting for the sniper's position.

Keith had just received a text from an informant, warning him of the impending explosion at the factory! Frowning deeply, he took a deep breath, pocketed his phone, and focused on locating the sniper.

He and Tarquin worked together, quickly neutralizing several threats.

But one was too well-hidden, their location unknown.

This sniper was deliberately leaving Baby alive as bait, ensuring Tarquin and Keith couldn't escape the factory before the explosion. Time ticked away in the silent, abandoned factory.

Now it was just Tarquin, Keith, Baby, and the unseen sniper.

Keith, hidden behind machinery, glanced at Baby on the second floor, his eyes filled with tenderness and love.

Baby was still sobbing, eyes shut tight, following his instructions.

Keith felt a pang in his heart, warming his eyes.

He gritted his teeth, looked at Tarquin, who was busy on his phone.

Feeling Keith's gaze, Tarquin looked up.

Unable to speak directly, Tarquin gestured to his phone, signaling Keith to check his.

Keith didn't look at his phone, instead, he signaled a plan to Tarquin.

This time, he'd be the decoy!

Once he ran out, the sniper would shoot at him, revealing their position, allowing Tarquin to take the shot.

Tarquin got the message, his eyes widened in protest, but Keith was already sprinting out!

A laser immediately targeted Keith, followed by the sharp sound of a gunshot.