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Chapter 421 All Over the Face

Toby? Sonia frowned. What is he doing here?

"Let him in then," she said calmly.

While at the door, Wanda didn't manage to convey the message before Toby entered the apartment in large strides to head straight for the living room.

"Sonia." When he saw Sonia on the couch, he tried to make his voice gentler as he addressed her.

She turned toward him. "What's the matter, President Fuller?"

"I came to deliver something to you." Toby took a seat right opposite her.

Sonia was puzzled. "Deliver something? Sorry, I don't think I left anything at your place. Even if I did, it's certainly not something so important you'd want to come and deliver it yourself."

"It's not something you left behind; it's something that Grandma wants me to deliver to you." He lowered his gaze and passed the bag to her.

As Sonia couldn't see, of course Wanda took the bag in her stead.

Sonia blinked as she asked, "Grandma wanted you to deliver it? What is it exactly?"

"A set of jewelry," he replied as his eyes brightened. "When Grandma knew that you're attending her 80th birthday celebration, she was so happy that she took out a set of jewelry

she wore when she was young. She wants you to wear them when you attend the celebration later."

"Really, huh?" She narrowed her eyes, obviously not buying it.

Toby nodded with a steadfast expression. "Of course. You can call her to confirm it if you want to."

Sonia fell silent.

A few seconds later, she sighed. "All right, I got it. Please thank her for me. I'll wear them when I head over."

"Good." His thin lips curved into a smile.

It was something he knew—she wouldn't really give Rose a call because judging from her character, she wouldn't want to bother the old woman unless it was something urgent.

Even though Sonia was on good terms with Rose, she would try to avoid contacting Rose too often because she had already divorced Toby. Hence, he knew from the start that Sonia wouldn't clarify with his grandmother for confirmation, something which he had guessed correctly.

Upon seeing how Sonia accepted the jewelry from Toby, Wanda looked at Sonia before mustering enough courage to ask, "Miss Reed, shall I open the box to see what sort of jewelry it is?"

Sonia nodded. "Go ahead."

"Okay!" Wanda replied with a smile. Then, with Toby's permission, she retrieved the jewelry box from the bag and slowly opened it.

When she saw the entire set of imperial jade jewelry inside, her jaw dropped. This... Doesn't this belong to the late Madam?

She had been serving Toby's mother as the housekeeper for many years, so she could immediately recognize that Rose didn't own this particular set of jewelry. Rather, it was the late Madam's dowry. So, Young Master Toby has just lied to Miss Reed.

Toby seemed to have guessed Wanda's thoughts, for he nodded ever so slightly to confirm her suspicions.

As a result, she was at a loss for words. My dear Young Master Toby, aren't you afraid that Miss Reed would be angry if she found out what you did later on?

He caught her drift, but he lowered his eyelids and refused to answer.

Sonia wasn't aware of the silent conversation between the two of them. She didn't hear the sound of the box being touched either, so she asked, "Wanda, have you opened it?"

Wanda inhaled as she suppressed the uneasiness in her heart. Then, she smiled and answered, "Yes, I did. It's a set of imperial jade jewelry."

"What!" Sonia was in the midst of drinking some water. As soon as she heard Wanda's words, she choked on the water, which inevitably sputtered out of her mouth.

Since Toby was sitting right opposite her, he took a direct hit as the water splashed all over his handsome face.

Not only his face, but his hair as well.

His bangs were clumped together due to the water to the point where one part of it was dripping wet. It was something he had never experienced before, so he was dumbfounded and rooted on the spot, looking rather funny and embarrassing.

As a result of what she saw, Wanda couldn't suppress her laughter. "Mr. Fuller, you-"

Upon hearing Wanda's laugh, Sonia realized that she might have done something horrendous, so she tightened her grip on the glass in her hands. She straightened her back a little as she asked, "Um... Wanda, what happened? Did I just—"

"It's nothing." Toby inhaled as he finally recovered from the shock. Then, he reached up and wiped away the water on his face.

The moment she saw that, Wanda quickly pulled some tissue and passed it to him. "Here, Mr. Fuller."

"Thank you," he replied before he took the tissue and proceeded to wipe his face.

Sonia was definitely able to confirm that some of the water had definitely splashed on Toby when she heard the sound of tissue paper being pulled from the box. Even though it was an accident, she was still embarrassed, so she bit her lip and said, "Wanda, get a new towel for President Fuller."

"Sure." Wanda was elated to see Sonia asking for a towel for Toby's sake, so she quickly replied and walked toward the bathroom.

Toby also looked at Sonia in disbelief. "You..."

"What?" she asked.

His throat bobbed up and down. "To think that you'd actually ask someone to get a towel for me..."

Usually, based on her usually cold demeanor toward him, she would've just ignored his predicament.

So, he was exceptionally surprised when she offered him a towel.

Sonia bit her lip and asked calmly, "Are you shocked? I know I did something wrong, which was why I gave you a towel. It's just me making up for my own mistakes. Also, I'm sorry for earlier. I didn't do it on purpose."

Upon seeing her apologetic expression, Toby smiled a little as his voice turned gentler. "I know. I'm not blaming you."

After all, how could he blame her?

Sonia moved her lips, but she didn't say more.

It was because she didn't know what else to say.

Also, she had already apologized and he said he didn't mind. If she kept insisting that she didn't mean to do it, then her words would take on another meaning.

At this moment, Wanda carried the towel into the living room and she passed it to Toby. "Here, Mr. Fuller."

He reached out and took it; then, he placed it on his head and started drying his hair.

Sonia heard the sound of him drying his hair, so she slightly lowered her head and changed the topic. "Right, President Fuller, why would Grandma let me wear such expensive jewelry?"

That was the one thing she couldn't understand.

As far as she remembered, Grandma had never given her any jewelry before.

Of course, Old Mrs. Fuller had offered Sonia houses and cars, but she had declined them all.

As Toby had anticipated the question, he cast the towel aside and answered, "Because it's her 80th birthday, many famous figures in the business field will be invited. Many of them aren't even from Seafield. They are mostly powerful figures from Westsanshire, Sleubury, and even abroad. Most of them are people you wouldn't even have the right to meet normally."

It sounded harsh, but it was the truth.

Even Titus in his prime wouldn't have the right to see those people in authority, much less Sonia.

It was something that she was well aware of, so she wasn't exasperated. Rather, she merely asked, "So?"

"Some of those powerful people have subsidiaries just like Paradigm Co. If Paradigm Co. were to expand its horizons, it would have to try its best to secure a partnership with those subsidiaries. And you, as one of the biggest shareholders in Paradigm Co., have to establish relationships with those people and expand your own horizons. You have to make connections to secure your power as a vice president whereby people will actually listen to you. Then, you can retrieve the rest of management rights from Asher whenever you want," Toby elaborated as he looked at her.

Her expression turned serious and she began to clench her fists.

Sonia had to admit that Toby's words had hit the bull's eye.

It was true that she had recently been troubled by the future development in Paradigm Co. and the next course of action.

Paradigm Co. had achieved its stability by collaborating with the few subsidiaries under the Fuller Group, but being stable didn't necessarily mean that Paradigm Co. had improved and developed enough. The corporation was only saved from the brink of bankruptcy, but it was far from the development that it envisioned.

So, if Paradigm Co. were to develop and strengthen itself, it would have to do more than partner with the subsidiaries under the Fuller Group. It had to establish new partnerships and create new possibilities for more promising partnerships.

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Chapter 422 For Sonia's Sake

Needless to say, Sonia had of course thought about it and approached other companies in the same industry. Nonetheless, she didn't think those companies could bring much potential in the joint venture with Paradigm Co. since they were just small firms. On the other hand, those companies had also refused to work with Paradigm Co. as they were concerned about its bleak future. Due to that reason, her company soon found itself in a position with little room for improvement and growth.

Although Paradigm Co. was still operating as usual for the time being, she knew that her company would once again face an inevitable crisis if nothing was done to improve the status quo. After all, the revenues that Paradigm Co. made from its cooperation with the Fuller Group's subsidiaries were not enough to keep the business afloat, let alone pay its debt that was worth tens of billions owed to Toby. Thus, having a joint venture with a new company was definitely a pressing matter for her.

Furthermore, Sonia also agreed with Toby that as the biggest shareholder in the company, she should get to know more people to expand her social network. After all, the commercial world was complicated and unforgiving. Those who fought alone wouldn't last long, which resulted in cooperation becoming the most crucial way of survival.

It's only by meeting more great people that I'll know what I must do to improve myself, which is essential for my long-term success. Otherwise, I could be left out or even ostracized by the people in the commercial world. At the thought of that, Sonia suddenly caught on to Rose's intention of giving her the jewelry. She then took a deep breath and stared blankly at the man in front of her. "Grandma wants me to meet those big shots during her birthday dinner. Am I right, President Fuller?"

As Sonia quickly understood the gravity of the situation, there was a trace of admiration in Toby's eyes as he nodded. "Exactly. That's what Grandma wants. If you want to know these people and work with them, you need to make yourself look valuable. Those people judge your ability to bring value to them from your appearance. So, if your outfit fails to impress them, you may not even get a shot to greet them, let alone meet them. Do you get me now?"

Unfortunately, that's how grim the reality is! Despite his desire to introduce her to those big shots, he knew she would definitely turn him down because she didn't want to depend on him. Thus, he had to create an opportunity by using his grandmother's name to gather those big shots in one place before having Sonia do the rest. While he optimistically believed that she would learn a thing or two from the exposure, he would also be secretly observing her and be ready to create another opportunity for her should she fail to seize the chance this time. Deep in his heart, he wished for her to become better and more successful in her career.

"I get it now." Sonia nodded, feeling touched. "Alright, I'll take the jewelry. Please thank Grandma for me. She should be enjoying her twilight years, yet she is still so concerned about me."

Soon, Sonia recalled how Rose was the only one who treated her kindly in the six years that she was in the Fuller Family. Because she only had eyes for Toby then, she turned down Rose's invitation to move over in an attempt to avoid Jean. Thus, Sonia never really had the opportunity to repay Rose's kindness because of her stubborn decision to stay in the Fuller Residence. I'm no longer the Fuller Family's daughter-in-law, but Grandma still cares about me all the time. Oh, I really don't know how I should repay her.

"Don't mention it," he chuckled in response. "It's the least I could do."

"What?" Sonia frowned doubtfully and opined, "I'm telling you to thank Grandma on my behalf. I wasn't saying that to you, so what do you mean by that?"

A speechless Toby puckered his lips, somehow feeling a little bitter in his heart. Although it was his plan to begin with in the first place, he also had every right to say what he just did to Sonia. Nonetheless, he couldn't speak the truth or she would immediately return the jewelry to him.

"Fine, you don't have to be my messenger. I'll thank Grandma myself later." Sonia pursed her lips, thinking she should also assure Rose that she wouldn't disappoint the old woman as she would close a few deals during the birthday dinner. At the same time, she would guarantee the old woman that she would take excellent care of the jewelry until she returned it after the birthday feast.

"Alright, please go ahead and talk to Grandma then. It's getting late, so I should make a move and you should get some rest." Toby took a look at his watch and stood up. Man, if it weren't for this upcoming important meeting, I wouldn't leave right now.

Sonia nodded and rose to her full height as well. "Have a safe trip home, President Fuller. Wanda, please see President Fuller off."

"Yes, Miss Reed," Wanda replied and showed him the way.

"Alright, I'll head off then." He looked at Sonia, who only responded with a cold grunt.

Upon fixing his gaze on her face for a few seconds, he eventually turned away and walked toward the exit with a heavy heart.

"Be careful on your way home, Young Master Toby." Wanda followed behind the man and saw him off at the door.

"I will, please take good care of her. By the way, the jewelry she is having now doesn't belong to my grandma. Furthermore, I want you to say nothing about the matter regarding my mother." Toby made his instruction heard and understood.

Deep down in his heart, he was sure that Sonia wouldn't want to wear the jewelry that he gave her if she knew it was from him instead of Rose. In fact, before his mother took her own life many years earlier, she mentioned in her suicide note that the jewelries she left behind was for her future daughter-in-law. Therefore, he swore to himself that he would give Sonia what he should have in the past six years, bit by bit.

To him, it didn't matter whether they were divorced or not because he had treated her as his own wife anyway. She is my wife and no one can have her. Even if she won't forgive me for the rest of her life, I'm going to keep her by my side and do whatever it takes to keep her away from any other man. At the thought of her being with some other men, he couldn't help but grit his teeth in annoyance.

"Don't worry, Young Master Toby. I know what I should do," Wanda said with a smile.

"Alright, you should get back to her now. Don't leave her alone for too long. She is going to need someone to help her since she can't see." Toby waved his hand.

She nodded and closed the door while he made sure he heard the door closed before going to the elevator. After taking a few steps forward, his phone rang, whereupon he quickly checked it out and realized it was a call from Rose. Thus, he answered, "Grandma."

"Toby, why am I unaware about my own 80th birthday feast? I remember telling you that I prefer a simple meal with everyone in the family on my birthday instead of a grand feast. You agreed with that, so what made you change your mind? What's up with all this surprise?" Rose chuckled happily and sarcastically added, "Furthermore, even my friends knew about it way before I did. You're such a filial grandson, huh!"

Upon sensing her unhappiness, Toby faked a cough and decided to come clean. "I'm sorry, Grandma. I should have informed you earlier. I'm sorry about it."

"Alas! It's fine. Now that you've already distributed the invitation cards, there is no turning back now. The show must go on, so there is no point for me to blame you now. Tell me, what changed your mind all of a sudden?" she asked impatiently.

"It's all for Sonia's sake." He turned around and set his eyes on Sonia's apartment.

"Sonia?" Rose appeared to be stunned.

Toby nodded. "Yes, the future of Paradigm Co. is bleak and unpromising. If the situation persists, it will not end well for her and her company. Furthermore, she is an ambitious woman who has always wanted to expand her company, but under the given circumstances, she didn't seem to have much of a choice, so..."

"So, you're planning to use my birthday feast to pave the way for Sonia's future?" she responded with a cold grunt.

"I'm sorry, Grandma." He squinted as he had always wanted to create an opportunity for Sonia to expand Paradigm Co. However, he struggled to find a chance to do so until he realized he could execute his plan through his grandmother's 80th birthday feast. After all, this would prevent Sonia from becoming suspicious since she would probably think that it was all Rose's idea. Unknown to her, Rose's birthday was in fact held for her.

In the meantime, Rose could see through her grandson, knowing that he felt guilty for using her birthday feast to pave the way for the future of the woman he loved. However, she only shook her head and replied, "What a silly boy!"

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Chapter 423 The Truth Behind the Death of Toby's Mother

As soon as Toby heard Rose grinning through her voice, his eyes brightened. "Aren't you mad at me, Grandma?"

"Why would I be? You don't always take things seriously, so why should I stop you when you finally do?" she asked with a smile.

"Thank you, Grandma." He appeared to be relieved.

"There's no need to thank me, but even if you manage to create an opportunity for Sonia to meet more people, I'm afraid—"

Knowing what his grandmother was going to say, he interrupted, "I gave Mom's jewelry to her in your name and she accepted it. By then, all she needs to do is wear it during your birthday feast and she should have no problem talking to those big shots."

After all, Toby knew that the valuable jewelry would help Sonia to create a decent and well-mannered illusion. Even if Paradigm Co. might appear to be unstable, the jewelry could change their impression as they would probably think she was from a decent and established family. For that, they would be willing to interact with her; otherwise, she would struggle to even greet anyone during Rose's birthday feast. She can never get away with the grim reality.

"Ah, I see." Rose nodded. "What a meticulous plan you have there! It seems that I have worried too much."

Toby responded with a faint smile just as something crossed his mind. "By the way, Grandma, Sonia now thinks that you're the one who gave her the jewelry. She'll be calling you to thank you later, so please don't tell her anything I just told you," he reminded his grandmother in a serious manner.

Rose laughed helplessly. "Do I look like someone who is too dumb to know what should be done? Don't worry, I know what to do."

He chuckled, "Thank you, Grandma."

She responded with an affirmative hum shortly before an incoming call came in when she was about to say something. When she took a look at the caller, she couldn't help but raise her eyebrows. These 2 kids can really read each other's minds, can't they? Toby was just telling me that Sonia would call a few seconds ago and here comes the call. "Toby, Sonia is calling now. So, I'm going to hang up first and answer her call," she replied.

"Sure." Toby nodded, staring at his phone screen for two straight minutes after the call ended. Then, he kept his phone in his pocket and headed toward the elevator shortly before he found himself at Bayside Residence's main exit.

Meanwhile, Tom was leaning against the car when he saw his boss coming in his direction. He then straightened his posture and greeted Toby, "President Fuller."

When he noticed his assistant's stern look, Toby knitted his eyebrows and asked, "Do you have something you want to tell me?"

Tom nodded. "The investigation team working on your case seems to have found new leads on the culprit."

"New leads?" Toby squinted. "I thought the culprit who tried to kill me and Sonia was caught the last time."

"Yeah, but this time, the investigation team managed to dig deeper and find something that might lead us to the mastermind behind everything," Tom replied with a deep voice.

As Toby radiated a cold aura, his stare became intense and chilly. "So, that culprit has a mastermind?"

"That's right. The mastermind is the actual culprit who has been hiding for twelve years without anyone ever discovering a single lead on him until recently."

"What's the lead about?" Toby clenched his fists.

"That person seems to know your mother." Tom looked at Toby, seemingly noticing the need to clarify his words as he added, "And I'm not talking about Madam White. I'm talking about your biological mother."

"My... My biological mother!" Toby's expression changed. This mastermind knew my mother and killed my father. What on earth is going on? "What evidence do they have to prove that the murderer knew my mother?" He fixed his gaze on his assistant.

Soon, Tom nodded. "The evidence is a picture of your mother. Ever since you were caught in that traffic accident, the investigation team took a long time before they were able to find and bribe the driver who knocked you down. After some time, they managed to get their hands on the security footage of the entire Seafield, through which they successfully identified the target's residence. However, that person was nowhere to be found by the time they sent someone after him."

"After that?"

"Then, the investigation team proceeded to do some digging about the house and discovered that it was owned by someone else. Thus, they approached the owner and found out that the house was rented to three people."

"Three people..." Toby pursed his lips.

Tom then continued to say, "According to the owner, two of the tenants called the other one 'Boss'. Thus, if I were to venture a guess, the boss was probably the same person who killed

your father and orchestrated the car accident you were caught in. Meanwhile, the reason why I think this person knew your mother was because the investigation team searched the house and found a picture of her. Besides..."

"What else do you know?" Toby demanded with a dark look.

Tom took a deep breath and responded, "There were a few words found written on the back of the photo that read—I will avenge you! Those words were written so hard that it almost tore the picture apart. Thus, it was deduced that the actual culprit must have been in a good relationship with your mother, which was why he killed your father to avenge her."

"Avenge her?" Toby was seen with a bitter look. "Are you saying my parents shared a bitter history between them?"

"N-No, of course not. That's not what I meant. After all, it was a mere guess," an embarrassed Tom clarified with a smile.

At the same time, Toby clenched his fists, looking down to mask the coldness in his eyes. Deep in his heart, he knew there was nothing bitter between his parents since they were not in love with each other in the first place. In fact, they were only together because of the pre-arranged betrothal. Subsequently, when Toby's mother fell pregnant, his parents began sleeping in separate rooms and became spouses in name only.

When Toby turned 12, his father met Jean, but his mother wasn't mad about that at all. Instead, she even supported the man's decision to be with Jean and even put in a few good words for her in front of Rose, attempting to convince Rose to accept Jean. By doing so, Toby's mother would be able to divorce his father and realize her biggest wish because she used to carry Toby in her arms and tell him that she wanted to leave the Fuller Family to live her own life.

Unfortunately, Toby's mother had an emotional breakdown one night before she could divorce his father. She drowned her sorrows with alcohol that night and strangely threw a tantrum in the Fuller Residence while murmuring complaints about a man who stopped waiting for her and betrayed her love.

At that moment, Toby finally understood his mother's indifference toward his father and her desire for a divorce because she was in love with another man, but he had fallen for someone else. Unable to accept the harsh truth, she committed suicide the next day by slitting her own wrist. Thus, he was sure that his mother's death had nothing to do with his

father, which was why he found the killer's motive to avenge his mother absurd and laughable. Moreover, the culprit had also tried to kill Toby, which made him wonder whether there was something personal between his mother and this mysterious person.

"Please tell the investigation team to find out more about my mom's lover before she married into the Fuller Family," Toby instructed with a pair of glacial eyes.

Tom adjusted his glasses and asked, "President Fuller, are you implying that the murderer could be your mother's former lover?"

In fact, he had already known a thing or two about the matter related to Toby's mother. Thus, he could tell that Toby ordered him to investigate his mother's former lover because Toby suspected the murderer was this person. Furthermore, Tom also agreed with his boss' deduction since it was likely that the former lover of Toby's mother was jealous and mad at Toby's father for separating them. Well, if that murderer reckoned President Fuller's father was the one who caused his mother's death, that should explain his motive to kill Old Master Fuller. Why was he onto President Fuller as well? Perhaps I'll still need to do some digging about that.

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Chapter 424 Sonia's Vision Is Back

Toby nodded in agreement while Tom responded with a stern manner, "Alright, I heard you loud and clear. I'll contact the investigation team right away. Furthermore, your mother's photo will be sent over as soon as they verify whether the murderer's fingerprints are still on it."

"Alright, noted," Toby replied with an affirmative hum.

Soon, Tom reached for his phone and contacted the investigation team, whereupon he hung up the call two minutes later and turned his attention to Toby. "President Fuller, I've just passed your word to them and they'll send someone to initiate an investigation in Fredburg soon."

In fact, Fredburg was where the Johann Family's base was initially located and the place Toby's mother lived in until she got married. Therefore, Tom could understand why Toby wanted the investigation team to head over to Fredburg to conduct some digging about his mother's former lover.

"During the investigation, please tell the team to keep a low profile to avoid any unnecessary attention." Toby rubbed his forehead, worried that his suspicion would be proven true as that would mean the person was still in Fredburg. Thus, the investigation team's arrival could easily alarm and scare the man off before they could capture him. If that happened, it would lead to an inevitable wild-goose chase that would be nothing more than a waste of time. After all, Toby had been waiting for twelve years to avenge his father.

"Don't worry, President Fuller. I've thought about that as well, so I already told them to do everything they can to avoid any unwanted attention," Tom replied as he adjusted his glasses.

"That's great." Toby raised his chin as he looked up and fixed his eyes on the building. A few moments later, he averted his gaze and opened the car door. "Let's go."

"Sure!" Tom nodded.

.....

Two days later, Sonia woke up and saw a glimmer of bright ray of light in front of her the moment she opened her eyes. Is that light? Oh my gosh! It's really a ray of light! Although she still couldn't make out what was in front of her eyes, she quickly understood that she was recovering her eyesight. Therefore, she clenched her fists and exclaimed in exhilaration.

In the meantime, Wanda, who was preparing breakfast, heard Sonia's voice before immediately leaving the kitchenware aside to turn off the gas stove. Then, she barged into Sonia's bedroom without even knocking on the door, thinking that Sonia was in trouble as she asked in a concerned manner, "Are you alright, Miss Reed?"

Upon hearing Wanda's response, Sonia knew her excited scream must have caused a misunderstanding, so she quickly calmed herself down and looked at the door. As soon as she turned her head, she was surprised once more at the sight of a blurry silhouette. However, she was sure that the person standing in front of her was Wanda.

"Wanda," Sonia called out to the figure and saw it moving. Oh my gosh! It's really Wanda!

Meanwhile, Wanda only fixed her eyes on Sonia's trembling body as she nervously approached Sonia. "Are you alright, Miss Reed? Please say something. Don't scare me." If anything happens to Miss Reed, Young Master Toby will lose his mind.

Upon sensing Wanda's anxiety, Sonia took a deep breath to remain calm before she replied with a smile, "I'm fine, Wanda. I'm sorry that I scared you."

"You're fine?" Wanda didn't seem to believe Sonia's words as she proceeded to regard the lady seated on the bed. Nonetheless, she quickly became bewildered when she failed to notice anything strange upon taking a closer look at Sonia.

"Are you sure you're really fine, Miss Reed?" Wanda couldn't put her mind to ease, so she decided to ask again. "I heard you scream and saw your body shaking."

"I assure you that I'm fine." Sonia smiled once again. "The reason why I screamed is because I'm happy."

"Happy?" Wanda appeared to be confused. "What's the good news, Miss Reed?"

"My vision is back." Sonia couldn't hide the joy in her voice.

Upon hearing Sonia's reply, Wanda was caught in a trance for a while. Then, she agitatedly asked, "Is that true, Miss Reed? Is your vision really back?"

Sonia nodded. "Yes, but I don't think I've completely regained my sight. After all, I can only see shadows now but not the exact details including colors."

"That's not bad either." Wanda felt happy for Sonia. "Now that you can already see the silhouette, it means your eyes are recovering. Congratulations, Miss Reed."

"Thank you."

"Let's head to the hospital later for a check-up," Wanda suggested.

Sonia hummed in agreement. In fact, now that she could see shadows, she had also thought the same thing because she believed she would need new medication for her eyes. Thus, she understood how crucial it was for her to swing by the hospital for a check-up. "Wanda, please take me to the bathroom. I'd like to brush my teeth and take a shower now so that I can go to the hospital sooner." After saying those words, she crept out from the bed, desperate to have her vision back because she could no longer wait to return to Paradigm Co.

Ever since Sonia was out of action, she had asked Charles to momentarily take over all of her work. Asher was unhappy with this arrangement even though Charles was known as the director in Paradigm Co. because he reckoned that Charles had gotten in his way, which prevented him from appointing his own confidant to assume the position. When Daphne brought that matter up with Sonia, she mentioned that was the reason why Asher kept finding fault with Charles. Despite Charles' hot temper, he had tolerated Asher and stayed in Paradigm Co. for Sonia's sake.

Because of that, it infuriated Sonia so much that she wanted to stand up for Charles and retaliate, but due to her impaired sight, she didn't dare to rock up to her company. That in itself left her feeling guilty for throwing him in a tight spot. For now, all I want is to have my vision back so that I can return to Paradigm Co. and make Asher pay for what he has done.

Not long after that, Sonia was done with her morning ablution and breakfast, whereupon she was accompanied by Wanda to the First World Hospital. While they were on their way there, Sonia had already given Tim a call to secure an appointment. Thus, he was standing at the hospital's entrance the moment they arrived, but nonetheless, Wanda couldn't help but be wary at the sight of Tim because she was unaware of his relationship with Sonia. Who is this guy? Does he know Miss Reed? It looks like he is here to receive her.

As she had sensed nothing out of the ordinary from Tim's look, Wanda didn't think the doctor harbored any feelings for Sonia. Nevertheless, after witnessing his unusually cordial attitude, she couldn't seem to convince herself that everything was normal.

While a confused Wanda pondered for an answer, he walked closer and set his eyes on Sonia's face. "You mentioned over the phone that you can now see shadows, didn't you?

"Yeah." Sonia nodded.

Tim stared at her eyes and asked, "Can you see me now?"

"I can only make out your silhouette, but not your facial features, your outfit and its color," she answered.

He pushed his glasses up his nose bridge while replying, "I think I know what's going on. Firstly, I'll have to check whether there is still any blood clot left in your brain. Thus, I'll take you to the neurology department to do a CT scan first before we head to the ophthalmology department."

"Please proceed with the arrangements as you see fit," she answered once again.

Soon, the three of them walked through the hospital's main entrance shortly before Tim took Sonia to the CT scan room. At the same time, Wanda remained outside and dialed Toby's number.

Meanwhile, Toby was in the midst of a meeting when he received her phone call. He then frowned and reached for his phone, but as he was about to decline the call, he quickly changed his mind when he saw who was calling. He immediately straightened his posture and raised his hand as a gesture to inform the department manager to pause in the presentation.

Now that the entire meeting room was shrouded in silence, Toby slid the green icon across his phone screen and greeted, "Yes, speaking."

On the other hand, Wanda covered her mouth the moment she heard his voice and spoke in a hushed tone, "Young Master Toby, Miss Reed's eyes are recovering."

"For real?" His eyes brightened whereas everyone in the meeting room could clearly sense the positive change in his mood. At that moment, they all looked at each other in curiosity, wondering what it was that lifted Toby's spirit so much.

"It is. Miss Reed can now make out blurry silhouettes, so we're currently heading to the hospital for a check-up. Will you be there, Young Master Toby?" she asked.

"Sure, I'll be there soon." Toby nodded and hung up the call, but as soon as he kept his phone away, the bright look on his face was immediately replaced by his previous glacial and emotionless expression. "Please carry on."

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Chapter 425 Kidnapping Sonia

"Sure," the departmental manager replied with an affirmative hum and continued his presentation.

Nonetheless, everyone else in the meeting room could no longer focus on their work as they secretly winked at each other in an ambiguous manner. Now that they had been taken over by their gossipy nature, they were all dying to know who Toby was talking so gently to over the phone. After all, he had never been so tender to anyone except Tina, but ever since she was sentenced to prison, no one had ever seen him being this gentle again. Thus, when they noticed Toby's expression, they couldn't help but wonder whether he was in a new relationship. Tsk! Tsk! That's sooner than expected.

Now that he was the receipt of everyone's visual banters, Toby knew what they were thinking. Nonetheless, he wasn't mad at all but rather happy to see them misunderstanding the situation. "That's enough. Pay attention to the presentation right now."

He knocked on the table after a brief murmur of gossip. Deep down in his heart, he couldn't wait to finish the meeting sooner so that he could head over to the hospital to visit Sonia as he wanted to be the first person she saw when her eyes recovered.

On the other hand, everyone else straightened their posture when they snapped out of their fantasies as soon as they heard his warning.

In the meantime, at the First World Hospital, Wanda kept her phone away and returned to the hallway outside the CT scan room, where she sat on the bench and waited for Sonia to emerge. Half an hour later, Wanda immediately stood up from her seat when she saw Tim and Sonia leaving the room. "Miss Reed."

"Wanda," Sonia replied.

Wanda turned her attention to him and asked, "How is she, Dr. Lancaster?"

"The blood clot is completely gone and she'll have full vision probably by tomorrow. In fact, she could start to see things clearly today," he explained with both of his hands in his pocket.

She happily exclaimed, "Oh, that's definitely music to our ears!"

"Alright, we should take you to ophthalmology now for a check-up," Tim said.

"Sure." Sonia responded with an affirmative hum as Wanda seized her arm and followed them both to the ophthalmology department.

It was already close to the afternoon after the multiple check-ups when Sonia collected her medicine from the dispensary and was ready to leave. At the same time, a worried Wanda couldn't stop looking at her phone while wondering what took Toby so long to show up. Where is Young Master Toby? Miss Reed is about to make a move soon.

"Wanda? Wanda?" Sonia was waiting for Wanda to seize her arm but received no response as if the woman was not there. Failing to feel her caretaker's presence, Sonia began to panic because she didn't know what to do as a visually impaired person if Wanda wasn't around.

Soon, Wanda heard Sonia's fearful voice and immediately responded by looking over. "I'm here, Miss Reed."

Wanda's voice was like a soothing lullaby that calmed Sonia's restless heart. She then took a deep breath and questioned Wanda in a dissatisfied manner, "Where did you go, Wanda?"

"I didn't go anywhere, Miss Reed. I was just too absorbed in my thoughts and I'm sorry about that." Wanda apologized.

"It's okay, let's go now." Sonia rubbed her forehead.

Wanda nodded silently while letting out a sigh. It seems that Young Master Toby is going to have to wait for another chance to see Miss Reed. Then, she walked with Sonia all the way from the hospital's exit to the car park where she reached for the car keys and said, "Miss Reed, please stay still while I open the car door."

"Alright." Sonia nodded.

Soon, Wanda pushed the button on her car key to unlock the car door before opening it. However, as she was about to help Sonia enter the car, a van suddenly approached them at lightning speed and abruptly pulled up beside them.

As soon as the door was open, two emotionless and muscular men sprang from the van and grabbed Sonia while covering her mouth before they dragged her into the vehicle. Wanda, along with the other bystanders, were dumbstruck by what they saw in the face of the unexpected turn of events. After all, no one thought something that they watched in the movies would happen in reality, let alone expect a kidnapping to occur in broad daylight.

At that moment, every witness froze in their tracks and watched the abduction whereas Sonia had fear written all over her pale face. What's going on? Who is doing this? Who is trying to kidnap me? Needless to say, her questions were left unanswered as she didn't bother to ponder about it because she wasn't so calm as to continue thinking about it now that her safety was in jeopardy.

"Hmm..." Sonia tried to shout in a muffled voice but failed to make herself heard. Thus, she could only watch with saucer eyes as she futilely struggled to break free from the two muscular men. Nonetheless, her desperate effort to escape only proved to be in vain when the kidnappers continued to show no signs of releasing her. Now that she was at her wits' end, she turned her attention to her surroundings and made as much noise as she could, in the hope that she could draw Wanda's attention to rescue her.

Upon hearing Sonia's muffled cry, Wanda snapped out of her trance and shouted, "What are you guys doing?! Let Miss Reed go or I'm going to call the cops!"

Wanda! When Sonia heard Wanda's voice, she saw a glimmer of hope that she was about to be rescued and cried even louder in her muffled voice. However, the kidnappers weren't intimidated by Wanda's warning as they continued to drag Sonia into the van.

As Sonia was about to be dragged away, Wanda quickly approached the abductors to interfere. "I told you to release her! Didn't you hear me?! What you're doing is against the law,

so let go of—" Before she could finish her words, a huge palm landed on her shoulder, whereupon she felt herself jolting backward. It didn't take long for Wanda to realize that she had been shoved aside as she painfully fell onto the ground. Her face paled a moment later and it was covered by cold sweat as she struggled to get back on her feet.

Although Sonia was unable to see what had happened, she could tell from Wanda's painful moan that she had been violently treated. At the same time, she was able to feel one of the kidnappers releasing his right hand, which she reckoned was the same hand that he used to hit Wanda.

At the thought of that, Sonia became worried because Wanda was in her advanced years and too old to put up a fight. Furthermore, she was concerned that in her attempt to stop the kidnappers, Wanda could become severely injured.

As Sonia expected, her worst fear came true when she felt two hands restraining her ankles, although one of the abductors had released her right hand earlier. Then, she felt those two hands hoisting her up before she felt herself levitating in the air.

"Ugh..." She violently shook her head and struggled by kicking in all directions as her fear suffocated her. What are these guys doing?!

Meanwhile, the two abductors became annoyed with Sonia's struggle and they became even more aggressive. One of them proceeded to tighten his grip around her ankle to hurt her as a gesture of warning. Besides, he also glacially threatened,, "If you keep squirming, I'm going to crush your ankle and leave you crippled!"

When she heard tha man's words, Sonia froze in terror. Did they just say that they'll crush my ankle?! Although those words might have sounded like a bluff, she had no doubt about what those kidnappers were capable of doing. While she reckoned Tina was the worst person she had ever dealt with, she was sure that there was someone else worse out there in the world.