

Happiness 358-367

The Promise of Happiness

Chapter 358

By the time Samuel and Natalie returned from the police station where she got her ankle monitor removed and got changed, it was already three in the morning.

Gavin, who was still up, stood at the door to welcome both of them home.

Given that he was in his sixties, his eyes were bloodshot due to his inability to stay up late. The moment he saw Samuel and Natalie, he greeted, "Mr. Samuel, Ms. Nichols, you're finally back!"

Natalie felt bad that they had caused Gavin to wait up. "Gavin, actually, you don't have to—"

"You're the one who should stop feeling guilty." Gavin shook his head with a smile. "Considering my age, I can't sleep whenever I'm worried. So, I really wasn't waiting up for both of you on purpose. Now that you're safe, I'll be able to sleep till the afternoon."

"Thank you, Gavin."

"Don't mention it. This is my duty as a servant."

Once upon a time, Gavin had wanted Yara to marry Samuel. That way, Franklin and Sophia would have a complete family.

As time went by, his desire gradually changed after he saw how Franklin and Sophia loved and depended on Natalie.

Not only was Natalie gentle and forgiving, but she also treated the servants with respect.

Deep down, Gavin had already treated her as if she was the lady of the house.

"Ms. Nichols, are you hungry? Shall I order someone to prepare supper?" Gavin asked.

"It's all right. I'm not hungry."

Glancing at Gavin, Samuel asked deliberately, "Gavin, why are you only asking her? What about me?"

Gavin chuckled in response, "I was just about to ask you after asking Ms. Nichols."

Curling his finger with a smile, Samuel scratched Natalie's nose affectionately. "Look at how many people pamper you at home."

Home?

Despite the simplicity of the word, it had become a place where Natalie felt she belonged.

After being ruthlessly hurt by the Nichols family six years ago, a home seemed unattainable to her. But now, it felt as if it had become a reality.

Gavin led them into the house.

"The children are still waiting for you in the living hall."

“What?” Natalie knitted her brows and exclaimed, “Why aren’t they sleeping at this ungodly hour?”

“You will know soon enough.” Gavin sighed. “No matter how I persuaded them, my words fell on deaf ears. All of them insist on seeing you before going to bed.”

Speechless, Natalie walked to the living room.

Just as expected the four children all curled up on the sofa.

After all, they were only five and wouldn’t be able to stay up unless they slept a lot in the day.

Given that it was past three in the morning, the children were just as Gavin had described. All of them were desperately trying to keep their eyes open. Even though they were nodding away, none of them really fell asleep.

“Mommy! You’re back!” Clayton exclaimed in surprise.

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“Mommy, are you all right? Xavian was equally anxious.

“You’re finally back! Do you know that you have given me a fright?” Franklin’s furrowed eyebrows gradually eased.

“Boohoo... Mommy, I have been worried about you.” Being the cute baby she was, Sophia’s adorable sobs warmed everyone’s heart.

The children jumped down from the sofa and surrounded Natalie.

With two on each side, they looked up at her with concerned expressions.

When she saw their reaction, Natalie couldn’t describe what she felt.

Huh!

Despite how Machiavellian the world was, Natalie felt as if all her problems disappeared the moment she saw the children. Instead, she was filled with the urge to dote on them.

“I’m fine.”

Kneeling down, Natalie put on a serious expression.

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“I’m touched that you’re worried about me, but I’m also angry that all of you are not asleep despite it being so late.”

The moment they heard that Natalie was angry, the children grew nervous.

“I’ll let you lot off this time.” Natalie winked at them. “But don’t do it again.”

The children nodded in unison.

“Mmm-hmm.”

As the children were staying awake based on willpower alone, they quickly fell sound asleep once Natalie led them to their bedroom and tucked them in.

Natalie just couldn't get enough of the sight of watching them sleeping.

Since Xavian and Clayton had been with her for a long time, she now seemed to prefer looking at Franklin and Sophia instead.

Both of them were beautiful and sensible at the same time.”

Cupping her chin, Natalie couldn't help but feel curious about how pretty and amazing their biological mother must be.

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When Natalie returned to her bedroom, Samuel was still awake.

Even after she showered, he still hadn't gone to bed.

“Aren't you tired?” Natalie asked.

“I was waiting for you.” Samuel walked up to her. “Come over here, I'll help you apply some medication.”

Natalie couldn't help but smile.

“Mmm-hmm.”

Submitting herself, she let him lead her to the bed.

While she sat on the edge, Samuel knelt on one knee and applied some medication on the bruises that were left by Lionel when he strangled her.

Samuel's fingers felt burning hot to her, while the cream felt icy cold.

Jolted by the sensation, Natalie recoiled by reflex.

“Don't move,” Samuel ordered softly. The look in his eyes was both gentle and domineering at the same time. “How am I going to do this if you keep fidgeting?”

“Actually, it's not a big deal.”

“Stop playing it down,” Samuel replied with gritted teeth. “I have never seen a woman like you that lets herself get hurt and doesn't feel the urgency of getting treated.”

Pouting, Natalie retorted, “I just don't like it. You can go on ahead and fall for someone else. I didn't force you”

The next moment, Samuel shot her a glance when he realized he didn't have anything to counter.

Knowing that she had grasped his weakness, Natalie didn't fear him at all.

As for him, it was difficult to fall for any other woman after being impressed by her achievements.

Not wanting to hear any more of her rants, Samuel decided to shut her up with a kiss.

Back in the hospital, Lia was already awake.

Lionel stayed by her side instead of getting one of the servants to do it.

Ever since she was awake, Lia would only eat, drink, and shower. Other than that, she barely spoke.

Lionel tried to probe why she poisoned herself and framed Natalie for it. Nonetheless, she only admitted it implicitly but refused to say anything about it.

After Lia was pulled back from the jaws of death, Lionel noticed that he had developed dirty thoughts about his “sister.”

Even though he was worried about her, he wasn’t sure how to interact with her after what happened. After all, he was fearful that she would find out what was on his mind.

Knock! Knock!

Someone knocked on the ward’s door.

– “Come in.”

The moment the door opened, Yara entered with a bouquet of white lilies.

“Lia, it’s me. I’m here to visit you.” After handing over the flowers, Yara gave Lia a knowing smile.

The moment Lia saw who it was, her pupils constricted at once. “You...”

Noticing the change in Lia, Lionel couldn’t help but ask, “Lia, she and you...”

“Lionel, Lia and I are old friends,” Yara replied with a smile. “I was worried about her when I heard that she was injured. Thus, I decided to visit her. Anyway, please find a vase for the flowers I brought. I wish to have them placed beside the bed so that they can cheer Lia up and hasten her recovery.”

Lia bit her lip and urged, “Lionel, go find a vase quickly. We cannot let Yara’s good intentions go to waste.”

When Lionel saw that his sister had opened up, he assumed Yara was her new best friend.

Therefore, he nodded in acknowledgment and left the ward, giving both of them some privacy.

After he closed the door behind him with a bang, only Yara and Lia were left inside.

“My brother told me that I almost died.” Lia stared daggers at Yara.

“Really?” Yara disputed. “Perhaps, the poisonous compound was unstable. The pill that you swallowed might coincidentally be stronger. Hence, it was nothing but an accident. Besides, haven’t you already recovered?”

Lia didn't expect Yara, who appeared so gentle and graceful on the surface, to actually be so vile on the inside.

Not only is Yara trying to frame someone else, but she also doesn't care about the potency of the poison. In fact, it seems my death was part of the plan."

With a conflicted look in her eyes, Lia asked in a trembling voice, "Yara, aren't you worried about divine retribution?"

"Do you have to be so dramatic?" Yara laughed shyly. "Lia, I think you would be the first in line for having filthy desires for your own 'brother. Tsk, Tsk, Tsk. If this gets out, I wonder what everyone would think of your 'brother' and the Johnson family."

Yara's words struck at the heart of Lia's weakness.

"Lionel is only my brother in name. Both of us are not related by blood."

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"That's what you think. It doesn't mean Lionel shares your sentiments." Yara approached Lia's bed and sneered, "He only sees you as his sister. And yet, you harbor desires for him! If outsiders find out that he was adopted from the orphanage by your parents, do you think your uncles would still accord him the same level of respect? Once his identity is exposed, you'll remain the princess of the Johnson family, but Lionel will fall from grace and have his world turned upside down."

Despite the pain she felt, that was the threshold she couldn't cross.

And it was for that same reason she went along with Yara's plan to frame Natalie.

"If you know what's good for you, you should keep your mouth shut," Yara warned. "If I have a need for you going forward, you had better do as I say. Or else, you will have to suffer the consequences."

Lia clenched her fists upon hearing Yara's words.

- When Lionel returned with the flowers in a vase, he saw Yara staring at Lia with a smile. "Lia, remember to obey your brother and have a good rest. I'll drop by again when I'm free."

Instead of responding, Lia pursed her lips.

Nonetheless, Yara didn't care as she waved at Lionel.

"Bye, Lionel."

"When did you get to know her? She looks pretty and seems to be a wonderful person," Lionel casually remarked after putting the vase beside Lia's bed.

However, Lia snapped, "Lionel, how can you like her when you don't know anything about her?"

"Lia, 1-"

When she saw the shock on Lionel's face, Lia quickly realized that she had overreacted just now.

“Lionel, I’m tired and want to rest.”

Lia pulled up her blanket and covered it over her head. Although she didn’t want to be Yara’s puppet, she couldn’t allow the secret to be revealed.

She didn’t mind the gossips that would ensue but was cognizant that Lionel couldn’t afford to do so.

At the same time, the guilt she felt over what she had done to Natalie continued to torment her.

Meanwhile, in a café near Starlight Kindergarten, Xavian and Clayton ordered a glass of milk and a piece of cake each.

The two brothers alone had attracted the attention of many ladies around them.

Nevertheless, they were already used to it and could filter out the gossip naturally.

Xavian opened the laptop he brought and began to type furiously on the keyboard. Green code appeared on the screen and seemed to be changing at a rapid pace.

After drinking a mouthful of milk, Clayton shook his head brazenly. “Xavian, given that the Johnson family dared to frame Mommy, let’s hack them and cause them to lose a hundred million.”

“I know.” Xavian nodded. “I saw the marks on Mommy’s neck too. Even though Mommy is more focused on the true mastermind, we still have to teach the Johnson family a lesson. If not for them, Mommy wouldn’t have to suffer.”

Exchanging glances with a smile, the brothers came to an agreement.

Given that Xavian’s hacking skills had been improving by leaps and bounds, a run-of-the-mill security expert was no longer a match for him.

While enjoying his cake, he wrote code to infiltrate the Johnson family’s financial systems.

After less than twenty minutes, Xavian pressed the enter button. At that moment, the Johnson Group’s financial systems received an alert, halting all of their major transactions.

“Clayton, it’s done.”

“Okay.”

As the brothers clinked their glasses of milk jubilantly, a ruthless glint flashed in their eyes.

They would never forgive anyone who hurt their mommy no matter who it was.

After they finished their cake, Xavian and Clayton planned to scale the wall back to their kindergarten.

When they arrived at an alley on their way back, they suddenly noticed the figure of an old man. He was holding onto his chest and grimacing on the ground.

As there was no one else in the alley, Xavian and Clayton hurried over without hesitation.

Getting on his knees, Clayton nudged the old man and asked anxiously, “Mister, can you hear me?”

The old man who had fainted was Kenneth.

He had come to see Franklin and Sophia at school but didn't expect to collapse from chest pain.

The pain was so excruciating that he felt as if someone was tearing his heart apart. Just when he thought someone had come to help, he was filled with despair to see two kids instead.

"Argh..."

When he attempted to speak, the pain caused him to swallow his words.

Clayton was extremely intelligent. Although he had not officially studied medicine with Natalie, he had learned a lot just by being exposed to her work. Therefore, he was competent enough to make a diagnosis.

"Mister, you will be fine."

Furrowing his brows, Clayton instructed Xavian, "Xavian, do you see that electrical pole? Call the ambulance right now, and give them the location stated on the blue sign there."

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"Got it, Clayton."

After nodding with conviction, Xavian ran to the telephone pole and made the emergency call.

"Hello? Miss? I'm now at a telephone pole with serial number L-109X. There's an old man here holding his chest in pain as if he is having a heart attack..."

While Xavian was making the emergency call, Clayton looked around for a public defibrillator.

Previously, he was intrigued to see them and had asked Natalie about their usage.

Given his interest, Natalie not only told him on how to use it but also demonstrated it once for him.

Even though Clayton had only seen it used once, the steps were clearly seared into his mind.

"Mister, the ambulance will be here anytime soon." Pasting the metal strips of the defibrillator on Kenneth's chest, Clayton reassured him, "Hang in there. My mom told me before that the will to live is extremely important. I know you're in terrible pain, but I beg of you. You have to endure it!"

Despite how Clayton was trying his best to stay calm, his heart was already pounding furiously.

After all, he was aware that Kenneth's life was in danger.

For the sake of saving a life, Clayton had no choice but to steel himself and get it done.

Glancing at the child by his side, Kenneth could see the concern in his eyes.

At that moment, Kenneth put all his hopes of survival on the two children.

Despite being amused by it, Kenneth was invigorated by the children's motivational words.

Just when Clayton pressed the “shock” button on the defibrillator, it sent a current through Kenneth, causing his body and limbs to shake.

Five minutes later, the ambulance and medical staff arrived.

Sprawling on the ground, the medic checked Kenneth’s condition and found that his heart rate was recovering. When he turned and saw the children with the used defibrillator, he couldn’t help but gape in shock.

“Were you the ones who defibrillated the old man?”

After exchanging glances, Xavian and Clayton nodded in unison.

Having confirmed it with his own eyes, the medic was stunned on his feet.

Still worried about Kenneth’s condition, Clayton reminded him, “Mister, quick! Although I have defibrillated him, you had better send him to the hospital to be examined as soon as possible.”

Regaining their senses, the medics loaded Kenneth onto a stretcher and carried him into the ambulance.

“Clayton, shall we go with them?”

“Yes.” Clayton nodded. “Xavian, what about you?”

“My sentiments exactly.”

Having reached a consensus, the children got into the ambulance together with the medics.

Even though there was professional medical staff present, the children were still worried about Kenneth.

To them, their concerns would only be allayed when they were sure Kenneth was safe. In fact, they were surprised at how much they cared and couldn’t explain why.

Amidst his grogginess, Kenneth’s heart warmed when he saw the two children looking at him anxiously.

If not for them, he knew he would have lost his life by the street.

Soon, the ambulance arrived at the hospital where the doctors gave Kenneth a full-body check up.

Fortunately, the children had used the defibrillator correctly and called the ambulance in time. Hence, the doctor declared that Kenneth was in a stable condition.

Shortly after, Kenneth regained his consciousness.

“Ahem, ahem!”

With his hand connected to a drip, Kenneth struggled to sit up before looking at the two children.

“Both of you, what are your names?” he asked.

“Xavian Nichols.”

“Clayton Nichols.”

Nichols again?

Kenneth furrowed his brows, as he was surprised at the number of Nichols that appeared in his life recently.

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Yara Nichols, Natalie Nichols... And now, these two children too? Given how mediocre Natalie looks, these beautiful kids are probably not hers. Besides, sharing a surname doesn't necessarily mean that they are related.

When he saw Kenneth deep in thought, Clayton asked, "Mister, what are you thinking about?"

Obviously, Kenneth wasn't going to tell the children what was on his mind.

"Nothing." He shook his head. "Considering how young you boys are, where did you learn how to save someone suffering from a heart attack?"

"Mommy taught us," Clayton declared proudly with his brows raised. "Our mommy is an excellent doctor. She can cure diseases that ordinary doctors can't. Thus, I have picked up a thing or two from her."

Since Clayton was singing the praises of their mommy, Xavian chimed in, "Mister, my brother isn't exaggerating at all. Mommy's skills are truly a sight to behold. Many rich patients have to even queue to be treated by her."

These two look to be the same age as Franklin and Sophia.

Having seen how the brothers saved him in a manner even professionals couldn't, Kenneth could imagine how skillful their mother was in medicine.

"Since you saved me," Kenneth gradually remarked, "I owe you a debt of gratitude. Thus, I'll grant you whatever you wish for."

Xavian and Clayton exchanged glances at each other.

They had saved Kenneth solely because it was the right thing to do. It had never crossed their mind that they would be rewarded for it.

When he didn't get a response, Kenneth assumed that they were too scared to tell him about it. Hence, he gently persuaded, "I can fulfill any wish you can think of. To be honest, I'm a rich and powerful man. Whatever you want, I'll definitely be able to make it happen."

After hearing Kenneth's offer, the children huddled in a corner and started discussing.

Kenneth couldn't help but laugh.

Children will always be children. How could they not be tempted by having a wish granted?

Since fate had brought them together, Kenneth took a liking to the children. Thus, he was ready to grant them whatever they ask.

Once the brothers completed their discussion, they returned to Kenneth's side.

Feeling curious, Kenneth asked, "Have you made up your mind? What do you wish for?"

The brothers answered in unison, "Mister, we don't want anything from you. Just a word of thanks will suffice."

Kenneth couldn't believe his ears.

"Erm..."

He had allowed them to ask for anything they wanted. Thus, he was surprised by their request.

"Is a word of thanks all that you want?"

"Mmm-hmm."

"Yup."

The brothers nodded at the same time while their eyes glistened with sincerity.

Due to his influential position, Kenneth always had people willing to serve him. Even when he owed someone something, he would quickly repay it with expensive gifts. Therefore, he realized that he had never thanked anyone in decades.

Hence, he was taken by surprise when the children only asked for a word of thanks instead of gifts.

Clearing his throat, Kenneth gathered himself and remarked with a struggle, "Th-Thank you."

Clayton and Xavian replied with a smile, "Mister, don't mention it. Mommy has taught us to always do good and not expect anything in return. After all, happiness derives from the simple things in life."

Do good and not expect anything in return.

Pondering upon the children's words, Kenneth figured that their mother was likely someone exceptional to have raised them up this way.

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"It seems your mommy has taught both of you very well," Kenneth exclaimed.

The brothers naturally agreed.

That goes without saying! Our mommy is the best in the world!

"Mister, since you are fine now, my brother and I will take our leave." Clayton bowed at Kenneth and advised, "As the weather has suddenly turned cold today, it could cause your blood vessels to shrink. Therefore, remember to keep yourself warm. Lastly, we wish you a speedy recovery."

Following in the footsteps of his brother, Xavian added, "Mister, get well soon."

Kenneth nodded in acknowledgment.

He had always liked children and was naturally fond of Franklin and Sophia.

Now that he had met the brothers, he adored them even more. In fact, he even wished that they were his great-grandchildren.

“Boys, wait.”

“Hmm?” The brothers stopped in their tracks and turned to look at Kenneth.

Picking up a pen and a piece of paper, Kenneth wrote down a string of numbers and handed it to them.

“Xavian, Clayton, this is my number. When you go home, you have to add me on WhatsApp. I like you boys very much and hope we can be friends.”

Kenneth’s fondness for the boys was actually mutual. For some reason, the brothers felt a sense of familiarity with him.

Receiving the piece of paper, Xavian replied with a smile, “We will keep in touch.”

“All right.” Kenneth grinned in relief.

After bidding Kenneth farewell, the brothers left the ward.

Sitting on his bed, Kenneth reminisced his encounter with the brothers in detail.

After all, he truly adored them.

Even though they didn’t ask for anything, he felt the urge to pamper them.

In fact, he even planned to meet their mother to ask her permission for them to be his god great grandchildren.

After the brothers exited the ward, they proceeded to leave the hospital.

Upon reaching the ground floor lobby, they heard the footsteps of stilettos striking the marble floor. It sounded especially jarring to their ears.

When they raised their gazes, they were greeted by the sight of Yara dressed in a white jacket and rushing into the hospital.

As she was in a hurry, she didn’t notice the brothers.

“Clayton, why is she here?”

“Beats me.” Frowning, Clayton added, “She is someone that always pretends to be a damsel in distress. She even put up a convincing show in front of the investors. Although she resembles Mommy in terms of looks, her character is the exact opposite. Thus, it’s better that we don’t make contact.”

“I understand.” Xavian nodded. “Clayton, let’s hurry back to the kindergarten. The driver will be anxious if he doesn’t pick us up.”

“Mmm-hmm.”

Meanwhile, back in the ward, Yara knocked on the door and rushed in.

“Grandpa, are you all right?”

“Yara, calm down. I’m fine.”

Kenneth couldn’t resist relating to her about how two five-year-old boys saved him. However, Yara wasn’t paying attention as her gaze kept drifting out of the ward.

Given that an outsider like her was there, she expected Samuel to arrive anytime considering how serious the matter was.

With her mind distracted by the wait, she didn’t catch Kenneth when he mentioned that the boys were also Nichols.

After finishing his story, Kenneth couldn’t help but feel awed by the coincidence.

Nevertheless, Yara didn’t respond to him as she was engrossed in her own plan. She suggested, “Grandpa, given how serious your chest pain was today, shall I inform Mr. Coleman and get Samuel and Steven to visit you?”

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In response, Kenneth shook his head. “It’s just an old ailment of mine acting up. Just drop a note to Mr. Coleman will do. There’s no need to tell Samuel and the others.”

Realizing that her plan had failed, Yara grew anxious.

“Grandpa, shouldn’t you tell Steven and the others? Or else, they will be even more worried when they find out you are hiding it from them.”

“Just do as I say. Samuel and Steven are busy enough with work.” Kenneth shot Yara a glance and gradually added, “Besides, don’t I have you here? With you, the miracle doctor, by my side. I’m sure this old bag of bones will be fine.”

Yara’s expression darkened.

Da*n it, how dare he orders me around.

She was just pretending to be concerned and didn’t expect him to take her seriously. Is he really making me responsible for caring for him in his old age?

Even though she cursed Kenneth to die early, she was still reliant on his support. Therefore, she couldn’t afford to offend him.

Despite her exasperation, she forced herself to eke out a smile.

“Don’t worry. I’ll definitely take good care of you.”

“Thank you, Yara.”

Lying in bed, Kenneth couldn't help but think about the brothers. Just the thought of them caused him to smile.

The next time he saw them, he planned to buy them the most expensive toys and reward their mother with a huge sum of money. It was to thank her for raising such good children.

Lost in thought, he didn't notice the grumpy expression Yara had when she served him water.

After leaving the hospital, Clayton and Xavian rushed back to the Kindergarten.

"Where did the two of you run off to behind our backs?" Franklin demanded when he saw them return.

"Did you sneak out for some delicious snacks without telling us?" Sophia fumed.

Clayton and Xavian told them about their plan for hacking Johnson Group's financial systems, causing Franklin and Sophia's ears to prick in interest.

That night, they were taken to dinner alongside Samuel and Natalie, while Xavian and Clayton

stayed at home. As a result, they saw with their own eyes how Natalie was accused and ridiculed in public.

Since they were powerless to help, they felt comforted that the brothers had vented their frustration on their behalf.

However, Clayton and Xavian only told them about the hacking incident but not the part where they saved Kenneth.

After all, Natalie had always taught them not to brag about such deeds, as that was how things were supposed to be. In fact, not helping would actually go against their conscience.

Consequently, the brothers didn't think too much of the matter and didn't see the need to bring it up.

After chatting for a while, the four of them were picked up by the driver and sent home.

Under Gavin's watchful eye, the children finished their food obediently.

It wasn't until eight in the evening that Natalie came home.

Subsequently, Clayton and Xavian knocked on the door to her study.

"Mommy."

"Mommy."

They then entered with a paper and pen.

"Does the kindergarten need me to sign your homework?" Natalie supported her chin with one hand.

"Haha, if you're in a rush, you can let Clayton forge my signature. Given how good he is at it, it shouldn't pose any problems."

Speechless, Clayton rolled his eyes at her. "Since when does a mother teach her children to commit such deeds?"

Natalie rubbed his chubby cheeks. "That's because all of you are so smart that there's nothing for me to worry about."

When Clayton's face was pinched by Natalie, Xavian asked innocently, "Mommy, the reason we're here is to ask you what medication should an elderly man with heart problems take?"

The moment she heard the question, Natalie let go of Clayton's face and raised her eyebrows in delight. "Have both of you finally taken an interest in medicine? Your great-grandfather will be proud to know that he now has heirs to the Bayer family's century-old medical techniques."

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Clayton and Xavian could only laugh wryly in response.

"Mommy, you know I'm more interested in computer systems." Xavian put two of his fingers together awkwardly.

"... I'm cool with learning medicine," Clayton mumbled with a shrug, "but I don't want to do it as a career."

"In that case, why are you asking me such a question all of a sudden?" Natalie was slightly shocked.

Clayton and Xavian then pulled each other's sleeves.

Clayton chuckled. "Mommy, Xavian and I have a friend whose grandpa's heart isn't doing well, causing him to suddenly collapse on the street. If not for the fact that he was treated in time, he would have ended up losing his life. Hence, we are seeking your advice, as we intend to help him. Given that you have a good heart and insanely good medical skills, I'm sure you can prescribe something for him that no one else can."

Nodding in acknowledgment, Natalie took the pen and paper from Xavian's hands and began writing

Despite doing so, she sighed in disappointment.

The Bayer family's medical techniques are only allowed to be taught within the family. At this rate, is it going to end with my generation?

Once she was done, the brothers quickly slipped back to their room.

There, they whipped out their phone excitedly and sent the prescription to Kenneth.

After that, they reminded him with a smiley emoticon: Sir, please get well soon.

Meanwhile, Kenneth put on his reading glasses and checked his phone upon hearing a notification sound.

He saw the prescription first and then the brothers' warm message.

Growing up in the Bowers family, Kenneth always had to behave like an elder. Furthermore, he was surrounded by cunning figures all the time. He wasn't trusted by everyone and neither did he trust anyone easily, even if they were related by blood.

As time went on, he began to grow aloof and distant from everyone.

However, the concern the brothers showed for him melted his heart considerably.

Adjusting his spectacles, Kenneth burst into a wave of hearty laughter.

Coincidentally, Yara walked in and was shocked to see him laughing while looking at his phone.

“Grandpa, what are you watching? Why are you laughing so happily?”

“Hmm?”

Waving his hand, Kenneth gestured for Yara to go over.

He showed Yara the prescription and asked, “Yara, come and take a look at this. Do you think it will help to improve my blood circulation and heart condition?”

When she saw the prescription, Yara was stunned.

The ingredients on the list were what she had been memorizing recently. After being questioned by Kenneth, the knowledge from her studies suddenly flooded her mind.

“Grandpa, did you find this prescription on the internet?”

“No, the two children who saved me sent it to me,” Kenneth replied without reservation, as he wasn’t trying to test Yara.

The moment she heard that two children had sent it to Kenneth, she pondered upon it.

Even someone as smart as I am finds learning traditional medicine difficult. Therefore, there’s no way two five-year-olds can be that intelligent. They must’ve copied it from the internet just to ingratiate themselves with Grandpa.

“Yara, what do you think?” Kenneth asked again.

“Grandpa, could the kids have copied it from the internet?” Yara smiled gently. “Hence, we can’t really be sure if it’s real or fake. Perhaps, you can acknowledge their good intentions, but it’s better not to try it.”

Nodding, Kenneth didn’t suspect Yara at all. “That’s true. It was really thoughtful of them still.”

After Yara left, Kenneth kept tossing around in bed, unable to sleep. For some reason, the prescription kept occupying his mind.

He then turned on his bedside lamp and put on his reading glasses. After that, he sent the prescription to an old friend who was knowledgeable about medicine.

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A few days passed since the controversy at the banquet. As a result, everyone had heard about Lia’s poisoning at the event.

Some speculated that Lia had an affair with Samuel, causing Natalie to poison her out of jealousy. Subsequently, the Bowers family covered it up to keep the peace. Others claimed that Lia had an insidious agenda. She planned to drive a wedge between Samuel and Natalie by poisoning herself and then creating an opportunity to step in.

Inside a bar, Yana was describing the rumors in high society about the event while Natalie was snacking away on chicken wings, leaving a pile of bones in front of her.

When she saw that Natalie barely reacted, Yana grew anxious on her behalf.

“Natalie, aren’t you bothered by the baseless accusations?”

“Of course I am.” Natalie grinned. “But that’s nothing I can do about it. The next time a new controversy breaks, they will naturally forget about what happened between me and the Johnson family. I won’t be the first victim and neither will I be the last.”

Upon hearing Natalie’s words, Yana’s serious expression was replaced by hearty laughter.

“If you were a man, I would get a divorce and be with you.”

ere a m

Smiling wryly, Hans commented, “Yana, come on. I’m sitting right here.”

Just as he spoke, everyone else guffawed.

Instead, Natalie barely joined in and glanced at Hans. “Hans, now that she is pregnant, there’s no way she can leave with me even if I’m a man.”

“Pregnant?” Hans was stunned.

“I’m pregnant?” Yana gasped with her mouth agape.

Natalie nodded with a smile. “Yana, when I took your pulse just now, I noticed that you’re recovering well. At the same time, I have discovered signs of pregnancy. After a week, I expect the hospital to detect it during your check-up.”

Yana and Hans shifted from being shocked to crying tears of joy.

After all, no one else but them knew how it truly felt.

Consequently, the Becker and Weiss families were greatly indebted to Natalie.

None of them had expected Yana to not only have a long life in front of her but also become pregnant with a second child.

“Natalie, I really don’t know how to thank you.” Hans’ eyes reddened. “The Becker family and I will never forget what you have done for us.”

“Natalie, thank you.” Yana’s eyes were filled with tears.

Faced with the teary-eyed couple, Natalie panicked briefly before handing a tissue to Yana.

“Yana, since I’ve acknowledged Mr. Weiss as my godfather, you’re naturally my godsister,” Natalie explained. “Other than my mom and Granddad, I barely have any other relatives. It’s you, Hans, Godfather, and Godmother who have treated me like family. Therefore, there’s no need to be so courteous among family.”

Wiping away her tears, Yana nodded.

Watching the episode unfold, Yandel and Ross didn’t say a word. Other than being surprised, they soon realized that it made sense after all.

Natalie had always been that way. As a beacon of light, she had always moved others into following her.

Other than Yana changing her drink to fruit juice, everyone else raised their wine glasses in celebration.

Toward the end of the gathering, Natalie quietly went to get the check.

Just when she took a few steps, Natalie noticed that Yandel had followed her out.

“Boss, let me get it.”

“Since I’m the boss, how can I let you pay?” Raising her brows, Natalie asserted, “It’s settled then. Whoever is the boss pays.”

With that, Yandel didn’t insist and stayed behind Natalie in a servile manner.

After paying the bill, Natalie heard a woman’s drunken voice.

“Get lost! Don’t touch me... Take your filthy hands off me!”

Chapter 367

Subsequently, Natalie and Yandel turned to look.

They saw Lia staggering forward while holding onto the wall for support. Beside her was a fat man constantly trying to put his arm around her shoulder.

Despite her struggles, the fat man kept trying to shamelessly pull her into his embrace.

Considering how common such a scene was in a bar, most of the patrons and the staff were numb to it and didn’t intend to intervene.

Natalie knitted her brows.

Lia had almost lost her life after ingesting poison. And now, she’s here getting herself drunk. Does she have a death wish?

When Yandel saw Natalie looking at Lia with a grim expression, he couldn’t resist asking, “Boss, do you know her? Do you want me to step in?”

“Yes, I do.” Natalie nodded. “Yandel, please help her.”

Recalling Lia’s apology before she threw up blood, Natalie figured that she wasn’t truly wicked.

She must have done it because Yara tempted her with something or is blackmailing her. No matter what, it doesn't hurt to have her on my side.

Stepping forward with a devilish smile, Yandel grabbed the fat man's arm.

"Let go," he barked in a commanding tone.

The fat man scowled in response. However, after he felt the pain on his arm, his flabby cheeks began to tremble as he let Lia go in fear.

"I'm sorry. I won't do it again," the fat man pleaded before turning around to flee.

Trying to find her balance, Lia looked up in a daze and pointed at Natalie.

"Oh, it's you."

"Ms. Johnson, it's me indeed." Natalie grinned. "I'm sure the last memory you have of me was when you puked blood and collapsed into Lionel's arms, right?"

Yandel had extended his hand to support the drunken Lia in a chivalric manner.

Upon hearing Natalie's words, he retracted them at once.

"Boss, that's Lia?" Furrowing his brows, Yandel snapped, "Since you recognize her, why did you ask me to save her? Even if something happens to her, she is just reaping what she sowed."

Yandel was never one to be sympathetic.

The fact that he managed to hold himself back from punching Lia was an achievement.

Releasing his grip, Yandel allowed Lia to tumble onto the ground. However, Natalie stepped forward to hold her up instead.

Yandel protested with a frown, "Boss, she's not worth..."

"Yandel." After Natalie gave him a look, he held his tongue knowingly.

"Ms. Johnson." Feeling conflicted, Lia closed her eyes and resigned herself to face Natalie's revenge.

"Given that you have just been discharged from the hospital, you should take better care of yourself. Now, call your brother to pick you up." Natalie plainly added, "All of us have only one life. The reason I helped you today is that I don't want to see someone I have painstakingly saved throw her life away again. If you are really sick of living, I suggest you sign an organ donor form to donate your organs to those who want to live on."

Natalie words were both candid and pragmatic.

Although she was cognizant of Lia's sorrow, there were many others in the world who were suffering more than her. In fact, those people didn't even have the ability to hurt themselves indiscriminately like her.

Having said her piece, Natalie turned to leave but had her arm grabbed by Lia instead.

“I’m sorry.” With tears streaming down her cheeks, Lia dropped to her knees in front of Natalie. “Ms. Nichols, I confess that I was out to frame you, but I had no other choice. That woman knows an important secret of mine. And because of that, I was forced to do what I did to you.”