

Happiness 378-387

The Promise of Happiness

### **Chapter 378**

Samuel's gazes were so cold and frosty that they freaked Jolene out. She had wanted to ask the doctor to check on Samuel first, but eventually, she did not dare to do it.

The doctor put down his medical box and began checking on Natalie.

It turned out that it was a rattlesnake, a highly venomous species, that bit Natalie earlier. Fortunately, the hospital had ample antivenoms to counter rattlesnake bites in their medical storage. With proper and timely medical treatment, one would not be in a life-threatening case.

Natalie later went into an unconscious state.

She was freezing and thought of moving around and rubbing her hands to warm herself up. Yet, her whole body felt so weak she did not have the strength.

That made her feel terrible.

Suddenly, she felt something sharp poking through the veins on her arm.

That unusual sensation of intrusion made her curl her body up instinctively.

But at the same time, she felt Samuel's big warm hands holding onto hers tightly. The skinship gradually aided in the transmission of heat.

Samuel's hands barely had any calluses, but his index and middle fingers had many creases.

It was so distinct she could tell that it was Samuel holding onto her hand even without opening her eyes.

Instantly, she felt a sense of reassurance.

With him around, no matter how risky the situation was, she felt like she had undefeatable courage within her.

After administering the antivenom for Natalie, the doctor then walked toward Samuel, wanting to check on him.

However, Samuel, who could care less, enquired about Natalie's condition instead of cooperating with the doctor. "Be honest with me; how is she doing right now?"

The doctor was a little taken aback by Samuel's reaction but soon recovered from it and answered, "Her condition isn't too bad. She should be able to recover in about three to five days."

"Should be?" Samuel raised an eyebrow.

The doctor had always been careful with his words. But having put under the stress, he went through some deliberation and finally replied, "She'll recover. She'll be fine after the antivenom shot."

Samuel only allowed the doctor to treat his wound upon receiving the answer he wanted.

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Because he had helped Natalie suck the blood out, he had indirectly swallowed some of the venom and thus was infected. Of course, in contrast to Natalie, his condition was not too grave.

After the doctor gave both Natalie and Samuel the antivenom shot, he then left them with some advice, including having more rest, taking a healthy diet, and avoiding strenuous exercises and activities.

Samuel held onto Natalie's hand as the corners of his lips curled into a mocking smirk.

Dear Lord, why are you doing this to me?!

He had been anticipating to accept the wonderful gift, that was, Natalie. Yet, the doctor had advised them against partaking in vigorous activities. In that case, I won't hold myself back when she recovers!

After the treatment, Jolene guided the doctor out of the room and the resort.

"Are the two of them fine, Dr. Walker?" Jolene asked.

"They'll be alright since they've received the antivenom," the doctor answered honestly.

"That's good to hear."

"Did anything happen to you recently?" the doctor inquired. "You've been running the resort here for over ten years. Though there are many poisonous creepy crawlies around this place, I reckoned it's the first time something like this happens, right?"

As much as Jolene knew that the doctor's questions were out of care and concern, her voice grew agitated as though she was a cat that had gotten her tail stepped on.

"Dr. Walker, what are you trying to imply? Do you think I want such accidents to happen? Is it my fault if such a rare accident occurs?"

It did not cross the doctor's mind that Jolene would be so defensive. "I don't mean that..."

In the end, the two parted ways with grudges.

Back in the room, Samuel and Natalie were left alone since he had made it a point to warn the children not to disturb Natalie from her rest.

While Natalie was still asleep, Samuel gently pulled her into his arms for a loving and endearing hug.

He was once unafraid of losing the woman in his embrace. Yet now, he could no longer let her go so easily.

The old Samuel in the past used to think that sacrificing one's life for another was the most absurd thing in the whole world. He believed it was ridiculous to talk about something that great

when one could not even lead a good life. But the current Samuel was no longer the same. Had he met with such a circumstance now, he would be more than willing to exchange his life for Natalie's.

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Later, Yara finally arrived at the hot spring resort.

Going up to her, Jolene looked a little hesitant with her words. "Ms. Yara..."

"Ms. Jolene, how's Samuel doing?" Yara grabbed Jolene's arm and questioned anxiously.

Her grip was so tight that it hurt Jolene. "Ms. Yara, Mr. Bowers is starting to display minor symptoms after sucking the venomous blood out for that woman. But the doctor has already injected the antivenom for him. All that he has to do is to have some good rest for the next few days."

Hearing what Jolene said, Yara finally felt a sense of relief.

"Where is he now, Ms. Jolene? I want to see him. I'm sure he isn't feeling well since he has some symptoms. It'll be better if he has my company now."

"I'm afraid... it's inconvenient to do that right now.."

"Inconvenient?" Yara's eyes widened in disbelief. "I've given birth to a pair of twins for him! We've done the most intimate thing between a man and a woman! What else could be inconvenient for me to see him?"

Left with no choice, Jolene decided to divulge the truth.

"Mr. Bowers is sleeping with that woman. And it seems like he's going to take care of her by himself," Jolene explained as her eyes flickered. "He cares a lot about that woman-to the extent that he would even risk his life for her..."

Right away, hatred filled that pair of almond-shaped eyes that were on Yara's pretty face. She bit her lips so tightly that it almost looked like it was about to bleed.

She had seen Samuel's affection for Natalie countless times to date. Yet it had never ceased to surprise her with how much he would do for Natalie.

"Ms. Yara, what if that incident,"

"Watch your mouth. Even if you spill the beans and drag me into this matter, the Bowers family would never do anything to me since I'm, after all, Franklin and Sophia's mother..." Before she went on any further, she abruptly changed the topic. "Ms. Jolene, do remember your status. You and I are different!"

Jolene's face fell as soon as she heard those words.

Unbothered, Yara continued, "Find me a room, Ms. Jolene. I want to stay here."

Finishing her orders, she turned and walked toward the corridor.

Jolene stared intently at her back from behind with her brows knitted tightly.

As far as she remembered, Yara was a gentle and meek lady. It was at this moment she finally saw through Yara's true colors. She was utterly ashamed that she had taken pity of the latter and helped her to spy on Natalie.

One didn't mind putting herself in harm to save the child... The other one didn't mind putting her child at risk so that she has a reason to come over...

At that instant, Jolene seemed to have finally seen things through. Mr. Bowers isn't blind; he has always been alert about people and situations more than anyone else.

In the meantime, Franklin, Sophia, Xavian, and Clayton sat around a table.

"Don't you guys think it's weird that a snake suddenly appears at the hot spring resort?" Franklin asked.

"I've checked; the snake that bit Mommy is a wild rattlesnake. It's common to spot this species around this location." Xavian shared the details he found on the website with the other three children. "Snakes have hibernation periods. There's a possibility they will slither their way in since there's a natural hot spring here."

Clayton clenched his fist tight and asked, "Could that purely be an accident?"

Xavian nodded. "We won't rule out the possibility that it's a deliberate act. But judging from the general perspective, it's more likely that's an accident."

The three boys fell deep into thought.

Exactly. There isn't any evidence that could point out that this was all on purpose.

"I want to learn medicine from Mommy! I want to become a doctor so that no one can hurt Mommy or the three of you!"

The three boys looked at Sophia the moment she said that.

Although Sophia's eyes were still red and swollen, the tenacity and determination in her eyes were prominent to anyone before her.

"But—" Xavian did not want to break Sophia's dreams. Yet, he and Clayton knew that Natalie's medical skills came from the Bayer family, and there was no way they would let an outsider learn those skills.

"Sophia, studying medicine is not an easy task. Let me do it instead." Recalling the horrifying moment earlier, Clayton thought if someone had to inherit Natalie's medical skills, he would surely be more suitable than the IT maniac, Xavian.

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"I'm not afraid of it being difficult." Sophia sounded firm. "I want Mommy to be my teacher when she's fully recovered! I'll work hard to study and learn so that Daddy, Mommy, Franklin, Xavian, and Clayton will not have to suffer from any sickness or pain."

Among the four children, Sophia was considered the most carefree child.

Moreover, she was the only girl among her siblings.

Not only did Samuel and Natalie adore her, but even her three brothers would also always try to protect her.

Even though Sophia enjoyed the love from her family, she knew she was being excessively adored and protected by them too.

Despite Natalie shivering in cold after getting bitten by the snake, all that Sophia could do was bawl her eyes out uselessly. Not only that, she even made the weak Natalie comfort her.

As much as she could be a soft and sweet girl, she would become completely unrecognizable when she showed her obstinate nature.

Looking at her, the three brothers chuckled.

“Go ahead if you like it then. If Mommy doesn’t want to take you as her student, Xavian and I will help you persuade her. You can always give up halfway through if it gets too tough..’

Before Franklin could complete his sentence, Sophia rolled her eyes at him. “Who said that I’ll give up?”

Ashamed, Franklin quickly changed his attitude. “Yeah, you definitely won’t. I’m speaking nonsense.”

At that, Sophia clenched her fists tight.

Perhaps it was fate that Sophia had somehow set her ambition to learn medicine.

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Meanwhile, Natalie lay groggily on the bed and slowly drifted off to sleep in the room.

She felt her limbs still icy despite her body turning warmer than before. It was such an uncomfortable feeling that she moaned, “S-So cold.”

“Where?” A deep yet attractive voice of a man came from beside her ear.

“My hands... and feet... they’re freezing...”

Because those were Natalie’s groans while she was in a daze, she sounded like she was acting coquettish with the man, unlike her usual calm and mischievous self.

Her tone was so sweet and mellow that anyone’s heart would melt for her.

Recalling the doctor’s reminder before he left, Samuel let out a sigh exasperatedly.

It was supposed to be a great birthday with a perfect gift waiting for him. It was a pity everything had fizzled into bubbles since the doctor had advised them against performing strenuous activities.

Frustrated, Samuel’s lips twitched as he held onto Natalie’s hands tightly in his palm as he tried to use his own body heat to warm her up.

Soon, Natalie’s body warmed up. After feeling so much better, her whining also became lesser.

She lay comfortably in Samuel’s arms and fell asleep.

However, the man figured she was not deep into sleep and thus inched beside her ears and whispered, “Are you hungry? Would you like to eat something?”

“I’m craving for some prawn ravioli,” Natalie muttered.

“Sure, let’s have some prawn ravioli then.”

This time, Samuel did not hear Natalie’s response. All he heard was steady breathing from the woman in his arms.

However, he did not dare hug her for too long.

There was no way he would not have any reaction while hugging her since he was wide awake.

Samuel tucked Natalie under the blanket and got out of the bed to prepare to make some prawn ravioli in the kitchen. He planned to cook it later after Natalie woke up so that she would be able to enjoy a plate of steaming hot goodness.

Of course, he still had another urgent matter on hand. He wanted to investigate the snake incident to find out if it was an accident or a case of a mischievous act by someone with intention.

He had been worried about Natalie’s condition earlier, and hence he did not get started. But since her condition had now stabilized, he thought it would be perfect for him to get on it.

Coincidentally running into Jolene while he was trotting around the corridors of the resort, the man instructed her to get someone to prepare him some fresh prawns for the ravioli.

Jolene held her head low throughout the conversation and quickly strode off upon hearing the instructions. As such, she did not arouse his suspicions for her.

Samuel rolled up his sleeves and was on his way to the kitchen when he passed by a room with the door left ajar. Walking out from inside the room was Yara, dressed in a deep blue floral bathrobe.

Her long black hair had been elegantly styled into a loose bun and fastened with a garnet hairpin, revealing the fair skin on the back of her neck.

The spark in her eyes gleamed with affection. Standing in the yard at the resort, she looked absolutely stunning

It was obvious Yara had specially dolled herself up.

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are you here?”

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Yara frowned and asked, “Samuel, are you all right?”

“Why are you here?” Samuel looked at her coldly as he had run out of patience.

“I sent Old Mr. Watsons here for treatment and heard from Ms. Jolene that you risked your life to suck out some snake venom from Natalie.” Yara bit her lower lip. Even though she managed to keep her

voice from shaking, she could not resist looking at him sadly. "Samuel, I was worried about you... That's why I rushed here..."

Samuel said, "I'm fine."

"That's great!" Yara said with a charming smile, "Are you hungry? Do you want to eat anything? I'll make it for you!"

However, Samuel answered indifferently, "You can leave now. If Grandpa is worried about my condition, you can tell him what I said just now."

Yara's smile froze, and her gaze darkened. "Samuel, I know you dislike me, but do you have to hurt me like this?"

Samuel sneered. "Stop wishing for something you can never have, and you won't get hurt. Grandpa now treats you as a granddaughter, so you should act your role well before him. You're already at a position which most people can't hope to attain..."

"Have I not done enough these past five years?" Yara was on the verge of tears.

"I never wanted you to do anything for me." Samuel paused before continuing, "Still, your effort is not for nothing. Grandpa took notice of them and will reward you well."

He had no feelings for Yara.

However, he did not chase her out because none of the younger generations in the Bowers family was able to spend time with Old Mr. Bowers. Furthermore, Old Mr. Bowers only liked Yara.

After that, Samuel ignored Yara and walked away.

Right then, hatred grew in Yara's eyes.

She got on Old Mr. Bowers' good side for the sake of getting Samuel.

No young woman in the world would be willing to get rid of her youthful interest and spend her days sipping tea and taking walks!

Then, Yara swore in her mind. Natalie is lucky this time! However, she may not always be able to turn things in her favor like this time! I have done so much. No matter what, I must be Samuel's woman.

Back in the kitchen, Samuel rolled up his sleeves and exposed his strong arms as he busied himself with the food preparation.

The resort prepared fresh seafood, and the prawn was alive just a moment ago. Now, Samuel was carefully peeling its shell and cleaning it.

The head chef and the sous-chef wiped the sweat from their brows and stood behind Samuel. Both of them were nervous.

"Mr. Bowers, you don't have to do it yourself," said the head chef.

"Yes! Please let us know what you would like to have, and we will prepare it!" added the sous-chef.

Then, he asked, "Do you need me to do anything for you?"

Samuel did not bother to look at them. He continued to clean the prawns skillfully and said, "Both of you should just have to shut up and leave here."

Therefore, the head chef and the sous-chef had no choice but to remain quiet and leave the kitchen to Samuel.

Samuel did not use a food processor. Instead, he used a knife and minced the fresh prawn into a paste. Then, he mixed flour and egg to make ravioli skin. Following that, he filled the ravioli skin with prawn fillings while slicing some mushrooms at the same time.

Then, he heated some butter in a pot and added the mushrooms to brown them. The hot butter brought out the fragrance of the mushrooms.

Soon, the fragrance of mushroom soup wafted out of the kitchen.

The chef and sous-chef exchanged glances. They didn't expect someone who seemed like a tyrant to be such a good cook.

The delicious aroma of the mushroom soup also attracted Franklin to the kitchen.

"Daddy, did you cook this mushroom soup? Did you also make prawn ravioli?" Franklin stood on the tip of his toes and looked at the plate of delicious prawn ravioli. He could not help but gulp and say, "Wow! You're amazing! Can I have a taste?"

Franklin thought his father would let him taste them since he was his son.

However, things did not turn out as he expected.

Samuel responded without hesitation, "No."

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Samuel could not help but laugh.

"What's wrong with spoiling you rotten?" Samuel wiped the soup stain from Natalie's lips and said with a smile, "I've chosen you, so naturally, I want to give you the best that I have. They are all for you alone."

Natalie gripped the plate as her heart kept beating faster.

Oh my... Samuel is truly irresistible.

Natalie felt like prey that Samuel had set his sights on. Once he locked his sights on her, it would only be a matter of time before she fell into his trap.

After that, Natalie did not say anything but finished the prawn ravioli and mushroom soup.

"Do you want to sleep a little more?" Samuel asked.

Natalie shook her head. "I'll sleep later. I want to give you something first."



“Huh?” Samuel was a little surprised, so he narrowed his eyes in anticipation.

“I need to give you this before midnight.” Natalie pulled out a red pouch from under her pillow. Then, she took out a black jade thumb ring and said, “Samuel, I wish you a happy birthday. May all your days be happy.”

Samuel was surprised as he looked at the thumb ring. “This...”

“Nonsense, no one sends themselves as birthday gifts.” Natalie glared at Samuel indignantly.

Perhaps someone does that. However, both of us are still recovering from the snake venom. Even if I want to gift myself to Samuel, he is not in the condition to receive me. Therefore, I’m glad that I prepared the black jade thumb ring

“Samuel, if you don’t want it, I’m taking it back,” Natalie said.

When Natalie wanted to take back the thumb ring, Samuel pulled her into his arms and embraced her tightly from behind.

“When did I ever say that I don’t want it? Nat, I want everything you give me.” Samuel’s voice was low and coarse as he whispered into Natalie’s ear, causing it to turn red.

“Can you help me to put it on?” he asked.

“Sure.” Natalie held Samuel’s hand and put the black jade thumb ring on his thumb.

The man had beautiful hands. The black jade thumb ring gleamed nicely on his thumb and looked good on him.

“I accidentally found the jade block for this ring three years ago but did not use it until now...” Then, Natalie continued warmly, “This time, I thought that I’d make you a thumb ring. Of course, I did not cut the jade myself. However, I made a lot of effort to think up the words carved inside.”

Samuel was excited upon hearing what she said.

Thus, he took off the thumb ring and looked at the words carved on the inside of the ring.

“May our love be forever; may nothing separate us.” Samuel read it out.

Natalie looked down and fluttered her lashes shyly. Suddenly, she did not dare to look at Samuel, fearing that he would find her message corny.

Argh! Please don’t say anything... It does seem corny.

a few words. However, she decided on an impulse to engrave that phrase. Once the engraving was completed, she found it corny but was reluctant to grind it off the thumb ring.

After that, they fell into an awkward silence, and neither of them said anything.

It was because Natalie did not know what to say.

Then, Samuel sniffed in the smell of medicine on Natalie’s body, and rare joy appeared in his usually stern eyes. Then, he could not resist smiling.

After a long while, Samuel finally spoke.

“Natalie, you always gave me oh-so-many surprises. I love this birthday present, especially since you have personally carved a phrase in it.” Samuel kissed Natalie on her ear. “May our love be forever; may nothing separate us. I will grant this to you. I will always love you and never leave you.”

Samuel looked at Natalie without kissing her lips or touching her.

Despite that, his promises deeply touched her heart.

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That night, Samuel and Natalie hugged each other to sleep.

On the contrary, Yara failed her attempt to separate them. She could not stand seeing them together. Therefore, she traveled down the mountain and returned to the city late at night.

When she returned to the Nichols residence, she drank alcohol the whole night and left numerous empty wine bottles rolling by her feet. Her body reeked of alcohol.

She felt indignity, fury, and hatred.

Yara loved Samuel deeply. Therefore, she channeled all her hatred and anger on Natalie.

If she did not suddenly appear, I would have secured the position as Samuel’s wife.

The following morning, Yvonne woke up early. Once she knew that Yara came home late last night, she quickly instructed the housekeeper to prepare oatmeal porridge. Then, Yvonne brought it to see Yara.

Yvonne did not come from an upper-class background like Jennie. She simply won Thomas’ affection with her cunning charm and became his wife.

Though Yvonne loved her biological daughter, Melissa, more, she still made a show of treating Yara better than Melissa, even though Yara was not her biological daughter.

Knock! Knock!

Yvonne pushed open the door and saw a drunk young woman lying under the sunlight.

At once, she was dumbfounded by the sight and asked, “Yara, are you okay?”

“Get out.” Yara waved the empty wine bottle in her hand and sneered before throwing it to Yvonne’s feet.

The glass bottle shattered and scared Yvonne until her face turned pale. “Ah! My goodness! Yara, are you trying to kill me?”

“What will you do if I try to kill you?” Yara’s almond-shaped eyes were filled with mockery and disdain. “If not for the Bayer family’s wealth, how could Dexmed Pharmaceutical exist? If I had not obtained the

favor of the Bowers family, how could you all gain excess to the elite society? Since you want to please someone, go please my dad in bed, and stop bothering me!”

“You..” Yvonne was rendered speechless. She had no choice but to swallow her fury and left the room.

D\*mn it! Before Yara gained favor with the Bowers family, she at least pretended to be nice to me. Now, she refused to show any respect! Looking at how drunk Yara is, it probably means that her relationship with Samuel is not going well.

After that, Yvonne rushed to Melissa’s room,

Melissa was sleeping soundly when Yvonne suddenly dragged her out from under the blanket.

“Melissa, how is your progress with Yandel?” Yvonne asked urgently,

“We spoke, but we didn’t say much.” Melissa rubbed her eyes and said with annoyance, “Mom, he is the CEO of a big company and is always busy with work. How do you expect him to have much time to chat with me?”

Upon that, Yvonne went straight to the point and asked, “Have you established a relationship with him?”

“No... Not y-yet,” Melissa stuttered.

After Melissa and Yandel exchanged numbers, she only managed to text him a few times. Every time, she had to initiate the conversation. Yandel would reply, but it was neither timely nor often.

Previously, Melissa thought that Yandel liked her. However, she was suddenly unsure about it now.

If Yandel does not like me, why did he reply to my messages? He might as well just block my number!

Recently, she found herself looking at her phone and thinking about that question frequently.

“Mom, we have only just known each other. Don’t be so impatient,” Melissa argued.

“Back in my days, your father and I only took ten days to confirm that we liked each other. Yandel is a brilliant man. Other women will snatch him from you if you don’t act fast! How can I not be nervous?”

And because Melissa wanted to marry a young CEO like Yandel, she became anxious upon hearing Yvonne’s words. “Mom, 1—”

Before she could continue, Yvonne advised, “Men are like beasts. How can you expect to capture his heart by just chatting with him? Make sure to satisfy Yandel in bed, and he will give you anything. You should find an excuse to invite him back home and make him stay for the night. Then, everything will fall into place.”

At that, Melissa followed Yvonne’s advice and sent Yandel a message.

The moment Yandel saw the message, a smirk appeared on his face. He then took a screenshot and sent it to Natalie.

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Meanwhile, Natalie had just woken up in Samuel's arms a while ago.

As she was about to go back to sleep, she heard her phone vibrate on the nightstand and reached out from the blanket to get it.

Yandel had sent her a screenshot of a conversation on WhatsApp.

Beneath the screenshot was a message that said: Boss, you're not seriously going to have me sell my body, are you?

Natalie gave it some thought and replied to his message.

She then continued staring at her phone for quite a while, only to burst out laughing uncontrollably moments later.

Samuel pulled her back into his arms when he heard her laughing.

"What are you laughing at so early in the morning?"

"I was chatting with Yandel, and he said something really funny. Was I laughing too loudly?" Natalie made no attempt to hide it at all.

Samuel tightened his hug on her as he said with a dangerous glint in his eyes, "Do you know that there are dangerous consequences for laughing about another guy in front of your man?"

His voice sounded so deep and sexy that Natalie found herself blushing in response. "But Yandel isn't some random guy."

"Yes, I know." Samuel held Natalie by the chin and forced her to look him in the eyes as he continued, "Still, I just can't help but feel jealous. Tell me, how will you make it up to me?"

Natalie placed a finger over Samuel's mouth and said in an innocent tone, "I believe an ethical or would advise against any form of vigorous exercise so that I would heal faster."

Samuel gently pulled her hand aside and said, "Exercise doesn't always have to be vigorous, you know?"

"You— Mmph..."

Natalie had barely gotten a word in before Samuel sealed her lips with his own.

He didn't go in deep with the kiss, but it was firm enough to prevent her from refusing it.

Da\*n, looks like I still have a long way to go before I can even hope to resist Samuel's "assaults." I keep telling myself I wouldn't let him have his way with me, and yet I always end up letting him "conquer" me... Natalie thought to herself when she felt a little dizzy from his suffocating kiss.

A knock was heard on the room door moments later.

The sound was neither loud nor soft, which made it obvious that the kids had come to see her.

Natalie tensed up in shock and motioned at Samuel with her eyes that the kids were outside, but Samuel just continued kissing her.

The kids continued to pound on the door with their tiny little fists, but Natalie couldn't do anything about it.

Due to the silence in the room, Natalie could hear their conversation outside the door.

"Are Mommy and Daddy not inside?"

"I suppose so!"

"It's understandable for Daddy to not open the door, but Mommy would definitely open it if she were inside."

"Do you think Daddy might've taken Mommy out for a walk outside the villa? Let's go look for them somewhere else!"

"Sure!"

Just like that, the sounds of their voices and footsteps slowly faded into the distance.

After what seemed like forever, Samuel finally released Natalie from his embrace, and she was panting heavily as she tried to catch her breath.

"Samuel... You nearly drove me crazy back there.." Natalie mumbled while gasping for air.

"Well, you're not crazy yet, are you?" Samuel rubbed his thumb against Natalie's lips and narrowed his eyes as he continued, "You won't even look at me if I let them in, so I did what I have to do. Can't win against them if I don't cheat a little bit."

His response left Natalie completely speechless.

The two of them then washed up and got dressed before leaving the room.

The four kids had searched the entire area outside the villa for them, but to no avail. They immediately bombarded Natalie with a barrage of questions the moment they saw her upon returning

Billy walked up to Samuel and whispered into his ear, "Sir, there are no surveillance cameras at the scene of the incident. Our men have investigated and found no signs of tampering whatsoever."

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"So, it was an accident?" Samuel asked with an eyebrow raised.

"The snake can be found in this mountain itself, so it is possible that the snake came here to hibernate due to the hot springs in the area," Billy replied.

"Ms. Jolene has been working here for over ten years, hasn't she?" Samuel asked.

"Sir, you don't think she did it, do you?" Billy instinctively dismissed the possibility of Jolene being involved. I've seen her at work in the past two years. Ms. Jolene is a very responsible person who always

pays great attention to detail. The snake showing up at the resort was probably just a careless mistake on her part.

“Regardless of whether she did it or not, she is still at fault for Nat getting hurt. I could have her killed for that. In view of her great performance over her many years of service, I’m willing to spare her the cruel punishments. However, the Bowers family will never hire someone like her ever again,” Samuel said coldly.

Billy knew full well that Natalie meant the world to Samuel, and that he was being incredibly merciful toward Jolene.

“Understood, Sir,” he replied with a nod.

After breakfast, Samuel drove Natalie and Sophia back to the Bowers residence. As the other three boys couldn’t fit into the Hummer, they had no choice but to return in Billy’s Maybach.

Gavin quickly came out to welcome them the moment their cars arrived at the Bowers residence.

Natalie was flipping through the latest medical magazine on the couch after lunch.

Sophia walked up to her with a glass of orange juice in hand and asked with a smile, “Mommy, can I talk to you about something?”

The three boys kept quiet and simply stared at Natalie from afar.

Hmm... She must’ve done something wrong if she’s behaving strangely like this.

With that in mind, Natalie took the glass of orange juice from her and asked casually, “All right, then. Let’s hear it.”

Sophia was clearly nervous as she kept twiddling her fingers the whole time.

“Well, I...” After stammering for a bit, she finally mustered the courage and said, “I want to learn medicine from you, Mommy. I want to be your student and learn to treat patients!”

Natalie froze as she wasn’t expecting for Sophia to make such a request.

Mom and Granddad have told me that many envy the Bayer family’s medicinal knowledge. There’s no telling if spreading the knowledge will lead to disaster, so their ancestors refused to teach it to anyone outside of their family lineage.

Sophia grew nervous when she saw no response from Natalie.

“C-Can’t I learn it?”

“No, you can’t,” Natalie replied reluctantly.

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“But I really want to learn it!” Sophia’s eyes reddened instantly, and she clenched her fists as she continued, “You got bitten by a snake in order to save me! If I were as good as you are, I could’ve helped treat you instead of just crying like a useless person..”

Natalie felt her heart ache when she heard what Sophia said.

“Is that why you wanted to learn it?”

Sophia nodded profusely. “Yeah! I want to become a great doctor so I can treat you, Daddy, my better!”

Such a soft voice, and yet such a strong ambition... She’s still too young to word it very well, but I can tell she has a strong desire to save lives. Even if she isn’t related to the Bayer family, passing their medicinal knowledge down to her would probably benefit humanity...

With that in mind, Natalie said, “Medicine is a very difficult thing to study, Sophia.”

Sophia looked up at her with a serious look in her eyes. “I’m not afraid of it being difficult!”

“Very well, then. I want you to memorize the first chapter of Esoteric Medical Doctrine, and I’ll give you a test on Friday. If you pass, I’ll take you in as my disciple. If you fail, then you shall not ask me to teach you medicine ever again.”

## **Chapter 387**

“That’s very difficult, Mommy!” Clayton protested from the side.

He didn’t want to learn medicine from Natalie because there were far too many things to memorize for herbal medicine and acupuncture. To make matters worse, there were no mnemonics to aid memorization. One would have to forcefully memorize everything and learn to apply their knowledge by themselves later on.

Natalie wasn’t surprised when she heard what Clayton said. “The Esoteric Medical Doctrine is just a classical piece of literature used for introduction to traditional medicine. If she finds this difficult, then I think she should just give up on studying medicine.”

“Mommy, are you making this difficult for Sophia on purpose so she’ll quit on her own?” Xavian chimed in as well.

“If you insist on seeing it that way, then there’s nothing I can do about it,” Natalie replied with a helpless shrug.

Suddenly, Sophia walked up to her and said with a determined look in her eyes, “I’m going to memorize this, and I will learn medicine from you.”

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Natalie didn’t say anything and simply took a sip of her orange juice.

I’m not going to make things easier for Sophia because there is no such thing as shortcuts when it comes to learning. If she can’t even handle a little suffering like this, then she isn’t worthy of me breaking the Bayer family’s rules.

Yara kicked the empty bottle beside her feet to the side as she slowly sobered up.

She then took a hot shower to wash the smell of booze off her body before putting on the latest coat from Hermès.

Having restored her usual graceful appearance, Yara went downstairs and saw Thomas waiting for her with a smile.

“Yara, why didn’t you tell me you were coming back?” he asked.

“It was a last-minute decision, so I didn’t really think about informing you. I’ll be keeping Old Mr. Bowers company in the hospital for the next few days, so I might be spending the night there,” Yara replied indifferently.

“While it is important for you to look after Old Mr. Bowers, you should also make sure to get enough rest. You’re going to marry Samuel sooner or later, so you shouldn’t have to do everything by yourself,” Thomas said while patting her on the shoulder.

Naturally, Yara liked the sound of that and nodded obediently.

“I know, Dad.”

“Oh, by the way...” Thomas rubbed his palms awkwardly as he continued, “If possible, could you have Old Mr. Bowers provide Dexmed Pharmaceutical some financial support? Competition with Dream Pharmaceutical has gotten pretty fierce lately, and we’ve been losing quite a lot of money.”

The smile on Yara’s face was frozen in place when she heard that.

So, Dad still sees me as a cash cow... He wants me to marry Samuel because of the benefits it would bring his business!

“Old Mr. Bowers likes you very much, Yara. I’m sure he’ll say yes if you ask him. After all, you helped give birth to Franklin and Sophia. That’s something no one else can take away from you.”

“That’s enough, Dad! I know what I’m supposed to do!”

Yara shouted and stormed out of the Nichols residence.

This family is full of cunning foxes! They’ve only been pretending to care about me for as long as I can remember. None of them actually did help me, and all they want is to leech as much profit out of me as possible! If Jennie took me to the countryside instead of Natalie back then, I wonder how different things would be for me now...

Yara headed over to a fancy restaurant and ordered a herbal soup for takeout. Instead of having them store it in a takeout container, she requested for them to store it in a vacuum flask that she had brought.

Upon arrival at the hospital, Yara entered Kenneth’s ward with the flask of herbal soup.

“Hi, Grandpa! I spent five hours making this herbal soup for you...” She opened the flask and served him a bowl of it as she continued, “Here, try some..”



Kenneth didn't move and simply glared at her with those old eyes of his.

His gaze was so intense that it gave Yara goosebumps.

"G-Grandpa? W-Why are you looking at me like this? Did I do something wrong?"

"Yara, we have known each other for a very long time. I thought I understood you very well, but now, I realize you aren't exactly the person I thought you were." Kenneth pursed his lips and asked after a brief pause, "Do you really know traditional medicine?"