

Happiness 237-246

The Promise of Happiness

Chapter 237

At that moment, Natalie finally understood why Lawrence would help Liliana to break through the firewall set up by Xavian.

She must have used his wife's life to threaten him to hack the firewall and find out Natalie's information.

*This is too terrifying!*

Instinctively, Natalie took a step back.

Liliana was once a victim. She hated Julian's drastic measures the most, but in order to achieve her goals, she was doing the same thing as the man she hated.

*This pretty woman in front of me is either insane or ill. If I use the word "death" and provoke her, both Cecilia and I might die in her hands. Cecilia was involved because of me. I must save her.*

"Dr. Nichols, have you decided?" inquired Liliana.

"I promise to treat him."

"That's great!"

In the blink of an eye, Liliana's expression changed. She was ferocious a second ago, and in the next, she was as charming and cute as a little girl.

"Dr. Nichols, I knew you're a kind-hearted person with excellent medical skills."

After taking a few deep breaths, Natalie piped up, "He can't take medicine orally in this situation, so I can only burn incense and try to cure him using his sense of smell coupled with my acupuncture. The medicinal ingredients used to burn the incense are tremendously important, and most of them are expensive."

Waving her hand, Liliana proclaimed, "You only need to tell me what you need. It doesn't matter how expensive they are."

"All right."

Natalie took the paper and pen on the coffee table, pondered over it for a long time, and wrote down her prescription.

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There were as many as twenty kinds of medicinal ingredients in the prescription.

Natalie wrote down the dragonblood fruit as the thirteenth ingredient.

Soon, Liliana summoned Milton, and Natalie gave the prescription list to the middle aged man.

He took over the paper and said respectfully to Liliana, "Please don't worry. I'll get all the ingredients in this prescription ready by tomorrow."

"Thank you." Liliana flashed him a charming smile. "Soon, Josiah won't have to sleep in such a cold place anymore."

"Your wish will definitely come true," replied Milton.

Natalie could understand that Liliana fell into paranoia because Josiah's death was too much for her to handle. However, judging from the butler's reaction, he seemed to be clear-headed.

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*But why is he seemingly accustomed to having such a conversation with Liliana? Could it be that Liliana also held someone important to him as a hostage? That's why he has no choice but to put on an act to please her?*

When Milton noticed that Natalie was looking at him, he smiled politely at her.

"Dr. Nichols, the medicinal ingredients will be available tomorrow. You should stay here tonight. I've prepared a room for you."

"Thank you."

After that, the butler exited the room.

Glancing at Liliana, who was full of smiles, Natalie requested, "During acupuncture, I want to see my friend. If I can't see her, I won't perform acupuncture on the patient."

"Okay." Liliana nodded. "You should go and have some rest. I'll stay here and keep Josiah company. After he wakes up, I'll leave the Todd residence and go to his hometown to see the sea of clouds."

Natalie fixed her gaze on the pathetic and terrifying woman in front of her.

*If she had put aside her grudges and left the Todd residence with Josiah back then, would she be much happier now? But how can she forget that kind of heart-piercing pain? No matter what choice she made, she would regret it in the end.*

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That night, Natalie stayed at the Todd residence.

The maid that the butler arranged also came to take care of Natalie, but she was not used to being taken care of and was even more afraid that the maid was there to monitor her, so she sent the help away.

When she was alone, she wanted to contact Yandel and ask him to help find out about the Todd family or the Hoffman family. However, she noticed that even though the battery percentage of her phone was seventy, there was no signal at all.

Not only was she unable to communicate with the outside world, but the tracker that Xavian placed on her would be useless as well.

For the whole night, she could not fall asleep.

Since the mansion was dead silent, the sound of the wind blowing and leaves rustling were more obvious, giving people a spooky feeling.

Moments later, Natalie decided to walk around the mansion. Hence, she put on a coat and got up from the bed.

Incense and acupuncture were just excuses to buy time so that she could think of a way to save Cecilia.

*I must bring Cecilia out of here as soon as possible. In order to do that, I've to be familiar with the environment and the roster of the patrolling guards.*

The mansion was humungous. Guards were patrolling around the courtyard and the main house, but since she was the miracle doctor invited by Liliana, neither the guards nor the servants dared to be rude to her.

It was a dark night.

The trees shook their branches, dancing in the night breeze,

Only a few rooms in the whole mansion were dimly lit. Yet, one of the rooms on the second floor was as bright as day, which was particularly eye-catching.

Seeing that, Natalie bent down and climbed over the shrubs. Then, she climbed to the window sill of the room on the first floor and stepped on the bulges on the brick wall, making her way up to the second floor bare-handed. Instead of entering the

mansion, she only clung to the wall and listened carefully to the movements inside.

"Five hundred million? It's nothing to me. What do you think of me? Now, I can afford to spend fifty billion, let alone five hundred million," Milton exclaimed.

"Milton," the woman called out sweetly. "You're amazing!"

"Who do you think you're calling? Call me Mr. Cheney!"

"Mr. Cheney..."

"Good!" Milton laughed haughtily. "Julian must have never imagined that the final winner would be me. That woman has already gone mad, and I'm now the helm of the Todd residence. Hurry up and take off your clothes. I'll take good care of you tonight!"

"No..."

The following dialogs were too obscene, so Natalie did not bother to listen to any of them.

After she returned to her room, she still could not calm down.

The person who took over the Todd residence was not Lilia but the so-called butler.

He had long known that Lilia was paranoid and that her mental state was not stable. Thus, he deliberately led her to a more delusional direction and gained her trust to become the real helm of the Todd residence.

*This is completely out of my imagination. No matter what, the only thing I've to do now is to ensure my escape plan is foolproof.*

The next day, Natalie was awakened by the maid.

The latter had brought breakfast to her room.

While Natalie was eating breakfast, the maid silently accompanied her. The maid looked solemn, and there was no expression on her face.

If she had not talked to Natalie yesterday, the latter would have suspected that she was a mute.

It was a good thing that the maid was not talkative. Because of that, Natalie did not

need to spend time dealing with her.

Not long after breakfast, Milton personally delivered the medicinal ingredients she wanted.

"Dr. Nichols, the medicinal ingredients that you want are extremely expensive. I've worked extra hard to find them for you."

"Thank you. You're really efficient," responded Natalie. "However, I still need a lot of tools to make the incense. When the time comes, I'll need your help to get ready the tools that I need."

"Of course. No problem."

Milton was good at acting. If Natalie had not heard his conversation the previous night, she would never have thought that he was a man full of schemes.

After Milton left, she began to check the medicinal ingredients.

As expected, dragonblood fruit was at the Todd residence.

Opening the exquisite wooden box, she caught sight of the bloody red dragonblood fruit.

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Luck and misfortune always went hand in hand.

Although she was uncertain of her future, at least she had obtained the dragonblood fruit. Once Yana ate it, her heart disease would be cured.

Closing the wooden box, Natalie hugged it close to her chest and slowly closed her eyes.

When she opened her eyes, a hint of determination flashed across them.

*Not only do I have many things to do, but I want to watch Xavian, Clayton, Franklin, and Sophia grow up too! I can't allow myself to die here.*

Later, she wrote a list of tools and handed it to the maid, who would then pass the list to Milton.

Only two or three of those tools were used to make incense. The rest were used to modify crossbow arrows.

Natalie shut herself in the room to make incense. Liliana was concerned about the progress and would often come to visit her. Seeing that she was extremely concentrated on making incense, Liliana could not hide the smile in her eyes.

By right, the more Liliana believed that the incense would work, the better it would be for Natalie.

However, when she saw Liliana's smile, she would feel upset.

"Dr. Nichols, when Josiah wakes up, I want to tell him that I like him."

"You never told him that?" Natalie probed.

"Never.." Liliana smiled with tears in her eyes. "He said he wanted to take me far away, but I laughed at him for overestimating himself. He was always protecting me, but I never cherished what he had done for me and even mocked him for being nosy. However, when he was covered in blood, I could only watch as he fell asleep."

Initially, Natalie thought that Liliana and Josiah were deeply in love with each other. Little did she know that Josiah did not even hear the response he wanted to hear before he died.

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At that instant, she suddenly thought of Samuel.

She wanted to get her revenge. Besides the Nichols family, there were also more powerful families around.

Thinking that love was troublesome and would restrain her from getting stronger, she shut Samuel out of her heart.

After Liliana left, Natalie continued to make incense.

Since Josiah was dead, naturally, the incense would not work on him.

The incense was for the living to smell.

As time passed, Natalie had stayed in the Todd residence for a week.

She locked herself in the room every day. She would make incense during the day and assemble crossbows and explosives at night.

In the blink of an eye, it was the time she agreed with Liliana.

Holding the medicinal incense, Natalie entered the bedroom with the ice coffin.

“Liliana, we’ve already agreed that I’ll only burn the incense and perform acupuncture when I see my friend,” Natalie piped up.

“Of course.” Liliana nodded. “Milton, bring Ms. Fane here.”

“Yes.”

After a while, Cecilia walked into the room.

She had lost a lot of weight, and her face was as pale as a sheet.

Immediately, Natalie hugged her with remorse and guilt. “Cecilia, I’m sorry. It’s all because of me.”

“There’s no need to apologize. I know you’ll save me.”

When Natalie was hugging Cecilia, she stuffed a pill into the pocket of the latter’s clothes and said in a low volume that only they could hear, “Put this pill in your mouth later.”

“Okay.”

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After the let go of each other. Liliana uttered. –

Dr. Nichols, you’ve already seen your friend its your turn to honor your promise.

No problem. Natalie glanced around and continued, “When I burn incense and perform acupuncture. I don’t like being disturbed. Except for you and my friend, please ask the rest to wait outside. Without our order, no one is allowed to come in.”

All right

Hence, Milton and the servants left the bedroom.

Under Liliana’s impatient gaze, Natalie lit the incense in her hand.

As fire engulfed the medicinal incense, the entire room was filled with a faint herbal fragrance.

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Gradually, the room was entirely shrouded by smoke.

Lying beside the cold coffin, Liliana brushed the bridge of Josiah’s tall nose with her fingertip and muttered, “Josiah, Dr. Nichols will definitely be able to cure you. We’ll be reunited soon.”

The man in the coffin closed his eyes tightly as if he was asleep.

After a while, when the scent of the incense got stronger, Liliana felt her vision getting more and more blurry.

Subsequently, she fainted to the ground.

In an instant, Natalie threw away the incense in her hand.

The incense she made only had the effect of calming the mind and could cause drowsiness. It had no medicinal effect of bringing people back to life.

“Cecilia, you aren’t dizzy, right?”

In response, Cecilia shook her head. “I ate the pill you gave me and didn’t feel anything.”

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Still feeling worried, Natalie checked Cecilia’s pulse to make sure that she was not affected by the scent.

“Cecilia, when I bring you out of here later, lower your head and pretend that, nothing has happened.” Natalie’s eyes were cold, and a glint flickered across them. “If anything happens, hide behind me. I’ll protect you.”

Unwilling to hold Natalie back, Cecilia immediately nodded her head.

“I understand.”

“Let’s go.”

As they stepped out of the bedroom, they met two guards standing in front of the door.

When they saw Natalie and Cecilia coming out, they blocked their way.

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“Where are you going?”

\*\*The place we’re going is a secret. Come nearer.” Natalie beckoned to them and continued, “I’ll tell you in a low voice.”

Since Natalie and Cecilia were just two defenseless women, the guards lowered their bodies and leaned over without suspecting anything.

At that moment, a hint of hostility flashed across Natalie’s eyes, and she pricked two silver needles on their necks.

Instantaneously, the guards fell to the ground.

“Come on.”

Natalie pulled Cecilia’s hand, and they hurried away.

As long as they left the mansion, they could communicate with the outside world.

Meanwhile, Milton was not bothered about Natalie at all.

After all, Liliana had already gone mad. No matter how many miracle doctors she hired, it would be useless.

He did not care how good Natalie's medical skills were because it would be impossible for her to bring the man in the coffin back to life.

*When that mad woman realizes that the miracle doctor is useless, she'll naturally ask me to deal with her. When the time comes, I'll kill her and bury the corpse. Then, no one will ever find out about the secret of the Todd residence, and I'll still be the helm of this mansion.*

After Milton finished smoking, he returned with the servants to check on the situation in the bedroom.

However, when he arrived at the bedroom door, he saw two guards lying on the ground, and there were silver needles on their necks.

Subsequently, he unlocked the bedroom door with his fingerprint and only saw Liliana lying beside the coffin.

Natalie and the hostage used to threaten her were nowhere to be seen.

*Did they escape?*

09:32

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At that instant, Milton realized that something was amiss and shouted, "Chase after them! Bring that two women back!"

"Yes!"

In the meantime, Natalie and Cecilia increased their pace, but the mansion was too huge.

"Cecilia, hang on." Natalie held Cecilia's arm and supported the latter with her strength.

Gritting her teeth, Cecilia nodded, but the more she walked, the more laborious it became. Soon, she ran out of energy.

After a while, they finally caught sight of the gate.

Just as Natalie and Cecilia felt that they were going to leave the mansion successfully, a group of guards dressed in black suddenly rushed out.

Knitting her brows, Natalie instinctively pulled Cecilia behind her.

When the guards ran forward and wanted to grab hold of Natalie, she hurriedly took out a miniature bow and shot at them.

*Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!*



She shot three arrows at the same time.

The sharp arrows stabbed into the joints of the guards, and the pain caused them to fall to the ground.

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As the sun dipped below the horizon, the color of the woman's hair was dyed red.

Natalie's eyes were full of dignity when she glared at the guards.

Despite being alone, the aura exuding from her body made them dare not to underestimate her.

The guards in black did not expect Natalie to have such good skills and looked at her in disbelief.

However, Natalie knew deep down in her heart that she had to end the fight as soon as possible.

Her combat skills were only good against one or two opponents. Now that she had to

fight against so many of them while protecting Cecilia, she had no chance of winning

Seeing that Natalie had hurt their colleagues, the remaining guards attacked her more fiercely.

In a flash, Natalie shot arrows one after another, but those people were already mentally prepared, so the effect was much worse than the first time.

While she was fighting the guards, Milton walked over quickly, holding a revolver.

He unfastened the safety lock and aimed the muzzle at Cecilia, who had her back to him.

Sensing danger, Natalie exclaimed, "Watch out!"

When Milton pulled the trigger, she threw herself at Cecilia.

Because

Natalie had pushed her away, the bullet did not hit Cecilia. However, Natalie was grazed by the bullet, and her right arm was bleeding.

"Natalie! Natalie!"

Frightened by the scene in front of her, Cecilia covered Natalie's wound with trembling hands. Even then, she could feel a lot of blood gushing out.

"Natalie, are you okay?"

AL

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"I-I'm fine. The bullet didn't hit my arm."

"You're bleeding a lot."

"It'll stop. Don't worry." Natalie tried her best to keep herself conscious. "Don't worry. I'll bring you out."  
"

At the same time, she touched the explosives in her pocket.

*Cecilia is in danger because of me. I can die here, but not her.*

Just when she was thinking of using the explosives to buy time for Cecilia to escape, the table had turned.

The maid, who had been taking care of Natalie, grabbed Milton's neck and twisted it. In an instant, Milton widened his eyes and slumped to the ground, no longer having the opportunity to shoot.

Witnessing that, the remaining guards rushed forward to fight the maid.

W

Nevertheless, they were not her match. In the blink of an eye, all of them collapsed to the ground while vomiting blood.

*Wow. She can really pack a punch. Who's she?*

Shortly afterward, the gate opened, and Billy dashed in with a group of men.

"Ms. Natalie." He strode toward Natalie and hurriedly apologized when he saw the blood on her arm, "I'm sorry. We were late."

After casting a brief look at the maid who was still fighting, Natalie averted her gaze to Billy and fell into deep thought.

*This wastoo much of a coincidence. The timing they appear to save me is just right.*

"Both you and she have been following me?" Natalie questioned while quirked her brows. "Did Samuel order you to do this?"

At that moment, Billy knew that both Sarah and he were exposed.

Since it was impossible to conceal the fact from Natalie any longer, he confessed everything to her.

"Yes. Mr. Bowers is worried about your safety, so he asked Sarah and me to follow

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you to Livingstill. He doesn't allow us to reveal our existence and can only show up when you're in danger" Afraid that

Natalie might misunderstand Samuel, Billy immediately added, "Ms. Natalie, please don't blame Mr. Bowers. He's doing this to protect you, not to interfere with you."

After listening to his explanation, Natalie smiled faintly

*How could I blame Samuel? If he hadn't sent someone to protect me, I would die here tonight.*

Finally, she heaved a sigh of relief

in the next second, her vision went black, and she lost consciousness.

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Later, Natalie was awakened by the pain of the wound.

After opening her eyes, her vision gradually became clearer.

The first thing that came into sight was a middle-aged male doctor. He was spraying alcohol on her arm to disinfect the gunshot wound.

As soon as she felt the stinging sensation on her arm, she could not help but hiss in pain.

### **OWI**

Actually, she had high pain tolerance, but the wound on her arm hurt so much that she could not stop herself.

“You’re hurting her.” A hint of cold glint flickered across the man’s eyes.

### **CIOS**

#### ***dn***

The moment Natalie heard the magnetic and domineering voice, her heart skipped a beat.

*Samuel?*

Looking toward the direction of the voice, she saw Samuel standing beside her bed.

He was wearing a tight frown and staring at her. Both his eyes were bloodshot.

*Isn’t he in Dellmoor? Why did he come to Livingsfill?*

Even though Natalie had woken up, Samuel’s mood did not become better.

Pressing his lips tightly, he reached out and held Natalie’s uninjured hand.

Her hand was not small, but it was still smaller than a man’s. Samuel made her clench her fist tightly so that he could wrap her hand more securely in his palm.

The hospital director saw how concerned Samuel was toward Natalie and knew that she had to be important to him. *If I make any mistakes during the treatment, it’ll be a small matter if he only asks me to step down. However, if he breaks my arm, I’ll be doomed!*

At that thought, the elegant middle-aged man wiped the tears from his forehead and bandaged the wound on Natalie’s arm carefully.

Fortunately, she did not make another sound when he was bandaging her wound.

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In fact, her injury was pretty severe. The director knew that she had to be enduring the pain with her willpower. When he left the room, he shot her a look of gratitude.

*Thank goodness!*

After the director left, Samuel bent down and tucked her hair behind her ear.

It was already nighttime.

Soft light emitted by the orange lamp on the bedside table shone on his face, making his facial features more distinct.

Natalie had long known that Samuel was good-looking. Yet, when she woke up earlier and saw him again, she fell into a trance.

“Samuel...”

“What do you have to say?” he asked in a deep voice.

His gaze was icy cold, making it difficult for Natalie to ascertain his emotion.

*He’s angry! Tremendously angry! It’ll be tough to pacify him!*

Naturally, she knew why he was infuriated. However, the more furious he was, her heart sank deeper.

Apart from her grandfather and mother, no one had cared about her so much.

She could clearly sense how much he worried about her to the extent that he would sacrifice his life for her.

“I want to say...” Natalie stared at him with teary eyes and murmured, “My wound hurts.”

Her voice was gentle and sweet.

She sounded upset, wronged, and there was a bit of coquettishness in it.

When she said that the wound hurt, he felt a tug in his heart as well.

At the same time, he was angry at himself for not being able to do anything for her.

“Should I ask that useless director to come back?” Samuel questioned as blood rushed through his veins.

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“There’s no need for that.”

*The director’s medical skills are pretty good. If someone has to be held accountable for my wound, it’ll be Milton who fired the gun, not the hospital director.*

“But you said that it hurts.” As he spoke, Samuel got up and was about to go and look for a doctor.

Noticing that, Natalie swiftly grabbed the corner of his clothes and said coquettishly, "I said I don't need a doctor. What I want is you."

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As soon as Natalie finished her sentence, both Samuel and she were stunned, especially Natalie.

*Am I spouting nonsense because I lost too much blood and not in my right mind?*

"Samuel, don't get me wrong. I didn't mean that." Pursing her lips, she continued, "I just want to—"

Before she could utter the next word, Samuel had sealed her lips.

The next moment, he traced the shape of her lips and kissed her gently.

Natalie did not refuse but slowly closed her eyes, feeling the tenderness between her lips.

Gradually, the kiss went from gentle to passionate.

IS

In the end, Samuel was concerned about the injury on her arm, so he stopped and did not go further.

He did not dare to indulge himself. If he continued with the kiss, he was afraid that he would do something inappropriate to the injured woman.

Meanwhile, Natalie was panting, and her face was burning.

**was**

Despite feeling shy, she did not regret the kiss.

Perhaps, it was when Billy told her the truth, or when she saw him the moment she woke up, she seemed to have heard the voice in her heart.

*I might have fallen in love with him.*

Natalie had never been in love, so she did not know what it was like to fall in love with someone.

All of a sudden, she became inexplicably nervous.

Just then, there was a knock on the door.

"Come in."

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Shortly afterward, Billy and Sarah opened the door and walked in.

Natalie's gaze fell on Sarah. She had changed out of the Todd family maid's uniform and donned a black leather jacket and pants, looking valiant.

When she recalled what had happened previously, she noticed that Sarah had never interfered with her when they were in the Todd residence. On the contrary, Sarah would always hint at her when Liliana was going to visit her in the laboratory so that she had time to organize the table.

*Everything she did wasn't because she was considerate toward me but because she was ordered by Samuel. She's the bodyguard sent by Samuel to protect me secretly.*

Before she could express her gratitude, Billy and Sarah knelt on the ground.

"Mr. Bowers, we failed to protect Ms. Natalie, and because of that, she was injured. Please punish us," uttered Billy.

Sarah chimed in as well, "Please punish us."

Hearing that, Samuel shot them an icy glare and ordered indifferently, "Inflict the same wound to yourself then."

As soon as he finished his sentence, Billy and Sarah nodded without any hesitation.

"Yes!" they answered in unison.

Startled, Natalie widened her eyes.

*They're the ones who saved me. How can Samuel punish them?*

"Wait a minute." She stretched out to hold Samuel's hand. "You can't punish them."

"Why not?" Samuel's expression turned grim, and he stared at the wound on her arm. "They were careless and made the wrong judgment. If they were a little later, you probably would've ignited the explosives and used your own life to save your friend!"

Having said that, he exuded a cold aura, making it seem like the surrounding temperature had dropped drastically.

Billy and Sarah knew why he was furious, and they were well aware that they almost failed to protect the future lady of the Bowers family, so they hung their heads lower.

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Looking at Samuel, who was swelling with rage, Natalie mused, *Right now, he isn't elegant at all. He's just a domineering man.*

Although she was moved by how much he cared for her, she could not let him punish Sarah and Billy.

"Samuel, I don't allow you to punish them."

"That's impossible," said Samuel resolutely

"If you want to punish them, then punish me too." Natalie lifted her head and looked into his eyes. "At worst, I'll sacrifice my arm," she stated stubbornly.

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Once Natalie finished speaking, Billy and Sarah were taken back and stared at her in disbelief.

They had seen a lot of beautiful women. Although Natalie was not exceptionally gorgeous, her temperament was unique, making people deeply attracted by her calm demeanor.

She was like a piece of jade, not ostentatious but had both inner and outer beauty, which was precious

They did not understand why Samuel tried so hard to protect Natalie back then. However, now they understood. It was because she was worth it.

In the meantime, Samuel's expression was frosty.

"Are you threatening me?"

"No," Natalie denied. Then, she continued softly, "I'm just asking for mercy for them."

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*Asking for mercy? She's obviously threatening me! Billy and Sarah didn't manage to protect her and should be punished. Only then will they remember the lesson and won't make the same mistake again. This woman is saying that I should punish her as well. How can I watch her getting injured again?*

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After taking a deep breath, Samuel piped up, "You're exempted from punishment, but you still have to reflect upon your mistakes. You're dismissed."

"Yes."

Billy and Sarah stood up. They were deeply moved and only left the room after giving Natalie a grateful look.

After they left, Samuel leaned over and bit Natalie's lips.

"What are you doing?"

"Since you asked for mercy for them, you've to bear with my anger."

In response, Natalie widened her eyes and glanced at him.

"Samuel, it's good to be fair in giving out rewards and penalties. However, I can see

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that although

they're your subordinates, they're people who are close to you. It's normal for accidents to happen duri

ng a mission. I can feel that they've done everything they could to protect me. Since they've tried their best, it's enough. Moreover, I know you won't be happy even if you punish them."

She meant every word she said.

Meanwhile, Samuel's heart missed a beat when he heard that. Initially, he thought that she was just soft-hearted. Unexpectedly, besides being soft-hearted, she also did not want him to hurt those close to him because of her.

"Nat, how can you be so attractive?"

He brushed his lips against her lips.

*How can I not fall in love with such a woman?*

In an instant, Samuel wrapped his arms around her waist and pulled her into his embrace domineeringly.

"It hurts."

"Don't lie to me. I didn't touch your wound," remarked Samuel.

"I'm not lying." Her voice was soft. "It's not the wound. You're hugging me too tightly."

Natalie hid her blushed face in his chest.

Because she was close to him, she could feel his strong heartbeat.

Slowly, she felt tired, and her eyelids were getting heavier.

As a matter of fact, she had never felt such a sense of security before, as if she could be unscrupulous and did not need to care about anything if she was in his arms.

The man in front of her would protect her from every danger and crisis.

Kissing her ear, he whispered, "Actually, I'm more annoyed at myself. I should've kept you by my side and not allowed you to go anywhere. Or perhaps, I should go wherever you go. With me by your side, I won't let anything bad happen to you."

The moment he found out that she was injured, his heart ached, as if it was stabbed by a knife.

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Instantaneously, he arranged for a helicopter and rushed to Livingfill.

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Even though Billy reassured him that Natalie had only injured her arm, and the wound was not life-threatening, he still could not calm down.

Once again, he came to a realization—he had fallen head over heels for a woman named Natalie Nichols.



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“Nai..” Samuel called out softly, but the woman in his embrace did not respond.

Feeling worried, he looked down, only to find that she was asleep.

Natalie’s eyes were tightly closed, and her eyelashes quivered as she breathed.

*She has fallen asleep?*

Billy and Sarah had reported to him that

Natalie had been shutting herself up in the laboratory to make the incense and weapons during the day. At night, she would familiarize herself with the landscape of the Todd residence after everyone had fallen asleep.

Hence, she was exhausted.

“Sleep well.”

Samuel planted a light kiss on her forehead before tightening his arms around her.

**O**

Only by holding her like that could he feel at ease and contented.

When Natalie woke up, she felt that the fatigue she had accumulated before was gone in an instant.

Looking around, she noticed that Samuel was no longer beside her.

Getting out of bed, she stepped on the cold floor barefoot.

Walking out of the bedroom, she saw an extremely luxurious corridor.

The crystal chandelier radiated dazzling rays of light through refraction. Looking down from the second floor, she felt that the place was like a castle in a fairy tale.

Along the way, she did not see any servants.

Strolling down the long stairs, she noticed Samuel and Billy in the living room, chatting about something.

As soon as he heard footsteps, Samuel turned around and saw Natalie.

“You’re awake.”

Will

**G**

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“Yes,” she responded, rubbing her tummy. “I’m a little hungry.”

Samuel's gaze traveled from top to bottom and finally landed on the pair of her bare feet.

Her feet were of normal size, and her toes were fair and beautiful.

Not only was Samuel fascinated, but Billy's eyes were also attracted to her feet.

The moment he noticed Billy staring at her feet in a daze, he felt a hint of coldness flash across his eyes.

"Billy, get me a pair of slippers."

After Billy regained his senses, he did not dare to take another look. "Yes, Mr. Bowers."

As Billy went to look for slippers, Samuel walked toward Natalie and asked unhappily, "Why didn't you wear slippers?"

Confused, she replied, "I didn't see any slippers."

Even though Samuel was afraid that she would catch a cold, he was even more dissatisfied when other men looked at her feet.

Even if the man was his closest subordinate, an ally with whom he had gone through life-and-death situations, he still felt upset.

Soon, Billy returned with a pair of slippers.

Initially, Natalie wanted to wear them herself, but Samuel took the slippers, squatted down, and held her feet before putting them into the slippers one after another.

His palm was huge and warm. Even when he bent down to put on slippers for her, he was still as elegant as an emperor.

At that instant, her heart started racing.

Billy, who was standing at the side, was shocked when he saw his high and mighty superior bending down to put on slippers for Natalie. Flustered, he did not know where to look.

*Could it be that from today onwards, not only do I have to deal with work, but I also have to watch them being lovey-dovey with each other?*

## Chapter 245

After putting on the slippers, Samuel slowly got up and stared at Natalie, uttering, "If you don't see any slippers in the future, stay on the bed. You're not allowed to walk around the house barefooted."

Natalie was rendered speechless by his words.

*Is he afraid of me catching a cold, or does he dislike others looking at my feet? Either way, isn't he overreacting?*

Abruptly, Natalie remembered that she was still wearing the ugly hyper-realistic mask.

*Even though Samuel doesn't seem like someone who only cares about looks, he'll still be amazed when he sees my true face, right? Even with that thought, soon, she fell into self-*

denial again. Yes, my real face is a lot better compared to the hyper-realistic mask I'm wearing right now, but my facial features are the same as Yara's.

## Chapter 246

*If I take off the mask, will Samuel be able to distinguish me from Yara? Previously, I've also met Yara at the Bowers residence. Was there something between Samuel and her?*

Seeing that she was aggrieved and unconvinced, Samuel stared at her and inquired, "Do you feel wronged?"

"No."

"But you don't seem to be very happy." Ruffling with her hair, the man queried in a deep voice, "Does the wound hurt? Or is there something on your mind?"

Since Natalie did not want to talk about Yara, she mentioned her purpose of coming downstairs, "Nothing. I'm just hungry."

Instantaneously, Billy understood and responded respectfully, "Mr. Bowers, I'll ask the kitchen to prepare some food."

"There's no need for that," Samuel interrupted him. "I'll cook something myself. This week, I'll stay in Livingfill. I've already explained to you about the matters in Dellmoor. Handle them properly."

In response, Billy nodded.

"Yes, Mr. Bowers."

After Billy left, Samuel headed to the small kitchen of the mansion.

There were two kitchens in the mansion. The servants would work in the large kitchen, most of which were used during banquets. Meanwhile, the small kitchen was only for the house owners. Although the servants would not go to the small kitchen often, they would restock the ingredients in the refrigerator from time to time. Hence, there were a variety of ingredients in it.

Standing behind him, Natalie fixed her gaze on his back. "You know how to cook?" she queried.

"Yes." Narrowing his eyes, he flashed her a faint smile. "Stand there. I'll be quick so that you can eat within half an hour."

Shortly afterward, he took out the tomato paste, ground beef, onions, and a packet of spaghetti.

## Chapter 246

First, he heated the olive oil over medium heat and added the onions. Then, he put in the ground beef and fried it until fully cooked. Next, he mixed the tomato paste with the meat and seasoned it with salt and pepper. After simmering for fifteen minutes, he served them on top of freshly cooked spaghetti.

In an instant, a savory aroma filled the entire kitchen.

Placing the spaghetti on the table, he remarked, "It's done."

Looking at the plate of spaghetti Bolognese, the woman complimented his cooking skills in her heart.

"Nat, try it."

"Okay?"

Picking up the fork, Natalie dug in without any delays. Immediately, she was amazed by the rich flavor of the Bolognese sauce.

*This is so delicious!*

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Since she was famished, and the spaghetti was too appetizing, she got carried away while eating.

Right then, a man's voice came from outside the dining room.

"Dalton, I heard Samuel brought a woman here. Let me have a look."

"Wait, Mr. Yelverton. Please let me report to Mr. Bowers first."

"No, it has to be now, or else Samuel will hide the woman."

"Mr. Yelverton—"

As Natalie lowered her head and was devouring the spaghetti, the owner of the voice entered the dining room.

"Samuel, I've caught you red-handed!"

Justin Yelverton was nearly one hundred and ninety centimeters tall. He left Dalton behind and rushed into the dining room, standing in front of Natalie and Samuel.

"Samuel, we've been friends for so long, and I've never eaten the dishes you cook.

You only cook for your woman. Isn't that too much? I don't mind not eating the food

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you cook, but you should show me your woman's face, at least."

It was actually pretty normal for Justin to be so curious.

After Samuel had a pair of children, he was not interested in women anymore. No matter how hot and sexy a woman was, he had never spared them a glance.

It was rare for Samuel to come to Livingsfill, let alone bringing a woman with him.

*How could I not be curious?*

At that moment, Natalie still had her head lowered, so Justin could not see her face at first glance, but it also made him look forward to it even more.