

Happiness 318-327

The Promise of Happiness

Chapter 318

“Is that the pendant?” Minerva exclaimed.

Milton froze conspicuously at the sight of the pendant, his bruised-covered face showing signs of panic. His clumsy reaction was not lost on his parents.

With a surge of fury, Leonard leaped to his feet and gave his son a resounding slap across the face. “Tell me the truth, Milton. What is really going on here?”

As he was the sole heir of the Swan family for the third generation in a row, Milton was accustomed to the most luxurious circumstances and throwing his weight around as the elders of his family doted on him.

At the first slap ever received in his life by his father, Milton clutched his cheek and began to cry.

“Daddy... I... I am jealous of them!” he confessed through broken sobs. “Though they are clearly not as rich as us, the teachers and the girls seemed to like them more than they like me. I hid the pendant under my blanket to teach them a lesson, but I didn’t expect it to...”

I’m used to getting what I want! If I can’t be more likable than they are, I will have to give everyone a reason to dislike them. I didn’t expect this to get so far out of hand!

Milton and Minerva’s face grew ever paler than before.

The instigator turned out to be our good-for-nothing son all along! It’s bad enough for him to frame somebody for a crime. Worst of all, he framed a member of the Bowers family!

With another roar of fury, Leonard rained down a flurry of slaps across his son’s face until the boy began howling.

Though Minerva was heartbroken to witness her child being subjected to such brutal disciplinary actions, it was all she could do to cry alongside him.

The truth is finally out.

At that moment, Natalie freed herself from Samuel’s embrace and knelt before the wretched woman on the ground.

Her almond-shaped eyes regarded Minerva’s bloodshot ones calmly.

“Stop crying, now. There’s plenty of time for you to do that at home. What you and your son need to do right now is to apologize to my children.”

Though she did not mind being misunderstood or even injured, she would not allow her children to even come close to being subjected to any form of injustice.

Even if Samuel did not have my back today, I would be fighting with the Swans to the death on my own.

Minerva, who had been quietly sobbing, gave a start at Natalie's voice and gazed up to meet the latter's cold ones.

Aside from her eyes, this woman has got nothing on me! I can't imagine how she's Samuel's woman. If I had married him instead, I might not even be in this wretched state as I am right now!

Faced with Minerva's prolonged silence, Leonard aimed a kick at her back to prompt her into speech for fear of offending Samuel further.

"Mrs. Bowers asked you to apologize, what are you still waiting for? Hurry up and say you're sorry!"

Minerva glared resentfully at her unctuous husband before swallowing her pride and relenting.

"I apologize for my failure as a parent and for saying all those hurtful remarks. Please forgive me and Milton, Mr. and Mrs. Bowers."

As she spoke, she pulled Milton over. "Apologize now," she commanded with a fierce glare.

OV

Milton had been silent since his confession, clearly traumatized by how the situation had evolved beyond his control. "I am really sorry," he choked. "I will never tell lies ever again!"

Upon getting what she wanted, Natalie did not see the need to make things more difficult for them.

Without another word to the Swans, she led Xavian, Clayton, Franklin, and Sophia out of Wendell's office.

Meanwhile, the Swans, Wendell, and Veranne gazed apprehensively at Samuel while they waited for his verdict to fall.

Samuel, on the other hand, did not seem to be in a hurry to speak. As he lounged comfortably on the couch, the office fell deathly silent save for the faint rhythmic clicking of Samuel's slim fingers on the table like a terrible clock ticking toward their demise.

Even if he did not speak, his mere presence was sufficient to convey a regality about him that mere mortals such as the Swans could not hope to reach, much less negotiate as equals.

Chapter 319

After Samuel departed the office some minutes later, the Swans were left speechless with horror.

Though Milton was not old enough to understand the meaning of the words "loan recovery" or "bankruptcy declaration", the reality that he would not be setting foot into the kindergarten again did sink in as he cried harder than he ever did all his life.

Mommy and Daddy are crying too! I have never seen them this upset.

Meanwhile, Natalie brought the four children over to a dessert place that was next door to the kindergarten.

The four children who had inherited the best aspects of both Samuel and Natalie's features strut proudly into the dessert shop and drew exclamations of admiration from the other patrons.

"Wow, what an adorable bunch of children!"

"Their parents must be gorgeous if the children look this good at so young an age!"

"Are they quadruplets, I wonder?" "If my future child is half as cute as one of them, I'll die a happy mother!"

Natalie was already familiar with the preferences of all four children.

a

Xavian was fond of chocolate cake while Clayton preferred cheesecake. Franklin was partial toward green tea cheesecake while Sophia enjoyed strawberries and cream the most.

Soon, the waiter returned bearing four slices of cake and a latte on a tray.

Natalie placed the four slices of cake before the four ravenous children, taking care to push the correct flavor in front of each child before announcing, "All right. Dig in, children."

The children nodded eagerly before devouring the cakes.

an

Natalie sipped her latte as she watched the children.

Even an act as simple as enjoying their favorite dessert filled Natalie's heart with so much joy that she seemed to float with happiness.

With chocolate stains all over his cheeks, Xavian gazed up at his mother tenderly.

"Oh, how lucky are we to have a mother like you, Mommy."

"It is my pleasure to be your mother, boys. You are my babies," she replied with a warm smile as she reached out to wipe the chocolate off of Xavian's face.

Xavian and Clayton grinned appreciatively. However, Franklin and Sophia set down their forks

indignantly

"What about us?" they demanded. "We want to be your babies too!"

I never knew that Franklin and Sophia are this attached to me! Though Xavian and Clayton are my flesh and blood, Franklin and Sophia matter just as much to me as my own boys.

The bond she felt with Franklin and Sophia was something unexplainable to her.

"Of course! Franklin and Sophia are my babies too. I am the luckiest mother alive to have all four of you."

Suddenly, a deep, sexy voice came from behind.

"What about me?"

Natalie choked.

Out of the corner of her eye, she caught the arrival of a man in a black T-shirt. Though it was of a simple cutting, it still looked spectacular on him.

He's a thirty-year-old man! What does he mean to compete for my attention with a group of five-year-olds!

Natalie said nothing. Instead, she glared at him fiercely in response.

Samuel did not seem to mind as he took a seat beside her. Upon realizing that she was too far away for his liking, he reached out and wrapped an arm around her waist to pull her closer.

As they were seated directly in front of the four children, Natalie did not dare move a muscle.

Taking advantage of that, Samuel began toying with her fingers underneath the table whilst maintaining his cool and stoic demeanor before the children.

For some reason, Samuel was enjoying himself thoroughly by the seemingly innocuous gesture by caressing every inch of skin he could reach.

Natalie and Samuel's hands were embroiled in a game that only adults would understand.

To hide her elevated heart rate, Natalie took another sip of coffee which did not help in concealing the blush that had begun to spread from her neck up to her face.

"Mommy, why is your face suddenly so red?" Clayton's eyes narrowed.

Dimn it!

Alerted to the phenomenon, the other three looked up.

Chapter 320

Four pairs of beady little eyes regarded her with identical expressions of worry.

Clayton leaned over. "Mommy, your face looks really red. Are you all right?"

"Are you unwell, Mommy?" Franklin appeared anxious.

Even greedy little Sophia lowered her fork. "Where does it hurt? Do you need to see a doctor?"

The culprit is seated right next to me!

Samuel held his temples with his free hand and gazed at her with amusement as if he too was feeling concerned about her wellbeing.

Though his large hand was grasping her smaller one tightly beneath the table, his lips maintained that carefree smile.

"I-I'm fine," Natalie said with a nervous chuckle as she fanned herself. "The air's a little stale, that's all. Are we almost done, children? I'll get the bill."

With another fierce glare at Samuel, she ordered him wordlessly to let go of her.

As she got to her feet, Samuel obliged and let her hand slide out of his.

With a gait a little more hurried than necessary, Natalie strode toward the cashier.

Samuel gazed at her silhouette and felt his smile becoming broader.

Without much thought in the act, he reached for Natalie's unfinished cup of latte and placed his lips on where hers had been, and took a sip.

The only sugar this cup of latte needed is the touch of her lips. Mmm, perfection.

Franklin pouted in disapproval.

"Daddy, why don't you order your own instead of drinking Natalie's coffee?"

"Wastage is a sin," Samuel answered simply. "One cup is just the right amount for the both of us."

At the cashier, Natalie was busy extracting her purse. Though card payments were becoming more common, Natalie still preferred paying by cash.

"The bill, please."

"A hundred and twenty-eight in total." As the cashier, a young girl in a khaki-colored apron, waited for Natalie to rummage through her purse, she heaved a sigh of admiration. "What an adorable group of children you have there! Are you the nanny employed by the children's father to care for them?"

Natalie frowned and gazed up at the cashier.

However, the cashier did not get the hint and carried on chattering.

"What a handsome man he is! Could he be their father, though? He seems a little young! How did you become their nanny, by the way? I wouldn't mind trying my luck for the interview. Do you have his contact details? Can you give them to me?"

In your dreams, little girl. You're supposed to be at work, by the way. Not daydreaming

Natalie was about to interrupt the cashier when Samuel's voice came from behind.

"Billy, acquire this shop tomorrow."

"Yes, Mr. Bowers."

Samuel and Billy stood behind Natalie when she turned around in surprise.

Samuel's gaze was cold. The aura he was emanating sent a chill down the cashier's spine.

"W-Why?" she stammered in disbelief. "I didn't offend you!"

"Impertinence." Samuel narrowed his eyes and under the cashier's stupefied gaze, took hold of Natalie's hand and pulled her close against him.

The cashier finally realized her mistake albeit too late. That's not their nanny. That's his woman!

Samuel disliked listening to the gossip of people who did not matter. With an arm around Natalie's waist, the couple strode off in the direction of the children.

Natalie gazed up and studied Samuel thoughtfully.

With such chiseled features and such a domineering presence, it's no wonder that women simper over him wherever he goes.

Samuel sensed Natalie's gaze upon him.

"Am I that attractive for you to be staring at me all day, Nat?" he said softly, his low voice reverberating pleasantly in her ears.

Chapter 321

"Hmm." Natalie nodded with a noncommittal grunt.

There are plenty of good-looking men in my social and professional circles. However, very few are more handsome than Samuel.

Samuel chuckled in spite of himself.

"Then you'd better keep a close eye on me," he said affectionately as he squeezed her tighter than before.

Gasping for breath, she slammed her fists on his back. "Why should I? Let go of me. The children are watching!"

The children merely gazed curiously at the couple.

7

Samuel begrudgingly let go of the woman in his arms and felt a strange emptiness as soon as he did so.

Meanwhile, Natalie had already walked toward the children who had her surrounded as they were very fond of her.

With her hair lifted by a sudden gust of wind, speckles of gold sunlight glinted through the strands of her hair. With a laugh as gentle as a babbling brook in spring, the children were enamored with her, to say the least.

The four children were clad in identical uniforms of the kindergarten, which consisted of a shirt, pants, and a smart black tie.

Despite differing slightly in appearance, every one of them had bright, intelligent eyes and features that looked as if they were carved out of marble.

Samuel arrived behind them at his own pace.

As his gaze swept over Natalie and the children, his smile broadened.

I would never have expected this woman to stumble into my life like that six years ago. She has taught me that there's so much more to life.

The more he thought about her, the more reluctant he felt for her mask to be removed.

Being aware of how the face beneath that mask was so devastatingly beautiful, he would rather she keep the plain-looking mask on and lessen the competition.

The only man in this world she has eyes for would be me.

Samuel and Natalie spent that night keeping the children company.

Natalie was, by default, the children's bedtime storyteller. However, Sophia felt the need for a change. "Daddy," she purred. "Can you tell us a story tonight?"

Samuel was about to reject when he saw that Natalie was gazing at him with the same expectant expression as the other four were.

"Do you really want a story?"

DU

All five of them nodded as one.

As Samuel spent most of his time at work, most of his stories revolved around the same theme. Occasionally, there would be an anecdote he was proud of about him defeating competitors in court. However, he deemed that they would be inappropriate as bedtime stories.

"I-I have no stories to tell," blurted Samuel, abashed.

"Read us this story," Natalie said bossily, delighted at the discomfort she had managed to cause Samuel.

Upon receiving the book from her, he cleared his throat uncomfortably and began telling the tale of the three little pigs.

His voice was deep and lush, vibrating like the bass notes of a grand piano in the stillness of his spellbound audience.

Though the story was simple and well-known, it sounded completely different when it was read by Samuel.

Before long, the four children began snoring gently.

Natalie was similarly affected. My God, what a soothing voice. Even I am beginning to feel sleepy.

When Samuel reached the end of the book, Natalie and the children were already sound asleep.

Realizing that he was the only one left awake, Samuel chuckled helplessly.

After depositing the book as soundlessly as he could, he carried the children one at a time and placed them in their beds.

Lastly, it was Natalie's turn.

Instead of carrying her back into her own bedroom, Samuel brought her back into his.

Feeling more at ease than he had ever been in his life from her gentle but even snoring, Samuel turned off the lights as he snuggled next to her.

In the darkness, he held her tightly as if intent on merging her body and soul onto his.

The following day when Natalie awoke, she realized with a start that she was on Samuel's bed though he was nowhere to be found.

D*mn it, again? It seems like I'm sharing a bed with him more often than not these days.

After clutching her cheeks to subdue the blush, she got dressed and went downstairs for breakfast.

After that, Natalie made her way to the office of the CEO of Dream Corporation.

Chapter 322

Yandel and Ross were already awaiting her arrival by the appointed time.

As the incident from the day before of Natalie dashing off halfway through their meal was still vivid on their minds, the men took the opportunity to ask her about it.

When Natalie arrived at the part of Xavian being accused of theft, Yandel slammed a fist on the table.

"How dare they accuse my godsons of such things!"

Enraged, he got up and dialed the number of the Swans with the intent of teaching them a lesson.

After exchanging several words with the assistant on the line, Yandel hung up the phone with his mouth hanging open in surprise.

"What happened?" Ross asked.

"The Swans have declared bankruptcy! They are also being sued, by the way." Yandel gazed at Natalie thoughtfully. "I think your mystery man had something to do with it. He taught the Swans a lesson before I could."

"Another word out of you and I'll give your number to Amelia."

At the mention of her name, Yandel raised his arms in surrender.

"I'll shut up."

After chattering about personal matters for a little longer, the trio began to talk business.

Yandel and Ross reported the results of the organization and the pharmaceutical division in addition to the next stage of operations.

Being the top talents in business management and research and development, there was massive progress with Yandel and Ross being at the helm of things.

Inevitably, Dexmed Pharmaceutical was brought up when Ross was delivering his report on the pharmaceutical division.

“Dexmed Pharmaceutical is still trying to poach from us,” he reported with a disdainful scowl. “They seem even more desperate than before.”

“As if forging our formula isn’t enough, they managed to undercut the price to bring the product to market after making some small changes. What a despicable way to attack us. The consumers would only be attracted to the cheaper price of their product as the effects are more or less identical. As a result, public opinion of the century-old reputation of Dexmed Pharmaceutical has been nothing but praise.”

Natalie appeared much calmer than Ross at the news.

“That’s fine. Let Thomas do as he pleases.”

“If this goes on-”

“He can poach our researchers,” she declared with a grim voice. “But he will not be able to poach the core members of our organization. We mustn’t stoop to their level and employ underhand tactics. Instead, we will counter Dexmed Pharmaceutical with even more thorough and broader research and refine every stage of the production until we are so far ahead in the industry that Dexmed Pharmaceutical loses all hope to catch up to us. The joke is that they have to resort to forgery despite their century-old reputation.”

The glint of disdain in Natalie’s eye grew more pronounced as she spoke of her father’s company.

The Bayer family had been in the business of traditional medicine for centuries. As soon as Thomas took over, the company began its unstoppable descent.

“Tell our mole to let go of the fact that they stole our formula. They should instead be focusing on the reason for such a drastic measure. I want to know why Thomas resorted to that.”

Natalie’s ability to think of a counter-strategy in the face of great pressure once again earned the respect of Yandel and Ross.

Yandel and Ross were known to the world as the leaders of Dream Corporation and Dream Pharmaceutical respectively.

Hardly anybody knew that their direct superior was a girl of twenty-four.

Nas

reason

After the delegation of tasks was completed, Natalie did not have any other reason to linger in the office.

Yandel and Ross’ intention to walk Natalie downstairs was met with resistance.

I’ve been so used to the freedom that I found that I do not like being constantly monitored.

Along the way, her mind was occupied with thoughts about the Nichols family.

Our weavers have been busy. Soon, the strings around the Nichols will be drawn into one gigantic net to capture Thomas and Yvonne once and for all. He's not fit to be my father! I look forward to the day he crashes and burns.

At that moment, Natalie's phone rang. After a glance at the screen, she picked up.

Christopher's amused voice sounded from the other end. "Do you remember the price I asked in exchange for the snakeblood fruit?"

Chapter 323

Natalie vividly remembered the promise she had made to Christopher.

"I do."

"I would like you to fulfill your promise. Come celebrate my birthday with me today."

Natalie was taken aback. She was under the impression that her part of the deal would involve her medical skills as opposed to the pleasure of her company.

Since she was the one to have cured the pulmonary disease he had lived with since birth, Natalie was certain that Christopher knew better than anybody the extent of her medical prowess.

A condition in exchange for a life seems reasonable. It is surprising that Christopher would cash that in just for me to spend time with him.

Sensing her hesitance, Christopher added, "You're awfully silent. Does that mean you're going back on your promise?"

"Not at all. Are you sure that that's all you want?"

"Yes, that's all I want," Christopher said solemnly despite the satisfied smirk he wore. "I will send you the details of the party in a bit. Be there at seven-thirty tonight, will you?"

"See you then."

"By the way," Christopher added before hanging up, "Put on something nice, please."

Natalie stared at her phone with a frown.

I will make it to the party just to fulfill my promise to him. I hope that there won't be any hidden surprises.

The afternoon flew by with Natalie's attention being completely taken up by her consultation duties over at Major Crimes Unit. Before she knew it, it was time for her to get off work to prepare for the party that evening.

In accordance with the directions left for her, Natalie arrived before the doors to a private room of the Moonlight exactly at the aforementioned time.

Standing before the door with her hand tentatively raised, Natalie was deciding whether or not she should knock when it was suddenly opened from within.

The man who opened the door was rather good-looking. His leather jacket suggested a haughty attitude about him. After casting a suspicious eye up and down on Natalie, he waved his hand irritably. "This isn't a place for young ladies like yourself! Go back to the university library where you belong!"

Natalie had never met this man before. She could not say for certain whether she had got the location wrong or that he was pulling her leg.

"What are you still standing there for? Get lost!"

Natalie was about to turn and leave when her wrist was caught in a powerful grip.

"Where do you think you're going? This is the place."

Natalie gazed at the hand upon her wrist and allowed her eyes to travel up the arm and found herself gazing at Christopher's pleasant smile.

Joshua, the man who was telling Natalie to leave, was dumbfounded. "Do you know this chick, Chris?"

"Watch your mouth," Christopher said with a disapproving glance at his friend. "She is a guest of mine."

Joshua and Christopher were childhood friends.

Having heard that Jacyntha had angered Christopher to such a degree that resulted in the Smith family forcing her out of Dellmoor into exile, Joshua had remained curious about the type of woman for whom Christopher would go to such lengths to defend.

Other than her oddly clear and mature pair of eyes, she looks plain to me. Rather disappointing. I was wondering what kind of beauty would cause Christopher to behave that way.

realizing that there were three other guests, two men, and a woman, already present.

Their expressions were similar to Joshua's when they caught sight of her.

"Everybody," Christopher announced when they were all seated, this is Natalie."

Without another word to explain her origins, all of the guests gazed at Natalie with a knowing smile.

The private room that they were in was full of liquor and entertainment.

Christopher poured Natalie a glass of wine. "I asked you to dress up and you show up in a sweater and jeans?"

"This isn't good enough for you?" Natalie replied, "Deal with it."

Chapter 324

Surprisingly, Christopher smiled.

Joshua and the others were perplexed.

Putting aside the power and influence of the Collins family, Christopher's infamous unpredictability was a deterrence for anyone to never step on his toes. However, the woman before them had the audacity to do the opposite.

WE

was

Even more bizarre was the fact that Christopher was not angry, but instead, took pleasure in the occasion.

At that moment, everyone's gaze was fixed on Natalie as if she was an animal on parade.

e was

was

"I'm going to the restroom." Natalie wanted to take a breather.

"All right." Christopher nodded.

He lighted his cigar and took a deep puff.

After Natalie left, Joshua immediately said, "Christopher, is she your prey?"

Christopher took another deep puff of his cigar, infusing his lungs with the smoke before releasing it.

"Prey? She's not just my prey. Many are eyeing for her!"

Joshua was shocked by what he just heard.

He couldn't understand the beauty standards pursued by men nowadays. To him, it did not make sense at all for them to be fond of a person like Natalie who had mediocre looks.

While on her way to the restroom, Natalie failed to notice the shadow watching her closely in a corner.

It was Yara.

After spending almost all her time accompanying Old Mr. Bowers at the Bowers residence, she could no longer tolerate the overwhelming boredom.

She finally had the chance to meet her friends and have a drink, only to find herself meeting Natalie here.

Yara bit her lip.

.

Is she having a date with Samuel here? Is Samuel here somewhere?

Despite being in the Bowers residence for quite some time, she did not have the opportunity to meet Samuel. She was desperate to meet him.

For five years, not only was Yara eyeing the powers of the Bowers family, but she also fell deeply in love with Samuel.

A flawless man like Samuel naturally attracted the admiration of many women, including Yara.

She stood motionlessly in the corner, hoping to see Samuel, even if it was for a split second. Her eyes reddened as she stared in the direction of Natalie, not blinking even once.

However, when Natalie came out from the restroom, and when she opened the door to the private room, the person that welcomed Natalia was not Samuel, but a man that looked wicked and nasty.

His eyes gazed enthusiastically at Natalie.

Natalie, however, was indifferent about it and simply followed the man into the private room.

Yara wanted to know what would happen next, but the door was slammed shut.

Recalling what had just happened, she covered her mouth, shocked.

Who does Natalie think she is? Does she not have a mirror? What right does she have to pursue another man with that bland look of hers? First, it was Samuel. Now, he's going after some random dude! No man can tolerate the infidelity of his woman. What if... Samuel finds out about her promiscuous relationships. She'll be in deep trouble then! I refuse to believe Samuel will forgive Natalie, this b*tch!

Yara was tempted to latch on to the opportunity. However, she did not have Samuel's contact.

She only had the number for the Bowers residence.

Out of options, Yara could only dial the number with an anxious heart.

Shortly after, Gavin answered the phone.

"Hello?"

"Gavin, it's me, Yara," she replied. "Is Samuel at home? I have something very important to tell him."

"Mr. Samuel is."

Gavin knew that Samuel wasn't really close to Yara. Hence, he didn't know if he should tell the truth.

Regardless, Yara was unwilling to hang up the phone this easily. "Gavin, is Samuel not at home? I really have something to tell him. It's regarding Natalie. If he's at home, can you please pass the phone to him?"

Chapter 325

"Ms. Yara, you're looking for Mr. Samuel because of Ms. Natalie?"

Samuel did not work late that day, and he was already in the Bowers residence.

Initially, when Yara called, Samuel heard the phone ring but couldn't care less. Hence, that was why it was Gavin who picked up the phone.

However, the mentioning of Natalie's name piqued Samuel's interest. A glint flashed across his eyes, and he looked toward Gavin.

Then, he stood up and walked toward Gavin, signaling him to pass him the phone.

Just like that, Gavin was no longer the one holding the phone.

At the same time, Yara still didn't know that Samuel was already on the line.

She continued babbling non-stop. "I really have some news regarding Natalie to tell Samuel."

"I'm here."

Samuel's voice radiated immense coldness.

Yara did not expect things to take a sudden turn. It was just a second ago that Gavin was there, hesitating to speak. However, the next moment, the phone was already in Samuel's hands.

So, it's not that Samuel's not home. It's just that he doesn't want to pick up the phone himself. The only reason why Samuel's willing to answer the phone must be because of Natalie.

Yara's heart sank upon the cruel realization, and she was consumed by jealousy.

Samuel knitted his brows and said impatiently, "Well? Speak."

"I saw Natalie at the Moonlight..." Yara replied.

"And?"

Samuel could tell that Yara was there to spill the beans about Natalie. If that was the case, there was no need to dilly-dally and it was best if she could just get straight to the point.

"You should know Christopher, right? She's in a private room with him now. They looked really intimate and it seemed like Christopher wanted to swallow her whole. Even an outsider like me could tell that there was something going on."

Samuel pursed his lips upon hearing that, and his eyes flashed with a dangerous glint.

Hearing how the line had gone quiet, Yara assumed that Samuel was infuriated by the news.

She was too deeply in love with Samuel.

This is a rare opportunity to bring down Natalie!

"Anyway, now that they're in the private room, no one knows what they're doing inside. The reason why I'm telling you this is to expose her true, ugly self to you."

Yara wanted to continue talking, but Samuel hung up the phone before she could finish.

Beep, beep, beep. What a guy! He was willing to pick up the phone because of Natalie. But he could also hang up the phone nonchalantly because of Natalie.

"Samuel, I like you so much, but..." Yara started sobbing in tears. However, her eyes displayed a devilish gaze. "I've waited for you for so many years. I won't let any other woman have you!"

In the VVIP private room.

After Natalie returned, everyone started giving Christopher gifts.

Joshua gave him a sports car, while the others also prepared gifts that were worth millions.

Despite the plethora of gifts, Christopher didn't seem to care.

One could imagine the effort and money involved in getting those expensive gifts. However, Christopher could get them himself effortlessly by swiping his credit card. As such, it wasn't too big of a deal for him.

He took a sip of his alcohol and stared at Natalie intently.

"Hey, what about you? Today's my birthday. What did you get me?"

Natalie frowned.

Upon noticing her reaction, Christopher continued to pester her. "Well, I guess you can't be blamed. I did invite you here at the very last minute, after all. If I were to ask for a gift from you now, there's no way you'll be able to produce one."

"I must admit that things are a little bit hectic today. Nonetheless, it's your birthday, so I came prepared." Natalie took out a small porcelain bottle from her bag and passed it to him. "Although your health is getting better, it's still inferior compared to those that are healthy. The medicine in

While the others got him gifts like a car or a yacht, Natalie gave him medicine.

This was also the reason why she was frowning before.

Christopher did not react, and Natalie's frown deepened. "It's fine if you don't want it, I'll just..."

Chapter 326

However, before Natalie could finish, Christopher stretched out and held on to her outstretched hand. "Who said I don't want it?"

Natalie felt that it was inappropriate and she instinctively retracted her hand.

She didn't want him to get the wrong message. However, everyone in the private room perceived it as an act of shyness.

In their eyes, no woman could withstand the charm and wealth of an heir like Christopher, especially when it came to a poor woman like Natalie.

Joshua nudged Christopher with his elbow in an attempt to tease him. "Chris, my health is not really that good too. Can you give me some?" "I'll give you some punches if you'd like. Maybe then you'll get better." Christopher gave Joshua a side-eye.

U SO

At that moment, everyone burst into laughter.

Meanwhile, Natalie simply sat awkwardly at a side, unsure of how to mingle with the group.

She could tell that Christopher, Joshua, and the others were all really close.

However, she was there only because of her promise to Christopher.

As she had nothing better to do, she started drinking some of the alcohol.

Sitting beside her, Christopher observed her every move.

Everyone in the private room could tell that Christopher was deeply attracted to Natalie. The ambiance gradually turned quiet as everyone started speaking less.

Just then Joshua said, "It's been a long time since we played truth or dare! Come, everyone join in. If you lose, you'll need to choose truth or dare. If you refuse to choose one, you'll be punished to drink three glasses of beer!"

Everyone was excited to join except Natalie.

"Ms. Nichols, come, join us," Joshua shamelessly asked.

"Me too?" Natalie exclaimed. But since it wasn't something unreasonable, she eventually accepted his invitation.

The game officially began.

Joshua took an empty bottle and spun it on the table.

The bottle spun rapidly before coming to a stop in Natalie's direction.

"So, Ms. Nichols, truth or dare?" Joshua cheekily asked.

"I'll drink."

Although Natalie agreed to join them, she had never considered playing the game.

If she were to be unlucky, then she would choose to drink. That was her plan all along.

It was the first time Joshua had seen someone like her who didn't play by the rules.

Initially, he thought of persuading Natalie to play. But she chugged down three glasses of beer in an instant.

The game continued.

Joshua spun the bottle, and it was Natalie again.

Similarly, Natalie chose to drink.

Joshua was a pro and he wanted to test Natalie's determination. Therefore, the bottle would always end up facing Natalie time and again.

Regardless, Natalie held her end of the bargain and drank whenever it was her turn.

After a few rounds.

Her cheeks were flushed and her eyes were misty. She was starting to feel drunk.

Joshua did not expect Natalie to be so stubborn.

By that point, he could finally understand why Christopher was attracted to her instead of a socialite like Jacyntha.

"I need to go to the restroom." Natalie stood up clumsily and staggered her way out of the private room.

Soon after, Christopher followed her.

As she drank too fast, Natalie wanted to splash some cold water to wake herself up.

Following that, she staggered her way back.

Along the way, there were some other guests who looked to be in a hurry and almost bumped into her.

However, before they could, Christopher, who was behind her, pulled her into his arms.

Her thick, long hair smelled like herbs, while her delicate and thin waist was comfortable to hold.

Although Christopher didn't do it on purpose, he liked it a lot.

Chapter 327

Christopher indulged himself in the moment, enjoying Natalie's scent and embrace. However, Natalie muttered angrily, "Christopher, let go of me."

"No," replied Christopher. "You're drunk. Let me help you."

"No?"

Although Natalie drank a lot, she could still think straight.

Having no idea what deviant ideas were planted in Christopher's mind, Natalie could not risk giving him any hope.

She stomped down hard on Christopher's foot.

Clearly shocked by the sudden aggression, Christopher loosened his grip.

d

!

"You,"

"I told you to let me go, didn't I?"

Natalie was staring at him, her eyes glazed. She was obviously drunk from all the alcohol consumption. However, Christopher could also tell from her gaze that her mind was still clear.

He never expected to find himself falling in love with her.

However, Natalie was not keen on giving him any chances as the way she was staring at him was glacial cold and distant.

Triggered by her calmness, Christopher walked toward Natalie.

“Be my woman,” he said softly. “I’ll give you anything. Also, I don’t mind about your past. From today onward, I want you to love me only.”

Despite feeling disorientated, Natalie shook her head. “No.”

“Why?” Christopher gripped Natalie’s hand and criticized himself. “I know that I was wrong to coerce you into treating me. I was wrong to threaten you for the medicine. But those are in the past. From now onward, if you stay loyal to me, I will give you anything you want...”

Natalie could feel the warmth from his large hands.

The way Christopher looked at Natalie was filled with love and affection.

She was dumbfounded. Since when did this crazy man fall in love with me?

“It’s not possible between us.” Natalie struggled to free herself from his grip. “I hope you can move on. Save yourself from the pain.”

“But I don’t feel that there’s any pain.”

Natalie didn’t want to waste her time with Christopher, but she couldn’t find the strength to free herself. He was agitated by her rejection and refused to let go.

Christopher pulled her into his arms and hugged her forcefully.

At this moment, a tall, buff shadow dashed toward them and separated Natalie from Christopher. He pulled her away and into his strong arms.

It was Samuel

Natalie leaned on Samuel’s chest, and she instantly felt relieved.

She didn’t know why Samuel was there, but his arrival was just in time to save her from Christopher’s clutches.

Samuel must have rushed here very quickly.

Natalie could feel his rapid breathing.

“I thought I’ve prohibited you from drinking without me around?” Samuel’s hoarse voice sounded angry.

Natalie raised her head and wanted to explain. “I.”

“You can explain later.” Samuel touched her nose gently. “You can explain all you want once we’re back home.”

Without a doubt, Natalie knew that Samuel must have seen everything. However, he did not reprimand her despite the fact that he was obviously jealous. His high emotional intelligence attracted Natalie even more.

Her eye glistened with bliss, and she nodded.

Samuel embraced her affectionately.

Looking at the couple, Christopher's gaze was ice cold.

"Samuel, I didn't expect us to meet in such circumstances." He smirked devilishly. Hatred and disdain flashed across his eyes as he said, "Not only do we have the same insight when it comes to investment, but even our preference in women appears to be the same."

Samuel narrowed his eyes, his tone cold. "Well, I'm not stopping you from liking Natalie. But that doesn't mean you can harass her."