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Chapter 531 Let Her Get More Sleep

"Hurray!" Sophia clapped her hands in excitement.

"Can we meet him tonight? We really miss Great-grandpa so much!" Franklin suggested.

Watching the scene from one side, Xavian and Clayton saw an opportunity and quickly lent a helping hand.

"Franklin and Sophia really miss their great-grandpa a lot, Mommy! They've mentioned it a couple of times when they're with Xavian and me!"

"Mommy, please let them meet their great-grandpa tonight!"

Seeing how the kids were eager about meeting Kenneth, and since there was nothing to disagree about, Natalie nodded. "Sure, we'll visit him tonight."

With that, she instructed Gavin to make arrangements for their transport.

It was as though Gavin was overwhelmed with guilt that his gaze was floating around as he stuttered, "T-The chauffeurs have all taken a day off. T-They won't be able to send Mr. Franklin and Ms. Sophia over to the manor..."

"They've all gone on a break?" Natalie narrowed her eyes as she questioned.

"Y-Yeah... A-All on a break." Gavin nodded firmly.

"Are there any cars available ?"

"Yes." Gavin paused for a split second. "You want to-"

Without hesitation, Natalie interjected, "Gavin, can you give me the address to the Bowers manor? Franklin and Sophia miss their great-grandpa. I'll drive them there to visit him and bring them back afterward."

"That..."

Afraid that Kenneth would give Natalie a hard time while at the manor, Gavin seemed hesitant with his words.

But noticing the pleading gazes of Franklin and Sophia, Gavin let out a few dry coughs as he swallowed back those words he had wanted to say.

"The GPS has the address. I'll get you a car right away."

Not long after, a car pulled up in front of the Bowers residence.

Natalie got into the driver's seat, Franklin took the passenger seat, and Sophia, Clayton, and Xavian entered the vehicle's back seats.

"Sophia and Franklin are going to meet their great-grandpa. Why are the two of you in the car, Xavian, Clayton?" Natalie asked with her brows furrowed.

"Mommy, let Xavian and I follow along since we have nothing else to do either. I promise we won't create trouble for you." Clayton raised his arm as he said that. "Yeah! Let us go together! I promise you that we won't get into trouble." Xavian also stuck his hand up high.

Being very clear that the pair of boys always knew their limits and would not go overboard, Natalie gave the green light to the boys' request.

"All right!"

Natalie stepped on the accelerator, and at once, the car sped off toward the Bowers manor.

After around forty minutes, the car stopped steadily in front of the location.

"We're here."

Franklin unbuckled his seatbelt and turned to look at Natalie. "Mommy, aren't you getting off the car and following us inside?"

"No." Natalie shook her head and patiently explained, "You should know that Great-grandpa doesn't like me. You all can head in by yourselves. I'll stay out here so that I won't ruin the atmosphere."

Franklin sighed. It did not come off as a surprise to him that Natalie would refuse to accompany them back to the Bowers manor.

Thankfully, the four kids had thought of a plan beforehand.

"Mommy, it seems like Sophia has fallen asleep." Xavian leaned close to Natalie and whispered. "She has been very hardworking while learning medicine from you. I bet she must be tired out after the class earlier since she was revising through the whole of last night." The sight of Sophia deep asleep with her arms wrapped tightly around her bunny plushie came into Natalie's eyes as soon as she turned around.

Her breathing was slow and steady. It almost felt like she was in a deep and cozy sleep.

In that instant, Natalie had a sudden revelation—she had completely overlooked that Sophia was only but a young child. Despite her high attention span, how will she be able to withstand long hours of learning when even most adults can't?

Franklin deliberately remarked, "Sophia keeps saying she wants to meet Great-grandpa just now. How can she fall asleep now? Clayton, hurry and wake her up!"

"No problem." Clayton agreed readily.

Just as he was about to give Sophia a nudge, Natalie hurriedly tried to stop him. "She's so exhausted that she fell asleep. Why are you all forcing her awake? Let her get more sleep!"

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Chapter 532 I Thought You Would Not Talk To Me

Franklin clenched his grip tightly on his seatbelt.

We've spent so much time discussing the plan to make Great-grandpa have a better impression of Mommy. If they never get to meet each other, how will he change his perception of her? He then stealthily pinched himself on his buttock again, and tears welled up on the rims of his eyes again. "Mommy, Sophia has fallen asleep, but she has been looking forward to visiting Great-grandpa. C-Can you carry her inside? That way, she'll surely be over the moon when she wakes up to see Great-grandpa later..."

Franklin and Sophia had always been sensible children and had barely ever requested Natalie to do anything for them.

Hence, it would never cross Natalie's mind that the four children would devise a plan against her to improve her relationship with Kenneth.

Natalie turned to look at Franklin. Seeing tears swirling around his eyes, she could not bear to reject his earnest plea.

"All right, I'll leave after leaving you guys to your great-grandpa."

Unbuckling her seatbelt, Natalie opened the car door and got out of the driver's seat. She then walked to the back seats to carry Sophia, who was still in a deep slumber.

In truth, the little girl was not asleep.

Worried that Natalie would see through the trick, she clenched her fingers so tightly they were nearly sweating. Her eyes remained shut, not daring to steal any peeks at all.

"Clayton, Xavian, I should be back shortly. Wait for me in the car in the meantime."

"Okay."

"All right."

Xavian and Clayton's replies were coherent.

Natalie then sauntered toward the manor while carrying Sophia in one of her arms and holding Franklin's hand with another.

When the security at the manor saw the arrival of the two children, whom they had not seen for a long time, they were elated. Besides clearing the way immediately to allow their entry, they also specially reported their arrival to Kenneth.

Throughout their way in, Franklin had to guide Natalie since she had never visited the manor before.

"Mommy, this way."

And under Franklin's guidance, Natalie finally arrived before the luxurious and impressive-looking manor, with Sophia in her arms.

As Kenneth had received word of his precious grandchildren's arrival, he could not contain the excitement of meeting them and thus was pacing around the room with his walking stick.

"Oh my... Franklin and Sophia, my precious babies..."

As he muttered to himself, he walked out to see the two children and, at the same time, Natalie.

"Y-You..." Kenneth's pupils constricted at the sight of the woman before his eyes.

It did not cross Natalie's mind that she would run into Kenneth since she had only wanted to pass Franklin and Sophia to the butler before heading back to the car.

Startled, it took her a moment to recover to her senses. But just as she was about to explain, Franklin let go of her hand and hopped over to Kenneth happily.

"Great-grandpa..."

Perhaps because Kenneth had not heard Franklin's crisp and clear voice for a long while, it struck the former at the soft spot in his chest.

"Oh, my dear child!" He bent over and pulled Franklin into his warm embrace, unwilling to let him go.

"I miss you so much, Great-grandpa!"

"Me too." A pang of melancholy surged within Kenneth at once.

"Great-grandpa, not only do I miss you. Sophia misses you a lot too!" Franklin pointed his tiny finger toward Sophia, whom Natalie was carrying in her arms.

As though the siblings were communicating through telepathy, Sophia rubbed her eyes at that very moment. She cast her sleepy gaze to Kenneth and sweetly said, "Great-grandpa!"

As soon as Natalie put Sophia down on the ground, the latter outstretched her two tiny arms and ran toward Kenneth.

"Great-grandpa, I miss you so much..."

The little girl's sweet voice instantly left streams of hot tears flowing down Kenneth's wrinkled face.

How could anyone, especially Kenneth, not love the two adorable kids?

"I-I... I thought you two said you won't talk to me anymore?" Kenneth's heart ached terribly. "Why did you change your mind to visit me?"

That sentence was what Franklin and Sophia had been anticipating.

Without hesitation, the two kids pointed their fingers in the direction of Natalie.

"It's Mommy!"

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Chapter 533 Our Hard Work Is Wasted

Natalie was confused when Franklin and Sophia pointed at her in unison.

Since their drivers happened to be on leave, Natalie had to drive them to Kenneth's house.

"I-"

When Natalie wanted to explain, Franklin quickly interjected, "Great-grandpa, I initially didn't want to talk to you. However, Mommy said that blood is thicker than water. She explained that since you're Daddy's grandpa and our great-grandpa, we can't be mad at you but should love you instead."

Sophia chimed in with her cute voice, "Indeed! We used to think that you're overly petty, but Mommy asked us not to give you the cold shoulder because of her. She also said you'll be heartbroken if we don't talk to you on purpose." Natalie was rendered speechless.

Although Natalie did say something similar before, they described it in a way that she was seemingly a noble and righteous woman.

As Kenneth gazed at Natalie, the sternness on his face slowly faded away. "Is it true? Did she say so to you?"

Franklin raised his eyebrows. "Of course! Didn't you see that she carried Sophia with one arm and held my hand with the other when entering your house? Why would she do so if she was reluctant to let us see you?"

Immediately, Sophia nodded her head in response. "Yes! Great-grandpa, my brother and I are only five years old. Since we don't know much, how can we lie to you?"

After a short moment of confusion, Natalie finally realized what the children intended to do.

They want to help me make a good impression before Kenneth!

Before Natalie could say anything, Kenneth invited her in. "Why don't you come in and have a seat?"

"Well-"

When Natalie hesitated, Kenneth heaved a sigh and said, "As an elder, I've invited you. I believe you won't turn me down, right?"

"No…"

"In that case, come in and sit down." With that, Kenneth entered the house with his walking stick.

Natalie had no choice but to follow Kenneth into the living room.

After everyone was seated, the butler asked the maids to prepare tea for Natalie and yogurt for Franklin and Sophia.

Then, Franklin grabbed the chance to hand over a jade pendant to Kenneth. "Great-grandpa, Mommy wants to give you this beautiful jade pendant with a horse engraving. She always wanted to gift it to you but didn't have a chance to do so. Hence, I'm handing it over to you now..."

While most elders preferred dragons, Kenneth was fond of horses.

Kenneth immediately took a closer look at the jade pendant. Within seconds, he could tell that it was of high quality. Besides, the horse engraving on the jade pendant, looked as if it was alive. It was certainly done by a reputable artist.

At that moment, Kenneth felt that Natalie was thoughtful by giving him the nice-looking jade pendant.

While Kenneth was deep in thought, Sophia handed over a handkerchief to him and explained, "Great-grandpa, Mommy also wants to give this to you. The beautiful flower embroidered on it is our late great-grandma's favorite."

Kenneth's late wife loved lotus, for it symbolized purity and elegance even though it grew in the mud.

Deep down, Kenneth was impressed by Natalie's thoughtfulness. All the more so, the gifts were just to his liking.

Nonetheless, Natalie actually didn't prepare the gifts.

She didn't expect the two kids to make up stories to help her by giving Kenneth some gifts in her name.

At that moment, Natalie felt amused and speechless by their thoughtfulness.

Although Natalie understood their kind intention, she didn't wish to claim the credit.

After a while, Natalie looked up and said, "Old Mr. Bowers, The children said so because they were kind-hearted. Nonetheless, I should explain it to you. I didn't prepare the gifts for you."

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Chapter 534 The Kids Are Anxious

The atmosphere was reduced to a state of awkwardness after Natalie finished.

Besides, Franklin and Sophia looked crestfallen upon hearing her words.

The next moment, Franklin pulled Kenneth's sleeve and argued determinedly, "Great-grandpa, it was nothing like what she said. She said so because she thought you didn't like her. Also, how can Sophia and I be so clever?"

Sophia blinked at Natalie repeatedly and chimed in, "Exactly! Franklin is right. Mommy, please tell Great-grandpa that you have prepared the gifts for him, while Franklin and I only brought the gifts along with us!"

Since Kenneth was observant, he roughly knew what was going on.

"Why do you say so?"

Franklin and Sophia quickly cast a pitiful glance at Natalie as though they were begging her.

Franklin and Sophia did so much, hoping to improve the relationship between Kenneth and Natalie. Therefore, their effort would pay off only if Natalie played along.

Deep down, Natalie also knew that the kids did it for her.

However, she wouldn't claim the credit because she didn't prepare the gifts in the first place. All the more so, it wasn't as simple as the kids thought to deceive Kenneth.

As Natalie looked into Kenneth's stern eyes, she explained, "Franklin and Sophia thoughtfully prepared the gifts for you, for they know that these will be just to your liking. I don't really understand you nor know your preferences. Besides, I can't possibly know what the horse and lotus mean to you."

Franklin and Sophia were nervous upon hearing her statement.

"Mommy, Great-grandpa believed that you are the one who has prepared the gifts for him. Why did you want to clarify it?" As Sophia felt that her effort was in vain, tears began to well up in her eyes. "No one knows the truth if you don't say it."

Meanwhile, Franklin clenched his fists in frustration and asked Natalie, "Why do you have to be bothered by it? It makes no difference as to who has prepared the gift, as long as your relationship with Great-grandpa can improve. Besides, we don't mind if you claim the credit!"

While Sophia began weeping, Franklin was all irritated.

At that moment, Natalie felt that the children sincerely loved her even though she wasn't their biological mother.

After a while, Natalie squatted down and pulled Sophia and Franklin closer to her.

Natalie wiped away the tears on Sophia's face and gently pried open Franklin's clenched fists. Then, she said slowly, "You don't mind, but I do. I understand you wanted to show your great-grandpa that I'm a kind person. However, I didn't wish to do so."

Natalie paused for a while and continued, "I can't claim credit for something I didn't do. At the very least, I must make things clear beforehand. Although it's good to be liked and understood by others, we have to be righteous first and foremost!"

As Sophia and Franklin stared at Natalie, their frustration and impatience slowly faded away.

Franklin lowered his head and said, "We only wanted Great-grandpa to treat you better. Since he was biased against you, Sophia and I wished to make him understand you more."

Sophia nodded in agreement after Franklin finished.

At that moment, Natalie couldn't continue lecturing them but hugged them tightly. Kenneth stood with the help of his walking stick and witnessed how Natalie got along with Franklin and Sophia. Hence, his stereotype toward Natalie slowly changed. He felt that Natalie understood the children's thinking better than Yara and could teach them how to become better people.

As the saying goes, actions speak louder than words.

Kenneth began to understand why Franklin and Sophia were fond of Natalie.

Then, the coldness on Kenneth's face wasn't as intense when he glanced at Natalie.

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Chapter 535 Change Impression Of Her

Deep down, Sophia and Franklin still felt a little dissatisfied.

However, they remembered what Natalie taught them just now and came up to Kenneth to apologize.

Franklin pointed at the jade pendant and the handkerchief in Kenneth's hands and apologized, "Great-grandpa, we're so sorry for lying to you. We got these presents from Uncle Steven."

At the same time, Sophia gazed at Kenneth with embarrassment and said, "Uncle Steven said you would surely like the presents. Anyway, Franklin and I will never lie to you ever again. Please accept the presents if they are to your liking." Given that Kenneth used to overindulge the kids, it was his first time seeing them apologize to him.

Therefore, Kenneth was impressed because Natalie had taught the kids well and, more importantly, they were willing to listen to her.

At that moment, an outsider would even think that Natalie was the kids' biological mother, instead of Yara.

"Great-grandpa... why don't you say something ?" Sophia asked.

After coming to his sense, Kenneth felt that the passing thought was absurd.

Regardless of how well Natalie educated Sophia and Franklin, she could never replace Yara as their biological mother.

Kenneth nodded and said, "Well, I'll accept the presents. However, bear in mind that we shouldn't lie to others. All the more so, it's surely not a good thing that you start lying at such a young age."

"We know now."

The two children agreed in unison.

Since Natalie had fulfilled her responsibility as a temporary driver, she thought she could leave now.

She gazed at Kenneth and said, her tone remaining dignified, "Old Mr. Bowers, allow me to excuse myself if there's nothing else. I won't disturb your quality time with Franklin and Sophia and will come again to pick them up later." Just before Natalie wanted to leave, Kenneth said, "Since you're already here, why don't you have some tea and play chess with me?"

"Chess ?" Natalie asked curiously.

Kenneth sneered gently and asked, "Do you know how to play Go? If not, do you know international chess? Please don't tell me that you don't know either of them."

"I know how to play Go."

"In that case, let's play for one round."

Natalie wasn't against Kenneth's invitation to play chess, but her sons were still waiting in the car.

"Since you know how to play Go, why are you still standing there?" Kenneth frowned as he asked Natalie.

"My two boys are waiting for me in the car."

Feeling surprised, Kenneth put on a faint smile and said, "Are Xavian and Clayton here today?"

Initially, Kenneth was already delighted to see Franklin and Sophia. Once Kenneth knew that Xavian and Clayton were here, he couldn't help but feel overjoyed.

Natalie was a little shocked because Kenneth knew her sons' name. Nevertheless, she didn't want to hide it from him and merely nodded in response. Immediately, Kenneth instructed his butler, "Wouldn't it be too boring if they have to wait while we play Go? Go to the car and bring them here!"

"Yes!" The butler took action once Kenneth finished.

In the meantime, Natalie stared at Kenneth in perplexity.

Am I imagining things?

Why do I feel like Old Mr. Bowers treats Xavian and Clayton very well?

After a while, the butler led Xavian and Clayton into the house.

When Kenneth saw the four cute kids, he couldn't help but heave a sigh.

Given Kenneth's old age, fame and wealth were meaningless to him compared to the four sweethearts who could make him happy.