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Chapter 157 Luck

When Yara saw Natalie, it reminded her of Yvonne's words.

Samuel had always been aloof and never bothered himself with women, but he was now chasing such an ugly woman.

It had already been five years that her elder twin sister Natalie had burned to death, but Yara had not been able to escape from Natalie Nichols, which bothered her to no end.

"Gavin, why didn't you stop outsiders from entering?" Yara turned toward Gavin beside her.

"According to Mr. Samuel's instructions, Ms. Natalie is free to enter and leave the Bowers residence," Gavin replied. He felt that Natalie was here to protect Franklin and Sophia, so he defended her.

With that, Yara's expression contorted drastically.

Kenneth's own expression did not look much better. "What is going on!"

Natalie raised her eyebrows in amusement. "Old Mr. Bowers, I've told you this before—it's your grandson who has been pestering me. I have no interest in him. You should really figure the situation out clearly."

"You..."

Natalie retrieved a check from her bag and tossed it at Yara.

"That's the ten million I'm returning to you. Don't think that you can talk to me like that just because you have money. I'm not patient enough to deal with it any longer."

Yara had never thought that Natalie dared to speak to her this way, and her face flushed with anger.

Natalie's focus turned toward Franklin.

She had never intended to bother with Kenneth and Yara in the first place.

"Franklin, Sophia, let's go." Natalie carried Sophia in her arms, then turned to look at Franklin, whose eyes were brimming with tears.

Kenneth was old, but he still held the most authority amongst them.

He raised the cane he was holding and struck down upon Natalie's back.

She accepted the blow fully and did not attempt to avoid it.

"Natalie... Great-grandpa, why did you hit her!" Franklin could not hold back his tears any longer.

Natalie regained her senses, and she cast her reddened eyes on Kenneth and Yara.

"Today, the Bowers family have opened my eyes..."

After that, she took Franklin and Sophia with her, leaving the Bowers residence.

As she had to bring the two little ones along, she drove away in a Bentley belonging to the Bowers.

Perhaps it was because of Natalie's scary aura, but no one stopped her.

At the Nichols residence, Xavian opened the door to greet them. He saw Franklin and Sophia behind Natalie and pursed his lips with curiosity.

"Mommy, who is he? Why are they here?"

Natalie made introductions. "You've met Sophia. That's Franklin, Sophia's brother."

"What? He calls you Mommy? Natalie, you... already have children?" Franklin was shocked, and his heart ached.

"Yes. I have two sons, Xavian and Clayton."

As soon as Franklin heard those words, his heart sank again.

He had taken Natalie as his sweetheart and wished to marry her when he grew up. He had never expected that she had children as old as he was.

That made him angry.

Both Xavian and Franklin's expressions were sour.

Xavian thought that Samuel had only Sophia as a daughter. However, a boy had popped up and seemed extremely attached to his mother.

After a moment, the two boys were staring at each other, neither accepting of the other.

Thinking about how Franklin must be in pain, Natalie asked, "Xavian, please fetch the first aid kit."

Xavian stood still, only responding reluctantly after Natalie narrowed her eyes at him and repeated her instructions patiently.

"Fine."

While Xavian retrieved the first aid kit, Franklin sat on the couch while Natalie lifted his clothes to check on him.

Franklin felt a little awkward initially, but after seeing her serious gaze, he swallowed his

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Chapter 158 Utterly Heartbroken

Natalie did not expect Franklin's injury to be that severe.

The sight of his purple bruise blotches tugged at her heartstrings.

Franklin is only five years old. What has gotten into Old Mr. Bowers? How could he lay such a heavy hand on his great-grandson?

Meanwhile, Franklin could not see the sorrowful look on Natalie's face as his back faced her.

Wanting to cheer her up, he told a white lie. "I hope my bruise didn't scare you too much, Natalie. Don't worry. My great-grandpa is nearly eighty years old, so there's not much strength left in him. The pain isn't as bad as it seems."

"There's no need to act tough. Plus, I bet your mommy will be utterly heartbroken when she sees this," Natalie murmured in response.

"I have no mom. Sophia and I only have our daddy. No mommy," Franklin said in a matter-of-fact tone.

Upon hearing that, Natalie was at a loss for words.

No mommy? Could it be that Sophia and Franklin's biological mother has passed away?

At that thought, her heart ached even more for Sophia and Franklin.

"Here." Xavian reluctantly brought over the medical kit. However, after seeing the bruises on Franklin, his heart churned with pity for the latter.

"Sweetheart, why don't you invite Sophia to play in your room?" said Natalie.

"Alright, mommy," replied Xavian. He then took Sophia's tiny hand in his and spoke with care. "Follow me, Sophia."

"Okay," the little girl obediently responded.

After applying some of her special ointment on a cotton swab, Natalie gently dabbed it onto Franklin's back.

The five-year-old wanted to act tough but failed to tolerate the sharp pain on his back, so he let out a hiss of pain.

"That was an accident... I'm not that weak!" Franklin explained with a pout, desperately trying to make up for himself.

"Mm-hmm, sure. Hang in there for a while more, okay?" Natalie coaxed as she blew gently at his bruise.

"Natalie, I already told you that it doesn't hurt!" Franklin insisted.

"Oh, stop with that tough guy act! If it hurts, it hurts. It won't get any better if you pretend not to be in pain." Natalie gradually exerted more force on the cotton swab in her hand.

The boy immediately fell silent as he bit down on his arm to suppress his wincing.

Natalie was indeed harsh and forceful while applying the ointment for him.

However, Franklin felt an inexplicable flow of warmth in his heart.

It was a foreign feeling to him.

After applying the ointment, Natalie straightened out Franklin's clothes before dealing with the ins and outs of her day.

"Franklin, why did your great-grandpa hit you?" Natalie suddenly asked in a gentle tone.

"Earlier today, that woman, Yara, came to pick Sophia and me up from kindergarten. She insisted on forcefully dragging Sophia by the shoulder, and it hurt so much that Sophia cried. So, I bit Yara's arm until it bled and shoved her onto the ground. Sadly, in a twist of fate, Great-grandpa appeared and saw everything. He got mad, insisting that I apologize..."

"And you didn't apologize?"

"Of course not! That woman just wanted to please Sophia and me so that daddy would like and eventually marry her. That's not something that Sophia and I want. We refuse to give her even the slightest chance to become our mommy!" Franklin clenched his fists tightly.

Natalie had suspected that Yara was responsible for Franklin's punishment when she saw the latter at the Bowers residence earlier.

It looks like Yara hasn't changed one bit. She's still resorting to such dirty tactics, even when dealing with children, Natalie thought to herself.

She then stroked Franklin's hair while soothing, "You did a good job protecting Sophia today."

"You think so?" asked a bubbly Franklin with a hint of happiness in his voice.

"Of course." For the faintest moment, Natalie's eyes narrowed to slits. Even her voice grew colder as she added, "Isn't it normal to make yourself ten times tougher so that you can protect those you care for and love from your enemies?

Meanwhile, the Bowers residence was in utter chaos after Natalie had left.

Kenneth heaved in anger. Rage seethed from his body as he rubbed his chest continuously.

Having lived till now, this was his first time encountering a rebellious young woman like Natalie.

Darkness loomed over Kenneth's face; he was as mad as a wet hen. "H-How dare she take Franklin and Sophia away like that! Who does that brat think she is? It's evident from her unpolished tone that she doesn't respect me at all!"

"Careful, Grandpa! Your health comes first," urged Yara.

Just then, Samuel dashed in from the entrance.

His enraged gaze fell upon Kenneth. "Let me ask you this, Grandpa. Did you use corporal punishment on Franklin earlier?"