

Happiness 338-347

The Promise of Happiness

### Chapter 338

“Don’t get so worked up.” Yvonne coaxed her husband.

Although she was already a middle-aged woman, she still looked young and beautiful thanks to her meticulous skincare routine, but despite all this, she was still no match for Jennie.

Jennie was both talented and dashing. She was known throughout Dellmoor for her beauty, but Yvonne outdid Jennie with her evil scheme. She won Thomas’ heart and eventually forced Jennie away. Everything ended badly when Jennie had to leave with her newborn baby girl for the village not long after she gave birth.

“I thought we already poached a few people from Dream?” Yvonne asked, patting Thomas’ chest.

“Dream is facing some problems, this is why they have to lower their price.”

Thomas blew a mouthful of smoke. “Well, those people are not even that good. They are making a lot of demands.”

“What they want is nothing compared to what we have. Everybody knows we are the juggernaut in the pharmaceutical industry. Dexmed Pharmaceutical has you at the helm. That Yandel guy is not your rival.”

Thomas felt better listening to her praises.

“You know just what I want to hear,” he teased.

“Hey, Melissa’s still here.”

Melissa had been listening to his parents’ conversation the moment she heard Yandel’s name. She was listening so attentively that she did not even realize that the poodle had already broken free from her.

“Dad, Mom, Mr. Moss is not as bad as you guys said he is!” she retorted.

“What do you know? Are you going to wait till Dexmed Pharmaceutical goes down to realize how cunning he is? You only know about your luxury bags,” Thomas berated.

“He\_”

“What did he do?”

Melissa initially wanted to tell Thomas that she had fallen for Yandel, but when she saw her father’s face, she swallowed her words.

“It’s nothing,” she said, faking a yawn. “I’m tired. I’ll go rest first.”

“Go on then.”

Melissa dashed upstairs without knowing that Yvonne knew she was hiding something.

Thomas might not have realized that, but the girl's mother definitely saw through her. She conjectured that something must have happened between Yandel and her daughter.

After Melissa went to her room, she closed the door behind her and threw herself on her bed.

She took out the name card, looking at it closely.

Yandel is not as bad as Dad said. He's handsome, gentle, and rich. To Melissa, he was just as good as Samuel.

She had given him her heart and there was no taking it back.

He introduced himself and even gave me his name card. I should give him something in return too. I have to do something. I need to contact him because if I don't, there is no point in him liking me. It's not like he can find me in this big city.

With that thought in her head, Melissa took out her phone and made a call.

The call was taking a long time to get through.

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Just as Melissa was about to give up, someone picked up.

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"Yes?"

Melissa's heart skipped a beat when he heard Yandel's voice.

"Hi," she said nervously, "it's me. You gave me your name card earlier on. I just arrived home. I believe I haven't told you my name."

"You're quite right."

"Melissa," she said immediately. She did not tell him her family name because she was afraid he would not like the fact that she was one of the Nichols.

"That's a nice name," Yandel said slowly. "It's a suitable name for someone like you."

"Are you on WhatsApp? Can I add you?"

Yandel was at a loss for words.

Everything happened just as Boss said. This girl really acts on her feelings. I wasn't expecting her to call this soon.

### **Chapter 339**

When Melissa heard a long pause from the other end of the phone call, she suddenly realized she was being too pushy.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to sound overly eager."

“Oh, it’s fine,” Yandel quickly replied, “You can find me on WhatsApp using this phone number.”

“Really?” Melissa leaped in thrill. So it’s not just me! He likes me too!

“Yeah. I’ll be waiting.”

Yandel suddenly got goosebumps, but it was not like he had a choice. He was commissioned to do this, so he could only continue the awkward conversation.

He could not help but wonder how two siblings could be so different.

Meanwhile, Melissa was so engrossed in her happiness that she had no idea what Yandel was thinking

After they ended the call, Melissa immediately added him on WhatsApp. When she saw that Yandel read her message immediately, she felt all fuzzy within.

“I’m sure he likes me. I will date him once he professes his love to me. Wait, should I play hard to-get?”

Melissa let her thoughts run wild. She did not sense her mother walking into her room.

“Melissa, who are you talking about? Is it Yandel Moss of Dream Corporation?” Yvonne heard everything she said.

Melissa jumped the moment she heard someone’s voice. “Mom! What are you doing here?”

“Answer me.”

“Yes.” she said softly. “Mom, I know what I felt. I’m sure he has feelings for me too.”

Yvonne was way more experienced and careful than Melissa.

“Tell me what happened.”

Melissa told her everything from the start. A smile gradually curved on Yvonne’s lips as she listened to her daughter, but she was not aware that Melissa was recounting the whole encounter through rose-tinted glasses.

There were elements of exaggeration, and Melissa’s own feelings clouded her judgment.

“It seems like he really likes you.”

“I know right, Mom. I take after you, so there is no way he won’t fall for me,” she said confidently. “But I feel like Dad doesn’t like him.”

Yvonne laughed. “It will be great if you can marry him. Then, you will have both Dexmed Pharmaceutical and Dream. You will get the best of both worlds. I can’t wait for that to happen. Don’t worry. I will persuade your dad.”

Melissa nodded in all seriousness.

Yvonne stroked her daughter’s cheeks fondly. She was genuinely happy for her.

Over the past twenty years, she had been doing everything she could to drive a wedge between Yara and Jennie, but she did not manage to completely sway Yara to her side. Although Yara respected her, she was still not Yvonne's own child, so they were not very close.

Yvonne figured that she should place her bets on Melissa instead.

So, it was a night of celebration for the mother and daughter.

A few days elapsed in normalcy. One evening, Ross was sending Natalie home after work when he saw from the rearview mirror that a motorbike was tailing them.

"I think someone is following us," he said.

Natalie looked sideways as if she was thinking about something.

"More like someone has been following us," she corrected. "I think it started the day before yesterday."

Ross became worried. "Do you think Yandel and I should look into it?"

"It's okay. I don't think the person behind them is anyone significant judging from how bad of a work they're doing," Natalie said with a laugh. "In fact, I think I know who sent them."

Ross felt relieved when he saw that Natalie was confident of her judgment. She had always been wise and sensible.

The sky was getting dark. The light from the lamp posts illuminated Natalie's face. She looked out the window and her face hardened.

I reckoned only Yara could do this. No. I'm sure that it's her.

## **Chapter 340**

As time went on and the people kept following them, Ross began to feel unsettled despite how Natalie assured him that it was no big deal.

"Are you really just gonna let them be?"

"Yeah," Natalie said, retracting her gaze. "I'll take a nap, Ross. I'm a little tired."

She rested her face on her hand and closed her eyes, dismissing the people behind their car.

Ross looked at her sleeping soundly from the rearview mirror. He found it funny that she could still be at peace in this situation.

This was the first time he met someone who was able to hold her calm like this.

In hindsight, Ross had grown to respect Natalie more after working for her for so long. She was the one who extended hope to him, pulled him out from his aimless life, and gave him a job at Dream Pharmaceutical. If it were not for her, he would still be drinking and smoking, closing himself up in his room like a useless person.

Because of this, he was grateful and protective of Natalie. He would readily put up a fight if anyone crossed Natalie.

After Natalie knew that Yara had been keeping tabs on her, she stopped going to Dream. She communicated her work either through phone or email.

Dream was an ambitious and promising company, but it still did not have a long history. Since it did not have a legacy to fall back on, the company still lacks the substance to face its competitors head-on.

The Nichols were not Natalie's real enemies. That family was already on the decline. Rather, Natalie was trying to get to the person who caused her grandfather and her mother's deaths. Their departures were too sudden. Thomas and Yvonne were merely that person's puppets, and Natalie would not have known about it if she had not come across the letter when she was going through her mother's stuff.

In the letter, her mother expressed her regret of falling in love with the wrong person. She warned Natalie to be low profile with her medical knowledge and asked her to live a quiet life in the village.

Because of this letter, Natalie realized that their deaths were uncanny.

She sorted out everything after her mother's passing and went to Dellmoor to look for the Nichols family, but to her dismay, the family did not welcome her at all.

She did not have a good time with her family, and Dream was all she had. As such, she did not want to reveal herself too early.

Since she did not go to Dream Corporation, she spent her time doing some research on dissection at the Major Crimes Unit.

Effie was beyond to see Natalie. She followed her around, refusing to leave her alone. She was with her at the cafeteria and was even reluctant to part ways with her after work.

"What do you feel like having, Boss?" she asked Natalie, flashing her a big smile. "I want to have a meal with you."

"You know what," Natalie said, "your grandpa keeps asking me to introduce someone to you."

"Oh, don't bother," Effie replied with her lips downturned. "He has nothing better to do. He keeps insisting on setting me up with someone else. Of course, I wouldn't be that reluctant if those men were as good as you."

Natalie smiled, shaking her head.

"Do you love me that much?"

"Of course!" Effie said without even thinking. "you should find yourself a man who admires you as much as I do."

"All right. I'll tell Mr. Jones to look for someone just like me."

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"Thanks!"

The two chatted as they headed to a shopping mall for dinner.

Effie worked in the Forensic Department after she graduated. Given the nature of her work, she was not very street smart. As such, she did not realize that a man was following them. Natalie, on the other hand, noticed the man a long time ago. She felt he was getting a little too close, but she did not react.

After dinner, she wiped her mouth and told Effie she was going to the restroom.

When she was leaving, she saw the man following her. When he was about three meters away from her, she slowed down intentionally. Her body was tense as she got ready to fight.

Suddenly, the man bumped into her from behind.

"I'm sorry!" he cried out, trying to help Natalie. "I'm in a rush. I hope you're okay."

"I'm fine. It's okay."

Although Natalie was partly to be blamed for this, the man's attitude was polite.

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"If you'll excuse me," the man said, leaving in a rush.

Natalie quickly checked everything in her pocket. To her surprise, she did not lose either her wallet or her phone.

What is going on? Why is he following me then? He did not take my ID or anything else, so why did he run into me on purpose? D\*mn it!

She finally understood what Yara wanted.

### **Chapter 341**

Over on Yara's side, she sprang up from her bed the moment she received a phone call.

"How did it go?" she asked anxiously.

"Everything went as planned," the man answered. "I got a strand of her hair when she was not aware. I have already sent it to get tested. The result will be out in three days."

"Three days?" Yara felt that it was too long a time to wait.

"This is the fastest I can get the result."

"Fine. Let me know once you got them." Yara bit her lip and conceded.

She hung up and went back to her bed. She tossed and turned, but could not sleep.

She had a feeling that the woman who took everything from her was the very same person who was supposed to have died in the fire five years ago. But deep in her heart, she hoped that it was not her.

There was a time when Franklin and Sophia were her tickets to marry into the Bowers family, yet now if the woman had really returned, she could potentially expose all of Yara's lies if Samuel were to find out that she was not their biological mother.

Meanwhile, Natalie visited Effie's home with her.

Gerald was in a jovial mode when he saw Natalie. He pulled her into the study to catch up with her over some tea.

Seeing both of them having a good time, Effie insisted on butting in.

"Why are you still wearing this?" the police officer asked, sighing as he poured her a drink.

It was not that he minded how the mask look, but he knew that young women tended to care a lot about their appearance. He did not understand why someone as pretty as Natalie would want to make herself look ugly.

He felt it was a shame, but Natalie merely smiled at him.

"What are you talking about, Grandpa? What is she wearing?" Effie weighted in with a confused look.

"Oh! You don't know?"

"What is it? What is it that I don't know?" She was genuinely lost.

Since there was no one else in the room, and both Gerald and Effie were her trusted confidants, Natalie did not see why she should keep a secret from any of them. She took off her hyper

realistic mask and showed her bare face.

That's it, my girl. You should show people how beautiful you are!The old man beamed and continued pouring his drink.

Meanwhile, Effie was beyond astounded. Her mouth dropped open in disbelief. She did not even know what to say.

She. Is. So. Pretty.

When Effie first saw Natalie, she thought she was just average-looking.

As she got to know her, she came to like Natalie a lot. In fact, the more she spent time with her, the more she found her attractive, However, now that Effie saw her real face, she was completely shocked.

Her skin was glowy and supple like a dolphin. Her skin texture was so refined that Effie could hardly see any visible pores. Her eyes were alluring, her nose was straight, and her lips were plump and full. Effie simply could not take her eyes off the woman.

"S-So," she stuttered, "this is how you really look?"

"Yeah."

Natalie smiled at her.

"And you knew about this all this while, Grandpa?"

“Yeah.” The old man chortled heartily. “I knew you didn’t know about it. That’s why I called her out in front of you.”

“Brandon will go crazy if he finds out about this,” Effie said, shaking her head.

Now that she knew that Natalie had both the looks and capability, she admired her even more.

Since everyone was on the same page about her secret already, Natalie thought it was about time she opened up about her true intention of visiting Gerald that day.

“Actually,” she said before pausing, “I’m here today because I need help.” She looked at Gerald solemnly. “Could you help me ask around to see if someone is doing a DNA test using a strand of hair? Yara is getting suspicious, and I think she sent someone to get my hair today so she can find out about my real identity. It’s still not the time for me to disclose my secret yet. I need to wait until the Nichols family completely falls to ruin. Is there anything you can do to help me?”

## **Chapter 342**

Back then, Gerald was the one who saved Natalie from being burnt alive.

As such, he knew about the feud between Natalie and the Bayer family better than anyone else.

After some consideration, he nodded and firmly stated, “Don’t worry, Natalie. I will settle this matter for you.”

They continued to chat for a while before parting ways.

After Natalie left, Effie was still in shock. It seemed incredible no matter how hard she thought about it.

Such situations only happen in novels. I can’t believe it actually happens in real life!

What made Effie admire Natalie more was the latter’s professionalism. Natalie was a natural-born beauty, yet, she willingly wore an ugly hyper-realistic mask to conceal it. Ignoring everyone’s criticism and disdain, she continued to strive hard to focus on work.

“Grandpa, she’s so cool!” Effie murmured.

can rely on their physical strength if they aren’t clever enough. In contrast, women have a disadvantage concerning it. Although Natalie is a woman, she has more brawn and brains compared to most men. In fact, she is as courageous as any man!”

“Grandpa, it would be nice if I’m as capable as her,” Effie stated in amazement.

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In response, Gerald commented, “I doubt you’ll be able to be like her in this lifetime.”

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Annoyed, Effie whined, “Grandpa!”

Gerald simply fell silent and stared at the moon from his window.



To wear a crown, one must bear its weight.

He knew his granddaughter could never handle the pain and hatred Natalie had gone through. After all, Effie grew up pampered with lots of love.

Three days later, Yara accompanied Kenneth to watch an opera.

The performance was focused on the patriotic acts of heroes who fought during troubled times. While Kenneth watched it with delight, Yara's mind was somewhere else.

Even when Kenneth served her some tea, she reacted a tad late.

"Yara."

Kenneth called her name multiple times.

"Yara!"

Yara only snapped out of her trance when the man called her for the third time.

"Grandpa, did you call my name?"

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Frowning, Kenneth asked, "What were you thinking about?"

Yara seemed out of sorts because of the test results, but there was no way she could tell Kenneth about it. Regardless, she decided to use the chance to put on a piteous act since he had shown some concern for her.

"Grandpa, the performance reminded me of Samuel..."

Kenneth sighed. "I haven't seen him in a long time because he only cares about Natalie now."

"It's almost been six years. I truly love Samuel, but he seems to be drifting further away from me."

Biting her lip, tears circled in Yara's eyes.

Similarly, Kenneth's frown grew deeper once she mentioned her relationship.

As the head of the Bowers family, it would be natural for Samuel to care about a woman's social status and family connections. This way, he could leverage the woman's family to cement his position within his family.

If it wasn't because Yara had saved him and given birth to Sophia and Franklin, Kenneth would probably disapprove of her as his granddaughter-in-law.

In terms of both beauty and brains, Natalie doesn't match up to Yara.

With that thought, Kenneth detested Natalie.

"Stop crying." Taking a handkerchief from the butler, Kenneth threw it to Yara and advised, "What is the use of crying? If this is all you have to show, there will be even more women like Natalie in the future."

With teary eyes, Yara glanced at Kenneth.

“Samuel is the head of the family now. Therefore, I can only intimidate him with words. I have no commanding power over him,” Kenneth continued while cleaning his hands with a wet wipe.

“Nonetheless, you have me as your backing, and that’s better than fighting alone. I want you to win more than anyone else.”

“I understand, Grandpa.”

“My eyes are getting tired from watching the show,” Kenneth said before casually walking out of the theatre.

At that moment, Yara received a message notification.

With trembling hands, she read the message. It said: No blood relation confirmed. True enough, it’s not her. I was right! I must be overthinking it. Five years ago, I was the one who set the fire myself. There’s no way that woman who had just given birth to twins had the energy to escape. Not to mention, even if she does have the energy, I doubt she’ll be able to survive a fire of that size.

Subconsciously, Yara felt a sense of relief after seeing the test results.

### **Chapter 343**

That night, Natalie received a message from Gerald.

Gerald: Natalie, there’s indeed an institution that has received your DNA samples, but I’ve already dealt with it. I knew it! Yara has indeed started suspecting my identity and sent my hair to conduct a test. Well, she would never have guessed that Gerald is involved in it. After all her efforts, she has drawn a blank.

Natalie was curious about how Yara would feel after receiving that fake report.

Pondering about it, she realized she was only torturing herself.

Whether Yara regretted her actions from five years ago, Natalie would never let her get away.

After all, what she did to me cost two innocent lives.

She could never forget the pain or the grief she had to go through.

“Mommy, can I sleep with you tonight?” A small voice suddenly sounded.

Sophia stood at the door, hugging a panda plushie in one hand and a pillow in another.

Seeing the sweet figure before her, Natalie felt her heart melt and was about to agree.

However, before she could open her mouth, Samuel picked the little girl up.

“I’m afraid you can’t do that tonight,” he whispered.

“Why not?” Sophia flashed her puppy eyes and cooed, “I’m scared. I want to sleep with Mommy.”

Samuel reasoned, “Your three older brothers will get jealous when they find out that you pestered Mommy to sleep with her. What will you do then?”

“Daddy, will they really get jealous?”

“Hmm, if Franklin does this, will you get jealous?” Samuel redirected the question back to her.

“Yes.”

Pondering about the situation, Sophia nodded guiltily.

“It’s already ten. You should go to sleep now.” Samuel looked serious and spoke with a firm tone.

“Okay.” Obediently, the little girl wrapped her arms around Samuel’s neck and kissed his cheek.

“Goodnight, Daddy.”

After Samuel placed her down on the ground, Sophia reluctantly waved at Natalie before going back to her room.

Watching her walk away, Natalie eyes dimmed.

“Sophia is still young and a girl. You don’t have to teach her to be independent this early.” Natalie could not help but blurt out, “If I had a daughter like her, I would do everything to shower her with love.”

With one knee on the bed, Samuel lifted Natalie’s chin.

He could make out his own reflection in her eyes.

Smirking, he muttered, “How about me?”

“What about you?” Natalie gave him a look of disapproval and softly chided, “Control yourself! If you feel hot, you can go out and take a walk to cool down.”

Hearing that, the corners of Samuel’s lips lifted.

His smile was charming and dangerous.

Natalie finally understood why Samuel did not have to lift a finger to make so many women throw themselves at him. They simply flocked toward him like moths to a flame.

Perhaps, he’s just too dazzling.

Although those women knew that he was trouble, they would only come to their senses when it was too late.

“Are you mesmerised?” Samuel asked softly.

“What are you talking about—”

Before Natalie could finish her sentence, she felt his lips crashing into hers.

As their lips locked, they could sense the tender feelings they had for each other.

“Nat,” Samuel chuckled, “you can look at me all you want. I’m all yours.”

“I will be a fool to believe a man’s words,” Natalie huffed.

“Well, you can accompany me to old age to see if I kept my promise.”

Desire flashed across Samuel's eyes as he rubbed his rough thumb across Natalie's lips.

He did not dare ask Natalie for any more kisses, for after their last kiss, she only blushed and panted. Yet, Samuel felt his lust for her growing,

"Samuel, you—"

"Don't move." Samuel hugged Natalie tightly and warned, "Stop squirming around, or I might devour you before my birthday."

Immediately, Natalie froze in Samuel's embrace.

Feeling his body pressed against hers, she was well aware of how hard he was trying to control himself.

However, she would never say that she could help him with it.

After a long while, Samuel finally cooled down.

He broke the silence. "My uncle will be returning to the country the following day, so my family will be holding a reception banquet."

"A-Actually, 1—"

"I know you don't like such events, and you are not with me because of my status. However, I wish you could turn up at the banquet as my partner." Breathing beside Natalie's ear, Samuel whispered, "You can ignore what others have to say, but I must show off my relationship with you officially."

## **Chapter 344**

Hearing that, Natalie clenched the sheets beneath her.

It did not matter to her, but she still felt touched that he would do that for her.

She considered his invitation.

Then, she turned around to face Samuel. Taking the initiative, she leaned forward to give Samuel a peck on the corner of his lips.

"I promise that I will attend the banquet with you."

"That's great," Samuel replied.

The intimate move she made had aroused him again.

He gulped and ended up holding her head to kiss her once more.

He kissed her affectionately and gently, enjoying the taste of her soft lips.

That night, they felt like they were floating blissfully in a dream.

Soon, the day of the banquet arrived.

While pulling up the zip of her dress, Natalie's hair got tangled, and it became more painful the more she tugged on it.

As it was too painful, she sucked in few breaths.

"You're going to spoil it if you keep tugging at it." Samuel's low voice sounded behind her, and she could feel his hands trying to help with her tangled hair.

"Is this dress expensive?" Natalie pensively probed.

"Are you worried about the dress?" Samuel narrowed his eyes and gently nibbled on Natalie's earlobe.

"Who cares about that? I'm more concerned about your hair. After all, I own every part of you. My heart will break if you get hurt."

Unsure of how to reply and afraid that Samuel would mess up her makeup by kissing her, Natalie fussed, "Hurry up! Otherwise, we will be late."

"Okay."

At once, Samuel stopped teasing her. After he unraveled the knots, he helped her zip her dress up.

This time, Kenneth had planned the banquet for Samuel's third uncle, Silas

Naturally, Kenneth's beloved grandchild, Sophia, and Franklin had to attend it too.

Initially, Samuel planned to bring Xavian and Clayton along, but Natalie rejected his idea. She might be confident in protecting them, but she did not want to subject them to the harsh looks of the crowd.

Although she treated Samuel's family with respect, that doesn't mean that she would give them a chance to hurt Xavian and Clayton

Knowing her good intentions, the boys did not fuss about it and obediently stayed home.

Meanwhile, Franklin and Sophia changed into their outfits.

Franklin wore a black tuxedo with a red bow tie around his neck, and he looked like a mini gentleman.

On the other hand, Sophia wore a white tutu dress that made her seem like a blooming flower. She also had a pearl headdress that made it seem as though she had turned into a little princess who walked out from a fairytale.

Billy was already waiting outside in the Lincoln.

"Sir, we can go now."

With that, the four of them piled into the car.

Franklin and Sophia sat in the front row, chatting throughout the ride.

In the back row, Samuel and Natalie looked chic as the neon lights from outside shone on their faces,

While fiddling with Natalie's hand, Samuel asked, "Are you nervous?"

"No." Natalie pursed her lips and mumbled, "But I do feel slightly uneasy"

"It's okay. Even if the sky crumbles, I'll be here for you," Samuel assured her.

"Of course!" Natalie grinned. "You're tall, so it makes sense for you to hold up the sky."

Hearing Natalie's witty response, Franklin's thoughts drifted to Kenneth and his bias toward Yara, He was worried that they would bully Natalie during the banquet.

In a protective tone, the little boy interrupted their conversation. "That's right, don't worry. I will be there for you too! Daddy is the head of the Bowers family now, and it'll be my turn to lead in the future. No one can touch you as long as I'm alive!"

Meanwhile, Sophia could not make any grand promise like what her father and brother did and felt left out. In the end, she could only puff out her chest and affirm, "I can do it too! Mommy, if anyone dares to bully you, I will be your shield!"

## **Chapter 345**

Natalie's heart soared at how protective Franklin and Sophia were over her.

She did not need them to defend her. However, her heart softened at how much they trusted and liked her.

"How do you know that the Bowers family will be yours to lead in the future?" Samuel replied.

"Daddy, you only have one son. Who else will take over your role if not me?" Franklin crossed his arms and raised his brows.

"Who says I only have one son?"

Samuel pinched his son's face with some pressure.

"D-Daddy, who else—" Franklin stammered in pain.

"How do you know I don't have other sons?"

Samuel finally released his grip on his son and glanced at Natalie as he spoke.

Feeling Samuel's gaze on her, Natalie did not know how to react.

Is this a hint that he wants me to have children with him?

Although he had initiated countless intimate sessions with her, they never went all the way.

Natalie started to blush furiously, and she quickly turned her head to look out the car window.

With a smirk, Samuel did not continue.

In the banquet hall, everything looked grand and glamorous.

There was no question that it was a banquet held by the Bowers family. It was the most luxurious and lavish event that Natalie had ever attended. From the buffet to the wine, everyth was top notch.

The guests were also from reputable families who emitted an air of elegance.

The moment Samuel stepped into the ballroom, everyone turned their attention to him.

However, when they saw the lady beside him, they could not hide their surprise. Some guests started to talk among themselves and make sarcastic comments.

“Who the hell is that woman? I’ve never seen her before.”

“Is she their housekeeper?” Some started making assumptions about the fresh face in the room.

With a smile, Silas straightened and glanced at Natalie. “Is this Yara?”

## **Chapter 346**

Oh? Seems like Silas mistook me for Yara.

Natalie bit her lip, trying to think of a suitable response

Before she could, however, Samuel spoke first. He tightened his grip around Natalie’s hand and announced, “Uncle Silas, this is Natalie. She’s the woman I am going to spend the rest of my life with.”

Samuel did not introduce her as his girlfriend, but his introduction showed that she was way more important to him than that.

Although Silas did not become the head of the Bowers family, he grew up in the family. Therefore, he was a master at hiding his emotions.

The shock he expressed did not last for more than two seconds, and he quickly regained his composure to that of a gentleman.

“Natalie...” Silas paused. “You have a nice name.”

“Thank you, Mr. Bowers,” Natalie politely replied.

“Don’t call me Mr. Bowers. There’s going to be a lot of people here that’ll turn their heads if you call out that name.” Looking at Natalie, he cheekily suggested, “Why don’t you follow Samuel and call me Uncle Silas too?”

Natalie was hesitant. “I—”

“There’s no need to feel awkward. Uncle Silas will be your uncle in time to come anyway,” Samuel assured her with a smile that reached his eyes.

Meeting his gaze, Natalie felt her heart race.

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“Uncle Silas,” Natalie politely greeted.

“Good.” Smiling, Silas pushed up his frames and commented, “I believe your parents will be happy to see you find love. Don’t forget to invite me to your wedding in the future, okay?”

At that moment, an old man interrupted, “Silas, shut up! Why are you spouting such nonsense?”

Supported by his walking stick, Kenneth made his way toward them.

He was dressed in a crimson red traditional suit and had a full head of white hair. Despite his age, he seemed alert, and his eyes were still sharp.

A lady dressed in a white dress stood beside him. It was Yara.

She looked elegant and graceful. She bowed her head politely, emitting an aura that made her well-liked by elders.

As soon as Yara spotted Samuel, she could not turn to look away.

There were many handsome men present at the banquet. However, none of them could surpass Samuel’s exquisite features.

In fact, some may even wonder if he was God’s favourite to be born so perfect.

Not only was he born into a good family, but he was also capable.

Naturally, Yara also saw Natalie.

Although she felt jealous, she did not lose her composure before everyone else. Instead, she kept the smile on her face.

No worries. I’ll make this woman lose everything by the end of today.

“Dad,” Silas politely greeted Kenneth.

However, Kenneth did not pay any attention to Silas. He perched his hands on his walking stick and stared at Natalie.

“Hmph! How dare you come here?”

His disgust toward Natalie was laid bare for all to see, and his tone was hostile.

“Great-grandpa, you can’t say that to her!” Sophia tugged on Kenneth’s sleeves and whined, “Don’t talk bad things about her. Otherwise, I will never speak to you again!”

“Great-grandpa, I have something to say too.” Mustering his courage, Franklin stated, “If you forbid her from attending the banquet, I will leave with her.”

One could sense the generation gap between Kenneth and the twins.

If Samuel had been the one to talk back to Kenneth, the latter would not hesitate to reprimand the former. However, the two adorable children before him were the apple of Kenneth’s eye.

As such, he did not know how to react upon seeing how defiant they were.

At the same time, Yara’s face turned pale when she saw how the twins treated Natalie.



“Franklin, Sophia, don’t you know your manners? How can you speak to your great-grandpa like that?”

The children despise Yara and did not want Natalie to know that the woman was their birth mother. They did not even care if they had to retort her.

“Stop trying to act like our mother and discipline Sophia and me,” Franklin pointed out unhappily.

“Exactly! Franklin and I will never acknowledge you!”

## **Chapter 347**

I’m supposed to be their biological mother! Yet, they do not even show me any respect.

The twins had always been Yara’s trump card for her to marry into the Bowers family. However, instead of being of help to her, it seemed the kids were determined to pull her back. Thinking about that, she could not control her fury any longer.

Once I get married to Samuel, I must think of a way to let those children join their mother in the afterlife.

Since everyone was staring at them, Yara had to remind herself repeatedly not to act out.

She clenched her fists in an attempt to tamp down her fury. Batting her eyelids, she pretended to be sad and seemed like she was about to burst into tears at any moment.

“Franklin, Sophia, I-I didn’t mean anything by that. Besides, I’m not trying to force you to acknowledge me,”

Suddenly, Kenneth’s expression soured, and he concluded, “I’ve had enough! Do you have to make someone cry at the banquet for Silas?”

Although he was no longer the head of the Bowers family, everyone still respected him.

Given that they had achieved their goals, the twins gradually returned to their usual temperament. However, they secretly chided Kenneth for believing in Yara’s pity act. At the age of five, they could already see through her facade. They wondered how Kenneth could continue believing in her.

The whole time, Samuel said nothing but stared at his wife protectively.

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Slightly shaken up, Silas quietly sipped on his wine as he observed the expressions on everyone’s faces.

He could see that the twins and Samuel were very protective of Natalie.

They looked like they would do everything to shield her from the storm.

Hah! I didn’t have to do anything and Yara’s already mad.

A victorious look flashed across Natalie’s eyes. She finally understood why so many people liked the feeling of winning without lifting a finger. It was indeed satisfying.

Following that, the banquet went on as planned.

Stiffly, Kenneth ordered, "Samuel, Silas, I want you to accompany me to meet some of our relatives. Franklin and Sophia should tag along too."

The Bowers family was large.

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In addition to their direct relatives, many extended family members had attended the event as well.

"I'm going to have to leave for a while."

"Go ahead." Natalie assured him, "I can take care of myself."

"Okay, I will be back as soon as possible."

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"All right, I got it. Run along now." Natalie chuckled. "I'm not a child, and I'm not as weak as you think."

"All right."

members.

Since Yara was not officially part of the Bowers family yet, she had no right to join them.

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Standing under a chandelier, the two women glanced at each other.

The face before Natalie seemed similar to hers, except for the coldness in her eyes.

"Samuel is mine. You will never win against me, Natalie." Since no one was around, Yara decided to drop her pretense and openly express her disgust for Natalie.

"Okay," Natalie replied nonchalantly.

The lukewarm response made her seem indifferent to Yara's comment.

"Y-You!" Yara shot death glares at Natalie.

Raising her glass of wine, Natalie slowly walked up to Yara and whispered in her ear, "From my knowledge, you have a sister born out of wedlock. She has the same name as me. However, a big fire happened five years ago and burned her alive. No one could recover her bones either."

Instantly, Yara froze, and her face turned as white as a sheet.

"H-How did you..."

The Nichols family and I have tried our best to cover up the incident back then. So how did she... Besides, Natalie came from the countryside. After arriving at Dellmoor, everyone attributed her

achievements to me since we looked alike. As such, only a handful of people remembered Natalie. So how did she know about it?

Seeing the panic in Yara's eyes, Natalie could not help but smirk.

"I'm curious, Yara. When you go to bed at night, won't you dream of Natalie sometimes? After all, both of you are blood-related."