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After failing to inform Shin, he returned to Avenport and discovered that Frieda and her son had gone missing. Frederick told him that he did not manage to save them.

When Rufus heard that, he was so furious that he scolded Frederick harshly.

As he had no other choice, he could only accept this unfortunate outcome and return home with his newly-wed wife, Heather.

No one would have expected that Frederick actually deceived him. Actually, he had already saved Frieda and her son. In order to protect them, he even raised the child as his own.

As for Frieda, he kept her in the basement secretly for more than twenty years.

Tears welled up in Rufus' eyes.

To avoid scaring her, he deliberately stayed far away and squatted down in front of her carefully.

"Frieda, I know that you've recognized me. I'm sorry that I didn't protect you and your son back then. If I had informed Shin in time, this wouldn't have happened to you."

Shin?

This name caused Frieda, who had been living in a constant nightmare, to slowly regain her rationality.

"Shin... He'll be here to pick us up..." She finally released her hands and revealed her eyes. Fear still lingered in them as she stared at Rufus with hope in her eyes.

Rufus felt a pang of pain in his heart when he saw her gaze.

As expected, she had been triggered by him.

That night, according to the plan he had devised with Frederick, he hid the then-pregnant Frieda at a safe place first so the Jadesons would not find her.

He only went to look for Shin afterward.

However, looking at how she was now, he really did not dare to imagine what she had gone through that night.

She even became crazy overnight!

"Yeah, he'll pick you up. I went to look for him and he instructed me to tell you that he'll definitely pick you up." After saying that, Rufus took out something.

It was a military medal that was not given by the national army, but by an international organization.

The medal was bronze, with two laurels surrounding the globe in the middle. Carved on the top were the words, For World Peace.

It was a medal of peace that was owned by Shin!

When Frieda saw it, she trembled. Pouncing over, she snatched the medal away, clutched it to her chest and burst into tears.

"This is his medal.... He's not a bad guy... Not a bad guy..."

Her miserable wails echoed in the room. No matter who heard it, they would definitely be moved and cry along with her.

Indeed, Shin was not a bad guy.

He simply persisted with his ambitions and followed his faith.

Furthermore, he merely opposed his family and chose to walk his own path. How can a hero, who had been awarded an international peace medal, be slandered so horribly?

Even his family did not have the right to do so!

Suppressing his sorrow, Rufus walked over slowly. "Yeah, you're right. He's not a bad guy, nor did you harm him. He chose this path himself, so you mustn't feel guilty or blame yourself, okay?"

He was smart enough to guess that Shin's death alone might not be sufficient enough for her to have a complete mental breakdown, especially since she still had a child to care for.

There must be another more unbearable reason that led to her complete breakdown.

It might be because the Jadesons made her the scapegoat who was responsible for destroying Shin.

When he said that, Frieda, who was crying her heart out, started calming down gradually. The look of agony on her face faded.

"Are you telling the truth? I... I didn't sabotage him?"

"No! He chose this path, and he is also a hero. How can he be sabotaged by you? Frieda, please remember that Commander Shin had never said that you'd sabotaged him."

Rufus walked to her and told her that solemnly, emphasizing every single word.

Frieda was silent for a while before crying again.

This time, more tears streamed down her cheeks.

However, Rufus knew that her tears now were tears of joy, because she had finally broken free from the invisible shackles.

"I'm not crying... I... I have given him Sebby. Our Sebby has already grown up! He'll be overjoyed..."

Still sobbing, she suddenly spoke and mentioned Sebastian.

Rufus smiled. "Yes. You're so capable that you have bored such an exceptional son for Shin. He'll be so happy that he'd be laughing in his sleep."

"Yeah!"

She nodded firmly before breaking into a smile.

Sabrina was still waiting for them downstairs. Why is Rufus talking to a madwoman? He must be out of his mind too!

Is there something wrong with him as well, just like Frieda?

Frowning, she glanced upward.

Surprisingly, after she waited in the courtyard for a while, she saw Rufus walking out of the room with Frieda following him.

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"Shall we go downstairs and have something to eat?"

"Okay. I want to eat with Sebby."

Frieda was holding a plushie in her hand, and her eyes were still swollen.

She was unexpectedly docile that Sabrina couldn't believe her eyes.

Both of them made their way downstairs to the dining room, and the maid had already laid the table with scrumptious breakfast. Not only did Frieda sit quietly at the table, but she was also willing to sit next to Rufus.

That's rather odd.

"I think she likes you, Grandpa. See, she's even sitting next to you. She used to sit next to Vivi."

Matteo widened his eyes as he stared incredulously at the sight in front of him.

After hearing what her brother said, Vivian felt terribly upset and pouted.

Grandma doesn't like me anymore!

Seeing the children's reactions, Rufus had an exasperated look on his face.

"You guys, don't be angry. She's sitting next to me because I promised to take her out to have some fun in the afternoon."

"Really?"

Upon hearing that, the children instantly jumped in excitement.

"I want to go too, Grandpa. You have to bring us along with you."

"That's right, Grandpa. How can you not bring your darling grandchildren with you?"

Vivian was the most direct of them all. As soon as she put down her fork, she climbed down the chair with the support of her chubby little arms and legs. Then, she went over to Rufus and clung onto him as she pouted.

Rufus was unable to resist the children.

At that moment, he decided to bring the three little ones, together with Frieda, out for a spin in the afternoon.

Sabrina, who was watching from the side, scoffed, "Are you sure you'll be able to handle all of them by yourself, Rufus?"

Rufus evaded the question and said, "Why don't you come with us too?"

Sabrina was rendered speechless.

Da*n!

Why am I dragged into this?

Finally, it was afternoon. Sabrina and Rufus gathered the three children and the deranged Frieda for a day out.

However, for safety reasons, they decided not to go far. Instead, they went to a park nearby.

"I wanna go on the slide."

"I wanna play in the sandbox."

"Alright, go ahead."

Once they arrived at the park, the children dashed towards the playground. Ian, who wasn't the playful kind, tagged along with his younger brother to the playground.

Sabrina went over to the playground to watch the children play as she wasn't keen on keeping a watchful eye on Frieda.

Upon seeing that, Rufus decided to take Frieda to a fish pond not far away.

"Frieda, let's take a walk over there."

"Okay."

At that time, Frieda was obedient and pliant. Without making a fuss, she clutched the plushie to her chest and followed Rufus to the fish pond.

There wasn't much to see in the fish pond during winter. The lotus in the middle of the pond had already withered, and there was nothing left but a single withered lotus leaf. On the other hand, this made it easier to see the carps in the pond.

"Do you want to feed the fish?"

"Yes!"

Frieda, who was still lost in her own fortress of insanity, couldn't hold back her excitement and beamed happily the second she heard that she could feed the fish.

Thus, Rufus went and bought two packets of fish food and handed them to her.

While they were feeding the fish, a man who was watching them a few feet away, saw Frieda exhibiting childish behaviors.

"Is she your family, mister?" the man asked curiously.

"Yes."

Rufus answered as he glanced at the young man.

The man was stunned, and he had a look of deep respect and admiration for Rufus. "You're so kind. Is she sick? I see that you're treating her like a child."

"It's nothing. I just took her out for a walk."

Rufus was a little embarrassed at the young man's remark.

But it was all thanks to Frederick. Although Frieda had been kept in the basement for many years, it was said that the basement was luxuriously furnished and well-ventilated.

Moreover, other than her loss of sanity, Frieda was in good physical condition.

Therefore, it was evident that she was well taken care of by Frederick in the past two decades.

As a consequence, he was a little embarrassed when the young man thought that he was being humble. At that moment, he shifted his gaze away from the man to watch Frieda, who was still feeding the fish.

"From the looks of it, I can see why you treated her so well. I'm sure she was a beautiful woman when she was younger. Truth be told, she's still attractive for her age."

"Well..."

Rufus didn't know what to say in response to that.

Frieda was indeed a beautiful woman in her younger days. Otherwise, Shin would not have fallen in love with her at first sight.

Moreover, not only did she not come across as vain and materialistic, but she was simple-minded as well.

Back then, in the Hayes family, her sister Margaret was so jealous of her after seeing that she was more beautiful than her. Hence, Margaret wanted to marry her off to someone from a wealthy family.

However, she did not fancy any one of them.

She believed that she was not an item to be traded off, and she did not need to marry someone in exchange for a lifetime of wealth.

It's such a pity that her life was destroyed because of Shin.

Rufus thought to himself repugnantly.

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