

## Chapter 48 Do You Remember My Name

Kimberly and Chris retraced their steps, dodging a few gangsters still on the lookout for him. The young pair managed to stay out of trouble and found a place to hide close to the bandit holding Elena captive.

Chris noticed her small hand clasping his wrist tightly, her palm sweaty and cold.

Even though she appeared calm and collected, he could feel her anxiety and fear.

She was frightened.

Chris observed her from behind, his emotions mixed and complex.

After the night's turmoil, Chris felt overwhelmed and troubled. He had always thought that only his family would support him no matter what. When his parents died protecting him from the gangsters, he felt lost.

At his lowest, the girl before him shone like a beacon of hope.

Raised in a world where nothing came without a price, Chris was wary of others' motives. But when he learned she had approached him to rescue her friend, he felt relieved.

Yet, he hadn't anticipated that she wouldn't betray him.

She was determined to find a way to save them both, standing strong like a solitary flower in a tempest.

Kimberly cautiously peeked from behind a crate at the bandit. She noticed Elena on the deck, shivering, clutching herself, and looking around as though she was waiting for someone.

An hour after Kimberly had left, the bandit grew restless. He kicked Elena. "Looks like your friend ditched you, huh?"

"Impossible!" Despite the pain from the kick, Elena raised her head, her face resolute and her eyes unwavering. "She'll come back for me!"

The gangster was taken aback by the timid girl's determination. He crouched before Elena, eyeing her curiously. "You trust her that much?"

The scar on his forehead intimidated Elena, who closed her eyes, too frightened to look at him, her body shaking.

"I just know Kimberly would never leave me."

"And if she does?"

The gangster found this amusing. He knew he couldn't trust his own allies not to betray him, yet this young girl held such complete faith in her friend.

His voice was almost hypnotic. "If your friend really did abandon you, ran away to hide, what would you do?"

Elena trembled slightly. She slowly opened her eyes, facing the man's daunting visage, trying to mimic Kimberly's composure. "What choice do I have? I'm already caught. Worst-case scenario, I die. The best, we both survive... If one of us makes it, it's a win. That's better than both of us dying here."

The gangster was surprised. "You don't hate her?"

Elena's brow furrowed, her youthful face showing confusion. "Why would I hate her? She's my best friend. I don't want anything bad to happen to her."

The gangster paused for a moment, then laughed softly and stood up slowly. "You win, kid."

Kimberly and Chris, hiding nearby, overheard their exchange. Kimberly's eyes filled with tears, her heart touched deeply.

At that moment, she fully embraced Elena as her friend.

Suddenly, a voice behind her asked, "Do you want to save her?"

Kimberly stopped, turned, and nodded decisively. "I can't let her down!"

Chris looked deeply into her eyes as if memorizing her face. He then asked unexpectedly, "What's your name?"

Kimberly was surprised. She didn't know why he suddenly wanted to know her name, but she replied, "My name is Kimberly Holden."

"Kimberly Holden..." Chris said, his smile faint. "That's a beautiful name. My name is..."

Just then, an explosion in the distance cut him off, followed by gunfire and screams, plunging everything into chaos.

"Did you catch my name?"

Kimberly's ears rang with the noise. She rubbed them, struggling to hear him. Just as she tried to ask again, she saw him smile and dash towards the gangster.

Kimberly gasped in shock, reaching out instinctively to stop him, but it was too late. She barely grazed the edge of his shirt as she watched him charge at the gangster.

The gangster, caught by surprise, was knocked over the railing, clutching Chris's arm as they both fell into the sea.

Kimberly stood frozen for a moment.

Was this what he meant by being able to protect himself?

"Hey, you!" Kimberly stood on her toes, gripping the railing, looking into the vast ocean for any sign of Chris or the gangster.

Was he dead?


Had he sacrificed himself just because she had vowed not to let her friend down?

Kimberly struggled to accept this reality.

"Kimberly, what are you doing? Run!" Elena's voice rang out.

On the other side of the deck, a fierce shootout erupted. The rescue team had arrived, and the gangsters were no match for the skilled soldiers.

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 +120 Points at most

The gangsters were steadily losing ground and moving towards them.

Elena felt anxious as she grabbed Kimberly's hand, trying to pull her away.

"There are two kids here!" Driven to desperation, one of the gangsters raised his gun and fired at them.

A bullet struck Kimberly's shoulder. Her pupils narrowed as she collapsed to the floor, blood quickly spreading around her. She gritted her teeth and mustered all her strength to push Elena away. "Don't worry about me. Just run!"


"No, I won't!" Elena cried, tears streaming down her face. At just eight years old, she had never witnessed anything like this. All she understood was that her best friend was bleeding heavily and might not survive.

Kimberly's vision became hazy as her body grew weak. She lay on the deck, blood trickling from the corner of her mouth. Suddenly, everything went dark, and she lost consciousness completely.

In the end, both she and Elena made it through.

The only one who disappeared was the boy.



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