

Chapter 225

He always behaved submissively when I did that to him. No matter how I yelled at him, he would remain silent. After I was done throwing a tantrum, he would come over to hug me and butter me up.

After a few times, I lost interest in throwing a tantrum at him.

During the weekend, Theo said he wanted to bring me out for a walk but I used my swollen ankles as an excuse to stay in bed. He could only leave me be and accompany me in bed while he watched a movie to kill time.

Miss Woods had gone back to visit her grandson. There was no one downstairs, and the doorbell kept ringing.

Theo sat up on the bed. "It must be the courier. I bought your favorite fruits. Come down and have some."

I got up and went into the bathroom to wash myself up. I was ready to go

●ot up and went into the bathroom to wash myself up. I was ready to go downstairs to eat something and have a walk in the yard with Theo afterward. Every afternoon, my legs would be badly swollen.

After I got out of the bathroom, I could vaguely hear sobbing noises coming from downstairs.

I got curious and took a step down the stairs.

I stood on the stairs and saw Cindy, who was sitting on the living room's sofa.

It had been a long time since I saw her. She was wearing another white dress, looking just like a princess. She looked alluring and elegant.

It was just that I had no idea why she was crying so hard. Her delicate makeup was completely ruined. She looked like a mess.

I took a step back. I was not planning to go down anymore. It would be better if I behaved myself and stayed upstairs.

"Your favorite grapes are ready. Come down and eat." Who would have known that Theo would call out to me?

It was strange. He had his back to me, so how did he know I was on the stairs?

I bit the bullet and went downstairs. Theo turned around and looked at me. There was a faint smile on the corner of his lips.

Cindy looked up at me too, but her eyes were filled with hatred.

I looked at Cindy's red swollen eyes and the anger at the bottom of them. I chose to stay away from her and sat at the dinner table to eat my grapes.

"Theowy, why are you so obstinately persistent in going about things the wrong way? My father said so himself. As long as you agree with his conditions, the Louis and White families will be your strongest supporters when you move to Whaldorf City. This will bring the development of Grant Corporation to the next level. Wanda has nothing, and she's useless. She's only dragging you down. She's not worthy of you."

Cindy said these words out loud. I knew she was doing it on purpose to let me hear.

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However, I had to admit that what Cindy said was reasonable. This society prioritized elite family backgrounds and power. It was true she could be a big help to Theo's career with her background now. ①

In contrast, not only was I spending his money but I was taking up all his time by having him keep me company. Sure enough, I was useless. ①

The grapes that he bought this time were slightly sour. I only ate two and did not feel like having any more. I sat there and listened to the act.

"Cindy, I'm so disappointed in you. Am I the kind of person who would abandon my wife and child for my interests? Would I take advantage of you to obtain benefits? Do I look like a rat to you?"

"No, Theow. You're an indomitable man in my heart. It's just that I can see you're working so hard and I really want to help you, but I couldn't do much back then. Now, I have the ability to. The first thought that came to my mind was to give you a hand in your career so that you don't have to burn the midnight oil."
Cindy's voice sounded anxious.

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I had to admit that Cindy was doing what was best for Theo. She was willing to use her fortune on him. ❦

"Enough. I'm not that kind of person."
Theo raised his voice. I was able to sense the anger that he was suppressing within him. "I'll only have one wife in my whole life, and that person is Wanda Lane."

Cindy laughed. Her smile was kind of creepy. "But you're not in love with her, are you? There's no love between you and her. It's only because she's pregnant with your child, and it's just your sense of responsibility as a man. One day, you'll regret the decision you've made today."

"I don't need others to judge my romance and marriage." Theo's voice turned cold. It was colder than how he used to talk to me in the past.

"Cindy, I'm telling you one last time. I took care of you all these years only because I felt sorry for your family and I promised your parents that I'd protect you. Now that you've found your biological parents and are living your life like a princess, it's time for me to get out of your life and take care of my family."

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"No, I don't want you to leave my life. Theowy, you promised them that you'd take care of me, so you must be responsible for me to the end. I won't allow you to back out. Don't you try to get rid of me in this life!" Cindy went completely berserk and started screaming at the top of her lungs.

"If you keep behaving willfully, coming to my house randomly, or doing anything to hurt my loved one, don't blame me for keeping my word. I'll never talk to you again." After all, he just could not pull the trigger on Cindy.

"Your loved one?" Cindy stopped crying. She lifted her head and looked at Theo with a look of disbelief. There were flames of jealousy blazing in her eyes. "You called her your loved one? Are you really in love with her?"

Cindy was not to be blamed for being surprised. I was surprised too. Even though I knew he said it out of desperation, my heart could not help but

Desperation, my heart could not help but keep on thumping and pounding.

What surprised me even more was Theo replying 'yes' with utmost certainty in a calm and deep voice.

Right after he said so, Cindy squatted on the floor clutching her head. She let out a piercing scream. "No, that's impossible! You told me before that you don't love her!"

Then, she stood up and tugged on Theo's sleeves, saying anxiously, "Theow, you're wrong. You don't love her, you think you love her because of your sense of responsibility. You weren't in love with her back then. You even hated her. Now, it's because she's pregnant with your child. That's why you've mistaken responsibility as love, right? This has to be it, it has to!"

There was an unpleasant feeling in my heart when I looked at how Cindy was going insane.

Theo was probably feeling the same too. He pinched his eyebrows and said in a deep voice, "Cindy, stop messing around. Zedd will be here soon. Go home with him."

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Theo had just finished talking when Zedd came running into the house, panting. Cindy was still freaking out. He had to coax and persuade before he could bring her out of the villa.

After they left, Theo came to the dining area. He looked awful, but he still spoke to me in a gentle voice. "How's the taste?"

"It's a bit sour. The previous one tasted better. Try one." I picked one and fed him.

He opened his mouth and chewed twice, his face immediately contorting. "It's really sour. Don't eat them anymore. I'll buy more tomorrow."

Then, he pulled me into his arms. He laid his chin on my head and spoke softly, "Let's go fishing this afternoon, alright?"

"Don't you have to go to work? I told Cecilia that I'll be seeing her this afternoon. She's been back for such a long time yet I never had the time to accompany her." I lifted my head and looked at him with a faint smile on the corners of my lips.

Jerome would be reaching Salt City this afternoon. I had not told Theo about it. I

Afternoon. I had not told Theo about it. I thought it was unnecessary for him to worry about this. After all, it was not that serious yet. ①

"Alright, then. Come back early, I'll make dinner and wait for you." He did not insist. ①

I stood on my tiptoes and took the initiative to kiss him on the lips. I said softly, "Theo Grant, let's spend the rest of our days happily."

Even though I had no idea if he truly loved me, at least I was being pampered and spoiled by him at the moment. There was nothing perfect in this world, and there was no need to distinguish between love and responsibility. As long as I was happy, that would be enough.

"Alright. We'll give it our best shot." He pulled me closer to him and held my face up.

It was an overbearing and romantic French kiss. He finally let go of me when the both of us were out of breath.

We were like a loving couple. Neither of us mentioned the scene that happened just now. We just closed one eye to the

now. We just closed one eye to the situation.

After lunch, I got changed and drove out.

I made an appointment with Cecilia and went to the airport.

I reached there right on time. I saw Jerome pulling his suitcase while walking out.

After all these years, he was still as handsome and eye-catching as he used to be. The only difference was that he looked even more mature compared to the past when he looked callow. However, that did not affect his beauty.

Yes, that was right, his beauty.

When Jerome was in university, he was given the nickname 'Shane the Beauty'. It all started when Jerome was forced to play the female lead in the university's theatrical play. The moment he was done getting his makeup, everyone was stunned. He was even prettier than the campus belle.

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When he saw me, he acted just like before and gave me a big bear hug. "Honey, it's been a few years. You've gotten even prettier and look more intellectual than before. But you've gained weight."

"Who wouldn't gain weight after getting pregnant?" I refuted. I was scanning him from head to toe. "Well, you haven't changed one bit. Looks like you've been working hard to keep that 'Shane the Beauty' nickname of yours."

It was great to poke fun at each other like this!

"No one would treat a brother like you do. I gave up a bright future to come back for you," Jerome spoke while he looked around. "Where's Cecilia? Why isn't she picking her brother up? Is she busy dating or getting married?"

"She went to the restaurant to get us a table. An elderly like you has just come back. Of course, we need to bring you out for a fun night!" I pulled his suitcase and walked out.

"Let me do it. Don't hurt my neck."

walked out.

“Let me do it. Don't hurt my nephew.”

After he said that, he softly patted my belly in a mischievous way. “Hello, my dear nephew. I'm your uncle. Wait, no. Back then, I said I was going to be your child's godfather after you get married and bear a child. Baby, I'm your godfather. Hurry up and come out to play with your godfather.”

I shook my head helplessly. The child was not even born yet, but those asking to be the child's godfather were already queuing up for the chance.

We walked to the car. Jerome shot a glance at my stomach and said, “Why don't you let me drive?”

“Never mind. You don't even know the way. It'll be more dangerous if you drive.”

“I got into the driver's seat.”

“You're right. It's been years. Salt City has changed a lot.” Jerome scratched his head and got into the passenger seat.

“I'm going to treat you to a feast later. I've booked the most expensive hotel in Salt City for you. This time, you're going to stay here a while. Cecilia and I will

...Salt City for you. This time, you're going to
● Stay here a while. Cecilia and I will
accompany you to go around the city.
We'll let you see how fast Salt City has
been developing."

He turned around and looked at me. He
said in dissatisfaction, "Didn't you marry
a rich guy? Why am I staying alone in a
hotel when you have that big villa? Are
you afraid that your husband will get
jealous?"

Looking at the excited expression on his
face, I smiled and said, "I'm not afraid
that he'll get jealous. My main concern is
you'll feel grossed out. Do you remember
that piece of news where you criticized a
rich young master for taking over his
family business? That's my husband!"

"Oh, sh*t. You actually married into the
Grant family? So Theo Grant is your
husband now?" There was an expression
of disbelief on his face.

I smiled, giving a vague answer.

Grant Corporation was regarded as a
legend in Salt City. I remembered when w
e were in university, Grant Corporation
had suddenly announced that Theo Grant
would be coming back from overseas to

●uld be coming back from overseas to take over the business.

Theo was still way too young back then. He was only in his 20s, and he had just finished his studies abroad before his return here. He held no jobs prior to that, so the sudden announcement that Grant Corporation would be in his hands became a hot topic at that time. Everyone was questioning his capabilities.

At that time, the students in the university were in an uproar. Other than becoming a hot discussion in online forums, teachers would even use this as an example when they were teaching in class.

It was a controversial issue among the netizens on the internet with two sides formed. One side supported the idea and they thought Theo was young and capable. He would definitely bring new blood into Grant Corporation. The other side was made up of skeptics who thought Theo was incapable of running Grant Corporation as he did not possess the talents and vision that a leader should have.

Well, Jerome was one of those skeptics. It

have.

Well, Jerome was one of those skeptics. He even wrote an article to prove that Theo Grant would lead to Grant Corporation's decline. There were ten reasons stated in the article.

Every one of them was clear and logical. Every word written was hard-hitting, criticizing Theo like he was a worthless person.

The article was a hot topic back then. It was shared in all online forums in the country, and it even got published in the newspaper. It was uncertain what had happened after that but Jerome deleted the article and wrote an apology letter that was published in the newspaper. Then, the matter finally subsided.

"I didn't expect this at all!" Jerome slumped on the seat with a gloomy face. He stopped nagging and saying that he wanted to go to my house.

I could not help but laugh and cracked a joke. "If you don't like the hotel, we can check out later. You can go home with me and stay at my house!"

"No. I fear for my life. I'll never go to

o. I fear for my life. I'll never go to your house in a million years." Jerome waved his hands again and again. He looked like he was afraid of getting eaten alive.

I smiled faintly and remained silent.

"Tell me about your story!" After the joke, Jerome wiped the smile off his face and began to ask about my affairs seriously.

Hence, I briefly told him about what happened all these years, from the beginning until the end.

After hearing that, he kept on shaking his head and scolded me for being stupid. He said in a deep voice, "Being kidnapped is such a big deal. Why didn't you tell Theo about it? The problem would've probably been solved if he knew about it."

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Chapter 228

"No way. If it's related to Cindy Reed, I'll always be the unfortunate one."

I had no idea what Theo felt for Cindy, but I knew one thing—he would tolerate her without limits. I knew it after experiencing Cecilia's matter, so I could not tell him about this.

"Damn it! Have you really married into a rich family? You're just a sitting duck in a prison cell." Jerome could not help but rant.

I was speechless. It was indeed as he had said.

Not long after, the car arrived at the restaurant.

Cecilia was already waiting at the entrance. She waved at us excitedly from far away. When the car had yet to park properly, Jerome could not wait any longer and screamed hoarsely, "Honey, do you miss me?" Then, he ran toward Cecilia and gave her a bear hug.

Cecilia and gave her a bear hug.

Many people were waiting for seats at the restaurant's entrance. He immediately caught their attention, and it was followed by screams.

Shane the Beauty was indeed living up to his reputation. He was like a superstar, always attracting the crowd's attention no matter where he was.

"Look, that guy is so pretty! His facial features are more defined than a woman's!"

"Is he a superstar? Look at how classy he is and his appearance! He's not an ordinary person."

"Maybe, but too bad he has a girlfriend. And his girlfriend looks so plain. He's so handsome, he's completely out of her league."

"Right, she's not even as pretty as you are. It looks like they're a lovey-dovey couple. Can you tell me why good-looking people are always like this? They'll always go for someone uglier than them."

"What do you know? Love is blind. You think that she's ugly, but he thinks she's

think that she's ugly, but he thinks she's as beautiful as a fairy!"

...

"Now you know why we hated eating with you back then?"

Listening to the conversations behind, Cecilia rolled her eyes at Jerome angrily. "Every time we go out together, we're always the ones who get hurt. Why does a man like you have to be so pretty?"

"Aren't their words nice? They're saying that I love you a lot and love is blind. How wonderful is that?" Jerome did not care about this. He wrapped his arms around Cecilia and continued to walk forward.

"Come on, you're just an evildoer. The same thing happens every time I'm with you. Not only will we be stared at by the onlookers but they'll even compare us and mock us."

Jerome reached out and flicked Cecilia's forehead with his finger, complaining, "You little chick, after years of not seeing each other, you're starting to find it hard to put up with me, huh?"

9S "Ouch! You've always been an evildoer,
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"Such! You've always been an evildoer, bringing disasters everywhere you go." Cecilia covered her forehead while she continued complaining.

"Stop it. Just wait and see, I'll blow your head off..." Both of them were still the same. The moment they saw each other, they would start arguing.

"Stop. Quiet down, both of you. Do you still want to be stared at? Why are you both acting like children?" I could not stand it anymore and voiced out.

Both of them lowered their heads, looked around, then booed at each other at the same time. Then, they finally kept quiet.

Their obedient faces made me laugh.

What a pair of quarrelsome friends. When they could not see each other, they would miss each other. When they could finally see each other, they would start fighting. Even so, I was glad to have them horsing around me every day during those dark days in the past.

Soon, the dishes were served. Jerome had been living abroad all these years, so he had a big appetite and enjoyed the familiar taste of home a lot.

minimal taste of home a lot.

Suddenly, Jerome was staring outside the door. His face changed.

"Your current expression looks like you've seen your ex-girlfriend." Cecilia grabbed the chance to tease him

"An acquaintance of mine." Jerome withdrew his gaze faintly. He looked a little depressed. I was surprised that he actually did not tease Cecilia back.

It aroused my curiosity, so I turned my head and looked out the window.

I was not surprised to see Xander. What surprised me was that he was wearing his sunglasses and a mask. I knew him well, but if not for his girlfriend beside him, I almost could not recognize him.

However, Jerome was able to recognize him with one look.

"How do you know him?" Xander was not in the same university as us.

"Not only do I know him but I'm also close to him. Back in the days..." Jerome shook his head and smiled bitterly. He did not continue talking.

"I didn't expect you to have a story with a

● didn't expect you to have a story with a superstar. Hurry and tell us about it. Was it an abusive love that you can't afford to stay in, or were you the jerk who kept making things ambiguous and dumped him to travel abroad?" Cecilia leaned closer to him with a gossipy face. 1

"Shoo, shoo, shoo. These are the complicated thoughts of the mind of a kid in an adult's body." Jerome turned his head and looked outside the window. He watched Xander and the woman disappear around the corner.

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After lunch, I was planning to send Jerome to the hotel and go back home.

However, this fellow would not let us go. He wanted us to accompany him to the club after our meal.

"Party? Can't you see that Wanda's pregnant? Can she go to such places? How is she going to go wild with you?" Cecilia spoke angrily.

"Who says that pregnant women can't go wild? She's been staying at home too often and that's why she's imagining things and getting ill. If we can't go to the club, then we can go to a karaoke joint. Anyway, you can still drink with me!"

"I'm pregnant too. I can't drink," Cecilia said out loud without thinking.

"Oh sh*t." Jerome's jaw dropped. "You're pregnant? Who's your husband?"

It was only then did Cecilia realize she had said something wrong. Her face reddened and she refused to speak.

● Do you really believe her? I just prefer quiet places and don't want to go somewhere noisy," I hurriedly said. When speaking about getting pregnant while still single, women would naturally feel embarrassed.

Although Cecilia did not say anything, I knew full well that she had traditional values at heart.

Cecilia then let out a sigh of relief. She pretended to be calm and said, "You're still as dumb as you used to be after so many years of not seeing you. You believe in everything I say."

"That means I trust you, alright? You only talk nonsense the whole day. I don't even know what's true and what's false." Jerome rolled his eyes at her.

Then, Jerome dragged both of us with him and said, "Since we can't go to the club or go karaoke, let's just go to the hotel room and chit-chat."

I took my phone out to look at the time. I realized that my phone had run out of battery and it was turned off.

Cecilia looked at Jerome from head to toe

● Cecilia looked at Jerome from head to toe with her eyes full of contempt. "You're not letting us go just because you're still timid and afraid like the old days, right?"

I recalled that when we were still in university, the three of us would often go on trips. When we were staying in our hotel rooms at night, Jerome had his own room but would keep staying in our room, refusing to leave.

Finally, we could not stand it any longer and asked him to leave. It was then he told us that he was afraid to sleep alone. We had no choice, so at last, the three of us slept in a room with a king-sized bed.

Cecilia had been mocking him after that incident. She would mention it to Jerome to threaten him every time.

"That was so many years ago and you still remember it." Even after so many years, Jerome could not help but blush when she brought this up again. "I've been staying alone in a foreign country all these years! It's because Wanda has been bottling up all her feelings. If she doesn't talk it out, she'll suffocate sooner or later."

or later.

Once Jerome said so, Cecilia did not say anything more. She turned her head and looked at me. "Why don't we go up and have a chat?"

"Sure. It's not like we've never slept together before." I nodded my head and agreed. I was the first to get out of the car and walked toward the hotel. After all, we did not see Jerome as a man.

Just like what Jerome said, I had been bottling up my feelings. I had to let them out.

"Right. Three of us have slept together before. There's nothing to be shy about." Jerome went along with my words.

Cecilia shrugged her shoulders. She did not say anything and followed us.

Jerome's room was on the 38th floor. I asked him in the elevator, "Are you planning to stay abroad to develop your career?"

"No."

Jerome was gazing far away through the clear walls of the elevator. "My favorite people and the people I care about are

●ople and the people I care about are here. I've finished my studies, so I'm planning to go back to Whaldorf City to open a psychology clinic there.

Nowadays, there are more and more people getting mentally ill. Psychology clinics are still new to the market, so it's a good chance."

"Does that mean you'll be staying here?" Jerome was a citizen of Whaldorf City. It was a good idea to develop his career here.

"No. The main reason I came back this time is to see you. I haven't settled the affairs there. I'll have to go back again."

Cecilia was leaning against the elevator listlessly and said, "Why don't you open a clinic in Salt City? It'll be convenient for me to look for you if anything happens."

"So you can look for me when you suffer from psychological problems?" Jerome turned his head around and looked at Cecilia.

"Screw you, are you cursing me? You're the one who has mental problems. Your whole family has mental problems."

Cecilia was acting like a shrew due to her rage. Jerome was shocked and stuck his

ecchia was acting like a snrew due to her

●ge. Jerome was shocked and stuck his tongue out. He dared not to say anything more.

I was the one who booked the room.

Although it was not as luxurious as the suite, it was not cheap either. Hence, the decorations were pretty nice.

After entering the room, Jerome shrugged his hands. "This is how a hotel is. The more luxurious the room is, the more empty it feels. There's only one feeling when you're staying here alone—depressed."

Chapter 230

"You shouldn't have booked such an expensive room for him. This kind of person only deserves to stay in a standard room that costs a hundred bucks. Small and cozy!"

"What do you know? Wanda cares about me dearly. She's different from you, a person with no conscience. I've been away for so long yet you don't even miss me."

"Why should I miss you? You don't even miss me."

"How do you know whether I've missed you? Are you in my head?"

I sat quietly on the sofa and looked at them fighting with each other. It made me feel warm. This was how life was supposed to be.

After they were done arguing with each other, Cecilia lay down on the sofa and slept with her eyes closed. She must be suffering from drowsiness as she was now three months pregnant. I had

Now three months pregnant. I had experienced it too.

Jerome found a thin blanket and covered her with it. Then, he sat on the floor beside me. Looking at me, he said, "Symptoms of early-stage depression are feeling down, losing sleep, and getting bad-tempered. When it's serious, you can't help but hurt yourself."

Of course, I knew those. Otherwise, I would not have called him and asked him to come back.

"When did you start losing control of yourself?" He looked at me, his eyes filled with concern and worry.

"I've always been feeling down and losing sleep. I've been emotionally unstable since half a year ago. I stop myself from hurting myself and the baby," I answered honestly. Since I had come to seek help, I should not hide anything.

Although this kind of situation seldom happened, I knew it had gotten more serious than the last time.

He covered his face with both hands. It took him a while to put them away. "It

●ok him a while to put them away. "It seems like it has gotten serious. You can't take medicine to control it now. The only way is to try and regulate your emotions. You know how serious the illness was back then. If you let it continue to progress like this, you and the baby will be in danger."

"That's why I asked you to come back. Jerome, I'm scared. I'm afraid that I'll go back in time." I could only open up in front of Jerome who was a friend and a doctor.

I remembered when my mother passed away back then, it was a fatal blow for me. With all those suppressed emotions after being tortured by Tyler for so many years, I finally broke down. I lost control and kept hurting myself again and again.

Jerome knew about my tragic past.

"Don't worry. I didn't further my studies abroad for nothing. All these years, I've been conducting psychotherapy treatment plans without medications. I did remarkably well. I can help you."

I nodded my head. "Then I'll put the lives of me and my baby in your hands."

of me and my baby in your hands."

After that, Jerome gave me a two-hour-long therapy session. During the session, he seemed like a doctor at times and an old friend at others. It seemed like we were chatting, but I could feel my emotions being released while we were talking.

In short, I felt so much better.

"Alright. That's all for today. It won't work just by doing this once or twice. It takes time." Jerome ended the therapy session.

I lifted my head and looked at the clock on the wall. It was almost 11. Cecilia was sleeping soundly. I reached out and covered her with the blanket.

"Whose child is she pregnant with?" Jerome lounged on the sofa lazily and asked.

I was surprised. I turned around and looked at him. "You can tell?"

"Damn, I'm a psychologist. I'm good at observing, alright? Just by looking at her complexion and how she looks, I know she's pregnant."

she's pregnant."

As expected from a psychologist.

"You'd better ask her yourself." Cecilia did not say anything, so I had better not say too much either.

"Never mind. It doesn't matter who it belongs to. The most important thing is that both of you are willing." He stretched out his long legs and lay down on the sofa.

I walked forward, sat down beside him, and said, "Let's talk about you. What happened?"

Even though he had been acting like how he was in the old days, I was still able to tell that he had something on his mind. He was not himself. After so many years of friendship, no matter how good he was at pretending, he could not hide it from me.

He was slightly surprised, then he smiled bitterly and said, "You're still as smart as you were back then. If you're too smart for your own good, you'll get tired of living!"

"Tell me!" I frowned and raised my voice. The more this guy acted like this, the more worried I became.

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