

A Cue for Love chapter 931

Chapter 931 The Undercurrent Of The Banquet

“I don’t know.” Natalie took a sip of her wine and shook her head. “What does Amos even like about me? It’s most likely my face at first. Now, he’s just frustrated about not getting what he wants. Rest assured. No matter how much Amos hates me, he’s a businessman. He won’t let the profit in his grasp slip through his fingers.”

Natalie swirled her glass gently as she blinked her eyes.

Amos might not even look at me if I was wearing an ugly hyper-realistic mask. I’m aware not every man is like Samuel. They can’t treat me the same way no matter how I look.

At the thought, Natalie felt thousands of needles prick her heart. Since there was no cure to her heartache, she silently sipped her wine.

Nevertheless, she was unaware that Jesper was watching her every move for Samuel.

Jesper was reporting to Samuel via the Bluetooth earpiece on his right ear. “Mr. Bowers, it’s just as you predicted. Amos still hadn’t given up on Ms. Nichols. He was persistent in his courting attempts. However, Ms. Nichols’ rejection was firm. It shouldn’t leave any misunderstandings between them.”

“Be careful. Don’t let anyone catch you, and continue to protect her.” Samuel ordered, “Contact me immediately if there’s any odd movement, got it?”

“Don’t worry, Mr. Bowers. I’ll protect Ms. Nichols with my life.”

“Continue streaming the video and audio.”

“Yes, sir.”

Jesper finally comprehended the attentiveness Samuel had for Natalie.

Not only did he change his name and identity, but now he would even send me to protect her at events he couldn’t personally attend. He sure is diligent about anything relevant to Ms. Nichols.

The entire banquet might seem bustling, but there was an undercurrent beneath it.

Naturally, Amos was infuriated at Natalie’s rejection. He stood in a corner sulking as he sipped on his wine.

He was depressed but not repulsed by Natalie. Instead, the urge to conquer her was burning fiercer than ever.

Conquering was men's natural instinct.

That instinct would breed a deep-rooted bad behavior that most men have. The easier they got their women, the more they undervalued them. The more pitiful their women were, the more the men desired them.

After a few gulps of wine, Amos' composure had slowly returned to him. Finally, he returned to being his usual elegant and charming self.

When he reached Natalie's side again, he had a faint smile on his lips. "Let's go. I'll take you to meet my father."

"Okay." Natalie nodded.

Amos led Natalie toward Carlos, who had guests surrounding him from every side.

Amos' actions garnished more attention than speaking privately to Natalie.

The other guests had started whispering about his actions.

"Which family does that woman belong to? Why haven't I seen her before?"

"She's indeed unfamiliar. Maybe she's Mr. Stone's new girlfriend?"

"What are you talking about? Everyone knows Olivia is the only daughter-in-law the Stone family recognizes. The entire Jones family is here today. It'd be embarrassing for the Jones family if that woman was Amos' girlfriend."

"Look at Amos' gaze on her. There's no way Amos doesn't like her."

Amos and Natalie had reached Carlos' side, and Carlos' gaze landed on Natalie.

After delving into the business world for so many years, Carlos had seen his fair bit of people. He had seen many beauties of every kind, but the young woman standing beside his son was so beautiful that she was engraved into his memory.

"Ammy, who is this?" Carlos asked with a frown.

Amos was about to introduce Natalie to Carlos when a woman's voice interrupted him from the side.

“Mr. Carlos, don’t get tricked by this woman’s looks! She’s that bunny girl waitress earning meager pay! She had numerous relationships with random men. You might find a record of illicit activities if you run a thorough background check on her.”

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Chapter 932 Special Relationship

Once Olivia finished, Natalie narrowed her eyes and shot her a cold gaze.

After Olivia interrupted rudely, Amos’ expression turned grim. “Olivia, how can you be so rude?”

Pointing at Natalie in disdain, Olivia said, “Yes. I was a little rash and said it without due consideration. Nonetheless, since I’m your fiancée, I can’t let the woman destroy you little by little!”

“What on earth are you talking about?” Amos felt increasingly disgusted by Olivia’s words and actions.

Regardless, Olivia acted as if she did it for Amos and replied righteously, “I’m not spewing nonsense! Who is this woman? How could you introduce her to your dad? I said it because I wanted to let your dad know who she really is!”

“Enough! I know who she really is better than you!”

“Are you sure? After all, she has already bewitched you,” Olivia asked him back, her eyes bloodshot.

“You!”

While Amos and Olivia were arguing, Natalie didn’t say a word, as if the dispute had nothing to do with her.

Meanwhile, Carlos glanced at the emotional Olivia. Then, he turned his gaze to Natalie, who remained composed even though she was in the eye of the storm. Given Carlos’ experience, he could instantly tell who was better without asking any questions.

“Miss...” While holding a cigar, Carlos gently touched Natalie’s arm and said, “Can you tell me your name?”

Once Carlos spoke up, Olivia eyed Natalie with a gloating look.

When Natalie met Carlos’ gaze, she put on a faint smile and said, “Mr. Carlos, it’s nice to meet you. I’m Natalie Nichols, the current chairwoman of Dream Corporation.”

Olivia was expecting to hear some lousy position, yet Natalie's self-introduction was a slap in her face.

"Impossible!" Olivia exclaimed and questioned in disbelief, "How can you be a chairwoman at such a young age?"

Natalie flashed Olivia a nonchalant smile and argued, "Ms. Jones, how about asking yourself why you're still just a senior director despite being three years older than me? I mean, it's better than wondering whether I'm lying."

Olivia was dumbfounded and couldn't find any words to retort.

"How... is it possible?"

"Ms. Jones, it could be a coincidence when we first met. However, why did you think I appeared before you out of coincidence a few times after that?" Natalie ran her fingers through her hair and added smilingly, "Some misunderstandings were supposed to be avoidable. Nonetheless, since you didn't show me respect, I didn't want to reveal my identity to you."

Before this, Olivia was confident that she could expose Natalie's identity. Hence, she was shocked to know that Natalie was the chairwoman of Dream Corporation. Although Olivia knew that the chairperson of Dream Corporation was a lady in her early twenties, it didn't cross her mind that the information had anything to do with Natalie.

"Natalie Nichols... Natalie..." After murmuring for a moment, Carlos patted his forehead and exclaimed, "I remember that name! Are you Malcolm's apprentice? Did we meet in the mountains a few years ago?"

Natalie nodded in response when Carlos finally recognized her.

"Mr. Carlos, it's been a long time."

Carlos broke into a vibrant smile. "You were always in plain clothes when being Malcolm's apprentice. Now that you've dressed nicely, it took me a long time to recognize you. Your master always boasted about how outstanding his apprentice was, saying she founded a company from scratch. Now I know that he wasn't lying!"

It turned out that Carlos and Natalie had met once before and, somehow, had a special relationship.

Amos was unaware of it, not to mention Olivia.

While Carlos and Natalie chattered happily, hatred and helplessness filled Olivia's eyes.

It wasn't until now that she realized why Jerry would stop her from provoking Natalie at all costs back then. She regretted her recklessness, but it was too late.

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Chapter 933 Shoot Herself In The Foot

Meanwhile, Amos smiled brightly.

Although he didn't know Malcolm, he was impressed by Natalie because she seemed to have a special relationship with Carlos.

What a charming yet mysterious woman! It is as if she can keep everything under her control.

Olivia blushed with embarrassment, for she created havoc that turned out to be a blunder.

At the same time, Bridger and Jada were startled by the dramatic turn of events. After calming themselves down, they walked up to Olivia to ease the tension.

The experienced Bridger said, "Olivia, how could you be so reckless? You spewed nonsense before Mr. Carlos without figuring out the truth and made a mess! Fortunately, it's just a misunderstanding!"

Jada quickly chimed in, "Olivia, remember not to do it again next time."

They pretended to scold Olivia as they tried to gloss over the incident to diffuse the awkwardness for her.

With tears in her eyes, Olivia nodded and replied, "Dad, Mom, I understand."

While the family members tried to save themselves from embarrassment, Natalie couldn't help but chuckle. Do they think they can get over it by claiming it was a misunderstanding? Wouldn't it be too easy for Olivia?

"Ms. Jones, why did you apologize to your parents?" Natalie mocked.

Olivia raised her head and gave Natalie a look of shock.

"Shouldn't I be the person whom you should apologize to?" Although Natalie looked gentle, Olivia could sense the slight arrogance exuding from her when she smiled.

Usually, Natalie wouldn't harm someone or bear grudges because of minor mistakes.

As they say, an eye for an eye. Considering Olivia crossed her bottom line many times, Natalie had to teach her a lesson.

"I... I..." Olivia initially thought she could smooth things over and pretend that nothing happened. Despite her frustration, she didn't have any other choice but to apologize. After giving it some thought, she murmured, "Ms. Nichols, I caused unnecessary trouble to you before finding out the truth. I'm sorry... I hope you can accept my apology."

"There won't be a next time," Natalie blurted.

"Yes." Olivia felt wronged but could only nod her head in response.

Natalie was satisfied with Olivia's apology and moved on.

Yet, the expression of every member of the Jones family turned grim, except Jerry.

Later, Bridger and Jada took Olivia and Jerry to a quiet place. The next moment, Bridger vented his anger by slapping Olivia hard in the face. "What did you do? I thought you exposed the woman because you already have some dirt on her!"

On the brink of tears, Olivia covered her face and choked out, "I... I never expected Natalie to be... the chairwoman of Dream. I thought she was a nobody. Also, I was worried that Ammy would abandon me if she managed to charm him. That was why..."

After slapping Olivia, Bridger glared at Jerry and scolded, "Also, why didn't you stop Olivia?"

Jerry felt a little upset and almost burst into laughter out of exasperation. "Dad, are you all right? Are you suggesting I didn't stop her hard enough? Wasn't it you who wanted me to let go of her just now?"

"You!" When the scene flashed across his mind, Bridger felt ashamed and nearly wanted to slap himself. "My gosh! We've humiliated ourselves before the Stone family! It doesn't matter how Amos thinks of Olivia now. I'm afraid Carlos is going to despise the entire Jones family!"

Olivia didn't know how to respond. She could only let tears stream down her face. Meanwhile, Jada felt heartbroken at the sight and wiped the tears away for her.

Under normal circumstances, Jerry would also feel sorry for Olivia whenever she cried. However, he knew she wouldn't have shot herself in the foot if she had heeded his advice. Hence, he stood aside with a conflicted expression and didn't even comfort her.

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After the misunderstanding was resolved, Carlos took a puff of his cigar and smiled amiably. "Natalie, since Olivia has apologized to you, I hope you don't mind about it anymore."

Natalie managed a slight smile as she replied politely, "Oh, don't worry about it."

Olivia had been impulsive, and one would say she could have been more tactful in the matter. Nevertheless, she was still the future daughter-in-law of the Stone family. Carlos was not taking Olivia's side, per se. What he said was to preserve the Stone family's reputation.

Natalie had been too adept at treading the fine line.

Too soft-spoken, and people might not have taken her seriously. Too hard-headed, and she would have hurt Amos' pride. Natalie had done a good job of saying just the right things in the right tone. Even Carlos, who was a notorious perfectionist, could not seem to find fault with her.

"Dream Corporation has established a strong foothold in Chanaea. I believe you're here in Loang to continue exploring more possibilities for an expansion?" Carlos asked with a smile.

"Yes," Natalie murmured and took a sip of her red wine. "I plan to explore the jewelry business first. Hence, I have already signed a business agreement with your son. I believe that we will have more win-win collaborations with Stone Corporation in the future."

Carlos eyed the woman and lamented, "If you were a man, Natalie, I think you would have been able to achieve so much more..."

"Mr. Stone, I'm afraid I cannot agree to that statement," Natalie stated plainly with slightly narrowed eyes.

"Oh?"

"My achievements will not be defined by my gender. In fact, it shouldn't have to matter," she uttered. "So, Mr. Stone, I hope you will not hold me in some stereotypical regard and lose confidence in me just because I'm a woman."

Carlos was stumped by her words. Then, he let out a hearty chortle and said, "Ah, don't worry about that. I shouldn't have thought any lesser of you! If you need the Stone family's assistance in anything at all, feel free to look for Ammy or me..."

"I shall thank you in advance then, Mr. Stone."

After a few exchanges of pleasantries, Carlos dragged Amos along to talk to other guests. Natalie knew she should not overstay her welcome and excused herself.

She returned to Yandel's side and was greeted by the man's huge thumbs up. "Boss, you were so cool! I didn't know you knew the cunning old fox, Carlos Stone! You didn't mention a word of it to me before we came here."

"We've met only once. Besides, you've already said that he's a cunning old fox. He would not have changed his mind on the business collaboration just because we had met this one time."

This is just like the misunderstanding with Olivia. Even though the matter has been blown quite out of proportion, I've managed to get it over and done with.

Natalie lifted the glass of wine in her hand and downed it all in one go. Then, she chucked the empty glass in Yandel's hand.

Yandel was stumped.

"Since I've come to the party and met the right people, it's time for me to leave," Natalie declared in a devil-may-care manner.

Yandel did not enjoy the vibe of the party, nor did he relish the idea of bumping into some familiar faces. "In that case, I'd better—"

"You, will stay right here," Natalie interrupted as she waved her hands at Yandel. "You have to stay here on my behalf. While you're at it, get acquainted with the upper echelons in Yaleview."

Left with no other choice, Yandel could only stay while Natalie left Carlos' birthday party.

Natalie felt a heavy weight lifted off her chest the moment she stepped out of the bustling building. The pearl hairpin was claspng too tightly on her hair. She reached behind her head to release her long ebony hair.

Her glorious hair fell against her slender back.

Natalie had had a few drinks. Even though she was not drunk, she could feel her cheeks burning.

She did not rush to hail a taxi. Instead, she decided to go on a stroll and take the bus home.

As she walked along the road, something felt off to her. It was as if someone was tailing her closely behind her. The person was no amateur either. If not for her cautious nature, she would not have been able to sense the person.

Natalie felt her heart skip a beat.

However, she gave nothing away as she deliberately took the deserted route.

Natalie wanted to find out who had the audacity to tail her.

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Chapter 935 Not Working

As expected, the shadow in the dark followed her as she took the narrow path.

A cold glint flashed across her eyes. She turned sideways and kept her body against the wall, making it so that the person would not be able to see her.

As the sound of the muted footsteps got closer and closer, Natalie pressed a button on her ring, and a small sharp razor popped right out.

When she could almost detect the sounds of the person's breathing, Natalie sprang from the corner of the walls and immobilized the man by his clavicle.

She pointed the sharp razor right at his neck.

After all, she was a coroner, and she was most familiar with the structure of the human body, as well as its most vulnerable points.

Jesper's back was forced against the cold and damp wall as he felt cold metal edging on his neck.

He had never felt so close to death before. His arteries were pounding from the adrenaline coursing through his bloodstream.

Oh, d*mn it!

Jesper had never imagined himself to be a timid person. However, he could not seem to calm himself down right then.

Red, hot blood was going to gush out of his neck if the woman had just applied minimal force on the razor.

"D-Don't use any force!" Beads of cold sweat dotted his forehead as Jesper stammered.

"Answer my questions." Natalie's lips curled into a grin as she continued, "And if I've got my answers, I will not use any force."

"A-Ask away..."

“Who are you? Why are you tailing me?” Natalie asked. “Who has instructed you to follow me?”

Jesper thought that his mission to see Natalie home safely would be completed once she was safely home. The thought of him being found out by Natalie had never crossed his mind. Not only was he found out by Natalie, but he was also debating with himself on whether to mention his boss.

Natalie had not managed to get an answer from Jesper. Her red lips parted as she hissed, “It seems like you’re quite the loyal servant, huh? Too bad that you’re only able to serve him as a ghost in hell now!”

Jesper almost pissed his pants at her threatening remarks.

He knew she was not joking.

“I’ll talk.” Jesper then divulged everything with closed eyes. “My name is Jesper Iglehart. I am Mr. Xander York’s subordinate. I am only following because Mr. York has ordered me to protect you!”

“X-Xander?”

Her grip loosened a little after hearing Xander’s name.

Jesper felt the force pressing down on his neck diminish. He had been holding his breath, fearing that he might be cut by the blade. Hence, he practically gasped for air when he felt her loosening her grip.

My goodness! No wonder Mr. York’s smitten with her. She’s truly something else—daring, unpredictable, formidable!

“He sent you here?”

“Yes,” Jesper said with a nod. “Ms. Nichols, we have met before. But I don’t think I have left enough impression for you to recognize me.”

Natalie suddenly recalled that she had indeed seen him before. He was Xander’s man.

Natalie retreated the razor in her hand and asked, “Where is Mr. York?”

“He’s at home,” Jesper muttered truthfully.

“Okay. Take me to him,” Natalie uttered. “We might as well bring you home while we’re at it.”

Jesper had wanted to decline her request. However, he thought it would be better to obey her when he was met with Natalie's sharp gaze.

Right then, in Pendant Hall, Luna was checking Samuel's pulse.

Her brows were furrowed the whole time. She did not utter a single word even after she was done checking his pulse.

Samuel broke the silence and said, "There's nothing to hide. Just tell me the truth."

"I've tried various techniques left by Grandpa, but they were all ineffective in suppressing the poison in your body," Luna said in a small voice. She did not meet his gaze as she detested her incompetence in the matter.

"What's so surprising about that?" Samuel said in a rhetorical manner. "Didn't you say that the cure might not be effective when you first used them on me? Since these do not work, we could swap them out for other ones. We will continue trying until we've found the one."

Luna nodded solemnly.

Samuel toyed with the silver mask with his fingers and said, "Even if you can't fully cure me, I hope you could extend my life for as long as possible."

He was willing to give anything to live another day—another day that would make it possible for him to live to see Natalie for one more day.