

Pampered 221

Chapter 221

Of course, the man in the ward was none other than Samuel Langford.

Five years later, he looked colder and more mature than ever.

He had sustained minor injuries from the car accident, so he was confined to bed rest for the time being. Many bandages were wrapped around various parts of his body.

Most people would look haggard and weak if they were in his position. However, Samuel's regal aura didn't diminish at all despite looking like a living mummy. After hearing the bodyguard's report, he chuckled coldly. To the former, it was filled with various lethal meanings. The bodyguard was so frightened that he almost sank into a kneeling position from his knees going weak. He begged pitifully, "Sir, please give us one more chance. We'll definitely track down Young Master Langford..." "There's no need for that," Samuel replied. "He did this on purpose." "What?"

The bodyguard looked stunned. A moment later, he seemed to have understood something. "Sir, a-are you saying that Young Master Langford is the one behind all of this? T-This is impossible, right? Young Master Langford is just a five-year-old, after all. Why... How would he plan all of this..?" "Why, you ask? Naturally, he wants to meet his mother." Samuel's tone was icy cold, his eyes narrowing sharply. He had already seen through Keith's plan.

Since he was a little boy, Keith was diagnosed as an autistic child by the doctor. At the same time, he was a genius with an insanely high IQ.

Samuel originally thought that no matter how intelligent Keith was, he was just a five-year old child at the end of the day. Now, it seemed like he had greatly underestimated his genius son. The fact that Keith was able to flee from the scene of the accident so calmly while evading a squad of bodyguards, not to mention the fact that the surveillance cameras happened to fail at that time of the day... Everything was definitely planned by that little boy. Keith was definitely his son. Unfortunately, the boy didn't execute his plan well enough. "Dispatch more of your men to move Cindy out of the mansion. Send her to a safer place. I believe he'll return to me obediently once he fails to find her."

The bodyguard couldn't help but wipe the cold sweat from his forehead.

As expected, the hardheaded father and son pair wouldn't be able to interact with each other

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well without the mistress of the family acting as a conditioner. Those who weren't familiar with their antics might have viewed them as archenemies. Unfortunately, the only woman who could manage Samuel and Keith's relationship was Cindy. Back then, she had manipulated Samuel into murdering that third wheel. As a result, Madam Langford was so furious that she died from emotional exertion. Upon

investigating the incident and realizing that Cindy was the actual culprit behind everything, Samuel had completely lost his trust in her. Hence, when Keith turned two years old and no longer needed a mother's constant care, Samuel decided to dump Cindy into a random mansion and imprisoned her there. The bodyguard then remembered another matter. "By the way, sir, your collaboration partner has found out about your arrival. They'd like to invite you to a fashion gala that will be held in three days. Since you still need to rest, should I turn the invitation down for you?" "No." Samuel's tone was ice. "These are just minor injuries. I'll be discharged soon. Tell them that I'll attend the gala." "Yes, sir." When the bodyguard left the ward, he couldn't help but let out a helpless sigh. Samuel's personality was colder and more aloof than ever. He would gladly disregard his own health in pursuit of the greater goal, much less his own son. Samuel was then left alone in his ward. He finally looked away from the moon that hung outside his window before taking out something from his pocket. It was a pigeon egg diamond ring, which also happened to be the only belonging that reminded him of that woman.

He glanced at it coldly, his stoic face still expressionless. After a while, he placed it back into his pocket.

The next morning, rays of sunlight poured through the window of a certain apartment. Kara was the first to awaken. She ran into Tina's room eagerly, wanting to wake Tina up.

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"Mommy! Mommy! It's already so late in the morning! Why aren't you awake yet?" Before Tina could open her room door, an icy voice drifted from the guest room next door. "Why are you so noisy? It's early in the morning, so keep it down!" Kara was shocked to hear the voice. She turned her head to look at the guest room before remembering that her family had allowed a pretty little boy to stay with them the day before. Right now, Keith was glaring at Kara angrily. Irritation was written all over his face. After he fell asleep, he had an amazing dream. In that dream, he finally found his mother and took her to a land far, far away. Having not seen Keith for many years, naturally, his mother missed him very much. She showered him with much love. She would send him to school in the morning, and at night, she would tell him bedtime stories in a gentle and loving tone. She even gave him a good night kiss.

However, the dream didn't last long for Keith, seeing as Kara's loud voice had shattered it and startled him awake.

The culprit was so scared of Keith's glare that she couldn't help but shrink away from him. Then, she greeted him in a friendly manner. "Good morning!" "Bad morning. You woke me up." "Children shouldn't oversleep! They should wake up early in the morning to go to school! The early bird gets the worm, you know?"

At that moment, Tina finally opened the door. "Good morning." Kara hugged Tina's leg straight away while yelling, "Good morning, Mommy! I'd like a good morning kiss, please!" "No problem, my dear Kara." Tina hugged Kara and left a good morning kiss on her forehead. After that, she looked in Keith's direction.

The latter was stunned on the spot. He took a step backward out of instinct. 'Is she planning to give me a good morning kiss too?'

Tina could sense the little boy's refusal. She understood that she shouldn't push the boundaries with her friendliness to avoid frightening him, so she greeted him verbally. "Good morning. Go wash up now. I'll send both of you to the kindergarten before heading to

work."

Tina led Kara into the bathroom as she spoke.

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Keith was left standing alone, a tight frown surfacing on his face. For some reason, he felt a strange pang of disappointment.

After a simple breakfast, Tina drove Kara and Keith to Little Stars, an international kindergarten that accepted foreign students. When the principal noticed Keith, she asked in surprise, "Is this boy your son?" "No. He's my relative's son. I need to watch over him for a few days, so I sent him here with Kara," Tina explained with ease. "Haha! Those who don't know you well might think that these two are fraternal twins!" the principal joked.

Then, she asked, "What's his name?"

The moment Tina heard that question, she realized she had never gotten the little boy's name the entire time he stayed with her and Kara. At that moment, Keith opened his mouth. "My name is Keith." "Alright, then. Keith, let's have fun in the kindergarten for the next few days." The principal then led the children away. Tina watched the children's fading silhouettes, feeling slightly emotional on the inside. It would be a good thing if Keith really was her son. She would definitely take good care of him. How could she ever let him get hurt? Since Tina had to go to work, she couldn't afford to daydream. Soon, she arrived at the fashion studio.

Just when she entered the studio, her apprentice, Tiffany, hurried to her side immediately. "Oh my god, Linda! I have big news for you! In fact, it's great news!". "Everything's great news to you, Tiffany," someone joked from the studio. Everyone couldn't help but laugh. After all, Tiffany was the ray of sunshine of the bunch. She could always find the silver lining in everything. "Hey, I speak nothing but the truth! This really is great news!" Tiffany exclaimed. "A fashion gala will be held in three days, and a mysterious VIP will attend it!"

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Everyone's interest was instantly piqued when they heard Tiffany's announcement. "A mysterious VIP?"

"Yeah! I've asked around for the VIP's identity. Apparently, that person's a friend of the founder of Paris Fashion Week, which means it's definitely someone influential!"

"Do you know the VIP's name?"

"Um... I haven't found out about it yet. That VIP keeps an extremely low profile, you know?" Everyone couldn't help but roll their eyes at that moment. "Your so-called news isn't amazing at all!"

"Hehe! That's not necessarily the case. At the very least, no one else knows about the VIP coming to the fashion gala. With the information at hand, we can show off our fashionable sides. What if the VIP thinks highly of our studio because of our fabulous appearances and decides to work with us?"

Tiffany balled her fists excitedly and looked at Tina.

“Miss Linda, you’re the prettiest and the best designer out of all of us! It’s all on you now!” Tina’s current name was Linda, so it was natural for her to be referred to as such.

She couldn’t help but smile at the sight of Tiffany being her bubbly and energetic self. Then, she nodded and replied, “Okay. I’ll do my best.” After a brief conversation, everyone returned to their stations and continued working.

Tina’s phone suddenly rang when she was in the middle of discussing the details of the newest design with her colleagues. “I need to take this phone call.”

Originally, Tina thought it was a phone call from one of her clients, but the moment she picked it up, she heard an anxious voice drifting from the speaker. “You’re Kara’s mother, right? Your child is involved in a fight and has caused trouble!” “What?” Tina was stunned to hear the news.

Kara had always been carefree and friendly. How could she ever get into a fight with another child?

“Please come here as soon as you can! The other child’s parents are already here!” Tina didn’t dare to put the matter off any longer, so she could only lodge for the day off before hurrying toward Little Stars.

The principal’s office was on the second floor. Before Tina could open the door, she could already hear angry voices in there. “Those children are incredibly rude! I knew I shouldn’t have drafted my child into this

kindergarten! All the children here have been misled! They already knew how to fight even at a young age! Their parents should kill themselves for having such awful children!”

Two parents, who were dressed extravagantly, screeched at two children loudly while comforting their crying, chubby child at the same time. Keith had already placed himself in front of Kara protectively.

He might be small in stature, but he still stood upright. He showed no fear in the face of the angry parents admonishing him. His voice was icy cold as he said, “Are we truly the rude ones? Everyone has witnessed your son starting the fight first, and yet you’re the ones accusing us for being rude. Who exactly are the rude ones here?” “How dare you talk back to us!” The chubby child’s mother looked enraged. “Not only did you break our precious son’s favorite toy, but you also punched him in the eye. You’ve made it swell like this! How dare you talk back, boy!” “What the f*cking hell? How dare a b*stard like you talk smack to us after committing such heinous crimes! I’ll f*cking punish you on behalf of your parents!” The chubby child’s father cursed before raising his hand threateningly and was about to swipe at Keith’s face.

But Keith’s gaze was cold and frightening. “Do it. I dare you.”

At that moment, the father was stunned and paused. Keith’s aura flared from his tiny form like a murderous wave. How could a five-year-old look so intimidating? At that moment, Tina’s voice rang from the doorway. “Stop it right now!”

The moment she opened the door, the first thing she saw was the chubby child’s father about to hit Keith on the spot. Her heart almost stopped beating when she noticed what was going on.

How could they have the heart to beat up such a young child? Tina strode toward the children in wide steps and stood in front of them without any hesitation. She resembled a fierce mother hen spreading her wings in order to protect her beloved chicks.

“We can always talk this out. If you insist on using violence to resolve the matter, then I don’t mind calling the police.”

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The chubby child’s mother screeched, “So you’re these children’s mother, huh? Why are you the only one here? Where’s their father?”

“Can’t I come here on my own?” Tina frowned in response.

The moment the unpleasant woman heard this answer, she looked smug all of a sudden. Then she said mockingly, “I’ve already heard rumors of b*stard children not having the chance to grow up with their father. It turns out that those b*stards are your children, eh? No wonder they’re so rude!”

Tina’s expression changed drastically. She was fine with people mocking and ridiculing her, but she would never accept them humiliating Kara and Keith in her face. However, this wasn’t a good time to argue with them.

Tina did her best to suppress her rage before asking the principal, “I’d like to request to see the surveillance footage. I believe it’ll show us the truth.”

The principal let out a sigh of relief. Tina was a rational and logical parent who didn’t argue for the sake of arguing, which was a rare gem nowadays.

“Okay. Please come with me.”

The principal led the small group into the control room before showing them the footage.

It turned out that the chubby child was the one who stole Kara’s toy away from her. He even referred to her as a b*stard child without a father.

Kara didn’t want to cause trouble, so she decided to let it go. However, Keith refused to tolerate the bully’s behavior. He stepped in front of the bully and demanded that he apologize to Kara.

The chubby boy adopted an arrogant attitude. Not only did he refuse to apologize, but he also tried to hit Keith.

In the end, Keith tripped the bully over, causing the latter to fall to the ground. Tina was furious after watching the footage. All this time, she had always thought that Kara led a comfortable life in the kindergarten. She didn’t expect the latter to be bullied all the time. “It’s clear to see who should be the ones apologizing by now,” she remarked coldly. However, the parents didn’t look apologetic at all. Instead, they retorted shamelessly, “At the end of the day, this is just a scuffle between the children! He’s the one who forced my son’s hand!”

Tina was both enraged and dumbfounded by the parents’ shameless behavior. After that, they continued, “It’s obvious that our son’s injured, so you can’t shirk the responsibilities, right? How about this? You don’t need to pay the medical fees. Since you’re just a single mother, we’ll allow you to kneel

and bow down to us. Then, we'll let you go." "In your dreams!" Tina replied mockingly. "This is my first time meeting such shameless

people!" "How dare you say that to me!" The chubby boy's mother was so furious that she wanted to slap Tina right away.

But the next second...

Slap!

Tina was faster in delivering a heavy slap on the rude mother's cheek "How dare you hit me!" the unpleasant woman screeched again, cradling her face. "Hubby, go screw her up!" "You m*therf*cking b*tch! I'll f*cking beat the sh*t out of you!"

Tina remained emotionless as she aimed a powerful kick at the man.

Bam!

"Argh!" The arrogant parents were soon writhing in pain on the ground, thanks to Tina's reflexes. As a single mother, she had spent the last five years training the art of self-defense in order to avoid unwanted trouble. It was all so that she could avoid getting bullied like what happened today.

"Just because I'm a single mother, doesn't mean I'm a pushover! If you dare to bully my children, I'll teach you a lesson more painful than this one!"

After threatening the shameless parents, Tina led the children out of the kindergarten.

Kara gasped out, "Mommy, I didn't know you're this strong!" "You silly girl! Why didn't you tell me about you getting bullied?" Tina flicked her daughter's forehead before turning to look warmly at Keith. "It's all thanks to you."

If it wasn't for the boy, she wouldn't have known that her daughter was being bullied in the kindergarten

Keith had to admit that the moment Tina rushed to protect him and Kara, she looked like an absolute badass.

However, he chose to harrumph haughtily instead. "You're not bad yourself."

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Tina smiled happily in response. Keith may look cold, aloof, and mean, but he was quite caring on the inside. "Both of you must be frightened by the incident. Since I've already taken the rest of the day off, I can relax with you. Is there anywhere you'd like to go?" she asked. Kara piped up happily, "Mommy, I'd like to go to the family restaurant with Keith! He's now my older brother!"

"Older brother?" Tina was surprised.

The little girl explained eagerly, "Mommy, Keith and I were born on the same day! He's slightly taller than me, so I look at him as my older brother!" Keith didn't hesitate to add, "Not only that, but I'm also smarter than you." "I'm smart too!" "Compared to me, you're pretty dumb."

“Oh...”

The sight of the children bickering with each other warmed Tina’s heart greatly. At the same time, she felt quite emotional.

She didn’t expect to discover that the day before was also Keith’s birthday. However, the little boy didn’t say a word about it. It seemed his biological parents failed at parenting.

“You two should come with me to the studio first. Tonight, we’ll head over to the family restaurant.”

It was then that Tina decided that she would celebrate Keith’s birthday tonight. “Okay!” Kara was extremely happy to hear that. Everyone in the studio welcomed the little girl happily when they saw her. After all, Tina had spent the last five years stewing inside the studio, so everyone practically watched Kara grow up.

“Haha! Our little princess is finally here!”

“Welcome!”

However, they were stunned when they saw Keith, who stood behind Kara. “What the heck? Oh my god, where did this little boy come from?”

“Is he a model?”

“Miss Linda, you’re being mean! Did you give birth to twins and decided that it was a good idea to hide one of them? Are you only introducing your son to us now?” Tina was tickled pink by the conspiracy theories. Her colleagues’ imaginations were clearly

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going wild right now. “He’s my relative’s son, and he’s staying over at my place for a few days. Stop making those ridiculous guesses.” “Aww! What a shame! If they really are twins, they’d be the prettiest twins ever! If they modeled our designs on the catwalk, they’d definitely be the event’s spotlight!” The fuss over the children didn’t last long, for everyone returned to their stations soon after.

Kara went to have fun on the swings at the back of the studio.

As for Keith, he used the excuse of wanting to nap in the lounge in order to slip away. There, he located a computer that no one was using and booted it up immediately. Once again, he logged into the website and asked, “Do you have any news?” “Boss, I’ve found intel on the mother and daughter pair!” Arthur sent a document detailing the past five years of Tina and Kara’s lives over the website. Keith scanned the document before asking, “Is this everything?”

“Boss, there’s something fishy about them. Even with my abilities, I’m only able to find out intel on them from the past five years. I couldn’t find anything on the timeline before that. It’s obvious that this Linda woman is using a fake identity. I’ll need more time to get the intel on her real identity. Do you want me to proceed with the investigation?” Keith frowned immediately. He originally thought that Tina and Kara were ordinary people, but he didn’t realize that Tina had faked her identity as Linda. “Do it!” he ordered coldly. Arthur continued reporting, “By the way, I’ve made new discoveries on the woman you asked me to investigate. I’ll be able to pinpoint where she’s imprisoned latest by midnight.” A small smile finally

appeared on Keith's stoic face. "Excellent. Find it as soon as possible," he replied before shutting down the computer.

The location would be out latest by midnight...

That meant tomorrow, Keith could finally achieve his goal and whisk his mother away from this place. The thought made him both excited and emotional at the same time.

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Keith might have spent only two days with Tina and Kara, but he felt warm and safe when he was with them. Those emotions had never appeared in the past five years of him living with the Langfords. Unfortunately, he would be separated from them soon.

Tina finally got off work in the evening.

When she opened the lounge door, she noticed a small figure all curled up. Keith was already asleep on the bed, a faint smile on his stoic face. Perhaps he was having a good dream.

Tina didn't want to wake him up, so she carried him gently from the bed. But no matter how gentle and careful she was, Keith still woke up in the end.

Still stuck between the folds of dreamland and reality, the feeling of being cuddled by a pair of warm arms made him exclaim happily, "Mommy, I finally found you..." The moment Keith lifted his head, the surprised delight quickly dissipated on the spot.

Tina felt her heart throb in pain. She didn't expect that the little boy who looked so cold and mean was so vulnerable on the inside.

She couldn't help but ask softly, "Did you come all the way here just to look for your mommy?"

Keith was used to concealing everything from everyone, but he found it difficult to lie to Tina's face when she had been nothing but gentle and kind to him.

"Yes. I ran away from home because I wanted to look for my mommy. It's been years since I last saw her, but it's alright. I'll be reunited with her soon. There's no need for you to worry about me."

Tina could tell she would miss such a well-mannered and understanding boy like Keith after hearing his answer. Still, she gave him her blessings. "Yeah. You'll definitely find your happiness."

Kara was ecstatic when she reached the family restaurant. She grabbed Keith by the hand and exclaimed, "Let's go play on the see-saw!"

"That's too childish!" Keith looked repulsed by the very idea. He was a genius hacker, after all. How could he ever play such childish games? "I want to play with you, that's all..." Kara looked aggrieved. Keith pondered for a moment. Since he would be leaving soon, he might as well fulfill the little girl's wish.

"Fine. I'll play with you for a while," he finally relented. Kara continued happily, "I also want to play house with you! I'll be the mommy!" "Then, what's my role?" Keith asked.

“You’ll be my baby!” Keith’s expression became awfully dark in an instant. To him, playing house was the worst and childish game ever. Out of helplessness, he had no choice but to entertain Kara by partaking in various childish activities and games. When it was dinnertime, Keith didn’t expect to see a beautiful cake on the table. “What’s this?” he asked in confusion. Tina announced with a warm smile, “Happy birthday, Keith!” “But today’s not my birthday...” “This is to make up for yesterday’s birthday!” Kara explained eagerly. “Keith, I know you dislike candles and cake, but you still have to celebrate your birthday. I’ll eat your slice for you!”

Stunned, Keith could only stare at the mother and daughter pair who were grinning from ear to ear. A foreign feeling surged into his heart at that moment. Those two were definitely idiots. They paid so much attention to a child of unknown origins like him, to the point they would do anything for him. Weren’t they afraid he might stab them in the back? That day, Keith finally experienced what it felt like to be a five-year-old celebrating his birthday. Upon returning home, Tina told Kara a bedtime story as usual. In the other room, Keith appeared to have changed his mind. He opened the laptop and withdrew his order for the first time ever. “Forget about tracking down the mother and daughter pair’s intel. Also, if anyone else tries to dig up intel on them, make sure to protect them!”

At the same time, Arthur excitedly sent Keith a message. “Boss, I found the mansion where that woman’s staying in right now!”

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Arthur sent the address to Keith immediately.

“Boss, it’s just as we expected. That woman is imprisoned somewhere in Paris, France!”

Before Keith could find delight in the news, Arthur continued, “Huh? She’ll be sent away tomorrow morning! What’s going on?” Keith’s expression changed drastically. “Tomorrow morning?” “Yeah!” Arthur failed to understand what was going on. “I’m confident that my skills aren’t the problem here. Did our plan get discovered? That’s impossible!”

However, Keith understood the reason instantly.

“Samuel Langford!”

That man must have realized that the reason Keith disguised himself as an autistic child was so that he could rescue Cindy, who had been imprisoned for many years.

Any other person wouldn’t have suspected a five-year-old, but Samuel was no ordinary person.

Keith didn’t have time to reply to Arthur. Instead, he memorized the address and disconnected from the website immediately.

Cindy would be sent to another place the next morning, which meant he must hurry to that address tonight. Otherwise, it would be too late for him to do anything.

At that time, Tina had just coaxed Kara to sleep. Just as she closed the room door, Keith’s small form rushed in to block her from leaving. “Please take me to my mommy!” he begged.

Tina was surprised to hear that request. After glancing out of the window and taking note of the darkness, she asked, "Have you found her? It's very late right now. Can't you wait till morning?" "No!" Keith looked very serious. "Soon, that man will take her away and imprison her somewhere else!"

The moment Tina heard his answer, she realized how serious the situation was.

Not daring to delay Keith's plan, she replied, "Alright, I'll take you there."

At that moment, Kara, who was supposed to be asleep, opened the door of her room. "Mommy, I want to go as well!"

"Weren't you already asleep?" Keith was stunned to see the little girl.

"Keith, are you leaving soon?" Kara's tone was determined. "I don't want to stay at home alone. I want to go with both of you too." Just like that, the family of three rushed out of the apartment without even changing out of

their pajamas. Tina sped toward the suburbs according to the address Keith gave her. Keith then took a deep breath before saying, "You can just drop me off once we reach there. I'll take care of the rest." "No way! Didn't you say your mommy got imprisoned? What if something dangerous happens to you?" Tina asked seriously. "There won't be any dangerous situations," Keith replied with a cold chuckle. "Even though that man imprisoned my mommy, he didn't station any guards around her as well. She's the only one inside the mansion. All I need to do is to enter the mansion and take her away." Kara asked curiously, "Where are you two going?" "We'll go to a place where we'll never be disturbed again," Keith answered. "I've been waiting for this day all this time!"

Tina felt conflicted. Keith was just a five-year-old, yet he was forcefully separated from his mother for many years.

Everything he had done was for the sake of reuniting with his mother and living with her.

He would finally feel true happiness after finding his mother, right? More than an hour later, the night grew darker. Tina's car slowed down to a halt. A lit-up mansion was located some distance away from them. "Is your mommy really there?" she asked, rather worried. "Should I go with you?" "There's no need for that," Keith replied, excitement coloring his tone. "Mommy has been imprisoned for so long, after all. She'll definitely be scared of strangers. I'll go there alone!"

After Keith got out of the car, he turned back to gaze at Tina and Kara meaningfully. "Thank you for your help. Hopefully we'll meet again."

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When Keith was done speaking, he tidied himself up before heading toward the mansion nervously

"Goodbye, Keith!" Kara waved at him.

Tina felt rather sorrowful as she watched the little boy disappearing into the horizon. Once she finally saw him entering the mansion without a hitch, she turned the car around and left.

Keith knocked on the mansion's front door.

A moment later, the door was opened from the inside. A woman's eager voice drifted from within the mansion.

"Didn't you say you'll fetch me in the morning? Why are you here this early? Could it be that Samuel changed his mind?" It was already midnight, but Cindy showed up at the doorway in fancy clothes and heavy makeup plastered all over her face. However, her expression changed drastically the moment she noticed the boy standing outside the door. "Whose brat is this? Are you here to disturb me? Go away! Don't bother me!"

Just as Cindy was about to slam the door in Keith's face, he yelled, "Mommy!"

The woman was shocked when she heard the word. Immediately after that, she finally looked at Keith's face, which she found to be very familiar.

The little boy in front of her looked exactly like Samuel when he was a child. It was as if a miniature Samuel was standing there right now.

"You're..."

"Mommy, it's me! I'm Keith!" the little boy interjected.

"Oh my god! Are you really Keith? I missed you so much! Why are you here on your own? Wait, how could Samuel let you come here all by yourself? Did he send you here to fetch me?"

Overcome with euphoria, Cindy grabbed Keith's hand tightly.

"Has Samuel finally changed his mind and decided to forgive me? That's great news! I can finally become the true mistress of the Langford family!" Cindy's strong grip hurt Keith's hand very much, but the latter didn't say anything about it. Instead, he explained seriously, "Mommy, Daddy isn't here. I'm here to take you away. Please leave with me!"

"What? Samuel isn't here? That's fine. He must be busy. Let's go. We'll go find him together!"

"No! That's not it, Mommy!" Keith continued explaining, "That man has imprisoned you for so many years, and refused to let me see you! That's why I escaped from him! Mommy, I want to rescue you from this

prison! Let's run away together!"

His tiny face was filled with determination.

However, Cindy didn't look as excited as he had initially expected. Instead, her expression crumbled on the spot.

"What? Are you trying to say that you came here on your own because you don't want Samuel to pick me up?" "No," Keith replied. "Mommy, let's go! Otherwise, I won't have a chance to see you ever again once you're taken away tomorrow morning!" Keith grabbed Cindy's wrist and tried to drag her out of the mansion, but the latter refused to budge.

“You want me to leave with you? As if I’ll do that!” she shrieked, her shrill tone piercing the ears. “I’ll never leave Samuel’s side! You must be trying to separate us, right? I won’t let you do as you please!” ‘This little boy is definitely that b*tch Tina’s spawn! He’s already this evil at such a young age!

At that very moment, Keith was stunned. He didn’t expect his mommy to glare at him in disgust and disdain. It was as if he wasn’t her biological son at all. “Mommy! If we don’t leave now, we won’t make it!” Slap! Cindy didn’t hesitate to give Keith a heavy slap on the cheek. The poor five-year-old could only collapse to the ground, unable to withstand the force behind the slap. Despite witnessing the child’s collapse, Cindy remained unmoved. Instead, she started attacking him with poisonous words. “You shameless brat! Not only did you refuse to plead to Samuel for my sake, but you also want me to leave this place? I’m going to tell him all about it and have him take you away!”

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Keith’s eyes widened in disbelief. He stammered, “Mommy... Why..?” “Don’t call me that! I don’t have a son like you!”

Cindy was unable to relieve her anger at all despite having slapped Keith. The latter may resemble Samuel in every way, but she knew that the little boy shared one point with his birth mother.

At that moment, his stubborn gaze greatly mirrored Tina’s.

Slap! Slap! Faced with this realization, Cindy delivered two more heavy slaps on Keith’s face.

“How dare you look at me like that! Are you tired of living, huh?! I’ll tell Samuel that you came here! There’s a chance he’ll personally come and see me after that!”

The thought of that possibility excited Cindy greatly. She pulled out her phone and dialed Samuel’s number quickly. However, a cold automated voice drifted from the other end of the line instead. “Sorry, the number you have dialed is currently unavailable.” It seemed Samuel had already blocked her phone number a long time ago.

Cindy’s expression warped into an ugly one before she glared hatefully at Keith. “Where’s your phone? Give it to me right now! I want to call Samuel!”

Keith, however, acted as if he couldn’t feel the pain flaring from his cheeks. He continued to convince Cindy in a tone of great anxiety, “Mommy, please calm down! Don’t call him! If Samuel found out, he’d never let us go!” “You called him Samuel?! He’s your father! Your real father! This fact won’t ever change even if you die! Besides, I’ve given birth to a son for the Langford family, which means I’m the biggest contributor here! The reason Samuel has imprisoned me for so many years is because he’s angry at me for lying to him! Once he’s calmed down, he’ll welcome me back into the family and allow me to take up the mantle as the official mistress of the family!”

Cindy snatched Keith’s phone from him without any hesitation, and dialed the same number. Finally, she was successful in reaching out to Samuel. A short while later, a deep voice drifted from the speaker. “I see you finally decided to come back, huh?”

This was Samuel’s voice!

Cindy was so emotional, her hand trembled violently. She cried out pitifully, "Oh, Samuel!" Samuel didn't expect to hear Cindy's voice from the other end of the line. "Why are you there?"

"Samuel, please don't hang up! Keith is with me!" Samuel chuckled coldly before replying, "Did he really find you?"

"Yes! He tried to convince me to leave! Samuel, this boy's too silly for his own good! He's your son, after all. Who else can he go to? Please help me convince him to not do that!"

Cindy's tone at the moment was weak and pitiful. She no longer sounded vile and mean spirited as she did before.

"Get the car ready," Samuel ordered his assistant coldly before killing the call. Excitement coursed through Cindy's veins at that instant. 'Samuel's coming! He really is coming right now!' Keith couldn't help but ball his fists tightly after listening to the phone conversation. There was no way he would allow Samuel to capture him. If that happened, he could never escape from Samuel ever again. He got up and decided to book out of the mansion as quickly as he could. Upon seeing this, Cindy became nervous all of a sudden. If that little boy ran away, she wouldn't be able to face Samuel. She still needed Keith to stick around in order to garner Samuel's sympathy! "Stop right there!" Cindy didn't hesitate to rush out and wrap her arms around Keith to stop him. What followed next was her angry screech. "You d*mn brat! How dare you bite me!"

Instinctively, she released Keith from her claws. The little boy struggled out of her arms like a slippery eel and dashed out of the mansion as fast as his little legs could carry him. "D*mn it! That filthy brat is such a troublemaker!" Gritting her teeth furiously, Cindy stomped on the spot before rushing out as well. Meanwhile, Keith didn't expect that his beloved mommy would become a hideous monster. Why in the world would she treat him so terribly?

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He was her son, after all! Shouldn't she love and care about him? Images of Tina and Kara's loving interactions started flashing through Keith's mind. They looked so cozy and happy together.

He never expected things would progress like this. Keith ran as fast as he could, and ended up stumbling his way back to the road. Unfortunately, Tina and Kara's car had already disappeared.

Despair took over his senses as he just stood there mutely. He could hear Cindy's curses and insults increase in volume as she approached him.

At that moment...

"Keith!" Kara's sweet voice rang from behind the little boy. He thought he was hearing things at first, but when he turned around, he saw a pair of headlights lighting up in the distance.

Tina and Kara soon stopped in front of Keith.

A while ago, Tina decided to turn the car around and leave after witnessing the boy entering the mansion safely. However, anxiety lingered in her heart. She was afraid something bad might happen to Keith, so she changed her mind and returned to the mansion.

She didn't expect her hunch to be correct.

The sight of the bright red handprints on the boy's cheeks made Tina's heart throb in pain. "Oh my goodness! What happened to your face?" Kara asked worriedly, "Are you in pain, Keith?"

At that moment, the little boy who had been trying to hold his tears at bay broke down into a sobbing mess

He dove into Tina's arms while screaming, "Hurry and run!"

Tina didn't dare to drag it out any longer. She hurriedly got into the car with the children and drove home as quickly as she could.

At the same time, a black luxury car drove past them. A man's side profile in the backseat flashed past for a moment.

Upon arriving at the mansion, Samuel asked coldly, "Where's Keith?"

"Samuel, he escaped by getting into a car just now!" The man's heart skipped a beat. He suddenly remembered the car that drove past him just a while ago

"Chase after it!" He turned around to leave.

However, Cindy quickly blocked his way. She said anxiously, "Samuel, please take me with

you! I'm very worried about Keith as well! I'm scared he might have gotten tricked!" Samuel avoided Cindy and replied in a tone of ice, "No." "Samuel, please!" Cindy kept sobbing as she begged. "I know I've done unspeakable things to you in the past! I shouldn't have used you to get rid of Tina! I know you hate being manipulated and lied to the most! I love you so much, Samuel! I really, really love you so much!"

She continued, "I don't want anything else other than staying by your side and taking care of our son! Keith's only five years old, yet he already knows where to find me! I can see that he misses me so much. Children can never leave their mothers, so please give me one more chance to take care of him!"

Cindy's cries made Samuel frown deeply. He hated Cindy, but her words made sense. "Follow me," he said coldly before leaving. Cindy was elated upon hearing the response. Her chance to rise was finally here. After Keith reached home, he didn't hesitate to lock himself immediately in a room. He refused to make contact with anyone at all. The next day at the fashion gala, Tina could barely concentrate on what was going on around her. All she could think about was the pitiful little boy.

"The VIP's here!" Tiffany grabbed Tina's wrist excitedly. "Miss Linda, let's go!" For the sake of her career, Tina could only put on an energetic façade and head toward the luxury car with her apprentice. However, the sight of the person who got out of the car made Tina's face go deathly pale. The so-called VIP was actually that man!