

The Promise of Happiness Chapter 60 - 65

Chapter 60 – 65

When Natalie returned home, she saw a group of middle-aged women surrounding the entrance of the flat and swooning.

“Isn’t this young man so handsome?”

“He must be waiting for his girlfriend here!”

“I wonder which girl is so lucky to be this young man’s girlfriend?”

Natalie was dubious as to how handsome the man could be.

No matter who he is, I’m sure he can’t be more handsome than those two guys from the Bowers family.

She glanced nonchalantly at the man surrounded by the older women. When she saw his face, her eyes widened immediately.

Samuel? Why is he here?

Samuel was wearing plain gray trousers and a white and black shirt, but he looked as if he had just walked out of a fashion magazine.

Two of his shirt buttons were unbuttoned, revealing his sexy collarbone. He seemed fatally tempting

He stood under the setting sun with one hand in his pocket, looking indescribably handsome.

Sensing that someone was looking at him, Samuel turned to look at Natalie.

Did he come here to meet me? Could it be that something happened to Franklin and Sophia again?

Just as Natalie's thoughts were rapidly turning, he took his hand out of his pocket and walked up to her slowly.

"Which floor is your house on?"

"Huh?"

Samuel frowned slightly, and he repeated the question patiently.

"Which floor is your house on?"

Natalie was a little confused. She mumbled, "It's... on the eighth floor."

Without saying anything, Samuel grabbed her hand and headed toward the elevator.

Natalie took a few steps before coming back to her senses. She stopped and asked, "Samuel, what are you doing?"

"You're not going to invite me to your house? Are you sure you want to talk to me here while being surrounded by these women?"

"You-"

Just as she was about to glare at him, she noticed that the older women around them were staring at her very intensely.

At that moment, Natalie felt as if she had become the target of their jealousy.

She then pulled Samuel into the elevator stiffly. As the elevator doors closed, shielding her from the jealous gazes of the women, Natalie breathed a sigh of relief.

Ugly men are a source of trouble, but it's even worse when they're good-looking! Ding!

After the elevator reached the eighth floor, Samuel followed Natalie to the entrance of her house.

"Samuel." Natalie turned around and raised her eyes slightly. "Why did you come here? Does it have anything to do with Sophia and Franklin?"

"Can't I come looking for you for matters not related to them?"

"That's not it, but you should at least."

Samuel's eyes narrowed slightly, his lips curling up into a smile.

"I missed you, so I came to see you."

Natalie was completely taken aback by his words.

"Samuel, are you sure there's nothing wrong with your taste?" Natalie pointed at her own face. "How could you say those cheesy words to this face?"

Although she did not allow others to dislike her hyper-realistic mask, she herself despised the freckle-covered mask to no end.

Samuel took Natalie's hand, and he looked into her eyes.

“I won’t allow you to say that about yourself.”

“Samuel, do you need me to refer an optometrist to you?”

“Is there something wrong with my eyes?” He leaned down abruptly, closing the distance between them. The tip of his nose was touching hers. “Didn’t you study medicine? Why don’t you take a look first? Is this close enough?”

They were so close that they could feel each other’s warm breath. Their lips were almost touching.

For the first time, Natalie was at a disadvantage in front of a man.

Just then, the door creaked open, and a tiny face poked out.

“Mommy, are you back?”

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When Natalie heard Xavian’s voice, panic rushed through her heart.

Her big round eyes widened in shock. Then, she glared fiercely at Samuel, who still had confusion in his eyes, and pushed him away as hard as she could.

However, it was too late.

The little kid had seen everything.

Xavian froze in shock when he took a clear look at Samuel’s face. The next second, his eyes glistened slyly.

“Mister, have we met somewhere before?” he asked.

Samuel turned to see a boy wearing a red shirt and blue overalls.

Although the boy’s attire was different from the one he wore in front of the restaurant last time, Samuel could recognize his adorable chubby face at once.

It’s him?

Xavian looked the same age as Sophia and Franklin. Plus, he was calling Natalie “Mommy.”

On top of that, when Samuel saw Xavian’s face which resembled him even more than Franklin did, he had a slight hunch.

Natalie had no idea that Samuel and Xavian had seen each other before. She thought that Xavian was only striking up a conversation with Samuel in this silly way because he had the intention of making the latter his stepfather.

To stop things from getting out of hand, Natalie bent over and covered Xavian’s mouth with her hand.

She whispered into his ear with a voice that no one other than the two of them could hear, “Sweetheart, watch your mouth.”

Xavian nodded his head to show that he understood.

Natalie released her son slowly, and as she got up, she glanced at Samuel.

“This is my son, Xavian,” she introduced.

“Nice to meet you,” greeted Xavian with a nod.

As Samuel gradually recovered from the surprise, he narrowed his eyes as he stared at Xavian. The corners of his lips curled up into an attractive smile.

“Xavian?”

“Yes, it means ‘bright.’”

“Such a pretty name.”

“Of course. Mommy gave the name to me, so it is the best name in the world.”

Natalie’s gaze went back and forth between the man and the boy in front of her.

She understood why Xavian was behaving this way, but she did not have the slightest idea about Samuel’s attitude.

To Natalie, the fact that Samuel could tolerate her “ugliness” was confusing enough.

Now that he knew she had two children, he should have looked displeased, but he did not show the slightest bit of disdain.

Does Samuel know my true identity and need me to treat some incurable disease of his? Or does he want to take over Dream? Is that why he forced himself to approach a woman like me?

Natalie could not figure out the reason behind it, so she decided to get Samuel to leave her house.

“Mr. Bowers, it is almost time for dinner. You see, although Xavian has prepared some food, he is still a five-year-old kid. Both his cooking skills and the ingredients he used are in no way comparable to the professional chefs of the Bowers family. Don’t you think you should...” Natalie paused. She did not finish her sentence as she thought that someone as smart as Samuel should understand her meaning in a second without her having to spell it out.

However, Samuel did not leave as she expected. Instead, he undid the button on his

shirt collar and fixed his gaze at Natalie. "Then I think we shall have dinner together. I want to try Xavian's cooking too."

"All right. I will get dinner ready now." Xavian nodded, turned around, and left to prepare the meal.

Natalie, who was left behind, stared at Samuel with a dumbfounded look.

Why is he staying for dinner in my apartment when he could have a luxurious meal back in his own house?

Natalie was sure that Samuel was not too blunt to have missed her hint just now. He was obviously pretending to not get it.

"What do you want exactly?" asked Natalie.

"I want to have dinner because I am hungry. Or are you worried that I will eat you instead of the food?" asked Samuel with a faint glow in his eyes.

Natalie almost choked on her own saliva upon hearing him. She coughed and said, "You..."

"Don't worry. I will only eat the food. I won't eat anything else," Samuel promised.

Natalie coughed harder than she already did.

This man! He will literally do anything to get closer to me! Fine! Since you want to see what I am hiding, I will play along with you!

As Natalie made up her mind, she stepped into the apartment unit with Samuel.

There were three bedrooms, a living room, and a dining room in the apartment. The three bedrooms each belonged to Natalie, Xavian, and Clayton.

Xavian prepared steak for dinner. He was busy walking in and out of the kitchen to bring the food to the dining room.

Natalie went straight to wash her hands as soon as she stepped into the apartment, but just as she applied some soap to her hands, she noticed someone standing beside her.

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Natalie lifted her eyes to look at the man beside her who was much taller compared to herself.

With his height of almost one hundred and ninety centimeters, his overly-handsome face like it was specially sculptured, and the extravagant watch on his wrist which was glittering a cold light, Samuel looked stunningly seductive. Everything about him was gorgeous yet not in an exaggerating way.

“Why do you want to eat here with us? Don’t the chefs of the Bowers family cook better than my sweetheart?” asked Natalie, her eyelashes fluttering.

When she was talking, there was an adorable tone in her voice without herself knowing

“Sweetheart... Is that how you call Xavian?” Samuel asked.

“Yeah, why can’t I?” Natalie glared at Samuel and continued, “He is my son. So what is the problem if I call him ‘Sweetheart?’”

“There’s no problem with it. I think it’s nice,” Samuel said with a smile. There was tenderness in his eyes, and his gentle smile made Natalie’s heart flutter.

He is definitely good-looking...

Samuel already looked amazing when he was wearing a bland expression, not to mention when he smiled. Even a calm and composed woman like Natalie could not help falling for him for a moment.

Placing his palm on Natalie's head, Samuel caressed her hair in a gentle and loving manner, as if he was petting a puppy or a kitten.

"Hey.." Natalie began. She grabbed his arm with her hands, which were still covered in foam, and went on, "I know your taste is a bit... unique, but don't waste your time on me. You won't get anything from me. I am different from all the other women you have met."

After all, she had children, and she was going for revenge. Other than that, she needed to snatch her grandfather's properties back and build a business empire under her name. She would never be like Yara, who would do anything just to

become Samuel's wife, as she knew she deserved so much better.

Samuel met Natalie's eyes, which were as clear as water. He could see the determination and stubbornness that was shimmering in her eyes. They lit up her face and made her look so hopeful and ambitious.

"I will decide whether or not it is a waste of time." Samuel took her hand and held it tight. A beam of light flashed across his eyes as he said, "As long as I think it's worth it, then not a second is wasted."

Natalie had no idea what to say.

She could sense the persistence in Samuel's tone

He has lost his mind! I have children, and I have ugly freckles all over my face! Why are these not enough to drive him away? I don't understand what he's up to at all!

Just as Natalie and Samuel were in a stalemate, a small figure appeared beside them.

“Mommy, dinner is ready—” Before Xavian could finish his sentence, he quickly covered his eyes with his chubby hands. “Ahem... Mommy, I didn’t see anything! Please continue!”

Continue?

Natalie sighed speechlessly and explained, “Stop saying nonsense, Xavian! It’s not like what you think it is!”

Nonetheless, Xavian had already escaped from the bathroom, so he did not hear Natalie’s explanation.

“You made Xavian misunderstand us!” exclaimed Natalie.

“Oh. I will explain to him later,” answered Samuel nonchalantly as he let go of Natalie’s hand.

He looked so unconcerned as if he was not bothered by the fact that Xavian had misunderstood them. Natalie was not persuaded that he could find a way to explain to Xavian.

They both took their seats in the dining room after they were done washing their

hands and began enjoying the meal that Xavian had prepared.

Natalie favored the spicy sauce, while Samuel and Xavian ate the steak without sauce.

At first, Natalie did not notice anything, but as they continued with their meal, she found out that not only did they both prefer eating steak without sauce, but even the side dishes they favored were the same.

She bit her fork and stared at the man and the boy who were sitting side by side.

They were eating at the same slow pace, and even the way they were holding their forks along with the coolness in their eyes looked similar.

At that moment, Natalie had a hunch that Samuel was indeed Xavian's father.

However, the thought only lasted for a few seconds in her mind before she told herself it was impossible.

Both Xavian and Clayton's father was the missing criminal, who no one knew where he was.

She had seen the chat history and the messages about the transaction between Yara and the man. Everything that happened that night was recorded clearly in the messages.

**Mommy, why are you staring at him the whole time? Is there anything on his face?" asked Xavian curiously when he saw his mother staring at Samuel's face.

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Natalie was indeed staring at Samuel without blinking, but it was still embarrassing to be pointed out by Xavian. She felt so awkward that she hoped the ground would swallow her up.

"Don't be silly, Xavian!" Natalie cleared her throat.

"I'm not being silly! Mommy, you are adding the steak sauce into the salad! The salad is ruined!" Xavian pouted.

Natalie lowered her gaze at the salad in her bowl.

Just like what Xavian had said, she was adding the spicy sauce she added to the steak just now into the salad bowl.

She knew that Xavian was telling the truth, but there was no way she could bring herself to admit that she was indeed staring at Samuel.

“You don’t get it. I like eating this way.” Trying to pretend nothing had happened, Natalie stuffed a mouthful of salad topped with the spicy steak sauce into her mouth without hesitation.

The steak sauce was never a good combination with the salad.

However, she had to maintain her image in front of her son, so she kept a straight face despite the weird taste in her mouth.

Hang in there! You can’t embarrass yourself in front of your son!

Natalie forced herself to swallow the salad, and Xavian did not notice anything wrong with his mother.

Samuel, on the other hand, was filling Natalie’s glass with soft drinks. He looked amused and was wearing a charming grin.

She is so cute when she’s acting stubborn..

After dinner, Natalie took a glance at the greasy dishes and cutleries and rolled up her sleeves. She then piled the dishes up and carried them into the kitchen to wash them.

Meanwhile, Xavian dragged Samuel into his room.

Xavian sat cross-legged on his bed while Samuel sat on the floor mat. They stared at each other wordlessly for some time.

“I remember you said you weren’t interested in Mommy when we met last time!” said Xavian as he rested his chin on his hand and lifted his eyebrows.

“You’re right.”

“I’ve already told you that my mommy is excellent. She has both talent and beauty. Now you know I am not lying to you, don’t you? So, do you regret saying that? Are you planning to change your mind?” Xavian said proudly.

“No, I’m not changing my mind.”

“What?” Xavian was enraged as soon as he heard Samuel’s response. Thinking that Samuel was only playing with his mother’s feelings, he exclaimed, “How dare you flirt with my mommy when you have another woman in your mind?”

“Back then, I didn’t know Natalie is your mommy. In fact, from the very beginning, your mommy is the only woman in my heart,” Samuel answered.

“Do you mean you’ve fallen for my mommy since a long time ago?”

Samuel nodded after a few moments of silence. “Yes.”

Xavian nodded in satisfaction.

Samuel was brave enough to admit his feelings toward Natalie, not to mention he was not disgusted at all even when Natalie was wearing the hyper-realistic mask. This showed that Samuel was not a shallow-minded person. He loved Natalie not for her looks, but for her soul and talent.

“It’s not going to be easy if you want to win my mommy’s heart. She is probably hurt too deeply by Daddy.”

“You mean your biological father?”.

“He’s a smuggler and a robber. I have only seen his photo. He suddenly went missing five years ago and is probably already dead. Perhaps he died years ago,” Xavian

answered calmly.

“Did your mommy tell you these?” asked Samuel.

“Mommy only told me half of the story. Clayton and I found out the rest ourselves.”

Samuel frowned deeply upon hearing Xavian’s words, and a grim expression appeared on his face.

Why did she assume I was a smuggler and a robber? Why did she leave Sophia and Franklin behind, without even knowing about their existence? Why did she forget everything about me?

After Natalie had finished doing the dishes, she opened the door to Xavian’s room to see the two of them sitting cross-legged together in front of the large computer screen.

They were both holding their phones and were playing games together as a team.

Neither one of them noticed Natalie standing at the door, as they were too immersed in the game.

“The assassin is coming from the middle lane. Come here and assist me quickly!”

“Okay.”

Natalie had played games with Xavian before this.

However, she had never seen such a bright and happy smile on Xavian’s face when she played with him.

When Samuel and Xavian were playing games together, they looked like father and son.

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Father and son? How ridiculous! I must be imagining things!

Natalie bit her lip and shook her head, trying to get rid of the absurd idea that popped up in her mind.

However, at the same time, a sense of indescribable sorrow and disappointment rushed through her heart.

As she watched Samuel and Xavian interacting, she realized that no matter how much maternal love she tried to give to her two children, she could never make up for the absence of their father's company in their growth process.

The reason that both her children were trying intently to find themselves a stepfather was not only that they hoped their mother could fall in love again, but also that they longed for love and companionship from a fatherly figure.

With Samuel hanging around tonight, Xavian was more energetic than he usually was. He was talking to Samuel all the time, smiling from ear to ear.

When it was nine o'clock, Natalie turned toward Xavian. "It's late now. Time for you to sleep."

"Yes, yes, Mommy. I know." The little boy nodded obediently but winked at Samuel at the same time. "I have to go to bed now. You should come to visit more often."

"Okay." Samuel agreed.

Natalie frowned when she saw Samuel promise Xavian.

After Xavian brushed his teeth and went to sleep, Natalie sat on the couch and turned to meet Samuel's dark and impenetrable eyes.

She tucked her hair behind her ear and asked, "Now there are only the two of us here, so you can tell the truth. Why do you come to my place tonight? What do you want from me?"

“I’ve told you everything I need to. I only want to see you. That’s all.” Samuel pulled lightly at his collar.

here. You should leave now.”

However, to her surprise, Samuel grabbed her hand and pulled her into his arms.

Natalie did not see that coming. She was already sitting on Samuel’s lap when she recovered from the shock.

“What are you”

“You are still so young, yet so protective of yourself.” Samuel locked Natalie tightly in his arms as he sighed beside her ear. “What happened to you in the past?”

His voice sounded gentle and pampering, but most of all, it was filled with love. He was aching for her.

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“Samuel, I hate it when others try to test me,” said Natalie as she became increasingly cautious and alert. “Stop wasting your energy on me. Why don’t you spend it on Yara instead?”

To Natalie, anyone who helped Yara was her enemy, including Samuel.

Natalie tried to pull herself away from Samuel’s embrace and away from the shameful position they were in.

She was so close to him, with only a layer of clothing in between them. It was difficult for her to ignore the feeling of Samuel’s hot temperature on her skin.

Samuel whispered when Natalie moved, "Don't move."

His tone made Natalie feel like she had just touched somewhere she should not have, and she stopped moving right away. She was not afraid of Samuel. Instead, she was just not used to being so intimate with someone else.

"Who told you I'm on Yara's side?"

"Do you think I'm a fool?" Natalie pursed her lips and continued, "She marched into the Bowers residence in such an imposing manner and you're telling me that you're not on her side?"

"Didn't you march into the Bowers residence in the same imposing manner?"

"I.

"If you don't like her, then I'll not allow her to set foot in the Bowers residence anymore in the future," Samuel promised.

There was incomprehensible emotion in his deep eyes, but the way he was looking at Natalie made her feel his seriousness when he made that promise.

As she looked into his eyes, she could no longer bring herself to question him.

"Natalie, you can doubt the entire world if you want. I just wish you would try to trust me," said Samuel.

Natalie was once a fool who did not know how to protect herself. As a result, she was deeply hurt by the people closest to her. She was abused, exploited, and even lost her virginity because of her foolishness.

Trust? It was such a simple word, but it was the most difficult thing for Natalie to do.

"Samuel."

“Yeah?”

C

“I’m sorry. But I don’t trust anyone but myself.”.

Samuel narrowed his eyes and looked at Natalie. Her pain and sadness were written all over her face.

She did not reveal anything about her past, but Samuel was still able to see how vulnerable she was under all the stubbornness and determination.

She did not shed a tear, but Samuel knew that she was in pain and that her heart was bleeding profusely.

“I’m sorry.” Samuel let go of Natalie and stood up from the couch.

I was too rash. I only wanted to have her by my side, but I did not consider how much she suffered in the past. I need to take it slow. Samuel turned and left.

Natalie clenched her fists as she watched Samuel leave.

She knew she should not trust Samuel, but her heart throbbed when she heard his apology.

Natalie arrived at the Watsons residence to help treat Max’s poison as promised.

When she stepped into the large bedroom, she realized that only Max and Shawn were present.

Max was still in bed, but his condition seemed to have improved compared to before.

“Old Mr. Watsons.”

“Natalie, you’re my lifesaver. I have an unreasonable favor to ask. Since Shawn is only

a few years older than you, you don’t have to address me as ‘Old Mr. Watsons’ or ‘Sir! Why don’t you just call me ‘Grandpa’ like how Shawn does?” said Max with a smile.

I think that’s a reasonable demand. Natalie nodded as she had no reason to decline Max’s wishes.

“Grandpa.”

Max smiled delightfully. “Yes, that’s it.”

Natalie greeted Shawn with a light nod and began attending to Max.

Throughout the process, Shawn kept his gaze locked on Natalie, his eyes glimmering behind his glasses.

Natalie focused on the treatment and paid no attention toward Shawn.

Max, on the other hand, watched the two of them quietly.

The old man admired Natalie’s medical skills and personality, but when it came to her appearance, he was worried that even Shawn would not be able to accept it.

However, judging by the way Shawn was staring at Natalie, Max knew that this grandson of his was completely in love. After all, there was a saying that goes – beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder. Shawn’s happiness is all that matters.

After Natalie finished doing her job, she kept away the equipment and said, “Grandpa, the toxins in your body are almost cleared, but you’ll still have to take the medicines I prescribed you. They will help you in the recovery process.”

“I understand.”

“I’ll take my leave then if there’s nothing else.”

Max cleared his throat and looked at Shawn before saying, “Shawn, what are you waiting for? Treat Natalie to a meal on my behalf.”

Natalie opened her mouth and was about to reject the offer.

However, before she could say anything, Shawn said, “Ms. Nichols, please allow us to repay your kindness.”

Natalie glanced at the both of them and knew that it would be too ignorant of her if she were to insist on rejecting the offer.

“All right then. Thank you.”

Instead of having dinner in the Watsons residence, Shawn took Natalie to a high-end restaurant owned by the Watsons family.

The restaurant manager was quite shocked when he saw Natalie’s face as she and Shawn entered the restaurant.

Although Shawn was not very influential in the Watsons family, he was still considered a prominent person.

But this woman’s appearance is too... ugly.

The restaurant manager stared blankly at Natalie's freckled face and was too shocked to say anything.

Natalie, on the other hand, was not bothered by it. She was used to the way people looked at her by now, but Shawn was not able to keep his cool.

He stood in front of Natalie and glared at the manager, as though he was silently giving him a warning. Get lost.