

You're Out Daddy Chapter 101

Chapter 101

Noticing the odd expression on Natasha's face, Anthony followed her gaze and looked over.

Yet, he saw nothing.

"Did something happen, Nat?" Anthony asked, eyeing her.

Natasha shook her head again. "Nothing. Maybe I made a mistake."

Anthony scanned their surroundings and found nothing suspicious.

"Let's go," Natasha said.

Anthony nodded and helped her to the courtyard.

They found an empty bench, and Natasha sat on it. As the sunlight poured over her, a warm feeling enveloped her.

However, the look of those eyes was etched in her mind.

She was constantly feeling uneasy.

"Anthony," she said.

"Yes?"

"I'm feeling a little thirsty. Could you bring me some water from the ward?" Natasha asked.

Anthony glanced at her and nodded. "Okay." With that, he left for the ward.

As soon as the boy left, Natasha got up and retraced her steps, making her way back to the ward of that man from before based on her memory.

When she arrived, she found that there was no one on the bed.

Just as she was engrossed in her thoughts, she suddenly had a feeling that someone was behind her. As she turned around, she saw the man she was looking for standing right behind her, staring at her sinisterly.

Natasha got a shock of her life.

Right then, a doctor rushed over and held the man. "Gary, you're being naughty again!"

The doctor turned to Natasha and apologized, "Sorry. He's... It's you?"

The doctor remembered Natasha very well because of her beauty.

"Hello," she greeted.

"Hello. Are you a patient of our hospital, too?" the doctor asked, noticing the hospital gown on her.

Natasha smiled faintly. "I got into a minor accident."

The doctor nodded. "What matters is that you're fine. I'm sure you'll recover soon."

Natasha nodded.

The doctor then looked at the man beside him. "All right, Gary. You should return to your ward."

The man said nothing and stepped into the room straight away.

After shutting the door, the man named Gary sat on the bed and fixed his eyes ahead in a daze.

Natasha noticed that his arm was bandaged. It was obvious he had been injured before.

"When... When did he return?" she asked.

The doctor sighed at the mention of that. "He was found this morning. He was sent to our hospital after getting knocked over by a car. We found out he's from our department and got him back. Thank goodness there were no major issues." As he spoke, he glanced at Gary who was sitting in the room.

Natasha, too, looked at Gary and thought for a moment. "Does he not have any relatives?"

The doctor shook his head. "I heard they've all passed away. Besides, no one had been here to visit him during his stay here."

"What about his medical fees? Who's handling that?" Natasha asked.

The doctor frowned and gave it a serious thought. "I'm not really sure about that. But I heard he has a fund from which he can take out a certain amount of money every year. So that must be how the fees are handled."

After hearing the doctor's words, Natasha nodded.

"Why are you asking such a question?" the doctor asked, looking at Natasha.

She shook her head. "Nothing. I just find him... quite pitiful."

"Well, there's only one person who's come to visit him so far."

"Who?"

"You."

Natasha was rendered speechless.

The doctor grinned. "I know Gary almost injured you on the stairs back then, but he's usually not like that. Although he has some mental problems, he won't harm someone so easily. That thing that happened last time should be an accident..."

Natasha continued listening wordlessly.

Perhaps, to the doctor, it was an accident.

Yet, to Natasha, it was not the case.

She could not ignore the hatred in Gary's eyes as he looked at her.

To others, they might think that it was because of his mental problem. However, only she knew what his gaze meant.

Natasha would not claim herself to have a photographic memory, but she would definitely remember a person like Gary after seeing him.

However, there was no such person in her memory. In fact, it was her first time meeting him at the stairs.

Just as she was mulling over something, the doctor glanced at her. "Anyway, I'd like to apologize on behalf of Gary for what happened back then."

Natasha returned to her senses and shook her head fervently. "It's okay. I'm not here to find fault with him, anyway."

The doctor nodded. "You're a kind person. I'm sure you'll be blessed."

“Thank you,” Natasha said. “I’ll get back to my room if there’s nothing else.”

The doctor nodded, and Natasha got up to leave.

The moment she left, Gary, who was still in the room, suddenly turned his head and stared at her back. His emotionless gaze was suddenly filled with maliciousness, and a creepy smile formed on his lips.

When Anthony returned to the courtyard after bringing a bottle of water from the ward, he realized Natasha was missing.

Instead, a mother and her child were playing on that bench.

Anthony looked around the area and still failed to find Natasha. In a state of panic, he walked up and asked the mother and child, “Hello. Did you see the woman who was sitting here earlier? She’s really pretty, and she was sitting on this very bench just now.”

The pair shook their heads. “No, sorry. We just came here.”

“All right. Thank you.” Anthony nodded his head anxiously and started searching everywhere.

Don’t tell me something happened to Mommy. No matter how powerful that person is, he won’t just take her away in public, right? It’s still broad daylight! That’s impossible. It can’t happen!

Anthony searched all over the courtyard, shouting, “Nat! Nat!”

Unfortunately, all the patients in the courtyard were dressed in the same hospital gown. Anthony could only search and ask one by one.

When he was done searching outside, he continued searching in the building.

To his dismay, Natasha was nowhere to be seen. Even when he asked people about her, not a single person said they had seen her.

Panic rose in Anthony’s heart, and his eyes reddened.

I’ll definitely hate myself if I actually lost her. Nat, please be fine! Please be safe!

At that thought, Anthony continued with the search.

He had searched almost every inch of the huge hospital building when he realized he really could not find Natasha. A sense of hopelessness washed over him.

His hands trembled, and his mind went blank.

He did not know what to do. All he could think of was to call someone for help.

He took out his phone, wanting to make a call. Even so, as he glanced at the dialing pad on the screen, no one came to his mind.

Right then, he heard a familiar voice behind him.

“Anthony.”

He immediately whipped his head about, looking as if he was hearing things. When he turned around, he saw Natasha standing in the distance.

Anthony froze when he caught sight of her.

Natasha stared at him. Unaware of the emotional rollercoaster Anthony had been through just a moment ago, she smiled and asked, “What’s wrong?”

In the next second, Anthony threw himself at her and circled his arms tightly around her.

“Nat, you scared me to death!” Anthony’s voice sounded shaky.

Natasha looked at him, frowning. “What’s wrong?”

“I thought you were missing. I looked all over the hospital and I couldn’t find you!” Anthony said. His eyes were filled with tears, and his hands were still wrapped tightly around her, unwilling to let her go.

He felt as if Natasha would vanish into thin air the second he let her go.

Natasha gazed at him. She was touched by his actions, and it made her heart ache

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Natasha simply wanted to prevent Anthony from checking out Gary. She feared that the boy might notice her concerns and that Gary might target Anthony instead. Never did she expect her actions to have caused him to worry.

In fact, she could even imagine how worried and anxious Anthony must have been earlier.

Her heart was instantly filled with guilt.

Her long eyelashes fluttered, and she cast a gaze on her son, reaching out to stroke his head.

"I'm sorry, Anthony. I didn't do it on purpose. I'm sorry for making you worry," Natasha said.

Anthony remained silent and clung to Natasha tightly.

It was a touching scene as the bits of sunlight shone on the pair.

Half an hour later, Anthony had already calmed himself and was seated on the bench as if nothing happened earlier.

He was not emotional, nor did he cry.

Everything that happened earlier was just an accident. No one saw it, and no one knows about it. I'm still the cool person that I am. Yes... that's right!

After recollecting himself, Anthony had returned to his usual self.

He cleared his throat. "Nat, just now... I was just too anxious. I wasn't crying," he explained.

Natasha listened and nodded solemnly. "I know."

Knowing her son was a prideful person, Natasha did not expose him. Instead, she secretly enjoyed the moment.

Anthony blinked, asking, "Aren't you going to tell me where you've been just now?"

"I was just roaming around," Natasha said nonchalantly.

Anthony eyed her. He knew she was not telling the truth, but there was nothing he could do.

"Don't do that again," he warned.

Natasha nodded. "Okay."

As Anthony gazed at Natasha, he constantly felt as if she could see right through him. Suddenly, he recalled something and opened the bottle of water before handing it to her. "Didn't you say you wanted to drink some water earlier? Here you go."

"Thank you." Natasha smiled, casting him a loving look.

Anthony turned away awkwardly.

I was too rash earlier!

Meanwhile, Kenneth drove to Thea's house.

No one came to open the door after he rang the doorbell for some time. Hence, he pulled out his phone and dialed her number, only to hear her phone ringing on the inside.

Immediately, Kenneth knew she was in the house. The incident from that night flashed past his mind. Worried that she might act impulsively, he rushed forward, keyed in the passcode, and entered the house.

The dining table and the floor were in a mess.

Everything on the floor was things from the day he left.

When he arrived in the living room, he saw Thea lying on the couch. Her eyes were shut tight, and her face was pale.

Shocked, Kenneth hurried over. "Thea! Thea Jarman!"

He received no response after calling out twice. He extended his hand to check if she was still breathing. When he felt the faint breath under her nose, he relaxed.

"Thea. Thea," Kenneth called out again, but she gave no response.

At the same time, Caroline arrived as well.

Seeing the mess as soon as she stepped in, she rushed over. "What's going on? How did such a thing happen?"

"It was like that when I came in. I'm not sure what happened, but we should call for an ambulance first," Kenneth said calmly.

Caroline knew it was pointless questioning now. Hence, she called for an ambulance right away.

Meanwhile, at the hospital, Natasha was done sunbathing and was about to enter the building when several doctors headed in one direction hurriedly along the corridor.

Usually, that meant there was an emergency.

Natasha did not think too much about it. She walked closer to the wall, trying to make way for the others.

Right then, Anthony's phone rang.

"Nat, it's Denise. I've got to answer this," Anthony said.

Natasha nodded. "Go ahead."

With that, Anthony left to answer the call.

She stuck close to the wall and got ready to walk back to her room. When she lifted her gaze, she saw a familiar figure being pushed past her swiftly.

Thea?

The doctors and nurses moved quickly, instructing the people in front to make way.

Before Natasha could even react, a sobbing voice rang out. Caroline was following closely behind them.

At the same time, another silhouette entered Natasha's field of vision.

Kenneth...

Kenneth and Natasha spotted each other at the same time.

He froze in his tracks, and they met each other's gazes. Natasha seemed to have caught the meaning of his gaze.

Kenneth pursed his lips. He tried to explain, "Thea—"

"You don't have to explain it to me," Natasha cut him off.

Kenneth fell silent and stared at her.

However, she merely gave him a polite nod wordlessly, got up, and returned to the room without turning back.

As Kenneth watched her enter her ward, he frowned deeply.

Soon, Thea was pushed into the emergency room for surgery. Caroline turned to look at him. "Kenneth, do you think Thea will be fine?"

Kenneth turned around and walked over to Caroline. "She'll be fine. Nothing will happen."

“She was fine two days ago. How on earth did she end up like that?” Caroline lifted her head to look at Kenneth. “She’s my only daughter. Her dad and I won’t be able to handle it if something happens to her.”

Kenneth merely gazed at Caroline, not knowing how to comfort her.

He could not help but frown as he recalled Thea’s words.

It was true that he was not responsible for the matter, as he never expected such a thing to happen. At the same time, he felt guilty for not making things clear with Thea earlier.

“Let’s wait to hear from the doctor.” Kenneth looked extremely calm, which looked like impassiveness to Caroline.

She hesitated for some time before asking, “Kenneth, did Thea say something to you?”

Seeing how Kenneth was not replying to her, she continued, “She said she had something to tell you that day. And now, this happened...” As she spoke, she started crying uncontrollably.

“I’m partly responsible for Thea’s situation,” Kenneth admitted.

Caroline had a rough guess of what happened, and she felt extremely upset. “I just want to know one thing. Are you interested in Thea? You know what she thinks of you, right? She gave up on her business in another country just to come back to keep you company. So, what do you think of her?”

Kenneth looked at Caroline and said straightforwardly, “I only see her as a friend and a business partner.”

“F-Friend? Business partner?” Caroline was flabbergasted.

Kenneth did not deny it. “Yes.”

Caroline was so furious that she was at a loss for words. Kenneth must’ve rejected Thea the same way. That must be why that silly girl acted so rashly.

The thought of something might happen to Thea was unacceptable to Caroline.

“Thea doesn’t lack friends. You’re just wasting her time, Kenneth!” Caroline yelled, fuming.

Kenneth did not defend himself, nor did he say anything in response to Caroline’s words.

Right then, Liam appeared with Denise and Benjamin beside him. He witnessed the scene as soon as they entered.

Immediately, his protective instincts kicked into gear. "Kenneth."

His loud, clear voice rang out, causing Caroline and Kenneth to turn around.

Although Liam was old, he was still an experienced businessman. Hence, he always had a powerful presence wherever he went.

Caroline frowned as she looked at him and the two children by his side. "Who's he?"

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Liam strode over, his gaze falling upon Kenneth. "What happened?"

"Grandpa," Kenneth greeted politely before launching into his explanation. "Thea is undergoing emergency treatment as we speak."

Liam narrowed his eyes.

Caroline learned of their relationship from the way Kenneth greeted the old man.

Standing before her was the patriarch of the Hamilton family, who had once shaken the business world. She often heard his name abroad in praise of his sharp mind and business acumen for which he was famous.

Caroline suddenly felt at a loss for words as she gazed at the titan before her.

At that moment, the emergency room door opened to admit the doctor.

"Which one of you is Thea Jarman's family?" he asked.

"I am," Caroline said at once.

"Oh, there is nothing wrong with the patient," assured the doctor. "Low blood sugar level and not eating had caused her to faint, that's all. It's nothing serious, so don't worry too much. She will be transferred to a ward in a moment to be put on a drip."

A giddy wave of relief swept over Caroline upon hearing that.

“Thank God it’s nothing serious.” Upon recalling something, she turned to the doctor.
“Thank you so much, doctor.”

“It’s part of my job.” He smiled and walked back in again without another word.

Kenneth’s tense brows relaxed a little upon hearing that it was nothing serious.

Liam rolled his eyes at Kenneth as he studied the latter, failing to stifle a complaint.
“What are the odds of the two women coming to the same hospital?”

Kenneth did not know how to respond to that.

“If there’s nothing else, I’m going to see Nat.”

Liam spun around and led Denise and Benjamin away without giving his grandson a chance to speak.

He did not even deign to greet Caroline.

By the time Caroline turned around, Liam was already walking away with the two children. She frowned as she watched them.

Hmm, those two kids.

Thea was wheeled out before she could spare any further thought to the matter. Seeing her, Caroline bent down by her side at once.

“How are you, Thea? Are you all right?”

...

Denise and Benjamin rushed to the bed as soon as Liam brought the children to Natasha’s ward.

“Hello, Nat,” the children chorused.

A smile spread across Natasha’s pale face at the sight of them. “You’re back!”

“We miss you so much.” Denise could not resist acting coquettishly.

“Have you been good?” Natasha asked.

“Of course, we have,” Denise replied.

Liam interjected that moment with a smile. “Denise and Benjamin have been well behaved and sensible. They were a delight to have around.”

Natasha gazed up at Liam as she returned his smile. "Thank you for taking care of them, Old Mr. Hamilton. I hope they haven't caused any trouble."

"There's no need to thank me," Liam said. "It was no trouble at all. I'm happy to do it. In fact, I would like you to trouble me again if there's such trouble in the future. I like children." He would have loved to care for them for the rest of his life, but he could not make it too obvious.

Terence observed him from the corner, feeling both sad and helpless for his friend.

Denise chose that moment to blurt, "I saw a fierce old lady scolding Mr. Handsome outside just now, Nat."

The atmosphere within the ward stiffened with awkwardness for a few seconds.

"What fierce old lady?" Terence asked.

"Well..." Denise was struggling to find the right words.

"Oh, it's like this," Liam hurriedly explained. "Kenneth's assistant fainted from hypoglycemia and was sent to the hospital. Her mother was there and happened to speak a little loudly."

It was evident that he was explaining on behalf of his grandson.

Natasha smiled. "I saw them earlier."

"You saw them?" Liam repeated, stunned.

Originally, he intended to explain the situation, he could not help but shudder on Kenneth's behalf at Natasha's revelation.

What luck the boy has. Out of all the hospitals in the city, he just had to send his assistant to this one where everybody could see him. He has dug himself a hole so deep that I can't even help him out of it. In short, he deserves it.

Terence also seemed to understand something at that moment. "I have to praise Kenneth for his energy," he remarked teasingly.

"He doesn't care about the thing he should, yet takes on everything where he shouldn't."

Will Liam understand such an obvious connotation? If he wants to see his precious great-grandchildren in the future, he must stand with them! As for Kenneth, he is free to even hang himself however he pleases. It's not that we won't help him but we just can't. Everything depends on what he makes of it!

Natasha did not hear a word of theirs. Instead, she had been lost in her thoughts.

“Grandpa,” Natasha asked suddenly, “could you ask the doctor when I can be discharged?”

Terence frowned. “Discharged? How can you be discharged from the hospital with such a grievous injury?”

Natasha shrugged. “They’re all surface wounds. I will tend to them from home.”

“Surface wounds?” Terence exclaimed. “You have a fracture and a concussion! You must stay for another two weeks, at the very least.”

“I know my body well enough,” Natasha protested. “There really is no need for that.”

“No, you will stay until you have completely recovered. It’s up to the doctor when you’re free to be discharged.” Terence looked firm.

“Grandpa...”

Instinctively, Liam surmised that Natasha’s wish to be discharged was linked to Kenneth.

Oh no, this is going to be a big problem!

He could not refrain from saying, “That’s right, Nat. Just listen to your grandfather. Your injuries are serious. You mustn’t take your recovery lightly.”

“I know you are all worried about me, but I know my body,” Natasha said firmly.

Her decision could not be swayed no matter how much the two old men persuaded her.

At that critical moment, Liam gave Denise and Benjamin a wink which the two children understood at once.

“Are you angry, Nat?” Denise asked as she gazed at Natasha.

“Angry? What would I angry about?” She shot back.

“Angry with Mr. Handsome...” Denise’s voice trailed off into a whisper.

However, the connotation was understood by everybody present.

It was a question on everybody’s minds that nobody dared to ask.

Natasha frowned at the strangeness of the child’s question.

Benjamin chimed in immediately. "Great-grandpa is really worried about you, Nat. You'll only make them feel worse if you leave the hospital now."

Natasha turned to Terence with a frown.

"How about this," Benjamin proposed, "Great-grandpa will ask the doctor later, and we'll see what the doctor has to say. Deal?"

Before Natasha could speak, the boy pressed on, "You have to set an example of valuing your health and taking care of yourself, Nat."

With that said, Natasha could not refute him.

"Fine," she said at last, with a resigned grin at Benjamin. "You win."

A smile appeared on his face. "You're the best, Nat!"

Terence was relieved to see Natasha relent. Liam, who was next to the former, heaved a quiet sigh of relief as well.

Then, he picked up his phone to surreptitiously send a text: Everything else depends on you now, brat!

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Anthony spotted Thalia's car outside the hospital. After a quick look around, he opened the door and went in.

Thalia had a computer on her lap and a lollipop in her mouth. She handed a lollipop over at his arrival. "Would you like one?"

Anthony accepted it eagerly. He unwrapped it and put it in his mouth.

Thalia's gaze returned to her computer once more. "I'd had a look," she declared as she sucked on her lollipop. "Your mother was here during that period." She then turned the screen to Anthony.

It was surveillance footage depicting a hallway in the hospital.

Natasha was standing at the door of a ward looking at something when a man suddenly appeared behind her.

The horror of a suspense drama was palpable even through the screen.

Startled, Natasha spun around just in time for the doctor's appearance.

The man slipped into the ward as Natasha spoke to the doctor at the door.

The video lasted only several minutes.

"I ran a background check on him, but I didn't find any direct involvement with your mother," Thalia said. "It should just be an ordinary mental disorder."

Anthony looked at the screen and frowned slightly.

"Is it possible that you're overthinking this out of anxiousness?" Thalia asked.

Anthony shook his head. "I don't know, but I have a bad feeling about this. Nat deliberately took me away today. She must be hiding something from me."

Thalia pursed her lips as she stared at him. "I'm curious about how accurate children's intuition is."

Anthony rolled his eyes at her. "By the way, could you assign one of the surveillance cameras at the door of Nat's ward to my phone? That way, I can tune in any time."

Thalia nodded. "No problem."

Her slender fingers worked furiously on the computer before they stopped moving abruptly.

Thalia's beautiful eyes narrowed into slits as she stared at the screen. Her flickering eyes seemed to be appreciating something.

Anthony leaned over when he noticed that she had frozen. "What's the matter? What are you looking at?"

Turning pale almost immediately, he wished he did not see it.

The footage depicted another instance in the hospital when Kenneth sent Thea to the emergency room and the entire incident of encountering Natasha in the corridor.

From the camera's point of view, it looked especially like a messy love triangle.

Thalia cleared her throat. "Anthony."

“What?”

“This Kenneth isn’t in love with your mother, is he?” she asked.

Anthony frowned. “No,” he instinctively retorted.

“Are you sure? Look at his eyes and your mother’s. They’re looking so tenderly at one another,” Thalia remarked while they watched. “You know, with the looks of Kenneth and your mother, they would be perfect for the leading parts if they starred in a movie. It would definitely be a blockbuster. They look so good from every possible angle! I wonder what their unborn children will look like.”

Anthony was struck dumb with incredulity.

What else can I say?

Anthony took the computer from her lap and sent a link to one of the surveillance cameras to his phone with several keystrokes. He then shut the laptop with a smack after he was done.

Thalia was not satisfied. “Hey, what are you doing? I’m not done.”

Anthony looked at her. “Would you still want your reward?”

Thalia was taken aback. “Of course,” she nodded solemnly.

“Be serious, then.”

“I am being serious!”

However, Thalia studied Anthony again in the next second. She looked at each side of his face carefully.

Anthony was deeply uncomfortable by her scrutiny and scowled with displeasure. “What are you looking at? Is there something on my face?”

“Don’t you think that you share a resemblance with Kenneth?” Thalia said enigmatically. “You look so much like him. If I didn’t know better, I would have guessed that you and he have a shady relationship.”

Anthony was rendered speechless.

Well, she was not the first to be amazed by how much alike they looked.

He did not expect the matter to remain concealed for much longer. However, he was determined to keep it a secret for as long as possible.

He did not intend to admit it until there was conclusive evidence.

“The more I stare at it, the more I see it.” Thalia was still studying him intensely. “I think I can use you to blackmail Kenneth!”

Anthony was dumbstruck again.

“Being a playboy, he would believe me if I blackmailed him with you,” Thalia said as her imagination ran wild, feeling very pleased with her idea.

“Have you heard of something called DNA?” Anthony asked sarcastically.

“It can be faked,” Thalia said dismissively. “I have acquaintances in the industry.”

Anthony was taken aback for a moment. “Do you think Kenneth will believe you?”

Thalia gave his words some serious thought before providing a fair answer. “That will be tough.”

“Just stop daydreaming, and let’s get down to business,” Anthony barked, changing the subject in time.

Thalia raised her eyebrows as she merely said those words out of jest. If she were to meet Kenneth, she would have to avoid a person like him unless there was a mission at hand.

Though he looked harmless enough, the way he conducted his business sent a shiver down her spine.

“Has the news been leaked?” Anthony asked.

“Of course. I guarantee that it’ll be untraceable.”

Anthony pondered for a moment. “At this juncture,” Anthony surmised, “the killer should act within the next couple of days if he’s intent on claiming my mother’s life.”

“Be confident and get rid of the ‘if,’” Thalia suggested. “The brake hose was damaged with the purpose of killing her, wasn’t it? I’m just worried that...”

“Worried about what?”

“That the clue is too cryptic. I’m afraid the killer won’t be as smart as we’d expected him to be. He might not figure it out.”

Anthony hesitated. “How did you drop the lead?”

“The number plate of the ambulance!” Thalia announced. “I deliberately chose several photos that were especially clear. A simple search should reveal which hospital she is in if one were to look carefully.”

Da*n, I am smart. She was so pleased with her work...

Cryptic indeed! And subtle.

Anthony kept the polite smile on his face.

“If that doesn’t work, I’ll leak more information later,” Thalia added for she found the probability of the killer discovering the clue rather low.

Anthony comforted her. “To be able to think of sabotaging the brakes shows that our mystery man is not lacking in wit.”

Thalia’s eyes lit up at his words. “I’d considered that too. We would have found him long ago if he was a simpleton.”

Anthony nodded in agreement.

Thalia gazed at him with a wry smile like they shared a secret.

Anthony buckled his seat belt before looking at her. “Let’s go.”

“Where?”

“For a meal.”

“Aren’t you returning to the hospital?”

Anthony leaned back lazily on the seat. “Later. I’m hungry now. Let’s eat. Thanks in advance for lunch.”

Are you kidding? It was Thalia’s turn to be rendered speechless.

He wants a free lunch, yet he’s being so bossy!

However, Thalia thought it would be boring to dine alone. Besides, Anthony was the entire reason why she was able to stay. It was difficult to imagine such a legendary figure in the hacker world was actually a child. The tiny bit of curiosity she had toward him was only the tip of the iceberg. She wanted to know more as she felt that there were still many secrets in him worthy of her exploration.

Of course, Anthony was well aware of her motives.

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Chapter 105

Thea soon woke up in her ward after being put on a drip and found Caroline gazing at her with tear-filled eyes of distress.

"I've been so worried for you, Thea!"

Thea was still a little weak. Her eyelids fluttered open further at the sound of her mother's voice. "I seemed to have heard Kenneth's voice when I was still unconscious, Mom."

Caroline appeared a little unhappy at the mention of Kenneth. "That man doesn't love you at all, Thea."

As soon as she said that, a drop of tear rolled down the corner of Thea's eye.

Caroline's heart immediately softened. "Don't cry, Thea. There are plenty of men in the world. Kenneth is not the only one."

"I don't care how many men there are in the world," Thea protested weakly. "He is the only one I want."

Caroline frowned in consternation. She was not ignorant of her daughter's stubbornness. There was no chance of Thea changing her mind once she had set her sights.

"I don't know what to do without Kenneth, Mom. I can't imagine a world without him. What should I do?" Thea's tears soon turned into streams as her voice rose in pitch.

Caroline felt distressed looking at her daughter "All right, my dear. Hush now."

"I miss him so much, Mom!" The more Thea spoke, the more aggrieved she became.

"Good girl. He's outside right now." Caroline told the truth, unable to hold back any longer.

Stunned by the news, Thea looked at Caroline in disbelief. "Really?"

Caroline nodded. "Yes. He was the one who sent you to the hospital."

A glimmer of hope rose from her heart just when she had given up hope. "I knew it was him. I heard his voice. He still cares about me!"

Caroline could not bear to burst her daughter's bubble at the sight of the latter's infatuation.

"I want to see him, Mom. Could you take me out to meet him?" Thea wanted to get up, but as she had not eaten for an entire day and night, coupled with the debilitating effects of low sugar level in her blood, a wave of dizziness overcame her before she could even stand up.

Caroline caught her swaying daughter. "What are you doing trying to get up on your own?" she reprimanded severely. "I'll get him. Go lie down!"

Thea lay back on the bed and nodded meekly.

Caroline cast one last glance at her before rising and walking out the door.

Kenneth was on the phone in the corridor outside. The door opened to reveal Caroline peering at him just as he hung up. "Thea is awake, and she wants to see you."

Though a hint of hesitation flashed across his handsome features, Kenneth nodded and walked toward the ward.

Thea was lying on the hospital bed. She tried to sit up upon seeing Kenneth.

Kenneth stopped her. "The doctor said you need to rest. Don't get up."

Thea felt a warmth in her heart at his words. He still cares about me!

Her eyes turned red instantly. "Oh, Kenneth..."

Caroline chose that moment to cough pointedly and drew Thea's attention to her.

"I'm going out to buy something. I'll be back soon." Without another word, Caroline strode out.

Thea and Kenneth were left alone in the ward after the door clicked shut.

Thea's tender eyes appeared so misty that tears were at risk of falling as she gazed at him. "Did you send me to the hospital, Kenneth?" she asked.

He nodded.

"I knew that you wouldn't leave me." Thea forced a weak smile.

After carefully considering the best way to approach the subject, Kenneth raised his beady eyes to meet hers. "There are some things I need to clarify with you, Thea."

Thea's smile stiffened. "What do you want to say?"

Kenneth's eyes dimmed. "I haven't forgotten that you have been by my side since I took over the company. You have been a tremendous asset to the company and me. Though I am grateful to you, I only think of you as a friend and co-worker. I apologize if I have done anything to make you misunderstand."

Thea's tears fell immediately at his words. "Don't you have even a bit of affection for me?"

Kenneth did not deny it. "Yes, I did. Though it's not so much as falling for you as you being a good fit for me. You have so much to offer, and you wouldn't ask a lot of me. I merely entertained the notion of us being together."

"I can still be everything you want me to be."

"It was only a fleeting thought I had from years ago," Kenneth insisted.

Thea gazed at him with hopeless despair.

"I'm sorry for having such thoughts of you." Kenneth's apology was sincere and solemn. "If you need to vent your hatred of me or have any requests, please tell me. I will do what I can to make you happy."

"I don't want anything else, Kenneth," Thea cried and pleaded with all her might. "I still am the same girl who you thought was a good match for you all those years ago. I can still be the woman of your dreams."

"We are not young anymore, Thea. We should be a little more responsible in our relationships. If I still have such thoughts or act on my impulses, what kind of a man am I then?"

"I do not mind!"

"I do," Kenneth said firmly. "I was young, frivolous, and arrogant, but I know better now." His gaze upon Thea was unwavering.

Thea met his eyes as tears flowed down her cheeks.

Kenneth did not look away. "That's all I have to say. You have a good rest. I will respect your decision if you want to return to the country with your parents after you get well." With a final nod, he turned to leave the ward.

"Is this because of Natasha?" Thea asked suddenly.

Kenneth froze in his tracks.

"You told me all these not because you don't love me but because you can't let her go. That doesn't matter to me. I will wait." Thea gazed tearfully at his back. "I will wait for you forever as long as you say the word."

Kenneth turned around wearily. "I won't deny that Natasha has left an indelible mark on my heart, but my not loving you has nothing to do with her. Please don't put your hopes on me anymore. Find someone more worthy." He turned and walked out without giving her the opportunity to say anything else.

Despite clenching her fists to fight the urge to cry, Thea failed to hold back her tears.

Caroline was waiting in the corridor outside. Upon seeing Kenneth leave, she returned to the ward at once and hastened over at the sight of her weeping daughter. "Thea, Thea."

"What should I do, Mom? He doesn't want me anymore."

"Silly girl," Caroline soothed. "We'll find someone better than him!"

"No! He's the only one I want," Thea cried bitterly. "Help me, Mom. I can't live without him!"

Caroline watched her sadly. "My girl, there is no such thing as an irreparable heart. Time heals all wounds. You can't let go now because you just landed in this situation. Give it time and you'll find the strength to get over it eventually."

Thea shook her head and screamed in despair. "I can't, Mom! I'm losing my mind. I don't know what I will be without him."