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I was puzzled. "Why not? Summer is his biological daughter. How is that possible?"

"It turns out they have different blood types, so it doesn't matter that Jared is Summer's

biological father. If we perform the surgery anyway, it'll be like a bad organ transplant, which

will make Summer's condition worse," Cameron tried to explain the situation to me in her

limited medical terms.

My mind went momentarily blank. I had hoped that in the scenario where their bone

marrows didn't match, he could at least donate his kidney to Summer.

But now, it seemed

that my last hope was also squashed.

As though being sucked out of all energy, I slumped into a chair and was lost in thoughts.

It wasn't until the doctor came out from Summer's ward that I snapped out from my daze

when he said, "Can we all please proceed to my office?"

As Cameron helped me up, I noticed that Zachary's expression was rather grim and

appeared deep in thought.

As we all took a seat in the doctor's office, Cameron asked anxiously, "Doctor, what are we

going to do now that we can't find suitable bone marrow for Summer?" He looked at us and slowly explained, "Bone marrow transplant is a major operation,

therefore it's imperative that we find a compatible donor, or we will risk dangerous level of

organ rejection post-operation. There are increasing numbers of acute leukemia patients for

the past two years, but suitable bone marrow donors are still very rare. I can understand

your concerns, however, the only thing we can do for Summer right now is to continue her

chemotherapy. In the meantime, we will keep searching for matching bone marrow."

Zachary asked, "Let's say we have no luck in finding her a suitable donor, how long does she

have?"

The doctor was a little rattled by the stone-faced Zachary and had chosen his words

carefully when he replied, "If we stick to our current treatment plan, her prognosis is actually

quite positive. She will have at least three more years."

"Alright. I understand." Zachary nodded before he stood up abruptly and left the room

without uttering another word.

Cameron was panic-stricken and she quickly turned to me. "Letty, quick! You have to stop

your father. We haven't gotten to that stage yet!"

Despite being puzzled by what she said, considering the urgency in her tone, I stood up and

hurried after him. Zachary was dialling on his phone as he waited in front of an elevator.

I called after him, "Dad, what's going on? Where are you going?" He turned to me with a self-reproach look on his face. "Scarlett, I know you can't forgive us

for what we did to your baby years ago. But don't you worry now. I won't let anything happen

to another child of yours. I'll do whatever it takes to save Summer."

I was still as a loss of what he was planning to do as he was about to take off in a grave

manner.

I grabbed onto his arm before he could leave. "Dad, hold on for a second. Ashton is already

working on ways to save Summer too. Don't you worry, she'll be okay." Nonetheless, my words seemed to have fallen on deaf ears. Just then, the elevator door

opened. Zachary stepped into the elevator and stopped me from following suit. "Stay here

and look after your mother. I'm just going to look for a better doctor and I'll be back soon."

Right after the elevator door was shut before me, Cameron hurried over and her expression

grew more desperate when she didn't see Zachary. "Scarlett, where's your father? You

should have stopped him. He's onto something dangerous!"

"He said he was going to look for another doctor and asked me to stay back."

Cameron was frantically pressing at the elevator button and her voice was choking up as

she said, "If he really was looking for another doctor, couldn't he just do it through the

phone? I can't let him do this, not after he's finally decided to settle down and live a normal

life with us. If we let him do this, there'll be no turning back for all of us." Sensing that something was off, I looked at her and my jaw was tightening. "Mom, there's

no way I can catch up to him now. But I'll get Ashton to stop him. While I'm on the phone,

you're gonna have to get yourself together, and then tell me what really is going on, okay?"

With tears rolling down her cheeks, she finally nodded. After I contacted Ashton and told

him to get in touch with Zachary, I helped Cameron sit down on a bench in the corridor.

After the woman finally collected herself, she slowly spoke, "My dear, have you heard of

organ trading?

I was stunned by her revelation as cold sweats started to form on my forehead. Shaking my

head, I continued to ask, "Mom, what's going on?"

Wiping the tears away from her eyes, the woman slowly explained, "Scarlett, there's nothing

in this world you can't buy with enough money and power, including human organs. Your

father started thinking about it when Summer started falling sick. He used to work with

mafia, so he knows his way around this black market. I tried to talk him out of this, but he

wouldn't listen to me. Now that our lives are finally back to normal, and you are expecting

another child, it's just too much risk to involve both our families in this business."

I took a few moments to calm my racing heart. "Mom, has Dad found one?"

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Cameron looked at me with her eyes widened in intense fear. "My dear, you can't be

seriously considering it! These organs, they are all harvested with illegal means!"

"Mom, that's not what I meant. I'm just trying to figure out where Dad could be heading

that's all. Whatever leads he has right now, we have to discuss this matter together before

deciding what to do."

She nodded, but her body did not stop trembling.

When Cameron was calmer and more collected, she started to analyze the situation, "Your

father had washed his hands off this business many years ago. But starting a few days ago,

he's been secretly contacting a few of his old buddies regarding this matter. I overheard

from his conversations that the black market, as well as the operations, are only carried out

in A City. So, your dad must be on his way to the airport to fly over there and meet with the

dealer."

Upon hearing which, I made another phone call to Ashton for him to intercept Zachary at the

airport. I turned to Cameron and asked, "Who else knows about this?" She shook her head. "Just the two of us. I didn't want him to take the risk. If found out, our

whole family will be done for."

Sensing that my silence might mean otherwise, Cameron tried to probe, "Scarlett, tell me, if

your father found both compatible bone marrow and kidney for Summer, would you have

agreed to it?"

Her question was loaded with massive moral conundrums; my head was filled with many

questions to which I didn't have immediate answers. I lowered my head to look at my phone,

at a loss for words.

Cameron grew more anxious as she grabbed onto my arm and said grievously, "My dear,

listen to me, you can't do this. Summer is such an adorable kid and we all love her dearly.

But you can't gamble your future with this matter. It would have been okay if this only

involves me and your father, since we've had our share of lives at this age. But things are

different for you and Ashton. You're finally expecting another child and you still have a long

way to go. As for Summer, we may just have to accept that this is her destiny. Please

promise me you won't make a rash decision on this."

Cameron's concerns were valid, and anyone with a sound logic should arrive at the same

conclusion. However, I had long regarded Summer as my own daughter, so the only logical

sense as a mother was to save my daughter by whatever means necessary.

I looked at her and sighed. "Mom, Summer is my daughter. There's no way I'll give up on her.

If the dealer manages to find a donor from a clean source, why can't we give Summer a

chance to live?"

Cameron's eyes widened in disbelief. "Are you out of your mind? There's no way that kind of

things will be clean!"

I knew there was no way that I could sway her mind right now, but I couldn't help but

imagine a scenario where someone passed on from an accident and we could offer a sum

of money to her family. It would not have brought her life back, but in a way, parts of her

spirit got to live on. The concept of organ donation at death might sound cruel to some

people, but if the alternative for the body was to be cremated, leaving nothing but ashes

behind, why not let them save another life?

"Mom, let's not talk about this right now. Can you please keep Summer company while I try

to locate Dad and talk to him?" It's too early to dismiss any remote chance Summer may

have.

Cameron did not sound fully convinced. "My dear, whatever you do, please be mindful of the

potential consequences they may have on both our families. Do you understand what I

mean?"

"I do."

I left the hospital and tried to reach Ashton by phone, but it was engaged. I then attempted

to call Zachary's number, also to no avail. I was feeling rather helpless when my phone rang.

Seeing Armond's name on my caller ID only made me feel more frustrated. My tone was

more than agitated when I answered his call, "What do you want?" Instead of being offended, an audible laugh rang from the other end of the line as the man

spoke, "Sensing from your impatient tone, I suppose you ran into some trouble. Why don't

you come and have a chat with me? I may be able to cheer you up." "If you have nothing more to say, I'll hang up now." My patience was running thin for this

pervert.

He sighed and said, "Hold on a second, I was told that Zachary is on his way to A City. I'm

wondering whether that's because Jared's bone marrow is not compatible with Summer's. If

that's the case, then I suppose he's heading toward A City to search for..."

The man had now successfully riled me up. "Armond Murphy, what kind of a sicko are you?

And what do you want from me?"

"I just told you, I may have some information that's useful to you so that your daughter will

stop suffering from chemotherapy." His tone suddenly took on a serious note, "There's no

need to dismiss me just yet. I know exactly what you're looking for and I may even have

means to secure some for you. So, what do you say about meeting up?" I paused for a brief moment to ponder on his words. Maybe what he said wasn't all bullsh*t.

"Fine. I can meet you up."