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Back at the Seet Residence.

The moment Evan returned, Juan and Kyle rushed towards him with Nina and Maya following closely behind.

"Daddy, when is Mommy coming back?"

"Daddy, I guarantee Mommy was framed. You have to save her."

"Daddy..."

"Daddy, I miss Mommy."

Evan's gaze narrowed as he looked at the children. If I were to get her out, wouldn't that allow her to leave with Levant and abandon the four of you?

Never!

There was no way he was going to allow Nicole to leave with that man.

"Stop asking. Just let her stay in there."

Evan's expression darkened just after he spoke and then headed upstairs.

Both Juan and Kyle felt a sense of defeat. Then, Juan sighed, "I told you that Daddy wants Mommy to be arrested. So why would he rescue Mommy? Therefore, we are on our own on this."

"But what can we do?"

"We can't get through to Grandpa despite calling so many times. I wonder what happened to him? Why don't we get Ms. Sheila to help us? She has been to the estate before and can definitely find Grandpa. That way, we can get Grandpa to help us save Mommy."

Kyle nodded. "Sounds like a plan."

Nina agreed. "In that case, let's call Ms. Sheila at once."

Despite calling multiple times, they couldn't get through as Sheila's phone had been turned off.

What's going on?

Is it a trend now to keep one's phone off?

Little did the children know that Sheila was curled up beside Davin, and they were having a passionate time together.

To prevent the Muir family from disrupting them and getting her to go home, Sheila had turned off her phone on purpose.

When they couldn't get through to her, the children became more anxious.

"What are we going to do? Ms. Sheila has turned off her phone, and we can't get in touch with her." Juan looked worried.

"Why don't we look for her?" Kyle suggested.

"I agree as we have no other choice," Nina acknowledged.

"But which one of us should go?"

As Maya watched the three of them discussing, her chubby hands continued to fidget around.

She had just clearly heard that Daddy wanted Mommy to stay in prison; hence, he would definitely not rescue her. As Grandpa and Ms. Sheila could not be contacted, the only one who could save Mommy at that moment was Susan.

Although Ms. Susan can be terrifying at times, I will obey whatever she says as long as she can rescue Mommy.

Nina turned to look at Maya. "Why are you so quiet today? Do you not want to save Mommy?"

Maya widened her eyes and nodded vigorously.

Of course, I want to save Mommy. That's the only thing I want.

"Then why are you not saying a word?"

"I, I..."

A moment ago, she was just thinking about how to get Susan to rescue Mommy as soon as possible.

Maya continued her silence.

Nina rolled her eyes at her. All she knows is chomping down on her food. And when faced with a major problem, she just turns into a useless piece of wood.

"Stop scolding Maya. She is just at a loss from being worried about Mommy. That's why she doesn't know what to say."

Juan defended Maya when he saw her in a daze.

Maya nodded at Juan's words.

Right then, Kyle returned to the topic. "So, who is going to find Ms. Sheila?"

Nina gave Maya the side-eye again. "Of course, it has to be the three of us. Not Maya because she always gets lost. I'm afraid she would lose her way again."

Maya looked at Nina but didn't rebut. She knew Nina was right as she was prone to getting herself lost. Thus, Mommy never let her wander far. Every time they went out, Mommy would be holding her chubby hands.

The thought of Mommy's warm hands caused tears to well up in her eyes. I must rescue Mommy and not leave her in prison to be beaten and starved like what Ms. Susan said.

The more she thought about it, the more pitiful she felt Mommy was. Suddenly, she started crying. "Mommy, save Mommy, I want Mommy..."

"Stop crying Maya. We will save Mommy."

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"That's right, stop crying. Aren't we thinking of a plan right now? We will definitely come up with one," Juan and Kyle reassured her.

Nina sighed and reached out to hold Maya's hand. "Come on. Let's go back to your room and wash up."

She turned towards Juan and Kyle. "It's up to both of you to find Ms. Sheila."

"Alright."

"Leave it to us."

Both of them nodded and continued their discussion.

As Susan watched the children's movements, she quickly understood that they wanted to find reinforcements to help Nicole.

Are they going to see Sheila for help?

Right then, an idea flashed across her mind. Slowly, Susan's lips broke into a devious grin as she headed up to the study.

At that moment, Evan was sitting in the study with a gloomy expression. Emanating a terrifying aura, he looked like a demon who had just escaped from hell.

Susan couldn't help but catch her breath. After pausing for a moment, she entered carefully.

Looking at Evan, she remarked in a gentle tone. "Evan, why don't you think about how to rescue Ms. Lane? Even if she did something wrong, she is still the kids' mother. They miss her a lot."

Evan looked at her with an expressionless gaze and said sharply, "Get out."

Hearing that, Susan's heart skipped a beat. As her expression darkened slightly, she subconsciously clenched her fists.

"Evan, don't be angry. I'm just worried about the children as I overheard them planning to save Ms. Lane by asking others for help. I can understand that they want to rescue their mother. After all, they are children, and it would be dangerous for them to be roaming around. What if they lose their way..."

She spoke with a concerned expression. "Evan, I'm just worried about their safety. But if you don't want to hear about it, I'll leave right away."

Evan furrowed his eyebrows slightly. He wanted to let Nicole stay in prison to reflect on her decisions, not to give her the opportunity to abandon her family and leave with Levant. Are the children trying to get in my way?

I'm not going to let them!

"Keep them under your watch, and don't let them step out of Hillside Villa. If there are any problems, Susan. You will bear the consequences!"

"Yes, Evan. I will take good care of them."

As Susan turned to leave the study, there was a tinge of glee in her eye.

The reinforcements aren't coming.

At that moment, Juan and Kyle got themselves changed and prepared to head to the Muir Residence. When Susan saw them, she quickly chased after them and blocked their way.

"Where are you two going?"

"Wherever we're going, it's none of your business."

Juan rolled his eyes at her while Kyle simply ignored Susan.

"Your daddy says that you aren't allowed to leave Hillside Villa, and he wants me to keep an eye on you. If you leave, how am I going to explain it to him?"

Daddy is forbidding us from leaving?

Kyle's frosty face was filled with doubt. "How did Daddy know that we're going out?"

Briefly stunned, Susan gave them an innocent look. "How would I know? All I know is that your Daddy wants me to keep an eye on you and forbid you from stepping out of Hillside Villa."

. . .

When Juan and Kyle heard that, they were dumbfounded.

Juan observed her from the corner of his eye and caught a hint of guilt in them. From that, he surmised that she must be the one who told Daddy about their secret.

If they can't leave, they won't be able to save Mommy. It was all part of the bad woman's plan to be together with Daddy. That's why she wanted to stop them from seeking assistance.

"Both of you should quickly return to your room. Go on." Susan's voice was gentle and filled with concern.

Juan and Kyle exchanged glances before deciding to return to their room to discuss their next step.

Back in their room, Juan quickly locked the door and looked at Kyle. He whispered, "Since Daddy doesn't want us to go out, why don't we sneak out instead?"

Kyle replied without hesitaion, "Agreed!"

They didn't seem to have any other choice.

As night fell, the two children tiptoed out towards the backyard as if they were thieves. They remembered that there was an opening in the wall which they could slip out from.

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However, the moment they reached there, they didn't expect to see Susan ordering someone to block up the opening.

"Listen carefully, make sure you block the hole tightly and don't leave any cracks. I don't even want a fly to escape."

Susan's words caused the boys to grit their teeth in anger. Did she hear about our plan? How did she preempt us by blocking the hole in the wall? Is she spying on us?

Juan leaned towards Kyle and whispered into his ear. "I'll go alone since I can climb over the wall. After all, I'm trained in Taekwoncdo, so it will be easy for me."

Kyle nodded after giving it some thought. Although he had learned Taekwondo before, he wasn't as highly skilled as Juan, who had been practicing since young. And since Kyle had a weak constitution, he knew he would just be in the way if he followed.

"Alright."

Both of them retreated to find a suitable spot to escape. Just when Juan was rubbing his hands in anticipation to scale the wall, a large pair of hands suddenly held onto his shoulders.

He looked up and saw Susan glaring at him. When he saw the smile on her face, he was disgusted by it.

"What are you doing?"

"Getting you boys to have dinner."

"I'm not eating!" Juan quipped as he rolled his eyes at her.

Susan was unfazed as she patiently coaxed him. "You're still a kid, and you will suffer from malnutrition if you don't eat. That'll affect your height. Therefore, come back with me to have dinner."

"Can I eat later then?"

"Of course."

Susan stopped nagging them as she looked at them patiently.

When Juan saw how persistent she was, he knew that his plan to scale the wall was in tatters.

She's such a loathsome woman to be stopping us at every turn. It's obvious that she doesn't want us to get help and save Mommy.

"Fine, fine. We'll go have dinner," Juan fumed as he headed towards the living hall.

At that moment, a triumphant smile broke out across Susan's face.

She had managed to close off all their avenues of getting help. They don't stand a chance against me at all.

During dinner, the children fiddled with their food lackadaisically as none of them had any appetite.

However, Susan wasn't bothered about them. That was until she heard footsteps approaching. Knowing that it was Evan, she instantly coaxed the children gently to have some food.

"Juan, Kyle, have some more. The seafood soup today is delicious today. Try some."

"I don't want to."

"How can you not eat at such a young age. If you don't like the taste, I'll get the chef to make something else. So what do you like?"

Juan gave her the side-eye. The moment Daddy comes down, she starts acting all motherly. What a pain.

He ignored her and ate a few mouthfuls of his food.

"Nina, drink some more."

Nina too rolled her eyes at Susan. "I won't drink something that you've touched. Besides, I'm full." With that, she put down her cutlery and headed upstairs.

After facing yet another rejection, Susan turned to Maya and said, "Maya, come over. Let me get some for you."

Maya nodded and replied courteously. "Thank you, Ms. Susan."

Evan sighed in his heart for he knew that Juan, Kyle, and Nina must be throwing a tantrum because Nicole was locked up in prison.

He walked towards the table and glanced at Susan, "Just ignore them and continue with your own dinner. Let them go hungry if they refuse to eat."

Susan made a sorry face. "That won't do. They are still so young, hence need to be well fed and rested." She then turned towards the three with a concerned expression. "What would you like to have tomorrow morning? I'll prepare them for you myself, alright?"

Juan looked up at her. "I want to eat Mommy's handmade spaghetti. Do you know how to make them?"

"Handmade spaghetti?" Susan was stunned. "Alright, I'll cook them tomorrow for you."

When Juan mentioned the handmade spaghetti, he glanced towards Evan on purpose. Daddy loves Mommy's handmade spaghetti since the beginning. I wonder if he still remembers the taste?

However, Evan's gloomy face was as frosty as ever. It remained expressionless without any sign of emotion. Daddy must have forgotten how it tasted.

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Juan sighed in his heart and remarked, "I'm full." With that, he left the table abruptly.

As Susan looked at Evan who was sitting opposite her, she deliberately asked him how to make spaghetti.

"Evan, do you what kind of spaghetti Juan likes? I'd like to make him his favorite."

Evan was briefly silent before replying indifferently. "Make whichever that you are familiar with."

Susan was stunned but nodded nonetheless.

Only Nicole can make her special handmade spaghetti.

The taste is still fresh in my mind, but I wonder if I still have the opportunity to taste it again?

The taste of the spaghetti, together with everything that had happened in the past, suddenly flooded his mind that instant.

As his gaze darkened, his hand that was holding his fork trembled for a moment. He then got up and headed straight for his study.

Meanwhile, Susan frowned as she watched him walk away. What's with him now?

I asked him about spaghetti, and now he has lost his appetite? In that case, I better not bring up anything related to Nicole.

When Evan returned to his room, his mind kept replaying the scene where Nicole admitted that she would be leaving with Levant.

I don't understand! What's so great about Levant?

Since when did Nicole start falling for Levant? When?

Clang! The more Evan thought about it, the angrier he became. With that, he threw the limited-edition mug in his hand away furiously, shattering it into pieces. Susan, who was right outside the door, was jolted by the sound.

She stopped in her tracks and took a deep breath. Initially, she wanted to ask Evan what he wanted to eat so that she can get the chef to prepare it. However, given that he was in a foul mood, asking him anything would only invite a scolding. Hence, she thought it better to stay away for the time being.

After all, Evan was always rude to her. Hence, she turned and crept back to her room.

Meanwhile, Juan and Kyle couldn't sleep as they were still racking their brains over their Mommy's rescue.

Juan sighed, "The bad woman is watching us all the time. What are we going to do?"

Kyle seemed to be deep in thought. "It does seem quite hard for us to find someone to save Mommy."

"That's right. Daddy is just too much! He got us a home tutor, so we don't even have to leave home for school. He is worried that we may use the opportunity to sneak off and seek help for Mommy."

After sighing again, Juan looked at Kyle with his eyebrows furrowed. "What do you think? Does Daddy hate Mommy that much? Does he really want to keep her in prison forever?"

Kyle was equally confused. Not too long ago, both Daddy and Mommy were really close. Why did it change suddenly?

The adult world is really complicated.

After pondering for a moment, Juan suddenly lamented, "The bad woman has kept us on such a tight leash. I'm so frustrated, so I have to teach her a lesson, no matter what!"

Kyle looked up at him and replied coolly, "Count me in."

Seeing that his brother had agreed to help, Juan nodded zealously. That was what brothers were for.

In the other room, Nina and Maya couldn't sleep either.

Nina, who was on the upper deck, looked at Maya at the lower deck. "Why are you so nice to the bad woman?"

Yet, Maya remained silent. She knew who Nina was talking about. The only reason she was being cordial with Susan was to save Mommy.

But when she didn't answer, Nina questioned further, "Recently, when we discussed how to save Mommy, why didn't you say anything? Do you not want to rescue Mommy anymore?"

"No, I want to." Maya quickly replied.

"If you want to save Mommy, you shouldn't forget about her just because the bad woman gave you some sweets. Mommy is more important than sweets. Remember that!"

Maya continued her silence. Obviously, she knew that Mommy was more important than the sweets. The reason she accepted the sweets was to please Ms. Susan so that Ms. Susan could rescue Mommy.

In the middle of the night, Maya suddenly sat up. She had dreamt of Mommy. In her dream, Mommy was covered in blood. Not only that, but she was both cold and starving. It was an extremely gruesome sight.

She was frightened into tears. "Mommy... I want to see Mommy..."

Nina was awoken by her cries and climbed down to comfort her. "Don't cry. Mommy will be out soon. Don't cry." As she reassured Maya, she helped her wipe her tears.

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While she was consoling Maya, Nina herself started to tear as she, too, missed Mommy. In the end, both of them hugged each other to sleep.

It was a long and lonely night.

As Maya sobbed, she slowly drifted back into sleep. Meanwhile, Nina's small arms were wrapped around Maya's chubby body. The two children were huddling together pitifully and dreamt of Mommy coming back to them.

The next day.

Juan and Kyle got up and rushed downstairs to check what was for breakfast.

The night before, Susan had promised them handmade spaghetti. Hence, they wanted to see what Susan's spaghetti was going to look like, and if it would taste the same as Mommy's.

When they arrived at the dining room, they saw Susan helping the maid with the dishes. When she saw the children, she set the table for them.

Juan saw the spaghetti and some meatballs on the table. Furthermore, there were a few other dishes to go along with it.

He didn't expect Susan to actually prepare the spagnetti for them.

"I made this especially for you. Why don't you try some and see if you like them?"

When Juan saw the spaghetti, he fell silent. Although Mommy's spaghetti seldom came with meatballs, it smelled way better.

Taking a mouthful of it, he commented. "Mommy's is a lot more delicious."

"This is my first time making it. Anyway, they taste better if you mix them all together. I'll do better next time."

Just as she spoke, she swaggered upstairs.

As Juan watched her walk away, he wondered, "She's not going to ask Nina and Maya down for breakfast, is she?"

Beside him, Kyle sighed. "I think she is going to get Daddy."

Right then, Juan's mind spun like lightning, and something within his brain clicked. "She is getting Daddy to try her cooking! I think she wants to show him that she can cook better than Mommy."

Kyle nodded. "She wants to replace Mommy."

"We can't let her succeed."

As the brothers exchanged glances, they shifted their gaze to the dining table at the same time.

Knock! Knock!

Feeling especially anxious, Susan gently knocked on the door to Evan's study.

I wonder how he is feeling today?

She exposed part of her arm on purpose to reveal the scar left by the fire. Since Evan was someone sentimental, she hoped that he would treat her better when he was reminded of how she saved him earlier.

As the door opened, Evan looked at Susan and asked coldly, "What is it?"

Susan shifted her arm on purpose in front of him by pretending to fiddle with her hair.

"Evan, I've made breakfast. Why don't you come down and have some."

Evan noticed her movements and inadvertently noticed the scar too.

As his eyes darkened, his attitude towards Susan did become more gentle. As expected, his tone was also less harsh.

A faint smile broke out from his lips. He replied softly, "I'll be down in a short while."

Susan was delighted. "Alright, I'll be waiting for you." With that, she sauntered away.

After packing up his things, Evan came to the dining hall. There, he saw the four children staring at their food.

Susan looked curiously at them and wasn't sure what they were up to.

"Eat up, guys. Your teacher will be here soon."

When Evan sat down, Juan commented, "The spaghetti is just not edible. So are the meatballs and everything else."

Susan furrowed her eyebrows curiously. She had deliberately woken up two hours earlier to prepare breakfast for them. Moreover, she had tasted them too. Despite not up to Michelin standards, she still felt it was decent.

Hence, she suspected Juan was causing trouble on purpose.

"If you don't like it, I'll make something else for you tomorrow."

"Forget it, just get the chef to cook. Is your cooking even fit for consumption?"

Nina gave her a picky look as she spoke. Then, she pushed her plate away.

At the same time, Evan looked towards Maya, who was licking her lips while saying, "It's too salty. I don't like it."

When even Maya, the food connoisseur, said the same, Evan believed that the food was really bad. After giving it a try, he spat it out immediately.