

The Promise of Happiness Chapter 66- 70

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Chapter 71

Wow. This man is amazingly attractive.

He was wearing a simple black shirt, but with his wide shoulder and narrow waist, he looked elegant and breathtaking.

Moreover, he had a tall figure and exquisite facial features. His attractiveness was out of this world.

“Good morning,” said Samuel with a faint, happy glow in his eyes.

“Good morning.” Natalie nodded lightly. However, her heart churned slightly at the thought of Samuel coming along.

“I thought you’re busy?” she asked, lifting her eyebrows.

“I am busy. However, I still have time to spare for Franklin and Sophia.” Samuel was in a good mood.

Sophia and Franklin looked at each other, surprised.

Daddy’s definitely lying. He obviously doesn’t have time! He stayed up all night and finished his work in order to attend the parents’ visit today.

The two kids remembered seeing Billy coming to take a thick pile of documents from their father’s study when they got up in the morning.

“Daddy didn’t have to attend today. Last night, he didn’t...”

Franklin was just about to reveal that Samuel had pulled an all-nighter but he stopped abruptly when he saw his father's stern eyes.

"Hmm? What happened last night?" Natalie asked.

Franklin dared not say anything and shook his head. "Nothing. Let's get going, or we're going to be late for school."

Despite her curiosity, Natalie stopped asking as she did not want them to be late for today's event.

After a thirty-minute drive, the car stopped in front of the kindergarten.

Franklin and Sophia, as members of the Bowers family, went to an elite kindergarten

Countless luxurious cars were parked at the entrance of the kindergarten due to the special occasion.

"We're here." Franklin and Sophia hopped off the car with their school bags and stepped into the gate. Natalie and Samuel, on the other hand, walked in with the other parents.

Once they arrived at the registration desk, several female teachers who were wearing makeup smiled at them. "Mr. Bowers, it's good to see you."

"Hello. I am the dean of Starlight Kindergarten."

"I am Starlight Kindergarten's Leader of Academic Affairs."

Not to mention Samuel's good looks, his status alone as the young master of the Bowers family was already enough to make the teachers try to get on his good side.

These teachers pampered Franklin and Sophia, and now that their father was here, they had to give their best effort to butter him up.

Natalie, who was standing next to Samuel, realized that she had underestimated his charm.

The female teachers swarmed toward Samuel like bees surrounding honey.

Natalie, however, was too inconspicuous compared to Samuel. Moreover, she was getting in the way. The teachers ignored her and pushed her around as they focused their attention on Samuel.

In the middle of the commotion, somebody ran into Natalie, causing her to stagger.

As a result, she twisted her right ankle. Enduring the pain, she flailed her arms around to find something she could hold onto as her legs gave way, but to no avail.

Just as she thought she was going to fall, someone supported her slender waist in the nick of time and pulled her back up.

The next thing she knew, her lips touched Samuel's due to the force of inertia.

"Mmph!" Surprised, Natalie opened her mouth, and her teeth grazed Samuel's lips, instantly drawing blood.

Everything was so unreal, but the blood on Samuel's lips was too obvious to ignore.

"Are you all right?" Worried, Natalie lifted her hand to examine Samuel's wound, but as soon as her fingertips touched his lips, she pulled her hand back as if she was just electrocuted.

I'm the one who caused him to bleed, but it would be too weird if I touched his lips just like that.

Samuel squinted his eyes in disappointment when Natalie withdrew her hand.

This woman obviously cares about me, but at the same time, she is distancing herself away from me.

Samuel wiped the blood with his fingers and said, "Would you take full responsibility if I'm not okay?"

"Take full responsibility for what?"

Upon seeing Natalie's wary face, Samuel lowered his voice and whispered, "Forget it. From now on, just stay by my side."

Natalie nodded.

Then, Samuel took her hand and marched forward.

"What are you."

"It's safer this way. You're mine, so I will look after you wherever I go." Samuel's eyes shone brightly as he stared at Natalie.

Natalie was stunned. Since when did I become his?

Subconsciously, she tried to pull her hand away from his grasp.

However, he tightened his grip on her hand, like he was afraid she would run away

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Natalie continued to struggle but to no avail. Samuel's large palm clutched her hand tightly without the intention of letting go.

For some reason, Natalie felt loved when Samuel's palm was pressed against the back of her hand. It had been a long time since someone held her hand so tightly and dearly after her mother's death.

At that moment, she glanced at Samuel's face and felt a strange warmth fill her heart.

Samuel's loving and gentle attitude toward Natalie was witnessed by the female teachers.

"Did you guys see what happened just now?"

"Mr. Bowers is treating that ugly woman so nicely! He didn't even get angry when that woman's lips touched his. When he looked at her, there was love in his eyes!"

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"Exactly! Do you think she is his girlfriend? Would she be Mr. Franklin and Ms. Sophia's mother in the future?"

As the female teachers discussed, they found the whole situation somewhat absurd and unbelievable. However, what happened just now was undeniably true.

Just then, the art teacher, Molly Larkins, said with a firm voice, "That's impossible!"

"Why do you say so? Didn't you see what happened just now?" another female teacher questioned Molly.

"Yes, I saw what happened, and that's why I'm sure it's impossible! It was an accident when the woman's lips touched Mr. Bowers!. Judging by Mr. Bowers' status and standards, do you guys really think he would be interested in a woman like her?" Molly lifted her chin and said disdainfully.

If that woman was a stunning beauty, then it's reasonable to say that Mr. Bowers is in love with her. However, that woman is not pretty at all. Instead, she is quite ugly.

In terms of appearance, every single female teacher who was present was prettier

than Natalie.

Immediately, the women changed their opinions.

“I think Mr. Bowers has better taste.”

“That woman’s face is full of freckles! It would take a lot of courage to kiss her.”

“I bet that woman is cunning! Maybe it was not a coincidence that their lips touched. She is clearly taking advantage of Mr. Bowers’ kindness!”

“What happened to this world? Ugly women nowadays are playing dirty to be recognized, huh?”

Molly listened to them speak and gritted her teeth. Her eyes were full of resentment.

Am I not prettier than that woman? I guess I’m too shy and reserved. That’s why I missed out on countless opportunities to befriend Mr. Bowers.

Disgusted by the thought of a woman like Natalie kissing Samuel’s lips, Molly clenched her fists and bit her lip in anger.

All this time, she had low self-esteem and thought that she was not good enough for Samuel. And now, her chance was snatched by Natalie.

I don’t care who she is! I’m going to teach her a lesson.

Natalie and Samuel stood outside Franklin and Sophia’s classroom and watched them study.

The corners of Natalie’s lips curved to form a smile as she watched them listen attentively in the classroom.

All of a sudden, she was reminded of the pair of twins she had lost.

It was as if a sharp dagger had pierced the scab on her heart and made it bleed again. The throbbing pain was difficult to ignore.

If the twins were still alive, they would be around the same age as Sophia and Franklin. They would be able to sit in a classroom like Franklin and Sophia.

She had given birth to them but failed to protect them.

I'm so sorry, my babies.

Pain spread through Natalie's chest like blazing fire and took her breath away.

The more she looked at Franklin and Sophia, the more she thought about her twins.

Tears began to well in her eyes and in the end, they streamed down her cheeks.

Just as Natalie was struggling to endure the immense pain, Samuel grabbed her wrist and forced her to face him.

His eyes darkened as he said in a deep voice, "Are you crying, Natalie?"

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Natalie looked at Samuel with her tear-stained eyes.

She didn't even have the opportunity to wipe her tears away before they started rolling down from her cheeks, and one thing Natalie disliked was for others to see the weak side of her, especially if that person was Samuel.

"It's none of your business," she said, giving him a cold glance in the process before she flung his hand away.

Natalie basically ran out from the kindergarten.

In all these years, she had tried her best to forget and let go of all the pain that antagonized her, but she couldn't help but relive those painful memories when she saw Sophia, who was the same age as her twins.

"Are you all right?" A woman in white, Molly Larkins, walked to Natalie's side and gave her tissues, causing Natalie to turn her head.

"You are?"

"I'm Sophia and Franklin's art teacher, Molly. I meant no harm. You just looked so sad, so I thought of giving you tissues."

"Thank you."

Natalie then took the tissues from her and wiped her tears with them.

"You're Sophia and Franklin's..."

"Friend," Natalie replied slowly, looking into Molly's eyes when she answered.

For one, she was not related to Sophia and Franklin by blood. Hence she considered herself as more of a friend than an elder to them.

Molly then brushed her bangs and continued, "And, you and Mr. Bowers...?"

Natalie immediately caught the hint when Molly asked, seeing through her antics.

"You've got the hots for Samuel?"

Molly, on the other hand, never thought that Natalie could be so straightforward. Her face immediately flushed red as she stuttered, "Y-you-"

"I see, so you fancy him."

"What's with that, anyway? Do I need your permission to like him?" Molly got irritated..

Natalie could only sigh when she looked at Molly now.

Does she think love can bring anyone together? Does she really think any woman can handle someone like Samuel?

"What are you sighing for?"

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"I'm just sighing at your futile adoration. There's no way anything will happen between you two." Natalie replied without a hint of hesitation. She then continued, "Ms. Larkins, it's best if you don't waste your time."

"Huh? So what if I don't stand a chance? You think you can?"

Molly then stopped her pretentious act and started to spout vile words, furrowing her brows.

"Have you taken a good look in the mirror before saying that? With a face like yours? Freckles everywhere, I'm disgusted just by looking at you," Molly said while pointing at Natalie's face.

Natalie never thought that Molly would change her personality all of a sudden, and her eyes slowly turned cold.

"Molly. How can you spout something like that as a teacher?"

“What? Did I say anything wrong?” She looked at Natalie with arrogance and continued, “Not happy that I’m actually prettier than you? Not happy that I like Samuel? I don’t know what dirty tricks you used to reel him in, but for someone as ugly as you to even have the guts to do that really disgusts me!”

Did she just call me ugly? What does that have to do with her? Let’s see who’s the fairest of them all if I take off my hyper-realistic mask!

Just thinking of that, Natalie was close to losing her cool.

“You had better stay away from Samuel.” Molly walked over and was planning on pushing her.

However, Natalie one-upped her first by grabbing Molly’s arm and twisting it.

“I know I said that you guys are unsuited for each other, but I take that back. You’re not even worth his time.”

“Ouch!” Tears were seen in Molly’s eyes as she yelped in pain.

Just then, Molly spotted Samuel’s silhouette.

As if she found her saving grace, tears started forming as they rolled down her cheeks. “Mr. Bowers, please save me! This woman is planning to hit me!”

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A cold smile flashed across Natalie’s face.

She never thought Samuel would appear in the nick of time, just when all this was happening.

Natalie was not afraid of Molly’s tattling, anyway. She just felt annoyed that Molly was trying her best to exacerbate the situation with her crocodile tears.

“Shut up.”

Hearing that, Molly’s acting skills came into full bloom as she continued crying. “Mr. Bowers, my hands are about to break. Please, save me.”

Samuel just knitted his brows as he walked toward them, pursing his thin lips into a straight line.

Molly was actually happy seeing Samuel walking toward her, but her tears just kept falling

She learned how to dance ever since she was young, so she had a beautiful body. To top it off, she had beautiful facial features as well. Molly felt that Samuel would protect a beautiful girl like her, as opposed to Natalie, whose face was full of freckles. Of this, she was certain.

I have the looks to back it up, and Natalie does not. I also look meek, nimble, and gentle. Natalie is repulsive by comparison! There’s no way a man like Samuel will prefer her over me. Molly thought.

“Mr. Bowers, my hands hurt so much...”

Natalie then turned her face and looked at Samuel’s beautifully chiseled face. Her heart skipped a beat just by looking at him.

However, her gaze immediately turned cold again when she remembered what Molly had done. All of this fuss was over Samuel.

Time slowly ticked by as they looked into the eyes of each other.

Natalie just stared into his jet-black eyes, in hopes to understand what he currently

had on his mind.

She still had Molly’s arm in a bind, twisting it as if she was some kind of criminal.

By the looks of it, it did seem like she was bullying Molly.

“What? Here to criticize me for my sins, Samuel?”

Samuel just raised a brow and replied with his low voice, “What sins?”

This reply stunned Natalie.

Molly was shocked as well hearing that. She almost forgot that she was in pain as she continued sobbing. “Mr. Bowers, did you not see? She tried to hit me!”

Samuel shifted his gaze toward the tear-stained face and just looked at Molly coldly without sympathy.

“So what if I noticed it?”

“Mr. Bowers, you-”

Samuel cut her short and continued, “You should reflect on why she even decided to hit you in the first place.”

After Samuel said that, Natalie glanced at Samuel and let go of Molly.

Molly’s face was now pale white. “Mr. Bowers, how can you say that to me? Shouldn’t you help me instead of her?”

“You? What confidence lead you to think that?” Hearing that, Samuel scoffed and sized Molly up.

“Mr. Bowers, are you saying that I’m no match for her?” Molly’s pupil dilated in an instant when she heard that. She didn’t even realize she raised her voice. “Am I not prettier than her?”

Natalie, on the other hand, nodded in agreement from the sidelines.

If Natalie were to take off the hyper-realistic mask, she would have easily been the victor in this competition, so much more than Molly.

However, with the mask on, Natalie had a flat nose, thick lips, and a face full of freckles. She was nothing compared to a beautiful girl like Molly.

Even so, Samuel did not even hesitate as he replied, "On what basis do you think you're prettier than Natalie when you're so ugly?"

Ugly? Did he just say I'm ugly?

Molly froze on the spot.

Molly could not refute him if her looks were not up to his standards. However, blatantly saying that Natalie looked more beautiful than she did had quickly destroyed her pride and confidence.

"How dare you judge someone just by their looks? You are unfit to teach my children." Samuel said coldly and gave her an icy gaze before pulling on Natalie's hand, leading her away.

When Natalie came to, Samuel had already led her away by a distance before the both of them stopped at the corner of a corridor.

By now, Natalie was just confused.

There was no way Samuel knew she was wearing a mask, nor what she looked like underneath it.

"The woman just now, she indeed harbors distasteful thoughts, but she is prettier than me."

All of a sudden, she was suddenly aware of his scent, like a strong cologne engulfing her, and warm breaths closed in on her face.

In the next moment, both of their noses were close to touching each other.

Natalie was just shocked to encounter this, and the gaze in Samuel's

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Samuel could smell a waft of medicine when he got close to her.

He had seen his fair share of women, but none like her. It was as if he was addicted to her.

Even with a face like hers, he still thought that she was beautiful, and the fonder he grew of her.

"What a load of crap." Natalie huffed and started degrading herself out of frustration. "You really think I'm pretty? Look at me."

"You're pretty."

Natalie just put her hands on his chest and started to push him away. "Yeah, right..."

However, in the next second, Samuel quickly and forcefully planted a kiss on her lips.

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Natalie was dumbstruck and tried to retreat, but her back was then planted against the cold wall.

She had nowhere to retreat now.

Their lips collided, and the atmosphere was starting to get pretty steamy. Natalie was trying her best to breathe through all this.

After a while, Samuel finally removed his lips from her, but what awaited him was a slap on the face as Natalie swung her hand:

Slap! A clear slapping sound was heard, which made Natalie stunned.

Knowing Samuel's skills, he could easily stop Natalie's hand or even avoid it if he wanted to, but he didn't.

With heavy breathing and slightly plumped lips, Natalie said frustratingly, "Samuel, this is the kindergarten! How shameless of you!"

"I just can't control myself." Samuel slightly lifted his gaze as it deepened further while speaking in a husky voice, "I never thought you could be this addictive. You're far more attractive compared to any women I've met."

Why does this sound like bullshit?

However, when she saw the passionate emotions in his eyes, she realized that he was speaking the truth.

Natalie wore the hyper-realistic mask to conceal her identity, so she got used to people hating on her, showing their disgust just because of the mask she was wearing. Samuel, however, never once thought of her as ugly.

Natalie could then feel her heart trembling. She also felt a certain type of warmth, and that soothing feeling felt reassuring. It was the first time she ever felt that way.

She truly yearned for warmth like this, but she was afraid to be indulgent. Natalie felt like Icarus, flying too close to the sun. She knew that her feelings would be the end of

her.

She was hesitant as she struggled.

Natalie didn't know how to face Samuel, so she could only panic as she turned and left in a hurry.

It took a long time for her to finally calm herself before walking back to the kindergarten to look for Sophia and Franklin.

When she passed by the teacher's room, she saw Molly carrying a box in her hand as she walked out of the room.

It looked like Molly was being pressured to leave her post by Samuel.

Molly's eyes were already red from crying too much, so seeing Natalie now only further increased her rage as she gritted her teeth. "Why! Why did Samuel prioritize you instead of me?"

Hearing that, Natalie suddenly thought of the kiss that Samuel planted on her and started to mumble, "Yeah, why? Is he blind?"

"You—" Molly stomped her feet and continued, "Don't be too full of yourself! Both Sophia and Franklin's mother must have been top-notch beauties, so there's no way you'll get a chance with Samuel, as well!"

"You think too much. I never thought of anything like that."

"You—!"

"Don't be a teacher if you plan to hook up with someone so shamelessly. Instead of lashing out at me, you should take a long, hard look at yourself. I think the world is somewhat fair, so efforts will be given their due recompense. Ask yourself this. What have you done for Samuel? So what if you like him?"

Molly was oozing with jealousy just now, but hearing that stunned her.

She then looked at Natalie's eyes and noticed that her eyes were beautiful as they instantly captivated her, whereas Natalie ignored her and walked in the direction of the classroom.

The previous class had ended. What came next was the family sports activities.

Both Sophia and Franklin went to the changing room excitedly to change into their sportswear, and even Samuel and Natalie had to change as well.

Natalie furrowed her brows and looked at Samuel as he passed her a white tracksuit. "I have to change too?"

"Sophia and Franklin never had the chance to attend these activities with their mother, and I don't want to see them sad. Do you?" Samuel's gaze darkened as he said

that.

Samuel really knew what her weak spots were.

That was right. She couldn't bear to see them sad.

She was very fond of both Sophia and Franklin, and she didn't have an inkling why.

She didn't even need to care for them so much since they were not related to her in any way, but her heart always melted when someone brought them up.

Natalie then pursed her lips and went to the changing room to get dressed.

Samuel just looked at her retreating figure with a devious look flashing across his eyes. The corners of his lips raised, forming a smirk.

Natalie could reject him all she wanted, but he knew she could never reject him for the sake of Sophia and Franklin.