

Happiness 388-397

The Promise of Happiness

Chapter 388

Yara tensed up instantly when she heard that. She was so terrified that she nearly dropped the bowl in her hand.

“... I don’t understand what you’re talking about, Grandpa... You should know very well who I am! Why would you ask me this all of a sudden?”

“Do you still remember the prescription the two kids gave me?”

Yara nodded. “Yes, I do.”

“I sent that prescription to my good friend Silas, and he couldn’t stop praising it for its flavor as well as medicinal properties. He even said it’s a very rare prescription! How did you not notice that? You don’t actually know traditional medicine, do you?” Kenneth questioned her sternly.

Although Yara had been studying it lately, she was far from being proficient in it.

With her level of knowledge, she couldn’t possibly tell the quality of a prescription at all.

She claimed it was nothing special because she subconsciously believed a five-year-old couldn’t possibly come up with anything great.

Da*n... I didn’t think Old Mr. Bowers would go and ask others about this prescription and grow suspicious of me!

Yara bit down hard on her lip at the thought of that. Her fists were so tightly clenched that her knuckles had turned white.

“Did you lie to me, Yara?” Kenneth asked with a disappointed look on his face.

“Yes...” Yara confessed to it with tears in her eyes.

Samuel never loved me, so losing Old Mr. Bowers’ support would leave me with no chance of marrying into the Bowers family! I guess I have no choice but to admit to it and try to make a comeback afterward...

“Yes, I lied to you. Because the prescription was given to you by children, I didn’t analyze the prescription properly and blindly stated my opinion. However, I will not put up with you doubting my capabilities as well as my loyalty toward you and the Bowers family simply because of that!”

Kenneth stared at her in confusion. “Yara, what are you...”

“You saw how I saved you when your heart disease was triggered. I saved your life just like the two kids did, so how could you doubt me over a mere prescription?”

“Then why haven’t you started your own medical center as I asked you to?” Kenneth asked.

“I still have to inherit my family’s pharmaceutical business, Grandpa! Of course, I never planned

on letting my talent for medicine go to waste. I want to produce much better medicine like my granddad did so I can contribute more to this world! I don't want to set up a medical center and spend my life treating bigwigs from the upper classes of society."

Yara was able to make all of that up because she suddenly recalled what Thomas said. Not only did she cover up her lack of medical knowledge, but she even managed to change Kenneth's mind.

Yeah, I still remember the day she saved my life. She had selflessly stayed by my side throughout the past five years... She's a genuinely kind person, so I shouldn't doubt her over a mere prescription! Yes, she made an error in judgment, but it happens even to the best of us!

With that in mind, Kenneth let out a huge sigh and said, "I'm sorry I was wrong about you, Yara."

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Noticing her opportunity, Yara said, "I don't blame you, Grandpa. Speaking of my family, I have a presumptuous request to make. Dexmed Pharmaceutical currently requires a huge amount of money for the development of new drugs, but... We don't have that kind of money, so we haven't been able to make any progress..

Kenneth was able to read between the lines and understood what she meant.

"Don't worry. I'll provide the financial support you need."

"Thanks, Grandpa! Here, you should try this herbal soup I made before it gets cold."

Yara went back to smiling again as she handed Kenneth the bowl of soup.

I can't believe I actually made a comeback! Old Mr. Bowers nearly exposed me there, but I was able to turn the tide around! He now trusts me even more than before and feels guilty about doubting me. Thanks to that, we will have the financial support we need!

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Natalie returned to work at Dream Corporation after recovering for a few days at the Bowers residence.

As usual, she unlocked the elevator door with her fingerprint and took it straight to the top floor where the CEO's office was located.

Although the employees didn't really know who she was, they all treated her with respect anyway.

The CEO values her more than anything and anyone in the world! You'd have to be an idiot to even think about messing with her!

After Natalie left, some of the new employees asked their seniors out of curiosity, "Who is she? Why do the seniors all show her so much respect?"

"Shut up and get back to work. She's the CEO's sweetheart, so you'll be dead meat if you piss her off!"

“What are you talking about? Isn’t she the CEO’s sister?”

“How could she possibly be his sister? I bet she’s his aunt or something. The CEO was even walking behind her to show her respect!”

“Enough talking, you guys! It doesn’t matter who she is. Just stay on her good side if you want to remain in this company!”

Everyone else nodded in agreement.

Of course, Natalie was completely oblivious to what the employees were saying about her.

She went straight to Yandel’s office and entered after knocking on the door.

Natalie noticed a tense atmosphere in his office the moment she stepped inside. Ross was going through a document with an incredibly solemn look on his face.

Even Yandel, who would usually smile upon seeing her, had a tight frown on his face and a cigarette in his hand. The smoke filled the air around him with each puff he took.

“Boss, you’re back?” Yandel quickly put out the cigarette when he noticed her as he didn’t want her taking in secondhand smoke.

“What’s with those frowns on your faces? Tell me, what happened?” Natalie asked while sitting down on the couch.

“I’ll do the explaining.”

Yandel took the data report from Ross and placed it down in front of Natalie.

“Our spies in Dexmed Pharmaceutical told us that the Bowers family is providing the company with a capital injection of three billion. The money will be transferred into the company’s account three days later. Your plan has allowed us to gain an advantage over them, but this sudden capital injection could spell disaster for us. Putting the money aside, the fact that Bowers Corporation is investing in Dexmed Pharmaceutical could potentially alter our stock prices in the market. That would provide them with even more money to compete with us...”

After listening to Yandel’s analysis and going through the document, Natalie could see how challenging the situation was.

“Boss, I’m not trying to sow discord or anything, but do you think Samuel could’ve given Dexmed Pharmaceutical the money?” Yandel asked cautiously.

“I don’t know.”

Natalie was telling the truth as both she and Samuel had never gotten involved in each other’s businesses.

She never told Samuel about Dream being her company, and Samuel never informed her of his investment plans either.

“But I doubt Samuel was the one who did it. The Samuel I know is decisive and cunning when it comes to his work. Three billion is a huge sum, and to invest that much money in Dexmed Pharmaceutical isn’t exactly very wise. I don’t think he’d make such a bad decision,” Natalie said with a confident smile on her face.

She had both analyzed the situation and praised Samuel at the same time.

Yandel choked on his water when he heard that. “Boss, we’re talking about a serious issue at work here. Could you please refrain from such displays of affection?”

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Yandel thought Natalie would first deny everything and then respond with an indignant glare. Surprisingly, she just took a sip of tea and smiled.

“I’m just analyzing this person objectively, but if you think I’m showing off, then so be it!”

At the hot spring resort, Samuel had sucked the venom from her wound risking being poisoned.

It was such a selfless act and there was no doubt about his sincerity.

Yandel exchanged glances with Ross each knowing what the other was thinking.

Both of them wanted the best for Natalie but they felt sad that their leader’s heart belong to Samuel now.

Natalie put down the white jade teacup, narrowed her eyes and said, “Samuel is not the only Mr. Bowers, the one who invested in Dexmed Pharmaceutical should be the patriarch of the Bowers family. Every time I see the old man, Yara is always by his side. The Old Mr. Bowers must really be pleased with her company.”

Among the theories put forward, this seemed to be the most logical.

“What is our next step, then?” Yandel asked.

“Retreat is the way forward.”

Natalie looked at Yandel and Ross, and said emphatically, “Giving money to people with virtue and talent is providing assistance, but giving money to the greedy will only swell his unsatiated appetite. Their avarice becomes escalated, and the consequences might be dreadful beyond imagination. The wealth that my grandfather amassed through hard work and tears was squandered and wasted by Thomas. This shows that he is a greedy spendthrift. Let him be rampant for the time being while Dream Corporation keeps a low profile, and the special drugs developed previously by Ross must also go through the necessary clinical trials to get the approval for marketing as soon as possible.”

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Ross understood Natalie’s strategy and he nodded in agreement.

Yandel pointed at himself. “Boss, what about me?”

“Your assignment is even more important,” Natalie tapped her chin with her finger and replied thoughtfully. “Hasn’t Melissa shown a romantic interest in you? She is waiting for you to visit the Nichols residence and ask for her hand in marriage.”

“Boss, do you really want me to go so far?”

“Don’t worry, you will not be required to sell your body.” The spark in Natalie’s eyes revealed that she already had a scheme. “You’re not the reason for the family feud. At best, you can only be a fuse. The family looks harmonious and stable from the outside but in fact, a feud has been brewing since a long time ago...”

It was indeed an extremely twisted family relationship which had raised a daughter, Yara to kill her own twin.

The Nichols family had enjoyed an extravagant and lavish lifestyle by squandering the hard earned wealth of their Granddad.

After so many years of living a lavish and peaceful life, it was time they faced some challenges and hardship.

Natalie had been hesitant about using Melissa’s feelings for Yandel to their advantage. Then she realized that Melissa had actually tried to take advantage of Yandel’s wealth and with that thought in mind, she decided to turn the tables on her.

This did not involve Melissa’s genuine love for Yandel but just her greed for money and so she had no qualms about carrying out the plan.

After further discussion, each was clear about the part they had to play.

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Only then did Natalie leave Dream Corporation.

Natalie arrived at the Bowers residence quite early. Strangely, she was not greeted by the four kids rushing out to hug her.

“Gavin, are their classes not over yet?” Natalie asked.

“The classes are over.” Gavin laughed. “The three boys and their sister have shut themselves up in their room. Besides, they have even instructed me to send dinner to their room because they want to study together and memorize some book called, ‘The Emperor’s Scriptures.’”

“Is it ‘The Esoteric Medical Doctrine?’”

“Yes, that’s right. It’s ‘The Esoteric Medical Doctrine.’” Gavin nodded. “Just now when I sent dinner to them, I saw them studying the book. Their seriousness about memorizing it really moved me.”

Such complex words are difficult for adults to memorize, let alone five-year-old children?

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Natalie was very touched but she refrained from expressing her feelings

*Thank you for notifying me.”

Even though her heart ached for them, these were texts that had to be memorized by Sophia in order to be accepted as an apprentice,

Natalie did not want to change her decision lest the four children get the message that their parents do not keep their word.

Natalie’s appetite was not good and so, after a light dinner, she returned to her bedroom to rest.

In the afternoon, even though she had countermeasures planned out, she felt ill at ease as the opponents were the Nichols family.

Was it Kenneth who had aided Thomas in obtaining all of Granddad’s wealth? Did someone else help Thomas?

Her mother had fled with her to the village and adopted different identities. At her death bed, she had given instructions that the past must be buried and it was sufficient for Natalie to live the rest of her life safe and sound.

However, she could not pretend to be ignorant. Natalie was lost in thought. She was so deep in thought that she did not hear footsteps approaching her bed.

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It was not until she felt someone next to her on the mattress that Natalie realized someone had entered her bedroom.

As she rolled over, her nose rubbed against the nose of the man next to her.

Samuel looked at her with eyes that seemed to speak volumes.

His lips were parted and rather impatient while his hot breath brushed against her face.

Natalie’s heartbeat increased uncontrollably as she blushed deeply.

Samuel observed her delicate face, knowing that she was feeling uneasy but he could not help teasing her.

With measured deliberation, he brushed the tip of his nose against her, and muttered in a low voice, “What are you thinking so seriously about?”

Natalie pushed at him, trying to move his body away but she soon realized that he had not budged at all.

“Yes?”

“I... I’m thinking about work.”

Natalie was telling the truth, but not the whole truth.

Even though she and Samuel had opened up to each other, it did not mean that she had to reveal everything without reservation.

Everyone had secrets.

Just as Samuel had never mentioned the feud amongst the Bowers family members or Franklin and Sophia's biological mother.

Natalie's background and the agony she had suffered were her deepest darkest secrets.

She was not ready to reveal these to anyone.

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"Is it tricky?" He held her wrist which looked delicate like fine porcelain.

Natalie shook her head and then nodded. "Not really that tricky but it is somewhat a challenge to me."

"Do you need my help to resolve it?"

"Samuel, I don't need you to take action yet," Natalie said softly. "You are my most powerful weapon now. To make use of your help for some small obstacles like these is an overkill."

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Samuel sighed softly. He understood that the real reason was nothing to do with overkilling but rather because she was unwilling to reveal her deepest scars to him.

Out of his respect and love for her, he changed the subject.

"How are you feeling now?" he asked with sincerity in his voice.

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Natalie replied innocently, "The snake venom is totally clear. I've recovered completely."

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"Tomorrow, I shall be leaving for a business trip in Livingfill. There is a meeting about mining development which will last for at least half a month." He changed the subject. "That is to say that I won't be embracing you like this for at least two weeks."

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Natalie nodded in silence.

"Don't you have something to say about that?" Samuel raised his eyebrows.

"What should I say?" Natalie seemed to have thought of something as she spoke tentatively. "Should I wish you a safe trip and a successful meeting?"

Samuel did not get to hear the words he yearned for.

He rolled himself on top of her and kissed her lips passionately.

His kisses were gentle yet lingering, domineering and lustful.

“Nat, is it time to open my birthday present?” he asked in a low whisper.

Natalie was stunned for a moment, and then she said to him, “That... didn’t I gift you a thumb ring?”

“You know I’m not talking about that birthday present.” He clenched his teeth. “You are so smart I’m sure you know what I’m talking about. Please don’t pretend that you don’t know what I mean.”

Pretend? Who’s pretending now!

Natalie wanted to retort but her luscious pink lips were locked tight in his.

Her sleeping gown was deftly slid down from her shoulders.

There was just one difference this time...

He gave her no chance to stop him.

Tonight, he wanted to take her completely.

This was not Natalie’s first time but with Samuel, she had held back, leaving him unsatisfied.

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That night, Natalie fell asleep quickly, tired out.

Samuel looked at her sleeping face, his slender fingers still longed for more and he gently stroked her lips.

Her lips were sweet and he was captivated by them.

Love filled Samuel’s eyes and he smiled..

He could not help but plant a kiss on the corner of her lips and he said in a low masculine voice, “Sweet dreams.”

The next morning dawned bright and clear.

Countless fragmented memories resurfaced in Natalie’s mind. The memories were all about the man who ravished her six years ago. Even though she had begged him to stop, he went on and on.

It was just like last night.

Samuel was no different from a beast.

In her dream, Samuel’s face had merged with that man’s and finally, they became one...

How could that be?It is impossible!

Natalie’s eyes opened wide and she woke up from her dream.

In shock, she bit her lips while her chest heaved up and down with her chaotic breathing.

“What’s the matter?” Samuel stroked her back gently. “Did you have a nightmare?”

Natalie nodded with fear still lingering in her mind.

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“Was it because you were tired last night?” He pinched her cheek, his eyes filled with tender loving care.

“Aren’t you embarrassed?” She glared at him and asked as if annoyed. “I thought you didn’t know. Since you were aware, why didn’t you exert some self-control?”

“I can’t help it,” Samuel said with a wicked smile. “It’s your fault for being so desirable. Anyway, even though you were tired, you enjoyed yourself, didn’t you?”

Natalie’s eyelashes quivered as she clenched her fist and punched Samuel’s on his chest.

Who would have thought that a man as cold and unemotional as Samuel would have such a lustful and emotional side in front of her?

“I won’t tell you that. I want to get up now.”

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Natalie pushed the quilt away and put her feet on the floor.

Just as she was getting up, she felt a sharp familiar pain at her waist and she nearly collapsed on the floor.

She staggered for a few steps before regaining her balance.

The culprit was right behind her.

Natalie turned around, only to see Samuel observing her embarrassing movements and laughing at her.

“How dare you gloat at me?”

Samuel pursed his lips tightly to stop grinning.

Natalie walked slowly and carefully to the bathroom.

The moment she disappeared from view, he could not help but resume grinning in mirth.

Finally, this woman was completely his, both body and soul.

After breakfast, Samuel had to catch an early flight.

Before leaving, Samuel wanted to kiss Natalie.

However, she had seen his intentions and quickly pressed her index finger against his lips, warning him, “Samuel Bowers, are you crazy? The four kids are watching us!”

All the four pairs of wide dark and lively eyes were fixed on the couple.

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Samuel glanced at the four beautiful children and frowned. Suddenly, he felt that they were a nuisance.

His desire was unsatisfied but there was nothing he could do about it.

Finally, he kissed her on her brow.

“When I’m not around, do take care of yourself and text me every day.”

He held and stroked her hand for some time before finally letting go of her unwillingly.

The four five-year-old kids did not get any goodbyes from Samuel.

Clayton and Xavian did not mind so much.

However, Franklin and Sophia felt that their daddy was unfair for neglecting them after bringing Natalie home,

Natalie was as important to them just like their daddy.

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Seeing that Samuel’s eyes were glued on Natalie, Billy cleared his throat. “Sir, it’s time to leave.”

“I’m leaving now.”

“Yeah.” Natalie laughed. “Bon voyage!”

Samuel knew that Natalie loved him but when it came to partings, it was more difficult for him and he wished he could put her in his pocket and bring her along.

Even as he sat in the car, he was still thinking about this.

After some time, he realized how ridiculous his wish was.

Yet, the ridiculous things he had done for this woman did not end with whimsical wishing.

At the Nichols family residence.

Yara was seated at Thomas’ left and she could not contain the glee on her face.

Though it was early in the day, Thomas helped himself to his precious collection of liquor and poured out a glass.

“Yara is indeed my good daughter.” Thomas’ face was radiant and he laughed happily. “It is thanks to you that Dexmed Pharmaceutical can get so much capital from the Bowers family this time. When you were young, the fortune-tellers foretold that you would achieve much. It has turned out to be true!”

Yvonne nodded in agreement, smiling happily. “That’s so true! Yara was born for greatness. We don’t have to worry about her at all!”

Although it was a good thing for the Nichols family to receive a 3 billion investment, Yara was not her biological daughter and so, her happiness was tinged with regret and jealousy.

Melissa was not as eloquent as Yvonne and she did not want to sing praises so, she decided to remain silent.

Yara was not at all bothered if these two were sincere or not.

She took a sip of tea and said, "Dad, Old Mr. Bowers had conditions attached to this investment. I have to be the Vice President of Dexmed Pharmaceutical and lead the Rand D team.

These conditions... were not an issue for Thomas.

Both Melissa and Yara were his daughters.

It was true that he had no liking for the Bayer family but Yara was his favorite child among the two.

Nevertheless, for Yvonne and Yara, the conditions meant something different.

This meant that Yara's ambitions were now shifted to the Nichols family.

In other words, Yara was now competing with Melissa for the inheritance of the Nichols family!

"Yara will be the part of the Bowers family in the future, and Franklin will definitely be the heir of Centurion Corporation when he grows up." Yvonne said rudely, "Isn't making Yara the vice president of Dexmed Pharmaceutical unworthy of her talent and capability?"

Melissa added with jealousy, "Yara, the Bowers family will be yours in the future. Surely, you are not hard up for Dad's small-scale company!"

Yara's ambition was certainly not to take control of Dexmed Pharmaceutical alone.

In the past, she had wanted to marry Samuel, so Dexmed Pharmaceutical was not important to her.

However, at present, Old Mr. Bowers doubted her skills in medicine and she had promised to take over her granddad's inheritance. Hence, she had to hold an important position in Dexmed Pharmaceutical.

However, she was not at liberty to reveal these...

Yara sneered, "It does not matter whether the position is redundant or whether Dad's company is small scale. I am and always will be a part of the Nichols family. What does it matter? Dad has already agreed to my being the vice president. So, what's the problem? Just think about it. Would Old Mr. Bowers invest three billion in our family's business without any condition?"

"Yara is my eldest daughter, and it is totally acceptable for her to be the vice president of Dexmed Pharmaceutical." Thomas took a sip of wine and immediately concluded. "Don't let me hear about this again! If anyone talks nonsense, I will show no mercy!"

Yara's eyes narrowed with her victorious smile.

Yvonne was furious at the favoritism that Thomas was showing

It was not enough for Yara to get into the Bowers family but she wanted Melissa's portion as well. She was too greedy for words.

Nevertheless, if Melissa could take hold of Yandel, then she was not too far behind Yara.

Yara finished her wine and went upstairs.

Only Melissa, Yvonne and Thomas were left in the dining room.

Yvonne nudged Melissa with her foot, hinting that she should speak up.

Melissa poured some wine for Thomas and spoke hesitatingly. "By the way, Dad, I would like to invite someone over for dinner..."

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Thomas was in a good mood. He smiled and drank the wine Melissa poured for him in one gulp.

"Melissa, who are you inviting over for dinner? Why are you being so mysterious?" Thomas asked Melissa.

"Dad, I want to invite Yandel Moss over for dinner." Melissa blushed. Her words were filled with the shyness of a little girl.

The expression on Thomas' face changed when he heard the name.

Dexmed Pharmaceutical had already suffered a lot in the hands of Dream, and that bast*rd Yandel still dared to have dinner at the Nichols residence!

"What's your relationship with Yandel!" Thomas asked sternly. "You even invited him to our house? Don't fall into one of his schemes!"

Melissa couldn't stand her father insulting the man she liked. She immediately defended him.

"Dad! How could you say that? He's not as bad as you said."

"Hmph! What did he do to you for you to defend him!" Thomas slammed the table angrily and asked, "Did you know that Dexmed Pharmaceutical biggest rival is Dream? He made me lose a lot of market shares!"

Melissa murmured, "Dad, that just means that he's better than you."

"Melissa, what did you say? I dare you to say it again to my face!" Thomas pointed at Melissa's nose and yelled.

Yvonne, who had been silent, grabbed Thomas' hand and said, "Hubby, Melissa didn't say anything wrong. Yandel is a young and capable man. What's wrong with him coming over to our house?"

Her voice was gentle and beautiful, and it had a bit of a coy tone. Just from the tone of her voice, she had already quelled most of the anger in Thomas' heart.

"She may be young and ignorant but don't you know the situation between Dream and us?" Thomas frowned.

"I do... How could I not know?" Yvonne said earnestly. "But I also know that there are no such things as permanent friends and eternal enemies in business. Melissa and Yandel are dating. Your future son-in-law is coming to have dinner at our home. There's no reason for you to be so angry at your daughter."

“What!”

Thomas didn't expect things to develop to this level and was stunned when he heard it.

“Yandel is never involved in any scandals, right? No matter how busy he was recently, he had always been in contact with Melissa,” Yvonne said with a smile.

“He's now pursuing Melissa, and she hasn't agreed yet!” “If our daughter were to marry Yandel, do you think he would still target you, his father-in-law, like this? When that happens, wouldn't it be easier for Dexmed Pharmaceutical to take over Dream Pharmaceutical than burning a substantial amount of money now?”

Yvonne painted a beautiful picture in Thomas' mind.

Thomas took a sip of wine. Although he still had his doubts, the expression on his face was not as stern as before.

“Dad, I will always be a Nichols. Of course, I will help the Nichols family!” Melissa chimed in as well,

Those words made the greed within Thomas' heart flare-up.

If Melissa could win Yandel's heart, it would be an incredible milestone for Dexmed Pharmaceutical.

“Melissa, my beloved daughter. It's all my fault for getting too agitated just now. I was being old fashioned.” Thomas lovingly stroked Melissa's hair. “If you youngsters are in love, no doubt I have to respect it. Besides, you already like him a lot. If you invite Yandel over, we will definitely welcome him with open arms.”

Melissa nodded happily.

Yvonne was smiling brightly as well. At least Melissa could get even with Yara this way.

No matter how great Samuel was, he never took the initiative to come over for dinner.

No matter how bad Yandel was, he was still willing to come over to pay a visit. Based on just his sincerity, Melissa was already way ahead of Yara.

Shortly after, Yandel received the official invitation from Melissa.

When he received the message, Natalie was right by his side.

“Just go.” Natalie slowly raised her face and smiled. “I'll go with you tomorrow night.”

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Yandel asked in surprise, “Boss, are you sure you want to go with me?”

“Have you forgotten? This hyper-realistic mask is not the only one I have.” Natalie sounded a little disapproving. “At the banquet, I only met Thomas for a brief moment. This is a golden moment for me to have the chance to return to the Bayer family residence!”

“I think you just want to watch a good show, right?” Yandel teased.

“What do you expect?” Natalie’s eyes lit up, and she beamed a cunning smile. “There are so many dramatic people in that family. It would be a pity to miss it!”

Yandel muttered in his heart. That’s true!

Natalie smiled without saying a word and focused on her work.

The next night, Yandel wore a gray coat, wrapped a black scarf around his neck, and put on a pair of gold-rimmed glasses.

Natalie, who sat in the passenger seat, also changed into another hyper-realistic mask. It was no longer the one full of freckles but a more intricate and graceful mask.

As the soft music played in the car, Natalie supported her head with her hand and looked at him sideways.

“Boss, is there something on my face?” Yandel looked back at Natalie and asked.

“No. I just never expected you to have the potential to become a good boyfriend.” Natalie squinted her eyes.

“Well, I did exactly what you instructed.”

“Indeed.”

Natalie nodded.

Not long after, the car stopped at the entrance of the Nichols residence.

Natalie pushed open the car door and took a step out. Her eyes suddenly turned red when she looked toward the vast courtyard under the setting sun.

This was her birthplace, but she wasn’t entitled to grow up here.

After her mother passed away, she once returned here with sincerity and longing for her family.

However, they cast her out, turning her life into a living hell. Even the twin babies she just gave birth to were not spared from their wrath.

Luckily, pain makes a person grow.

She was still Natalie, but she was no longer the pure and innocent girl five years ago!

“Boss, are you alright?” Yandel asked worriedly.

“Don’t worry. I’m just being nostalgic. I’m not as weak as you think.” Natalie smiled and blinked her tears away. “From now on, you’re my superior, and I’m your secretary, Reina.”

Yandel understood what Natalie meant, but it was difficult for him to get used to suddenly being “the boss” of his boss.

“I...

“You have to get used to it even if you don’t.” Then, Natalie stepped a few steps back and said, “Mr. Moss, this way please.”

The Nichols family knew that Yandel was coming for dinner, so they started their meticulous preparations much earlier.

Under the impression of Yandel becoming his son-in-law, Thomas opened a bottle of wine from his treasured collection.

As the hostess, Yvonne was beaming with a smile. Since morning, she put the housekeepers to work and prepared seafood such as lobsters and oysters.

Melissa changed into a light purple sweater to go with her white chiffon dress, concealing her arrogance and looking a little charming.

On the contrary, only Yara, lounged leisurely in her bedroom as though there were no guests in the house.

When Yandel and Natalie walked into the living room, they saw Melissa walking toward them with a flushed face. “Yandel, you’re here! My parents and I have been waiting for you!” Her voice was so gentle and saccharine that Natalie felt goosebumps all over her body.

Yandel didn’t forget about his mission. He smiled and said, “Well, this is my first time at the Nichols residence as a guest. So I need more time to prepare. I also brought a gift.”

Natalie stepped forward and presented the gift.

Melissa was not very interested in the gift, but her eyes kept looking toward Natalie’s face. “Yandel, who is this woman?” she muttered.

Natalie was about to explain her identity.

“I’m not asking you.” Melissa crossed her arms and interrupted, “Who told you to speak?”

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As Melissa spoke, Yvonne and Thomas turned their heads toward her.

They only turned their head instinctively, not because they wanted to see how Yandel would react.

In their eyes, Melissa was their precious beloved daughter. It only made sense for her to be slightly displeased. Not to mention disciplining a secretary.

Yandel’s face turned frigid and his eyes suddenly darkened.

Does this woman really have no respect for anyone? She even dared to provoke my boss directly!

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When Yandel was about to snap back at Melissa and put her in her place, Natalie gently cleared her throat and said, “You’re right, Ms. Nichols. I will pay attention in the future.”

Naturally, Yandel understood what Natalie was hinting at, and his face returned to its previous calm state. But he stiffened his muscles under the sleeves so hard that the veins on his arms started popping out.

At first, he put up an act for Natalie.

However, Yandel was irritated by Melissa's opening remarks at that moment.

Melissa had already crossed his bottom line, and he wouldn't be satisfied until he plunged her straight into the depths of hell.

"Melissa, she's just a secretary." Yandel forced a smile and pinched Melissa's cheek. "If you don't like her, I'll have her replaced immediately."

"Well, as long as she learned her lesson, there's no need to replace her." Melissa was overjoyed by Yandel's passionate gestures, and her face began to blush. All of her previous self-doubts disappeared in an instant.

Yvonne and Thomas smiled at each other and exchanged glances. They were tacitly aware of Melissa's infatuation with Yandel and excited about Dexmed Pharmaceutical's future.

"You must be Yandel. Come in and have a seat." Yvonne invited Yandel to sit in the living room as the hostess. "I'm Melissa's mother."

"What? I thought you were Melissa's elder sister. You look so young. I couldn't even tell your age."

"Really? Oh, you really know how to flatter me. I'm not as young as you say." Yvonne replied, but she was triumphantly joyful in her heart.

Yandel looked at Thomas and nodded. "Sir, what happened between our business was not something I could control. I hope you can forgive me."

Ur.

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Thomas took a puff from his cigar and stated, "It's all in the past. Now that you and Melissa are getting together, I believe that there will be no more conflicts between Dexmed Pharmaceutical and Dream in the future."

"Naturally," Yandel responded with a smile.

Yandel was graceful, and Yvonne and Thomas were delighted with their prospective son-in-law. They eagerly went close to him and spoke in a friendly manner.

Natalie stood in a corner of the living room, pursing her lips.

This place..

This place had become more luxurious compared to six years ago. It seemed like there had been a renovation in the past six years.

The traces of the Bayer family seems to have been completely erased.

The married couple now regarded themselves as the owner and had already forgotten all about the original owners.

“Mark my words. Don’t you even try to seduce Yandel when working with him. Otherwise, you will regret it!” When Natalie was alone in the corner, Melissa took the chance to walk to her and warn her, Natalie was stunned.

She glanced at Melissa and wondered if being Yandel’s female secretary could be the reason for her jealousy.

Her narrow-minded nature was far more severe than she had expected.

“I’m talking to you. Are you deaf?” Melissa was furious.

SA

“Men like women. Especially, beautiful women.”

Specially beautiful women”

“What are you trying to say?”

“You look better than me. Mr. Moss must fancy you.”

“I’m glad you noticed it. You sure have good eyes.”

“But...” Natalie deliberately paused.

“But what?” Melissa couldn’t hold back any longer and lost her patience.

“I heard your sister is a beauty.” Natalie twitched the corner of her lips and pretended to utter it unintentionally. “I think you should be worried about your sister more than me.”

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“What are you trying to say!” Melissa frowned.

“It’s just a friendly reminder.” Natalie lowered her gaze. “I simply think that you treat me as a love rival. Maybe you have overestimated me.

“You have seen Mr. Moss’s attitude toward me. If you don’t like me, you could just say the word, and I will be fired.”

Melissa wanted to respond, but she was called over by Yandel.

Melissa glanced at her from the side of her eyes. She was still agitated, but Yandel was her priority. So she smiled again and pranced to Yandel.

A hint of cunning sensation flashed across Natalie’s eyes.

After all, Melissa was born and raised in a protected environment. She became more and more willful and inherited none of Thomas and Yvonne’s scheming skills.

In a blink of an eye, it was time for dinner.

After Yandel got seated, Thomas said to the housekeeper beside him. "Go upstairs and tell Yara to come down and have dinner together."

"Yes."

Thomas smiled. "Yara is Melissa's elder sister. She happens to be at home today. I will introduce her to you later."

"Okay." Yandel nodded.

At this moment, Melissa recalled the words she heard from Natalie and felt a sudden uneasiness.

That secretary must be talking nonsense! There's no way Yandel will like Yara. He only came over because he fancies me.

"Melissa, is something bothering you?" Yandel poured Melissa a glass of wine.

Yandel was gentle and warm. Melissa's heart skipped a beat and blushed as soon as their eyes met. She thought that she must be overthinking it.

A few moments later.

Yara took her time to walk down from the second floor.

That day, she wore a white furry shawl and a midi skirt, revealing her slender calves. She also wore a pair of white fluffy slippers on her feet.

To Yara, Samuel was her only prey.

Therefore, she only wore light makeup to meet her guests. However, her appearance could easily defeat Melissa even with just some light makeup.

It couldn't be helped.

Between the three sisters.

Although Natalie and Yara were twin sisters and looked identical, Natalie beat Yara in terms of charisma.

Melissa was only pretty at most. She couldn't compare to Yara, let alone Natalie.

That was the first time in six years that the three sisters were in the same room.

However, it was rather unexpected...

Yara and Melissa would never expect Natalie to be there with them behind a hyper-realistic mask, waiting for a show.

"Dad. Aunt Yvonne," Yara greeted them as she tightened her shawl.

Yandel wasn't prepared for it. He was shocked the moment he saw Yara.

He couldn't help but whisper in his heart. They're indeed twin sisters. Yara's appearance is really similar to that of Boss's under the hyper-realistic mask.

However, he was only shocked for a moment.

Natalie was one of the only two most prominent women in his life.

He would never be confused by their similar appearance.

Yandel kept his gaze on Yara, and he raised a smile. He extended his hand to Yara. "Ms. Yara, it's a pleasure to meet you.

Yara politely shook hands with Yandel.

Their handshake was supposed to be brief before going back to their seats. However, Yandel held on to Yara's hand for a long time.

Yara was a little puzzled by Yandel's actions.

On the other hand, Melissa was boiling with anger. She couldn't hold herself back any longer and said, "I'm hungry. Yara, sit down quickly. The dishes are getting cold."

Yandel released his grip as though he had just woken up from a dream. He just looked at Yara and smiled without saying anything else.

When everyone finally got seated, it was time to eat.

At the dining table, Yandel never looked at Melissa. Instead, he said to Yara, "Ms. Yara, Dream has recently ventured into the entertainment industry. We're about to start filming our first project, Stay, and our second project, Hurricane. However, we haven't found a female lead yet. I wonder if you're interested in trying it out?"

Yara had been keeping a low profile recently because of her fake piano playing before. However, that didn't mean she was not interested in the entertainment industry.

As soon as she heard Yandel offering her to star as the leading role, Yara became friendly toward Yandel. "Of course, I'm interested."

As soon as Yara took the bait, Yandel immediately said to Melissa, "Can we switch seats? It will be easier for me to talk with Yara."