

Hitched 931

Chapter 931

Keith took a bullet to the gut and hit the ground hard!

Tarquin's heart skipped a beat, his pupils narrowed in focus as he swiftly aimed at the sniper's position, firing three shots in rapid succession! The sniper tumbled down from his perch, lifeless on impact.

Tarquin rushed to Keith's side, blood had already soaked through Keith's shirt and was still seeping out.

In a frantic move, Tarquin stripped off his own shirt, trying to temporarily plug the wound to slow the bleeding.

Keith clasped his wrist, raising his other hand, weakly pointing in Baby's direction, his voice barely a whisper, "Forget about me! Take... take Baby and run, it's gonna blow! Go... take her... hurry..."

Tarquin's throat bobbed, emotions swirling in turmoil.

"It's not blowing up yet, Baby's already safe."

Keith looked puzzled.

Tarquin assured, "Baby is 100% safe, try not to talk, the medics are on their way, they'll be here any minute."

Tarquin pressed his shirt against Keith's wound and stood up to save Baby.

Keith let out a relieved sigh, his frail voice trailing after Tarquin,

"Don't let Baby open her eyes, don't let her see me bleeding, don't let her know I'm hurt. She'll be scared, it'll frighten her."

Tarquin's throat moved again, he nodded, "Yeah."

Upstairs, Baby was still tied up.

Her chubby little face smeared with dirt, her hair a mess, tears clinging to her eyelashes, invoking pity.

But her eyes remained tightly shut.

She was obedient to Keith's words, not opening them if he said not to.

Tarquin dashed over, "Baby!"

Baby recognized Tarquin's voice, "Mr. Knight?"

"Yes! It's me!"

Baby was ecstatic, "Mr. Knight, Mr. Knight, sob, Mr. Knight..."

Tarquin's heart ached for her, "I'm here, I'm here."

He quickly untied her, scooping his daughter into his arms.

Baby clung to his neck, her voice hoarse from crying,

"I'm scared, Baby's scared, there were bad guys, bad guys, sob sob sob..."

Tarquin's voice was tender, "It's alright, the bad guys have been chased away, Baby's safe now."

"The bad guys... were chased away?"

"Yes."

"And daddy? Can I open my eyes now?"

Tarquin looked downstairs, the first floor was in chaos, traces of a fight everywhere, bodies, bloodstains.

Keith lay in a pool of blood, weakly gazing their way.

Tarquin felt a lump in his throat, "Keep them closed for a bit longer, I'll take you out first."

The bloody scene downstairs wasn't something a child should see, it would give her nightmares.

And the weakened Keith, he couldn't let Baby see him like this, it would terrify her, deeply sadden her. Baby, unaware of everything, obediently nodded, her eyes still closed, hugging Tarquin's neck tight.

She was worried about her daddy, asking, "Mr. Knight, where's my daddy?"

Tarquin, holding Baby, glanced at Keith with a heavy heart, he hesitated, then lied,

"He's not here right now."

"Oh, my daddy came too, did you see him?"

"Yes, I saw him."

"Then, Mr. Knight, could you call daddy for me? Tell him Baby's safe now, so he won't worry."

The little girl murmured, "My daddy gets scared easily, he might cry if he's too worried."

They were now on the first floor, a few meters away from Keith.

Keith's face was pale, devoid of any color, but he was smiling, gazing at Baby with love.

Tarquin felt a bitter taste in his mouth, telling Baby,

"He already knows Baby's safe, he's the one who chased the bad guys away."

Baby beamed with pride, "My daddy's so strong."

As Tarquin carried Baby past Keith, he couldn't help but stop,

"Baby, you love him a lot, don't you?"

"Yes, yes, daddy is my favorite person, I love him so much, and he loves me, so much!"

Tears streamed down, rolling over Keith's cheeks.

Chapter 932

"Yeah, daddy loves you so much, Baby. So, so much.

But... I'm sorry, Baby. Daddy has to break his promise.

I won't be able to have dinner with you at home tonight, and I won't be able to anymore.

Daddy won't be there to take you to see the pandas, or take you on vacations.

I promised to teach you swimming, diving, and boxing.

I wanted to watch you grow up, be there for your SATS, walk you down the aisle...

I even thought about, once you got married and had kids, I'd be a full-time grandpa, just looking after your little ones, heh...

I promised you so much, but I won't be able to keep any of them.

I regret it so much. If I knew I'd have to leave you so soon, I would've never left Spirit Village.

We only had a little over five years together, and I was away for two of those. I regret it so much.

Baby, daddy has to go, to say goodbye forever.

When I'm not around, you have to eat well, grow up healthy, and stay safe."

Outside the abandoned factory, sirens wailed, and ambulances roared.

Tarquin glanced at Keith, asking with his eyes if he wanted to say a few words to Baby.

Keith shook his head, gesturing for him to take Baby outside.

Hearing his voice would surely make her open her eyes, and seeing him like this would scare her.

With a sniff, Tarquin carried Baby outside.

More than a dozen cars were parked outside, and many people had gathered.

Besides the police and paramedics, Lowell was there with bodyguards, and so were Elysia, Elliot and Evan.

Seeing Tarquin with Baby, the crowd rushed over.

Tarquin first directed the police and paramedics inside, then told Baby,

"Baby, you can open your eyes now."

The first person Baby saw was Elysia. "Mommy!"

Breathless, Elysia ran over, her eyes swollen and tears still hanging from her lashes.

She had woken up to overhear a conversation about Baby's accident.

Nearly scared out of her wits.

Tarquin comforted her, "It was a close call, but Baby's not hurt."

Elysia's lips quivered, her voice raspy, "As long as she's not hurt. What about you?"

"I'm fine too, don't worry."

Elysia sniffled, visibly relieved.

Elliot and Evan, hearing this, also felt relieved and rushed to check the bomb situation in the factory.

Evan was more skilled in this area.

After discovering the bomb in the factory today, Evan had started working on it remotely.

Lowell also brought in a few bomb disposal experts to consult.

When the bomb malfunctioned and threatened to explode sooner, they collaborated to alter the detonation sequence.

The bomb was no longer a threat.

After sorting it out, Elliot immediately shared the news with Tarquin and Keith.

Unfortunately, only Tarquin saw the message, not Keith.

That's why Tarquin had tried so hard to stop him, constantly urging him to check his phone.

Paramedics wanted to check on Baby, so Elysia accompanied her onto the ambulance.

Tarquin turned to head back into the factory.

He needed to see Keith.

Lowell walked with him, saying, "It's going to be tough for the mystery person to escape this time. The police have been on alert. As soon as the plane lands, they'll be ready to arrest."

Tarquin didn't respond but instead asked, "What about Gideon and the Bradford family?"

Lowell was caught off guard by the sudden mention of Gideon, pausing before responding, "They've been found, all safe and unharmed. But they haven't mentioned the mystery person. For some reason, they're adamant Keith was the one who kidnapped them."

Tarquin frowned, biting down hard on his jaw in frustration.

Chapter 933

Inside the factory, paramedics had just hastily patched up Keith's wounds, preparing to rush him to the hospital for emergency care.

But he refused.

"Stop, it's pointless. I'm done for."

After saying this, Keith's gaze found Tarquin and he muttered,

"In this little time I have left, I'd rather spend it quietly talking with him."

The medical team fell silent, while a nearby police officer looked like he wanted to say something but then thought better of it.

Tarquin stepped closer and asked the doctor, "Is there any hope?"

The doctor shook his head firmly.

With injuries this severe, it was a miracle he was still breathing.

Tarquin frowned, "Then let's not put him through more. I'll talk to him alone."

The medical team nodded and left.

The two police officers hesitated for a moment but didn't say anything and walked away.

Lowell, sensing the mood, decided to look for Elliot instead.

In the cluttered, abandoned factory, chaos reigned.

Several people had died, and the authorities were busy taking photographs for evidence and dealing with the bodies. No one was idle.

But around Keith, there was no one else.

Tarquin had made it clear he wanted some time alone with him, and no one dared interrupt and risk his ire.

Perhaps it was a final burst of energy, but Keith looked better than before.

His complexion had returned to normal, flushing with color, making him look almost healthy.

His spirit also seemed improved.

Keith, with a touch of self-mockery, said, "Do you know what the police wanted to tell me?" Tarquin knew, and it irked him.

He didn't like Keith, that was true, but he also felt sympathy and gratitude towards him.

In short, he didn't want Keith to die.

But reality was something no one could change.

Tarquin, feeling restless, wanted a cigarette but found none in his pockets, leaving him with a dark expression and silent.

Keith answered his own question,

"The police said that Gideon and the Bradford family are adamant that I was the kidnapper. Ha, I wonder if I got played by someone, or if Gideon remembered the past and wanted to finish me off for good.

I'd prefer the latter!

Because if Gideon did that, it means he remembered. That's better than him not even knowing who my parents were!

It's just a shame I won't get to avenge my family myself.

Ah, if I had known, I wouldn't have slowly cut them. I should have finished them off directly! I regret it!"

Keith's brow furrowed, his eyes filled with regret and anger.

After a pause, he continued,

"But I don't regret choosing to save Baby first. My family would understand.

After the incident in Hill Village, my world went dark, day and night, all dark.

But Baby, she was the only light in that darkness!

She was the only source of happiness in my battered journey of life.

So, how could I stand by and watch her in danger and do nothing?

I couldn't, I couldn't control myself.

Just like I couldn't control falling for that girl.

I know she's the enemy's descendant, I know she carries the Bradford blood, but I can't help it, I like her.

I like her clear, watery big eyes!

I like her long eyelashes and her small nose, and her round little face.

I like the way her eyes squint when she laughs!

And I like her pouty little mouth when she's upset, looking so aggrieved.

Everything about Baby, I like!

To be honest, I've been a fallen man for a long time. I'm not a good person.

I've killed, dealt drugs, run gambling rings, smuggled arms... except for not touching women and children, I've done all the bad things.

Sometimes, I've been so ruthless, I don't even recognize myself.

But towards Baby, my love is real."

Tarquin's lips moved slightly, "I know."

Chapter 934

Keith sighed deeply, a heavy sense of loss weighing him down.

"It's just... I regret that I can't be there for her anymore. I can't stand the thought of never seeing her again. It... it hurts so much."

His eyes began to moisten.

Maybe it was the weight of his words, or perhaps the depth of his sorrow, but his breathing became ragged.

Panting, as if fearing he might die at any moment, he hurriedly spoke to Tarquin.

"That teddy bear you gave Baby, she loved it, but it got destroyed in a fire today. Don't tell her it was destroyed. I... I bought her an identical one. I was going to secretly replace yours, but now there's no need. Someone will deliver the new bear tonight. Just tell Baby that's her... her Lan..."

Tarquin nodded, "Okay."

"And, Baby has always lived in Spirit Village, never venturing elsewhere. She loves little bunnies, and she's also fond of pandas.

You and Elysia... find time to take her... take her to see them..."

Tarquin's eyes swelled with discomfort, but he nodded again, "Yeah."

It took Keith a while to continue,

"I've bought a lot of insurance policies, all with Baby as the beneficiary. After I'm gone, help her sort those out.

I've also prepared over a hundred birthday gifts for her. She'll receive one every year until she grows old.

You must... make sure she gets them! Each gift is a blessing from me to Baby...

I've... also set aside a dowry for her in a Swiss bank account, I..."

Keith's breathing became more labored. Tarquin moved to call a doctor, but Keith stopped him, shaking his head,

"I know you're wealthy, but what's yours is yours, and what's mine is mine, I..."

Tarquin assured him, "Everything you've prepared for her, she'll receive. I'll make sure she knows it's all from you, and I'll tell her you always loved her."

Keith relaxed, letting out a sigh of relief. After sharing the safe's password, he added,

"If Baby asks, just tell her I've gone abroad for work. We can tell her the truth when she's older."

"Okay."

"And, I know you've been investigating that mysterious figure, trying to use me to get to him. But I don't know who he really is, nor do I understand his feud with the Bradford family.

However, I've collected some information about him that might help you.

Next to the burned-down cabin, there's a large tree with a safe hidden underneath. The contents are inside, and the code is... is..."

Keith struggled to articulate the six-digit code, taking his time before finally getting it out.

After he finished, Tarquin urged him to rest and stop talking.

But suddenly, Keith grabbed Tarquin's wrist,

"I... I... sent Elysia a voice message, for... for Baby to hear!

I told Baby, you... you're her new daddy, Baby can... can be your daughter, Tarquin! But she mustn't... mustn't call Gideon 'grandpa'! She mustn't..."

"I promise you!"

Keith exhaled deeply, releasing his grip.

Tarquin couldn't help but add, "I'll avenge the Inkster family feud for you."

Keith looked at him, surprised, then smiled, "...Okay."

Suddenly remembering something important, he quickly added,

"By the way, Elysia's biological parents are... are..."

Chapter 935

Tarquin was visibly shaken, his face a mask of disbelief. "What?!"

Keith was panting heavily, struggling to get his words out. "It's... it's... it's..."

He couldn't finish his sentence before he suddenly went silent.

Tarquin's pupils dilated in shock, and he urgently called out, "We need a doctor here, now!"

A doctor and a police officer, who were not too far away, rushed over immediately.

After a quick examination, the doctor shook his head grimly. "He's not breathing anymore."

Tarquin's heart sank. Deep down, he knew Keith's chances were slim, but Keith's death still wasn't something he could easily digest.

What puzzled him more was Keith's sudden mention of Elysia's biological parents. What did he mean by that?

Was it just a dying man's wish to reveal all his secrets, or did the mysterious figure have some connection to Elysia's real parents?

Lost in thought, Tarquin was snapped back to reality when Elysia burst into the room.

Her breath caught at the sight of Keith lying motionless on the ground, her eyes widening in shock.

Tarquin quickly put aside his thoughts to wrap an arm around Elysia, offering silent comfort.

Elysia was trembling, her lips quivering. "Keith... he..."

Tarquin spoke softly, "He's gone, Elysia. He died trying to save Baby."

Tears welled up in Elysia's eyes, making them glisten.

She didn't know Keith very well, nor was she fully aware of all the wrongs he might have committed. However, she understood his hardships and how much he loved Baby.

She feared Keith might fight her for custody, but she never wished him dead.

Whether it was out of sympathy for the Inkster family or Keith's love for Baby, she wished he could have lived.

Even if Keith had broken the law, life imprisonment seemed a better option than death.

With Keith gone, the Inkster lineage ended.

Without him, Baby would never see her father again.

Just earlier, Baby was bragging to her and the doctor.

"My daddy is so cool, you know. Mr. Handsome said it was my daddy who scared away the bad guy. My daddy is a real-life superhero!"

The doctor had praised her during the check-up, calling her a good girl.

Baby had proudly responded, "Daddy also says Baby is a good girl."

The doctor commented on how well she was raised, plump and with a sweet temperament.

"My cheeks are even chubbier than daddy's!" Baby had giggled.

When it was time for her blood test, Baby became scared and cried for Keith's embrace.

After the test, with her lips quivering, she repeatedly called out for 'daddy', seeking Keith's comfort.

Baby's every word was about Keith, and she was inseparable from him.

Baby loved him, relied on him, and cared about him deeply. How would she cope with his death?

What would Baby do when she missed him?

The thought of Baby learning about Keith's death and realizing she would never see him again filled Elysia with dread.

Elysia was unaware of Keith's fate until Baby kept asking to call him, prompting Elysia to check her phone and find Keith's message. Keith had written that he returned Baby to them, hoping they would cherish her, treat her well, and provide a bright future for her.

He also left a long voice message for Baby.

"Baby, I'm sorry, daddy has to break his promise again. I can't join you for dinner tonight, and we won't be able to visit the zoo soon. Daddy's got an urgent mission and had to leave without saying goodbye.

You love daddy so much, and I know you'll understand why I had to leave suddenly, right?

Don't worry, Baby. Even though daddy's gone, my heart will always be with you. I'll always think of you.

You're the love of my life, Baby. Daddy will love you forever and ever, always and forever!

No matter where I am, my love for you will never change.

If you miss me, just look up at the sky. Find the prettiest cloud by day or the brightest star at night. Those are daddy's ways of being with you. Daddy has superpowers, and I can always feel how you're feeling.

Chapter 936

Baby always brought a smile to Daddy's face. Whenever Baby laughed, Daddy's world lit up. And if Baby ever felt sad, Daddy's heart would weigh heavy with sorrow. For Daddy's sake, Baby promised to always find reasons to smile.

"My dear Baby, there will come days when I can't be by your side. You'll have to stick with Mommy and your brothers, and... Baby's new Daddy." Daddy had already checked him out. He was a good man, a wonderful father!

He loved Baby just as much as Daddy did. Baby could treat him just like she would Daddy.

There was no need to hold back or feel uncomfortable around him.

Baby could be playful, share tears, show a little temper, and even share her little secrets with him.

Anything on Baby's mind, any wishes or wants, she could go to him.

From today onwards, he wasn't just Mr. Handsome to Baby; he was her new Daddy. And just like she called me, she should call him Daddy.

"My Baby, Daddy loves you, so very much!

Remember to live happily, grow up healthy, and be a good, joyful person.

May you be free from illness and harm, and lead a life filled with happiness and peace."

Hearing such a lengthy message, she knew something was wrong immediately.

She dared not bring Baby in, choosing instead to check things out herself.

As feared, Keith had met with tragedy!

Thinking about Keith's fate, the pitiful state of the Blackwood family, and Baby's dependency on Keith...

Elysia's heart ached, tears streaming down uncontrollably.

She couldn't comprehend why, when scoundrels like Gideon still roamed free, Keith had to be the one to depart early.

Was fate only cruel to the kind-hearted?

Tarquin enveloped her in his arms, trying to offer comfort, his eyes swollen from grief.

After Elliot and Evan had secured the area from any danger, they too joined, equally startled and saddened upon discovering Keith's remains. "We'll keep Keith's passing from Baby for now," Tarquin whispered.

Elysia, her voice hoarse, nodded in agreement.

Elliot and Evan understood, solemnly nodding in unison.

Tarquin gently wiped away Elysia's tears, suggesting, "You should take Baby home first. She might not know about Keith, but the fire and the kidnapping have surely left her scared. She needs comfort."

Elysia nodded again, her mind racing about what to do next.

The Inkster family had all passed, leaving no one to claim Keith.

Unless they informed other relatives of Phineas and Kelsey, but that felt like disturbing their peace.

Seeing the dilemma, Tarquin frowned, "Phineas and Kelsey have already suffered enough, as have those who loved them. Best not to trouble them further."

"After the police have concluded their investigation, I'll take care of the arrangements for Keith," he declared.

Elysia and Elliot looked puzzled, but Tarquin's expression remained stern.

"I'll do it on behalf of Baby. Keith took care of her for years; she's practically family to him. By calling him 'Daddy,' she has every right and duty to see to his final affairs."

In Tarquin's eyes, Keith was a complex figure.

Certainly not one of their own, but not entirely an enemy either.

Keith had caused trouble, taking Baby away, harming Elijah, and driving wedges between him and Elysia.

Had it not been for Keith's meddling, he and Elysia would have recognized their bond sooner, and the truth would have been clear from their first DNA test.

Keith had been an adversary, no doubt about it.

Yet, he had shown genuine care for Baby, even to the point of sacrificing himself...

Life's unpredictable nature, blurring the lines between right and wrong.

With Keith gone, what point was there in dwelling on past grievances?

They would let bygones be bygones.

But the kindness Keith showed to Baby, that, Tarquin hoped, would be something she'd always remember.

To remember his goodness, to remember him, ensuring that he wouldn't be forgotten by the world.

Chapter 937

Elysia was visibly moved by Tarquin's actions.

Tears welled up in her eyes as she choked out,

"Keith's time on earth was just too hard. Alive, he had to witness his whole family being taken from him. And in death, he couldn't even avenge them and needed strangers to handle his last rites... Let's find him a nice spot in the cemetery, lay him to rest, so he can finally find peace."

"Agreed."

Tarquin comforted her,

"Death might be a release for Keith. No more mental torment, he can finally rest, reunite with his family in the beyond.

The only thing he worried about was Baby, knowing she's with us will let him rest easy. His only regret was not avenging his family, and I told him, I'd take care of his vengeance for him."

Elysia looked at him with worry in her eyes.

Tarquin understood her concern,

"Don't worry, I won't resort to violence. The Bradfords aren't worth dirtying my hands over; I'll make them suffer in other ways."

With that, Tarquin turned to Elliot and Evan,

"Take your mom and sister home, look after them. I've got some things to take care of, but I'll be home soon."

The boys nodded in unison, "Okay!"

Elliot, Evan, and Elysia left the abandoned factory, taking Baby back to their sprawling estate.

Tarquin made arrangements with the authorities, asking them to contact him once the investigation was concluded, taking it upon himself to arrange Keith's funeral.

The wind picked up, swirling the leaves on the ground into the air, towards the heavens, much like a soul leaving the earth for the unknown. Keith had truly departed from this cold and cruel world, leaving behind his beloved Baby!

From now on, Keith would be no more in this world, and Baby would forever miss the man who loved her dearly.

The dead move on to distant places, but the living must continue their lives.

After leaving the factory, Tarquin immediately followed up on the trail of the mysterious figure.

If Keith had both a debt and a grudge with him, this mysterious person only harbored ill will towards Tarquin.

Keith was just a pawn; the mastermind was his next target.

The mysterious person had fled by plane, still unlanded, with Elijah and the police still on his trail.

After giving his instructions, Tarquin made a call to arrange for someone to retrieve Keith's left-behind documents from beneath the old oak tree. Then he drove to the hospital to confront Gideon!

The evidence regarding the Inkster family incident had vanished, making a direct accusation against Gideon impossible.

But that didn't mean Tarquin would let him off easy!

Gideon, having been shaken by a kidnapping, although unharmed, rushed to the hospital post-rescue.

He summoned a team of medical experts for a thorough check-up.

As Tarquin arrived, Gideon was lashing out at the doctors.

The doctors believed there was nothing seriously wrong, but Gideon, convinced of his grave condition, berated them as incompetents and quacks. Due to his status, the medical team dared not retaliate.

Tarquin barged past the bodyguards and entered,

"From now on, without my permission, no one is to treat him."

Gideon's face darkened, furrowing his brow in confusion, "What?!"

The medical experts, equally puzzled, quickly nodded and made their exit.

Gideon, cunning as ever, sensed the underlying threat, his anger flaring, "You're interfering with my medical care?!"

Chapter 938

Without Tarquin's permission, treating him was off the table. What would happen if he truly fell ill one day? Would he just die at home?

Tarquin didn't respond, his gaze icy as he stared him down, a chill in his eyes that could freeze the room.

Seeing him like this, he couldn't help but think of Kelsey, Phineas, and Keith himself. He also thought of Elizabeth Gonzalez and Kendrick.

Good people, gone too soon.

And yet the devil walks among us!

Sometimes, this world truly leaves one at a loss for words.

Gideon saw a murderous intent in Tarquin's eyes and furrowed his brow, wondering what he had done to provoke him today.

After racking his brain and coming up empty, he finally said coldly,

"You have no right to interfere with my medical care. Seeking treatment is my right."

Tarquin took a deep breath, suppressing his urge to end it all right there and then. After calming down a bit, he said,

"Whether I have the right or not is for me to decide. Just wait and see which doctor dares to treat you without my permission."

Gideon scowled, "I haven't provoked you recently, have I? What do you really want?"

"Why did you say it was Keith who kidnapped you?" Tarquin asked in return.

Gideon looked at him suspiciously, "You care about that?"

Tarquin didn't reply, just stared at him, waiting for an answer.

After a few seconds of silence, Gideon said,

"The kidnapper boasted about it himself in front of me, claiming his name was Keith and that he had a vendetta against me."

"And what did he say exactly?"

"He claimed that years ago, I assaulted a woman named Kelsey and that they were seeking revenge."

Hearing Kelsey's name made Tarquin's expression darken even more,

"How did Keith and his sister manage to escape from you? Who rescued them?"

Gideon gave him a meaningful look and lied,

"I have no idea what you're talking about. I don't know any Kelsey. Either they're framing me or they've mistaken me for someone else. Either way, I have no connection to this Kelsey person. Probably just some troublemaker trying to blackmail me."

Kelsey, a troublemaker?!

Tarquin grabbed a steak knife from the fruit platter, and in one swift motion, drove it through Gideon's hand and thigh, pinning his hand to his own body.

Tarquin knew Gideon too well; he might not have known who Kelsey was before, but he definitely did now!

He would have had someone look into Kelsey the moment he was rescued.

And yet, there was no sign of remorse, only insults towards Kelsey.

Despicable!

Gideon was stunned for a moment, and then the pain hit him, causing him to scream out in agony, "Ah—" Gideon's close associates and bodyguards rushed towards the room, only to be stopped by Tarquin's icy stare.

They stood at the doorway, not daring to step forward.

Even the doctors and nurses didn't dare to enter.

Gideon, in severe pain and unable to move, broke out in cold sweat and roared,

"You disgraceful grandson, hurting your own grandfather, you'll be cursed for this, you'll be cursed! You'll get your comeuppance!"

Tarquin's face was emotionless as he casually wiped the blood off his hands with a tissue, muttering,

"Being related to you is curse enough."

He tossed the bloodied tissue into the trash bin and looked up, his gaze becoming even colder,

"I'll ask you one last time, in the studio that year, how did Keith and his sister manage to escape right under your nose? Who was it that rescued them?"

Just as Gideon was about to continue lying, Tarquin's hand reached for the knife handle.

He slightly twisted the knife embedded in Gideon's flesh.

Gideon's screams filled the room once more, agony written all over his face.

Tarquin, utterly indifferent, warned,

"I'm not in a good mood today. You better not test my patience. Think carefully before you speak."

Chapter 939

Gideon was panting heavily, his clothes soaked through with cold sweat!

He was furious, but seeing Tarquin in such a state today, he didn't dare go against him.

Trying to contain his anger, he turned to his confidant,

"Repeat to him what you just told me, and don't you dare lie!"

The confidant, scared of Tarquin, took a few shaky steps forward and began,

"...After the boss left the studio, a few bodyguards were cleaning up and found the siblings hiding in a closet. The brother was unconscious, but the sister was awake.

She looked at the bodyguards terrified, holding her brother, and started bawling.

The bodyguards, not wanting to attract attention, were about to silence them for good when a man walked in.

He claimed to be acting on behalf of the boss's son, offered a hefty check, used both threats and persuasion, and eventually took the Keith siblings away."

Tarquin was taken aback, "Under my father's name?!"

The boss's son was none other than Tarquin's father, Kendrick.

The confidant nodded vigorously, "Yes! I've just finished interrogating those bodyguards. They wouldn't dare lie again."

Why would someone use his father's name to take the Keith siblings away? As long as the money was right, those bodyguards would've let them go without mentioning his father's name.

Tarquin couldn't figure it out and asked, "What happened next?"

"Then... Then those bodyguards, blinded by the money, unanimously lied to the boss. They said they found the siblings in the studio and silenced them. So, the boss, knowing the Inkster family was six people strong, never pursued it further, thinking all the Inksters had perished."

Tarquin frowned deeply, "Who took them away?"

"The bodyguards didn't recognize him, said they'd never seen him before, and haven't since. That man said he was acting on the boss's son's orders."

"...He didn't say why he took the Keith siblings?"

"No, just that it was an order from the boss's son."

Tarquin looked at his confidant suspiciously, causing him to panic and kneel immediately,

"I'm telling the truth, I swear I'm not lying."

Tarquin: "..."

The incident at Hill Village had somehow involved his father.

Saving the Keith siblings also linked back to his father.

Whether it was harming or helping, his father's name was used either way. But why?

"Hand those bodyguards over to me! I have questions."

The confidant's mouth twitched violently, "They... they just committed suicide out of fear." Tarquin scowled, "..."

Whether it was suicide out of fear or murder, the result was the same: they were dead.

He had wanted to ask what the man who saved the Keith siblings looked like.

No chance now!

Tarquin, feeling frustrated, turned to Gideon,

"Did my dad ever mention this to you?"

Gideon replied irritably, "No!"

"Has anyone else contacted you about the Inkster family matter?"

"No! Otherwise, I wouldn't have been in the dark until now, not knowing that the Inkster family still had survivors!"

"...It seems the mysterious person who took the Keith siblings wasn't intending to use Kelsey's situation to blackmail Gideon. He just wanted to cultivate a pawn.

But why involve his own father?

Was this about a grudge with Gideon, or with his father?

But his father had always been upright in his dealings and had distanced himself from the Bradford family mess, not likely to have offended anyone! Tarquin fell silent for a while, then frowned at Gideon,

"How did you end up finding Kelsey back then?"

"...Ran into her on the street."

Gideon wasn't worried about Tarquin recording the conversation; in this situation, he could easily claim he was just playing along with Tarquin for self- preservation.

Tarquin clenched his jaw, "So you followed her to the studio?"

Gideon remained silent, which Tarquin took as confirmation.

Tarquin's breathing was heavy, his face tense with barely contained rage.

Chapter 940

Because someone looked good, because he caught a glimpse of that beauty by chance, an entire family was slaughtered!

"You better pray you keep breathing, don't you dare die-the Inkster clan is waiting for you down below!"

With those final words, Tarquin stood up, bit down on his back molar, and with a swift motion pulled the steak knife embedded in Gideon's hand. Blood sprayed out instantly!

"Ah-" Gideon screamed in agony, fainting from the pain right there and then.

Tarquin left without a trace of emotion, as the bodyguards blocking the doorway hastily stepped aside to let him pass.

Once he was gone, everyone swarmed towards Gideon.

The knife had gone straight through Gideon's hand and even pierced the thigh, burying itself several inches deep.

Just looking at it was painful!

After bandaging him up, Gideon woke up, roaring in anger,

"That monster! That absolute monster! Had I known he was this heartless, I should've ended him when I had the chance! An ungrateful snake, worse than his own father!"

Kendrick had only disowned him, never harmed him.

But Tarquin? He dared to assault him publicly!

Gideon was furious,

"Does he really think I have no means to deal with him?! He seems to have forgotten, I still have his mother's ashes in my possession!"

His confidant trembled: If not for those ashes, it might have been more than just a knife wound.

"Sir, please calm down, there's good news. Keith is dead."

Gideon narrowed his eyes, "Dead?"

"Yes, confirmed dead."

"Hah!" Gideon scoffed, "Thought he could seek revenge against me? He should've checked his own worth! If he was so capable, he should've stayed alive to come after me! If it weren't for his parents' disobedience, would I have killed them? They brought it upon themselves, yet dare to hold a grudge against me! Hmph!"

"You're absolutely right, sir! But, what got into Master Tarquin today? Wasn't he enemies with Keith? It almost seemed like he was avenging Keith." Mentioning Tarquin got Gideon even more enraged, and he bellowed,

"No matter what's gotten into him, we must bring him down quickly! Contact Alpha Thorne, tell him I agree to his terms!"

His confidant was shocked, "?!?"

Previously unaware of the secret marriage within the Thorne family, they mistakenly thought Elysia was a mistress.

So, they organized a grand banquet intending to expose Elysia's status as a mistress, aiming to embarrass Tarquin and Elysia.

However, their plan backfired spectacularly, turning into divine assistance for the couple!

Not only did it reveal their marital status to each other, but they also flaunted their love publicly, making the entire Bradford family a laughingstock. After enjoying his moment, Tarquin started his revenge!

He trapped the Bradford Group into massive debt, pushing them towards bankruptcy, forcing them to hand over their shares.

If they didn't surrender their shares, they would be responsible for the debt.

If they did, those shares would belong to Tarquin, severing all their ties with the Bradford Group.

From then on, even if the Bradford Group recovered, they wouldn't see a dime.

Tarquin was after their shares, aiming to leave them with nothing!

Gideon saw it clear as day but felt powerless. In desperation, he thought of Alpha.

Alpha was the second richest, right below Tarquin.

Gideon figured, no one likes being second best, and Alpha would surely want to dethrone Tarquin to take the top spot.

To win Alpha over, he revealed he had leverage over Tarquin.

If Alpha was willing to cooperate, they could definitely take Tarquin down.

Alpha was indeed interested, but had his conditions.

Alpha wanted to personally see Elizabeth's ashes, to verify he wasn't lying.

His confidant whispered,

"Sir, if everyone turns to ash, how can Alpha tell whether they're really Elizabeth's or not?"