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Charlotte rushed into the bedroom anxiously and saw Ellie, who was hugging her favorite alpaca doll and sleeping soundly on her pink princess bed.

An unfinished milk bottle and a family photo rested beside her.

"Before Ellie fell asleep, she kept asking me if her mother will come back. She was hugging the family photo and crying her heart out. I had to coax her for a long time before she went to sleep," whispered Ms. Cheney.

"Thank you!" Tears brimmed in Charlotte's eyes and streamed down her cheeks. She tiptoed into the room, bent down, and planted a gentle kiss on Ellie's forehead. In a whisper, she said, "Ellie, Mommy's back. I won't lose you again."

When Ms. Longman and Ms. Cheney saw that, their eyes reddened.

Charlotte hugged Ellie and tucked her in. After moving the milk bottle and photo frame aside, she quickly strode to the adjacent room and pushed the door open gently.

When she turned on the wall lamps, she spotted Robbie and Jamie who were both fast asleep on their beds.

Jamie was hugging his toy gun and sleeping soundly, his drool all over his pillow.

His right leg, which was in a cast, was placed delicately on the bed, while his left leg was propped up against the wall. His body was sprawled across the bed and the blanket had already slipped off the bed. His sleeping posture looked as wild as his usual personality.

"Haha!" Ms. Longman covered her mouth and stifled a chuckle. "I just placed his leg in the correct position and tucked him in earlier. Within a few minutes, his posture became like this."

"That's how he sleeps." Charlotte quickly went over to check him up. She asked anxiously, "What happened to his leg? His head is also bandaged. What happened?"

"That's a long story. I'll explain it to you later," whispered Ms. Longman. "Spend some time with your children first. We'll be waiting for you outside."

"Okay." Charlotte nodded and pulled the blanket over Jamie's blanket. Then, she moved his legs back into the correct position and adjusted his sleeping posture. After gently pulling the toy gun out of his arms, she kissed his forehead tenderly.

"Hmm... You're such a pretty girl..."

Jamie turned around and mumbled.

A chuckle rumbled out of Charlotte's lips as she smacked his chubby butt gently.

This brat is thinking about pretty girls instead of his Mommy in his sleep! Where is his conscience?

She grabbed a piece of tissue paper and wiped the drool away from Jamie's mouth. After pinching his cheeks affectionately, she turned around and looked at Robbie.

His sleeping posture was much better. However, his brows were furrowed as he hugged the family photo. There was even a baton used for self-defense lying beside him.

This child had always been more mature and thoughtful than his younger siblings. Hence, he often had more worries running through his mind.

Charlotte had always worried that it would be a toil on his mental health if he matured so quickly.

However, on second thought, Robbie would not need to worry so much if she was a strong and capable mother who could give them a sense of security.

As the eldest brother, is Robbie trying to shoulder my burden because I can't make them feel safe?

Her heart ached as she stroked his face and smoothened out his furrowed brows. She then bent down to kiss his eyes. To her surprise, he suddenly opened his eyes after she moved away.

"Mommy..." Robbie stared at her in astonishment and only returned to his senses after a while. Rubbing his eyes vigorously, he exclaimed, "I'm not dreaming, right?"

"No..." Charlotte cupped his cheeks and whispered gently, "Robbie, Mommy's back!"

"Mommy!" Robbie immediately pounced into her arms and said agitatedly, "I miss you so much, Mommy. I was so scared that I won't be able to see you again."

"You foolish boy. I still need to watch over you while you grow up." Charlotte embraced him and patted his back gently. In a gentle tone, she reassured, "I'll never leave your side again!"

"Mommy..."

Robbie, who had put up a strong front for many days, could not control his emotions anymore. He started bawling in his mother's arms.

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As Ellie kept crying and Jamie was being treated at the hospital for these few days, Robbie had to take care of them as their older brother. While worrying about his mother and Mrs. Berry, he still had to take various precautions to prevent evil guys from harming his younger siblings.

It was rare for such maturity and wisdom to be found in a three-year-old toddler.

Regardless of what he encountered, he did not shed a single tear. Even if his eyes had turned red and his voice had choked up, he would quickly suppress his emotions.

However, now that he finally saw his mother, he could not hold it back anymore...

The facade of strength he had put up disintegrated at that very moment. In the haven of his mother's arms, he could finally act like a young child and vent all his emotions without a care in the world.

As he kept crying, Charlotte's heart ached. She kept kissing Robbie's hair and consoling, "Don't be scared, Robbie. Now that I've come back, I won't leave anymore."

Robbie only calmed down after a long while. Taking a deep breath, he raised his head and looked at Charlotte. "Mommy, what happened? Where have you been for the past two days? Why can't I contact you? Are you hurt? Did you get bullied?"

"No, I'm completely fine."

While wiping his tears away with a piece of tissue paper, she explained, "I was still working that day. As I received a call saying that Mrs. Berry has fainted, I quickly rushed to the hospital to take care of her. I was late by twenty minutes to pick you up, so the time I reached Happy Avenue, you guys are already nowhere to be seen... I've been searching high and low for the three of you over the past few days."

"Mrs. Berry fainted? How is she?" asked Robbie worriedly.

"She's sick, but my friend who's also a doctor is taking care and treating her now. You don't need to worry," reassured Charlotte as she cupped Robbie's handsome face. "Sleep now, Robbie. I'll go out and talk to the teachers and policemen first. I'll make breakfast for you tomorrow morning."

"Okay." Robbie nodded obediently. "Go and do what you have to do first, Mommy. Rest early after that."

"I know." Charlotte planted a kiss on him again before leaving quietly.

After closing the bedroom door, she signaled Ms. Longman and Ms. Cheney to her bedroom and inquired about the situation.

Ms. Longman explained that after the children went missing, the school authorities were extremely flustered and combed the entire area for them. As their search yielded no results, they reported it to the police. It was then that they realized that Charlotte had also made a report. Although they tried to contact her, she did not answer any of their calls. Hence, they had no choice but to wait for the police's updates.

At 6 p.m. that night, Ms. Longman received a call from the police saying that the children had been found. They instructed her to go to Serene Hospital, and they discovered the truth afterward.

The three children had been walking home on their own after school. However, on the way home, Jamie dashed into a forest while chasing a little cat. After emerging out of the forest onto another road, he got knocked down by a luxurious car. The owner of the car then sent them to the hospital.

Ben appeared a while later and paid them a large sum of money to take care of the children for a night...

At the mention of that, Ms. Longman quickly clarified, "Actually, it's our duty to protect the kids. Even if we're not paid, we'll still do our best. Since the Divine Corporation insisted on paying us, we..."

"It's fine. Divine Corporation's rich anyway, so it's a waste to refuse their money." Charlotte was not bothered by it at all. "Since they paid you, just keep the money. Do you know who the perpetrator was?"

"While we were chatting with the medical staff on the way here, we realized that he's the grandfather of Divine Corporation's president..." mumbled Ms. Cheney softly.

Charlotte was stunned. So old Mr. Nacht crashed into Jamie and sent them to the hospital?

Is... Is this the truth?

Or is there more to it?

"Old Mr. Nacht is very nice to the kids. They've already developed a close relationship with him and were even reluctant to leave him..." added Ms. Longman.

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"Yeah! Old Mr. Nacht even bought the kids a lot of presents—almost enough to fill up an entire car!" Ms. Cheney enthusiastically chimed in. "When we were at the hospital, he also said that he'd make compensations."

Not saying anything, Charlotte fell into deep thought.

Even though old Mr. Nacht had accidentally knocked over Jamie, he sent him to the hospital for treatment and took care of Robbie and Ellie well. Not only that, but he also settled everything afterward.

In that case, she could not possibly pin the blame on him.

However, if that's true, why did Zachary threaten me with the children?

Why are the recordings of the surveillance cameras at that particular stretch of road missing too?

Did old Mr. Nacht order the traffic police to wipe them away, or was it Zachary?

What actually happened?

"Ms. Windt..." said Ms. Longman softly. "Since you're already back, we don't have to stay anymore, right?"

"Yes, thank you for your hard work."

Only then did Charlotte jolt back to her senses. She quickly stood up, thanked them, and sent them off.

Meanwhile, the two policemen and medical staff were still waiting for Charlotte outside.

The policemen said that they received instructions from their superiors that they could leave after the children's parents returned. However, they would increase the police patrols around Happy Avenue to ensure the residents' safety.

Charlotte thanked them profusely and politely sent them off.

After they left, she asked the pediatrician the specifics about Jamie's injury.

The pediatrician passed the comprehensive check-up report and hospital bill to Charlotte for her to review. Lastly, he reassured, "As Jamie's right ankle is fractured, he might need to rest for a while. Other than that, he's fine and will recover quickly. You don't have to worry too much."

"Phew, that's great." Charlotte heaved a sigh of relief. "Thank you for your hard work over the past few days. Let me send you off..."

"Actually, Ms. Windt," interrupted the pediatrician, suddenly adopting a serious tone. "Our superiors have instructed us to stay behind and take care of the three kids until everyone has recovered!"

"Yeah, the three of us will take care of a child each. Dr. Howard will be responsible for Jamie's treatment."

The nurses pledged with a smile, "Not only are we equipped with nursing skills, but we're also trained in childcare education. We know how to prepare meals for toddlers too, so we won't face any problems taking care of the children. Don't worry."

"Um..." Charlotte felt a little flustered. "My house is a little small, so where will you stay?"

"Mr. Ben has already bought the house opposite. According to him, it is already equipped with the daily necessities we would require. We'll be staying there temporarily," said the pediatrician as he pointed at the house opposite. "Our medical equipment and kits are all there."

"Wow..." exclaimed Charlotte in surprise. "Are you talking about Ben Nacht?"

"Yeah!" The nurses nodded profusely.

"Okay, I get it." Charlotte glanced at the clock and urged, "It's already 3.30 a.m. so you should go back and rest soon. See you tomorrow morning!"

"Sure, you should rest early too! We'll visit you at 7 in the morning tomorrow and make breakfast for the children."

"Oh, thank you for your efforts!"

After sending the medical staff off, Charlotte took a deep breath and closed the door. She headed to the balcony to check if Michael's car had left yet.

As she was so focused on looking for her children, she forgot all about the signal.

When she was walking towards the window, she suddenly heard someone knock on the door.

This caused her to jump in fright. Quickly grabbing a baseball bat for self-defense, she crept to the door and peered through the peephole. It was Michael!

She quickly opened the door. "Michael?"

"You forgot Fifi!" Michael passed the golden cage to her.

Fifi was nestled in the cage and sleeping soundly, completely oblivious to the fact that it had been forgotten by Charlotte.

"Thank you." She quickly took the cage from his hands and explained, "I was so eager to see my kids just now that I forgot to signal to you. Everything's fine here and we're safe. Don't worry!"

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"I noticed." Michael smiled gently. "I met the kindergarten teachers downstairs and chatted with them. Seems like there's another side to the story, huh?"

"Yeah." Charlotte frowned. "I'm confused too ... "

"It doesn't matter." Michael changed the topic. "Everything's fine as long as you and your children are safe."

"That's right." She did not want to mull over it excessively either. Regardless of what the truth was, she was in no position to resist. Her priority was to protect her children and leave everything else aside first.

"I'm leaving now. Stay safe." Michael gazed at her deeply and left. When he reached the lift lobby, he suddenly stopped in his tracks and turned around. "Charlotte, it's not necessarily the case that you have no other paths to take!"

"What?" She did not quite understand what he was saying.

"If you can't take it anymore, someone can protect you," said Michael, his words concealing a deeper meaning. "Think about it..."

With that, he stepped into the lift.

Charlotte frowned, feeling puzzled. When she closed the door and turned around, she suddenly remembered her father's letter...

He said that if she was ever at her wit's ends, she could call a number that belonged to M Nation.

No matter what happened, that person would definitely solve it for her!

Yeah, why have I forgotten about it?

It might be of help if I encounter another crisis in the future.

But...

Charlotte remembered her father's constant reminder in the letter that she must not contact that person unless she was left with no other options. Once she contacted the person, it would mean that her life would take a drastic turn...

Earlier, Michael was probably hinting at this person.

It seemed like he had already read the contents of the letter.

As she pondered over it, Charlotte's heart sank again. She shook her head and tried to dispel those thoughts from her mind. It was more important to solve the current problem first.

Hence, she returned to her room and changed into her pajamas. While lying on the bed, she sent a message to Mrs. Berry: Mrs. Berry, the kids are already safely at home. Don't worry, we'll visit you tomorrow!

Then, with her phone still in her hands and overwhelmed by exhaustion, she fell into a deep slumber.

At the Nachts' residence, Zachary was sitting on the balcony in his robe. Gazing at the starry expanse of the sky, he silently sipped on his wine.

Ben reported at the side, "Ms. Windt has already returned home. Ms. Longman and Ms. Cheney from the kindergarten have already left too. At your instructions, the medical staff stayed to take care of them. And..."

After a slight pause, he continued carefully, "Michael went upstairs to pass Fifi to her. However, he left after chatting for two minutes without entering the house. I think that he clearly understands the consequences now and will not harass her anymore." "Okay," Zachary grunted an acknowledgment and continued sipping on his wine silently. When he finished an entire glass, he instructed, "Don't let Grandpa know about the children's true identity."

"Understood." Ben nodded before adding, "But if the children contact him on their own accord, I can't prevent that either. He bought a smartwatch for them and even left his number..."

"You don't need to bother about that," replied Zachary coldly. "Charlotte is even more reluctant than me to let Grandpa find out. After all, she's their mother."

"You're right." Ben heaved a sigh of relief. "It's getting late, so you should rest earlier."

When Zachary waved his hands dismissively, Ben bowed and left.

Although he continued drinking the wine, his eyes were fixed on his phone.

There was nothing—not even a single text or call.

Even though that woman has met her children and learned the truth from the teachers, she still didn't call me. I expected her to be in tears by now, sobbing and apologizing to me guiltily.

Where the heck is her conscience?

Or is she still suspecting that this is part of a plot?

At that thought, Zachary's expression turned grim and he could not help but lament silently. I can't believe how ungrateful Charlotte is!

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As morning broke, Charlotte was still slumbering away. Ellie barged into the room and leaped into her arms.

"Ellie!" Charlotte awoke with a shock. Before she could react, Ellie cupped her face and peppered it with kisses. Charlotte's face dripped with saliva as Ellie exclaimed, "I missed you so much, Mommy!"

"I missed you too! My good girl, I won't leave you again." Charlotte hugged Ellie tightly.

"Boohoo, you must keep your promise, Mommy." Ellie's mouth puckered into a pout as tears filled her eyes. "If you leave me again, I will ignore you."

"I didn't leave you. I was just late and didn't manage to fetch you." Charlotte cradled Ellie's chubby cheeks as she anxiously explained, "I'm sorry. Please don't be angry with me, okay?"

"Hmph!" Ellie turned her head away and went on pouting. "I'll only forgive you if you make me bread!"

"Sure, I'll go and make your bread now." Charlotte quickly climbed out of bed.

"Mommy, Mommy..." In the opposite room, Jamie's urgent voice called out, "Take me to see Mommy, Robbie!"

"Give me a second. The doorbell rang. Let me see who's here."

Robbie put on his shoes and went to open the door.

"Ellie, how about we go see Jamie?" Charlotte lifted Ellie and strode out the door barefooted.

One of Ellie's arms circled Charlotte's neck, while the other arm gestured towards Jamie. "We're coming, Jamie!"

"Mommy..." Jamie spread his arms and screamed for Charlotte.

"Mommy! Dr. Howard and the nurses are here!" Robbie yelled from the living room.

"Good morning!" the doctor and nurses greeted Charlotte.

"Good morning, please come in." Charlotte greeted them in return.

"Oh, come down Ellie. Your Mommy's waist is injured. She can't carry anything heavy," said the doctor anxiously when he saw Charlotte holding Ellie.

One of the nurses rushed up to carry Ellie. "Good girl, Ellie. Your Mommy's waist is hurting. I'll take care of you for the next few days, okay?" the nurse soothed Ellie kindly.

"Okay." Ellie nodded obediently. She cocked her head toward Ellie and said, "What happened to your waist, Mommy?"

"I just have a small injury. It's nothing serious. I'll be fine in a few days." Charlotte pulled Dr. Howard aside and asked, "How do you know that my waist is injured?"

"I heard from Mr. Ben. He said your waist is injured and that you can't do heavy labor. He reminded us to be careful and said that he'll arrange for a doctor to come and treat your injury today."

Mrs. Berry's agitated voice sounded out from outside. "Are the children back? Robbie, Jamie, Ellie..."

"Mrs. Berry..." Robbie and Ellie dashed out when they heard her voice.

Ellie tunneled into Mrs. Berry's embrace. She hugged Mrs. Berry's neck as she said, "We missed you so much, Mrs. Berry!"

"My darlings. I missed you too." Mrs. Berry could not hold back the tears that welled up in her eyes. She carefully scanned Ellie and Robbie. "Let me see if you're alright. Did anyone bully you?"

"No. We're fine." Robbie immediately noticed the needle marks and bandages on Mrs. Berry's wound site. "What happened, Mrs. Berry? Are you sick?"

"I'm fine. I feel fine as long as I get to see you." Mrs. Berry cried as she had one arm around Ellie while the other was around Robbie. "Where's Jamie?"

"Jamie is in the room. His leg is injured, so he can't get out of bed," said Ellie as she pointed towards the bedroom.

"What? What happened to Jamie?" Mrs. Berry started to panic. "Take me to him now."

"It's just a minor injury. You don't need to worry." Charlotte walked over with tears brimming in her eyes, and she pulled Mrs. Berry away to say, "What brings you here? I thought you were hospitalized?"

"Dr. Langhan brought me here." Mrs. Berry pointed at Raina and the two attendants behind her.