

Pampered 211

Chapter 211

Tiffany was in a gossipy mood. Surprised, Tina could only shake her head helplessly. She explained, "Where did you hear all these rumors? I don't have a boyfriend."

"Huh?" Tiffany was dumbfounded upon hearing Tina's answer. She added, "I did hear something about a man constantly sending you flower bouquets all the time ever since you brought your child here to work with us five years ago. That man was super romantic, wasn't he? If he's not your boyfriend, then who is he?" Tina replied, "That man is a family member who's very close to me" "Hehe! Alright, then. I did hear from the others that the guy looks super cute When can I meet him?"

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Tiffany might look mature, but she had only turned eighteen years old this year. She had decided to become an apprentice at the studio shortly after her birthday Her temperament was childish, signifying that she had yet to go through the ups and downs of a grown-up's life. She didn't know how to be tactful at all, seeing as she spoke whatever that was on her mind without hesitation, Tina could not help but feel amused when she noticed Tiffany obsessing over an unknown man.

"Sure. If I have the chance to introduce him to you, I'll do that. I'll be leaving first."

"Okay, Linda. Bye!" Tiffany replied. After packing her things up, Tina left the studio.

Rows of tall camphor trees stood along the Parisian streets A black car was parked under one of the trees. A man, clad in a smart – looking suit, leaned against the car as if he was waiting for someone

Before Tina could approach him, a small shadow appeared out of nowhere and rushed toward her like a ball of energy "Mommy!"

A child-like voice rang at that time. Tina found it difficult to move since that shadow was hugging her thigh tightly.

Tina could only stare down helplessly at the little girl who was firmly latched to her leg like a koala bear. She reprimanded gently, "Kara, let go of me!" "Mommy, I miss you so much! I want a hug!"

Kara Lynd spread her chubby arms, blinking innocently at her mother in an attempt to look cute.

As Tina lifted the little girl with her hands, she felt a firm kiss planted on her cheek "Mwah!" Kara made sure to leave a sloppy, saliva-infested kiss on her mother's cheek."

Mommy, I haven't seen you for a long time I miss you so much!" "It's been barely a day since we last saw each other, I miss you too!" Tina looked at her daughter in her arms while grazing Kara's tiny nose affectionately. "Happy birthday, my dear Kara!" Five years ago, this exact day was a special day for Tina. Not only did she give birth to Kara, but it also marked the day both mother and daughter almost lost their lives. Fortunately, his appearance saved them. Tina gazed at the man in front of her. Even though five years had passed, she still counted her blessings gratefully whenever Kara's birthday was here. "Frederick," she called out. The man who was waiting for Tina happened to be Frederick, also known as the casanova of Freesia.

Five years ago, Frederick went to great lengths just to escape from Lord Jackson. His worries about Tina could never be reassured. He was worried she might be bullied by the elites of Freesia, but unexpectedly, he discovered that she had been missing for a long time. Even after asking the heiresses all around the city, none of them, including Fiona, knew where Tina had gone. The first thing that popped into Frederick's mind was the Langford family. Samuel must have imprisoned Tina.

As Frederick was about to tail the Langford's family car in secret to find out Tina's whereabouts, he witnessed the woman in the car getting tossed into the sea.

Frederick never expected Tina to be the unfortunate woman. To think Samuel actually tried to kill her!

What was scarier was the fact that he noticed a newborn baby cradled firmly in Tina's arms when she got chucked into the sea.

It was obvious Freesia no longer welcomed the mother and daughter combo.

Lord Jackson was no exception. He already hated Tina's guts, so how could he tolerate the fact that she had a child out of wedlock?

Hence, Frederick made a bold decision which openly defied Lord Jackson's orders. He took Tina and Kara to Paris, and started a new life there. Now, Frederick was a changed man. Clad in a suit, he looked like a professional elite of the upper-class society. He was no longer the same playboy he was back in Freesia. He said to Tina, "Let's get in the car."

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Tina got in the car carefully with Kara in her arms. She had already reserved a table at a family restaurant in advance, just to celebrate her daughter's sixth birthday. Kara kept filling Tina in on her day at her kindergarten during the trip. Tina could only giggle as she listened to her daughter's ramblings. Frederick saw the mother and daughter pair interact with each other in the rearview mirror. Joy radiated from within his eyes.

He knew very well that Tina would never like him romantically. His feelings for her back then were nothing but a product of infatuation.

Having spent five years with Tina and Kara, Frederick could safely claim that he was a family member to them. Even Kara started referring to him as her uncle.

He wanted nothing more than to take care of them. All he wanted was to let Tina and Kara lead peaceful and happy lives without suffering anymore. However, the joyous atmosphere didn't continue for much longer. An ambulance sped past them. For some reason, the traffic started clogging up. "I think there's a car accident up ahead," Frederick commented with a frown. "You two stay in the car. I'll go find out what's going on." Having said that, he got out of the car. Tina stayed in the car with Kara. The two waited for Frederick for almost twenty minutes, but he was nowhere to be seen.

Feeling quite worried, Tina was about to get out of the car and look for Frederick when she saw paramedics appearing with a stretcher. They were carrying a wounded patient into the ambulance.

The patient was a tall and well-built man. His forehead was apparently wounded, as blood kept trickling down his face.

That man was clearly handsome, possessing sharp and refined features. He was even more attractive than mixed-blood models who conquered the catwalk during the Paris fashion week

However, just one glance at the patient froze all the blood in Tina's veins.

At that very moment, the man on the stretcher opened his eyes all of a sudden. His dark orbs were fixated in her direction.

Tina was so frightened that her heart almost stopped beating for a second. She instinctively picked Kara up and turned around to stumble her way back into the car.

That was Samuel Langford! .

Tina had never expected to bump into that demon on the Parisian streets after five years. Why was he here? Did he find out about her surviving the ordeal, hence his decision to come

all the way to Paris to assassinate her?

Also, did he see her just now when he opened his eyes? She had to leave this place right now, or else..! Then again, Tina had already fostered a deep relationship with her colleagues in the fashion studio due to her many years of working here. Should she really give everything up, especially when her career had begun to flourish recently?

Tina's heart started racing like it was running a marathon. She was so anxious that all she could do was hug her daughter tightly.

Kara didn't cry out in pain despite being trapped in a tight hug. Perhaps she could feel her mother's anxiety at the moment.

She patted Tina's back comfortingly and imitated Tina's story-telling tone. "Don't worry, Mommy. Don't be scared. I'll protect you."

Tears streamed down Tina's cheeks at that moment.

Her precious daughter was so understanding and caring despite being at a tender age. Five years ago, Tina had almost lost Kara to the grim reaper. Five years later, she would never let anything happen to her daughter.

Frederick hurried back to the car right then, a grim expression set on his face. "Tina, I got some information..."

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Frederick opened the car door. Clearly, he didn't expect to see Tina shivering in fright. Slightly confused, he asked, "What's wrong, Tina? Are you alright?" "Shh!" Kara turned around to shush Frederick with a raised finger "Uncle Frederick, you're too loud. Mommy got scared just now." "What?" Frederick's confusion deepened even more. "There was an injured man being carried into the ambulance. Mommy must've been scared by his appearance," Kara explained, a serious expression on her chubby face "Mommy gets spooked easily, so don't scare her!" Tina added softly, "Frederick, I saw him. It's him..." Who else could frighten Tina this much? A surge of complicated emotions rose within Frederick's heart. "I know. I was gathering intel on that guy just now." Frederick didn't expect Tina to see Samuel with her

own eyes, which gave her a huge fright That situation had thrown a wrench in their plans, so they had no choice but to cancel the trip to the family restaurant Frederick said, "We should go home." "Are we not going to the restaurant anymore?" Kara asked, puzzled. She was looking forward to celebrating her birthday at the family restaurant There, she could play with many children of her age Frederick comforted her soothingly, "Darling, we can't continue down this road. Mommy suffered from shock as well, so it's better for us to go home and celebrate your birthday. I'll buy you a cake on our way home later, okay?" "Okay!" Kara loved her mother more than anything in this world, so she relented with ease." Please buy Mommy a cake 100. She loves chocolate cake with marshmallows on top..." Frederick replied with a smile, "No problem." He turned the car around and started driving home. Tina asked in a quivering tone, "What should we do, Frederick? Has he found out about my survival? Should Kara and I leave this city?"

"Calm down. Everything will be fine," Frederick said gently, trying to soothe her. "I asked around for more details just now. I even called my friends in Freesia to find out what's going on. He's here because of some personal matters. Him getting into an accident is just a coincidence. Don't worry about it, Tina." The so-called personal matters revolved around Samuel's genius son, who suffered from autism. Frederick didn't feel the need to go into details about that.

Tina's mind was still buzzing with frantic thoughts. "But... But he opened his eyes just now! I'm worried that he might've seen me and Kara! I'm so scared..."

Frederick thought for a moment before saying, "Five years have already passed since then. You don't resemble the woman you were five years ago. Even if someone familiar with your appearance were to stand before you right now, they would be dumbfounded when they see you. Besides, he got injured because of a car accident. Even if he felt that you looked familiar, he would treat what he saw as a hallucination. No one would think that a dead person could be revived. Remember, we're in Paris, not Freesia. No matter how powerful he is, there's no way he can track you down and harm you without anyone knowing. I have a lot more connections here than him. Concealing your existence here is as easy as taking candy from a baby."

Tina gradually calmed down after hearing Frederick's comforting words.

It was true that the old Tina had died back in Freesia. Samuel's heartless command had sealed her fate. However, she was a well-known fashion designer who went by the name 'Linda' in Paris. She had never revealed her face to the media, and the name she was using wasn't her actual name. Samuel clearly thought she was dead. If he realized she was still alive, he wouldn't have waited for five years just to settle the score with her today. "Mommy, what are you two talking about?" Kara was confused after listening to Tina and Frederick's conversation. "Who's this person you're talking about?" Tina gazed into Kara's bright and innocent eyes. She spaced out for a moment. That person was Samuel Langford, the murderer who had ordered for Tina and Kara's deaths.

At the same time, he was Kara's biological father. However, Kara and Samuel's relationship could be summarized in a few simple words.

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"That person is someone I used to know."

“Was it that man just now?” Kara was a smart girl. She quickly realized that something was amiss based on her mother’s reaction, so she asked, “Why didn’t we go and say hi to him?”

“No!” Tina replied nervously. “If you ever see him in the future, you must run away! Got it?” “Is that man a bad guy?” Kara seemed to have understood something. “He must have done something bad in the past, right?” “Yes! He’s a really, really, really bad guy!” Tina agreed vigorously. “That’s why you and I have to hide properly! We mustn’t get discovered by that villain!” Frederick added, “If you’re discovered, you and your mommy will be separated forever.” Listening to the two, Kara instantly knew that the man was bad news. He was definitely the most wicked villain in the history of villains! And so, Kara said seriously, “I won’t ever let him discover me! Don’t worry, Mommy. I’ll stay with you forever.”

“Me too, Kara.” Tina hugged her daughter immediately.

Frederick was tickled pink by Kara’s response. On one hand, she was quite brave, since she wasn’t afraid of a bleeding man. On the other hand, she was a cowardly little girl too, seeing as she was frightened by the idea of being separated from her mother. Soon, the car stopped in front of a bakery. Kara quickly forgot all about the big bad wolf as she took Tina’s hand and ran excitedly into the bakery. There, she started picking out her favorite cake.

“Mommy wants a chocolate cake, and I want a vanilla cake! What would you like to eat, Uncle Frederick?”

Frederick was touched upon hearing the question. “Aww! You care about me a lot, Kara! Unfortunately, I’m not a fan of sweet things. I’ll just get some coffee later.”

A frown instantly appeared on Kara’s face. “What’s so nice about coffee? It’s so bitter!” she complained. “A brat like you knows nothing about having good taste!” Frederick replied in disgust. Kara was miffed to hear the statement. “My mommy’s a designer, so I’ll become a designer too! I’m naturally artistic, so my taste is way better than yours!” “As if that’s the case. There’s a saying that goes like this. Daughters tend to follow in their fathers’ footsteps...” “My daddy’s already dead, silly uncle! Are you saying that I resemble a dead person?” “Uh... That’s not what I meant. I’m sorry.”

The uncle and niece combo ended up bickering in front of the glass counter.

Having witnessed the scene, Tina didn’t know if she should step in and break them up. She was no longer frightened. All that was left in her eyes was amusement. At that moment, someone gasped from outside the bakery. The bumbling foreign language was automatically translated into English as the conversation flowed into Tina’s ear.

“Whose child is this?”

“Is he lost? He looks like a child model...”

“You’re right! What a beautiful child.” Tina lifted her head subconsciously. The next second, surprise filled her eyes.

What a beautiful little boy!

There was a little boy standing a short distance away from her at that moment. He seemed to be around Kara’s age.

Kara's personality was carefree and friendly. She was akin to a pretty doll showcased in a display window, bright and lovely, attracting people's attention and inciting them to adore her.

But the little boy's aura was akin to an adult, cold and noble. As a fashion designer, Tina was used to seeing beautiful models. A thought popped into her mind when she saw the little boy.

'He's already this handsome when he's still so young Once he grows up, he's going to be the reason many girls get heartbroken!'

With that thought in mind, Tina started approaching the little boy, as if she was drawn by him.

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Soon, Tina found herself standing in front of the little boy. "Why are you alone? Where are your parents?" she asked as she crouched down. However, the little boy shot her an alert look and started backing away from her. Tina could see vigilance written all over his eyes. For a moment, she could spot the cold and sharp glint in his eyes that no child his age should possess. Strangely enough, she found the feeling to be familiar. She had never seen that child before, hadn't she? If she did, there was no way she wouldn't remember him. However, this was not the time to dwell on other things. Tina explained to the boy, "Don't worry. I'm not a bad person. I just want to ask about your parents' whereabouts" The little boy had no intention to answer her. All he did was stare at her coldly

"Do you know your parents' numbers? Should I call them for you?" Tina asked again Again, the little boy remained silent. Tina felt helpless He was too alert for a child his age, to the point he refused to talk to strangers at all. Then again, it was probably a good thing for him. If Kara was the one getting lost in the streets, there was a chance she might follow someone else home due to her overt friendliness. At that moment, Kara ran to Tina and asked, "Mommy, why are you out here? Uncle Frederick and I are done buying the cakes! Let's go home..." Suddenly, the little boy turned to look at Kara.

The latter was intimidated by the former's gaze She hugged Tina while saying, "Mommy, who's this kid? Was he glaring at me? He's so rude!" "I think he got separated from his parents, so he's skittish at the moment." Tina defended the boy. It was only then that Kara's fright dissipated. Instead, she approached the boy with curiosity sparkling in her eyes. "Are you lost? What's your name? Do you want to call the police, or do you want us to make a phone call for you?" Kara was a friendly girl by nature, so she had many friends at the kindergarten The little boy's aloof personality didn't bother her at all. She continued, "You look pretty rich since you dress very nicely. Don't you have a butler or some bodyguards following you everywhere? It's best if you stick to your mommy and daddy all the time when you're out here. Since you look super cute, you might get kidnapped by bad guys. You'd be forced to wear

shabby and torn clothes, and you wouldn't be able to eat delicious cake ever again. All you could eat by then is dirt and dust!" When the boy stubbornly remained silent, Kara continued, "Why aren't you talking to me? Are you mute? Well, why don't you try using sign language to communicate with me? Do you know how to write?"

Once Kara started talking, there was no stopping her. Words would spill out of her mouth like rushing water from a broken dam

When Tina noticed the boy's expression growing more and more thunderous, she tugged on her daughter's sleeve tacitly in an attempt to get Kara to mind her words. "Kara, you should..."

Unexpectedly, the boy looked like he was unable to handle Kara's ramblings anymore. He spat out a few words immediately, as if he had a quota on spoken words.

"I'm Keith!" he snarled "Huh? What did you say?" Kara asked. "My name!" Keith said coldly, looking disgusted. "I didn't hear your name the first time Can you repeat it for me?"

"Clearly, your ears are the problem here."

Not only did that little boy adopt an aloof attitude, but his words were also extremely sharp.

"My ears are fine. You're the one who couldn't speak well, okay? How is this my fault?" Kara replied with an indignant huff. "What did you say your name was? Kiss?"

Keith was speechless His name was Keith, not kiss! "Why aren't you talking anymore? Are you really mute? Or could it be that you have a lisp or something?" "I'm fine!"

"Then why didn't you pronounce your name properly?"

Keith Langford had always been treated by all with the utmost respect in the Langford manor. At that moment, Kara's response left him completely baffled.

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"I've never seen anyone as stupid as you in the entire world," Keith remarked scornfully. Kara pouted immediately. "Mommy, look at him! He's mad at me now! He even insulted me! How rude!" "Ma'am, please teach your child proper manners. Keep her away from me!" Keith said angrily to Tina

Tina was speechless upon hearing Keith's words. 'Aren't you a child as well? Why are you acting all mature? if I didn't look at you properly, I would've thought you were a short, grumpy old man in his eighties!'

Tina finally understood something. That little boy might look pretty on the outside, but his personality was extremely off-putting. He was cold to everyone else, and wouldn't hesitate to say hurtful things.

She could only lift Kara into her arms as she asked, "Since you know how to talk, do you want me to call your parents or the police? It'd be bad if you got separated from your parents, after all."

The mother and daughter pair were infuriating Keith to no end. He spat in a deadpan tone, "I didn't get separated from my parents. I'm here to look for someone. I have things to do."

Kara peered down at him curiously from her mother's embrace. "Who are you looking for? What kind of things are you doing?" "That's none of your business. Please, just mind your own business." Keith didn't hesitate to shut Kara up. Tina was once again rendered completely helpless when it came to this stubborn little boy.

She remembered that Frederick was still waiting inside the bakery. Plus, Kara was eager to go home and celebrate her birthday, so she suggested, "Let me call the police for you. We'll leave once they're here."

It was obvious that the boy was a vigilant little one. Since she couldn't pry any answers from his mouth, she would have to entrust him into the police's care. The moment Tina's suggestion fell, Keith's expression changed drastically.

"No! You can't call the police! I must never return home!"

Seeing as Tina was adamant on calling the police, Keith knew that if he didn't say something, his plans would be foiled.

"You mustn't call the police! My parents abuse me a lot! That's why I ran away from home! If you called the police, I'd be sent back and they'd keep abusing me!"

Tina was shocked to hear that.

"Abuse?!" "Yes!" Keith pulled up his sleeves while he spoke. There were terrible cuts and lacerations crisscrossing his tiny arms. Tina's face turned grim when she saw them. "Oh my goodness!" shouldn't an adorable child like Keith be cherished and loved by his parents? It was no wonder he looked very alert around strangers. This was the reason. Kara was frightened when she saw the scars. "I shouldn't have called you rude! Do your arms hurt a lot? They look like they do!" she wailed sympathetically. Keith was speechless. Tricking the mother and daughter pair was so easy! He also realized that they were incredibly kind-hearted people, so he continued, "That's why you shouldn't call the police. I ran away from home because I wanted to look for someone, but an unexpected change interrupted my plans. I never got to find her..." Then, he suggested, "Well, how about this? Why don't you take me in for now? Once I've found out more news about the person I'm searching for, I'll leave your house straightaway. Before that happens, I can pay you rent I have some emergency cash on me, so don't worry." Kara didn't hesitate to agree with the suggestion. "Of course! We won't let you suffer from abuse any longer! Mommy, let's take him home with us!"

Tina nodded as well. "Okay. Go find your uncle for me. Let's go home together." "Okay!" Kara ran into the bakery to do as told. A while later, a confused-looking Frederick walked out of the bakery. "Kara told me something about you taking a child home with you. What's going on here?" Frederick gazed at Keith as he spoke. Both of them made eye contact with each other. The former was stunned by the latter's unique aura. Frederick mumbled subconsciously, "Hmm? Why do I feel that he looks quite familiar?"

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Frederick had a hunch that he had seen the boy before.

Just as he was pondering on the latter's identity, Kara interrupted his thoughts and called out impatiently, "Uncle Frederick, stop dilly-dallying! Let's go home! I want to celebrate my birthday and have some cake!". "Oh! Alright, then!" Frederick could only carry out his duties as Kara's loyal chauffeur. She was the birthday star, so her orders must be heeded!

Soon, the car came to a halt in front of an apartment building. Keith followed the others out of the car. – Tina and Kara's living quarters might not be big, but the place was decorated nicely. At first

THE STREET glance, it looked very cozy to live in. The common quarters were plastered with artwork produced by Kara in her kindergarten classes. Everywhere Keith looked, he would spy cute plushies here and there. Kara was friendly and welcoming to the new guest. She demonstrated her hospitality by

locating a pair of small indoor slippers. "This is my favorite pair of slippers. They're shaped like cute bears! I'll let you wear them." However, Keith's expression started becoming grim. Not only did the slippers sport the appearance of cute bears, but they were also colored a bright pink "I don't wear slippers like these!" he replied huffily. "Huh? You don't like bears? What about yellow duckies?" Kara fetched a pair of bright yellow slippers that sported duckling patterns. "I don't want those as well." "Hmm... What about giraffes? Or sheep slippers?" Kara kept presenting more slippers in front of Keith, each pair cuter than the one before. The boy was completely speechless by now. He was never talkative to begin with, but it was impossible for him to speak up in front of the mother and daughter combo, especially when Kara was involved. "Do you have any normal-looking slippers?" . Kara felt hurt on the inside. "These slippers are so cute! Why don't you like them?" "I just don't like them at all, okay?" Tina tried to appease the boy by saying, "Kara's slippers are categorized under the theme of cute animals. If you don't like them, you can always wear regular grown-up's slippers."

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Keith finally agreed to that. Kara was quick to let go of her grievances. She couldn't wait to start her birthday celebration, so she took out the party hats, plates, forks, and a small bunch of birthday candles. "I'm turning five years old today, so we need to place five candles on the cake! All of you can place one candle each, and I'll place the remaining two candles!" Tina and Frederick accepted the candles, but Keith backed away from Kara with a look of disgust. "Low quality candles can cause harm to the human body once lit. Aren't you afraid of getting poisoned?"

Kara replied, "Huh? We'll get poisoned by the candles? Then, let's skip the candle-lighting process. Can I cut the cake now?" "Cakes aren't good for your health as well. Most of them are produced using hydrogenated vegetable oil, after all. Even the chocolate used as your cake filling isn't real. It's actually a cocoa butter replacer that contains trans fatty acid." Upon studying the cake painted with rainbow colors and had animals drawn on the surface, Keith added in the same disgusted tone, "Plus, your cake has so much weird stuff drawn all over the surface. That means the food coloring has definitely exceeded the safety levels."

Kara could only listen to Keith's complaints in confusion. Imaginary stars were beginning to spin around her head. After that, Keith glanced at Tina and Frederick. "Don't you know about all this information as parents? How on earth did you educate your child?" All three of them couldn't say anything in retaliation. In the end, Kara was the first one to speak up first. Confusion colored her tone as she exclaimed, "T-Today is my birthday! Don't you eat cakes during your birthday?" "I never celebrate my birthday! It's a ridiculously childish thing to do!" Keith might only be a child, but the moment he opened his mouth, his razor-sharp words could hurt everyone's feelings in the room. Sorrow overcame Kara at that instant. Her lips scrunched into a pout, and she could feel big fat tears rolling down her cheeks like broken strings of pearls. "All I want to do is to celebrate my birthday... I want to eat that cake..." Keith didn't expect to drive the little girl in front of him into tears, crying like a baby. "What on earth are you crying for?"

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"I want to light the candles, but you said they're poisonous. I want to eat my birthday cake, but it's also poisonous!" Kara's cries intensified the more she spoke. "I don't want everyone to get poisoned, so I can't celebrate my birthday now! I'm so sad..."

For some reason, Keith didn't want the girl in front of him to cry.

Maybe it was because she had a pretty name. Girls with such names should have pretty smiles all the time.

But when she started crying, she no longer looked pretty. Keith took out a small handkerchief from his suit pocket and said in a cold tone, "Hurry up and wipe your tears. If you want to celebrate your birthday, then do it. Why are you crying? You look so ugly when you do!" ... "T-The poison..." "You've already bought everything, haven't you? It's better to consume the cake rather than waste it. Just remember not to buy such things in the future." Keith's words were still icy, but now, he was soothing the little girl instead of hurting her feelings. 4.2 "Really? I can eat the cake?" "You're already this stupid to begin with. A bit of cake won't do you any harm." Kara filtered out the mean words automatically and smiled beautifully in response. "Yay! We can eat the cake now! Let's cut it together! As a family, we should celebrate together!". "I'm not a part of your family." "Since you're already living in my house, that means you're a part of the family!" Keith was rendered speechless once more after hearing Kara's words. Never had he heard such unreasonable and illogical things before in his life. However, he deemed it inappropriate to continue being mean to the little girl. He might risk making her cry again. Kara grabbed Keith's hand and announced excitedly, "Mommy, Uncle Frederick! Let's cut the cake!"

Tina let out a sigh of relief.

Children would always argue over minor things, but she thought it inappropriate to interfere with their squabbles as she was an adult. It was a good thing the children had solved their problem and successfully made up. The entire family put their hands together on the knife and divided the cake into four quarters. By the time Kara had happily finished her cake, it was already dark outside. The approaching night was beginning to make her drowsy. **

"Mommy, I'm sleepy now. I want to go to bed." "Go brush your teeth and wash your face, Kara. I'll read you a bedtime story later."

"Okay!"

While Kara ran off to do her nightly routine, Frederick decided to leave the apartment. Keith sat on the couch while staring at Tina, who was beginning to clean up the place. For some reason, he started to think of this particular place as his home. He felt closer to this mother and daughter pair compared to when he was with his birth mother

At that moment, Tina noticed Keith's expression. She asked, "Are you already tired? I've tidied up the guest room for you earlier. You can sleep there for the night."

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"I'm not tired yet," Keith replied stubbornly. "Can you lend me your computer? It's an emergency." "Are you going to play games on it?" "No. I want to contact an acquaintance. Of course, this is my secret, so I

can't tell you anything about it. It's bad for you if you know too much." Keith sounded very serious when he said that. Tina didn't press on the matter, and simply shrugged helplessly. Perhaps it was common for children to come up with imaginary scenarios all the time. Keith made it sound so mysterious, as if he was about to contact an information broker. She handed Keith a laptop and said, "Have fun. I'm going to read Kara a bedtime story." Keith pulled out a specialized USB drive from his pocket and plugged it into one of the laptop's ports. Then, he logged into a website. He looked very serious as he typed a message with the keyboard. "Are you there? Soon, a reply could be seen on the chat window.

"What the heck? You're finally here, Boss! I thought you went missing! I've already caused the car accident that you ordered to happen. That Langford man was hospitalized, but the autistic child meant to seek treatment there has disappeared to God knows where."

Keith sent another order.

"Forget about that child. I want information on the tenants of this apartment building, particularly the mother and daughter pair." After that, he sent the address that he was currently staying at.

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"Got it!"

The person on the other side replied immediately. After that, Keith asked, "Also, have you tracked down the woman I asked you to find?" "I've locked on a few locations, but I'm still trying to filter them out. That Langford guy isn't an amateur when it comes to this business. If I acted blatantly, he'd definitely raise his guard and sniff me out. I can only take this slow. I still need about seven days to complete this task."

Keith's gaze grew sharp and calculating at that moment.

Two years ago, when he was starting to develop memories as a three-year-old, his birth mother Cindy was ruthlessly imprisoned by his father Samuel.

Over the past three years, he never had the chance to meet her.

Samuel had always thought that Keith was too young to remember Cindy. In reality, the latter remembered all the events clearly. The reason he plotted this for so long was so he could rescue his mother and whisk her away from the Langfords. In a faraway place, Keith was certain they would be able to lead happy lives.

Right now, Samuel was hospitalized due to the accident. This was Keith's perfect chance to track down his mother...

If that scary man were to find out that he had been pretending to be autistic all for the sake of saving his mother, both him and Cindy would be doomed for sure. "I'll give you three days. Find her location immediately!" "B-But Boss..." Before the guy could finish typing his message, Keith unplugged the USB and severed his connection with the website.

On the other end, Arthur Knight felt like bursting into tears on the spot.

He used to be the best hacker on the internet, but he didn't expect to be defeated by a mysterious expert who had emerged a year ago. According to the bet the duo had placed, Arthur was forced to work for the unknown hacker with weird mood swings for the next ten years, and that was for free.

Of course, he was very frustrated about it. Alas, there was no way he could ever voice it to his boss. That hacker was more superior to him, after all. Since Arthur couldn't beat him, he might as well join him. With that resolve in mind, Arthur could only type away on his keyboard while watching lines of codes appearing on his screen. All he had to do was to keep working overtime in hopes of getting the task done. After stowing away the USB drive, Keith carried the laptop with his arms. He wanted to return it to Tina.

Just as he approached a room's doorway, he heard Tina and Kara's conversation drifting from inside the room.

"Tonight's bedtime story is called 'Tadpoles Searching for Their Mommy.' The warm spring is here... A bunch of little tadpoles want to look for their mommy... After overcoming all the obstacles, the little tadpoles finally found their froggy mommy. Together, they lived happily ever after..."

dalam

Tina's tone was gentle as she read the bedtime story out loud from the storybook to her daughter. Kara lay in her arms, her heavy eyelids already glued together. She struggled to say, "The little tadpoles are very pitiful... I won't be separated from you, Mommy... Even if we do get separated, I'll find you quickly..." "I won't get separated from you too," Tina replied softly. "I'll always stay with you, my dear Kara. Sleep well." "Mommy, I want... a good night kiss..." Once Tina planted a soft kiss on her daughter's forehead, the latter was already soundly asleep.

lult, his mentality was still that of a

No matter how much Keith carried himself like a min five-year-old.

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The sight of Kara and Tina's loving interactions made him ball his fists tightly. All he could feel at that moment was extreme discomfort. He turned around hastily and tried to leave the doorway. Bam! In his hurry to leave, Keith accidentally bumped into the doorframe, resulting in a loud noise. Tina was frightened after hearing the unexpected sound. She lifted her head, only to see Keith's tiny figure fleeing from the doorway. In his place was the laptop he had just borrowed from her. It was a good thing Kara couldn't be roused easily after falling asleep. After placing her daughter onto her bed and tucking her in, Tina left the room quietly. "I heard you bumping into something just now. Are you all right?" she asked, clearly concerned for Keith.

The latter was seated on his bed, expressionless. "I'm fine. In fact, I'm tired now, so I'm going to bed!"

It was a hint for Tina to leave him alone.

Tina was both helpless and distressed when she heard those words.

The little boy in front of her was the same age as Kara, yet he seemed so mature. Not only that, but he was also awfully alert around strangers.

Chapter 220

His behavior must have been caused by his parents' long-term abuse, right? Tina didn't know what kind of heartless b*stards Keith's parents were. How could they have the heart to lay a finger on such an adorable child? Having recalled the scars on Keith's arms earlier that afternoon, Tina said, "I remember that you have a lot of cuts on your arms. Do they hurt? Let me tend to them for you." "There's no need for that. Those are just minor cuts," Keith rejected her coldly. He was the only heir of the Langford family, after all. Naturally, no one dared to abuse him. Even though he shared a bad relationship with Samuel, the latter didn't treat him badly either. Keith could request for whatever he wanted, other than an opportunity to meet his mother.

Those cuts were just products of the car accident that he had caused in an attempt to escape from his father. To him, they were nothing

HET SURI

However, Tina grabbed a medical kit and pressed on sternly, "That's it. Arms out right now. I'll bandage them for you." "I told you I don't need."

ed.nl "What if you fað ill and have a burning fever if your cuts aren't treated? If you're sick, I'll have to send you to the hospital. Then, you might risk getting discovered and returned to your family!" Tina pretended to be angry with Keith

The latter frowned immediately.

What Tina said made sense. He couldn't risk falling ill and getting himself admitted to the hospital right now. He still needed to save his mother, after all. "Fine." Keith's face was all scrunched up as he reluctantly extended his arms. He had inherited Samuel's strange pet peeve, and was an odd germaphobe like Samuel. He hated making contact with strangers the most. But due to the special circumstances, he had no choice but to allow the woman in front of him to tend to his cuts.

Oddly enough, Keith was surprised to dis

he was fine with Tina's touch when she carefully bandaged his arms. Tina started treating his cuts carefully by disinfecting and bandaging them seriously. If a normal child was in Keith's position, they would have cried and refused to cooperate with Tina. However, the little boy simply pursed his lips and refused to make a sound. "Alright." Tina was filled with distress as she released Keith's arms. "I'm done treating your cuts. You can sleep now."

"Okay," Keith grunted back in response. Just as he was about to lie down, he heard Tina adding, "Oh, right!"

"What is it this time?"

Tina leaned down and cupped Keith's cheeks. Then, she kissed him on his forehead.

Smooch!

Keith was shell-shocked after feeling the kiss on his forehead.

“This is a good night kiss. Good night. Sweet dreams.”

Tina caressed Keith’s head lovingly before spinning on her heel and leaving his room. Then, she closed the door softly behind her. All Keith could do was sit on his bed silently, as if he was in a trance. He couldn’t snap out of his shock for a very long time.

When he finally regained his senses, he touched his forehead, thinking that everything that happened just now must be a hallucination. ‘Is this how it feels like to have a mother?’

Keith snuggled back under his covers. For some reason, his cold and hardened heart started looking forward to the future. Soon, he would be able to find his mother. When that happened, he would be able to feel his mother’s love just like Kara, right? The family of three soon fell asleep during the night. In a hospital on the other side of Paris, a bodyguard opened the door with a heavy heart. “Sir, we’ve searched the ten-mile radius of the accident’s location, but we’re still unable to locate Young Master Langford. Also, for some reason, we could only watch the footage of Young Master Langford leaving the scene. The rest of the surveillance cameras didn’t work at all. Even the headquarters of Paris’s police department is unable to find the reason why.”