

“What! H-He’s their biological father?” Yulia was shocked to her core.

“Yes.” Natalie nodded.

After recomposing herself, Yulia asked, “What happened?”

“I guess we could call this fate?” Natalie recounted everything that happened between Shane and her five years ago.

It took Yulia a while to process the whole story. “So you only found out about this two months ago?”

“Yes,” came Natalie’s soft reply.

Yulia sighed in resignation. “After going through so much, it’s still Shane in the end, huh.” Who would have expected the man Natalie had a one-night stand with would reappear into her life five years later. This really is the work of fate.

“Mom, does that mean you’re no longer against our relationship?”

Yulia pursed her lips. “What’s the point of objecting now? You even have his children. He’s probably all you think about now. Anyway, have you told Shane about this?”

“Not yet.” Natalie shook her head.

Yulia rubbed her temples wearily. “Why not? Since both of you have gotten together, he’ll be delighted to hear this.”

“I know... but I couldn’t find the right time to break it to him.” Natalie stroked the back of her neck embarrassingly. “I’m planning to surprise him with this news during his birthday next month.”

“Whatever. As long as you’re happy.” Yulia waved her hands dismissively. “Alright, I need to rest now. Ask Shane to join us for dinner tonight. Since he’s your boyfriend now, this is the least I should do as your mother.”

“Let me check with him his schedule first.” Natalie did not want to decide on Shane’s behalf. After all, she wanted to respect his choice.

Yulia could not help but rolled her eyes at her daughter, who was obviously head over heels in love with Shane. Nonetheless, she said nothing so as not to warrant any dislike from her. Meanwhile, Natalie made a phone call to Shane.

He picked up the phone almost immediately. “Hello?”

Natalie cupped her cell phone close to her ear. “Shane, my mom wants to have dinner with you.” She stole a glance at Yulia.

On the other side of the call, Shane felt a sense of trepidation at the thought of meeting his beloved woman’s mom. But as usual, he put up a composed front. “Sure. When?”

Natalie felt relief to hear his ready reply. “Tonight.”

Shane on the other hand was startled by how soon the meeting was.

“Shane, hello? Did you catch what I say?”

“Yeah, I did. I’ll see the two of you tonight, then.”

“Great! See you later!”

After the call ended, Shane sat upright on his office chair. Anyone who saw his expression now would think that he was preparing for war. Coincidentally enough, Silas came into his office, carrying with him a stack of documents. Concerned, he asked, “Mr. Shane, is everything all right?”

“Yes.” Shane waved at him dismissively.

Silas knew not to probe any further. He placed the documents on his desk before informing, “This is Thompson Clothing’s annual report for last year. Please sign it after you have read through it.”

Shane hummed in acknowledgment before flipping the first few pages of the topmost file. He asked, “It’s almost the end of the year. How’s the inventory count going over there? “

“It’s almost done.” Silas recalled about the record he had went through the other day.

Shane lifted his head. "Great. Once that is settle, arrange a day and invite the department heads over for a meeting."

"Understood. Is there anything else, Mr. Shane?"

"Nothing for now."

"In that case, I'll take my leave."

Just as he took a few steps towards the door, Shane called out to him, "Wait."

"Is there anything else?" Silas went back to his side.

While fiddling restlessly with his fountain pen, Shane asked, "What do I have to prepare when meeting with my girlfriend's parents? Is there anything I should say?"

Although he had met Yulia in the past, their relationship was at most acquaintances who exchanged pleasantries. And toward acquaintances, his attitude was generally indifferent. But this was different. After all, he would be meeting his future mother-in-law. This was a first for him, and he was at a loss of what to do.

Silas was momentarily baffled by his question. Never in his wildest dream did he expect an omnipotent man like Shane would be troubled over such ordinary matters.

In the past, Silas saw him as an aloof and out-of-reach figure, but nowadays, it seemed that his boss was acting more like a human being. This change was only possible after he fell in love with Natalie.

"Has Ms. Smith's mother returned?" Silas threw a question at him instead of answering his question.

Shane tapped the fountain pen methodically against his desk. "Yes"

The former pondered for a short while before suggesting, "Well, all you have to do is to be polite, and assure her that you'll treat Ms. Smith well. Oh, and don't forget to prepare a gift for her." Having been single all his life, these were all ideas he picked up from television shows.

"A gift?" Shane narrowed his eyes. Hmm... That does make sense. "I'll leave this task to you then, Silas."

"Mr. Shane, I..." Silas knew nothing about Natalie's mom's preference and he was about to reject the request when he saw Shane's no-nonsense look. In the end, he could only agree to it. "Got it. I'll have the gift prepared on time." How hard can it be? I'll just pick something women generally like.

Based on my understandings, women of all ages loved bags and make-up products. With this idea in mind, Silas left the office feeling like a load had been lifted off his mind.

After work, Shane went home to fetch Natalie and the kids. At the back of the car, the kids were fiddling with the gift bags curiously. Natalie inquired, "Are those for my mom?"

"Yes." He nodded.

"Daddy! What's inside the bag?" Sharon took the question right off her mother's mouth. As for Connor, although he remained silent, he was also observing the bag keenly.

Through his rear mirror, Shane saw their wide-eyed and curious expressions. He unknowingly smiled at this adorable sight. "I don't know. Silas bought it."

Natalie pursed her lips. "You don't know what you got for my mom?"

Isn't he afraid if Silas got something weird? She kept her thoughts to herself so as not to dampen his efforts. At least he tried, I guess.

Not long later, the family of four arrived at the restaurant. Natalie held Connor's hand while Shane carried Sharon in his arms. As they walked in, their dazzling looks commanded the attention of everyone on the floor.