

Happiness 116-125

Chapter 116

Inside ward 1802, Samuel stared at a sleeping Natalie who lay on the hospital bed.

Natalie would never lower her guard down around him. Perhaps the only exception was when she slept—like right now.

It was a rare moment as she was in her most defenseless and sincere form before Samuel

Just then, his phone rang.

Not wanting to wake Natalie up, he instantly left the ward to answer the call.

“Sir, we’ve found him,” Billy stated.

“Send me the location, and I’ll go over there right now.”

After Billy texted the location, Samuel drove to a massive container next to a port.

He saw a line of people kneeling as soon as he opened the rusty metal door.

While walking in, Samuel loosened the first two buttons on his top. A grim aura then exuded into the space around him. Meanwhile, everyone at the scene felt a shiver down their spines.

“Sir. Jeffrey Cook from Yates Real Estate is the one who gave the orders to kidnap Ms. Sophia,” Billy explained as he kicked a middle-aged man who wore glasses. “Jeffrey here bribed Ms. Sophia’s private driver to give him updates on where Ms. Sophia went when she snuck out.”

Laying on the ground was a petrified Jeffrey, who stared wide-eyed at Samuel.

Jeffrey regretted planning Sophia’s kidnapping as soon as he looked into Samuel’s dark and murderous gaze.

“M—Mr. Bowers...” Jeffrey stuttered. “I—I only wanted to abduct your daughter because I needed more time to pay off my debt to you. I never actually intended to hurt her! Besides, as far as I know, she didn’t suffer from any injuries during the kidnapping attempt at all. Mr. Bowers! Please! Spare me!”

Not a trace of hesitation showed on Samuel’s face as his hand mercilessly tightened around Jeffrey’s neck.

The latter paled at once.

Just as Jeffrey thought he was about to die, Samuel’s hand suddenly loosened from his neck.

Jeffrey quickly sucked in multiple deep breaths, feeling relieved.

Immediately after, Samuel gave orders to his subordinates while casting a vicious glare at Jeffrey. “I want 30 knife slashes on all of their arms.”

All color drained from the faces of those who knelt on the ground.

The next moment, several men in black approached with knives and began slashing the former's arms. Jeffrey closed his eyes to brace himself for the knife slashes he would soon feel.

However, Samuel suddenly spoke up. "Wait."

Billy's brows knitted close. "Sir...?"

While fixating on Jeffrey, Samuel's eyes narrowed to slits as he added, "The others will receive 30 slashes each. As for him, I want 300 slashes on his arms. If he's still alive by the end of it, then you guys can let him go."

A dense metallic smell of blood soon permeated the room.

All of this was Samuel's promise to Natalie.

He wanted those who hurt Natalie to suffer a hundred times more.

That night seemed to go on forever.

By 5 a.m. the next day, Samuel sat inside the Hummer and wiped some blood off his hands with a tissue.

Billy, who sat on the driver's seat, looked over at Samuel. "Where to now, Sir?"

"The hospi—" Samuel froze mid-sentence as he caught a whiff of blood from his clothes. Since he didn't want Natalie to find out, he quickly changed his mind. "Billy, stop by Centurion Corporation before heading to the hospital. I need to freshen up."

"Yes, Sir."

Nevertheless, Billy kept a professional countenance and did his job as usual. He reported, "Old Mr. Bowers stayed at the Bowers residence last night."

"I see," Samuel said. "Get Steven to look after Franklin and Sophia for the next few days. As for work, please forward all the important documents to me through email, and I'll deal with them in the hospital."

"Understood."

It was 8 o'clock when Kenneth and Steven were having breakfast in the Bowers residence.

Seconds passed as Kenneth's expression grew darker. "Where is Samuel? I've stayed over for two days, and I still haven't seen him around. Where is he?"

"Grandpa, Sam is still at the hospital. He'll probably be there for the next few days..."

"That little punk!" Kenneth's face reddened furiously. Seething with rage, he smacked the table and thundered, "How dare the eldest son of the Bowers family dedicate all his time to pointlessly caring for a random woman!"

Chapter 117

Steven jolted backward before quickly explaining, "Grandpa, Natalie is injured because she saved Sophia. I'm pretty sure it's okay for Sam to care for his daughter's savior."

"I know she saved Sophia." A deep frown shrouded Kenneth's face as he grimly added, "However, there are doctors and nurses in the hospital. Why does Natalie insist on having the head of the Bowers family to care for her? What if that woman takes advantage of Samuel's kindness and decides she wants him to marry her as compensation?"

Steven had only met Natalie a few times. However, he deeply trusted that she was not the kind of scheming woman that Kenneth suggested.

Thus, he quickly tried to explain, "Grandpa, you've misunderstood Natalie... She never asked Sam to take care of her. In fact, Sam was the one who insisted on staying there because he was worried sick about her."

Samuel had always been aloof and stubborn; No one could force him to do things that he did not want to.

However, Kenneth was far too upset to remember that now.

His murderous tone boomed, "Steven! How dare you take Natalie's side?"

Yara told him earlier about Natalie being a sly woman. Therefore, he suspected that Natalie had somehow brainwashed Steven into backing her up.

Kenneth fully believed that Natalie was a horrible woman who would wreak havoc if she continued to get close to the Bowers family.

"Grandpa—"

Before Steven could finish speaking, Kenneth snapped, "My God! Has that woman bewitched all of you? What a sly and scheming woman! She's a demon!"

Just then, a voice came out of nowhere. "Great-grandpa! Don't say that about Natalie!"

When Kenneth and Steven lifted their heads, they saw Franklin and Sophia walking down the stairs.

Franklin was livid as he exclaimed, "Great-grandpa, don't you know how kind Natalie – is? How can you insult her like that? Don't you know she's the most important woman in my entire life, apart from Sophia?"

Even his little sister, Sophia's, face flushed with rage at Kenneth. She mustered all her strength and spat, "Y–You... No..."

It seemed like she had a lot to say but didn't know how to express herself. In the end, she only managed to utter, "I–I... hate you.."

Kenneth cared about Sophia and Franklin more than he did for Steven.

NO

Hence, it broke his heart to see both his great-grandchildren so upset and disappointed in him.

Kenneth muttered, "Sophia, Franklin..."

However, Franklin's frown only deepened. "Great-grandpa, I won't be joining you for breakfast anymore! I've lost my appetite!"

Sophia bit back her tears and chimed in, "M-Me... too!"

The two children then spun on their heels and left without hesitation.

Meanwhile, Steven wasn't bothered by the fight between the kids and his grandpa. He continued to eat his breakfast in an amused mood.

Pfft! Those two little ones sure do love Natalie. She means the world to them. Forget the kids ditching Grandpa for Natalie. I won't be surprised if they choose Natalie over their own father. Poor Sam.

"Is eating the only thing you're good at?" Kenneth threw a chestnut on Steven's head. "You're such an idiot! How can you still be this relaxed when Sophia and Franklin are upset?"

"Grandpa, this is their usual way of doing things."

"Usual? Their overprotectiveness for Natalie is normal?" Kenneth's eyes widened in shock as he questioned, "Tell me... what do Franklin and Sophia think about Yara?"

Chapter 118

Steven said nonchalantly, "As usual, giving people the cold shoulder."

Although Kenneth remained silent, his dissatisfaction toward Natalie grew stronger.

Even though Samuel did not marry Yara, Kenneth had long considered her his granddaughter-in-law.

Yet, his great-grandchildren grew closer to an outsider instead of their biological mother.

In fact, they were so close to Natalie that they got mad at him and even went on a hunger strike after he criticized Natalie.

It seemed like he had to make a trip to meet her in person.

Meanwhile, Natalie woke up in a daze in the hospital.

"Thirsty... Water..." She propped her body up, barely opening her eyes as she felt for a cup on the bedside table.

After feeling around for a while, she did not find what she was looking for. Instead, she felt a bottle against her lips and a hand supporting the back of her head.

She instinctively parted her lips and held onto the bottle with both hands, gulping the water down.

She looked just like an adorable baby drinking milk.

Samuel smiled as he quietly watched her drink.

After Natalie emptied the bottle of water, she passed it to the man beside her with a satisfied smile.

Just then, she realized that something was amiss. She was still in the hospital, and Xavian was not with her.

Her eyes shot open, and she finally noticed that the person who had fed her water was Samuel.

Natalie furrowed her eyebrows and asked, "Why are you still here? Shouldn't you be at work at this hour?"

"I took the day off" Since Samuel did not have tissue with him, he used his finger to wipe the stray droplets of water from her lips. "I will be staying with you in the hospital for the next few days as well."

"Huh?" Natalie widened her eyes, unable to believe her ears,

"You heard me right," Samuel reassured as he turned to look at her.

His tone was domineering and arrogant,

"My arm injury is nothing serious." Natalie pondered for a moment and decided there was no need for him to stay with her. "You don't have to take care of me personally."

"You got hurt because of Sophia. As her father, I have to do everything I can to repay your kindness."

"That's not necessary."

Natalie regained her composure as she did not want to indulge herself in his warmth.

"Samuel, I've already accepted the ten million." Her eyes flickered as she continued, "As you've mentioned, meeting me may not be a breach of the contract, but I hope that we can still respect the contract terms and keep a distance from each other."

Samuel threw the empty bottle on the ground and leaped onto the bed, pinning her beneath him.

"Keep a distance?" he asked as he stared at her intently. "You mean a distance like this?"

Natalie's heart skipped a beat as she felt him inching closer.

"Don't play dumb with me, Samuel. You know what I mean!"

"Then I shall give you a proper answer." His tone was possessive. "In your dreams, Natalie."

"You—"

Before she could say anything, Samuel leaned in and nipped on her lips.

He bit on her lower lip just enough to make her feel aroused yet a bit uncomfortable.

She could feel his fingers lifting the bottom of her hospital gown and his coarse fingertips tracing her thighs.

In the past, the most Samuel would do was kiss her. However, it seemed like a mere kiss could no longer satisfy him this time.

“Samuel... I-I’m injured...”

“Weren’t you the one who said that your injury is nothing serious?” Samuel asked with his deep and alluring voice. “Just let the man take the lead in things like this.”

Chapter 119

Samuel was very seductive.

Like what he said, he did not let Natalie make a move. Instead, he began to unbutton his shirt, revealing his sexy collarbones.

His flawlessly gorgeous face and chiseled body made Natalie’s blood rush.

It was the first time she felt so captivated by a man. She only came back to her senses when she felt her lips being nipped by him once again.

“No... We can’t...”

Does he really like me? Then what about Franklin and Sophia’s biological mother? And Yara?

Natalie finally regained her senses and placed her hand against his chest. “M—my injury... My arm hurts.”

Samuel stopped reluctantly and stared at her as he tried to catch his breath.

“I’m serious,” Natalie said as she fixed the hospital gown that he almost removed. “You’re hurting me! I lied about the injury being nothing serious so that you won’t have to stay. If you don’t believe me, let me show you the wound. It has reopened.”

With that, she rolled up her sleeve and revealed her wound.

Indeed, there was blood seeping through the bandages.

Natalie was not lying.

Samuel stood up and buttoned his shirt with a darkened expression. “I will call for the doctor.”

After he left, Natalie heaved a sigh of relief.

The truth was, Samuel’s advances were not too rough, nor did he accidentally press on her wound.

Natalie had torn her wound on purpose because she was worried that she would fall for Samuel’s seduction. She had to maintain her sanity.

She knew she could never win against Samuel’s advances.

Luckily, she had always been brave enough to be brutal to herself.

Samuel finally found a doctor to tend to Natalie’s wound.

The doctor changed the bandage on her arm as she lectured Samuel and Natalie.

“Young people... It is understandable that you have the urge to fulfill your desires, but you should at least make sure that your bodies are fit to do so. Look at the price you have to pay for your short-term enjoyment. Now, you probably have to stay in the hospital for another day and wait for the wound to recover. You should learn to restrain yourselves. Don't do this again!”

Both of them remained silent.

After being chided by the doctor, Natalie began to blush.

She looked in Samuel's direction and realized he was staring intently at the wound on her arm. It seemed like he did not hear a single word that the doctor had said.

After the doctor left, Natalie gently stroked the bandage on her arm..

Deep inside, she felt happy. She was finally safe from Samuel's advances.

“Don't let me hear you mention something like keeping a distance again,” Samuel warned as he stared at her with his burning gaze. “If you ever say that again, no injury or wound would stop me.”

Natalie's heart skipped a beat when her eyes met his.

She felt like his prey. His possessiveness was overbearing.

Taking a deep breath, she made a mental note to recuperate in the shortest time possible so that she could be discharged from the hospital sooner.

While he was keeping Natalie company at the hospital, Samuel received a call.

After he exchanged a few sentences with the caller, his facial expression changed. Hanging up the call, he looked in Natalie's direction and informed her, “I have some work to do. I will come back at night.”

“Okay.”

The moment Samuel left, Natalie felt a sense of liberation.

Just like him, she had some work to finish as well.

Aside from Dream Pharmaceutical, Dream Entertainment had also begun its recruitment.

Her inbox was filled with resumes sent in by Yandel. They belonged to potential candidates for important positions in the company. Earlier, she did not have the opportunity to look at them because Samuel was around.

While she was engrossed with reading the emails, someone knocked on the door.

Knock! Knock!

Natalie thought Samuel had returned, so she quickly hid her tablet under the blanket and lay down casually.

“Come in.”

When the door opened, a white-haired elderly in a dark green suit entered the room.

Chapter 120

Who is this old man?

Natalie frowned as she glanced at the elderly with a confused look.

Before Kenneth came to look for her, he had thought that a woman who was capable of bewitching Samuel into staying at the hospital all the time must be an absolute beauty.

However, when he saw Natalie's freckled face, his body stiffened.

"Are... Are you Natalie Nichols?" he muttered, wondering if he had made a mistake.

"Yes, it's me." Natalie asked him in return, "How about you? Who are you?"

Kenneth was rendered speechless.

He finally understood why Steven previously said that Natalie was ugly.

He even thought Steven was spouting nonsense and could not distinguish between beautiful and ugly.

Now that he had seen her with his own eyes, he realized that he had wronged Steven.

Kenneth was still puzzled by how Natalie was able to manipulate Samuel, but he put on an authoritative and composed front as he replied, "I am Samuel's grandfather, Kenneth Bowers."

"O—Old Mr. Bowers? What can I do for you?"

"Ms. Nichols, I'm here to thank you for saving my great-granddaughter." Kenneth pulled out a black card from his pocket and threw it on the bed. "There's twenty million in this card. Consider it as an expression of gratitude from the Bowers family and me."

Wealthy people usually wouldn't hand out their money willingly without any conditions.

Just as Natalie expected, Kenneth began to speak again.

In a condescending tone, he said, "I believe this is enough as a gift of appreciation on

behalf of Samuel. I hope you are sensible enough to know that you're not special just because you saved Sophia."

Kenneth thought that Natalie would be over the moon after receiving the money.

To his surprise, she snorted disdainfully in response.

"Old man, I don't want your money."

"How dare you call me old man? Do you know who I am?" Kenneth frowned, his wrinkles becoming more visible. "Is twenty million not enough? Are you trying to negotiate with me? Or are you so ambitious that you are planning to become Samuel's wife?"

Natalie burst out laughing upon hearing his words.

"I am not interested in becoming Samuel's wife," Natalie replied. "It is him who keeps clinging onto me and giving me a headache. As his grandfather, if you could persuade him to leave me alone, I would be genuinely grateful to you."

"S-Samuel would never do that!"

"You should check with him, not me." Natalie then let out a long sigh and added, "Also, I saved Sophia because I genuinely wanted to do it. I did not do it for the Bowers family's gratitude. No matter how dangerous the situation is, as long as she needs me, I would save her without hesitation."

Perhaps it was because she had lost a daughter before, or because she felt a connection with Sophia. As long as she could protect Sophia, she was willing to sacrifice her life for the girl.

With his many years of experience, Kenneth could see the sincerity in Natalie's eyes..

Her love for Sophia touched him, but he still could not approve of her as his granddaughter-in-law.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

Just then, someone began knocking on the door anxiously.

After a few knocks, three men entered the room.

The visitors were Yandel, Ross, and Jerome, who was in military fatigue.

The ward that was originally spacious became crowded with the sudden appearance of three tall men.

Yandel was about to call Natalie "Boss" when he had eye contact with Kenneth, who exuded an imposing aura.

"Sir," Yandel quickly corrected himself.

Kenneth knitted his eyebrows even tighter as he observed the three men.

It's only been a while since I managed to make Samuel leave. Now, there are three handsome men visiting her at the same time?

Chapter 121

Among the three men, Jerome stood out the most because of his outfit.

Kenneth did not recognize him at first. After staring for a while, he realized that the young man was the grandson that Finley had recently found. Finley was constantly engaged in battles during his early years, so he hardly had any connection with his family. Now that he finally found his grandson, he was eager to make up to the latter.

Jerome immediately recognized Kenneth and asked in surprise, "Mr. Bowers? What are you doing here?"

Kenneth replied grandiosely, “Ms. Nichols was injured from saving Sophia. As Sophia’s great–grandpa, I came to visit her and express my gratitude.”

As a cunning man, Kenneth ensured that his reply would not reveal anything about him bribing Natalie to keep her distance from Samuel.

On the contrary, he cast a sharp glance at Jerome and questioned, “What about you, Jerome? How are you related to Ms. Nichols?”

Jerome glanced at Natalie and replied without reservation, “Mr. Bowers, Natalie is my childhood playmate.”

“I see.”

Kenneth nodded in response. Although he didn’t say anything about it, he could see that Jerome had romantic feelings for Natalie.

He had initially thought that Natalie was a shameless woman lusting for Samuel, a man who was way out of her league.

However, it seemed like the three men in the ward were very concerned about Natalie, especially Jerome.

What is happening to this world?! I thought Samuel’s taste in women is peculiar enough. Now, even Finley’s grandson is crazy about this woman?

Kenneth had never felt so speechless and confused at the same time. He quickly bade them goodbye and left the ward.

After he was gone, Jerome asked with knitted eyebrows, “Natalie, how did you get involved with the Bowers family? They are very powerful and influential. The current head of the family, Samuel Bowers, is known to be a ruthless person.”

Yandel chimed in, “Boss, Jerome is right. It’s good if you’re on friendly terms with the Bowers family, but if you offend them, things would become troublesome.”

“I’d like to avoid them, too.” Natalie pouted. But somehow, things happened, and I ended up in a situation like this.

Honestly, she had no idea how she got involved with Samuel.

She could not understand how Samuel could be interested in her current “face.” Not just that, he would even kiss her so passionately.

The ward fell silent upon the mention of the Bowers family.

Sensing the tension, Yandel changed the topic. “Boss, I’ve brought the medicine you asked for.”

“Thank you.” Natalie took the medicine and mumbled to herself, “I have to quickly recover so that I can be discharged as soon as possible...”

Just then, she lifted her head as if she remembered something.

Looking at Ross, she inquired, "Any updates on the Green family?"

"Just as you expected, Belle came to me and asked for forgiveness for stealing my research results. She also asked about you and tried to probe into our relationship."

"I knew it."

Back then at the restaurant, Natalie could see that Belle was interested in Shawn.

It was expected of Belle to investigate Natalie after she saw how close the latter was with Shawn.

Natalie got Xavian to create some fake information about her and Ross and sent them to Belle's subordinate using hacker skills. Unfortunately, Belle still had yet to repent after getting the information and even proceeded to go against Natalie and Ross.

Jerome asked, "Do you need me to handle her for you?"

"No," Natalie replied as a hint of slyness flashed across her eyes. "This revenge is not for me, but for Ross. I promised him that if he works for me, I'll give him a chance to rise and crush his enemy."

The three men were stunned upon hearing her reply.

Chapter 122

Yandel beamed as he felt proud working for a boss like Natalie.

On the other hand, Jerome recalled how Natalie had protected him when they were children and realized that he shouldn't even be surprised by her words.

Whereas for Ross, he clenched his fists tightly. His heart was filled with gratitude, and he was touched beyond words.

She never forgot her promise to me.

He made a vow to himself that he would never forget her kindness. He swore that he would follow and serve her for the rest of his life.

Natalie played with her ponytail and lazily said, "When my arm recovers, it will be the end of Belle's happy days."

After sending off Jerome and the rest, Natalie removed her hospital gown and bandage to apply medication on her wound.

It was a challenge for her to put a bandage on herself. Despite a long struggle, she still failed to do it properly.

Natalie hissed in pain when she accidentally scratched her wound.

Suddenly, the door was pushed open, and Samuel slowly walked in.

At that moment, Natalie's hospital gown was unbuttoned and left draping loosely over her shoulders, exposing her half-naked body.

A dead silence followed as their eyes met.

Natalie was flabbergasted. She quickly pulled up her hospital gown to cover her chest.

As she was panicking, she forgot about the wound on her arm. She winced in pain as she accidentally hurt herself again.

"Turn... Turn around!" she growled furiously. "Where do you think you're staring at?"

Turn around this instant!"

Samuel gulped, his eyes darkening:

In fact, he had already seen everything the moment he stepped into the ward.

However, he still followed Natalie's instructions and turned around, trying to calm down the flame of desire within him.

The image of her cleavage was tempting the wild beast within Samuel to break free from its cage of rationality.

Natalie bit on her lip as she buttoned up her hospital gown.

"Why didn't you knock before you enter?"

"The door was left slightly open," Samuel replied with a hoarse voice. "I thought you were asleep, so I didn't want to wake you."

"You..."

Natalie wanted to scold him, but she held back because there was no point in doing so. After all, he had already seen everything.

The best way to handle the situation was to pretend that nothing had happened.

Natalie then buried herself in her blanket and slept with her back facing him.

Samuel, on the other hand, glanced at her figure and walked toward the bathroom connected to the ward.

He turned on the shower and stood under the running water to extinguish the burning desire within him.

After staying under the water for some time, Samuel finally managed to calm himself down.

The incident earlier was tormenting for Natalie, but even more so for him.

She was right within his sight and reach, yet he could not lay his hands on her.

Meanwhile, after Kenneth left the hospital, he met Yara in a private room at a cafe.

The moment he arrived, Yara poured a cup of warm tea for him thoughtfully.

“Grandpa, have some tea.”

“Thank you.” Kenneth’s mood was lifted when he saw the gentle and obedient Yara. “I don’t understand what Samuel is thinking. You are obviously the one most suitable to be his wife.”

Yara was pleased with his words.

“Grandpa, I’m most willing to be your granddaughter-in-law.” She then lowered her eyes and put on a disappointed expression. “I’ve been trying my best to win Samuel’s heart all these years, but nothing seems to work.”

After taking a sip of tea, Kenneth let out a heavy sigh.

“You’re such a wonderful lady! How can Samuel be so blind? If it weren’t for you back then, I would have died long ago!”

Chapter 123

Six years ago, Kenneth had a car accident on the city’s outskirts.

The massive impact caused his lungs to collapse.

Even though the driver had called for an ambulance immediately, the pain in his chest was so unbearable that he began to have extreme difficulty breathing.

During the long wait for the paramedics, he had mentally prepared himself to leave this world.

It was at that time that Yara suddenly appeared beside him. Calmly and resolutely, she stabbed his lungs with the tip of a fountain pen. As the blood that clogged his lungs was released, he could finally breathe with ease.

Back then, both his chauffeur and butler kept criticizing her. Despite that, Yara focused on saving him and buying him time to get to the hospital.

“Oh, Yara. You’re not only Franklin’s and Sophia’s mother, but you’re also my life savior,” Kenneth said with a dotting gaze. “It was you who gave me another chance to live and enjoy the company of two great-grandchildren.”

“Don’t mention it, Grandpa,” Yara replied with an awkward smile.

Worried that Kenneth would notice her unnatural expression, she quickly lifted her teacup and took a sip to hide her guilt.

Yara was not at all involved in the two matters that Kenneth had mentioned.

Both Franklin and Sophia were birthed by her twin sister. Even Kenneth was rescued by Natalie.

Five years ago, when she brought the twins to the Bowers residence, she had thought that Kenneth would give her the cold shoulder. To her surprise, he began to call her his savior when he saw her.

At first, Yara was confused. However, after listening to the story, she decided to go with the flow and claim the credit.

“Don’t worry, Grandpa,” Yara replied with reddened eyes, looking as if she was on the

brink of tears. “No matter what happens in the future, even if Samuel were to marry Natalie, I would still treat you like my grandfather.”

“What nonsense are you spouting, silly girl?”

“Grandpa, I don’t really have to marry Samuel.” Yara paused to sniffle before continuing reluctantly, “I just hope that Samuel, Franklin, and Sophia can be happy. Natalie...”

“What about her?”

“A few days ago, she came to me and asked me to give her ten million if I want her to leave Samuel. I admit that I was blinded by jealousy and immediately gave her a cheque. However, she did not keep her promise after taking the money. She even told me that it’s Samuel who is clinging onto her and that she can’t do anything about

it.”

Yara buried her face in her hands as tears spilled from her eyes.

Seeing that, Kenneth slammed the table in anger. “How bold of her to say such words! Who does she think she is?”

“Grandpa, please calm down. Don’t get too worked up. It’s not good for your health,” Yara persuaded insincerely.

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In response, Kenneth pulled out a dark green box from his pocket. Inside, there was a red braided bracelet.

The bracelet’s pendant was a brilliant emerald piece of jadestone shaped like a flowing river.

“What is this, Grandpa?”

Even though Yara was knowledgeable about jewelry, she was not familiar with gemstones. Nevertheless, even an amateur like her could see that the bracelet was priceless.

“This pendant is the heirloom of the Bowers family.” Kenneth placed it in Yara’s palm as he explained, “It is shaped like our family’s emblem, and it has been passed down for centuries. Today, I gift this to you to express my support. No one else in the world suits the role of the lady of the Bowers family more than you do. No other woman

other than you can set foot into the Bowers family.”

As she listened to Kenneth’s words and studied the pendant, a wave of happiness and excitement washed over Yara.

The bracelet was more than just an heirloom. It also meant recognition and acknowledgment from Kenneth.

Meanwhile, in the hospital, Natalie suddenly thought of something.

It's my first time meeting Old Mr. Bowers today, but why does he look oddly familiar?

Chapter 124

Natalie was still clueless despite racking her brain for a very long time. Eventually, she gave up trying to recall if she had previously met Kenneth.

Even if she had encountered him before, Natalie felt it was likely for a mere passing moment.

Else, she would have remembered him instead of feeling that he looked vaguely familiar.

While Natalie was still deep in thought, Billy brought over a takeout box adorned in intricate packaging. On the box was the restaurant's name – Acapella.

As soon as he opened the takeout box's lid, some delectable-looking seabass and shrimp came into view. The food's tantalizing aroma wafted over to Natalie, arousing her appetite.

She hurriedly grabbed the cutlery and was about to pick up a piece of seabass meat. However, Samuel snatched the fork from her hand.

"Samuel, what are you-"

"Who said you could dig in?" He cast a sideways glance at her before casually adding, "I'll decide when you can eat this food."

Upon hearing that, Natalie's eyes widened in disbelief. This wicked man wants me, an injured patient, to sit here and starve while watching him gobble all this food? How dare he!

"You may head home now, Billy. Bring the files on the couch with you."

"Yes, Sir."

After Billy did so and left, Samuel placed the takeout box on the coffee table near the couch and picked up a set of cutlery.

Natalie refused to sit idly by and watch him savor the food. Hence, she turned in the other direction while searching for an online novel on her phone before settling down to read.

Shortly after reading ten chapters of the novel, she heard Samuel's magnetic voice emanating from behind her.

He said, "You may eat now."

What? Natalie did not quite believe what she had heard.

As she turned around, her gaze settled on the twelve neatly arranged prawns that had their shells peeled off. Even the seabass had gotten sliced into ready-to-eat, bite-sized chunks.

Samuel even removed the seabass' bones, leaving only its snow-white and buttery flesh that glistened.

Natalie's heart skipped a beat at that sight.

She had never experienced such extent of care before. Thus, she could not help but feel a little flabbergasted.

"Don't you want to eat?" Samuel raised a brow and teased, "Or are you waiting for me to feed you?"

"N-No..."

At once, Natalie grabbed the cutleries and shoved a prawn into her mouth.

Even the black vein that ran down the back of every prawn had gotten cleared. A burst of freshness and sweetness erupted in Natalie's mouth as she chewed on the prawn's tender meat.

Her gaze lifted to meet with Samuel's eyes.

Meanwhile, the latter placed a hand on his temple while gazing affectionately at Natalie.

At that, the latter's heartbeat began to accelerate uncontrollably. Samuel's skin is as dewy and flawless as always. Gosh, I'm pretty sure any woman would melt into a puddle if they stood before this intense gaze that he's giving me right now.

It felt as though he was savoring every inch of her body, like how she was enjoying the juicy prawns.

"Samuel." Natalie swallowed before continuing, "Umm... How about I set you up on a date with someone?"

Deep down, she did not want to let herself fall for Samuel, nor did she want him to waste his time on her.

Natalie was aware that they were from utterly different worlds, and there was no way they could be together.

After a brief pause, she resumed speaking. "I can introduce you to a respectable woman. Her family background may not be as great as yours, but she's good-looking and very well-behaved."

Samuel's features darkened to a murderous shade as he interrupted, "Is that really what you think of me? That I'm someone who's desperate for women?"

Hearing that, Natalie did not know how to respond.

Not a single word came from her lips as her eyes locked on Samuel.

"You don't have to drop any more hints at me." Samuel cast a vicious gaze while stating, "I refuse to be with some random woman. That's not the man I am. Besides, you of all people should know who it is I desire."

A chilly aura radiated from him with every word he uttered. Right after, he turned to leave the ward.

While watching him leave, Natalie's lips pursed into a self-deprecating smile.

She knew that she could not give him what he wanted.

The fire five years ago had almost burned everything she had, including her ability to trust others.

She felt that she could never fall in love with anyone else for the rest of her life.

Chapter 125

Samuel suppressed the fiery anger that roared in his chest. Shoving those feelings aside, he returned to the Bowers residence.

Meanwhile, Steven finally had some free time to play games on the couch now that he had tucked the two kids into bed.

His peace did not last long. A moment passed before he caught sight of a furious Samuel who walked over. The latter's gaze was much frostier than usual.

A series of shivers tingled down Steven's spine at once.

Even so, he decided to bite the bullet and ask, "S-Sam... Didn't you say you'll be in the hospital for a few days? Why have you suddenly returned?"

"I got attacked by a wolf."

"What? A wolf?" Steven was puzzled but did not forget to back his brother up. He declared, "Tell me, Sam. Which wolf had the audacity to attack you? I'll end its life right now!"

Instantly, Samuel's brows drew close into a sharp glare as he snapped, "Don't you dare!"

Only then did Steven realize what was going on.

Wait. Samuel is defending the wolf that attacked him? It can't possibly be a real wolf. No. I'm absolutely sure that Natalie is the so-called wolf that broke his heart.

An awkward chuckle slipped from Steven as he finally responded, "I won't actually kill that wolf, Sam. I was only kidding."

"How have Franklin and Sophia been during these two days when I was away?" asked Samuel as he unbuttoned his collar.

"Things have generally been fine. The only issue was that they constantly asked to see Natalie." Steven rubbed his temples before adding, "I almost couldn't fend off against their whining. Fortunately, Grandpa gave me a hand, and we managed to stop them from barging into the hospital."

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Chapter 125

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Franklin entered the ward with a bouquet of red roses in his hands. He immediately handed them to Natalie and said, “These are from me, so you have to accept it. You can’t say no!”

Natalie had never received a single rose throughout her life.

Thus, she could not help but smile while looking at Franklin’s adorably blushing face. “Of course, I’ll accept them. Thank you.”

A surge of glee went off in Franklin's chest. He was overjoyed but tried to hide it from Natalie. As his lips curved upward, he hurriedly covered it with his hand, not wanting anyone to see how pleased he was.

"You don't have to thank me. I-I bought it for you just because we passed the florist on our way here."

Just then, Steven interjected, "Well, actually... We were indeed on our way here when Franklin told me to stop at the roadside for about half an hour.."

"Uncle Steven!"

A brilliant shade of red crept up Franklin's cheeks as the truth had gotten exposed.

"Jeez! Can't you keep your mouth shut? Y-You've embarrassed me!"