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When Stanley saw them, he raised his hands and waved. "Yulia, Nat, this way!"

Natalie smiled and walked over to him with Yulia, each of them leading one child.

"I'm so sorry Stanley, did we make you wait for a long time?" Natalie was very apologetic.

"Nah, I just got here." Stanley got up and helped Yulia pull out her chair. "Please take a seat, Yulia."

Yulia smiled happily at him. "You are so considerate."

"My pleasure." Stanley pushed his glasses back before helping Natalie and the two children pull out their chairs. Finally, he took a seat.

After that, Stanley handed the menu to Yulia. "Take a look to see what you'd like to eat, Yulia."

"I'll take my pick now." Yulia picked up the menu and looked at it together with the two children.

Stanley placed a plate of tiny desserts in front of Natalie, "Your favorite dessert."

"Thank you." Natalie smiled.

Stanley took a sip from his glass of water. "I heard from Jacqueline that you fell down together with her today. Are you alright?"

"I'm fine, just that I have a bit of a scrape on my arm. Mr. Shane has already helped me apply medication." Natalie picked up a piece of the dessert with her fork before placing it in her mouth.

Stanley's eyes grew cold. "Mr. Shane?"

"Yes?" Natalie nodded.

Stanley used his glass to hide his downturned lips. "Why would he apply medication for you?"

"I don't know. He came to my apartment to look for me." Natalie shrugged.

Stanley stroked his glass and did not say anything in response. The sinister look in his eyes could make one shudder.

At this moment, Yulia and the two children had finished ordering their food and handed the menu to them. "Alright, stop talking, the two of you. Take a look to see what you'd want to have."

"I don't mind anything. You can make the decision, Stanley." Natalie handed the menu to Stanley immediately.

Shoving his simmering anger away, Stanley resumed his pleasant smile and nodded. "Alright."

The server brought their order chit to the kitchen after taking their orders.

After eating the dessert, Natalie picked up a napkin to wipe her mouth before standing up. "I'm headed to the restroom."

Then, she asked the server where the bathroom was before leaving the restaurant.

After using the bathroom, Natalie came out of the cubicle. She headed to the sink and was about to touch up her make-up.

Just as she looked down to search for her lipstick in her bag, the door to the cubicle behind her suddenly swung open. A man dressed in a hoodie appeared behind her. Suddenly, he grabbed the back of her head and pushed it downwards forcefully.

Natalie was completely shocked by this sudden turn of events. Her arm swept her bag off the counter and its contents were all scattered across the floor.

“Who are you? Let go of me! Help!” Natalie struggled and screamed out in fear.

Not only did the man not release her, but he also used more force and pushed her head into the sink. Then with his other hand, he turned the tap on.

Icy cold water flowed from the top of her head, making Natalie shiver in the cold. Then, when some water got into her nostrils, she began to cough and choke as well.

When the sink was half-filled, the man pushed her head into the water.

“Don’t blame me, I’m just acting under orders. Who asked you to be an immoral woman? Why did you go around snatching other people’s men?” The man finally spoke, but his voice was clearly suppressed so that she would not recognize his voice.

Even though Natalie heard him, she did not have the capacity to think who could have ordered him.

At this moment, her whole face was red and she felt like she was being suffocated. She felt extremely uncomfortable, and both her arms started flailing wildly in the air.

“Umph... umph...” Natalie’s face was completely submerged in the water as the water continued flowing from the top of her head. She could not open her mouth as the moment she did so, there would only be gurgling sounds. Therefore, she could only use her throat to vocalize her cry for help, in the hope that this man would release her.

However, the man was completely unmoved and kept pushing her head down without even a chance for her to come up for a breath. Clearly, he was there to drown her.

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Natalie lost all hope when she realized this. As time passed, her struggles became weaker and she gradually lost consciousness.

Just when she thought she was definitely going to die, two female voices came from outside the restroom. “Hey, why do you need me to accompany you just to the restroom?”

“I just need a buddy!”

"Fine, I'll wait for you at the door. Make it quick."

"I know, I know."

With that, a clear click-clack of high heels came from the entrance.

The man cursed out loud and released Natalie before dashing out of the restroom.

The two women were clearly shocked. "What's going on? Why is there a man in the female restroom?"

"Go in and take a look!"

Soon, two sexily dressed women came in and saw Natalie whose head was still in the sink. They were taken aback and immediately stepped forward to help her. "Are you alright?"

Natalie was completely weakened and could only lean on one of the women while panting heavily. She could not even open her eyes. "H-help me c-call the p-police..."

"Okay, yes, I'm on it right now." The other woman immediately nodded and called the police with her cell phone.

"Thank you..." Natalie thanked her profusely.

If not for their sudden appearance, she might just have died right here.

"It's all right. Let me help you get outside." The woman supporting Natalie said.

"Mmhmm." Natalie replied.

There was a waiting bench outside the restroom. The moment she helped Natalie sit down, Natalie's cell phone rang.

The woman who made the police report handed in her bag.

Natalie thanked her again and took out her cell phone from her bag. "Mom..."

Hearing how weak Natalie sounded, Yulia became worried. "Baby Girl, what's going on?"

"Mom, someone wants to kill me." Natalie gripped her phone tightly and sobbed fearfully.

Yulia sprang up. "What?"

"Mom, I'm outside the restroom."

"Okay, I'm coming right now!"

After she hung up, Natalie hugged her knees and began bawling out loud.

The other two women did not know what to say at this sight. After all, this was not the kind of experience that could be soothed with a few words of comfort and advice.

In a few minutes, Yulia and Stanley arrived with the two children.

Both children were shocked into tears when they saw Natalie in such a disheveled state.

"Mommy, are you alright?" Sharon tugged onto Natalie's hands and cried breathlessly.

Connor clenched his fists and asked furiously, "Mommy, who tried to hurt you?"

"I don't know." Natalie shook her head as she replied with her pale face.

Stanley went up and draped his jacket over Natalie. "Yulia, bring Connor and Sharon aside. I'll give Nat a quick check-up."

"Yes, of course." Yulia immediately followed his instructions.

Even though Stanley was a neurologist, he was more than capable to perform a simple examination.

After the examination, he let out a little sigh of relief. Before Yulia and the children could ask anything, he said, "She is fine. It's just that she was briefly deprived of oxygen, and was in a state of huge shock. She should be fine after some rest."

"That's good to know." Yulia patted her chest. Then, she asked, "Baby Girl, tell me what happened?"

Natalie pulled the jacket closer to herself and looked at the restroom door listlessly as she recounted the whole episode.

Yulia was in tears after she heard everything. "Who is this bastard who wants my daughter's life?"

"Don't be too agitated, Yulia." Stanley supported her but his eyes never left Natalie. "Nat, did you manage to see that guy's face?"

"No, he was behind me the whole time. I had no chance to look at him at all." Natalie shook her head. The mention of that man clearly made her voice quiver.

Stanley glanced at the two women who had saved Natalie. "What about you?"

"We didn't either. He dashed out and he had a hat on too." The women replied.

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Stanley nodded. "Looks like the murderer has deliberately concealed his face."

At this moment, the restaurant manager brought a few police officers and hurried up to them.

An elderly police officer asked, "Who made the police report?"

The woman who made the call raised her hand. "It was me."

"Alright, tell me what happened." He flipped his notebook open in preparation to take notes.

The lady glanced at Natalie and told him everything after Natalie nodded at her.

Yulia clutched onto the elderly police officer's hand. "Sir, please, you have to catch the culprit!"

The two children echoed, "That's right! Sir, please!"

Stanley remained silent and looked down. No one knew what he was thinking about.

"Don't worry, this is our responsibility. We will definitely do so." He comforted Yulia and the children as he pulled his hand back. Then, he began asking Natalie some questions.

After questioning her, his brows were furrowed tightly. "This is a tough case to crack!"

"Why so?" the restaurant manager asked immediately.

Of course, he was worried. Someone nearly died in a restaurant that was under his care!

"According to this lady, the man had deliberately disguised himself. On top of that, there is no security camera in this restroom. With no information on his figure or height, let alone his face, it won't be easy for us to find him." The elderly police officer sighed.

"No, there is a security camera in the corridor." The restaurant manager pointed above his head.

Stanley raised his eyebrows. "Is that so? That's great. That camera should have captured the culprit fleeing the scene. Let's go to the security room to take a look, shall we?"

"We shall." The elderly police officer nodded.

Yulia helped Natalie get off the chair and the entourage walked towards the security room.

Just like what Stanley had said, the security camera did capture the culprit coming out of the female restroom, but unfortunately, it was still not enough to identify him.

The police officer then suggested that they head to the police station to record their statements before they launched investigations.

"Ah-choo!" Before she left the restaurant, Natalie sneezed continuously.

Yulia turned to the restaurant manager. "Would you happen to have a hairdryer? Could you please let my daughter dry her hair first? Otherwise, she could catch a cold."

"Yes, yes, we do." The restaurant manager nodded repeatedly.

Yulia passed the two children to Stanley while she and Natalie went with the manager to get Natalie's hair dried.

"Hey, isn't that Natalie?" A baby-faced man was shocked to see Natalie from the window of a private room on the second level.

He then took out his cell phone and made a call. "Hey Shane, guess who I saw?"

"Not guessing!" Shane was completely fixated on the computer screen before him and replied coldly.

Jackson's eyes rolled and he chuckled. "Well, I saw Natalie."

Shane's keyboard strokes paused. "Natalie?"

"Oh yes."

"Where did you see her?" Shane switched off the speaker mode and placed his cell phone by his ear.

Jackson tapped on the window and replied, "Empire Restaurant. But she doesn't look too good."

"What happened?" Shane's grip on his phone suddenly tightened as he asked in a deep voice.

Jackson looked down at where Natalie was. "I'm not sure what happened exactly. She looks like she is in shock and her face is extremely pale. Her hair is wet and she has a men's jacket draped over her shoulders. More importantly, there are two police officers behind her. Shane, do you think..."

Before he could finish, he realized that there was no reaction from the other end of the line. When he took a look at the screen, Shane had already hung up on him.

Seems like Shane must be rushing over when he heard what had happened to Natalie.

Downstairs, Natalie dried her hair with Yulia's help. Then, she got into the police car with the police officers and left the restaurant.

By the time she completed her statement and left the police station, it was already ten o'clock at night.

Together with the rest of the group, Natalie walked in the darkness and it all felt very gloomy indeed.

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"Nat, are you feeling any better?" Stanley asked her gently.

Natalie responded and mustered a little smile. "A little better."

"Mommy..." The two children looked up at her and their worry was clear for all to see.

Natalie bent down to pat their heads. "Don't worry, Mommy is fine."

"Mommy, I'm scared." Sharon ran into her arms. "I nearly lost you, Mommy."

"Yes, who is so cruel to have want you dead?" Connor clenched his fists and anger was written all over his little face.

Yulia pursed her lips. "According to the police, it is possibly someone that we know. Otherwise, how would they know Natalie's whereabouts so well, even to the extent of laying an ambush at the restroom?"

"That's right, I think it's someone we know too." Natalie nodded.

A glint flashed across Stanley's eyes. "Nat, who do you have in mind?"

Natalie's lips moved as she prepared to answer him. At the same time, a car honked from a short distance away.

Then, two flashes of light appeared and shone upon them. It was so bright they could barely keep their eyes open.

"Who is that?" Yulia held her hands in front of her eyes.

"It's Mr. Shane." The two children blinked and jumped with joy when they saw the tall figure walking towards them against the light.

"Mr. Shane." The two children ran towards Shane.

Stanley sensed danger and his eyes narrowed when he saw how enthusiastic the two children were when they saw Shane. However, he quickly regained his normal self.

Shane bent down and picked up Sharon while holding Connor's hand with his other hand. He walked up to Natalie and gave her a once-over. "Are you alright?"

Natalie nodded. "How did you know I was in trouble?"

"Jackson told me. He was in the restaurant too." Shane answered lightly.

Natalie looked up in realization. "I see."

"Did they get the culprit?" Shane put Sharon down and asked.

"No, but I think that the culprit was just acting under orders, and the real mastermind is still out there." Yulia sighed.

Natalie's gaze was fixated on Shane.

Yulia saw it and was rather confused. "Nat, why are you looking at Shane like this?"

Natalie's eyes twinkled a little. "Nothing."

She moved her gaze away.

Shane could see that there was something off about her and his eyes darkened. However, he did not ask her and merely suggested, "Yulia, it's getting late. I'll send you all home."

"Alright." Yulia nodded. "Thank you, Shane."

"In that case, I won't come with you, Yulia." Stanley smiled.

Just when Yulia was about to ask him why, he said, "I have a surgery early tomorrow morning, and I'd like to go back to get some rest."

"In that case, do be careful on your way home." Yulia agreed.

Natalie and the two children waved goodbye to him as well.

Only Shane had no response and stood there as if he did not see him.

Stanley did not mind, and bade farewell to Shane graciously before he drove away.

“Let’s go then.” Yulia looked away only when Stanley’s car vanished from their view.

Shane gave a little nod in response.

On the way back, Yulia looked at Shane and asked him, “Shane, I forgot to ask, why did you suddenly look for us?”

“The Thompson Group owns part of the Empire Restaurant. With something like this happening, I have to do something as one of the bosses.” Shane looked down and said coolly.

Yulia was mildly disappointed as she thought it was because he was worried about Nat.

Seems like I was overthinking it. It is unrequited love for Nat!

“Mr. Shane, could I ask you something?” Natalie suddenly asked after she got both children to sleep.

Shane glanced at her from his rearview mirror. “Ask away.”

“Do you think Jasmine was the one who wanted me dead?” Natalie asked while pinching her palms.

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Screech!

Shane stepped on the brakes violently and stopped the car.

All of them fell forward uncontrollably and were only restrained by their seatbelts.

The two children were awakened by this.

"Mommy, what's going on?" Sharon rubbed her eyes and asked sleepily.

Connor sat up and looked from left to right. "Did something happen?"

"Nothing, just go back to sleep." Natalie stroked their heads and brought them back to her lap as she continued to pat their backs.

Sharon was not quite awake, to begin with, and fell back asleep very quickly.

However, Connor's eyes remained big and bright. He was still on Natalie's lap but he just refused to go back to sleep.

Natalie let him be.

"Shane, why did you suddenly stop the car?" Yulia was seated at the passenger's seat and she was reeling from the shock.

"Sorry." Shane pursed his thin lips and turned to look at Natalie. "Why did you think it was Jasmine?"

"Because the culprit whispered to me that I snatched someone else's man. Since I returned to the country, you are the one that I've seen the most due to work. Jasmine has said on multiple occasions that I am trying to take her place as your fiancée." Natalie looked him straight in the eye and replied.

Yulia turned around and smacked Natalie. "What? The culprit said that to you? Why didn't you say that at the police station just now?"

Natalie did not reply and continued staring at Shane.

Connor also narrowed his eyes at Shane. Suddenly his admiration for Shane reduced dramatically.

So Mommy nearly died because of Mr. Shane?

Shane caught the change in Connor's eyes and he felt that he had been slapped, almost as if he had lost something very important to him. He gripped the steering wheel tightly and said, "I know what to do. I'll get it investigated thoroughly!"

"It's not enough to just investigate!" Yulia's face was grim. "Shane, if Jasmine is really the one behind this, I hope that you will cancel your wedding plans and send her to jail immediately."

"I will." Shane looked down to cover the storm that was brewing in his eyes.

He would do so even without her reminder.

The Thompson Group did not need a murderer as the CEO's wife.

Yulia was finally satisfied and relaxed a little when she saw that Shane was not just paying lip service to her. "That's good to know. Continue driving, Shane."

Shane responded and glanced at Natalie before restarting the car.

At the apartment complex, Shane left after dropping them off at the entrance.

Connor led the now-awake Sharon and sped back into their room.

Yulia brought out a tray of washed fruit from the kitchen. "Baby Girl, do resign from Shane's company soon."

Natalie was just ironing Stanley's jacket when she heard that. She stopped and asked, "Why?"

"Why? You nearly scared me to death with everything that had happened tonight. More danger could be coming your way, considering how close you are to Shane."

Her mother's concern warmed her heart and her face grew gentler. "I know. Don't worry, I'll hand in my resignation in a few days."

She was only supposed to just work for a month at Thompson Group anyway.

Now that Project Rebirth had ended, it was about time for her to leave.

Suppressing her hesitation, Natalie put her iron aside and said, "Alright Mom, I'm going to grab a shower."

“Go ahead. Have an earlier night after that.” Yulia nodded.

“Yes, I will.” Natalie then brought her pajamas to the bathroom.

That night, Natalie could not sleep well at all. The moment she closed her eyes, all she saw was the scene where she nearly suffocated to death. The next morning, two huge dark circles hung below her eyes, giving Yulia a scare.

“What happened, Baby Girl?” Yulia touched her face tenderly.

Natalie shook her head. “I’m fine, Mom. We are out of food. I’ll go out and grab some breakfast for us.”